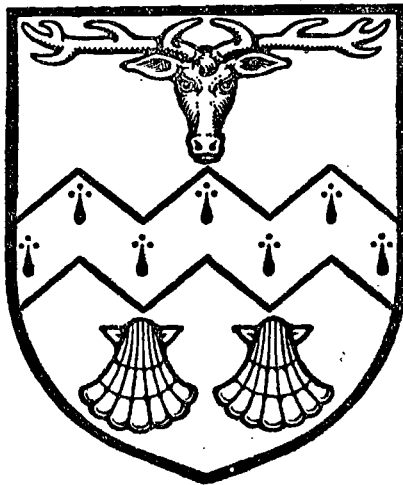


THE BOOK OF
THE DUFFS

COMPILED BY ALISTAIR AND
HENRIETTA TAYLER

v.1
VOLUME I



EDINBURGH

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ADAM DUFF OF CLUNYBEG

By G. van Honthorst.

DEDICATED TO
'THE ONLIE BEGETTER'
THOMAS DUFF GORDON DUFF
OF DRUMMUIR
AT WHOSE SUGGESTION
THIS WORK WAS UNDERTAKEN
MORE YEARS AGO THAN
THE AUTHORS CARE
TO REMEMBER

P R E F A C E

As long ago as the year 1889 it was pointed out, in the pages of the *Genealogist*, that there existed no proper history of the Duff family in ancient times.

Again, in subsequent years, the present writers have frequently been asked by members of this large and scattered family to compile an account of 'the nineteenth century Duffs,' showing their connections with each other.

It was determined to combine the two objects, and while providing a record of a long-lived and energetic family from the earliest days, to collect at the same time, from all possible sources, printed and otherwise, interesting details of what may be called the 'mediæval' and modern members, and to bring the history of the family and the genealogical tables thoroughly up to date.

The present volume, therefore, aims at providing a record, complete as far as possible, of those Scotsmen who have borne, and now bear, the name of Duff, giving the legendary lore connected with this family (even though some of it may be discredited by modern historians), as well as a full personal history of those Duffs who have distinguished themselves in any way (and brief mention of the others), with their intermarriages and their matrimonial connections with other families.

The only attempt previously made at anything of the kind is the *Memoirs of the Duffs*, written about the year 1770, by William Baird of Auchmedden (whose wife was one of the daughters of William Duff of Dipple), and privately printed in 1869 by Major Lachlan Gordon Duff of Drummuir.¹

Several original manuscripts of this work exist. One, belonging to

¹ *Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs*. Printed for private circulation. D. Wyllie and Son, Aberdeen, 1869.

Miss Fyffe Duff of Corsindae, bears date September 24, 1772, which presumably was the date of the completion of one portion, as some births and deaths, etc., connected with the families dealt with, occurring in 1773, are recorded. William Baird himself died in 1775.

Baird's original manuscripts contain frequent blanks for names both of persons and of places, and there are many inaccurate statements and conjectures, due doubtless to enforced reliance upon hearsay evidence, to the difficulty of communications, and the impossibility at that period of verifying references and dates, or obtaining access to original documents.

When we consider the expenditure of time and energy involved, even now, in correspondence with outlying members of the family, and in research in public offices at home and abroad, we are filled with admiration for the courage and energy displayed, and the large amount of information collected by our forerunner, a hundred and forty years ago.

For permission to make copious extracts from this chronicle we are indebted to Thomas Gordon Duff, son of the original editor, among whose papers is also preserved a schedule of questions sent by William Baird to various members of the family, showing the meagre response he sometimes elicited.

The arrangement of the first few chapters of the present history explains itself, as it is purely chronological. After that, it has been found best to carry the elder line down to the present day, and then revert to the younger sons, in order. It is hoped that the full genealogical tables and the smaller key tables will make this plain.

After tracing the descendants of John of Muldavit and his son, Adam of Clunybeg, in over twenty separate lines of descent,¹ the later chapters deal with other branches of the Duff family (which it has been found impossible to correlate with the Muldavit stock), and with one or two other families with which the Duffs have intermarried so frequently as to make some account necessary.

Other sources, besides Baird, which have been found of great value, are the family trees preserved in various branches of the family, old family

¹ The chart of these will be found at end of Volume I.

papers, letters and manuscript records, wherever existing and obtainable, the Decennial List of Heirs for Scotland, parish and local registers,¹ and records of every kind, in London and Edinburgh, as well as all over the United Kingdom.

Innumerable histories of other families, and historical and genealogical collections of every sort have been laid under contribution; wills, records of sasines, hornings, deeds and decreets, commissariat records, school chronicles, files of old newspapers, everything which might yield the smallest scrap of information, has been consulted, and the writers would further like to place on record their debt to the personal recollections and traditional information of several old friends in every walk of life, some of whom have, unfortunately, not lived to see the appearance of the book.

‘ All which doth require
Briareus his hundred hands,
Argus his hundred eyes,
And Nestor’s century of years to marshal.’

This volume represents the results of many years of congenial labour, in which the writers have received valuable assistance from relations and friends almost too numerous to mention.

Special thanks are due to :

H.R.H. the Princess Royal and Her Highness the Duchess of Fife, Princess Arthur of Connaught, for permission to examine and print selections from the documents long preserved at Duff House, and now in the

¹ Though these do not invariably give all details, for, as is well known, the parish registers in Scotland suffered, like everything else, from the wars and tumults. Those in the Episcopal Church in Banff stop abruptly in 1746, when Cumberland on his way to Culloden burnt the church, and, it is said, carried off the books. While those in Brechin suffered a century earlier, as is then noted by the clerk :

‘ In the month of March 1645, the scrolls were lying in the book, but the book being taken by the cruel enemy, the scrolls were lost and leaves ryven out of the book, as evidentlie appears.’ And two months later, he notes : ‘ There, six or seven leaves following, being clean paper, were cut out be som of Montrose followers.’

And the parish clerk of Inverness protects himself from the charge of inaccuracy by the following entry :

‘ If there be any blanks here, know that it is not the fault of the clerk, but such as did not pay their christening money.’

One of these reasons must account for the fact that exhaustive search has failed to discover any record of the baptisms of the thirty-six children of Patrick Duff of Craigston (*q.v.*), except those of his eldest son and eldest daughter, chronicled at Grange.

PREFACE

charter room at Montcoffer,¹ and for permission to reproduce ten family portraits.

To Her Highness Princess Maud, for the loan of the portrait of her father, her sister, and herself.

To the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and the Earl of Seafield, for permission to make extracts from their charter chests.

To Thomas Gordon Duff of Drummuir, for the unrestricted use of all his family papers, dating from the sixteenth century downwards, without which some chapters of this history could never have been written.

To Mrs. Chancellor and J. Wharton Duff, for permission to use the large collection of family letters at Orton, from which a great part of the personal history of Lord Braco's family has been reconstructed. To Mrs. Chancellor also for kindly supplying photographs of the family portraits in her possession.

To Edward Gordon Duff, for the loan of the Rose MSS. now in his possession.²

To Edward Alexander Duff, for the use of all his papers, and permission to reproduce two portraits and the facsimile letter in chapter xvii.

To Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton for the loan of documents, etc.

To General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B., for an invaluable list, prepared for us from official sources, of all Duffs who have served in the Army³ or Navy, and for his kindly criticism and help on many points, particularly wherever in our history we have touched on military matters.

To Walter B. Blaikie, LL.D., for expert assistance and advice in the production.

¹ In the *Historical Manuscripts Commission* these papers are thus noted:

'The extensive series of documents in the charter room at Duff House were scheduled in 1872, the entries numbering over 1000. They consist wholly of the title-deeds and relative papers of the vast estates belonging to Lord Fife in the countries of Banff, Moray, and Aberdeen, and none of them call for detailed description.'

Besides these there are also innumerable family letters.

² William Rose was long factor to the second Earl Fife, and in that capacity a great deal of very interesting correspondence was addressed to him. He also became possessed of many other family letters and papers, and amassed, on his own behalf, a large collection of genealogical and other notes. All these were left untouched at his death and long afterwards, but were eventually scattered, Mr. Edward Gordon Duff of Liverpool purchasing the greater part, while some were acquired for the Spalding Club, but were never utilised.

³ Since 1755 over a hundred men of the name of Duff have held commissions in the British Army.

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To II. Inglis Lindsay, W.S., for his unwearied kindness and energy in undertaking researches in Edinburgh.

To William MacIntosh, Fife Estates Office, for much help in dealing with matters regarding the Earls Fife.

To the Hon. Henry Hannen, for help in the elucidation of obsolete words and phrases.

To J. Malcolm Bulloch, for useful advice as to the sources to consult, and for much information.

To the Rev. Stephen Ree, for various important notes supplied.

To James Grant, LL.B., for permission to make use of the books in Banff.

To the authorities of the Advocates' Library, the Public Library, and the University Library, Aberdeen, for permission to examine manuscripts in their hands.

To the authorities of the office of the Lord Lyon, of the Advocates' Library, and of the Signet Library, Edinburgh, for similar permissions.

To the officials of the India Office, Record Office, Somerset House, College of Arms, and the British Museum Library and Manuscript Room.

And to the following relatives and friends for the loan of letters and pictures, and for information and corrections connected with their own branches of the family :

Mrs. Darwin of Muirtown and Colonel A. R. Warrand ; Lady Duff and the Misses Duff of Fetteresso ; Major Adrian Grant Duff, C.B. ; the late General A. G. Duff ; Miss Fyffe Duff of Corsindae ; Miss Jane Clerk Duff ; Major-General R. W. Duff ; Adam Gordon Duff ; Mrs. Duff Dunbar ; Miss Marjory Kate Duff ; Miss Louisa Duff ; Professor Archibald Duff ; John Duff, Dublin ; Mrs. Petre and Captain Granville Duff ; Miss Mary Ramsay ; Colonel Sir Aubone Fife ; George Duff, Towiemore ; Stanley Duff Muttlebury.

Thanks are also due to the late William Cramond, LL.D. ; the late Alexander Ramsay, LL.D. ; David Littlejohn, LL.D. ; Mr. J. A. Henderson ; and to Frances Cathcart, Annie Clark, and John Wyatt.

ALISTAIR N. TAYLER.

HENRIETTA TAYLER.

EDINBURGH, *December 29, 1913.*

NOTE

In order to differentiate the family letters, drawn from various sources, they are marked thus:

- Letters from the Duff House papers, now at Montcoffer, (D).
- Letters from the Rose MSS., in the collection of Mr. E. G. Duff, (R).
- Letters from the Orton papers, (O).
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SHIELD OF THE ANCIENT
EARLS OF FIFE

CHAPTER I

LEGENDARY HISTORY

THE Duff family claims an origin veiled in the mists of antiquity, and there are preserved many and curious old family trees, some even going back to the days of Darius the Mede; but perhaps those trees starting from the ninth century, with the first thanes of Fife, take us as far as we need seek to penetrate.

The first mention of Fife is in the verses ascribed to St. Columba,¹ wherein the seven great sons of Cruthne are given as Fib, Fidach, etc., and Fib, of course, is the same as Fife.

Again, Fibh, or Fiv, was one of the seven provinces into which Scotland was divided before the thirteenth century, and the first of the fourteen Pictish tribes, that called Cinid, occupied this province which later became the carldom and county of Fife.²

Until quite recently, Burke's *Peerage* was wont to state that 'the noble family of Duff derives from Fyfe Macduff, a chief of great wealth and power, who lived about the year 834, and afforded to Kenneth II., King of Scotland, strong aid against his enemies the Picts.' An old MS. at Drummuir calls him 'Fife Duff, a royal young man, cousin-german of Kenneth the Second, and one of his generals, and in the year 838 is made Thane.'

Another version, which has the authority of Hector Boece, first Principal of Aberdeen University,³ gives the name of the hero as Fifus Duffus, and says that he was granted the county of Otholenia as a reward for his

¹ *Pictish Chronicle*, translated by Pinkerton.

² *History of Scotland*, published 1526.

³ Skene's *Highlanders of Scotland*.

services, and that this became the kingdom of Fife (*Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections*).¹

Yet another legend ascribes the origin of the family to Duff (or Dubh, the Black) son of Malcolm I., King of Scotland, who succeeded to the throne in 962, having first defeated Colin, son of Indulph, the last king. Subsequently Colin defeated King Duff, who was murdered by a band of assassins, hired by Donald, Governor of Forres, at the castle of Forres, and his body was hidden under a bridge at Kinloss, tradition stating that the sun did not shine again until the body had been found and buried. Skene, in his *Celtic Scotland*, suggests that the eclipse of the sun on July 10, 967, originated (or confirmed) this story. The elder son of King Duff was Kenneth III., and the younger became McDuff, first Thane of Fife, from whom an unbroken line of thanes and earls would bring us to the Countess Isabel, died 1389, 'of whom presently.'

The more usual form of the legend, not, of course, incompatible with the two first already mentioned, makes the first *authentic* ancestor to be Macduff, the eighth Thane of Fife, who married Beatrice Banquo, daughter of the Thane of Lothaber, about 1040.²

This, of course, is the 'dear Duff' of Shakespeare (*Macbeth*, act ii. sc. 3), and the Makduf of John of Fordun's *Scotichronicon* (book v.), and Andrew de Wyntoun's *Chronicles* (book v. chapter xviii.), and the hero of the little burgh of Earlsferry in Fife.³

He is thus described by John of Fordun :

'Macduff Thanus de Fyfe, qui cautius ceteris atque diutius incognitum animi celavit propositum,' which phrase is thus translated: 'Macduff,

¹ But, according to Pinkerton, the name of the hero was Odo, and he was called Dubh, or Black, by the Celtic part of his subjects, the soubriquet descending to his family.

² Though eight thanes of Fife in two hundred years seems a large number even for those troublous and bloodthirsty times. Moreover, Skene in his *Celtic Scotland* says there never were any thanes of Fife, thane being a Saxon title.

The seven thanes after 'Fife Duff' (*sic*) are thus given in the Drummuir MS. :

'Duff Mc Duff, a man like unto his father, who was killed fighting against the Danes. Fisgaous, that is the warlike Fife.

Dufaganus, that is the Little Duff, "a man little in body but great in virtue."

Colbanus, that is the white Prince or Thane. "He did not degenerate from his ancestors."

Malcolm, dyed in the year 918.

Constantine his son and heir did govern that province of Fife and dyed in the tyme of King

Duncan the first, that mild king who was barbarously murdered by Mc Beth the Tyrant.

Duncan the first, called the great Macduff, a man beyond all praise, who killed Macbeth and settled Malcolm on the throne of his predecessors.'

³ 'South of this upon the sea is Earls ferry, a little Fisher town which, as is said, Mc Duff, Earl of Fife, got erected into a royal Burgh because the Fishers here transported him over the Firth when he made his escape from Macbeth. They are said to have only 3 fishing boats' (Sibbald's *Natural History of Fife and Kinross*, 1710).

who kept the unknown purpose of his heart (which was inimical to Macbeth) hidden longer and more carefully than the others.'

This extreme caution may be held to have been inherited by some of his descendants.

Modern Scottish critics, such as Dr. Skene in his edition of Fordun's *Chronicles*, and Robertson in his *Scotland under her Early Kings*, now throw doubt on the very existence of Macduff, treating him as an invention of Fordun, and they, moreover, seek to whitewash the grim Macbeth, who is held to have had a 'tanistic'¹ right to the throne of Scotland.

Andrew Lang's *History of Scotland*, chapter iii., sets forth clearly how Malcolm II. himself was by some looked on as a usurper, and Lulach, son of Gruach (otherwise Lady Macbeth) was considered to have a better right to the throne than Duncan (grandson of Malcolm II., and father of Malcolm III.), who was 'assassinated' by Macbeth, Maormor of Moray, the guardian of Lulach, Macbeth then reigning for nine years. The murder by Macbeth is stated, in the register of St. Andrews, to have taken place at Bothgowanan (the smith's house), supposed to be near the village of Auldearn, and not at Cawdor Castle. Lang does not mention Macduff.

Skene says: 'I consider Fordun to be wholly responsible for the ingeniously imagined interview of Macduff with Malcolm, and am also inclined to credit him with the entire invention of Macduff Thane of Fife, and the part which he plays in the reigns of Macbeth and Malcolm' (Note in his edition of Fordun *Historians of Scotland*).²

Early Scottish history has not, as yet, been quite finally remodelled to exclude the old legends, and though Sir James Balfour Paul in his new *Scots Peerage*, and the writer in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, both speak of Macduff as a mythical character, the present writers, with the tacit support of Professor David Laing, continue to believe in the existence of this attractive personage and possible ancestor, who, according to John of Fordun, was mainly instrumental in placing Malcolm on the throne

¹ Tanistry: from Gaelic *Tana*, a chief, was the Celtic system of succession, whereby the king or chief of the clan was the ablest male of the family in his generation, not necessarily the eldest.

² Other critics have advanced the theory that Fordun's *Chronicle* itself was a forgery of post-reformation times, but in any case it is not usually held to be possible that Andrew de Wynton, writing about 1420, could have copied from him, and his account of Macduff is at least as detailed as that of Fordun, occupying ten pages in Laing's edition, *Historians of Scotland*. It is true that nothing is known personally of the writer called John of Fordun, save the tradition as to the date of his death, but this alone could not serve to annihilate the claim of his work to authenticity. The long account of the conversation between Malcolm and Macduff, to which, through the medium of Boece and Hollinshed, Shakespeare was so much indebted, is, of course, a fiction, though possibly founded on a traditional fact, and even such writers as Xenophon and Thucydides have used this method of giving life to authentic chronicles, nor been thereby discredited.

LEGENDARY HISTORY

which had been usurped by Macbeth,¹ or, as he is called in the *Latin Chronicles*, 'Maccabeus.'²

According, then, to legendary history, Macduff defeated Macbeth at the battle of Lumphanan, 1056, and in reward Malcolm, King of Scotland, bestowed upon him the following privileges (Andrew de Wynton, book vi. chapter xix.):

1. That he should be created Earl of Fife, and that he and his successors as Lords of Fife should have the right of placing the kings of Scotland on the throne at their coronation. This right, and also that of crowning the king, was exercised by Isabel Duff, Countess of Buchan, who crowned King Robert Bruce in 1306, and was in consequence imprisoned by the English Edward in a cage (or dungeon so-called) at Berwick Castle, for three years.

2. That he and his successors should lead the van of the Scots army whenever the royal banner was displayed.

3. That if he or any of his kindred 'committed slaughter of suddenty'³ they should have peculiar sanctuary and obtain remission on payment of an atonement in money. (Some versions of the legend limit this right of sanctuary to the waters of the Firth of Forth between Macduff's own burgh of Earlsferry (Elie) and the Haddington coast, and say that if any fugitive embarked from the Fifeshire coast, the pursuers were not allowed to start until the boat was half-way across the Firth.)

These privileges must be quoted in Wynton's⁴ own words:

'Quken Makbeth Fynlayk thus wes slane
Offe Fyffe Makduff that tyme the Thane
For his traivaille till his bownte
At Malcolme as Kyng askyd these thre :

1. Fyrst, till hys sete fra the awtarc⁵
That he sulde be the Kyng's ledare
And in that set, thare set hym downe
Till take his Coronatyowne,

¹ From the old *Irish Peerage* :

'The family of Duff or Macduff is of great antiquity in Scotland. Macduff Thane of Fife, one of the most powerful subjects in Scotland, excited a formidable revolt against the usurper Macbeth in the year 1056, which terminated in the defeat and death of Macbeth at Lumphanan in Aberdeenshire 5 Dec. and the restoration of King Malcolm III. to the throne of his ancestors. In reward Malcolm created him Earl of Fife, and bestowed on him many privileges to be enjoyed by himself and his successors. By the forfeiture of Murdoc D. of Albus 1425 the title of Earl of Fife was vested in the Crown until it was revived in the person of William Duff, Lord Braco of Kilbryde.'

² There was a Machabeus Duff in Cullen in 1342.

³ Lord Hailes' *Annals of Scotland*, 1776.

⁴ Andro de Wynton, 1350-1422.

⁵ Altar.

PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO MACDUFF

5

For hym and hys posteryte
 Quhen-eyre the Kyng suld crownyd be.

2. Efftyre that, the secound thyng
 Wes, that he askyd at the Kyng
 Till haive the waward¹ off hys bataylle
 Qwhat-eyr thai ware, wold it assaylle
 That he and hys suld haive always
 Quhen that the Kyng suld banare² rays
 Or, gyff the Thane off Fyff in were³
 Or in till ost⁴ wyth his powere
 Ware, the waward suld governyd be
 Be hym and his posteryte.

3. Efftyre this, the thryd askyng
 That he askyt at the Kyng,
 Gyve ony be suddane chawdmelle⁵
 Hapnyd swa slayne to be
 Be ony off the Thaynys kyne
 Off Fyff the kynryk⁶ all wyth-in
 Gyve he swa slayne were gentill-man
 Four and twenty markys than
 For a yhwman⁷ twelf markys ay
 The slaare suld for kynbwt⁸ pay,
 And haive full remyssyone
 Fra thin for all that actyowne.
 Gyve ony hapyd hym to sla
 That to that lawch⁹ were bwndyn swa
 Off that privylage evyrmare
 Partles¹⁰ suld be the slaare
 Off this lawch are thre capytale
 That is the Blak Prest off Weddale
 The Thayne off Fyffe, and the thryd syne
 Quha ewyre be Lord off Abbyrnethyne.'

The existence of some special privileges is authenticated by the fact that in the Acts of the Scots Parliament of 1384, the Earl of Fife agrees to cause the new laws to be observed in his capacity as principal of the Law of Clan Macduff (*capitalis legis de Clan m'Duffe*).—Skenc.

The King also granted that to the Clan Macduff there should be perpetual regality, that is, that they should have the power of creating any persons in their tribe magistrates, or of appointing judges for administering the law in any action whatever, excepting the crime of *lese majesty*, and of recalling from

¹ Van.

² Banner.

³ War.

⁴ Battle.

⁵ Brawl.

⁶ King's power or jurisdiction.

⁷ Yeoman.

⁸ Compensation for slaughter of kindred.

⁹ Law.

¹⁰ Having no part.

any parts of the kingdom any one of the Clan Macduff, or of their country, who might be called in judgment, to their own judges' (MS. History of Mackintoshes, quoted by Macfarlane in his *Genealogical Collections*).

In 1421, Johnson, as Stewart in Fife, received three gentlemen who had been concerned in the slaughter of Melvil of Glenbervy, to the Lach of Clan Macduff¹ (Macpherson's Notes to Sixth Book, Andro de Wyntoun's *Chronykil*).

The right of peculiar sanctuary is also sometimes associated with Macduff's Cross, near Newburgh, of which only ruins now remain. Sibbald gives an account of this cross, with the Latin inscription said to have been on it, and a rhyming paraphrase of the same, adding, 'If this be not a true account, it is at least ingenious and well invented.'

Sir John Skene, in his *De Verborum Significatione*, says: 'Gif ony man slayes, being within the ninth degree o' bluid to Macdusse, repair to the Cross, an' there declare his kinship,' at the same time presenting Macduff² with nine cows 'an' ane *colpendach*' (a year-old cow), he was, after washing himself in a well near by, declared free 'O' ony sudden chawdmelle,' and could not again be tried. In every instance the person claiming the protection of Macduff's law had to prove consanguinity or be immediately slain.

In the year 1390, Sir Alexander de Ogilvy was summoned to appear before the Earl of Strathearn's Court, 'holden' at Fowlis, on December 9, to show cause why he 'spilt the bluid of William de Spalden.' Sir Bernard de Hadden (an ancestor of Lord Haldane) appeared on Sir Alexander's behalf, and pleaded that, as Sir Alexander had stood Macduff's law, he could not be again tried. The defence was successful, and Sir Alexander got off without pain or penalties.

This early history is a most fascinating subject, but as it has, in truth, very little to do with the Duffs, we must pass on.

MACDUFF, eighth Thane of Fife, according to legend, thus became, in 1057, the first Earl.

His son DUFFAGAN, the second Earl, was, according to Sir James Dalrymple's *Historical Collections*, witness to a charter granted by King Alexander I. to Trinity Church at Scone, 1115. According to the Drum-

¹ The Clan Macduff is therefore sometimes said to be the oldest of the Scottish Clans, and as such is mentioned in one of the Irish genealogical MSS. Book of Leinster (Skene's *Celtic Scotland*), although, of course, the Duffs were never, strictly speaking, Highlanders at all, and had no habitation within the Highland line (as drawn by Skene) until after 1715, when some of them established themselves in the forfeited estates of the Earls of Mar.

(Those who carried on their business in the town of Inverness in the seventeenth century scarcely form an exception.)

² He does not explain how this was to be done.

muir MS. he was buried, like his father, in the 'royall buriall place at Dunfermling.'¹

The third Earl was CONSTANTINE, died 1127. He was witness to a charter of the Monastery of Dunfermline.²

GILLMICHAEL, the fourth Earl, appears as a witness to the Foundation Charter of Holyrood Abbey in 1128, and to several other charters of David I. In King David's Confirmation Charter to Dunfermline he appears as Gillemichael Macduf. He died 1139.

His eldest son was DUNCAN, the fifth Earl, also frequently employed as a witness by David I. and Malcolm IV. He died 1154, after having assisted in 1153 at the coronation of King Malcolm IV., to whom he had been tutor.

The second son of Gillmichael was Hugh or Hugo, ancestor of the Earl of Wemyss, who may be said to be the only thoroughly authenticated living representative of the ancient Thanes of Fife, and bears the ancient arms of the Fifes, 'the Scottish Lyon red and rampant upon a golden shield.'

According to Andrew de Wyntoun (the chronicler who devoted so much space to the first Macduff), DUNCAN, fifth Earl of Fife, was appointed Regent of Scotland during the minority of Malcolm IV. From other younger sons of Gillmichael are said to be descended other branches of the Duff family, but this statement is also made with regard to the younger

¹ But there is also a memorandum of a donation to the Culdees of Loch Leven by Etheldred, son of Malcolm, King of Scotland, Abbot of Dunkeld and Earl of Fife, of the same date. The authenticity of this donation has been questioned, and the possibility of its being a fabrication of later date is suggested by the fact that the names of Etheldred's two brothers, David and Alexander, are given in the wrong order, Alexander being in reality the elder. It is this donation which is used by those who wish to disprove the existence of Macduff the Thane and first Earl of Fife, and the *Scots Peerage* gives Etheldred as the first earl. The king's son may, of course, have held the title of earl while the subject was only thane, and may have resigned it later. This would account for the fact that some ancient trees give to the second earl, son of Macduff, the thane and first earl, the unusual Saxon name of Etheldred. As the name of the son of the Saxon Queen Margaret it is, of course, natural and supported by history; it is held by some writers that Macduff's son might have taken it out of courtesy. Lord Hailes suggests that Etheldred had the custody of the earldom of Fife during the minority of Macduff's son, and hence received the title of Earl of Fife as being '*custos comitatus*.'

The children of Malcolm and Margaret are thus given by Andrew de Wyntoun in book vii. chapter iii. of the *Cronykil of Scotland* :

'Malcolm Kyng be lawchfull get
Had on hys wyff Saynt Margret,
Sownnys sex and dowchtrys twa
Off thir sownnys thre off tha
Wes Edmund, Edward, Ethelrede
Kyng off thire nowcht ane we red
Bot Edgare, Alysawulyre and Dawy yhyng,*
Ilkane off thire wes crownyd a kyng.'

² In the *Annals of Ulster*, Constantine is called Constantine Macduffe.

* young.

sons of the sixth earl. The fifth Earl left two sons, Duncan and a younger one, sometimes called SHAW, from whom descend the Mackintoshes.

DUNCAN, the sixth Earl, succeeded his father in 1154. He was Justiciary of Scotland in the reign of William the Lion, and, as had been the case with former earls of Fife, he was the first to witness all charters, and was one of the peers who treated for the monarch's ransom. He married Ada or Ela, niece of Malcolm IV., 'and got with her in tocher the lands of Strathmiglo, Falkland, Kettle, Rathkillet in Fife, and Strathbran in Perthshire' (Sibbald). He founded the nunnery of North Berwick. He died in 1203, leaving three sons: MALCOLM, DUNCAN, and DAVID.

MALCOLM, the seventh Earl, founded the Abbey of Culross in 1217, and made a donation to the episcopate of Moray to which his brothers, Duncan and David, were witnesses. He married Matilda, daughter of Gilbert, Earl of Strathearn, but died childless in 1229, and was buried in St. Servan's Church, Culross.

His brother DUNCAN, married Alicia Corbet, daughter of Walter Corbet of Makerstoun, and their son was the eighth Earl. Upon the third, DAVID, his father settled the lands of Strathbogie,¹ which he had obtained from William the Lion, and his son John married Ada, heiress of Athole, and from them a (probably mythical) descent has been traced to David Duff of Muldavit who will appear later.

Mr. Malcolm's *Collections*, belonging to the Earl of Wemyss, also affirm that 'the Duffs of Craighead, which is the same as Muldavit,' were descended from Duncan, sixth Earl of Fife, who died 1203, through this third son.

MALCOLM, the eighth Earl, succeeded his uncle in 1228. He married Helen, daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and died 1266. He was a member of the regency appointed, in 1255, under the influence of Henry III. of England, and, with his fellow regents, swore an oath that he would restore the Queen of Scotland and her child, when she went to England for her first confinement.

COLBAN, the ninth Earl, died in 1270; he had a younger brother Macduff, who fell gallantly fighting under the standard of Wallace at the battle of Falkirk, July 22, 1298.²

¹ 'Duncan Macduff, Earl of Fife, got Strathbogie from King William the Lion, who died 1214, and left it to his second son David, and the Duffs were therefore proprietors of the whole county of Strathbogie about a hundred years before the Gordons left the borders of England or the Grants came into Strathspey.'

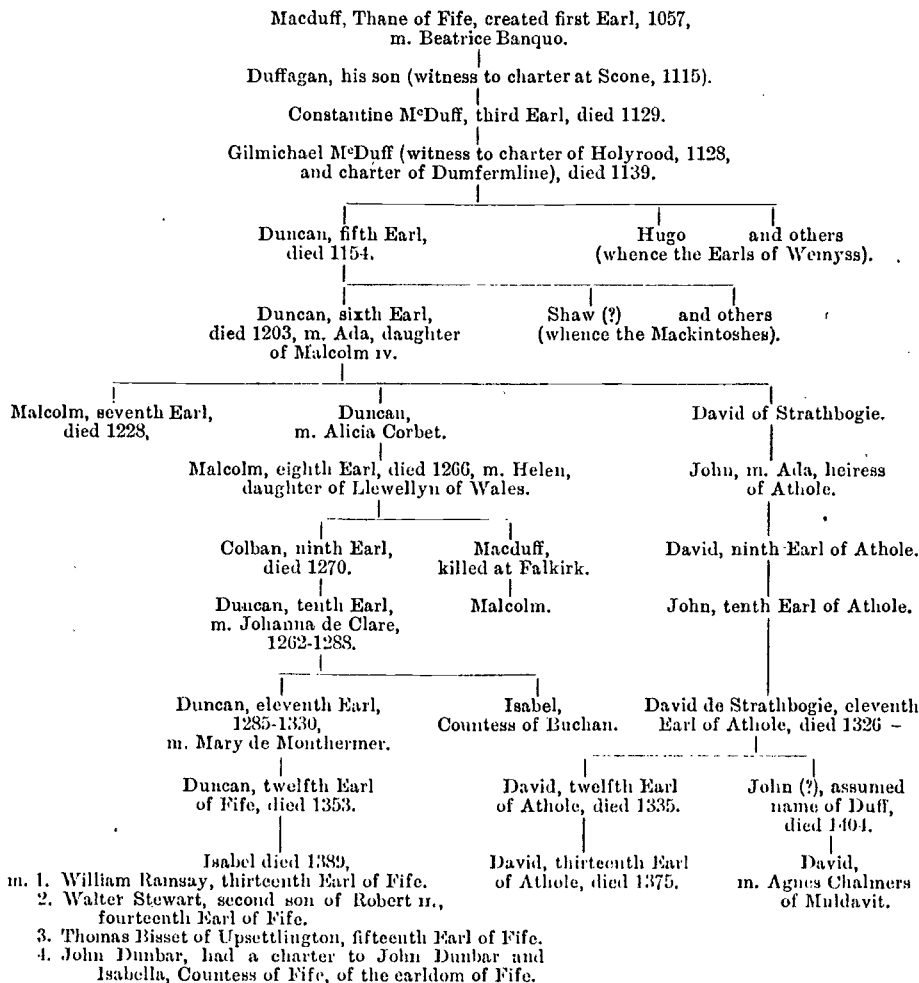
² A MS. history of the Duffs, written in Latin in 1599, states that Duncan or Macduff (he probably had both names), brother of the ninth earl, who was killed at the battle of Falkirk 1298, fighting for Wallace, had a younger son Malcolm, who married a daughter of Duncan, Thane of Cawdor, and was progenitor of the Duffs of the North. It will be noted that no opportunity is lost by the old chroniclers of providing a possible ancestor for these prolific 'Duffs of the North.' Cf. 'Dufforum Stirpe, hodie prepotente inter Borealis Scotos' (Drummuir MS.).

DESCENT OF THE OLD EARLS OF FIFE

9

TRADITIONAL DESCENT OF THE OLD EARLS OF FIFE.

I.



After Isabel's death (1389), without heirs, the earldom and lands passed (by her will, made in 1371) to Robert, Earl of Menteith, third son of Robert II., and brother to Isabel's second husband. When he and his son, Murdoch, were executed in 1425, the title of Earl of Fife reverted to the Crown, to be revived in 1759.

DUNCAN, the tenth Earl, born 1263, was, during his minority, a ward of Alexander, Prince of Scotland, son to Alexander III. He was admitted to possession of his earldom in 1284. He was chosen one of the six regents on the death of Alexander III. in the Parliament of Seone, April 2, 1286, and took an oath to maintain the rights of the Maid of Norway. He married Johanna de Clare, daughter of the Earl of Gloucester. He was basely murdered at Petpollock, September 25, 1288, by Sir Patrick Abernethy and Sir Walter Percy, the latter being subsequently executed for the murder. 'He was most worthie of a longer life' (Drummuir MS.).

DUNCAN, the eleventh Earl, born in 1285, was therefore only three years old at the time of his father's death, and was brought up at the English Court. At the coronation of John Baliol at Seone in 1292, being a minor (only seven years old) he could not perform the ceremony, and John de St. John was appointed as his deputy.

His sister Isabel, who was a good deal older, subsequently exercised the hereditary family right at the second coronation of Robert Bruce on May 29, 1306, and this in spite of the fact that her husband, John Comyn, third Earl of Buchan, was an enemy of the Bruce.

Duncan married, in 1306, Mary de Monthermer, grand-daughter of Edward I.,¹ and shortly after returned to Scotland, where he espoused the cause of the Bruce, received from him the charters of the earldom of Fife and the baronies of O'Neil in Aberdeenshire, Kinnoul in Perthshire, and Calder in Midlothian. He did good service at the battle of Donnibristle and was the first of the earls who signed the celebrated letter to the Pope from the Parliament of Aberbrothock, asserting the independence of Scotland, April 6, 1320. He was taken prisoner at the fatal battle of Dupplin, August 12, 1332, and assisted at the coronation of Edward Baliol at Seone, on September 24 following, placing him in the regal chair, as his sister had done for Bruce twenty-seven years before. He probably acquired his liberty as the price of his assistance on the occasion, as the presence of the Earl of Fife or his representative was, in those days, considered essential to the validity of a Scottish coronation.

He was killed at the battle of Hallidown Hill, 1333.²

DUNCAN, the twelfth and last Earl of Fife in the male line from the great Macduff, fought on the side of David II. after his return from France, and took for him the castle of St. Andrews. He accompanied him to England

¹ On January 28, 1319, King Edward II. granted a safe-conduct to his beloved niece Maria, Countess of Fife, to go to Scotland to join her husband.

² According to Sir James Balfour Paul's *Peerage*, this Earl and the next are the same, *i.e.* Duncan the eleventh Earl, or, as the *Peerage* styles him, the tenth, was not killed at Hallidown Hill, but survived until 1353, and left the daughter Isabel.

in 1346, where he was taken prisoner at the battle of Durham and tried for treason, but pardoned on account of his relationship on his mother's side to Edward III.¹ He died without male issue in 1353, and with him the Duffs or Maeduffs, Earls of Fife, became extinct. He was succeeded in his estates by his daughter Isabel, presumably called after her intrepid great-aunt.² While still a child she had been made a prisoner at Perth by Edward Baliol. She was four times married, but had no children :

1. To William Ramsay of Colluthie, styled the thirteenth Earl of Fife. He witnessed a charter of King David II., 1358, and obtained from the king a charter erecting Cupar into a free burgh.

2. To Walter Stewart, second son of King Robert II. He died in 1360 or 1361 ; he was styled the fourteenth Earl.

3. To Thomas Bisset of Upsettlington. He obtained a charter of the earldom from David II., June 8, 1362, and is styled, by Sibbald, the fifteenth Earl.

4. To John Dunbar. Among the missing charters is one to John Dunbar and Isabella, Countess of Fife, of the earldom of Fife.³ John was the sixteenth Earl.

Isabel, who died in 1389, left all her lands to her brother-in-law by her second husband, Robert, Earl of Menteith, afterwards Duke of Albany, to whom also the title of Earl of Fife seems to have passed by virtue of some shadowy right on the part of his wife, Lady Margaret Menteith, or, more probably, simply by royal favour. In any case, after the execution of Robert, Duke of Albany, and his son Murdoch for treachery, in 1425, the title of Earl of Fife reverted to the Crown, and disappeared from the peerage for over three hundred years, until revived in 1759.⁴

¹ See papers at the Record Office.

² Or aunt. See Note 2, p. 10.

³ Robertson's *Index of Missing Charters*.

⁴ Many of the above particulars are taken from a very old manuscript tree and other ancient MSS. preserved in various branches of the family, and have been carefully collated with all the early historical authorities and modern commentators ; but the authors are well aware that their conclusions on various disputed points are open to criticism, and they give them for what they are worth, as embodying the traditions of the family, supported by its own archives.

CHAPTER II

DUFFS OF MULDAVIT

FROM about the same period as that of the extinction of the direct line of the family of the old Earls of Fife dates the appearance of the family of Duffs of Muldavit, which has a well-authenticated record, supported by Crown charters and Privy Council records for two hundred and fifty years. It is, however, difficult to connect it authoritatively with the Thanes of Fife.¹

The bald statement, found in some old family trees, that 'David Duff of Muldavit, who died in 1375, was grandson of Duncan, thirteenth Earl of Fife,' is obviously false, for the thirteenth Earl was one of the husbands of the childless Countess Isabel, and if Duncan, twelfth Earl, is meant, the question of dates proves a stumbling-block. Moreover, Isabel is generally said to have been the only child.

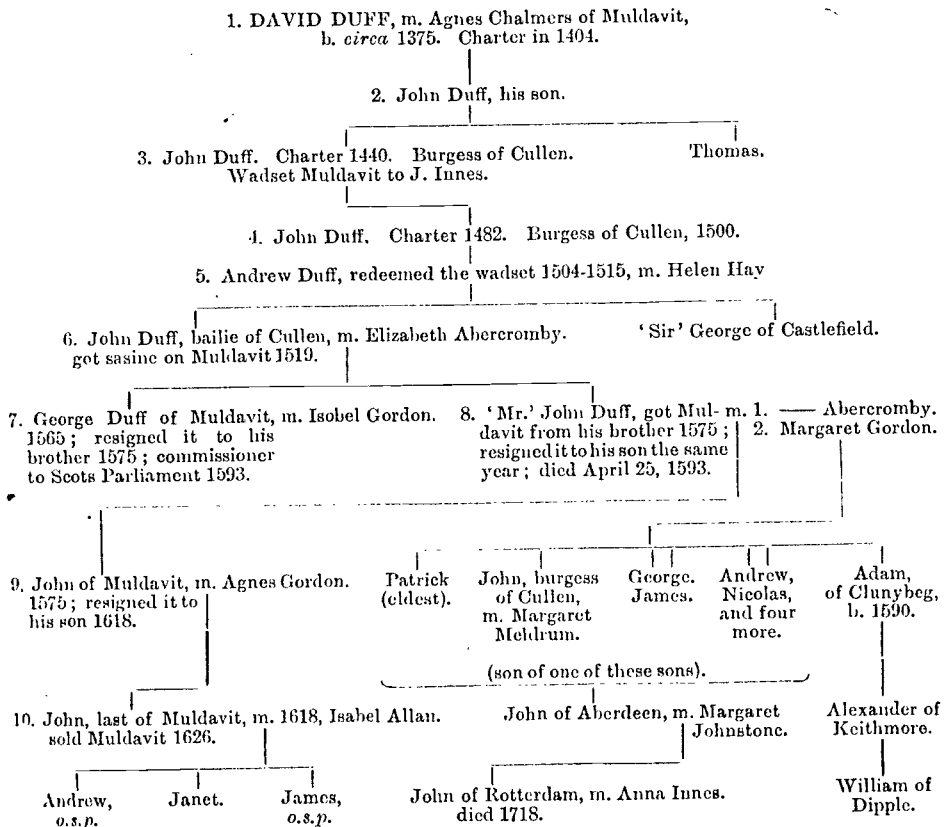
However, as we have already seen, many of the earlier Earls of Fife had younger sons, and there is a perfectly possible descent for the Muldavit family from the fourth, the sixth, or the eighth Earl. Baird quotes a story of old William Duff of Inverness, son of Adam of Clunybeg, when 'taking a cheerful glass in company with the then Earl of Wemyss and MacIntosh of Moy, Duff's grandson-in-law, who were his guests, and the question was started somehow or other which of them was representative of the old Thanes of Fife. Provost Duff spake not a word till Lord Wemyss and MacIntosh had pled their respective pretensions with a very serious air, but all in good humour; then he said, "Ha, ha! gentlemen, if I had Lord Weems' estate and MacIntosh's following, I think I would have as good title to be Thane of Fife as any of ye." This, of course, is of no real value as evidence, but he was obviously referring to the linking of the Muldavit family to the old Earls of Fife, and the descent of his own father from the Muldavits, and shows that the claims were well known even in those days. Baird, the only previous historian of the family, says, on the authority of Sibbald, that two younger sons of the family of the Earls of Fife left their own country and came north, 'one to the shire of

¹ Jervise in his well-known book on epitaphs, having gone carefully into the subject with all the data then at his disposal, gives it as his opinion that the connection of the Duffs of Craighhead or Muldavit with the ancient Earls of Fife is pure assertion, founded on no evidence.

TREE OF THE MULDAVIT FAMILY

Perth, where he purchast the Lands of Findowie in Stratherle, and the other to Banffshire, where he purchast Craighead or Moldavit in the Boyn.' Dr. Cramond, in his slashing refutation of all claim on the part of the Duke of Fife to antiquity of family, published in the *Scotsman*, July 29, 1889, quotes this with scorn. But obviously neither he nor Baird had taken the trouble to verify the quotation from Sibbald. It really runs thus (edition 1710, Sibbald's *Natural History of Fife and Kinross*): 'There are several cadets of the house, the predecessors of Fanduy, Craigtown and others.' Baird obviously wished to identify this with Craighead, but it is at least equally possible that Sibbald may have been referring to Craigston, belonging in his day to Patrick Duff.¹

The family of Muldavit has, from the beginning of the fifteenth century, a well-authenticated family tree:



¹ For Findowie, see chapter xxxv.

DUFFS OF MULDAVIT

1. DAVID DUFF of Muldavit, son of John Duff,¹ for whom the date 1375 is given (and to whom and to his wife Agnes Chalmers ('de Camera'), daughter and heiress of Maud of Muldavit, a charter of the lands of Muldavit was granted in 1404 by Robert III.), is said to have been descended from a younger son of the fifth or sixth Earl, but no proof of this has ever been given, and no one living has seen the above quoted charter, once in the possession of the Earl of Findlater, and given by him to the Earl of Fife. It is quoted in Robertson's *List of Missing Charters*, where the names are given as Maldakatu (Muldavit) and Baldavy.²

The later charters may be seen in the *Scottish Records* and the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*.

2. JOHN, the second Duff owner of Muldavit, flourished in the reign of King James I. of Scotland, 'as appears by the charter to his son in his lifetime, though it does not appear that he ever expedie a charter to himself' (Baird).

3. JOHN, the third of Muldavit, his successor, had a charter from James II. during the lifetime of his father :

'Apud Edinburch, 12 Feb. 1440. Rex concessit Johanni Dufe filio et heredi Joh. Dufe et heridibus ejus terram que vocatur Fyndachtesfield, jacentem ex parte occidentali aquae de Culane, quam dictus Joh. pater personaliter in castro de Edinburch resignavit. Reddend annuatim regi, dictus Joh. heredes sui vel assignati i mare et taciend sectum cum bladis dicti tem. ad molendinum burgi de Culane debitam et consuetam. Reservato libero tenemento dicti Joh. patri et rationabili tertia sponse ejus cum contigerit.'

This John had a brother Thomas, as shown by a notarial instrument in the charter room at Cullen House, which narrates that 'in the presence of the notary and witnesses underwritten, in full Court in the Court House, compeared James Ogilvy of Drumnakeith and Thomas Duff, baillies of the burgh of Cullen, with the councillors and fellow-burgesses thereof, and in a high and intelligible, yet sufficiently lamentable voice, deplored the abuses and confusions into which misgovernment had brought the affairs

¹ A monument, removed from the church of Cullen in 1792 by James, second Lord Fife, is supposed to represent John Duff, father of David. The date of his death, 1404, being cut in Arabic figures, not in use at that period, points to the hand of the restorer, anxious to emphasise the antiquity of the family, and to give the same date as the charter.

² In the inventory of charters at Cullen House, the absence of this, the first charter, is noted in the following words :

'This charter, at Lord Fife's earnest desire, was given up to him, and his letter of thanks, dated 19th Nov. 1759, is put up in its place.'

The date of the charter is there given as February 5, 1403 (old style).

It was printed in the Spalding Club collections from this 'copy in private hands,' which has now disappeared.

ANDREW DUFF OF MULDAVIT AND HELEN HAY 15

of the burgh, and they agreed to elect certain discreet and understanding burgesses, to whom they gave the power of setting in tack all lands, mills, and others belonging to the said burgh, etc., etc. Done on March 16, 1480-1. Witnesses—James Ogilvy of Drumnakeith, John Duff, senior, and Thomas Duff, senior, brother-german to said John.' John Duff wadset (that is, mortgaged), Muldavit to one James Innes.

4. JOHN, fourth of Muldavit, his son, had this wadset confirmed in the following terms :

'Apud Edinburghi, 13 April 1482. Rex confirmavit cartam Johannis Duff, burgensis di Culane qua, pro certa summa pecuniæ vendidit et alienavit Jacobo Innes de eodem heredibus ejus et assignatis terras di Maudavat. vic Banff.'¹

The house of Muldavit, of which no trace now remains, is said to have stood 'upon a cliff just above the burn of Cullen, opposite to the magnificent mansion of Cullen House.' Exactly the same description is given by Gordon of Straloch of the site of Craighead. Possibly the house on the estate of Muldavit was called Craighead. The latter name does not occur until a century later, and may have been applied only to the mansion built on that site by Margaret Gordon of Cairnburrow, wife of the great-grandson of the John Duff who died in 1482.² In the Balbithan MS.³ it is stated that 'she built the house of Craighead which is now reazed.' It was in ruins in 1732.⁴

5. John was succeeded in 1500 by ANDREW DUFF, said by Baird to be his son, but the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, 1504, says nephew (*nepos Johannis*), though the word may mean, as it often does, grandson, and refer to John, third of Muldavit, brother of Thomas, leaving out Andrew's immediate predecessor. In any case, he redeemed the wadset upon Muldavit granted by his grandfather, John Duff :

'Apud Linlithgow, 16 June 1504. Rex conformavit cartam Jac. Innes de Rothybrysbane, filii et heredis quondam Jac. Innes de eodem, qua concessit Andrae Duff et heredibus ejus quibus cunque terras di Muldavit vic Banff ; quae quondam John Duff, avus dicti Andrae, dicto quondam Jac. Innes parti alienavit sub reversione certi summa pecuniæ quam dictus And. persolvebat' (*Scottish Records : Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer*, 1504).

Andrew married Helen Hay, grandchild of John Hay, Lord of the Forest of Boyne, Enzie and Tillibady. After his death, Helen built the

¹ The confirmation is dated March 13, 1481.

² This John Duff, the burgess of Cullen (see above), raised an action in 1493 against one Ogilvie re the lands of Findachtyfield, which the Duffs claimed under a charter of Robert the Bruce (*Acta Audit.* 170).

³ Printed in the *House of Gordon*, Spalding Club, 1903.

⁴ Ramsay.

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Duff aisle in the church of Cullen, and left some land for its upkeep,¹ and placed the following inscription in the church: 'John Hay, Lord of the Forest Bon, Aze, Tolbovil, gudsir to Elen Hay yt bigit yrs Ile feft a chaplari heir to sing personali of his landis of Ordihuf,' with the craftsman's Z mark.

Round the window is also: 'Sant anis chaplan heir dotat yt acre gud croft land in cula sal be a gud singlar of hali lif but odir service dati resident to pray for Elen Hay and hir barnis his fundors at gift of Jon Duff and his aris of Maldavit and faling yarof at gift of ye balzeis and comunitie of Cula per Elena Hay.'

On the west side: 'Elene Hay Jon Duffis modr of Maldavit yat maid yis Ile ye chaplanric,' and on two corner stones: 'per Elena Hay, soli Deo honor et Gloria.'²

6. Andrew Duff died in 1519 according to Baird, but according to the Decennial List of Heirs he was dead in 1515, leaving two sons. JOHN, sixth of Muldavit, who succeeded him, was served heir in 1520. Helen Hay, John's mother, had married again, one Alexander Dick, who seems to have been appointed guardian to John Duff, for in the *Register of the Privy Seal, Scotland*, date July 21, 1515, there is:

'Ane letter to Alexander Dyk his airis and assignaris, of the ward of all lands and annualis that pertinet to unquile Andro Duff of Muldavit, and now, be his deccis, being in the kyngis hands be resoun of ward for all the tyme thereof, and the marriage of Johne Duff his sown and are, and failzeand of hym of any other are or airis male or femell,' etc.

¹ *Cullen Records*.

² After the aisle fell into disrepair it appears to have been used for the interments of any who chose to pay for it, and in the next century Agnes Gordon, wife of John Duff, who is summoned as a recusant for refusing to come to church, gives as her reason that 'there was a man buried in her husband's ile without the consent of her and her friends.' In 1624 a process was issued against her. 'George Douglas declared that Agnes, having sworn and subscribed to the true religion, refuseth to hear the word in his kirk because there was a man buried in her husband's yle and burial place, upon the night, without the consent of her and her friends.' The process dragged on until 1633, when Agnes is spoken of as of great age, and was therefore treated with leniency. 'The Presbyterie, considering that she has been avers from the treuth all her dayes, and that of lait she is induced to hear the word now and then elsequher and to communicat, and that being of greit age she cannot be ane ordinir heiriar, wills him to continue, until the Assemblies adwys be had.' She was, however, still alive in 1641. In 1637 there was further quarrelling about this aisle. Several brethren, namely George Ogilvie in Cullen, James Ogilvie, sometime of Glassa', and certain other parishioners of Cullen, gave in a report that Mr. James Hay of Muldavit had erected a double desk on the east side of the Isle reaching further, much of a foot, beyond the pend (arch) of the church, whereas Mr. Pat. Duff sometime of Darbruich and his predecessors had their burials' (*Presbytery Records of Fordyce*).

The decision of the baillies was that the desk be removed (*Cullen Court Books*). Adam Duff of Chmybeg was buried in this aisle. See next chapter.

The second son was GEORGE DUFF, a priest, Provost of Cullen, chaplain in the parish church there, who in 1562 renders accounts to the bailies of Cullen. He acquired the lands of Castlefield, and left them by a charter (apud Dalkeith, 10 Juli 1575)¹ to his natural son John, afterwards legitimated, whose heirs were to carry the name and arms of Duff. John Duff of Castlefield appears as a witness to a charter in 1583.

George Duff appears in the family trees as 'Sir' George.²

John, elder brother of George, had a precept of sasine on the lands of Muldavit, apud Banff 1520.³ He also appears in the roll of the bailies of Cullen in 1521. According to Cullen Records, he married Elizabeth Abereromby.

7. He left two sons, GEORGE and JOHN, seventh and eighth lairds of Muldavit. The first resigned his lands in favour of his brother.⁴ He was commissioner for the burgh of Cullen, and, according to the Acts of the Parliament of Scotland, was present with other commissioners at the Tolbooth, Edinburgh, in 1593.

According to Baird he never married, but later researches have elicited the fact that he married Isobel, daughter of Patrick Gordon of Drummoy, and had a daughter Isobel, who married another Patrick Gordon, son of

¹ 'Apud Dalkeith, 10 July 1575. Rex confirmavit cartam quondam D. Georgio Duff portionarii de Castlefield, qua pro servitis et laboribus sibi impensis, concessit Johanni Duff filio suo naturali, quondam bastardo, sed tunc legitimate, quartam et octavam partem terrarum de Castlefield per se modo occupat. Tenend dicto Joh. et heredibus masc ejus de corpore legit. procreandis, quibus deficientibus, heredibus masc. Mag. Johannis Duff in Connes de corpore legitime procreatis, quibus def. heredibus rege. Reservato vitali redditu dicto Georgio; cum precepto sasine directo Alexandro Syme, burgensi in Cullane.

Test. M. Jo. Duf in Connes.

Geo. Duf. filio quondam William D.'

Dr. David Hay Fleming in his *Reformation in Scotland* gives a list of the sons and daughters of the celibate clergy of Scotland, recorded to have been legitimated at this period, taken from the *Registers of the Great Seal of Scotland*.

² About 1540 the title 'Sir' was applied in Scotland to such of the clergy as had not proceeded in the course of their studies at the University to the degree of Master of Arts. 'Master' then implied a higher position than 'Sir,' which was equivalent to a B.A. (Cramond).

³ 'Banff, 1520. Vicecomes respondebit pro 40 lib de fermis terrarum de Muldavit cum pertinem jacentium infra belliam suam existentium in manibus regis per spatium 5 annorum ult, elaps, sasina non recuperata et pro 4 ti de relevis earundum regi debitis per sasinam datam Johanni Duff de eisdem apud Edinburgh.'

⁴ 'Apud Hammyton, 28 April 1551. Regina confirmavit cartam quondam Georgii Duff de Muldavit' (but Mr. Maitland Thomson says the word quondam here is an error) 'qua propter servitium sibi impensum concessit fratri suo germano Johanni Duff heredibus ejus et a-signatis, terras de Muldavit cum molendino ejusdem vic Banff. Reservato dicto Geo. libero tenemento.

Test. Jac. Duff in Tellemacht.

Dom Georgius Duff, preposite college de Culane.'

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Cairnburrow (Gordonstown Tables, *House of Gordon*, ii.). He is not known to have had any sons.

8. JOHN, the eighth owner from the original David, got a charter for himself on Muldavit from Queen Mary, November 26, 1550, and another upon a croft, of which the teindsheaves are said to belong to the vicar of the parish church of Rathven.¹ The witnesses to this charter are George Duff, Muldavit, brother of John, and Andrew Duff, probably another brother, and the same man who had sasine on Clunybeg, 1573. This John Duff, who was evidently an M.A., and is always described as 'Mr.', became a burges of Aberdeen in 1581. He married, first, Abercromby of Skeith's daughter,² and had one son, JOHN, who succeeded to Muldavit; secondly, Margaret Gordon, daughter of Cairnburrow,³ by whom he is said to have had eleven sons. 'He was servitor to George, Earl of Huntly, and tackman in the lands of Rannes. Service in Chancery gives his death April 25, 1593' (Rose). He lived for some time in Conage in Rannes, and is frequently so described.

In the Balbithan MS., now published as part of the *House of Gordon*, New Spalding Club, Margaret Gordon is thus described :

'Margaret Gordon, second daughter of John Gordon of Cairnburrow, first married the goodman of Craighead (which is the same as Muldavit), Mr. John Duff, who bore to him eleven sons, of whom is come Braccho and all the opulent surname of Duffs; after the Craighead's death, she married the goodman of Milton Ogilvie in the parish of Keith; she built the house of Craighead, now razed; she built the house of Milton-Achoynanic and the steeple of Keith; her name and her husband's is on the house of Achoynanic, dated 1601. She was interred in her paternal burying place in the kirk of Botarie.'

The eldest of her sons was PATRICK of Darbruich, who married Janet Ogilvie (thus further complicating the relationships between the families of Duff and Ogilvie).⁴

In one place where William Rose mentions the eleven sons of 'Mr.' John Duff and Margaret Gordon, he adds (for his own future guidance, apparently): 'Collect who they were'—but does not seem to have done so very satisfactorily.

Those we know of were as follows :

¹ Pronounced Raffan, near Buckie.

² No record has been found, but the fact of a first marriage is certain.

³ Margaret's brother, William Gordon of Rothiemay, and his son John Gordon, were burned in Frendraught Castle by Crichton of Frendraught, October 1630. This event is commemorated in a well-known ballad, 'The Burning of Frendraught.'

⁴ Margaret, widow of John Duff, married Walter Ogilvie. Her eldest son by John Duff, Patrick of Darbruich, married Janet Ogilvie, and her husband's grand-daughter, by the son of his first wife, Margaret Duff, married George Ogilvie of Clunes, 1623.

PATRICK, JOHN, GEORGE, JAMES, ANDREW, ALEXANDER, ADAM, and NICHOLAS, with three others (of whom one was possibly WILLIAM and another THOMAS).

Patrick of Darbruich, actually second son of 'Mr.' John Duff, is always described as the *eldest* son of 'Mr.' John Duff and Margaret Gordon. He would seem to have been nearly grown up at the time of his father's death in 1593. In 1599 he granted a charter of the lands of Badeheir, near Dufftown, to John Gordon of Buckie (*Gordon Castle Charters*), who had in 1580 made them over to Patrick's father, Mr. John Duff (*ibid*). He had a tack of Darbruich (part of the Muldavit property in Deskford, where there was, until recently, a farm of that name) in 1601, and sold it to Andrew Hay of Rannes in 1625, and Tullochallum (which his father had got from Gordon of Auchindoun in 1592) to Leslie in the same year. He was burgess of Cullen 1623.

In 1623 the Master of Deskford resigned to Patrick Duff, burgess of Cullen, lands which had belonged to the second prebendary of Cullen. There was a discharge granted in 1611 by Adam Duff in Ardrone to his brother Mr. Patrick Duff of Darbruich of an obligation for a hundred merks, which the said Adam Duff borrowed. In 1611 Adam also discharged Mr. Patrick, his brother, of the sum of four hundred merks left to him by his father after the decease of Margaret Gordon, his mother, which presumably took place in the year 1611, and the above deed was not registered until nine years afterwards (*Deed Book of Banff*, September 10, 1620).

JOHN DUFF, third son, was servitor to the Laird of Balveny, and witness to a deed of 1630. This is the second John in the family of 'Mr.' John Duff of Muldavit, the other being by his first wife. He is witness to a deed of 1618, and is referred to by his brother, who executes the deed, as 'John Duff, my brother-german.' Either he or his brother was prebendary of St. Anne's in 1617.

GEORGE, described in his old age as 'of Whynty.' 'He did marry Janet Allan' (Rose MS.). '1596 Testis, Geo. Duff, filio quondam M. Joannis Duff de Maldavatt' (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*).

JAMES, in Cullen, also apparently a burgess of Aberdeen. 'He had pertaining to him in Cullen the croft called the straight croft, and the Deip slack and several other crofts. He died on Charitymas in France 1663,' being apparently 'fugitate,' and his record in Cullen does not seem to have been very honourable.¹

He left one son JOHN, afterwards in Aberdeen (John Duff, burgess of Aberdeen, son of James Duff in Cullen.—Rose MS.).

ANDREW lived in Cullen, and was an elder of the parish (1655-1657),

¹ He was frequently cited before the kirk-session and the presbytery for his evil deeds.

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in which capacity he attended a meeting of the presbytery of Fordyce. He was possibly the same man who was afterwards a merchant burges in Elgin, 1655.

Andrew also left descendants,¹

'Andro' and his brother John were also witnesses for John Gordon of Findlater in 1660.

ALEXANDER is said to have been a messenger in Elgin.

ADAM, the most important of the eleven.

NICHOLAS, whom Rose tries to identify with Nicholas or Nicol Duff, town-clerk of Forres, but as the latter had two sons, Alexander and George, and in 1618 Nicholas Duff and his son George, both burgesses, are witnesses to a charter, it is obvious that this Nicholas cannot be the younger brother of Adam Duff, born in 1590, as that Nicholas could himself have been only twenty-six, and could not have had a son a burges and valid witness.

There was one daughter MARGARET.

9. JOHN, the half-brother of all these, and ninth laird of Muldavit, 'Mr.' John Duff's son by his first wife, was served heir to him in certain lands in 1622, not long before his own death : ²

'Joannes Duff, hocres magistri Joannis Duff de Maldavit patris, in terris de Tarbruiche et New fosterscat ex parti orientali silvae di Bynwode ; officio forestariae praefatae silvae de Bynwoode in baronia seu dominis de Culsawertlie' (From the *Early Scottish Heirs, Record Commission, May 25, 1622*).

This John Duff, ninth laird, the first of the family to be described as 'of Craighcad,' got a charter upon the lands of Muldavit, during his father's lifetime, dated July 10, 1575, and another, February 24, 1610.³ He was a Justice of the Peace for Banffshire, 1611. He married Agnes Gordon.⁴

In the Rose MS. there is the following note : 'John Duff, called younger of Craighcad, in 1580 residing in Conas or Conage in Rannes, was not Margaret Gordon's son, but a son of John Duff of Muldavit and a daughter of Abercrombie of Skeith.' It seems obvious that a man who lived on a farm as tenant in 1580, whose son (John Duff, tenth of Muldavit, who married Isabel Allan) was married in 1618, must himself have been born

¹ In one of the papers at Drummair, of the date 1666, referring to the marriage of Provost William and Janet Lockhart, reference is made to lands acquired from James Duff in Cullen, and to Isabel, Janet and James Duff or *Demiduff*, as lawfully charged to enter heirs in general to the deceased Andro Duff, to be holding of the immediate superior as the said William Duff holds. James in Cullen and Andrew were *presumably* these two of the younger uncles of William, sons of 'Mr.' John Duff and Margaret Gordon.

² In those days, many years often elapsed between the death of the testator and the proving or acting upon the will, or entering upon an inheritance.

³ These two charters are now at Cullen House among the papers of Lord Seafield.

⁴ Their portraits, by a predecessor of Jamesone, are here reproduced.



JOHN DUFF OF MULDAVAT

Erroneously attributed to Jameson.

DUFFS OF MULDAVIT

'29 Sept. 1624.—John Duffes of Craighhead, elder and younger, are ordeinet to be spoken to and conferit with, anent their not keeping of the Saboth and heiring of the word, be Mr. David Forester, and Mr. Patrick Darg quha said John Duff elder of Craighhead had promessit to amend, and Mr. David Forester promeisit to speak John Duff younger and to report his answer the next Presbyterie.'

After the death of the elder John there is another entry :

'10 Dec. 1628.—George Douglas, moderator, shews that John Duffe, sometyms of Muldavid is come to be resident in Cullen, wha is a profest Papist and contemner of the word. He is ordained to deal with him privatlie, and with his familie to observe ordour, and to report the fruit of his privat paines the next day of meeting.'

'18 March 1629.—George Douglas declares that John Duff being oftentymes desired be him to confer anent his doubts in religion postponed and would enter on no conference thereanent. The said Jhon, being summondit to this day apud acta is called and compeires, affirms that the caus of his not conferring wes his travell and many distractions about his affaires, alwise offered now to conferre, to continue in hearing sermons, and to communicat at Pasch.'

'7 April 1630.—George Douglas reported that John Duff in Cullen, and Agnes Gordon his mother, had conformed.'

A copy on parchment of his marriage-contract to Isabella Allan exists among the Drummair papers,¹ dated June 8, 1618, in which John Duff, his father, makes over to him the lands of Muldavit.

The text of the charter, in translation, is here given :

To all who will see or hear this charter, John Duff, of Maldavit, eternal greeting in the Lord.

Know that I, for the fulfilment of a charter on my part for a certain contract entered into and made between me, John Duff, for myself and undertaking the charge for John Duff the younger, my lawful first-born son, and for Agnes Gordon my wife, and John Duff the younger for himself, with the express consent and assent of his said father and mother, of one part, and Katharine Thornton, relict of the late William Allan, burgess of Aberdeen, and Andrew Kelly, burgess of the said city of Aberdeen, for themselves and undertaking the charge for Isabella Allan, lawful daughter born of the said late William Allan and the said Katharine Thornton, and the said Isabella Allan for herself, with the consent of her said

¹ One of the witnesses is 'John Duff, burgess of Cullen, my brother-german'; another is 'James Duff, my third lawful son'; and a John Duff, undescribed, also signs the document. According to the instrument of sasine, Edinburgh, this John was a burgess of Aberdeen, and 'procurator legitime constitutus pro Issobella Allan futura conjuge dicti Joannis Duff apparan. de Muldavat.' He was, without doubt, a relative, and may have been John Duff of Boghole, who will appear later.



AGNES GORDON,
WIFE OF JOHN DEFF OF M. D. 1511.

Erroneously attributed to Jameson

mother, of the other part, the present date at Aberdeen and Craighaid, 23rd May and 8th June 1618. Also for the love and filial affection which I bear and have towards my beloved son, the aforesaid John Duff, and his future wife Isabella Allan, I have given, granted, alienated, sold . . . by title of pure sale, and have confirmed by this my present charter, to the aforesaid John Duff and Isabella Allan, his future wife, and the survivor, in joint enfeoffment in tail male, in default of which to the heir and assigns of the said John Duff, the whole and entire my lands of Maldavat, with manors, houses, buildings, dovecote, mill, mill-lands of the same, woods, parks, tofts, crofts . . . parts and appurtenances, lying within the parish of Rathven and the county of Banff; reserving only the free tenement or liferent of all and singular the aforesaid lands with . . . appurtenances to me, John Duff, senior, of Maldavat, and Agnes Gordon, my wife, for all the days of our lives, To hold and to have wholly and entirely the aforesaid my lands of Maldavat to the aforesaid John Duff and Isabella Allan, and the survivor of them, in joint enfeoffment in tail male, and in default, to the heirs and assigns of the said John, of me, my heirs and assigns, in fee and free white farm;¹ through all their ancient right boundaries and divisions as they lie in length and breadth, in houses, buildings, gardens, woods, plains, moors, marshes, roads, paths, waters, ponds, rivers, meadows, feedings, pastures, mills, mill tolls, and their suits, bird-catching, hunting, fishing, peat, turf, coal, charcoal, tools, brew-houses, heath, broom, woods, groves, copses, cut-wood, logs, wood-cutting, stone-cutting, stone and chalk, with courts and their issues, scutages, fines, with common pasture, the right of taking fuel, free entrance and exit, and with all and singular other the liberties, commodities, profits, easements and their just appurtenances whatsoever both named and unnamed, above and beneath the earth, far and near, to the aforesaid lands of Muldavatt . . . with appurtenances belonging or rightly belonging in any way in the future, freely, quietly, fully, honourably, well and in peace, without any revocation, reclamation or obstacle whatsoever, paying thence annually, that is, the aforesaid John Duff and Isabella Allan, his future wife, and the survivor of them, and their male issue, and in default the heirs and assigns of the said John whosoever they are, to me, my heirs and assigns, one penny in the name of white farm at the feast of Pentecoste, if demanded only, for all other charge, secular service, by action, question or demand, which for the said lands of Maldavat can be justly exacted by any one in any way. And I, the aforesaid John Duff, of Maldavat, my heirs and assigns, will warrant all and singular the aforesaid lands of Maldavat to John Duff and Isabella Allan, his future wife, and the survivor of them, in form alike and effect as is aforesaid, also free and immune from all wages, reliefs, entries, forfeitures, pourprestures, disclaimers, acknowledgments, interdictions, evictions, assignments, resignations, assessments, 'third yearly' and liferents, etc., bastardies, other alienations, estates and seiscins, also from all and singular other dangers, losses and injuries whatso-

¹ A yearly rent paid in silver.

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ever, will warrant against all mortals, acquitt and defend for ever. Moreover, to our beloved Master Patriek Duff of Darbrnich¹ . . . I enjoin and firmly order each of you, jointly and separately, my bailiffs specially appointed in this matter, that you give and deliver estate and seisin alike and possession, actual, real and corporal, of all and singular my aforesaid lands of Muldavatt . . . to John Duff and Isabella Allan, by handing and giving earth and stone of the ground to the same according to the force, form, tenor, and effect of my above charter, on sight of these presents, without delay, and omitting nothing. For which purpose I empower you and each of you jointly and separately, my bailiffs aforesaid, fully and irrevocably by the tenor of these presents.

In witness whereof to this my present charter I have subscribed with my hand, and written by the hand of Master John Gellie in Fordyce, I have appended my seal, at Craighaid, 8th June 1618, before these witnesses, Paul Gellie, burgess of Cullane, John Duff, burgess of Cullen, my brother germane, James Duff, my third lawful son, and James Gardner, sergeant in Cullen, and John Duff.

JOHN DUFF of Muldavatt, with my hand.

AGNES GORDON.

John Duff, witness to the premises.

Paul Gellie, witness.

James Duff, witness.

James Gairdner, witness.

J. Gellie, witness and scribe of the premises.

James Duff ('my third lawful son'), brother of John Duff of the Orchard, is afterwards heard of in Cullen as 'a distressed gentleman,' and the rent of a 'mortified croft' is to be used to pay the mail (*i.e.* rent) of his house in 1670. He makes frequent appearances in the Cullen Session Records as an evil-doer.

'PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE

'3rd Sept. 1627. Visitation of Cullen

'The whol presbytrie convent . . . together with elders James Lord Deskfuid, Mr. George Lesly, James Lawtie; Thomas Lawtie, Johne Hempseid, Alexr. Ogilvie, Mr. Patriek Duff, Johne Duff, George Steinsone.

'Compeirit *James Duff, burgess of Cullen*, quho befor vas privatlic admonisht by George Douglas, minister, that he suld not vncharitable abuse his wyff, *Agnes Geddes*, in beating of her, qlk he promiseissit to doe, nevertheless the said James Duff upon one Sabbath the 2 of September did beatt her befor sermon befor noon and vpon the same day, being aue day of publik fast and humiliation, having come to Gods sanctuarie for hearing the afternoon sermon, immedi-

¹ Half-brother to the elder John.

atelic after the sermon is begun, went out of the kirk in a furie, and came to his house and thair did crucie marsterfully and pitifully without commiseration strik and ding his said spous to Gods dishonour, breach off his Sabbath and fast. The said James beeing now personallie present seemit to deny he did strik his wyff befor noon, but confessit that in tyme of the afternoon sermon, and did in wrath and raige that cam vpon him sitting in Gods house he dung his said spous, quhervpon all that vas present vas astonished at the said wicked fact, the tyme maner and circumstances thairoff, in one voice decernit the said James to mak his publick repentance on Sabbath day evir quhill the minister and elders receivit satisfaction with signes off his true repentance to God, and in caise of dissobedience to be processit *secundum canones ecclesiae*, as lykwayes to pay tuentie pounds for his penaltie to the said kirk to be bestowed *ad pios usos*, and to this effect ordanes his person to be vardit vntill he find a cautioner to obeye the premises and for eschewing the lyk enormitic in all tyme comming, quherfor the said James hath frind Alexr. Ogilvie, notar publick and burgess of Cullen, cautioner for fulfilling the premises.¹

John Duff and Isabel Allan had a son Andrew,¹ who married Grisell Bell 1647, and a son James, baptised in Cullen April 3, 1629, as well as the daughter Janet (see next chapter), but none of these left descendants—Janet's son dying without issue.

Adam Duff was half-brother to the John Duff who granted this charter of alienation, whole brother to one of the John Duffs who witnessed it, uncle to the John Duff who received it, while his relationship to the other John who witnessed it is unexplained.

Before dealing with Adam Duff of Clunybeg² himself, we must consider the last John Duff of the elder Muldavit line, who was presumably his *great-nephew*, and died in 1718, when the headship of the family passed to the heirs of Adam.

¹ There is a portrait by Jamesone, erroneously described in Lord Fife's catalogue as John Duff of Muldavit and his sister, which must, from the date of painting, represent Andrew and Janet.

² Adam Duff, who will be treated of in chapter iv., did not own the estate of Clunybeg, but merely had a wadset of it, and was therefore properly described as *in* this place; but his name occurs so often in contemporary records as Adam of Clunybeg that it seems simpler to allude to him by this title.

CHAPTER III

JOHN DUFF, OF THE FAMILY OF MULDAVIT

(MESSENGER-AT-ARMS AND JACOBITE)

ACCORDING to Baird, John Duff, tenth and last of Muldavit, and his wife Isabel Allan had one son, 'John Duff, who settled in Trade in Aberdeen, and got a charter from that town to John Duff, merchant and burges of Aberdeen, upon the "sun"¹ half of the Lands of Corghall (Boghoill)' (Baird). There *was* a John Duff, burges of Aberdeen at this period, and the following points about him are incontestable, but his actual parentage is a matter of uncertainty, beyond the well-ascertained fact that he was *not* the son of John Duff of the Orchard and Isabel Allan. He had a charter on the lands of Boghoill, May 26, 1622,² and had a house in Old Aberdeen until December 22, 1625 (Rose), and on June 3, 1642, executed the following 'Renunciation by John Duf, burges of Aberdeen, of 20/- lands of Maldavat with lands of Auchingallan and teinds':

'Mc, Jhone Duff, portioner of Borghoill, burges of Aberdeen, forsameikle as John Duff elder of Maldavit and Jhone Duff fiar thair of his eldest lafull sone and Issobell Allane spouse to said Jhone Duff fiar of Craigheid be ane dispositione of dait 4 Aug. 1623 sauld . . . to me, my aires etc. . . . thair twentic schilling land of Muldaveit, etc. . . . and because the said Jhone Duff younger fiar of Craigheid hes pay it . . . to me the forsaid sowme of 2400 markis money . . . thairfor wit ye me to have renuncit, etc. . . . at Aberdeen, 1 June, 1624.'

John Duff, merchant, burges of Aberdeen, is found granting obligations and bonds in 1632, 1634, 1635, 1638, and 1649 (*Aberdeen Records*).

Another fact about him to be found in the records of the period is that in 1624 John Duff, burges in Aberdeen, entered a complaint against Janet Duff, wife to Andrew Kellie,³ for violence and assault. And in 1631 a counter complaint is recorded on the part of Andrew Kellie for 'illegal warding,' John Duff having 'bought bonds over the complainer's head and holding him now, in respect of them. John Duff not appearing, Kellie is

¹ *i.e.* the south.

² Baird could scarcely have been aware of the date of this charter, for any son of John Duff and Isabel Allan could have been, at most, three years old in this year.

³ Mentioned in Charter of Alienation 1618, quoted in last chapter.

liberated (*Privy Council Records of Scotland*).¹ John Duff, burghess of Aberdeen (probably the son of the last-named John Duff, whatever his exact relationship to the last owner of Muldavit), married Margaret Johnstown (*Sheriff Court Records*, 1638), and died in 1672, leaving one son John, who may be identified with the following John, of Baird's history :

'John Duff, a lawyer at Aberdeen, a man very much esteemed in his life, being one of great honour and honesty, of extraordinary good parts and a facetious and agreeable companion. He married a comely, graceful gentlewoman named Innes. He engaged in the rebellion of 1715, and was very zealous in that cause, by which being obnoxious to the government, he stept over to Holland in the beginning of 1716, where he soon fell into a large acquaintance and was treated by them all with the greatest civility and kindness. There he laid himself out to serve all his young countrymen who came over to the continent in the course of their travels and upon mercantile and other private affairs. He died at Rotterdam in 1718, universally regretted. He left no issue.' As regards the earlier ancestors of the Duff family, Baird's statements must be received with great caution, his avowed object being to establish the continuity of the line, but this John Duff died when Baird was seventeen years old, and the facts of his life may be presumed to be reliable. A historically interesting letter from this John Duff to his cousin, William Gordon (of Farskane), is among the King's MSS. at Windsor :

'ROTTERDAM, Oct. 12, 1716.

'Had I not thought to have been with you before this, I had not been so long in writing, but if Will Drummond passed your way he must have given you an account of my being here, as we came together from Scotland to Bergen, and thence to Amsterdam. I had gone forward, but by all the advices from our master's doers to gentlemen in my circumstances, I find no invitation, provided we are safe where we are, which we have hitherto, but how long that may continue God knows, as in the last two Dutch courants it is said that the English court have ordered their resident at the Hague to give in a memorial to the States-General, either to demand the persons of the gentlemen in this country, or that they will order their removal from their country. What answer this may get time will determine, but next what's to be feared is that G[eorge] is to be in person at the congress, and how far he may prevail is not known. I shall do as others in my circumstances, till I get your advice. I understand our master is like to allow all the gentlemen who escaped, reasonable subsistence according to their posts. I had the honour to be one of the last in the field and garrison

¹ There was also a John Duff, merchant in Aberdeen, son of James Duff, in Cullen (Rose MS.), therefore cousin to John and Isabel. But John has always been a common name in this as in other families.

for his father, and was taken out of the castle of Fedderat¹ with Lord Fren-draught, who commanded the regiment of Footguards in which I was Captain, and suffered 12 months imprisonment. I leave it to the Duke of Mar and my noble patron, the Earl Mareschal, to inform His Majesty what service I did in the late unfortunate design. As I know you have much to say about the subsistence allowed to gentlemen in our circumstances, I entreat you to endeavour to get me an equal share according to my station. I should have been one of the last to have accepted any such favour were it not that all my effects are stopped by Government, and my poor wife put from her lodgings. Had I not been supported by Robert Gerrard since I came here, I should not have known what to do' (*Historical MSS. Commission*).

In the *Calendar of Stuart Papers*, v. 299, occurs the following :

'William Gordon (of Farskane) to the Duke of Mar. Paris, Dec. 21, 1717. Poor John Duff's wife is dead at Rotterdam, and her burial charges will be hard on him in this winter season, if His Majesty is not pleased to allow him something.'

And the Rose papers give the following account of his death :

'John Duff the heir, made a merchant in Aberdeen, failed upon 1700, was a messenger,² he engaged in 1715, went to Holland, where Irvine of Cults saw him in the beginning of 1716. Mr. Forbes, Balbithan, told me he was drowned returning with Taylor of Boyndie in 1718, and both their bodies got clasped with a rope and an oak plank. Boyndie, in life, got on the shore of Musselburgh, retained the black mark of the log on his head, but Duff drowned. He married Jane Innes (*her name was really Anna*), daughter of Thomas Innes, Chamberlain to the Earl of Panmuir of the lands of Belhelvie.' Mr. Alexander Mitchell, sometime minister of Belhelvie, and afterwards of Old Aberdeen, was married to another sister, Christian,³ and the third sister, Elizabeth, married, on November 7, 1700, Mr. John Maitland, minister of Skene; John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen, being a witness,⁴ so, presumably, he was already married to the sister of Elizabeth, while at the date of the *Aberdeenshire Poll-Book*⁵ he is described as 'John Duff, messenger, for himself, no wife or child.' The Jacobite John Duff was at one time a messenger in Aberdeen as well as a lawyer, and the acknowledged cousin of Clunybeg's grandsons, as will be seen by his letters, *infra*. Baird would now take us at once from this John of Rotterdam to Adam

¹ In Aberdeenshire, near New Deer, originally Federaught.

² A messenger, or King's Messenger, at that period was an officer of the law-courts whose duty it was to serve writs and execute other legal business. A messenger 'at arms' was further an official under the control of the Lyon King of Arms, and was charged with the delivery of letters of horning, letters of diligence, and signet letters.

³ This was July 18, 1699.

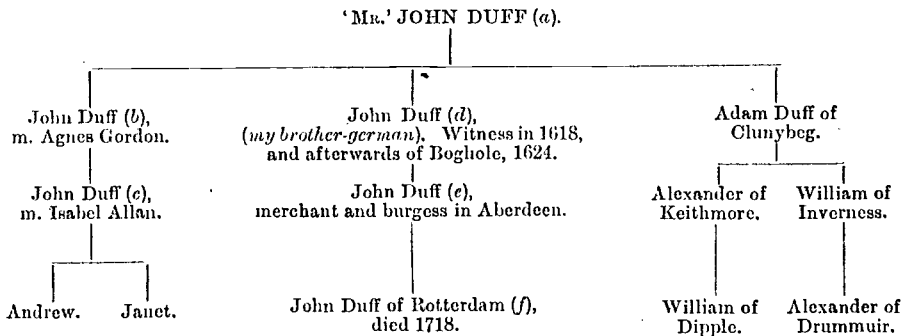
⁴ *Belhelvie Parish Records*.

⁵ Date 1696.

of Clunybeg, whom he calls his uncle,¹ thus : ‘ This worthy man had no issue, and as the posterity of the late John Duff of Muldavit by his first wife Isabel Allan ended in him, the representation came next to the heirs of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, his son by his second wife, Margaret Gordon, Cairnburrow’s daughter.’ This descent is obviously impossible, as John Duff, husband of Isabel Allan, had no second wife, his first having out-lived him, for she appears in the *Cullen Court Books* in 1637, ten years after his death, as ‘ relict of umquill John Duff.’ Moreover, Margaret Gordon of Cairnburrow was his grandmother.

John Duff and Isabel Allan did, without doubt, have a son Andrew, and a daughter Janet, who, in 1672, when Andrew was dead, is described as ‘ daughter of the deceased John Duff of the Orchard, sometime of Muldavit, and whose eldest brother was Andrew Duff, sometime of the Orchard, and air or appeirand air of lynce to her said brother, father and good syre, also that John Duff in Old Aberdeen was appeirand air maill to John Duff his father, John Duff his good syre and cousin-german to Janet Duff.’²

The most likely presentment of this tangle is as follows :



but it involves a loose use of cousin-german as covering second cousin, and is open to possible objection.³ John Duff of Boghlole and John Duff of Rotterdam are, however, both frequently described by Rose (as well as by Baird) as the ‘ heirs of Muldavit,’ and Rose was an industrious and careful genealogist. He gives a great many references (but without authorities) to John Duff of Boghlole, John Duff; merchant in Aberdeen, John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen, and John Duff, who died in Rotterdam, as heirs and representatives of Muldavit.

¹ But they were in reality two generations apart.

² *Cullen Court Books*.

³ The cousin-german to Janet in 1672 might have been John Duff the merchant, called (e) in the above table—cousin-german to her father.

30 JOHN DUFF, OF THE FAMILY OF MULDAVIT

The two former and also the two latter he *always* assumes to be the same persons, being apparently not aware that there had been more than one 'messenger' of that name in Aberdeen at the period, one of whom was a near and intimate relative of William of Dipple and Alexander of Drummuir, and that two of them, strange as it may appear, married women of the name of Anna Innes.

Janet, the daughter of John Duff and Isabel Allan, married one Stephen, and had a son Alexander Stephen, after whose death the line was extinct. The Orchard crofts were in possession of Janet, who sold them to Alexander Johnstown, and they were subsequently bought by William, Provost of Inverness, third son of Adam of Clunybeg. Neither Janet, the heir of line, nor her cousin John, the heir-male, was accepted as representing her grandfather John of Muldavit (doubtless because the property had been sold), for in 1670, in a note of the mortifications given up by the minister of Cullen, we find 'Observe this, hence, that since the airs of John Duff of Muldavit are not to be found, the bailie and community of Cullen are undoubted patrons.' This presumably refers to the bequest of Helen Hay, mentioned above. The passage is triumphantly quoted by Dr. Cramond to prove that the family of Muldavit died out completely, but according to his own showing, and by the evidence of the same Cullen books, it had not, at any rate in that year, yet died out—it had merely ceased to be of Muldavit.

The history of the direct line of Duffs of Muldavit and Craighead, then, may be taken as completely authenticated between the limits of 1404 and 1718, after which the representation passed to the descendants of Adam, a younger son. The identification and history of the last representative of the elder line presents some difficulty, and is complicated by the fact that there were, as has been said, apparently two, if not three, John Duffs, messengers in Aberdeen, in the latter half of the seventeenth century.

In a record¹ in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, there is a brief note that 'John Duff, Messenger at Arms, Aberdeen, died rich, 1700. His fortune went to Braco.' Supposing (as is most likely) the 1700 to be a clerical error for 1718, the John Duff of Rotterdam who died in that year seems to have left whatever he did leave, besides the shadowy headship of the family, to 'Braco,' that is, William of Dipple and Braco, whose son was afterwards Lord Braco, and first Lord Fife. The 'Braco' of 1700 would have been Alexander of Braco (died 1705), who never appears to have made any claim to the headship of the family, being content with becoming the largest landowner.²

¹ In MS.

² This extract, therefore, is of no great value, beyond having helped the present historians to establish the fact that the 'messenger' of the *Aberdeen Poll-Book*, 1696, was of the Muldavit family—a fact already known to William Rose, and abundantly proved by many letters.

The John Duff, messenger, who was the relation and correspondent of William of Dipple and Alexander of Drummuir, was certainly alive until 1718, as letters and papers are in existence from him, bearing dates up to that year, and one, of the year 1715, to William of Dipple, is docketed as 'last letter from John Duff, Messenger' (*i.e.* before he went to Holland), all of which goes to prove that 1700 should read 1718.

The facts collected by William Rose as to the John Duff, messenger, called by him 'the heir' are briefly these :

'John Duff, King's Messenger, admitted Burgess of Aberdeen, Sept. 22, 1684.

'John Duff, the heir of Muldavit, made a merchant in Aberdeen,¹ failed upon 1700, and was a messenger. He engaged in the 1715 and went to Holland'—(this followed by the account of his death).

'For John Duff's appointment as messenger, see William Gordon of Farskane.'

The Drummuir papers throw further light upon the matter by an agreement between John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen, and William Gordon of Avochie, before John Gordon of Davidston, date March 1, 1693. This agreement is witnessed by 'George and Robert Duffs, brothers to John,' but no other mention of them has been found.

There is another note to the effect that John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen, prepared the sasine for William Gordon of Farskane, 1699.

And the following letters, which conclusively prove the near relationship of John Duff to Alexander of Drummuir and William of Dipple. (If the table on p. 29 be accepted, they were all second cousins.)

The first seven letters come from the archives of Duff House, now preserved at Montcoffer. They show John Duff not only in his business capacity, but also as offering, in his house in Aberdeen, a shelter for all the young sons of his second cousins while pursuing their education at the University there. Another letter on the same subject will be found in the Drummuir chapter, xxiv.

¹ It seems probable to the present writers that the John Duff of the '15, 'messenger,' and correspondent of the family, was never a merchant, but was always engaged in legal business, as he seems to have been the recognised man of business both for Dipple and Drummuir prior to 1700 (see his letters both in this chapter and in chapter ix.), and was a messenger when he became a burgess in 1684. William Rose seems to be confusing John with his own father, another John, who *was* a merchant, though it is impossible to pronounce with certainty as to which of the Muldavit family was *his* father.

32 JOHN DUFF, OF THE FAMILY OF MULDAVIT

John Duff, Messenger in Aberdeen, to his cousin William Duff of Dipple

‘*ABD., 8th Juny. 1702.*

‘DEAR CUSIN, SIR,—I hade yours from J. Lonoway whereby you allcadge your haveing pressing use for money at Edr which has oblidge me to add to it 600 m^r I wrott you of in my letter to Mr. Robert ffrasers cair others to make up 50 lb. Starr—but cane gett noe Bill for the samen as the Bearer Bailie Forbes cane informe me. In case the money be disposed of acquaint me of it first and I’ll remitt it for post but if you cane gett the money in Edin^r for value then it will be better both for you and I. But for the rest you cane not expect it at Candlemas considering my having cleard with Laidy Spynic at this terme but ag^t Whyt Sondag you may. I wish you a happy new year and am, Sir, Your most affectionate Cusine to serve you,

JO. DUFF.’

William Duff of Braco to John Duff

‘*BALVENIE, 9th July 1712.*

‘DEAR SIR,—I have sent this bearer for to get my papers from Mr. Charles Gordon. I desyre you may give him a crown per sheet because he is my mother’s¹ relation, and buy powder and shot with the rest, cause buy the lead of anc good ordinaire syse for moorfouls I intreat you see what you can doe with Edntoire and if you can gett but seven hunder merks in all I would discharge him of Mrs. Laws debt but not of my debt as Superior, for that is a seperate claime. I hope you will doe what you can for me as to my meall. I can dispose of 1000 Bolls att five merks, and would not seek mony till Whitsunday next, only I would have a good debtor and acquaint me before you conclude. I give my service to your selfe and Ladie and I am, Dear Cusine, Your most humble Servant,

WILLIAM DUFF.’²

John Duff, Messenger, Aberdeen, to the Laird of Dipple

‘*ABERDEEN, 21 Jan. 1713.*

‘DEAR DIPPLE,—I have your very angry letter anent your sone, which is truely very groundless. It’s time I have given him a suit of honest cloathes which as your sone I think he ought to have. But nothing of vanity about him as you may depend ont that their is nothing about the youth But good sober inclinations and whatever I may bestow on him for his education which shall be also good as this place cane affoord. You shall in the event have noe ground to grudge, and therefor I’d have you be easy for you know its a pretty whyll since you promised you would send your sone to me to be my pupill and was not to

¹ Margaret Gordon of Lesmoir.

² This William Duff died in 1718 in the same year as John. See chapter viii.

controll aney thing I should happen to bestow on his educatione, and now that I'm in possessione doe not resolve to pairt with him untill he is capable of satisfying you that by his improvement you shall vow all weill bestowd and that their is nothing either produgall or profuse about him. I give our hearty service to your self, Laidy, and family. and I continue, Dear Dipple, Your most affectionat Cusine to serve youe,

Jo. DUFF.¹

'To the much Honored The Laird of Dipple.'

William Duff, afterwards Lord Braco, to his father the Laird of Dipple

'ABD., Aprile 21, 1713.

'SIR,—I thank you for your affectionat letter. I bless God I am perfectly well recovered, and as I formerly wrote you was waric much oblidged to my cousin and his bedfellow² for their care about me. I would have returned you ansure sooner but we have been waric busie befor the rising of our Coledge. My Cousin hath cleared my phisitian and I belive you will not find I have been aniewise extravagant in my pocatmony, for all I have received from Mr. Scott is but wary smal. Our Coledge is not as yet given up, but will in a short time. I refer you to what my cousin wrot in his last conserning me and with my humble duty to yourself my mother in law³ is all at present, Sir, Your affect. and most obedient Son,

WM. DUFF.⁴

'To the Laird of Dipple at Elgin.'

The same to the same

'ABERDEEN, 14th May 1713.

'SIR,—You see by my Cousins letter and Mr. Scot's that I have had a fever some days bygone but am now, blessed be God pretty well recovered, and lest you should be aniewise surprised notwithstanding of the other letters, I have sent you this from my own hand. I cannot express how much I am bound to my cousin and his bedfellow for the unspeakable concern and care they hade of me. I expect to hear from you by the next post. I offer my service to my mother in law, Sir, your most afft and obedient son,

WM. DUFF.²

¹ The different ways of signing the name John Duff are curious, and have been of great help in dealing with the vast mass of family correspondence. For though a man's handwriting alters with advancing age, he rarely changes the contraction of his Christian name, or the form of his capital letters.

² There is an otherwise uninteresting letter to William of Dipple, about his son, signed by John Duff and Anna Innes, his wife. This proves the curious point as to two John Duffs having married wives of the same name, for the other Anna Innes was 'relict' of her John Duff seventeen years before this date (see *Poll-Book* and page 37).

³ *i.e.* stepmother.

⁴ Aged sixteen.

34 JOHN DUFF, OF THE FAMILY OF MULDAVIT

*John Duff, Messenger, Aberdeen, to the Laird of Dipple*¹

‘*ABERDEEN, 17th May 1714.*

‘DEAR SIR,—I acknowledge that I am mightiely in the wrong in not returning you ane answer to your last which was meerly occasioned by the Lordes and their advocats being in this place of whom I did not gett free till Saturday last. As to your sons clearing with Mr. Smith you cannot say he has been any wayes extravagant Being he has not exceeded What was given the last year : which with the two ginies you gave me to be given that way is only half ane ginie more and realy even in this he tells me he is behind with his comorads ; and I have no mind to cross him, for I never knew him extravagant in any thing. I am hopefull to make ane hail saill bargan of the bear I bought in Murray and that free of any risek or Charges and for my meall, I am hopefull it will prove no ill bargane being that the meall begins to start both here and in the South firth and I have my barek takcing in the firsth of her Lodeing att Doun [*Macduff*] just now from which place she is to sail to Portsoy and I believe will be their about the middle of this week of which I have acquainted the Lady Glengerrick and Mrs. Robertsones to have their meall in readyness that so the barek may not be detained. I am sory I cannot answer your demandes att this term but I am hopefull be as it will to gett you cleared against the next—your sone and governor are in very good health. Pleas accept of my hearty service to yourself and I continuc, Dear Sir, Your most affectionat Cousine and humble servant,
JO. DUFF.’

The same to the same

‘*ABD., 24 July 1714.*

‘DEAR SIR,—On Wednesday last your son Will: returned to this place from his milk dyet, which blessed be God hese agreed very weel with him. Albeit it hese not given him any more beef then what he had befor but he is perfectly healthy and weel and I hope will prove as pretty a man as is his name which att meeting you will discover and I hope you will be no worse as your word in comeing this length to see him after your Ladies being brought to bed to whom I wish ane safe and happy delivery.²

‘According to your desire I have sent you ane sett of Cups ane containing ane Chapin for a tost, ane mutchkin cup and ane half mutchkin which are the bonniest sett I have seen in this place for a long time but we have no Copper Smiths for makeing of copper girths proper for them but you will find when you receive them they deserve silver. Your son told me he was to write you by this

¹ It will be seen in the chapter on William of Dipple that he also was at one time in Rotterdam, presumably visiting his cousin (and former man of business and correspondent), after the latter's enforced departure from Scotland.

² Birth of Mary, afterwards wife of General Abercromby.

post to which I refer. My wife and I give our humble duty to your Ladie self and family and I continue, Dear Sir, Your most affectionat Cousin and humble servant,

Jo. DUFF.'

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Letters from among Drummuir papers. (Docketed 'from John Duff, Messenger.')

'ABERDEEN, Dec. 14, 1700.

'To the Much honoured, the Laird of Drummuir.

'HONOURED SIR,—This day about 12 o'clock, I received yours with discharge and renunciation of ffarskane to Gordon of Davidston, and your saisine of the lands of Davidston and Thorniebank, which according to order I had duly registrat, and in as great haist as I could, albeit you may think the expense dear enough, the receipt whereof you have, eneld, which as you 'll see amounts to £24, whereof received £14. 10. 0. so for the balance you may remit with conveniency. Your servant was in so great haist that it was not possible to get the registers looked for, and what encumbrances are against that estate, and likewise I find them somewhat dear, being they will not look back 20 years neither for seasines, inhibitions nor hornings under 2 or 3 dollars so that till your further order, I don't resolve to give them the trouble. I cannot omitt to tell you that I arrested Arradoull in Tolbooth of Banff, after inearcraing of him at another's man's instance, which I think is easier than apprehending him at yours, however, doe in the matter as seems you good. I shall take cair to acquaint you how soon I come to Banffshire and shall be ready to receive your commands which shall be as far obeyed as in my power. This, with my humble service to your father, self, lady and all friends with you, is the present from your most affectionate cusine and servant,

Jo. DUFF.'

To the same

'ABERDEEN, 28 Dec. 1700.

'SIR,—I have yours just now with £12. 10 in the same, and shall take care to cause look both registers of sasines, inhibitions and hornings for the year you write of, but it is not possible to get it done of hand, being we have as yet Christmas vacance here, but shall cause doe them as soon as possible. Be the by I cannot omitt to tell you that your predecessor is a little out of the road to me,¹ having depursed some money for him, which put him in circumstances too common with you, so that I trust if be anything yet in your hands you 'll help till I be clear of him. Notwithstanding I firmly purpose to be at him with personal diligence. This is written at a bottle, so that I hope you 'll excuse any escapes [*sic*] and shall only conclude with my respects to your fair self, lady and family wishing you a happy New Year, but that I am, sir, your most affectionate cousin to serve you,

Jo. DUFF.'

¹ This again shows legal business as having been transacted by John for his relatives and others prior to 1700.

36 JOHN DUFF, OF THE FAMILY OF MULDAVIT

To the same

‘*ABERDEEN, 19 Ap. 1701.*

‘SIR,—My being so long at Edinburgh has retarded the note of inhibitions etc. which I should have sent you from our registers against Davidston which herein receive and am hopeful will yet come in good time, otherwise I fear may come to loss betwixt him and I. being you are the only foundation for my clearing. Albeit what he owes me is but small, yet I intend to have if possible, with your friendship, upon which I very much rely. I think of being in Murray in a very short time, where I am hopeful to see ye and all my friends in Inverness at which time shall write no more of particular, but service to your fair lady and family, not forgetting your own.—I am, sir, your most affectionate cousin and servant,

Jo. DUFF.’

‘To the much honoured, the Laird of Drummuir at Inverness.

‘*ABERDEEN, Mar. 20, 1702.*

‘SIR,—It is none of my fault your Sasine is not yet sent you, but then I beg excuse for the trouble. And would beg you to have this bill discounted for me as it is payable in your town of Inverness, and what expenses you are at on the head shall be thankfully paid you at meeting, which with my service to yourself, Lady,¹ Mistress Anne² and family, not forgetting the old gentleman,³ is all at present from sir, your most affectionate cousin,

Jo. DUFF.’

In 1709 in a mortification by Margaret Gordon, widow of Alexander of Braco, of a sum of money for Aberdeen College, the right of ‘supporting it,’ goes first to William Duff of Braco, her son, and then to John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen, and William of Dipple.

In April 1714 William Duff of Dipple writes to the Lady Glengerack: ‘Affectionate Niece, I have disposed of the meal I bought from you to our Cousin John Duff in Aberdeen.’

There is also a letter from John *re* the ‘good and sufficient oat meal at 8 stone per boll.’

A man who *may* be the same ‘John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen,’ is frequently referred to in the *Aberdeen Sheriff Court Books*.

In 1680 an obligation is granted to him by one Menzies.

In 1681 another by one Hay, another by Mackie, and another by Cruikshank.

In 1683 one by Lumsden, one by Gordon of Terpersie, and one by Alex. Fyfe.

In 1710 John Duff, ‘Armiger,’ Aberdonia, acts for George Mowat in the negotiation for the sale of Balquhollly (Hatton).

The title Armiger, which is equivalent to Esq., shows John Duff to have been a man of good family.

¹ Katherine Duff of Drummuir, born 1669.

² Her eldest daughter, afterwards Lady Mackintosh, born 1684, and married 1702.

³ Provost William, aged seventy, born 1632, died 1715.

Though it is quite possible to identify the John Duff of the letters and John Duff of the *Sheriff Court Books*, as well as he who 'died rich in 1700, whose fortune went to Braco,' with Baird's John, 'who died in Rotterdam in 1718,' and Rose's 'who was drowned on the coast at Musselburgh in the same year,' it is at any rate certain that there was another John Duff, whose widow is thus noted in the *Aberdeenshire Poll-Book*, 1696: 'Anna Innes, relict of John Duff, messenger, her daughter Janat, servants Elizabeth Gray and Elspit Mitchell.' She occurs among the pollable persons within the burgh of Aberdeen, rated 'at £6 yeirly' each.¹

The John Duff who afterwards married Anna Innes of Belhelvie, and died in 1718, is undoubtedly referred to, in the same volume, as 'John Duff, messenger, for himself, no wife nor child, ane servant, James Ritchie, £6 yeirly. While, in the same roll, his future wife appears under 'Thomas Innes, factor to the earl of Panmure . . . 6s. for ilk ane of his daughters in familia, viz: Christane, Elizabeth and Anna Innes.'²

As it is obvious that the Duff stock in Aberdeen, in so far as it was connected with Muldavit, died out early in the eighteenth century, it is perhaps unnecessary to endeavour to pursue it further.

¹ This must be the John Duff and Anna Innes the births of whose children are found in the Aberdeen Registers:

1677, Elizabeth; 1679, Robert; 1680, Marjorie; 1683, Thomas.

² Other puzzles in the *Aberdeenshire Poll-Book* (a valuable record of the time) may also be placed here.

'George Duff, gentleman tennent in Old Overtone, parish of Belhelvie, payes his proportion of his mother's valovatione, £1. 7. 8, but being classed as a gentleman it is not to be payed —but £3 as ane gentleman —6s. for himself and 6s. for his wyfe.' It may be supposed that this George was the brother George, witness, in 1692, to signature of John Duff messenger, who also at one time lived, or at least married, in Belhelvie; but nothing more is known of him. (John Duff in Lochlands of Belhelvie is mentioned in the *Aberdeen Sheriff Court Records*).

A disposition is granted to this George Duff, Old Overtone of Belhelvie, in 1694, and his marriage with Agnes Montgomery, relict of the deceased Andrew Milne of Old Miln of Foveran, is noted in the *Aberdeen Sheriff Court Books* on October 4, 1721, and is apparently witnessed by John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen. But this may be a mistake, as in the next entry, referring to George Duff and Agnes Montgomery his spouse, reference is made to the 'deceased John Duff, messenger in Aberdeen,' who granted a bail-bond to the above George in November 1704.

Also in the *Poll-Book* are to be found William Duffes, tenent in Turrisle, with wyfe and sone and John Duffes, tenant in Mill of Dalgaty.

James Duffes in Kaines of Blacktoun, King Edward.

William Duffes, tennent in Balmade, King Edward.

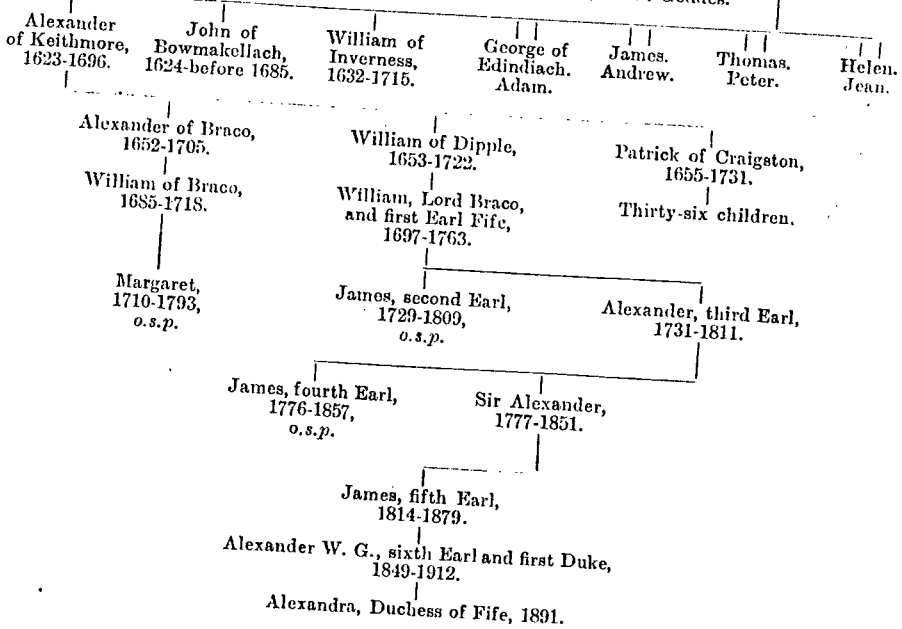
It is perhaps possible to connect these latter with the present family of Bruntyards, King Edward.

In the same list we find John Duff, shoemaker, no wife, child, nor servant. He may be identified with a John Duff, cordiner in College Bounds, of whom we have record in 1681, but that does not, of course, show whether he was any relation to either of the messengers or to either of the John Duffs, burghesses of Aberdeen.

CHAPTER IV

ADAM DUFF OF CLUNYBEG

ADAM DUFF OF CLUNYBEG, 1590-1674, m. 1. — Murray of Milegen; m. 2. Beatrix Gordon.
Margaret, m. G. Geddes.



THE relationship of Adam Duff in Clunybeg¹ to the family of Muldavit was long a moot point. The only previous family historian, as has been seen, made him the son of the last John Duff of the Orchard, by a mythical second wife, but this relationship, which is impossible on the face of it, as a mere matter of dates, is completely disproved by the entries in the *Cullen Court Books*,² and the refutation of it was set forth, with much acerbity, in an article which appeared in the *Scotsman* at the time of the marriage of the late Duke of Fife to Princess Louise of Wales in 1889, which article

¹ Correctly so described, as being a tenant, but also often called 'of Clunybeg,' *vide infra*.

² First brought to light by Dr. Cramond in 1883.

attracted, as it was meant to do, a good deal of notice and has had some weight, up to the present day, with pedigree writers and compilers of peerages. But it went a little too far, in trying to prove that the Duff family had no ancestors, and later researches have firmly established the pedigree of Adam Duff, so that the sneers about the 'fatherless Adam' have now quite lost their point. Dr. Cramond was so anxious to show that the duke's ancestor was not the son of that particular John Duff, tenth and last of Muldavit, married in 1618 to Isabel Allan, who certainly never had a second wife called Margaret Gordon, that he wished to show (and seemed to think he had shown) at the same time, the impossibility of any connection between Adam in Clunybeg and the Muldavit family. This is not established. In fact, it is now certain that there was clear descent, and the elder line having died out in John of Rotterdam in 1718,¹ it was fully allowed at the time that the descendants of Adam did represent the family, though they were originally only cadets thereof. The inscription on the tomb of Alexander, son of Adam, erected in Mortlach church, stating that he was so descended, appears to have been unchallenged at the time, and arms were granted to him in 1676 as being 'lineally descended from the family of Moldavid and Craighhead,' and the note appended to this, in the roll-book in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh (of which Cramond made so much) 'in a different but apparently contemporary hand' to the effect that 'there is good reason to believe that he is not the representer of Craighhead,' proves nothing against his relationship, for, of course, while John of Rotterdam lived, he was not 'the representer.'²

It has now been *proved* that, instead of being the son of John Duff of the Orchard, who married Isabel Allan, Adam Duff of Clunybeg, father of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, was the uncle of the said John, the Adam mentioned in the last chapter as one of the eleven sons of 'Mr. John Duff of Muldavit' (who died in 1593) and his second wife, Margaret Gordon of Cairnburrow. Margaret Gordon, after the death of John Duff, married (in 1600) Walter Ogilvie of Auchoynany, who in 1573 had bought the property of Clunybeg from Patrick Gordon of Auchindoun, and her son Adam Duff was placed by her 'in Ardrone' in 1611³ and subsequently in Clunybeg. He was still of Clunybeg in 1656 when his words to Margaret

¹ For, whatever his exact relation to John of the Orchard and Isabel Allan (see last chapter), he undoubtedly represented an elder line than Adam.

² And there may have been, in that year, other first cousins of Clunybeg or Keithmore, sons or grandsons of the other elder sons of 'Mr.' John Duff and Margaret Gordon, still alive. Even according to Baird it was not until forty-two years later (1718) that Keithmore's son, William of Dipple, was held to be 'head of the family,' or in any way 'representer of Craighhead.'

³ *Banff Register of Deeds.*

Ogilvie (his half-sister), married to John Stewart of Ardbreck, are quoted as evidence before the Kirk-Session of Botriphnie. These facts were authoritatively brought to light by the Rev. Stephen Ree, whose discovery in the Botriphnie Kirk-Session Records of this strange story of the scandal of a buried cat, first revealed as a *certainly* the identity of Adam in Ardrone with the man afterwards known as Adam of Clunybeg, father of Alexander of Keithmore. The evidence, being curious, is here reprinted in full :

BOTRIPHNIE KIRK-SESSION RECORDS

' 12 Feb. 1656. Compeired Georg Riach in Slagrein and gave in a bill of complaint on Marjorie Baron, bearing that the said Marjorie said his mother, Katharin Neil, in prejudice of her neighbours, buried a cat and her four feet upwards, and gave up witnesses. The partie and witnesses to be sumoned to the next day.

' 2 March 1656. Compeired Marjorie Baron and being accused of the former slander complained on by Georg Riach, denied that she said so, but only said that Agnes Low, spouse to James Mill in Towie, said so.

' 23 March 1656. Compeired Marjorie Baron and gave up Agnes Low for author anent the business of the buried cat. Compeired the said Agnes and declared that Adam Duff of Clunybeg¹ came in on a tyme to John Stewart's barn quher she, the said Agnes, was winnowing with the said John Stewart's wife, and non present but they two, and said to Margaret Ogilvie, spouse to the said John Stewart and sister to him, the said Adam, "Ye cannot thrive heer, for they say ther was a cat yearded² heer and her four feet upward," but named no man, and therefor she said it. Being posed quhat if he denied it, she said he could not, but she knew no way to prove it. The matter referred for advice to the presbyterie.

' 20 April 1656. Anent the matter of slander . . . the minister reported that it was the presbyterie's advice that Agnes Low forsaide, be posed who told her that ther was a cat buried and her feet upward, in Little Towie. The said Agnes being called and posed *ut supra* answered that she heard Adam Duff of Clunybeg say to Margaret Ogilvie, spouse to John Stewart of Ardbreck, ther being non present but she, the said Agnes, that ther was a cat buried ther etc., how could she thrive there. The Session concluded that the said Adam sould be called to come and declare the truth in that matter.

' 29 April 1656. Reported by the minister that he had spoken with Adam Duff of Clunybeg anent the forementioned witchcraft, that the said Adam denied utterlie that ever he spake any such, yea regrated that Agnes Low sould

¹ It is important to note that he is here described as *of* Clunybeg.

² Earthed, *i.e.* buried.

slander him with a thing she could not make out, that he was willing to go to the presbyteric and declare so much. The Session did refer the matter to the presbyteric.’¹

The proofs of Adam Duff of Clunybeg being the son of ‘ Mr. ’ John Duff of Muldavit must be recapitulated, to show that the position of Dr. Cramond is no longer tenable.

We have already seen that Adam Duff, son of ‘ Mr. ’ John Duff and Margaret Gordon was ‘ in Ardrone ’ in 1611, the proof of this being an entry in the Banff Deed Book, where ‘ Adam Duff in Ardrone ’ on February 2, 1611, grants discharge to his brother ‘ Mr. Patrick Duff of Darbriuche ’ of money left him by his father after the decease of ‘ Margaret Gordon his mother. Registered at Banff, September 10, 1620.’

And the identification of Adam Duff in Ardrone, in whom even Cramond was obliged to believe, on the incontestable evidence of the *Cullen Court Books* and other documents, with Adam Duff of Clunybeg, rests on two grounds.

Firstly, on the evidence of the Balbithan MS., which says that ‘ of Mr. John Duff and Margaret Gordon is come Braccho, and all the opulent surname of Duffs.’ This MS., which is accepted as an undoubted authority on all the matters with which it deals, was of course unknown to Cramond, having been first published in Bulloch’s *House of Gordon*, Spalding Club, 1903. The approximate date of the MS. on internal evidence is 1730.²

And secondly, on the fact that the mother of Adam Duff in Ardrone married, after the death of Adam’s father (which occurred in 1593), Walter Ogilvie of Auchoynany, and had a son John Ogilvie, and a daughter Margaret, married in 1618 to John Stewart of Ardbreck, Adam Duff being procurator, ‘ Adamus Duff in Ardrone certus procurator et eo nomine probe ancillae Margarete Ogilvie, filie legitime Walteri Ogilvie de Miltoun ’; and thirty-eight years later, in 1656 Adam Duff of Clunybeg is mentioned in the Kirk-Session Records of Botriphnie (still to be read in the original), together with ‘ Margaret Ogilvie, spouse to John Stewart in Ardbreck and sister to him, the said Adam,’ which is absolutely conclusive that the man known in 1656 to 1674 (when he died) as Adam Duff of Clunybeg, and father of Alexander Duff of Keithmore was the same person as Adam Duff in

¹ There is no further mention of the matter in the Session Records, and the Presbytery Records of that period are lost.

² It is known to have been written subsequent to 1715, as the battle of Sheriffmuir is mentioned, but there is no reference to the troubles of the year 1745. The Braccho (Braco) referred to is therefore William Duff, son of William Duff of Dipple (who himself succeeded to Braco on the death of his nephew in 1718). William Duff, the son, became Lord Braco in 1735, and Earl Fife in 1759. He was the great-grandson of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, and therefore great-great-grandson of ‘ Mr. ’ John Duff of Muldavit and Margaret Gordon.

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Ardrone, and therefore son of 'Mr.' John Duff of Muldavit and Margaret Gordon of Cairnburrow.

A large amount of evidence as to the facts of Adam's descent had been collected in the end of the eighteenth century by William Rose of Ballivat, factor to Lord Fife, some of whose notes are now in the Advocates' Library Aberdeen others in Advocates' Library Edinburgh and others again in private hands.¹ All of these have been carefully collated by the present writers, and a fairly complete life history of Adam can now be compiled.

He was certainly born in 1590, and in the following year certain crofts were granted by his father John Duff of Muldavit to his own wife, Margaret Gordon, in liferent, and to Adam in fee.² This fact was used by Dr. Cramond to attempt to disprove the identity of this Adam with Adam, father of Keithmore, who lived until 1674, but the infestment of children in the fee of estates of which the liferent was granted to other persons was, of course, quite usual.³

There was an Andrew Duff in Clunybeg, who had a precept of sasine in 1573 which was confirmed in 1580, and a reversion upon the same lands granted by him in 1590 to Patrick Gordon of Auchindoun. This Andrew is still unexplained, but he is certainly the man mentioned in the will of Alexander of Torriesoull 1566 (*q.v.*), and may be identified with the Andrew who witnessed a charter for John, eighth of Muldavit, in 1565 (see page 18), the same John witnessing one for him. He was probably brother of John the eighth.

'Aug. 28, 1581. Rex confirmavit cartam dicti Adami Gordoun di Auchindoun (qua vendidit Patricis Gordoun fratri suo, heredibus ejus et assignatis masculis quibus cunque) dietus terras tenend de rege cum precepto sasine directo Andrae Duff in Clunybeg.

Test. Joanni Duff de Connes (Conage in Rannes).
Alexandro Duff de Torriesoull.

Jac. Gordon filio Johan G. di Carnburro.
'Apud Huntlie, 10 April 1573' (*Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.*).

These witnesses are interesting as showing at least a juxtaposition of the then Clunybeg, Muldavit, and Torriesoull.⁴

¹ See Preface.

² Cramond's *Church of Cullen*.
³ It was in 1612 that these lands were finally sold to James Lawtie, by Patrick Duff of Darbrulich, 'with the consent of Walter Duff, son of John Duff of Muldavit (and therefore nephew to Patrick), present prebendary of Cullen, and with the consent of Adam Duff, brother-german to Patrick Duff.

⁴ In the same year we find Alexander Duff of Corsindae appointed Deputy-Sheriff of Aberdeen. Who he was we cannot ascertain.

As already stated, it is now quite certain that, although Adam Duff in Clunybeg, who married Beatrix Gordon of Birkenburn (she unfortunately is not mentioned in the Balbithan MS. history of the Gordons), and had the large family of sons known to us, was *not* descended from the family of Muldavit in the way stated by Baird, yet his connection with the family is undoubted, and the present Duchess of Fife may, as Mr. Bulloch says in his *Free Press* article of May 17, 1912, trace her descent, on the Duff side, back at least to 1404.

Adam Duff, then, youngest, or youngest but one, of the sons of John Duff of Muldavit and Margaret Gordon his second wife, was born, as has been seen, in 1590. At his death, in April 1674, he was aged eighty-four, and it is certain that he was twenty-one when he executed the deed to his elder brother Patrick, quoted on page 19, otherwise the consent of his mother or curator would have been necessary, and this was in 1611. It was in that year also that he was 'placed in Ardrone.' (Baird, as already mentioned, places his birth in 1598, while making him the *younger* son of John Duff and Isabel Allan, this John Duff being in reality Adam's nephew, son of his half-brother, and probably born a few years after him.) Baird calls Adam 'the Restorer of his family, for he was the father of a numerous offspring to whom he gave a good education and good provisions, whose male descendants have most of them flourished ever since, both the stock and the branches. Several old men who lived within these forty years (written about 1770), and knew Clunybeg well, spoke of him with great regard as a man of strong natural sense, perfect integrity and indefatigable industry. He was a zealous Loyalist and Anti-covenanter, and was fined by the ruling party (in October 1646) 500 merks either as a malignant or for the malignancy of his two elder sons (who served with Montrose).'

In the Rose MS., Advocates' Library, frequent reference to him is found: 'Margaret Gordon, 2nd dau. of Cairnburrow, gave to Adam her youngest son, the farm of Ardrone in 1611. He was a very honest man. He lived in Ardrone till about 1623. About 1657 he was not in affluent circumstances, as he was "taken" for £100 Scots, when his son Alexander was his cautioner to Andrew Hay of Darbruidh. At that date he was also tenant of the Mill of Auchindoun.'

In the Rose MS. there is a copy of a deed signed by Adam Duff at Keithmore on June 5, 1662, binding himself to deliver certain papers to his son Alexander or his heirs: 'Adam Duff in Clunybeg writes a paper

¹ Thus Adam Duff was a Gordon vassal, and W. Rose notes: 'Let it be remembered with truth, that industry, care, and attention has brought this family equal to any peer—owing their original credit to the Marquises of Huntly, who protected the Duffs who transacted their business.'

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granting himself to have received from Alex. Duff of Lettack, his son, the papers aftermentioned, 'to Witt ane discharge from John Miln to him, out of Horn and Caption raised on Horning, Miln contra Duff of dait 1655 : Miln contra Duff and Gordon 1644 or 1654 : Contra Ogilvie and his cautioners : Doubles letters of horning, etc., sic serib. Adam Duff.' William Rose saw this paper, and notes that he 'delivered it to Mr. Cranston, January 31, 1801.' The present writers have not been able to trace it.

Innumerable notes in the Rose MS. show Adam Duff of Clunybeg as a 'younger son of Mr. John Duff who died April 23, 1593, and Margaret Gordon, second daughter of Gordon of Cairnburrow, by Bessie Gordon, Buckie's daughter,' but, unfortunately, authorities are not always given. 'Adam Duff lived in Ardrone in 1611; he married, first, a daughter of Murray of Milegan, and then a daughter of Gordon of Birkenburn, of whom Keithmore, Corsindae, and William, Provost of Inverness. Adam was a burgess of Banff (his ticket dated 1662).'

Part of his history is to be found in the public records.¹ In the *Acts of the Scottish Parliament*, Adam Duff appears several times. In 1644 he, with his two elder sons, Alexander and John, aided in the plundering of the house of Alexander Strachan of Glenkindie. Glenkindie's complaint states that these several persons (of whom seven were Gordons and three other relations of Clunybeg's)² 'in contempt of the lawis of the kingdome, haveing no reason but onlic because the said supplicant was ane Covenantanter, had violentlic broken up with soir hameris the utter and inner Yettis, doores, kistis, cofferis, lockfast places and plundered the haill movecables,' and prays to have these things restored to him.

Full details of this 'spulzing of the House of Auchagatt' are to be found in the Book of Hornings, now in Banff. The date of the original raid was April 15, 1644, and the account states that 'these persons, with their complices as common and notorious thieffes, came bodily in forse with swords, durks, bands, staves, hagbutts,³ pistolles and other invasive weapons, to the said Alexander Strachan of Glenkindy his dwelling-place of Auchagatt and violently, with forse and instruments of hammers and others brought be them to the said place of Auchagatt, break up the yeattis and

¹ 1646. Ane Act of the Committee of Parliament whereby 400 merks to support the army were levied on Adam Duff in Clunybeg.

² 1648. Adam Duff in Clunybeg and his sons John and William are found in the records of Horn, at the instance of John Lesly in Buchrumb.

³ John Ogilvie of Auchoypany, his half-brother; George Geldes of Auchinloof, his son-in-law; George Adamson in Floors, whose mother was a Duff of Drummuir.

⁴ Crooked fire-arms, anciently used.

doors thereof and having taken entry within the samen, broke up the hail kists, coffers and other lock-fast Lumies,¹ and theftously by way of masterful sleuth² and theft, reif, staw,³ and away-took furth the said Complainers hail silver work to the avail⁴ of an thousand pounds, as also the sum of an thousand merks of lying money, breaking his Charter kist and staw and away-took furth his hail evidents of his lands together with dwerie bonds, Obligations and other securities containing great sums of money addebted to him be his Debtors extending to the sun of twenty thousand merks together also with the hail guidis, gear, insight, plenishing of the said place, and victuals being within his girnals⁵ to the avail of 2000 merks, and transported away the samen and other guidis at their pleasure and sich like, being fortified by the said Walter Ogilvie of Milltoun of Keith.⁶

In the following year, there would seem to have been a fresh offence, for the same indictment, bearing the seal of Charles I., goes on to state that 'under cloud of night in Aug. 1645, these persons came to the Complainer's place of Annonchie and theftously broke up gates, etc. and staw [stole] fourtie nolt [*i.e.* cattle] and guidis to the avail of a thousand merks . . . and in the month of Dec. came and away-took a black hackney horse worth a hundred pounds. For the which theftous crimes as well of stealing, as of receipting the foresaid stolen guidis the forenamed persons, committers thereof ought and should be punished in terms of law and to make restitution, etc.' Precept of horning signeted February 24, 1648.

They were accordingly cited upon the 11th day of March 1648; 'James Leslie, Messenger, past and chargit Adam Duff in Clunybeg, and Alexander Duff, his eldest lawful son, at his dwelling-house in Clunybeg where Adam and his wife lived and where the said Alexander his eldest son last resided, and copies left with Adam's wife as they were from home, personally to compeir within the Tollbooth of Edinburgh the 12th of April then next'; but in 1649 Strachan was still clamouring for redress.

In 1651, Adam Duff in Mylnetown of Auchindoune, with James Ogilvie of Raggall and others, are cited at the instance of Robert Sanders in Ardinciddle in the parish of Keith. The complaint being that 'these persones in the month of October came to the lands of Dallochic and rancounteret with nyne of the said complenar his servants going to the Knok of Strylay to sheir their master's cornes growing thereupon and forced and compelled them to go to James Ogilvie's place of Raggall and sheir his corne all that day.'

¹ Utensils.

⁴ Worth.

² Tracking.

⁵ Granaries.

³ Robbed, stole.

⁶ Stepfather of Adam Duff.

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For this, and for a cruel assault upon Sanders and his wife, in December of the same year, Adam Duff was 'personcallie apprehended' on April 23, 1655. On November 30, 1657, Robert Sanders, messenger, notes that 'after sex knockes upon ilk ane of their most patent doores, he affixed and left authentik copies of the letters of horning (because he could not find them personallie), before witnesses, George Gordon, sone to George Gordon of Liekestone, George Duff, sone to the said Adam, and lykways arrestit twa thousand merks in the hands of Mr. Andro Hay at the Nether Mylne of Strylay, belonging to the said Adam Duff.'

Horning was not a very serious matter in those days, and very shortly afterwards the offenders made their peace with the authorities, and Adam appears in a year or two as a respectable citizen and a witness before the Presbytery.

He seems, however, to have been a somewhat turbulent person, for, on April 14, 1663, in the *Register of Privy Council of Scotland* is found a record of a 'complaint by John Lyon, elder of Muiresk, and others against the Earl of Aboyne, Alexander Duff of Keithmore, Adam Duff in Clunybeg, and divers others their accomplices, to the number of fifteen persons, all boddin in feir of weir,¹ armed with swords, pistolls, gunnes and other weapones invasive, contrar to diverse Acts of Parliament made against bearing and wearing of hagbutts and pistolls and convocation of the leiges, did by way of bangstry² and oppression, without any warrand or order of law in ane military manner come to the ground of that foresaid lands, and affixt and held ane pretendit court, did unlaw and amerciat³ the absent tenants and decerned those that were present to receive tacks for him of the said lands,' etc.

When this case came on for trial, only Alexander Duff of Keithmore appeared as a defender, and was 'assoilzied.' It is possible that the Adam Duff of Clunybeg of this incident may be, not Alexander's father, who would have been seventy-three years of age, but Alexander's younger brother Adam, who also appears in the Horn Register, 'Adam and James Duff sonnes to Adam Duff in Cluniebeg.'⁴

Adam Duff had, by his first wife, one daughter, Margaret, married in 1641

¹ Prepared for a warlike expedition.

² Strength of hand, violence.

³ Fine.

⁴ This reference was first printed by Cramond in the *Genealogist* in 1887: 'Adam and James Duff sonnes lawful to unqll Adam Duff in Cluniebeg,' and he gave to it the date 1649, as coming after an entry of that date, and before one of 1652; but it has been pointed out by Mr. Ree that the entry (which has been verified in the original Book of Hornings, now in Banff) is *valueless* legally and historically, as it bears no date of issue at Edinburgh, receipt at Banff, or of execution, and in the light of subsequent entries in the *same* book, duly dated, showing Adam of Clunybeg and Milntoun of Auchindoun as alive in much later years, it is obvious that this entry must be an error of name, of place, or of position in the Book of Hornings.

to George Geddes of Auchinroof; by his second wife, Beatrix Gordon, he had a large family. To quote again from the Rose MS.: 'The sons of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, son of "Mr." John Duff (who died April 23, 1593), who was born 1590, and died by an accident at the Miln of Auchindoun 1675,¹ are Alexander, John, William, Adam, James, George, Andrew, and Thomas. Mr. Lawtie knew all the young men of the family of Adam Duff in Clunybeg, well known, too, in the farm of Ardrone in the parish of Keith. He lived there and at Miln of Auchindoun with several of his sons in 1649.' The three elder sons, Alexander, John, and William, will be treated of in separate chapters; George, of whom nothing personal is known, is spoken of with severity by Baird as 'an idle, lazy, stupid fellow, very different from his three elder brothers.'

George Duff witnesses his father's signature on more than one occasion (Rose MS.), and he may possibly be identified with George Duff, servitor to Gordon of Edinglassie in 1680 (*Aberdeen Sheriff Court Records*). It was he who gave up his father's will in 1674; presumably as being the eldest son at home. George Duff was in Clunybeg in 1665, and gives an assignment to Alexander Duff his brother. (Adam their father was then alive.)

1712. The same George, writing from Burnend, grants a discharge to Braco for his annuity, and mentions his deceased brother Keithmore. Witness, Thomas Duff, servitor to Braco.

Not much is known of the others. Adam and James, as we have seen, were called at the instance of Thomas Spence (Horn Register), and in 1667 James Duff, lawful son of Adam Duff of Cluniebeg, grants an obligation to one Meldrum, which is witnessed by the said Adam Duff and George Duff, brother of granter (*Aberdeen Sheriff Court Records*).

James is said to have succeeded to Auchindoun, and James Duff, Milntoun of Auchindoun, occurs more than once as a witness.

John and Andrew are witnesses in Banff 1650 (Rose MS.).

Thomas appears in the Horn Register of 1653 as son to Adam Duff of Clunybeg. According to Rose, he was a skipper in Banff, and his children had property there.

John of Bowmakellach afterwards held Milntoun of Balvenie, as he renounced the same to his brother Alexander at Keithmore, April 21, 1674. John Duff signs it, Isabel Pringle, his wife, initials it 'I. P.,' and Alexander Duff, writer in Edinburgh (Braco) witnesses. Keithmore paid £60 Scots for the goodwill.

Two of Clunybeg's sons were dead when Baird wrote in 1773 or there-

¹ Really 1674.

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abouts. One 'went south and never returned to the north country again,' and one was 'drowned when crossing the water of Fiddich in a Spate,' but no Christian name is given to either. The former was probably the progenitor of a family of Duff which settled in Durham county, now represented by Mr. Edward J. Duff of Holly Lodge, Cressington Park, Liverpool. Family tradition states that his ancestor, who belonged to the Clunybeg and Keithmore family, left Scotland in connection with the political troubles of the seventeenth century, but the intervening links have unfortunately been lost.

It is also stated that Adam of Clunybeg had another son named Patrick or Peter, who would make the ninth, and was possibly the one who 'went south.'

Besides the numerous sons, Adam Duff had by his second wife, Beatrix Gordon, two daughters :

'Jean, married to John Muiren of Mather Cluny, and Helen, married to — Taylor in Ardgathnay' (Baird).

Baird seems, with his usual carelessness, to have transposed the Christian names of the two daughters, for in the Botriphnic Kirk-Session Records we find under date '1657. Compared Patriek Taylor and Jean Duff, before the Presbytery.' Ardgathney is situated close to the station of Drummuir.

Mether or Nether Cluny afterwards passed into the hands of the descendants of Adam's son George, whose son was Adam.¹

There is another side to the biography of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, in which he appears as a pious elder of the Kirk-Session of Mortlach, some extracts from the minutes of which may be given :

In 1623, among the elders in 'the Parochin of Mortlach,' we find Adam Duff in Auchindoun.

In 1627, Adam Duff is appointed to be the keeper of the box containing the 'commone guid,' to be distributed 'be the advice of the Sessions.'

From 1627 to 1647 (at which latter date there is a gap in the minutes), Adam Duff of Clunybeg appears frequently as cautioner and suretie for various persons, which shows him to have been a man of substance. In 1641 he is surety at the marriage of his own daughter Margaret to George Geddes of Auchinchoof.²

In the same year he is appointed one of the elders, 'for the ingathering of the penalties,' Auchindoun being his particular district.³

¹ Adam Duff in Mether Cluny, elder of Mortlach, 1711.

² He therefore probably married his first wife about 1620.

³ For the above extracts we are indebted to Mr. Ree of Boharm.

' PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE

' 26 July 1655. Visitation of Mortlach

' Adam Duff parishoner ther regrated that being ane elder, the minister had removed him off the Sessione w.out order, be sending to him ane man desiring him to byd from the Sessone, and 2dly that he had compared him to Elimas, the sorcerer. The minister answered to 1, that he desired him to byd from the Session, be reasone of ane Act of the Generall Assemblie, as being accessorie to the lait unlawfull ingagementes, and to the second he answered that he did but utter the apostles words and did not apply them to any. The said Adam Duff stood to his assertiones and immediately departed saying that in tyme and place convenient he had mor to say, which he was to mak out quhen he was put to it.'

Notes of Clunybeg's death and funeral are thus given in William Rose's papers :

' Adam Duff of Clunybeg, whose Father was John Duff of Muldavit and Mother, Margaret Gordon, must have been 84 years old at his death. Lord Braeco said George Duke of Gordon was at this burriall and Ogilvie of Ardo and Lord Findlater who died 1730. Ogilvie of Ardo told Mr. Lawtie at Fordyce that he was at school at Deskford when the Corps passed to the Isle of Cullen,¹ from Clunybeg and Milntoun of Auchindoun.' 'All this I hold true, for George Duke of Gordon married and came north in Oct. 1676.'

(Adam Duff's funeral was therefore before the Duke's marriage. He was not, of course, created Duke of Gordon until 1684, but he married Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of the Duke of Norfolk and Earl of Norwich, in 1676).

There is, unfortunately, no monument to Adam of Clunybeg in Cullen or elsewhere.

There is a very powerful portrait of him by Honthorst in the possession of the Duchess of Fife, which is reproduced as a frontispiece to the present volume.² An inferior painting of Beatrix Gordon is now at Monteoffer.

Adam Duff's will, which is very brief, is amongst the Duff House papers. This fixes his death as having occurred in 1674 :

¹ The family burying-place of the Duffs of Muldavit. See chapter ii.

² The date, of course, is a later addition, and is recognisable as being in the same hand as other inscriptions on pictures in the Duff House collection, which later researches have shown to be incorrect. See John Duff and Agnes Gordon in chapter ii. As Adam appears to be about fifty years old, the date should probably be about 1640 to 1645. The picture was formerly ascribed to Jamesone, but the name G. Honthorst has been found upon it.

ADAM DUFF OF CLUNYBEG

'The Testament of the deceased Adam Duff in Cluniebeg, who died upon the — day of April 1674. The will given up by George Duff, lawful son to the deceased.'¹

¹ Dr. Charles Henry Duff, of East Bridgeford, Nottinghamshire, traces his descent from one of the younger sons of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, most probably James of Milntown in Auchin-down, who is conjectured to have had a son James, who resided in Inverness.

The first ancestor of whom Dr. Duff has authentic record is Robert Duff, born 1711, whom he believes to have been great-grandson of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, and therefore second cousin to and contemporary of William, first Lord Fife. Thereafter the family is as follows:

Robert Duff, born 1711, had a brother Thomas, born 1713, died 1801; he m. Barbara Gordon, and had fourteen children. He is buried in Inverness.

John Alexander, 1759-1829, m. Catherine Lucy Maudsley.

Thomas William Duff, 1789-1856, lived in Southwark, and was a clerk in the Bank of England. Was married three times. By his first wife, Utricia Goodman, had two sons and one daughter. John, o.s.p.

William Henry, 1815-1883,
m. Charlotte Burton.

George, killed by Kaffirs in
South Africa, 1860.

Fanny,
o.s.p.

Charles Henry, born 1861,
m. Edith M. Baily in 1909.

Thomas William,
died in Australia.

Fanny Louisa,
m. Captain Horatio Bland.

Barbara Gordon,
born 1910.

David Shere,
born 1912.

Horatio, R.N.,
died 1901.

Charles E. W.,
born 1881.



ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE



HELEN GRANT, HIS WIFE

From their tombstones in Mortlach

CHAPTER V

ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

THE history of Alexander of Keithmore, eldest son of Adam of Clunybeg, is thus given by Baird : ' He was the heir and worthy successor of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, and was an officer under Montrose in all his campaigns of 1644, '45, and '46, and when the Marquis went beyond sea in consequence of his capitulation with Middleton in September 1646, he went over to the Continent likewise, but to what country I do not know. He came home in a year after, when the violent prosecutions of the Loyalists were over. But it is affirmed, he was then taken up by the Covenanters and thrown into prison, where he lay a long time. However, he got his liberty at last.' Among the Duff House papers the following records of his military career are preserved :

' George, marquisse of Huntly, his Majesty's Lieutenant of and in the northern partes of this his Majesty's Kingdome of Scotland. . . . Be vertue of his Majestic's Commission Granted to us, we doe by these presents appoynt you, Alexander Duff captain of ane troupe to consist of fittae horses with their Ryders sufficiently armed, to be within the regiment of our sonne the Lord Gordon,

Giving you full power to exercise all the functions and dueties belonging to ane captain of horses and to command all your inferior officers and souldiers, as they are to be obedient to you. Provyding alwayes, you be accountable to us for descharging the said office and obedient to the command of your superior officers. Given under our hand and seale at Huntly the 23rd of October 1645.'

'Captain Alexander Duffe is heerby ordained to passe into the lands of Mulben, Strayla, Grange, Rothemay and Tordewhill, and to levie from thence ane horseman for his Majesty's service sufficiently armed out of cuerie daugh¹ of the said lands excepting only such lands as pertaine in proper possession without being wadset to Glengarroche, Birkenburn, Miltoun, Carestown, Achaynochie, Brako, and Floores, And to conduct the said horseman to ane rendewoues appoynted at Huntly upon Monday next, the last of this month, be ten houres in the fore-noon, for which these shall be unto the said Captain Duffe ane sufficient warrant. Signed at Huntly the twentie-fourth day of November 1646.'

'By Major-General Middletone. These graunts protection to Alexander Duff, sone to Adam Duff of Clunybeg, from all violence and wrong to be done to him in his person, estate, goods or geir by any whosever, hee alwayes behaveing himself deutifullie not joyncing wt. the enemy, and being answerable to Church and state for his varriage² whensoever he shall be called. Given at Strathbogie the 7th day of May 1647. JO. MIDDLETONE.'

'June 1647. Mr. Walter Day, minister of Deskfoord, Wm. Leslie of Milton of Balvenie and Walter Leslie of Tullich, testify that they, conform to the ordinance of the Church holden at Aberdeen in May last, received Alexander Duff, son to Adam Duff of Cluniebeg, this day after divine worship, and after his public and solemn humiliation in presence of the Congregation of church of Mortlich, have absolved him of all censure for his deliquencie.'

'By General Major Middletone. These are requiring all officers and souldiers or any whomsoever nott to trouble or molest the persone or goods off Alexander Duff seeing he hath satisfie both Kirk and estaitt. Given at Pitlurg the eight day off February 1648. JO. MIDDLETONE.'

'Pass by Major General Middletone, Commander of the Forces. . . . I doe hereby graunt unto Alexander Duff sonne to Adam Duff of Clunybeg full assurance of his life and fortune to be unquestioned in either of them, for any deed done by him in the late course of rebellion hee hath formerlie bene in, or in relation theirt, Provided hee behave himself dutifully in time comeing, otherwise this favour to be voyd. Given at Petlurg the 26th day of March 1648. JO. MIDDLETONE.'

'These are requyring the comander of party, lying upon Alex. Duffe off Sichache, upoune sight heirof to remove to his truppe wt. his party, as lykwaies requiring all officiers under my comande not till trubill nor mollest the said Alex. Duffe untill suche tyme that the business betwixt him and Captaine Dausone or his father be discussit farther before the Comitty off Estaitts or Lords

¹ Four hundred and sixteen acres.

² Feudal service.

of Sessione. Given at Leith the twenty-scuinthe day of Dec. 1649 yeirs. DAVID LESLIE.¹

Keithmore was a little man, according to Baird, and 'in the decline of life became very corpulent, which was probably owing to the fatiguing campaigns he had with Montrose. This made his friends call him Croilie¹ Duff,' and under that title a ballad was written about him, which must be given here :

'CREELY DUFF

(ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE AND BRACO, 1623-1696)

1. Oh, heard ye e'er o' Creely Duff
Wha lived intill Keithmore?
My troth he was a comely wight,
The gudeman o' Keithmore.
2. Creely had neither chaise nor coach
For him to ride in state;
But a pair yad (horse) was never shod,
Though Braco noo rides great.
3. His saddle was o' gude sheep's skin,
Weel covered wi' the wool,
And it wad never change its hue
For weather fair or fool.
4. His stirrups was the thrawin' wands,²
His bridle was the hair,
And oh, he was a comely knight,
Wi' a' his ridin' gear.
5. He had a creel upon his back,
Made o' guid foreign segs,³
It was to carry his market wares—
His chickens and his eggs.
6. On ilka score he gained a plack,⁴
And laid it up in store.
This is the verra way that he
Got wadset of Keithmore.

¹ 'Croil,' a distorted person, a dwarf (Jamieson). It has sometimes been said that the name Creely Duff was derived from the fact that he did at one time go about the country with a creel, as in the ballad, but this is unlikely.

² Weaving wands.

³ Rushes.

⁴ A small copper coin equal to the third part of an English penny.

7. There dwelt a witch wife in the land,
 Wha mony an aue did wrong—
 Both lairds and knights and gentlemen
 O' jolly and high renown.
8. She pit a red cow till his fauld
 Wha ever heard her cries,
 Wadset their lands in Braco's hands,
 And this made Braco rise.'

In the year 1650, Alexander Duff married Helen, daughter of Alexander Grant of Allachie, brother of Archibald Grant of Ballintomb, and Baird's further account of this notable couple is so delightful that it must be given in full :

' Keithmoir was a judicious, frugal, honest man ; and, tho' abundantly active and diligent, a great share of his success in acquiring money is ascribed to his wife, one of the most industrious, painstaking women of the age in which she lived, or perhaps of any other. She was a sturdy, big-boned woman, and at last became so fat and bulky that it is said it required an eln of plaiding to make her a pair of hose, and that one time when she threw herself hastily into her chair, without taking notice that the house cat was lying squat upon the seat, she prest puss so effectually to death with the weight of her body, that it never wagged a foot more, and she was so broad that no armed chair of the common size could admit of her sitting in it. ¹

' Helen Grant was a most hospitable kind housekeeper, while at the same time she neglected no commendable and virtuous method of thriving.

' It is said of Keithmoir's lady, Helen Grant, that she would have gone to market with 1000 elns of plaiding, all made of the wool of her own sheep, and riden on the horse crupper behind one of the loads herself, and brought home 1000 mks. as the price of her plaiding.

' It's said she had alwise great plenty of gold and silver specie. In those troublesome times people were afraid to lend out their money, or even to be let it known that they had any, for fear of being robbed, and therefore hid it in holes and bors for this purpose. I heard lately one of her grandchildren tell the following story : During the Usurpation of Oliver Cromwell she had concealed a great leather bag full of ducatoms in the ceiling of the Hall at Keithmoir and the rats had just finished gnawing a chasm in the bottom of the bag, when a large company was at dinner, a shower of dollars fell on the floor, everybody rose to give their assistance

¹ The portrait of Helen Duff, by a Venetian artist, is in the possession of the present writers. The proportions of the lady fully justify the above story.



HELEN GRANT
WIFE OF ALEXANDER, DUKE OF FIFE (1560-1604)

in gathering, but the Lady entreated them all in a very peremptory tone of voice to keep their seats, for she did not want anybody to gather but herself!

'And in the beginning of King William's reign, about 1689, being informed one day that a party of military was in the neighbourhood, and afraid lest they should come to Keithmoir and take her money, she delivered a scaled bag of gold and silver coin to her grandchild, old Lesmurdy, a boy then seventeen or eighteen years of age, and desired him to hide it somewhere in the ground and to set a mark at the place that he might find it again, but to be sure to hide it well, because she would rather wish it was lost than that King William's Dragoons should get it. The boy dig'd a hole at the side of a strype of water which runs alongst the Green of Keithmoir, in which he laid the bag and covered it with earth, and when the party was gone he took it out and delivered it to his grandmother.

'Keithmoir got a good portion with this honest worthy lady, and afterwards by the death of her brother, Patrick Grant of Allachie, succeeded to 100,000 merks more, including the Wadset of Allachie itself and Belcherie which was most profitable, and not long ago redeemed from the last Lord Fife, by Sir Lodvick Grant and sold to James Grant of Carron; for tho' there were three or four sisters all married, Keithmoir and his wife were greater favorites of the brother than any of the rest. And by a proper improvement of this and his own original stock, he died possess of 24,000 merks of land rent, and this besides large purchases which his eldest son Braco made in his father's lifetime, for he was near fifty years old when Keithmoir died. He got the Wadset of Keithmoir from the Marquis of Huntly sometime between 1640 and 1646, and very probably exchanged it with Clunybeg (his father) on such terms as they could agree on.

'In 1676, he got his armorial bearings matriculated, and the following certification from the Lord Lion:

"I certify and make known that the coat armorial appertaining and belonging to Alexr. Duff of Keithmoir, lineally descended from the family of Moldavid and Craighead, and approved of and confirmed by me, Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo, Lord Lyon King-at-Arms, to him of this date, is matriculated in my public register, etc., viz., a fesse daunzette ermine, between a Buck's head caboshed in chief, and two escallops in base, or," etc.¹

¹ To the statement above made, a different but apparently contemporary hand adds: 'There is good reason to believe that he is not the representer of Craighead.' This note may still be seen at the Lyon Office, but, *pace* Dr. Cramond, it does not throw any doubt upon Alexander's descent through his father, Adam of Clunybeg, from 'Mr.' John Duff of Muldavit, who died in 1593, but merely indicates what we already know, that some descendants of some of Adam's ten or eleven elder brothers were still living at that period, especially John Duff,

ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

'Keithmore's lady died in 1694, in the sixtieth year of her age; he outlived her two years, and died in 1696, aged seventy-three. At that time I believe the whole landed estate of the father and son was about 40,000 merks per an.'

William Duff, Inverness, to William Duff of Dipple

INVERNESS, 27th Febr. 1694.

'D: NEPHEW,—I received my joint letter with your postscript theron givinge me the sadd newes of your mother's death [*Helen Grant of Allachie*]. I pray God grant all concerned grace to submitt humbly and patiently to the good hand off God who corrects us in measure and less than we deserve. I pray Dear Nephew give your old father your best and most Christiane advise for his comfortable subsistance in the world for I only pittie him in this juncture. I mett with my Lord Lovat the day at the burriall and xcused yow to him. I received Mortomer's lync to you—but I am firmly resolved not to ingage in wictual this year the two half anchors are filled with sack from Bailie McIntosh which holds just two ye can make sure and pay him att your return. I expect to see yowe very sone the next week and till yⁿ I remaine your affectionat Uncle,

WM. DUFF.

'ffor William Duff off Dypill ffor the present at Keithmore, there.'

'Keithmoir and his lady are interred in the Church of Mortlach, under a stately monument of cut stone. And above their grave both their statues stand, very well chiselled, and extremely like. As I was informed, they are placed on a stone bench, and make a comely graceful appearance, both jolly figures and looking like peace and plenty.¹ The following inscription is engraven above them :

' "Within this tomb are deposited the remains of Alexr. Duff of Keithmoir, and Helen Grant, his spouse, the lineal and lawfull heir to the ancient family of Craighead, lately in possession of that estate, and originally

burgess of Aberdeen, and his son John Duff who went to Rotterdam and died in 1718, and was always known as 'the heir.' It apparently escaped Cramond that, on the same page of the Lyon Register, but above his brother, William Duff (afterwards Provost of Inverness), matriculated the *same* arms with the difference of a mullet, in right of his being 'a 3rd son of the family of Craighead, which is the same as Muldavit,' and that the contemporary commentator, whoever he may have been, in this case made no objection.

¹ Alexander paid the bill for this monument at the time of his wife's death, and sketches for the figures are preserved with the receipt. Owing to its position in Mortlach church this monument cannot now be photographed, but the sketch at the head of chapter was done some years ago by Constance Tayler, sister of the writers, and gives an excellent idea of it.

descended, he from the most notable Thanes, Earls of Fife, and she of the most illustrious and powerfull Clan of the Grants." ¹

'Tho' this inscription is no proof of the Duffs being of the same stock with the old Thanes of Fife, it shows that the story is not newly trumped up, but that it was supported a hundred years ago by an old and invariable tradition' (Baird).

Keithmore left three sons: ALEXANDER DUFF of Braco, born 1652; WILLIAM DUFF of Dipple, born 1653; and PATRICK DUFF of Craigston; and four daughters: 1. MARGARET, married to James Stewart of Lesmurdy, and had one son. 2. JEAN, married in 1680 to Mr. George Meldrum, minister of Glass (see chapter xxvi.)—she died 1725. 3. MARY, 'married in 1684, 1st to Dr. Andrew Fraser, Physician at Inverness, to whom she bore one daughter, Helen, married to Charles Hay of Rannes, and by him mother of a numerous issue. And after Doctor Fraser's death she married, in 1710, Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy,² one of the oldest families in Murray, to whom she had one son Alexander, the present Tannachy, and two daughters, the younger of the two, Elizabeth, married to Alexander Cuming of Craigmiln, who was engaged with Prince Charles in 1745, taken prisoner at Culloden, and died in jail at Carlisle in 1746, leaving, by her, five daughters and two sons, one an officer in France and married to a Frenchwoman, and the other a Miln-wright in Jamaica' (Baird).

4. ELIZABETH, in 1685, married to a son of Thomas and a brother of Sir James Calder, but he died 'within the year,' and there was no family.

The three following letters from Alexander (of which the originals, very difficult to decipher, are preserved amongst the Drummuir papers), are interesting :

Alexander of Keithmore to his nephew Alexander Duff of Drummuir

'KEITHMORE, Dec. 21, 1685.

'AFFECTIONATE DEAR NEPHEW,—You will perceive by my son's line to you and by his line to me which he desired me to send along to you, wherein falsely

¹ Hoc conduntur tumulo reliquiae Alexandri Duff de Keithmore et Helenae Grant uxoris suae charissimae qui quadraginta annos et ultra felici et faecundo connubio juncti vixerunt uterque quidem ingenue natus. Ille ex nobilissimis Fifae Thanis per vetustam familiam de Craighead paulo ab hinc superstitem proxime et legitime oriundus. Illa ex splendida et potenti Grantorum familia eodem quoque modo originem trahens ortu non obscuri suis tamen virtutibus illustriores opibus affluerunt et liberis ingenue educatis florere pie juste et sobrie vixerunt et sic in Domino mortem obiire, Illa anno Domini 1694 aetatis suae sexagesimo—(unfinished).

² Tannachy is now Invererne, near Forres. Thomas Tulloch was grandson to the man mentioned in the deeds of Montrose as 'Tannachy Tulloch,' one of the 'loyal gentlemen' who came to greet Montrose when led a prisoner through Inverness, May 6, 1650.

ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

maliciously and unjustly we are troubled by Arthur Forbes under treaty which occasions us to put you to this trouble to look upon the copies of the charges offering, and to raise a suspension for us with all the haste you can and to get the Will of the date Dec. 17 and to cause intimate it to Arthur however soon you can and to advise letters of loosing of arrestment conform to the copies sent herewith. There are many more laid upon our tenants which we could not get up so speedily. I have according as you will see by this line, written a line to Mr. Thomas Gordon and sent 6 dollars which you may deliver or not as you think expedient. If you cannot get this business done yourself with as much diligence as Mr. Thomas Gordon can, I have sent a precept to raise Horning against some of my Lord Gordon's tenants, which he did put a factory upon me to collect some bonds which you will have cause raise and then by adducement contained in the horning. If you think it needful and deliver the letter to Mr. Thomas Gordon, what more monies he calls for be pleased to advance it and it shall be sent you very thankfully. We have written likewise a line to Mr. William Gordon, Lesmoir's son, to be assisting in the affairs if you should require him. My son will see you when needful.

'I pray you take so much time as to writ howe your own affairs are going on and what Dorothy¹ is doing. You will receive the 6 dollars with this letter and do as you think best, before I cast the stress of the affair upon you. Pray you despatch the monies to your cousin Birkenburn and despatch the bearer how soon you can.—Your loving uncle,

ALEXANDER DUFF.

'To Alex. Duff of Drummuir.'

The same to the same

'KEITHMORE, 4th Feb. 1686.

'AFFECTIONATE DEAR NEPHEW,—Having occasion to send this south to my son, I could not omit the occasion to salute you and to let you know that, blessed be God, all friends and relations are in good health, and wish to hear the like of you and wish to be refreshed with good news of your affairs. Please know the bargain anent my Lord Airlic's salmon fishing is closed. Westerton, your father, Provost Stewart, Baillie, my son William and William Calder partners. They advance £14,000 Scots for the 10 years tack, my lord keeps the creels to himself. I entreat you acquaint me how the prices of Westhall are like to be and how the affair of Auchflunkart goes, and with Dorothy, and how my son's affairs goes with Arthur Forbes and what Crombie is doing and what counter occurrence is passing. With greetings from my bedfellow and my own humble service is all at present, from your loving uncle,

ALEXANDER DUFF.'

¹ Dorothy Lawson, stepmother of Drummuir's wife. See chapter xxii.

Alexander Duff of Keithmore to his hon. brother William, Provost of Inverness

‘KEITHMORE, Mar. 6, 1693.

‘AFFEC. DEAR BROTHER,—I received yours as to the land of Bellyhack, which truly if it were not agrassed with my other land and conformed I could easily be persuaded to obtemper your desire, but I am only an [*illegible*] and my sone have been at paynes in purchasing the right and are more loth to break the interest being out confirmed, but if you and my son can fall upon any terms of satisfaction, I shall be a good instrument thereant, though wist you whatt of shall be acceptable for truly I am very tender (*i.e.* infirm), and my wife also. We both tender our kindly respects to you and your bedfellow and children and other friends and relations with you and remain, your affectionate and heartie,

ALEXANDER DUFF.’

The writer was then over seventy years of age, and died three years later; his wife in 1694 (eleven months later).

The much honoured Laird of Braco from Jean Duff, daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore and wife of the Rev. George Meldrum

‘AFFECTIONATE BROTHER,—Receive enclosed, one double of Ardmeallie’s libel with one letter from Tarlair, who it seems received not your letter timeously, but I’ll show you it was none of my default, for James Lumsden was sent with it to Banff on Wednesday after you went from this place, but not finding Tarlair in the town entrusted the delivering of it to one other who, it seems, has neglected it.

‘They came here by Mr. Francis Grant of Cullen his brother this forenoon, and the bearer is sent express to know your thoughts of it and to advertyse you timeously that you may take your own methods thereon, and this with my love and respects to yourself, and lady, is all at the time from your affectionate sister and servant,

JEAN DUFF.

‘My son-in-law,¹ his wife and sisters remember you kindly.

‘CROMBIE, June 27, 1699.’

A bill follows, ‘Fully paid and done,’ for sums paid to Daniel Simpson for the advice at the instance of the Lady Crombie and John Ramsay against Isabel Meldrum and Gordon of Ardmeallie her husband. The other items are of no interest.

Various conflicts with the authorities on the part of Alexander of Keithmore have already been noted in the chapter on his father. Two later episodes must here be mentioned.

¹ James Duff, afterwards of Crombie. See chapter xxvii.

ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

In 1662 Alexander Duff of Keithmore was charged with 'defrauding the customs.' The complainers, Thomas Fraser and Alexander Burnet, younger, burgesses in Aberdeen, went to St. Rufus fair, held at Keith, and bought from James Grant (at Keithlich in Auchindoun) a web of linen cloth, measured to 70 ells.

'But Jas. Grant, with Alex. Duff in Keithmore and others of sett purpose to affront and abuse the merchants and burgesses of Aberdeen upon pretence that the said cloath was not rightly measured, did insted of performing their bargan for delyverie of the same, calumniate and abuse them, threaten and menace them and in the oppen mercat did draw furth durkes of purpose to have murdered them—which abuse was powerfully occasioned by the ignorance of James Barclay, dean of gild of Banff who pretendit to have the rule and government of the said mercat, and most illegalli caused one George Mintie, indweller in Banff, measure the said web—who caused the same to be holden and drawne be thrie severall persons and thereby rent and racked the same to two elnes more nor the said Jas. Grant had caused Alex. Duff to measure the same, and 4 elnes more than the 70 elnes which was the number at which the same was bought and measured, and by force, bangstry¹ and oppression of James Grant and Alex. Duff, and throw the malice and ignorance of the Dean of Gild, forced the compleaners to make payment of four elnes more of the said plyding cloath than was the true and just measure of the same as it was first measured upon the place be the saids complianers and afterwards by honest merchants in Aberdeen—Lykas the said Jas. Grant did openly confess that the said web was only 70 elnes truly and that he had cutted off 4 elnes therefore before he had come from home.

'Defenders having been charged did not appear. The Lords ordain them to be put to the horn and escheated' (*Register of Privy Council*).

'1664. Complaint by Alex. Kemp in Auchindoun against Alex. Duff of Keithmore, and John Duff in Milntoun his brother, for assault and illegal warding.

'Alexander and John Duffs, having conceaved ane deadly malice against the said complainer, without any just cause or provocation on his part, did upon the — day of May 1661 come to his house of Tanon, accompanied with diverse persons armed in ane hostile manner, and apprehend his person, and band his hands behind his back and most cruellie gave him several most dangerous and deadly wounds, and thereafter patt him in a pair of stockes, where they keepit him be the span of 8 days and above, in ane dungeon in the house of Auchindoun, while the whole blood of his body ran out at his finger ends and by that and by famen within and rattones and other vermin without, he was lyke to be destroyed' (*Register of Privy Council*).

James Duff in Milntown was called as a witness, but the result of the trial is not given.

¹ Violence.



ALEXANDER DUFF OF KILBURN, R.L.

In spite of this, in the year 1666 Alexander Duff of Keithmore was granted 'a commission to apprehend rebels.'

In 1695, Alexander of Braco, Keithmore's son, complains that in the year 1689, by General Mackay's order, troops were quartered at Balvenie under Captain Gordon and Captain Grant. At that time there were 500 bolls of meal in the castle—part of which was used by the soldiers; after the battle of Killiecrankie the rebels came to the castle and took away the rest of the meal. He prays for payment for his meal 'as he himself was attending the meeting of the estates.' He adds that his 'father, an old man of seventy years of age, was taken by the rebels out of his own house (of Keithmore), which was plundered and destroyed by them, and he himself kepted in a starving condition untill he was necessitat to pay a ransom for his relieffe.' Compensation for the meal was granted to Braco (*Acts of the Scottish Parliament*).

In the *Seafield Correspondence* there is a letter from George Ogilvie to the Earl of Findlater, in which he says: 'Keithmore Duff has dealt very treacherously, which he is like to suffer for by the Highlanders.'

He had apparently been 'holding' the castle of Balvenie (which was later fortified by his great-nephew William of Braco in 1715), in the interests of King William and General Mackay, and after Killiecrankie he had retired to his own house of Keithmore.¹

There is a very beautiful portrait of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, as a young man (painted, apparently, by a Venetian artist), in the possession of the Duchess of Fife, here reproduced.

Alexander of Keithmore, eldest son of Adam of Clunybeg, obtained from the Marquis of Huntly a wadset of Keithmore, Mortlach, which long continued to be his residence. The old house, of which little is left, is now turned into a cow-byre, and a new house has been built, but in the old walls can still be seen the loopholes for defence; also the arms, on a stone in the dyke. Clunybeg is to the north of the old house of Keithmore.

Alexander Duff added greatly to the estates held by his father. His name occurs frequently in the list of Banffshire sasines.

In 1646 he got a wadset of Keithmore.

In 1650 of Succoth.

In 1657 'Alex. Duff of Soccoth and Helen Grant his spouse took saisine of the lands of Lettach and old Auchlaggan.'

¹ It seems somewhat hard upon Alexander Duff that he should have suffered in his youth from *having joined* the Royalist party, *i.e.* his father was fined for his 'malignancy' and he himself forced to fly the country, and again in his old age should have been maltreated for *not having joined* the same party.

ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

In 1660 of the town and lands of Pittyvaich and Fittie.

In 1666 of the town and lands of Clunybeg.

In 1673 of Bellyhack and Towie.

In 1677 of Towiemore and Delchan.

In 1678 of the towne and lands of Farmtoun and oythers.

In 1678 All the lands of Medder Clunybeg and 8 oxgates of Milntoun of Balvenie.

In 1679 Miln of Auchindoun. Another wadset of Keithmore, August 16, 1679.

In 1683 the dauch lands of Turtorie with lands of Coldhome and Idmitter, with the lands and lordship of Balvenie.

In 1688 ane yearly arent of 300 merks out of the lands of Edinglassie.

And finally, in 1692, 'the renunciation of Alexander Duff of Keithmore in favours of his grace the Duke of Gordon of the lands of Keithmore and Mylne and mylnetoun of Auchindoun and lands of Clunybeg and Shenwall wt. yr pertinents.' He had Braco in the year 1678 and in 1681 made it over to his son.

After he acquired part of the lordship of Balvenie, he was 'Baron Baillic' for the Duke of Gordon in Auchindoun. He first appears in the suite roll of Barons and Freeholders of Banffshire in the Midsummer Court, 1675, where he is entered 'for the lands of Lettach and Auchlaggan.' In the Pasch Court of 1678 he also appears as superior of Buchromb and Milntown of Balvenie, formerly held by his father-in-law, Grant of Allachie.



BRACO HOUSE (REBUILT AND MODERNISED)

CHAPTER VI

ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO

1652-1705

‘ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO was born in 1652. After his education at school and college was over¹ he attended a Writer to the Signet’s (A. Boyd’s) chambers at Edinburgh some years, and came into employment himself as an agent, but retired to the country in 1675. He married early to Margaret Gordon, daughter of Sir James Gordon of Lesmore, who outlived him many years; he sat long in the Scotch Parliament, as one of the representatives of the county of Banff; he took the oath of allegiance in 1689 and sat again in 1693-1701, and was alwise for what he thought the interest of his country. In the beginning of the eighteenth century it was the general opinion of the Scotch nation that an incorporating union with England would be very detrimental to the interest and honour of their country. Braco, being of this opinion, opposed the union strenuously, and was on that account much regarded by the Duke of Hamilton and all the leading men of that side. Mr. Gordon of Pitlurg, who was then one of the representatives for the county of Aberdeen, used to tell that when Braco went north on account of his private affairs, the duke always stipulated with him that he should return against a day appointed. (He likewise

¹ He was at Marischal College, Aberdeen, in 1664.

said that though Braco went very plain and even coarse at home, he was still extremely well drest at Edinburgh.) He lost all patience if he suspected that any of his friends was like to desert and join the court side, and would threaten them bloodily. Being informed that one gentleman,¹ a near ally of his, was wavering, he came into the room where he was, drew his shable, and drove him into a corner, alwise shaking it over his head in great passion and saying, "Ha, man, ha, man, are you going to vote against the good of your country? Deil ha' me, I'll head you like a Sybow" (*i.e.* a spring onion).

' At another time, being told that several of the Peers were gained by the Ministry, he swore he would buy a whole bench of them out of the ground.

' He was certainly a good countryman in all national concerns, and a very useful member of society in the north of Scotland, by the care he took to have all the Highland robbers and thieves who pestered the low country at that time apprehended and brought to justice, on which occasions he frequently exposed his own life to very great danger, but at the same time gave good proof of his courage and conduct. One instance which made a great deal of noise at the time, was the seizing of James Macpherson and Peter Brown at Summerrive's fair² at Keith, September 1700. These were two notorious villains, breakers of the peace in all sorts of villainy, whom Braco had made several attempts to catch, but as they were protected by the Laird of Grant, he was still disappointed. As soon as he spied them in the market, he desired his brother-in-law, Lesmurdy, to bring him a dozen of stout able men which he did; they all attackt the villains, who, having several of their accomplices with them, made a desperate resistance. One of them made a pass at Braco, intending to run him through the heart, but the dirk slanted alongst the outside of his ribs, without cutting the skin, and one of Braco's men stabb'd the fellow dead. They carried Macpherson and Brown to a house in Keith, where Braco and Lesmurdy left them with a guard, not expecting any more opposition. But when they were in an upper room with two or three of their acquaintances concerting the committment of their prisoners, the Laird of Grant, with thirty armed men, came to the door calling for them, and swearing that no Duff in Scotland should keep them from him. Braco, hearing the noise of the Grants, came downstairs and said, with seeming unconcern and good-humour, that he intended to have sent them to prison, but he saw they were protected by too strong a party for him to contend with, and he must give them up; but without losing a moment he took a turn through the market, found other two Justices of the Peace, held a court, and assembled sixty

¹ James Abercromby.

² A corruption of St. Malrubius' fair.

bold men who retook the criminals. They were sent to prison, carried to Edinburgh and tried; they were both condemned to be hanged. Macpherson's sentence was executed,¹ but by Grant's interest Brown's was changed into banishment.

'I have heard likewise, that to all his relations and allies, Alex. Duff of Braco was a faithful firm friend, and would have gone any length to serve them. In a word, he was a very significant man in his time, and bore great weight in the public and private transactions of the Shire of Banff while he lived. One trifling anecdote, which I heard from his nephew, old Hatton, shews his acuteness and the quickness of his reflection to that point which he seems to have had alwise in view. A sturdy Beggar, having heard that he had pickt up a halfpenny from the street of Banff, came up to him craving an alms and saying, "God bless ye, Braco. Gi's a babee, and if ye winna gi's a babee of your awen, gi's the babee that ye fand." "Find a babee to yourself," says Braco.

'He made a great many additions to the Family estate in his father's time, whom he only survived five or six years; ² they both joined in bringing about the Purchase of the noble estate of Balvenie, which they had in view from about the year 1675, and completed in 1687' (Baird).

This castle is one of the finest ruins in the north of Scotland, and contained the magnificent room known as the Dane's hall. 'The building bears traces of occupation by the Stewarts, Earls of Athol, who built it, and the national arms occupy a niche over the entrance door. The strong gate is still in position. In its palmy days the castle consisted of a large square occupying about a Scotch acre in extent, with a lofty tower at the gateway and turrets at the four angles. Since 1720 it has been roofless, and is now a complete ruin.'³

Cordiner says: 'Through all the periods to which our more authentic histories extend, the possession of this fortress was an object of ambition to the most noble and powerful families of the kingdom. There is a large circular tower at the S.E. corner and small towers on the other angles.'⁴ In the book of the Barons and Freeholders of the Sherifdom of Banff, 1664-1722, the Master of Saltoun is entered in 1685 for Balvenie; in 1696, Alexander Duff of Braco for the lordship of Balvenie.

He purchased many other estates in Banffshire. In 1684 there is an order by the Marquis of Huntly to the tenants of Grange to 'grind out' their corn at the Nether Mills of Strathyla possessed by Alexander Duff of Braco.

¹ At Banff on the Gallowhill.

³ Shaw's *History of Moray*.

² It was in reality nine years.

⁴ Cordiner's *Remarkable Ruins*.

As appears from the description of the lands comprised in the Braco entail (Five Estates Improvement Act, 1858, 21 and 22 Vic. cap. 4), 'the lordship of Balvenie comprehends the tower, fortalice, mains, and manor place of Balvenie, with yeards, orcheyards, miln, milnlands, multures,¹ sequells,² woods, fishings, parts, pendicles and pertinents thereof, advoca-tion, donation and rights of patronage of the parish kirks of Keith and Grange and the whole teinds, as well great as small parsonage and vicarage of the said parishes. Also the lands of Middle and West Bochromes, half davoch³ lands of Lettervandich, and half davoch lands of Braigach, Cluniebeg, Medder Cluny, the eight oxgate of land of Milntoun of Balvenie, Lynemore, Dellachame and Succoth, half davoch lands of Bellyhack, davoch lands of Rudderie and Lyne, Parkmore, Little Tullich, Lettoch, Auldachlaggan, lands and barony of Edinglassie, with castle tower, fortalice, etc., Meikle Dummeath, Lesser Dummeath, Succoth, Pittavaich, Laighie, Tomnamuid, Parkbegg, etc., etc. The aforesaid lands lie in the parishes of Mortlach, Aberlour, and Glass.'

The castle of Balvenie, built by the Earls of Athol, came next into the possession of Abernethy of Saltoun and then into that of the family of Innes. Arthur Forbes of Blacktown attempted to purchase it about 1668, but he had neither the capital nor the business capacity to carry through such a transaction. He, however, assumed the title of Balvenie in 1670-1671, but a few years later Alexander Duff of Braco and his father began to lend Forbes small sums of money and afterwards bought up a great many of his debts, amounting in all to £21,000 Scots. In 1687 Alexander Duff of Drummuir, who seems to have been acting for Braco against the unfortunate Arthur Forbes, obtained 'a decret of removing' to turn him out, and so got possession of the estate. An action was raised against Braco before the Privy Council for some acts of violence committed upon Forbes and his tenants, but, as Baird sagely observes, 'Braco being in possession of all the rents, the process went heavily on, and Arthur died himself in 1694 or '95.' After this, Braco redeemed the wadsets upon that estate as soon as they expired. 'There were likewise at that time, a great many of small owners of parcels of the Lordship of Balvenie, mostly in the Parish of Mortlach.'

¹ *Multure*, the fee for grinding grain.

² *Sequels*, small parcels of corn or meal given as a fee to the servants, over and above what is paid to the multurer, and they pass by the name of knaveship, and of bannoek and lock or gowpen (*Jamieson's Scots Dictionary*).

³ *Daach* or *Davach* is explained by Mr. Cosmo Innes, in his work entitled *Scotch Legal Antiquities*, thus—an *oxgate*, or 'what esseired to the cultivation of one ox, where pleuch and scythe may gang,' was 13 acres. *Husband-land*, 2 oxgates, 26 acres. *Plough-gate*, the quantity of land tilled by 8 oxen, 10.4 acres. *Davach*, equal to four ploughs, 41.6 acres.

A story is told of him, that gazing one day upon the number of little homesteads lying in this valley he remarked, 'I'll gar a' that reek gae thro' ae lum yet.' For the English reader, we may explain that it was his intention to cause all the smoke from the various family hearths to pass up one chimney, presumably his own. To continue from Baird :

'All these Braco deprived of their heritage at as little expense as he could. And it is too well known and much to be regretted that he was not very ceremonious either as to the Legality or Equity of the method ; and I really believe his severe and oppressing treatment of these little Proprietors who were not able to defend themselves brought a great deal of Odium upon his name, and made John, Earl of Kintore, add a new petition to his Prayers, "Lord, keep the Hill of Foudlin between me and Braco."'¹

'William Duff of Braco and the late Lord Fife purchast several parts of the Lordship of Balvenie which came in the market in their time in a fair and candid manner, and most of them at high prices, so that the present Lord Fife now possesses a very great part of that Estate ; and I believe he and his predecessors have, considering everything, paid an adequate price for the Whole.'

There was a curious incident connected with the estate of Balvenie, when it was in the hands of the Abernethys of Saltoun. 'One James Abernethy (grand-uncle to the last Mayen, who married Jean Duff of Hatton), a near relation of Lord Saltoun, an advocate and manager of cause against Stewart of Blackhall, a sly fellow, went to London in 1657 and, being properly recommended to Oliver Cromwell, got an order from him to Lenthall, then Master of the Rolls, to allow him to inspect the Records and other writs from Scotland, which were lodged in the Tower, upon pretence that some personal papers belonging to Alexr. Lord Saltoun had been carried up in mistake, and there he tore out three leaves from the records of the Court of Session of the year 1605 which contained the Decree loosing the voluntary Interdiction of John, Lord Saltoun, in 1600, and brought them with him to Scotland, without communicating what he had done to any person. His villainy was not discovered till Martinmas 1691. His brother Alexander found the three leaves among James' papers after his death, but concealed the thing to save his brother's memory, and enclosed them in a box of wood which he fixt under a couple in a new house which he was then building ;² but at his own death he imparted the whole, under promise of secrecy, to one James Ogilvie his nephew ; and he, when on his

¹ Another version of this story gives the phrase as being 'between me and that damned Duff.'

² Now the farm of Mains of Mayen.

ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO

own deathbed, touched with remorse of conscience and under great agony of mind for having concealed it so long, acknowledged the whole and signed a declaration of all the circumstances which was sent to Edinburgh. A search was then made, the box found and sent to Edinburgh. The three leaves tallied exactly with the place from which they had been torn, and were writ on paper of the same stamp. The Lords ordered them to be replaced and accounted as part of the record in all time coming. But this replacement was of no great consequence at that time; for the family of Saltoun and their trustees had, several years before, surrendered all their rights upon Balvenie' (Baird).

The wadset of Bellyhack, in the same district, was obtained by Alexander of Braco from Adam of Drummuir in 1681. The subsequent history of that transaction will be found in chapter xxiv. The 'Disposition' by John Abercromby of the lands of Drummuir to Duff of Braco 1682; the 'Decree of Adjudication,' Alexander Duff of Braco against the representatives of the late Adam Duff of Drummuir 1685, and the 'Disposition' of whole estate of Drummuir by Alexander of Braco to Alexander Duff, merchant in Inverness, September 1688, are also fully explained in the chapter on Drummuir.

From 1677, Alexander Duff was 'of Braco,' for in that year there is a sasine to Alexander Duff of Lettach (and Keithmore) and Alexander Duff his son, writer, of the lands of Braco, Nethermill of Strathisle, etc. In 1696, after his father's death, there was a disposition by William Cumming of Auchin of the lands of Letervandich and Braccach in favour of Alexander Duff of Braco.

'Besides the fishings on Dovern from Lords Airly and Cullen, and Doune from Lord Cullen and other lands near Banff, Braco bought a great deal in the Strathisle and about Keith.

'There was then a number of small Heretors in that country, most of whom ran in debt; all their estates he pickt up, some from the proprietors but acquired many of them by buying up their debts and adjudications, comprysings, or other slump or imperfect rights on their land, as with the lands of Balvenie. And if he only got possession he was not very scrupulous about the security more than about the Justice of his title, by which means these Gentlemen or their heirs had many of them Claims and Complaints too well founded for the most part; in all these his son, one of the most upright worthy men alive, did everybody Justice by entering into a fair compt and reckoning, and paying them the ballance which appeared to be due, and the last Lord Fife told me that all these clearances cost his cousin above a hundred thousand pound Scots, and there was two or three which, by minority of the Claimants or other accidents were left for him to

transact,' and added to the numerous lawsuits which kept him busy (Baird). See chapter ix.

ALEXANDER DUFF of Braco, born 1652, died in December 1705; he married, in 1678, Margaret Gordon of Lesmoir, who died 1721. Their children were :

1. MARGARET, born 1679, and married, in 1694, Charles Gordon of Glengerack.

2. HELEN, born *circa* 1681, married about 1700 William Gordon of Farskane, whence the Grant Duff family.

3. MARY, born *circa* 1683, married Alexander Abereromby of Tilliebody, co. Clackmannan.

4. WILLIAM, born *circa* 1685 (he was apparently not 'of age' at his father's death), died 1718.

5. ANNA, born 1689, died unmarried.

William will be treated of in the next chapter. The daughters in chapter xxxii.

Later on in his book, garrulous old William Baird, in dealing with the rise in fame and fortune of 'the lucky Duffs,' adds : 'Those of this name in this country owed their success in their private affairs merely to their bestowing more attention upon the management of them than many others did. Mr. Hay of Delgaty, who was an exceeding good judge of men and things, used to say that he thought the Duffs were rather well managers of their own money than covetous of other people's. I am afraid (*and this is the significant passage in the present connection*) Alex. Duff of Braco was an exception to this rule; but there is an old and musty maxim "Exceptio firmat regulam!"'

He goes on to say : 'Most of the fortunes of the Duffs have been acquired by Husbandry or Trade, joined with good economy, both innocent and commendable callings, and two principal Sources of the population, Prosperity and wealth of a nation; and I do not remember that any of the name ever held a lucrative post under the Government.

'It is also to be noted that the family of Duff, that is Keithmore and his three sons, Braco, Dipple, and Craigston, his grandson William Duff of Braco, and his brother Provost Duff, and his son, all abounded in money at a period of time in the first part of which money was scarce, Land cheap, Interest high, and Rents low, and all the noble Families about them, Gordon, Finlatyr, Duffus, etc., with most of the Landed Gentlemen of large fortunes, sunk in debt by means of the Civil wars and other public commotions, wherein they had almost all been involved on one side or the other at vast expense and but lately come out of. And in the last part of this time the Tenantry in many parts of the country were left in a miserable condition

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by the seven years of Famine preceding 1700, which had made land of very little value by laying it waste in many places, and making a great scarcity of Farmers; for all these concurring circumstances were favourable to purchasers and gave these gentlemen the command of the Market' (Baird).

At one period, indeed, a great part of Banffshire, Morayshire, and Aberdeenshire was in the hands of members of the Duff family, with outlying estates in Kincardine and Forfar. Vast estates were owned by the head of the family, and the numerous cadet branches, many of which have since died out, owned smaller properties. Titles to farms, single houses, or what would now be called crofts, were granted by the head of the family to all those relatives who would accept them, for political purposes. See chapter xi.

The two following letters from Alexander of Braco to his father, and to his cousin of Drummuir, are interesting as showing his anxiety to keep always within the letter of the law and to make profit out of all transactions. In the account of the family of Drummuir the part he played in connection with the bankruptcy of Adam, the troubles with his widow, and the redemption of the estates, will be duly noted. His name occurs in dozens of lawsuits and other disputes with all the parties concerned.

Alexander Duff of Braco to his father

BRACO, Dec. 18, 1685.

‘LOVING FATHER,—I received yours but yesterday in the afternoon, and I think strange you were so long in advertising me and in taking some course against that charge of horning, for the other charges are of less moment, but the charge of horning may lead to demur and to putting your single escheat in hazard. They inform me you received the charge on Saturday and this is the 6th day and the charge is within six days so that it is no remedye but to post a bearer presently south and write, with this line, one line to Drummuir and desire him give in ane bill of suspension both for you and me, for it is probable I may receive the like by fees and shall oblige ourselves to warrant him of his reward, for it is fit he be cautioner. And send four or five dollars and if it be any more, order Drummuir to advance it. Send immediately forward this line of mine to Mr. Thos. Gordon and Mr. A. Gordon and to Drummuir. I will trouble you no more at present, but if you can come here on Monday at night I shall go with you to your place, because I sent all the letters from Crombie.—I am, your loving son,

ALEX. DUFF.’

Alexander of Braco to Alexander of Drummuir

Dec. 28, 1685.

‘HONOURED AND LOVING COUSIN,—I writ to you the other day in reference to that affair of Horning of my father’s and mine. . . .

‘ Mr. William Gordon saith he hath not my charter under the great seal of the Lands of Balvenie, or Arthur Forbes adjudication which I judged in my best memory, I sent south with you to town. I perceive the man is turned altogether lax and debauched and I am in a panic fear that he has either losed my papers or consigned of some for his debts, and I could be gladly quit of him and have my papers out of his hands. But this will be gone about wisely and in a fair manner and without letting him know anything of my suspicions and jealousy, and if so, you must carry his own letters to him, but keep them up until you try his pulse and tell him that you and he must consult some law in my affairs against Stewart and against Arthur Forbes, and for that effect pray him to take out all my papers which you will find written, with any parts under my hand written upon the end of one of his own letters. ALEX. DUFF.’¹

In the *Seafield Correspondence*, edited by James Grant, LL.B., there are various letters to and from Alexander of Braco, and references to him.

On October 29, 1697, Sir Patrick Ogilvie writes to the Earl of Findlater : ‘ I have given your Ldp: the trouble of this letter to let you know that I can get Braco’s son² to my daughter, and he is to give him twanty thousand marks a year frie of any burden, and all the rest he hath after his death, and he will have from me with my dauchter all the land I have, but I am to get ten thousands marks and all the muabils, so I would have your Ldp.’s opinion in it, for I think it is a good bargain.’

The marriage, however, did not take place, for William Duff married Helen Taylor ten years later.

In 1699, Alexander of Braco writes to the Earl of Findlater ‘ anent rogues guilty of many crimes who are by the court ordained to be carried to Cullen and yr: to be putt to death.’

In that same year he announces his purchase of Doune (afterwards Maeduff).

In January 1702, he writes again to Lord Findlater, being apparently extremely anxious to recover a sum of money lent by him to Findlater’s son, Lord Seafield, as he has ‘ a considerable soume to pay against the terme of Witsunday.’ The editor of this *Correspondence* adds a note to the effect that nothing was scarcer in Scotland at that time than money.³

In a postscript to a letter from Anna, Lady Seafield to Lord Findlater, of date December 21, 1705, it is stated ‘ Brachy dayed on Wadsenday last.’

Braco was buried in the old church of Grange ; but his body was after-

¹ Drummuir papers.

² Then aged twelve!

³ Letter from John Abercromby, at Birkenbog, to the Laird of Drummuir at Inverness, November 25, 1701 : ‘ Davitston is in danger of being imprisoned for debt. Send him drafts payable by Braco. We are all straightit for want of money at this term, for there is no money among the country peoples at this term.’

ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO

wards removed to the mausoleum at Duff House, when the following inscription was placed on his monument :

‘Frigido sub hoc marmore jacet

Alexander Duff de Bracco

ex antiqua familia D. D. Joannis de Craighhead et D. Helenorae Hay ejus conjugis
filiae legitimae comitis de Enzie ab avo ejusdem familiae filio necnon ex prae-
claro McDuffo Fifae Thano ejusdem nominis coryphaeo avita oriundus stirpe

Qui

ope et opera, virtute ac frugalitate, alto consilio et intrepido corde paternos
limites haud paulo ampliavit ob incorruptam mentem, inviolatam fidem in justo
proposito constantiam in eodem proseguendo audaciam ac omnia optimi civis
judicia omnibus probis luctuosum sui desiderium reliquit.

Obiit 19 Die Decem. A.D. 1705.

Aetatis 53.’

Translation :

‘Under this cold marble lies Alexander Duff of Braco of the old family of John Duff of Craighhead and Lady Eleanor Hay, lawful daughter of the Lord of Enzie, descended from the family through his grandfather, as well as from Maeduff, the celebrated Thane of Fife, who was chief of his race. By energy, activity, perseverance and economy, profound sagacity and undaunted courage, he greatly extended the boundaries of his paternal estate and died 19th Dec. 1705, in the 53rd year of his age, deeply regretted by all good men for the soundness of his principles, for his high sense of honour, for his firmness in a just purpose and his boldness in carrying out the same, as well as for all the sentiments which characterise a good citizen.’

There is a portrait of Alexander Duff by Richardson in the Duff House collection, here reproduced by permission of the Princess Royal.

As so many hard things have been said about Alexander Duff of Braco, the following extract may here fitly find a place.

From *The Parish of Spynie*, by Robert Young :

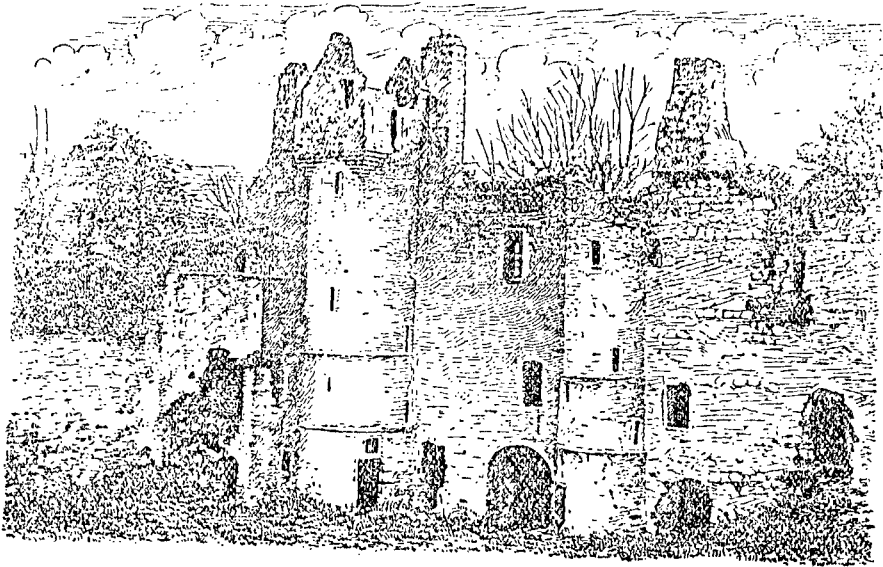
‘The rise of the family of Duff is owing to various reasons. In the first place, for five or six generations it was, without exception, composed of the most shrewd, calculating, long-headed men, who turned everything to the greatest advantage, and lost no opportunity of improving their position. They turned their attention to merchandising and trading at a very eventful period in the history of the country, and had the command of ready money when very few in the north had it. The country was exhausted by the long civil wars of the seventeenth century. The nobility and gentry were generally poor, were anxious to get loans, and to mortgage their lands. The long succession of bad harvests, in the end of seventeenth and begin-



ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACCO.

By Knathar Richardson.

ning of the eighteenth century, also depreciated the value of land, and the unfortunate Darien scheme (1695-99) nearly ruined Scotland. In these various depressing circumstances there was a fine opportunity for acquiring land, and the Duffs did not lose the chance. They dealt largely in wadsets and other mortgages, which were never redeemed, and they readily foreclosed them, or purchased up the rights of reversion for very small sums, and entered into absolute possession. Much of their lands were acquired by wadset rights. There was nothing unfair in this. It was the order and practice of the day. The Duffs made their money by merchandise, agriculture, private banking, money-lending, and other arts of industry and peace, pursued for a long period of time, and with every favourable advantage, and thus acquired an enormous estate by fair trade. They offer a favourable contrast to most of the ancient families in the north, who gained their estates generally by war and bloodshed, and preying on their weaker neighbours. The rise of most of the old families of Scotland is a painful history, and the Duffs need not fear to contrast their actings and acquisitions with any others, for they will bear a close inspection. They were men of good conduct, just in their dealings, honourable, some of them religious, and strictly fulfilled all their engagements.’



BALVENIE CASTLE

CHAPTER VII

WILLIAM DUFF OF BRACO

WILLIAM DUFF OF BRACO,¹ only son of Alexander of Braco and Margaret Gordon, is thus described by Baird :

‘ William Duff of Braco got a very competent education at school and college with a good private Tutor, then studied the civil law at Leyden, and there acquired an excellent taste for all polite literature. He made abroad, at London, and at Edinburgh, a large collection of books, in Latin, French, Italian, and English, of Classic Learning, civil law, History, and all the branches of the Belles-Lettres.

‘ He married, about 1706, Helen Taylor, a woman of much inferior rank to him, tho’ come of very honest parents. It is affirmed by his friends that his penitence and anger at himself for making so low a match was the cause of his unhappy death.²

‘ But, to do his widow Justice, who has now outlived him about sixty years, she has, by her virtuous behaviour, charity to the poor, hospitality and good offices to all her Husband’s Relations, Allies and friends, to whose

¹ Born *circa* 1685.

² He committed suicide at Balvenie Castle in January 1718.

memory she has still shown a most grateful regard and attachment, gained the esteem of all who know her.'

Her husband had a great opinion of her business capacity, and left his affairs largely in her hands. Margaret Gordon, widow of Alexander Duff of Braco, writing in 1718, refers to 'the deceast William Duff of Bracco my son, and the charges I was at on his account in repairing the Miln barn of Braco, victual houses of Nether milln of Strathisla and house of Eden, conform to an order drawn by him upon Helen Duff his spouse, as factor for him.'

The order is also in existence, and must have been written only a few days before his death.

William Duff of Braco to his wife Helen Taylor

'BALVENIE, 15th Januarie 1718.

'DEAREST,—Thes are ordering you to pay to my Mother on sight hereof one Thousand merks as what I am to allow her ffor reppairing the Victuel house of Neither Mill of Stryla and on the dwelling House of Eden and gett up my letter to her theranent and ane letter ffrom her that I have ordered you to allow her the same and that you done it acordingly ffor docing wherof this is warand from and shall be allowed in your ffactory accompts by

WILLIAM DUFF.

'All former warrands to my Mother or you ffor this purpose, tho in her or your hands included.

WILLIAM DUFF.

'ffor Helen Duff my Spouse.'¹

(D.)

'Braco was a most benevolent, generous man, adored by his servants and farmers, who all lamented his death as if they had lost their father. Several of the old people at Balveny told me that the winter before his death he offered all his Tenants long leases at the present rent, and gave them to such as were willing to accept.

'When Lord Marishall was attainted in 1715, Braco told Mr. Keith his Doer at Aberdeen, and to whom Peter Duff, Braco's cousin, was then bound apprentice, that if £10,000 Str. would procure his pardon, he was willing to pay the money, and there was found in his Cabinet, after his death, an order to Mr. Duff, who did all his term affairs at Aberdeen, to pay Mr. Keith £500, to be sent as he had concerted with that gentleman before, which was to remit it to Lord Marishall. This order was dated a few days before

¹ Cf. 'James Duff in Mains of Ardrack grants me to have received in friendly borrowing from Helen Duff, spouse to Wm. Duff of Braco, the sum of ten shillings sterling, 1711. The same James Duff grants discharge of legacy 20 merks Scots left by his brother Alex.' This James Duff has not been identified.

WILLIAM DUFF OF BRACO

Braco died, and never given to Mr. Duff. Both these particulars Mr. Keith told me, and Braco was no Shuffler.

'He went over to Holland in the end of 1716, and after staying in that Country till next Spring he proceeded to Prince Eugene's Camp in Hungary, and was at the Siege of Belgrade; he returned to Scotland in the beginning of winter, 1717, and died at Balveny in the month of January 1718. He left only one daughter,¹ MARGARET, who was married in June 1721, when but eleven years of age, to her cousin Peter Duff; he died in December 1763, without issue, and in 1768 she married Alexander Udny' (Baird).

That Peter or Patrick Duff, son of Patrick of Craigston (*q.v.*) thought he was doing a somewhat odd thing, which required justification, in marrying this child-heiress, whose affairs he was managing, is evident from the following letter, which he wrote to his cousin, Alexander Duff of Drummuir:

Patrick Duff of Premnay to the Laird of Drummuir at Inverness

'MUCH HON'D SIR,—I had the pleasure of yours, I am very fond to have your approbation of my marriage, you may believe, if tyme had allowed, I had writt you of it before, if it puts it in my power to be so much the more useful to my friend, I'll reckon myself very happy. . . .

'My Moyr. in Law and my Wife offer you, your Lady and family their very kind service, and I shall be alwise very heartily and with all respect, Sir, Your affect. cousin and most obedt. servt.,

PATT. DUFF.

'ABERDEEN, Aug. 8th, 1721.'²

There are three letters from this William Duff to Alexander of Drummuir among the Drummuir papers:

'To the Much honoured, the Laird of Drummuir, These.

'MUCH HONOURED,—I have yours and was come from Edinburgh or it came to hand. I shall gladly waite on you any time after Candlemas att Elgin or any place you appoint. In the meen time, I give my humble and kind respects to your self, your father, Ladie and family and to all Friends, and I ever am, Much honoured, Your most affectionate cusin and most humble servant,

'WILLIAM DUFF.

'BALVENIE, 2nd Januarie 1712.'

The same to the same

'MUCH HONOURED,—I have gone South, most part on account to be in a condition to perform my father's obligation to you, which tho' it were to the

¹ There were four children, but three died young.

² Drummuir papers.

greatest stranger I would do to the utmost of my power. Mr. Boyds tells me he was still ready to have waited upon you at Edinburgh and Tillybody writes the same. Mr. Boyds says many of these papers ye took up from me are ranked in your own name, and my ffather's obligation presented by you to make up your right thereto. If there be anything wanting to perform the said obligation to the full on either side, if ye be not coming up your Self, write to your Lawiers your Demands, and I shall consider them and perform them, in so far as concerns the said obligation. Mr. Boyds has some thoughts of going your length, ye may send an exact double as I have oft demanded of the said obligation to him and an order to your agents to make forthcoming what papers they have relative to the performance thereof, as I wrote fully to you in my last, I shall never think that since I am so willing to perform my part, that one of your prudence especially considering our relation, would propose any thing beyond the terms of your obligation. I have since I began to write, got yours with the Inclosed for John Stewart. I give my service to your ffayther, your self, your lady and all of your friends and believe me still to be, much hond: Your aff: cousin and most humble Servt:

WILLIAM DUFF.

'ABDN., 27 April 1714.

'I have communicat to Mr. Boyds my thoughts pretty fully anent what the differences are or may happen twixt you and me and if ye please to do the same and consider what proper methods can be taken for performing what I am bound to do, with the terms of my father's obligation to you, then I will conform to it.'

Another letter from the same to the same

'MUCH HONOURED,—I am favoured with yours dated the fourteenth of this month and besides our Relation, I shall always reckon my Self very much bound to you for your many favours, particularly for your Care of my affairs During my minority and your Discretion and kindness to me all along. I intreat if you intend south this Summer on your pose to end that obligation you have from my Father, you would be pleased to send south the Double of it ten or twelve Days before you come your Self that I may consider with friends and be the more capable to perform it. This is all the business I know is betwixt us. I expect Diple also here, for I intend to expedite a Charter upon my lands in favors of my self and heirs male upon my Tailzie. I desire to deal frankly with you. I recd. once ane unsign'd memorandum wch Diple told me he had from you, in wch there was some proposals for dismembring my superioritys and the lands of Balvenie, which I neither can nor will grant to any man, or I had done it to you, therefore I earnestly besecch you to consider seriously and to ask nothing of me wch is extraneous and impossible, for in all other things there shall be none more willing to testify themselves.—Much Honoured Cusine, Your most humble Servt.,

WILLIAM DUFF.

'EDINBURGH, May 21st, 1717.'

WILLIAM DUFF OF BRACO

A letter from his brother-in-law Alexander Abercromby of Tilliebody, who married Mary, his third sister, explaining a claim he had against deceased Braco, says :

' 4th July 1717. £60 was for business, in sending £200 stg. to Vienna, Braco having wrote me that he designed to go to the Imperial Camp.

' December 1717. Braco having wrote me from the Imperial Camp a letter that Colonel Gibson, Durie's brother, was so kind to him that he desired me to give Durie and the rest of his brethren at Edinburgh a handsome entertainment and got letters of recommendation from them in favour of Braco to the Colonel, desiring him to take care of Braco, because he was a stranger and not well in his health, which I did, and had all Braco's friends, with Durie and his friends in town. It was in Don's house, cost £48.'

There are also, still existing, bills drawn by William Duff on Patrick Duff his cousin and factor (afterwards his son-in-law), dated Rotterdam, May 12, 1717, and Vienna, June 12, 1717, and September 1, 1717. The battle of Belgrade, which resulted in the brilliant victory of Prince Eugene and the Austrians over the Turks, took place on August 16, 1717, and after this date William Duff seems to have returned to Scotland. The two following letters refer to this period :

William Duff to Patrick Duff of Premnay

'CAMP BEFORE BELGRADE, 13th August 1717.

' SIR,—Ive no doubt but you will be surprysed that I draw so much money but this is ane good distance and costs more money as I thought of. The Hunder Ducats were honestly payd me and they cost Mr. Taylor of Amsterdam five hunder and sixty dutch gilders curtt, who bought up ane Bill and endorsd it to me in reckoning, if Mr. Auchterlony offer thè sd hunder Ducats so you will order the payment of the same and gett the necessaire aquitanees of that and my Bills ffrom this and Vienna both on you and my Mother. If you or any other ffreind hase sent orders to London ffor any more credit on my accompt cause recall them because I am to come down soon to fflanders and will not write more from this now draw ffor any mony if it be not some small thing perhaps on Mr. Gordon and then I shall acquaint you and you shall be honestly relieved and payed of all my Bills and my wife will give you mony as it can be gott and always as she pays you give her the necesarie discharged Bills I avised.—Your affect. cusine and Servant,

WILLIAM DUFF.'

Lady Braco to Patrick Duff, Writer in Aberdeen

' SIR,—I hae yours with Mr. Archibald Grants to you inclosed. I am very glad my Lord Cullen has consented to take his mony pleasantly. I shall (God

willing) do all I can to gett it ready and how much he takes at Aberdeen so much the better. I have not been able to go to Rothiemay¹ since your last, but how soon I shall be able to go I shall wait upon him and send you his answer by post or express. I have gott no mony from John, William, James nor Robert Duff but I am hopefull to gett quit the midle of the next month. I cannot be sure before that time how much I will have occasion to Borrow from Diple. Let Robert Moors mony be apart of the thing thats payed at Aburdeen and what mony you have of Braccos beside you, you may bring it out in Gold and gett ane account, if you can, how much Lord Cullen will have payd at Aberdeen if Diple call for the factory I will let him see it but will not registratt it till I see further. Let me hear from you when you gett Mr. ffordgies return, and I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

HELEN DUFF.

‘BALVENY, *Sept. 23rd, 1717.*

‘To Mr. Patrick Duff, Writer in Aberdeen.’

William Duff committed suicide at Balvenie Castle early in 1718;² the castle has never since been inhabited.³ That it was, at one time, used as a fortress appears from the memorial by William Duff's uncle and successor (William of Dipple) to Walpole:

‘Memorial of William Duff of Braco to the Hon. Sir Robert Walpole, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

‘Wm. Duff of Bracco, his predecessor during the Rebellion (1715), garrisoned the Castle of Ballveny, in Banffshire, and defended it against the rebels until it was delivered into the hands of Col. William Grant's lieutenant. Gave a general bond to the defenders, securing pensions, etc. Prays to be discharged of about £200 for non-entry dues, for which his predecessors were indebted to the Crown’ (*Calendar of State Papers, Record Office*).

Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, to Sir James Grant of Grant

‘BEAUFORT, *Feb. 9th, 1739.*

‘MY DEAR SIR JAMES,—Tho’ the officers att Fort Augustus pretend without grounds that Major White dyed lunatick, yet it is nothing as to the laws and customs of our country if it had been so; for the Laird of Bracco, who murder'd himself, was believ'd to be for severall years before, lunatick and mad, and

¹ William of Braco advanced money on this estate, which was afterwards bought by his cousin Lord Braco. See chapter ix.

² There was one portrait of William Duff of Braco in the Duff House collection and another at Rothiemay. Both show an expression at once melancholy and discontented.

³ His cousin, William Duff, afterwards Lord Braco, built the new house of Balvenie in the square French style. This was only inhabited for a short time, and stood empty for over a century. It is now used as a granary for a distillery.

There is a receipted bill, dated March 1726, marked ‘Accompt of the Horse hyres paid for carrying stones to the Boat of Fiddich for the House of Balvenie.’

WILLIAM DUFF OF BRACO

attempted to kill himself severall times, abroad and at home, before he gave the fatal stroke at Balveny. Yet his escheat fell to the King, and the late King gave the gift of it to Brigadier Ker, the Duke of Roxburgh's brother. I went in to the King's closet ane half hour after he got it, and his Majesty was so kind as to tell me that if I had ask'd that gift one hour sooner I would have got it, but that he gave it to Mr. Ker, the Duke of Roxburgh's brother, who was then groom of the bedchamber in waiting, and he sold it for several thousand pounds to this Lord Bracco's father. So you see that pretended lunacy, even tho' believ'd to be real, does not save escheats in Scotland' (*Fraser's Chiefs of Grants*).

The estate of Braco, which escheated to the Crown, was afterwards recovered by Braco's uncle, William Duff of Dipple, his heir-male, the estate of Eden only going to Margaret Duff, his daughter. Baird thus describes the subsequent proceedings :

'When Dipple succeeded to his nephew as heir of entail, he granted to Margaret Duff (that nephew's daughter) a bond of provision for £3000 sterling, which was much about a year's rent of the Braco estate. But Premnay (her husband) being advised that her father's Entail was liable to several objections, served his lady Heir of Line to him, and got her infest in every part of the estate. But in 1724 matters were compromised, and he accepted of £10,000 sterling from William Duff, afterwards first Lord Fife, and he and his lady discharged all further pretension.'

Patrick Duff of Culter died in 1763, and his wife afterwards (1768) married Alexander Udny of Udny, he and she being subsequently known as Mr. and Mrs. Udny-Duff; he died 1789, and she in 1793, without issue.

She left all her personal property to her cousin James, second Earl Fife, grandson of her adversary Dipple, when fresh lawsuits followed between him and her late husband's heirs.

Eden passed to Margaret's great-nephew William Gordon, the heir of entail, who assumed the name of Duff, and subsequently to his niece, Margaret Milne Duff, and the Grant Duff family (*q.v.*).

William's wife, Helen Taylor, as already stated, survived him and drew her jointure for sixty-two years, being over one hundred years old when she died.

A portrait of her in middle life is at Rothiemay House, and one in extreme old age was in the Duff House collection. Her tombstone in St. Nicholas Churchyard, Aberdeen, bears the following inscription :

'HELEN DUFF,
relict of William Duff of Braco,
who died (at Forrester hall) 20 Nov. 1780.'

This lady, on January 30, 1734, forty-six years before her death, intimated her desire that at her decease the Town Council would accept the

sum of 2000 merks (£111 2s. 2d.) as a mortification for the purpose that the annual rent or interest might be paid to a young woman. The qualifications of the damsel were that she should be sober, virtuous and poor, the daughter of a burges of guild, a Protestant, and under the age of thirteen years. The rent of the mortification was to be applied for her education and maintenance in 'Learning Sueing and all Millinaris work, Pastrie and other such useful Education, fit for a Gentlewoman, within the town of Aberdeen, that may enable her to gain her bread honestly and in a lawful way.'

The Town Council were to become patrons after the decease of Patrick of Premnay and Margaret Duff, his spouse.

There are two notes regarding Helen Taylor from the Rose MSS., printed in the *Aberdeen Notes and Queries*. The information given is somewhat contradictory.

'I. Genealogy of Helen Taylor, Lady Braco (taken July 1784 by Mr. Stewart of Edinglassie and given in before his death in Sept. 1786). She was daughter of Robert Taylor who resided at the place of Fintry in Fintry parish. He was the representative and grandchild of Taylor of Whitemires, who sold the lands of Whitemires in Newhills near Aberdeen, now an estate of about 3000 merks of rent and the property of the town of Aberdeen. Helen Taylor's mother was daughter to Rev. M. Cheyne, parson of Kinoull, brother to the Laird of Esslemont. Her grandmother, Mr. Cheyne's wife, was daughter to Sir John Jonston of Caskieben, and Sir John Gordon of Haddo, afterwards Earl of Aberdeen and Chancellor of Scotland, was married to Mr. Cheyne's sister. Sir John Johnston's wife was daughter to the Laird of Drum, and Drum's lady was daughter to the Earl of Marischal.'

'II. Lady Braco, Helen Taylor, was married in London about 1706. Her daughter Margaret, Lady Premnay, born 1710. Lady Bracco was born in Fintry. She kept the sheep at Cook in the Parish of King Edward. Before her marriage she wrought a harvest with John Durno at Mill of Likliehead, in Premnay, for which she got 4 merks and a pair of shoes. She served John Hay, sacrist at King's College and Margaret Tamiell his wife, where her acquaintance with Bracco begun. Bracco went to Prussia after the marriage, and exposed himself on the walls of Belgrade. He had four children by her. Bracco died in the old castle of Balvenie by suicide January 1718. Her husband insisted on her wearing plain and low natches. She lay not on feathers, but on a hard bed of Baken hair called a pallet. She ate oat buttered bannocks. She was about thirty when she married. If so, and if she married in 1706, and died after 11th and before 22nd November 1780, she must have been over one hundred years old. It is certain she died November 1780, for Lord Fife contended her half-year's annuity.

'Margaret Duff, Lady Premnay, married June 27, 1721, when scarcely twelve years old. It was well known she had an attachment to Major

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Home, Prince Rupert's grandson' (Rose MSS., *Aberdeen Notes and Queries*, August 1892).

Prince Rupert had a daughter Ruperta, by Margaret Hughes, an actress. Ruperta married, about 1696, Brigadier-General Emanuel Scrope Howe, envoy-extraordinary from William III. to the Most Serene House of Brunswick-Luneberg. It must have been Ruperta's son who is alluded to above, but it is not stated when and where he met Margaret Duff.

There is one letter from her :

Mrs. Udney-Duff to Lord Fife

' My LORD,—It will give me great pleasure to learn you have enjoyed good health and passed your time agreeably att Marr Lodge about this time you may probably be thinking of leaving that place and may make a visit at House-dale. It would give Mr. Udney and I great pleasure to have the honour of seeing you at Culter, which would be easy from thence. We know how much your engaged but to give a day and a night which robs no time I really expect it, and you know I wish you well and if I did not sincerely desire the one and ardently wish you every felicity belive I would not trouble you with Compts en Passant.

' We I think can now depend on being here till first or second week of October.

' I had good accounts from Logic yesterday.—Belive I, My Good Lord, I 'm with Particular Esteem your Lops. most obedient humble Servt.,

' M. UDENY-DUFF.

' CULTER, 5 of Spt.'

And in a letter to Lord Fife from his sister Sophia, dated November 1774, shortly after her marriage to Thomas Wharton, occurs the following: ' Did your Lordship write to Mrs. Udney? I wish you would do so, as she is very much interested in your family. She is a most formal being. I expect we shall have a dinner from her one of these days. I would rather go without one for a week !'

There are portraits of Margaret Duff, when Mrs Udney, and her second husband, Alexander Udney, at Rothiemay.

CHAPTER VIII

WILLIAM DUFF OF DIPPLE

THE second son of Alexander of Keithmore was born 1653 and died 1722. We cannot do better than begin our account of him with another extract from Baird's book :

'Dipple was a middle-sized, well-made man, of a fair, ruddy complexion, and very good features, of solid sense, an active lively spirit, and a most facetious agreeable companion. His sister, Lady Tannachy, a very sensible well-bred woman, used to tell the following story, which she said had often been attested to her by her father and mother.'

'It was Keithmore's custom to sit beside his Lady the first night after she was delivered ; the night succeeding Dipple's birth, Keithmore was placed near the fire with a candle before him, reading the Bible ; about midnight, a tall big woman, clad in a green gown, appeared upon the floor and walkt up to the cradle in which the child was laid, and stretched out her hand over it, upon which Keithmore rose, ran to the bedside, and made the sign of the Cross, first on his Lady and then on the Infant, saying : " In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, may my Wife and child be preserved from all evil." Upon which the Apparition immediately vanisht.'

After Dipple's education at school and college was over (he was at King's College, Aberdeen, in 1666, aged thirteen), he was bound apprentice and afterwards became partner in trade to his uncle, Provost William Duff of Inverness (who traded as early as 1662), and Sir James Calder, and continued at Inverness till about 1703,¹ when he married his second lady, and they came to Elgin where he lived until his death.' It is believed that he lived for a short time at Dipple.²

The 'trade' which he carried on with his uncle, the Provost, provides the foundation for the ridiculous story which appeared in *Truth* at the time

¹ He was Treasurer of Inverness, 1682.

² *Dipple*, an ancient parish in Morayshire, on the left bank of the Spey, opposite Fochabers. The church was formerly dedicated to the Holy Ghost, and at the lych gate stood a small building known as the House of the Holy Ghost, round which funeral parties carried the corpse. There is no mansion-house now remaining, the present farmhouse being quite modern.

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of the Duke of Fife's death to the effect that his great-great-grandfather (should have been great-great-great-) came from Ireland, and kept a general merchant's shop in Inverness.

The following letters are interesting in this connection :

William Duff of Dipple to his cousin, John Duff, Messenger, Aberdeen

' SIR,—At five days sight of this my onlie 2 Bills, paye to James Dunbar yr Merchant in Inverness or order the somme of ane hundred and twenty punds scots moe ¹ for the value due to him for some salmond off that price sold by me to Alex^r fforbes and John Leslie, merchants in Aberdeen. Make good thereof and it shall be allowed by me in part off the [*two words illegible*] sterling executed by you from them on my account which will be all from Your affect. cosine to serve you,

WM. DUFF.

' INNES, 3 Ap. 1703.'

Laird of Innes to William Duff of Dipple, 1685

	Scots.
To 3 pints of Wine to the Public House	£2 0 0
To 8 pints of ale to the Public House	0 10 0
To an pint of Brandy	0 5 0
To Tobaco and sending therefor to Cullen	0 8 0
To a mutchen of Tar	0 2 6
To a pint of Vinegar	0 8 0
To half ancker of whyte wine	1 10 0
To two dozen tobaco pypes	0 4 0
To sending twice from Garmouth to Inverness	3 0 0

Nota—34 computed miles.

To four pints of Sack Wine at 16 sh. p. pint—not charged for.	
A peck of Whyte Salt	0 4 6
A hail Boll of Gray Salt	5 0 0
Two stone of Butter at £3 is	6 0 0
Two stone of Tallow at 3 merks is	4 0 0

Scots money, £23 12 0²

Sir Hugh Campbell of Cawdor to William Duff of Dipple, Merchant in Inverness

' CAWDOR CASTLE, July 19, 1677.

' LO. FRIEND,—Pray be pleased with your first occasion to cause bring the goods under wrytin from Iolland or quherever ellis ye cane most readily, to me

¹ Money.

² Drummuir papers.

to Inverness or Findhorn, and the price of them shall be readily allowed you in your accompt.

‘Inprimis, as much lead (not to be casten in casks, till it come hom) as can be bought for £200 Scots at Holland or England.

‘Item, 3 or 4 duzzon of big glass botellis, holding twixt a pint and a quart and als many lesser botellis holding pyntes or chapynis.

‘Item, 50 or threescor hansom light muskett barrelis, wulch I mynt¹ to stock and furniss at hom, for weapon gunnes to our watch or militia; let them not be too long, nor too havy for a man to travell with his other waponis, and bec of ordinar muskett bor or rather less, but the ordinar bor will be good.

‘One hundreth or two weight of gunc powder, very good for the militia, the watch and my foulleries use, and one hundreth weight of small shott, the one half for mysell and the other halff of two sorts in equall pairt, one very great for veild geisse and roe and such lyk, and the other pairt pretty small, for pluveries and leisser foullis.

‘Item, als much fyn diaper or dornich² cloth as will make 3 or 4 tabel cloths of 4 eln long a peic and a dusson napkins to each tabel cloth.

‘Item, some capers and olives and a little quantite of anchoves. Upon these three exceed not the value of £20 Scots.

‘Item, a dusson of the botells with very good watter, iff they be dcirer than brandy, use the least bottell and quhen off the brandie . . . tak the biggest botell.

‘I expect ye will cause follow and answer this my commission exactly and place it to my accompt, quho are still, Your real friend to my power,

‘SIR II. C. CAWDOR.’

This letter is endorsed :

‘Andrew Cunninghame, chamberlanc to the Laird of Calder, acknowledges receipt from William Duffs, elder and younger, merchants in Inverness, of 20 barres of lead, 100 lbs. schot, 200 lbs. powder, 1 double anker sack, one quarter cask brandie, sixtie muskett barrellis, 20 fouling pieces, 2 hampers with 6 dozen botell glasses, 17 Dutch eln off Dornich; 9th Dec. 1677.’

Another letter from the same to the same

‘ARDERSEIR, 16 April 1679.

‘MUCH RESPECTED,—You will be pleased to get two terces³ of your best wine aboard of Thomas Couper in Findhorn his boate, quho will carry it this length and give him lykways six or eight bolls of salt, but let your wine be verie good, otherwayes send it not. And if ye please to come out yourself, I long to see you, quhich is all at present, from your verie loving friend to my power,

‘SIR II. C. CALDER.’⁴

¹ Intend.

² Fine linen from Tournai.

³ Ter, a barrel, *i.e.* casks.

⁴ Letters communicated by Miss J. C. Duff.

WILLIAM DUFF OF DIPPLE

'But many years before his death, William Duff had given over merchandizing and made large purchases of land in Moray. He bought the Estate of Dipple from Sir Robert Innes¹ in 1684 and paid £70,000,² and he would often say that he "likt very well to see a merchant turn Laird, but he did not like so well to see a Laird turn a merchant"' (Baird).

To continue from Baird :

'Dipple was a conscientious, honest man in all his dealing, and indeed I never heard that any unfair thing was ever laid to his charge. He was the easiest creditor in the world, and it was said in Moray that he never did diligence but against one person who had attempted to impose upon him ; and if he saw an industrious honest man, opprest with difficulty and endeavouring to extricate himself by his diligence, he was alwise willing to give him time to pay and even to advance him money. This acquired him a great deal of public love and had a very good effect among the Commonalty while he merchandized, in so much that a man who had not paid his accompt when it fell due, was disgraced, and lost all credit among his equals, and they used to tell one another in a bragging way, after their turn was over : " God be thanked, I have paid the Laird and William Duff," for so he was called before he got any land estate of his own. For being a second brother, he got only 10,000 mks. of Patrimony from his father, and by his mother's influence the wadset of Keithmore, for which his brother Braco paid him afterwards 6000 marks.

'He was extremely fitted for business, and to this, one particular felicity of Constitution contributed greatly, viz., that the longer he sat at his bottle, he became still more cautious and secure, so that if at the beginning of a Sederunt, we might get a tolerable bargain of him, after he was a little in liquor it was impossible to overreach him.'³

Two other quotations from letters to him may be given. One from Lord Huptly, beginning :

'HONEST DIPPLE,—I am glad to give you ashurances, all the nois about yr being summons to this place will prove little or no consequence, therefore I

¹ There is a memorandum, of date January 14, 1686, which shows that Innes was in pecuniary difficulties even after the date of sale of Dipple :

'*Wm. Duff.* To offer to lend the other £4000 provided that the Laird of Innes near relations, and who knows the condition of his estate and fortune will bind cautioners for the whole £10,000 and the payment of principal sum' (Rose MSS.).

² Scots.

³ In this connection must also be added the story of his going down the great stair at Gordon Castle before it had got the raveline (*i.e.* the balustrade), upon which he said to the Duchess that it was a good 'forenoon' stair.

ashure you, you need be in no pain about it, when I see you I shall give you some accounts of it, which will be agreeable.—Your affec. good friend to serv,

‘HUNTLY.’ (O.)

The other from Lord Findlater about some dispute :

‘CULLEN HOUSE, Dec. 22nd, 1718.

‘MUCH HONOURED,—It shall be much against my inclinations if ther be any stop putt to your Signature on my account, for I am a sincere well wisher to you and your family and shal take all opportunitys of doing you what Service is in my power. I attribute it to the mistake of the late Braccoes writers that ther is any clause in that Signature which gives me just ground of complaint and had he Lived, he was to have given me a Declaration for Saving of my right in ample forme, and he and I were to have mett, in a very few days about that matter, if it had not been prevented by whatt happened. Your Sone and your doers at Edinburgh have mett with John Philip who has sent me north a draught of a letter to be signed by you, which draught I send you by the bearer. All I desire is that it may be by way of obligation, otherwayes it cannot be effectual for my Security. I do not question but you will Signe it and in that case that you may meet with no delay, I have sent with William Lorimer a letter to John Philip, desiring that ther may be no further opposition made on my account, to the passing of your Signature. He will deliver it to you, upon the signing of the obligation.

‘I heartily wish to hear of your being in perfect health ; and on all occasions you shall find me with the greatest sincerity.—Much honoured, Your most faithfull and most humble Servant,

FINDLATER.’ (O.)

WILLIAM DUFF of Dipple married, firstly, in 1681, Jean Gordon of Edin-glassie, and through her obtained sasine in the lands of Birkenburn ; they had nine children :

1. HELEN, born 1682, afterwards Lady Rosecommon.
2. CATHERINE, born 1683, married Alexander Duff of Hatton.
3. MARY, born 1684, died young.
4. ISABEL, born 1688, married Alexander Mackintosh of Blervie.
5. ALEXANDER, born 1690, died young.
6. ELIZABETH, married Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdy.
7. JEAN, born 1694, died young.
8. WILLIAM, born 1697, afterwards Lord Braco.
9. LUDOVICK, born 1698, died young.

After the death of Jean Gordon, William Duff married again, in 1703, Jean Dunbar of Durn, sister of Anne, Countess of Findlater, and by her, who lived until 1750, had one son and four daughters :

10. ANNE, born 1705, married William Baird of Auchmedden.
11. JANET, born 1710, married Sir James Kinloch of Kinloch.

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12. MARY, born 1714, married General J. Abercromby of Glassaugh.
13. ALEXANDER, born 1715, died at the age of six.
14. HENRIETTA, died unmarried.

There are two letters from Dipple's first wife :

‘ INVERNESS, 16 April.

‘ MY DEAR SIR,—I received your last the 2 of this instant. With the help of God I shall strive to give you no occasion of offence. All that you wrote of your affairs or myself I shall observe it well. Your Uncle nor Drummuir is not come home as yet so that I can give you no account of the quarrel but the fringe I had from London is too short and will not serve any purpose. I shall take nothing for myself but what you please but the head dresses for children, for I have sent Helen to School. Mind Magdalen's¹ gown and petticoat. Recommending you to the Lord in all your affairs.—I am, your obedient wife,

‘ JEAN GORDONN.’

‘ My DEAR,—I received your letter which is great contentment to me to hear that ye ar weall, your daughter is beter now, as for heaving a caer of any thing I shall doe the best way I can under God to giv you content. I intreat you heast you as son hom as your conveniency can permitt I think much long for you not being abell to writt at length I shall forbear to trubell you at present wishing the Lord to preserve you, I continue, Your loving and obident wief,

‘ JEAN GORDON.

‘ ffor William Duff yre Merchand in Inverness for the present att Elgine, Thesse.’
(D.)

Baird, in enumerating Dipple's seven married daughters adds, ‘ I believe it is doubtful if there has been in our days a dozen of Gentlemen in Britain that had seven daughters who were all so virtuous women and so good wives.’

Dipple was a cautious man, and kept himself free from taking sides in the civil wars of his time, though undoubtedly his sympathies were with the Stewart cause. When the Elgin troop went out to the rebellion of 1715, ‘ which I have heard,’ says Baird, ‘ was a very handsome and well equipped body of men, Dipple said, “ William Duff would have gone with them, but Dipple would behold the event ” ’ (being unwilling to imperil his newly acquired estates).

He, nevertheless, did not entirely escape, as seen by the following letter ‘ from the Earl of Sutherland to the Laird of Dipple’ :

¹ It is probable this was another child, whose birth has not been recorded, who died young.

'Whereas for the maintainance of the forces now under our Command for His Majesties services, a Loan was directed to be leyved out of this country in money and meall and whereas by the parcelling out the payments into small moyeties, the levying the said loan has not proved any way effectuall and seeing a speedy advance of money is absolutely necessary for the King's service, Therefore we, pursuant to the powers and Instructiones to us given, require you, Wm. Duff of Dipple, forthwith to pay unto Hector Monro of Navar our Comissary for that effect the sum of two hundred pound sterling, we hereby oblige our selves shall be repayed to you by the Treasury. SUTHERLAND.

'Given at Elgin the 7th of December 1715.'

(D.)

And a week later, from Lord Lovat :

'AT FFORRAS, ye 14 of Dec. 1715.

'DEAR SIR,—I was surpris'd to receive here positiv orders from ye Earle of Sutherland to secure you and eary you prisoner wt. me, since you did not pay ye two hunder pd. of a loan yt he desired of you in ye Kings name and for ye Kings service. So Dr. Sir I beg you may come immediatly to Inverness sine I am bail for you or take a speedy way to satisfy my Ld. Sutherland. Yt I may not get a reprimand for not seizing of you and yt another may do it who will not be so much yr ffrd as I am and will be on all occasions.—Dr. Sir, your most oblidged Servant, LOVAT.

'To the Much Honoured Mr. William Duff of Dipple, at Elgin.'

(D.)

In 1714 he bought the estate of Coxton from Sir George Innes at what was, by outsiders, considered a very high price, but hearing that the late owner was rejoicing uproariously at the amount he had got, Dipple sagely observed, 'Poor fellow, he is as well pleased at parting with his inheritance as I at getting it.' He also took over all the debts of the Laird of Coxton, who, being an indolent man and much given to his bottle, gave in and signed a list of these debts, which was £20,000 Scots short of the full amount. Dipple paid, at once, all the creditors in the list given to him, but after Sir George's death the other creditors appeared and sued Dipple in the Edinburgh Court of Session, which awarded them their claims. Dipple carried the matter to the House of Lords, and they reversed the decree, finding him only liable for Sir George's signed list.

'It was lucky for Dipple, as well as for his father and uncle and both his brothers, that all of them were possessed of ready money at a time when interest was high and land cheap, owing to a variety of causes, including the seven years scarcity and the political troubles. They were thus enabled to lay the foundations of the family prosperity as Lairds' (Baird).

'When a great barony was to be bought and no ready money forthcoming, the Duffs found the money for the purchase, taking a mortgage or wadset over the land, together with the security of the borrowers. In

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truth, before banks were established, or insurance companies dreamed of, the Duffs dealt largely in money. They were the bankers of the North, and carried on the business much as we read of its being managed in Florence and Genoa and other free cities of Italy in the olden time' (Shaw's *History of Moray*).

Dipple died in 1722 at the College in Elgin, and with his first wife, Jean Gordon, was buried in the Duke of Gordon's aisle in Elgin Cathedral, 'at the desire of the first Duke of Gordon (who died in 1728), on account of the intimacy which existed between them.'

On December 22, 1711, William Duff of Dipple and William of Braco, his nephew, were cautioners for Alexander, Marquis of Huntly, son of George, Duke of Gordon, 'as a singular mark and testimony of their friendship for the family.'

There is a portrait of him by Wessing, which was in the Duff House collection, and shows him as a good-looking young man.

By his will he left to 'Jean Dunbar my spouse for all the dayes of her life, the lands of Quarrelwood and Dykeside in the parish of Spynie with the Mills of Mosstowie and other farms, as holden by me of our Sovereign Lord the King and that there be given to her therefrom fuel, fail (i.e. clods) and divots, as by the law and practice of this kingdom, conform to the contract of marriage between her and me of March 5, 1703. These lands were formerly granted by me in favour of my son Alexander.¹ Should she remarry, this provision shall be null and void, and all the lands above mentioned shall belong to my other heirs.'

She survived till 1750, and did not marry again.

He also left to his daughter Anne, 20,000 merks.

To Janet, 15,000 merks.

To Mary and Henrietta, 12,000 merks each.

To Alexander of Hatton, 4000 merks.

To the eldest son of Alexander MacIntosh of Blervie and his daughter Isabel Duff, 2000 merks; to their eldest daughter, 1000 merks.

To William Donaldson, eldest son of Thomas Donaldson and Elizabeth Duff, 3000. And 1000 to Alexander Tulloch, son to Thomas Tulloch and Mary Duff.

One thousand merks to Patrick Duff, writer, Premnay (his nephew). He also 'mortified' £1000 Scots to the poor of each of the following parishes, Glass, Mortlach, Dipple and Longbride,² and the same sum to the minister of Elgin for the use of the poor in Pluscarden, Quarreywood and Dykeside in Spynie. Will dated May 7, 1720.

¹ Born 1715, died 1721.

² Now Llanbryde.



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By Wessing

To return to Dipple's daughters :

The eldest daughter, HELEN, married, in 1702, the Hon. William Sutherland of Roscommon, third brother of Kenneth the third Lord, and son of James, second Lord Duffus.¹ He also owned Mosstowic and Aldroughtly. William Sutherland was Member of Parliament from 1703 to 1706, and Provost of Elgin ; he was ' out ' in the ' 15, his estates were forfeited, and he died abroad, although he returned to Scotland in 1729. (See the letter below.) He had previously borrowed £20,000 Scots from his father-in-law Dipple, who drew the rents of Roscommon for the years 1713 and 1714.

There is one letter from Helen to her brother :

Helen Sutherland to the Laird of Braco

' DEAR BROTHER,—I am well pleased to know of your being att Balvenie since your being ther givs mee the satisfaction to believ that my sister youe and the children are in health. Mr. Innes is att last goot free of this place hce hase bein forced in to some measure that he would not hav inclyned but that it was thought better to give a hungrie dog a bone then leav a business of such importance unfinished : the stones shal bee sent the begining of the week. John Duff wil bee with you att that tyme. Ime not sure but your humble servtt may giv youe the trouble of a short visit but Ime some frighted for Mr. Hunters seatt. I ever continu, Dear Brother, Your most affect. sister and humble Sertt.,

' HELEN SUTHERLAND.

' ELGIN, 19th March 1726.

' To the Laird of Bracoe known to be att Balvenie.'

And one from Lady Braco to Lady Roscommon :

' DEAR SISTER,—The Tweedlin came safe here and is very good of the kinde for which I return you thanks. I hope now that the marketts are over you 'll be so kinde as let your freinds see you. Since you may easiely judge it is impossible for me to travel any where otherways you would have a good title to a visit. Your Brother and Sophia gives you their humble service and I assure you I always desire to be very sincerely, Dear Sister, Yours, JEAN DUFF.

' BALVENIE, July 26th, 1732.

' To the Ladie Roscommon at Elgin.'

Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President, to the Duke of Newcastle

EDINBURGH, 31st Oct. 1729.

' In the whole course of my enquiries I have heard of but one attained person that came into Scotland since the first letter on this subject which I had the

¹ Roscommon being part of Lord Duffus' Morayshire estate; the name has now disappeared.

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honour to receive from your Grace, and that is Mr. William Sutherland, brother to the late Lord Duffus. He landed sometime in September in the neighbourhood of Banff in the Moray firth. His errand, as my informer, who is a man of understanding, told me, was to draw some money from his wife, who lives at home and is in good circumstances, but he managed that design, it seems, so imprudently, that his wife and her friends declared war against him, and he finds it necessary to lurk as well to avoid them as the officers of justice, which is the reason that my informer could not tell me where he now is. That this account of Sutherland's expedition is true, I verily believe, partly as I know the circumstances of his family, which makes it probable, partly as I know the character of the man, which is so low that the Pretender and his advisers, fools as they are, could scarce be so simple as to employ him, and partly because the Jacobites here whom I have sifted since my arrival know nothing of his coming to Scotland, though he is now more than a month in it.¹

After Sutherland's death, Dipple allowed his daughter to live in the old castle of Quarrelwood, afterwards called Quarreywood (long since disappeared), and made her an allowance, which was continued by William of Braco, her brother. She died in 1747 or 1748, and had no issue. There is a portrait of her, by Kneller, as a pretty child, with her mother, in the Duff House collection.

The second daughter, CATHERINE, married her first cousin, Alexander Duff of Hatton, the eldest son of Patrick of Craigston, and her history belongs to that of the Hatton family.

Alexander Duff, writing from Craigston to the Laird of Dipple, February 13, 1710, about William of Braco's business, adds, 'Your daughter [*Alexander's wife*] and all the rest of your friends heir are (blessed be God) well and have ther hairtie respects to you—your lady and flamaie—and long to heir the like accompt ffrom you—expecting to see you att the Lady Marchioness of Huntleys buriall which is the 22nd instant.—Your affectionat son,² to serve you.'

The third daughter was ISABEL, married in 1706 to Alexander MacIntosh of Blervie, and the mother of twenty-two children, whose names and dates of birth have all been preserved.

William, born 1707	Mary, born 1715	Alexander (2nd), born 1723
John, „ 1708	Elizabeth, „ 1716	John (2nd), „ 1724
Jean, „ 1709	Lachlan, „ 1717	Isabel, „ 1725
Helen, „ 1710	Magdalen, „ 1718	Rachel, „ 1726
Alexander, „ 1711	Ludovick, „ 1719	George, „ 1727
Catherine, „ 1712	Janet, „ 1720	Charles, „ 1729
James, „ 1713	Anne, „ 1721	Christina, „ 1730
		Mary, „ 1731

¹ From the *Scottish Papers*, Record Office.

Son-in-law.

We only have records of the ninth and twelfth and sixteenth children.¹

Elizabeth, when residing with her aunt, Lady Roscommon, at Milton Duff, was courted by a young man named Anderson, who did not meet with the approval of her aunt, and whose visits were therefore forbidden. He, however, persuaded Elizabeth to elope with him one evening, when Lady Roscommon was engaged at her devotions. They had reached the river Lossie, through which he was in the act of carrying her, when Elizabeth suddenly remembered that she owed half a crown to the laundress and must return to pay her debt. Young Anderson succeeded, however, in persuading her to defer this, and they safely reached Elgin and his brother's house, where Elizabeth was locked into a cupboard for safety until a parson could be procured to marry them. After the ceremony, the youthful bridegroom had to return to Aberdeen to complete his education, while Elizabeth, though offered a free home by her brother-in-law and his wife, elected to earn her living by working as a clerk in the former's office (Cramond's *Milnes in Banff*).

Ludovick is known to us by a letter he wrote to his uncle Lord Braco, in 1747, pathetically asking for five guineas to pay a bill for lodgings and medicines while ill in Shields:²

‘SHIELDS, 25th December 1747.

‘MY LORD,—I humbly beg you ’l excuse the Trouble, which only necessity should occasion.

‘Haveing wrote your Lordship some time ago, representing my being sick of an ague, without money, and at the mercy of Strangers, who wou’d affoord me Relief, only for mercenary ends; and had no Return, I ’m fore’d again to entreat the Favour of Leave to draw on your Lordship for five Guineas, without which, although my Distemper is less violent and may let me sail in ten days, I cant proceed to Sea being indebted for medecines and otherwise.

‘It were with utmost Concern I did any Thing might have the least Tendency to give your Lordship a bad Impression of me, whose Friendship (next Providence) is my chief Dependance; and hope you will not let me loose Time, now more than ever precious, by delaying an Answer. I am, as in Duty bound, with all Honour and Esteem for you, your Lady and Family, My Lord, Your Lordships most aff: hum: Scrtt.,

LODOVICK MACKINTOSH.

‘P.S.—Least my former Letter should have miscarried, I think proper to acquaint your Lordship that I wait your orders at Mr. Jolly’s in North Shiels.’

(O.)

¹ After her death Alexander MacIntosh married again and had ten more children.

² He seems to have been in the Navy, for the Master of Braco, writing to his father, says that ‘Lodie MacIntosh is entitled to £800 of prize money, which would be very agreeable news to him if he knew of it.’

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John MacIntosh, another of Blervie's sons, applied to Lord Fife for help in apprenticing him to a Physician or Apothecary. January 30, 1760.

Alexander MacIntosh, father of this large family, in 1724 sold his estate of Blervie to Lord Braco, who left it to his son Lewis.

Dipple's fourth daughter, ELIZABETH, married Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdy. She and her husband rebuilt the old castle, and their names may still be seen carved above the door. A portrait of her, and her Family Bible, are still preserved at Kininvie Castle by the Leslie family. The Donaldsons claimed descent from the Macdonalds of Glencoe. Elizabeth had, at least, five children: Katherine, who married Lauchlan Mackintosh, whose mother was a Duff of Corsindae; Alexander, referred to in the following delightful letter; Elizabeth,¹ who married Nicolas Dunbar of Tillenaught; and another daughter; also William, the eldest.²

Elizabeth Donaldson writes thus to her brother:

'KINNAIRDY, 1st Nov. 1743.

'MY LORD: DEAR BROTHER,—As my son Sandie was speaking to me that your Lordship was pleased to say that you would give him a letter to Captin Gedes³ I entreat your Lordship to dow it. I have spoken seariously to him that if he did not setell now better than formarly that non of his frinds would take any concern in him and I swore to him that I would never see his feas again if he did not take your advice, and I gave him my advice as I was capable. So he did give me his hand and his promiss that he would folow your Lordship advice upon your countinaneing him is all that I shall truble with att present.—My Lord, Dear Brother, Your most affett. Sister and most humble Servant,

'ELIZABETH DUFF.' (O.)

And again about her daughter:

'BANFF, July 27, 1751.

'MY LORD, DEAR BROTHER,—I shall be very glad that this find my Lady Braco and your Lordship and all the rest of your family in good health which will give me great pleasure to see the same from you. The reason I have troubled you with this is my daughter Mrs. Lowson told me the last night that she had some thoughts of marring Docter Irvin I told hir that I should giv hir noe answer but think of it and will giv hir my opinion within this two days. Dear Brother I thought most proper to leat your Lordship know of this and would not give my consent till I had your opinion this she dows not know that I hav written to you, but I want your advice how I should dow as I know Jcams Hay has been

¹ A son of this Elizabeth Dunbar afterwards applied to the second Lord Fife for financial assistance. Lord Fife notes 'An industrious poor man, with five children.'

² See page 90.

³ This Captain Geddes had also at one time been in charge of William, Master of Braco. See letter from Lord Braco, chapter x.

seeking hir but in my small opinion I think Docter Irvin is before him for Jcams Hay he is young but the Docter is doucer I know not the Docter scareumstance but that he is coming in to good business, I will expect your answer. Mak my compliments to my Lady Braco, and I am with great regaird and estim, My Lord, Dear Brother, Your most affectt. Sister and most humbell servant,

‘ELIZABETH DUFF.’ (D.)

Thomas Donaldson appears to have been in constant financial difficulties, which preyed upon his mind. His brother-in-law, William Duff (before he was Lord Braco), writes: ‘I would be glad some way were fallen on to serve Kinnairdie, at least not to determine himself.’ Elizabeth died in 1761.

ANNE, the eldest daughter of the second family, was married in 1721 to William Baird of Auchmedden, the delightful author of the frequently quoted *Memoirs of the Duffs*. He ‘went out’ with the Jacobites in 1745, and consequently had to remain in hiding afterwards, first at his brother-in-law’s house of Echt, and afterwards at St. Andrews.¹

But William Baird seems to have been in difficulties before this date, as William Duff writes, before 1735, ‘I have Auchmedden’s son now on my hands and shall get part of his entry bond to pay,’ and several other references occur to help asked and given; thus, like almost all the brothers-in-law of William, Lord Braco, Baird of Auchmedden seems to have come to Braco for financial assistance. The following letters from Anne to her brother show that he did not come in vain :

‘Nov. 29th (no year).

‘MY LORD,—I was honoured with your Lordship’s two Letters, one from Rothiemay the other from Old Meldrum, and as I ever said, so I ’m resolv’d to doo as your Ldp. bids me, had Auch: taken my advice, he would have sold his estate some years agoe, when he would have had a good deall more reversion, but that is what he must own he would never doo. I have for some years past expostulate with him in the strongest terms, against his answering his Eldest son’s demands, to the ruine of both, but so far in vain, that I have found out within some days, that his son has in a manner bully’d him in to answer some new demands. Your Ldp. will own it is hard for me to have spent my time, my fortune, and all in my power for the good of a family, and to see him and his son, goe on spite of my teeth to ruine us all, God knows that is the case. The Enclos’d will tell your Ldp. a little more of this, if you will be so good as to take the trouble to read it, wich if you are pleased to doo, I must humbly beg you will Let no other

¹ In a letter to Ludovick Grant of Grant, May 25, 1746, William Duff, Lord Braco, says :

‘You ’l doe me a great favour if you ’l apply to the General for a protection for my poor sister Lady Auchmedden, and a protection to John Forbes for Carnousie’s house, who was verie friendly to me before he entered into this unhappie rebellion.’ (O.)

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see it, but burn it emediately. I only want your Ldp. to believe what is true that if Auch: had done his part as I bless God I have done mine, his son might have succeeded him, in the small fortune has been in the family for some generations. Your Ldp.'s goodness and charity will Lead you to think my condition very trying, and I hope will plead for me the blessing of your continuance, and my Ladys to me and mine. I really wish your Ldp. or my Lady had time to caution him as to his Eldest son, no mother can Love a son more than I do him, but I ever thought his father has taken the way to ruine both, it is with great fear and concern I have presum'd to trouble your Ldp. with writting so much. You may depend on it I will not attempt it again, but will ever be as I ought,—Your Ldp. most aft: sister and obed: faithfull servant,

ANNE DUFF.

'Your Ldp. and my Lady are the only friends I have now my Dearest sister Jessic ¹ is gone, if I or mine have any good offices from my mother it will be owing to your Ldp.'

(O.)

Anne Duff, Auchmedden, to the Lord Braco

'AUCHMEDDEN, Sept. 15, 1750.

'MY LORD,—It is with very great reluctancy I trouble your Lordship with my letters for I must know your time is taken up many ways but as your Lop. promised to me that how soon Mr. Pat: Duff came to Rothemay you would cause him settle the Legacys my Dearest sister Henic ² left my children, so I hope your Lop. will not be offended at my putting you in mind of it, as it is now full time and Sr. Ja: Kinloch seems inclend to have it finished if your Lop. please to order my part of the Interest to be payd me at Mart: next I would then have occasion for it but whatever you think fit in this and every other thing concerning me I am willing to submit. It is now time for Mr. Baird to know where he and family are to goe at Whit next, if you can give us the house of Echt he seems much inclined for it, tho' I own I had much rather goe to a town on accompt of my daughters education if this is not thought proper I must be advised and will ever be gratefull when your Lop and my Lady are so good as take that trouble with me.

'May God bless you and yours and preserve you long for a blessing to your family and friends.—I am, with the utmost respect, My Lord, Your Lordships most affectionate Sister and obliged obedient Servant,

ANNE DUFF.' (D.)

Anne Duff, Echt, to the Earl Fife

'ECHT, Dec. 23, 1760.

'MY LORD,—Your Lordships compliance with my reasonable demand, gives me more relief than I can express! I was sencible of the impropriety of sending an express to your Lop. on this affair but as I had, without effect wrot your Lop.

¹ Janet, Lady Kinloch.

² Henrietta, died unmarried 1748.

by post again and again representing in as strong terms as I was able the distress of my condition I resolved to take this last method in hope it would have the necessary influence. The old fellow I sent is famous for going errands, of a much longer journey than to Ed. but, I own, I neglected to acquaint your Lop. that he is a notorious knave in many respects, he was not rob^d by the way—this I made him confess and I thank your Lop. for paying the half of his hire.

‘I assure your Lop. I will live frugally, while I live at all, but cannot live as a scoundrel and I shal be sure to let you see every article of the accompts you have Inabled me to pay with our own money, then you will be convinc’d that no part has falln to my share, nor any one article contracted that it was possible for me to prevent but mournings for my mother. There is one Resollution I have taken which I must beg leave to tell your Lop., it is that I ’m determin’d to spend the remainder of my days in some town where we can have a house and other conveniencys cheapest, the small farm here, the garden, etc. occasions us to have duple the number of servants here that we wou’d need there, this with the additional rent of window tax, provisions of every sort as dear here as at Abd. makes the place not cheap to us.

‘I beg leave to offer the Compliments of the Season to your Lordship the Countess and to all your family. I have the honour to be with the utmost respect, My Lord, Your Lordship’s most obedient faithful humble servant,

‘ANNE BAIRD.’ (D.)

William Baird of Auchmedden to Lord Fife

‘BALVENIE, July 30, 1772.

‘MY LORD,—I take this opportunity of giving your Lordship hearty thanks for our good Lodging these *five* weeks past, which I am afraid will make us take the worse with our pigeon holes at Aberdeen. We have been likewise much obliged to the civilities of all the neighbourhood, in your interest, and most of them my wife’s relations. She finds now by experience that the country air and travelling is rather of more use to her than the goat milk and we proposed to have gone as far as Inverness and returned by the Boat to Duff House, Hatton, etc., but without regard to my own health which would not make travelling my choice, my wife is become so lean and her health and strength so much faild ¹ that the easiest carriage now fatigues her and she is obliged to go home the nearest road and try what short airings will do.

‘We made only one trip last week to Elgin and saw Innes in our return where I observd with pleasure at every step the effects of your elegant taste, within doors and without. We happened to breakfast at the Sheriff Clerk when the new claims and new objections were given him and I am extremely glad to see that in all probability you will stand your ground both in that country and this.

¹ She died in the following year.

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'Mr. Duff, Schoolmaster here, is a most obliging, friendly lad and most sensible of your goodness. He is just now at a loss for want of some books of Divinity which his Professor has recommended. His father's¹ conduct has been very blameable and I hear he is conscious and ashamed of it himself but the story of his going with an ax to attack another man, was a malicious calumny for he was only carrying it home from one to whom he had lent it. I knew John's time of his cutter was out the 22 of last month but I wanted to know if he had any chance for promotion. I know he has made several applications by your advice, But its on your open friendship he principally depends. My wife and I join in our kindest compliments to our good friends and I am with the most sincere esteem and gratitude, My Lord, Your Lop. most obliged and most obedient humble Servant,
WILL: BAIRD.' (D.)

Baird's brother-in-law, Alexander of Hatton, writes to Lord Fife:

'I believe Auchmedden does not want funds if he could apply y^m to the Business he was then engaged in—and I really think the man as honest as any merchant can be that wants money, and had it been convenient would have run some risk with him myself; so far I sympathise with an old Brother tradesman. I have heard nothing since I wrote but what Achmeden mentions and I hope, wont.

'Achmeden's conduct in his own affairs publick an private has been most inconsistent and ungratefull to your Lordship, but friends must overloock and forgive.'
(D.)

William and Anne Baird had a family of six sons and four daughters,² but all died without issue except the youngest daughter, who married Francis Fraser of Findrach, Lumphanan, and preserved the portrait of her father, by James Ferguson the astronomer.

The death of the daughter Anne is chronicled in the *Aberdeen Journal* of November 4, 1756, and a long laudatory notice concludes with the words 'she never willingly committed a fault nor neglected a duty.'

Anne Baird died in 1773, and her husband in 1775.

Braco's second half-sister JANET married Sir James Kinloch, who appears to have been on very friendly terms with his brother-in-law, as Braco writes from Nevas in 1745 about the letter from Hatton with proposals for the hand of his eldest daughter. They had thirteen children: William, the eldest son, and five others, David, James, Joseph, Francis Peregrine,

¹ Peter Duff of Mather Cluny. See chapter xxviii.

² William, the eldest, 'an advocate, died of a pestilent fever caught when listening to cases at the Old Bailey, and of the same fever died the then Lord Mayor of London and divers other gentlemen.' John, a sailor, was drowned; James and Alexander died in the East Indies, and Charles and George in the West Indies, all without issue. A daughter Katherine died young. Helen and Henrietta married, but the latter alone left children.

and another ; and seven daughters, Jean, who married Robert MacLean ; Mary, married John Rankine ; Henrietta, Anne, and three others died unmarried.

The son James was first in the Navy, and afterwards traded in Cochin China with his mother's first cousin, Archibald Duff of Craigston. Another son, David, is only known to us from the record of his having 'fallen in the mesels' occurring in a letter from his aunt. There are several letters from Janet and her husband.

Sir James Kinloch was 'out' in the '45,' being a colonel in Lord Ogilvy's regiment, and, like his brothers-in-law, had to claim the protection and assistance of Lord Braco. His wife was taken prisoner after Culloden at the same time as her niece Janet, Lady Gordon. In the *Stamford Mercury*, May 1, 1746, there is a London letter, of date April 26, announcing letters from Cumberland, from Inverness, date April 18. Amongst other items of news, it says, 'Four of their (the rebels') Ladies are in Custody, viz. Lady Ogilvy, Lady Kinloch, Lady Gordon, and the Laird of Mac Intoshe's wife.'

Among the Rose papers (Mr. E. G. Duff) there is 'an Inventory of the Writes produced for Dame Janet Duff for instructing her claim upon the estate of "the late" Sir James Kinloch, Nevay, attainted.' These are the 'Contract of Marriage dated 3rd and 15th January 1730, and Instrument of Seisine following thereon in ffavours of the said Dame Janet Duff dated 27th Jan. 1730, and registered in the Particular Register of Seasines of the Shyre of Fforfar upon the 3rd July thereafter.' Sir James only possessed the estates for one year, but was, of course, not dead in 1747 when these writs were produced, but being attainted, was described as 'late.' He was tried and condemned to death, and the estates forfeited, but he was afterwards pardoned and the estates and barony purchased by his friends and restored to him, with reversion to his son William. He was the third baronet of Kinloch, Fifeshire, and of Nevay, Forfarshire (his mother having been Elizabeth Nevay of that ilk). The present representative of the family is General Kinloch of Kilvie and Logie. The old creation of baronet ended with Sir James. There is a new creation in the same family of which the present Sir George is the third baronet.

Janet Duff, wife of Sir James Kinloch, to Lord Braco

'En., July 7, 1746.

'MY LORD,—I received by the express your most kind and oblidging latter with the bill and the rest of the letters. Your good and jenerous beahever at this time to me and my helpless children, I hop God Almighty will rewerd and

bliss you and your fine yong famelay I am not abel to put in words my thankfulness. The sune you have aloued me is more then I did exopt I have sent two expresses to his oun frindes writen by himself and can not bring the lenth of your favers amongst them all, which gives me not a littel unesnes and confirms my opinion of them. I beg your Lordship to honour me whin at London with your good and frindly adviss. Mr. Phargewson has been most kind to me and has don everything in his pour to asist me and by no mines would tuch my monny he said it was shur annf whin I was in a better way but the othr advocat did it. I am disiared with out loss of time to git tistifactes (*sic*) from all minesters of Sir James milde and discret behaviour the time he had any comand in the Rebellion. I dou not think if they dou him justes that they will lay harship to his charg during the time of his unhapy command in the Rebel's servess.

'My Lord you will blive me to be with all due regard and estime your most aff. Sister and oblidged obedent humbel Servent, JANNET DUFF.' (D.)

Sir James Kinloch, Nevay, to Lord Braco

'BARNSTAPLE, 12 July 1751.

'MY LORD,—The reading of this I'm sensible must needs give your Lop. a great deal of gricf and concern as I know the great regard you had for your Sister and the freindship you have on many occasions shoven to me and poor family. I had the honour frequently to inform Lady Braco of the indifferent sense of health my poor wifc had been in for some time past for the recovering of which she was advised by Physitions at London to drink the waters of Bristol hot wells. With that Intention she set out from this place to a little seaport about ten miles distance in order to take shipping to carry her to Bristol. But unfortunately just as she was upon the Quay going aboard she was suddenly most violently seised with a strong convulsion, on thursday last about eight at night. We had all the proper applications made and everything by the advicc of a skillfull physition done that could be done but all in vain. She languished from that time till Sunday morning about seven when pleased God to deliver her from her pains and take her to himself. I had her buried as privately and decently on tuesday as possible and indeed all the Gentlemen in the Country showed the greatest politeness and regard that was possible to be shoven, meeting the Body on the road and unasked attending it to the place of Interrment.

'I shall not trouble your Lop. longer upon this mclancholy subject indeed to moveing for me to insist upon and shall only beg the continuance of your Lop.'s freindship and Countenance and that I may possess the same share in your esteem as formerly. I am now to begin the world anew which at my time of life is no easy matter and my great family craves for freindship and assistance of all their dear mothers freinds and well wishers. It shall be utmost endeavour to show my regard for the mother by the most tender care that is in the compass of my power over the children and my respect for your Lop. and others my dear wifes relations by the greatest gratitude for the many great and undeserved

favours they have shoven me. In a particular manner my best wishes shall always attend all your Lordship's concerns and that God Almighty may long continue your Lop. and my Lady a blessing to your fine family is the earnest wish and prayer of, My Lord, Your Lordships most oblidged and most affe. faithfull Brother and servant,

JAS. KINLOCH NEVAY.' (D.)

Sir James Kinloch, Nevay, to Alexander Duff of Hatton

'BARNSTAPLE, 12 June 1752.

'DR. SIR,—I hope this shall find you, Lady Hatton and ffamily in very good health of which none more heartily wishes the continuance tho' I have not heard anything from you this long while. I thought it my duty to acquaint you that I have received by the Ship Lord Anson Capt. Toulos Commander in which my eldest son went over to China about two years and a half ago, a most kind and oblidging letter from your brother the Doctor,¹ dated Canton in China 12 Novr. 1751. He hearing by being evidently at Canton at the same time with Capt. Toulos of my son's being aboard enquired after him and has perswaded James to remain with him in that Country to try his fortune which he says if it please God to favour their industry he doubts not but it may turn out to his great advantage. Your Brother writs me that his success in that Country has been very various having lately mett with great losses at sea and having in August last his houses and all belonging to him burnt down by a most dreadfull fire which in two hours time consumed above four hundered great houses on the other side. Happening to put into Cochin China about 3 years and an half ago he had the good fortune to cure the Emperor of a festula, after he had been treated for two years for it and was despaired of by his own Plisitions, two Chincse and one Roman Missionary, ffor which peac of good service he has severall great and extraordinary Priviledges in Trade granted to him so that by the means of these and assistance of ffriends he is better enabled than ever to carry on a trade to China which he says is a most Beneficiall one and is glad to have a relation to be partner with him and he offers his services and compliments to such of his ffriends and relations as I'm acquainted with and desires they may be informed of his wellfare. Wee must hope the best and leave the event to God Almighty.

'I offer my sincere Best wishes to my Sister and all your ffamily within and without doors, and I ever am with sincere regards, Dr. Sir, Your oblidged humble Servant and affect. brother,²

JAS. KINLOCH NEVAY.' (D.)

MARY, the seventh surviving daughter of Dipple, born 1714, died 1786, married James Abereromby of Glassaugh, afterwards General.³

James Abereromby's sister married James Duff of Craigston. His mother was the granddaughter of the sister of Adam Duff of Clunybeg,

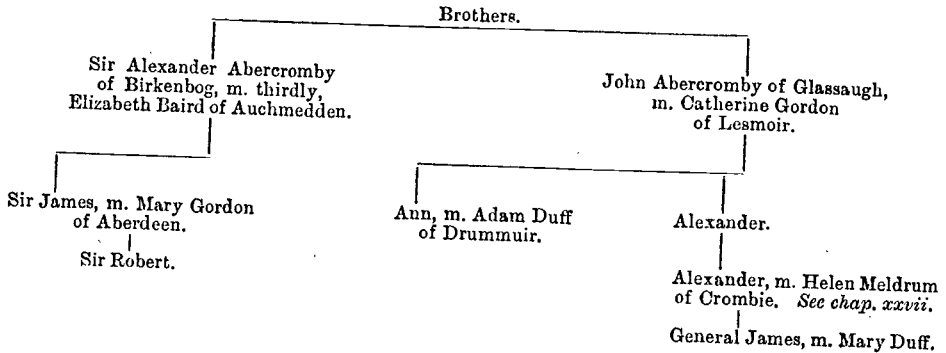
¹ Archibald Duff. See chapter xix.

² Brother-in-law.

³ In the Royal Regiment of Foot, now 1st Royal Scots, and Deputy Governor of Stirling Castle in 1775.

WILLIAM DUFF OF DIPPLE

and sister-in-law of James Duff of Crombie, and his father's aunt married Adam Duff of Drummuir. The fortunes of Duffs and Abercrombys have always been inextricably mixed.



General James Abercromby seems to have been the favourite brother-in-law of Braco, and great friendship existed between them. Allusions to 'Glassa' are frequent in William's letters, and he appears to have valued Abercromby's advice on many matters, including the management of his unsatisfactory eldest son. Abercromby also succeeded him in his seat in Parliament, and represented Banffshire for many years. But, like all the others, except Hatton, he came to his brother-in-law for financial help.

James and Mary Abercromby had three sons and two daughters:

Captain William, who married his cousin Mary Abercromby of Birkenbog, went bankrupt 1799.

Colonel James, married Charlotte Gordon.

The Rev. Thomas St. Clair Abercromby (bishop) and King's Painter for Scotland.

Jean, married, in 1767, George Morison of Haddo, second son of Morison of Bognie, and, secondly, in 1781, Admiral Robert Duff of Logie.

Keith Margaret, died unmarried.

The sons all died without issue, and Glassaugh eventually passed to the descendants of Jean, her daughter by her first husband marrying her stepson by her second, and thus further complicating the relationship of the families of Duffs and Abercrombys. The further fortunes of the family of Glassaugh are to be found under the heading of Fetteresso, chapter xx.

There is one letter from General Abercromby among the Rose papers:

'LONDON, 15th March 1747/8.

'MY LORD,—We are preparing to set out for Holland in pursuance of orders issued yesterday. I hope to set out in eight or ten days at farthest, tho' I am not

in a very good condition to undergo much fatigue besides other inconveniences I cannot draw on a boot and my surgeon tells me it will be the middle of Summer before I am quite sound. This hurt with the Consequences attending it has impaired my finances so much that I shall leave Mrs. Abercrombie very little to support her and her family I hope their for it will be no inconveniency to your Lordship to pay two years rent at Whitsunday next either unto Mr. Philip or remit it to Mrs. Abercromby as is most convenient to your Lop. her discharge is good by the factory I granted some time agoe and before I leave this I shall send a State of the account. We have a great fall of snow and very cold frosty wheather if this lasts it will mend the prices of corn.

‘Sr. Robert and Mrs. Abercrombie joyn with me in our humble Duty to your Lop. and my Lady and Jane and I am, my Lord, your Lordships most obedt. and obliged humble servant,
JAMES ABERCROMBY.’ (R.)¹

Dipple’s tenth daughter, HENRIETTA, is thus described by Baird: ‘She died at Edinburgh, Aug. 8, 1748, unmarried, having declined several good matches. She was one of the most accomplished young women of her time, being endowed with every virtue that can adorn the sex, and the numberless offices of Charity, Generosity and Friendship which she bestowed to a surprising extent, for her fortune will long be remembered by many.’ She seems to have been a godsend to all her young nephews and nieces (she had over fifty!), and the house in Edinburgh in which she lived with her mother, old Lady Dipple (who survived her until 1750), was a happy home for them all. Her fortune she left to her nephew James Kinloch, who seems to have been unlucky. The following delightful letter from her fitly closes the account of William of Dipple’s family :

Henrietta Duff to Lady Braco, her sister-in-law

‘EDINBURGH, 16th Jullie 1746.

‘MY DEAR MADAM,—I had the pleasure of your Laps. by my sisters express and forwarded Sir James Grant’s letter next day. It would be very ungratefull in me to neglect anie thing that you recomended to me. I onlie wish it were in my poor to show the sence I have of my Lds. goodness and yours to my unhappie sister² at this time not to mention your former feavours to my self. Your Ldp. will finde put up in the box Lady G.’s³ robe I could not get a rose couler Damask under the price I write you of but as thiss is a full pink I hope it will please it is a verie good silk and I could get it nothing down of eleven and sixpence ye yeard, in the band box is the mob handkerchief and ruffles. I hope your Ldp. will like the lace and think it reasonable. I am sure I did all in my

¹ In *Old Quebec*, by Parker and Bryan, General James Abercromby is described as ‘a vain and obtuse military martinet.’ He was present at Ticonderoga in 1758.

² Lady Kinloch.

³ Lady Gordon.

WILLIAM DUFF OF DIPPLE

poor to get a good penieworth of it, but after searching at the shoppes in town I cannot finde a bit of your swatch¹ which I am much vexed at, they say the coular is not faysion and they have not had enie for some years. I have scant your Ldp. two swatches but they weare so different from the other that I could not venture to take the silk. I am afraid I cannot depeand on the distant prospect you give of your being in town nixt winter; I have been so often disappointed in thiss that I dare scerce flatter myself it will happen; all I shall say is that your being in town will be the onlic attachment I will have to it for tho' I am in never so gay a houmer which God knows I am the wearie of at present I have now got so "large a fammelic" as will confine me prittie much at home for we have persuaded my sister to leave Davie here, who she proposed to carrie up to London with her which to be sure would have been most wronge and a trouble. Mrs. A. would not been fond to have him! we likeways expect Jeanie Baird in a month or two. Your Ldp. will wish me joy of "my sons and daughters" when I have the happiness to see you nixt. My sister K.² gets out thiss weck in a coach with Lady Murray and some other comp: she could get none before now which detained her here so long and I wish to God her going may be of anic use but as he desired it no bodie could take it upon them to dissuad her from it. He write me also to come up, but I thought ye monic I behooved to speand on the journie would doe him more service in another way, so I have given over al thoughts of it and remited ye sum to Lon: she has left her two Eldest with Lady Drum: R: till she returns I wish she would take your Ldp.'s advice as to Janie which would surelic have much more wight with her than mine, I shall end thiss longc scrall with my aff: humble complements to my Lord in which my mother joins to your Ldp: and him, I beg you will be so good as write me soon and believe me to be, Dear madam, with great Esteem and aff: Your Ldp.'s much obliged faithfull servt: HENRIETTA DUFF.' (O.)

A further account of William Duff of Dipple, taken verbatim from the Rose MS., may be appended :

'William Duff of Dipple, second son of Alex. Duff of Keithmore, born in 1653, died 1st May 1722. He got 4000 merks of portion. Learned as apprentice to Wm. Duff Provost of Inverness, his uncle in 1671 for 7 year. Began business in the 1678. Acquired a fortune 1686, to buy Dipple, with his industry from Holland, France and Spain, dealing in wine, hemp, iron, gin and brandy, Tallow and butter. He was a very honest, and likewise a very industrious man. He told his nephew Alex. Tulloch of Tannachy to be of caution. Gave him 1000 merks to go to Holland and purchase goods, saying, "If you are as luckie, civil and honest as I was, you can triple it." Mr. Tulloch went accordingly, but was unluckie and dissipated his time agt. Dipple's advice, who never had confidence of him as a merchant and had no intercourse with him in business, tho' kind to him otherwise.

¹ Pattern.

² Lady Kinloch.

'When Dipple died, he had of land 30,000 mks. yearly and £80,000 Scots of money of his own acquiring. He was not above his business in all its denominations. His accounts show it in various instances, with the Laird of Innes, Laird of Grant, Ld. Duffus, Grangehill, Muirtown, Coxtown, Laird of Grant, Duke of Gordon, Findlater, etc. He always pretended that he knew nothing but plain simplicity. He attended at Old Miln all night and day whyle his melder of Corn was in the miln, slept on a rack and shared a pint of ale with his own and other Tenants. He dealed also in salmon, meale and grain and greatly in malt. In short his progress and success were miraculous. For five years preceding his death, he drank a pint of claret, or two bottles every day.'

'Discharge Wm. Duff to Alexr. Duff, 1678.' 'I, Wm. Duff merchant in Inverness (afterwards of Dipple) second son to Alex. Duff of Letach Grant me to have received from Alex. Duff of Letach my father 5000 merks Set. in part payment of my portion natural bairns pairtt of gear,' etc. 'Subscribed at Keithmore, 30 Mar. 1678.'

'And the said Wm. Duff Grant me to have received from said Alex. Duff of Lettach now of Keithmor full payment of all portion natural bairns pairt of gear. Subserd. at Keithmore, 27 Nov: 1687.'

'Account of money due to Wm. Duff of Dipple for his share of the African Company "The Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the Indies."—1707.'

'Mr. Dunbar of Thunderton, Provost of Elgin, fell under the displeasure of the Earl of Sutherland, the King's Lieutenant in the North. He was seized by the Earl's orders and incarcerated in Elgin Jail, but was eventually liberated on a bail bond, Sir Harie Innes and William Duff of Dipple were cautioners.'

James Duff to the Laird of Dipple

'HONRD. SIR,—Conform to your desire I went and saw the wrack of your Barque and took Peter Baird alongs and we called for John Ross who had offered for it befor, we are feared of fire here and they are dayly taking from it and will do: he offers now only fifty merks without the boat-mast, rudder and iron work, I spoke to Durn about it; who said he wondred he would give so much. You will do well either to send ane express or commission to sell it, for the longer it lyes it will be the less worth. I give my best wishes to your self Lady and family and continue, Honrd. Sir, Your obliged cousine humble servant,

'JAMES DUFF.¹

'Portsoy, July 7, 1715.

'ffor the much Honrd. The Laird of Diple.'

(D.)

¹ It has not been found possible to identify the writer of this letter. He was probably a son or grandson of one of Keithmore's brothers. Possibly the same James Duff who writes from Findhorn to Dipple when at Rottordam, and signs 'your affectionate cousin.'

Three further letters to William Duff of Dipple may be added — two from his sister Mary, and one from his sister-in-law :

‘TANACHIE, Aug. 13, 1716.

‘BROTHER,—I received a lync from you with one from my housband under John Robartson his cover of deat July 11th and spoek to him to pack the fish when others packed, which no doubt he will not fail to dow, as for bills there is non I can promis on : the tenantts bills for rents I was not free to meadell with and grantt discharg to them, not knowing what might hapin and the bear I wrott of, a good part of it givin to creditors for payments of presing onual rents which these reselts will show. There is on hand in the straw and threshen, I belive, fortie Bolls yit undisposed on which is the most of what will be had of the last crop. My husband wrott by his last the Bond and disposishon he gave my daughter Lisie was not good, and there was a claus in my contract for macking up that disapoynttment which if he was spared he would mack effectuall. I am persuaded you and he both was not egnorantte tho we had not fallne in his misfortons that my childring was not secqured as they might be and the Lasie not to have right to a farding is hard indid, but who can shun misfortons. I thought yee had takine advyss as to what concerns my young ons and lett me been esie what ever should be in the mater, but I believe the thrang of your own affairs puts such triffls as my all out of your mynd, I did expect yee would had that regerd to me and your own condoock to have bean att sume peans to preventt my own and childrings misrie if posabill for I most say I did not first or last move in consarning this bargan without your advyss soo ye may think if I be mead mirabell and trublsume to anie frind, it most be you and that is what yee will not allow, soo look to it. My husband wrot me he was to dispose his movabells to sume credatour. I wish he may considere howe his famallie is to be subsisted, and wher the monie will be had to defray his and his sons charg. I shall give you no furdare fash at presentt, but I expeck your advyss in the worst of eneuff how to behave, and I am your affleconatt sister,

MARY DUFF.

‘My husband wrott for his first and second Contracks of marriage which I have sent by this berar.’

(D.)

Mary Duff, to her brother

‘TANACHIE, August 20th, 1716.

‘BROTHER,—Have yours of deat the 9 instantt with the bond I spoek Johnathan Alnass to tack the sesing who hath three othere to tack on the Land of Tanachie and promised to done what I proposed with the samme breth and told me it would be allamorouss if it ware understood here and that I should proscede befor other credators would lock lyck conivance this mead me dellay tho perhaps it be not for the chyld’s intrest ye will advyss me if ther be hasard in this as I hope ye will tack kear of whatt concernss me I wrot you the 13 at lenth I am dauly discovering mor of my sercomstaneess which is not esie tho the govern-

mentt never had a farding of us soo I am in pean till I hir from you as I beag ye spair not expence I am told the greatest loss will be mync. If I loss him self and I and mync be mead begers it is no small misfortoun. The fish shall be packed and keried as ye propose, the tenants will exeepe of none of my dischergs nor grant bills, there will be non but Tanachie there is Dischargess sent to be synded by my husband as yee may adwyss John Robertson see them dissured and receive there bills if ye adwyss I shall deliver them with his oversight. I wrott of the bear in my last if it is not threshen "of the growth of the means" it may be disposed of tho' not delivered till there be youss for the strawe there. An I hold bee fore upwards of 40 Bolls in the tenants hands and about the toun as if yee aprichend dengare lest it be disposed of and delivered when threshed I expect ye will give me cunsell as to the movabills and domishalls [domiciles] if ye aprie-hend dengare aboutt them and abow all when yee wnderstand the Governmentt's disyns as to my husband there is genrall charges of horning with inichishons. I shall not fash you furdar at presentt, for I expeck to her from you how shoun yee can, for I am Your affexionatt sister,

MARY DUFF.' (D.)

Margaret Gordon (widow of Alexander of Braco) to the Laird of Dipple

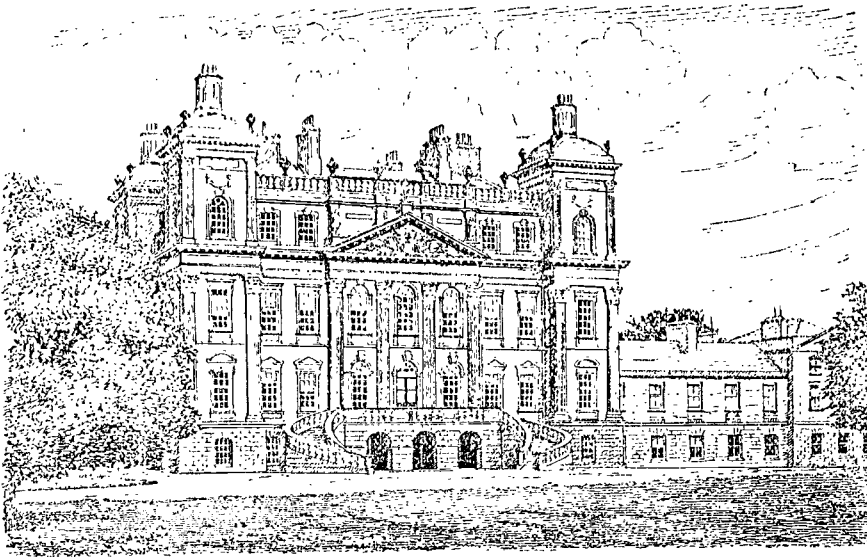
'HONORED AND DEAR BROTHER,—I received a letter from the Duke of Gordon desiring the money due to him at Martimasse from my husband and offering to give Tillibodie such obligations therfor as he shall think necessary for him to give, this I could not neglect to show you and to get your advise and concurance therein for now since it hath pleased the Lord to remove your brother ther is none that I will confide in so much as you and expect that you will order and advise in my sons affairs as ye wold doe for your selfe and what lyes in my power I shall God willing show to the world and to you that I shall never forget so worthee a husband. I think it necessar ye writt to Tillibodie and acquaint him with what the Duke writs and ye know that the Duke performing his part he will still make your brothers aires lyable to performe ther part and it is much better to doe it in lym now when he hath use for the monie then be forst to it and dissoblidge him, never the lesse therfor with all conveniency writ to Tillibodie and desire him to give you a free and full anseer and that ye wold not wish your nephew to live otherways with the Duke then his father hath done and that he may put the Duke to it to performe his part and that therupon show that ye and he and I are willing to performe your brothers part for I am affraid that some way or other things may be neglectted and goe wrong ye may remember what ye did see in the Duke's letter to your brother if ye wold be pleased to writ to the Duke it wold clear al doubts how soon as ye cane put this affair to a close do it for I should not wish any thing your brother did put his face to for to goe wrong. I wroat to you concerning the selling of the vittuall, let me have your answer therein, so wishing to hear of your weallfaire, I am, Your affectionat sister and humble servant,

MARGARET GORDON.

(After 1705.)

'For the Laird of Dippell this.'

(D.)



DUFF HOUSE

CHAPTER IX

WILLIAM DUFF, LORD BRACO AND FIRST EARL FIFE

1697-1763

‘ WILLIAM, the first Lord Fife, Dipple’s only son who survived him, was born in Autumn 1697. He got a very compleat education, and was a better scholar than most gentlemen commonly are, who have not been bred to any of the learned Professions. For he was master of the Latin, French and Italian languages, with some tincture of the Mathematics, and was very well acquainted with ancient and modern history.

‘ He was a member of the British Parliament for the County of Banff from 1727 to 1734 and alwise joined the country party. He was one of the Bedford hand Club, kept by Sir William Wyndham, Sir John Rushout, Mr. Shippan, etc., about thirty in all, worthy gentlemen and true patriots.

‘ I am informed that he spoke a few words in some particular occasions in the House of Commons—once in 1730 when a debate came on whether to continue the Hessian troops in British pay ; he stood up in his place and said, that the affection of the people was the best security of the Government, and if they possest that, there would be no occasion for hiring mercenary Forces from any foreign country in time of peace ; and besides

it was reasonable to give our own Fish-guts to our own Sea-maws (*i.e.* Gulls). The English members did not understand this phrase, but when explained to them, said it was a most significant and judicious expression.

‘He was created Lord Braco by King George the 2nd in 1735, and Viscount Macduff and Earl Fife in 1759—(Irish honours).

‘He was a man of extraordinary good sense, which, improved by his stock of acquired knowledge, seven years sitting in the British Parliament, and an intimate acquaintance with the best company in Britain, made him a polite well-bred man, and an agreeable, entertaining, and instructive companion.

‘In his private character he was a most indulgent Parent and husband ; and the kindest and easiest master to his Tenants and servants.

‘He had inflexible principles of honour and justice from which nothing could make him depart but misinformation or prejudice, which last, if once he had contracted it against any person, it was not easy to remove, especially if he thought he had met with any Disingenuity, or been in the least imposed upon. However, this went no further than to make him less sanguine in doing that person any good offices afterwards ; for I never could observe anything of vindictiveness in his nature, and upon a proper acknowledgment, he was most ready to forgive a fault.

‘He had an anxious concern for the welfare of all relations and friends, and he was a friend to merit wherever he found it.

‘He was naturally very ingenuous and had no reserve when he believed his confidence would not be abused ; he did many generous, humane things, gave a good deal in Charity to the poor and in a very private way, and tho’ I don’t pretend to say his liberality was very extensive, yet it was equal to that of any of his great neighbours. For I have known him several times give 50 and 100 guineas not only to relations, but to others, merely on account of their merit. In Aprile 1746, when the Duke of Cumberland was at Banff before the battle of Culloden, he gave £250 of drink-money to the common soldiers of his army, merely that he might with more freedom ask protection for the Houses, Cattle, Horses and other effects of any of his friends and relations who had the misfortune of being engaged. And indeed, at that time both he and his Lady exerted their utmost efforts to save all that they could from being plundered or otherwise harrassed.¹

‘Everybody has their foibles and perhaps he discovered too great an ambition of ruling the elections and other political disputes in those counties where his Estates principally lay. And I believe this disgusted a great many who had no connexion with or dependance upon his family

¹ There are many allusions to this in their letters.

and looked upon themselves as his equals in every respect but that of fortune, and that this was the mainspring of that opposition which he some times encountered, and of that implacable envy and detractions which on some occasions attempted to run him down ; and besides those who had served him in politics might some times think he had not made them such returns as they expected ! After all, it must be acknowledged that, considering his large property and numerous connections in the County of Banff, he was extremely well entitled to the greatest political interest in it, and that in Moray, where his estate paid a third part of the Land Tax of the whole shire, it was unreasonable in any other great Family to propose to make a Cypher of him.'

In 1735, he purchased the superiority of the estates of Mar, for £10,000 sterling, and in 1737 the estate of Glenbucket from John Gordon the famous Jacobite.

He expended vast sums of money in building. He built the new house of Balvenie in 1724-1725, and resided there for a time.¹ In 1730, he began to build Duff House, but, owing to a dispute with Adam the architect, which engaged him for many years, he never occupied the house, and when obliged to drive past it on his way to Banff, always drew down the blinds of his coach.

'He also spent much in Lawsuits and in political disputes, for when he once took a cause in hand he spared no cost to carry it through. Yet, being an excellent economist, he made many valuable additions to the Family estate, and most of them at very good prices. Upon the whole I am persuaded that he will be always allowed by those who knew him well to have been an honest, valuable, and worthy man.'

(This is the account given of William, Lord Braco, by his brother-in-law, William Baird, the first historian of the Duffs, who had himself doubtless benefited by the patronage of this successful member of the family.)

The following is an early letter from William Duff, afterwards Lord Braco (who in his young days was also in the family business), to Robert Grant of Tamore :

'SIR,—I have given the Bearer 12 pounds good English hopps, old weight, which I hope will please. Have likeways given him a bottle wine the best I have gott. I shall be glad if it please the Collonell, in case he be for it I can give half a hogshead at 4 pounds ten shillings and shall wait your answer for five or six days.

¹ It is now part of the distillery, having been last used as a private house on the occasion of the ball given by Lord Macduff (the late Duke) in 1878.



LADY JANET OGILVIE.
FIRST WIFE OF THE FIRST EARL DUFF.

By Sir Godfrey Kneller

'I offer my dutifull respects to Ballindalloch and Mrs. Grant and am, Sir,
Your obliged humble servant,
WM. DUFF.

'BANFF, 28 Sept. 1727.

'Please do me the favour to forward the enclosed letter to my friend Craignach' (see chapter xxx.).¹

William Duff married, in 1719, Lady Janet Ogilvie, daughter of the Earl of Findlater and Seafield, late Chancellor of Scotland, and widow of Hugh Forbes of Craigievar, but she died without issue on Christmas Day 1720, in the twenty-fifth year of her age.

He married, secondly, in 1723, Jean Grant, eldest daughter of Sir James Grant of Grant, M.P., and for some years resided at Braco and Balvenie, and several of their fourteen children² were born at each place. That the family of Lord Braco lived at one time in the mansion-house of Balvenie is proved by many letters to and from that place and by an inventory of furniture there, dated 1764, and another list of articles broken during the family's stay.

During his frequent absences from home he was a most industrious and affectionate correspondent, and hundreds of his letters to his wife are still preserved (in the possession of Mrs. Chancellor alone there are more than eighty), mostly addressed to 'My dearest life and best of Daties,³ and signed 'yours for ever, yours while B. your loveing houseband,' etc. Some are mere scraps: 'This letter will be short, but I cannot miss writing with this post,' and others concerned only with business.

His business affairs kept him a great deal in Edinburgh, and his parliamentary duties, for the first seven years of his married life, took him to London. In 1733, while still William Duff, he writes to his wife, dating from 'Chorlton, within a myle of Greenwich,' 'Your father, Sir James Grant and other two friends are here with me spending a part of the holidays.' In the same year: 'I missed letters from the north last post, which they say is occasioned by the waters being out beyond York. (It was indeed a fearful distance in those days for a man to have between himself and his wife and babies!) Direct to me at my house in Conduit St. since I have got a good house there opposite your father's. You see I have been

¹ MS. British Museum.

² William, 1724-1753; Anne, 1725-1805; Janet, 1727-1758; James, 1729-1809; Alexander, 1731-1811; Jane, 1732-1776; George, 1736-1818; Ludovic, 1737-1811; Patrick, 1738-1738; Helen, 1739-1778; Sophia, 1740-1826; Catherine, 1741-1765; Arthur, 1743-1805; Margaret, 1745-1786.

³ Daty, darling.

led into a fine dance by being in Parliament, however with the assistance of God I'll doe the best I can.'

In 1740, when he had the two girls with him in Edinburgh, he writes: 'I have engaged an Italian master who undertakes to finish your daughters in the spinet in less than 5 months.' On another occasion he writes from Dundee that he has 'been obliged to send back the footman with the horse, as it could not make out the journey,' and once he had to leave behind some friend who was travelling with him, and a servant to take care of him, the hardships of the journey had been so great. During this period he also writes to his wife about his proposed purchases of Rothiemay (1741), on which his cousin William of Braco had already lent money,¹ and Echt.

Quite early during his stay in London he seems to have made himself felt in legal and political circles. He writes: 'I find the Dutchess (of Gordon) has writ Sir Robert Walpole, ratering me in a high manner, and desyring a gift of the feu-duties of the Estate of Dumfermling. However, I hope I have closed that door upon them.' And at the same period: 'God give us a happy meeting for long doe I think to see you. I know not how it is with you, but I assure you I find it very cold to be here without a bedfellow.'

In 1733, William, the eldest boy (there were already six children, and the mother was only twenty-eight) broke his arm, and the father writes many anxious letters: 'I am exceeding glade that your boy is out of hazard. I beg you will take the best care of yourself and be heartie and cheerful wh: is the greatest favour you can do me.' At this time, Jane was the baby, and he writes hoping that the next child will be a son. There followed three in succession. After 1734 he no longer went to London, but his absences in Edinburgh were longer and more frequent, as he got involved in many lawsuits. He had disputes with Lord Findlater as to fishing; also with the town of Banff and with Lord Banff, and the Duke of Gordon and various other members of the family of Gordon. 'I hope care will be taken that James Duff (of Corsindae who acted as his factor) and

¹ On February 9, 1716, Alexander Abercromby and William Gordon wrote from Banff to the Lord Advocate, 'asking the pardon of Archibald Ogilvie, son to Sir Patrick of the Boyn, he having been concerned in the late unnatural rebellion. The prosecuting of him will bring little or nothing to the Government, the purchase he made of Rothiemay in the county being by money borrowed from Duff of Braco, as will appear by the registered disposition in anno 1712, of the lands, with ane assignation of the rents and profits in Braco's favour' (*Scottish History Papers*, Record Office).

In the previous century the House of Rothiemay had been a stronghold of 'the rebels,' as James Baird in 1635 petitioned for repayment of his expenses in 'taking the House of Rothiemay out of the hands of the rebels' (*History of the Bairds*.—Ed. W. Fraser).

Adam Panton keep possession of Lord Banff's fishings, since now that Rothiemay is in the north, all measures will be taken to brangle me out of them.'

'BRACO, *Monday forenoon, 1736.*

'MY DEAREST DR. DR. DEAREST DATIE,—I have sent you this express to tell you that Mountblierie and I have been here since Saturday and are in good health but the weather has been soe bade that we were stormstead here yesterday and are like to be soe this day soe I hope you 'l not be uncasic for we 'l be with you God willing how soon the weather breaks up and it will be best to keep Delmoor and the other Gentlemen.

'We were heartily fatigued last week for from Moonday to Satrday we were 10 hours Closs amongs old papers everic day, and it was Thursday befor I found all the papers I wanted as to the Duke, but the discovering them must be kept a Secret for some time for reasons that I 'll tell you at meeting. I have likewise got papers that will be of great use to me with respect to Arthur fforbes, soe that the time for the Search was weal Imploy'd.

'Noc doubt you have heard that Johnstons ship and all his cargoe was lost and your Shangai and some other things from London was on board. Thomas Duff, with my great timber was load Thursday last and if he came out of Aberdeen on Satrday his ship and cargoe will have the same fate, for there never was more stormie weather than since I left Balvenic. We had closs rain and wind on Saturday all the way from Banff till we come here. I have been in great concern about you and your health ever since I left you and there is nothing can give me greater satysfaction than to find you in perfect health chearfull and easie upon which the greatest part of my happiness depends, may God's blessing and myne always attend you. Pray make my Compléments to Mrs. Grant and your companie I am with the utmost affection whyle I breathe. My Dearest Dr. Dr. Dr. and best of Daties, yours for ever. B.

'I desired James Duff¹ to tell you that we could not get thro' our papers soe soon as we Intended and sure I am you would wish us to doe something before we left them. Adieu my Dr. Dr. Dr. life.' (O.)

'ABERDEEN, 20th August 1736.

'MY DEAREST DR. DR. DATIE,—I have at last agreed with Echt and our papers will be ready for signing this night and as to the bargain I can only tell you just now in Generall that it will not be near soe dear as I did apprehend. I hope to get from this the morrow in the day soe as to be at Aboyn Sundays night, but I don't expect great success from that expedition only I 'm resolved not to let my wood goe so far under the value as people would be at.

'I was sorrie to hear the Dissaster that happened to poor Thomas Duff² and the loss of his Ship. I hope all is weal with you since I left Banff and I doubt not of your keeping sight of my work that it goe forward in all the particulars.

¹ Corsindae.

² Craigston's son.

I cannot yet fix on a precise day for being at home, but you may be sure it will be as soon as I can. Heit has some thoughts of leaving that place even before a term which will oblige me in that case to return that way, soe as care may be taken of everie thing till I get ane other tennent ffor his ffriends will not let him keep it and this will perhaps occasion my staying a day or 2 longer. It will give me the greatest pleasure that Datic has got the better of her fall and I beg you 'l take the best care of yourself till I have the happeness of seeing you. I am always with the greatest sincerity and affection, My Dearest Dr. Dr. Datic and Life, yours till death,

BRACO. (O.)

'I have been in perfect good health since I came from Banff and rather the better of my journic.'

'MY DEAREST BEST AND BONIE DATIE,—Your last brought me a bill of leave for altring your blew ring which shal be obey'd and I hope your best ring wont Set you the worse that it has Attie's hair and yours within it, till I can get a better one for you. The inclos'd is from Mr. Sellers anent your Son. I find that notwithstanding all the strong letters that I 've wrote to your son and all the trouble and great expenses that I 've been put to on his acct, yet he has not mended one bit, soe that now I quite despair of any reformation. However I have yet told Mr. Sellers that I 'll take a little tryal and if matters are not better I must quite alter my plan for I think it 's a hard case when I have soe much to doe and soe many other children to take care of to be throughing soe much money upon one abandon'd wreach that will never mend or give any satysfaction but will rather be a disgrace to his parents and friends. I have with the assistance of the Almighty conquer'd myself soe as to make this mysfortune as easie as possible and I hope and wish you may doe the same. The dissapointment, God knows, is great to me for at this time of day considring the perplexed affairs of one kind or other that I have on hand, I have great need of help and if he had turn'd out as I wish'd considring his age, in a some little time he would have releiv'd me of a good deal of my burden beside the advantage that my famile and children would have. But we ought chearfully to Submite to what providence has alloted for us.

'We are now setting about our arbitration. Since what 's above I have called the Goold Smith about your blew ring. But there is a bit of the stone cracked which would fly out if it was streached and if it was set again the Place behoved to be taken down after loscing that bit soe that tis best to let it be as it is rather than spoyle the Stone. Fareweal my bonie Datic.—Yours whyle,

'BRACO.' (O.)

The three topics which occur most frequently in these letters are his long disputes with Adam over the accounts for the building of Duff House, a suit with Keith of Bruxie (which 'came to a head' in 1739),¹ and another

¹ There is a MS. account of this case, covering a roll of forty feet long. It was a dispute about the lordship and estate of Balvenie which Alexander Duff of Braco had obtained in 1687 from Arthiur Forbes, who owed him a large sum of money. In 1732 Miss Mally Seton claimed a right



WILLIAM DUFF, LORD BRACO
AND FIRST EARL FIFE

By William Scott.

connected with some kind of wall he wished to build on Speyside, frequently alluded to as 'the Bulwark,' also the wadset of 'Meyan' (*sic*). At times he seems to have felt depressed at the amount of time he spent on these matters. 'Coll: Abercromby proposes to set out to-morrow, your brother goes to Hopetown, everybodie gets their feet loose except me, who have been so inborrowed with my own blunder of having to do with Adam. My father could have prevented all this trouble and hazard to me if he had taken the advice of any person of skill. However, he did many good things, and I ought not to complain of this oversight. I don't blame myself for anything that has happened, except that I was so unluckie as to put trust in a fellow that has turned out as great a rogue as ever was on earth. Who indeed had supporters as void of conscience as himself.' From Edinburgh also he writes: 'The want of you makes me much paine, my dear Datic, my absence soe long from you is not the least of my trouble, and the more soe that I have been the sole cause of it. But I am like all Scotsmen (*i.e.* litigious). However, I hope after all this, God will grant us happier days together, and it may happen that the trouble and expenses that I meet with may make them that come after me the more easy. May God bless you and the poor little bairns.'

And again: 'God bless my Datic and send us a more settled and peaceful living, for people's wicked designs has hitherto given me a most troublesome life and has put me to great expences.'

About another suit which he had pending he writes: 'The lawyers have a good opinion of my cause relating to Moyness. The only loss that I'm at is that it depends altogether on writing, and there are few of the judges there that understand writing.' On looking at some of the legal MSS. of a previous century, on which presumably the case depended, one can perhaps understand the difficulty. This letter appears to have been written about 1740. Braco does not always remember to add the year.

Re an election then pending: 'I have made only two new barons—to wit Muricfold and John Duff in Elgin, neither doe I propose that either of them should be enrolled or vote except in the event that Rothiemay or the family of Gordon make new barons, and in that case all the world will approve of what I have done.'

Of his eldest son he never has anything pleasant to say; doubtless he was a trial. 'I have this day paid a bill of £100 for bringing William out

to Arthur Forbes' estate by a disposition from him, and before this case between her and Lord Fife, Braco's nephew and heir, could be determined, Arthur's nephew and heir granted a bond of the whole estate to William Keith of Bruxie, who in consequence brought an action of reduction and improbation against Lord Fife, and the process lasted twenty-two sessions before the Court of Session, but at last was settled amicably in 1743.

of Captain Geddes' ship and sending him abroad with his tutor. I wish to God that our honest intentions may have the desired effect in recovering him, for you see what fatigue I have at home and abroad in keeping matters right, and in bringing myself out of one scrape bequeathed by my predecessor and another occasioned by myself.'

After Lady Fife and family had removed to Rothiemay, and the family grew larger and his means greater, he seems to have been called upon to execute numerous commissions for her. He goes to Leith to choose carpets in 1739. He buys silk, tea, dates and other confections, and in one letter laments the length of time they will be on the way 'even though the French do not get the Kinghorn boat!' In 1742, he remarks that the Kinghorn boat, which presumably made a slow voyage from thence to Leith, is too rough for 'his old age,' and he prefers to make the longer journey round by land. He was then forty-five. 'Farewell my bonnie Datie, you and your old and young companions have my daily prayers.' And in 1741, 'I intend God willing to goe north by way of Aberdeen for the Cairn Road [i.e. *over the mountains by Braemar*] is vastly fatiguing.'

From Aberdeen, December 31, 1732: 'I thank God for it, I came safe here by night. The weather was favourable and I hope to get to Montrose the morrow. Mr. Donaldson (his brother-in-law) took me up on the road, but was obliged to ly at the old Town this night to be free of arrest. Send along with bearer a bit of the silk to show the exact wideness you would have it of, and at the same time I beg you will send a bit of your hair that I may have it set in a ring. I was dreaming about you three times last night. However, I hope all is well.' (This last is a curious and unusual touch of sentiment and superstition.)

In 1741, he mentions that he has not sent the rapee snuff, as he finds it would not keep, and in another letter he says, 'a little glass with hartshorn drops goes with this.' As the sons and daughters grew a little older, he was also commissioned to buy clothes for them. 'I will cause send cloaks with capuchin hoods for your daughters,' he writes to his wife, 'they are worn by all the fashionable folk. Stays for the lasses. Laces for your daughters, and a pretty mob for my Datie. I propose to have your mantle made of red velvet. Small cloath is too much upon the common.' 'It were best that you send the measure for coats for James and Sandy, since I would have them made here as well as the vests. I think improper to get swords for the lads, but if they please mama and Mr. Abel and mind their book I will bring them each a pair of buckles to their shoes.' And again: 'I am glade of the news that you give me of your children and their progress with their book. It is very agreeable to me. I have bought the

frocks and cloaths and breeches for your boys. There was only three hats commissioned for, but if Lewis [*aged six*] keeps his head even, I'll send a pretty little hat with a silver lace.'

He also interested himself greatly in the affairs of his household, and sends to his wife a bale of stuff 'that will make proper frocks for your servants, that will weare some time, viz., for the porter, the boy who attends the tea table and the coachman.' In 1743, he took upon himself to engage a cook. He says, 'I have two cooks in my offer; one of them came from the Earl of Kintore last term, and the other from the Earl of Glasgow; they are both well recommended.' He doubts if she would like one of them, as 'he has a wife and three bairns.' In the next letter he says: 'I have engaged the cook Thompson. I am persuaded he'll please you, for he understands his business and is well recommended. If you want any kitchen furniture it will be best they be bought while the cook's here.'

There are frequent references to contemporary events:

'I have sent you that pairt of Col. Abercrombie's letter which gives information of the French fleet being seen upon the British coasts, which is the best account that is come here of it.' With true Scottish economy he adds: 'I thought it needless to swell the postage with the rest of the letter.' 'There is uncertain accounts of the battle in Germany, but the French is beat off the field with great loss, and several circumstances told to the honour of the British troops' (Dettingen, June 27, 1743). 'A bloodie battle has happened in the Mediterranean' (off Toulon, 1744). 'The Earl of Aberdeen died and was found stiff.' 'We had the account yesterday of Edinburgh being taken' (by Prince Charles; September 1745). 'I have three sisters and two of their husbands now in Edinburgh. Long, long doe I think to be with Datie, which, God willing, shall be soon.' 'It is here talked of that there is a peace, but it must be such an unglorious one that the King or his ministers have not yet ventured to make it public, and I'm afraid that the parliament will not bring us out of our difficulties. Poor Admiral Haddock killed himself because his hands were tyed up from attacking the Spanish fleet going to Italic' (1746).

The letters after 1743 are filled with allusions to his youngest son Arthur, 'my bonnie Attie,' who would appear to have been, from his birth, the favourite of both parents. When the child could not have been more than a few months old, he adds as a postscript to his letter: 'I have sent with Duncan a cheeping bird for Attie.'

'I am having my Datie's hair and my little lad's set in a diamond ring.—May every good thing attend you and Attie and all the rest of the

young folks.—Were I at home, we would place Attie betwixt us and sport with him by turns.—I send some toys which you may distribute as you please, for you 'll soon found out what 's for Attie. Take care of yourself, Attie, Clossie (Sophia), and the rest.

'Pray take the best care of yourself, for I don't fear your caring for Attie. Long, long do I think to be north with my Datie and her Attie, which I hope and wish for, since I will be all the days of my life my dearest and best Datie, Your with the utmost affection, BRACO.'

And in 1745 he writes: 'I envie Arthur for he has mama to himself, and mama has Arthur, and Papa has neither.'

'I am glad you have weaned my little boy, and that he is none the worse.' In a previous letter he had hoped she would not do this until he came home, 'unless the child should suffer.' All his thought was for this youngest son, born when he was forty-six, and only twenty at the father's death.

In one very short letter he writes, 'I have this moment the opportunity to tell you that I am in perfect health. I only want you and Attie. May all good attend my dearest Datie and my Arthur.'

'I congratulate you, my dr. Datie, upon my bonnic little lad's getting out three chaff teeth, by which I hope the hazard of teething is over with him.'

He begins to yearn much to be at home again: 'If I were free of Calder and Adam, I would be quite easy, for I 'm not much afraid of what Drummuir can do. If I get a good luck of Mr. Adam as well as of Bruxie I daresay you 'll be pleased.' 'If I were free of that villain Adam, I should have little to doe here.' 'Tho' I have missed being at an end with Adam through the Justice Clerk's default, yet I must do something in other matters and stay here a short time, which is most undesirable, and disagreeable to me.'

'There never was a judge did show more partiality than the Justice Clerk, nor a party more barefaced villainy than Adam.' 'We have now Adam, Drummuir and Calder on hand.'

He sends her many directions as to the management of affairs at home: 'Mind David Stronach to take care not to take in mixed meal.' 'I think it will be best you cause block up any fireplace about the barnyards except in the henwife's house.' 'The rooms in the summer house cannot be better employed than in holding my oats.'

In November 1743 he sent her an account of all sums to be paid out in Banffshire; and other directions for farm work and buying and selling operations are frequent.

In 1749 he took the waters at Bridge of Earn. 'I have drunk the

waters two days since I got the doctor's directions. I propose to make use of the 'Hot bath' the day after to-morrow, and hope to be the better of both.'

He is most anxious that she should keep up her dignity in his absence, and writes urging her never to drive out without four riding servants. 'I think indeed when you make the visits you mention that you should have four riding servants with you, for it looks very bad to have a coach and four and only one servant or two, and I am sure your neighbour Abachie will not scruple to go with you.'

'EDINBURGH, 1st March (circa) 1745.

'MY DEAREST BONIE AND BEST DATIE,—I have the satisfaction of your last, covering the Historic of the McDuffs and am exceeding glad that you and your young people were soe weal diverted on the occasion of the old Datic's birthday. I think you have done verie right in diverting yourself in making the visits you propose. But am afraid that the weather has not been favourable to my Datic. We have been attending Wardhouse's tryall who with the other two panells will not only be acquite but I believe Blackhall will be soused in damages and expenses.

'I shal mind the Commission in your last with respect to the confections wanting. I have sent for your diversion some copies of Wardhouse's Information which will Intertain you and which you may disperse among your ffriends. Ther are toys sent for Attie and the other young children with the boxes that are sent to Aberdeen which you may distribute when you please for you 'l soon find out whats design'd for Attie.—Fareweal my bonie and best Datic ffor I am for ever
Yours most faithfully,
B.' (O.)

After he became Lord Fife, in 1759, he was seldom away from home, and there are comparatively few letters of his after that date. He died in 1763 at Rothiemay House, and was buried at Grange, his body, and those of his wife and his granddaughter Frances (see next chapter), being subsequently removed to the mausoleum at Duff House.

Two years before his death he acquired the mansion in Edinburgh known as Fife House. A contemporary account says 'Lord Fife had a good house, outside the city wall.'

'Fife House.—This mansion stood on ground now occupied by the north-east portion of Lothian Street, near the north end of Potter Row. It seems to have been entered from a road which skirted the outside of the town wall. In Edgar's plan of 1742, published in Maitland's *History of Edinburgh*, it is designated "Duke of Douglas's." That nobleman died in 1761, and, according to Chambers's *Traditions of Edinburgh*, the house was then acquired by the Earl of Fife. In the map of the city in Arnot's *History of Edinburgh* it appears as "Fife House."

Some of Lady Braco's letters to her husband show a certain resentment at his long absences, and one which has not been preserved was sent back by him that she might revise the undeserved expressions. But very little ever occurs to mar the perfect understanding and tender feeling that existed between them. 'Never man had a better wife.'

She writes to her husband from Banff, December 17, 1739 :

'MY DEAREST DR. LIFE AND BEST OF DATIES,—May God bless you for the two last kind letters you write me, they are the greatest and best present you can make me and what I hope I never shall be ungratefull for ; our town is turned exceeding gay. I have gotte a german here that plays finely upon a sorte of instrument : I was fryday last at his concert ; and am to be there this night again, he has gotte the town house for entertaining his company in. We have always a ball after the musick is over, and you 'll be surprised to hear that I am so well and cliver at present as to be able to dance minuets and country dances ; but I will take care not to venture over far. The younge Andrew ¹ be one of the best natured boys I ever had and this I hope you 'll not fail to tell Montblearie off as I am perfectly persuaded he takes this strain of goodness from him. The Knight of Durn ² is in perfect rapture with our german musick he stayed in town these ten days attending it : and likewayes brought his lady here friday last, but sometimes we have enough adoe to drive the spleen from him upon account of his lossing his wager with me. I am very well pleased that both my daughters have the musick master once a weck ; I notice what you write as to the term matters and will not faile to keep Duncan in mind of it ; and he and I shall take an opportunity to speak to Charles Burt as you recommend. I was obliged to Robie Moor for sending me Plays, what I had was just done when his supply came. I beg you 'll take care for it and tell him and Corvichen that I will write them both very soon ; but I am in a hurry to-day to get dressed for the Ball ; Rothiemay and Lord Maitland came not to town the Lady Betty wrote Doctor Fother ³ of their dyet, great bodye moves slowly. My kind compliments to Corvichen and all that 's best to you ; for God's sake take care of yourself and doe not drinke too much, intertaining the Lords or other friends for your health is precious to me above all thinges being my happiness depends upon it for I am unalterably in my affection, but not in my faults, my dearest Dr. dr. Dearest life, yours while breathing.

J. B.'

'Dec. 17th, 1739.

'MY DEAREST LIFE AND ONLY DATIE,—This letter was gone to the post house when your express arrived so I called it back that it might goe the length of Abdn. with him. Duncan is busic looking out for your papers and I am just going to the Concert : I heartily wish if it had been possible for you that you

¹ Andrew Hay.

² Sir James Dunbar.

³ Dr. Fotheringham, a well-known physician in Banff.



JANE GRANT,
SECOND WIFE OF THE FIRST EARL TIFE.

By William Smith.

had given Melross what he wanted. They are so obliging in every thinge and if it had not been for them I believe your plummers had been idle for want of Scots coal before Mr. Abernethie's shipe arrived ; I was quite overjoyed when I saw the express from Abd. believing to have heard by him of Bruxies defeat, but I hope that will come afterwards, you shall hear from me again by the Wedensdays post, and in the mean time I beg that you 'll believe that I am with all possible esteem while I breath my dearest Dr. Dr. Datie, Yours faithfully,
 ' J. B. ' ¹

And six years later from Rothiemay :

' January 30th, 1745.

' MY DEAREST DR. DR. DATIE,—I had the pleasure of yours from Edin^r, and it is a vast satisfaction to me to know that you gote safe there, and in good health. Mr. Sellers letter is what I regrete, but is no surpris to me, indeed I joine him in oppinion that it is a pittie to throw away so much money, since there appears to be but small hopes of reclaiming my son from his folly in that ways and I dare say you 'll now thinke of putting him upon a quit different plan, as I am persueded a governor can be of no further service to him and is only an additional expence to you, Mr. Abell tells me that your sones here are doeing wonderfully well, which is one great comfort to ballance a Cross, as too their Lessons their Master must be left judge, but as too their behaviour otherways I can with truth affirme it, that it must please everybody, they and all the rest of Dada's Daties are in perfect health, only longs for my Dearest Datic, and Arthur is no less mindefull of you than of us. Sanders Stronach tells me that the Cook would not allow the frock to be made, that I order'd for him, since he said he would not wear it, for that you had promised him one at a guinie and £10 ster. of wages besides other perquisites, I thought it best to mention this to you, in case you had judged it proper to speak to Monblearic on any other at Edin^r that might have been present when he was ingaged ; so as we may have no disputes about the matter, indeed I imagined that he had only been upon the same footing with Andrew Phillip, however as the Cook has never yet said any thinge of this to me, so I am to take no notice of what passed between Sanders and him till you return home ; God preserve you and give you success in your affaires ; and believe me to be with outmost affection and esteem, My Dearest Dr. life,
 Yours very faithfully, while
 J. B. (O.)

A year before her death she writes thus to her second son :

' 11B HOUSEDALL, June 29th, 1787.

' MY DEAR FIFE,—Much do I regrete the troublesom journey you are obliged to take, considering the short time since you came to the country, and that it deprives your friends from the pleasure to see you—last weck I imagined that I never would have had the satisfaction for indeed I was very ill of an intermit-

¹ Rothiemay papers.

ting fever and nigh unto Death, but by the great care of my son and Mrs. Duff I have got better but not so well as to be able to leave Housedall. When will this horrid mallicious association end. Your opponents had nothing but to occasion trouble and expence which appears to be their motive, it is a true proverb and holds so in the present case—that one cannot live in peace beside litigious neighbours. God preserve you at all times and give you success to defeat their wicked schemes and give you a speedy and safe return to the Country.—I remain, as I ever was, my Dear son, Your very affectionate mother, J. FIFE.' (O.)

Two early letters from her father are of historical interest :

James Grant to his daughter, Lady Braco, at Rothiemay, written from the Speaker's Chamber

'LONDON, 24 Aprile 1746.

'DR. JEANIE,—The Express came this morning from his Royall Highness the Duke makes me hope that this letter will come safe to you. I heartily congratulate you on the good account of the entyr defeat of the Rebels, I hope this will finde my Lord Braco you and the young flamily well. If once all were quite settled I have some thoughts of being in the North if it were but for twenty dayes time. The Plundering and barbarity committed by the Rebels must noe doubt make the country look generally very miserable and I am much affrayed that the destruction of the corn and grain will produce bad effects. I saw Mrs. Abereromby to-day, she with Sir Robert and Lady Abererombie are well. I can offer noe other news from this, compliments in the kindest manner to Lord Braco and flamily; and I am, Dr. Jeanie, your very affect. ffather,

'JA. GRANT.

'This is written in the Speaker's chamber; where his Majesty affords us noe better paper (tho' great plenty of it) than this.'

(O.)

The same to the same

'London, 7 June 1746.

'DR. JEANY,—I have yours of the 20th of May, and as you say that it is a longe time since you ore Lord Braco had any letter from me, it seem that letters does miscarry for it is not longe since I wrote to you both, and had noe answer from my Lord to it, but as you are all well, I doe the more easily excuse it. I doe most sincerely lament the miserable situation of some of our country men and particularly some of them we are more nearly concerned with, but as they have brought ruine upon themselves by there own docings, all we can doe, is to be most heartily sorry for, and commiserat there condition. It is a sadd view the outter ruine of themselves and innocent Posterity. I much commend what

you have done as to your daughter Jessy (Jessie).¹ God help and comfort her. I am told the Lords Prisoners in the Tower will be tryed in Westminster Hall, and all think they can't escape suffering as I doubt not severall taken Prisoners will in other parts. God be thanked that now that cursed design of the Rebellion seems to be at ane end, I hope the like shall never be attempted for the future, I am sorry to see that Carnousy and Abbachy² had concern in it. Gen^l St. Clare I hear is not yet sailed on the expedition. Pray where is Sophie, some say she is with you, but as you make no mention of her, and that she dont write me, I know little about her, I hope the Rebels have not made seizour of her. I offer my kinde compliments to Lord Braco and your young ffamily and continew,
Dr. Jeanie, your very affect. ffather,
JA: GRANT.' (O.)

She was a most affectionate wife and mother, and a kind and indulgent grandmother. When she had her house full of grandchildren in 1775, she writes humorously: 'I am so plagued and hurried that I can scarce turn me!' In January 1773, ten years after her husband's death, she gave a ball for them. 'The Countess Dowager of Fife held at her house in Edinburgh the first masked ball seen in Scotland.'

In the *Scots Magazine* we read: 'On Jan. 16, 1788, died at Rothiemay the Countess Dowager of Fife, aged eighty-three. She retained all her senses and her usual cheerfulness to the last. Having married young, she saw and lived with her descendants to the fifth generation.' This presumably refers to the family of Jean Gordon, who married Urquhart of Burdsycard, and died in 1767, twenty-one years before her grandmother, and whose own daughter was very likely a mother before 1788. She also left one son, Robert Urquhart.

Jane Grant, born 1705; her daughter Janet, born 1727; and her daughter Jean, 1746. Three generations in forty-one years. There were possibly three more in the remaining forty-two years of Lady Fife's life.

In 1776 she had written to her son Arthur: 'My health is now very precarious and my days cannot be long in this world,' but she lived for twelve years longer. In June 1786, Alexander Duff of Mayen writes to William Rose from Rothiemay: 'Mrs. Duff was to have dined here this day to meet Sir Robert, Lady and Miss Bess Abereromby, but was prevented by a slight cold and the warm day. Lady Fife was in the Kirk, which I hope will be agreeable information to all friends.' She was then eighty-one. Her portrait and that of her husband, done by Alan Ramsay,³ for which twenty guineas each was paid, were in the Duff House collection.

¹ Lady Gordon. See next chapter.

² Avochie.

³ Alan Ramsay was King's Painter, in which office he was succeeded in 1784 by Reynolds, who describes it as 'a place of not so much profit and of near equal dignity with his Majesty's Rat-catcher.' The salary was then £50.

Major the Honourable Lewis Duff of Blervie to William Rose

‘ROTHIEMAY, *Jan. 17th, 1788.*

‘SIR,—Jean Countess Dowager of Fife my Mother died yesterday. The favour of your Company here on Munday the twenty-first instant by eleven o'clock before noon to attend her funerall from this house to the ffamily Buriall place at the Church of Grange is requested by Sir, Your mo: obdt. Hum. Ser.,

‘LEWIS DUFF.

‘William Rose, Mountcoffer.’

There is one letter to Lord Braco from his mother, written towards the end of her life :

‘MY LORD,—I am just now favoured with your Lordships letter and have received from the berer fiftie two pounds fiftion shillings six pencons and two thirds with your not—one Mount Blerie for fiftie pounds stirling more which pys my anniuty to witsunday fortie foive and I send your Lordship inclosed my Discharg ther is no ocaasion for making any apologie for not sending the monie sooner it hes come in good time and I returne my herty thanks for your punctuall payment and beg you will believ I shall whill I breath have a most gratfull sence of the many favours you have confereed on me and my cheldren.

‘I wish your Lordship and my Lady mouch joy of Mistress Duffs maraig¹ and everything that is happy to you and your famlie my daughter had a letter of the saim deat with your Lordships from Mester Abercromby she offers her affaxnot humbal duty to you and my Lady bracco my best wishes and blising shall ever atend you and your family, for I am with the greatest regard and esteem, My Dier Lord, Your Lordships most affaxnot mother and much obliged faithful humble servant,

JEAN DUNBAR. (D.)

‘GLASSA, *Jun 7 day, 1745.*’

And one from Lady Braco to her sister-in-law, Lady Roscommon :

‘DR. LADY,—I will be glade to hear you got safe to Blearvie and was in time enough to the Roup as I hope all has been gott to your advantage. I am much in the same case with the cold when you left this but I hope it will wear of in a short time as you desired have send my measure for Bodies and you may please buy at the Mareat 50 chns of tweedlin and 24 ditto of tykin. Billy hopes youll mind to send Willie Duff in case his health will permitt of itt and I sepose youll take care to be here before he goes south to give him your blissing and bid farewell to a younge friend. Mr. Duff and Sophia joine in Compliments to you, and I ever am very sincerely, Dr. Lady, Your most affectionat sister and faithfull servant,

JEAN DUFF.

‘*Jully 21st, 1735.*

¹ Janet's marriage to Sir William Gordon of Park.

‘ Mr. Duff has got a call just now to Edr. about privat business and he talks of taking Billy with him but I own I am against it till his health be better established. Adieu.

‘ To the Lady Roscommon to the care of Provost Robertson at Elgin.’

One further letter to Lord Braco may be added :

Helen Fraser, his first cousin, to Lord Braco

‘ MY LORD,—I am just now favour’d with your Lordships of this Date and am glad to hear that your Lop., Lady Braco and all the family att Rothiemay are all well to whom I make offer of my kind complints. As for Adam Duff of Clunbegg being second or fourth son of John Duff of Muldavatt I really cannot acquaint your Lordship neither do I remember to have ever heard my mother talk on that subject. I’m convinced if any person in this country can inform your Lordship about this affair James Duff, Cushenday, will do it.—I am sincerely, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedt. obliged humble Servt.,

‘ HELEN FRASER.’¹

‘ RANNES, 20th Octr. 1757.

‘ To the Right Honourable My Lord Braco att Rothiemay.’ (D.)

This letter from Alexander, second Duke of Gordon, to the Laird of Grant shows that the successful rise of the Duff family was not received with unmixed satisfaction by the neighbouring lairds. Envy was doubtless the principal ingredient in this dissatisfaction :

‘ GORDON CASTLE, 6 July 1724.

‘ SIR,—I hav some reason to beleev Braco is in barguen with yow about Allanbuy, if so, I hope yow will giv it in such a manner as that he may bee no trubilsom nabor to mee about the mosses which probable he intends, if Aldchach is to bee dispos’d off. I wish yow would not prefer those who by ritches support themselves and valu no man’s freindship, and doe unnaborly and unfreindly offices to most people to mee in particular. I refer to this honest bearer, to both our good freind Bucke who will talke to yow of other particulars I was inform’d of, but I am shure without good grounds, thought I doubt not of the Duffs giving hints of their good intentions wer it in their powr, but I hope to bee free of them ere long. They may then find I am as ease in wanting their freindship as they undervalw mine ! Yow, I know, hav some gues of their manner of doing, and as I am tould, is to be free of them accordingly ere long. I wish yow and family all happiness and am your most affectionat cousin and humble servant,

GORDON.’²

¹ Daughter of Mary Duff, Keithmore’s daughter.

² Fraser’s *Chiefs of Grant*.

William Duff, Lord Braco, to Ludovick Grant, his brother-in-law

‘BANFF, March 1st, 1736.

‘DEAR SIR,—I have your last of the 23rd past, and I am soe far satisfy’d with what you say, that I think grudges ought not to be kept up on either syde, but rather that the same friendship that was betwixt our prediceessors long before our days should be intertaind with us; and though your connection and myne is much nearer than thers was, yet its impossible that ther can be a stronger or more heartie friendship than was amongs them on all occasions.

‘I have it to say for myself that I made your cause and your quarrell always myne; and for my pairt, I’m for passing over everie thing that has hapen’d lately, and that bygones may be bygones, and fair play in time to come on both sydes.

‘Your sister has given me a fourth son and the mother and child are in as good a way as can be wish’d. . . .

BRACO.’¹

‘5 March 1747. Memorial for the Lord Braco to the Lord Advocate.

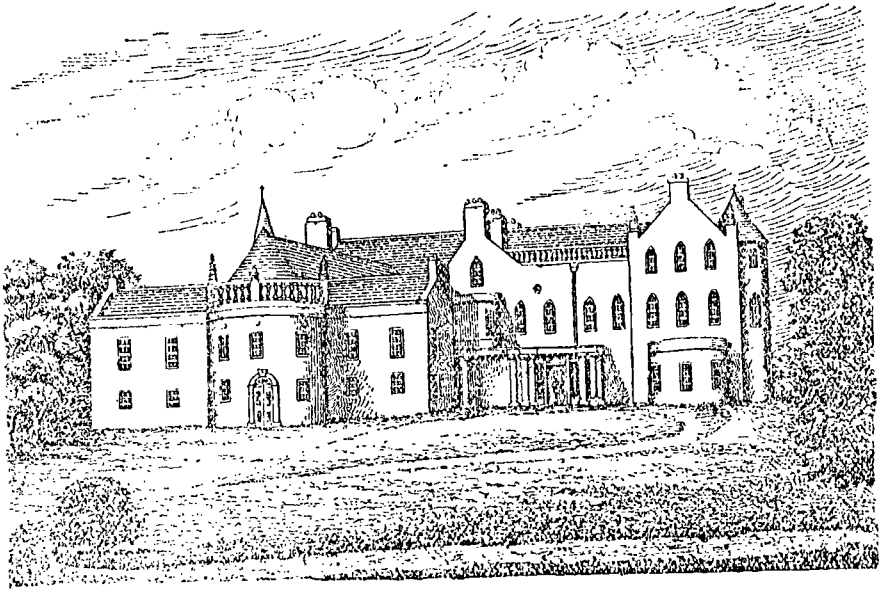
‘Upon the 12 and 13 dayes of Aprile 1746 the King’s Army under the Command of his royall Highness the Duke of Cumberland was quartered on Lord Braco’s lands on the west side of Spey and his other adjacent grounds, the tenants of those lands were during that time so vexed by the depredations of the Army that scarce any of them was able to toill or sow their gardens. His Royall Highness was so sensible of the losses the poor men had sustained that he gave fyfty guineas to the Minister to be distributed amongst them and desired that a particular account of those losses might be made out.

‘Accordingly the whole tennants compeared before three of the Justices of Peace of the County of Murray and deponed upon the particular losses sustained by each of them and the Judiciall procedure whereof with a particular account of saide losses in a peaper apairt are herewith sent to Justice their claim and the fyfty guineas given by his Royall highness is deducted from the claim.

‘Its therefore hoped that the Lord Advocate will make proper application to the Secretary at war or otherwayes for giving the poor people some pairt of the losses sustained by them.’

William Lord Braco’s large family is treated of in the next chapter.

¹ Fraser’s *Chiefs of Grant*.



ROTHIEMAY HOUSE
(MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS SLEPT A NIGHT HERE IN 1562)

CHAPTER X

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM DUFF, LORD BRACO AND FIRST EARL FIFE

William,	born 1724	Jane,	born 1732	Sophia,	born 1740
Anne,	„ 1725	George,	„ 1736	Catherine,	„ 1741
Janet,	„ 1727	Lewis,	„ 1737	Arthur,	„ 1743
James,	„ 1729	Patrick,	„ 1738	Margaret,	„ 1745
Alexander,	„ 1731	Helen,	„ 1739		

OF the family of William, Lord Braco and first Earl Fife, a good many details can be gathered from a large collection of letters preserved in the different branches of the family, a few of which have already appeared in print. With three members of the family at different times in the House of Commons, and one in the House of Lords, franks were, of course, plentiful, and for some considerable time Jane, Lady Fife, and her youngest and favourite son Arthur corresponded almost daily—a rare thing in those days, and one which affords a wonderful storehouse of information on both contemporary and family politics.

The eldest of the family was WILLIAM, born when his mother was nineteen and his father twenty-seven. From his earliest years he would

seem to have been unsatisfactory ; neither mother nor father had probably much time to attend to his early training and education, as she must have been entirely occupied with the management of her nursery, and he with the business of money-making (to be followed later by a plentiful crop of lawsuits), as well as with his duties in Parliament, both of which kept him much away from home. William was sent to school at Dalkeith, but did not get on very well, and was afterwards privately educated by tutors, who travelled with him all over England and part of France. No expense seems to have been spared. Indeed the father, in a letter to the mother, complains bitterly of the amount that 'your son has cost,' and elsewhere describes him as 'an abandoned wretch, nothing can ever be expected from him,' 'his drinking and idleness still continue,' 'I can do no more, I have done my part.' 'I found the enclosed from "Glassa" (Gen. Abercromby) anent your unhappy son. It is a bad omen that he has not mended anything under Capt. Geddes.' 'The unhappy creature, your son, and Mr. Sellars are at Berwick. I have no word from them yet, only Lt. Dunbar who had seen them, sent me a note of it. He says that your son has a shaking of the hand, like one that has the palsie, and that his head is not right, which is no wonder.' 'Sellars has gone to London for your son. I have desired that their stay there may be as short as possible, and they are to go on to Boulogne and Rheims' (1742). 'Mr. Sellars gives up all hope of doing him service, or doing any good with him' (January 1745).

James Duff, Beaufront, writes to Lord Bracco on August 6, 1746 :

'It gives me great pleasure to have your Lordships approbation for removing your son from Bishop Aukland which is very much augmented by its having so good an effect. But as I wrote My Lady Bracco the 6th current which comes by this post I shall refer you to that where you'll see a just and true account of Mr. Duff's present situation. Your orders shall be obeyed as to his pocket-money and my best advice shall not be wanting in persuading him to make his expenses as moderate as possible and he agrees with your Lordship in thinking his signing the Bond of Interdiction one of the best things ever he did. But as Mr. Sellars after his return from Rothiemay last year told severall people that he had had great offers from you to induce your son to sign the Bond of Interdiction and condescended on sums that I would be ashamed to mention. It was no wonder a young gentleman was very much startled who was living in a very idle and unhappy way and was intirely ignorant of the nature of the write and could not but think it a write design'd to cut him off from the Estate than any other thing when you would have offered such large bribes to anyone to get it execute. But on my representing to him the true design of the bond and that it was not agreeable to common sense you could have made any such offer he was quite of another mind. I am satisfied Sellars will make loud complaints on me

for setting this obligation in such a strong light to your Lordship which I do not in the least value since I should have thought myself a very great villain had I kept silence in an affair of this kind wherein your interest was concerned. I shall write Montblairy anent the peice of linnen. I shall write you as oft as I see occasion anent your son and you may beleive Ill do every thing in my power to render my self worthy of the confidence you have reposed in me and continue with the greatest respect, My Lord, Your Lordships most oblidged humble servt.,

JAMES DUFF.¹ (D.)

According to family tradition, the unfortunate young man had strong sympathies with the Jacobite cause, and would have gone out with his brother-in-law, Sir William Gordon, but was driven back by force. He seems to have had no profession, nor taken any part in public life, though he went up to London with good introductions, and writes from there in 1749 :

William Duff, eldest son of Lord Braco, to his father

‘LONDON, 31st January 1749.

‘MY LORD,—I arrived here sassy the twinty fift of this mounth and loges in Pal Mell. I have viseted S^r Lodwick Grant and Coll. Abercrombie who are both extremly sivel to me and has a general invitation to there houses, as soon as my cloaths are ready S^r Lodwick is to introduce me to the Duck of Newcastle and Mr. Pelham as he thinks it proper I should pay my levay. The Duck of Gordon has several times desiered Major Grant to bring me along with him to spend the civning which I intend to do as soon as my cloaths are ready. I supt at S^r Lodwicks last night and there was an officer inquiring about Lodie Mcintosh² but could get no account of him. The officer told me that Lodie was intitled to eight hundred pounds str. as his shear of prise money which would be very agreeable news to him if he knew of it. S^r Lodwick Grant and Coll. Abercrombie have there compliments to you. Please make offer of my duty to my Lady and beleive me to be with great sincerity, My Lord, Your Lordships most Dutfull and affectionate Son,

WILLIAM DUFF.³ (O.)

William Duff never married, and died in London in 1753. Of his last days we have the following accounts :

Colonel James Abercromby to Alexander Stuart of Edinglassie

‘CRAVEN STREET, 3d March 1753.

‘DR. SIR,—This day sevensnight I informed you of the state of Mr. Duff’s health who the day thereafter pressed much to have the famous Mr. Ward’s advice being greatly possessed in favours of him from the acc^{ts} he had from

¹ See chapter xxxix.

² See chapter viii.

severals who had been cured by him in similar cases upon which I went immediately to Dr. Pringle who most readily approved because he knew where Ward had had remarkable success in such cases where all the skill of regular Physicians had failed. Upon this Ward was called the 25th in afternoon and that night Mr. Duff took his powder and has since followed his prescription which have had little other effect than to reduce the swelling in his ancles. Both Dr. Pringle and Mr. Ward are of opinion that his lungs are affected, in which case they despair of accomplishing a cure, in the mean time all possible care shall be taken. You will take the proper way to communicate this to My Lord Braco and if any extraordinary change happens I shall not fail to write to you by next post.—I am, Dr Sir, Your most obed^t humble servant,

‘JAMES ABERCROMBY.’ (D.)

G. Grant to Lord Braco

‘LOND., 27 March 1753.

‘MY DEAR LORD,—Last night poor Mr. Duff paid his last debt to nature which I foresaw for some time tho’ others were of a contrary opinion. I have Coll. Abercrombie with me to Breakfast this morning and we have agreed to bury the poor youth in a frugal but decent and genteel manner in St. Margets Church, Westminster, in a Vault where his Grand Father Sr. James and severall of his cousines lie, we propose to do this on friday next in the evening¹—there are some debts due to tradesmen for necessarys supplied your son which it will be worthy of your Lordships honour to pay of, these cann amount to no greate sum, . . . what was necessary for Doctrs, Nurses, Lodging necessarys when languishing under sickness were it my case, I would pay these as well as his funeral charges. I beg pardon for offering unasked advice on this occasion—I have no view but regard for your Familys Honour. I shall allways be glade to do everything you cann expect from a friend to convince you that I am most truly, Your Lops. Mst. faithfull and Obedt. Sert.,

G. GRANT.’ (D.)

The two eldest daughters, ANNE, born 1725, and JANET, 1727, seem, unlike their eldest brother, to have had greater educational advantages than the younger ones. In the winter of 1739-1740, when they were fourteen and twelve, their father was passing the season in Edinburgh and took these two children with him, presumably leaving the six younger ones at Rothiemay with their mother. They had lessons in writing, dancing, music, etc., and their father seems to have taken great interest in their progress, and writes that he is ‘to give all their masters a bottle of wine, to prompt them to be at pains in teaching them.’ Later in the winter he writes that the ‘fever of cold from which Anne was suffering has turned to a fever of small-pox’; both girls seem to have had the disease rather badly, and Anne at least was in great danger and was marked for life. They were

¹ To avoid the arresting of the body for debt.

nursed by the landlady 'with great attention,' but with apparently no thought of isolation. During the crisis, her father writes that he has been 'brought in to promise a watch to Anne, on condition that she doe everything that 's advized for contributing to her recoverie, and that she don't touch her face or hurt her eyes. This being the 11th day she fell into the small-pox, they are blackening very well, but she has had a good load of them,' and later, 'She will be prettie much pittied, but we should be thankful when life and sight are preserved. She has plucked up a good deal of spirit since she got her sight again. She was uneasie with the diffuxion in them. Janet these two days past has a gentle fever. I shall be well pleased if prove the small-pox, because they are yet favourable. If there is anything worth while I 'll write you by the post, but I hope this will make you easier.'

Again: 'I much approve your calmness and good disposition on that head, which is worthy of you. To tell you the truth, Anne was in great danger, and therefore we have the greater reason to be thankful to Almighty God for her recoverie. Janet is now in perfect health.' But Janet was a delicate girl, and some time afterwards was threatened with consumption; lists of curious medicaments supplied for her use still exist, and the universal panacea, asses' milk, sometimes also 'goots' milk,' was prescribed, and 'tar water for the spitting of blood,' of which her father writes that 'since it is ane innocent thing, I see noe harm tho' Jessie try it.' It is strange to remember this in view of the hardships she went through in her later life, but she died at thirty-one. Her father also describes her as 'a very thoughtless and imprudent girl.' Anne was evidently the favourite.

Anne married, at twenty, her cousin, Alexander Duff of Hatton, and her subsequent history with that of her daughter is treated of under the Hatton family. She lived to be eighty.

Janet married at eighteen, in 1745, Sir William Gordon of Park, who had already identified himself with the Jacobite cause. He was described by an official of the Commissioners of Excise as 'A rebel Collonel, and very actif in distressing the country by levying money, using very violent measures.' Her father alludes to 'the young Knight of Park,' in connection with some fishing dispute in 1733, so he was considerably his wife's senior. She is said to have eloped with him from Rothiemay, leaping from a window for the purpose, and when, in the same year, Alexander Duff made proposals for the hand of Anne, the father writes to his wife that he strongly disapproves, and warns her to allow no correspondenee and to guard Anne carefully, 'in view of what happened lately.' Apparently the veto was shortly after removed in the case of Anne, and Janet was forgiven, for when her husband was proscribed after Culloden, and remained

some time in hiding on his own estates, she was with her mother at Rothiemay, and her daughter Jean was born there. Sir William escaped to Douai, where his brave wife followed him with her baby, somewhat against her father's wishes, and they lived there until William's death, June 5, 1751. The following letters give a pathetic picture of Janet's state of mind and of her life in exile :

Janet Gordon, Park, to her father, Lord Braco

'Aug. 26, 1747.

'MY LORD,—Nothing can give me more concern than my being obliged to write your Lordship of my resolutions of going abroad a thing that must be against what you would wish me to do. God knows what sorrow it gives me the thoughts of disobliging you but then I know my own weakness so well that tho' the many good reasons you would may be give me for my staying might get the better of me so far as I would yeald to your advice and promise to stay but I know I am quit uncapable of keeping to that resolution so I think it best to dell honestly and tell you my weakness. I hope in God as a kind parent you 'll forgive me for this step when you see its not in my power to get the better of it, in the first place were I to stay it would make a breach between my husband and me, as he has layd his positive comands on me to come over to him, and after what past between him and me at Edin^r I know it would break his peace and mine for ever if I disobey'd him. My dear Lord, you know I have mate with many missfortunes but the lose of my husband's affection would be heavier as all I have mate with and you may be assured that would be the consequence were I to stay after so many absolute orders he 's given me. I most earnestly beg of you that you 'll forgive me doing this and dont add your angre to my miseries as it would give me the utmost truble and uncaisness to offend my Lady or you, if you think it any way needfull for me to be in this country in the spring or at any time, I will most willingly come back as all I want is to see my husband and to show him that Ill obey him, but as I said befor whatever time you desire me to come back you may depend on my obeying you, when I see my husband Ill endeavour to show him that his sitation of his affairs is not in such a bad way as he imagions and show him at the same time that his friends is doing all that lys in there power to bring things to a happy conclustion. I shall add no more to this but beg your Lordship will continue your friendship to my husband and me and be assured that we will never fell in our dutifull regard what ever be our fates.—I ever am, My Dear Lord, Your most affectionate Daughter and Faithfull servant,

JANET GORDON.' (D.)

The next is to her mother two and a half years later :

'DOUAI, May 10, 1750.

'MY DEAR MADAM,—As I have the opportunity of Mr. Smith going to Scotland I can't deny myself the happeness of writting your ladyship and to

asure your ladyship of the satisfaction it gives me to hear you and all your familie being well, which I have the pleasure to hear pretty often, as there is alwise people coming to this from Britton, which I think is a great advantage to this pleace our hearing often of our friends. We would live pretty reasonable hear, if it were not for some English families that has come hear to settle, I dont mean merchants but people of condition, some upon accounts of there health and others for reasons that they choose to keep to thereselves, there is only some of them that I choose to be acquainted with, but not to be intimet with eithere of them, for its not for compinie that we stay hear, its to leave as cheap and private as possible and even if I could afford it I have no inclination, for the tender state of health I 'm in, the only devertion I take is any day that I 'm eable to go out, which is not many, to goe a little airing in the chaise, as Mr. Johnston ¹ is obliged to keep a chaise and horse upon the account of his traivling sometimes upon his bussiness and its cheaper as hyering horses, he leaves me tomorrow, and is oblidged to stay there till the first of November with his bussiness, I would glaidly hope he will get back for a few days when I am brought to bed, as at that time you may be sure it will be a great comfort to me, his being in the same place, whatever be my fate, considering the tender state I am always in, it is no great surprisse if the worst should happen me at such a time, but as I came throw last in the same tender state of health, it ought to encourage me now.

' We was a good deal alarmed hear with a feavour that they say was raging in Aberdeenshire, it gives me pleasure to hear no more of it. I was afraid it would come to Banffshire, I 'll asure you my dear Madam, that my thoughts is ofteneest there and many an anxious wish have I for all your health and happiness. I think oftener on my friends as I ought to doe, as it can be of no use to them and it only serves to disturb my mind, and can never bring me nearer them. Tho Mr. Johnston is as often with me as possible, yet its impossible for me when I think of being absent from all the friends I have, but it must make a very depth impration on me. I 'll asure your ladyship all the other unconveniences I have is not near so hard upon me as being banished from you and my dearest friends and not to think I have parents, but must be denyed the blessing of seeing them for even to have the happiness to be in the same country with you, its impossible that ever that can happen. Everybody els has a chance, but we have none, ever, to be so happy, you may be sure that the same thought is hard upon my friend and gives him more uneasiness as he cares to show, for my part I never speak to him on the subject, as my sorrow and grief is more touching to him as his own, for my melancholic may be easilie read in my face. You never saw such a change upon a person as there is on me every day and I am afraid instead of time making it the more easy to people in our way, it will rathere make it the worse, I am afraid the maladic du Pais will kill the most of us in spite of all the spirits the best of us have, the only happiness we can have is to hear sometimes from our friends. I beg my dear Madam, if you will make me happy to let me have but a line from you now and then to keep up my spirits.

¹ This name was used by Sir William Gordon for purposes of concealment.

' I beg you would cause my brothers write me, they blame me for not writing them oftener its impossible to them to think how hard it is on me to write or hold my head down to anything, I am so tormented with a violent trouble in my head which I am convinced is something of the ague, as it comes on alwise at a set time. I have neaver been altogether free of it since I come to this country, they say the bark is the only cure I can have.

' My dear Madam, I hope your goodness will excuse this long scrawl and be so good as to make offer of my affect. humble duty to my lord and my affect. best wishes to my young friends. Mr. Johnston is writting your ladyship so I shall only add that I am with the greatest respect and regard your ladyship most faithful and duttyfull humble servant,
JANET JOHNSTON.

' I return your ladyship many thanks for the dried fish they came very soft here and is very good. I wrote my sester to see if possible there could be a cookmaid sent me to dress our meat and help to wash our linnings, the man servant I got over is learning to market for me and seems to be very honest, as he does for that part. I want to keep no servant in a better way as a cookmaid. For a gentlewoman I am not such a fool as to set upon that footing, and I have been at a great loss with a drunken creator I have had for some time by past.—My dear Madam, Adieu.'
(O.)

Her son John was born at Boulogne in 1749, William in 1750, and a second daughter, who did not long survive, in 1751, after her father's death. The name of Johnston was adopted, even in letters to her parents, as a disguise for the attainted Jacobite, who still seems to have been very busy in his master's affairs. After his death, Janet writes that her mother may now address her as Duff or Gordon, since there are 'others taking the name of Johnston.'

George Forbes to Lord Braco

'DOUAI, 9 Aug. 1751.

' MY LORD,—If I had not reason to belive you was acquainted some time agoe of Sr. William Gordon's Death, I would have wrot you sooner on that subject and informed you fully of his Lady's melancholy and even destitute situation. She is not as yet brought to bed, as I was perswaded that Lady Braco was wrot to on that head I never doubted but some reasonable suplay would have been remitted to her, altho I have not talked to Lady Gordon about her situation as it would surely renew her grief, yet I find she would be intirely destitute in this country were it not for a very good firm in this place, the regard I have for your Lordship and Familie oblidges me use this freedom which I hope youll be so good as excuse to inform you that if you doe not order her money without delay she and her Family will be reduced to the greatest straits, for altho I and severall oysr in this country have all the Inclination in earth to doe her all

the service we are capable of, yet as to money matters which is what she needs most its entirely out of our power and I can assure that had she been in any oyr town but this she had been badly off longe befor this time, but here she luckely found a friend who hath supplied her hitherto, but as his funds are not very considerable it will not be in his power to continue the same favour much longer so for Godsake My Lord take this affair into your serious consideration and doe not delay sending her a speedie relief. As your Lop. may perhaps be at a loss to know what remittance she would presently need as not knowing the state of Sr. Wms. affairs here I shall take the liberty to tell you that Sr. Wm. had some few debts which he was necessarily oblidge to contract for the support of his Familie and if these are not speedily paid all the little effects he had and even his and his Ladys body cloaths will be sold for the payment of them which surly you would be vext at besides as he was not in a way to have any Ready money she hath been living on credit and therefor I believe you will need to remitt her betwixt 3 and 400 £ over otherwise she will be surly reduced to the greatest want. This goeth under cover to Mr. James Petrie advocat in Aberdeen. Ill bege your Lop. will be so good is make my Compliments to Lady Bracoe and worthie Familie and belive that I am, with the greatest truth and esteem, My Lord, Your Lops. most obed. and faithfull Hum. Sert.,

‘GEO: FORBES.’ (D.)

Janet Gordon to her mother

‘DOUAY, 24th Jan. 1752.

‘MY DEAR MADAM,—I delay’d answering your Layship’s kind letter till I should write to my Lord Clare and have his answer. He thinks I will know something of the Court’s determination as to my Pension by the Month of Aprile, Tho’ may be will not have it intyerlie Settled, and possibly it may be sooner, but that ’s what we cannot know till we see what time they bring all the affairs of Gratifications, and of Pensions before them. Mine will only be determined when those affairs comes in.

‘But as your Layship observes it will be the Month of Aprile befor I could take such a jurnie with my familie. I think it ’s best for me not to give over thoughts of it till I see what is to be done. At any rate I could wish it were not disagreecable to my friends and not prejudutial to my affairs in this Country, I would be glaid to come over to see my friends as I believe being amongst my friends and my own Country air will be the first thing that will ever bring me health ore spirits.

‘I will have some Guess against Summer, if what will be granted me be worth my while to stay in this country ore not, if I find its any thing considerable, I can Leave my Children hear, as I am sure they will be taken care of, and there being hear will make my Going out of the country for some time not taken notice off. If it is considerable ore a triffle that they Grant me I will write your Lay-

ship as soon as I can have my knowledge of it, and your Layship will give me your opinions if you think it worth my while of Robing myself for the rest of my days of the happeness being amongst my Friends.

'As I see things turn out, I can have your Layships advice if I should bring over my familie or not, I am pretty sure I'll get it so managed that I may come over for a few months and see my friends without being of any prejudice or hinderance to what Settlement they make for me, which will at least be Pleasure to me in the meantime, if I be so unhappy as to Leave absent from them afterwards to tell your Layship my true Sentiments, the thoughts of it, is very unsuportable, to me, and had I none but my Self to provide for I would rather choise to Leave in the narrowest Circumstances at home, then I would be oblidged to Stay in this country. It was hard upon me befor I lost all that was dear to me in it, but God knows it's Doubly so now Since He is Gone, if it be my fate I must Submite to it, as I have done to all my former missfortunes however hard it be upon me. Its one thing quit ceertain that I can never be a year out of thess country without the risk of lossing any Pension that is Settled on me and living in this country may be my interest, but will never be my inelentions let things be never so advantageous for me. But I shall be intyerly derycted by my Papa and you, and is determined what ever you think will be best for the interest of my familie I shall follow, I will Live hear as frugally as possible, till Summer that we know a little more what will be done.

'I have got a promise of a first Leu^{tt} Commession to my Eldest Son which is about five and therty pound a year, if they make out these promise I will soon know, as that Commession is just now vacant. It will at lest educate him, and if he be spared till he come of age and nothing better turn out for him at home it will give him a good rank for a better Commession.

'As near as I can tell you of my Suttuation in this Country is ; the Hunder Pound your Layship was so good as give me, cleared all the Debts we were owing, such as house Rents, familie accounts, and the Expence of my familie at Boulogne when I was absent and the Physicians account at Boulogne for attending my Eldest son when he was bad, and the rest of the children, The Physicians and Apothecary's accounts hear, and all the other Extraordinary Expence that the unhappy accident of Sir Wm.'s Death brought me, pay'd all the Chairges of my lying in and cleared all I was due till that time.

'Sincé I was brought to Bed you may believe I have not brought my Self in to great Difficultys as I have lived quit retyered, and at the easyest way possible, However my Sister's Bill of forty Pound was a very Seasonable relief to clear bygones and provide some little necessaries I stood in need of.

'My familie consists of tow maid servants, three children and my Self ; my youngest Child I have out at nurse, She stands me about eighteen shillings per months.¹

'My Health is rathere better than when I wrote your Layship last, but I am still very weak and tender and has violent headachs ; I believe I shall never be

¹ This child died young.

well till I have the happiness of seeing my friends, I thank God my young folks is pretty well save Willie that is a little tender with Teething.

'I beg my most affectionate Humble Dutty to my Lord and my sincer good wishes to my Brothers and Sisters and sincerly wish every thing that's good to you and them, I ever am, with the greatest regard and Respect, My dear Madam, your Layship Dutifull Daughter and most humble Servant,
'JANET GORDON.' (O.)

Apparently it was arranged that all should return, and in 1753 she married again, George Hay, younger of Mountblairy, and had a happy married life with him at Carnousie (which he had purchased from the trustees of Arthur Gordon), and she died there March 3, 1758. She had several Hay children, but only one daughter, born 1754, survived her.

There are many happy letters from her to her parents from Carnousie—Janet was always an excellent correspondent,—and the following from her husband about the children of her first marriage is interesting :

'I am very Happy to hear that your Lordp. has brought Mrs. Hays affair and Captain Gordons to such a bearing and must confess if your Lordp. had not the interest of these Children more at heart then other people, it had never come such a length. I hope the children will be gratefull, which is all I believe your Lordp. expects for your great Expense and trouble. Thank God they are all weel and want no thing so much now as a proper Plan of their education, which can be concerted by your Lordp. and their other friends. Wee have a surmise that Capt. Gordon hourly expects a call but in any event I dare say he will wait of your Lordp. Lady Cubbin [*his sister*] and him dine here this day. Lord Banff and I have been pritty oft together since he came to the Country and joking about the Sale of his Estate and I am not shure but if he finds a hearty merchant will dispose of it, this I only mention to your Lordp. as he does not want any person should suspect his selling, but if anything further occurs shall acquaint your Lordp. but should incline this letter should be burnt and not seen to any.

'If your Lordp. and family will honour us with a visite in your way home it will make us all very happy, and should be glade to know when you intend to sett out from Edin^r. All this family in the sincerest manner joins me in good wishes and respectfull compliments to your Lordp. Lady Braco and Family, and I always am with the greatest respect and esteem, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and most obliged humble servant,
GEO: HAY.

'CARNOUSIE, 3d Aprile 1755.

'To the Lord Braco at Rothiemay.

'P.S.—Mrs. Hay would have wrote Lady Braco but is just now most violently taken ill of one of her Collocks which wee are afraid may prove

dangerous in her present situation Laudonum is the only thing she expects case from.' (D.)

Jean Gordon, elder daughter of Janet and Sir William Gordon, married Duncan Urquhart of Burdsyards and had issue, and died 1767,¹ twenty-one years before her grandmother. It is conjectured that it was to *her* grandchildren that allusion is made in saying that old Lady Fife 'saw her descendants to the fifth generation.' Janet's two sons were both soldiers. John, the elder, had in his infancy a commission in the French army.² In his early manhood he became a great thorn in the side of his family, both Duffs and Gordons. Having been born abroad, after his father's attainder, he had, of course, no legal right to the baronetcy or the estate of Park. Eventually he obtained the baronetcy, but the entailed property went to his uncle, Captain John Gordon of the Marines. He came to Scotland in 1775 to claim both, and demanded money from his relatives. There are many allusions to him in Arthur's letters, who says in one place: 'Although Park makes him welcome to the title, I believe he will not have the complaisance to part with the acres.'

His uncle, James, Lord Fife, writes to Arthur: 'He is a terrible boy, John Gordon; keep clear of him, my dear Arthur, as much as you can. He has come to the country to lay his relations under a contribution of a trifle of £3000. Do you think he will find it easy?'

Arthur, the bachelor uncle, did offer money to send him back to France, but, at first, John would not go, and when he did, returned in the following year. 'Gordon is to sail in two days; Lord Fife will not see him, but says if his behaviour merit it, he will serve him' (March 14, 1775). 'He wants £3000 to purchase a colonelship in the French service.' Arthur then describes him as 'an eyesore to all the connection, a worthless, desperate, mean-spirited, lying, dishonest wretch.' All money advanced to him, even that obtained with great difficulty by his hard-working younger brother, was spent in gaming and dissipation.

'Poor Will Gordon, I am sorry for him, his horrid brother hath hurt him in more ways than in the purse.' 'His advance to his brother makes him live the life of a hermit.'

His grandmother, Lady Fife, was at one time favourably disposed towards him, and even mildly scolded her favourite son Arthur for hardness of heart in the matter, but she could take no pleasure in his society. 'I am informed,' she says, in the whimsical manner which makes her

¹ September 7, 1767, 'Died about ten days ago, some weeks after childbirth, Lady Burdsyards, at the family seat near Forres' (*Aberdeen Journal*). Burdsyards is now Sanquhar.

² For longer account see chapter xxxvii. on Gordons of Park.

letters such delightful reading, 'that Sir John is coming north next month, and is to take up his quarters with me all winter. I have had more agreeable company, but, poor man, he is to be pitied. I think his head is wrong.' At length, even she decides that his father's people ought to provide for him, and that 'the Captain¹ will have to draw his purse to him.' James Duff of Banff also refers in one letter to 'poor Johnny Gordon,' and intercedes for him.

He was finally despatched to India, with some difficulty. Arthur writes to his mother: 'We had a very disagreeable interview with Sir John Gordon yesterday. He had outrun the constable at Portsmouth, and without a fresh supply must have been arrested and lost his passage. Colonel B. Gordon and James Duff and I advanced twenty guineas to relieve him, with positive assurance we would not give one penny more, or ever again see him until he returned from India.'

His wife, Hannah Corner, the daughter of a baker in St. Martin's Street, London, had a sister married to a man in some position of authority in India. Arthur remarks, 'The connexion *there* might be useful. Here it is surely neither very honourable nor advantageous.' There were three children of the marriage: John Benjamin, died young; Sir John Bury Gordon, and Jessie, who married Richard Creed of Hans Place. Sir John died in 1781, killed at the siege of Bassein.

William, who was born at Douai, a year before his father's death, was a much more reputable personage, but unfortunately cursed with epilepsy. He got a commission in the 52nd Regiment, and became a lieutenant, but was unable to purchase a company. He served in America, and was on particularly friendly terms with his uncle Lewis, who was there at the same time. He died at Mountblairy in 1776, aged twenty-five, being at that time engaged in recruiting in the north.

Arthur writes: 'I cannot tell you how much affected I am at poor Will Gordon's death. I could not sleep last night with concern. Thank God, it did not happen at Rothiemay. I am told he had a fit when upon foraging duty in America, and was very near taken prisoner, being carried off the Field by five soldiers or it must have happened. This was, it seems, the reason, altho' unknown to him, that he was sent upon the recruiting duty.'

His grandmother also felt his death very much, and comments thus on the want of feeling shown by his aunt: 'I have had a letter from Lady Anne on the subject of poor Willie's death. She writes with as much indifference as if it had been her Catt that was dead!'

¹ His uncle and the then possessor of Park.

*William Braco Gordon, son of Sir William Gordon of Park, to
his grandmother, Jane, Lady Fife*

‘LONDON, 16th March 1775.

‘MY DEAR MADAM,—I certainly would have done myself the honor to have wrote your Ladyship on my arrivel delayed from day to day in expectation to have had the pleasure of acquainting you that a reconciliation had taken place betwixt Lord Fife and I. I made use of every means possible to bring it about. I ’m exceeding sorry to say that I have found his Lordship quite obdurate, and consequently must have recourse to other friends for their assistance as I cannot depend nor build upon the smallest aid from that Quarter, which you may believe me, my dear Madam, gives me real Concern. I have wrote Gight requesting the lend of two hundred pounds. I never mentioned the subject to him before, notwithstanding I ’m pretty confident the faver will be granted. I have wrote Cpt. Lewis Duff on the same subject for one hundred pounds, Mr. Hay, Rannes one hundred pounds, Mr. James Duff of Banff one hundred pounds and the two hundred pounds which your Ladyship had the goodness to promise me together with my little capital will amount to the sum totale for ascertaining the purchase of a Company when a Vacancy offers, which I ’m certain cannot possibly happen before the Regt. returns to Great Britain, when I make no doubt their will be toe three for sell. I intend restricting myself to Lieut.’s pay after I arrive at the Company and to allow the difference together with my annuity which will amount in all to about £150 per annum and in less than six years will repay my friends, while I shall always retain a proper sensibility of the obligation. Nothing but absolute necessity and ambition to get on in the World could have enduced me to follow this plan. I have been extremely punctual in attending the plays and other publick amusements every night since I came to Town and propose persisting during my residence, which will be but short. We embark Wednesday for certain and proceed strait for Boston, there are only 8 officers aboard the Transport I sail in. It will be doing me a particular faver to write me as often as convenient. My direction, Lt. Gordon, 52nd Regt., Boston. The American affairs are the chief topic here, every Coff. House and every different company you go into that subject is always brought upon the Carpet that you neither know which party to credit. When I get to Boston I shall endeavour to give your Ldp. the most authentic accounts I possible can. I don’t despair of being able to eat a Christmas goose with your Ladyship at Rothiemay.

‘I was exceeding sorry to hear from an officer yesterday of the Eighth Regt. that all the absent officers were order’d to join immediately which I ’m realy sorry for on account of my friend the Capt.¹ as I ’m persuaded returning a second time to America will be perfectly disagreeable to him. I have the

¹ His uncle, Lewis Duff.

honor to be, with the greatest gratitude and sincerity, my Dear Madam, Your most obedient and very Humble Servant,

‘ WILLIAM BRACO GORDON.

‘ Lady Fife.’

(O.)

The fourth child of William, Lord Braco, and his second wife Jean Grant was JAMES, his successor in the titles. His character and career are described in chapter xi. He was born in 1729 at Rothiemay. In his early years he and his brother Alexander were instructed by the tutor, Mr. Abel, and afterwards he was presumably at St. Andrews University, as were his four younger brothers (but the roll of alumni, as published, only begins just early enough to include Alexander, who entered in 1748). On the death of his elder brother he became his father's heir, at the age of twenty-four, and in 1759, as the eldest son of the Irish peer, he became Viscount Macduff. He seems to have had rather an overweening sense of his own importance, and quarrels between him and various members of his family were of frequent occurrence. His youngest brother Arthur says ‘ he volunteered in his quarrels with his friends ’ ; but during the latter part of his own residence in London appears to have been on most friendly terms. His mother writes of one of these occasions : ‘ Your noble brother is just as was expected. I would let him enjoy his good friendly temper at Whitehall by himself.’ Lewis also writes : ‘ I received a very polite epistle from his Majesty of Fife in answer to one I wrote him about Billy Gordon.’ But that his family affections were strong many of his letters to his favourite sister Anne, and to his youngest brother will show. Anne writes to her mother about some appointment which her husband was endeavouring to obtain : ‘ Macduff has really by his activity and friendship upon this occasion bound Mr. Duff to perpetual obligation. Lord Adam writes that the Viscount is immensely active, and I assure you Mr. Duff is very grateful.’

In 1760 Lord Macduff begs leave to recommend to the Duke of Newcastle, his brother-in-law, Mr. Duff, as candidate at next election for the county of Aberdeen, at present represented by Lord Adam Gordon. This must have been Alexander Duff of Hatton. Nothing seems to have come of the idea.

The fifth child and third son was ALEXANDER, afterwards third Earl Fife, whose career will also be found in the chapters on the Earls of Fife. His early education was the same as that of his brother James, two years older, and he afterwards went to the University of St. Andrews. He seems to have given no trouble to his parents in his youth, either as regards his health or his character. He was always an extremely correct person, and anxious to stand well ‘ with the powers that be.’ His younger brother

Lewis writes in 1767: 'I have seen honest Arthur twice since he came to town, but Sandie, for fear of disobliging his brother Fife, will not pay me a visit, and I am glad to see Sandie act so much like a politician, and as he thinks it will put him in the Court's good opinion, I shall most certainly excuse his visits.'

The sixth child was JANE, born 1732.¹ She married at twenty-one, in 1753, Keith Urquhart of Bethelnie, and is described in the *Aberdeen Journal* of the day as 'an agreeable young lady, with a handsome fortune.' He was son of William Urquhart of Meldrum, who wrote thus to her father about her:

'MELDRUM, October 10th, 1753.

'MY LORD,—Having lately understood that my son has a very great regard and affection for your Daughter Miss Duff and intends to offer his Service to her: I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship, that it is a thing extremely agreeable to me, providing it be so to you and my Lady Braco; and I will reckon it a great happiness to him as well as an advantage to my family, to have the honour of so near a connexion with your Lordships. I'm sorry that I can't make his fortune so great as she deserves, but you may believe that I will go all reasonable lengths that my circumstances can allow; and I will be very glad to know your Lordships Inclinations.

'I beg leave to offer my respectfull compliments to my Lady and all your Family and am with great respect, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and most faithfull humble servant,

W. URQUHART.' (D.)

They had four sons: James, who succeeded, born 1754;² Lewis, a captain in the Army, who died 1790; two others died in infancy; and two daughters, Jane and Mary, both unmarried. Shortly after the birth of her youngest child Jane left her husband and resided in London. All that is known subsequently is contained in the following letters from Arthur to his mother, and from her husband to Lord Fife of the same date. None of her own letters have been preserved, and her name rarely occurs in the family correspondence.

Arthur, as usual, interested himself in the career of these nephews. He took a great deal of trouble to obtain a commission in the 58th Regiment and a lieutenancy for Lewis, and helped him to raise the necessary men.

The two daughters were a good deal with their aunt, Lady Anne. One died in 1804.

¹ 'November 16, 1732. Jean, lawful daughter of William Duff of Braco, was baptised. Named after Dipple's first and second Lady and Lady Braco' (*Banff Registers*).

² 'On December 8, 1754, the Lady of Keith Urquhart of Bethelnie of a son and heir, at their house of Meldrum, to the great joy of this ancient family.'

Hon. Arthur Duff of Orton to his mother

'SUFFOLK STREET,
LONDON, March 19th, 1776.

'MY DEAR MADAM,—I was happy to understand by yours of yesterday that you was in good Health, altho almost buried with Snow. I met Lord Fife this Day at the House of Commons, who gave me a Piece of Intelligence and desired me to communicate it to your Ladyship. For this five years past it seems Lady Jean Urquhart has lived at Mile End, unknown to any Friend. She Died last night, and is to be privately entered Tomorrow Evening, McKey the grocer and His Servant only to be present. I beg'd He wd. not put Her Death in the Papers, but cannot tell you whether He will comply or not, I leave this place on Saturday or Sunday morning and will hardly write again until I get to Edinboro, as I will be much hurried getting all my things put up, and attending the Militia Ball, and our appeal, which comes on Tomorrow and Thursday. Lewis and Mrs. Duff are very well, they go to live at Hampstead on Monday and will remain there a month. George and Mrs. Duff were well when I saw them last, which was a few days ago. The Admiral is much better and I am with great Truth, Dear Madam, most affectionately yrs. ARTHUR DUFF.' (O.)

Keith Urquhart to Lord Fife

'MY LORD,—I received yours yesterday with the accounts of Poor Lady Jean's death. Several circumstances mentioned by your Lordship have very sensibly and tenderly affected me—I have to thank you for the melancholy trouble you have taken upon the Occasion. I yesterday sent an express to Rothiemay to acquaint my Lady Dowager of this event and have delayed informing my daughters of it until I shall have her Ladyship's answer. I must acknowledge that I have some doubts of the Propriety of publishing her Death in the Newspapers and of my Familys' going into mourning. It will again set the talkative tongues of the world agoing and revive a Topic of conversation which seemed to have been for several years exhausted. However if your Lordship still continues of the same mind I shall most certainly think it my Duty to comply. The delay will not be much as the event is known to none in this country except to Mr. Duff and Capt. Abercrombie to whom I communicated it and who both seem to be of the same opinion with me. They and all your Lordships relations as well as mine will immediately go into mourning. I believe I need hardly ask if Lady Jean has made any savings or if she has thought of her children in the disposal of such. I much approve of your Lordship's disposal of the few things in the House with the exceptions you mention—I intended this summer to have given a commission to Mr. Mair the Agent to buy watches for each of my daughters. May I presume to beg of your Lordship to take that trouble. I will not speak of a price nor of the kind of watches as I am sure you will do what is decent without being extravagant for my circumstances. I would suggest to sell their mothers watch and her few trinkets for what they may bring, and the overplus

shall be most thankfully paid to your Lordships order. I wait with some impatience for your answer and have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's much obliged and most obedient humble servant, KEITH URQUHART. (D.)

'BANFF, March 27th, 1776.'

The Urquharts of Meldrum of the nineteenth century are descended from the brother of Keith Urquhart.

GEORGE, the fourth son, was born in 1736, and with his next brother Lewis went in charge of a tutor to St. Andrews in 1751. Previous to that date, these two were in Edinburgh. William, Lord Braco, writes to Archibald of Drummair, April 1747, 'I have been here since the mid. of Nov. and must remain here until the end of the month, chiefly on account of my two younger sons, who are at the Colleges in this place and whom I do not think it convenient to leav.' The tutor, A. Morton, writes in 1753 that he is 'endeavouring to make George acquire a good hand of write, arithmetick, and book keeping and the French tongue, so necessary in the way of trade.' So he was apparently designed for a mercantile career, but at the age of nineteen was gazetted a cornet in the 10th Regiment of Dragoons, and was two years in the Army. In the end of 1756 he contracted a hasty marriage with Frances, granddaughter of General Dalzell, and kept it secret for some months. He left the Army and settled in London in Burlington Street, as his wife, who brought him some money, refused to go to Scotland.¹ It is not known exactly what he did in London, but he resided for many years in Clarges Street, and Queen Street, Mayfair, and subsequently at Putney (then a very remote country place). His brothers James, Lewis, and Arthur all complain of his want of friendliness and sociability, but he was a most devoted father. He had four children: JAMES, the eldest, born 1758, unfortunately, a lunatic from birth; GEORGE, born 1760; JANE, 1765; and FRANCES, June 26, 1766, in Elgin. His wife died in 1778, and after her death and that of his daughters, he returned to Scotland and resided at Milton Duff, near Elgin, and latterly at the Sth College in Elgin, which he purchased in 1768. He took some share in public affairs, and became Convener of the county. He died in 1818, aged eighty-two, and intestate, leaving considerable landed property. In 1755 Lord Braco had disposed to his son George the lands of Straloch; in 1756 the lands of Dunnideer—this for political purposes only.

By his testament-dative, issued by the Court after his death, all his lands including Bilbohall (*vide infra*), went to his second son GEORGE.

The eldest son JAMES is referred to occasionally in the family letters,

¹ At least for the first ten years of their married life.

'George's son returns on Monday to school, and he is to go with him in the coach,' and in the following from his mother :

Frances Duff to Lady Fife

'Dec. 31st . . .

'DEAR MADAM,—I was honor'd with your Ladyship's favor, and shall take as much care of Fanny as possible, the giving her brinestone is thought to be unnecessary.

'The children are well, and they give us many agreeable hours, indeed in this place their company makes us very happy, as we should be often at a loss for want of amusements.

'Denton is very alert, she is here and there, up stairs and down stairs, unfortunately, in the midst of a contest with the cook, she fell and maim'd her leg, which has confined her some days to her bed, she thinks that it is a judgment on her for the altercation she had with the cook. I am frequently in amazement.

'Mr. Duff observing that I am at a loss for subject to write to your Ladyship in this retirement, desires me to apologise for his not being a better correspondent, I answer that he has so often practis'd that part of epistolary writing, that he can do it infinitely better than I can.

'Jem just now read to me, good gods ! how he does read. He is a riddle, I hope some sensible man will expound him.

'Mr. Duff joins with me in desiring our affectionate compliments to all friends round your fire side.—I am, with great respect, Dear Madam, Your ladyship's Most Dutifull and Obedient Serv: FRANCIS DUFF.' (O.)

This James Duff long remained a mystery, as he was known by the following letter (from the grandfather of the present writers to his sister) to have been alive in 1828, but the mystery was solved by the discovery that he had been placed at a private asylum named Beaufort House, North End Road, S.W., under the name of James Thompson.

'ABERDEEN, 31 May. 1828.

'MY DEAR BESSIE,—I have deferred for some time writing, wishing to give you the issue of my endeavours to establish myself, as far as could be done, in the property, intended for me by Lady Jane's late cousin Major George Duff. The other properties of which he died possessed were left to the second son of General Duff and to Mr. Wharton respectively, but owing to the state of the titles of the property of Bilbohall which he intended for me, being incomplete, the Disposition in my favour was not made out at the time of his death. Lord Fife, however, and the others nearest in succession, have, as far as in their power, endeavoured to carry into execution the Major's recorded intentions in my favour. But as he left a brother who has been insane from early life and is now towards

seventy years of age, full possession cannot at present be given, that brother, notwithstanding his state, being heir at law, and steps are taken in the meantime to give me control of the property by having me made Curator Bonis.

'ALEXANDER FRANCIS TAYLER.'

Two months after the death of George, in July 1828, a certificate was obtained from the surgeon of Beaufort House, Mr. Maule (whose private residence was in Piccadilly), who writes thus :

'I hereby certify that the person designated as Mr. James Thompson and alluded to in the accompanying certificates, is in reality James Duff the eldest son of the Honourable George Duff of Elgin ; that fifty-seven years ago he was placed in the establishment called Beaufort House where he still is, under the superintendence and management of my late father, who as an intimate friend of the late Hon. George Duff undertook the guardianship of his idiot son, that as a matter of delicacy and family feeling, or from other motives the origin of which I am not acquainted with, he was nominated James Thompson, under which name he has ever since been known ; that since the death of my father, thirty years ago, I have executed the same office of friendship by watching over the well-doing and proper treatment of the said James Duff, otherwise Thompson, and that I have regularly paid for his support, maintenance and clothing, such sums as his late father appropriated and were found sufficient for that purpose. Finally, I certify that I saw him a few days ago (June 29), when he was still in the same hopeless state of fatuity in which I have seen him for the last forty years upwards, that his infirmity is irremediable, and that he is in every way incapable of managing the most ordinary affairs. WM. MAULE.'

James died in Beaufort House, March 29, 1832, after nearly sixty years residence there, aged seventy-four.

George, born 1760, is frequently referred to in the family correspondence as 'the Ensign.' He was at school at the 'Kensington Gravel Pits,'¹ where his uncle Arthur visited him. While at another school, he was sent home ill, 'in a raging fever, speechless, delirious with quinsy. All his skin came off, and every servant who attended him was in some degree effected in like manner.' Nowadays little George would probably have been isolated for scarlet fever. Lady Fife writes of his parting with his sister Fan : 'The ensign left me Monday last. He went to Houseday (Housedale) that night. It was a terrible "greeting"² morning here, but I hope we will get over his absence.' His uncle James obtained a commission for him in the Guards in 1781. He was given to gambling

¹ Now Orme Square, Bayswater. The gravel was sold to contractors and laid down on the Nevsky Prospect in St. Petersburg. A Russian eagle in stone now adorns the centre of Orme Square in commemoration of this fact.

² Crying.

and bad company, as shown in the following letter from James, second Earl Fife, to his brother Arthur :

‘ Feb. 15th.

‘ MY DEAR ARTHUR,—I have wrote my mind fully to Brother George about his Son, to which I refer you, there is an absolute necessity for doing some thing directly. I hear that George is going to shops and taking up goods in order to raise money, that he has taken into Company with a Valet du Chamber who is out of Place and some Adventurer in Gambling, you must see where this must end and that directly, I did not say this to his Father as it is so very disagreeable, he must not be deceived, and yet one would not like to inform him of more than is absolutely necessary, you may easily figur how much pain this gives to me. I have fairly offered my Brother my opinion and sent the Stile of letters I think necessary for him to write.

‘ I am recly quite weary with this horrid weather, worse this day almost than ever, I think above they are all mad. Duty to my Mother.—Yours, etc., etc.,
‘ FIFE.

‘ After full consideration I think it best to send my letter to George oppen that you may deliver it in a proper time but for God sake delay not for I am in terror I cannot describe, for fear of some thing horrid.’
(O.)

On February 10, 1784, Lord Fife writes to his brother George from London :

‘ Since my letter of the 7th Instant, I have had several conversations with your son and have got him to give me a state of the money he owes, but I will not answer for the authenticity of it. From the information I have, I find it absolutely necessary to get him out of this town and for that purpose I have been obliged to make application to the commanding officer for leave of absence which with great difficulty I have obtained for two months. My principal reasons for so doing were that applications for the payment of most of the money would soon come upon him, particuarly the Jeweller the nature of which transaction being exposed might bring disagreeable consequences upon himself besides injuring him greatly in the opinion of the Regiment; added to the above, I must likewise observe to you that the manner of his living in this place could not fail, by his continuing, to involve you much deeper in expense. I have therefore advised him to set off immediately for Scotland and himself lay the situation of his affairs before you. In this my Dr. Sir I have acted to the best of my Judgment for your Interests. You will have time to determine what steps are best to be taken as I mentioned in my last, if I can be of the least service in extricating you out of this disagreeable situation or assisting you in getting an Exchange for him with some other regiment, I shall be happy in doing everything in my power. As little time as possible should be lost in forming some resolution and acquainting me therewith, as it will be impossible to get his present leave of absence extended.’
(R.)

In 1786 it is reported that his conduct was 'better.' He was promoted as Lieutenant and Captain, April 7, 1784, and exchanged as Captain to the 58th Foot, April 6, 1785. He went on half-pay in 1791, and was then transferred to the Irish half-pay list. He was mixed up in a disgraceful scandal in Ireland in October 1792. 'Henry Arthur Herbert has obtained in Ireland a verdict of £15,000 against Major Duff of the 38th Regt: (58th) for "criminal conversation" with his wife.' There are allusions to the case in his uncle's letters, and also in one from Miss Jean Duff.¹

Jean Duff, Scarborough, to William Rose

'May 18, 1791.

'I was sorry to hear of the conduct of Major G. Duff. I fancy from all I have heard of him, he has been extremely giddy and thoughtless and has given much trouble to his Father in the former part of his life. This affair he has been engaged in will in all probability prove a serious business. I am afraid the Father will be the greatest sufferer as the consequences must fall upon him, if there is damages procured.'

(R.)

James, Lord Fife, to his brother Arthur

'INNES HOUSE, June 17th, 1796.

'DEAR BROTHER,—I wished to have breakfast at Orton this morning, but I take it for granted you staid at Elgin. I am so harrid with different things that I cannot make longer stay here just now, but hope to be able to return soon. I freely felt for poor Major Duff, I got the letter I put in your hands just a little before. I have writ to him this morning to make him easy, the delay is owing to Mr. Herbert's Militia situation. I had a letter on the subject from Mr. Chas. Herbert last week; they are anxious to bring it to conclusion, so of course will push it, and poor George Duff has only to be as much at ease as possible, with the full assurance of being free of every apprehension of danger from any trouble, for that I get quick settled. I realy hope from his letter that he will from Youth and a resolute life recover health and strength.'

After this, little is heard of George. He never married, and died in 1828, leaving the bulk of his estates to his first cousin General Alexander Duff's second son, George Skene Duff, then a minor, as the elder son James, heir to the earldom, was already sufficiently provided for. (According to old Scottish custom, his will directs that earth, water and corn from the estate, and the clapper of the mill be handed to G. S. Duff as a sign of possession.) Some other portions had been previously made over to Richard Wharton Duff, another first cousin, and the small estate of Bilbo-

¹ See chapter xxxiv.

hall, near Elgin, he had intended, as previously seen, to give to the husband of his cousin Jane, Major Alexander Francis Tayler.

' Bilbohall came into the Duff family in 1724, being conveyed to William Duff of Braco by John Dunbar. In 1751 Lord Braco conveyed the property to his son Alexander, and the latter in 1755, with the consent of his father, conveyed it back to Lord Braco in liferent, and to the Hon. George Duff in fee. George and his son George both appear to have held the property, but no title was made up in their names. Major George, the son, died in 1828, having by will disposed of all his properties except Bilbohall, which accordingly fell into intestacy, his heir-at-law being his brother, Mr. James, who was " fatuous." But owing to the papers conveying this estate to Major Tayler having been duly prepared although not executed, the relatives of Mr. Duff applied for the appointment of Major Tayler as his Curator Bonis, and at the same time granted a deed conveying to him all right and title which they, as heirs of Mr. James Duff, might have to the Estate at his death, and binding themselves to grant any further deeds which might be necessary for completing the major's title.' Four years later, at the death of James, the major's title was made absolute, and his son, William James, had a formal conveyance from the Earl of Fife, dated 1863. Bilbohall is now in the possession of the present writer, and the facts in connection with it have an additional interest from the circumstance that the Mr. Duff who, in 1912, considered himself to have a claim to the Fife title, believed himself to be descended from the above Major George Duff, whose name he stated to have been Daniel George.¹ His own grandfather, whose name was Daniel only, was an entirely different person, and will be noted in the proper place.

George's elder daughter, Jane Dorothea, was chiefly brought up by her mother in London, but in 1776 was at Rothiemay, as her grandmother writes accounts to the parents of her progress under an ' epidemical distemper,' and in 1780, after her mother's death, she was living at Rothiemay, as her father writes to enjoin her to conform in all things to her grandmother's directions. She seems afterwards to have returned to London and kept house for her father. In 1792 her death is recorded ' while on a journey in the north of England for the recovery of her health.' It is not known where she is buried.

Frances, or ' little Fan,' the youngest child, seems to have been the universal family pet. She was brought up at Rothiemay by her adoring grandmother, and constant allusions are made to her in the letters of all the family. She seems to have been very delicate, and at one time fell a

¹ Or from a younger brother of George, named Daniel.

victim to the scourge of smallpox, and later would seem also to have been consumptive, while in 1777 she had jaundice. Constant references occur to her small appetite. Her little cousin James, son of the Admiral, had been ill, 'but the little fellow is now fine and well and sends his love to his cousin Fan, with orders for her to eat hot meat'; and James's elder brother (afterwards Colonel Robert William of Fetteresso) is thus alluded to: 'Bob sends his love to Fanny, she has his whole heart.' Both children were then about nine.

In 1775 Lady Fife describes how she and Fan play 'catch honour' every evening, and how her small companion 'diverts her more than any other company.' She was the greatest favourite of her uncle Arthur, who sends constant messages to 'Miss Monkey,' to 'Lady Fan,' and to his 'little wife,' also packs of cards, books, 'provision for her birds,' and other gifts. At one period he is moved to compare her attainments unfavourably with those of her sister Jane in London. (Jane at this period was ten and Fan eight):

'Pray make my most respectful compliments to Miss Fanny and inform her that she will be much affronted if she does not give very great attention to her new master, as I do assure you she is at present far, nay, partial as I am to her I must say, *very far*, behind her sister, who reads English and French extremely well, speaks both languages very easily, writes and counts to admiration, and is I am told very good at her needle, and as to her carriage it is quite elegant. Much would she be ashamed to have any occasion for a bridle, and I am in hopes, against we meet, Fan will have as little, or she will not be able to hide herself in any corner, but I shall find her and send her in a ship to Mrs. Denton's care, but if she is a good girl, I will get liberty for her to stay with you and will bring her some prettie things beside.'¹ (O.)

Affectionate letters to her from all her aunts are to be found, almost always inquiring after her health, and there is also an invitation, dated 1783, from Mary Morison, stepdaughter of her uncle Robert (and future wife of the 'Bob' who had given her 'all his heart') to pay a visit at Haddo. She died suddenly at Rothiemay in 1787, at the age of twenty, and was buried at Grange, the body being subsequently moved to the mausoleum at Duff House.

'ROTHIEMAY, 8th March 1787.

'DEAR SIR,—Miss Frances Duff my niece died Here Tuesday last and is to be Interred at Grange upon Monday next the 12th inst.

'The Honor of your Company Here by Eleven of the Clock that day, to

¹ In 1779 a servant named Grizel Crow writes to ask for news of 'Miss Fanny, charming young creature,' and signs herself, 'The humble handmaid of the good old Countess.'

attend Her Funeral to the Place of Interment, will confer a singular obligation upon, Dear Sir, your most obed^t Humble Servant,
 'To William Rose, Montcoffer.'
 ARTHUR DUFF.
 (R.)

From a letter written by Keith Urquhart to his mother-in-law, Lady Fife, of approximate date 1785, it appears that his eldest son James had fallen in love with one of the daughters of his uncle George, presumably Fan, who must have been a most attractive person. Keith Urquhart's letter is so characteristic of the tyrannical father of the period that it must be given in full :

'MELDRUM, circa 1785.

'MADAM,—As my Son has been twice at Rothiemay within this short time, and for a good while together, your Ladyship and Mr. Duff, I presume, cannot be ignorant of his Errand. You are both likewise so far acquainted with the Circumstances of my Family as to comprehend thoroughly that any marriage which does not bring money along with it, must end in *his* Destruction, and put an End to our Family with Regard to its Station among the landed Gentry of this Country. I have always loved my Children, and have ever had it in view not only to save, but, if possible, to build up my Family. For this Reason I have abstained from re-Marriage myself, at a time of Life when many a Man would have thought himself well intitled to please his Fancy, and to embrace any Condition of Life which he might think would most tend to his satisfaction. What Steps I have taken to procure an advantageous marriage for my son, it is not now the Time to declare, nor am I altogether at Liberty to do so, yet I will go the Length to say, that a full Consent was obtained from two of the nearest of kin (one of them the Parent) and nothing remained to be done, but that he should endeavour to recommend himself to the good opinion of the young Lady. That is now over, which is Disappointment enough to me, and though I never thought myself intitled to force a Marriage upon him, yet I think myself perfectly well intitled to put a negative upon any marriage which I may judge to be improper for him. That negative I *have* put upon the present occasion, and will steadily adhere to it, and have little Doubt but that your Ladyship, who are the common Parent of both the young Folks, will concur and co-operate with me. Give me leave, therefore, to expect, as I believe the World will, that your Ladyship and Mr. Duff will forbid my Son the House of Rothiemay for the present. I have let him know roundly what he was to expect at my Hands, have forbid him this House and the Prohibition shall not be taken off until he returns to a sound mind. Your Ladyship knows that by my Contract of Marriage, I can settle my Estate upon any Son of the marriage. You know that I am the unlimited Proprietor of the Estate, insomuch that I can sell it, or I can contract Debt to the Value of it, and convey the money by Bonds to the Children I may have by any subsequent marriage, or to whomsoever I please. My Son was yesterday at Hatton Lodge, from which Place he wrote a long Letter to me, full of crackt brained Extravagance, and the most Childish Impertinence. I believe no Father

before ever received a Letter in such a Stile from a Son. I am sorry for the Pain which this subject must give your Ladyship, and I have no Doubt but I have your Sympathy in Return. I desire to offer my best Respects to Mr. Duff, and have the Honour to be, very respectfully, Madam, Your Ladyship's most obedient and most humble Servant,

KEITH URQUHART.

'He has exposed his whole story to Dr. and Mrs. Abernethie.' (O.)

The Mr. Duff referred to is Arthur, now retired from Parliament and settled at Rothiemay. James Urquhart seems to have submitted to the parental decree and subsequently (in 1788) married Miss Forbes,¹ but had no children, and the estates passed to a cousin. He and his father were never on very good terms. Keith Urquhart and *his* father had lived together in the same house for some years without speaking.

Next to George in the family came LEWIS, originally called LUDOVIC, born in 1737. The name occurs in both forms, but that he himself preferred the English form is shown by the following note to his brother, Lord Fife, when his signature was required for the (proposed) sale of Braco :

'KELVEDON, Mar. 18, 1772.

'MY LORD,—I remit the paper signed, agreeable to the Directions received—I have always signed Lewis, In the paper I am designed Ludovick. I have adhered to my usual subscription, thinking there might be an Impropriety in deviating from the established custom. I suppose this difference of Signature can be of no material consequence, as they are confessedly the same name. Mrs. Duff joins in affect. Respect.—I am, my Lord, Your affect. Brother and obedient Servant,

LEWIS DUFF.'²

Lady Fife records that George, Lewis, and Helen all had 'the good kind of pox' together. Whether this refers to chicken-pox or to a mild attack of smallpox, is not explained. Lewis was educated with George until 1754, when he presumably showed greater aptitude for learning, and was sent from St. Andrews first to Leyden and then to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he is entered as 'the Hon. Lewis Duff, born in Banff, Banffshire.'

His elder brother Alexander writes shortly afterwards that 'Lewis' studies goe on but slowly, and the company he keeps is none of the best.' There is no record of what line of study he pursued, nor of his success or

¹ Miss Forbes, daughter of William Forbes of Skellater and Balbithan, niece of Mrs. Abernethy, wife of Dr. Abernethy, a physician in Banff. It was in honour of this lady that Isaac Cooper wrote his famous melody, 'Miss Forbes' Farewell to Banff.'

² Lyon Office. That he was wrong in so signing, his baptismal certificate proves. 'On June 13, 1737, LUDOVICK, fifth son of William, Lord Bracco, was born and baptized and so named after Ludovick, Laird of Grant and Major Lewis Grant' (*Banff Registers*).

otherwise in the schools, but if he were destined for a learned career some other influence would seem to have stepped in, and in 1757 he appears as a Cornet in the 1st Royal Dragoons. In 1762 he was transferred as Captain to the 8th Regiment, and in that he remained, serving in Germany in 1767, and in America 1775, and retiring in 1777. He seems to have been blessed with fair health, but an incurably melancholy disposition. Even from Cambridge, in writing to his mother for money, he complains that the climate does not suit him, and that everything is against him. After entering the Army his grumbles are perpetual, as to how hard it is to live on his pay, the small chances of promotion to one without great interest, the uncertainty of a soldier's life, and the frequent changes of abode. He seems to have been stationed in various parts of Essex for some time, and in 1767 he married Deborah, daughter of Grillith Davies of Harwich. She does not appear to have brought him any fortune, but for nearly thirty years she was a devoted wife, putting up with his misanthropic humours. She writes to his parents at frequent intervals :

Deborah Duff, wife of the Hon. Lewis Duff, to Lord Fife

‘QUEBEC, August 2th, 1770.

‘MY LORD,—At this time of year we have frequent opportunities of sending letters to England which makes me be rather a troublesome correspondent to you but as you have often expressd a desire of hearing from us induces me to write often to inquire how your Lordship and Lady Fife is. I hope both well, and likewise hope next summer to find you so on our return home. A great many people goes from this in a day or two. Amongst which is Col. Carlton, Mr. Obrian and Lady Susan, a number more but those are unknown to your Lordship so it would be needless to mention them. This country at this season is very pleasant but the weather by far too hot in the day for which the evening rewards us by being delightfully cool and you may walk very late by moonlight and not be a sufferer by the dew which in great Britain falls after sunset and is very dangerous ; but here I have never felt the least dampness in the air at that time and have often wished your Lordship was here for a week to enjoy the sweet rural rides through the most romantic agreeable woods that can be imagined, as I am sure you, for that time, would like this country. Longer then that might tire you.

‘I suppose your Lordship is now enjoying yourself in the sweet walks at Duff House, it was a most beautifull spot when I was there, but the improvements you are always making must have rendered it still more so. The 52nd Regiment are all here but W. Gordon is not yet come, having got the Major's leave to go and see a little of the upper Country and does not return till November. We have made every inquiry and find he turns out very well and is much liked, by the best part of the Officers. I hope soon to be favord with a letter from your

Lordship in which I hope to here good news of all my friends health. My Dearest friend joyns in wishing your Lordship and Lady Fife every happiness and I remain, My Lord, your Lordships most obliged Humble Servant,

‘D. DUFF.’ (D.)

To his mother from Harwich : ‘Do try to persuade him to come to you as soon as our time is out here. His health is better, and I am sure if once he could get the better of his whims, that the journey would make him still better.’ And later, from Scotland : ‘The Major is not so well nor so contented as I could wish, but I hope time will make him so.’ They had no children.

Nine years after his marriage, Lewis left the Army, apparently entirely by his own wish, because he saw no chance of advancing beyond the rank of Major,¹ and was moreover unwilling to go a second time to America. But no sooner was the step accomplished than he began to regret it, took various unavailing measures to recall it, and lamented it for the rest of his life. Seemingly, had he not retired just at that juncture, he might have had the chance of commanding his regiment, and the brothers on hearing of this unanimously exclaim that they are ‘sorry for his wife.’ ‘The Lt.-Colonel of Lewis’ regiment is dead, and promotion open without purchase. What an unfortunate man he will be’ (December 20, 1776). A year later Arthur writes, in December 1777 : ‘I had a letter from Lewis last night. He seems, poor man, still in very low spirits and repines at being forced out of the Army. Had he continued he must have been this day still more unhappy, as he would have been a prisoner with Burgoyne. If indeed he had survived the fatigues of the campaign.’ So sure was his family that in whatever situation Lewis found himself, it would be matter of complaint. About this time, Deborah writes again : ‘My dear Major has been a good while and greatly distressed with his bilious complaint. My stomach much about the same. Both I fear are too deep-rooted ever to be cured, patience is the only doctor.’

And later to her mother-in-law :

‘BLERVIE, FORRES, 27th Dec. 1776.

‘MY DEAR MADM.,—Most sincerely do I wish that this letter may find you and all friends in that good health that the major and I so ardently hopes will

¹ He wrote to his brother on the occasion :

‘FORRES, *Sept.* 14th, 1776.

‘Major Duff presents his compliments to Lord Fife. He takes the Liberty of informing his Lordship that He is obliged to quit the army, that notwithstanding his very severe Service he has met with peculiar ill usage, indignity and oppression to which as he had no interest to support him he has been forced to submit. The Major returns Thanks to his Brother for his generous Protection and kind countenance from his first entering into his Profession to the present Period when every object of ambition is terminated.’

ever attend you all. This season of the year is generally observed by all ranks and degrees of people and employed by social meetings of friends and Relations together the time passes in scenes of Mirth and Jollity. Give me leave my Dear Mad^m to express My Wish that you may enjoy a Merry Cheerfull X'times and many returns. The Major and me rec^d a great shock from the Accounts of poor Billy Gordons Death tho the manner of it was no more then from the nature of his melancholy complaint might have been daily expected yet when Accidents Like that happens the shock must be great to all Friends concerned. I should think if sir John has any feelings of nature about him he must upon the present occasion be miserable. I hope it may have a good effect and bring him to some sense and consideration. He has lost a good friend and a truly affectionate Brother, it is not a month ago since poor William sent an express from Rothiemay to the Major for £30 to make up the sum wanted to send sir John out of the country, expressing at the same time his regret at not being able to give it himself. Poor Lad, I fear he gave too much. Do not, My Dear Mad^m, let his Death hurt your Spirits, he is at rest and no doubt happy. While he was alive he was in constant danger and his friends in constant terror.

'I have not seen any of the Brodie family since I wrote last, having been confined with a swelled face and tooth ach, but hear Lady M. is much as usual Brodie fine and hearty. I will go as soon as I am able after which I will acquaint you how I find things. Mr. and Mrs. Cumming with some more Acquaintance Passed the X^mas day here they are both well. The new years day We are to be at Altyr with the same party. The Delvey family and Altyr are at present quite out. The wheel of time will turn them in again. They each think themselves in the right and I think them both in the wrong, for so few neighbours as we have here about it is nonsense to quarrell. I beg my kindest good wishes to Mr. Wharton Lady S: Fanny and little Arthur,¹ being ever Dr Mad^m with sincere respect, Your most Affect. and obed^t,
D. DUFF.' (O.)

After his retirement, Lewis and his wife lived for some time in Craven Street, and the three younger brothers saw a good deal of one another in London. Subsequently he adjourned to the small property left him by his father, Blervie, near Forres, and built a mansion-house there.

'The estate of Blervie, situated 2½ miles S.-E. of Forres, was purchased by William, Earl of Fife, in 1724, from Alex. MacIntosh, his brother-in-law. The Hon. Major Lewis Duff, quitting the ancient castled seat of the Dunbars on the summit of the hill, built a handsome modern seat, snugly sheltered.' The estate was later in the possession of the Grant Duffs of Eden and Ainslie Douglas Ainslie, who sold it to Captain Galloway.

According to Lewis' own and Deborah's letters, never had man been so deceived or ill served by workmen. Deborah writes: 'The nicest part of the house is now "going about," and if the workmen are not watched

¹ Wharton.

narrowly they will do nothing aright.' 'They served us ill with timber for the roofs.'

And when once they were settled in their own house, never was neighbourhood so unwholesome or so dull. He writes to his mother of his toothache as if it were a national calamity, and seems uncertain whether he is more injured by attentions or by neglect from the despised neighbours. Even his sister Margaret at Brodie he seldom saw, as he was not on friendly terms with her husband, and declined a visit to Hatton and another to Rothiemay, owing to some fancied slight in the manner of conveying the invitations. After Deborah's death in 1796 he did not live much at Blervie, but took up his residence at No. 13 Margate,¹ from whence he writes: 'Health is now my sole speculation. I pass my time very agreeably with reading, walking, and conversation.'

He writes to his brother-in-law, Thomas Wharton :

'13 MARGATE, July 1, 1798.

'DEAR SIR,—Altho' there is nothing in this Place, that can possibly interest or amuse you, yet I think it my Duty to inquire after you, Lady S. and Family—and it will make me very happy to learn that every thing is in the State I wish. I am settled in the comfortable House where I lodged last year. Our Society is small but select. There is an ease and tranquillity which is pleasing to one long satiated with the Bustle, Dissipation and Folly of the World. It is indeed a perfect Contrast to the Scenes passing around which are in a stile of Whim and Eccentricity beyond Description. We have a very sensible, agreeable old Lady who dines occasionally with us, she is a Sister of the celebrated Wilks, she has seen a Variety of Life, is full of anecdote and makes proper and just observations on every subject that occurs in the course of Conversation. She is indeed a Character, but there is a general Humanity and Philanthropy which throws a pleasant Vail over her Peculiarities. Nothing so forcibly evinces her oddness, altho' she has taken a large house, with a full establishment of Servants, who live in the greatest luxury, yet she dines with us every Day in order to enjoy a Dish of Chat without Ceremony. I left the young Consul Brodie² in Town, He is entirely out of employment, which at his period of life is rather awkward and dangerous. He seems prudent and rational. I hope by the aid of his Uncle the Nabob, He may strike out some Line in India, which will be a more brilliant speculation than a return to Spain. I have thoughts of remaining here till October. I contrive to pass my Time tolerably in Reading, Walking, tea Parties, Excursions to the different Villages in the Vicinity which are peculiarly beautiful and picturesque. As to the Diversions of the place I am a mere Spectator. It will give me great Pleasure to hear from you. A letter will find me at No. 13 Margate. I beg my best Wishes and remain with real Regard your affect.

LEWIS DUFF.' (O.)

¹ It is interesting to note that at that period this address was sufficient.

² His nephew, William Brodie.

He lived to the age of seventy-four, dying in Craven Street, London, in the same year as his brother Alexander, 1811, and is buried under the monument at Blervie which he had erected to his wife. Portraits of George with his father and Lewis with his mother exist at Rothiemay House, both by Mossman. In the pencil miniatures on chicken skin, now in the possession of Mrs. Chancellor, Woodhall, Juniper Green (great-granddaughter of Lady Sophia), Lewis appears as a rather depressed little boy. The six other portraits, which are all that remain, are of both parents; of Anne and Janet, very charming and almost exactly alike; Alexander, very solemn; and Arthur, the universal favourite, with his sweet smile.

The ninth child and sixth son was PATRICK, born and died 1738.

The tenth child and fourth daughter of this large family was HELEN, born in 1739, and married in 1764 to her father's first cousin, Admiral Robert Duff. Her history and that of her children properly belong to the family of Fetteresso, and will be found in that chapter. She died in 1778.

The eleventh child and fifth daughter was SOPHIA, born 1740, during the trying winter when her two eldest sisters were lying dangerously ill two hundred miles from home, and the patient mother was complimented upon her calmness. She was thirty-four when, July 13, 1774, she became the third wife of Thomas Wharton, Commissioner of Excise, a man five years her senior, with three sons. They resided chiefly at Lauriston, near Edinburgh, and four sons and three daughters were born to her. Of the first, her mother writes to Arthur, November 19, 1776: 'Sophia has brought Mr. Wharton a charming stout boy. You would be diverted to see the Commissioner gazing so fondly on the boy, as he had had never a child before.' Mr. Wharton suffered at times from painful illnesses which sound remarkably like attacks of gout, during which 'neither sick nurse, servant nor wife can please him, and poor Sophia is almost worn to a shadow.' 'Mr. Wharton has so many whims of his own, without considering Sophia.' She lived till 1826, dying at the age of eighty-six. This family will appear again under the heading of Orton.

Of CATHERINE, twelfth child and sixth daughter, very little is known. She was the only unmarried daughter, and there is but one letter of hers among the family MSS. :

Lady Catherine Duff to Earl Fife

'ENN., April the 2, 1765.

'MY DEAR LORD,—I wrote you a very long letter which should have gone by Mr. Dunbar and after keeping it a few days it shared the same fate of many

of my other letters to you hath done, the flames; the thought of your not coming down this summer grieves Meg and me much, but there is nothing but disappointments in this life. Rose¹ came here a few days ago and called for us, he appear'd to be in low spirits and told us he was afraid you would not come North but for a month or two. I beginne to think you in earnest and I am much sunk by it. I had a letter from Lady Fife which both grieved and surprised me. I wrote Lady Fife an answer which I am afraid she would scarce read; I have a good deal of little chat to write but will not trouble you as I shall write Lady Fife to-morrow. We are to go from this in three weeks the highland road. Lewes left us some weeks ago and Arthur is to go this. I have never heard of Sandy since we seed him at Aberdeen. We are at present a very grave family. My love and best wishes attend you and Lady Fife and in very low spirits I ever am, My Dear Lord, your very affectionet friend and obliged humble Servant,

'CATH. DUFF.' (D.)

It is probable that she scarcely ever left her mother and her home. She was born in 1741, and died in Edinburgh in 1765, aged twenty-four. A portrait of her exists at Montcoffer House, Banff. The only mention of her in the family correspondence is in a letter from the husband of her sister Anne (her elder by sixteen years), with whom apparently two of the children (Catherine and Arthur) were spending a winter in 1752. Alexander Duff of Hatton, husband of Anne, writes to his father-in-law: 'The young folk with me are in very good health and applying very close, Arthur in particular (aged nine). If I had been at home I would have sent you a sample of Arthur and Katty's (aged eleven) writes. They expect they will be remembered in some playthings about the Christmas time.'

After the birth of three daughters in succession, it may be supposed that Lord Braco, now getting on for fifty, must have welcomed with joy the arrival of his youngest son ARTHUR in 1740. At all events, from the moment of his birth and throughout his life, Arthur was every one's favourite, and must have had an exceptionally sweet nature not to have been spoilt by so much petting and praise. All the letters of William, Lord Braco, to his wife contain constant references to 'my Attie' and 'my little lad,' who seems to have been a perpetual source of joy. His early education is not mentioned, except during the winter of 1752, which he spent at Hatton, but at the age of fifteen he went, like his brothers, to St. Andrews University, and subsequently to Glasgow University. Later, his name is found among the English-speaking students at Leyden, 1769, 'Arthur Duff, Scoto-Britannicus,' and he subsequently became an advocate. He was very tender-hearted, and writes to his mother from college: 'Forgive me for not coming to bid you adieu, as I have an utter aversion to

¹ The factor.

these formalities at any time, more especially in such a distressed time as when I left Rothiemay.' It was apparently during his father's last illness. In 1774 he was elected member for Morayshire, his brother's interest being strong in that county, as well as in Banffshire. The number of electors in those days was very small, and an election was frequently swayed by one person.

There is a curious schedule of the proposed procedure in the Michachmas Head Court at Elgin, October 2, 1772, 'upon Supposition that Lord Fife's party has the Majority.' 'The "Preecs" and Clerk, Mr. Arthur Duff and Patrick Copland being chosen, the meeting is to proceed to consider the objection lodged against those standing in the roll in the following order: (1) Sir Lud. Grant; (2) Capt. Thos. Dundas; (3) Mr. Tulloch of Tannachie; (4) Lord Fife. The next step is to take up the claims of the following Gentlemen who are to be admitted to the Roll in the following order: (1) Lord Fife; (2) Mr. Patt. Duff, minister of Old Aberdeen; (3) Lachlan Duff, W.S.; (4) Lt. A. Stuart of Parkbeg; (5) William Duff of Corsindae; (6) Capt. John Urquhart.

'These claims being separately read and admitted, the following eleven claims are to be taken up (here follows a list of persons not Duffs, nor in any way connected with the family). But if it shall, in point of time, be found that it will be three of the Clock before the claimants formerly mentioned can be taken, the eleven claims immediately above mentioned are to be rejected before the other claimants are admitted.

'Then the following claims to be taken up: (1) A. Stuart of Edinglassie; (2) Dr. Chas. McIntosh; (3) A. Donaldson of Kinnairdy; (4) Adam Duff in Aberdeen, merchant; (5) Dr. Arthur Duff, Corsindae; (6) Governor Grant; (7) James Grant, Corrie-monie; (8) L. Grant, W.S.'

When it is remembered that Lord Fife's mother was a Grant, that two of his aunts had married respectively Donaldson and McIntosh, while Urquhart and Tulloch were also related to him, it seems probable that he *would* have a majority in the electorate of seventy-seven persons, which is the number of electors of Morayshire given in the *Political State of Scotland, 1778*.¹

Arthur Duff of Orton writes to his brother James about his candidature:

'ROTHIEMAY, 27th August.

'MY LORD,—As Lewis has no thoughts of standing as Candidate at the next Gen^l Election for Murray and as George, from any thing I have heard, will

¹ On April 10, 1773, Admiral Robert writes to Lord Fife to congratulate him on 'having, at a late political gathering, defeated the combination of Gordons, Grants, and Gardens, with all their following. Truly a great victory.'

take no concern for himself, if your Lop. approves I shall be very willing to try my Fate against the Common Enemy, more especially as I have reason to think it would be agreeable to Lady Fife, Lewis and other freinds at this place, at the same time if your Lop. has other views I shall not be much disappointed, remaining with regard, your affect. Brother and very Humb. Serv^t, A. D.' (O.)

Arthur's election was a matter of great rejoicing to all his family, and from 1774 begins that charming series of letters to his mother of which several of her descendants kept portions, and which reveal to us his most attractive personality. He seems to have resided in London even before he became a Member of Parliament, for he writes to his mother from Suffolk Street in 1772, 'Yesterday we were blessed with the first good news we have of a long time got to comfort us for the many misfortunes we have met with. Governor Grant in conjunction with Admiral Barrington, have taken the French Island of St. Lucia. D'Estaing landed and attempted to retake it, but was beat off with the loss of 1600 men killed, wounded, and Prisoners. Upon our part there was about 30 killed, and 100 wounded, among the latter General Meadows.' Some of the letters are very short, mere notes, but he seems unwilling to let more than two days go by without sending something, and he and his mother at times reproach one another for slackness in writing with a great deal of humour and tenderness. A postscript to one of her letters says, 'Lady Fife has writ to Mr. Arthur Duff Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of this week,' and in 1779 he can say, 'I have never missed one post in writing to your Layp. since I came from Scotland.' On December 23, 1775, 'We adjourned to-day for the holidays—until January 25, and indeed I do not know when at school I felt more joy at getting the Play.' The weather, however, became so severe that he was unable to leave London even to get as far as Bath. It seems to have been a record winter both in England and Scotland.

Two days later he writes: 'Quebec has been relieved, but Montreal must I fear surrender to the rebels'; and in January 1776 following: 'The rebels have taken the island of St. John's—the loss will be felt by our army in Boston, as from that quarter they derived much of their fresh provisions.' In the same winter he expects 'some fun from Wilkes, Hopkins and the Liberty boys in the streets.'

On January 23 he writes: 'We ought to meet on Thursday first, but as the roads are in many parts impervious, I dare say there will be another adjournment for want of members, for which I am very sorry.' (The thaw came in February.) On one occasion he tells her that he has met with an accident on the ice and has scarred his face, which prevents him 'from going abroad for some days.' She replies in great anxiety lest his appear-

ance should be spoiled, but characteristically adds, 'But you will aye be bonnie enough to them that love you.' He inquires perpetually for her health and sends careful directions as to her diet, exercise, and general mode of life. In 1775 he says he has been made very happy by hearing from Mr. Stronach that she was looking so well, 'she might pass for forty' (she being then seventy). At one time he seems to have been haunted by unreasoning fears as to her being ill, but chides himself by saying, 'Thank God, although as a seventh son I may be born a doctor, I have not got the second sight, with all my Highland blood.' In 1781 he writes that he is glad she has not gone to Banff, *i.e.* Duff House, from Rothiemay. 'I dread your changing your bed.' In 1777 she writes to him: 'My dearest Arthur, take care of yourself and want for nothing that can give you pleasure, since if you are well nothing can come amiss to me, being unalterably your very affectionate mother,—J. FIFE.' And again, in answer to some tender reproach: 'I never meant an unkind thing to you all my days.'

(O.)

Hon. Arthur Duff to his mother

'SUFFOLK STREET, 19th Feb. 1778.

'MY DEAREST MADAM,—I did not expect when I concluded my Letter to Mr. Wharton, that I should have been able to write your Lap. by this Post, as I expected a very late night in the House. However 'Tis waiting us To-morrow or next week, for this Day we had only Four Hours. I had it from pretty good authority this Day in the House that Government has now got certain Information of the Treaty betwixt France and America which will probably be productive of a French War; and a Change in administration 'Tis said would be the consequence. I have so good an opinion of Lord North's Integrity that I should most sincerely regret his Loss. But I will not allow myself to believe it, altho I confess my Spirits are a few *Pegs* down upon the occasion. I need not Caution your Lap. not to mention me as the author of any news of this kind to others than my Sister and Mr. Wharton. I have this Day the pleasure of a letter from The admiral,¹ which I enclose for your Ladyship's Satisfaction, I wrote him a Long Letter by the Last Packet and made all your Compliments which I knew I might with great Safety without a mandate take upon me to deliver. We are now beginning to feel Winter when we had reason to expect Spring; since Sunday a great deal of Snow has fallen, and in the Country I dare say it is pretty deep, but have not, since that Day, been further than betwixt this St. and the House of Commons, and as I begin to feel the want of Exercise am determined to pay a visit to-morrow forenoon to Kensington Gardens. Your Lap. says you hope I attended Service upon the 30th Jan^y.² I confess I did not neither am I

¹ Robert of Logic.² Anniversary of the death of Charles I.

by principle a great admirer of that Days Ceremony, but there is none of the Two Hundred and 56 Members a more Constant Attender upon Prayers which once a week is equal to one of the honest Parsons longest Sermons. You never say whether you go regularly out in the Chaise. I am sure you are much to blame if you neglect it; 'Tis really impossible you can take in this Weather the necessary Exercise to make the Blood circulate on foot.—Believe me ever most sincerely, My Dearest Madam, Your most affectionate and Dutiful Son, etc., etc.,

ARTHUR DUFF.' (O.)

The same to the same

'SUFFOLK STREET, 16th Jan. 1779.

'MY DEAREST MADAM,—I apprehend as I have not had a letter from your Ladyship since Monday, that the Snow in Scotland has considerably encreased, and indeed we had this morning a smart shower, but it has gone off, and did not prevent me from taking a round of Kensington Gardens, which I do almost every Day, and find the good effects of it at Four o'Clock, but I believe I must discontinue the Practice after Tuesday, as late nights are expected, and I would not be able to hold out without a dinner, which now the Coffee House is burnt down, could not easily be obtained consistent with attendance—Mortimer writes me the Gardener feeds the Partridges, I wish you would desire Him to count them and let me know their number, which should I think be pretty considerable, as I only killed Eleven last Season, I wish you would desire Him to lay some Corn about the Manoch Hill, as it will draw those at a distance into the Park, and tis there I wish them to breed next year as the Grass below it will be the last out. . . . Mr. Leslie had a letter from the Admiral this week,¹ He and the Children continue in good Health, I understand His Prize Money amounts to several Thousands. I have nothing more to add this Post, but best wishes to my Brother, Mrs. Duff and Fanny, remaining always Most affectionately, etc.,

'A. D.' (O.)

He seems to have taken his duties very seriously, as he frequently alludes to the long sittings and late nights, also to his long walks in search of fresh air, and when on one occasion he took out his kinsman, Lachlan Duff, and was obliged to leave him, he wondered if he would ever find his way home again. He lived in Suffolk Street, apparently in rooms, and had with him a manservant from Rothiemay who had a 'sleeping place under the stairs, without a fire or a window,' and when the unfortunate youth fell ill, 1777, of a 'putrid fever,' presumably typhus, some surprise is expressed by his master that the 'people of the house' insisted upon his removal for fear of infection, but 'no doubt he will get better air and attendance elsewhere.' Lady Fife is, of course, in an agony of appre-

¹ Lady Helen had recently died.

hension lest her darling should catch the infection, but this apparently was avoided.

He sends her frequent comments on the news of the day, the progress of the American War and Lord North's attempts to govern the country, and the intractability of the opposition. In December 1778: 'The present minority would be in every sense contemptible, but that their abandoned principles rouses other emotions; many of them do not scruple to avow that they wish to see the country a province to France to mark the imbecility of the present Administration and make the Nation repent when too late that they had not been called into Power. From such patriots, Good Lord, deliver us !'

In April 1777 he tells his mother, 'We have now paid his Majesty's debts, at the expense of a very severe cold to your humble servant, for I could get no carriage home this morning when I left the House.' 'The weather of London would kill the Devil could we get him here.'

'A late night at the House—I did not dine till between 12 and 1 at night. Fine hours for a poor farmer !' He also sends her notes of matters literary and dramatic. 'When Mrs. Siddons performs the whole town crowds and with good reason, for she is a most capital performer, greater by much than any I have ever seen, not excepting Garrick.' He frequently sends her plays to read and daily or weekly newspapers. She has to confess that she does not read much. Doubtless she was too notable a housekeeper, and also was much occupied with the care of the various married daughters who lived in the neighbourhood, and of the grandchildren consigned to her care.

Arthur is consulted in all family difficulties and is applied to for news of his brothers, George and Lewis, both poor correspondents. In January 1779 he writes: 'I have not seen George this some days, but we have been taken for other several times since we met. A lady the other day inquired at me after Mrs. Duff, and my children and if they were yet gone to school, and an old friend of mine made up to him at the Smyrna and by that means found me out here.' In the same letter, 'When next I go to the city I will buy Miss Monkey a pretty pack of cards.'

When George had an accident and broke his leg, he removed to Putney and then to Hanwell Heath for the sake of his health; Arthur complains of its being too far for a morning's call, and moreover a fifteen shillings coach hire.

When Arthur at length retired from Parliament, on being appointed Comptroller of Excise in Scotland, April 4, 1779, his resignation was placed in the hands of his brother, Lord Fife, that the seat might be instantly filled by another member of his lordship's clan or circle of friends,

and thus the balance of parties might be preserved. Arthur then went to live at Rothiemay with his mother, until her death, subsequently dividing his time between that and his own estate of Orton in Morayshire. He never married. The following letter was written a few months before his death, which occurred at Orton on June 2, 1805. He is buried in the mausoleum at Duff House.

Arthur Duff of Orton to Lord Fife

‘ORTON, 19th Jany. 1805.

‘MY LORD,—I hoped to have been able as usual to have addressed your Lop. with the compliments of the Season ; but these days were long past before I had the ability. My usual Xmas Party was so obliging as come here but I was obliged to name a Landlord and go to bed after drinking the Health of the Company in a single glass of Madeira nor have I yet exceeded Three or tasted Port but a single glass to success to my Fishing Bargain. . . . I have now had a very tedious confinement not being once over the door since the 6th of December : I have however never lost hope nor spirits.

‘With every good wish to your Lordship I remain, with great truth and regard, Your Lordships very affectionate Brother and much obliged Humble Servt.,
ARTHUR DUFF.’ (D.)

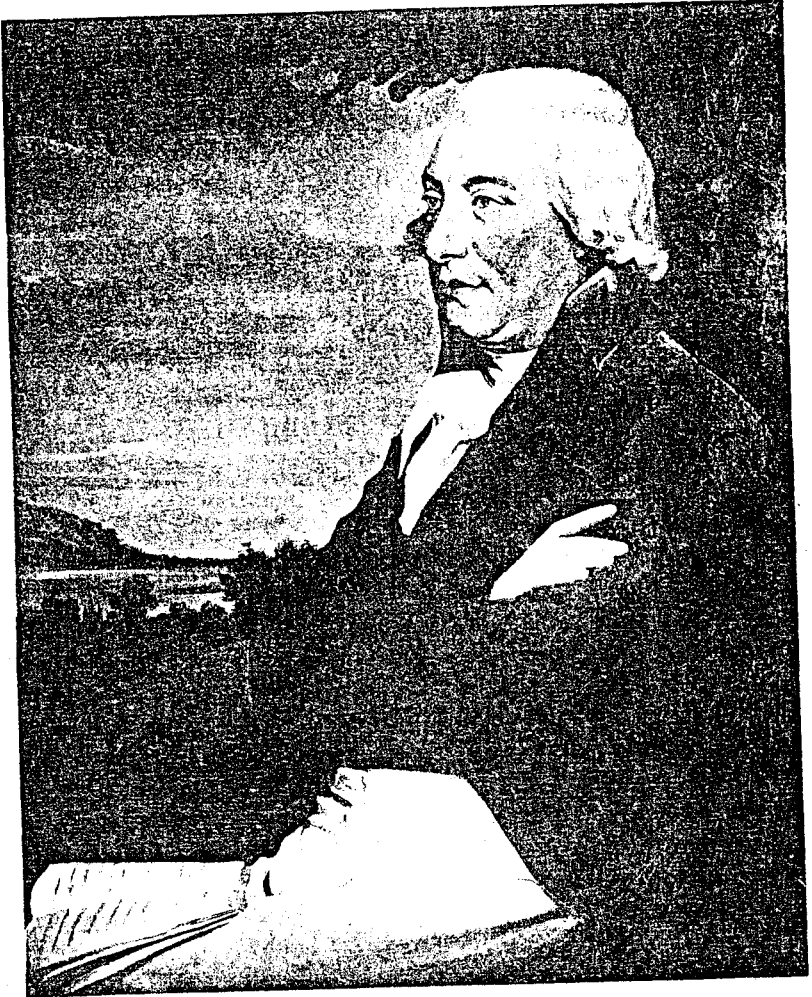
There is a charming portrait of him in the possession of Mrs. Chancellor.

George Duff, Elgin, to Lord Fife

‘ELGIN, 12th June 1805.

‘MY LORD,—I had the honor of your letter of the 10th of this month by yesterday’s post which gave me great pleasure to hear that you had arrived safe and in good health at Duff House : I have not been well for sometime or would have attended the funeral on Tuesday. Arthur’s death has hurt me much, in him I lost not only a Brother but a sincere and affectionate friend. This has been a very disagreeable year to me, God grant that it may end better : wishing your Lordship Health and all happiness, I always with great regard, My Lord, Your affectionate Brother,
GEO. DUFF.’ (D.)

The youngest daughter, LADY MARGARET, born in 1745, when her mother was forty, seems to have been the most unlucky of the whole family. At twenty-two, in 1767, she made a runaway match with Brodie of Brodie, but was unhappy in her married life, and suffered from constant ill-health. In 1773 her mother writes, ‘Margaret’s days will not be long.’ Her name never occurs in the family letters except in connection with some trouble or other. At the time of her marriage her brother, Lord Fife, writes with a curious air of detachment : ‘I am informed Mr. Brodie and Lady Mar-

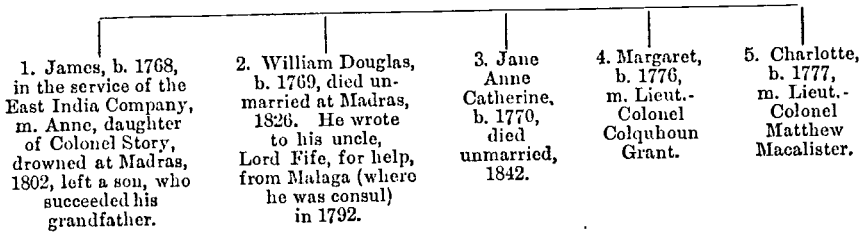


ARTHUR DUFF OF ORTON.

By George Watson.

garet have stole a marriage—I wonder neither the one nor the other chose to drop me a little civil note. However, their want of discretion gives me no pain. I wish they may pass a happy life together.’ She had five children, from whom, however, she does not seem to have derived much happiness, and the financial state of the family was pitiable. Margaret writes a long letter to her brother James from Newcastle, undated, stating that they are unable even to keep a servant. She does not mention what they were doing in that locality, but goes on to explain that Brodie’s affairs are in a very bad way, but he ‘hopes to save something for the children.’ They had hired a ship to convey them home, ‘but the press gang was so hot upon the river that the crew were obliged to come ashore and take shelter in the houses.’ (D.)

The children were :



She made frequent long visits to Rothiemay, where her mother tried to nurse her back to health, but the rest of the family found these visits extremely trying, and avoided the house during their duration. Lewis writes that she has no visible appetite, and recommends the procuring of ass’s milk for her. He laments that he and his wife can see her so seldom when she is at home, though such near neighbours, they not being on good terms with her husband, while James, Lord Fife, frankly announces that he will not go home while she is there (in 1775). ‘Her temper and health by indulgence in caprice is brought into a terrible state. She eats nothing but a little bread and Sallery, and that little at every time requires an hour’s coaxing. I think she must soon succeed in putting her period to her day.’ In the following year she nearly died at Rothiemay of ‘strong fainting fits and vomiting of blood,’ and in 1777 Lady Fife writes : ‘She is just in the same situation that she was in last year at Rothiemay, and a horrid one it was.’

Lady Margaret Brodie to her mother, Jane, Lady Fife

‘BRODIE HOUSE, 11th January 1777.

‘MY DEAR MADAM,—I am very sorry to hear by your letter that you have been so ill since you went to Ed I sincerely wish to hear that you may now begin.

CHILDREN OF THE FIRST EARL FIFE

getting the Better of your Complaints. Altho this is a very Bad time for one that is ailing, but your Ladyship is in a Place where you can have Proper assistance. I am very Glad to hear that Poor Fanny is Better, as Your Ladyship does not mention Lady Sophia I am in hopes she is well, I am anxious to hear how the nursing agrees with her, I hope it does not fatigue her too much, a great deal depends upon The Way that the Child is in, I beg my Best Respects to Mr. Wharton and Lady Sophia. Wishing your Ladyship and them many Happy Returns of the Season, and shall only add that I hope soon to hear that your Ladyship is Better, being with Great Respect your most affect. Daughter and oblig^d humble Servant,

MARGARET BRODIE.' (R.)

In the year 1787 she met her death by an unfortunate accident, being burnt to death in her own bedroom. Her youngest child, aged nine, who was with her, escaped from the room, and Brodie himself, who slept in the room above, rushed to her assistance, but was too late to save her. He wrote next day to Major the Hon. Lewis Duff at Rothiemay, per express :

'Brodie House, five o'clock Saturday morning.—My dear sir, what language shall I use to tell you that my dear Lady Margaret was alive and well four hours ago, but is now upon eternity. Her death was occasioned by her cloathes taking fire as she was going into bed. I can dictate no more—but I am sure you will not only sympathise with me, but you or my dear Arthur will hurry immediately to your truly afflicted and miserable

J. BRODIE.'

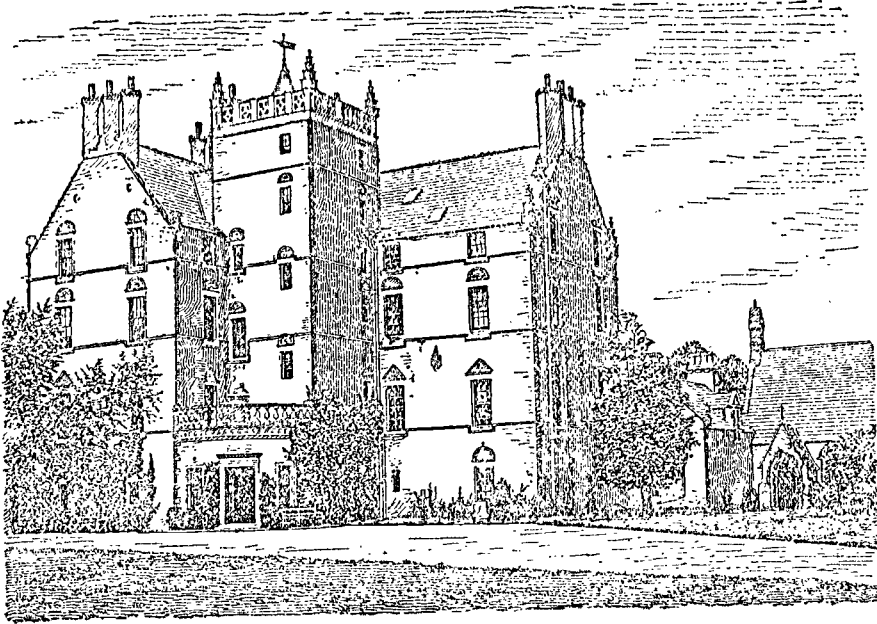
A letter written by Arthur Duff to Lord Fife gives further details : ' She had the whole day been remarkably cheerful and particularly funny and droll, as you know she could be at times. She played at cards till supper, and sat up with the gentlemen till eleven, when they all parted being to hunt next morning near Nairn. She had custom of reading at night after going to her own room and had once before set fire to her cloths, which made Brodie order her maid never to leave her till the candle was extinguished. Unfortunately the girl was that night ill, and having been ten years in her service Lady Margaret's humanity was too much interested to allow her to sit up farther. The child, Charlotte, was in bed, but declares she had not been to sleep ; that she had frequently called to her mother to come to bed, but that she always answered, ' Be quiet, ye little fool, don't disturb me. I am reading.' That at last she saw her mother all in a blaze come towards the bed, which she set in flames, and fell down at the foot of it ; that she herself flew to a closet for safety, but not being able to get the door shut, made her way through the flames to the room door, and by her shrieks she alarmed her father and two servants, who came at

the same instant. Brodie came down in his shirt and rushed into the room, sought Lady Margaret first in her bed, then in her chair at the fire, and found her at last among his feet at the foot of the bed, and brought her out in his arms all in a blaze, and had the presence of mind to roll her in the carpet of her dressing-room. But alas, too late, the soul was fled.'

The portrait of Lady Margaret, like that of her sister Catherine, was in the Duff House collection, and now hangs at Montcoffer. There is another at Brodie Castle.

Of the fourteen children of Lord Braco there were, in the next generation, forty-five descendants:

William,	born	1724,	died	1753,	unmarried.
Anne,	"	1725,	"	1805,	two children.
Janet,	"	1727,	"	1758,	eight children.
James,	"	1729,	"	1809,	no issue.
Alexander,	"	1731,	"	1811,	seven children.
Jane,	"	1732,	"	1776,	six children.
George,	"	1736,	"	1818,	four children.
Lewis,	"	1737,	"	1811,	no issue.
Patrick,	"	1738,	"	1738,	died young.
Helen,	"	1739,	"	1778,	six children.
Sophia,	"	1740,	"	1826,	seven children.
Catherine,	"	1741,	"	1765,	unmarried.
Arthur,	"	1743,	"	1805,	unmarried.
Margaret,	"	1745,	"	1787,	five children.



INNES HOUSE

CHAPTER XI

JAMES DUFF, SECOND EARL FIFE

JAMES, second Earl Fife, was born on September 29, 1729, being the second son and fourth child of William, afterwards first Earl Fife. The first reference to him is in a letter from his mother to his father, dated March 1731: 'Jamie has gone alone these two days past and has got two more teeth. It is a plague to keep him out of your room.' An anecdote is related of this same Earl James, showing the boy as father to the man. During the time that the family lived at Balvenie, he and another brother had been allowed to go to a fair at Dufftown (then known as Laighie), and each given a shilling to spend. The brother, presumably Sandie, who being two years younger, was less cautious, soon spent his fairing, but James brought the money home again, remarking that 'he had seen naething he liket better nor the shilling.'¹

His elder brother, William Duff, sometimes styled the Master of Braco,

¹ *Memorials of John Geddes, being Record of life in an Upland Glen, 1797-1881*, privately printed 1899 by Sir William Duguid Geddes, Principal of Aberdeen University, son of John Geddes.

died in London in 1753, and James is also occasionally alluded to as 'the Master.' Upon his father being raised to the earldom of Fife in 1759, the eldest son assumed the courtesy title of Viscount Macduff. Little is known of his early youth, but it appears that he was educated chiefly at home by tutors, and subsequently went to the University of St. Andrews (as did all his younger brothers), and afterwards travelled abroad.

In the additional MSS. British Museum there are several letters written by James, when a young man and still Lord Macduff, addressed to the Duke of Newcastle and his secretary. In one he asks for the office of sheriff for a friend, naïvely adding that this is the first favour he has asked since he 'came into Parliament.' In 1755, on starting for a tour abroad, he asks for letters of recommendation for Brussels, Hanover, Berlin, Dresden, and Vienna, remarking that he does not like to ask for *more* at the same time, but will beg to write again, later. In 1760 he writes to bespeak the interest of the Duke to obtain for him the office of Lord of the Bedchamber to the Duke of York.

He married, in 1759, Lady Dorothea Sinclair, only child of the ninth Earl of Caithness,¹ and got with her a dowry of £40,000, but did not, as he is believed to have expected, succeed to the title and estates, which went to a younger branch. Of this union there were no children, which was a source of great disappointment, and probably led to the disagreements and unhappiness which finally culminated in 1794 in a separation, Lady Fife retiring to live at Hermitage House, Leith, where she died in 1818, nine years after her husband. One letter of hers to her husband is preserved in the family correspondence. It is brief but affectionate :

'BATH, 15th January 1770.

'MY DEAR LORD,—I wrote to Lord Rosbery last night, three lines, but it was too late for the post. It seems it goes away at eight o'clock on Sunday nights. I shall be very anxious to hear how you do and how you got to London.—I am, affectionately yours,
D. FIFE.
(R.)

'To the Earl of Fife, Whitehall, London.'

And one from her to her lawyer, Mr. Mitchelson, written only in the following year :

'EDINR., Dec. 3rd, 1771.

'SIR,—I shall be glad if you can send me two hundred or a hundred pounds just now to be accounted for when its convenient ; it need not be mentioned

¹ The ninth Earl of Caithness 'devised his own estate and that of Murkle, failing his own heirs-male, and those of his brother Francis, and the younger sons of his daughter the Countess of Fife (if she had any), to George Sinclair of Woodhall.'

or any one acquainted with it but as necessity requires, and would rather than give a receipt that you put down the date of sending me the money and I will do the same which will do as well—I hope I will get this demand that I make answered, otherwise I shall be in great straits. I shall send a person I can trust to receive it—I have immediate occasion for the largest sum I have mentioned, and more if I could get it.—I am, Sir, etc.,
D. FIFE.'

Letter from the Countess of Caithness (Margaret, daughter of Archibald, first Earl of Rosebery and mother of the Countess) about the allowance made by Lord Fife to his wife, after the separation. It is undated :

'My lady Caithness Compliment to mr. Mitchilson beg to know if he has payed Lady Fife last quarty, whitsunday to mr. Tytler or not. She think it is most intolerable if it not payed, but my lady is persuaded that mr. Tytler has got it long before this, but to be serton she begs mr. Mitchilson would be so good as let her know yea or no.

'my lady will be very happay to hear that mrs. Mitchelson is better as she ernistly wish her good health, booth for her owen sak and ther friends.'

A large amount of correspondence on this subject has been preserved, tending to show Lord Fife in a very amiable light. He seems to have done his best to put up with his wife's constant changes of plans and her caprices, and finally to have made her a handsome allowance.

Viscount Maeduff was of great assistance to his father in the management of the latter's vast estate, and on Earl William's death in 1763 he succeeded to large tracts of land in Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and Morayshire. The following letter to his father from London in 1759 is interesting :

'LONDON, 1759.

'MY LORD,—I would have wrote you last post, but believ'd you to be upon the road, so I hope this will find Lady Braco and you in perfect health after an agreeable journey. I have all the reason in the World to be satisfied with my present situation, I flatter myself that my Conduct is agreeable to my friends and I do hope they will shew some publick marks of their Esteem for me ; our Shirif I believe will be return'd and Mr. Cockburn will have no Shirifship so far, for a publick mark of dissatisfaction for his Conduct and all this will be brought about without my ever having ask'd it or indeed hardly told my story, for they were all very much master of it, on my coming to town I found there was hardly a circumstance they did not know. There has been a great desire to confer some mark of Esteem on Your Family, the day before yesterday Mr. Pit told me he intended to ask the King to creat you an Earl in the Kingdom of Ireland, this I give you my word I never suggested to him either by myself or any other, I do think it is a very great thing as it will give your Family high rank, and it is the proper step to something else if that ever should be practicable, for there is hardly an instance of an Irish Baron being created an English Peer but after

his being first rais'd to a higher rank, severals I could name you, since the little time I have been here and this things being dun without yours and my asking is certainly very handsome as it shews the Country the Esteem you are in. I had no time to wait for your answer, as its probable some other may be nam'd Successor in room of the Duke of Devonshire as Lord Licut. of Irland in a very little time, so I told Mr. Pit that I believed the tittle that would be most agreable to you would be Earl of Braco and Baron Duff, however if the thing should not be don till I can receive your answer, if there is any other tittle more agreable to you, be so good as acquaint me and it shall regulate me. You will easily judge the impropreity of mentioning this to any body till such time as his Majesty says yes to it, so——' [*The remainder of this letter is lost.*] (O.)

During his father's lifetime, James lived at Duff House, near Banff,¹ a house which his father had built from the designs of the elder Adam at the cost of £70,000, but always refused to live there, and indeed never finished it.

In 1754, Lord Fife, then James Duff, entered Parliament as M.P. for Banffshire, and continued to sit as member for that county after he succeeded his father in the title of Lord Fife, as he was, up to 1790, only a peer of Ireland. He was re-elected in 1761, 1774, and 1780. In 1784 he resigned his seat to his natural son, Sir James Duff of Kinstair, but did not abandon his parliamentary work, as in that year he was elected member for Morayshire. In a letter of the period he says his desire would be to have 'himself sitting for Morayshire and relatives for Banff and the Elgin boroughs.'

He was of immense political power, and is said to have controlled the elections in the three counties in which he had property, viz. Banffshire, Aberdeenshire, and Morayshire. That entertaining work, *The Political State of Scotland in 1788* (edited by Sir Charles Adam), states that in Banffshire 'The Duke of Gordon and the Earl of Fife (and indeed the Earl of Fife singly) overshadow all the small and independent proprietors,' and of the 122 votes then existing in this county, gives 50 as belonging to ('votes of') Lord Fife, *i.e.* his tenants and members of his family, and about a

¹ This fine mansion was presented to the town of Banff by the late Duke of Fife, and was recently, with some alterations, turned into an hotel, and later into a sanatorium (see page 225).

The Rev. Richard Pococke, D.D., Lord Bishop of Meath, visited Banff during his tour in Scotland in July 1760, and mentions Lord Macduff, Lord Fife's eldest son, as inhabiting Duff House.

The following quotation from Boswell's *Johnson* is interesting in this connection: 'On Aug. 25, 1773, we got at night to Banff. I sent Joseph on to Duff House; but Earl Fife was not at home, which I regretted much, as we should have had a very elegant reception from his Lordship. We found here but an indifferent inn.'

Three years after Johnson, Wesley was in Banff; and in 1787 Burns passed through it on his northern tour, and also visited Duff House.

dozen more who are in some way or other pledged to, or connected with him, besides the so-called independent voters and partisans of Hay of Mountblairy, son of his brother-in-law and Hay of Rannes, also a connection. In Morayshire he heads the list with 27 votes to the Duke's 21, and in Aberdeenshire, out of the 178, 33 are entered as 'votes of Lord Fife,' while a great number of the 89 'individual voters' lean to his side.¹

The house of Duff has provided a great many members of Parliament, covering a period of over three hundred years (1593 to 1893):

George Duff of Cullen	. Scottish Parliament,	. . . . .	1593
William Duff	. . . . .	Scottish Parliament, for Inverness,	1681-1682
Alexander Duff of Braco	. . . . .	" " " Banffshire,	1689-1705
Alexander Duff of Drummuir,	" " " "	" Inverness,	1702-1707
Also sat in first British Parliament for Inverness Burghs,			1708-1710
William Duff of Braco (afterwards first Lord Fife)		Banffshire,	1727-1734
James Duff (afterwards second Lord Fife)		{ Banffshire,	1754-1784
		{ Morayshire,	1784-1790
Arthur Duff of Orton	. . . . .	Morayshire,	1774-1779
Sir James Duff of Kinross	. . . . .	Banffshire,	1784-1789
Sir William Duff-Gordon	. . . . .	Worcester,	1807-1815
James Duff (afterwards fourth Lord Fife)	. . . . .	Banffshire,	1818-1826
Sir Alexander Duff of Delgaty	. . . . .	Elgin Burghs,	1826-1831
James Duff (afterwards fifth Lord Fife)	. . . . .	Banffshire,	1837-1857
George Skene Duff	. . . . .	Elgin Burghs,	1847-1857
Lachlan Gordon Duff	. . . . .	Banffshire,	1857-1861
Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff	. . . . .	Elgin Burghs,	1857-1881
Robert William Duff of Fetteresso	. . . . .	Banffshire,	1861-1893
Colonel James Duff	. . . . .	Norfolk,	1876-1878
Alexander William George Duff (afterwards Duke of Fife)	. . . . .	Moray and Nairn,	1874-1879

It will thus be seen that Banffshire was, for an aggregate of one hundred and eleven years, represented by a Duff, the county of Moray for fifteen years, and Elgin Burghs for thirty years.

Lord Fife was very active in his parliamentary duties, being a constant attendant in the House of Commons, and made many excellent and well-reasoned speeches, of which the papers of the day speak with great approval.

In a letter to his factor, William Rose, dated May 4, 1773, he writes:

¹ It was not always considered a compliment to receive a qualification to vote. Lord Fife wrote to Rev. William Duff, minister at Keig (a relative, see chapter on 'Ministers') in September 1772: 'I propose giving you a vote in Banffshire during your life as a mark of my confidence.' Mr. Duff refused to accept. In 1807 William Rose's Morayshire vote was sold to Sir James Duff of Kinross for £420.

'I sat next Lord Clive yesterday in the House, and heard him make a speech of two hours and twenty minutes. I have never heard so fine a one since I have sat in Parliament. I don't say there was much *matter* in it, nor perhaps was it prudent, for he sets all at defiance, but for language and composition, I never heard its equal.'

In 1763 James Duff succeeded his father as second Baron Fife, peerage of Ireland, and set about managing his large estates in the most enlightened manner. In a French biographical dictionary he is described as 'un grand agronome' (which word is further explained as meaning 'celui qui est versé dans les règles de la science agricole; qui l'enseigne par ses paroles ou par ses écrits. Mot introduit dans la langue française à la fin du dix-huitième siècle'). He was looked upon as a most kind-hearted landlord at a time when it was not common to give much thought to the welfare of small tenants. In later years,¹ when the crops failed, and there was a great scarcity of grain and exorbitant prices ruled, so that the poor in the north were threatened with famine, he allowed his tenants a reduction of twenty per cent. on their rents, and imported cargoes of corn from England which he sold to the poor below the market price, at a loss to himself of £3000, even supplying it gratis to those who were unable to pay, and lists still exist of his poorer tenants with the numbers of children in each family, and the requisite amount of meal for each.

The two following letters give other glimpses of his relations with his tenants and dependants:

Lord Fife to W. Rose, his factor

WHITEHALL, Jan. 12th, 1773.

'Your letter from Auchingoul dont tell me whether you are married or not, however I suppose so, as I imagine the journey in the morning ended with that at night. I write this to you both, that I very serious wish you happy, and that I do forsee you have much to combate with, which nothing but Spirit and determind resolution can get the better of. In the first place, resolve not to set yourselves up on a footing of visiting or receiving visits except to those with whom you have business and any thing thats to speir give it to your farm. Mrs. Rose must cheerfully join in the plan, and be a most notable active Housewife in the Family, and learn to ride. You must settle your own plan, and be constant to it, be in love with it and not follow other's example. An exact Economy must preside both within and without doors, you know I hate avarice, I only wish to see those I love prudent above all things, avoid a paltry affectation of finery, let your men servants continuc at your farm, and dont be disgraced by having a maid servant to wait on yourself and friends at *table*. I shall be very

¹ 1782, 1783.

sorry if you dont gain that horrid misfortunate character of giving your visitors too little Drink. Remember your time on your estate wont permitt you to sit at dinner from 3 till morning in the Banff stile, and the *Purse* and *Constitution* will very soon be ended if dissipation takes place. I shall be wonderfully pleas'd to see you thrive and be happy, if you go on in a wrong stile you had better let me look at it rather than *hide* it, as I may give a friendly hint of amendment, and there are many that wont be sorry to see me have no credit from my *People*. You know I never scold, and that I hate Complaining, so if you are in an improper way, I have too much to do to be a Preacher—but I pray God to direct you both and make you happy which will give much pleasure to, Dear Rose, Your affectionate,

FIFE.' (R.)

To the Same

' *March 13th, 1774.*

' My firm resolution is ever to stand in support of an honest, trusty servant, even should that character be attended with many faults and inconveniences. If I cannot put up with their service, I will wish to provide for them. But if one is dishonest or deceitful, I will not prosecute; leave him to God Almighty and his own conscience; but I will forget him and have nothing to do with him. If his dishonesty is so evident as to make it a public duty to prosecute him, I will give way to it, but if only a little picking thief, let him run off with his dirty pelf. Be rigidly economical without the least mixture of avarice. I hope I can give away money, when either my pleasure, amusement, or even disagreeable politics require it, or to promote the worthy or to relieve distress. I most anxiously wish never to be cheated or, what is worse, to permit of little smuggling unnecessary expense which neither adds to my honour nor interest. I have ever laboured to be thankful to God for the many blessings I enjoy very undeservedly, to bear with patience and resignation the disagreeable things through life, to support my spirits under their afflictions, and to avoid puffing in prosperity nor repining nor claiming pity when things are disagreeable.' (R.)

The town of Macduff, formerly known as Doune, owes its rise and its formation into a burgh entirely to Lord Fife. Owing to the good harbour which he built, the town has long been much more prosperous than its older neighbour, Banff.

In private life he had the reputation of being a hard man, but was merely exact and precise in his accounts. He appears to have inherited in a marked degree his father's business ability, integrity, and firmness, somewhat tempered perhaps by the softer qualities of his mother, to whom, like all her children, he was devotedly attached. A certain pride of seniority and position, of which his younger brothers complain in their early letters (see chapter on the 'Children of first Earl Fife') seems to

have completely worn off as he grew older and wiser, and became, besides, something of a philosopher.

In an otherwise dull letter to his factor he writes: 'You know my maxim, to *make the best of what we cannot mend.*' (R.)

A few years after succeeding to the estates he made a tour on the Continent. In a letter to his factor he says:

'I have been making a tour for ten days over a great part of Luxembourg and the countries betwixt France and Germany on horseback. I have rode through many woods just like the woods in Mar, only this difference, that they are more extensive and fine oaks and beeches are large as any firs. They destroy and cut them pretty much in the same way, and cut them very far from the ground, by which much of the tree is lost. I desire that you will be attentive that the things are done right at Mar Lodge, as I shall certainly pass a month or two next summer in that place, and give as strict order as possible about the game everywhere. I am resting just now, the heat of the day, having rode eighteen miles before nine o'clock. I shall get to Spa to-morrow night.' (R.)

A little later he visited Ireland:

'DUBLIN, June 8, 1782.

'I have seen everything here, heard all their best speeches in both houses, seen all the Volunteers in this quarter, din'd, visit'd, and ball'd at all the great Houses. Seen everything there is at the Castle and dined with the Lieut. and his family party.' (R.)

Large as was the property to which he succeeded on his father's death, he, nevertheless, nearly doubled the family estates by judicious purchases in Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and Morayshire. Among these purchases were portions of the estates of Innes, Inchbroom, Dunkinty, and Leuchars, all from the Innes family, and from the family of Brodie, Spynie, Mon-aughty, and Aslisk, while Leggat was taken over for a bad debt. In 1777 he acquired by excambion from the Duke of Gordon the lands of Ardgay.¹

He was one of the pioneers of afforestation, having planted fourteen thousand acres of barren ground. He was most anxious these estates should not be divided, and in 1769 writes thus to his brother Arthur:

'DUFF HOUSE, Nov. 22nd, 1769.

'DEAR ARTHUR,—I have considered with great Deliberation and attention the Family Settlements, and I find that upon the failure of my Brothers and their Sons, all the Lands contain'd in the Tailie of Braco would go to a different series of Heirs, and the Lands contain'd in the Tailie of Mar would go on to my

¹ A later excambion between Duke of Gordon and Earl of Fife gives the Duke's lands excambed as Davoch of Grange, Kintrae, Urquhart, etc. The Earl's, Garmouth, Corskie, Essle, etc. Dipple and Essle were exchanged for Grange, to suit both parties, as being contiguous to their other lands.

Brothers Daughters and so on to my Sisters. Should it please God that this event took place, the Estate would be intirely disconnected and disjoined and all the pains taken by my Grandfather, father and self to connect the Estate, intirely at an end, besides there would be endles Law sutes in the family about the discription of different Lands. I find there is a power by the Entail of Braco that will mend this, so I want that my Brothers and I should do what we can to prevent the Estates from separating and that in case of the failure of my Brothers and their Sons, all the Lands in the Entail of Braco should be settl'd in the Substitution as in the Entail of Mar, it is impossible to be more explicate by a letter, but in case you see my Brothers before I do, from what has past in conversation you will be able to explain the matter fully to them and there is no time to be lost in setting about the necessary forms to get this matter put right, as if one of us should die, the thing will not then be so easy ; in the mean time I shall get proper advice what is the most proper way to execute it, so as when my Brothers and I meet we may be able to do it, you will see it very proper that this matter is kept private, as those who have very distant concern might be allarmed, and give us trouble.—Your affec., etc., FIFE.' (R.)

When in Scotland he resided alternately at Duff House, Banff, Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire, and Innes House, near Elgin. From the latter he writes on December 10, 1775: 'Her Grace of Gordon was walking over the Elgin market last Wednesday recruiting. I think no very creditable employment for the Dutchess.'¹

He was kind and hospitable to his neighbours, though he was always considered to stand a good deal on his dignity with them, as well as with the members of his family.

As there was no family mansion in London, Lord Fife bought a piece of land in Whitehall, a part of the garden of old Whitehall Palace, and there built a fine residence, which he called Fife House. So true a Scot was he that he is stated to have brought up to London, by sea, several cartloads of Banffshire soil for the foundations of his house, as well as the stone, timber, and shrubs for the garden, so that though he resided for a great part of the year in England, his house stood on Scottish ground. There was a charming picture of Fife House in the Duff House collection. It was built in 1772, of course before the existence of the Embankment, and had a beautiful garden running down to the river. In May 1776 he writes that 'the thrushes and blackbirds there make it quite cheerful. What more could I have in the country?'²

¹ The Duchess, Jane Maxwell, was at that date raising a company for the Fraser Highlanders for her brother, Captain Maxwell.

² The Earl of Liverpool leased it from Lord Fife's executors and lived there, and died in the house, when Prime Minister, in 1828. The house was pulled down in May 1869, but the Duff arms are still to be seen over the doorway of the corner house in Whitehall Court.

In 1790 there was a robbery at Fife House. Lord Fife writes: 'The diamonds taken are worth about £400. All my coins and medals were in the same place, but very luckily they have not touched them. There are also left rings and diamonds that were in the place with the others.' Lord Fife suspected his porter of the robbery.

In the following spring his Lordship thus describes his London household: 'My Family consists at present of Rose, a colt, a new master of the household, a German footman who neither speaks English nor French, a Swiss footman, John, coachman, and his new horses, a new postilion, Thomas Reid, gardener, colt at the door, a new lady's woman, a French cook, and three housemaids. Don't you think I have much to do with the lot? and yet I hope I shall break the whole lot in.' (R.)

He was a good deal at Court, and says in a letter, 1790, 'I am just going to the dining-room to take my leave of the King and Queen, and to see a very extraordinary thing, which is Madame d'Albany, the Pretender's widow, presented to the King and Queen.¹ It is very interesting, that if this unfortunate family had its own way this lady would have been Queen Dowager this day.'

Again he writes to his factor from Whitehall: 'I was yesterday at Court to wish their Majesties a good New Year, and kissed both their hands on being appointed (by myself!) to go to Paris for a few weeks. Put my letters under cover to Abraham, and direct "à Milord Comte de Fife." Don't put any covers on your letter but the paper you write on.' Eight days after he writes from Paris: 'There is nothing but everything gay and good-humoured. I go to the opera to-morrow to see the Queen, and shall next week go to Versailles to their Majesties.'

On January 28, Lord Fife wrote from Paris: 'There has been such a fall of snow and hard frost that there has been nothing like it since the year '40. It is still likely to continue, and freezing as hard as ever. I am vastly well amused here in a most agreeable society. You would be surprised to see the Queen here dancing our country dances better than anybody in Banffshire. She was much flattered with my praising her.'

In 1788, when nearly sixty, he writes: 'I am always at my table in the morning a little after five o'clock. Reading or writing is over before breakfast. The forenoon employed in exercise or direction out of doors. For society, if that is not always amusing, books are preferred, I state this to you to tempt you to come to me.'²

He was on most friendly terms with His Majesty King George III.

¹ Louisa de Stolberg, widow of Prince Charles Edward Stewart. He died in 1788, she in 1824.

² From a letter written to Arthur Young, author of the famous pre-revolution *Travels in France*, with whom Lord Fife had much correspondence about agriculture and farming, in

James, Lord Fife, to William Rose, factor at Banff

‘WHITEHALL, March 10th, 1789.

‘I wrote you of the two gracious messages the King sent me last week. He had a levee Saturday, and at the time he was seeing everybody, the infamous papers was allarming the country that he was ill. I went down yesterday.¹ He had most of the Privy Council with him from ten till near one o’clock. I saw the Queen, who was vastly gracious to me. I rather wished to avoid troubling the King, but only to see him; a little before one o’clock he came out and mounted his horse, which he had not done since October. I need not hint to you how my heart warmed when I saw him. I went to the other side of the road rather to see it and not be seen. His eye catched me, and he directly called out before all the people that was there: “Lord Fife, I am glad to see you. How do you do? Come forward. I am realy glad to see you, and I hope you are quite well.” All this I bore as became me with grateful thanks. He then called out: “Lord Fife, you are no gambler. You are no rat.” I then forgot all distance between King and subject, and went up and took him by the thigh on horseback, prayed the Almighty God to bliss him, and I aded: “Yes, Sir, I am a gambler at this moment; the greatest stake I have is on that Horse, and, for God sake, take care of it, and don’t ride too hard.” My eyes were full of tears. He thanked me and added, “I will take care of number one. You have been good to number one.” He then called for the different Park keys, and took those where he intended to ride, giving directions. All this was publick, so it did me more honor than if it had been in his closset. I saw Sir George Young, who was with him after he returned from his ride, and he was exceedingly well. Indeed his whole appearance astonished me. I never saw him look better. . . . The King has ordered all the Foreign Ministers to attend him to-morrow. You see what a share I have of the second sight by not desponding. Lord Dover is to have Lord Lothian’s gold stick, and Lord Delawarr to be Lord of Bed-chamber in place of the rat Queensberry, who ran to France. This shows you that Dukedoms, great fortune, and ribbons does not secure esteem, unless honor and virtue attends them’ (*Annals of Banff*).²

In 1789 Lord Fife writes: ‘It is a pleasure to see the gratitude of the public to that amiable Prince, in both playhouses they every night oblige them to play and sing “God save great George our King.” The galleries would pull the house down if they did not do it.’ And on April 13, 1789:

the course of which he more than once apologises for the two months of autumn ‘idled’ in sport (British Museum MSS.).

¹ To Kew Palace.

² Banff Town Council Minutes. The Council (March 13, 1789) sent an address to the King, congratulating him on his recovery, and the Council appointed a general illumination in the whole houses within the burgh in the evening, in order to express their satisfaction upon the happy event of his Majesty’s recovery.

' I wish this thanksgiving at St. Paul's was over. The King is positive to go. He had, in an interval of recollections (of which he had many during the delirium), fallen on his knees and prayed to God that if ever he was returned to reason he should take the most publick manner of returning thanks to God, and this he has often repeated and now adheres to.'

May 10, 1791, London : ' I adore Burke for his pamphlet and his speech. He dined with me Sunday, and I filled a bumper to " Mr. Burke and the British Constitution." '

Being on the most intimate terms with Pitt and Pelham, as is shown by many references in his letters, and having been very assiduous in his parliamentary attendances, and faithful to the ministry throughout the King's illness, he was in 1790 raised to the peerage of England by the title of Earl Fife of the United Kingdom, and thus terminated his career as a member of the House of Commons. But his activity did not abate, and he was equally constant in his attendances at the House of Lords. During the celebrated trial of Warren Hastings for malpractices in India, Lord Fife was one of the peers chosen as judges (he was junior but one), and at the conclusion of the evidence gave his opinion, with the majority, as ' Not Guilty, upon my honour.' ¹

In 1801 he made an excellent speech in the House of Lords on the conduct of the war, emphatically deploring the waste of public money, and the subsidising of foreign powers.

During the latter years of his life, having no son to succeed him, he took great interest in his nephews, James and Alexander Duff, the sons of his next brother Alexander, who succeeded as third Earl Fife. He had these boys to stay with him constantly, both at Duff House and in London, and doubtless influenced their future careers—the elder and the son of the younger eventually succeeding as fourth and fifth earls respectively.

In several early letters Lord Fife complains of east winds, etc., affecting his eyes, and as early as 1788 he writes to his factor about ' the account with Mr. Dollond, optician ' ; the affection, whatever it was, became much worse, and for the last nine years of his life he was quite blind, and had to dictate all his letters and be led about by attendants, but his faculties and activity of mind were unimpaired to the last. His blindness was the cause of an action in the Court of Session in 1816 about his will, as it was alleged that his hand was held while signing it, and that he was not fully aware of the contents, since it was only read over to him ; but the provisions contained in it were eventually allowed to stand.

¹ His distant relative, General Patrick Duff of Carnousie, was a warm personal friend of Warren Hastings, and wrote him a congratulatory letter upon the acquittal becoming known, dated Carnousie, April 30, 1795. See chapter xxxi.

Lord Fife died at his house in Whitehall on January 24, 1809, aged eighty, and was buried in the mausoleum at Duff House.¹ He was succeeded by his brother Alexander (two years younger), who thus became third Earl Fife in the peerage of Ireland, the peerage of Great Britain, which was to descend to heirs-male of the body only, expiring with the second Earl, to whom it was granted.²

The *Gentleman's Magazine* gives the following account of Lord Fife: 'He was a man of sense, sound understanding, and pleasing manners. He lived in Magnificent style, both in Scotland and at his house in the Privy Gardens, Whitehall. In his person he was of the middle size, well made, and had been when young of a very agreeable figure.'

He was a patron of art, and purchased many portraits and pictures, with which he filled Duff House, Rothiemay, Innes, and Fife House; a number of these were sold by the late Duke of Fife in 1907. Lord Fife privately printed a catalogue of the works of art in his possession in 1808, and dedicated it to Sir Benjamin West, P.R.A. Two copies of this, in MS., are in the British Museum. His great desire was to establish by indisputable evidence the antiquity of his family, which had, without doubt, sunk somewhat into obscurity four or five generations earlier. The family of Duff of Muldavit, of which James' great-great-grandfather was a younger son, was long resident near Cullen; of this family there are authentic documentary records from about 1400 down to 1650, after which date the last Muldavit, who had sold his lands, died. The family had a burial-place in the churchyard of Cullen, and from there in the year 1792, on the completion of the mausoleum at Duff House, Lord Fife moved two stones. One, a recumbent effigy, which had lain in Cullen church, under the arch of a recessed tomb, and the other a flat stone adorned with the incised figure of a knight in armour. Beneath the latter were found some bones, which were also taken to Duff House.³ The inscription on the incised stone now reads: 'Hic jacet Johannes Duf de Maldavat et Baldavi obiit 7 Julii 1404,' but appears to have been tampered with, as there

¹ 'Funeral of the Earl of Fife. On Thursday last the remains of the late Earl of Fife passed through this place in a hearse drawn by six horses, preceded by mutes, followed by the mourners in a mourning coach with four, his lordship's carriage with six, and several other carriages, in which were the gentlemen who accompanied the funeral to the family vault at Duff House, where, we understand, the body was on Saturday deposited' (from the *Aberdeen Journal of a hundred years ago*, 1909).

² The late peer had three natural children, born before his marriage, viz. General Sir James Duff of Kinstair, Major William Duff, and Jane or Jean Duff, who lived long at Scarborough. They are treated of in chapter xxxiv.

³ The letter from Lord Findlater's factor, authorising this removal, is dated April 13, 1792.



JAMES DUFF, SECOND EARL FIFE

By Francis Cows

is other lettering, now illegible, and, in his zeal to identify the John Duff there buried with the one mentioned in the earliest Muldavit charter given to him in 1792 by his cousin, Lord Findlater, Lord Fife had the date recut (and presumably altered), and unfortunately allowed the cutter to make use of Arabic figures, which would not have been used in a contemporary inscription. This oversight gave a handle to the criticism and scorn poured upon his claim to descend from the Duffs of Muldavit, by the late Dr. Cramond and others. The claim in itself was perfectly genuine, though the means he took to establish it were unfortunate. The whole question has been discussed in an earlier chapter. Lord Fife also moved, as he had every right to do, the monument and the body of his great-uncle, Alexander Duff of Braco, and those of his father and mother and niece Frances, from the old church of Grange, and, with less justification, another monument from Banff old churchyard, said to be that of Provost Douglas.

Among the Rose MS., Advocates' Library, Aberdeen, is a letter to John Alexander Cameron, from George Imlach, written evidently early in the present century, in which the writer says: 'In our history we must remark the shameful spoliation, by the late Earl James, of the monument of Provost Douglas from our churchyard, and now tacked to the back of his mausoleum, where it does not willingly stick, for it is coming away from the wall of its own free will and accord. He covered the original inscription by a freestone plate, with an inscription about the place of the Carmelites, etc. . . . Old Allester will tell you all about it. It was carried off by the Earl's myrmidons, sub silentio noctis. I made Lord Fife's people believe the other day that the Provost's ghost turned the vase into the river.'

Nicol's *Banff and Neighbourhood*, 1879, states that 'over the grave of Douglas was the figure of a knight, which has now disappeared.' On another page the same writer states that 'a relic of St. Mary's Chapel is built into the back of the mausoleum, an arched vault, with the recumbent effigy of King Robert Bruce in armour. Carving round the rim of the arch, representing the vine, is in beautiful preservation, and the base stones are richly carved in panels. One bears in Latin the text, "Beati mortui qui moriuntur in Domino; a laboribus suis requiescunt et illorum opera eos sequuntur. Apoc." Another has the St. Andrew's cross in bold relief, but, excepting one letter, the inscription that had covered the face of the cross is obliterated; and other panels bear "Memento Mori," with sandglass, skull, crossbones, bullrushes, and other emblems of mortality.'

The supposed effigy of Robert Bruce is almost certainly that of Provost

Douglas, the monument here described having been erected probably in the Provost's lifetime.

Long before the date of setting up the Muldavit monument in the mausoleum, Lord Fife had been trying to investigate the history of his ancestors, for in 1778 he writes to his factor: 'Pray look into the family history and see who was Keithmore's mother, and what the name of his father.¹ I think Adam. I have actually found one of my family . . . the arms quite certain, and from the date I think it must have been Jamieson that painted it. The picture belonged to old Alexander the painter, and had been sold with his things. How he came by it, I cannot say.'²

In 1912, the vault of the mausoleum, which was full, with the exception of one space, was filled in with fine sand, and the ventilators and staircase walled up with solid masonry.

A slab in the wall of the mausoleum now commemorates the twenty-one persons whose bodies lie below. They are:

DUFF HOUSE MAUSOLEUM

Beginning at foot of stairs:

- No. 1. ANNE, widow of General the Honourable Sir Alexander Duff, G.C.H., died February 14, 1859, aged 70 years.
- No. 2. General the Honourable Sir ALEXANDER DUFF, G.C.H., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Moray, second son of Alexander, third Earl of Fife, died March 21, 1851, aged 73 years.
- No. 3. The Right Honourable ALEXANDER, third Earl of Fife, Lord Viscount Macduff, Baron Braco, etc., etc., Born April 13 (O.S.), 1731, died at Duff House, April 17, 1811, aged 80 years. Father of General Duff.
- No. 4. ALEXANDER DUFF TAYLER, died July 26, 1809, in the sixth year of his age. Son of Lady Jane Tayler.
- No. 5. The Right Honourable JAMES, second Earl of Fife, Viscount Macduff, Baron Braco of the Kingdom of Ireland, Baron Fife in Great Britain, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Banff, Colonel of the Banffshire Local Militia, F.R.S. and S.A. Died January 24, 1809, in the eightieth year of his age.
- No. 6. JANE, Countess of Fife, born 1704, second wife of William, first Earl of Fife. Died at Rothiemay, January 16, 1788, aged 83 years.

¹ His father also had been anxious to get the exact position of Adam defined. See chapter ix.

² This probably refers to the portrait of John Duff of Bowmakellach by Jamesone, which has the arms in the corner. It was this 'Alexander' who renovated and signed some of the Duff House pictures, and added to them unauthorised dates. See list of illustrations.

- No. 7. WILLIAM, first Earl of Fife. Died September 30, 1763, aged 66 years.
- No. 8. JAMES, fifth Earl of Fife, K.T. Born July 6, 1814, died August 7, 1879.
- No. 9. AGNES GEORGINA ELIZABETH, wife of James, fifth Earl of Fife. Born May 12, 1829, died December 18, 1869.
- No. 10. JAMES DUFF, fourth Earl of Fife and Viscount Macduff in the peerage of Ireland, Baron Braco of Kilbryde, Baron Fife of the United Kingdom, K.T., G.C.H., Knight of the Spanish Order of St. Ferdinand, and of the Swedish Order of the Sword. Born October 6, 1776, died March 9, 1857.
- No. 11. WATT DUFF.
- No. 12. Supposed to be ALEXANDER DUFF of Braco.
- No. 13. Supposed to be WILLIAM DUFF of Braco, successor of Alexander Duff of Braco. Died at Balvenie, 1718.
- No. 14. Supposed to be MARGARET, daughter of Sir William Gordon of Lesmore, wife of Alexander Duff of Braco.
- No. 15. Miss FRANCES DUFF. Died at Rothiemay, March 6, 1787, aged 20 years. Youngest daughter of the Hon. George Duff of Milton.
- No. 16. ALEXANDER FRANCIS TAYLER. Died November 8, 1828, aged 14. Son of Lady Jane Tayler.
- No. 17. The Honourable the Lady JANE TAYLER, eldest daughter of Alexander, third Earl of Fife. Died at Edinburgh, May 22, 1850, aged 70 years.
- No. 18. ALEXANDER FRANCIS TAYLER, formerly Major of the 26th Regiment of Foot. Son-in-law of Alexander, third Earl of Fife. Died at Rothiemay, September 1854, aged 89 years.
- No. 19. Hon. ARTHUR DUFF of Orton, died 1805.
- No. 20. Not known.
- No. 21. Major WILLIAM DUFF, 26th Regiment, son of James, second Earl of Fife. Died 1795, aged 41.

The following extracts from some of Lord Fife's letters will show that he had much humour and family affection. Writing from Mar Lodge in August 1782 to his sister, Lady Anne Duff, he says :

‘ I have had nothing but high winds and violent rains and yet every day have I been out, and regularly wet to the skin. I came here last night after 10 o'clock, after shooting two fine stags, and you never saw a duck more compleatly wet than your brother. I am to try to-morrow to send a side of one of the stags to Rothiemay. It is a wonderful trouble equiping out a poor tennents horse from here, and another from Glenbucket, to carry this half beast, which they, I hope, will do by Thursday night. My dear Mother us'd to get it in dirt and stink. We us'd to nose it before it came to the place ; and you dare not deny that yourself and the other dear little ones us'd to get broath of vinison with hundreds of

animals! I shall never wish to send her anything in *that* style. My rascally forrester at Glenochty gives me nothing but what he sends to Rothiemay, and all he sent last year was one lean hind, about as fat as you was when you married. Be not offended; I speak not of you now, but only on the state of former times'¹ (Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*).

The second is from Fife House, 1793, and is addressed to Lady Grant:²

'I am glad Sir James and you are safe and sound on the hill tops and the fencibles rising in number. I hope we shall have soon no use for them, that the swords will be ploughing the fertile plains of Delachaple, etc.

'I was last night at Lord Amherst's, when the good news came in of the French evacuating Ostend; they will all soon be sent to their lawful master the D——l. God forgive you for the only sin I believe you commit; sending us cold Strathspey wind and rain. We never smelt it till you got to Castle Grant. . . . I have been horribly distressed with inflamed eyes, by foolishly riding out in a cold easterly wind. It would have been a comfort to Sir James Grant, but I hate wind. I am however better now, and am going to dine at the Lord Mayor's feast, much against my will; but he has behaved so honourably, that I must show him all the respect in my power' (Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*).

To his brother, Arthur Duff of Orton

WHITEHALL, May 2nd, 1774.

'DEAR ARTHUR,—I am very much fatigu'd by being in the House, till past three this morning, on the American Bills, which are now all past, one for Depriving the Town of Boston of a Port,³ and the other two, upon the Regulations of their Civil and Military Legislation, all this, with the attendance of nine Regts. which are now order'd there, will probably bring them to Moderation, and a Dutyfull Connexion to their Mother Country. I have bought a Pound of the Grass, Cabbage and Turncep Seeds for you, and shall take the first opportunity of sending them, I wish you had order'd them sooner, as I fear the Grass and Cabbage seeds will be late. We must think with Deliberation, on what is most prudent, and proper, to be done as to Brodie's affairs, the only thing I fear, is designing People doing some thing to our Prejudice, without any Benefite to him. It is better to say nothing on the Subject, and I shall do every thing I can to prevent bad People from hurting us. I hope to leave this in a fortnight and to go by Mar Lodge, to visit my farm there, and rest a few days till my Servants, etc., get to Duff House. I have wrote to Captn. Gordon lately,

¹ 'Mrs. Duff is advised to drink the ass milk in the Spring have used the freedom to send for the Rothiemay ass. She is thin but otherwise well. She joins with me in Compliments to your Lordship, Lady Bracco and our young friends.—I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient and most obliged humble servt.,

ALEXANDER DUFF.

(D.)

'BALYUCHOLLIE, 13th Febr'y. 1759.'

² His niece, daughter of Anne.

³ In consequence of the tea riots.

and sent him a letter from Lord Rochford, which shows I have done everything in my power for John Gordon (chapter xxxvii.) both here and with foreigners, I never had any expectations from the Captn., but I thought it right to do every thing in my power to gain his assistance, which if I do not succeed in, I think I shall then take my leave of every future Interviews with him; that from experience, I know gives no pleasure, it is a bitter Portion, and should only be taken, in Gratitude for past favers, or in hopes of those that are to come; I dont think I shall be under any obligation to test it. Adieu.—Yours affectionately,
 FIFE.' (R.)

To his factor, William Rose

WHITEHALL, April 23rd, 1776.

'I have had five days attendance from seven in the morning to seven at night on the Dutchess of Kingston, who yesterday came forth Countess of Bristol. The Lords find her guilty of felony, but she Plead her Peerage, and therefore could not be burnt in the hand. I confess I think her Case very hard for the Duke of Kingston and she by the advice of the first Council was assured that by the Sentance of the Ecclesiastical Court she was a free Woman and could marry any body. She lived with the Duke as his Dutchess, was so Receiv'd at Court and remain'd some time as his widow. Depending on this Sentance she push'd her tryal and now the Lords set that Sentance of the Ecclesiastical Court aside; before the Licence for her marriage with the Duke was given Ld. Mansfield was consulted, the Archbishop of Canterbury keep'd her papers for a day for consideration and then gave the Licence, so on the whole I think her fate is hard, and she is now to Combat for the fortune £15,000 a year, which the Duke left her so long as she continued a Widow. So here is fine work for Lawyers and will probably involve the Remainder of her Days in Litigation.¹ . . . Here is very fine hot weather, I hear you have had snow.—Yours,
 FIFE.
 (R.)

'To Mr. Rose, Banff.'

There is a letter from Lord Fife (at the Record Office), dated February 25, 1772, asking for the pardon of Andrew Hay of Rannes and James Gordon

¹ Elizabeth, Duchess of Kingston (1720-1788), sometimes called Countess of Bristol, was the daughter of Colonel Thomas Chudleigh. She was a very beautiful girl, and was appointed Maid of Honour to Augusta, Princess of Wales, in 1743. On August 4, 1744, she was privately married to Augustus John Hervey, afterwards third Earl of Bristol, but the marriage was kept secret to enable her to retain her post at Court, while Hervey returned to his naval duties. The marriage was recognised later, and when she became the mistress of Evelyn Pierrepont, second Duke of Kingston, Hervey wished to divorce her. She therefore started a suit of jactitation, probably collusive, in which she declared herself unmarried, and the court in 1769 pronounced her a spinster. Within a month she married Kingston, who died four years later, leaving her all his property. The case referred to by Lord Fife was brought by the Meadows family, who claimed the estate. She, although pronounced guilty, seems to have retained the money until her death at Paris in 1788. (The suit of jactitation could only, previous to 1857, take place in an ecclesiastical court.)

of Cobairdy¹ for their share in the rebellion of 1745. In it he states that they had ever since that date behaved so as to merit the favour and protection of government, living near Lord Fife, and visiting and being visited by everybody in the country.

Lord Suffolk replies that, in view of the many forms that must be observed before obtaining a formal pardon from the King, if these gentlemen remain unmolested, it is better not to stir in the matter at all.²

Fifteen years later Andrew Hay seems to have been living peaceably at home, and writes :

To the Earl Fife

‘ MY LORD,—I regret that my stupidity in not directing my last letter under your Lop.’s cover occasioned you so much trouble which I beg you ’ll be so good as excuse. I shall in future be more exact, as my sister is so good as Clerk for me, you ’ll easily read my letters which a tremor in my hand joynd to a degree of stupidity renders my letters often unintelligible. This day’s post which now arrives very irregularly brought me a very friendly kind letter from Sir James Duff in which he mentions your Lop.’s good health on which my sister and I rejoice and wish long continuance of so valuable a blessing. Your Lop. is very good in attempting to regulate the conveyance of letters from Aberdeen to the North as also a relieff about the coall tax which will be very beneficiall to all the coast of Seotland especially the Engie from which your Lop. wants to take Old Moors. If I can judge from the newspapers the commerciall treaties and Mr. Hastings affair will occasion very long and fatigucing sederunts in the House. As your Lop. is so kind as permit me to enclose letters I have taken the liberty to send one for Capt. Abercromby at Bath and one for my Cousin Adam Hay at Leicester. As I know your Lop. will not grudge the trouble of saving a poor Sub Tennant a shilling.

‘ Nothing new in this corner but the finest weather that has been remembered which has been of great service to the country in saving provinder and forwarding labouring. My sister and I joyn in presenting humble respects to your Lop. I have the honour to be with sincere esteem and attachment.—My dear Lord, Your most affect. and obedient humble servant, ANDREW HAY.

‘ RANNES, Febr. 18th, 1787.’

In 1801, aged seventy-two, Lord Fife writes from Innes House: ‘ I dined here at three o’clock upon Sunday, rode to Rothiemay in the evening,³ and on Monday morning rode through Auldmore and Garmouth and was at

¹ Half-brother to Sir William Gordon. Andrew Hay was Major in Pitsligo’s Regiment.

² *State Papers*, Domestic Series. In the same collection is a ‘ Permission,’ dated May 31, 1760, ‘ For the Earl and Countess of Fife to pass, on horseback, through the Horseguards.’

³ About twenty-five miles.

Innes before nine o'clock having eat nothing, so you see what an active young fellow I am !'

But this must have been almost the last of his active days, as within the year he went blind, and eight years later he died. There is a pleasing portrait of him by Cotes, of which there are several replicas.

Some other pleasant letters of his are added, from the British Museum MSS.

To Bishop Douglas

'DUFF HOUSE, July 5th, 1790.

'MY DEAR LORD,—I do with much pleasure congratulate your Lordship on the appointment to Salisbury, long may you live to enjoy it. I never felt more satisfaction than at the moving the late Bishop of Salisbury to Durham. I was standing by the good Bishop when the noble Marquis came forward to *praise* himself and abuse others, which is often the mode of his debate—we are often hurt by the aid of ill-judging friends, and sometimes benefited by the malevolence of a wrong-headed enemy, this reflection struck me at the time, and I could not help expressing it so to the Bishop, the present nomination is most creditable to the Bishop, and honourable to our Dear Sovereign, I wish many of his Subjects acted on the same noble principles. While I am rejoicing over your Ldp. I cannot but mourn over the misfortunate King and Queen of France, that Country must deluge in blood. I hope our meeting on the 14th of July will not be a respectable one ; I wish our mob may rise and pelt them, I dont desire a brick bat at the head of Earl Wm. Stanhop, but I do wish his Ldp. a dead cat well powdered with dirt. My best Compts. to Mrs. and Miss Douglas. I am ever with much regard and respect, My dear Lord, Your most obedient humble
FIFE.'

To Bishop Douglas

'MAR LODGE, June 5th, 1791.

'MY DEAR LORD,—Will you excuse the trouble of this letter to inquire after Mrs. Douglas and your Ldp. I am keeping this day not with the Windsor magnificence, but you shall not exceed us in mirth and natural beauty. I have near two hundred at dinner ; you Lords and great ones are sure of a good dinner, but my friends would not have been in the same situation, had I been with you—they are all highlanders ; as most of them speak Gaelic, I confess I do not understand all their humer, but we have all drunk the King and Queen's health, both in English and Galic, we are above 6000 feet nearer heaven than Windsor, so we look down upon you ; they are all now dancing in the Fingal stile, and I realy wish their majestys in the *Chairs* upon the Lawn to see how happy they are, it is such a contrast to the Ball room at St. James's, that I am certain it would amuse them. I have never been here at this Scason, as this is my shooting habitation, and I am certain no part of Switzerland can shew nature in greater magnificence and variety. I leave this to-morrow after having

enjoyed the heat and fine Sky of Italy, this Place lays in the very head of Aberdeenshire, the highest grounds in Scotland. My letter will be of an old date, as it is only to go to the Post town next Tuesday. If your Ldp. directs to me, Duff House by Banff, and convey me good accounts of your health it will much oblige.—Your devoted, etc., etc.,

FIFE.

‘I could not help observing the 21st Psalm the service of this day how applicable: ‘He asked life of Thee and Thou gavest him a long life.’

To Bishop Douglas ¹

‘MAR LODGE, 3rd June 1805.

‘MY DEAR LORD,—I was unlucky enough to call at the Hotel in Pall Mall and was sorry to hear you had gone out to Windsor, but it gave me pleasure to be informed you was well. I intended to have stayed the Birthday, but received the melancholy accounts of the Death of a favourite Brother.²

‘I was very happy to see the King look so, and that he now attends to what may contribute to his health and amusement which I hope will prolong his life. I was here the first Birthday after his illness which fell on a Sunday, the Psalm of the Service of the day particularly struck me. I wrote to your Lordship and gave you the description of the manner I kept the Birthday next day. I am to do the same to-morrow, and I have sent to all the Country people round to meet on the large Lawn before the Lodge, where they shall have good Boiled and Roast an excellent Tub of Punch a Fiddle and a Pipe it will be a very different scene from the Ball at Windsor, my Ladies will all have Petticoats, but some of my Gentlemen will be sans coulotes, my Ball and Feast is not only Loyal but Charitable as they probably would have got no dinner had I not been there.

‘I leave this the 5th to go to Duff House. Two thirds of my Tenants in this part of the Country are Roman Catholics, but they dont think themselves slaves, and therefore require no *Emancipation*, I am very glade that Question was properly disposed of; whoever moves it, whether a Pitt or a Granville, shall never get credit from me that they bring it forward from Religious Principles, for I hope never to see Catholics but subservient to the Established Church, and never have a share in the Political Government of the Country.

‘If you see his Majesty will you have the goodness to say that my prayers are put up for his health and happiness. Every good wish to your son and Family. I remain always with much respect and regard, my dear Lord, Your most obt: humble Servant,

FIFE.’

To Warren Hastings

‘FIFE HOUSE, 28th Mar. 1804.

‘DEAR SIR,—I sat yesterday to Mr. Cosway and shall sit again to him to-morrow. It will give me great pleasure to hear that you recover your hearing

¹ Only signed by Lord Fife, the rest written by an amanuensis.

² Arthur.

which I flatter myself proceeds only from cold and may be easily removed. While I live I shall never forget the impression you made on my mind from the first day you appeared at the Bar of the House of Commons till the day you was relieved from Westminster Hall. Whatever you might feel at that time for not receiving grateful returns for public services, your countenance assured me of a consolation in your own mind that your conduct had been such as to ensure the approbation of that Tribunal which is above all. Often did I wish to state my abhorrence of the illiberal persecution which came from the manager's box, so much abilities were, I believe, never directed against an object, and I do confess with all the interest I took for you, I had not the courage to draw the abuse from that box against myself.

'I am always with great respect and regard, Dear Sir, Your most obedient
humble servant, FIFE.'

And one from the cousin of his brother's wife. See next chapter.

George Skene,¹ Scotland Yard, to Lord Fife

'28 June 1803.

'MY LORD,—As your Lordship has condescended to grant me permission, I will avail myself of the opportunity of writing to your Lordship when any thing occurs which according to my apprehension can afford your Lordship the smallest amusement.

'Her Grace of Gordon² has made very free with your Lordships house, which I am afraid will bear the marks and ravages of her frequent Balls. An immense company were dancing at Fife House till six o'clock this morning, about which hour the ladies departed half stupid with fatigue and dissipation, and their naked arms dangling out of their carriage windows. The rattling of carriages all night, together with the singing, swearing and squabbling of drunken coachmen prevented any sleeping in the neighbourhood and gave us just cause to regret that we had returned from Windsor where we had seen their Majesties walking on the Terrace with most of their family behind them, forming a strange contrast to the midnight orgies of her Grace.

'The King seems in high health and spirits, and is said to be much attached to the Addington administration.

'In the House of Lords the Debate about the Clergy Residence Bill much acrimonious language passed between the Chancellor and Lord Grenville—language, which I think cannot easily be forgotten or forgiven by either of the parties.

'I have this day received a letter from my Brother Alex^r of the Lapwing Frigate, stating that he is now at sea, bound to Newfoundland, with two men of war and a valuable Convoy under his command, and hoping for my sake and his

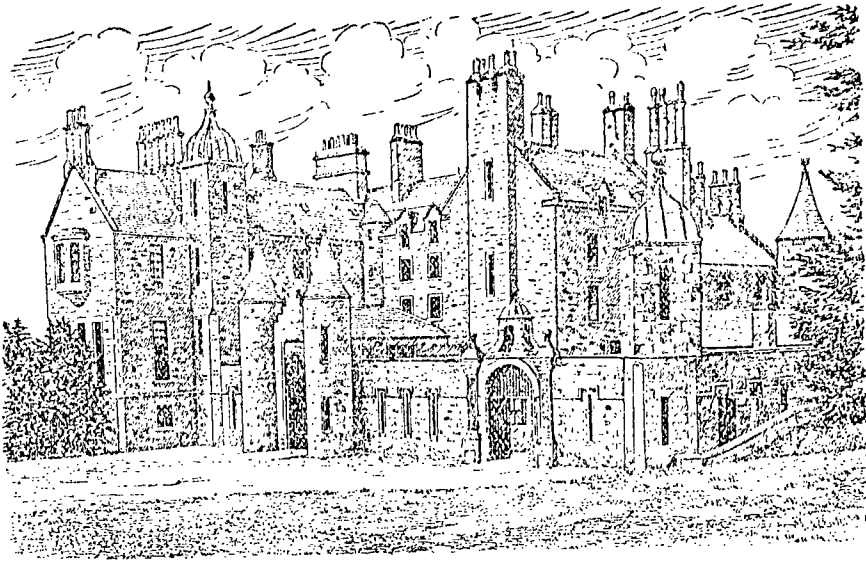
¹ See page 193.

² Jane Maxwell.

own that he will take many prizes.—I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's most humble and most devoted servant,
GEORGE SKENE.

'The principal supper Table used last night at the Duchess of Gordon's was forty-two feet long and eight wide ; down the center was a plateau of flowers and framework. '
(D.)

NOTE.—From the mass of correspondence written and received by James, second Lord Fife, and preserved either by his family or by his factor, William Rose, it has been somewhat difficult to select, but it is hoped that those letters printed above are interesting enough in themselves to justify their insertion, and give a fairly complete picture of a delightful personality.



SKENE HOUSE
(BROUGHT INTO THE FAMILY BY THE WIFE OF THE THIRD EARL)

CHAPTER XII

ALEXANDER DUFF, THIRD EARL FIFE

ALEXANDER, the third Earl Fife, the third son of William, first Earl Fife, was born in 1731. Being a younger son, with little likelihood of succeeding to the title, it was necessary for him to make his way in the world. He was at first educated at home with his elder brother James, by Mr. Abel, minister of Rothiemay, who acted as their private tutor. Later on, he was at St. Andrews University, and his name is to be found in the Roll of Alumni of that University in 1748. He subsequently studied law and became an advocate at Aberdeen, where most of his life was passed, though he made frequent journeys to Edinburgh on legal business. But he had some experience of foreign travel, as we find him writing to his father from Brussels, in 1756, an account of an accident to his leg, which a quack doctor informed him would have to be cut off. Fortunately another doctor's advice was procured, and the threatened amputation did not take place. In 1757 he was in London, and in another letter to his father, referring to Frances Dalzell, his brother George's wife, he writes that she will not be persuaded to live in Scotland, and patriotically adds that he is sure her determination proceeded from not knowing the country, and from being misinformed with regard to it, while he concludes with the

statement that 'English ladies have unreasonable prejudices against our northern region, which they with difficulty ever get over.'

On his return to Scotland from England in 1757 Alexander was requested by his father to visit his brother Lewis at Cambridge, the latter being then in residence at St. John's College. Here, at his father's desire, Alexander administered to his brother a severe rebuke on his conduct and behaviour.

Alexander was one of the few Duffs who have been really musical, and played well. When living at Rothiemay he was devoted to the violin, and he would constantly go over to visit his musical neighbour, the Rev. Mr. Stronach. The violin which he used is now in the possession of the present writers.

Having settled in Aberdeen in practice as an advocate, Alexander Duff spent most of his life in or near that town. Amongst other cases in which he was engaged, was the action brought in 1761 by Captain John Gordon of Park against John, William, and Jean Gordon, the children of Sir William Gordon of Park, whose estate was forfeited owing to his having taken part in the Jacobite rising of 1745.

'The Hon. Alexander Duff married at Careston, 17th Aug. 1775, Mary Skene, eldest daughter of George Skene of that Ilk' (*Aberdeen Journal*). Besides being the possessor of the Skene property, George Skene also owned the estate of Careston in Forfarshire. He had married the beautiful Mary Forbes¹ of Alford, who was deaf and dumb; she died at Careston, March 15, 1786. By her he had seven children, namely, George Skene, known as 'The Last Laird,' who died in 1825; James, David, and Andrew, who all died without issue before 1825; Alexander, who was deaf, dumb, and nearly blind, and was known as 'Dumbie Skene'—he was the nominal possessor of the estate from 1825 to 1827, when he died; Mary, who married Alexander Duff; and Sarah, married T. Macdonald, W.S. 'The Last Laird,' George Skene, erected in the grounds of Skene House² a monument to his dogs, with this inscription:

'Tartar, Fury, Ginger, Viper, Bess, Vixen, Muffie, etc., etc.

'My faithful dogs, by whose inviolable attachment I have been induced to banish from my mind for a time the disgust occasioned by the Vices, Follies and

¹ From the portrait in the possession of the present writers it appears that Mary Skene did not inherit these good looks, and she herself writes to Lord Fife about a piece of silk he was sending her for a gown, that she will need a full quantity, 'for what I have not in height I have in breadth.'

² It was in the library of this mansion that the original MSS. were preserved. *A History of the Troubles in Scotland and in England, from the year of God 1624 to the year of God 1645*, by John Spalding, clerk of the Commissary Court of Aberdeen, from which the Spalding Club edition was printed.

Ingratitude of Mankind. They never anticipated Evil. A Sad Reverse is the Fate of Man.

'Cur non.

G. S., 1808.'

His first cousin, also a George Skene, was executed for forgery in 1812. In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, under date March 18, 1812, occurs the following: 'This morning, Mr. George Skene, late chief clerk of Queen Square Police Office, who was convicted of having forged certain receipts for the purpose of defrauding the Treasury, was executed pursuant to his sentence. Great interest had been used to pardon him, but on the Friday preceding he was informed that he had no mercy to expect. Mr. Skene was a member of a most respectable family in the north of Scotland, and was next heir to the large property of Skene of Skene.'¹

Upon the death of Mary Skene's last surviving brother in 1827 the splendid estates of Careston and Skene came into the hands of the Fife family, in whose possession the latter remained for over fifty years. Careston was sold in 1871 for £184,000, and Skene to Mr. Hamilton in 1880, on the basis of a rental of £2900.

By Mary Skene, Alexander Duff had the following children:²

1. JAMES, born 1776; afterwards the fourth Earl Fife.
2. ALEXANDER, born 1777; afterwards General Sir Alexander Duff.
3. GEORGE, born 1779; died 1781.
4. JANE, born 1780; married Major A. F. Tayler.
5. ANNE, born 1781; married Richard Wharton Duff.
6. MARY, born 1787; died young.
7. SARAH, born 1790; married, 1807, Daniel Collyer of Wroxham, Norfolk; died 1811.

Both the boys were brought up by their uncle, the second Earl, and the two following letters from Alexander and his wife refer to their departure from home and their early days with their uncle.

Alexander Duff to William Rose, factor, at Montcoffer House, Banff

'HOUSEDALE, Feb. 23rd, 1783.

'SIR,—Lord Fife proposed some time ago, that we should send our two boys to Mr. Chapman at Inchdrewer, and from what I heard of Mr. Chapman's character I thought they would be very well with him. Lord Fife writes last Post, that you have settled every thing with him, and that he only wants to know

¹ His four brothers all died without issue.

² His Family Bible, giving above dates, is in the possession of the present writers.

the time that they are to be brought to him. I think that the middle of April will be as proper a time as any, as the weather then will probably be turning good, so you will be so good as acquaint Mr. Chapman of that time, and I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient. Mrs. Duff joins me in her Compliments to you and Mrs. Rose, and I am, Sir, Your most humble servt.,
 'ALEXR. DUFF.'

On the same sheet there is also a letter from Alexander Duff's wife, Mary :

'I have added this to Mr. Duff's letter to beg of you to let me know if Mr. Chapman would approve of washing coats for the boys; they have red short coats for dress, but was proposing to give each two washing ones of thin cloth; every other thing shall be provided only five of each, as they are growing. Sandy will require great attention on acct. of his [*illegible*] otherwise he is stronger than Jamie, he had a complaint too some time ago, a stress he had got crying, and the only thing I am afraid of is, their fighting with boys, which cannot always be attended to, and that I am sure would be improper for both, but Jamie could not bear it, but any body who has the care of Children will enquire into those things—knowing that boys are apt to fight, and I am sure my Lord would not propose sending them any way but where they would meet with attention—other matters can be adjusted when we carry them there.—With best Compts., I am, sir, yours, etc.,

MARY DUFF.

'To William Rose, at Montcoffer, Banff.'

(O.)

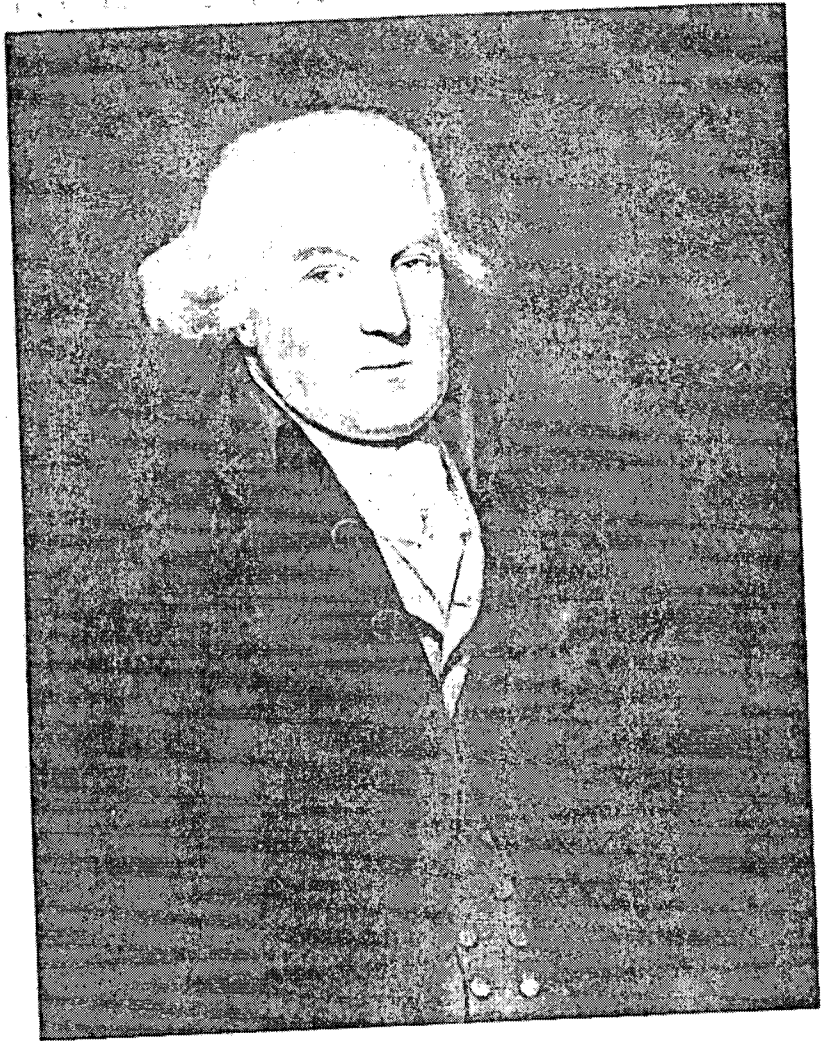
Mary Skene to James, second Earl Fife

'ABERDEEN, 26th Jan. 1784.

'MY LORD,—We had the Honor of your Lordship's letters at Old Meldrum, had only got that length then and now when we have got to Aberdeen will be obliged to walk home—no Chaise can go. I am afraid I will tire—however I am to attempt it. Your letter surprised me. I am ashamed at the trouble you give yourself with the children. We need not be anxious about them when they are in so good hands. I will certainly write Mrs. Rose. I am to blame for not doing it sooner—am obliged to your Lordship giving me a hint—she was very attentive to them. My mind is quite at rest. Sandy's belt will need to remain till he be free of his Complaint. Your Lordship has power to do with them what you like. We wish much to see you—as you pass—to write a note to care of Alexr. Leslie with orders to send it to Housedale in case we should not get it in time. Mr. Duff joins me in best Compts. to your Lordship, and I am, with esteem, Your affect. and Obt. sert.,

MARY DUFF.' (R.)

Upon James, the elder, coming of age, his uncle allowed him £500 a year, not a very lavish provision for the heir to such vast estates. James was a great friend of the Prince Regent, and lived much at Court, where he



ALEXANDER DUFF, THIRD EARL OF FIFE

By Alexander Pope

early began his career of extravagance and debt. The old Earl is said to have remarked, 'Eh, but Jamie must be a very clever boy to do all that on £500 a year.'

Upon his father's death in 1763, Alexander Duff inherited the estate of Echt in Aberdeenshire, where formerly his uncle, William Baird of Auchmedden, author of *The Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs*, had been concealed when prosecuted for his share in the rising of 1745.

Upon the estate of Echt was the dwelling of Housedale. In the *View of the Diocese of Aberdeen* we find 'Echt—Housedale, a neat little house with a good park about it, all newly raised by Forbes of Echt, younger, but sold in 1736 to Duff of Braco.'

Alexander, as we have said, lived chiefly in Aberdeen, where several of his children were born, but he also resided occasionally at Housedale, and here many of his relations came to visit him, and the place is often alluded to in the family correspondence. Subsequent to his disposal of the estate of Echt, he inhabited Kingcaussie on Deeside, and from this house his eldest daughter was married to Major A. F. Tayler in 1802. In 1801, after the sale of Echt, he had executed a bond of provision for his younger children (his eldest son James being heir-presumptive to the earldom of Fife). He left £4000 each to his second son, Alexander Duff, and to his daughters Jean and Anne Duff, and £1000 to Sarah.

In 1809 his elder brother James, second Earl of Fife, died, and Alexander Duff succeeded to the title of Lord Fife in the peerage of Ireland; the English peerage, which had been conferred on his brother and heirs-male of his body, becoming extinct. The third Earl Fife then went to live at Duff House, but he did not long enjoy his honours, for in April 1811 he was seized with a sudden illness, and 'died at Duff House after only a few days confinement,' on the 16th of the month, aged eighty. He was buried in the mausoleum at Duff House. Three portraits of him used to hang in Duff House, one as a boy, two others in later life; there was also a portrait at Orton, and the present writers own another.

His wife predeceased him in 1790.¹

His eldest daughter Jean, who married Major A. F. Tayler, had eight children :

1. Alexander Duff, born 1803; died 1809, from an accident.
2. Anne Frances, born 1804; died 1808, from an accident.
3. William James, born 1809; married, in 1864, his cousin Georgina Lucy, daughter of Admiral Norwich Duff, and was father of the present

¹ He left one natural son, Alexander Duff, who married, in 1783, Sophia Gill, the daughter of a merchant captain, and had issue.

writers. Mr. Tayler died in 1886, and his wife in 1896. He had purchased the estate of Glenbarry,¹ previously connected with the Duff family.

4. Jane Marion, born 1810; married Doctor Dawson; died 1869.
5. James George, born 1811; married Mary Anne Duncan; died 1875.
6. Alexander Francis, born 1814; died 1828.
7. George Skene, born 1816; Commander R.N.; married Anna Maria Scott; he died 1894.
8. Hay Utterson, born 1819; died 1903.

Three of the above children, namely, Alexander Duff, Alexander Francis, and Hay Utterson, were born deaf and dumb—a sad inheritance from their great-grandmother, Mary Forbes, wife of George Skene. The eldest Alexander Duff died at the age of six, from an accident alluded to in the following letter from his father. The unfortunate child, while pressing close to look at his new-born brother, was roughly pushed aside by the nurse, and fell into a bath of boiling water.

Major A. F. Tayler to his sister

‘DUFF HOUSE, 25 July 1809.

‘MY DEAR BESSIE,—The letter which I wrote on Saturday was too late for the post of that night I therefore sent it to Aberdeen early next morning by Dr. Skene who expected to be there before the South post went out, and if so you will have got it duly. The Doctor had been sent for express when the symptoms of Alexander’s disorder from the accident assumed so dangerous an appearance and remained with him until that time. I am happy to say that things go on better. The poor little fellow is amazingly reduced in strength, but his pulse which for some time was hardly to be felt, and was afterwards for

¹ The Abbey of Deer was founded in 1219 by William, first Earl of Buchan (died 1233), and the lands of Barre in Strathisla were acquired by the monks by subsequent grants of their munificent founders. These lands were granted to the monks in free forest, with the right of cutting timber (for the building and repair of the monastery) in the woods, which in that age seem to have stretched around the base of the Knock-hill.

In the year 1449 the lands of Barre were feued by the Abbot of Deer to the first Lord Saltoun, and were in 1557 given to John Abernethie, third son of the then Lord Saltoun, from whom the Abernethies of Mayen descended.

The Abernethies ‘took entries’ from the Lord Marischall until October 28, 1712, when sasine was granted to ‘William Duff, only son to the deceased James Duff of Cromby of the lands of Barry and the Shank of Barry with houses, biggins, yards, crofts, moss, muirs, etc., and haill universall pertinents of the samen, lying in the Parochin of Aberchirder and sheriffdom of Banff’ (*Banffshire Sasines*).

In 1773 Duff of Crombie sold the lands to Peter Gordon of Ardmeallie, his brother-in-law, who again sold them to John Morison of Auchintoul, son of Alexander Morison of Bognie. They then passed into the hands of Grant of Auchorachan, who sold them in 1853 to the late William James Tayler.

a length of time at one hundred and 60, is now reduced to about a hundred. The healing process seems to have commenced, and he begins to take a considerable quantity of milk which of itself must be nourishing—he latterly has now and then taken a strawberry or gooseberry, and occasionally a little morsel of bread in tea. Wine, you know, always was his aversion,¹ and to this disinclination he had nearly fallen a sacrifice. The Medical people say that nothing but the most wonderful energy of his constitution could have enabled him to undergo what he has suffered.

‘Should he recover, which after so wonderful an exertion I hope he yet may, you will be happy to learn that he will be in no shape disfigured or lamed in any manner by the consequences of the scald.

‘Lady Jane has recovered wonderfully from the anxiety she suffered. With much difficulty she was persuaded entirely to relinquish the nursing (she was witness to the accident), she could not have continued it without the greatest risk to the health of the infant.² He continues to thrive and is pretty lively and stout. Lady Jane has not been downstairs except when the accident happened, at which time she ran down in a frenzy for assistance. She however walks about the suite of apartments which are on the same floor. She has just now come into the room and joins me in kindest wishes.—Yours most affectionately,

‘A. F. TAYLER.

‘Half past eight o’clock. Just after I had finished my letter we were much alarmed by a discharge of blood from Alexander’s mouth.’

He died the next day. The family were then staying at Duff House with Lady Jane’s aged father, who had only recently succeeded to the title. Alexander Francis was well educated, could speak after a fashion, and understood French and Latin. He died of the after effects of measles at the age of fourteen.³

The following letter from him is in the possession of the present writers. He was seven years old at the time of writing :

‘ROTHIERMAY, 10th Sept. 1821.

‘MY DEAR AUNT,—I hope you and Grandmother are very well—I hope you will be write a Letter to me very soon. Uncle George shot eleven Braces to-day.

‘Papa and I went in the gig to Huntly to-day. My’s wrist is better to-day. I, Papa and William will be go to see you soon. I think that you are very glad to see us. Dr. McColl got his leg broke by the kick of a horse. I think that you knew Dr. McColl.

‘What is the name of the boy that was nearly drowned when bathing. With kind wishes from all at Rothiemay to you and Grandmother.—I remain, Yours truly,

ALEXANDER FRANCIS TAYLER.’

¹ Not surprising at six years of age.

² Both these children are buried in the mausoleum at Duff House.

³ W. J. Tayler, then a fortnight old.

In consequence of the early deaths of her two other afflicted children, Lady Jane could not be persuaded to part with her youngest son until he had attained the age of twenty, and he therefore never learned to speak, but he talked rapidly on his fingers and carried on long conversations on paper, many of which he kept. He lived for many years in London with the family of the late Dr. Watson, who had been charged with his belated education. He was very independent in his habits until extreme old age, and was well known in old book and print shops, where he spent a good deal of money, not always wisely. He died at the age of eighty-four, and is buried at Hastings.

No other instance of deaf-mutism has occurred among the descendants of Mary Skene.¹

A good many of Alexander Duff's letters have been preserved.

Alexander Duff to his father

‘PARIS, 30th May 1755.’

DR. PAPA,—I arrived at Paris upon Sunday last. I would have wrote sooner, but could not get myself settled before this time. My Brother and me left London together, he went the length of Calais with me staid there only a few hours and set out for Brusselles—I delivered my letter of credit as soon as I came here to Mr. Selwin and gave him a Bill upon you for £100. I only received 2200 livres from him, he deducted the rest which amounts to 200 livres for exchange. I thought it very high and was surpris'd to have my money so curtailed, but he told me it was ye common rate of Exchange betwixt this and Scotland. I shall fairly give you an account of my general and necessary expences from which you 'll be able to judge of my allowance—I lodge just now *à l'Hotel de Saxe, Rue de Colombier* which is reckoned one of ye cheapest lodging places in Paris. I cannot possibly have tolerable apartments for myself and servant under 8 guineas a month. I cannot eat cheaper than 7 guineas a month. My dancing, feneing, riding, musick and French Masters will cost me about 12 guineas pr. Month and my servant's board wages at half a guinea a week amounts to 2 guineas. Now with regard to Cloaths I have consulted and taken ye advice of people who know these things and they tell me that it will cost me 60 pound stirling at least before I can appear genteely in that article. I'm sure I do not exaggerate anything but candidly set down what is absolutely necessary, and I dare say from this account which I have given you you 'll perceive that my £100 especially after the deduction will be soon run out and I hope you 'll be so good either to give me a general letter of credit or if you don't incline that, I can receive your answer I 'll be run near. Once I have got well settled, and am pro-

¹ The children of Alexander Duff's daughter Anne will be found in the chapter entitled 'Wharton Duffs.'

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vided in Cloaths and other necessaries I'll be able to live much cheaper, but the having everything to purchase at first youll be sensible must unavoidably cost money. I shall endeavour to improve myself in everything as well as I can, and put to ye best advantage the indulgence you have been so kind as to shew me. My affectionate Duty to all ffriends and believe me to be, Dr. Papa, Your most affectionate and dutiful son while

ALEXR. DUFF.' (D.)

To the same

'PARIS, July 4th, 1755.

'DR. PAPA,—This is the third letter I have wrote you since I came here without any answer from you which makes me think my letters have miscarried. I design to set out from this in five or six days for Lyons. I'm told there is a very good Academy there, and very few or none of our Countrymen in that place. I'm advised to stay about three or four months at Lyons and return to Paris in the winter in order to compleat myself in the different exercises—besides they speak the French here with a more true and just accent than elsewhere. I will likewise have the benefit at Paris of attending the Parliament and ye pleadings in the Chatelet which is certainly a great advantage to one in my way. I have gone to these courts since I came here pretty frequently, but in the winter time they have more business and their pleadings consequently more various than in the summer. It is rather more tedious for me to attend these Courts than the Court of Session because I know but little of the French law; however I have got some books wherein the principles of the French law are laid down, and I am acquainted with a good many of the avocats who are so obliging as to instruct me in the forms. I'll be glad to hear from you as soon as your conveniency will permit and believe me to be with all possible esteem, Dr. Papa, Your most affectionate and dutiful son,

ALEXR. DUFF.' (D.)

To the same

'LONDON, Aprile 5th, 1757.

'MY LORD,—Upon my coming to Town, I was informed of Lewis misfortune, and of the bad state of health he was then in. I imagined that my Eldest Brother had acquainted you of his situation long ago. I never have seen him since I left Scotland, but from all accounts he was very ill, though I believe that he is at present a good deal better. The Country air would certainly be of great service to him, and I think the sooner he removes from Cambridge the better, as they tell me his studys goe on but slowly there, and the company he keeps none of the best, I'm sure he must be strangely altered, since I had the pleasure of seeing him, for at that time I'm certain he had not the least propensity to any kind of vice, and I'm persuaded he's been led into it by the wicked Company at Cambridge, and not by his own natural disposition. My brother George talks of his being in Scotland. I suppose he has wrote you of

his marriage, he has not made it publick as yet for reasons which are known to himself and his wife is still called Miss Dalzell. I drew upon you yesterday for £50, you 'll may be think the last was rather too soon spent, Lady Margaret's death put me to an extraordinary expence, as I was obliged to have a black suit of Cloaths and a grey Frock for wearing in ye morning, both which amounted to about £20 including a hat, stockings, a mourning sword, Ruffles, etc., etc.— I am with great duty and respect, Your most affectionate son,

'ALEXR. DUFF.' (O.)

To his mother

'ABERDEEN, Dec. 11th, 1763.

'DR. MADAM,—I had the pleasure of yours some time ago. I would have answer'd it sooner had anything entertaining ocured here since your going South. If this place does not abound with publick Diversions, to make up they are the most hospitable people here I ever saw there has not a day pass'd but I have been invited to dine or sup somewhere or another, I 'm very often oblig'd to decline their kind Invitations, in order to indulge my present scheme of Regularity—the horse came back here in good health and after keeping him a day or two I dispos'd of him. I have been drinking ass milk for some time past, I was oblig'd to buy one from Lady Premnay which cost me four pound ten. I find it does me much good as I am greatly better since taking it. I was out at Echt last week and din'd with Auchmeden, he tells me he intends taking a house at St. Andrew's. They had a great plot to make me stay all night in order to teize about some idle scheme or another, but I grew positive and went back here that night. I intend going to Balquholly about Christmas and after staying there some time shall come back to this place which is really more agreeable than one could imagine. We have an assembly, Concert and Card Meeting every week, so much for publick Diversions. I saw Sir Arthur Forbes here yesterday who told me he saw you at Edin^r. I have nothing more to add but always am, Dr Madam, your most aff^t Son,

ALEXR. DUFF.' (O.)

To his brother James

'HOUSEDALE, Augt. 23rd, 1775.

'MY LORD,—I have the pleasure to inform you that I was marryd at Careston upon Thursday last. We stayd there only Friday and we came here Saturday night. Mrs. Duff and me will be extremely happy to have the pleasure of seeing you here when convenient. I did not insist with Skene about what you mentioned we will make a shift to live upon what we have, it is only borrowing a little in the meantime till the Portion falls due. I always am, my Lord, your most affectionate Brother and humble Sert.,

ALEXR. DUFF. (D.)

'To the Right Honble. the Earl of Fife at Mar Lodge,
Care of Mr. William Rose, Banff.'

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Alexander Duff to his brother, Arthur Duff

‘*ABERDEEN, 2nd December 1775.*

‘*DEAR ARTHUR,—I had the pleasure of your’s last post, Mrs. Duff is much obliged to you for your kind Remembrance, the Dog and Songs arrived here yesterday with the Grapes, but the Dog, poor creature was quite wore out with the fatigue at Sea, and died this morning. John Gordon is not yet come here, I heard some time ago that he was at Sunderland, it seems he wrote to Mr. Wharton for some money who I fancy has refused him by his drawing upon Mr. Mackie. I shall follow your advice in avoiding him as much as possible. I’m much oblig’d to you for the trouble you take about the Chaise which you may send when bought by any of the Aberdeen smacks, you’ll send me an account of what it costs you, and I shall remit it after the Aberdeen term along with what I owe you already. We came here about 8 days ago and stay till Christmas when we intend going to Rothicmay to stay some weeks, and after that we will probably remain here all the spring. There is nothing new in this part of the Country. This town is tolerably gay just now, we have an assembly once a fortnight and a Concert once a Week, and a good deal of feasting. Lord and Lady Buchan spend the Winter here, I heard but an indifferent Character of my Lord, I have been two or three time in Company with him and really think they have done him Injustice, he seems to be intelligent in a number of things and is very affable and good humour’d, he says he was acquainted with you at Glasgow. I had a very hard Day of it yesterday at the County Club, Sir William Forbes was Preses, who is lately come home from his travels. I’ll be glad to hear from you at your Convenience, as London affords more matter for a letter than almost any other place. The cold rages here most violently. Mrs. Duff has been very ill of it for these two or three days past, but is now growing better. Be so good as make my Compliments to George and Lewis and make the best apology you can for not writing them, as I cannot find one myself, I fancy it will be best to write them under your Cover. I’m afraid you will hardly get this scrawl read, my pen is so bad. Mrs. Duff joins me in kind Compliments and I always am, Dr. Arthur, Your most affectionate Brother,*

‘*ALEXR. DUFF.*

‘*P.S.—As I will probably receive ye remainder of my money from Lord Fife at ye term shall I give it him up, or keep it till you come to ye Country as you are eventually concern’d in it ?*

‘*(O.)*

Alexander Duff to his brother James

‘*HOUSEDALE, April 29th, 1777.*

‘*MY LORD,—I had the pleasure of your’s yesterday. Mrs. Duff and me are much obliged to you for the trouble you take with regard to our room, it will certainly be furnished in a better taste then we could have done it ourselves.*

This is an unlucky time for laying new taxes upon us considering the low price of meal. I have not sold mine yet 8 shillings is the highest price offering here, and I think it is better to keep it awhile than to let it go so cheap. I went into Aberdeen the other day as a witness against a Mason whom I employed who stole several things from me. I wanted last year to have got him tryd before the Circuit Court, but the Advocate Depute thought proper to be of opinion that it was too trifling a cause to come before that Court, so he was tryd yesterday before the Sheriff at the instance of the Prov. Fiscal, but after the clearest proof of the theft and the unanimous verdict of the jury finding him guilty the great punishment of banishing him the County of Aberdeen was inflicted upon him. I think a little flogging into the Bargain would not have been improper. I own I was a good deal interested in this affair not for the value of the things stolen, but I thought that a workman employ^d about one's house acting in that manner deserv^d a greater punishment. Mrs. Duff joins me in best compliments, and I always am, My Lord, your most affectionate Brother,

'ALEXR. DUFF.' (D.)

To the same

'HOUSEDALE, Nov^r 12, 1778.

'MY LORD,—I never was more affected with anything than *with the melancholly accounts of poor Lady Helen's death.* She certainly was one of the best creatures that ever existed and behaved in every situation in life so irreproachably as made it impossible for malice itself to speak ill of her. The Poor Admiral is much to be pitied, for he certainly is deprived of an affectionate agreeable companion and who was always most attentive to him. We had the honour of a visit lately from the Duke of Gordon, his Grace came here with Lord Haddo and staid a night with us, he is very easy and affable, and was remarkably kind to us at Gordon Castle. It is much easier entertaining the like of him than a number of country Lairds or Aberdeen Merchants—I'm sorry we have not had the pleasure of seeing you since you came to y^e country, we will be glad either to see you at Duff House when convenient, or if you could come here on your way to London. I did not joke in the least, when I wrote you that there would be little or nothing remaining of Mrs. Duff's portion after clearing all my debts, but however we will make a shift to live pretty comfortably as my Estate will be quite free; and as none of us are of an expensive turn. Mrs. Duff and the children are in good health, she is in a fair way of producing something more—she joins me in best Compl^{ts}, and I always remain, My Lord, your most affectionate Brother,

ALEXR. DUFF.' (D.)

To the same

'HOUSEDALE, December 2^d, 1778.

'DEAR LORD,—Mrs. Duff and me intended to have gone to Duff House as we had not the pleasure of seeing you when last in Banffshire, but I believe

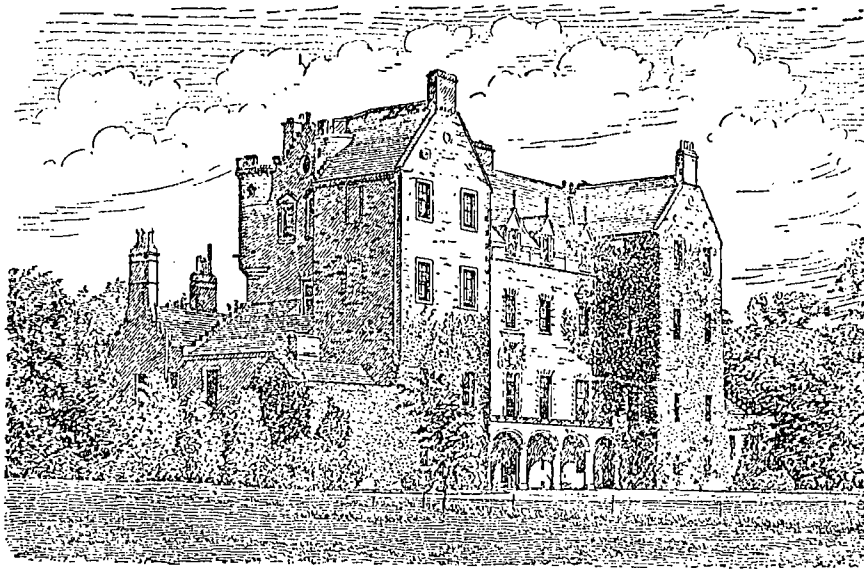
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it will be better to defer it till next year—I am obliged to be at Abdⁿ the 21st and 22nd of this month but I will be at home any day either before or after that time that you please to appoint. I am very anxious to get the term over too as this is the greatest one I ever had, or I hope ever shall have, about £2400 to pay off is no trifle to a man of £500 a year and I have already got £500 of Mrs. Duff's portion so you see after clearing everything there will be no great remainder, however there is a happiness in having one's Estate free and when that is the case a Person knows much better how to suit his expenses to his Income. The Laird of *Skene must draw his Purse at Last* and I dare say the money *comes from him like Drops of Blood*. He would have given it with a much better grace immediately after the marriage which would have prevented me from borrowing in the meantime. There is no news here. I am informed that the Dutchess of Gordon intends to reside at Abdⁿ some time this winter, they say she comes along with the North fencibles, who are to replace Lord McDonald's Regt. now at Abⁿ. If that is true the town will be more gay as her Grace likes to create amusement wherever she is. They say that the Duke goes for London this winter. We design to go into Town about the end of January as it will be more convenient for Mrs. Duff to lye in there than in the country being nearer help. When I saw Capt. Gordon, Park, last he told me he was informed that *John Gordon was married in India that his wife's Father was a man in office* there, that he was not rich but had a good deal of credit in the country and would be a great assistance to John in pushing him forward. If this be true you will have probably heard of it. Mrs. Duff joins me in best respects, and I always am, My Lord, your most affect. Brother,

ALEXR. DUFF.' (D.)

The letters of his later life, down to his death in 1811, are not of any interest. Owing to the short time during which he held the title and estates, he was not, like his brother James, the recipient of innumerable appeals from needy members of the family.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, James, at that time with the army in Spain.



CARESTON¹

(CAME INTO LORD FIFE'S POSSESSION IN 1827 ON THE DEATH OF HIS UNCLE)

CHAPTER XIII

JAMES DUFF, FOURTH EARL FIFE

JAMES, fourth Earl Fife, eldest son of the third Earl, was born in his father's, the Laird of Echt's, town house in Aberdeen, October 6, 1776. His uncle, the second earl, having no children, took him and his brother Alexander to Duff House in order to superintend their education, and sent them both to the school kept by Dr. Chapman at Inchdrewer, near Banff. From there James Duff went to Westminster School;² he was afterwards at Christchurch, Oxford, and on his return to London was entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, and appears thus in the register: 'James Duff,

¹ Montrose halted at Careston on his masterly retreat after the surprise at Dundee, April 4, 1645. It belonged at that time to Sir Alexander Carnegie, and is thus described by Ochterlony, a few years later: 'A great and most delicat house, well built, brave lights, and of a most excellent contrivance, without debait, the best gentleman's house in the Shyre.'

² *James Duff (aged fourteen) to his uncle, the Earl of Fife*

'Friday 7th, 1790.

'MY LORD,—I write you these few lines to inform you that the Holydays begin to-morrow, and I would be obliged to you if you would send to-morrow very soon as we come out of school at nine o'clock.—I am, Your affectionate Nephew,

JAMES DUFF.' (D.)

first son of Alexander Duff of Housedale, Co. Aberdeen ; entered April 9, 1794.' At the same time he took lessons in declamation from Bannister the comedian. In 1796 Mr. Duff left his legal studies and joined the Army on the Continent, subsequently proceeding to the Congress at Radstadt. He returned to England in 1798, and in September 1799 he married Maria Caroline Manners, second daughter of Mr. John Manners and his wife, Lady Louisa, afterwards Countess of Dysart. He was shortly after appointed to command the Banff and Inverness Militia, and brought the regiment to a high state of discipline. Unfortunately his married life was of short duration ; it was during his residence in Edinburgh, in command of his militia, that his wife died on December 20, 1805. Her death was caused by her being bitten or scratched on the nose by a pet Newfoundland dog ; no particular notice was taken of this occurrence, although the animal shortly afterwards became moody and ill-tempered, and bit a groom, after which it was destroyed.

It was only when Mrs. Duff became ill that the physicians formed a suspicion as to the probable origin of her malady. It was then too late to save her, and the poor lady died, according to a contemporary account,¹ of 'undoubted hydrophobia,' greatly sorrowed by all.²

To add to the sorrow at her death, Mrs. Duff was shortly expecting to become a mother, the event being looked forward to with great joy by Lord Fife's family. There is a charming portrait of this lady done by Cosway, and engraved by John Agar, pupil of Bartolozzi, which has since been reproduced, and many inferior copies are now to be met with.

Overwhelmed with grief at his sudden and tragic loss, James Duff went abroad, and was for some time a prisoner in Paris, from whence he wrote the following letter :

James Duff to Sir Joseph Banks

'PARIS, July 15, 1806.

'SIR,—Lord Fife having written to me a considerable time ago that you had had the goodness to say you would make an application to the Institute in my favour, but that at that moment you judged there was no probability of its being attended to, and as several English prisoners have lately obtained their liberty at the request of members of that body, may I hope you will pardon the liberty I take in suggesting that at present there is every probability that a recommenda-

¹ See *Notes and Queries*, August 1852.

² Tradition has it that, according to the custom of the time, she was smothered or strangled in one of her paroxysms (Genealogical Notes in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh). But the contemporary papers say that 'the immediate cause of her death was fainting fits.' And the *Scots Magazine* for December 1804 gives it as 'A fever of unexampled rapidity.'

tion such as yours would be, would be immediately attended to, should you be so good as to employ it in my favour. Mr. Hamilton who is so obliging as to charge himself with my letter has obtained permission to return to England, through the influence of some members of the Institute. I hope that Lord Fife being in Scotland, and our long and unfortunate detention in this country will plead my excuse for taking the liberty of addressing myself to you without having the honour of being personally known to you.—I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, Sir, Your very obedient humble servant,

J. DUFF.

‘ Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., etc., etc.’¹

On obtaining his liberty he went to Vienna, and subsequently joined the Austrian army under the Archduke Charles.

On hearing of the disturbances in Spain, however, he embarked at Trieste for Cadiz, where he found his kinsman, Sir James Duff,² the consul, who highly applauded his resolve to assist the Spaniards. He joined the Spanish army and took part in many battles, amongst others that of Talavera (1809), where he received a sabre wound in the neck, having just saved the life of a Spanish officer. Later on, he accompanied Lord Wellesley to Badajos. On January 24, 1809, his uncle, the second Earl, died, and by his father's succession to the title, he became Lord Macduff. He continued to serve in Spain, and his next share in the fighting was at the storming of Fort Matagorda on the Isle de Leon, near Cadiz, February 10, 1810. Here he received a wound of which the effects remained with him throughout his life, and caused him ever after to limp, but by his unaided efforts he had saved the Spanish standard. While the wound was healing, he lived for some time in the house of his cousin, Sir James Duff, at Cadiz, and was carried about the town in a Sedan chair, but as soon as possible he rejoined the army. On April 17, 1811, his father, the Earl Alexander, died, but he did not go home to attend to his own affairs until 1813. His departure from Spain was much regretted. Wellington presented him with a jewelled sword which he himself had received in India, and the Spanish Cortes conferred on him the rank of General, making him at the same time a Knight of the Order of St. Ferdinand and a grandee of Spain. He was received in London with great enthusiasm, the Prince Regent appointing him a Lord of the Bedchamber, as from early life they had been on terms of great intimacy, and this lasted almost throughout the Sovereign's life. On one occasion his lordship incurred the displeasure of the King, when he opposed the Government on the question of the Malt Tax, and was summarily dismissed from his post at Court and from the

¹ British Museum MSS.

² See chapter xxvii.



JAMES DUFF, FOURTH EARL FIFE

By Sir Henry Raeburn.

King's friendship. This incident was the origin of Dighton's caricature called 'The Discharged Fifer.' Subsequently the King received him back into favour and reinstated him in his office. In 1827 he was made a peer of Great Britain, as well as receiving the Order of the Thistle and the Grand Military Cross of Hanover.

When he returned to Scotland he found much to demand his attention. His uncle's extraordinary will, leaving everything possible to his natural son (James of Kinstair),¹ considerably crippled his resources and led to an action in the Court of Session in 1816, which at first involved the fourth Earl in heavy losses, but in which eventually he was successful. The legal knowledge which he displayed on this occasion was the delight of his friends, and the surprise both of his agents and opponents. Notwithstanding all his expenses, he set to work at once to make great improvements on his estates in building villages, making roads, constructing harbours, and planting great tracts of land, also in times of distress, treating his tenants with the greatest liberality and generosity. From 1818 to 1826 he was Whig Member of Parliament for the county of Banff, and on his retirement his brother, Sir Alexander, still represented the family in the House of Commons as member for the Elgin Burghs.² Besides being much at Duff House, he paid frequent visits to his property in Morayshire, and resided at Innes House, and it was owing to his influence that many great improvements were carried out in Elgin. He also restored part of the Abbey of Pluscarden, and was largely instrumental in preserving the ruins of Elgin Cathedral. When George iv. visited Edinburgh in 1823, both Lord Fife and his brother, Sir Alexander Duff, were in attendance on him; in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of that date Lord Fife is described as 'wearing a scarlet foreign General's uniform with Portuguese orders.' He was Grand Master Mason for Scotland, and in this capacity laid the foundation stones of the Regent Arch and the New Gaol, Calton Hill, Edinburgh, September 26, 1815.

He met many interesting people in his time and had been on terms of intimacy with some of them, amongst others the exiled Bourbons when in residence at Holyrood. He had also been acquainted with Napoleon, Talleyrand, and some of the renowned marshals of France, while a prisoner on parole in France (see above). On the death of George iv. the new King, William iv., confirmed Lord Fife's appointment as Lord of the Bedchamber. During the agitation in connection with the Reform Bill, he warmly supported that measure, and at great personal inconvenience was present to vote in the majority which ensured its passing.

¹ See chapter xxxiv.

² While Banffshire became Conservative.

To this period belongs the following letter from his father-in-law :

‘ PORTMAN SQUARE, 23^d Novr. 1813.

‘ MY DEAR LORD,—I dined with the Prince Regent on Sunday last, when His Royal Highness commanded me to say he hoped it would not be long before you returned to London, and also, not to forget the *Thousand Westphalia Hams*—So far I have executed my commission—I shall add that *Sir Carnaby* is panting for your return, and a *hundred more* who you can readily guess at—Seriously tho, we shall all be most happy to have you with us again—The Prince is in excellent spirits, so many glorious Victories as have lately occur’d, cannot fail of being most gratifying to him, and all of us—The counter Revolution in Holland, must be a dreadful blow on Bonaparte—The news arriv’d on Sunday. The Prince of Orange takes his departure immediately, two thousand of the Guards were to go to-day for Holland and twelve thousand of the Militia (who are to receive additional pay, on going abroad) will follow shortly. The Duchess joins me in love and kind regards to you, we hope your Brother and Mrs. Duff are well, pray remember us to them—I have only time to add that we hope to hear from you very soon, and Believe me, My dear Lord, Ever affectionately yours,
‘ JOHN MANNERS.’ (D.)

In 1833 he came to live permanently at Duff House, where his arrival was hailed with delight by the poor and the workpeople, who well-remembered his former kindness, and the improvement in their condition brought about by his presence. Besides the public works inaugurated by him, it was his custom to seek out persons in distress and poverty, and many were thus gladdened by his bounty. There is an old story of his carrying a sack of meal along the high road to relieve an aged woman of the burden, she being ignorant of his identity. When parting from her, he recommended her to sieve the meal well before using it; on doing so, after her return home, she was filled with joy at the discovery of several golden guineas, and her neighbour, who had watched the scene, said to her, ‘Ye’re up by cairts (*i.e.* up in the world) the day, to have a yearl to carry yer meal tae ye!’¹

He was always a good landlord and let out small holdings on favourable terms, and at a time when a neighbouring proprietor was turning out his smaller tenants in order to make clearings for deer forests and sheep farms, Lord Fife wrote him a long letter begging him not to turn out his tenants

¹ On another occasion, when driving in his gig, he met an old fishwife of his acquaintance and offered her a lift into Banff. On the way they encountered his brother, General Duff, who looked at the Earl’s companion with haughty disapproval. On being asked the reason of his glum looks, the General replied sourly that he could not tolerate the smell of fish, to which the Earl responded that *he* ‘preferred it to the smell of whisky,’ in allusion to the fact that his brother had married the daughter of a distiller.

faster than the Fife estates could take them in. As has been already mentioned, he inaugurated several new villages, Aberchirder and Dufftown being amongst the number. He had extensive repairs carried out upon several of the family mansions, and employed many men in enclosing and draining waste places and marshes.

For the last twenty years of his life he lived continuously at Duff House, and as he grew older he cared less and less to go about, his old Spanish wound giving him constant trouble; but he was always glad to see his friends at Duff House, and was able to enjoy their society, as well as being a great reader. In the beginning of 1847 the town of Banff was put into a state of great excitement by the report that an attempt had been made on Lord Fife's life by a discharged servant of the name of Hammond, said to have been under the influence of drink at the time. Hammond had made an attack on his successor, and the cries of a female servant brought the master to the spot, upon which Hammond drew a knife and attacked him, but was secured before much harm was done, and in spite of his seventy years, his lordship was little the worse.

In the autumn of 1854 he began to fail somewhat, and in April 1855 had a bad illness, from which, however, he completely rallied. Two years later he caught a severe cold from which he never recovered, and died on March 9, 1857, at Duff House, aged eighty years and five months.

There is a fine portrait of him by Raeburn in the family collection, and a replica in the possession of Mrs. Chancellor, by whose permission it is reproduced.

As he left no children, he was succeeded in the title and the Irish honours by his nephew, James Duff, as fifth Earl. The peerage of Great Britain, conferred on him in 1827, being confined to heirs-male of the body only, again became extinct.

In Imlach's *History of Banff* the fourth Earl is thus described :

'He was one of the most remarkable men of our time connected with the north of Scotland, and more particularly with us, as a burghess of our royal borough; a warrior and a courtier, a nobleman and a statesman, he yet rejoiced most of all in the title of the poor man's friend. As such his name will go down to posterity, and the house of Fife as it reckons up the names on its bead-roll of those who, in the spirit of their motto, *Virtute et Opera*, have achieved distinction and deserved well of their country, will not forget to render due honour to him whom it will designate "the good Earl James."'

Cramond's *Annals of Banff* thus alludes to his funeral :

'In March 1857 were deposited in the family mausoleum at Duff House, amidst general tokens of regret, the remains of one of the most notable men in

the north of Scotland. Two thousand persons followed his remains to their last resting-place, and from eight to ten thousand persons were on the ground.'

Within the recollection of the present writers, old people in Banff and the neighbourhood always alluded to him as 'the good Yearl James.'

A deed of entail was executed by the fourth Earl, and the list of persons mentioned in it is interesting to the family historian :

'The whole heirs of entail now alive entitled to succeed to the Fife estates under the destinations of the deed aforesaid, April 13, 1841 (printed from the copy delivered to Major Alexander Francis Tayler. See below, No. 34).

Heirs-Male

1. The Honourable General Sir Alexander Duff, second son of the said Alexander Duff of Echt, afterwards Earl of Fife.
2. James Duff, Esq., M.P., and
3. George Skene Duff, Esq., of Milton, sons of the said Honourable Sir Alexander Duff.
4. Garden Duff, now of Hatton, fifth lawful son of John Duff of Hatton, now deceased.
5. Benjamin Duff, eldest son of the said Garden Duff.
6. Garden Duff [*aged three*], son of the said Benjamin Duff, and the said Benjamin Duff as his administrator-in-law.
7. Garden William Duff.
8. Robert George Duff, now in the Mauritius, or elsewhere abroad, and
9. James Duff, sons of the said Garden Duff of Hatton.
10. Robert Duff, merchant of Glasgow, sixth lawful son of the said John Duff of Hatton.
11. Captain Norwich Duff, Royal Navy, and grandson of the deceased James Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff.
12. Robert William Duff, Esq., of Fetteresso, eldest son of the said deceased Robert William Duff, Esq., of Fetteresso, who was eldest son of the deceased Admiral Robert Duff of Fetteresso, who was sixth son of the also deceased Patrick Duff of Craigston.
13. Arthur Duff, now Arthur Abereromby Duff of Glasshaugh, second son of the said deceased Robert William Duff.
14. Robert William Duff Abereromby [*aged six*], son of the said Arthur Abereromby, and the said Arthur Abereromby as his administrator-in-law.
15. Adam Duff, late merchant in London, now of Woodcote House, Henley-on-Thames, third son of the said Robert William Duff.
16. Thomas Fraser Duff [*aged eleven*],
17. Robert Duff [*aged ten*],
18. George Graham Duff [*aged six*],
19. Adam Duff [*aged two*], and

20. Arthur Meredith Duff [*aged one*], sons of the said Adam Duff, and the said Adam Duff as their administrator-in-law.
21. Thomas Abercromby Duff, Esq., of Haddo, fourth son of the said deceased Robert William Duff.
22. Robert William Duff [*aged fifteen*],
23. Alexander Gordon Duff [*aged thirteen*],
24. Thomas Abercromby Fraser Duff [*aged eight*], and
25. Adam Duff [*aged six*], sons of the said Thomas Abercromby Duff, and the said Thomas Abercromby Duff as their administrator-in-law.
26. Rear-Admiral Archibald Duff of Drummuir, immediate younger brother-german of the deceased John Duff of Drummuir, eldest son of Captain Alexander Duff of Cubbin.
27. Thomas Duff, now Thomas Gordon of Park, son of the deceased Lachlan Duff, Writer to our Signet, who was lawful son of the deceased John Duff of Cubbin.
28. Lachlan Duff Gordon, Captain 20th Regiment of Foot, now in Dublin or elsewhere abroad.
29. David McDowall Gordon, master's-mate on board of our ship *Thunderer* stationed at Malta, or elsewhere abroad, and
30. Alexander Duff Gordon, mate on board of our ship *Vesper*, sons of the said Thomas Duff, now Thomas Gordon.
31. Huntly George Gordon Duff, now of Muirtown, only son of the deceased Hugh Robert Duff of Muirtown, who was only son of Colonel Alexander Duff of Muirtown.

Heirs-Female

32. Catharine Duff, and
33. Louisa Tollemache Duff, daughters of the said Honourable Sir Alexander Duff.
34. Lady Jane Duff or Tayler, eldest daughter of the before-named Alexander Duff of Echt, afterwards Earl of Fife, and spouse of the also before-named¹ Major Alexander Francis Tayler, and the said Major Alexander Francis Tayler her husband for his interest.
35. William James Tayler,
36. James George Tayler,
37. George Skene Tayler,
38. Hay Utterson Tayler, and
39. Jane Marion Tayler, children of the said Lady Jane Duff or Tayler and Major Alexander Francis Tayler.
40. The before-named Alexander Thomas Wharton Duff,²
41. Anne Jane Wharton Duff, and
42. Jemima Wharton Duff, children of Lady Anne Wharton Duff, second daughter of the said Alexander Duff of Echt, afterwards Earl of Fife, and spouse of the said Richard Wharton Duff of Orton.

¹ As trustee.² As trustee.

43. Louisa Duff [*aged eight*], and
44. Helen Duff [*aged six*], daughters of the before-named Benjamin Duff, eldest son of Garden Duff of Hatton.
45. Mrs. Janet Duff or Morison, spouse of Alexander Morison, Esq., of Bognie,
46. Mrs. Helen Duff or Buchan, spouse of James Buchan, Esq., of Auchmacoy, and
47. Miss Louisa Clementina Duff, daughters of the said Garden Duff of Hatton, and the said Alexander Morison, husband of the said Janet Duff, and James Buchan, husband of the said Helen Duff, for themselves and their interests.
48. Thomas Buchan, and
49. Louisa Buchan, children of the said Helen Duff or Buchan and James Buchan, and the said James Buchan as their administrator-in-law.
50. Miss Clementina Duff, residing in Banff, daughter of the before-named John Duff of Hatton.
51. Mrs. Mary Duff or Cockburn, daughter of the deceased Alexander Duff of Hatton, and spouse of Robert Cockburn, Esq., wine merchant in London, and the said Robert Cockburn, her husband, for himself and his interest.
52. Archibald Cockburn,
53. Alexander Cockburn,
54. John Montague Cockburn, and
55. Helen Clementina Cockburn or Dunlop, spouse of Hugh Dunlop, Esq., late of Oporto, children of the said Mary Duff or Cockburn and Robert Cockburn.
56. James Dunlop, son of the said Mrs. Helen Clementina Cockburn or Dunlop and Hugh Dunlop, the said Hugh Dunlop as administrator-in-law of his said son, and also as husband of the said Helen Clementina Cockburn or Dunlop for his interest.
57. Mrs. Helen Duff or Tod, also daughter of the said deceased Alexander Duff of Hatton, and spouse of John Tod, Writer to our Signet.
58. Thomas Tod,
59. Alexander Tod,
60. John Robert Tod,
61. Helen Clementina Tod,
62. Mary Jane Tod,
63. Charlotte Joanna Tod,
64. Caroline Jane Tod,
65. Louisa Garden Tod [*aged thirteen*], and
66. Joanna Helen Tod [*aged ten*], all children of the said Mrs. Helen Duff or Tod and John Tod, the said John Tod as husband of the said Mrs. Helen Duff or Tod, and for his interest, and also as administrator-in-law for such of his said children as are minors.
67. Helen Sophia Duff [*aged seven*], and

68. Georgina Lucy Duff [*aged six*], daughters of the said Captain Norwich Duff, and their said father as their administrator-in-law.
69. John Bell Suttie,
70. Jane Graham Suttie,
71. Catherine Duff Suttie, children of Helen Bell or Suttie, deceased, who was spouse of George Suttie, shoemaker, and daughter of Helen Duff or Bell, also deceased, who was eldest daughter of the before-named James Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, and spouse of Thomas Bell, comedian, also deceased, the said George Suttie as administrator-in-law for his said children.
72. Elizabeth Bell, spouse of Alexander Weir, seaman in Banff, second daughter of the said Helen Duff or Bell.
73. Helen Duff Weir,
74. Anne Duff Weir, and
75. Elizabeth Weir, children of the said Elizabeth Bell or Weir, and the said Alexander Weir, as husband of the said Elizabeth Bell or Weir for his interest, and also as administrator-in-law for his children.
76. Mrs. Anne Duff or Biggar, also daughter of the said deceased James Duff, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, and spouse of Walter Biggar, Esq., merchant in Banff, and the said Walter Biggar for himself and his interest.
77. Margaret Biggar [*aged eighteen*], daughter of the said Mrs. Anne Duff or Biggar, and the said Walter Biggar, her father, as her administrator-in-law.
78. Mary Cameron Abereromby [*aged seven*], and
79. Margaret Gurney Abereromby [*aged three*], daughters of the said Arthur Abereromby of Glasshaugh, and their said father as their administrator-in-law.
80. Mary Abereromby [*aged eight*], and
81. Jane Clerk Duff [*aged seven*], daughters of the before-named Adam Duff, Esq., late merchant in London, and him as their administrator-in-law.
82. Mary Stewart Gordon,
83. Rachel Duff Gordon,
84. Eliza Georgina Graham Gordon,
85. Eleanor Frances Julien Gordon,
86. Wilhelmina McDowall Gordon,
87. Helen Isabella Gordon,
88. Jemima Hay Gordon, and
89. Charlotte Emilia Gordon, all daughters of the before-named Thomas Gordon of Park, and the said Thomas Gordon, their father, as their administrator-in-law.
90. Mrs. Rachel Duff or Stewart, daughter of the before-designed Lachlan Duff, W.S., and spouse of Patrick Stewart of Auchluncart, and the said Patrick Stewart, her husband, for his interest.
91. Andrew Stewart, their son.
92. Mrs. Emily Mary Davidson Duff or Warrand, residing in Inverness, daughter of the said deceased Hugh Robert Duff of Muirtown, and widow of Alexander Warrand, Esq., Assistant Surgeon in the East India Company's service.

93. Alexander John Cruickshank Warrand,
94. Catherine Munro Warrand, and
95. Louisa Sarah Georgina Warrand, children of the said Mrs. Emily Mary Davidson Duff, or Warrand, and residing with her at Muirtown, near Inverness.
96. Mrs. Jane Dorothy Stratton Duff or Shireff, daughter of the said deceased Hugh Robert Duff of Muirtown, and spouse of Captain Robert Shireff of the 2nd Madras Native Infantry, and her said husband for his interest.
97. Robert David Forbes Duff Shireff, son of the said Mrs. Shireff.
98. Catherine Dingwall or Stewart, residing at Croydon, Surrey, widow of William Stewart, Commander Royal Navy, and daughter of the late Magdalene Duff or Dingwall, who was daughter of William Duff of Corsindae, who was son of James Duff of Corsindae.
99. Patience Stewart or Reid, residing at Croydon aforesaid, daughter of the said Catherine Dingwall or Stewart, and widow of Lieutenant James Reid, Royal Navy.
100. Catherine Reid, daughter of the said Patience Stewart or Reid.'

This entail was broken in 1875, by the fifth Earl and his son the late Duke of Fife.

Six of the heirs-female are still living.



DELGATY CASTLE

CHAPTER XIV

SIR ALEXANDER DUFF OF DELGATY AND HIS SONS, THE FIFTH EARL FIFE AND HON. GEORGE DUFF

GENERAL THE HON. SIR ALEXANDER DUFF, G.C.H. (Grand Cross of Hanover), brother and heir-presumptive to the fourth Earl of Fife, was the second son of Alexander, third Earl, by his wife, Mary Skene of Skene. He was born in 1777, and when only five or six years old was sent to Duff House to the care of his uncle, the second Lord Fife, who, having no children, wished to take charge of his nephews. It must have been a little hard for their mother to part with them at this very early age. Two of her letters on the subject are to be found in chapter xii., and the letters of their father to his brother frequently end with a message or a line 'to the boys.' When they were a little older, their uncle sent them to the then well-known school kept by Dr. Chapman at Inehdrewer.¹ Alexander Duff entered the Army as Ensign in the 65th Berkshire Regiment of Foot in May 1793, being then sixteen, and joined his regiment at Gibraltar. Having been first promoted to a lieutenancy with captain's powers in

¹ Here it may be added that the Rev. Daniel Duff, later of Salvadore House, Tooting, for whom see chapter xxix., was also at this school, though about twenty years earlier.

if the remains of his splendid force chalked up on the street walls: "General White Locke is a fool or a traitor, or both."

Alexander Duff was promoted Colonel in the same year, and in 1810 went on the half-pay list of the 4th Foot. He became Major-General in June 1811, and Lieutenant-General in 1821.

In 1816 he was presented with a sword by the officers of the 88th who had served under him.

He became Colonel of the 92nd Foot in September 1823, and in the year 1828 he appears for the first time in the Army List as Honourable, his brother having in the previous year been made a peer of the United Kingdom in addition to the Irish title.¹ He was transferred to the colonelcy of the 37th Foot in July 1831.

In 1833 he received the Grand Cross of the Order of Hanover, which did not carry knighthood, but he was knighted by King William IV. in the following year. He reached the rank of full General in the third year of Queen Victoria's reign (1839).

Sir Alexander married, in March 1812, Anne, youngest daughter of James Stein of Kilbagie, and had three sons and two daughters:

1. The eldest son, born in Edinburgh 1813, died a few months later.
2. JAMES, born 1814; M.P. for Banff, and afterwards fifth Lord Fife.
3. GEORGE SKENE, born 1816; M.P. for the Elgin Burghs.
4. CATHERINE, born 1820; married, in 1841, John Lewis Ricardo of an old Jewish family, and had one son, Algernon Lewis, died 1871, a Captain in the Scots Guards. Catherine died 1869.
5. LOUISA TOLLEMACHE, born 1824, died 1864; married, 1848, Sir Richard Brooke of Norton Priory, Runcorn. She had the following children:

Richard and Evelyn, twins, born 1850.

Basil and Mabel, twins, born 1852.

Jocelyn, born 1854.

Winifred, born 1856.

Victor, born 1857.

Octavius, born 1859.

Lionel, born 1860.

Reginald, born 1861.

Lilian, born 1864.

Sir Richard married again, after the death of Lady Louisa, and there were two more daughters.

¹ Though he had, since 1811, when his father succeeded to the earldom of Fife, had a right to this courtesy title.

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Catherine, Louisa, and George Duff were granted the courtesy titles and the rank of earl's children on their brother's succession to the title in 1857.

Sir Alexander, having inherited no landed estate, resided for many years at Delgaty Castle, bought by Lord Fife from Garden of Troup, and sold by his eldest son, in 1863, to Mrs. Grant Duff of Eden, the purchase money being the estate of her deceased uncle, Mr. Douglas Ainslie (see chapter xxxii.). Like many others of the Duff family, Sir Alexander was anxious to attain to parliamentary honours, and represented the Elgin Burghs in the House of Commons from 1826 to 1831. He had made a previous attempt to enter Parliament, which led to the famous 'Raid of Elgin' in 1820. His opponent was Archibald Farquharson of Finzean, who was supported by Lord Seafield and all the Grant interest, while Lord Fife and the Duff interest were naturally on the side of General Duff, who was also the personal favourite of the burghers of Elgin. Lord Fife had spent enormous sums on entertainments in the town, the laws as to bribery being not then so strict as they have since become.

Lord Seafield, with his three sisters, Anne, Margaret, and Penuel,¹ were then living at their town house, Grant Lodge, Elgin.² The ladies, especially Lady Anne, were keen politicians, and the interest they took in the contest was strongly resented by the people of Elgin; they could scarcely appear in the streets without being annoyed by the rabble. Feeling ran high, and at length strange tactics were adopted. The Grants began by attempting, unsuccessfully, to kidnap two of General Duff's prominent supporters; whereupon the Duffs retaliated by seizing Councillor Robert Dick of the Grant faction, and transporting him across the Moray Firth to Sutherland. The Grants, not to be beaten, succeeded in getting possession of the acting chief magistrate and sent him also to Sutherland. The position was now so serious that the ladies at Grant Lodge became alarmed for their own safety, and a messenger was despatched to Strathspey to summon the clansmen. He reached Cromdale on a Sunday, just as the congregation was leaving the church, and about three hundred men immediately started for Elgin, others being instructed to follow. In all, some seven hundred reached Grant Lodge early on Monday morning, and encamped in the grounds for the protection of the chief's sister.³ A faithful adherent of the Duffs, seeing the Grants arrive at Aberlour in the early hours of the morning, had outstripped them and

¹ These were the grandchildren of General Alexander's aunt, Lady Anne Duff of Hatton.

² Now a museum in the Cooper Park.

³ It must have been somewhat difficult for Lady Anne, at a moment's notice, to feed such a multitude.



GENERAL SIR ALEXANDER DUFF

From the engraving by Zobel after portrait by Châtelet.

hastened to warn both Lord Fife and the people of Elgin, who were therefore ready armed, with any obsolete weapons available, when the invaders arrived, and had taken steps to guard the safety of the remaining members of the town council favourable to their party. Later in the day more Fife tenants with their servants and other adherents from the fishing villages on the coast poured into the town, which was literally in possession of two rival armies, and a serious breach of the peace was imminent. The sheriff of the county, Sir George Abercromby, who was fortunately in the town, having slipped into Grant Lodge by a back entrance, made a personal appeal to Lady Anne¹ to dismiss her turbulent bodyguard, and gave his personal assurance for her safety and a promise that special constables should be enrolled to keep the peace on both sides. His entreaties, which were supported by a deputation of all the parochial clergy, were successful, and the Highlanders were instructed to march peacefully away by a different route to that by which they had arrived. The townspeople, however, could not be persuaded that they were not still lurking in the neighbourhood, ready to return under cover of darkness, and a general illumination was ordered, many of the Grant faction lighting up their windows to save them from being broken. After the election, which resulted in the return of Mr. Farquharson, the absent councillors were returned in safety to their homes.²

Sir Alexander Duff died in 1851 at Percy Cross, Wallham Green, London, at that time a pretty country neighbourhood. He was seventy-three years of age. His body was conveyed by H.M.S. *Lightning* to Banff, where it was placed in the family mausoleum at Duff House. His wife died eight years later, and was also buried in the mausoleum.

There were two pictures of General Duff in the Duff House collection (one of which has been finely engraved), and another at Orton, now in the possession of his great-niece, Mrs. Chancellor. He was a singularly handsome man, and a fine soldier.

There are many letters from him to his uncle, Lord Fife, but they are not of general interest.

He writes from Eastbourne on December 13, 1805 :

'MY LORD,—I returned to the Regt. yesterday Eve from Sir James Duffs.³ I am really much delighted with my visit. *Lady Duff is a charming woman and the little ones interesting little creatures. The girl is very like her Father, the boy a fine stout fellow. I think the house extremely comfortable and a most*

¹ Lady Anne was of great personal attractions, and George IV., who saw her in 1822, and heard that she was the heroine of the 'last Highland raid,' is said to have remarked that she was 'truly an object fit to raise the chivalry of a clan.'

² See Rampini's *Moray and Nairn*, and Young's *Annals of Elgin*.

³ Of Kinstair.

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excellent garden. Sir James, Lady Duff informed me, used to take delight in feeding the poultry. His time is now intirely taken up with his children, I am happy to say my father is in good health.—Your very affectionate nephew,
'ALEX. DUFF.' (D.)

JAMES, FIFTH EARL FIFE

JAMES, fifth Earl Fife, the eldest son of General Sir Alexander Duff of Delgaty, was born in Edinburgh in 1814.

He was educated at Edinburgh Academy, and later on was in the Diplomatic Service, serving as attaché in Paris.

In 1837 he was elected Member of Parliament for Banffshire, and continued to represent this constituency for twenty years.

He married, in Paris in 1846, Lady Agnes Georgina Elizabeth Hay, second daughter of the sixteenth Earl of Erroll and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Fitzclarence, daughter of William IV. and Mrs. Jordan. He was Lord-Lieutenant of the counties of Banff and Moray.

He had the following children :

1. ANNE ELIZABETH CLEMENTINA, born August 16, 1847; married, in 1865, the fifth Marquis Townshend, and had one son, the sixth and present Marquis, born 1866, married Gladys Sutherst, and one daughter, Agnes E. Audrey, born 1870, married James A. Durham, son of Rev. W. Durham of Ladbroke, Warwick.

2. IDA LOUISA ALICE, born December 11, 1848; married, in 1867, Adrian Elias Hope,¹ which marriage was dissolved; she married, secondly, 1880, William Wilson.

3. ALEXANDER WILLIAM GEORGE (first Duke of Fife), born May 10, 1849.

4. ALEXINA, born March 20, 1851; married, 1870, Henry Aubrey Coventry, third son of Hon. Henry Amilius Coventry, and died 1882, without issue.

5. AGNES CECIL EMMELINE, born May 18, 1852; married, 1871, Viscount Dupplin; divorced 1876. She married, secondly, in 1876, Herbert Flower, who died 1880; and, thirdly, in 1882, Sir Alfred Cooper, F.R.C.S., and of this marriage there was one son and three daughters. Sir Alfred died 1911.

(1) Stephanie Agnes, born 1883; married, 1903, Arthur Levita, who died 1910, and has two children, Violet and Enid.

(2) Hermione May Louise, born 1885; married, 1904, Niel Arnott, and has one son, Ian Duff.

¹ There was one daughter, Agnes Henrietta Ida May, married Edwin Phillipps de Lisle.



JAMES DUFF, FIFTH EARL FIFE

*From engraving by G.R. Wood
of a sketch by Sir Francis Grant*

(3) Sybil Mary, born 1886; married, 1904, R. Hart Davies, and has Rupert Charles 1907, and Deirdre Phyllis Ulrica.

(4) Alfred Duff, born 1890.

6. MARY HAMILTON, born February 20, 1854, died March 20, 1854.

In the year 1857 Lord Fife was made a peer of the United Kingdom under the title of Baron Skene, which was taken from the property which had come to his uncle in 1827 upon the death of his grandmother's brother, the last Skene of Skene. He died in August 1879.¹

His funeral from Duff House to the family mausoleum was a most imposing ceremony, and had quite a feudal air. All the available members of the Duff family, all the neighbouring nobility and lairds, and friends from all parts of the country attended, as well as thousands of the tenants, so that the grass edgings of the avenues were trampled out of recognition, all testifying to his popularity. One trifling hitch occurred when on the arrival of the body at Banff Bridge Station the undertakers' men and the hearse had not yet made their appearance. The salmon fishers from their nets at the neighbouring mouth of the river were hastily summoned, and came on the scene without delay, still in their big sea-boots, but, almost unfortunately, before these picturesque henchmen had had time to shoulder the coffin the proper officials arrived.²

There are three good portraits of the fifth Earl, one in his youth, another, in early manhood, by Sir John Watson Gordon, and a third, by Sir Francis Grant, P.R.A., which was subscribed for by the tenantry. They are all in possession of the Duchess of Fife, but the first sketch by Watson Gordon is in the possession of the present writers.

THE HON. GEORGE SKENE DUFF

The Hon. GEORGE SKENE DUFF, only brother of the fifth Earl, and second son of Sir Alexander Duff, was born in 1816. He was educated in Edinburgh, and in November 1836 became a Cornet in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, but does not appear to have been a very enthusiastic soldier, as he retired from the Army in the following year and took to diplomacy, for which he was more suited, being an excellent French and German scholar. He was for some time attached to the Embassies at

¹ Many years before his death he had placed the management of his large estates in the hands of his cousin, W. J. Tayler, as commissioner, and in 1875 they were disentailed.

² The present writer remembers the occasion as one of the most important and enjoyable (!) events of his early childhood. The crowds and the pipers made a great impression on him. He had, moreover, been cautioned by his mother not to approach too near the vault when it was opened, and is told, that on being asked on his return whether he had remembered the prohibition, answered proudly: 'Oh, I was one of the "men" who let him down,' having been given a cord to hold as pall-bearer.

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Paris and Vienna, and became a personal friend of Heinrich Heine and Count Andrassy.¹

In 1847 he entered Parliament as member for the Elgin Burghs, resigning his seat in 1857,² in failing health, though he lived for thirty-two years longer.

In the same year, his brother being raised to the rank of Baron Skene of the United Kingdom, Mr. Duff was granted the rank of an earl's son. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Morayshire in 1856, which office he resigned in 1871. He was also a J.P. for the shires of Banff, Aberdeen, and Kincardine.

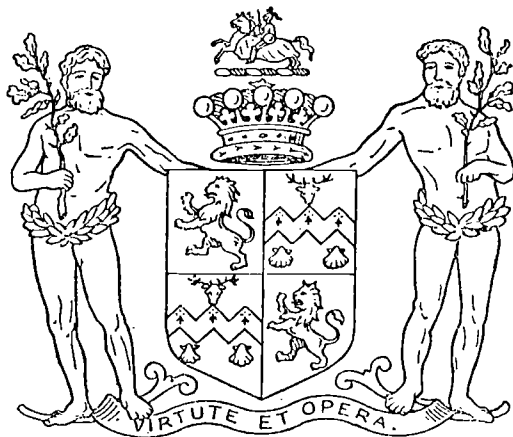
Mr. Duff was best known as a sportsman; he was a crack game shot and a keen fisherman, but he excelled as a deerstalker. On one occasion in August 1880, when he was sixty-four years old, he brought down in the Mar forest no fewer than eight stags, three of them royals, the fourth with eleven tines, and the other four scarcely inferior; this is without parallel in the annals of deerstalking in Scotland.

Mr. Duff lived chiefly at Bournemouth, but he came every year to Montcoffer House, near Duff House, to enjoy the fishing, and as long as he was able he made an annual visit to Braemar for stalking. He, like his brother the Earl, was a generous and warm-hearted man, and was much regretted when he died at Bournemouth in March 1889.

There is an exquisite crayon portrait of him by George Richmond, R.A., in the possession of the present writers.

¹ Julius Andrassy, 1823-1890, Hungarian patriot and statesman. Member of the Hungarian diet; subsequently fought against the Austrians in the successful Hungarian revolt of 1849 (only crushed by the intervention of Russia). When the thirteen Hungarian generals were hanged at Arad, Andrassy was hanged in effigy, he having escaped to France. After the war of 1866, when Austria was obliged to conciliate Hungary, Andrassy was nominated Prime Minister of the autonomous Hungarian Cabinet. After the Franco-German war he became Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and a great favourite with the Emperor, who is said to have remarked on more than one occasion, 'I am glad I did not hang you.'

² Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff being elected in his place. See chapter xxxii.



COAT ARMORIAL OF THE SIXTH EARL, AFTERWARDS DUKE

CHAPTER XV

THE DUKE OF FIFE

ALEXANDER WILLIAM GEORGE, the only son of the fifth Earl Fife, was born November 10, 1849, and educated at Eton from 1863 to 1866.

His first appearance in public life was on the occasion of his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Morayshire when he was only twenty-two.

Three years later, in 1874, Viscount Macduff 'wrested the parliamentary representation of the counties of Elgin and Nairn from the Grants, who had enjoyed it in the Conservative interest for the greater part of a century.'¹

In his first election address at Elgin, Lord Macduff made reference to the only contest in the constituency since the Reform Bill of 1832, describing it as 'the gallant attempt of his grandfather to rescue the constituency from the continuous rule of the Tories.' This was at the election which led to the 'Raid of Elgin' (see last chapter). Lord Macduff was returned by 829 votes as against 619 cast for Colonel Grant, and the occasion was celebrated by a public dinner, at which the late Sir George Macpherson Grant took the chair.

¹ In a conversation about Glass and Beldorney, Earl James IV. mentioned as an interesting circumstance that his uncle for some reason neglected to secure the estate of Beldorney at the time when the old Gordons had to part with it, and it was purchased for political reasons by the famous Master of the Rolls, Sir William Grant, who was a Tory, and therefore of opposite politics to those of the Fife family. The consequence was that in the period before the Reform Bill, Banffshire was permanently harnessed under Tory régime, and bitter was the regret that the old Earl James felt at his blunder. 'Ah, many a time,' said the late Earl James, 'did I hear my uncle say, "Ah Lord, I 'll never be d——d for not buying Beldorney; I hae repentit o' it sae bitterly"' (*Memorials of a Banffshire Glen*, Sir William Geddes).

In 1879, by the death of his father, Lord Macduff succeeded to the titles and the large estates in four counties; he took his seat in the House of Lords as Baron Skene in February 1880, and in the following May was made a Privy Councillor, and in March 1881 a Knight of the Order of the Thistle; also a Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms in 1880, and a Member of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster 1882.

Early in 1882 he was entrusted with the mission from Queen Victoria to invest Albert, King of Saxony, with the Order of the Garter, and in the autumn of the following year he entertained the Prince of Wales at Duff House.

During the time of agricultural depression in the early eighties he treated his tenants with every consideration, and from shortly after this period dates the commencement of his system of selling small holdings to occupying tenants. His theory, as stated by himself in a meeting at Banff in 1890, was that 'there should be a considerable number of quite small estates side by side with the larger ones, which will not only tend to create an element of greater stability in the country, but also to do away with the idea which once prevailed, that land is the peculiar appanage of one class, instead of being, as it should be, a purchasable commodity within the reach of all.' The smaller properties sold by the sixth Earl of Fife are too numerous to detail; among the larger ones may be mentioned Skene, Innes, Rothiemay, Auchintoul, Glenbucket, Eden, Glenrinnis, Aberlour, Blairmore, etc.

The Fife estates in 1883 consisted of 135,829 acres in Aberdeenshire (worth £16,240 a year); 72,432 acres in Banffshire; 40,959 acres in Morayshire (besides an unstated quantity in that county worth £1251 a year); making (with this exception) 249,220 acres, worth £72,563 a year.¹

The Duke of Fife was one of the twenty-eight noblemen who, in 1883, possessed above 100,000 acres in the United Kingdom, and stood fifth in order of acreage, and third (in Scotland) in point of income derived therefrom, following the Duke of Buccleuch and the Marquis of Hamilton.²

Since 1883 a great part of the Fife estates has been sold.

¹ In 1879 (when the late Duke succeeded), they extended to 257,657 acres—annual rental £78,000; of these:

72,432 acres in Banffshire, . . .	rental, £36,379
139,629 " " Aberdeenshire, . . .	" " £17,740
40,959 " " Morayshire, . . .	" " £18,695
4,837 " " Forfarshire, . . .	" " £5,768

² It may be remarked that the Duke of Fife had not (neither had any of his predecessors) one acre of land in the county of Fife, though the second Earl had a project of purchasing an estate there. The Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Derby are similarly situated.

In the year 1885 Lord Fife severed his connection with Mr. Gladstone's party on the Home Rule question.

In addition to being a landed proprietor he had large financial interests, both in the London banking firm of Sir Samuel Scott and Co., and in many other important undertakings; and at one time was actively concerned in the development of Rhodesia. He was vice-president of the Chartered Company of South Africa for nine years, but resigned the position after the Jameson Raid.

July 27, 1889, was marked by his marriage to Her Royal Highness Princess Louise Victoria Alexandra Dagmar of Wales, now Princess Royal, and elevation to the Dukedom of Fife and Marquisate of Macduff; he had already, in 1885, been created an earl of the United Kingdom.

On April 24, 1900, he was created afresh Earl of Macduff and Duke of Fife, with special remainder, in default of male issue, to his first and other daughters.

The only son of this marriage was, unfortunately, still-born, June 16, 1890.

There are two daughters:

ALEXANDRA VICTORIA ALBERTA EDWINA LOUISE, present Duchess of Fife, born May 17, 1891.

MAUD ALEXANDRA VICTORIA GEORGINA BERTHA, born April 3, 1893.

In 1905 King Edward VII. 'was pleased to declare' that these two granddaughters should be 'called Princesses, and bear the title of Her Highness.'

In 1898 the Duke of Fife was approached by Mr. Chamberlain with a view to his assuming the Governor-Generalship of Canada, but that and similar suggestions were declined on account of Her Royal Highness's delicate health. The Duke and the Princess resided during the summer chiefly at Mar Lodge, which was rebuilt on a new site after the fire of 1905; a very brief annual visit being paid to Duff House until the year 1906, when 'the mansion-house, gardens, and policies, with 140 acres of land, were presented to the towns of Banff and Macduff; the Corporations being left a free hand to put this gift to the best use in the interest of the beneficiaries.'

The Duke of Fife was Lord Lieutenant of the county of London from 1900, and Lord High Constable at the Coronation of Edward VII. and George V., on which latter occasion he was created Knight of the Garter. He was also Grand Commander of the Victorian Order.

His death at Assouan on January 29, 1912, was the unfortunate result of a chill contracted by exposure after the wreck of the ss. *Delhi* off Cape Spartel, when the Duke, the Princess Royal, and the two princesses were

THE DUKE OF FIFE

on their way to Egypt. His body was brought home in H.M.S. *Powerful*, and the funeral, attended by the King and the Royal Family, took place at Windsor, from whence the body was removed in the autumn of 1912 to the vault in the private chapel at Mar Lodge.

It will be recollected that in the weeks succeeding the Duke's death much discussion took place as to whether the Irish title of Earl Fife, dating from 1759, could be held independently of the dukedom, which by special remainder descended to his daughter.

One claimant to this title, now in Australia, purported to trace his descent from the Hon. George Duff of Milton,¹ son of the first, and brother of the second and third Earls, but this claim has been shown to be without foundation, there being now no living male representatives of the family of the first Earl, to whom and to his heirs-male the first titles were granted; and all subsequent creations (except the last) having been similarly restricted, the titles to the Barony of Braco of Kilbryde 1735, Viscount of Macduff and Earldom of Fife 1759, in the peerage of Ireland, Barony Skene of Skene 1857, Earl of Fife (United Kingdom) 1885, Dukedom of Fife and Marquisate of Macduff 1889, are all extinct, while the creation of 1900 is now enjoyed by the present Duchess.

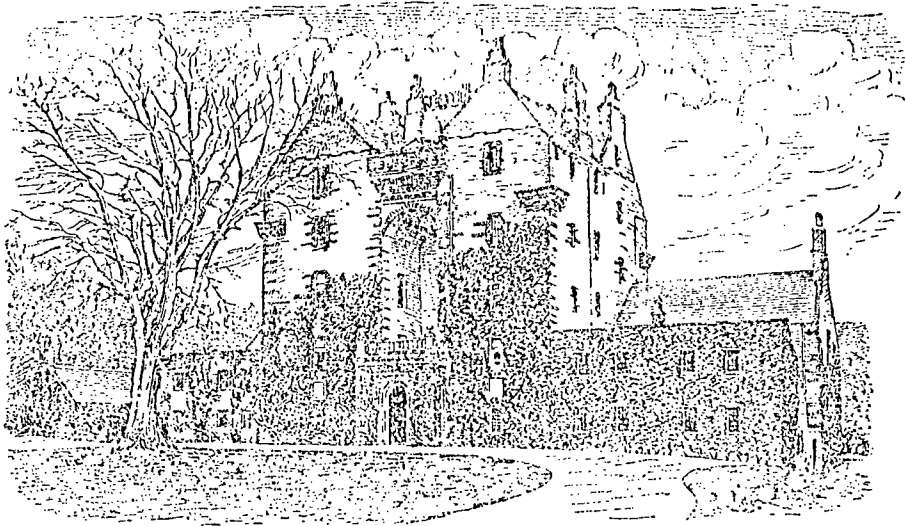
On October 15, 1913, Her Highness Princess Alexandra, Duchess of Fife, was married to H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught.

¹ By a son named Daniel; but that George Duff had no such son is shown conclusively by the memorandum of his family left by James, the second Earl, and quoted in chapter xxix.



HER MAJESTY ALEXANDRA, DUCHESS OF FIFE,
PRINCESS ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT

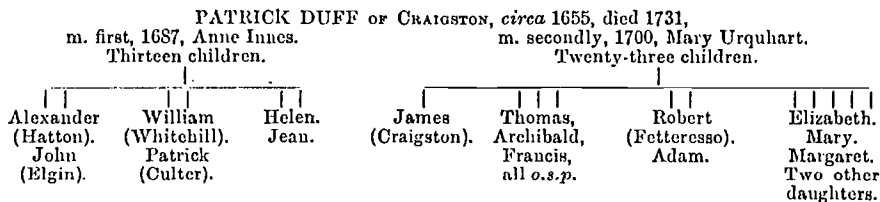
From photograph by Walter Chalon



CRAIGSTON CASTLE

CHAPTER XVI

DUFFS OF HATTON



THE third son of Alexander of Keithmore, Patrick Duff of Craigston, was born about 1655. Of his early history little is known, beyond what can be gathered from the following brief references:

In 1687 Patrick Duff, youngest son of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, received 6000 merks as his bairn's part. This was on the occasion of his first marriage. (Rose MS.).

In 1688 there was a sasine to Patrick Duff in Braco, formerly in Hillockhead of Balveny, youngest son to Alexander Duff of Keithmore. (Rose MS.).

In 1691 Patrick Duff of Braco was factor for the Duke of Gordon.¹

He fully maintained the family traditions of energy and aptitude for

¹ *Aberdeen Sheriff Court Records*. He was also an elder of Grange, and in the kirk-session records we find, under date March 2, 1693, 'John Gall, elder, at the Nether Mill of Strathisla, reported that Patrick Duff in Braco in breadth of my face called me a warlock.'

business. He carried on the trade in corn and meal which had been so successfully established by his father and elder brother, and became a man of great wealth. He purchased the estate of Castleton from Sir John Guthrie in 1695; Knockleith from James Urquhart, father of his second wife, in 1702; Craigston from the Duke of Gordon in 1705; and Hatton from Meldrum of Hatton in 1709.

Baird, who must have known him personally, says, 'He was a man of strong natural parts, and a most active industrious spirit. . . . Though naturally of a very passionate temper, he could argue with the greatest coolness, and was a man of so much acuteness and sagacity that he was seldom outwitted in any transaction.' Baird also gives a tale of Patrick of Craigston and his brother-in-law, Captain John Urquhart of Cromarty; 'When the Captain came to Britain in 1723 to get three ships built at London for the trade of South America, in consequence of his Licence from the King of Spain, he called for the clearances between his father and Craigston upon the price of the lands of Knockleith. Finding the remainder due to him much less than he expected, he complained, but finding he could be no better, concluded with saying: "Well, Craigston, I'll tell you one thing. Ill-won gear will not last." "Ha, man," says Craigston, "i' my saul, man, ye're a' mistanc; it's only ill-guided gear that winna last."' In the latter part of his life he gave up the trade of 'carrying meal and malt to the south of the Firth, and confined himself entirely to agriculture, which he understood to perfection in the common old method, and to buying and selling country bolls¹ of meal. He acquired a pretty little fortune from a small beginning, which enabled him to bring up and give education to a very numerous family of children, leave landed estates to the eldest sons of both marriages, and provide for all the rest; he alwise kept a most hearty hospitable house.'

The house must indeed have been well filled. Patrick Duff was married twice, first to Anne Innes of Edingight, by whom he had thirteen children, and, secondly, to Mary Urquhart of Knockleith, by whom he had twenty-three; thirty-six children in all.² He is said to have been complimented by George II. on the addition he had made to His Majesty's subjects in Scotland. Many of the children seemed to have died in infancy, as was

¹ The amount of a boll differed in different parts of the country, and for different commodities, from two to six bushels. For oats in Aberdeen it was the latter quantity.

² 'Patrick Duff of Craigston had thirty-six children. There was "Hatton" and twelve more by the first wife, Miss Innes; by the second wife, Mary Urquhart, twenty-three. The eldest son (of second marriage), James, married Helen Abercromby, sister of General Abercromby of Glassaugh, and had one daughter Helen, who married David Clerk.' (Note by Baron Clerk-Rattray, son of the last-mentioned. Written (January 12, 1829) on a family tree belonging to Norwich Duff, grandfather of the present writers.)

generally the case in those days, but it was current tradition that twelve sons carried Patrick to his grave, and four sons of the first family and two daughters, and six sons of the second and five daughters are known to us. Almost a complete generation must have elapsed between the birth of the eldest and the youngest child of this large family, and it is reported that the father having met a small white-haired laddie playing in the garden at Craigston, inquired, 'And wha's laddie are you?' To which the future Admiral Robert Duff of Logie and Fetteresso, fifth son, who survived and is known to us, of the second marriage, is said to have replied: 'Dinna ye ken your ain son Robbie, ye auld fool!'

The complete table of the family of Craigston known to us is as follows (this Duff would appear to be responsible for about half of those of the name now existing in the north):

PATRICK DUFF married, in 1687, Anne Innes (died 1700), daughter of John Innes, fifth Laird of Edingight, and had thirteen children, of whom the following six are known to us:

ALEXANDER, born 1688, baptised January 5.

JOHN, born 1689.

WILLIAM, born 1690.

HELEN, born 1691, baptised October 25.

PATRICK, born 1692.

JEAN, born 1696; married, 1720, John Innes; died 1778.

He married, secondly, on October 4, 1701, Mary Urquhart of Knoekleith, and had twenty-three children. She died in 1764 at Banff. Some of her children were:

JAMES, born *circa* 1702.

THOMAS, born *circa* 1704.

ARCHIBALD, born *circa* 1714.

FRANCIS, born *circa* 1715.

ROBERT, born *circa* 1721.

ADAM, born *circa* 1725.

ELIZABETH, married J. Stuart of Auchorrrachan.

MARY, married W. Leslie of Melross.

MARGARET, born 1720, married A. Gordon of Gight.

Another married Davidson of Newton.

Another married Benjamin Duff, an Irishman.

Patrick Duff died August 3, 1731.¹

The family of Hatton must first be traced.

The eldest son of the thirty-six, Alexander of Hatton, was born in 1688.

¹ For Patrick Duff's sympathies with the Jacobite rising of 1715 see chapter xxxvi.

To no one does Baird devote so much space, and a long quotation from this, the first historian of the family, must therefore be permitted here :

'As Alex. Duff of Hatton was my intimate friend and particuar acquaintance for above thirty years,¹ and one who, during the whole course of his life, was really in the first class, as a man of the world and a man of business, I shall be the more explicit in giving an account of him.

'He had an excellent understanding—a retentive memory, a clear and distinct manner of thinking and of expressing his thoughts on every subject. He served an apprenticeship of five years to Thomas Boys, a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, which, with his application and quick parts, made all sort of business familiar to him, and gave him a superiority over most men. His abilities both for public and private affairs were such that he could have been a minister of state to any prince in Europe. And the Earl of Findlater, who died in 1730, used to say that in person, solidity of judgment and address, Hatton put him in remembrance of Sir Robert Walpole. . . . He was a blessing to several young Gentlemen to whom he was named Tutor and Curator by their parents, in directing the management of their affairs. . . . He did more than any man I know to introduce good husbandry amongst his own farmers and in the neighbouring parishes.

'He was alwise on the Commission of the Peace and a strenuous Protector of the Country by mitigating the Severity of the Excise Laws, and when any riot fell out between a farmer and a malt Gauger, which was frequent at the first introduction of that Tax upon Scotland, he had a singular dexterity of saving the Offender from punishment, and of this I remember one instance which had something ludicrous in it.

'A malt officer came to a Gentleman's house in that neighbourhood, and desired his servant, whom he found turning over a dunghill, to give him the key of his master's barn, because he was informed there was malt on the floor. The servant denied he had the key, and gave the Officer so much abusive language as provoked the other to strike him. Upon which the servant beat the gauger, who then made his complaint to Hatton, and was assured that he should have all justice if he summoned the rascal to appear at the Justice of the Peace Court at Turriff to be held in a few days. The Gentleman also came to Hatton asking protection for his man, and was "bidden attend the court and bring the Lad with him, but that he should get his whole head close shaved, with a wig upon it, in a suit of good cloths, with a clean shirt and cravat put on, and speak very smooth.

'They all came to court, and Hatton began by setting forth the heinousness of the Crime, and concluded with saying that the punishment for such a knave ought to be transportation. Then the lad was called, and the Gauger asked if that was the person who had struck him. He, who did not know him in his new figure, cried "By no manner of means. The fellow who struck him was liker to the Devil than to that Lad." His master said, if that was not the

¹ He was also his brother-in-law, the two men having married sisters, daughters of Dipple.

Criminal, he could not conceive who it could have been, for he had no servant at present but him and a boy; the officer found afterwards that he had been fairly bubbled (*i.e.* made fun of), but was obliged to sit down with the skaith (injury) and the scorn too.'

The obituary notice of the death of Alexander Duff of Hatton in the *Aberdeen Journal* calls him, among other things, 'The arbitrator and universal reconciler of differences.' He married, in 1709, his cousin, Catherine Duff of Dipple, who was 'elder than him by three years and survived him five years.'¹

On his marriage, his father gave him Hatton and Knockleith, but, as he at the same time took Catherine's portion of 12,000 merks, and moreover left the Hatton estate bare of crops, Alexander was indeed, as Baird expresses it, 'brought up thro' the hard,' and was a poor man, comparatively speaking, for some years. He was able to add to his resources by obtaining, in conjunction with Alexander Achyndachy, the 'factory'² of the forfeited estate of the Earls of Dunfermline,³ which he managed with great success until the lands were sold in 1727. He very soon began the purchase of small estates adjoining his own. The first was Bogfontein in 1719. Some years later he bought Drumblair and some other smaller properties from Theodore Morison of Bognie, and in 1729 Balquholly from John Mowat for £4000, Downies and Auchinhamper from North Leslie, and Balnoon from Ogilvie. 'His last purchase was, in 1753, of about 2000 merks pr. annum of the estate of Kinnairdy, and after all he left 10,000 sterling settled on good security. In a word, I am convinced no man in his time conducted all his affairs with greater prudence, or, I believe, with more honesty, and gave a better example of all commendable industry' (Baird). He died in 1753, and is buried at Auchterless. He seems to have been the only one of William, Lord Braco's brothers-in-law who did not come to him for pecuniary help. A few of his letters exist, but they are not of general interest. He appears to have taken no part in the political events of his time, beyond the following:

'Decreet against Alexander Duff of Hatton for £200 Scots, two years rent of a house in Banff, taken and possessed by him from Whitsunday 1746 to Whitsunday 1748, belonging to the deceased George Abernethy, convicted of high treason.

'It was found proven that Alex. Duff the Defender took the house for one year from Whit. 1746 to Whit. 1747 at £100 Scots of rent; that the house was possessed by the Duke of Cumberland's army, the house as a Hospital and the Lower part as a Magazine, until the first of Nov. following, and that it was with

¹ 'Died on 20 Dec. 1758 Lady Hatton' (*Aberdeen Journal*).

² Management.

³ These included Fyvie.

difficulty they would remove and give the Defender access, and when he got access he was put to extraordinary expense in mucking, cleaning, washing, repairing, and fitting it up for being habitable. The Defender was eventually allowed to retain his expenses for repairing and cleaning the house, amounting to £16 14 6 Scots, out of the half-year's rent' (*Scottish Forfeited Estates Papers*. Scot. Hist. Soc.).

By his wife, Catherine Duff, second daughter of William Duff of Dipple, he had seven children :

1. PATRICK, who predeceased his father. He married, in 1738, Mary Ogilvie of Inchmartine, and she died in 1784 a widow. There were no children.

2. ALEXANDER and

3. JOHN, who both succeeded to Hatton.

4. JAMES, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff.

5. MARGARET, who married her second cousin, Gordon, an officer of Customs at Dundee. She is said to have eloped with him, and died 1750.

6. JANE, who married James Abernethy,¹ third of Mayen.

7. HELEN, died unmarried, in 1796, and the following rhyme was current in Banff at the time, referring to the spinster of the family :

' Gin I'd as many braw new gowns
As Provost Dirom's Suffy² has,
Gin I could walk the streets as clean
As Mistress Gordon Goody³ does,
I widna lain sae lang my lane
As Hatton's Gley-ed⁴ Nelly has.'

¹ ' James Abernethy quarrelled at an election dinner in Aberdeen with John Leith of Leith-hall, and shot him dead in the street. He effected his escape, but was outlawed and died abroad (at Dunkirk, 1771). Lord Fife obtained a gift of his life-rent of Mayen for the benefit of Jean Duff and her children' (*Frasers of Philorth*).

These children were :

1. James, last of Mayen, died intestate 1785.

2. John, 1759-1779, buried at Rothiemay.

3. William, died young.

4. Jane, 1751-1805, married, in 1785, Alexander Duff of Mayen (*q.v.*).

5. Isabella, married Lieutenant Graham of the 42nd Regiment.

6. Helen, 1753-1787, buried at Rothiemay.

7. Anne, died 1796.

8. Katherine.*

And five others died young. Jean Duff died 1780, and is buried in Banff.

² Sophia Dirom, afterwards wife to George Duff, R.N.

³ Miss Goodrich Gordon, an eccentric lady who lived in Banff, where she boasted much of her connection with the Duke of Gordon, and habitually dressed in the family tartan.

⁴ Gleyd, cross-eyed, from which we infer that the lady squinted.

* ' Poor Kitty Abernethy is dying ' (1774).

She is buried in Banff, where presumably she lived in her latter days. Her stone is still in the old churchyard, and on it, besides her own name, are those of Alexander, Sophia, and Mary, three children of her brother James, who died in infancy. There are no dates.

ALEXANDER the second of Hatton, born March 26, 1718, had married, in 1745, his second cousin by the father's and first by the mother's side, Anne Duff, eldest daughter of William, Lord Braco¹ (she became Lady Anne in 1759, when her father was created Earl Fife). By the contract of marriage, Hatton, Knoekleith, and Balquholly were entailed on the heirs-male of Alexander and his brothers in succession, and he was given immediate possession of Balquholly, which he rebuilt, and changed the name of the house to Hatton Lodge. After his father's death he was very well off, and spent a good deal of money² on the education of the only child who survived infancy, Jean, married, at seventeen, to her mother's first cousin, Sir James Grant of Grant. She had fourteen children, seven sons and seven daughters, and two of her sons were afterwards Earls of Seafield.

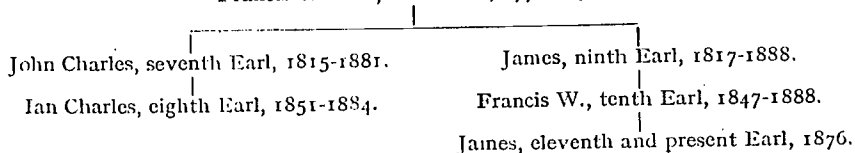
She married Sir James Grant of Grant, M.P., at Bath in January 1763. Her fourteen children were :

1. Lewis Alexander, fifth Earl of Seafield, born 1767.
2. Alexander, born at Castle Grant 1772.
3. James Thomas, born 1776; a judge in the Indian Civil Service; died 1804.
4. Francis William, M.P., afterwards sixth Earl of Seafield, and father of seventh and ninth earls,³ and great-grandfather of the present earl.
5. Robert Henry, born 1783.
6. Alexander Hope, born 1784.
7. Dundas, born 1788.
1. Anne Margaret, died unmarried 1827 (see page 218).
2. Margaret, married Major-General Francis Stewart of Lesmurdie.

¹ From whom he had the salmon fishings at Banff, and in March 1749 writes thus to his father-in-law: 'The fishing goes on bravely. We have caught a good many more than last year at this time, and all the old fishers say the Water mouth was never so direct from the sea as it is now—which is a great advantage.' To those who know the present mouth of the Deveron between Banff and Macduff, the quotation is interesting.

² He has left the accounts of his expenses during a winter tour in England, which amounted to £1000.

³ Francis William, sixth Earl, 1778-1853.



3. Jane, died unmarried 1809.
4. Penuel, died 1844.
5. Christina Teresa, died unmarried 1793.
6. Magdalene, died unmarried.
7. Mary Sophia, died unmarried 1788.

Jean and her husband, with several of their children, are buried in Duthil churchyard. There is a portrait of her by Zoffany at Cuilen House, and a copy at Hatton.

Alexander Duff died in 1764, at the early age of forty-four, as the result of an accident in falling over a sack of coal in his own cellar. He broke his leg, and it was afterwards amputated, but he died a few days later from loss of blood.¹

‘HATTON LODGE, Oct. 29th, 1764.

‘MY LORD,—The Doctor determined yesterday that it was in vain to expect an effectual cure upon Mr. Duff’s Leg, and that allowing him to linger on for four or five months longer, attempting a cure, was only unnecessarily endangering his Health, and that after all they would be in all human probability obliged to cut it off at the last.

‘They therefore spoke of the uncertainty to himself, upon which he immediately took the hint, and with the utmost composure begd it might be cut off.

‘He underwent the operation this morning and is in as good a way as could be expected. His magnanimity and coolness were remarkable through the whole and supported the spirits of every one about him.

‘All this family join in kind compliments to your Lordship, Lady Fife, and all at Duff House, and I remain with the utmost regard, My Lord, Your most obedt. and affect. Servt.,

JAS. GRANT.

‘P.S.—Your Lordship will oblige me by communicating this to Mr. James Duff as I have not a moment to write.

‘To the Earl of Fife, Duff House, Banff.’

(D.)

Baird thus sums up Alexander the second of Hatton: ‘He was an honest, generous, sensible man, of a very candid, ingenuous disposition, a warm heart to his friends, and nothing sordid or unworthy of a gentleman in his nature; it was a great loss to all his connections, and I may say to the countrie in general, that his days were so few; his Tenants lamented his early death as if they had lost their father.’²

¹ It is almost impossible now to realise what such an operation meant at that date, and how great was the danger. It was prior even to the days when Lord Nelson unconsciously advocated the sterilising of the surgeon’s knife by previously plunging it into boiling water, because in the amputation of his own arm he had found the cold of the steel the hardest thing to bear.

² He left one natural son, Alexander, afterwards Colonel 58th Regiment and proprietor of Mayen. He married, and his family will be found in chapter xviii.

The estates of Hatton, Knockleith, and the other entailed property then passed to John Duff, brother of Alexander, but the latter had left all personal property and all estates not entailed to his wife and daughter, the estates being worth £25,000 a year. To Jean, Lady Grant, went also all the family pictures, plate, and china.

To Lady Anne was left a liferent of the mansion-house of Balquholly, to which she maintained her right until her death, forty years later. She died in Edinburgh 1805. Several letters of Lady Anne to her brother Arthur, late in life, show her as taking a great interest in the estate, price of crops, etc. She was very kind to her various nieces, particularly the daughters of Jane Urquhart, kept a hospitable house, and visited a good deal among her neighbours. When nearly seventy she writes: 'Mrs. Stewart and family have to leave me instead of staying till the month of October—however there is no loss, but there is some small profit, and it will enable me to visit some friends this season.'

There is one amusing letter from her to her brother James:

'March 1st, 1788.

'MY DEAR LORD,—I have just now a letter from Mrs. Duff, Housedale, requesting I wd. write your Lords^{ps} in favors of a son of Mr. Duff's minister of Monimusk, for his having your Interest for him to be appointed School Master of Keith in room of the Present School Master—who is appointed 2nd Minister of Old Abdn.—Mr. Duff has a large young familie—and I saw this young man last Summer—he seem'd modest and well behaved—Mrs. Duff writes me that my Br. Alexr. was to write for James Grant—but left it to me to solicitate your intrest in favor of Mr. Duff.

'They do me a great deal of honor—but I have not the vanity, but to think Alexr. as well intitled to ask a favor as I am and rather better at Present, as he has not given you so much trouble as I have lately done—but alls well that ends well—as the Play says) which I hope will be the present case. Lady Augusta Hay (Erroll) is to be married Tuesday next to Ld. Glasgow, I'm glad, as the familie are so large of Daugtrs.—the story goes thus—at the Peers assembly—Lord Glasgow was there—he hates dancing and never dances, he came up to Lady Augusta—who was sitting—ask'd her Lap. why she was not dancing—she say'd she was not fond of Dancing and would not dance that night—he requested then, to have the honor of being of her Sitting Partic, which was agreed to—next that he might be admitted to visit her next day—this was also agreed to, and next day he offered to give her himself—which she accepted off.—Adieu, my Dr. Lord, with esteem and respects, yours, etc.,

ANNE DUFF.

(R.)

'The Earl of Fife, Whitehall, London.'

And one to her brother Arthur on the occasion of the death of her mother's brother:

‘HATTON LODGE, Wednesday afternoon
(circa 1785).

‘I was concerned but not surprised, my Dear Brother, when last Post brought me the acct^{ts} of our worthie Unkle’s Death. My fears by the state I knew he was in for two years were great—yet as long as there is Life there is some degree of Hope, and so was my mind as to him. We both knew him so well that we need say nothing to each other as to him, Yet sure enough our residence in this world is so uncertain that those that Love each other, sh^d as far as they conveniently can, enjoy each others society as much as in there Power. I have done so all the well days of my Life. I depend as all of us does, upon Providence, if it pleases Him I w^d wish my Seck days to be short and to see then as few of my Friends, or of those that continues to Love my Driggs¹ as possible.

‘I’ll assure you what I supposed my mothers feelings might be upon the occation gave me true uneasiness, the good acct^{ts} L^d Fife gave me yesterday of her gave me much pleasure. I have not yet fixed a day for moving Southwards as I have various little matters to put into my ordinary method before I go, but at no time but that the sight of you will give Pleasure.

‘I unite with you Perfectly in the old adage that we should live like Brethren but by no manner of means Count like Jews, for as I wrote you in my last from Edn. I gain’d twinty shillings by lending you £100. Instead of having it in the hand I took it from the ordinary Received interest in General is 2½ P.C. so without obligation upon either side it is but fair to Return a 20 sh^{lls} note and you can Calculate whether it is one shilling or Eighteen pence difference by the odd four months upon the ten shillings discount of the years ½ P.C.

‘My Aff^{te} Duty to my Mother with warmest wishes for Comfortable and happy days to be her lote. Lord Fife talks of her as an evergreen, he say’d for many years he had not known her so well in health, strength, Intellect and memorie as Intire as in the best days of her life and that you was absent so that they were quit by themselves which enabled him to form a Perfect Judgement.

‘I have wrote so much to-day that my write is wear to a hair and as I’m convinced you have got enough of the goodness I shall only Request you to believe me with my Duty to my Mother and Aff^{te} Regards to Frances,—Your truly Aff^{te} Sister and friend,
ANNE DUFF.’ (O.)

Some extracts from her will show her in a very gracious light. ‘Certain testamentary dispositions of Lady Anne Duff of Hatton to Sir James and Lady Grant, dated Hatton, June 11th, 1805.’

Among minor legacies occur :

‘To my niece Mary Urquhart, to two Miss Whartons, Jane Catherine Anne Brodie, Anne Duff, daughter of James Duff and niece to my

¹ Dregs, remains.

late husband, £50 each. Also to Anne Duff, daughter to my brother Alexander.

'Also to my faithful and exteemed friend, Colonel Duff of Mayen,¹ whose love and affection for me have been such as a child would possess for a parent, I bequeath his late dear father's miniature picture set round with pearls. At the back there is placed that father's hair, my hair, and Sir James and Lady Grant's hair; this I know will be an acceptable present to him. I desire that he may receive my silver tea-kettle and lamp. I request that he will at my death give all the assistance he can in rouping (*i.e.* selling by auction) my house in George Square, and in the rouping of my furniture there and at Hatton Lodge.

'I bequeath £100 to my black servant.

'To Lady Sophia Wharton [*her sister*] a ring set round with diamonds with our father's hair, and another ring with Lady Gordon's [*her sister Janet's*] hair, set as an urn.'

JOHN DUFF, styled of Drumblair, possession of which estate and of Lensham he had enjoyed during his brother's lifetime, was born in 1727, and died 1787. He succeeded to Hatton 1764. He married, on January 26, 1762, his first cousin once removed, Helen Duff of Whitehill, and by her had sixteen children:

BATHIA, born December 8, 1762, died October 3, 1774.

ANNE, born February 17, 1764, died April 8, 1775.

ALEXANDER, born January 14, 1765, died 1791.

PATRICK, born June 12, 1766, died 1801.

CLEMENTINA, January 16, 1767, died *circa* 1845.

JAMES, born August 10, 1768, died before 1789.

ANDREW, born September 17, 1769, died 1819.

JOHN, born February 12, 1771, died before 1776.

KATHERINE, born June 22, 1772, died 1805.

JEAN, born July 6, 1773, died 1793.

WILLIAM, born October 12, 1774, died before 1808.

JOHN, born January 2, 1776, died before 1789.

BATHIA, March 13, 1778, died an infant.

GARDEN, born November 1, 1779, died 1858.

ANN, born April 15, 1781, died young.

ROBERT, born May 1, 1783, died 1854.

In 1776 'the six sons of Hatton' were made burgesses of Banff. These must have been the six eldest, aged eleven, ten, eight, seven, five, and two.

In 1790 the three remaining 'sons of the late John Duff of Hatton'

¹ See chapter xviii.

were similarly honoured. They were John, Garden, and Robert, aged fourteen, eleven, and seven.¹

All but two of these children died without issue, some in very early infancy (and a curious stone in Auchterless churchyard commemorates seven of them).² The family lived at the manor house of Hatton in Auchterless, and John seems to have acquiesced in all the arrangements made by his brother, which impoverished both the estate and himself. He lived quietly, saved money, and made some small additions to the estates.

As far as we know, only six of the sons lived to grow up—Alexander, Patrick, Andrew, and Garden, who all succeeded to Hatton; William, who died in early manhood, and Robert, who became a merchant in Glasgow and died unmarried 1854; and three of the daughters—Clementina, who lived to old age in Banff; Jean, who died in Edinburgh, aged twenty; and Katherine, who died at Peterhead in 1805, aged twenty-three.³

The daughters had £600 by their father's will, and the sons £700. Helen Duff succeeded her brother in Whitehill in 1786, and left it eventually to her son Garden, who sold it.

Like all the rest of the family, John Duff applied to Lord Fife for help, and writes on April 3, 1781:

'MY LORD,—I have seen you Lordship very obliging and kind letter off the 14th to Mrs. Duff. We are both very sensible off your kind concern for the welfare off our ffamily. Wee have resolved to give our children the choice of their trade—or business that seems most their own inclination, after sygnifying to them what appears to be the business most advantageous to them. Petter our second son made two proposals; the seaffearing life or to goe out to the East Indies as a Cadett. Att last he fixed on the goeing out to the East Indies: And every step after has been taken to prepare him as ffar as the education here would doe and its now fixed that he goe to an Academy in ffrance att Calmar in Upper Lusaticia to learn the ffrench languadge and to compleat him in the Military line as it was mentioned to us a proper step; and Delgaty's Eldest son Sandie Garden goes with him who also intends goeing into the Army in the British Service; wee would only wish to have Petter readie to goe out the

¹ Children of well-known men were frequently made burgesses in those days, and the entertainment given was varied accordingly:

Thus to '4½ pints rum at making Captain Baird and Captain Lawson burgesses 15/9d., 1 dozen lemons, 1 dozen biscuits and 3 lb. loaf sugar at 10d. = 4s.

'But to 2½ lbs. raisins for some boys made burgesses 1/3d. 1768, Sheriff Urquhart's children made burgesses; for confectons to them 4s.' (*Banff Records*.)

² 'Two daughters named Bathia; two daughters named Ann; two sons named John; and a daughter named Katherine.'

³ Peterhead was then a health resort, and the *Aberdeen Journal* of that time contains frequent lists of visitors to the baths and wells of that place. General Wolfe passed three weeks there in 1751 in search of health. See his *Life* by Beckles Wilson.

next Spring or with the first ships off that season for the East Indies; May I presume to ask the favour of your Lordship to give your aid to procure a Cadett ship on the Bengale establishment and your friendly recommending to any of your acquaintances in the East Indies; we should be happy to have my son in the same corner with my wife's brother Petter who has experience and is long their; and a good hearted man; He is just now at Generell Godert's att Bombay. But as he is upon the Bengale establishment, its more than probable that upon the pease with the Moratoes¹ he will return their. The first letter that his friends here getts from him possibly will inform them of the place he has expectation to be att, whether Bengale or Bombay.

'Mrs. Duff joins me in our best wishes for every felicity to your Lordship.— I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's ver obliged humble serv^t,
'JOHN DUFF.'² (D.)

JAMES OF BANFF, fourth and third surviving son of the first Alexander of Hatton, was born in 1729, and died 1804. As a boy of sixteen he 'went out' in the '45, but was sent home after the skirmish of Inverurie, and owing to his extreme youth and the family interest the matter was lushed up, and he seems to have suffered in no way for what was considered his early indiscretion.

Lord Sempill, commanding at Aberdeen, to the Earl of Albemarle, C. in C. Scotland

'ABERDEEN, Aug. 21, 1746.

'MY LORD,— . . . Since I have been hear I have been Solicited by Sir Alex. Reed,³ Mr. Duff of Hatton, and Mr. Reed, who each of them had a son about Eighteen Years of Age, printises in this place, and were unhappily Seduced to go with the Rebels to Inverurie; as the above Gentlemen are well affected to his Majesty and Government, So soon as they had an account of their having Joind thoas Rebels, they Emediately Seazed them, which prevented them being any more concern'd. Your Lordsp. will please observe they are younger Brothers and men off no Estate nor fortune. I would not give them any passes such as the Common Sort of Rebels gets till I know your Lordsp.'s pleasure about them. . . .'⁴

Sir Harry Innes of Innes to Ludovick Grant of Grant

'ELGIN, Sept. 10th, 1745.

'DEAR SIR,—We ar hear in a perpetuall alarm for Glenbucket; he took sume of the Duke of Gordon's horses and arms this morning, at lest I am credably

¹ Mahrattas.

² John's son Peter or Patrick was appointed Ensign in the 78th Regiment of Highland Foot, November 20, 1781, and writes from Tanjore, September 1, 1788, to thank Lord Fife for the many favours he has done him, for allowing Patrick 'a place in his friendship,' and for mentioning his name to Lord Cornwallis and Colonel Ross, and asks for assistance in purchasing his company. For 'my wife's brother Petter,' see chapter xix.

³ Of Barra.

⁴ *Albemarle Papers*, vol. i. p. 134.

inform'd of it, and have no reason to question its being true. I am sorry to tell you that the Duke is quite wronge.

' This alarm and search for horses has determined me to send mine under your protection. You have the most of my cavalry, and God knows they are but very indifferant. Was it not more for humour that they shall not have them, then the real valow, I should not send one out of the way. Lord Bracon, his son Jamie, and Mr. Duff, younger of Hatton,¹ went to the west this day, to be free of Glennie. I met his Lordship as I was walking to Innes, and now I must walk, for the divell of a horse I have worth riding. News I have none. Our compliments to Lady Margaret, and believe me, yours, etc.,

' HARRIE INNES.'

(From Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*.)

' James Duff writes apprentice Hatton, Auchterless, Aberdeen, carried arms in the character of an officer at Inverury,² and was one of those who apprehended Mr. Maitland of Pittrichie, not known where he is' (Rosebery's *List of Persons concerned in the Rebellion, 1745*).

James Duff was afterwards, in 1761, appointed, by Lord Bute, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff (in those days a most important post), and Deputy-Keeper of Sasines 1765. He received £2200 from his father, and sasine from his brother Alexander on various crofts. There are many letters from James Duff in the family correspondence, but they are mostly on business and not of general interest. He was factor for the estate of Mayen, and did other business for the family. A few extracts are given :

James Duff of Banff to the second Lord Fife

' BANFF, 22nd Feby.

' Before leaving Duff House, I took the liberty of mentioning a commencing that had taken place twixt Mr. Abercrombie of Glassa and his Brother the Parson, regarding his office of Kings Painter; the Parson, I find does not incline to resign and allow a new commission to be taken out, so that there is nothing to be done at present, but applying for the Commission in the event of his death, that is some times done, but I believe not readily, and very uncertain it is, who may have the disposal when it comes to be open.'

¹ Alexander, elder brother of James.

² Skirmish of Inverurie, December 23, 1745. Lord Lewis Gordon, with about nine hundred men, Drumonds, Farquharsons, and Gordons, defeated a large body of Government supporters under MacLeod of Skye, to whom Lord President Forbes and Lord Loudon were anxious to entrust some important enterprise to mark their appreciation of his adherence. The slaughter at Inverurie was not great, but about fifty prisoners fell into the hands of the Jacobite forces, amongst whom were a son of Gordon of Ardoch, Maitland of Pittrichie, Forbes of Echt, and Professor John Chalmers of Aberdeen University.



JAMES DUFF OF BANCHORY.

Lord Fife's answer (noted on the back of the letter, in the convenient manner of those times) :

' If the Abererombies had agreed to take a new Commission with him or his son included in it which, by the by, would not have been excentric. The only favour the Abererombies could do would be to resign, if a new commission could be obtained for Mr. Duff's son.'¹ (R.)

As early as 1765, James Duff was pining to get away from what he calls ' this corner,' *i.e.* Banff, where there was ' little work to be done in the business to which he was bred,' and hopes by Lord Fife's interest to obtain some Government post.

In 1794 he announces that Sir James Grant, his nephew, ' has now obtained new commissions for my son and me for keeper of the Register and Sasines and Clerk to the Peace.'

On February 3, 1802, he writes, referring to James, fourth Lord Fife :

' The anniversary of the Queen's Birthday was held here, on the 18th ult. with great splendour. We had an elegant dinner at Watson's Hotel, and after having a sufficient portion of wine went to a ball given by the Volunteers of the Trades Company, where we enjoyed ourselves till one in the morning, and then Sandy Milne and I supped at G. G. Robinson's with James Duff, the heir of Fife, where we set till 3 A.M., but this is not at all uncommon for ever since Mr. Duff came to this country we have not dined till 5, and seldom or ever went home before 2, 3, or 4 A.M. when he was of the party. He is very much liked here on account of his affability and agreeable manners.' (R.)

James was twice married, first, at the age of twenty-six, to Helen Skene of Rubislaw,² who bore him a daughter, Helen, and two sons, Alexander and George; dying when the latter was six weeks old, March 12, 1764.

And, secondly, on February 1, 1772, when forty-three, to Margaret Dunbar of Kincorth (aged eighteen), whose mother was Isobel Abercromby of Birkenbog, and had by her thirteen children, several of whom died young.³

First Family

HELEN, 1756.

ALEXANDER, 1758.

GEORGE, 1764-1805.

¹ The office of King's Painter was worth about £100 a year until the emoluments were reduced by Burke. See page 123. The Rev. Thomas St. Clair Abercromby seems to have held it until his death.

² ' On 12th Aug. 1755, was married in this place, Mr. James Duff, Advocate, to Miss Nelly Skene (daughter of George Skene of Robslaw, Esq.), a young lady posesst of every accomplishment that can render happy the connubial state ' (*Aberdeen Journal* of that date).

³ In 1790, ' Three sons of James Duff, Esq., Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, were made burgesses of Banff.' No names given.

DUFFS OF HATTON

Second Family

JAMES, 1773; his birth is mentioned
by Baird, writing in 1773.

MARY, 1774.

JAMES WILLIAM, 1776-1797.

FIFE, 1778-1800.

JOHN, 1779-1801.

ISABELLA, *circa* 1780.

CATHERINE, *circa* 1782.

ANNE, 1784-1876.

SOPHIA, 1785.

Another, died young.

Helen, the eldest, made a runaway marriage with Thomas Bell, a travelling actor, against her father's wishes, and the younger children were for long unaware of her existence.¹ In her father's will a sum of money is left to her, but in the event of her death, her husband was not to benefit.

Ten days after the marriage Helen writes from Aberdeen :

May 9th, 1782.

'MY LORD,—I the more readily address myself to you in my present situation as your Lordship was not altogether unacquainted with an attachment I had formed when I had last the pleasure of seeing you in Banff, many causes have concurred to forward that attachment into affection which has since ended in marriage. I shall be plain with your Lordship and relate a circumstance that pointed out the above conclusion as the most adviseable and indeed only step that I could take, which tho' it may not entirely efface your Lordship displeasure, I sincerely hope it may in some degree mitigate it. I must confess I ventured myself with Mr. Bell (as no clergyman could be found in Aberdeen who would marry us) as far as Montrose where we arrived late at night and were to have been married next morning had not his supposed friend who travelled with us at Mr. Bell's particular request, most maliciously and without provocation plunged a case-knife into his stomach and in so dangerous a manner that the whole of the Physicians there pronounced his recovery impossible, the event however has proved they were mistaken and as Mr. Bell concluded the accident could not have happened had I not been of the Party he imagined that having suffered so much entitled him in some degree to my hand which was given to him in the presence of some of my own Relations, it being now known that he is a Gentleman's son his father having been long an Officer in the 55th Regt. and now respectably settled in Ireland and his Stage profession was entirely owing to a temporary disagreement between them not a passion for it, well knowing the universal detestation in which it is held in this Country. Now, my Lord, permit me to explain to your Lordship the reason of me thus troubling you—Gentlemen who have conversed with Mr. Bell have been pleased to think

¹ In the Register of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, appears :

'April 28, 1782. Thomas Bell, son of Captain Bell, Dublin, and Helen Duff were married'; no witnesses given. But the actual wedding seems to have taken place at Montrose, which is curious. It was possibly a Scottish marriage only, followed by the church ceremony on the return to Aberdeen.

favourably of him and say his education has been liberal and suits him for any employment, and I am certain your Lordship's goodness will plead in my excuse when I solicit in his behalf, he is now my husband and I am anxiously desirous for his welfare and flattering myself that you will be pleased to think a little favourably of the connection I presume to offer him to your Lordship's consideration, as your Interest and Influence are both unquestionable permit me earnestly to entreat a small exertion of them in providing him with some small appointment many of which are in your Lordship's power which will ensure me happiness and prevent necessity from forcing him to his late profession, which at all events he is determined to relinquish untill such time as he sees if anything will be effected for his interest, and as my dependence is entirely upon your Lordship let me not sue in vain, and your compliance will put me in your gratitude to acknowledge your Lordship's favour while I have existence.—I am, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

'HELEN DUFF.' (D.)

And again from Edinburgh, January 23, 1788 (six years later) :

'MY LORD,—I took the liberty to write to your Lordship some time ago requesting the loan of Ten Pounds for a particular purpose, but as I have not been favor'd with any answer I must conclude that either your Lordship is offended at my request, or if your Lordship wrote, the letter miscarried: the immediate want however of that sum induces me to apply again and to state the cause: I have two little white-headed boys the oldest is at home with myself running about, but the youngest is out at Nurse who is at present very clamorous for my arrear to her, which is almost eight pounds, and in consequence of my deficienty I fear will use the Boy ill: I wish greatly to pay her and take him home. My Father (I must say) is an unjust unfeeling hardhearted man and consequently nothing cou'd move him to give me the least assistance: besides at present he's at law with my husband. I have only to say if your Lordship will condescend to listen to my application it will be ever gratefully acknowledged by your Lordships Truly Thankful Friend and humble Servt.,

'HELEN BELL.' (D.)

In 1793 James wrote to William Rose, 'Would it be prudent to cause try by some unconnected person if my poor daughter and her husband would upon granting bond for a certain sum discharge the claim of legitime. Mr. Lachlan Duff was employed for me in the dispute with them.'

Helen Bell had four children :

John, who went to the West Indies, where he did well, and died before 1837.

George Skene, whose baptism is registered in Aberdeen 1788¹ (Register of St. Paul's Church), but of whom nothing more is known.

¹ He was probably not christened till he returned from his nurse. See above.

Helen and Elizabeth, who married into a humble rank of life, and some of their descendants are still in Banff.

The children of these two daughters are enumerated as numbers 69 to 75 in the Fife entail of 1841. See chapter xiii.

ALEXANDER, eldest son of James of Banff, was at college in Aberdeen, but died young.

GEORGE was the distinguished officer killed at Trafalgar, and will be treated of in the next chapter.

Of the second family, the first JAMES died an infant, and is one of those buried in Banff. He was 'nameson' to Lord Fife, and his mother writes thus to her husband's cousin, who was obviously a kind friend :

'MY LORD,—I had the honour of your Lordship's letter by last post and returns you my best thanks for your kind enquirrys for me and your nameson who I thank God is very stout and thriveing. He was inoculated about ten days ago and is getting very easily over the small-pox. You shall have the direction of him whenever you wish.

'The pattern of paper your Lordship is so good as send me I do think is very genteel and pretty and very suitable to the furnitur in the room. The Dido round and painting below it I think will be a great improvement. Your Lordship is very good in remembering it. I should not have wondered from the hurry and bustel of the great world you are in had you not done it so soon.

'Poor Mr. Abernethy who is with us is in a very declining state, his complaints are come on so rapedly that I much fear all remedys for his recovery will be ineffectual. It will always give Mr. Duff and I much pleasure to hear of your Lordships being in good health, we hope you will soon thinking of returning to Duff House ; he joins me in best respects and good wishes to your Lordship. Nelly begs her best respects may be offered you.—I am, your Lordships much obliged humble servant,

MARGT. OGIL. DUFF. (D.)

'BANFF, April 18th, circa 1775.'

Of the next three, MARY, JAMES WILLIAM, and FIFE, there is a charming portrait, now in the possession of Mr. Walter Blaikie. It is on the authority of their younger sister Anne, Mr. Blaikie's grandmother, that the portrait is said to represent these three.¹

The second James lived to be twenty-one, and is buried in the Greyfriars church, Edinburgh. The following inscription was on his tombstone, but has now disappeared :

'James Wm. Duff, son of James Duff, Esq. of Banff, who died July 28, 1797, aged 21 years. To whose memory this stone is erected by his afflicted

¹ The dates of birth for some members of this family are only conjectural.

parents, as a tribute of their affection for a child whose conduct in life was such as to leave them ever to lament his loss.'

This James was educated at Aberdeen University (King's College), and appears in the Roll of Alumni 1789. He was afterwards articled to George Robinson of Gask, writer, and was then employed in the office of Messrs. Brodie, who acted for Lord Fife in Edinburgh. One brief letter of his has been preserved, and one from his father on his death :

'BANFF, 12th July 1797.

'DEAR SIR,—Your most friendly condolance for my dear Jamie I'm certain is most sincere from you, as you always exprest a warm attachment to him, and he was ever gratefull, this severe stroke has much disconcerted me, and his poor mother to be pityed, I do what I can to conceal from her my feelings to support her, but nothing will do, but time and the assistance from Heaven. I will be glad to see you at any time convenient, the visits from a friend gives pleasure. To you and all your friends at Montcoffer Mrs. Duff unites in good wishes.—I always am, D. Sir, Yours,

JAMES DUFF.

(Mrs. Blaikie.)

'To William Rose.'

FIFE was a midshipman, and died in 1800, when administration of his estate was granted to his father. (Registers at Somerset House.)

JOHN's death in 1801 is chronicled with regret in the journals of the period, and he must, therefore, have been 'a grown man,' and have come thus early in the family, but nothing is known about him.

ISABELLA died young.

CATHERINE lived long in Banff, and when over seventy went to Bath, and finally to Cheltenham, where she died before 1840. She took into her service Jane Suttie, granddaughter of her half-sister Helen, and was very kind to the rest of the family.

ANNE, the youngest daughter but one, married Mr. Walter Biggar, and died at the age of ninety-two, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. Blaikie, mother of fourteen children,¹ and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SOPHIA, known to have been younger than Anne and one other, both died as infants.

James Duff died in 1804, and is buried in the old churchyard, Banff.

'To the memory of James Duff, Esq., 4th son of the first Alexander Duff of Hatton, who died 19 Nov. 1804, aged 75. As a just tribute of dutiful regard, this stone is placed over his remains by his affectionate widow, daughter of James Dunbar of Kincorth, 1805.

¹ The second son is Walter Biggar Blaikie, LL.D., author of the *Itinerary of Prince Charles Edward Stuart*, and other historical and antiquarian works.

DUFFS OF HATTON

'James, Isabella, and John Duff, their children are buried here. And Alexander, Sophia and Mary in the Grave with their aunt, Mrs. Helen Duff.

'Also Margaret Ogilvie Dunbar, Widow of the forenamed James Duff, died 1829, aged 75.'



TOWN HOUSE IN BANFF OF MRS. DUFF OF HATTON
(WHERE BYRON'S MARY STAYED WITH HER GRANDMOTHER)

To return to the main line of Hatton.

On the death (in 1787) of John Duff of Hatton, he was succeeded by ALEXANDER his third child and eldest son, 1765-1791. He married, in 1787, Mary Leslie of Glenmyre, of the family of Melross, and had three daughters: (1) MARY, born 1788 (Byron's Mary), afterwards Mrs. Cockburn; (2) HELEN, born 1789, afterwards Mrs. Tod; and (3) MARGARET, born 1791, died 1803.

In a letter from James Imlach, long resident and well known in Banff, written, August 16, 1879, in his ninety-second year, to the Rev. Dr. Blaikie, there is the following account: 'Byron is vividly in my mind, as a smart little fellow, exactly of my own age, when in Banff, end of last century, and I met him at his aunts, the Misses Gordon of Gight, and his mother, Dame or Lady Gordon of Gight was with him—the youth then visiting the young Duffs of Hatton. Mary, who became Mrs. Cockburn; Helen, Mrs. Tod; and Margaret, who died. All dancing school partners of mine. How bewitching was Mary, no wonder the young lord lost his heart.'¹

And George Huntly Gordon, writing to *Notes and Queries* in 1858, says: 'I observe in the *Times* of March 10, the death of the lady, Mary Duff of Hatton, who certainly lighted the first flame in the too susceptible heart of my illustrious namesake. Byron told my father at Brussels, in 1816, that he was in love with her at Banff in his ninth year, that some of his earliest verses were addressed to her, mentioning that she was a year older than himself, though from her age as given in the obituary I think she must have been born in the same year, and that she was slightly his junior.² He never saw her after he left school in Aberdeen. . . . When I saw her she was in the zenith of her beauty.'

Byron himself writes: 'I have been thinking lately a good deal of Mary Duff. I have never seen her since we were both the merest children. I have been attached fifty times since that period, yet I recollect all we said to each other, all her caresses, her features, my restlessness, sleeplessness. My tormenting my mother's maid to write to her for me. . . . Poor Nancy thought I was wild, and as I could not write for myself, became my secretary. I remember, too, our walks and the happiness of sitting by Mary, while her lesser sister Helen played with her doll, and we sat gravely making love in our way.' (*See Byron's Journal of 1813 in his Life by Moore.*)

Mary Duff married, in 1805 (when only seventeen), Robert Cockburn, a wine merchant of Leith and Oporto (of the family of Cockpen).

They had five sons:

Archibald and Alexander, who were in the family business, and died unmarried; John Montague, who went to South Africa, where he married and left a large family; Robert, a sailor, drowned in 1836; Garden Duff, who died young in 1819; and one daughter, Helen Clementina, married Admiral Hugh Dunlop, and had one son, James.

¹ After her father's death Mary lived for some time with her grandmother, Helen Duff, in the Hatton town house in the High Street, Banff; now demolished.

² Byron was born January 22, 1788, and Mary Duff later in the same year.

Mrs. Mary Cockburn died in 1858, aged seventy.¹

Her sister, HELEN DUFF, married John Tod in 1808, and had thirteen children, whose descendants are now very numerous :

1. Thomas, born 1809, married Amelia Cumming.
2. Alexander, born 1810, *o.s.p.*
3. Helen Clementina, born 1812; married David Muir, and had issue.
4. John Robert, 1814-1856; married Jemima Wharton Duff (*q.v.*).
5. Mary Jane, 1821-1901; married, 1843, G. Ross, and had issue.
6. Charlotte Joanna, 1823-1901; married J. Maconochie, and had issue.
7. Caroline Jane, born 1826; married Thomas Graham Murray, and was mother of Lord Dunedin.
8. Louisa Garden, born 1828; married, 1859, Charles Fellows, and had issue.
9. Joanna, born 1831; married, 1876, Thomas Abdy Fellows.

And four others died unmarried, and all before 1841, at which date the nine children above mentioned appear in the Fife entail (see chapter xiii.). Helen Tod died in 1873, aged eighty-three.

Alexander's father-in-law, Major Leslie of Glenmyre, was a man of large property, and settled on the children of the marriage £2000, and the succession to all his property, subject to their mother's liferent. Alexander died of apoplexy in 1791, at the early age of twenty-six, and the property passed to his brother Patrick.

Alexander's death is thus chronicled in the *Scots Magazine*: 'On November 3, 1791, death of Alexander Duff of Hatton. The estates go to Patrick his brother, now under the command of Earl Cornwallis in the East Indies.' PATRICK was at that time Captain in an Independent Company of Foot (transferred from the 72nd Highland Regiment). The company was disbanded in December of the same year, and he was placed on half-pay, but was brought into the 74th Regiment as Captain in 1792. On his return to Scotland, a dispute arose between him and the trustees of his late brother as to the unentailed estates. The trustees claimed the right to sell these estates and pay all debts, and invest the money for the benefit of Alexander's three young children, while Patrick maintained that, subject to the debts, the estates should go to the heir-male, *i.e.* himself, but he had to give way on this point and all lands not in the original entail were sold for £15,000. That to which Patrick succeeded was indeed not much from a pecuniary point of view. There were three jointures to

¹ There is a portrait of her, reproduced from a crayon drawing, in the *Cockburn Family Records*: Foulis, Edinburgh, 1913.

pay to the widows of his three predecessors. Lady Anne, his aunt, had £500 per annum, and the liferent of Balquholly. Helen, his mother, had £151, and still held her own property of Whitehill. Mary, his sister-in-law, had £200, and her children had the interest from the £15,000 quoted above. As actual income from the estate Patrick would seem to have received less than £300, but he lived on good terms with all the family, and managed to raise money by granting long leases, for several lives, of large portions of the estate, and receiving in return what were known as 'grassums' from the tenants. He never married, and died in 1801, being succeeded by his brother ANDREW, who had been in the Navy, but 'owing to the effects of an attack of fever in the West Indies, he lost his reason, and was ever after incapable of managing his own affairs.'¹

Admiral Robert Duff, shortly before his death, wrote to Lord Fife :

'BATH, 19th January 1787.

'MY DEAR LORD,—On receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. I applied to two of my Naval acquaintances who were here but command Guard Ships at Portsmouth for their assistance to get Andrew Duff into a Coursing Ship, which I am persuaded they will do, and acquaint me when they have success. I did not ask them to receive him on board one of the ships they command as he could not improve in his profession there.

'Yesterday I wrote to Andrew Duff setting forth the difficulty of getting preferment in the Navy and earnestly recommending it to him to make choice of some other profession, but did not mention my having made any application to get him on board a man of war as that might have contributed to prevent his choicing another profession.'
(D.)

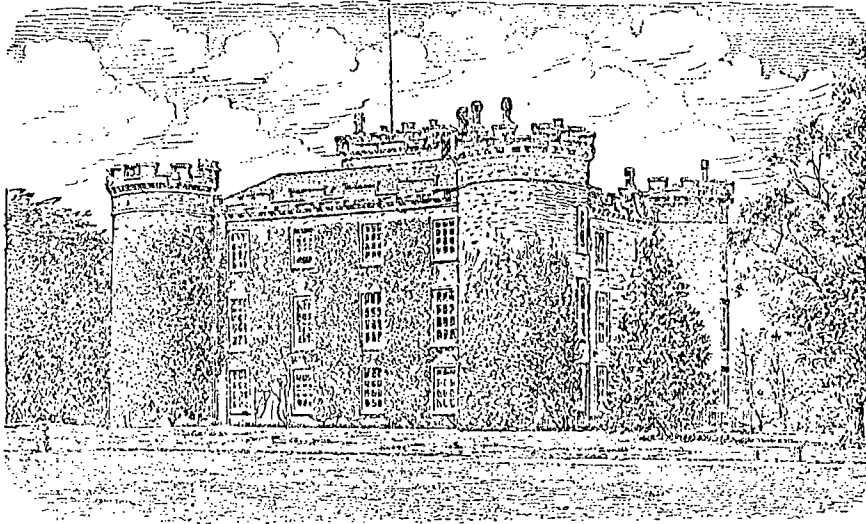
For eighteen years the estates were managed, in Andrew's name, by his younger brother Garden, who succeeded him on his death on August 12, 1818.

GARDEN, the fourteenth child and eighth son of John of Drumblair and Hatton, was born in 1779, and died in 1858. He was a Major in the Banff, Moray, and Nairn Light Infantry Militia. In 1805, his aunt, Lady Anne, died, and released her jointure, and in the same year he married Louisa Dunbar, daughter of Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs (she died at Auchintoul 1865). In 1827, on the death of his cousin, Sir Benjamin assumed the title of Lord Duffus, but this was disputed, when he went to vote at the election of Scottish representative peers, by claimants in the female line, and he never proved his title, though he was called Lord Duffus to the day of his death. The title is now dormant. Louisa's brother was

¹ Andrew Hay of Rannes, his great-uncle, after whom he was named, left him £100 in 1789.

Sir George Dunbar of Hempriggs (creation of Nova Scotia). He died unmarried, and owing to the special terms of the patent 'to his heirs-male whomsoever' the baronetcy passed to the heirs of Louisa (see page 252).

Garden, who was the eighth Laird of Hatton, enjoyed possession of it for nearly forty years. He greatly improved the property, rebuilt



HATTON CASTLE

Hatton Lodge, formerly Balquholly, which Lady Anne had allowed to fall into disrepair, and named it Hatton Castle.¹

He died, in 1858, in his eightieth year, from the effects of an accident, having broken his thigh in a fall, when rising from his chair in the

¹ Garden Duff of Hatton writes to Rose about engaging a servant February 19, 1808. Rose replies that the applicant 'asks £14 in the half year to furnish clothes for himself or £10 in the half year and to be furnished with a suit of clothes. Coat, small cloths, a waist coat and jacket in the half year. Tea for breakfast after it comes from the table, as to other matters whatever is customary in the house. Clothes washed.'

Garden Duff writes again that the terms are too high. 'I could get a thorough-bred house servant from Edin. for very little more. If my service is agreeable to him my terms are £12. 10 in the half year, furnishing himself in every article of dress, and that he always appears clean and neat and proper in his dress. He shall likewise have tea in the way mentioned, and his washing. His work to be confined to the house entirely, but he is likewise to brush my cloaths, boots and shoes, etc. Should he not be inclined to accept of these terms I will thank you to get me his answer immediately in order that I may be upon the outlook for some other person.'

(R.)

dining-room.¹ He was much regretted. He had five sons and three daughters :

1. JOHN, 1807-1829.

2. BENJAMIN, 1808-1897.

3. GARDEN WILLIAM, 1814-1866.

4. ROBERT GEORGE, 1817-1890.

5. JAMES, 1820-1898.

6. JESSIE ELIZA, 1806-1883; married Alexander Morison of Bognie, and died without issue.

7. HELEN, 1809-1889; married James Buchan of Auchmacoy: one son Thomas, 1836-1866; one daughter Louisa, died 1910; both unmarried.

8. LOUISA CLEMENTINA, 1811-1883, unmarried.

JOHN, the eldest son, died at the age of twenty-one from rapid consumption, brought on, apparently, by a fall from the top of a coach. BENJAMIN, who thus became the eldest son, was disinherited by his father, who was dissatisfied with his conduct.² The estates were re-entailed on GARDEN WILLIAM, the next son, and Benjamin was left by his father's will only £400 per annum for life. Benjamin served in 92nd Highlanders, passed into the half-pay list as a Captain in 1835, and retired in 1844. He lived for many years at Duddingston, and died there in 1897.

He married, when quartered in Ireland, Emma Haines, sister of Field-Marshal Sir F. P. Haines, and had by her four children: GARDEN, 1838-1889; LOUISA, 1833-1845; HELEN EMMA, 1835; and JESSIE, 1843 (married to the Rev. Courtenay Moore, and had five children).

GARDEN, the only son, became an Ensign in the 79th Cameron Highlanders in 1855, served in the Indian Mutiny, sold out in 1860, and entered the Indian Woods and Forests Department. He married, in 1877, his first cousin, Louisa Duff, and died in 1889, leaving two sons, GEORGE, born 1878, and KENNETH JAMES, of the Royal Navy, born 1886. Garden succeeded in 1875 to the estates of his great-uncle, Sir George Dunbar, and assumed in consequence the additional surname of Dunbar. His son GEORGE was first in the Cameron Highlanders, and subsequently went to India and

¹ Falls would seem to have been specially fatal to the Hatton family:

Alexander (second) of Hatton died from the effects of a fall over a sack of coals, 1764, aged forty-four.

Alexander (third) died of an apoplectic seizure in 1791, aged twenty-six.

Lady Duffus, mother-in-law of Garden Duff, died from a fall off some steps, March 15, 1857, aged ninety.

Garden Duff died from the effects of a fall from his chair at the age of eighty, 1858.

John Duff, his eldest son, died from the effects of a fall from a coach.

² The entail was invalid under the Entail Act of 1848, as it put no limit to the money which could be borrowed on the estate.

DUFFS OF HATTON

joined the 31st Punjabis. He served in the Abor expedition. He married, in 1903, Sybil Tait (who died in 1911), and has one son, GEORGE COSPATRICK, born 1906.¹

GARDEN WILLIAM, the third son, who thus succeeded to Hatton, was born in 1814, and died in 1866. He married, in 1850, Douglas Isabella Maria, daughter of Beauchamp Coleclough Urquhart of Meldrum, and for the first nine years of his married life lived at Gask, where his seven elder children were born. His first wife died in June 1861, and in 1862 he married Jean, daughter of Walter Cook. He had in all ten children :

First Family.

Annie L., 1851-1906, unmarried.	Louisa H., 1852- 1908, m. Francis Pollard Urquhart of Craigston.	Garden A., 1853.	Beauchamp, 1855.	Janet Douglas, 1856-1908, m. Alexander L. Duff.	George, born and died 1858.	Douglas Mary, 1859.
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Second Family.

Walter, 1863, Royal Irish Constabulary 1888. Resident Magistrate of Downpatrick, 1911, m. Elizabeth Leith.	Mary Elizabeth, 1864.	Bertha Hope, 1866-1897, m. Alan C. Duff, Indian Civil Service.
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He did a great deal of rebuilding on the farms on his estate, and was much interested in the welfare of the agricultural labourers, founding the Duff Society for the Relief of Farm Servants. He died at Harrogate, September 17, 1866, having only held the estates for eight years.

He was succeeded by the present owner, GARDEN ALEXANDER, born in 1853,² who was educated at Harrow and Cambridge; taking a first-class History Tripos, and playing Association football in the first two Inter-University matches in 1875 and 1876. He was a Major in the Banff, Moray, and Nairn Militia. He is now a Director of the Great North of Scotland Railway, a Trustee of the Seafield property, and Convener of the County of Aberdeen. He married his cousin, Annie I. Urquhart of Meldrum, and has two sons, GARDEN BEAUCHAMP, born 1879, Captain in the Cameron Highlanders, married, in 1913, Doris Lindsay Smith; and BEAUCHAMP PATRICK, born 1891, who will succeed, in the right of his mother, to the estates of Meldrum and Byth. The only daughter was MARY, b. and d. 1881.

¹ Sir George Duff Sutherland Dunbar assumed the title of sixth Baronet of Hempriggs and Ackergill on the death of his grandfather in 1897, and obtained from the Lyon King of Arms, in 1899, a warrant for the matriculation, to him, of the arms which belonged to the first baronet in 1706.

² Garden Alexander, born 1853, m. 1878, Annie Isabel Urquhart of Meldrum.

Garden Beauchamp, 1879.	Mary, born and died 1881.	Beauchamp Patrick, 1891.
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ANNIE ISABEL URQUHART,
WIFE OF GARDEN ALEXANDER, DUKE OF GATHORN.

By Hugh Keppie

His brother, General Sir BEAUCHAMP DUFF, G.C.B.,¹ born 1855, entered the Royal Artillery in 1874, served in the Afghan War 1878 and 1879, and was with Lord Roberts at Cabul. He joined the Indian Staff Corps, and was gazetted to the 9th Bengal Infantry, now 9th Gurkha Rifles. In 1887 he entered the Staff College, from which he passed out first and returned to India, where he was employed at Army Headquarters, first as an Attaché, and subsequently as D.A.A.G. He took part in the Isazai Campaign, and subsequently in the Waziristan Expedition, 1894-1895, including the action at Wano, being twice mentioned in despatches, and made a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. On return, he became Military Secretary to Sir George White, and subsequently to Sir Charles Nairne and Sir William Lockhart. He returned to England to take up the appointment of Assistant Military Secretary for Indian Affairs to Lord Wolseley. In September 1899 he accompanied Sir George White to Natal as Military Secretary, and was present during the siege of Ladysmith, as well as at the actions at Elandslaagte, Rietfontein, and other fighting which preceded it.

At the conclusion of the siege, he joined Lord Roberts' staff as Assistant Adjutant-General, and was present at the actions of Vet River, Sand River, the surrender of Johannesburg, and other actions up to the occupation of Pretoria. He returned to India in the beginning of 1901 as Deputy Adjutant-General. For his services in the South African War he was twice mentioned in despatches, and was made a C.B. and received the Queen's medal with five clasps. He was appointed Brigadier-General to command the Allahabad district in 1902, appointed Adjutant-General in India, and promoted Major-General in 1903. In March 1906 he was promoted Lieutenant-General, and on the same day was appointed Chief of the Staff to Lord Kitchener in India, and created K.C.V.O. In 1907 he became K.C.B., and in 1910 K.C.S.I. He was promoted General in 1911, and created G.C.B. at the Coronation in that year. In 1909 he became Military Secretary at the India Office, which office he held for four years, and in October 1913 his appointment as COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA was announced. He is Colonel of the 9th Gurkha Rifles.

His elder son, BEAUCHAMP OSWALD, in the 1st Gurkhas, received the medal of St. John of Jerusalem for saving life, in recognition of his services at Dharmasala in connection with the disastrous earthquake of 1905. He

¹ Sir Beauchamp, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., C.I.E., born 1855, m. 1876, Grace Wood, daughter of Oswald Wood, Punjab Uncovenanted Civil Service.

Beauchamp Oswald, 1880,
m. Mary Lander.

Evelyn Douglas, 1877-1897.

Douglas Garden, 1886.

had previously served in the Mahsud-Waziri Campaign 1901-1902, medal and clasp; and in the operations against the Mad Mullah in Somaliland, 1903-1904, medal and clasp. He married in 1908 Mary Lander.

DOUGLAS GARDEN is in the firm of Torr and Co., solicitors, London.

The third son of Garden William Duff, WALTER GARDEN, born 1863, was in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and is now Resident Magistrate at Downpatrick. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Major James Leith, V.C., and had two sons, ERIC GARDEN, 1892-1899, and GUY LEITH ASSHETON, 1893, now in the Royal Field Artillery.

Of the six daughters of GARDEN WILLIAM DUFF, ANNIE died unmarried in 1906.

LOUISA married her cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Pollard Urquhart, now of Craigston. She died in 1908 without issue.

JANET married her first cousin, Alexander Duff (*q.v.*), and died 1908.

DOUGLAS MARY and MARY ELIZABETH are unmarried.

BERTHA married her first cousin, Alan Duff (*q.v.*), and died 1897.

The immediate younger brother of Garden William of Hatton was ROBERT GEORGE, of Wellington Lodge, Isle of Wight, 1817-1890. He was a Captain in the 12th Regiment (East Suffolk), but retired in 1847 on his marriage with Mary Astley, niece of Thomas Assheton-Smith of Vaynol, who died at Tidworth in 1828, and had three sons: GEORGE WILLIAM, CHARLES GARDEN, and HENRY ASSHETON, and one daughter, LOUISA ALICE. On the death of Mrs. Assheton-Smith in 1859, the Vaynol estates and a large fortune came to Robert's eldest son George, born 1848, who took the additional surname of Assheton-Smith. He was a great lover of wild animals and kept a number of these, including wild bears and wild white cattle, in the park at Vaynol. He married, in 1888, Alice Stanhope Jones, and had one daughter Enid, born 1889. At his death, in 1904, the estates and name passed to his next brother Charles.

CHARLES GARDEN, born 1851, married (1) Hon. Maud Frances Vivian; (2) Mary Elizabeth Brinsley Sheridan; (3) Sybil Mary Verschoyle. His only son, ROBERT GEORGE VIVIAN, born 1876, entered the 2nd Life Guards in 1900, married, in 1903, Lady Juliet Lowther, daughter of fourth Earl of Lonsdale, and has one son and one daughter. At the coronation of King George v. Charles Assheton-Smith was made a baronet.

HENRY ASSHETON, born 1862, married, 1896, Emily Alice Pauline Morgan, daughter of F. M. Morgan, Esq., and has one son Frank, born 1901.

LOUISA ALICE DUFF, born 1853, married, in 1876, the Hon. Hussey Crespigny Vivian, afterwards third Lord Vivian. He had a distinguished diplomatic career, and died at Rome, November 1893, while Ambassador there.



GENERAL SIR. BEAUCHAMP DUFF, G.C.B.

From photograph by Mauld and Eise

They had four children: George, Crespigny Brabazon, fourth Lord Vivian, 1878; twins, Violet Mary and Dorothy Maud (Doris), now Lady Haig, maids of honour to Queen Alexandra; and Alexandra Mary Freesia, 1890, now wife of Lord Worsley, eldest son of the Earl of Yarborough.

The fifth son of Garden of Hatton was JAMES, born 1820. Became Captain in the 74th Regiment, Colonel of the Banff, Moray, and Nairn Militia. He served in the Kaffir War, and at the close of one engagement was in command of the regiment owing to the death of the Colonel and other officers. He married Jane Bracken Dunlop, daughter of Alan Colquhoun Dunlop of Edinburgh, and had fourteen children:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. JANE LOUISA, 1856. | 8. CHARLES EDMUND, 1863. |
| 2. MARY CLEMENTINA, 1857-1867. | 9. JOHN, 1864. |
| 3. GARDEN LLANOE, 1858. | 10. HELEN, 1865. |
| 4. JESSIE MARGARET, 1859-1910. | 11. KATHERINE, 1866. |
| 5. ALAN COLQUHOUN, 1860-1897. | 12. ROSE MARY, 1868. |
| 6. JAMES DUFF, 1860. | 13. ALICE, 1869. |
| 7. ALEXANDER LUDOVIC, 1862. | 14. MABEL, 1871-1910. |

After his retirement, and until his death, he lived at Knockleith, in Auchterless, where he built a house on the farm left to him by his father on a thirty-eight years' lease. He acted as guardian during the minority of his nephew Garden, and subsequently as curator for Miss Wharton Duff of Orton. His eldest son is now rector of Turriff, and had one son, GARDEN ANDREW, who entered the Army and died in India in 1906, and three daughters, ENID, KATHILEEN and HELEN.

The second and third sons, ALAN and JAMES, who were twins, took scholarships at Fettes from home in 1870. ALAN entered the Indian Civil Service, taking fifteenth place in the Indian Civil Service examination in 1878, but as there were only thirteen vacancies he competed again in 1879, and took first place; he then took a Foundation Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was there until 1881, when he went out to India, and served in the Central Provinces. In 1893 he was appointed Deputy-Commissioner of Jubbulpore, and died there in 1897 of fever induced by overwork in connection with the famine, his wife Bertha dying a few weeks later. He left one son, LUDOVIC JAMES, born 1889.

His twin brother JAMES was head of Fettes in 1877-1878, and gained a scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the latter year, and in 1879 a Foundation Scholarship at the same College, took a first class in the Classical Tripos in 1882, and was elected a Fellow of the College in 1883. He still resides in Cambridge.

He married, in 1895, Laura Conyngham, and has three sons and two daughters :

1. ALAN COLQUHOUN, November 11, 1896; scholar of Wellington.
2. JAMES FITZJAMES, February 1, 1898; scholar of Winchester.
3. PATRICK LUDOVIC, February 22, 1901.
4. MARY GERALDINE, 1904.
5. HESTER LAURA ELIZABETH, 1913.

ALEXANDER LUDOVIC DUFF, fourth son of Colonel James Duff, was born February 20, 1862. He entered the Navy in 1877, and has served on the China, South African, and the North American stations. He was promoted Commander in 1897, Captain 1902, Rear-Admiral 1913.

In 1906 he was appointed Deputy-Comptroller of the Navy. In 1909 he had command of the *Temeraire* in her first commission. He was subsequently Commodore of the Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, and in 1911 was appointed Director of Naval Mobilisation. C.B. in 1912.

He married, in 1886, his first cousin, Janet Douglas Duff, who died, after a long illness, in 1908. They have two daughters, HELEN DOUGLAS, born 1887, and DOROTHY ALEXANDRA, born 1890.

CHARLES EDMUND, the fifth son, born 1863, was first in the merchant service, then became a doctor, and finally took Holy Orders, being now the vicar of Sydling, Dorset. He married, in 1892, Mary Susan Smith, and has two sons, IAN ARCHIBALD JAMES, 1894, and COLIN GUTHRIE, 1895.

JOHN, the sixth son, born 1864, went to California, where he had a fruit farm. In 1897 he married Constance Evelina Pratt, who died leaving one daughter, FRANCES EVELINA, born 1898.

He returned to England, and in 1904 married Lily Clough, who died the following year, leaving a daughter, LILY KATHERINE, 1905.

Of the daughters of Colonel James Duff, the eldest, JANE LOUISA, born 1856, married her first cousin, Garden Duff, afterwards Duff-Dunbar, as already mentioned.

MARY CLEMENTINA, died 1867, aged ten.

JESSIE MARGARET, born 1859, became an hospital nurse, was night superintendent of Charing Cross Hospital for several years, and was then appointed matron of the Infirmary in Dundee, where she died in 1910.

HELEN, born 1865, married George Whistler Pratt, and lives in California.

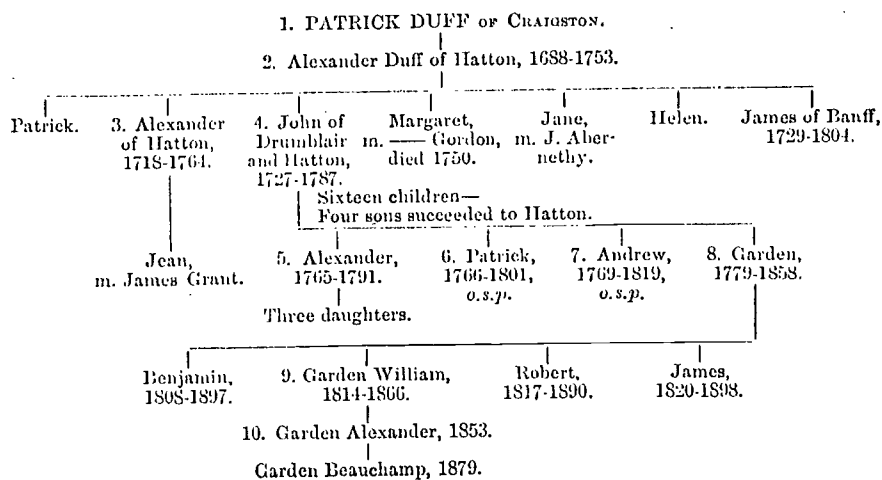
KATHERINE, born 1866, married Cecil Robert Stevens, Indian Medical Service, and has two children: Cecil James, born 1893, and Mignonette Kathleen Jean Duff, born 1906.

ROSE MARY, born 1868, married, 1901, James Brignell Dand, 1st Innis-

killen Fusiliers (he died in Egypt in August 1904), leaving one son, Alistair James Duff, born 1902, and a second, born after his father's death, Richard Travers Middleton, 1905.

The two youngest daughters, ALICE, born 1869, and MABEL, born 1871, were unmarried. Mabel died 1908.

The descendants of the first Garden Duff of Hatton, the fourteenth child of John Duff of Hatton and Drumblair, now number nearly seventy.



In the two hundred and five years since Hatton was purchased, there have been ten lairds :

1. Patrick, the purchaser, who held it for a few months only, and made it over to his son.

2. Alexander, who held it for forty-four years, 1709-1753.

3. Alexander, his son, held it for eleven years, 1753-1764.

4. John, his brother, held it for twenty-three years, 1764-1787.

5. Alexander, his son, held it for four years, 1787-1791.

6. Patrick, his brother, held it for ten years, 1791-1801.

7. Andrew, his brother, held it for eighteen years, 1801-1819.

8. Garden, his brother, held it for thirty-nine years, 1819-1858.

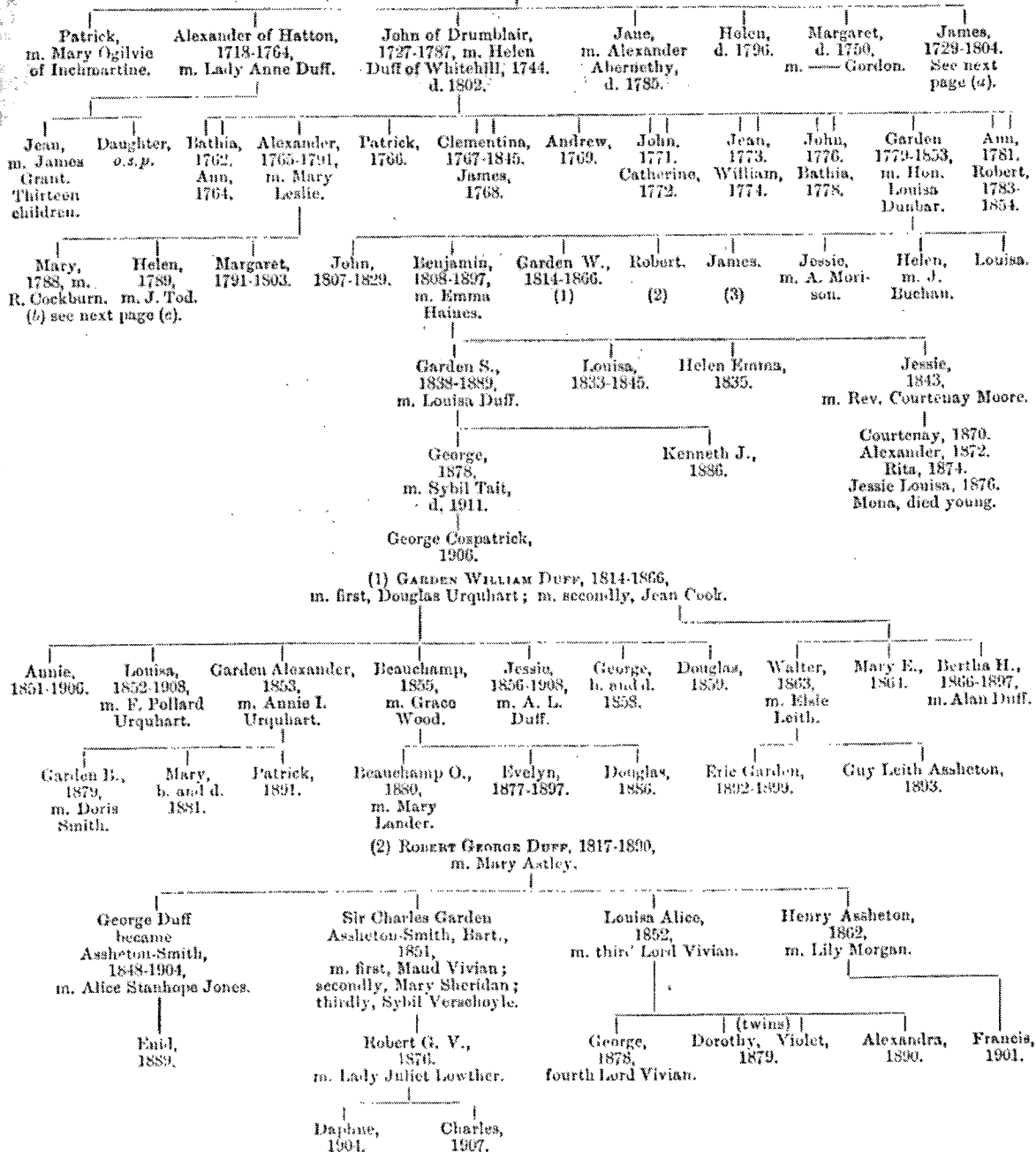
9. Garden William, his son, held it for eight years, 1858-1866.

10. Garden Alexander, his son, who entered upon possession of the estate when thirteen years of age, and has already held it longer than any of his predecessors.

DUFFS OF HATTON

The complete genealogical tables of the Hatton family are given again in full for the sake of clearness.

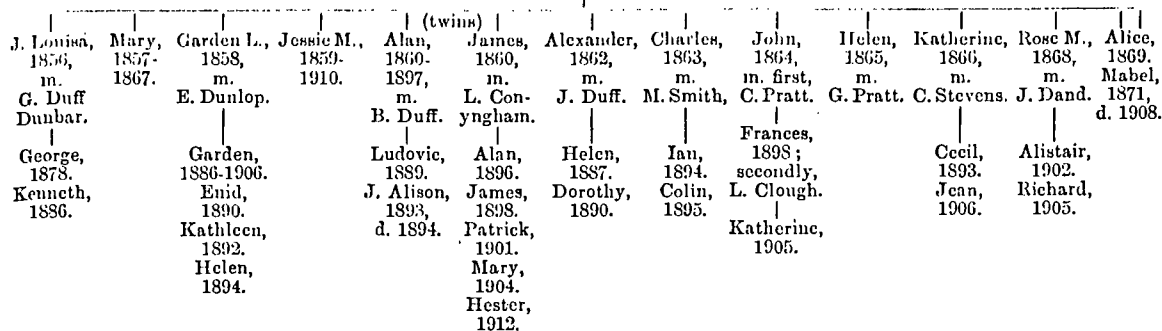
ALEXANDER DUFF, First of Hatton, 1688-1753,
m. 1709 Catherine Duff of Dipple, 1683-1753.



HATTON FAMILY TABLES

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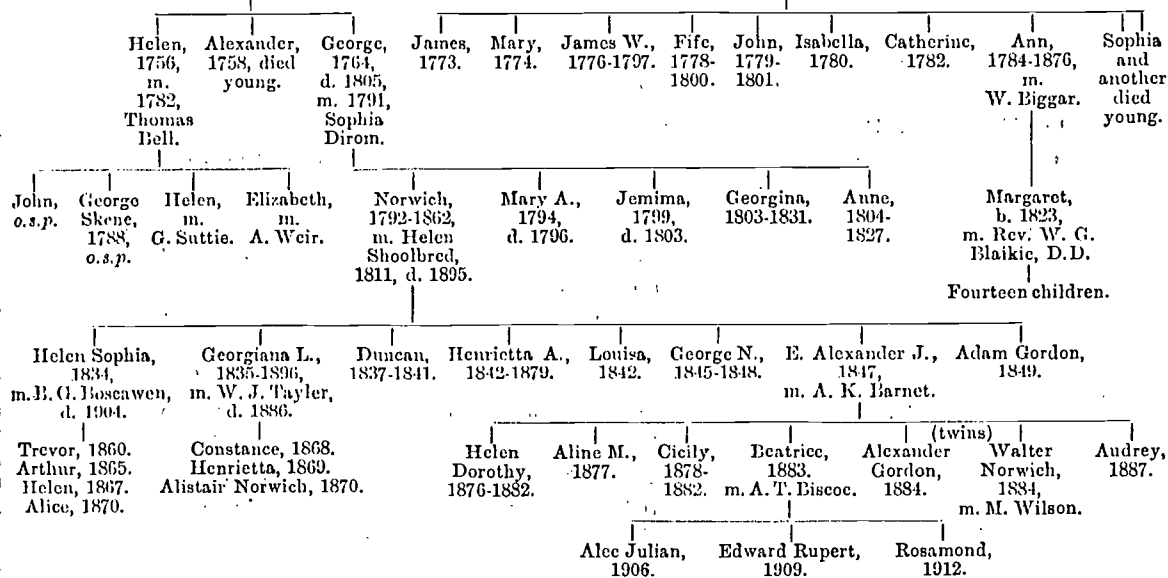
(3) JAMES DUFF, 1820-1898, fifth son of Garden Duff of Hatton,
m. Jane Dunlop.



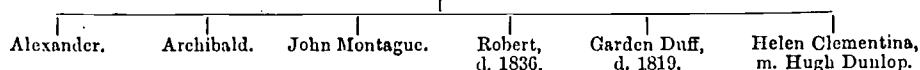
(a) JAMES DUFF of Banff, 1729-1804, fourth son of the first Alexander Duff of Hatton
(great-uncle of the above),

m. first, 1755, Helen Skene, d. 1764;

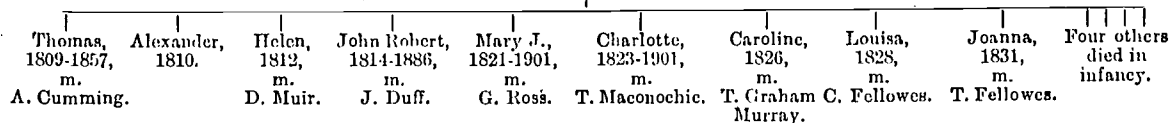
m. secondly, 1772, Margaret Dunbar, 1754-1829.



(b) MARY DUFF, 1788-1805, daughter of the third Alexander Duff of Hatton,
m. R. Cockburn.



(c) HELEN DUFF, 1789, daughter of the third Alexander Duff of Hatton,
m. J. Tod.



CHAPTER XVII

CAPTAIN GEORGE DUFF, R.N.

(TRAFALGAR)

GEORGE DUFF, second son of the first marriage of James Duff of Banff, was from his earliest youth passionately fond of the sea, and was always to be found among the boats in Banff harbour, near his father's house. At the age of nine he managed to conceal himself on board a small merchant vessel, and actually sailed to a neighbouring port. His father wisely realising that a bent so strong ought to be followed, had him shortly afterwards rated to a ship of war, and for four years he was carefully educated with a view to his future profession. At the age of thirteen he was sent to join his grand-uncle, Commodore (afterwards Admiral) Robert Duff, who commanded at Gibraltar with his flag on board the *Panther* of sixty guns, September 1777. During the next three years George Duff had the good fortune to be in thirteen engagements, in the American War, in the Mediterranean, and in the West Indies, and in consequence of his gallant services was made a lieutenant at sixteen. In 1780 he sailed with Rodney to the West Indies, in the *Montague*, seventy-four guns, and was in her when she was blown out of St. Lucia in a hurricane and nearly lost. On this occasion he was wounded by a falling spar. He was still serving in the *Montague* at the glorious 'Battle of the Saints,' April 12, 1782, when the Comte de Grasse, Commander-in-Chief of the French fleet in the *Ville de Paris*, one hundred and ten guns (then the largest ship in the world), and four other ships of the line were taken and brought to Jamaica.

In 1790, when on home service, Lieutenant Duff was recommended to Mr. Dundas, Minister for Scotland, by the personal exertions of the Duke of Gordon, and shortly after was appointed commander of the *Martin* sloop of war on the Scottish coast.

His father also wrote the following letter, which recalls the urgent requests of Lady Anne Barnard to the same Henry Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, to obtain employment for her husband (see her *Memoirs, South Africa a Century Ago*, 1901).

Extract from letter from James Duff, Banff, to Earl of Fife at Whitehall, London, dated May 24, 1790 :

‘ . . . I shall be ever sensible of your protection, my Lord, to my son, the present bussle gives flattering hopes to those in his profession earnestly wishing promotion, I confess my expectations are only from the war being of some duration, and my son being in the fleet where most success may be, chance only can determine that, anxiety is not to be avoided, but its wrong to carry too far. In the meantime he has got employment, patience for the rest, this is my doctrine to him, yet he still points further, induced from a circumstance only made known to me a few days before he left this, of an intended connection twixt Miss Sophia Dirom and him. I remonstrate to no effect further, than to prevent thinking of marriage untill it could be done with a prospect at least of decent competency; that was agreed too and there it rests; but Miss Diroms friends are most desirous to get George forward, with this view they have sollicite the Duke and Duchess of Gordon who have wrote favourably of him, the Duke to Lord Chatham, the Duchess to Mr. Dundas, the consequences will in time appear, but Im not sanguine, the young ladys friends are. Before the application was made it was communicate to me, my reply, that I had no tittle or claim to sollicite in that quarter, they might if they pleased, only I mentioned the moment made I would mention the subject to your Lops. I flatter myself your Lop. would not disapprove of it, but continue your protection. . . .’ (D.)

On May 6, 1791, George Duff married Sophia Dirom, to whom he had been attached since childhood.¹

After his marriage George Duff fixed the residence of his family at No. 9 South Castle Street, Edinburgh, now the well-known book shop of Douglas and Foulis, the house having been sold by his grandson.

There were five children—one son, NORWICH, born August 5, 1792, and four daughters:

MARY ANNE FOTHERINGHAM, born 1794, died 1796, buried in Greyfriars, in the grave of her uncle, James William; the inscription is now illegible.

JEMIMA, born 1799, died in 1803, buried in Greyfriars.

GEORGINA HELEN, born 1803, died 1831.

ANNA MARGARET, born 1804, died 1827, in the same year with her mother.

¹ Mr. Alexander Dirom was laird of Muireisk, and had a town house in Banff. He was a solicitor in Edinburgh, but when he married the daughter of Dr. Fotheringham he settled in Banff. Alexander Dirom was Sheriff-Substitute for the county and Provost of Banff, and died in 1788.

He had two sons: John, born and died 1750; and General Alexander Dirom, who served in India against Tippoo Sahib. In 1793 he married Miss Pasley of Mount Annan, Dumfries; in 1814 he retired to Mount Annan, and died 1830. He had several sons (to whom Thomas Carlyle was tutor), but the estate afterwards passed into the female line.

The provost's two daughters were Grace, of whom a miniature still exists, and the above Sophia, both buried in Greyfriars churchyard, Edinburgh.

CAPTAIN GEORGE DUFF

‘Upon the breaking out of the war in 1793, George Duff was one of the very few master-commanders appointed post-captains by Lord Chatham, who had known him at Gibraltar when himself a captain in the Army. At his lordship’s desire, Captain Duff soon after relinquished the command of a frigate then fitting out for him (in which at so early a period of the war he would probably have made his fortune) to go on an expedition to the West Indies as captain of the *Duke*, ninety guns. This ship led the attack on the batteries of Martinique.

‘His next appointment was to the *Ambuscade* frigate, in the North Sea, and upon the coast of Ireland, and subsequently to the *Vengeance*, seventy-four guns, belonging to the Channel Fleet, which was detached to the Baltic to reinforce the fleet off Copenhagen (1801). The squadron under Rear-Admiral Campbell, of which the *Vengeance* formed part, was then sent to Bantry Bay to protect the coast of Ireland, and during the mutiny which broke out there the crew of the *Vengeance* were found to be so much attached to their captain that they refused to join it, and in consequence were the only men allowed shore leave at Portsmouth when the squadron came there, previous to sailing for the West Indies.

‘Upon the general promotion in the Navy which took place in April 1804, Captain Duff was appointed to the command of the *Mars*, seventy-four guns, and immediately joined her, off Ferrol. His ship formed part of Collingwood’s small squadron off Cadiz. When Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson returned from England in the end of September to resume command of the augmented force, Captain Duff had the honour of commanding the small inshore squadron of four sail of the line, stationed midway between our frigates which cruised close to the harbour of Cadiz and our fleet which kept out of sight of that port. On the 19th and 20th of October, the *Mars* was kept almost constantly employed transmitting signals from the frigates to the fleet, relative to the movements of the French. On the memorable morning of the 21st, when it was certain that the enemy’s fleet could not escape, the signal was made for the ships of Duff’s squadron to return and take their places in order of battle, and the *Mars* was ordered to lead the lee division of our fleet and to break the enemy’s line. Knowing his ship to be a slow sailer, Duff ordered every stitch of canvas to be instantly set and ordered his gunners not to waste their fire, as he would “take care to lay them close enough to the enemy.”—(Memoir by his son.)

Notwithstanding every exertion, the *Mars* was passed by the *Royal Sovereign*, bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Collingwood, and the *Belle Isle*, both of which were in action a few minutes before her, each ship breaking through a different part of the enemy’s line. The wind, which had before been light, now dropped, so that the rest of the ships were

prevented from closing immediately with the enemy, and these three were for a time isolated. The *Mars* was attacked by a French ship on either side, and had a Spanish first-rate on her bow. There was a fourth ship also within range. The ship on the starboard quarter, the *Fougueux*, was soon disabled, and it was thought she had struck, but her colours were only shot away, as she never ceased firing. She shortly after raked the *Mars*, and a cannon-shot killed Captain Duff and two seamen who were immediately behind him; his body fell upon the gangway, where it was covered with a Union Jack until after the action. The rest of the battle could not be better described than in the following letter from a young Banffshire midshipman:

‘*Mars*, Oct. 29, 1805, GIBRALTER.

‘MY DEAREST MOTHER,—Victory has at last given me an opportunity of writing you, a victory fatal and glorious, which you shall judge of by the following account. On Saturday the 19th of October the signal was made that the enemies fleet consisting of 36 sail of the line, 5 frigates and a brig had put to sea. Admiral Nelson made our signal to look out during the night and by no means to lose sight of the enemy, we kept sight of them that night, and all the following day and night. At daybreak on Monday we saw them formed in a line of battle to leeward; at ten o'clock Nelson made a general signal to bear up and our signal to lead the van, but the breeze dying away, the *Royal Sovereign* got ahead of us; and at half past eleven commenced a dreadful fire. We followed her, the *Belle Isle* next; it unfortunately became calm, and left us three ships in the centre of the enemies fleet. Judge of our situation, we engaged five ships at one time.

‘Captain Duff walked about with steady fortitude and said, “My God, what shall we do, here is a Spanish three-decker raking us ahead, a French one under the stern.” In a few minutes our poop was totally cleared, the quarter deck and fore-castle nearly the same, only the Boatswain and myself and three men left alive. It was then the gallant Captain fell. I saw him fall. His head and neck were taken entirely off his body, when the men heard it, they held his body up and gave three cheers to show they were not discouraged by it, and then returned to their guns. We fought two hours and a half without intermission, and when the smoke cleared away we found five ships had struck. By this time the rest of our fleet came up, and at three o'clock the action was renewed and continued until sunset, at which time our fleet were in possession of 19 sail of the line of enemies ships, besides two that were blown up in which perished 9 hundred men. It was a dreadful sight, nothing was to be seen but ships without masts, two were so bad that they sunk a little while after the action.

‘The gallant Lord Nelson fell, and with him four captains,¹ we had an hundred and ten men killed and wounded, four midshipmen and Captain of Marines. We

¹ There were, in fact, only two captains of ships killed at Trafalgar, Duff and Cooke, whose monuments face one another in the crypt of St. Paul's.

unfortunately got very bad weather after the action and what was worse a lee shore which forced us to cast off our prizes to save ourselves from being lost. We sunk on purpose 9 of our best prizes to fear of them falling into the enemies possession again. 19 English and 1 hundred Spanish went down in the Saint [illegible] nearly double the number in the *Redoubtable* French 84. I cannot exactly tell you what perished in other ships; in short, out of 22 sail of the line taken only three escaped the rage of the sea and elements, which we have now got in Giberalter.

‘Our fleet has got 19 thousand prisoners on board not counting these that were killed and lost which are thought to be about 5 thousand, we have got the French Admiral Villeneuve on board; the French lost four admirals and a General for they had troops on board. Never has there been such a action before. They came out on purpose to fight and were nine ships of the line superior to us. The wind was [two words illegible] Cadiz which port received the rest of their shattered ships, had the wind been otherwise we should certainly not have left a single ship of the combined fleet of France and Spain to carry home the news to Bonaparte of so compleat a victory. We are now laying in Giberalter and expect hourly to return to England as we are entirely disabled, having lost all our masts and rudder, our stern is all shot away. Were you to see the ship the look of her would make you shudder.

‘We received the thanks of Admiral Collingwood who so nobley distinguished himself in the *Royal Sovereign*, and has command since Nelson’s death.

‘I am perfectly well, and Cuthbert Collingwood in good spirits. Norwich Duff is gone on board the *Donegal*. I shall have no more time, and for my own affairs you shall know more in my next letter.—I am, your affectionate son,

‘T. ROBINSON.’

On board the *Mars* were killed, besides Captain Duff, Alexander Duff, master’s-mate, acting lieutenant, Messrs. Corbyn and Morgan, midshipmen, and twenty-five seamen and marines. The wounded amounted to ten officers, five petty officers, and sixty seamen and marines, in all over one hundred killed and wounded. ‘Captain Duff was a man of fine stature, strong and well made, above six feet in height, and a manly, open, benevolent countenance. During thirty years’ service he had not been four years unemployed, and that was twenty months after his return from the West Indies in 1787, and not quite two years after the last war. Although he went early to sea, he lost no opportunity of improving himself in the theory as well as the practice of his profession, and acted the part of an instructor and a father to numerous young men who were under his command. By his wife he had five children, of whom a boy and two girls, aged one and two years, remained together with their mother to mourn his death. He was known in the Navy as “Worthy Duff.”’ (*Scots Magazine*.)

Monday Morn 21st Oct 1805

My Dear Mr. Mopier I have just time
to tell you we are just going into action
with the combined, I hope and trust
in God that we shall all behave
as becomes us, and that I may yet
have the happiness of taking my
beloved wife and children in my
arms. Nowick is quite well and
happy, I have however ordered him
of the 2nd Dec yeers war and most
truly
Geo. Duff

George Duff's son Norwich, thirteen years of age, had joined him as a midshipman just a month before the battle, and wrote the following letter to his mother two days later. At the same time she received a brief letter from her husband, written just as he was going into action :

To Mrs. Duff, South Castle Street, Edinburgh

'Monday morning, 21st Oct. 1805.'

'MY DEAREST SOPHIA,—I have just had time to tell you we are just going into action with the combined [*fleets*]. I hope and trust in God that we shall all behave as becomes us, and that I may yet have the happiness of taking my beloved wife and children in my arms. Norwich is quite well and happy, I have, however, ordered him off the quarter Deck.—Yours ever and most truly,
'GEO. DUFF.'¹

'MY DEAR MAMA,—You cannot possibly imagine how unwilling I am to begin this melancholy letter. However as you must unavoidably hear of the fate of dear Papa, I write you these few lines to request you to bear it as patiently as you can. He died like a hero, having gallantly led his ship into action, and his memory will ever be dear to his king and his country and his friends. It was about 15 minutes past 12 in the afternoon of the 21st Oct: when the engagement began; it was not finished till five. Many a brave hero sacrificed his life upon that occasion to his king and his country. You will hear that Lord Viscount Nelson was wounded in the commencement of the engagement and only survived long enough to learn that the victory was ours, "then," said that brave hero, "I die happy since I die victorious," and in a few minutes expired.

'I have written my uncle a long letter and have enclosed one to my Aunt Grace, containing a short narrative of some particulars of the action. We are now all aboard the *Euryalus* with the Hon. Captain Blackwood and in compliance with the wish of Admiral Collingwood are now on our way to England that we may have an opportunity of more readily knowing your wishes respecting the arrangement of our future conduct. Captain Blackwood has indeed been very polite and kind to me, and has requested Mr. Dalrymple to let my uncle know that on account of his acquaintance with my papa he will feel himself very happy in keeping me on board his ship and to acquaint him that his annual allowance to young gentlemen in his ship and under his charge is fifty pounds, half of which he wishes to be deposited in the hands of his agent once in six months; however I would much rather wish to see you and to be discharged into the guard ship at Leith for two or three months. My dear Mamma, I have again to request you to endeavour to make yourself as happy and as easy as possible. It has been the will of heaven and it is our duty to submit.—Believe me, your obedient and affectionate son,
NORWICH DUFF.'

¹ Reproduced opposite.

CAPTAIN GEORGE DUFF

P.S. by Mr. Dalrymple, afterwards purser :

'MRS. DUFF: DEAR MADAM,—It is with sincere uneasyness and regret that I have occasion to offer my condolence to you on the late unfortunate but glorious and honourable fate of our worthy and generous and brave Captain, whose name will ever be revered and whose character will ever be esteemed. Believe me, your ever respectful and ob: humble servant,
W. DALRYMPLE.'

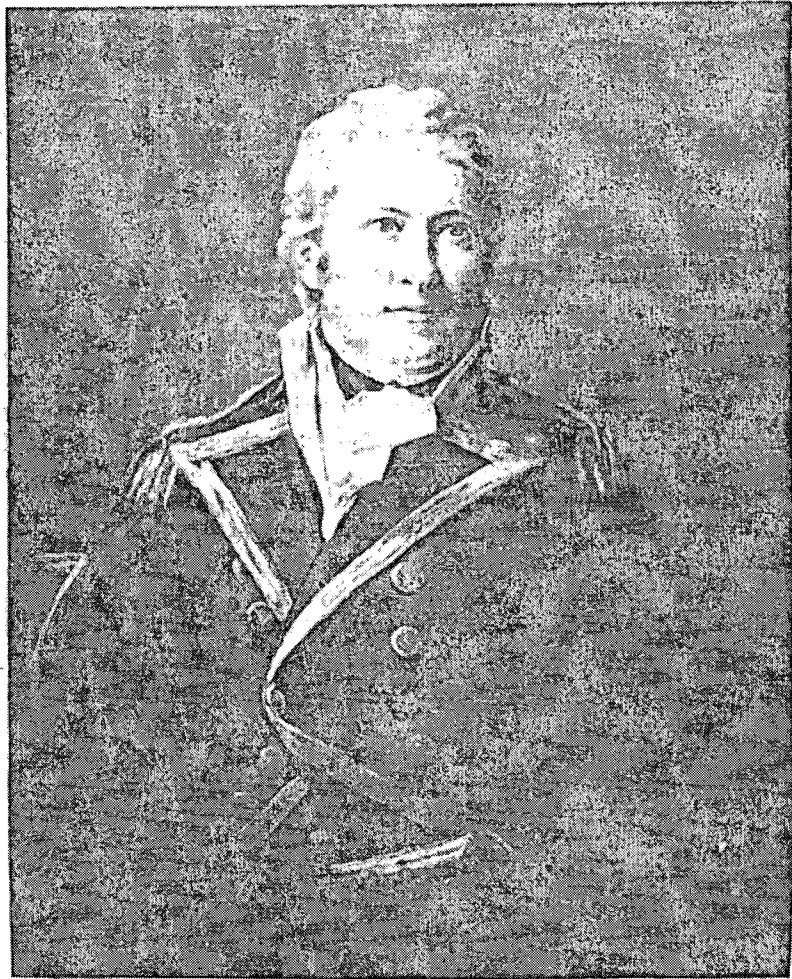
The originals, together with the fine portraits of father and son by Racburn, the medal awarded to Captain George's widow, his sword and other relics, are now in the possession of Mr. Edward Alexander Duff, grandson of Captain George, and uncle to the present writers.

The following poem appeared at the time in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, December 1805 :

'AN APPEAL TO THE GRATITUDE OF BRITONS

'Say, say, my country, does a tear remain
To soothe the wives—the widows of the slain?
Has Nelson's loss quite dried the lucid rill
Whence pity erst was wont her cup to fill?
Let names less splendid claim one grateful tear,
The last sad tribute o'er their early bier.
Does Duff's, does Cooke's¹ brave death no pang impart,
Nor plant one dagger in the feeling heart?
Alike they fell to guard their native shore,
Alike to be lamented—"When no more."
Let Duff's sad wife your fond compassion crave
A husband, son, enveloped in the grave;
A husband whose unceasing kindness proved
How much he valued and "how much he loved."
Though no famed titles graced his transient span,
She mourns him equally, she loved the man.
A son whose youth had been her constant care,
Whose life presented joy, whose death, despair.
Think what a sound the dreadful tale reveals,
Think what a helpless wife, a mother feels.
Shall she not claim one drop from British eyes,
One cheering word which mercy's tongue supplies?
Shall she, like Philomel, be left alone
To vent her anguish and to make her moan,
Unseen, unfelt, unpitied, e'en unknown?
Shall Duff's, shall Cooke's bright stars refulgent blaze
Perish, in Nelson's more resplendent rays?
Blush, blush, I say, and those whose blood was shed

¹ Captain Cooke of the *Bellerophon*, also killed.



CAPTAIN GEORGE DUFF, R.N.

(Engraved by H. B. Hall)

By Sir Henry Raeburn

DEATH OF GEORGE DUFF

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To guard their country, oh revere when dead!
 To each their well-earned meed of praise apply,
 Let each partake the tributary sigh.
 Be Nelson's fame as Luna's fullest pride,
 Theirs as the stars which twinkle by the side,
 And that brave troop whose still inferior light
 Is darkened in oblivion's deepest night.
 All, all demand your pity and your praise!
 Though crowned with cypress, they deserved the bays.
 All these should share affection's warm applause;
 All perished nobly in their country's cause.
 So shall succeeding tars with parting breath
 Bleed with delight and glory e'en in conscious death;
 Conscious that Britons should record their name
 And future ages emulate their fame.

‘PETERBOROUGH, Nov. 25th, 1806.’

The writer evidently imagined that the Alexander Duff, midshipman and master's mate,¹ who was among the killed was the captain's son. This Alexander, with his brother Thomas, afterwards Colonel Gordon of Park, were the sons of Lachlan Duff, W.S., youngest son of John Duff of Culbin and his second wife, Helen Gordon of Park. Thomas had joined the ship with Norwich just before the battle, and Alexander died in his arms.

A monument to Captain George Duff was put up in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, adjoining the tomb of Nelson, and bears the following inscription: ‘Erected at the public expense to the memory of Capt. George Duff, who was killed 21st Oct. 1805, commanding the *Mars* in the battle of Trafalgar, in the 42nd year of his age, and the 29th of his services.’ There is a medallion portrait of him by J. Bacon, junior.²

¹ George Duff had written to Alexander's father in May of the same year: ‘H.M.S. *Mars*, 5 May 1805.—I am happy to assure you that your son Alexander is in good health and as fine a young man as I have ever met with. I only regret he has not served his time, as soon as he has, we must get him made Lieut. At present I make him do the duty of acting Lieut., but that puts nothing into his pocket, only gives him more consequence and makes him see more of his duty. I would with pleasure receive your son Thomas and take all the care I can of him, but I fear they will send me abroad before either he or my son can join me, as you must have heard we are fitted for foreign service, and if the French send any ships abroad I suppose we shall be one of the party to follow them.’*

² At a meeting of the Patriotic Fund in January 1806 it was resolved ‘that a piece of plate value £100 and adorned with a suitable inscription be presented to Mrs. Duff and to descend to his son, now in His Majesty's navy, and annuities of £50 each to his two daughters, Georgina Helen and Anna Margaret.’ They lived to the ages of twenty-eight and twenty-three respectively. Two elder daughters, Mary Anne Fotheringham and Jemima, had died in infancy.

* Letter at Drummuir.

NORWICH DUFF, his only son, born on August 5, 1792, was thus aged thirteen years two and a half months at the date of Trafalgar, being, as far as is known, the youngest officer, and probably the youngest person, present.

His godfather was the fourth Duke of Gordon, who bestowed upon him the name of Norwich, after his own secondary title of Earl of Norwich, derived from his great-grandmother, Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Henry, first Earl of Norwich, and afterwards Duke of Norfolk.¹ This name, which seems to be quite unique as a Christian name, is preserved by two grandsons of the late admiral, and should go down to posterity in connection with the 'honourable augmentation' of the Duff arms, granted to the first Norwich Duff in commemoration of his father's services. See chapter xxxviii.

Norwich had always shown a strong predilection for the sea, and in July 1805, being then not quite thirteen, he had been sent on board H.M.S. *Aurora* lying off Spithead, under orders for the Mediterranean, for a passage to join his father's ship H.M.S. *Mars* off Cadiz, which he did on September 19, and appears in the ship's books as an A.B. After the battle of Trafalgar and the death of his father, he was removed by the directions of Lord Collingwood into the *Euryalus*, and later was transferred to the *Ajax*, eighty guns, commanded by Captain Blackwood, a friend of his father.

Mr. Dalrymple, apparently purser and instructor on board the *Euryalus*, writes from time to time to Mrs. George Duff about her son. The year after Trafalgar he writes from Spithead, February 24, 1806: 'Mr. Norwich, I am convinced, has good dispositions and abilities, superior to many of his age, and with delight I look forward to the time when, by his manly conduct and heroic services to his country, he will in a measure restore the happiness of his affectionate mother, and be a comfort to his friends, and by his endearing manners make himself a welcome and useful member of society. Mr. David Clerk [*a young relative who will appear again*], I am much pleased in saying, shews an example of economy and religion worthy to be copied by many of more advanced years.'

¹ George, fourth Marquis of Huntly and first Duke of Gordon, married Lady Elizabeth Howard, eldest surviving daughter of Henry, first Earl of Norwich and Baron Howard of Castle Rising; who afterwards succeeded his brother as Duke of Norfolk.

His son Alexander was second Duke of Gordon, and was succeeded by

His son Cosmo George, third Duke, called after Grand Duke of Tuscany.

His son Alexander was fourth Duke, who, in virtue of his descent, was created second Earl of Norwich, July 2, 1784, with limitation of the title to the heirs-male of his body. He was born 1743, died 1827.

His eldest son, George, fifth and last Duke, born in 1770, died 1856. The last Duchess died 1864. The earldom of Norwich became extinct in 1856 on the death of the fifth Duke.

Three weeks later: 'Norwich and all the young gentlemen are making proficiency. We have got an excellent globe which we shall study occasionally; every morning . . . a certain number of words, learn English grammar once a week, and in the evening read geography, history, etc., after having poured over their navigation, French, arithmetic, etc., the greater part of the day.'¹

The *Ajax* took part in the expedition to Constantinople, and on February 14 was completely destroyed by fire, off Tenedos, nearly three hundred persons being lost. Norwich was among the saved, as well as his preceptor Dalrymple, who writes a thrilling account of the incident to the anxious mother:

'Feb. 1807.—Lest my letter of the 17th should have miscarried, I do myself the honor of preparing another against the earliest opportunity. Before this reach you, the *Gazette* will have publicly announced the loss of the *Ajax* off the mouth of the Dardanelles on the evening of the 14th instant about 9 o'clock. She took fire in the starboard side of the Breadroom, and it is generally thought it was occasioned by the carelessness of the Purser's steward who was much addicted to drinking and was seen drunk a few minutes before the fire was discovered. Everything being dry, the flames raged with incredible fury and tho' repeated attempts were made to get them under every exertion availed us nothing: yet till I saw the flames rolling on the quarter deck and everything round me in a blaze I had not the most distant idea that the ship would be burnt, but then I was forced to rush forward to the fore-castle and consult my safety. You will easily conceive how much I was rejoiced to find Norwich there (he was one of the midshipmen of the watch), but my joy was soon interrupted when he told me he had not seen Mr. David Clerk or Mr. Manners from the time the fire broke out. We stood on the sprit-sail yard for some minutes thinking we might discover them, lurking in some place which the flames had not reached, but no, the poor little fellows had leapt overboard, as we afterwards understood, soon after the accident happened.

'At this time there was no boat near us nor any prospect of our preservation, as neither of us can swim; however I bless God Almighty that I continued as cool and collected as I am at this moment, and exhorted the dear partner of my misfortune to keep up his spirits, depend upon the mercy of God and we might be saved. For since I had found him, I was resolved to save him or perish in the attempt. We shook hands and bid adieu to Captain Blackwood who at that moment plunged into the waves with a Mr. Sibthorp, a worthy young man who perished with cold, struggling against the current. We had not waited above ten minutes when a boat from the *Windsor Castle* came under the bows, into which I made Norwich immediately go down. Even then we were far from being safe, the flames had taken such full possession of the ship that the guns

¹ Thus we see that the junior officers of Trafalgar were only little schoolboys after all, and had their drudgery to get through like their fellows.

which were loaded being made hot, were discharging the shot in every quarter and several flew over our heads when in the boat rowing towards the *Canopus*, which ship we got safe on board, when we had the good fortune to find the Captain and several other shipmates among whom I am happy to include Mr. Thomas Duff, who was saved in the half of the Captain's boat, which in lowering was cut in two upon the anchor. From what I have said, I daresay you already perceive that my unfortunate young friends Mr. Clerk and Mr. Manners are included among the lost. I hope you will receive my first letter and answer it, as I am particularly perplexed what to do with Norwich after this service is finished. By going home he will lose much practical knowledge of his profession which he perhaps may never again have as good an opportunity of acquiring, and by staying here without a thread of clothes but what the generosity of a shipmate may bestow, is very inconvenient, and may in the end hurt his health.'

Two days after the burning of the *Ajax* Norwich joined the *Active* (Captain Mowbray), so that a friendly letter from Captain Blackwood to his mother must have been prior to the catastrophe.¹ He says: 'Norwich has latterly improved much in his attentions to Mr. Dalrymple and the care of his person and clothes.'² 'Thomas Duff, being older, is as steady, active, and attentive as any young man I ever saw.'³

The *Active* took part in the passing and repassing of the Dardanelles and various other actions off the Turkish coast, in which neighbourhood she remained for two years. In 1808 she paid off at Sheerness, but was in August of the same year recommissioned by Sir James Gordon, and Norwich again sailed in her, to the Adriatic, and had the good fortune to take part in many boat expeditions, in the capture of twenty-five vessels off Gras, 1810, and in the action off Lissa, March 13, 1811. He there had another narrow escape from fire when on board the *Corona*, a prize. In September, 1811 he passed as Lieutenant at Malta, but continued on board the *Active*, and after the next action was sent to take charge of the *Pomona* (prize), and had another narrow escape from drowning owing to his boat being upset. In 1812 he was appointed to the *Seahorse*, and went to the West Indies. In 1813 he was appointed Flag-Lieutenant to the Hon. Sir A. J. Cochrane, G.C.B., then going out as Commander-in-Chief to the American station. On June 13, 1814, he was promoted Commander, and appointed to the sloop *Espoir*, and took part in the expedition up the Chesapeake and the destruction of Washington and the disastrous attack on New Orleans. After the conclusion of peace by the Convention of

¹ In which poor Blackwood himself lost all his prize money.

² Which again gives a glimpse of a very normal schoolboy.

³ All these letters are in the possession of Edward Alexander Duff, eldest surviving son of Norwich.



ADMIRAL NORWICH DUFF, R.N.

By Sir Henry Warburn.

Ghent, the *Espoir* remained to protect the fisheries of Labrador, but returned to England and was paid off in October 1816.

He subsequently served as Commander in the *Beaver* and in the *Rifleman*, and in July 1822 was promoted Post-Captain, after which he saw no more active service, and retired in the same year. He became A.D.C. to the Queen in 1849; in 1852 he was placed on the reserve list of Rear-Admirals, and became Vice-Admiral in 1857. He had, at one time, some thoughts of buying the property of Blervie, but did not do so.¹

In 1833 he married Helen Mary, only child of Dr. Shoolbred, and granddaughter of James Shoolbred, merchant, Auchtermuchty, Fife (to whom Helen was served heir at his death in 1818). He had four sons and four daughters:

1. HELEN SOPHIA, born 1833; married, 1857, Boscawen Trevor Griffith, late 23rd Welsh Fusiliers. In 1875, on the death of his mother, he assumed the additional surname of Boscawen. They have issue:

Boscawen Trevor, born 1860; married Lilian Bellers, and has issue.

Arthur Sackville Trevor, born 1865; M.P. for Tunbridge Wells 1892-1906, and Dudley 1910; knighted in 1911; married Edith Sarah Williams.

Helen Evelyn, born 1867; married Hugh James Archdale, late Colonel Lincolnshire Regiment; one daughter.

Alice Catherine, born 1870; married George Taaffe of Smarmore, Co. Louth, and has issue.

2. GEORGINA LUCY, born 1835; married, 1864, William James Tayler (see page 195); died 1896. They had issue:

Constance Jane Dorothy, born 1868; married Hubert Coulson, and has issue.

Helen Agnes Henrietta, born 1869.

Alexander (Alistair) Norwich, born 1870.

3. DUNCAN ALEXANDER, born 1837, died 1841; buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris.

4. HENRIETTA ANNE, born January 1842, died 1879. A poetess and novelist.

5. LOUISA JESSIE ELIZA, born December 1842.

6. GEORGE NORWICH, born 1845; died 1848, buried in Bath.

7. EDWARD ALEXANDER JAMES, born 1847; for many years General

¹ Archibald Duff to Colonel Thomas Gordon of Park, 1852: 'You perhaps would hear that Blervie is in the market, and there is a talk that Norwich Duff is to be the purchaser at the price of £40,000.'

CAPTAIN GEORGE DUFF

Manager of Lloyd's Bank, now a Director; married Amy Katherine Barnet, and has issue, two sons and five daughters:

HELEN DOROTHY, born 1876, died 1882.

ALINE MARY, born 1877.

CICILY KATHERINE, born 1878, died 1882.

EMILY BEATRICE, born 1883; married, 1904, Arthur Tyndale-Biscoe, and has three children—Alec Julian, born 1906; Edward Rupert, born 1909; and Rosamond Mary, born 1912.

ALEXANDER GORDON and WALTER NORWICH, twins, born 1884. Walter Norwich married, in 1910, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Perceval Wilson. He is an engineer in the firm of Thornycrofts, Southampton. Alexander Gordon is a solicitor.

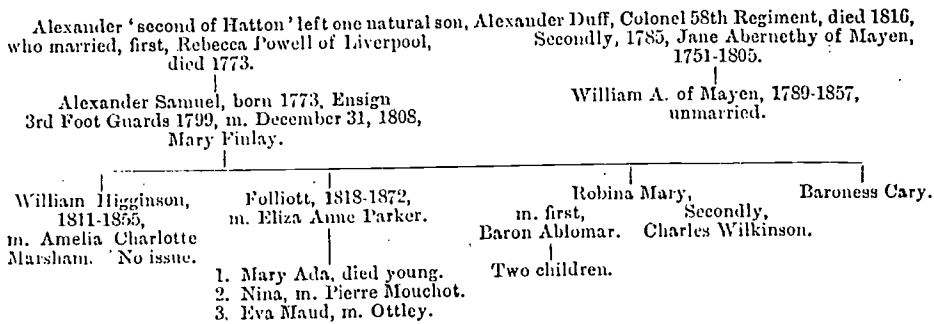
AUDREY LOUISA, born 1887.

8. The fourth son and eighth child of Admiral Norwich Duff was ADAM GORDON, born 1849; educated at Harrow and Cambridge, and called to the Bar.

There is a window in Bath Abbey dedicated to the memory of Admiral Norwich Duff, who died in Bath, April 5, 1862. His widow died in London in 1895, aged eighty-four.

CHAPTER XVIII

DUFFS OF MAYEN



ALEXANDER, natural son of the second Alexander Duff of Hatton, was born in 1743 or 1744, and obtained a commission as Lieutenant on October 12, 1760, in the newly raised 89th Regiment. Four years later the regiment disappears from the Army List, and he with it, but on March 21, 1765, he became a Lieutenant in the 58th Regiment, Captain in 1772, Major in 1783, and retired on half-pay in 1786. He married, while still a Captain, Rebecca Powell, daughter of Samuel Powell of Stanage Park, Radnor (her nephew was of Brandlesome Hall, Yorkshire), and sister-in-law of Ralph Higginson of Liverpool. He appears in the family correspondence of the Powell family as 'Sandy Duff.' Rebecca died in 1773, leaving him one son, ALEXANDER SAMUEL, to whom went the fortune inherited from her father and uncle.

Alexander thus announces her death to Lord Fife :

'MY LORD,—Since I had the honour of your Lordships favour I have sustained an inexpressible loss of a most valuable wife, who to all appearance was safely delivered betwixt eight and nine o'clock at night of the 12th instant, and for several hours seemed in as good a way as possibly could be expected, but about 2 o'clock in the morning she suddenly expired, without any friend in the room perceiving the least alteration. She has left me a very fine boy, who is, in all probability likely to do well. This is now become so melancholy a place that I intend setting out for the north in ten or twelve days, and as I shall have frequent occasion to write to my friends here, has made me take the liberty to

beg a few franks as under directed, and I have the honour to be, with perfect esteem and regard, My Lord, Your Lordships most obliged and very humble servant,

ALEXANDER DUFF.

'LIVERPOOL, April 30th, 1773.'

Alexander Duff seems to have been always on intimate and affectionate terms with his father's wife, Lady Anne, who herself had no son. In her will, dated Hatton, June 11, 1804 (she died 1805) he is thus referred to: 'To my faithful and esteemed friend, Colonel Duff of Mayen, whose love and affection for me has been such as a child would possess for a parent, I bequeath his late dear father's miniature picture set round with pearls.'¹ On August 27, 1782, her brother, Lord Fife, writes to her about Alexander's step in the regiment:

'MAR LODGE.

'DEAR SISTER,—You need be under no apprehensions about your friend. I settled it quite secure that the Major could not sell to any other out of the Regt., and I likeways gave assurance to the agent that Captain Duff's money would answer when demanded. My proportion goes enclosed for you to transmit, which I give with much pleasure to aid a very deserving man and to do what is agreeable to you. Your kindness to him is very meritorious.' (From Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*.)

On November 26, 1785, Alexander Duff married again, Jane Abernethy, the daughter of his father's sister.² It will be remembered that Jean Duff of Hatton had married, about 1750, James Abernethy of Mayen, the last representative of that branch of a powerful family which had once owned so much land in the north-east of Scotland.³ They had a large family. James, the eldest and 'last of Mayen,' died unmarried and intestate in 1785. John, the youngest, is buried at Rothiemay, born 1759, and died 1779.

Jane was the eldest of the daughters, born 1751. Isabella, married Lieutenant Graham of the 42nd, and in 1786 disposed of her share in Mayen to her brother-in-law, Alexander Duff. Helen, who died unmarried in 1787, aged thirty-four, did the same, and so did Anne, who survived, unmarried, until 1796. Kitty, who is mentioned in a letter of her aunt as 'dying' in 1774, and three other sisters, predeceased James.

The following letter to William Rose refers to the time when Alexander Duff took possession of Mayen, at which period he retired on half-pay:

¹ See chapter xvi.

² 'Major Duff of the 58th Regiment to Miss Abernethie of Mayen at Glassaugh' (*Aberdeen Journal* of that date).

³ His father, John Abernethy, was one of the Jacobite lairds who surrendered at Banff after the '15 (*Scottish Papers*, Record Office).

LETTERS FROM ALEXANDER DUFF OF MAYEN 275

'BANFF, 10th May 1786.

'DEAR SIR,—I was unlucky the other day in missing you at Mountcoffer, as I had several interesting matters to communicate to you, which I must now defer till meeting, which I hope will be soon, tho' I am going for a few days to Glassa and Hatton Lodge, with intention to be at Mayen by the Term to receive servants and set them. I have much to do in getting the old House¹ made comfortable and taking furniture from hence, which puts me under the necessity of trespassing on the kindness of my friends at this time to request the assistance of their Carts. A few are prepared for that Business next Saturday, when, if your Carts can be spared at the same time, will be doing me a most singular favour, as I am anxious to have the greatest part transported altogether. If you are at the Roup of Mountblairy I shall have the pleasure to see you, in the meantime Mrs. Duff joins me in best compliments to you and Mrs. Rose, and I remain most sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER DUFF.'

From Mayen, on November 3, 1788, Colonel Duff writes to William Rose that he has 'determined on building,' which refers to the present mansion-house of Mayen.

And again to William Rose :

'MAYEN, 18th Nov. 1788.

'DEAR SIR,—In consequence of your favour of the 16th I have signed the Discharge for Lord Fife, but have at the same time to observe as 5 pr. Cent was allowed to last Whitsunday, that I expected it would have been continued to Martinmas 1787, and have sent you the accts. and letters relative to the different settlements, which makes a difference of £30, but if not allowed by his Lordship I shall give you no farther trouble on the subject, tho' perhaps I may mention it to him when I have an opportunity, as well as other matters formerly proposed. I am truly sorry for the Death of the King.² With Mrs. Duffs kind Compts. I am always sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER DUFF.'

Alexander Duff's second wife was very delicate; in fact, all the Abernethys seem to have been consumptive. On several occasions he took her and her sister to the Wells of Pannanich, near Ballater, and also to England.

In July 1787 Colonel Duff writes to Lord Fife from Pannanich that his wife is rather better for the pure air of this place, and he hopes she will soon recover her appetite and usual spirits, and again from 'Hotwells, Bristol,' to William Rose: 'Mrs. Duff and Miss Abernethie are still poorly, but I have great expectations from ass milk, excellent water, pure air, and the approaching season, and shall be happy how soon I can bring them back, in perfect health, to the Land of Cakes.'

¹ Now the farm of Mains of Mayen.

² Charles Edward Stuart died this year in Rome. But as the event took place on the 31st January, if this is referred to it seems that news then travelled very slowly.

Apparently Colonel Duff, his wife, and his sister-in-law, Miss Abernethy, were at Bath in 1787, as he writes to Lord Fife from there, as follows :
 ' My Ladies, I am sorry to say, retain so much of Scotch bashfulness that I find it a most difficult matter to get them to mingle with the crowd, but hope in a short time they will be more familiarized to the gay manner of this place. . . . We intend to see a little more of London, where we were only a few days, after which 'tis intended to visit my friends at Liverpool and to see my son,¹ as Mrs. Duff is most anxious to be acquainted with him.'

On October 26, 1787, Colonel Duff writes from ' Hulton Hall, Brentwood, Essex,' to Lord Fife :

' I had the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship of the ladies being safe arrived at this place, after some alarms and frights and fatigues, but I am now happy to think they are pretty well recovered from those incidents that attend a sea voyage, tho' I believe it would be a difficult matter to persuade them to trust the watery elements again, but from what we have already experienced they shall never be desired by me. Mrs. Duff is certainly benefited by the jaunt, and I only hope the gay scenes will not give a disrelsh for Mayen, which I left with much reluctance.'

Lord Fife replies as follows :

' DUFF HOUSE, Nov. 28th, 1787.

' DEAR SIR,—I received your Letter, and am very glad your Ladies are well, and you will forgive me for not joining in your wishes, for I shall be very glad when they are most heartily tir'd of Bath which I think they must be, and very anxious to get home, resolving never to do the like again for fear of being punished. Mr. Stronach is here just now clearing his accounts, he has never showed me your memorandum, and I told him this morning he need not now, for I had heard from yourself, so he shall have no merit. To the first point I answer that you are most heartily welcome to bury where you please,² and I heartily wish it may be many years before you take up that habitation, but that I shall most certainly never lay one stone above another to confine you when there. As to the road, I told you I had very much inclination to oblige you, but that I had really seen so much altercation and dispute betwixt the Late Lord Fife and Mr. Abercrombie³ (*sic*) about these roads, that I was very unwilling to do anything that could occasion any altercation in matters that had been settled with so much trouble. I shall enquire about the Minister's Demands and the vacant stipend and inform you how it stands. Lady Ann Duff is at Hatton Lodge very well, and I suppose goes soon for Edinbr. I shall leave this about the 16th of December. Kind Compts: to the Ladies with much regard,
 Yours, etc.,
 FIFE.

¹ Alexander Samuel.

² See page 278.

³ Probably a mistake for Abernethy.

‘Since writing my letter I find there is some agreement about the vacant stipend at Rothiemay for a bridge on the burn of Millegan which the poor people are often liable to be drowned in, and this is as great a convenience to your tenants as mine, that a Bridge be there.’
(R.)

Having purchased the rights of his sisters-in-law in Mayen, Alexander Duff settled down there, and subsequently became an Honorary Colonel of the Banffshire Volunteers. By his second wife he had one son, WILLIAM ABERCROMBY DUFF, born in 1789. There is a portrait of Alexander in uniform at Hatton, as well as pictures of his wife, and his son William, as a child. These were left in Colonel Duff’s will to Garden Duff of Hatton.

William was educated at Banff Academy and Marischal College, Aberdeen, and went into the business of Messrs. Morison of Riga, Archangel, and London. By his father’s will he inherited Mayen, Tillydown, and Cornyhaugh, which estates he sold before his death. He bequeathed to the town of Banff a sum of £700, either for the benefit of the hospital there or to found a Duff Bursary at the Academy. He died unmarried in 1857, and was buried in the old churchyard of Banff, near his mother and grandmother (the former Jane Abernethy who became Duff, and the latter Jane Duff, who became Abernethy). The earlier Abernethys of Mayen had been buried in the old churchyard of Rothiemay, near the river and below the house of Rothiemay. The following letter from James Abernethy of Mayen to ‘Earl of Fife,’ docketed by Lord Fife ‘Mayen anent a wall he designed to build round his Burrial place,’ is interesting to those who know the neighbourhood :

‘MY LORD,—As I heard your people were working on the old Church Yead I went up and measured of my burial place conform to the agreement entered into betwixt your Lop. and me, and as I design very soon to have a wall put round it, I have given you y^e trouble of this to know if you have any objection to my taking the stones of the old Kirk for building the wall. If this is not agreeable, I must bring stones from my own hills, in doing which I am affraid the wheels of the carriages may break some of your new made ground below your house which I should be very sorrie for. However, what is most agreeable to you shall be done. I shall expect an answer with your convenience. Having the honour to be, with the greatest regard, My Lord, Your Lop. most obedient and most humble servant,
JAMES ABERNETHIE. (D.)

‘MAYEN, Janry. 31st, 1761.’

On a single flat tombstone in this graveyard is still faintly visible :

‘Among his ancestors underneath this stone is interred John Abernethy of Mayen, a young man of an amiable character. He died 2nd May 1779, in the

21st year of his age ; also Helen Abernethy his sister, who died April 1787, aged 34, also their nephew Charles Graham, who died Dec. 1800, aged 28.'

Good miniatures of John and Helen are in the possession of the present writers.

William Duff of Mayen would appear to have been the favourite son of his father, and was left sole executor and residuary legatee of the will. Colonel Alexander Duff, who died in 1816, expressed in his will the following desires as to his place of burial : ' Should I die at Mayen or Banff, and should there be sufficient space, I should wish to have my remains laid as near as possible to those of my beloved wife, Jane Abernethie (in Banff churchyard) ; if not space there, I should wish to be interred in the Mayen burying ground below the house of Rothiemay, unless Lord Fife or any of the family build a proper place in the churchyard of Rothiemay, close to that of Mr. Stronach, late factor to the said Lord Fife.' The last alternative was the one that eventuated, and the remains of ' Alexander Duff, Armiger, died 1816,' lie alone, under a fine stone in the churchyard of Rothiemay.

To return to Colonel Alexander Duff's elder son, Alexander Samuel. His birth took place on April 12, 1773. Of his education nothing is known save that he was at one time ' bound apprentice to Mr. Robert Richmond, attorney-at-law,' but in 1798 he joined the Militia, in 1799 obtained a commission in the 3rd Foot Guards, and on May 15, 1800, was promoted Lieutenant and Captain. In 1808 he married, in Dublin, Mary Finlay, daughter and co-heiress of W. Finlay of Gunetts.¹ Of this marriage there were two sons—WILLIAM HIGGINSON (so named after his great-uncle), born 1811,² and FOLLIOT, born 1818 ; and two daughters—ROBINA MARY, who married, first, the Comte d'Ablomar, by whom she had a son and a daughter ; and, secondly, Charles Wilkinson ; and a younger daughter, who was dead when Alexander Samuel made his will, and is only mentioned as Baroness Cary.

Alexander Samuel died at Versailles in 1852 ; he left considerable landed property in Denbigh and Shropshire. In his will he mentions the estates of Bangor, Marchiel, Whitworth, Dodington, Edgeley, Tilston, and Whixall, but these were sold. His executors were Richard Jebb and John Lee. He mentions his wife, Mary ; his two sons William Higginson and Folliot, and the wife of the former ; his two daughters, Robina Mary,

¹ ' Decr. 31st, 1808, at Dublin, Capt. Duff, 3rd Foot Guards, to Mary, youngest daughter and co-heiress of the late W. Finlay of Gunetts.' (*Dublin Registers*.)

² ' March 8th, 1811. In George St. the Lady of Alexander Samuel Duff of a son.' (*Scots Magazine*.)

formerly Comtesse d'Ablomar, and now wife of Charles Wilkinson; and Baroness Cary, 'now deceased'; also his grandson and granddaughter Ablomar.

The two sons, William Higginson, known as 'Billy,' and Folliot, enjoyed a good deal of notoriety in London in the early and mid-Victorian days. They were both, at one time, in the Army. Billy became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 21st Royal North British Fusiliers, July 6, 1830, promoted Lieutenant 1832, exchanged into the 10th Dragoons 1837, and retired 1839.

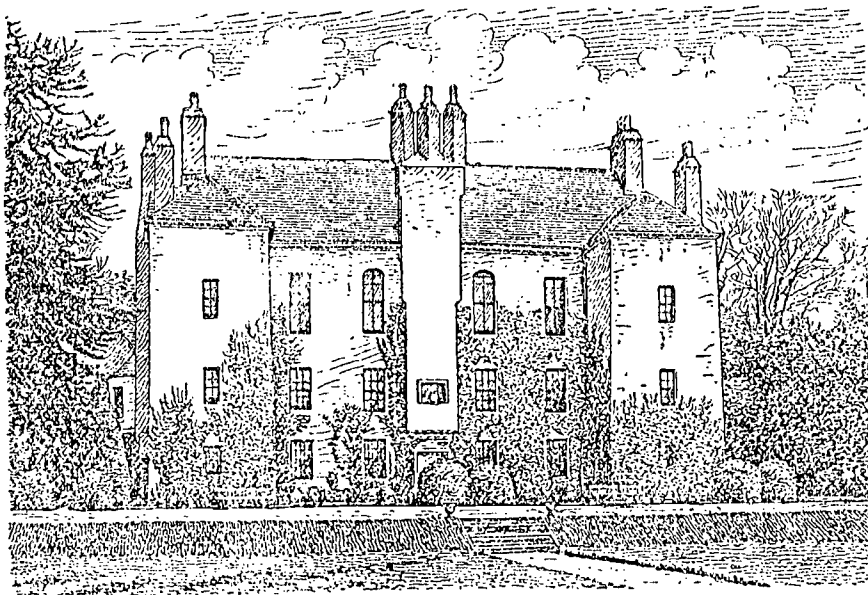
Folliot was an Ensign in 34th Cumberland Foot 1834, Lieutenant 1837, Captain 1843; retired 1844.

It was Billy who gave to the Army and Navy Club its nickname of the 'Rag.' Coming in to supper late one night, he found the fare so meagre that he declared it was only a 'rag and famish affair.' This tickled the fancy of the members, and a button bearing the nickname and a figure of a starving man gnawing a bone was designed and worn for a time by many members when in evening dress. Ralph Neville, who relates the above, in his *History of London Clubs*, adds that 'Billy was a celebrated man about town at a time when knocker-wrenching and similar pranks were in favour. His exploits in this line were notorious.' Some of his escapades were, however, not so harmless. The *Times* of August 8, 1840, contained the following: 'The Earl of Waldegrave and Captain Duff, who were committed to take their trial at the Middlesex sessions for a violent assault upon a policeman at Hampton, have moved the proceedings into the Court of Queen's Bench. The defendants will in all probability be put upon their trial in the forthcoming Michaelmas Term.' The result of the trial was a fine of £200 for Waldegrave, and £100 for Duff, and a sentence of six months' imprisonment in the Queen's Bench Prison, from which the two gentlemen emerged on November 3, 1841. The inhabitants of Strawberry Hill, where Lord Waldegrave lived, held a fête with illuminations in honour of the occasion. Folliot Duff wrote to the papers during his brother's imprisonment, endeavouring to fasten the guilt of the assault on others of the dining party who had assaulted and injured the policeman, but as Billy Duff had already pleaded guilty the matter was, of course, concluded. The *United Services Gazette* of April 15, 1841 thus dismisses him: 'Captain William Higginson Duff, to whose exploit in half murdering a single and unarmed policeman, with the aid of three fashionable companions as dastardly as himself, we alluded in our last, is no longer in the Army. He appears to be one of those feather-bed soldiers who enter the Army solely for the purpose of wearing a red coat and being dubbed "Captain." He probably had good reasons for retiring altogether from the Army by the sale of his Lieutenant's Commission in 1839.'

For many years Billy Duff continued to amuse London with his pranks. He had a museum of curious objects collected by himself on some of his excursions at home and abroad, including door handles and knockers, buttons and studs, walking sticks, signboards, and a French soldier's helmet. On one occasion he is said to have kidnapped the baby of a dog-stealer and held it as a hostage for the return of his dog.

He married, in 1842, Amelia Charlotte, daughter of Captain Mathew R. Onslow, and widow of S. R. Marsham, who long survived him, living at 15 Grosvenor Place. His death occurred at Versailles in 1855, and hers in London in 1870. They had no children.

Folliot Duff, born 1818, was more of a harmless eccentric. He married, in 1849, Eliza Ann Parker, and they had a house in Belgrave Road. It is still remembered how Folliot used to write his name in blue chalk on the pavement outside his house and on neighbouring walls. They had three daughters: MARY ADA, died young, buried with her parents at Kensal Green; NINA, who married Pierre Clement Mouchot, and had issue; and EVA MAUD, afterwards Mrs. Ottley. Folliot died in 1872, and his wife in 1883.



CULTER HOUSE

CHAPTER XIX

YOUNGER SONS OF PATRICK DUFF OF CRAIGSTON

JOHN DUFF, second son to Patrick of Craigston, was, according to Baird, 'bred at Elgin with his uncle Dipple, and became factor to the late Lord Fife for his estates in Moray, and also a merchant; John came soon into the magistracy and was also sometime Provost of that burgh (1746-1749). He was a man of very shrewd, solid judgment, not ignorant of the Latin, and well acquainted with modern history and trade, and the present state of the world; of very entertaining, facetious conversation, and I have heard good judges say that he was the best companion of the four brothers (*i.e.* sons of Craigston's first marriage, who lived to grow up).'

Among the Drummuir papers and those of Mr. E. G. Duff there are several somewhat illegible letters from this John Duff on the business of William Duff of Braco, afterwards Lord Fife.

One, dated Elgin, May 20, 1734, addressed to Mr. Andrew Hay, W.S., of Mountblairry, at Banff, informs him that the suspension is closed against Lady Linkwood and Mr. Rainy, and encloses Braco's charge to Kilrach and accounts for disbursements and entertainment at Boat of Bog in October last, 'delivered to my brother William, amounting to £421. 6.

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Scots.' He asks Hay to 'look out what papers Braco hath anent the Thanedom of Alves and the thirlage¹ of the lands belonging to his Mills and Old Mills, and what payments of thirl-muller are to be made. This wants to be looked to with attention. The Laird of Grant may have these, because he was Dipple's author in these mills. I hope this will find all glade with you on Glassaugh's² election as parliament man for your county. I shall have the pleasure to write you, and now and then drink your health, till I have an opportunity to serve you.'

Another says: 'This will be delivered by my brother William, to whom give answer and receipts. The Lady Roscommon tells me she recommended Thomas Sinclair, Laird of Brodie's man, to serve Braco as a miller. I have known him from his childhood, and am of opinion that Braco could not get a more sober and honest servant. Write me if you think him proper.'

Among the Duff House papers there is an order, dated 1720, by John Duff, merchant in Elgin, to 'deliver one Boll of oat meal to findlay Duff at the latter's house at Longbride.' 'The latter' cannot be traced.³

John does not seem to have been especially successful in business, nor did he leave his children very well off, but he is said to have spent a good deal of money upon their education. He married Margaret Gordon of Farskane, by whom he had seven sons and four daughters. He died in 1751, 'A gentleman well beloved and universally lamented.'⁴ 'His family burying place is in the Cathedral in Elgin.'⁵ His sons were PATRICK, ARCHIBALD, WILLIAM, JOHN, and JAMES. His daughter ANNE married James Leslie of Bennecith, near Forres.' (Baird.)

PATRICK, or PETER, the eldest son (according to Baird, but in reality the second), was 'bred to the Law at Edinburgh and entered Writer to the Signet. He would have been well employed, but he fell into a life of dissipation and pleasure, and at last into an itch of gaming, and kept company with some of the great folks at Edinburgh, and, after losing his own money, played away other people's entrusted to him, and was obliged to retire to North America. He married a gentleman's daughter in Fife, an agreeable, pretty woman, and had a daughter, but both are dead many years ago.' (Baird, writing in 1773.) The name of this lady was Grisell

¹ Obligation to grind corn at some particular mill.

² General James Abercromby, M.P. for Banffshire.

³ Though mentioned also in Lady Roscommon's accounts.

⁴ *Aberdeen Journal* of that date.

⁵ He is known as Provost Duff, the elder, to distinguish him from John Duff (father of Major Robert of Ladyhill), who married Janet Gordon of Farskane, niece to the elder John's wife, and was Provost five times. See chapter xxviii.

Balfour, and the daughter, GRISELL or JEAN, was served heir to her mother in 1752.

The eldest son was ARCHIBALD, Sheriff-Clerk of Moray, known as the 'Muckle Clerk' (to distinguish him from his successor Patrick, known as 'Little Clerk Duff,'¹ brother of the junior John Duff, Provost). Archibald married his own first cousin (his mother's niece), Jane Stewart of Lesmurdie. He resided at Bilbohall, near Elgin, then the property of George Duff of Milton, Convener of the County, to whom he probably paid a nominal rent.² At his death, in 1798, his assets appear to have amounted to £14. He had one son, William, who predeceased him.

The Provost's three younger sons are thus dismissed by Baird: 'James is in the planting way in Jamaica; John was a factor in Holland, but died lately; and William died some years before his father.'

According to the Elgin Parish Registers, John Duff's children were:

'Archibald, 1718. [His baptism is not recorded.]

'Peter, baptised Aug. 19, 1719; witnesses, Peter Duff of Craigston, Peter Duff, writer in Aberdeen.³

'William, baptised Aug. 5, 1720; witnesses, William Duff of Dipple, and William Duff of Braco his son.

'Helen, 1722; witnesses, Helen Duff, Lady Rosecommon, Helen Taylor, Lady Braco.

'Alexander, 1723; witness, Alexander Duff of Hatton.

'John, 1725; witness John Innes of Edingeith, brother-in-law to the provost.

'Margaret, 1726; witness, Margaret Duff, Lady Farskane, the child's aunt.

'John, 1729.⁴

'James, 1736.⁴

'Helen, 1737; witness, Helen, Lady Rosecommon.

'Anne, the youngest. [Baptism not recorded.]'

There is one letter from Archibald Duff to Lord Braco:

'MY LORD,—By my Mothers orders I send this express to acquaint your Lordship of my fathers death this morning, as she knows it would have been very agreeable to the inclination of your dead friend, so it would to her, if your

¹ See chapter xxviii.

² In the annals of Elgin there is a note of the summoning before the kirk-session of 'the people of Bilbohall, who were in the plew on the fast day, and said their master forced them to do so.'

³ The custom of having many friends and relations of the same Christian name as the child, present at the baptism, makes the old registers very useful reading.

⁴ In 1750 John and James Duff, sons of John Duff, late Provost, were made burgesses of Elgin. 'For regard to the said John Duff, senior, and for the good services done by him to the burgh.'

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Lops. occasions led you to this country that you honoured his Funerals with your Company, but as the heat of the weather and the situation of the Corpse will admit of no delay, so she can hardly ask your Lop. to come on purpose. The Burial is therefore intended with all the privatness decency will admit of, on Saturday afternoon. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lops. most obednt. and most humble sert.,

ARCHD. DUFF.

'ELGIN, 12th June 1751.

'To Lord Braco at Rothicmay.'

(D.)

And another to William Rose :

'16 May 1791.

'DEAR SIR,—Immediately on receipt of yours of the 7th this day sennight, I sent over express to Pluscarden for Mr. Mepherston. He was gone over to Glass the day before, on Friday I met him accidentally on his way home and he promised to sett about making out the extracts you Desire without loss of time. . . . The Memorials and other Exhibits he has not yet Ingrossed in his Record. He is Directly to sett about Doing this, and how soon I can get them from him, you may be sure they will be Sent you. I wish you to look over the note of the Acct. formerly sent you, and make up and Send me a Sketch of it from yourself Speccifying what I'm to Pay Mr. McWilliam for his Trouble and if I'm to Pay Mr. Lachlan, or how much I'm to give him for his Exs. He says the Dues he is commonly Paid, and what he Received from Mr. Tod for the Duke was 2/6 the first and 1/6 for every other sheet, but he Declines making any Demand for Lord Fife expenses untill he have your Sanction for the Doing it. I Beg you not to fail in writing me as to this, as he has called on me Sevrall times already for your answers. As you Desire, I shall forbear sending your £10 and the same shall be Deduced from your Whitt^y Pay^t for the office. Burdsyards Seasine was taken on Saturday sennight. I told him he was to pay you, as I was only acting for you and that I should write to you to Transmitt your acct. I think it will be best—if you please look at the Regulations and in case you are not to be over soon, make up the acct. and send it either to Peter Duff or me, as I have found these things paid as willingly when recent or otherwise. You are Sutherlands Debitor in half the chaise hyre. I have not seen Prov. Duff as yet, when I do, shall make Inquiry and tell you if he and I differ. I'm sorrice the sprain in your leg has given you so much uneasiness. I wish you would make your writing a little more intelligible, as its difficult to read it.¹ Believe me alwise, Dear Sir, Yours,

ARCHD. DUFF.' (R.)

Of John Duff of Elgin's son called William, Admiral Duff, writing to Patrick Duff of Premnay in 1744 says that 'my Brother at Elgin's son

¹ The present writers, who have struggled with a good deal of Rose's MS., heartily endorse this opinion.

was too old before he came to sea to learn to be a seaman, and the only office he can qualify himself for in our service is a Purser.'

Apparently William was not a very prudent or capable person. Patrick writes back to Admiral Robert that it would be best if William would settle in Jamaica.

Of James we have the following further account. Lord Fife had indeed no sinecure in finding employment for all his young relatives.

Mrs. Duff, Oldmilns, Elgin, to Lord Braco

'MY LORD,—Its with Reluctance Im induced to give you this trouble, but in my present circumstances having my youngest son Jams upon my hand and without any friend fitt to advise or able to assist or att lesst with humanety sufisent to befriend me in putting him in a way of making his living. The bussness he was bred to being that of a Wiver and that brinsh of tred being quit gone, and in learning it lost great pert of his patrimony, I could think of no way for him but making my applection to the Honble. Mr. Jams Duff solliciting his Interest, to procure him an ensigus Commission and as in my Husbands life-time all of us had a dependance on your Lordshipe, I have now presumed to beg your Lop use your influence with your son to effectuate this matter.

'As this is at present the only Scheme I can form to my self of the poor young lad's being provided for, I canot help flattering myself with the thoughts of your Lordships interesting yourself in Behalf of the son, whose father your Lop, always and with justice accounted one of your best well-wishers.—I am, with great Respect, My Lord, Your Lordships Most oblidged humble Scrvt.,

'MARGRAT GORDON. (D.)

'OLDMILNS, 29th June 1757.'

This James Duff did not, however, enter the Army, but went, like many of the family, to Jamaica, and his will, proved at Kingstown in 1782, shows him as leaving a considerable amount of money to his nephews and nieces.

'To John, Margaret, Alexander, Archibald, Robert and Ann Leslie, children of his sister Anne. To William Duff, son of his brother Archibald, and in case of his death to Archibald himself.

'Also to Patrick, James and Margaret Gordon.'

(As far as is known, the family of Provost John Duff, in the male line, died out entirely.)

The 'immediate younger brother' of John Duff, Provost of Elgin, was WILLIAM DUFF of Whitehill, born 1690. 'He settled a merchant in Banff about 1716; he was a very sensible, social, friendly, honest man; while provost of that town he studied the interest of the place without any regard to person or party' (Baird). William of Whitehill seems to have been

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his father's executor, and had a good deal of trouble with the amounts left to his younger half-brothers who were abroad, and much correspondence with his brothers John and Patrick.

The following poem, published at the date of his death in the *Scots Magazine*, December 1740, shows the respect in which he was held :

'On the death of William Duff of Whitchill, late Provost of Banff. *Ingens sui desiderium moriens reliquit.*'

'Who can behold and shun to drop a tear,
When all the town in sable weeds appear,
For him who made the public good his aim,
And by the city's thriving rais'd his fame?
Tho' great your grief and just your cause of woe,
Your wound yet green, your loss you scarcely know.
No city e'er a better burgher had
To guard her int'rest, or advance her trade
No frowns or flatt'ry of the rich or great,
No hope of sordid gain or private hate,
E'er biass'd him to yield or join with those
Who durst the city's publick good oppose.
Candid in commerce, once the word he spoke
No man can say that word he ever broke.
I strive not here in pompous praise to shine,
Or paint fictitious merit in each line;
Yet justly I can say, because 'tis true,
Through a long tract of time, the man I knew.
Sincere in friendship, honesty his view,
May angels waft his soul with endless joy
To that bless'd place where pleasures never cloy.'

'In Queen Anne's Wars, he went upon a trading voyage to the Levant, aboard of a merchant ship, was taken prisoner by an Algerian pirate and carried to Smyrna, where he lay a winter, till his ransom was remitted, and then came home. He was very successful in merchandizing, husbandry, and country dealings, and managed all his affairs with activity and prudence; he was a most candid, ingenuous man, had much of what the French call *naïveté*, and would sometimes, when half in his bottle, play upon his own industrious spirit, and say it was a bare muir where *he* could not find a cow.' (Baird.)

In 1718 he married Bathia Garden of Troup (who survived him till 1781), and had ten children : ¹

1. BATHIA, 1718; married, in 1738, John Gordon of Badenscoth; died 1753.
2. PATRICK, 1720.

¹ Register of the Episcopal Church of Banff.

3. JAMES, 1722-1726.
4. JEAN, 1724-1733.
5. WILLIAM, born and died 1726.
6. JOHN, 1728-1732.
7. ANNE, 1730-1732.
8. WILLIAM, 1731-1732.
9. JAMES, 1735;¹ died unmarried in the East Indies. 'As supercargo of the ship *Greyhood*, 1758,' *vide* Indian Registers.
10. MARGARET, 1738-1742.

There is one letter from William Duff of Whitehill to his brother Patrick Duff of Premnay :

'BANFF, 9th Octr. 1735.

'AFFECT. BROYR.—Our Broyr Francis came here and I advised him to goe forward to Elgine and gett his assignation signed by our Broyr John. I send you inclosed a letter I had from John on that subject. By yit I think he has mistaken what was designed, and Francis tells me he signed the assignation you sent out and kept it by him. It would be hard Francis should be detained by this mistake, and I hope you will order it in such a way as he may goe forward as was designed, and you may be sure, as I am fully satisfied, youll desyre nothing of me but whats right. I will readicly goe in to any methode you propose and John can be satisfied afterwards. My kind respects to Lady Bracco and my sister and I still am, Your affect. broyr, etc.,

W. DUFF.

'P.S.—Mind to cause Archibald Duff assigne all the accounts relating to Craigstouns² funeralls before he goe away.

'For Patrick Duff off premnay att Aberdeen.'

(D.)

The only one of William's children to carry on the family was Patrick, the eldest son, born 1720, and, like his father, Provost of Banff. He married, July 13, 1743, Clementina Hay of Rannes, daughter of the famous giant, whose monster stockings were long exhibited at Duff House.³ They also had a large family, many of whom died young, but in 1773, when Baird wrote, there were 'two sons and two daughters living.' 'WILLIAM bred with a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, now gone to North America;

¹ 'John Gordon' was appointed 'Tutor' to James Duff, second son to William Duff of Whitehill, on February 2, 1741. James Duff must therefore have been under fourteen at the time, as between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one a boy had a curator. The register of his baptism shows him to have been born in 1735, and therefore six at this time. His eldest brother Patrick was twenty-one, and all the intervening children were dead. John Gordon was no doubt Gordon of Badenscoth, the boy's brother-in-law. John, William and Anne, who all died in 1732, are buried in the churchyard in Banff.

² His half-brother James, died 1734.

³ Charles Hay's stockings are now in the Banff Museum, and a portrait of him at Hatton. His son Andrew was 'out' in the '45. Charles Hay's wife was Helen Fraser.

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PETER, who is in the East Indies ; HELEN, married to John Duff of Hatton ; and MARGARET, to Mr. William Stewart, a grandson of old Lesmurdy's, and minister at Auchterless.'

Provost Patrick Duff died in 1783, and his wife in 1752.

The births of two of their children are to be found in the registers of the Episcopal Church in Banff :

' HELEN, baptised June 22, 1744 ; name-mothers Mrs. Helen Fraser, Lady Rannes, the child's grandmother, and Miss Helen Innes.'

' WILLIAM, baptised July 16, 1745 ; named after Provost William Duff, deceased, the child's grandfather, and William Leslie of Melross, Esq.'

The other three were baptised at New Deer (after the church in Banff had been burnt by Cumberland), and the records were only discovered accidentally :

' May 24, 1748, Patrick Duff of Whitehill had a son baptised, named CHARLES.'

' March 29, 1750, Patrick Duff of Whitehill had a daughter brought forth by his Lady, Clementina Hay, baptised, named MARGARET.'

' March 28, 1751. Patrick Duff of Whitehill had a son baptised, named PATRICK WILLIAM' ('Petter').

Patrick Duff of Whitehill writes thus to Lord Fife soliciting help for his son William :

'CROVIE, Sept. 1st, 1775.

' MY LORD,—I had a letter from my son William enclosing letters for your Lordship and Troup. Your Lordship's I send Inclosed. It seems, by the aid of one of the Clerks of the Treasury, he has got information, of the vacancy of the Collectorship of Port Antonio on the Island of Jamaica. My Friend Troup wishes this post for him and Coll. Morris left a letter with Wm. at London to be delivered to Lord North with the letters of other friends and I have taken the liberty to send this by express to your Lordship, begging your Lordship will send me a letter for Lord North in my sons favours that I may send him to deliver with the others. When your Lordship was here and exprest your wish to serve Wm. has made me take this freedom and will always have a just sense of your favours and has the honour to Bee, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obdt. and very humble Sert.,

PATT. DUFF.

' P.S.—In case your Lordship inclines to write and send it off yourself to Wm. his address is New Loyds Coffie House, London.' (D.)

Andrew Hay, Patrick's brother-in-law, to Lord Fife

'RANNES, Feb. 24, 1775.

' MY LORD,—Its William Duff, Provost Duff's eldest son, my nephew by a favorite sister. The young gentleman has the Hon^r to be of your family and looks

up to your Lop. as father and protector of your cadets. As far as I can judge, he 's ane honest sensible fellow w^t out show and possesses the sentiments of a gentleman. He intends soon to return to the Island of Grenada where he was last three years. His business in this corner was in quest of a small credit^t w^h he 'll obtain, and to request the intercession of friends if possible to obtain for him from Government some place in either of the W. India Islands either in the Customs or any other Branch of the Revenue. Of course the Climate occasions many vacaneys, its useless to sugest to your Lop. If in the customs, nothing less than being a Contraecker would be agreeable to himself or friends, or if in the Revenue a place equal in emoluments to it. I flatter myself his conduct may enable his friends w^t assurance to get something better in time. Your Lop. will easilly believe that every interest will be asked to serve our young friend in the laudable attempt of wishing to make a reasonable living, his ambition is to return to his country and friends w^t a decent competency ; What pleasure would it give me if he ow'd his promotion and good fortune to your Lop. and I 'm certain it would equally gratific Mr. Duff to be under obligations of gratitude to you. Troup and severall others will be addressed on this subject. I shall now beg leave to assure your Lop. that serving Wm. Duff will be obliging many of your friends in a particular manner who 's warmly interested for Mr. Duff. . . . I have the honour, etc.,

ANDREW HAY.' (D.)

And William Duff himself from Barbadoes to the Earl of Fife :

'BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOES, 27 June 1779.

'MY LORD,—I wrote your Lordship some time ago. And takes the opportunity of an express that goes from this Island to inform your Lop. that the Island of St. Vincents surrendered to the French the 24th of June, the particulars of which we had this morning by an express from St. Lucia.

'That St. Vincents was taken by several French Men of War thought to be Monsieur le Mothe de la Piquet's squadron from Europe, Two hundred of the Regt. of Martinica and sixty Grenadiers aided by the Curibs, Arms and Amunition having been brought them by the French ; Admiral Byron with the whole of the British Squadron have been off the Station for this sometime ; he having conveyed, it is thought, a considerable way to the Northward the homeward British West India fleet of Merchantmen. They sailed from St. Kitts the 16th June ; considering what a fine fleet Byron has in those seas, it is astonishing he should not have left a sufficient number of ships to protect the Islands which he had in his power to have done, every vessell even to a sloop of war is with him except a Bomb Ketch that 's within the Carimage at St. Lucia. The French finding the coast clear and so fair an opportunity, lauded at St. Vincents Monday 21st June. The Island surrendered Thursday the 24th, Several expresses have been sent by the Commander at St. Lucia in quest of Admiral Byron, of whom they had heard nothing on the 25th June. We have no account as yet of the Terms of Capitulation. St. Vincents lyes fifty miles-north west of Barbadoes and thirty south of St. Lucia is twenty-four miles long and eighteen broad.

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The Island of Carriacow¹ is closs by, the one being seen most distinctly from the other. St. Vincents is a most valuable Island. It made better than 15,000 h-hds sugar this year. I remain, with all due respect, My Lord, Your Lops. most devoted and most ob^dt Scr^t,
WILLM. DUFF.

'P.S.—It is imagined Grenader has likewise fallen.' (D.)

From William's father, Provost Patrick :

'CROVIE, 9th Aug. 1780.

'MY LORD,—I had a letter from my Son William from Barbadoes dated Aprile, Informing me that Henry Smith, Colector of his Majesty's Customs, on the Island of Saint Vincent, is dead. The Island is presently in the hands of the French. But, at Barbadoes its thought it will be soon retaken by Britain, and he begs of me to apply your Lordship to solícite in his Favour, to have Lord North's Promise that if the Island fall to Britain, my Son shall have the appointment of the Colectorship. A promise of this kind is the more ready to be obtained from the uncertainty, and if William is presently apointed, he can wait untill we see if shal have the good luck of retaking it. May I beg the favour of your Lordship to write a letter to Lord North in favour of William, and transmitt it to me, and I will cause a friend there Deliver it, in doing of which your Lordship will much favour both William and me. I beg to hear from your Lordship by the Bearer, and I have the honour to be, My Lord, your Lordship's most obedt. and humble servt.,
PATT. DUFF.' (R.)

In April 1784 William died at Barbadoes (unmarried), and his brother PETER or PATRICK is mentioned in the Decennial List of Heirs as being heir-at-law both to him and to their father on July 20, 1785, Peter's death early in that year, apparently not having been yet reported from India. Administration of William's estate was granted to his brother-in-law, John Duff of Hatton, 'as lawful attorney,' for the use of his sisters Helen (John's wife) and Margaret (Mrs. Stewart).

Of Patrick² not very much is known, save from two letters still existing at Hatton. From these it appears that he went out to India in 1769, when the other Patrick Duff ('Tiger') of the East India Company's service returned to Bengal after his temporary suspension.

The first letter is dated

'CAMP NEAR SOUREN, Mar. 15, 1780.

'MY DEAR FATHER,—I have not received a letter from you this season, which makes me very uneasy, nor one from my grandmother nor any other person excepting Mr. Garden, Troup, and Delgaty, each of them one letter, Troup's enclosing one from a Mr. McPherson at Kensington to Mr. Hastings which I don't believe will be of any service to me as he cannot forgive any adherent of General Clavering's. I was one, and though not the most powerful

¹ Curaçao.

² Called 'Petter' in the family letters, see page 239.

yet a willing hand and wished the old General as well as a man possible could do, and if Mr. Hastings is angry at that, I really do not care whether he is or not. I have sent him the letter, however, and wait impatiently for an answer that I may make Troup acquainted with it. I wrote General Coote a few lines the other day acquainting him that I had received information from General Monro that at his solicitation General Coote had promised to serve me, and that I was extremely sorry my duty prevented me from personally paying my respects to him. The enclosed is his answer which I received with great joy you may be sure.

'The Admiral is my best of friends and studies my interest as much as if I were his own son. I assure you I would go any lengths to serve so valuable a man, I could hardly expect in his present situation he would have troubled his head about me.

'You will see that the General is very tacit relative to Mr. Monro's having recommended me, however General Boyd and the Man in the Mediterranean has sufficiently settled me with the General.

'I am now planning for the General to serve me. I am going to offer to defend a country belonging to the Nawab Asaph ul Dowla at a less expense than it was ever done before. I hope this will take place as it will enable me to serve myself most effectively.

'I have this year remitted for a particular use £119 sterling. Captain John Grant when he left India had money of mine in his hands to the amount of Current rupees 1300 bearing interest at 10 per cent. I have got a bond of his in my possession. If he has paid the principal with one year's interest, let me know, that I may tear the bond. I shall embrace every opportunity of sending you home cash every year.

'I beg you will pay proper attention to young Miss Duff.

'I beg you will write the Admiral and thank him for this late instance of his attention to my interest. I never will forget his genteel behaviour, he is my support, my everything.

'I have wrote you already twice this season, this is the third time. Whether I receive a letter from you or not, I will not fail in showing you that eleven years absence has no effect in making me careless. I send under cover to you a letter to my grandmother.—I am, Your very affectionate son, PATRICK DUFF.'

'Petter' had two children, both born in India; one was the NANCY DUFF, brought up by her aunt Margaret, and married, on September 17, 1805, to John Duncan, 'watchmaker in Turriff,' with the consent of her uncle Stewart. She brought with her, a settlement of £900 left her by her father 'of the East India Co.'s service,'¹ and executed a formal discharge for this sum. She left one child, Margaret Williamina, married John Webster.

JAMES DUFF of Cawnpore, a 'bachelor and a bastard,'² administration

¹ And a further sum of £600 left her by John Duff of Crovie.

² Somerset House Registers.

of whose estate, value £1000, was granted in 1807 to Mrs. John Duncan, his only relative, was the other child, and is by name mentioned in the will.

Admiral Robert Duff of Logie, his great-uncle, then in the Mediterranean, had made interest for 'Petter' with General Coote, and otherwise helped him. 'Petter' seems to have had a keen eye to his own advantage, and to have been anxious to make money. He is known from the second letter at Hatton (from John Grant, and chiefly concerned with money matters) to have gone 'up country in command of a battalion of sepoy in the first brigade' in December 1784, and to have died or been killed early in the following year, as a commission of factory given to his brother-in-law, Mr. Stewart, minister of Auchterless in 1783, was produced and acted upon in 1785, and Helen Duff was served heir to both her brothers William and Patrick in 1786.

Patrick Duff's name does not appear in the list of Indian cadets published in this country, which proves him to have gone out as a volunteer, and probably to have waited for some years before being appointed Ensign. At that time the Bengal army was organised in three brigades, each consisting of one European regiment, several sepoy battalions, and some artillery. The sepoy battalions were usually commanded by captains.

From papers at the India Office, the following facts as to Patrick Duff's services have been ascertained :

In the Muster Roll of the first brigade, 1778, appears 'Patrick Duff, Lieutenant, age twenty-eight years. Corps—Sepoy. Ship in which arrived—*Deptford*.¹ Native of Scotland.'

He was probably appointed Brevet-Captain in this year, though he appears as Substantive Captain only in 1785, the year of his death.²

His will is in the Registers at the India Office :

'The Last Will and Testament of Captain Patrick Duff, decd., Filed and Probate granted to Lt.-Col. Patrick Duff, one of the Exors., reserving power, etc. : the 21st day of April 1785.

'I, Captain Patrick Duff, in the service of the Honourable East India Company, by these presents, make my later Will and Testament, as follows :

'It is my will that the Estate of Whitehill, the lands and houses in and about the town of, and the farms and lands of Crovie, which fell to me on the decease of my Father,³ shall on my decease descend agreeable to the meaning and intent of my said Father, as is expressed in his Will.

'Further, it is my desire that all sums of money, debts and movables which

¹ The *Deptford* was a company's vessel which had started for India in February 1769.

² In the Burgess Roll of Banff for the year 1774 the names of both Major Patrick Duff and Captain Patrick Duff of the Honourable East India Company's service appear. In both cases the rank was Brevet. For Major Patrick Duff ('Tiger') see chapter xxxi.

³ His father had died in 1783, and his elder brother in April 1784.

shall belong to me, both in Great Britain and in India at the time of my decease shall be disposed of as follows, after having first paid all my lawful debts.

' First, I bequeath unto my housekeeper, Newajee, the sum of sicca rupees 3000 ; secondly, unto my adopted son, commonly called Peter, sicca rupees 2000, and the remainder in equal shares between my illegitimate son James, and the child with which my forementioned Housekeeper Newajee is now pregnant, and that in case of the death of one of these, the survivor shall inherit the share of the other, and in case of the decease of both of them it is my will and desire that my second eldest sister, Margaret, spouse to the Rev. Mr. William Stewart, and the heirs of his body, do succeed to and inherit the shares of both.

' And I do hereby appoint the Rev. Mr. William Stewart, Lt.-Col. Patrick Duff, and Capt. John Grant exors. and trustees for my affairs in Europe, and I do further appoint Lt.-Col. Patrick Duff, Major William Duncan, Captain Robert Baillie, and Captain Robert Lennard, Exors. of this my last Will and Testament, for the purpose of transacting my affairs in India, and to them I also recommend the care of the children before mentioned, and that they may be sent to Europe at what time they may judge proper.

' In witness whereof I have subscribed and set my seal to these presents at Futtighur, where no stamp paper can be had, this fourteenth day of January 1785.
PATRICK DUFF.¹

HELEN, who married John Duff of Hatton and Drumblair, had sixteen children ; these will be found in the chapter on the Duffs of Hatton. She succeeded her father and grandfather in the estate of Whitehill.²

Although there were two Provosts of Banff of the name of Duff in the eighteenth century, it is difficult to identify the host of Chevalier Johnstone.³ He gives the following account of his visit. A week after the date of the battle of Culloden, since when he had been in hiding with Sir William Gordon, Gordon of Cobairdy, and Gordon of Avochie, he went with Sir

¹ General Sir Beauchamp Duff points out that this is the will of a man at the point of death, but no actual details as to the circumstances or day of his death, nor of his place of burial, are known.

² There is among the papers in Mr. Edward G. Duff's possession a long letter, dated October 7, 1793, from Helen Duff, widow of John Duff of Hatton, to William Rose, factor for Lord Fife, complaining of the way her own and her ' dear departed son Sandy's affairs ' have been mismanaged, and the same Alexander's confidence in regard to his lawsuits with his aunt, Lady Anne, betrayed by George Robinson, brother-in-law to Rose, who had, on Rose's recommendation, been employed as man of business to the family. In this letter Helen mentions the matter of a ' Submission betwixt my brother's children and me.' This must refer to Captain Peter or Patrick's sons and daughters, as William died in Barbadoes without issue. She also mentions that ' Mr. Stuart was there to take care of his own interest and the children's.' This is the Rev. William Stewart, minister of Auchterless, husband of her sister Margaret. She also mentions that her own son Patrick ' was bred a soldier and left the country at fourteen years of age, and was therefore unacquainted with business.' (Patrick succeeded to Hatton 1791.)

³ *Memoirs of the Rebellion*, 1745, 1746, by the Chevalier de Johnstone, A.D.C. to Lord Gray Murray.

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William to pass the night 'at his castle of Park,' from whence he proceeded to Banff to have an interview with his brother-in-law, Mr. Rollo :

'I went straight to the house of Mr. Duff, provost of Banff, where I had been so agreeably entertained a short time before. He was a secret partisan of the Prince, but being prudent and discreet, he only avowed his principles to his particular friends. He was one of the most amiable men in the world, endowed with every possible good quality, and possessed of true merit. Mrs. Duff resembled her husband in everything, and their two daughters, the youngest of whom was a great beauty, were the exact copies of their father and mother. There was but one way of thinking in Mr. Duff's house, and I shall regret the loss of their delicious society as long as I live. The servant who opened the door did not know me on account of my disguise.' (It was that of a farm-labourer, the servant of Mr. Stewart, minister of Rothiemurchus, with whom on the previous day he had exchanged clothes, and comments plaintively on the smell of those he had to wear.) 'Mr. Duff came downstairs and did not recognise me, any more than she had done, but having fixed his eyes on me for some moments, his surprise was succeeded by a flood of tears. As Mrs. Duff and her daughters were in bed, he conducted me to a room, and sent a message to my brother-in-law, who however could not be found. Early next morning, the servant-in-aid suddenly entered my chamber and told me that I was undone, as the courtyard was filled with soldiers, come to seize me.¹ I flew to the window, when I saw in reality the soldiers which the maid had told me of and returned to my chair perfectly resigned, and considered myself as a man who was soon to end his days, keeping my eyes steadfastly fixed on the door, ready to spring on the soldiers like a lion the moment they should appear. Having passed about a quarter of an hour in the most violent agitation, the door of my chamber at length opened, and I sprang forward with precipitation to the attack. But what was my surprise when, in place of the soldiers, I saw the beautiful and adorable Miss Duff the younger, burst in, out of breath, to tell me, like another guardian angel, to be no longer uneasy, that the disturbance was occasioned by some soldiers fighting among themselves, who had entered into the court to elude the observation of their officers. Miss Duff the younger was very beautiful and only eighteen. I seized her in my arms, pressed her to my bosom and gave her, with the best will in the world, a thousand tender kisses.

'In an instant, the whole family were in my room to congratulate me on my happy deliverance, the noise of the soldiers having raised every person in the house, though it was hardly six o'clock. Fully convinced of the sincere friendship and esteem of this respectable family, my greatest uneasiness during this adventure was lest from their excessive anxiety for me, some of them should have innocently betrayed me. Mr. Duff was the only person on whose coolness and presence of mind I could fully rely.

¹ The house with the courtyard still exists on the Banff Low Shore. There is no actual record as to whom it belonged; it is now a tenement house.

'My brother-in-law called on me a few minutes after the alarm was over and made me many protestations of friendship, but excused himself from contributing in any manner to assist me in procuring a passage to some foreign country, which as he knew all the masters of the trading ships in Banff he could easily have done, but he would not expose himself to the least risk for me. Having passed the whole day at Mr. Duff's, in as agreeable a manner as was compatible with the unfortunate situation in which I was placed, I took my final leave of that amiable family about nine o'clock in the evening, to return to the castle of Gordon of Park, and our tears at parting were reciprocal and abundant.'

Now, William Duff of Whitehill, who was Provost of Banff from 1732-1733, and would therefore still have kept the title ('once Provost, always My Lord'), died in 1740, and his only daughter who lived to grow up, Bathia, had married, in 1738, John Gordon of Badenseoth.

While William's son Patrick, who was afterwards Provost in 1764-1767 and 1773-1776 was only twenty-six at the date of Culloden, and the only daughter then born to him, Helen, afterwards Mrs. Duff of Hatton, was two years old.

The Provost from 1744 to 1748, whose wife was Jean Duff of Craigston (married in 1720), was John Innes of Edingight. It was most probably in his house that the Chevalier Johnstone stayed. In that family there were several daughters, of whom the youngest, Helen, died in 1806; or Jean may have had some of her young half-sisters staying with her, some of Patrick of Craigston's second family of twenty-three children, of whom the younger ones would have been under twenty (Elizabeth and Mary, the two eldest daughters, were married before 1737, but the youngest son was born about 1725, or later); and the lovely Miss Duff about whom the Chevalier waxes so eloquent may therefore have been one of the unnamed younger daughters of Patrick of Craigston.

The fourth son of Patrick Duff of Craigston was his namesake, PATRICK or PETER DUFF of Premnay, 'so called from an estate in the Garioch which he first purchased and afterwards sold, but retained the title. He served an apprenticeship to George Keith, advocate at Aberdeen (presumably of the same family as Keith of Bruxie with whom Dipple and Braco afterwards had so much litigation, as seen from their letters), at that time the most eminent man of his profession in the north of Scotland. He was afterwards much employed by his uncle Dipple, and his cousin William Duff of Braco, in their business' (Baird).

He was appointed factor, or as it was then called 'doer,' to his cousin William of Braco, and would seem to have taken an unfair advantage of the position, for three years after his cousin's untimely death he married

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that cousin's only surviving child, Margaret, then aged eleven, as to which event he writes the letter given in chapter viii.¹

The greater part of William of Braco's property went at his death to his uncle, William of Dipple, as heir of entail,² Margaret receiving £3000 as a bond of provision. 'But Premnay being advised that her father's entail was liable to several objections, served his lady heir of line to him, and got her infest in every part of the estate' (Baird), and they had to be bought out. In 1721, the year of her marriage, she also appears in the Decennial List of Heirs as heir to her father (who had died 1718), and her grandmother, who died that year. The estate of Eden belonged to Margaret, and only at her death passed to the descendants of her aunt Helen (married Gordon of Farskane), now represented by the Grant Duffs (*q.v.*). Premnay acquired, soon after (in 1729), the estate of Sir Alexander Cumin of Culter, by buying in the debts; and after that, most of the low country estate of Drum; but both these families, especially the last, complain of a train of fraudulent and unfair steps taken by him in accomplishing these purchases' (Baird).

Patrick died in 1763 at Culter, which he had made 'one of the most beautiful and best finished gentleman's seats in the North.' He left it to his half-brother, Admiral Robert, in whose family it remained until it was sold in 1908 by R. W. Duff of Fetteresso to Mr. Theodore Crombie of Aberdeen. The mansion-house has unfortunately since been burnt down, and rebuilt. Patrick is buried at Culter, and the following inscription adorns his grave:

'To the memory of Patrick Duff of Culter, Esq. He was born Nov. 16, 1692. He dyed Oct. 20, 1763. He examined Christianity, believed it firmly, and loved it warmly. From Christian principles, he practised social virtue; in relieving distress and promoting useful arts he delighted. The affection of his widow raises this monument.'³

His widow married, on Christmas Day 1768, Alexander Udny of Udny (he died 1789 at Culter), and was afterwards known as Mrs. Udny-Duff. She died 1793, aged eighty-three.⁴

¹ From constant messages in letters to him from members of the family it would appear that his notable mother-in-law, who long survived him, dying at the age of over a hundred, lived with him during all his married life. Patrick and his wife had no children.

² See chapter vii.

³ The obituary notice of Patrick Duff concludes by saying: 'We can with justice affirm that in no place was the man of law more usefully blended with the character of the country gentleman than in this worthy person.'

⁴ In Peterculter church there are two silver goblets, bearing the Duff arms and motto with the monograms H. D. and M. U. D., presumably presented in memory of Helen and Margaret Duff, wife and daughter of William Duff of Braco. The plate marks show these cups to be of London manufacture and date 1809. (*Aberdeen Notes and Queries.*)



PATRICK DUFF OF CULTER

By W. Flaxman.

Of Patrick of Craigston's daughters by his first wife, only one is known to have reached womanhood: JANE, born in 1696; married, in 1720, her cousin, John Innes of Edingight, Provost of Banff, and died in 1778, aged eighty-two. He died in 1790. She had three sons and several daughters, of whom the youngest, Helen, died unmarried in 1806; many descendants of Jane exist to-day.

Among the Banffshire sasines there is one, dated 1720, to Jean Duff, spouse to John Innes of Edingight, of two hundred merks yearly on the estate of Edingight.

The baptism of HELEN, Patrick's eldest daughter, is found in the Parish Registers of Grange, under date October 25, 1691, but nothing more is known of her.

Of Patrick of Craigston's daughters by the second wife, Mary Urquhart, five are known to us:

1. ELIZABETH, born 1702; married William Stuart of Auchorrachan, a younger son of Lesmurdy's, and her own cousin.

2. MARY, who married William Leslie¹ of Melross (died 1776), and had one son, Major William Leslie, who became heir to his uncle, Adam Duff of Stocket. She died in 1773.

3. MARGARET, born 1720, died 1801; married Alexander Gordon of Gight.² She had nine sons and three daughters, and the eldest son, George, born 1741, who married Catherine Innes, was the father of Catherine Gordon, married to Captain John Byron, and mother of the poet.

4. A fourth daughter married to Davidson of Newton.

5. A fifth daughter married Benjamin Duff, an Irishman, and was the great-grandmother of William Duff, minister of Grange (*q.v.*).

The sons of Patrick's second marriage were JAMES, THOMAS, ARCHIBALD, FRANCIS, ROBERT, ADAM.

JAMES of Craigston, born about 1703, married Helen Abercromby of Glassaugh (contract of marriage dated June 22, 1732), and died in 1734.

¹ William Leslie, Banff, writes thus to Patrick Duff of Premnay:

'SIR,—I'm very well pleas'd to hear of our Broyr frances's good settlement, and I hope he will alwise have a gratefull sense of the service you and Capt. Urquhart have done him. As to what you write concerning Thos. portion the free stock to be divided after all deductions amounts to Nynne hund and twelve pound eighteen shill and four pennies Scots money w^h sum you know is presently liferented by the Lady Craigstoun. It comes as youll see to £10. 18 Str. each share and a very small fraction more.'

² The death of Alexander Gordon is thus chronicled in the *Aberdeen Journal* of January 24, 1760: 'We hear from Fyvie of the death of Alexander Gordon of Gight, much regretted. He was an honest, unoffensive gentleman, an affectionate husband, etc. He having frequently found benefit to his health by using the cold bath, had the misfortune to perish in the Waters of the Ythan while bathing, the water being suddenly swelled by melted snow.'

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He had two daughters—HELEN, born 1733, who married, in 1761, Dr. David Clerk, and had four sons, of whom the eldest was afterwards Baron Clerk Rattray, and married Jane, only daughter of Admiral Duff of Fetteresso; and MARY, born 1734, died an infant.

At James's death, Craigston, being entailed in the male line, passed to his brother Thomas, while Castleton remained the property of his daughter. Helen would also appear, at her father's death, to have legally represented her grandfather, Patrick Duff of Craigston, as Thomas Duff, her uncle, claims from her 'the balance of a sum of 4000 merks Scots contained in a bond of provision granted by the deceased Patrick Duff of Craigston to Thomas Duff, his lawful son, and to the other children of him the said Patrick, dated 29 Aug. 1726.'

An inventory of the goods, etc., of James Duff shows that he died in the month of June 1734, and was buried in Drum's Ile in the church of Aberdeen. William Duff of Whitehill (his half-brother) was discerned executor and had charge of all his debts, etc.

A sum was paid to 'Helen Abercrombie for her own aliment and the aliment of Helen and Mary Duffs her children, both then alive, and of two men servants, and two women servants, and one nurse, besides those who served in harvest, and besides those who were employed for labouring the Mains. A further item of £63 Scots (£7, 10s. sterling) was paid to the said Helen Abercrombie for the expenses of the birth of Mary Duff, her posthumous child, and for the funeral expenses of the said child.' (Another of the Mary Duffs whose sojourn on this earth was short and sad. See chapter xxxii., note, page 501.)

A further entry shows that the sum of £128, 14s. Scots of money belonging to James Duff was found in the said James Duff's 'Cloach bag after his death,' and Archibald Duff, who was by the said defunct in his sickness and at his death, accounted for the same to the executor. Archibald, it must be remembered, was afterwards a doctor, and is described in the will as 'Student of Physick in Aberdeen.' There was a further sum allowed for the entertainment of the doctors.

THOMAS DUFF was the second son of Patrick of Craigston's second marriage. In his own testament-dative, dated 1737, he is described as elder son of the second marriage, but that was after the death of his elder brother James. The edict of executry grants warrant to summon, warn, and charge Archibald, Francis, Robert, Adam, Elizabeth, Mary, and Margaret Duff, his brothers and sisters, and the husbands of Elizabeth and Mary as executors-dative and nearest of kin. Thomas was in possession of Craigston for a little over two years, but as 'neither he nor his brother James had owned it for three years, titles in their names were never made up.'

Thomas died unmarried, and was succeeded in 1737 by his brother Archibald.

There are several allusions to Thomas Duff in the letters of William, Lord Braço. He seems to have been drowned. The only other reference to him is in the following letter from his mother :

Mary Urquhart to Captain John Urquhart

‘MY DEAREST BROTHER,—Yr kind oblidging leter was sent me from Haton yesterday. Blessed be God that I have such a true frind as you ar that puts me on my geard to shun whats wrong and dereets me to doe what right, good God enable me to doe that which is right in the sight of God and pleassing to my frinds pertieularly, for which is the sincer deser of my heart. Im much grived and ashamed at the great expence I have put you too, tho you ar so generious as to forgiv itt. If ever I should truble you mor that way I would be wors then a brut. Dear brother Im much oblidged to Premna,¹ and would be glead if he would be so good as notice me in yr abesence, only I most beg off you and him and all my frinds to leave an ear to the abesent and not to belive all thats said. Pardon for God sak my writing to offer to you and tho I will not presum to writ to you again till you deser me yet if you would be so good as writ me the never so short a lin ether under Meldrums cover or Premnas I would tak it as the greatest favour that could be don me for yr leters will be the welcomest presents I can receive, and if you doe not writ me it will be long or I know how you ar. My Dearest Brother, if Premna cause get for his Brother Thomas three hundred marks a year it will be an act off great frindshipp and kindness and I hop Thomas will continow in the steat of liff he is in and never be so foolish as desire to go to law. I shall God willing give him the best advice I can for I would wish all my children to please ther frinds and much oblidged am I to you that minds them. Thomas wrot to you som tim agoe and I wrot seen affter to you to Byth, but I was so seek that wick that they war not sent, I bless God I’m better now, and while I live Ill ever continow with a heartfull of sincer extcem.—My Dearest Brother, Yr most affectionatt sister and obedent oblidged humble servant,
MARY URQUIHART.’ (D.)

The third surviving son, ARCHIBALD, was born about 1714, as he is found as a student entering King’s College, Aberdeen, in 1728, and the normal age at that period was fourteen. He was at Leyden University in 1736, and studied medicine both there and in Paris.

‘He was long in the service of the Swedish East India Company in Bengal; from thence he went to Cochin China, of which kingdom it was said in Europe he was made a Mandarine. He sold Craigston to the late Captain John Urquhart of Cromarty, his uncle. He died in 1758 while

¹ Her stepson Patrick.

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on a trading voyage from Cochin China to Batavia, in poor circumstances' (Baird). He wrote a history of Cochin China, said by Baird to have been printed in London, but there is no copy in the British Museum. His voyages in the East would seem to have been adventurous, and both his early and later letters are among the most interesting in the whole of the family correspondence.

Archibald Duff, Paris, to Captain Urquhart, his uncle

'PARIS, 27 March, N.S., 1736.

'MY DEAR UNCLE,—We received your kind letter of the 12th March from London yesterday, after I had wrote you and Premnay fully, anent Francy and myself: We're sorry Premnay is offended that we did not write him sooner; it is not, I assure you for want of affection and Esteem, for considering his carriage towards us and the favours he has done us it would be the hight of Ingratitude and stupidity if we did not esteem and love him. I shall not clear us of carelessness and Laziness; however if I were to give you a journal, how one of our business thats to pass only six or seven months here ought to spend every day in order to improve as he may, you would see he would be sufficiently employed: But thats not the reason, if one had a mind he could ay find time to write a letter: We were sensible it was our duty to write Premnay a letter of thanks since its the only mark we're in a condition to give, that we have a sense of the great kindness shewn us by that Family; but we did not think if we did that the first time we wrote, that the circumstance of time made any odds. Because we did not understand the Language the imperfect remarks we could make in travelling to Paris were not worth the while. All the time we have been here, because we have not made it our business to go into Company or to see places as yet we don't know much of the People or many things worth taking notice off: We were not allowed to stand in need of anything, we wrote our Mother to write us of our friends. For the future we shall write our friends frequently and we begge to be excus'd for what's past. . . . We hope you'll be so kind as pardon us and that you'll make an apology to Premnay for us the first time you have occasion to write him. Its very comfortable to us to hear of our Mother and other friends weelfare. I have nothing to add but that I ever remain, with great affection and esteem, My Dear Uncle, Your very much obliged and most obedient humble servant,

ARCHIBALD DUFF.' (D.)

Archibald Duff, Paris, to Patrick Duff of Premnay

'PARIS, 28 March, N.S., 1736.

'AFFECTIONATE BROTHER,—We were favour'd with your's of the 29th Nover. last from Edinburgh and in consequence of our Uncle's letter at that time to Mr. Alexr. my Broyr and I have each of us received the twenty Pound str. As Francy wrote you last week we will have finished our courses of surgery and

anatomy in two or three weeks hence, and so will not have occasion to stay here longer on that account. But as I can now live here pretty cheap and the Business my Uncle was so kind as propose for me, does not require that I go immediately to Sweden, I believe it will be thought proper for me to stay here some time after that. I'm now in a good way of learning the French, and when its my principal business I shall be able to make a considerable progress in a short time. As for Francy, now he has finished his education, he wants as soon as possible, to get business and begs his friend's assistance and advice in what way to apply himself whither they think the Army, the Navy, a Merchant Ship, or to follow his business in any oyr way, wch they would advise him to—he would chuse small business rather than wait. He intreats and depends on your advice and how he 'll dispose of himself in the meantime and that you 'll recommend him to any of the Members of Parliament and any others of your acquaintance at London that can be of use to him and that, if you think recommendations from any of the rest of his friends can be of use to him, you 'll be so good as procure them. I think Mr. Bell a Chirurgeon at London got ships to two of the young lads that went from Abdn. last Spring, on Mr. Dyce's Recommendation. Dear Brother, your kind and affectionate carriage towards us hitherto encourages us to give you all this trouble. Our dear Father's Death and then our Brother's,¹ were Dispensations of Providence very grevous and afflicting; yet such has been the goodness of our surviving friends and brothers, I may say Fathers,² that we have scarce as yet felt that great loss. Your kindness towards us all has been very great, particularly the Instance of it to our mother is ever most obliging, the great trouble you put yourself to and the expence in serving us on our leaving Scotland; the affectionate care you had of me in my dangerous illness and the continued train of your kindness to us, we can make no recompence for any of them only our best wishes and thanks, which we render you most heartily. Likewise Hatton: he has been very kind especially I lye under many obligations to his Family: and all the rest of our Brothers and Sisters have been all very kind. We design to write our Master under your cover what we have been doing when we have finished our Courses and therefore shall not trouble you with that at present, only in general I believe there is not such anoyr place in the world for Learning Anatomy and all the Branches of Surgery. Because the best way of remitting money is by Bills from London, please with your conveniency remitt £22 Str. of the money that should answer me at Whitesunday and the £27. 6. 10½ that should answer Francy, in our Uncles absence; to Mr. George Auchterlony to answer us as we have occasion to call for it. I believe Francy will have use for £32 Str. including the £12. 5. of his £50 before he leaves Paris, tho' he leave it three weeks hence, so ther's occasion for remitting his money that should answer him at Whitsunday to London immediately. I have not as yet taken any kind of cloathes here and so have a little of my money remaining, but will have occasion for more shortly and therefore have of this date wrote my Uncle to remitt me £17. 5. Str. the remainder of my £50. I

¹ James.

² Archibald's four half-brothers were a great deal older than himself.

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belive it will do much to serve me whilst I'm here. The reason that Francy needs more money than I, is his being very ill provided of necessaries when he left Scotland. We have not gone to see many remarkable places as yet, and cannot form a Judgement of either the people or place only in general the People seem to be very polite and easy in their cariage, only they use a Plaguy dale of useless Compliments. The common people make a great show of Religion. I cannot tell if the better sort be less religious, but they seem to have a great dale less superstition. We saw a great many things both in our way to Paris and since we came here that we thought remarkable; but I belive considering we have seen but very little of our own country and know but little about it, together with our not speaking French would make them appear trifling and not worth mentioning to anybody that knows better, and therefore I shall trouble you but with a few of them. At Rouen we saw a fine house of salt sellars belonging to the King (there is nobody sells salt there but the King, and he sells it very dear). Churches are everywhere very numerous and magnificent: we likewise saw several fine houses but not any country seats, except one, after we had pass'd Normandy, in the Isle of France, that we thought comparable to Culter. In the beginning of Nov. they were just about as far advanc'd in their labring and the beir as long as it will be with us just now. They plough not half so deep as with us, but the furs are nearer to one anoyr: their ploughs are drawn by two horses only and go on wheels; they differ in little else from ours, only the stilts are longer because in working the man who holds the plough goes with his back strait. Ther's a great dale of wood all through the Country, mostly oak and fruit trees, very few Firs and what I saw were Pines. All their fire here is wood, except some coals that are imported from Britain that the smiths burn: they have mostly windmills: on two or three bridges over the Seine that we had occasion to cross we saw two or three Watermills of a different fashion from ours. I cannot tell if there be any of them in Scotland, but because I think they would be usefull in some places where thers big Rivers and scarcity of burns and convenient places for building our Mills, the first one I have occasion to see again I shall write you a particular description of them. It appear'd to be a very simple engine, instead of having two wheels moving in a circle perpendicular to the Horizon it has but one moving horizontally to the Needle that turns about the running Milstone for its axis. We begg you 'l excuse all this trouble and have nothing more to add at present, but our best wishes to you, your Lady, and the Lady Braco, to whom and the rest of our friends and Benefactors we begg to be kindly remembered when you have occasion to see them. I ever remain wh. great affection and esteem, My dear Brother, Your most oblidged and obedient humble Sert.,

ARCHIBALD DUFF.

'P.S.—When you have occasion to see my kind old Master, Mr. Burnet or Mr. Rait, please make my compliments to them. If there were any thing here that we could be of use to you in, it would be a very sensible pleasure to us to do it. We wrote some time ago to our Mother to hear of our friends, and are concerned we have not heard from her yet.'

(D.)

Archibald Duff, Leyden, to Patrick Duff of Premnay

‘LEYDEN, ye 16th Octor. 1736.

‘MY DEAR BROTHER,—I wrote you last from Paris of ye 15th Augt. I have been attending the Colleges here now some weeks but have the prospect of business soon ; and tho it is not worth any body’s while to come to this place on purpose to hear the Professors only for a few weeks, yet as it is to fill up some vacant time, and having been att Paris, I’ll profite by it considerably, and if after this I shall have an opportunity of returning here to study, my being here now will be a great advantage to me. My Uncle wrott an exceeding kind letter in my favours to Mr. Campbell, however soon he got notice of his being seen on this Coasts weh I hope will succeed : he wrote the week before he left Paris and expects an answer now every post and tho’ it should not be favourable he has so much Intrest and is such a kind hearty friend that he’ll soon get some oyr business for me tho’ it is indeed difficult : there are so many that have been disbanded from the Fleet, oysr that have been voyages and at same time so many new ones (almost all Scots). I believe a Kirk is easier got than any tollerable business in our way, at present. I hope ere long I shall be at greater distance from Abdn. than at present. Perhaps I’m a very great fool that might have been geting in half a year or a year after this fifty and perhaps a hundred pounds a year and the most of my Patrimony remaining and been at my own case and in a capacity of doing perhaps a little good, but I’m sure you would reckon me stupid or mad if, after leaving that and spending so much upon my Education, I should expose myself to certain hardships and eminent danger without endeavouring to have it in my power, even supposing it may please God that no misfortune happens to me, to make myself a bit the better for it ; weh must certainly be the case if I carry adventure out wt money. Three pound a month (Surgeon’s Pay) after taking on trust and consequently at the Druggest’s price a Chist of Druggs to furnish the crew with and buying Instruments to be kept off from the first end of ye day, is but poor business, or any oyr business that I can expect were it not for the advantage I’ll have of tradeing, weh is not worth a farthing to me if I have nothing to trade with. After I’m fitted out I will not have much of my money left and tho’ I had more I would incline to venter it as well as myself : I hope it will be of more service to me now than ever twice as much would be again. My Dear Brother, I hope when you know the circumstances you’ll likewise think it reasonable. I’m very sensible you would do nothing against my Intrest. I have experienced your kindness too much not to be intirely perswaded of that. As I know but too little of the world and have but very little experience, I am sensible how lyable I am to commit mistakes and how much need I have of good advice and I hope and earnestly intreat youll do me that very kind office of letting me know my faults and favour me with your good advice : and I sinserly promise you I shall endeavour to mend them and follow it. I heartily wish it were anyway in my power to show that I have a gratefull sense of your favours. I am very happy of having the good fortune

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to be so much with your friend my Uncle.¹ Such an opportunity in my opinion is the greatest happiness and advantage that a young lad can meet with : and he is so good humour'd and kind as to use me with the affection of a parent and familiarity of a friend or Broyr. I heartily wish he were settled to his liking in Abdnshire and I dont doubt but you 'll do what lies in your power to promote it and procure him an estate² that good and convenient, and as I know he has an intire friendship and very great esteem and regard for you I believe you 'll have a good dale of influence with him. I the rather wish he would settle amongst our friends because I 'm sure he would not himself give in to a great many of our pernicious customs and I believe he would have influence upon several of his own relations to give them over likewise : perhaps oysr seeing ye advantage of the method might imitate them : Besides I don't believe it would be disagreeable to himself and certainly a great satisfaction to all his friends. I heartily wish long life and all manner of Happiness to you all and ever remain wt the greatest love and esteem, My Dear Brother, Your very affectionate Brother and much obligd obedient servant,

ARCHIBALD DUFF. (D.)

One letter is of much later date, from

‘CANTON IN CHINA, 31st January 174½.

‘Patrick Duff of Premnay, Esqr.

‘SIR,—It gave me great satisfaction to receive your favours by Mr. Elphinston ; when I found my Relations so free from being involved in their country's ruin.³ I have taken money at Bottomry⁴ One thousand thirty pounds Str. on the English China Ships, York and Lin, and have discounted 30 and 28 pr. ct. for my chance of their miscarrying, which God forbid ; and I have ordered George and Wilm. Catanach to pay it, so that I shall be in their debt if both these ships get home safe. Messrs. Pye and Cruickshanks have laid so long out of their money, and please not to order any of my money for any other Account ; except that my Mother or any other near Relation may be in straits, and in that case please to relieve them on my account as the exigency of the case requires. I pray to be kindly remembered to your Lady, Lady Braceo and all my relations. I am sorry for poor Adam's ill luck, if he is not at his case, for God's sake send him abroad. I shall write to him from Batavia and to you likewise at greate length. In the mean time and alwise I ever am with exceeding great respect and esteem, My Dear Brother, You most affectionate Brother and obliged humble Servt.,

ARCHIBALD DUFF.’ (D.)

Archibald Duff was at one time a rich man, as his affairs in the East

¹ Captain John Urquhart.

² He subsequently bought Craigston from Archibald himself.

³ *i.e.* the Jacobite rising.

⁴ Bottomry, a contract by which a ship is pledged by the owner for the money necessary for repairs to enable her to complete her voyage. The debt is repayable only if the ship arrives at her destination.

prospered, and the lucky opportunity he had of curing the Emperor of Cochin China of a dangerous malady, which had defied the local medicine men and the Jesuit missionaries, went far to make his fortune; ¹ but while in Canton his house and all his property was burnt, and he died, as has been said, quite poor. This will was made before he left Europe, and did not take effect :

'I, Archibald Duff, lawful son to unqle Patrick Duff of Craigston being certain of Death and willing to settle my affairs to avoid disputes when it happens, I name Robert Duff my Broyr. german my Exor, and failing him by decease, I name Adam Duff my Broyr. my Exor. Item, I leave to the said Robert Duff ten thousand pound scots and to the sd. Adam Duff two thousand pound scots and In case of ye death of ye sd. Robert I leave the sd. ten thousand pound left to him in that case is to fall to the sd. Adam. Item, I leave the fourth of my residue of my effects to Capt. John Urquhart my Uncle to be by my mother and all ye remainder to be divided equally amongst ye sd. Adam and Robert Duffs, Mary, Margt. and Elizabeth Duffs my Sisters equally, and this I declare is my latter will. In Witnes quof written by Patrick Duff of Premnay I have subscribed this at Abdⁿ the third day of November seventeen hundred and thirty-eight years befor^e Wittnesses, James Black Mert. in Abdⁿ, and the sd. Pat. Duff and John Duncan his servant,

ARCHIBALD DUFF. (D.)

'3rd Feb. 1739.'

FRANCIS DUFF, son of Patrick Duff of Craigston, born about 1715, was also a doctor. In the year 1731 he bound himself as apprentice to Doctors John and James Gordon, physicians in Aberdeen, for the space of four years. In 1735 he appears to have decided to go to Paris with his brother Archibald to study, and got his discharge from Dr. James Gordon. In 1738 he was living at Cape Coast Castle in Africa, and was factor for the Royal African Company there, as well as being a doctor. In the same year he went to Whydah in Guinea, where apparently he died. Two letters of his give a good idea of some of the difficulties he had to encounter.

Francis Duff to Patrick Duff of Premnay

'LONDON, 21st May 1736.

'STR,—I shall be glad this find you, your Lady and Lady Braco in good health, to whom I wish all manner of happiness.

'I arrived here a fourthnight ago, but delayed writting you untill such time as I could give you some account of what I now designe to follow, tho' I can not say the footing on which I go is Intearly certain for Captain Renton with whom I sail is bound for Jamaica, But as he is not yet certain if he gets into the South Sea Company's Service I have no pay allowed me from this to Jamaica, but have

¹ See letter from Sir James Kinloch, chapter viii.

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the Capts. promise, if his project takes, to have the same pay other surgens in the Company's service have, or if I find any tollerable encouragement there, I propose to stay some time.

'No dont youll be surpris'd at my Draught on Brother John. But as I had myself to put in Cloaths and furnish Instruments and other necessarys for my voyage with the small adventure of stockings¹ I carry wt me, I most own the small stock I had is now near exhausted.—Sir, I remain wh the greatest esteem, Your most obedient humble Servtt., FRANCIS DUFF.' (D.)

Francis Duff, Whydah, to Patrick Duff, Premnay

'WILLIAM'S FORT, WHYDAH, Nov. 14, 1738.

'SIR,—Having this opportunity of returning you my most hearty thanks for the innumerable favours I have already received from you when I am very sensible it was out of my power of reparing, I beg leave to offer my self a Petitioner to you for this last favour which I hope youll be so good as grant, my unforseen necessities obliging me to it, but be assured that the former with this shall be faithfully remitted to George Auchterlony merchant in London in six months' time.

'My Delay betwixt Cape Coast and Whydah being so very long forces me to trouble you in this manner. A Gentleman named Crabb and I, in our passage from Cape Coast to Whydah, in a thirteen hand canoe were taken by three large canoes belonging to Champo off Quytah the 7 of Agust who striped us of all our necessarys and detained us prisoners for ten weeks three days. Champo being then Defeated by the King of Dahome, the Dahomes released us and carried us to their King, who behaved in a very civil manner to us, and sent us to Whydah, my not having so much as a shirt, stocking or shoe on my arrival at Whydah, or any necessary whatsomever, but two cloths the King of Dahome give us to hid our naikedness, forced me to draw upon you for Sixty-one pound fifteen shillings payable in three weeks after sight. The King of Dahome promis's to pay us for all our things in two months we lost which amounts to two hundred and forty-six pound stirling which I do assure you shall be remitted to George Auchterlony for the repaing of you, I hope my necessities will make you take compassion upon me and now allow my Note of Hand to lay unpaid. In compliance wt this, you will for ever infinitely oblige me. He to whom the Note of Hand becomes due being an Englishman and knowing Geo. Auchterlony makes me give the order upon him to whom I hope youll be so good as order to pay. My being very much indispos'd after my long journey so far by land, hinders me from writing my Unele and the rest of my relations, hoping you'll be so good as write them. How soon I am indifferently well, I shall write you more fully. I now beg leave to offer my most Dutyful respects to you, your Lady and Lady Braco and all the rest of my relations. Wishing sincerely this may find them all in good health is the earnest desire of, Sir, your most obedient and most humble Servtt., FRANCIS DUFF.' (D.)

¹ Probably the woven stockings from Aberdeen, at that time a novelty in the north.

The date of Francis' death is not known.

The next surviving brother, ROBERT of Logie, founded a new branch of the family, and will be found in the next chapter.

The youngest son was ADAM, born about 1725. He was a merchant, and bailie of Aberdeen, and subsequently Provost of that town. He apparently did business for the family, as there is a bill—Archibald Duff of Drummuir to Adam Duff in Aberdeen, 1753, for 'printed papers @ 3/- a piece,' and 'entry and carriage of a large trunk ship'd aboard Captain Martiner for London,' receipted at Aberdeen 1754.

In his later years he owned the property of Stocket, now part of Aberdeen, and took some interest in agriculture. He was also a freeholder of Morayshire. He arranged loans for Lord Fife and managed the provision for the admiral's children, the mutual nephews and niece of himself and Lord Fife.

Lord Fife gave him a qualification to vote for Ludquharn in Buchan (for which apparently he paid), but in May 1791 he was struck off the roll, presumably on accepting some government office.

In the historical papers of the New Spalding Club it is recorded, from the *Aberdeen Burgh Records, 1745-1746*, that when the town of Aberdeen was to be put in a posture of defence, Adam Duff, merchant, was appointed one of the twelve ensigns. He died unmarried in 1795, and left his money to his nephew, William Leslie of Melross.

Provost Adam Duff of Stocket to the Earl of Fife

'Jan. 12th, 1759.

'MY LORD,—Mr. Osborn, Comptroller of the Customes here died yesterday afternoon. I have taken the liberty to solicit your Lordships Interest for that office, I know several are applying to their friends, but if your Lo/ will be so good as to interest yourself for a relation that never likes to be troublesome to friends there's little doubt of success. Sincerely wishing your Lordship the Compliments of the season, with many happy returns I have the honour to be with great respect and esteem your Lop. Most obed^t and much obliged humble servt.,

'ADAM DUFF.'¹ (R.)

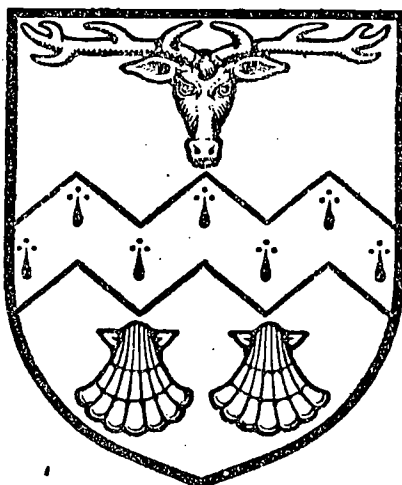
¹ William Duff in Turriff, who in 1747 married Isabel Urquhart in Banff, and had two daughters—Isabel, born 1748, and Sarah, born 1750, may have been another son of the second family of Craigston. No descendants of his are known. These details are taken from the Registers.

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THE DUFFS

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THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH
AND THE
PRINCESSES ALEXANDRA AND MAUD

Photograph by Mason & Co.



FETTERESSO CASTLE

(PRINCE JAMES FRANCIS STEWART, THE OLD CHEVALIER, SPENT SEVERAL DAYS HERE IN DEC. 1745)

CHAPTER XX

DUFFS OF FETTERESSO

THE family of Fetteresso took its rise from one of the younger sons of Patrick of Craigston, Admiral Robert Duff, who purchased this estate from the York Building Company in 1782, five years before his death, for £19,000. The mansion-house of Fetteresso had been, previous to the attainder, the ancient seat of the family of the Earl Marischal. The attainted earl was an intimate friend of William Duff of Braco, who died in 1718. See chapter vii.¹

Robert was one of the very youngest of the enormous family of Patrick of Craigston. The only child who was certainly younger was Adam, Provost of Aberdeen, and it will be remembered that Robert was the child not known by sight to his father.² Unfortunately the date of his birth has not been recorded (as his 'fine tomb at Peterculter' seems to have disappeared entirely); but from the dates of his entering the Navy, and of his various steps, it must have been about the year 1721.³

¹ William Baird is responsible for the following statement: 'Mr. George Keith, advocate in Aberdeen, who died September 1738, assured me he had seen among Lord Marischall's papers a charter under the great seal, prior to 1400, upon the lands of Fetteresso to Duff Scolach of Fetteresso, where Duff was the Christian name and Scholach or Scollie the surname.' But whether this proves anything as to the antiquity of the Duff family and its connection with Kincardineshire or not, may be a matter of opinion.

² See chapter xvi.

³ The facts as to his services are taken from Charnock's *Naval Biography*, as there seems to have been no account of them kept in the family. Indeed, in the Fetteresso branch itself, the records are altogether very meagre; the letters of Lady Helen and a few business letters from the admiral having been preserved in Lord Braco's family.

He became a commander in 1744, and writes thus to his half-brother, Patrick Duff of Premnay :

'ON BD. THE "EXETER" AT PLYMOUTH,
' *Aprile ye 26, 1744.*

'DEAR BROTHER,—Be pleased to accept my most hearty thanks for the favour of your kind and obliging letter of y^e 11th instant which was forwarded by my good friend Colonel Abercrombie and came to hand yesterday. In his letter he says he hopes I shall soon be removed to a better station : were all the other gentlemen you and the rest of my friends have taken the pains to recommend me to as sincere as he is, it certainly would be so, but patience is a noble and necessary virtue.

'I am greatly obliged to you for the salmon. I begg leave to offer the Lady Bracco and Lady Premnay my most hearty thanks for granting my request and think they had better pospond sending anything till a convoy offers. The fleet commanded by Sir Charles Hardy passed by this place two days ago ; if he has the fortune to meet the Brist squadron, I do not doubt but he will give a good account of them. We are fitting the *Exeter* for sea as fast as possible, but as seamen enter but sloly, I believe it will be the end of May before we can be ready and then I belive we shall only go a short crouse in the Channel.

'Pray forward the enclosed to Hatton and offer my most dutifull respects to my Mother, the Lady Bracco, Lady Premnay, Gight's Family, Melrose's, Captain Urquhart's, Brother Adam and all other friends, and I am, with the greatest regard and respect, Your affec. Brother and most obedient humble servant,
ROBERT DUFF.' (D.)

In the early part of 1746 he was in command of the *Terror* bomb-ketch on the coast of Scotland, where he was very active in persecuting the rebels. There is one letter from him on the subject in the Additional MSS. British Museum. The following details are taken from Bishop Forbes' *Lyon in Mourning* :

' July 1746. Sir Jas. Stewart and three prisoners were turned over to the *Terror* sloop, commanded by Mr. Duff, son to Patrick Duff, sometime Laird of Craigston in Buchan ; Captain Norebury (of the *Loo*) sent a message to Mr. Duff to tell him how the prisoners had been treated by him, and to say that any civilities he should show to them he would take as to himself. To which the haughty Duff paid very small regard. Within some hours after they had come to his sloop, they were, by the great indulgence of their new captain, cooped up in an ugly hole of six feet in length and less in breadth, where they suffered extremely for many weeks, nor could a Turkish bashaw have borne himself higher towards these prisoners than the young officer did, while under his command. The *Terror*, after going to Banff, where Duff visited his near relations, sailed for Woolwich, where Sir James was carried to the new

prison, where he died of fever. The three prisoners remaining on the *Terror* were more harshly treated than before. The hold in which they were confined had neither air nor light, but from the door, and very little of either that way. Their humane countryman, the tender-hearted Captain, commanded the door to be shut and padlocked at eight at night, and not to be opened till after eight in the morning. In addition two sentinels were placed at the door. After the battle of Culloden, Captain Duff went to Canua, Skye, and committed several branches of cruelty upon the poor people, wanting them to inform him if the Prince or any of his officers were in hiding there. In June 1746 Captain Duff went to the Isle of Eigg in order to execute the Disarming act; called the people into one place and ordered them to give up their arms at their peril. They agreed, gave up their arms, but got no receipts for them. The poor people looked on themselves as out of danger. Some weeks later, Captain Duff went to Eigg again, to look for Captain John Macdonald. The inhabitants denied that he was there, and were again very harshly treated.'

Robert Duff's name is also mentioned as one of the witnesses in the trial of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat. 'Captain Duff proved that a letter from the Master of Lovat to Lord Lovat was taken out of the strong box in the prisoner's presence.'—March 13, 1747.

In October 1746 Robert Duff was promoted Post-Captain, and appointed to the *Anglesa*. He cruised on the coast of Ireland 'with little success' (presumably in the capture of prizes).

During the greater part of the peace he is not known to have held any commission.

In January 1755 he was appointed a regulating captain of the Press-gang, not a very enviable post.

Later in the same year he was appointed to the *Rochester*, fifty guns, and was principally employed in coasting off the coast of France, where he appears to have had good success in the capture of neutral ships which supplied the enemy with stores and ammunition. From these prizes he amassed a large quantity of prize money, which he devoted later to purchasing land.

'In 1758 he was with Commodore Howe in the expedition against Cherbourg; and in the unfortunate and perilous affair in St. Cas Bay he commanded the flat-bottomed boats which took off the troops, and did this so well that to his exertions and those of his officers we may fairly attribute the fact that the disastrous losses were not greater' (Charnock).

In 1759 he became senior Captain, with the rank of Commodore, in command of the little squadron of four frigates and four 50-gun ships stationed off the south coast of Brittany to watch the movements of the French in Morbihan.

He was lying at anchor in Quiberon Bay when, on the morning of November 20, 1759, his outlook gave him the intelligence of the French fleet, to the southward of Belle Isle. He hastily put to sea and stood to the southward, chased by the French. Suddenly he tacked to the eastward, his men manning the rigging, cheering and throwing their hats into the sea. The English fleet had just been sighted, in hot pursuit of the French, who, partly owing to their turning aside to chase Duff's squadron, were overtaken before they could get to a safe anchorage, and completely defeated. Two French ships struck, four were sunk, and the rest were all damaged, and ran for shelter. This was the decisive battle of Quiberon Bay, 'when Hawke came swooping from the West,' and though Commodore Duff had no actual share in the fighting, his tactics greatly contributed to the result, and his name is always associated with the victory.¹

Charnock points out the similar post of command of the inshore watching squadron held by Robert Duff's 'great-nephew' before Trafalgar.

He was promoted to the command of the *Foudroyant*, and served next under Rodney in the West Indies. In 1775 he became Rear-Admiral of the Blue, and was appointed 'Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its dependencies.'²

In the Record Office there is preserved a letter from the Lords of the Admiralty to the Earl of Dartmouth, asking that 'Capt. Robert Duff, appointed Comm^r in Chief of H.M.S. ships, etc., in Newfoundland, may have the usual commissⁿ of Gov^r of Newfoundland.'

In 1776 he became Rear-Admiral of the White, and in September 1777 of the Red, and was appointed to the command of the Gibraltar station, flying his flag in the *Panther*, and co-operating with the garrison during the siege. At this period his great-nephew, George, aged thirteen, joined his ship. During his three years at Gibraltar he became successively Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and the White, but after Rodney's victory off Cape St. Vincent, in January 1780, he was recalled to England, and held no further command (though he became Rear-Admiral of the Red in 1781) until his death, which occurred in 1787. His official reports and formal letters to the British Minister in Madrid during this period, some in cypher, are to be found in the British Museum MSS. Department.

The following letter 'to the Earl of Fife' belongs to the period of his retirement :

¹ Baird, writing in 1773, alludes to 'Captain Robert Duff of Logie, a good Naval officer.'

² *Ann. Register*, April 24, 1775. There is a letter from Robert Duff, written from St. John's, Newfoundland, about the garrison of York Fort, in Labrador (Additional MSS. British Museum).



ADMIRAL ROBERT DUFF, R.N.

By Sir Joshua Reynolds.

‘BATH, 12th Aprile 1780.

‘MY DEAR LORD,—I was duly honored with your letter of the 24th ultimo and return your Lordship thanks for the franks you was so obliging as to send me. It is with great pleasure I hear your Brother, Mr. Arthur, is recovering fast. As your Lordship used to like bath Cheese, I have taken the liberty to send you three by the coach that goes from this to-morrow morning, it puts up at the Angel Inn behind St. Clements Church, Strand, and will be in town to-morrow evening.

‘During the time of my being here, I have been regular in my drinking the water and bathing, and begin now to find some benefite from them, but the scurvy requires time to get the better of it. If your Lordship has room in your coach house, will be obliged to you for your permission to put my postchaise into it for the short time I shall be in London. I have the honor to be, with great esteem and regard,—My Dear Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and most humble servant,
ROBERT DUFF.’ (D.)

‘On December 6th, 1787, died at Queensferry, of the gout in his stomach, on his return from Bath, Robert Duff, Vice-Admiral of the Red.’

He seems to have been a wealthy man, as by the provisions of his will, besides his new purchase of Fetteresso, he was able to leave a considerable sum of money to his eldest son, and suitable provisions for the younger children.¹

For his services, Admiral Robert Duff had added to his armorial bearings two sailors as supporters, and George III. had his portrait painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds for Greenwich Hospital. There are replicas of it at Fetteresso, in the Duff House collection, and at Hatton.

In 1764 he had married Helen, the fourth daughter of his first cousin, William, Lord Fife.

When the admiral was not on active service he and his wife lived at Logie, in Crimond, Aberdeenshire, an estate which he bought in the year of his marriage and sold again when he bought Fetteresso. He writes from there as to his appointment to Newfoundland: ‘The Lords of the Admiralty, thinking it proper that the Newfoundland squadron should

¹ He was popular with his brothers-in-law, who allude to him frequently in their letters as ‘the honest Admiral,’ and Arthur writes, with pleasure, that ‘the Admiral’s share of prize money amounts to several thousands.’ This was the money which was afterwards used in the purchase of Fetteresso, and founded this branch of the family. He also lent £5000 to his brother-in-law, Lord Fife, at four and a half per cent., as seen in the Rose letters.

Burns is reported to have visited Fetteresso and to have been found by Admiral Robert Duff fishing in the Carron River, without leave. When challenged, he threw down his rod, and exclaimed:

‘Your fish are scarce, your water’s snia’,
There’s my rod, and Rob’s awa.’

sail this year much earlier than they formerly had to do, have by last post directed me to repair to town. An extraordinary deep storm of snow makes it impossible to travel at present, but I shall set out as soon as possible. This call is several weeks sooner than I expected, but military men must submit to such disappointments.'

In the same letter the admiral remarks: 'I am sorry for the loss of Quebec, it will be expensive and troublesome to retake it, although I hope the exertion the Administration is now making against the Americans will soon make them sensible of the superior strength of Great Britain to them.' Of course, Quebec was not actually lost, Carleton making a very able defence and checking the revolutionary troops at the last moment. But the admiral's sentiments with regard to the future progress of the war which ended in the surrender of Saratoga remind the reader of certain newspaper paragraphs in the early days of the last Boer War. As to his appointment to the Mediterranean command, he writes to Lord Fife:

' CRAVEN STREET, 20th Sept. 1777.

' MY DEAR LORD,—When I had the honour to write your Lordship from Logie, I had just then received Lord Sandwich's letter desiring me to come immediately to London to be appointed to the Command at Plymouth. On my arrival here, his Lordship told me I might have the Command at Plymouth, or change with Admiral Graves for the Mediterranean Command, and added if I changed Commands with Admiral Graves, he would appoint Mr. Leslie my first Lieutenant and soon give me an opportunity to make him a Captain. The Mediterranean Command being more honorable and on many accounts more eligible than Plymouth, joined to the prospect of making my friend Leslie a Captain, made me, with a good grace, agree to his Lordship's proposal. I was, some days ago, appointed to the Command in the Mediterranean, where if your Lordship has any commands, it will give me pleasure to obey them. It will probably be late in November before I can sail from England, but I hope to be able to escape a part of the winter. Administration have no official accounts from Lord Howe or his Brother since the 8th of July. The private accounts, which I have from good authority, are, that Lord Howe and his fleet were seen off the mouth of the Delawar, where they stoped some hours, and then went to the Southward. It is conjectured they were bound for Chesapeak Bay, to endeavour to get between Washington and his Magazins, which are at Lancaster near Susquahanna River. Washington has certainly crossed the Delawar with his army; it is believed he is gone to defend his magazins, which will probably bring on a battle. God grant us good accounts. We have had three weeks of the finest weather that ever was seen, I hope you have had the same with you.

' Wishing your Lordship health and happyness, I am, with the greatest respect,—Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,

' ROBERT DUFF.' (R.)

Lady Helen Duff writes to her brother, 'the Lord Viscount Macduff,' from Edinburgh :

'MY DEAR BROTHER,—Weere I to tell you how much I greive at my Silence I'm certain you would forgive me. I can only say it is not for want of through inclination, as I have atempt writing these two posts, but company has always prevented me from employing my pen. I have been to no Publick place since I came to town but St. Cecilia's Concert, it was vastly croud^d nor did I think the Town at present coud have produced so much good company. It would be in vain to mention how many Compliments I was desired to make both my Lady and you from numberles fine folks, . . . I believe the half of the company would have promiss^d to meet you at Stirling. The town 'tis said will be full. I'm just now informed that Lord and Lady Elgin are come to spend the winter in My Lady Galoways House and that their is a most splendid Coach made for them, by this I shoud imagin they intend cutting a flash. Lord Dunmore has come the length of having a Gold Lacc round a flaning wastecote and my Lady is within a few days of giving him a son or daughter and I'm told has got as many gentile airs as my Lady Countess her Mother. Lady Elgin is they say also arived and has taken Lady Macduff's old quarters Mrs. Pittolachs. The Beauty for the season was intended to be a Miss Dalzal. She, however, Dont answer the expectations of the Publick so I fancie two or three plays will put her out of Fation. The Play House was opend last Saturday, was very full and Mr. Diggs met wt. unspeakable applause but this I'm fearfull wont last as Mrs. Digg's absence cant be made up. The famous Lady we wrote you off some time agoe is in Town, I saw her Sunday at Church. She is far from handsom—nor does she in least look like a woman of Fation, is but a Miss Clairly and nice to Lord Terres. Mr. and Mrs. Webster dined here yesterday and longs much for your arrival. Lady Doll Primerrose is not yet come to town, she is at Lord Nepers, her aunt Lady Dorrothea has been here. Your acquaintance Mrs. Hodges is in town, shining in Dimonds and gold Apearal—I woud take a good pen and write you a long leter but am obliged to go and dress as I'm intended for a great Towr of visits in ye afternoon. I firmly resolved to have wrote My Lady this fornoon, but a flirting miss came in to me and has keep me up wt. very small talk these two hours, this I hope will serve as my apologie till next post, mean while present her my Compts. and best regards, My Dear Brother,—Ever your affect. and much obliged,

HELEN DUFF.' (D.)

Robert and Lady Helen had six children :

1. JEAN, born 1765 (mentioned as having been burnt by quick lime during the alteration to Logic); married, 1791, James Clerk of Bonnington.
- 2 A son, born 1766, *o.s.p.*
3. ROBERT WILLIAM, born 1767.
4. Another child, born 1771, died young.
5. ADAM, born 1775, died 1840.
6. JAMES ALEXANDER, born 1777, died 1800.

Admiral Robert Duff to the Earl of Fife at Whitehill

‘LOGIE, 3^d March 1777.

‘MY DEAR LORD,—Your sister Lady Helen having for some time past daily expected to be brought to bed, made me defer writing your Lordship till I could acquaint you of that event, which happened this forenoon, when she was safely delivered of a son who is to be christened to-morrow by the names of James and Alexander after your Lordship and your Brother Echt : It is with pleasure that I acquaint you that Lady Helen and the child are both in a very good way.

‘Lady Helen joins me in affectionat regards and best wishes to your Lordship. I am with the greatest esteem.—My dear Lord, Your Lordship’s most obedient and most humble servant,
ROBERT DUFF.’ (D.)

On the admiral’s going out to Gibraltar in January 1778 his wife and three children accompanied him, and the following letter from Lady Helen is addressed, as was so much of the family correspondence, to her youngest brother, Arthur, in London :

‘GIBRALTAR, Jan. 29, 1778.

‘MY DEAR BROTHER,—The Admiral wrote you a few days after our arrival here and told you of our having had a good passage ; it was a short one for this season and with a convoy which made it two days longer than it would have been, for we had a favourable wind and plenty of it. It was but one day against us, but as I was sick enough to lay quietly in bed for the first week, I thought the voyage sufficiently long. Bob followed my example, Jeanie for three days, and Mr. Adam lost his breakfast once, and in an hour after made up his loss ; he was an excellent sailor.¹ We are all now become stout, and I don’t think any of us will be sea-sick again, as we have had some trials and bore them very well. We have had a good deal of blowing weather since we came into the Bar which has prevented us being much in town. I’ve only been twice there. It is the most uncommon place I ever saw and has a very striking appearance to a stranger, from the tremendous rock that hangs over it. In the Streets you would think you was at a Masquerade for you see people of all nations in different dresses and speaking different languages. The weather, though sometimes blowing has been like our Summer ever since we came here and at present extremely pleasant. I shall now begin to go about a little, before it becomes too hot for walking.

‘Remember us in the kindest manner possible to our friends at Rothicmay when you write to them. I will write to them when I have seen a little more of this place. The Admiral sends you his best wishes. Adieu.—Your ever affectionate sister,
HELEN DUFF.’ (O.)²

Another family letter, quoting from Helen, remarks on the dearness of provisions in Gibraltar, mutton being then at 2s. a lb. ; and in a letter to

¹ Adam was three years old at this time.

² Lady Helen’s spelling has considerably improved since her Edinburgh days.

her mother, she notes that 'the rock of Gibraltar is larger than anything to be seen at Rothicmay.'

It is curious to find no allusion to her youngest child James, who was under a year old, and was probably left at home. There are several letters of the same period, giving further details of their life at Gibraltar. The children had whooping cough there, and Lady Helen quaintly remarks that she is glad they had got over 'the smalpox' before going, 'as it would have been a bad kind if caught there.' Poor Helen died in September of the same year (1778), at Gibraltar, where she is buried.¹

Three years later, after his retirement, the admiral married again at Glassaugh, October 30, 1781, Jean, daughter of General Abercromby and Mary Duff of Dipple, thus first cousin to his first wife and first cousin once removed to himself.

Jean had been previously married, in 1767, to Captain George Morison (second son of Morison of Bognie and himself owner of Haddo), and was a widow, with one little girl, Mary. This child, in later life, married her stepbrother, Robert William, son of Admiral Robert and Lady Helen, and brought into the family the properties of Glassaugh and Haddo, which she left to her younger sons.

Admiral Robert and his second wife Jean had no children, but she seems to have been a kind stepmother to Helen's four, as there are allusions in other letters of the admiral's to the progress of Bob and Jeanie at their lessons, and the pleasure he and his wife derive from the society of the two little boys 'who give us many happy hours.'

There is a curious letter from the admiral, written three years after his second marriage, to his brother-in-law Arthur, about some diamonds left to his first wife, of which he imagines himself not to have got the full

¹ The *Aberdeen Journal* of the period has the following notice :

November 9. Letters from Gibraltar bring accounts of the death of the Right Honourable Lady Helen Duff, sister to the Earl of Fife, and lady to Admiral Duff. Her Ladyship died at Gibraltar the 20th of November last, to the great grief of her family and acquaintance.

" Her form, once fairest of the beauteous kind,
But lovelier far the beauties of her mind,
That with sweet influence did still impart
Joy to each eye and pleasure to each heart.
In all its views her character so bright
We ne'er can place it in a flattering light,
Nor can we tell which we should most commend
The wife, the sister, daughter, or the friend.
Yet, cease your fruitless grief for sure 'tis vain
To weep for her, who ne'er shall weep again ;
If here she merited such wondrous love,
How glorious shines her worthy soul above."

number. He says, 'In the copy of Lady Rosecommon's Will, the number of Diamonds is particularly mentioned. Every person who had the honour to be acquainted with your father knew him to be a gentleman of strict integrity. . . . Lady Fife and I, from our time of life, must expect soon to appear before a Judge to whom our most secret thoughts and actions are known. I therefore leave it to her Ladyship's conscience to do what she thinks just in this affair.' Both Robert and his wife Helen seem to have been of an economical turn of mind. There is some correspondence with her mother about a nurse for the children, named Fanny Crow, at £6 a year.

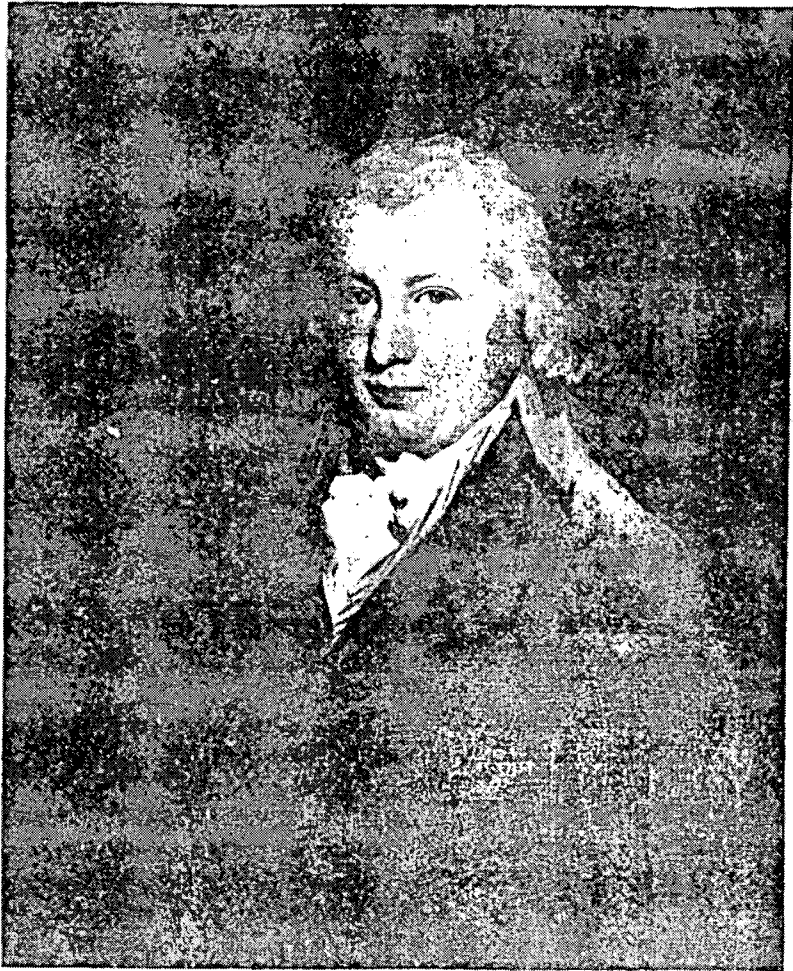
Jean Duff survived her husband for nine years, dying at Moffat in 1796. Her stepson and her daughter were married two years after the admiral's death, in 1789, Robert William being then twenty-two. He was served heir to his father in that year, and in 1793 to his deceased uncle Patrick Duff in the estate of Culter.¹

His career will be treated of later. We will deal first with his younger brothers.

Adam was only twelve years old at his father's death, and seems to have been left to the guardianship of his mother's brother Arthur, the good genius of all the family. When Adam came of age in 1796 he wrote a series of letters to his guardian uncle which reveal him as a thorough-paced prig. The following extracts will suffice :

He 'has no doubt that all his money matters were properly settled, yet he insists on seeing all papers before granting a discharge.' As he sees that there has been a considerable saving during his minority, he is convinced that matters have been very properly managed, and returns sincere thanks to his uncle, begging at the same time for his advice in the future. For though he may sometimes deviate from it, it will not be without due consideration. He then describes the plans he had made for his own improvement, which included a year's residence in a foreign University to study the French and German languages, as he considers that 'from the great progress the Germans have of late made in literature, their language is a proper branch of education.' In deference to his uncle's opinion, however, he is willing to substitute a year's residence at Oxford, where he understands Christ Church to be the best college, and he promises

¹ Mrs. Udny, 'who retained the name of Duff, out of respect for her father's memory,' had been left the estate of Culter by her husband, Patrick Duff, for her life, and at her death it was to go to Admiral Robert. He predeceased her, and she, dying in 1793, left it to her cousin, James, Earl Fife. No title to the estate having been made up in her favour, her right to dispose of it was challenged, and, after long and expensive litigation, the House of Lords decided in favour of the claim of Robert William Duff, son of Admiral Robert.



ROBERT WILLIAM DUFF OF FETTERESSO.

By Sir Henry Raeburn.

himself to associate only with the studious set, and with them as little as possible. From Oxford, being within a day's journey of London, he would have it in his power 'to relax during a short vacation at easy expense.' Apparently neither of these schemes was carried out, and he studied Law in Edinburgh, and was called to the Scottish Bar in 1799. In another letter he describes his projected journey to England. 'I intend taking the mail from Edinburgh to York, stopping a day there, and then taking the mail to Stamford, from whence Wharton (his uncle) tells me I can get plenty of stage coaches to carry me to Swaffham in Norfolk, where my brother James is at present recruiting.' (James had become an Ensign in the 3rd Regiment Foot Guards in May 1792.)

In the repositories of Adam's uncle, Provost Adam of Aberdeen, opened after the latter's death in 1795, were found several wills appointing Adam and his brother James, or Adam alone, heir to the said uncle, but these were revoked by a subsequent will leaving everything to another of the Provost's nephews, Major William Leslie of Melross, son to his sister Mary.

In 1807 Adam was appointed Sheriff of Forfar; in 1814 he was Commissioner of Northern Lights. There is a note in Sir Walter Scott's *Diary*, July 29, 1814: 'Sailed from Leith on board the Lighthouse yacht, carrying six guns, amongst the company Adam Duff, Sheriff of Forfarshire; Robert Hamilton, Sheriff of Lanarkshire; William Erskine, Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland.' These were Commissioners of Northern Lights.

In 1819 he was appointed Sheriff of Midlothian, and a portrait of him appeared some time afterwards in Crombie's *Modern Athenians*, where he is described as 'a convinced Tory, plain-featured and very amiable, of careless exterior and slovenly gait. In the picture, he is shown sauntering along, wrapped in his coarse blue spencer and his hands idly folded behind his back, grasping an umbrella which can be of little service to him, seeing he has nothing on his person that rainfall would spoil.' He mellowed very greatly in later life, for when he died, after he had served for twenty-one years as sheriff, the obituary notices state that 'he was respected by both Whigs and Radicals, and beloved by all who came in contact with him. Few men have passed through such stormy times, and left behind them a character so unblemished.' He died, unmarried, at his house in Charlotte Square, May 17, 1840.

Of James, his younger brother, little is known beyond the fact that he became an Ensign in the 3rd Foot Guards at the age of fifteen, and Lieutenant and Captain in 1794. He died of consumption at Sidmouth, 1800, aged twenty-three.

Jean, the only sister, married on January 3, 1791, James Clerk, advocate,

of Bonnington, afterwards Baron Clerk Rattray, whose mother was her first cousin. She died in 1831.¹

Robert William of Fetteresso was born in 1767 at Logie. He was apparently sent to school in Glasgow on the family's return from Gibraltar, as an uncle going to Glasgow is asked to 'get a report of him from his master.' At the age of twenty he succeeded to his father, to which date belongs the following letter :

George Robinson to Lord Fife

EDINR., 3rd June 1787.

'MY LORD,—The unexpected death of Admiral Duff has opened a succession to his young heir—which would require more prudence than his years will allow—and more experience of the ways of this world than he has had time to acquire—to manage with propriety. Of infinite consequence therefore is it, before he enters upon this new scene, to direct his pursuits to such things as will tend to improve his mind, enlarge his ideas, and beget in him such habits of propriety as may secure to him during the remaining part of his life peace and happiness within himself, respect and attachment from those with whom nature, Interest, or fate, may lead him to be connected. . . . In the course of last winter, I had very frequent opportunities of being in company with Mr. Duff, and it gave me much satisfaction to find that he was attached to your Ldp. as a man and respected your advice as a friend. It is for this reason I thought it my duty to call him to your recollection in his present critical situation. I am acquainted with nobody better fitted than your Ldp. to open his mind to the scene before him, to expose it in the proper light, and to bend his views and affections to those objects which he ought to pursue, and to lay before him those snares and temptations he ought to avoid. . . .

'So far as I could discover his Character and dispositions, he seems to be an honourable, lively, unsuspecting, unexperienced young fellow, totally devoid of schemes of his own, of course an easier prey to those who may wish to shape his Conduct in such a manner as will best gratify their own ends. . . .

'If he is directed by fate or by reflection to betake himself to your protection and friendship, I think I may safely promise it will be ever afterwards a Circumstance on which he will reflect with pleasure and satisfaction.

'I have the honour to remain,—Your Ldp's faithful and devoted servant.

'GEO. ROBINSON.' (R.)

He married at twenty-two, and settled down at Fetteresso. He commanded the Forfar Artillery and Kincardine Militia, which was embodied for some years during the war with France, and was in after life

¹ It is believed that David, one of her sons, was the midshipman drowned in the burning of the *Ajax*, off Tenedos, 1807. See chapter xvii.



MARY MORISON,
WIFE OF ROBERT WILLIAM DUSTY OF PETTRESSO.

By Sir Henry Harbarn

always known as 'the Colonel,' though he was never in the regular army.¹ His wife, as has already been stated, was the daughter of his stepmother. She was a beautiful woman, and her portrait by Raeburn was sold recently and went to America. It is here reproduced from a photograph.

They had a large family :

1. ROBERT, who succeeded his father, born 1790.
2. GEORGE, born 1791, died 1793; buried in Fetteresso churchyard, where there is the following inscription :

'George Duff died the 8th of July 1793, aged 2 years. Erected by his parents in memory of this promising child.'

3. JANE, born 1792, and died 1807, aged fifteen.
4. JAMES, born 1793, died 1807.
5. ARTHUR, born 1797, died 1855.
6. HELEN, born 1798, died 1810, aged twelve; buried in Greyfriars churchyard, Edinburgh.
7. ADAM, born 1800, died 1870.
8. THOMAS ABERCROMBY, born 1802, died 1862.

As in this case all the younger sons who survived had large families. ROBERT will be treated of first. The colonel died in 1834, his wife in the previous year.

Inscription in Fetteresso churchyard :

'Robert William Duff, Esq., died 22 March 1834, aged 66. Mary Abereromby Duff of Glassaugh, his wife, died 6 November 1833, aged 65. They were endeared to their family and friends by their benevolent dispositions and genuine integrity of heart. This monument is erected in veneration of their memory by their affectionate son, Robert Duff.'

No details are forthcoming of the youth or education of the third Robert of Fetteresso.

He was served heir to his father, mother, and brother George in 1834, being then forty-four years of age. He resided much in Paris, and married a beautiful Frenchwoman of humble birth, Marie Madeline Namont, who lived until 1900. They had only one daughter, MARIE ALBERTINE, who married a first cousin, and will appear later, and Fetteresso passed at Robert's death, in 1861, to the son of his brother ARTHUR.

ARTHUR was served heir to his mother in the estate of Glassaugh in 1833, and with it assumed the name of Abereromby. He was also served heir in 1834 to his brothers James and George, presumably in the younger son's portions left them by their father.

¹ Colonel Robert William Duff was godfather to Lord Byron.

He married, December 2, 1832, Elizabeth Innes of Cowie, and had three children :

1. MARY, born 1834; married, in 1861, Captain Herman Galton, and had a large family.¹ She died 1872.

2. ROBERT WILLIAM, who reassumed the name of Duff on succeeding his uncle in Fetteresso in 1861.

3. MARGARET GURNEY, born 1837; married Colonel Edmund Willoughby Lyons, and died without issue in 1905.

Arthur Duff died, in 1855, abroad, having been obliged to leave the country many years before, owing to financial embarrassments.

His next brother, ADAM, was Sheriff of Wigtownshire. He married, on June 29, 1829, at Christchurch, Marylebone, Eleanor, eldest daughter of the late Captain Thomas Fraser of Woodcote and Cheekendon, Oxfordshire. He resided at Woodcote House until obliged to let it, owing to the assistance he had to give to his brothers, to whom he showed much kindness. He also, at one time, owned the estate of Banniskirk in Caithness. He had five sons and three daughters :

1. THOMAS FRASER, born 1830, was chief engineer in the household of the Viceroy of Egypt. He married, in 1858, his first cousin, Marie Albertine, and they had four children. He died 1877.

ROBERT FRASER, born 1860; married Mary Dempsey, and has two daughters: GLADYS, born 1883, and GERALDINE, 1884, both unmarried.

ALBERT ADAM, born 1862, died 1876.

MARIE MADELEINE, born 1863, died 1865.

ALBERTINE ELEANORE, born 1866, unmarried.

2. The second son, ROBERT WILLIAM, born 1831, died 1913; Major-General, Royal Engineers; married, in 1866, Beatrice, daughter of James and Lady Caroline Maxse. He has one daughter, BEATRICE, married to Frederic Sharp. No issue.

3. The third son, GEORGE GRAHAM DUFF, R.N., was born in 1835, and became a naval cadet in 1848. He was midshipman and acting mate in H.M.S. *Sidon* during the Crimean War, and had the Crimean and Turkish medals with Sebastopol clasp. He served in China in 1857, and took part in the capture of the Taku forts. In 1863 he served in the New Zealand War, from H.M.S. *Esk*, and was severely wounded while leading the seamen to the assault of the narrow defile known as the Gate Pah, April 29, 1864. He was shot through the lungs by a Maori marksman, and was

¹ Arthur, born December 14, 1852, now vicar of Bourne, Lincs.; Margaret, born 1856, died 1891; Ernest, born 1857, died 1868; Ralph Abercromby, born 1859, died 1911; Isabella Ginevra, born 1861; Alice Mary, born 1864; Theodora Louisa, born 1870.

also wounded in the spine by falling back upon the bayonets of his own men as they followed him up the steep incline. He was mentioned in despatches and promoted Commander on the same day. In 1870 he was promoted Post-Captain, but in 1871 he developed paralysis, in consequence of his wound, and died November 1878. He married, in 1867, Mary Kayll, eldest daughter of John Kayll of Bishopwearmouth, and had four children. She died 1912.

IDA, 1868, married Robert Law. One son Robert, born 1906.

GEORGE GRAHAM KAYLL, 1869, Royal Artillery; married, July 15, 1912, Louise Beechcroft, second daughter of W. E. Beechcroft of New Zealand and Wroxham, Norfolk. A daughter YVONNE MADELEINE LORNE, born 1913.

HILDA, 1871, married William Kayll. One daughter, Enid.

IRENE, 1874, unmarried.

4. The fourth son was ADAM, born 1839, died 1872. Like his eldest brother, he held an office in the household of the Viceroy of Egypt.

5. The fifth son, ARTHUR MEREDITH, born 1840, was in the 74th Highlanders; he married Frances Tanner, who died in 1898 at Polperro, Cornwall. Arthur sold out of the 74th in 1867, and died 1880, leaving one son Bruton, born 1877, married Maud Cargill of New Zealand, and is now in Canada.

Of the three daughters, the eldest, MARY ABERCROMBY, born 1833, died at Blackheath in 1848, aged fifteen. The second, JANE CLERK, born 1834, unmarried. The youngest, ELEANOR TRAILL,¹ born 1845, married Glynn Turquand, formerly of the Coldstream Guards, and has one son, William Allen, born 1878, married Mary Allsen, and has two children.

Adam Duff died in 1870, during a visit to Bath.

The sixth son of Colonel Robert William Duff of Fetteresso and Mary Morison, was THOMAS ABERCROMBY DUFF, born 1802. He was an advocate in Edinburgh, and at one time was an unsuccessful candidate for Parliament. He inherited the estate of Haddo from his mother, but he having fallen into pecuniary difficulties, Haddo was sold by his trustees in December 1849 to John Forbes, who also went bankrupt, and the estate remained in the hands of the creditors. The house has long been uninhabited and is now falling into ruins.

Thomas Abercromby Duff was twice married. First, in 1825, to Mary Gordon of Newton, by whom he had two sons: ROBERT WILLIAM, born 1826, and ALEXANDER GORDON, born at Fetteresso, August 28, 1828; and one daughter, JANE, born and died 1830.

¹ Eleanor Traill Duff and Henry Duff Traill (the historian) were so christened on account of the mutual friendship of their fathers, who were neighbours at Blackheath.

DUFFS OF FETTERESSO

And, secondly, in 1833, to Laura Eliza Fraser, younger sister of the wife of his brother Adam. By her he had four sons and one daughter :

1. THOMAS ABERCROMBY, born 1833; Lieutenant 63rd Regiment; served through part of the Crimean War. Died of rapid consumption, March 13, 1857, unmarried.

2. ADAM, born 1835; married Maria Stieler, and died without issue, 1865.

3. GEORGE GORDON, born 1840; married Margaret Leydecker, and died without issue at Darmstadt, 1903.

4. JOHN CHARLES, born 1846; married, 1867, in New York, Regina Laudeneimer, and had two sons: THOMAS ABERCROMBY FRASER, born 1868, died unmarried 1889; and JOSEPH, born 1870, now in business in Darmstadt.

The one daughter of the second marriage was JEMIMA CLERK, born 1839, died 1840.

After his bankruptcy, Thomas Abereromby Duff, like his brother Arthur, lived entirely abroad, and the sons of his second marriage were brought up almost as Germans. The youngest son, John, was last heard of in America.

The two sons of the first marriage were both in the Army. ROBERT WILLIAM became an Ensign in the 92nd Highlanders in 1845, Paymaster of the Regiment in 1849, and Depot Paymaster in 1855. He lived for many years in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and after his retirement as Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel in 1882 went to Edinburgh, where he died 1892.

He married, August 21, 1855, Marianne Georgina, youngest daughter of the late Colonel Forbes Macbean, R.A., of the Old Hall, Kirkleathen, Yorkshire, and had three sons and three daughters :

1. ALEXANDER GORDON, born 1857; obtained a commission in the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) 1875; served in Egypt 1882-1884; Soudan War, 1884-1885; and in South Africa, 1899-1901, where he was with the Highland Brigade at Magersfontein, and was wounded. He retired on half-pay as Brevet-Colonel, May 24, 1906, and has since held a Territorial command at Stirling. He now lives at Camberley.

Married his first cousin, Katherine Macbean, no issue.

2. ROBERT FRASER, born 1858; was at one time in Lloyds' Bank; now in America.

3. GEORGE WILLIAM, born 1867, died 1902.

Of the daughters, MARY, born 1860, died 1875, and BLANCHE, born 1865, died 1910. MARGARET HELEN, was born 1863, and is unmarried.

The second son of Thomas Abereromby Duff and Mary Gordon of Newton, ALEXANDER GORDON DUFF, was educated at a private school at Blackheath, where were also his brother and two cousins, and then at the Royal

Military Academy, Woolwich, to which he went in 1845. He got a commission in the Madras Infantry in January 1848, and went out to India with a draft, the voyage round the Cape lasting six months. He served principally in Burmah, and while the mutiny was raging in India he was in sole charge of a small station, and had to disarm his men. He was in England in 1866, when he married Eliza, daughter of Mark Phillips of Waddon, Wilts. On returning to Burmah he was employed in the political department, and became Commissioner and District Sessions Judge of Tenasserim. He retired in 1886, and became Lieutenant-General, January 1, 1893. After his retirement he resided first at St. Leonards, and latterly at Tunbridge Wells. He died at Rapallo, Italy, August 1904, leaving one daughter, NORA BEATRICE GORDON, married, in 1913, to Albert Martinsen, a Russian subject, and two sons. Mrs. Duff died in 1910.

The elder son, ROBERT HAROLD AMBROSE GORDON, born 1871, was educated at Sherborne School, and was an exhibitor of Wadham and a scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1893. He obtained eleventh place in the open competitive examination for the Home Civil Service in 1894, and in the same year was appointed to an Upper Division Clerkship in the Local Government Board; was Private Secretary to two Parliamentary Secretaries and two Presidents of the Board, and Secretary to the Poor Law Commission 1906-1909. In 1909 he was appointed General Inspector under the Local Government Board for Shropshire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire.

In 1905 he married Marjory, elder daughter of Henry Howard of Stone House, Kidderminster, and has one son, ROBIN AIRLIE GORDON, born 1909.

The second son of General Duff, ARTHUR ALLAN MORISON, born 1874, joined the *Britannia* as a cadet January 1887, entered the Navy on January 1, 1889, became a Lieutenant October 16, 1894, and was Flag Lieutenant to Admiral Cyprian Bridge in Australia 1895-1898; Commander December 31, 1903; Captain December 31, 1909. In February 1909 he married Margaret Grace, elder daughter of the late Commander Wyatt Rawson, R.N.,¹ and has a daughter, JOAN ELSIE, born 1911, and a son, DANIEL ALEXANDER WYATT RAWSON, born August 2, 1912. Captain Duff commanded H.M.S. *Lion*, flagship of the first cruiser squadron, February 1911-February 1913. He now commands H.M.S. *Birmingham*.

¹ 'Commander Wyatt Rawson, R.N., born August 17, 1853, was the distinguished naval officer who directed the advance of the British Army by the stars in the celebrated night march across the desert preliminary to the battle of Tel-el-Kebir, 1882, in which he was mortally wounded' (Burke's *Family Records*).

To return to the main line of Fetteresso.

As already stated, owing to the failure of male issue of Robert, eldest son of the Colonel, the estate of Fetteresso passed at his death, in 1861, to his nephew, ROBERT WILLIAM, only son of his second brother Arthur, who had assumed the name of Abercromby on taking possession in 1833-1834 of his mother's estate of Glassaugh. ROBERT WILLIAM, who had hitherto been known as Abercromby, reassumed the name of Duff. Born in 1835, educated at a private school at Blackheath, he entered the Navy 1848, and became a Lieutenant in 1856, retiring as a Commander in 1870. Served principally on the South American station in suppression of the slave trade.

He married, in 1871, Louisa, daughter of Sir W. Scott, Bart., of Anerum, and had seven children :

1. HELEN ABERCROMBY, 1872 ; unmarried.
2. ROBERT WILLIAM, 1873. Present owner of Fetteresso and Glassaugh (having sold Culter in 1909).
3. ARTHUR ABERCROMBY, 1874 ; Major of 3rd Battalion (Militia) Gordon Highlanders ; Vice-Consul in Abyssinia 1900. War service in Somaliland 1903-1904 ; mentioned in despatches, medal and clasp.
4. HEATHER MARY ABERCROMBY, 1875 ; unmarried.
5. ISABEL ABERCROMBY, 1877 ; married, in 1904, Ronald Malcolm. Three sons : Colin, 1905 ; Kenneth, 1908 ; Alexander, 1910.
6. DOROTHY ABERCROMBY, 1879 ; unmarried.
7. PATRICK ABERCROMBY, 1881 ; first commission in the Royal Highlanders (42nd), January 5, 1901 ; Lieutenant, 1903 ; retired on half-pay, August 6, 1910 ; served in South Africa, Queen's medal and five clasps ; Mohmand expedition, 1908, medal and clasp.

After his leaving the Navy, and his marriage, Robert William Duff of Fetteresso chiefly resided there. He took a very active part in the Scottish Fishery questions and the closing of the Moray Firth to trawlers. From 1861 to 1893 he represented Banffshire in Parliament, being re-elected three times. Until 1885 he was never opposed, and he succeeded in retaining the seat even in 1886 during the Home Rule split of the Liberal Party, having a majority of 1899 in a poll of 3937. He served as Junior Lord of the Treasury and Liberal Whip from 1882 to 1885, and as Civil Lord of the Admiralty in 1886, Privy Councillor in 1892.

In 1893, he was appointed by Mr. Gladstone's Government Governor of New South Wales, and at the same time made a G.C.M.G. He died during his tenure of this office in 1895.

ROBERT WILLIAM, his son, born 1873, was educated at Eton and Brasenose College, Oxford, was a Lieutenant in the Forfar and Kincardine Artillery, and is a D.L. for Kincardineshire. He was A.D.C. to the Governor-General of Australia in 1900.

FETTERESSO TABLE

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DUFFS OF FETTERESSO.

ROBERT DUFF, one of the younger sons of Patrick of Craigston, born *circa* 1721, died 1787, m. first, 1764, Lady Helen Duff, daughter of first Lord Fife; m. secondly, 1781, Jean, daughter of General Abercromby of Glassaugh, and widow of Captain George Morison of Haddo.

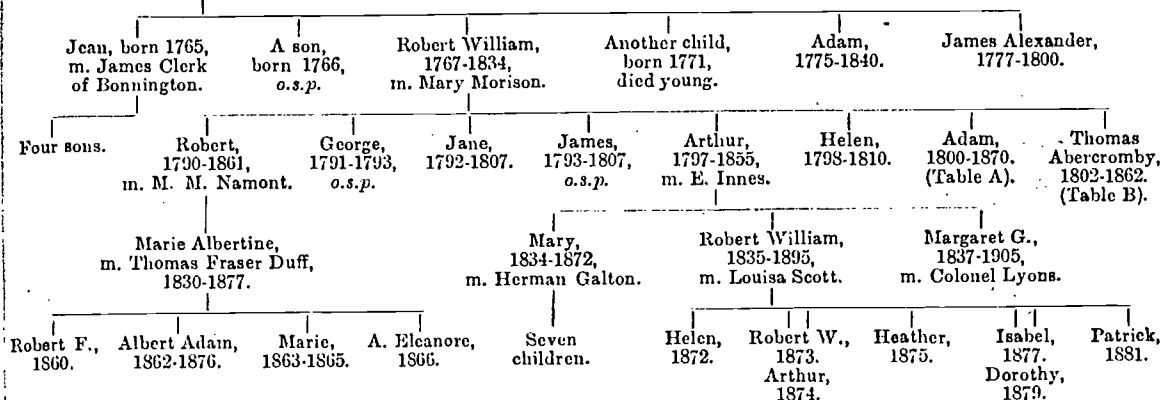


TABLE A.

Adam Duff, m. Eleanor Fraser.

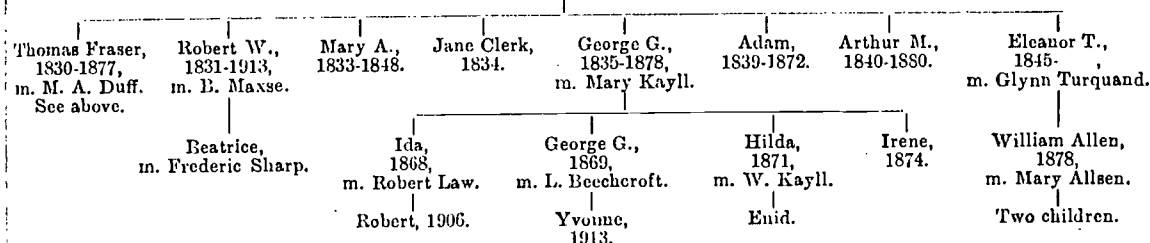


TABLE B.

Thomas Abercromby Duff, m. first, Mary Gordon, three children; m. secondly, Laura E. Fraser, five children (Table C).

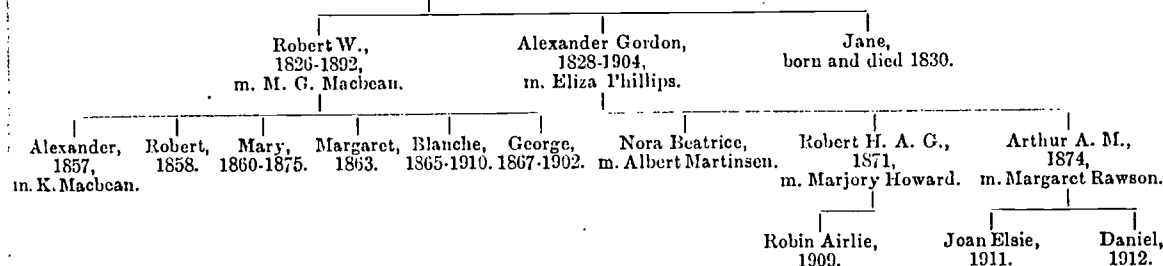
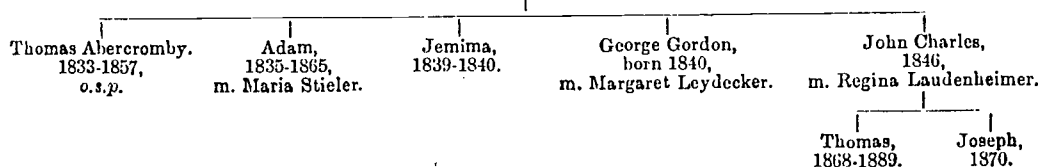


TABLE C.

Children of Thomas A. Duff's second marriage.





CORSINDAE

CHAPTER XXI

DUFFS OF CORSINDAE

THIS family had its origin in John Duff of Bowmakellach, born 1624, second son of Adam of Clunybeg, whose history is thus given by Baird : ' He was a very brave young man, and joined Montrose soon after he set up his standard ; ¹ he got a commission and was the Marquis' close companion in all his marches and warlike expeditions. The house of Castle Forbes was committed by Montrose to his custody, and he kept a small garrison in it and defended it against all the power of the Forbeses, who were then mostly Covenanters, all the time the Marquis was in arms, and half a year after he was gone abroad, and never surrendered it until he obtained an honourable capitulation for himself and his men. He then retired to his farm, upon which he lived and died, and applied close to agriculture. But when he heard in March 1650 that his old General was landed in Caithness, he went directly to him. Everybody has heard of that heroic nobleman's defeat by Colonel Strachan, and his being soon after treacherously betrayed in his concealment, by a gentleman of that country (Macleod of Assynt). Bowmakellach was taken, lurking in that neigh-

¹ Probably at Elgin in 1645, when Lord Gordon and many Huntly vassals joined the party.

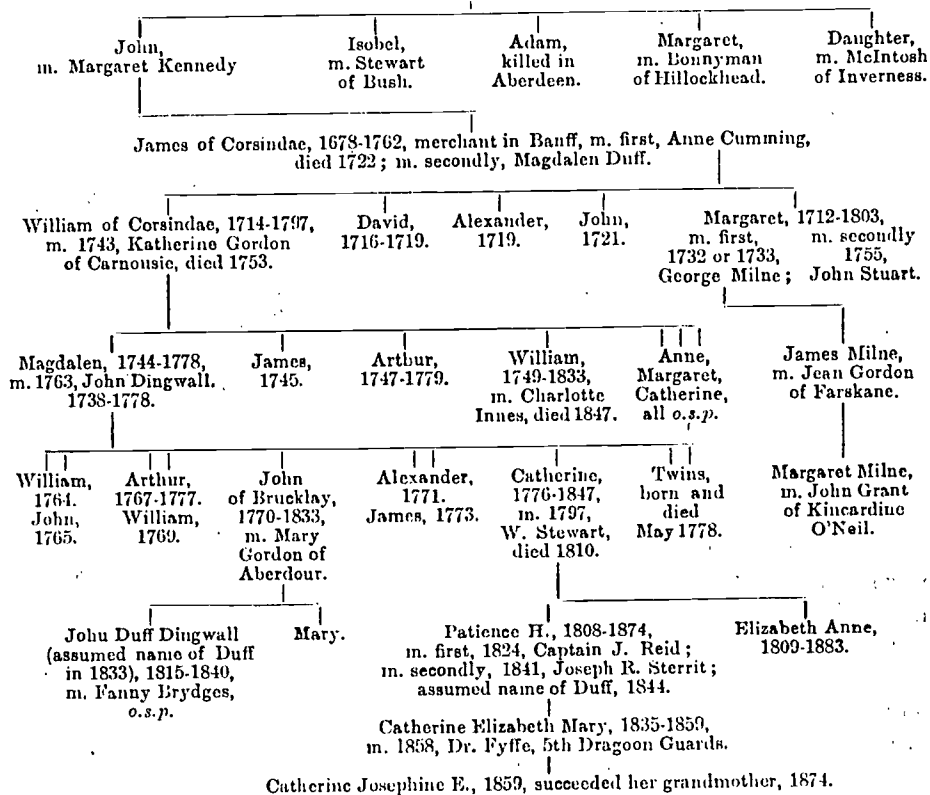


JOHN DUFF OF BOWNAKELL.

By George Meiklejohn.

DUFFS OF CORSINDAE.

JOHN DUFF of BOWMAKELLACH, born 1624, second son of Adam of Clunybeg,
 Captain under Montrose, m. Isobel Pringle, died before 1685.



bourhood, being discovered in the same perfidious manner.¹ The prisoners were all carried south to be hanged, by different roads, for the sake of provision and forage for the horses. John Duff was brought luckily through the Cabrach (while his leader was taken to Keith),² where he had a grass room or summer shealing, at that time 'in tack,'³ and was perfectly known and well acquainted at the public-house where they lodged. Here he got some opportunity of giving a hint to the landlord to ply the common soldiers (of whom there were only half a dozen for his guard) well with usque,⁴ while he himself took care of the officer who staid in the same room with him. And after he had got a sufficient dose and was fallen asleep, Mr. Duff left him, and knowing the avenues of the house, went straight to the stable to take out his horse. But here he found an unforeseen obstruction. One of the soldiers was sleeping before the door to keep it close, as it had no lock. In this dilemma Bowmakellach, having no time to lose, cut the unhappy fellow's throat with his penknife, then dragged his dead carcase aside and took out a horse, but being in the dark, instead of his own, it happened to be one of the soldiers' horses. He immediately mounted, but had not gone a great way when he heard the sound of horses' feet in pursuit of him. This made him leave the high road and turn off towards the nearest wood, in hopes of making his escape there; but before he had got to it, daylight appeared and discovered to him that the horses all wanted riders, and were only galloping after his for company. Upon this he bent his course straight down to Buchan by the most private and least frequented by-roads, with all the soldiers' horses following him at the heel. He was very safe in that country where the loyal party had many well-wishers, and sold all his horses. He never left the kingdom, as his brother Keithmore had done four years before, but lived privately at home till the executions at Edinburgh were all over. His residence was in a loyal, well-principled country where he was much liked; nobody informed against him, and in two or three years after, General Monk got the command of Scotland from Cromwell, and the Loyalists met with no further disturbance, besides Bowmakellach had then no landed estate, nor any considerable stock in

¹ 'John Duff of Baulmakellach and Corsindae, a bold daring man, taken prisoner by the Covenanters. Would certainly have perished on the scaffold, if he had not contrived to make his escape from an escort of soldiers, who were conveying him to Edinburgh for trial.'

² It will be remembered that on January 30, 1645, General Baillie offered battle to Montrose at Keith, but the victor of Auldearn declined it and passed on. In 1650 he revisited Keith as a prisoner. In 1745 Major Glasgow, acting for Prince Charles, defeated a body of government troops here, and carried off eighty prisoners.

³ *i.e.* Let.

⁴ Whisky.

money or other effects to tempt the avarice of the Covenanters, and so was less minded.'

He married a merchant's daughter at Elgin by the name of Isobel Pringle, by whom he had one elder daughter ISOBEL, married to Stewart of Bush; and two sons and two other daughters. JOHN, who married Margaret Kennedy; ADAM, mortally wounded in a skirmish in Aberdeen; MARGARET, married to Bonnyman of Hillockhead, and another daughter married to McIntosh, a merchant at Inverness, by whom she had Lachlan McIntosh, an officer of that clan under Prince Charles in 1745, who went to France after the battle of Culloden. He was married, in 1738, to Catherine Donaldson, daughter to Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdy and Elizabeth Duff of Dipple,¹ his own second cousin once removed.

'Bowmakellach applied himself particularly to cleanse his neighbourhood from housebreakers and thieves, and all sorts of ragamuffans whom he seized and delivered to Justice, wherever he could find them, which got him the appellation of Rinse the Glen, but in this patriotic employment he frequently ventured his life.' Bowmakellach's eldest son, JOHN, had one son, 'the late JAMES of Corsindae, born 1678, who acquired a genteel fortune with as much and as honest industry as any man ever did; he was of so active and stirring a spirit that he used to say it was hard that a man who lived but sixty years should sleep twenty of them. Yet he was a most hospitable, kind housekeeper, and it will be acknowledged by all who knew him, that no man had a more friendly or warmer heart to everybody with whom he was connected, or whom he thought deserving of his friendship. He was born in 1678, and came to Banff in 1700, where he lived alwise afterwards, except a few years at Crombie and at Corsindae.² He was a merchant and traded to a pretty considerable extent, and had for several years a tack of Lord Fife's salmon fishing upon Deveron. He also acted as factor for Lord Fife. When he merchandised, he would sometimes go to Edinburgh, Glasgow, or other seaports in the south or west, where his business called him, and in going and returning from these expeditions made such despatch as was really incredible' (Baird).

He was twice married, first, to a gentlewoman of the name of Anne Cumming, by whom he had one daughter and four sons: MARGARET, 1712; WILLIAM, 1714; DAVID, 1716; ALEXANDER, 1719; and JOHN, 1721;³ and next to Magdalen, daughter to his great-uncle, Provost Duff of Inverness, but had no issue by her; she died in 1756 'in an advanced age.' His

¹ See chapter viii.

² Which was bought in 1727 from the Forbes by William Duff of Braco. See letter at end of chapter.

³ Banff Registers.

daughter Margaret, who also lived to be ninety, was twice married: first, to Mr. George Milne, by whom she had one son, James Milne, a merchant in Norway, who married his cousin, a daughter of Gordon of Farskane, and had issue, Margaret Milne, who in right of her grandmother Helen, succeeded to the estate of Eden; and, secondly, to John Stewart of Banff. 'Both her husbands were Supervisors of Excise.'

JAMES DUFF of Corsindae died August 21, 1762, aged eighty-four.¹ 'His death made a great blank at Banff, where he was a sort of bank to all in distress; for he was still ready to advance money to industrious honest tradesmen and housekeepers when they were in any difficulty, and would frequently trust men whom very few others would; so that when he died he had about £300 sterling lent out in this manner to very poor people, all from mere humanity and constitutional benevolence. Wherever he lived, his advice was alwise of great use to his acquaintance in the management of their private affairs. He was a few years factor of the estate of Echt, which is near to Corsindae, for Lord Fife, and lies in a part of the county where good husbandry seems to be still in its infancy, and the farmers upon it, who were then very poor, acknowledge to this day that he would put them frequently upon methods of making money which were in their own power, but which they would never have thought of' (Baird). He was also long remembered in Banff as having been the first to introduce wheeled carts into that town.

His eldest son, WILLIAM DUFF of Corsindae, born February 21, 1714, married, in 1743, Catherine, the eldest daughter of Arthur Gordon of Carnousie. There are two portraits of this lady at Corsindae, one as a young girl, the other in later life. She died in 1753. There is also a portrait of this William Duff of Corsindae, another of his son, the second William, and a delightful portrait of old James of Corsindae, of which there was a duplicate in the collection at Duff House, and another in the possession of the Grant Duff family.

Baird adds that 'she died in 1753, and though William Duff was then but a young man, he has lived unmarried ever since for the sake of his children, to all whom he has given the best education. He resided several years at Edinburgh on their account, and taught his daughters the French language himself. The eldest is married to Mr. John Dingwall, junior, merchant in Aberdeen, and they have a promising young family.'

William Duff is known to have had strong Jacobite sympathies, and tradition says that he started out with the Prince's forces, as did also

¹ 'At his house in Banff in an advanced age, and with a fair (i.e. unblemished) character' (*Aberdeen Journal*).



JAMES DUPF OF CORSINDAE.

By Cassin Whistler.

his father-in-law, Gordon of Carnousie.¹ But the proverbial caution of the Duffs brought William home again before he had entirely committed himself, and he returned to Corsindae uncompromised; so was therefore able, also according to tradition, to conceal there a friend who was a fugitive after Culloden. In Lord Rosebery's *List of Persons concerned in the Rebellion* (1745), the following passage occurs: 'Aberdeen district.—Francis Gordon of Kincardin Miln, Writer, Aberdeen, acted as General Quarter-Master to the Rebels, lurked afterwards in the Highlands.'² Did not long survive the campaign, as his Will, subscribed at London, Oct. 1746, was soon after confirmed at Aberdeen. He bequeathed his whole personal estate to William Duff of Corsindae and Alexander Chambers of Belnacraig for the use and benefit of his only son, Hugh Gordon, then an infant. Personalty was chiefly debts due to him by various parties, chiefly Jacobite.' The room in which Francis Gordon was concealed, and the opening by which food was conveyed him, are still shown at Corsindae.

The second son David died as an infant, and is buried with his mother in Banff old churchyard.

'Hic jacet Anna Cumming, uxor Jacobi Duff in hac urbe mercatoris una cum filio Davide obiit hic 10 Nov. 1719. Illa autem 17 Mar. 1722.'

Either this William Duff or his son, the second William, added to the family mansion of Corsindae (portions of which date from the time of Bruce), and strengthened the existing portion by the addition of three imposing pillar-like buttresses, to ensure, as he said, that his house should not blow away.

William died in 1797. He had three sons and four daughters:

MAGDALEN, called after his stepmother, born 1744; married John Dingwall, and will be referred to later.

JAMES, born 1745, died young.

ARTHUR, 1747-1779, a doctor.³ Many interesting medical works belonging to him are at Corsindae. He appears on the roll of voters for Morayshire in 1772, so must have held, at least nominally, some small property there.⁴

WILLIAM, 1749-1833, who succeeded to Corsindae.

ANNE, 1750-1825; MARGARET, 1751; and CATHERINE, 1753, died young.

¹ Afterwards among those excepted from the Act of Indemnity, 1747. See page 368.

² Also excepted from the Indemnity 1747, with eighty other Scottish lairds, seven of whom were Gordons.

³ There is a letter from his father to Lord Fife asking for help and advice for this young man who is going to Paris for his studies.

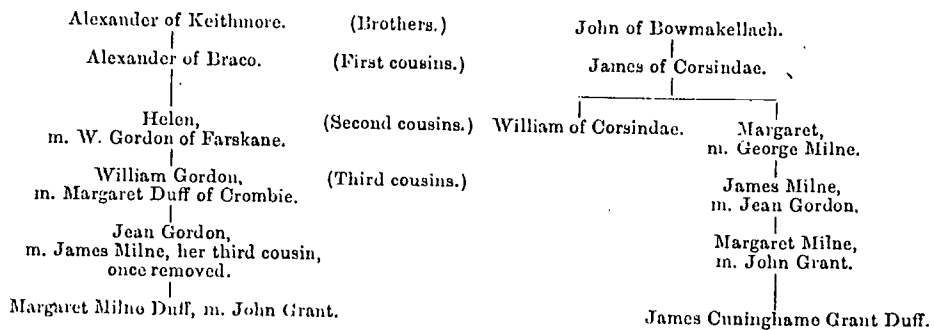
⁴ He had also sasine on the lands of Parkmore in Botriphnie, Banffshire, on September 15, 1772, probably for the same purpose.

DUFFS OF CORSINDAE

Anne and Margaret lived long at Corsindae in the early part of the nineteenth century, and were known as the 'cushie doos.'¹ They are buried in the churchyard of Midmar. A sampler worked by Anne is still preserved at Corsindae.

William of Corsindae married, in 1800, Charlotte Innes of Clerkseat, but had no issue. He died in 1833, and the estate passed to his grand-nephew, grandson of his sister Magdalen. His widow, however, seems to have continued to reside at Corsindae during the greater part of the fourteen years she survived him, though she died in Russell Square, London, February 1847.

There is a precept of clare-constat by Alexander, Duke of Gordon, dated February 22, 1798, in favour of William Duff of Corsindae as heir to his father, the deceased William Duff of Corsindae; and a record of an early sasine by James of Corsindae and William his son in favour of Magdalen, daughter of William, and failing her of Margaret Duff, daughter of James Duff, and sister to William, and of James Mill (*sic*) son to the said Margaret Duff. It was this James Milne who married the Jean Gordon of Farskane, and whose daughter subsequently became heiress of Eden, and mother to James Cuninghame Grant Duff. It is thus that the Grant Duff family appeared in the entail of Corsindae, broken in 1883. The following table shows the connection :



MAGDALEN, the eldest child of the first William Duff, married Mr. John Dingwall, junior, of Aberdeen, a prominent merchant of that city, who introduced woven stockings in the north. 'He was Dean of Guild of Aberdeen, and a man of great probity and worth.' They had ten children :

William, born 1764, and John, born 1765, both died as infants; Arthur, born 1767, and died 1777 of some childish complaint; a second William, born 1769, *o.s.p.*; John Dingwall, who in 1812 succeeded to Brucklay;

¹ Turtle doves.

Alexander, 1771, died in the West Indies; James, 1773, *o.s.p.*; Catherine, 1776, married to W. Stewart; and twins, born 1778, who died May 6, a few days after their birth, as did their mother, and all three were buried in the same coffin; their father surviving only five weeks, and dying on June 10.

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John, the fifth son, married Mary Gordon of Aberdour, whose mother was a daughter of William Rose of Ballivat.¹ He was bred to the business of his great-uncle, another John Dingwall, as a jeweller in St. James Street, London, and succeeded that uncle in the estates of Brucklay, Aberdeenshire. He died in 1833, leaving one son, christened John Duff, and a daughter Mary, who died as a child.

The son John succeeded in the same year to the estates of Brucklay from his father, and of Corsindae from his grand-uncle; he was then eighteen, having been born in 1815. Little is known of him, save his tragic end.

On November 11, 1840, the following appeared in the *Aberdeen Journal* :

'Suicide of Mr. John Duff Dingwall.—The deceased had arrived at the Bush Inn, Carlisle, by the Edinburgh Mail, accompanied by his manservant, on the evening of Sunday, 25 Oct. He seemed nervous and depressed and retired to bed late. At eight o'clock next morning the servant went to call his master, could get no answer to his knocking, and with the assistance of the landlord, forced open the door and found Mr. Duff Dingwall lying upon the bed with his throat cut, and one of the razors from his dressing case grasped in his right hand. A verdict of suicide while labouring under temporary insanity was returned.'

But this case would seem to have been the prototype of Zangwill's *Big Bow Mystery*, for the manservant, long afterwards, confessed that he had murdered his master for a sum of £500 which he carried with him, and which was, of course, unknown to the coroner's jury, who reported his money and valuables as found intact in his dressing-case. The confession was made by the culprit on his deathbed, in America, whither he had fled,

¹ This Mary Gordon was the eldest of sixteen children. It is apparently to her father that Mrs. Grant of Laggan refers in *Letters from the Mountains*, October 1802. 'Gordon of A— has nothing extraordinary about him, but that at twenty-five he is married and has already four daughters,' but she understated the case, as there would seem to have been at that period five daughters and two sons. He was, however, thirty years of age and his wife twenty-three.

William Gordon married Mary Rose of Montcoffer, January 2, 1794, and had: Mary (above), born February 6, 1795; Alicia, born March 19, 1796; Alexander, born April 22, 1797; Penelope, born January 3, 1799 (m. Patrick Duff of Carnousie, *q.v.*); William, born January 18, 1800; Huntly, born May 13, 1801 (m. Captain Marshall); Magdalen, born January 4, 1802.

and the lawyer called to take his dying deposition was, curiously enough, a Scottish gentleman of the name of Lumsden, brother to the late Mrs. Gordon of Midmar, and near neighbour to Corsindae. An engraving from a charming portrait of John Duff Dingwall as a child, is still at Corsindae. He was buried in the churchyard of Christchurch, Botchergate, Carlisle, and a stone was later erected to his memory, bearing the following inscription: 'To the memory of John Duff Dingwall, Esq., of Brucklay Castle, Aberdeenshire, who died at Carlisle, October 26, 1840, aged twenty-five years.' He had married a year or two previously, Fanny, daughter of Sir Hervey Brydges of Beddington, but she had predeceased him, and there were no children.

Brucklay, being entailed in the male line, went to his third cousin, Arthur Dingwall Fordyce, grandson of Arthur Dingwall Fordyce of Culsh, Commissary of Aberdeen.

Corsindae went to the 'heir of line,' his aunt CATHERINE, the only daughter of John Dingwall and Magdalen Duff. She had married, in 1797, William Stewart, Master Commander in the Navy, but she could not take possession until the death of William Duff's widow in 1847, and, as her own death occurred in the same year, she never came to Corsindae. She died and was buried at Sheerness, but on her daughter succeeding to Corsindae, the body was disinterred and brought to the family burying-place at Midmar.

Catherine and William Stewart had two daughters. PATIENCE HUD-DART, born 1808, called after the wife of her great-uncle John Dingwall, and ELIZABETH ANNE, born 1809, who died in London, unmarried, in 1833.

PATIENCE married, in 1824, Captain James Reid, Royal Navy, and after his death, in 1841, she married again Joseph R. Sterrit, and in 1844 they assumed the name of Duff.

They had an only daughter, CATHERINE ELIZABETH MARY, born 1835; married, 1858, William Johnstone Fyffe, Surgeon-Major 5th Dragoon Guards. She died in the following year, leaving an infant daughter, CATHERINE JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH, who, in 1874, succeeded her grandmother in the estate of Corsindae, and is unmarried.

It is not known when the estate came into the possession of this branch of the family, but it was at one time owned by the Forbeses, who sold it to William Duff, afterwards Lord Braco, 1727.¹

'I, William Forbes of Corsenday Doe herby give full power Warrant and Commission to my Uncle Mr. Arthur Forbes, my factor, to sell and Dispose to

¹ In the *Sheriff Court Books of Aberdeen* there is recorded one Alexander Duff of Corsindae in 1578, but we cannot trace his connection with the family.

Mr. Duff of Braco all my land and Esteat of Corsenday and Bandodle and others belonging to me with the pertinents lying in ye parish of Midmar and Kinarne and Sheivfdon of Aberdeen, but not under ye price of twenty-two years purchas payable in Edinburgh at ye terme of Martinmass next to come and ye sd. Mr. Duff of Braco's entrie to comence at from Whitsunday last past, he paying ye said William Forbes interest at five pr. cent for ye purchas mony from ye time of his entrie to ye time of payment, and whatever ye said Arthur Forbes my factor shall doo in ye scall of my Esteat I oblidg my selfe to abid by and Homologat and doe by this presens Impower him to enter into articles with ye said Mr. Duff of Braco for completting this agreement which I oblidg my selfe to fullfill in ye terms above specyfyed, and Will accordingly Dispone ye said Estaet in ample forme in witness whereof this presens ar wrot on stamped paper with my own hand and subscribe by me at my house of Badsley in ye Countie of Southampton the first Day of July one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seaven before these witnesses Jacob Adams and Arthur Fry boath of them my menecall servants.

WM. FFORBES.

'Jacob Adams, witness.

'Arthur Fry, witness.

(R.)

'July 21, 1727.'

'John Duff (the progenitor of the family) was always stiled of Bowmakellach from a farm in Botriphnie, now a part of the Drumnmuir estate, but then belonging to the Inneses. It was Mr. Duff's residence all his life' (Baird).

NOTE

John of Bowmakellach was, according to Baird, twice married, viz. first to Isobel Pringle, and, secondly, to Margaret Kennedy, and this, at times, inaccurate historian would make James of Corsindae the son of the first marriage and John and Adam the sons of the second.

The fact that James of Corsindae, born 1678, appeared to be contemporaneous with the *grandsons* of his uncles, Alexander of Keithmore and William of Inverness, had long puzzled the present investigators. The question has been settled by the following discovery.

In 1681 a visitation by the minister of Botriphnie, recorded by the kirk-session, gives the family at Bowmakellach thus :

John Duff; Isobel Pringle; John Duff, Adam Duff, sons; Isobel Stewart, daughter; Janet Adams; Donald Bain.

The two last mentioned were presumably house servants.

John Duff, senior, was at this period fifty-seven years old; it is to be noted that his (so-called) first wife is still alive. It seems unlikely that after this he should have married another. Moreover, James of Corsindae, said by Baird to be the eldest son of John Duff of Bowmakellach, died in 1762, aged eighty-four.

At the time of this visitation he was therefore three years old. It was almost unknown in those days for a man's eldest son not to be born till the father was fifty-four. Moreover, John and Adam, said to be younger brothers of James of Corsindae, are shown in the visitation to be grown men, for only such are mentioned. Further, in the year 1685, and afterwards, William Duff of Inverness is always described in legal documents as *second* son of Alexander of Keithmore, which shows that John must have been dead by that time, for in 1672 William describes himself, in the Lyon Register, as third son.

It seems, therefore, quite clear that it was John Duff, *son* of John of Bowmakellach, who married Margaret Kennedy and had the son, James, born in 1678, who was therefore grandson, not son, to Keithmore's brother.

James of Corsindae is more than once described in deeds as Keithmore's grand-nephew, which was otherwise puzzling, but agrees with this.

An extra generation, more than those allowed by Baird, must therefore be inserted in the Corsindae table.

As proof that children were not mentioned in the parish visitation it may be noted that on the same page of the Botriphnic Kirk-Session Records the list is given of the household at Drummuir, and the names of the three daughters, Katherine, Mary and Helen, aged twelve, eleven and ten, do not occur.

NOTE.—The portrait of John of Bowmakellach here reproduced was described in Lord Fife's catalogue as John Duff of Muldavit.

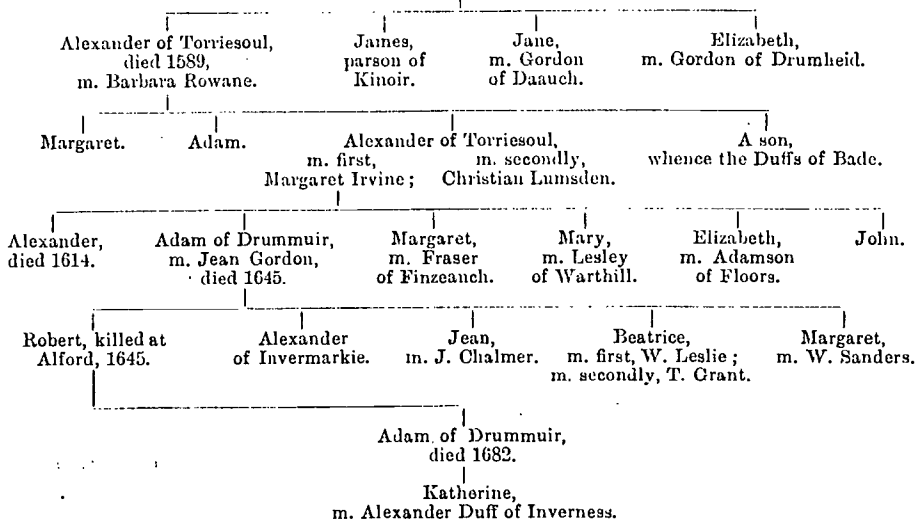
There is a portrait of his wife, Isobel Pringle, also by Jamesone, which was reproduced in the *Connoisseur* of Oct. 1904.

CHAPTER XXII

DUFFS OF TORRIESOUL

HAVING now dealt with the two elder sons of Adam Duff of Clunybeg and their posterity to the present day, we come to the third son, William, Provost of Inverness. But as his family, in the person of his eldest son, Alexander, became identified by marriage with the old family of Drummuir, the rise of this family must first be traced.

ALEXANDER DUFF of TORRIESOUL obtained charter 1545 on lands of Torriesoul.
He married Elizabeth Rutherford, and died 1566.



The earliest Duff of this branch known to us is Alexander of Torriesoul, a burghess of Aberdeen in 1538, and a bailie in 1560.

A precept of sasine to him, with a wadset of Torriesoul,¹ dated 1545, is extant,² also his will. In 1565 he was witness to Lady Huntly's granting a lease. She could not write.

¹ The old name of the place now known as Huntly.

² Precept of sasine by George, Earl of Huntly, for infefting Alexander Duff, burghess of Aberdeen, and Elizabeth Rutherford, his spouse, in the 'sun half of the lands of Tillysoul lying in the barony of Strathbogie, 24th July 1545.'

He married Elizabeth Rutherford, and died 1566; he left four children:

1. ALEXANDER, who succeeded him in Torriesoul, and died 1589.
 2. JAMES, M.A., a parson. 'Translated from Coul; held Botarie (i.e. Cairney) in conjunction with Kinoir and Dunbennan from 1585 to 1589.'¹ James apparently died in 1610, as in that year a new minister was appointed.

3. JANE, 'spouse to Patrick Gordon of Daauch.'²

4. ELIZABETH, 'spouse to George Gordon of Drumheid.'³

Alexander Duff held the lands of Robeston, afterwards belonging to his descendants, Duffs of Bade. In his will, which was not proved until February 13, 1588, twenty oxen on these lands are mentioned, sixteen young stots and eighty bolls of oats sown. 'Upon ye ground and lands of Torrysoill' he had '10 drawin oxen, price of ye pece or heid £8.

'16 ky wt. yr. calffs, price of ye pece wt. ye calf, ten merks.

'12 stottis and quoyis⁴ of two and thre yeir aulds, price 5 merkis threttene scoir scheipe, price of ye pece, 20s. Ane bull, price 10 merks. Aucht wark horses 20 merks ye pece 80 geiss, price of ye pece £10.

'Item, sawin on ye ground and lands of torrysoill 5 scoir bollis aittes (oats), 20 bollis bere (barley), sawin estimat to ye feird,⁵ corne extending to 80 bollis.'

Upon the ground and lands of Tullotcallum more oxen, horses and grain. 'Of reddy money in hous, the sum of 500 merks.

'In utensils and domiciles wt. the abulzements⁶ of his body and silver wark by ye airschipe⁷ estimat to five hundreth pundis money.

'Summa of the inventar £3376, 14s. 4d.'

Another item of interest in the will is a debt due to him by Andrew Duff in Clunybeg of £12. The relationship of the two is not stated.

Other debts to the deceased are: 'By Dame Elizabet Keyt (Keith),⁸ countess of huntlie, 80£. By the tennents and occupiaris of his ludgeing in Aberdeen for yr maills⁹ yr of the witsunday term in anno LXVI yeiris 40 merks.'

In February 1589 a 'Testament dative and Inventar ad omnia' was proved by his eldest son Alexander, who was probably out of the country at the time of the proving of the first part of the will.¹⁰

The second ALEXANDER DUFF of Torriesoul, who married Barbara Rowane, is only known to us from one entry in the *Privy Council Records*:

¹ Dunbennan parish was added to Kinoir about 1567. In 1725 the name of Huntly was adopted.

² Alexander's will.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Queys.

⁵ Fourth.

⁶ Clothing.

⁷ Inheritance.

⁸ Sister to William, fourth Earl Marischal.

⁹ Rent.

¹⁰ He was possibly fugitate on account of horning.

'1588 : Alexander Duff of Torriesoll, one of the corruptit faction, schote and dischargit ane pistollet forth of the said house at James Leslie'; and further down, 'Caution, that certain persons shall be harmless, including Alexander Duff.'

He was also witness to a charter in 1581.¹

He died in the end of the year 1589. His wife, Barbara Rowane, having predeceased him in 1587.

From her will we learn that there were at that time three children : MARGARET, apparently unmarried ; ADAM, of whom nothing more is known (and who must therefore have died in the interval between his mother's making her will in 1587, and the death of his father in 1589); and ALEXANDER, who succeeded as the third laird of Torriesoul. There must also have been another son, the ancestor of the Duffs of Bado, younger than Alexander, Adam being older.

The following list of 'dettis awin be ye deid' must be given in full :

Item : was awin be ye said umqll barbara Rowane and hir said spous to James Nichole merchand burgis of Edr. for wyne 11 c Xb lib.

Item : to James Setoun burges of Aberdein for wyne and merchandice 1 c LX lib.

Item : to ye erle of huntlie and his factors and chalmiranes for his ferns and dewties of ye ground of finzeauch and mekill Abireatic resten ane yeir 11 c XL lib.

Item : to Mr. James Duff minister and parson of Kynnoir² 1 c lib.

Item : to Wm. Loremure burges of Aberdein LX lib.

Item : to Magnus Duff yr XL lib.

Item : to Andro Durn litster³ for litting clayt and plaidis LIIII lib.

Item : to Alexr. Bisset for his fie X lib.

Item : to Ingramet Andersone for his fie XII lib.

Item : to George fuller for his fie VIII lib.

Item : to Issobell Skynner for hir fie IIII lib.

Summa of ye dettis awin be ye deid IX c XXVIII lib.

The third Alexander of Torriesoul married, first, Margaret Irvine of Drum, the mother of his three sons and three daughters ; and, secondly, Christian Lumsden.

In 1597 we find noted the 'Horning of Alexander Duff of Torriesoul, burgess of Aberdeen.' He died in 1606-1607. He is witness to a precept of clare-constat granted by George, Marquis of Huntly, August 21, 1601.⁴

¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*

² Her brother-in-law.

³ Dyer.

⁴ And in the *Calendar of State Papers* he appears in 1594 as acting for 'his Master, the Earl of Huntly, who refuses to satisfy the demands of the Kirk.' Huntly was the head of the Roman Catholic party in the North. He was created Marquis in 1599. In 1601 George, Marquis of Huntly, and Adam Duff, apparent of Tullynesle (a mistake for Torriesoul, sometimes called Tilliesoull), were made burgesses of Dundee (Burgess Roll).

His children were: ALEXANDER, who predeceased him; ADAM, who succeeded to Torriesoul; JOHN, a goldsmith, residing in Cullen, 1643, who had several sons (WILLIAM, born 1630; ANDREW, born 1636; GEORGE, born 1637; ALEXANDER, born 1638; and JOHN, born 1639).

And three daughters: (1) MARGARET, married to Adam Fraser of Finzeauch, son to Fraser of Durris.¹ Margaret's father had a wadset from Lord Huntly of the lands of Finzeauch (*Gordon Castle Charters*) in 1590, and possibly made it over to young Adam Fraser as her tocher (dower). (2) MARY, married to George Lesley of Warthill. (3) ELIZABETH, married to James Adamson of Floors.

Adam Duff, fourth laird of Torriesoul, parted with that estate very early in life. It was subsequently held by his first cousin, James Duff of Balc, 1617, and by 1627 had passed to Gordons, while Adam bought from the family of Anderson the estate of Wester Ardbrack, by which title he was known until his purchase in 1621 from Robert Innes of Balvenie of the estate of Drummuir. 'Adam Duff of Wester Ardbrack, infest in Drummuir, February 3, 1621.'²

He married Jean Gordon of Abergeldie, daughter of the Chancellor of Moray, presumably in the year 1607, as in November 20 of that year there is a contract of wadset between the Marquis of Huntly and Adam Duff of Torriesoul and Jean Gordon his spouse 'on the lands of Clunybeg, Milntown, miln and milncroft of Auchindown, Wester Keithmore and Smythstone, redeemable on the payment of £2000 in the Kirk of Dunbennan.' All these lands were subsequently held by the other Adam Duff, one of the younger sons of 'Mr.' John Duff of Muldavit, and father of Alexander of Keithmore, but the date of the transference is not known, though Baird gives it (with several manifestly inaccurate details) as 1627 or 1628.

There are two sasines to Adam Duff of Clunybeg, one registered June 14, 1636, of the town and lands of Over and Nether Pitglassie and Auchinhandoch,³ and the other registered February 26, 1640, of the town and lands of Auchinhandoch,⁴ but to which Adam these refer does not appear (though it would seem more likely to be Adam, father of Alexander of

¹ Alexander had one daughter, who married Fraser of Durris, whose son was Sir Alexander Fraser, physician to Charles II. Alexander Fraser's daughter was the Countess of Peterboro, whose daughter was the Duchess of Gordon' (Baird).

Adam Fraser of Durris married a daughter of 'a rising sett of people just beginning to grow up to be a family, viz. Duff of Drummuir' (*Macfarlane's Genealogical Collections*).

² Drummuir papers. Adam Duff of Wester Ardbrack, served heir to his father Alexander, and his deceased brother Alexander, younger, in a property on the west side of the Guest-row, Aberdeen, 1614.

³ *Fourth Book of Banffshire Sasines*.

⁴ *Ibid.*

Keithmore). In the *Privy Council Roll of Delinquents* for 1641, Adam Duff of Drummuir and Adam Duff of Auchindoun, who must be the man known later as Clunybeg, appear together.

Adam Duff of Drummuir had already, in 1637, been prosecuted for contempt of horning (*Privy Council Records*), though he also appears in the Kirk-Session Records of Botriphnic of 1638 as an elder of that parish.¹

He is also, in the year 1612, named as owner of the lands of Bowmakelach (which he bought from Lesley of Warthill) upon which property John, second son of the other Adam Duff, known as 'of Clunybeg,' resided until his death.

Adam and Jean had two sons: (1) ROBERT, called 'the Gallant,' an officer under Montrose, killed at the battle of Alford, three months before his father's death; and (2) ALEXANDER of Invermarkie, witness to a deed, October 3, 1627 (as Alexander Duff, filius legitimus Adami Duff de Drummuir).² And to another registered obligation, June 15, 1636. 'In the presence of the Lords of Council, appeared Mr. Thomas Sutherland, Advocate for Sir Robert Innes, Knt., Baronet, and Adam Duff of Drummuir.' 'Be it kened to all whom it affairs Thomas Grant to have borrowed and received from William Grey, elder, burges of Aberdeen, certain sums.' Alexander Duff, burges of Aberdeen, witness.³

His first wife was Bessie Gordon; but he is not known to have left any children either by her, or by Isobel Robertson, his second wife.

He also held Invermarkie in 1669, which property, as well as the lordship of Balvenie had been held, in the father's lifetime, by the elder brother Robert. And in 1671 he appears in the *Privy Council Records*: 'Alexander Duff of Invermarkie, charged with harbouring Papists,' but no other details about him are forthcoming.

Adam had also three daughters: JEAN, married to Mr. John Chalmer, minister of Gartly (*Gordon Castle Charters*), from whose son, Mr. William Chalmer of Gartly, Robert's son Adam borrowed money.

MARGARET, married, in 1627, to William Sanders, minister of Bellie; and BEATRICE, married, in 1625, to Walter Leslie of Wester Galdwell, and, in 1631, to Thomas Grant of Thomlenan.

In 1642 she was a widow for the second time, for the *Privy Council*

¹ In 1615 Adam Duff's name appears in the Burgess Roll of Aberdeen, and he was afterwards appointed to act as baillie to the Marquis of Huntly in Badenoch, it being remarked that he was 'sent from the Scale wisp to the seat of Justice.'

His castle of Torriesoul is mentioned as the place of the temporary imprisonment of Huntly in 1636 (*Æneas Macpherson's The Loyall Dissuasive*).

² In 1621 also he was witness to his father's sasine of Drummuir.

³ Drummuir papers. This Alexander afterwards bought Sockathie from Alexander of Keithmore, November 2, 1657 (*Banffshire Sasines*).

Records show the complaint of Adam Duff of Drummuir and Beatrice Duff, widow of Thomas Grant in Thomlenan, against Duncan Grant and others for contempt of horning.

Of the son Robert we only know that he held from his father the lands of Invermarkie and Towiemore, and that he was instrumental in raising soldiers in Banffshire for the Marquis of Montrose, whom he probably joined at the same time as his relatives, Alexander and John Duff and his two cousins, the Duffs of Bade (*q.v.*), when the Royalist leader was at Elgin in 1645.

He married Eupham Lyon, daughter of John Lyon of Cossiu, second son of the Earl of Strathmore and his wife Catherine Carnegie.¹

Robert Duff was killed on July 2, 1645, at the dearly bought victory of Alford,² and left an only son ADAM, who succeeded to his grandfather three months later.

The testament-dative of the goods and gear pertaining to Adam Duff of Drummuir, within the parochin of Botriphnie at the time of his decease, who deceased October 1645, contains the usual list of 'oxen, ky, stirks and queys, wark horses, scheep, and bolls of bere and sawing oats.' The sum of the inventory is £1166, 13s. 4d., and of the debts resting to the defunct £2030, 6s. 8d. The debts due by the defunct amount to £237, 10s., and comprise feu-duties to the laird of Balvenie, £60.

Parsonage and woolerage to Mr. Alexander Fraser, minister of Botriphnie, £150, 3s. 8d.

Service, men and women, £26, 13s. 4d.

The debts deducted from the estate leave £1792, 16s. 8d. of what we should now call personalty, 'which being divided into three parts is £598, 2s. 2d.'

Presumably Jean Gordon was still alive and got one part, while the rest went to the grandson.

Master John Hay, Commissioner of Moray, ratified, approved, and confirmed this testament at Elgin on February 10, 1646-1647.

ADAM DUFF of Drummuir, only son of Robert the Gallant and Eupham Lyon, succeeded his grandfather Adam Duff, the purchaser of Drummuir, in October 1645, his father having been killed, as already stated, three months previously.

¹ So that Robert was thus connected by marriage with the great Montrose, through Montrose's wife, 'the fair Magdalen Carnegie,' youngest daughter of the first Lord Southesk, whom it will be remembered he married when only seventeen.

² Where Montrose lost his friend and chief supporter in the north, Lord Gordon. Other officers in Montrose's army killed in this battle are given by Spalding 'Mowat of Balwholly, near Turriff,' see chapter xvi., and 'Ogilvie of Milton of Keith,' see chapter ii. It is said by Wishart that 'Montrose lost not one common soldier in this battle,' but it is well known that his personal following were all 'loyal gentlemen, who served as volunteers.'

Adam was a mere infant at the time, and was brought up in the house of his grandfather John Lyon of Cossin (his mother Eupham having remarried, within six months of his father's death, W. Macpherson of Delphour). At an early age he married Anne, daughter of John Abercromby of Glassaugh,¹ by whom he had one son ADAM, who died young, and three daughters, KATHERINE, MARY, and HELEN.

His father appears to have helped the Royalist cause both with men and money, thus probably embarrassing the estate to some extent, and the inventory of the 'goods and gear' of his grandfather shows some falling off from that of the earlier lairds of Torriesoul; the lands of Robieson, Torriesoul, Bade, etc., had passed to a younger branch, and the wadset of Clunybeg, formerly held by the Drummuir family, had been redeemed. Adam appears to have raised money with the assistance of his father-in-law, 'Mr. John Abercromby,' to whom he became gradually more and more indebted; there is a disposition of the whole estate granted to 'Mr. John Abercromby' and Anna his daughter, dated October 25, 1667, and another disposition in 1673 of the lands of Towiemore from Abercromby to Adam Duff. About the year 1670 he built the old house of Drummuir, now a farmhouse, and till recently a stone in it showed the following inscription: 'Adam Duff and Anne Abercromby biggit this house and think no sheam,' together with the arms of the old family of Drummuir. He seems to have been a peaceable person and not concerned with public affairs; he does not appear in the *Privy Council Records* of the period, nor in the Book of Hornings, as do most of his predecessors.

After the death of Anne Abercromby, the date of which is not certainly known, but is conjectured to have been 1671, as that is the date upon the stone bearing her own and her husband's initials in Botriphnic churchyard, 'A.D. : A.A. 1671,' he would appear to have gone into England, at least as far as Newcastle-on-Tyne, and there fell a victim to the charms of one Dorothy Lawson of that town, with whom he made a contract of marriage, dated July 21, 1679. Of this marriage there were no children, and nothing but trouble ensued. There are innumerable papers on the subject still preserved at Drummuir, including several copies of a petition over four yards in length, presented by Dorothy to the Lords of Session. John Lawson, her brother, had contracted to pay a tocher for her of £200 sterling, and in consideration of this Adam was to allow her £47, 5s. per annum 'all the days of her life.' Neither part of the bargain was kept. It is further stated, in one of these papers, that the marriage took place when 'Adam was drunk.'

¹ Marriage contract dated October 30, 1667.

He was obviously incapable of managing his own affairs with any success, and in 1682 he died, 'notourly bankrupt,' and leaving the following curious will :

'Testament-dative and Inventory of Adam Duff of Drummur, who deceased 1682, April 15, having made his will on the 14th.

'I desire to be buried in the grave of my deceased wife in Botriphnie. I nominate and appoint Mr. John Abererombie, my father-in-law, to be tutor testamenter to my children with full power to him during their pupillarities with the advice and assistance of John Anderson of Ardbrack, James Anderson, ditto, Alexander Duff of Keithmore, Mr. William Chalmer, minister at Gartly,¹ Paul Macpherson of Knoekan, or any three of these. I desire that my eldest daughter Katherine, failing her my second daughter Mary, failing her my third daughter Helen, be espoused by one carrying the surname and arms of Duff, and that he may enjoy my estate and fortune with her, the said person so marrying being obligable first to pay my just debts and to provide for the remanent children, by the advice of the tutors above mentioned. And because I have no considerable moveables in my possession at this time, there is no executor named, but the tutors can if they choose nominate any fit person to be my executor-dative.²

'I ordain that my domiciles be preserved and kept in the house and be inventoried and appreciate after my decease and be forth comend and divided among my children. I have sequestered my papers and writes, except such as are at Edinburgh, in the bowells of my hall to be preserved there until after my decease, and have delivered the key thereof to Mr. John Abererombie to be kept by him in case the Lord please to call me at this time, and if I should recover, to be given back to me.

'Subscribed by

ADAM DUFF.

'Alexander Abererombie, brother of Glassaugh.

'Thomas Duff, my servitor and Grieve.

'Peter Duff, lawful son to Keithmore [*Patrick of Craigston*].

'April 15th, 1682.'

The eldest of the three daughters named in the will was only thirteen, and her marriage with Alexander Duff, son of William, Provost of Inverness,

¹ His cousin, son of his aunt Jean and Mr. John Chalmer, minister, first, of Inveravon, and then of Gartly.

² Alexander of Braco was subsequently named executor-dative *qua* creditor to collect the debts due to the defunct, and gave in the following account: 'The said defunct had in his possession 2 horse, wepones of the defunct, estimate at 20 merks. Excrecence of corn sown in crops or bolls at £4. Utensils and domiciles £100. Debt to defunct George Gordon, Edinglassie 800 merks.' Alexander Duff of Keithmore became bound and obliged for his son, for rendering a due account of above property, September 8, 1682.

to whom she was contracted in 1682,¹ did not take place for two years, and that of her next sister to James Cuthbert in 1686; but in 1685 it was 'thought fit that Katherine, being now married, be served special heir, and this to be ratified by the others at their majority,' though in fact there was little save bad debts to which to be heir, and these were, in accordance with the terms of the will, taken over by the young Alexander Duff, his first cousin, Alexander Duff of Braco, being the nominal surety, though it is expressly stated that 'Braco did not provide ane shilling of money, but only gave his name.' The funds which thus served to reinstate an old branch of the Duff family, and at the same time enable the family of Clunybeg's third son to acquire a landed estate, were the product of the successful general merchant's business in Inverness.² Until such time as the three little girls were of marriageable age, or what was then so considered, they appear to have resided with their grandfather Mr. John Abereromby, who had become, by their father's bankruptey, the virtual owner of Drummuir, and a very few weeks after Adam's death trouble began with 'poor Dorothy Lawson' (so described in one of her numerous appeals). The story, as abridged from the four-yards long petition and other papers and letters of the period, appears to be briefly this: Dorothy must have contrived to make herself thoroughly unpopular with her husband's family, and, as her tocher was never paid by her brother in Newcastle, she was considered in the light of a bad bargain, and as such to be got rid of as soon as possible after the death of Adam. An opportunity was therefore seized upon in the month of May, when, according to her own account, 'upon a Lord's Day, a month after her husband's decease, she, having gone out of the house of Drummuir in her "night dress" to visit a sick gentlewoman, before she returned to dress herself to go to church, Alexander Duff of Braco and his father, Bailie Alexander Duff of Keithmore, with John Abererombie, having come to the house when she was forth, as said is, did command Thomas Duff the grieve and others to close the gates upon her, and in ane hostel manner debarred her to enter therein, at all so much as to get out her cloaths, her papers, or other furnishings, and only a fortnight thereafter gave her out some of her wearing cloathes and no more, with her trunks broken up, all searched, all her papers taken out which contained her jointure.' The two following letters confirm her account:

¹ In the marriage contract of Alexander and Katherine, William Duff of Inverness binds himself to 'free, relieve, and disburden the estate of all debts and dangers, encumbrances, inconveniences, actions and others affecting the samen.' It is also therein provided that should Katherine die without issue within a year and a day of the celebration of the wedding, the estate of Drummuir should revert to the hands of Mr. John Abereromby for the use of the two younger girls, if William Duff of Inverness were first repaid all the money he had spent.

² See next chapter.

Alexander of Keithmore to John Abercromby of Glassaugh

‘KEITHMORE, May 22, 1682.

‘In my home coming upon Sunday morning, having occasion to meet ane evil whispering from here, revealed to me ane design betwixt Drummuir’s relict and Knocken and [*illegible*]. And had seen ane paper pass betwixt them, quher the relict was advysing with him, whereby the relict disposes her right and interest of her jointure to Knocken, and he to factor for her and that he should presently enter in the house and possession and take the assistance of his own friends and keep therein possession, whereupone I, hearing that the relict was without, advysed Thomas Duff to goe presently and possess himself and tak the assistance of my brother Bowmakellaeh and Alex. and Robert Grants and keepe themselves in and the ladie withoute, until you send advyse and order, and withall I desyred my brother to mak offers to the relict that she should have her entertainment at this place, or to cause ane moving to the Milne of Towie until Thursday cam aucht days, or to loan her a horse and man to come to Glassa’, an if she pleased to send in anie discret woman for her cloaths that she might have these out, or quhat she call’d for off them. If this seems good to you, to hold her out, an’ that they kepe themselves in possession, send them your particular order thereanent as tutor, and write on her to Edinglassie as the sheriff to give their concurrence, but if it pleases you, they shall not want assistance and I gave order for their maintenance and I wrote a line to my son to brake oppen this lynce and to wryte his opinion to yow. I entreate you make haist and despatch back the answer and neglee not nor sleight note this business, as it may turn [*paper torn*] and troublesome in removing them. Leaving all to your own consideration, entreating for the return on this night, for I must goe traveling, being that the Lord florbes an me air meeting at the noone of tomorrow, and if you think after consideration your owne presence necessarie and conveniente you shal be waited upone be him quho is, sir, your affectionate and humble servitor,

ALEX. DUFF.

*Alexander of Braco to John Abercromby of Glassaugh,
sent with the foregoing*

‘May 22, 1682.

‘MUCH HONOURED,—You may peruse the above written line and send your thoughts thereanent, for the lady being neither [*illegible*] nor having anie interest ne legal title, I see little hazard in the matter for the suit in law, albeit the relict had ane infeftment in [*illegible*] lands, then the Manor Place, ye may upon 6 dayes warninge remove the relict from her possession of the manor place and in this land quhere she has neither infeftment ne title and being also without dower I suppose in the little matter of holding her out if you think hazard, send your return carriage express order for that effect and send the bearer this way, that I may know your answer thereanent and have your serious thoughts on the

matter. Ye may understand all the hazard it can be, is an action at her instance of the Council, quhere she has no legal title to herself, neither can she libel violence ne oppression and it will be favorable, considering her demolishing the house and furniture and abstracting the same and locking these within her trunk, and other prejudices committed by her. I think there may be little hazard, especially for the apparandors, she being a person irresponsible, and not able to make up the damages, also if you fear any hazard as might cause her proctor keep possession, he is not much to lose, and what can she prove if she was fixed out of the house whereunto she had no right ne title ?

' Advyse the matter and your servant, and let me know your return by the bearer.

' My respects to your lady and the children is all, sir, from your cusin and servant,
ALEX. DUFF.¹

Dorothy's account of her ejection appears therefore to be, in the main, true, excepting as to the presence of John Abercromby, who seems to have kept out of the business at this stage, though, as virtual owner of the estate of Drummuir at the period, owing to the money he had advanced upon it, he was really the person most concerned in the question as to whether Adam Duff's widow had any claim upon Adam Duff's representatives. In a paper docketed ' Answers for Mr. John Abererombie to the complaint of Dorothie Lawson ' the case is thus stated : ' That the complainer was summarily thrust out when she went abroad and not suffered to return, and her goods seized to the value of 4000 merks, that she was barbarously used and no wearing cloathes nor money allowed her to carry her home to her friends : *It is answered* that the complainer is malicious, and she was used with civility and kindness and keptit until the term of Whitsunday upon the estate of Drummuir where her husband had no right, but only John Abererombie, who was both creditor and had the undoubted right to the estate and was grandfather to the children, and therefore could not but take ane anmeddling and ane care of the estate. Further, albeit this woman during the time she was in the house, had put away ane considerable part of the plenishing moveables within and without the house, yet she had the confidence and the complaint to libel that she was robbed, which was not so. She was given horses and all necessary means of departure. Her husband had no right to the estate of Drummuir, but did only possess the same by attolerance from Mr. John Abererombie, his father-in-law, and the Lords of the Council have no right to grant her aliment (for which she petitioned) out of the estate of Mr. John Abererombie. If this were done it would be a bad preparation (*i.e.* precedent), and would

¹ Drummuir papers.

louse the hinges of all law, and prejudice many lawful creditors who have advanced money upon such securities. Further, she libels (a word used for all kinds of false statements) the estate to be of £8000 value, whereas it is notourly known not to be better than £1000 Scots.' The 'Answers' of Mr. John Abereromby continue in a tone of virtuous self-restraint. 'We will not trouble your lordships with an account of the complainer's conduct, both before and after marriage, but she has caused to her husband considerable debts both at Edinburgh and in the country, and also broke his spirit by profuse and riotous spending, partly here and partly at Newcastle for pursuing her dower from her brother' (unsuccessfully, it would seem). The defenders will let her have the benefit of her own dower, which she can get for herself 'more conveniently' than they can, and they conclude by saying that 'there is not the least colour, use, law, nor reason for any aliment out of the estate of Drummuir, belonging now to John Abereromby, who hath, moreover, kept and alimeted the complainer until the term of Whitsunday.'

The petition of Dorothy, dated December 27, 1690, repeats over and over again the terms of the settlement made between her brother, John Lawson of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and her future husband Adam Duff, of which both contrived to avoid the fulfilment. Adam Duff went so far as to draw up, on October 14, 1680, a bond of provision which obliged him and his heirs forever to have infest the persecutor (thus is Dorothy here described) and the bairns procreate betwixt them (but fortunately there were none) in the sum of £47, 5s. sterling yearly (849 merks). This bond was duly signed and witnessed by John Anderson of Ardrack, John Abereromby of Glassaugh, James Anderson of Westerton, Mr. William Chalmer, minister of Gartly, and William Gordon, writer; was registered in Banff and shown to Dorothy, who gave it back to her husband, and now complains that it has been 'tint,'¹ or at least abstracted, by Alexander Duff of Inverness and Katherine his wife, eldest daughter of the unquill Adam Duff. It afterwards transpired (before the date of the petition in 1690) that the said bond of provision had never been registered in Edinburgh, which omission Dorothy attributed to malicious hindering on the part of her enemies; but it was stated, by the other side, to have been a deliberate act on the part of 'Adam Duff, the grantor, in whose hands said bond lay until he got the tocher, in case he were disappointed of the payment of it as, *de facto*, he truly was, and in that case he ordered the said bond to be destroyed, and had not registered it until he should see if he got his money, which condition did never exist.' Moreover, the de-

¹ *i.e.* lost.

defenders state that the persecutor 'did grossly abuse the said Adam Duff, in causing him marry her when he was drunk.' The brother and husband of Dorothy seem to have tried each to overreach the other, and, between the two, she came off badly.

She describes herself in her petitions as 'ane poor stranger having few or none to do for her in ane miserable condition, through six years depending at law and nothing brought to effect, miserable and rejected by all her friends who formerly supplied her with all her necessaries, and for what she had borrowed would now cast her into prison, and she, for want, might die in misery.' When she first brought her case against the children and representatives of her late husband, she summoned a large number of witnesses to prove the existence of the bond and the intentions of Adam. These had, of course, to journey to Edinburgh to give their evidence, and some were stopped by evil weather and sickness and other delays, some of which she thinks were 'procured by the defendants.' She therefore petitioned the Lords for a new hearing, which caused the other side, in the person of Alexander Duff of Braco, to protest against her 'frivolous false suggestions.' 'It is well known how litigious she is, and that her indiscreet ways led her husband into great expenses, making needless journeys to England to see her kindred, etc., and that he gat never a sixpence with her. The defenders, therefore, pray your lordships will not heed her foolish clamours, nor keep them in one continual play.' Dorothy was, however, permitted to call her witnesses again, and the Lords found that the existence of the bond of provision was proven, but its registration 'not proven'; they therefore refused to grant any commission to her, but ordained the £200 'resting' to Adam Duff from her brother to be hers. The decret in her favour bears date November 27, 1690. It is presumed that after this she retired to her native country, and was still alive in 1695, when she assigned her rights to one Mr. Robert Fraser, who 'translated' them to Alexander Duff in the same year.

This first Englishwoman to enter the Duff family seems to have been somewhat unkindly treated, but that she was not above using the same methods as her brother and husband, the following letter to the former, of which she seems, curiously enough, to have left a rough copy at Drummuir, will testify :

'Copic of the letter sent by the lady of Drummuir to her brother in England.

'DEAR BROTHER,—This is to let you know that my husband dyed about the middle of this last Apryle, year '82, and his freinds would have me to quit my claim to Drummuir for a thousand merk or thereabout, and cause I will not, they are striving to starve me out of the house. But I thought it my doutie to

acquaint you and my freinds first, and to take your advice in it, as for your declaration you gave him, of a bond you hade in your hand of two hundred pound sterling, it is, I assure you destroyed from my husband and lost long age and all other papers that can doe them good, so you need not fear, but if you can by the law assist me by any means to recover my joyntour of them by any paper you have whereby you may force them, let me know timely by ane letter. The tenments were swore and my Infestment was taken and marked and allways compleated, saving putting it wholly in the Register which parchment a freind hath keeping for me, to show it was decerned by the Lords, and it may doe good. As you are bound in conscience, if you could, to helpe a stranger in such ane case, so I question not but much more you will help your sister, for the estate is able to bear twice as much. Send my brother Luke or some other freind to meet me at Edbr: with your injunctions and assurance, for I will let you know when I am there. In the mean tyme let me know by ane letter the best way you can, what hartning you can give me or what you advyse is, and what I shall doe with myself, and add Counsell and all freinds advyse to it. So, houping you will not fail to use all diligence to let me know the best way you can, I rest.—Your most loving sister and servant,
DOROTHIA DUFF.'

At the back of the same piece of paper is a rough copy of a letter on the same subject addressed :

'To MY LORD [*whom, does not appear*],—This is to let your Lordship know that my husband being dead, his tutors do seek to starve me out of the house because I will not quit my Joyntor and take a thousand merks. Your Ldp being forth of the country I houpe for no redress but from your Christian charity to assist a stranger, since no freinds near me, by writing a letter to my Lord Haddo in my favour to do my business for me, or whatever way your Lordship can befriend me by commanding Glassa', for they have left nothing in the house to sustain me now, and would have me out of ye Hous. Because in so doing you will give me cause to pray alwyse all true happynesse to you and yours, and oblige for ever to remain.—Your Ldps most humble and obliged servant,

'DORO. DUFF.'

(Much blotted, possibly with tears.)

Besides Dorothy's own rough copy of the former letter, there is a fair (but not quite correct) copy in another hand, dated 1693, and endorsed, 'Missive Dor. Lawson to Mr. John Lawson acknowledging the destroying of Mr. Lawson's bond to Drummair for £200 sterling.'

The subsequent history of Dorothy Lawson is unknown. Of her step-daughters, Katherine, who married Alexander Duff of Inverness, will be treated of later. The second daughter of Adam Duff and Anne Abercromby, Mary, married, first, in 1686, Alexander Cuthbert, merchant in Inverness, and had one son James. She married, secondly, Colin

Campbell of Delnics, and had six sons, Alexander Campbell of Delnics, Hugh, Archibald, Lachlan, Colin and Charles, and five daughters:

(1) Henrietta, married to Hugh Campbell, minister of Tillicmuir; (2) Catherine, married to James Cumming of Dalshangie; (3) Margaret, married to Andrew Ross, merchant in Tain; (4) Anna, married to Alexander Peterkin, merchant in Forres; (5) Mary, *o.s.p.*

Mary Duff was dead in 1736.

The survivors of these children were discerned heirs to 'eorum Amita Helen Duff,' who died unmarried at Nairn in 1734, and was buried in the church at Calder. Nothing is known of her save an obligation drawn up on May 30, 1682, to lie in the hands of Mr. John Abercromby, her grandfather, and failing him in those of his son Alexander, whereby the future husband and father-in-law of her sister Katherine oblige themselves to find a sum of 2000 merks to educate and maintain her, until she be espoused to ane lawful husband.¹ Apparently this consummation was never reached.

¹ Among the descendants of Mary Duff and her second husband, Colin Campbell, at the present day is Miss McGilchrist-Gilchrist, the genealogist.



PROVOST WILLIAM DUFF

CHAPTER XXIII

PROVOST WILLIAM DUFF

FROM this point the old family of Duffs of Torricsoul, which had been for three generations in possession of the estate of Drummuir, became merged in the family of William Duff, Provost of Inverness, and the new line of Duffs of Drummuir, which has flourished for five generations, may be said to begin.

As has already been shown, the statement that the wife of Alexander Duff, the Provost's son, was the heiress of Drummuir, was only true in a very limited sense. Even Baird, while mentioning that Katherine, who was personally known to him, and whom he describes as 'a most hospitable, kind housekeeper,' 'alwise maintained that her Family was of an older standing than Moldavid, which is a matter that only concerns themselves, and is not of the smallest consequence to them either,' adds 'the old estate of Drummuir is very inconsiderable in comparison of the Provost's fortune—perhaps not a tenth part of it, and his son who married the heiress made little or nothing by her; for there were more debts and claims on the estate than it was worth. But the Provost left an opulent fortune to him, and also good estates to his two younger sons, Cowbin and Muirtown.' In 1685 'William Duff, Treasurer of Inverness, son of Keithmore,' had a

sasine of the lands of Keithmore, Clunybeg,' etc. This was probably some arrangement with his brother Alexander.¹

It is also recorded in a paper of this period that 'William Duff, Provost of Inverness (1692-1695, 1699-1701, 1703-1706), was once burghess of Banff and apprentice to John Gordon of Balmade, merchant in Banff.'

Baird's account of Provost William must be given in full :

'Clunybeg's third son William, was a most Sagacious, mettled man, and became the most eminent merchant in the north of Scotland in his time. He lived at Inverness, was often Provost of that Burrow and had, for many years, and very justly, in a great measure the government of it ; for he studied the interest of the community with unwearied application and without regard to any person or party. And he was a kind patron and protector to all deserving young people. These excellent qualities made his death much regretted and his memory long revered at Inverness.

'His nephew Dipple was apprentice, and afterwards partner, to the Provost and Sir James Calder, who were in company, and they three carried on, for many years, almost all the foreign trade benorth Aberdeen. The Provost made a great fortune with a fair (*i.e.* good) character.

'He married thrice : first, in 1655, to Mrs. Christian Duff, eldest daughter of Alexander Duff of Kinloss, Town Clerk of Inverness. She died soon, leaving him only two surviving children, Alexander Duff of Drummuir, and Andrew. Next, in 1666, to Jane Lockart, daughter of Mr. Lockart, a merchant at Inverness, who bore him another son, James Duff of Cromby ; a son Adam, born 1676, who died young ; and five daughters,² of whom four were married : Mary to William Baillie of Dunain ; Catharine to Hugh Monro of Teaninich, in the Shire of Ross (and the present Captain Monro is their son) ; Jean to William Gordon of Birkenburn, and had fourteen children ; Magdaline, who was thrice married : first to Cuthbert of Draikies, near Inverness, when she was not fully sixteen years old ; he died in less than half a year after their marriage. She married next Dr. Robinson, a physician at Inverness, son to one Provost Robinson of that place ; and lastly, to James Duff of Corsindae. The fifth daughter, Isabell, died unmarried.³ The Provost married last Mrs. Jean Fraser, of the family of Daltalich, sister to Mr. Robert Fraser, advocate, and widow of the Rev. Alexander Clark, minister of Inverness, but had no issue by her.⁴

¹ It was made after the death of the intervening brother John. See chapter xx., as this is one of the deeds in which William is described as second son of Clunybeg.

² There were in reality seven daughters, and Baird has placed them in wrong order. See page 361.

³ 'Janet Lockhart, spouse to William Duff, departed January 16, 1690' (*Inverness Register*).

⁴ There was one child, born 1692, but it died young (*Inverness Register*).

'Provost Duff was an agreeable, facetious companion, and had a great deal of humour' ¹ (Baird).

He was a most successful man of business. He doubtless added to the position he was acquiring in Inverness by his marriage with Christian Duff, described by Baird as 'of Kinloss,' but if her father ever held property in Kinloss, it did not descend to his daughter, as did his land in the town of Inverness. There are, at Drummuir, three parchment charters and various other papers dealing with these lands:

Chartour by James Cuthbert, burgess of Inverness, and nephew of the Provost Alexander Cuthbert,² in favour of Alexander Duff, burgess there, of two particules of land in the Castle Street, November 20, 1627. Two chartours in favour of said Alexander Duff of a rood of burgage land beside the Water of Ness, April 18, 1613, and other deeds referring to other property in the town, dated 1648 and 1654. The lease of 1654 mentions Janet Duff, sister to Alexander, who married Adam Bennett, seaman, indweller of Inverness, February 19, 1631. There are letters of apprizement under the seal of Oliver Cromwell, dated 1656-1657, regarding her tocher. In the contract-matrimonial of Janet Duff and Adam Bennett, one James Grant, in consideration of certain sums paid by William Duff, merchant at Inverness, 'holds himself well content,' and assigns the contract to William Duff and his heirs forever. There is also a record of a subsequent case of the said James Grant against Alexander Duff, son of William; Adam Bennett, husband of Janet, being a complainant.³

The wife of Alexander Duff, Town Clerk, and mother of Christian Duff, wife of William, was Christian Greenlaws, and there exists a 'disposition' between Alexander Duff, burgess of Inverness, and James Cuthbert of Machinch, relative to some property, dated July 2, 1630, witnessed by one Alexander Barber, and attested by the 'mandates' of Margaret Mayne and Christina Greenlaws, 'who could not write.'

¹ The story of his opinion on the descent of his family has already been given in chapter ii.

² A curious lawsuit was brought against the magistrates of the town of Inverness, and in particular against Alexander Cuthbert, Provost, by John Forbes of Culloden, on behalf of the burgesses, the complaint being that the magistrates had unjustly imposed the steint (*i.e.* taxation) in order to defray debts unwarrantably contracted, and to which the inhabitants and burgesses had not consented, and that they (the magistrates) had misspent the Common Good of the burgh through their own misgovernment.

Examination of the list of the bailies shows that they were nearly all related to Provost Cuthbert. William Duff, afterwards Provost, was brother-in-law to Alexander Cuthbert (their wives, Elizabeth and Jean Fraser, being sisters), and was appointed President of the Stentors (tax-gatherers) in 1671.

³ There was a certain Dr. William Fraser of Kilmorah, M.D., 'whose grandmother by the father was a Duff, sister to Alexander, Town Clerk'; she was possibly the same Janet mentioned above.

The business in which William Duff engaged, in company with Sir James Calder, which was afterwards further developed by his nephew, Dipple, was a general carrying trade of all foreign commodities, and exchange with the products of the north. He owned several ships in which he exported 'salmonds' to foreign countries, chiefly to Bordeaux, and brought home French goods, comestibles, etc. In 1673, William Duff shipped loads of 'salmond' at Leith, and there exists among the Rose MS. one, almost illegible, account of moneys 'resting' to William Duff, elder, as his share, and to himself 'in comparty' on Mr. Robert Fraser's account for things bought for self and spouse. There is also, on the debit side, 'share of John Fraser's charges, shipping the salmon, and tenth of his charge of outrigging the same John Fraser to Holland, beside one pound allowed him for a 'trie' (*sic*).

And further down, a note to 'mind to clear with Dipple, of James Cuthbert's salt in John Cuthbert's cellar.' Naturally, in shipping fish to foreign countries in ante-steam days, salt was a considerable item, and is quoted as at £33 a barrel (presumably £ Scots).¹

William was, in 1655, Collector of Excise of Inverness, and in 1666 he was sub-collector of taxes for the bishopric of Ross. He was excepted from the Act of Indemnity, 1662.² In 1681 he was Commissioner for the burgh of Inverness. He also held lands at Fearn in Ross-shire,³ and Hugh Duff, minister of Fearn, was probably a connection of his wife's (see the chapter on Ministers).

William was also, at one time, Chamberlain of Ross, and there exists a petition by him, dated 1675, claiming that he had advanced money to the Laird of Cromarty to the amount of £4000 Scots, and asking to have it repaid.

In the year 1681 he appears to have projected a journey to London, to which date belongs the following curious will, which must be given in full. (It is not known whether he accomplished the journey or not.)⁴

¹ William Duff, 'an elder baillie of Inverness had the tack of the teinds of the lands of Drumcudden in 1681, and a disposition of the same lands, with the privilege of an alehouse, was granted to his son Alexander of Drummuir in 1706.

² Probably from having held office under Cromwell.

³ In 1689 he complains of his wage, in collecting the fues of ffern (*sic*), and wishes to meet Glassa' at Elgin to explain it. He had probably, by this time, settled the income from this estate on his daughter-in-law, Katherine, for whom her grandfather 'Glassa' was tutor (*i.e.* guardian).

⁴ In the parish registers of Inverness there is a note on July 30, 1605, of the baptism of ane begotten dochter of George Duff, baptised Maggie (he being to pass to England upon the next day). We cannot trace this George Duff, but there were many of the name in Inverness in the seventeenth century, possibly another branch of the Muldavit family.

One David Duff, a 'merchant burgess' there, would seem to have been a man of some

‘25 April 1681.

‘Be it knowen to all men be this prestts. me, William Duff, Bailie of Inverness, being of resolution in after the date hereof (God willing) to take journey for London, and knowing that there is nothing more certain than death, butt the time place and manner hereoff always uncertain, and wile itt is the doutty of all persons in their own tyme to prevvent any occasions of difference may arryse after their deceass, And thereupon I being willing to dispose my worldly affaires, And to be discharged of the caire and burden thereoff, Soe that att the pleasure of Almighty God I may be ready to abyde his goodwill and pleasure, when itt shall please him to call me out of this transitarie lyffe. Therefore, I make my Legacy and Letter now as ffolowes, And ffor as much as be the matrimoniall contract betwixt me and Janet Lockhart, my present spouse, I am bound and obliged to provyde the aires whatsoever procreat or to be procreat betwixt us, and to the wholl conquest (and my said spouse in lyferent in the halfe thereoff) which was or is to be acquired during our lyfetye together. And also to provyde my spous in the Interest or arent of six thousand merks, Scots money, and in lyke manner fforasmuch as during these flyftine yeirs bygone I have bein marryed with my said spous, I have bein anc merchant-trafficker and constantly having my stock and substance (whether formerly or since conquered) in moveables, and have been forced and necessitat for my better commodation and security to transact from tyme to tyme all sums of money conquered and acquyred in my first wyffe’s tyme as well as in this and to buy some hostadges therewith, And have lende outt and wairred considerable summies off muneys upon and ffor fforehand bargains ffor salmond fishing, victuall and otherwayes, so that I cannot exactly resolve upon, or distinguish what stuff is conquest in my present spous tyme, ffor clearing my children of the first and second mariadge. And for preventing any debaitt which may arise betwixt them after my decease thereanent, And for clearing and orddring off my affairs and those in Ross-shire thereto, And for blessing of concord, love and amittie betwixt them, amongst themselves, and also betwixt them and my said present spous, and for the sincere love and affection I have and bear towards her, I doe by this ordder and appoynt my affaires as ffolowes. And in the first place I nominat and appoynt Alexr. Duff my eldest lawffl: sone of the first mariadge, my aire, and constitute him to succeed to my wholl heritadge, alswell conquered in his mother’s tyme as in my present spous her tyme, as also I nominat and constitute him my only exectr: and sole intromitter, with my wholl goodes, gear, debts, sumes of money resting to me any manner of way for whatsoever cause or occasione, declairing the generality underwritten to be also suffieient as iff every parte thereoff were herein insert, wt. power to him to give up the same, and to dispose thereupon provyding always he make good and thankful payment of the sumes of money underwritten wherewith I burden him, and my said wholl

importance, as his child, Kenneth, born 1677, had for sponsors Kenneth, Earl of Scaforth, Kenneth, Lord McKenzie, his son, and William Duff, bailie, witness.

In 1655 James McEan Duff had a female child baptised Christmas.’

estate both reall and personall in maner following, viz. the summe of six thousand merks Scots money to my sone Andrew, his brother German of the first mariadge, to be payed at the martinmass next after my death, as also the summe of thretty thousand merks money foresaid to the children of the second mariadge, whereoff twenty thousand merks money underwritten, to James my eldest sone and aire of the second mariadge to be payed to him at his yeires off twenty. And ordaines him to be maintained and educatt att schooles and colledges upon my said eldest sone Alexr. his charges. And the sune off ffoure thousand merks to my oldest daughter Mary. And the sune of thrie thousand merks to my second daughter Magdalen and the sune of thrie thousand merks to my youngest daughter Margaret, All to be payed att ilkane of their yeires of perfeit adge, proportionalie in maner forsaid and ilkane to be maintained and educat in good conditione according to their quallitie, be my said sone Alexr. And incaiss itt please God to remove my said sone James outt of this lyffe, without children of his own bodie, I bequeath and Leave the said sune off twenty thousand marks (nowe left and provydid to him) devydedly in maner following to witt thereoff the sune off six thousand marks to his said sister Mary, the sune of ffoure thousand marks to his sister Magdalen, and the sune of other ffoure thousand marks to his sister Margaret and the summe of thrie thousand marks to ilkane of his brothers Alexr. and Andrew. And incaiss itt please God to remove any of my said daughters before mariadge, I provyde the portions appoynted to the daughter or daughters deceassed, to be equallie devyded amongst my wholl children off both mariadges survyvand. And I declaire thatt the forsaid summe of twenty thousand pounds is more than I cane possibly call to be conquest in my present wyffe's tyme. And thatt I have bequested and left the same in maner forsaid, outt of my love and affeione to her and ffor her good meritt, and ffor her better security and further provisune of lyferent and in coraboranc and Implement of her Contract and in full satisfacne: of all she may acclaim or pretend to by virtue thereof, I ordaine the said Alexr. Duff my oldest lawfull sone to pay to her the summe off six hundred marks money fforsaid yeirly, during her lyfetyme be equall portions att two tearmes in the yeir, And thatt she enjoy and possess during her said lyfetyme ffreely my first dwelling-house, where I now Leive, with all itt's pertinent's (the stables and wash-house excepted). And moreover, I leive and bequeath to my said Loveing spous the summe of anc thousand marks money, had out of the first and readiest off my moveables, to be disposed off at her pleasure. And thatt in full satisfacne. of all she may demand by her sd: contract of mariadge, tearce, cause, conquest, moveable or extric or any oyr: maner off way, whatsoever. And incaise my said spous happen to be wt. chylde att this present tyme and thatt itt be anc sone and he survive his brother James (he dying wtout aires of his own body) he is to succeed to the twenty thousand marks left to him. And incaiss his brother James live, I leave him the summe of thrie thousand marks money Scots to be payed by my sd: oldest son Alexr. and two thousand marks money out off my said sone James, aire of the second mariadge, his sd. twenty thousand marks portione provydit to him. And iff itt be anc daughter, I leave her the summe

of thrie thousand marks money forsaid, whereoff two to be payed by my oldest sone and ane thousand marks outt of the said James his provisione above written wt. ane propornall: pairt of what shall happen to accrue through the death of any off my abovenamed children. And I ordaine my said sone Alexr. to pay all my debts. And further I, be these prsts: binds and oblidges my aires off the first and second mariadges and my spous successors and Intromitters whatsoever, nott only to accept of the premises butt also to performe and fulfill the same, in the hail heades, articles, clauses, conditiones: above written, in maner and att the tyme above announced, with power to each concerned to sue for the performance of ilk ane off their pairts and interest thereof. And I ordaine these prestts: to stand firme and stable, unaltered. And for the more securitic, I am content and consent these prestts: be insert and registrat in the bookes off council and session or any oyr: bookes competent wtin: this Kingdom yrin to remaine 'ad futuram Rei memoriam.' And iff need be is, thatt all necessaric execution pass heirup on in fforme and effect, And to that effect constitute my prors. In witness whereoff I have subsd: this prests: at Inverness the twenty-fifth day off Aprill 16 hundred ffoursecore and ane yeires (written by the said Alexr. Duff my sone) before these witnesses, Angus Polson burgess and glover in Inverness, and James ffraser, shoemaker in the said burgh. Ane double hereoff delyvered to my said spous subsd: by this my sone Alexr. that all persones interested may know my will anent the premisses. WM. DUFF.

'A. Polson, witness.

'James Fraser, witness.'

The son Andrew, alluded to in the will and in one family letter, must have predeceased his father; his name occurs in Fraser Mackintosh's *Antiquarian Records* as an inhabitant of Inverness. Also in the following letter from James Innes to William Duff of Inverness:

'INVERNESS, 27 Sept: 1689.

'HONORED SIR,—Seeing your Son Andrew is heir uplifting your bear (barley), if you pleass to send him ane order to receive fourtie bolls beare from me to be taken in heir at Inverbrakie I shall see it delivered, for I rather you have it then any oyr, I find the bear is good and reddie for the upliftinge and whatever price ye gives others, I can desire no more, so earnestly intreating to have ane order from you with the bearer heirop.—Your freind and well wisher to serve you,

'JAMES INNES.'¹

The complete family of Provost William Duff was as follows:

By his first wife, Christian Duff, married in 1655, and died *circa* 1660.

1. ALEXANDER, born 1657.

2. ANDREW, born 1658.

¹ Andrew Duff, son of Provost William, writes to Dipple, April 1681, and to his father, 1682. These letters are preserved, but are not interesting.

By his second wife, Janet Lockhart, married in 1666, died 1690.

3. JAMES, born *circa* 1674.

4. MARY, born 1675, married William Baillie of Dunain, and had (1) Alexander Baillie of Dunain, married Anne, third daughter of Sir Archibald Campbell of Clunes; (2) Jean, born 1693; (3) Magdalen, married Sir Archibald Campbell, as his third wife; (4) Alexander, born 1695; (5) Mary, married her cousin, John Baillie of Torbrech, and had a son William, who was killed at Ticonderoga, July 6, 1758, and a daughter Mary, who married William Duff of Muirtown, her mother's first cousin.

5. ADAM, born 1676, *o.s.p.*

6. MAGDALEN, born 1677, married, as already stated, three times without issue: firstly, to Cuthbert of Draikies; secondly, to John Robinson, merchant in Inverness; thirdly, to James Duff of Corsindae. She died in 1756, aged seventy-nine. 'On July 6, 1756, at an advanced age, Magdalen Duff, spouse to James Duff of Corsindae, and daughter to William Duff, Esq., very long, with great dignity and approbation, Provost of Inverness' (*Aberdeen Journal*).

7. BEATRIX, born 1678.

8. MARGARET, born 1681, mentioned in her father's will. These two died young.

9. JEAN, 1682, married, June 6, 1700, William Gordon of Birkenburn (who frequently writes to Alexander of Drummair as 'affec. brother and servant'), and had five sons and eight daughters, all of whom died young, except three daughters: (1) Magdalen, born 1702, who married the Rev. John Stuart, minister of Llanbryde, and afterwards held Birkenburn; (2) Helen, born 1708, married the Rev. W. Miln, Inverkeithny; and (3) Isabel. The first Gordon of Birkenburn was a son of James Gordon of Lesmoir, and acquired Birkenburn in fee from the Bishop of Moray, 1556.¹ The family lasted for six generations, and failed in the three co-heiresses mentioned. Beatrix Gordon, wife of Adam of Clunybeg, was great-aunt of the last William Gordon.

10. WILLIAM, born 1684, *o.s.p.*

11. KATHERINE, born 1688, married Hugh Monro of Teaninich, and had five children: Hugh, *o.s.p.*, James, Elizabeth, Magdalen, Janet.

12. ISABEL, the youngest daughter, died unmarried.

By his third wife, Jean Fraser, whom he married in 1691, the Provost had a thirteenth child, but it died young.²

As has been already seen, in the last chapter, the Provost's ambitions

¹ Note from family tree of the Gordons of Birkenburn by James George and the Rev. Stephen Ree.

² Inverness Registers.

for his son, in marrying him to Katherine, orphan daughter of Adam Duff, bankrupt Laird of Drummuir, involved both father and son in much expense and endless litigation with Katherine's stepmother and with some of Adam's creditors. They seem to have kept on very friendly terms with Katherine's grandfather, John Abererombie of Glassaugh, and in one letter Alexander Duff signs himself Glassaugh's 'affectionate grandchild.' The three following letters in Provost William's own hand are still preserved at Drummuir :

'OLDARN (AULDEARN?), 12 January 1683.

'For the much honored Mr. John Abererombie of Glassaugh. These.

'MUCH HONORED,—Being on my journey south, Godwilling, to settle anent Drummuir's affaires ffreindly iff possible both wt. his relict and Coxtoun, And itt being altogether impossible ffor me (considering my own weight, the deipness off the way, and the weakness off my horse) to goe your way, I have sent my sone express to receave your Instructions and comandes And whatever advyse ye think fitt to give I shall Godwilling endeavour to observe most obsequiously. And iff yr be any peapers or dockuments by you (as I doubt nott butt yr are) thatt may tend to the furthering off the bussiness aither in ane ffreindly conclusion or ane legall debcatt, I pray delyver them all to the bearer. And with all, I intreat ye may wrytt seriously to your nephewe my Lord Kemnay to give me his ffreindly advyse and concurrence in his statione in the wholl affaire, for I will doe nothing withoutt him in the whole affaire, lett it goe as itt may. Also wrytt to him yt he may delyver to me all the peapers he has off Drumuires, and iff ye thinke fitt, I pray ye wrytt ane recomendatory letter to your good ffreind my Lord Boyne to be freindly in the matter, in so far as may consist with justice. This, wt whatt uther instructions ye think necessary, I will expect wt the bearer, att my nephew Bracoe's house on Sunday's night, where I have appointed him to mcitt me. And iff ye judge me capable to serve yourselfe and your interest in any thing during my abode att Edinburgh I pray use the ffreidome to putt your comandes friely upon me, ffor I sweare there will be none more willing or ready to serve you And this with my humble service and deuitfull respect to yourselfe, lady and your relations, is all att the tyme ffrom (Much honoured).—Your very affectionate cousine and humble servt,

'WM. DUFF.'

A second letter, from the same to the same, written from Edinburgh a fortnight later, says :

'27 Jan. 1683.

'I delivered your letter to my Lord Kemnay whom I found verie freindly. I can find no wastiges of some of old Adam Duff's peapers. I admire (*wonder*) what is become of the original wrytes, for my Lord Kemnay declares he never saw them. . . . Coxtoun keepes wryting me, he expects myghtic maters, he had gotten a decreatt . . . against the children before I came heir, but it is

now stoped till we be heard. I suld gladly know that you was to come this round and I have wryten my nephewe Bracco to come also, and iff ye ware both hear, I doubt nott butt we might be att the bottome off the bussiness one way or other. . . . Dame Dorathie¹ has plaiced letters before the Counsell. . . . Ye must hold a certificate for yourselfe and also discharge ye children's nonage and we shall (with my Lord Kenmay's assistance) doe all yt can be done to bring you off, butt I had rathyre ye suld come uppe yr selfe for all ye monie itt may cost you, ffor iff you and my nephew were here, I doe nott questione butt we might come toe a period one way or other. I ade no moe butt for confidence to see you here I bid you heartily flarewell and remain yr most humble servant,

'WM. DUFF.'

Alexander of Braco adds a postscript to this, also urging Abercromby's presence, and failing this, asking for full written directions.

A third letter, undated, but apparently written a few days later, is addressed to 'Mr. John Abercrombie at Banff (be a freind, whom God conduct) these':

'I did writt to you bye last post and sent you copie of the letters deposed be Dorathie Lawson before the Counsell . . . this day we are to debcatt before the Lord Pitmedden. If Wm. Dunbar off Durn, who is bearer hereoff, stay till it be over, I sall give you ane accompt of whatt passes, and iff nott I sall doe it be the next occasione. . . . Sir George is afraid that the Counsell will allow Dorathie ane aliment, being a stranger and thatt nothing can stope it. I am informed ye letters before ye counsell are execute to ye first off March, and iff yr health would allowe you to take a stepe heir att yt tyme, I questione nott butt we myght settle with hir, and Coxtoune also, before yr returne. This is all I cane say att prestt: butt is my verie warmest desyre ye come heir, iff be any menes ye cam, and ffor yr expenses itt is good reason that Drummuir's² interest pay itt, which I shall see done and iff ye be nott here. . . . I am exceedingly afraid bussiness will not goe right, except ye wold be heir about the 24 Inst at ffarthest which is also my lord Kenmay's desyre and this is all I can say but expecting you without all fail, I remaine.—Yr most humble servant,

'WM. DUFF.

'This day the bussiness was debaitt before ye lord Pitmedden. . . . Drummuir's daughters are served heiresse to yre brother, which is a notorious Lic.'

William Duff was concerned in supplying provisions, etc., to the troops of King William III. in Scotland, as the following extracts from the *Warrant Books of Scotland*, preserved at the Record Office, show: '1691. The King's letter to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, allowing £2100 sterling

¹ Dorothy Lawson, second wife of the late Adam Duff of Drummuir. See previous chapter.

² His son Alexander.

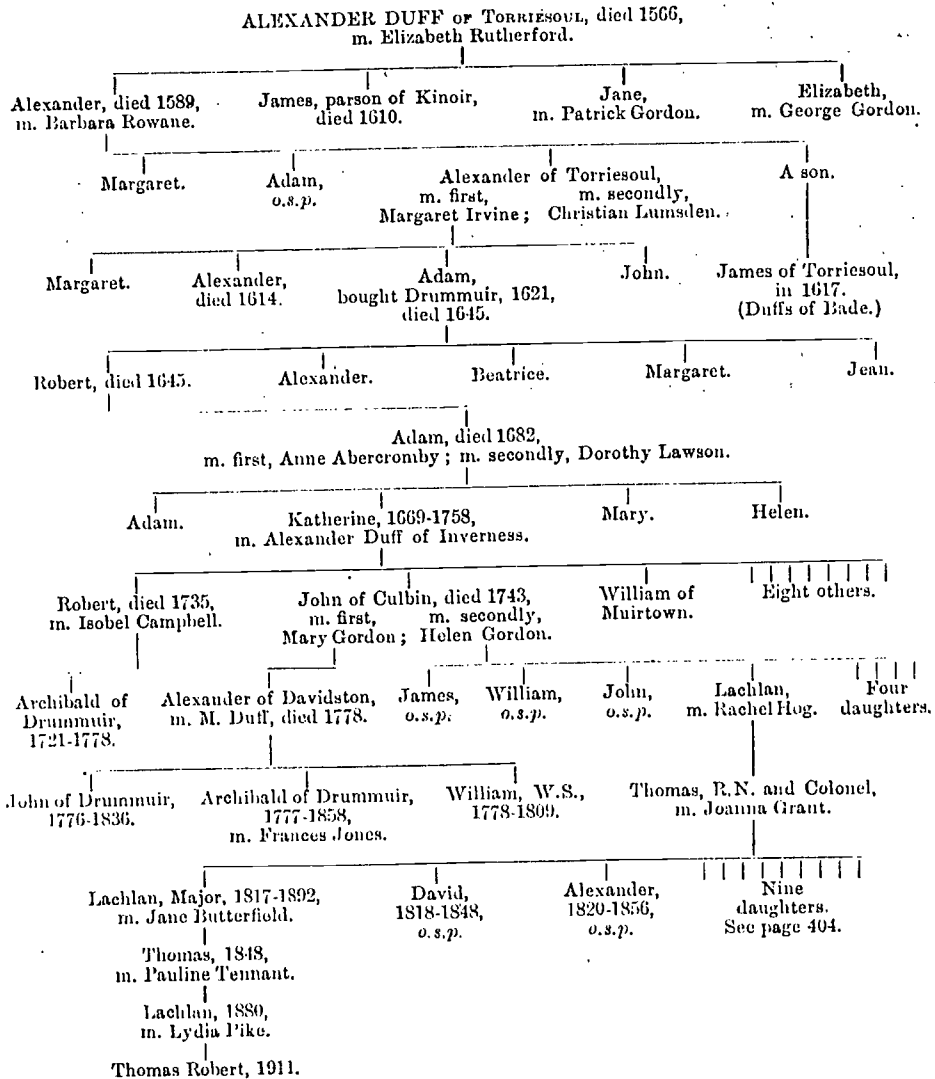
to George Hamilton of Barntown, out of the Superplus of the Supply and Excise over the £48,000 sterling he is obliged to advance to the forces, and £130 sterling to William Duff, Bailly in Inverness, to make Severall Provision for our forces in Edinburgh, out of the first and readiest of his Intromissions with our Revenues, or to pay him the foresaid sum, in case there be nothing resting to us in his hands, William Duff producing receipt from the Commanding Officer in Inverness for the Several provisions' (*Warrant Book*, xv. p. 35).

The Provost died at the age of eighty-three, in 1715, just before the occasion arose for public men to declare themselves for or against the Stuarts.

There is a portrait of him at Drummuir, a sketch of which is here reproduced; also his drinking-cup, a large cocoa-nut mounted and lined with silver, mentioned in the will of his son Alexander.

CHAPTER XXIV

ALEXANDER DUFF OF DRUMMUIR



ALEXANDER DUFF, eldest son of Provost William Duff by his first marriage, is described by Baird as 'a conscientious, good-natured, honest man; he sat in the Scotch Parliament as member for Inverness, 1702-1707, and was alwise firm to the Country party; he was likewise a member of the first British Parliament for the Inverness district, 1708-1710. He preserved the estate which his father left him,¹ but was not a money-making man, and did not greatly increase it. He bought Westerton before his father's death.² He was zealously attached to the Episcopal order in the Church, and left by his will an annuity of £15 sterling for ever, to a minister at Inverness, ordained by the successors of the old Scotch bishops deprived at the Revolution, and in case bishops were restored in Scotland, to go to the town ministers.'

Not many details are available for his biography. He appears to have become aware of the condition of the estate of Drummuir at the demise of Adam in 1682, and of the desire, expressed in Adam's will, that 'one carrying the name and arms of Duff should espouse one of his daughters.' Business arrangements came first, for the young Alexander (with the assistance of his cousin Alexander Duff of Braco) seems to have acquired the whole estate of Drummuir, then virtually in pledge to Mr. John Abercromby, and two years after her father's death to have married Katherine, before she was fifteen, he himself being twenty-seven. Before his marriage he had conducted a good deal of business for his father; witness the following letter, addressed to 'William Duff, elder, merchant of Inverness, for the present at Edinburgh, to be found at W. Stone's shop at the Plainstones, and in his absence for Mr. John Lauder, factor.' The letter is dated from Crombie. After a good many business details, and alluding to some papers of importance from Drummuir which have been 'much abused with rain,' he adds:

'I met with this bearer at Keithmore on his journey south, who says he knows you. Your brother expects you this way. I am now going home and will endeavour to clear with Cubine by the way, which is all at this time. If you have sold Braco's and Crombie's meal, George Geddes desires you to sell meal for him.—Your loving and obedient son,
ALEXANDER DUFF.'

Undated, probably 1694.³

¹ Or rather bought for him.

² Also on December 18, 1700, he got sasine on Davidston, and it has remained in the possession of the Duffs of Drummuir ever since. The house was built by John Gordon, son of Gordon of Thornybank, in 1678, and bears the following inscription:

I G	16
(John Gordon)	I A 78
	(Isabel Abercromby)

³ As there is another letter to Provost William in that year, with the same curious address



ALEXANDER DUFF OF DRUMMUIR.

The papers 'much abused with rain' are referred to again in other documents of the period; possibly they had been exposed to the weather during the exciting times that followed Adam's death, and the ousting of Dorothy Lawson. It is not clear exactly what part Alexander Duff of Braco played in the redemption of the estates of Drummuir, as it is expressly stated that he 'did not supply one shilling towards it,' but there exists a 'disposition by John Abercrombie of the lands of Drummuir to Duff of Braco,' dated 1682. Further, a 'decreet of adjudication to Alexander Duff of Braco against the representatives of deceased Adam Duff of Drummuir of the whole estate of Drummuir and other lands for payment of £22,061 Scots. Date 1685.' And another disposition, September 1688, of the whole estate of Drummuir by Alexander Duff of Braco to Alexander Duff, 'Merchant in Inverness.'¹

That Alexander looked upon the estate as quite his own property is shown by his will, where he mentions near relations in the entail, and, among others, James Duff, merchant in Bauff, *i.e.* James of Corsindae, grandson of his uncle John, and also by the following from a paper at Drummuir, dated 1686:

'Alexander of Drummuir, who by his own means acquired right to the said estate, and possesses the same, *singulari titulo*, having paid more debts resting, not only to the late Drummuir's creditors, but lykeways to old Adam Duff his grandfather's creditors, than twice the value of the said estate, so that his lady's sisters could expect no interest, ne right.'

It also appears that Alexander (or his father) even paid the tocher for Mary, younger sister of Katherine.

Alexander and Katherine had a large family:

1. ANNE, born 1684 (when her mother was fifteen), afterwards Lady Mackintosh. 'Her husband, Lachlan Mackintosh, twentieth of Mackintosh, was a man of great Courage and Honour and of primitive Integrity, but so lucky in his repartees and a poignant turn of wit that many of his bons mots are still handed down. He engaged in the Rebellion 1715, with a great body of men of his own clan, and entered England at their head, with other forces, in all about 2000, but they were defeated at Preston. Mackintosh was tried and condemned but pardoned by King George the 1st. He died in 1731, and his Lady in 1750, at Muirtown'

¹ Doubtless the last time he was known by this title, which he then exchanged for that of 'of Drummuir.' On February 22, 1703, Alexander Duff of Drummuir is appointed H.M. Collector of Customs at Inverness (*Scottish Warrant Books*, Record Office).

(Baird).¹ They are both buried in the churchyard of Petty, near Inverness, but only initials are on the stone.

2. Another daughter, born 1688.

3. JANET, born 1689, and died unmarried.

4. MARY, born 1691; married William Gordon, son of Sir James Gordon, seventh baronet of Lesmoir, and had one son William, who succeeded his grandfather as eighth baronet of Lesmoir. The contract of marriage is dated November 22, 1709, between William Gordon of Lesmoir and Mary Duff, daughter to Alexander Duff of Drummuir, whereby Sir James Gordon disposes to his eldest son William the barony of Newton Garie. After the death of William Gordon she married Arthur Gordon of Carnousie,² and had a son Alexander, besides other children. See Alexander of Drummuir's will:

5. WILLIAM, born 1693, *o.s.p.*

6. ALEXANDER, born 1696, died as an infant.

7. ROBERT, born 1698, younger of Drummuir (of whom presently).³

8. JAMES, born 1700, died young.

9. JOHN of Culbin, born 1701, 'ancestor of the present Drummuir.'

10. KATHERINE, born 1704, and died 1739 of 'an hydropsie under which she had laboured for many years before her death.'

¹ In the records of King's College, Aberdeen, is found the following: 'We, Lachlan Mackintosh of that ilk, chief and principal of Clan Chattan, and Mrs. Anne, my spouse, do give and dispose to the King's College, Aberdeen, for maintaining hopeful students therein the sum of 2000 merks of principal, the yearly annual rent of which is to be applied for subsisting a student in philosophy for four years. No one under twelve years to have it. Preference to be given to a Mackintosh.'

There is also a letter from William Duff of Muirtown, dated February 1, 1751, acquainting Session 'that the late Lady Mackintosh (Anne Duff) mortified 1000 merks for a pious use only, to any old or decayed necessitous person, either man or woman, failing any of the name of Duff to be presented, then to the name of Mackintosh of Clan Chattan. Anne Duff wrote this just before she died.'

² Arthur Gordon, son of George Gordon of Carnousie, was 'out' in the '45, and was Major in Lord Pitsligo's Regiment. His going out with James Gordon of Cobairdy was noted as 'a great surprisè' to his family. He was entered at Marischal College in 1712, and must therefore have been born about 1698. He got into debt, and his estate was sequestrated and afterward sold to Lord Findlater in 1753, and then to George Hay. See page 137.

He married first (before 1726), Mary, third daughter of Alexander Duff of Drummuir (widow of William Gordon, junior, of Lesmoir, who was dead in 1715), and had a son Alexander. And secondly, Isobel Campbell, widow of Robert Duff, his first wife's brother. He died abroad, probably in 1753, being one of the Jacobites 'exempted from pardon.'

His children by his second marriage were:

1. GEORGE or JAMES. 2. ARTHUR. 3. KATHERINE, married William Duff of Corsindae, died 1753. 4. JEAN, married Alexander Donaldson of Kinnairdy. 5. ANNE, married Hary Tytler, merchant at Miln of Corsindae. (*Gordons in Arms*, J. M. Bulloch, Spalding Club.)

³ Marischal College, Aberdeen, 1711-1715. 'Fasti Academiae Mariscallanae.'

11. WILLIAM of Muirtown, born 1707.

12. MAGDALEN, born 1710, *o.s.p.*

13. LACHLAN, died 1712.

14. HENDRET (HENRIETTA), died 1712. All we know of these two is the date of their deaths in the Inverness Register, where they are mentioned as 'Departed' in this year.

The eldest son William, who died young, and the third son Robert were at college in Aberdeen together.

William Scott to Alexander Duff of Drummuir

'HONBL. SIR,—The Boys agree very well w^t this place, but now begin to find the disadvantage of so late coming in since their class have made some advance in their Logicks and all of them undergone their publick examinations and ordinary trialls of their Greek so y^t my pupills must be publickly examined all alone (unless y^t some others come in to their class as yet) however, the only remedy for their disadvantage y^t way is now assiduously closely and sedulously to apply to their work, which (God willing) I shall carefully see to.

'As Im hopefull in a few days you will not know William by the change of his formerly more rude and less agreeable carriage in to y^t of a mannerly civill and complaisant behaviour, so more particularly by the change of his old ragged and threed bare cloaths into a sumptuous and splendide apparel, for this day was taken off for his use about 20 yards Holand for shirts and Musilen for Cravats, conform a very fine Scarlet for a gown, Cloath for a backsuit near 20 shillings a yard but what sets forth all, is excellent Gold mounting and furniture for y^m, both button and buttonhole. Mr. Duff¹ has done this, notwithstanding of all I could say to oppose it, or at least to delay it till furdur advice.

'Robert² has got a Scarlet gown, but if you 'll have him neighbourlike you must order just as much for him as William has got, for the Lairds here do not look as Lairds but as Little Princes.

'I mind I wrote you in my last how we were not then settled, and when at Elgine, y^t I told you, as John Robertsons did, y^t Mr. Duff would quarter his cousine Dipple's son; you likewise wrot Mr. Duff and Mr. Smith w^t relation to their settlement, but I could have wished you had wrote neither of y^m on y^t subject for we quarter in Mr. Duff's house, not in ill quarter I assure you, for Mr. Duff is a most hearty, frank discreet complaisant Gentleman and his Lady³ a most mannerly, kind and understanding Gentlewoman, but we pay handsomely for it. The way of pactioning was thus, when Mr. Duff, Mr. Smith and I were communing about our settlement they asked me, what were my instructions as to the rate of quartering. I answered y^t all my instructions were generall,

¹ John Duff, messenger, in whose house they were then living. See chapter iii.

² Then fourteen.

³ Anna Innes. See chapter iii.

y^t you was not acquaint w^t the rates, only desired us to take a good quarters as reasonably and prudently as we could by this counsel and advice, but for all I could say on y^t head they told me I concealed my particlar instructions or wondered I got none, at length I happened to say to Mr. Smith y^t I believed you would have been more particlar, but y^t you heard Mr. Duff was to take Diples son into his own house and if so, the Boys could not seperate nor could you fix any rate. This Mr. Smith told Mr. Duff and made me tell it over before y^m both when Mr. Duff minded of the promise between Diple and him and said y^t Diples son as also Tannachies, was most welcome to him, tho he got nothing w^t them, yet I would have something named y^t I might write to you, y^t was a difficulty, he would name no thing but what you pleased y^t could not satisfie me but named I would have it, after much ado Mr. Duff desired y^t Mr. Smith and I should concert what to write to you I spoke to Mr. Smith he told me y^t himself and oysr private Gentlemen in the Town got forty pounds Scots or three pounds Ster: which falling in discourse I had acquainted you w^t, and y^t your answer was it was too much, y^t you was at the Colledge table yourself and payd but fiftie merks which you thought was abundance, then Mr. Smith advised me to keep by that and Mr. Duff said it was enough so by Mr. Smith advice I made this speech to Mr. Duff y^t Fiftie merks was not what his house required, but I would give no more: if Tannachy or Diple pleased to make any complement themselves let them do it, thus the aggreement was ended and Mr. Smith advised I should as was ordinary pay a quarter at our entry if I could, which I offered to Mr. Duff and desired me give it to his wife, which I did, but only gave an hundred merks least I should be searce, there being so many things here which I could not think of before to take away a deal of money, however the Gentlewoman is as a Mother to the Boys and desires me to seek money from her if I want, for which direction you must give her thanks by a letter.

‘Neither have I as yet given anything to either of the Regents which is wondered at, my reasons are these I have not enough of money, neither know I what to give them till I get your advice. I mind very well you desired me to give Guineas the peice to Mr. Moor and two Guineas apeice to Mr. Smith, but as Lairds sons here are sumptuous in their cloaths, so are they libirall in their purses, for there is not a Gentlemans son worth the noticing but gives the Regent 3 or 4 Guineas. The Sheriff gives 3 Guineas to Mr. Moor and flive to Mr. Smith but has not given it as yet, his Governour being at a stance, whether he shall give it w^tout advice from Tutors. Neither will John Duff advise to give less than 2 Guineas apeice to Moor and 3 to Mr. Smith, and I, if I give them before I hear from you, cannot offer Mr. Moor less than a Guinea and an half for each of them, and 3 Guineas or 2 Guineas and an half to Mr. Smith. Therefore you ’ll please let us hear your mind here soon possible and send up money, for the expenses of coming here the 100 mks. Roberts Gown, w^t a number of oyr small sumes have near exhausted all the money I got, if you could send up 15 lbs. Ster. it were better to leave than want, however, your will shall be done, and whatever I give out you shall have the accompt of it. If Diples has not sent some books to his son we ’ll be necessitate to buy them here.

'Sir, If you will not give Rob: gold mounting as oyr Lairds have, you 'l please cause make a fashionable wig at Elgine for him ; a Campaigne of tolerable fair hair oyr wise if there can be one got in all Abd I shall buy one for him, tho I should pay it out of my own pocket, for he must be something honestlike, but a wig can be had much better and cheaper at Elgine than here.

'This long, confused and illegible epistle ought to be apologized for, but youll the easier pardon it that it is absolutely necessary from, Honbl. Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

WILL: SCOT.

'MARISCHALL COLLEGE,
'ABERDEEN, December 23rd, 1712.

'Pray sir send an answer by the very next post.'

(D.)

There is an amusing letter four years later from Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, to the Laird of Grant, referring to Alexander Duff of Drummuir, and his matrimonial projects for his son Robert, who was a suitor for the hand of Margaret Grant, the Laird of Grant's youngest sister. (But Lord Lovat married her in 1717, during the lifetime of his first wife, the Dowager Lady Lovat, whom he had married by force.)

'LONDON, Aug. 25, 1716.

'MY DEAREST BRIGADIER,— . . . All I can say is, that I wish from my heart I may perish the day I forget your friendship or feal in my duty towards you . . . and come of the mack [*marriage*] what will, it will never augment or diminish my jealous friendship for your person and interest ; and if I live, I hope to be as usefull to you and yours as the bourgeois lairds whom your relations have prefer'd to me, after their incouraging promises to assist my design several months ago. I cannot but laugh, dear Brigadier, to see the nature of those common fellows when they see themselves masters of a good estate. Drummuire's words are rather like Louis xiv. than like William Duff's son. He makes no apologie for not aquanting you of his son's design, which he calls resolution, le Roy l'a resolu ; and then it is not by way of intreaty he asks your consent, but by way of command. He says he expects it, without loss of tyme. He could not writ otherwayes to one of his vassals on Speyside ; but I must own I never saw anything more pointedly answered than you have done that insolent paragraph.—Your constant faithfull slave,

LOVAT.¹

'Alexander Duff died in 1726, being as was supposed, about seventy years of age.' Three of his wills are preserved at Drummuir, and extracts from them are here given :

First Will, dated August 1, 1715, the year of his father's death. In

¹ Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant*.

this Alexander states that by the terms of his marriage contract (June 1, 1682), he had settled upon Katherine the half dauch¹ lands of Towienore, but that as at the time of making this will his 'conditions and circumstances are some better than at that time' he thinks himself bound to give her a better competence and leaves to her the lands of Daviston (*sic*). 'But if my said spouse shall think it more convenient to reside and stay in the town of Inverness than to go to live at Daviston, I hereby appoint her a dwelling-house in any of my houses she thinks proper, and a share of my plenishing such as may serve her conveniently.'

He bequeaths his whole interests in the shires of Banff and Aberdeen to his son Robert.

To John, his second son, £8000 Scots of principal and Mickle Geddes, granted by Calder.

To William, his third son, his houses and farms in Inverness-shire, lands of Essoch and Drummondwill in Ross-shire.

The witnesses to this will are William Cutlbert, glover, and Donald Munro, servitor to William Duff, late Provost.

The second Will is dated 1719.

He leaves £3000 to his son Robert, 'who is about to marry a good and discreet gentlewoman,' and also land and houses in Cullen.

'My wife, since partly by her care and management, one good part of the effects the Lord has bestowed on us, is owing, I leave to be my only intromitter while she remains a widow, and besides the lands of Daviston and houses in Castle Street, I leave to her £300 of the best and readiest of my goods to be given to all or any of our children as she finds most deserving.

'And to W. Duff of Crombie, my brother's son, encaise he live to be a man and come to perfection £10,000 Scots.

'To Isobel Duff my sister 5000 merks in case of her not marrying.

'To Colin Campbell 1000 merks on account of Helen Duff in case of her not marrying, 1000 to Alexander Campbell of Delnies, my godson.

'To my son William, my house and lands in the town of Inverness, likewise my lands of Drumerdine and Mickleballa in Ross-shire with £40,000 Scots when he comes to eighteen.

'To my eldest daughter Anne £100. To Mary, wife to Arthur Gordon £100, to my grandson, Sir William Gordon of Lesmoir, if he live to be married, £100, to my sister Katherine £50 for the relief of her and her Munro children.

¹ Daugh signifies, in this connection, a certain amount of land able to produce forty-eight bolls of meal.

'To the Hospital at Inverness 500 merks.

'Since there is no portion named to John, who is joint intromitter with Katherine, and succeeds to the whole if she marries again, the lands of Cubine and wadset right of Earnhill.

'Since there may be troubles in the country and losses, I may diminish any of the said provisions in my lifetime.

'This will to be insert and registered in the books of sessions. Dated Inverness, April 16, 1719. Witnesses: Leonard Urquhart, Patrick Graham, Servitor to Sir W. Gordon, Lesmoir.'

The third and final Will runs as follows :

'I, Alexr. Duff of Drummure considering the frailty and uncertainty of this mortell life and the certainty of Death tho' the time, place and manner thereof be unknown, and that it is the duty of all persons in their own time, while sound in body and judgement to settle and order their worldly affairs so as to obviate and prevent any dispute difference and contraversie might arise thereanent after their deceas, and to be in readiness to abide the goodwill and pleasure of God, when He shall happen to call them from this transitory life to a better and to Himself in Glory, Have Therefore thought fit to make, as I hereby make, my Last Will and Testament, in form and manner following : In the first place, I recomend my Soul to God, hoping to be saved throw the merits of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and ordaining my body to be decently and christianly buried, when I depart this life. In the second place, I nominate and appoint, make, constitute and ordaine John Duff of Culbin my second lawfull son, my Sole Executor, universal legator and assigney to, and Intromitter with my hail goods, gear, debts, sums of money and other whatsoever pertaining and belonging or that shall happen to pertain, acceresce and belong to, and not be otherwise disposed of by me.'

(Legacies.) 'Imprimis, the sum of 10,000 pound Scots money of prinell: with any rents and expenses that may be due thereon addebted and resting, to William Duff now of Crombie and Jean Meldrum his mother, by the deceast Wm. Duff, late Provost of Inverness, my father.

'Item, the sum 5000 merks Scots to Isobell Duff my sister.

'Item, the sum of 9000 merks Scots to Katherine Duff my youngest daughter.

'Item, 300 pound sterling to my dear and loving spouse Katherine Duff.'

(He reposes great confidence in his wife, and desires John of Culbin to take her advice.)

'Item, to my wife the whole furniture and plenishings that belong to

me for her life, after which this to be divided among my children, excepting my large silver tankard which I bequeath and make over to Robert Duff younger of Drummure, my eldest lawful son and his heirs-male.'

He further 'ordains that his wife to continue unmarried all the days of her life.'

'Item, 2000 merks liferented to Helen Duff, sister to my said spouse, 1000 merks of which falls due after Helen's death to Mary Duff, relict of dec. Coline Campbell of Delnies, the other 1000 comes to me. This to go to Alexr. Campbell now of Delnies, my godson.

'Item, 2400 Scots to Anna Duff, Lady Mackintosh, my eldest daughter.

'Item, for love of Mary Duff, my daughter, and spouse to Arthur Gordon of Carnousie I bequeath to Alexr. Gordon their son, my godson, 2000 pounds Scots and failing him to their other children. This moneý is resting [owing] to me by Sir Wm. Gordon of Lesmore, my grandchild.

'Item, for love of Katherine Duff, my sister, I bequeath to her, upon behalf of James Monro, her 2nd son, 900 merks.

'Item, to Harry Duff, natural son to Robert Duff my son, 500 merks Scots money after my deceass in order to put him to some tread in case he come to perfection (*i.e.* of age). (If not, this sum goes to the Exrs.)

'If John Duff of Culbin be not alive at my death, William Duff to be Executor, and after him the heirs of Robert, my eldest son.'

He further desires and recommends that all shall abide by what he directs, and adds a 'mortification for Episcopal clergie and poor of parish of Inverness, dated 1725.'

The will is dated at Inverness March 21, 1726, six months before his death, which took place on the August 22, 1726.

The funeral sermon preached on the occasion of his death is still preserved. From it we gather that the cause of his death was crisympelas. 'As a man he had a comelie personage and healthful constitution till of late that the frequent relapsing into that fever of the rose did break it.'

The preacher also adds: 'I cannot forget his protecting the orthodox clergie in their persecution with his pains, moyen, patrimony, and purse, when a furious zeal like a land flood was like to have overrun them in this corner of the land.'

There are two delightful letters from Katherine, widow of Alexander, to Thomas Brodie, W.S., in Edinburgh:

'INVERNESS, Dec. 10th, 1745.

'DEAR SIR,—I houp that this will find you weal in midst of al this trouble, as I wish from my hart. And being so much obliged for all the good offices you have done to my friends and your kindness to Sandie Duff [*see next letter*] from tym to tym, thanks you, only wishing it may be in his power or myn to be

servisable to you or yours. I had a letter from London last post shewing me of being disapoynted of Scouric,¹ first changing his quarters and then going off to Carolina or Georgia which has cost Drummuir² a good deal of expenses which will be hard on me, dear sir. . . . You will write to Drummuir and get his script and advice, anent the big house over the watter to be discharged when he wants. . . . John Grant cannot get anything from either tenant at the Term. I told him I would want of 10 or 12 pond sterling . . . so you may write a letter and give pressing orders.—Yr most humble servant,
KATH. DUFF.³

The second letter is dated the following year, when Katherine was seventy-seven, but is more legible.

‘INVERNESS, 1746.

‘DEAR SIR,—By this houping and wishing with all my heartt you good health and withal a greatt many thanks for your kyndness, I may truly say to all my family and particularly to Drummuir,³ lkyways to Sandie Duff, poor boy,⁴ for your care and advice from tym to tym, which poor foolish youth, is having the least thoughts of entring the Armie but to keep by his pension, little as it might be. Still it please God to settle his friends that has been feeding him with such notions as what he told me and those who has seen and had experiénc of the world does not think it right, for I told you enough of what has been, so you may assure him he shall never get soe much as a penny worth of it, nor will I pay what he asks on, nor his vain prodicall cloaths, nor will I so much as write to him till he be of another mynd. The Ladye Mackintosh writ to him such on this hand, which with myn has come to his hand this summer session. Let him win some small thing be his pen and in looking for his father's papers,⁵ and diligence with patience will come through the world, as it does with many of my acquaintance even in troubsome tymes, not I confess to vain braw youths which I hear of some, besydes the Captain. Officers is but slaves for life. I have only found one of Inglis' papers what is left, and anc note is by me, you 'll see what it came to, butt for the Company's debt which lys in with Cubin's papers, which will satisfy that and I truly think Drummuir can have nothing ado. I wish now that they would nottice the improvement of his ffortune and mary a Scots woman and not be following Kinairdy's⁶ way. All I can say is, I pray GOD to direct and prosper him at the head of that interest which stood my dear husband much pain to putt together. Craving your pardon for this letter and incorrecness of the style, I am, etc., etc.,
KATH. DUFF.⁷

As will be seen from the above letters, Katherine (on the back of whose

¹ Patrick Mackay.

² See next chapter.

³ This must refer to young Archibald, probably then resident in Edinburgh or still abroad.

⁴ Alexander Duff, afterwards of Davidston, eldest son of Katherine's second son John, and at this time twenty-one.

⁵ His father, John Duff, went bankrupt some fourteen years before.

⁶ Dipple's brother-in-law, who went bankrupt.

portrait at Muirtown, is written, probably by Major H. R. Duff, 'Katherine Duff of Drummuir--ugly enough to be sure'), was a lady of determination. She was also throughout her life a vehement Jacobite. There is a tradition that 'at the commencement of the operations for the Royal Succession in 1715 the town of Inverness was first seized for the Jacobite interest by the exertions of Alexander Duff of Drummuir, who introduced his son-in-law, the Laird of Mackintosh, into the town at the head of his clan, and the magistrates being much under Drummuir's influence, he having been member of Parliament from 1702 to 1710, and Provost of Inverness in 1715, seemed strongly on the side of the Stewart dynasty. The exertions of Culloden and Kilravoek, aided by Lord Lovat, however, were effectual in recovering this important post for the King, though not without some contest and bloodshed' (Shaw's *History of Moray*).

'Alexander Duff of Drummuir was Provost in 1715,¹ and when the other magistrates desired him to take steps to defend the town he made light of their fears, and further declined to make inquiries who were the individuals employing the Bakers to make Ammunition Bread and the Carpenters to make chests, and for a good reason, as his own Lady was one of the principal persons employing these tradesmen, to the behoof of the Laird of Mackintosh, her son-in-law. Further, owing to the Town Guards being removed at 4 o'clock in the morning by his orders, his son-in-law, the Laird of Mackintosh and Mackintosh of Borlum got possession of the town' (*Investigations at Inverness 1717 anent the proceedings of the People of that Town at the time of the Rebellion 1715*).

'The town of Inverness was held for the rebels by Sir John Mackenzie. Simon, Lord Lovat, summoned the Frasers to arms, and joining his men to those whom Duncan Forbes of Culloden was able to gather, he successfully attacked the town, compelled the Jacobites to fly, and by so doing undoubtedly did much to confirm the victory which had been somewhat doubtfully won, about the same time, on Sheriffmuir' (*A Century of Scottish History*, by Sir Henry Craik).

Later the sympathies of Alexander Duff were with the Hanoverian Government, on which, as on the winning side, so many of the elder Duffs ranged themselves, leaving the romantic Royalist cause to their penniless younger sons.

In the marriage settlement of his eldest son Robert, 1717, with Isobel Campbell of Clunes, Alexander makes the following proviso :

'In case the said Robert Duff, or any of the persons above named, their

¹ He held this office from 1706, when his father resigned it, until 1709, and again from 1712 to 1715.

heirs and successors, in whose favours the Disposition above written is made and granted, should be guilty of rebellion against the King's person and government, or his Majesty's successors or contract debt above the sume of 20,000 pounds Scots . . . then the said lands devolves upon the next member of Taillie. It is lykeways specially provided and declared that even during the standing of the said marriage, if it shall heppen the said Robert Duff to fall in rebellion as said is, against the King's Majesty, and Government, or his Majesty's successors, or if he shall happen to go abroad or not reside with his present apparent spouse in one family or in case of any other mischance, occasion or emergency, etc., etc., that then and in either of these cases the said Robert Duff his liferent, right of the said lands, etc., during the continuance or being in any such state or condition shall be, and is hereby declared to be ipso facto, null and void, and his said liferent of the same is hereby declared to devolve on the said Mistress Isobel Campbell during the standing of the said marriage.'

In Chambers's *History of the Rebellion*, we find the following :

' During the rebellion of 1745 the town of Inverness was the chief scene of the exertions of both parties and was for some time the residence of Prince Charles and of Cumberland, who successively occupied the same bed in the house of old Lady Drummuir (then 77). With her was residing her widowed daughter Anne, widow of Lachlan Mackintosh of Moy (aged 61). (Katherine having been married at 15.)

' It was in the town house of Lady Drummuir, mother of the Lady Mackintosh (that had a room ungraced by a bed!) that the young Chevalier took up his residence, and later on, as at Holyrood House, Falkirk, and various other places, the Duke took up his lodgings in the same house, same room, and same bed which his precursor, Charles, had occupied. It may be safely conjectured that Lady Drummuir, whose daughter Lady Mackintosh had acted as the presiding divinity of Charles's household for two months, would by no means relish the presence of the new tenant. The comment which she afterwards passed on this period was "I've had twa King's bairns living with me in my time and I wish I may never have another." Lady Mackintosh was taken prisoner after the battle of Culloden and taken to London, but was soon set at liberty.'

The two ladies sent the following petition to Cumberland with regard to the damage done by his followers, on the night after Culloden. The answer (if there were any) has not been preserved.

'To his Royall Highnes The Duke of Cumberland, etc.

'The Memoriall of Katheren Duff, Lady Dowager of Drummuir and Ann Duff, Lady Dowager of Mackintosh her daughter.

'1746.

'Humbly Sheweth,

'That on the sixteenth day of Apryle last, when your Royall Highness entered the Town of Inverness with the army and took possession of the two

Severall Lodgings, Cellars and office houses thereof belonging to the Memorialists, They, the Memorialists, were then turned out, and dispossessed of their Lodgings, and not allowed to return therto since that tyme. That those Lodgings were provided with very good furnitur of all sorts suitable to the Memorialists' Rank, and the Closetts of those Lodgings contained severall repositories where the Memorialists body apparell lay, together with their table and bed Linnin and Blankets, etc., and their private wryts and papers, which can be of no use to any but to the Memorialists, were lykewise lodged in those Repositories. The Memorialists were not allowed by themselves, or any in their name, to medle with any of those subjects, since they were dispossessed of them and their Lodgings.

' May it therefor please your Royall Highness to take the Memorialists ease to consideration—and appoint their body apparell and that of their servants to be delivered them, together with their private wrytes and papers, and to appoint that the damage done their furnitur, table and bed linnin, etc., may be ascertained in such manner as shall be thought proper, and such relieff granted as to your Royall Highness shall be judged just and reasonable. And your Royall Highness Memorialists shall ever pray, etc.

' KATH. DUFF.

' ANNA DUFF.'¹

Some confusion has arisen from the fact that in 1745 there were three Ladies Mackintosh living :

Anne, daughter of Alexander Duff of Drummuir, who married Lachlan Mackintosh, twentieth laird. He died in 1731, and was succeeded by his kinsman, William Mackintosh, whose wife was Christian, daughter of Sir Alexander Menzies. He died in 1741. And thirdly, Anne Farquharson of Invercauld, who married Angus or Æneas Mackintosh, brother of William. He (Angus) was an officer under the Hanoverian Government, and his wife was the ' Colonel Anne ' of the Rout of Moy.

' On February 16, Charles reached Moy Hall. Some one, suspected to be the Laird of Dalrachny, sent information to Lord Loudon that Charles was lodging at Moy Hall. It became known to the Dowager Lady Mackintosh, who sent a messenger to warn her daughter-in-law.² On the messenger's arrival the guard woke the Prince and also Lady Mackintosh who appeared in the courtyard in her smock, and thereupon organised the famous ambush known as the Rout of Moy, whereby Loudon's scheme for apprehending the Prince was completely defeated, through the exertions of seven men.'³

In Fraser Mackintosh's *Antiquarian Records* we find the following extracts from the account-book of the steward of Anne, Lady Mackintosh (called the old Lady Mackintosh, as there were two dowagers):

¹ Drummuir papers.

² This was *not* the real relationship.

³ Chambers.

'Mar: 3rd, 1746. At Inverness, Monday : the Prince taking up his quarters in the house of his benefactress, old Lady Mackintosh.

To extinguishing a chimney on fire and cleaning it	2	0
To bread sent to Fort Augustus	1	10 0
To Lady Macintosh's servant	2	0
To a salmond	2	4
To a coloured pig	3	0
A gown and a petticoat to ye citchen girl, etc., etc.	13	5' ¹

Prince Charles gave to Anne Duff, Lady Mackintosh, a pencil drawing of himself, by Giles Hussey, done in Florence when he was eighteen. It is now in the possession of Colonel A. R. B. Warrand.

Katherine's will, made nearly four years after Culloden, in her own handwriting, still exists.

'Dec. 5, 1749. I desire if it please GOD to spare me sum short tym to writ my testament as folows :

'To my eldest grandchild and representer, Archibald Duff of Drummuir to him 50 pond sterling for mornings. A furnished bed with sax plaid curtains, sax par shits with cotts, sax dosen good serviats with tabel cotts. which I ame put in a trunk with my two Genohy broads and my stuekcon to be sett up in the kirk of Botriphnic, leaving him my blessing, and begs him to be frendly and kyn to all his worthy grandfather's Drummuir's posteritic, who did proceed for him lykways.

'A pock of fyn linin to be shirts for Drummuir which I have by me.

'KATT DUFF.

'A box with a sett of China boull and china pott, lykways a littoll conceatt of my daughter's, this being all hers, all in the trunk with two loks and keys marked W. D. yr greatt Grandfather's name.'

The escutcheon, about which Katherine appears so anxious, still hangs in the church at Botriphnic, bearing the arms of all her own and her husband's illustrious forebears.

¹ The house in which this entertainment took place was not the one described in a document at Drummuir dated 1732. 'Large new tenement with office, houses and gardines thereto belonging to and lately rebuilt by the said deceased Alexander Duff of Drummuir, lying within the town and territory of Inverness consisting of 3 roods of Burgage land and lying on the West side of the Water of Ness.' (This is probably the 'house accross the watter' referred to in Katherine's letter.) Alexander Duff had a good deal of town property which came to him from his mother's father, Alexander Duff, town clerk of Inverness; the charters to the first Alexander are still in existence, and a disposition by him to his son-in-law William in 1656. The house of old Lady Drummuir was the one that stood in what is now Church Street. A stone with the date 1722 and Drummuir's arms was removed to an adjoining house when the original was pulled down, and portions of the old panelling were made into two fine armchairs, one of which was in the possession of Mr. Fraser Mackintosh of Lochardhill, Inverness.

The 'slits and cotts' would appear to be sheets and blankets, the 'genohly broads' were doubtless velvet dresses or tablecloths, and the serviats must have been early table napkins.

The 'littoll conceatt' defies explanation; we will hope that it reached the owner in safety.

Katherine died in 1758, having survived her husband for thirty-two years, and during the nine years that the eldest son Robert survived his father he was always known as 'younger of Drummuir,' and apparently did not take possession of the estate, but resided first at Westerton in the parish of Botriphnie, and afterwards in Elgin, where his two younger children were born and baptised.

He married, in 1717, Isobel Campbell of Clunes, and had by her two sons: ARCHIBALD, born 1721, and WILLIAM, born 1724, and a daughter CATHERINE, born 1723, who married Archibald Campbell of Budgate, and had one daughter Isabel.

Robert Duff died in 1735, and his son, Archibald Duff, succeeded to the estate of Drummuir, but apparently only took full possession upon his grandmother's death in 1758. William was a merchant in Holland, chiefly at Rotterdam, and died unmarried after 1750. A letter from him, written in Dutch, is preserved at Drummuir. According to papers at Drummuir, 'Robert was seized with a melancholy disease which in a few years increased to such a degree that for about eight years before his death he was quite extenuate and became so silly, that he was altogether incapable of managing his own affairs . . . most people were fully persuaded that his judgment was greatly affected by the melancholy distemper that he laboured under, and of which he died. It was a very difficult matter to get him to sign his name; he rarely spoke a word and would not answer the easiest question for most part until it was frequently asked.' John Duff, his next brother, tried in 1726 to get Robert certified as an idiot, but seemingly failed in this design.

'According to a document at Drummuir, 'he took out, in Chancery, a brieve of Idiocy, or of Idiocy and ffuriosity directed to the Sheriff of Elgin and Forres and his deputes, for cognoseing the said complainer an Idiot, in order to set him aside from the succession to certain Lands and estate devolved upon him by the death of Alexander Duff of Drummuir his Father.' The same document goes on to state that 'Robert is far from being furious and can with no manner of propriety be called ane Idiot; tho' he may be a person subject to melancholy and may have thoughts on certain matters particular to himself, yet can at all times behave himself with great decency in company, and is not at all a squanderer of his money, is remarkably eminent at playing at chess and cards and on musical

instruments, not by intervals, but at all times, as others are, therefore he cannot come under the definition of an idiot.'

There is one letter from John to Robert's wife, 1726, which rather bears out the theory that Robert was a nonentity.

John Duff of Culbin to Isabella Campbell, wife of Robert Duff of Drummuir

'MADAM,—This goes by Mr. Forbes who will deliver you the papers, were Depositate in the Commrs hands. You 'll cause Mr. Craig look in to the papers to know what further he 's to add, I doe not agree to all contain'd in the last memoriall, but when Mr. Craig is fully satisfied wt. the papers, shall make my remarks. You 'll cause take ane double of your Contract of marriage, which must be one of the papers laid before the Lawiers. My Broyr. Wm. will be here next Tuesday in his way for Edinbr., and if you can return me the papers to Tannachie or Forres Munday's night wt. the double of your Contract and ane Memoriall, shall make my amendments thereon and send them by my Broyr. Wm. which wt. my service to yourself, Brothr. and family, I am, Madam, Your affect. Broyr. and most humble Sert:

JOHN DUFF.

'GRANGEHILL, 12th Nov. 1726.

'To The Lady Drumuire, younger, att her Lodgings in Elgin.'

The unfortunate Robert died in 1735, when his eldest son Archibald was 'going on fifteen.' Isobel, the widow, remarried, within six months, the Arthur Gordon of Carnousie, who had previously been married to Mary Duff, sister of her first husband, and Archibald was sent to school.

Four years later, while still under age, his guardians sent him to Groningen to complete his education, and on his way thither he met at Amsterdam a young English gentleman who passed by the name of Brown. At Brussels in the following year, Duff met him again; they became intimate, and the pretended Brown revealed his real name to be Edward Wortley Montagu (the son of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu), who had twice run away from Westminster School, having been a chimney sweep on the first occasion, and a muleteer in Spain on the second.¹

In 1743, Duff and Montagu met again, in Paris, passed some time together and made various plans for the future. Mr. Montagu then entered the Army; Archibald Duff studied law and was called to the Bar.²

Three or four years later Mr. Montagu returned to England, the

¹ In after life he became first a Roman Catholic and then a Mohammedan.

² Copy of Record supplied by the Treasurer of the Inner Temple:

'Archibald Duff generosus filius et heres Roberti Duff nuper de Drummore in Boreali Britannia Armigeri defuncti generaliter admissus est in societatem istius comitive in consideratione trium librarum sex solidorum et octo denariorum premanibus solutorum decimo nono die Augusti Anno Domini 1743.'

intimacy was renewed, and the two friends agreed to try and enter Parliament, but Archibald Duff's health being feeble he shortly after went to the south of France for its recovery. After he had been away but four months he received an urgent summons from Mr. Montagu to return home, which he did, though at some danger to his health, and found himself forced by arrangements entered into by Mr. Montagu and his cousin, Lord Sandwich, to take a house at St. Ives, Hunts, and entertain the friends of the other two at his own expense, at the same time pecuniarily assisting Mr. Montagu, who was keeping up a similar establishment; the money thus advanced, which amounted to about £1000, being considered a loan. In 1747 Mr. Montagu became M.P. for Huntingdon, and in 1752, Lord Sandwich having gained his point, the arrangement came to an end, and Mr. Montagu went suddenly abroad without paying his debts. Moreover, both then and after his return to England, he drew further bills upon his friend, who honourably paid them, though obliged to borrow money for the purpose.

In the year 1757 the friends met again, and Mr. Montagu gave a bond for £1500, 5s., being the greater part of his debt to Archibald Duff, but for certain smaller debts some of Duff's goods were seized and sold upon his premises, only a few months before his death.

A letter from Arthur Gordon to his stepson Archibald, dated July 1742, announced the death of Isobel. The letter is addressed *c/o* Æneas Macdonald, banker, Paris.¹ This man was banker for Prince Charles Edward, but there is no clue as to whether the sentiments of the young Archibald leaned to the Royalist cause or not. He remained abroad during the troublous times, while his grandmother and the factor dealt with such situations as that created by the following letters from the Royalist headquarters:

‘HUNTLY CASTLE, 6th December 1745.

‘SIR,—As Lord Lieut. of the Counties of Banff and Aberdeen, I am to raise a man upon each hundred pound of valued rent within the same and, where a fraction happens, the same must yield a man. As Mr. Duff of Drummuir is forth of the Country, I desire you, as his factor, will send to Keith, Tuesday next, such a number of sufficient able-bodied men as will answer to the valuation of his Estates in the parishes of Bottraiphly; and in like manner to Huntly the said day, able-bodied men answerable to his Estate in the parish of Drumblade; all men are to be well clothed, with short cloathes, plaid, new shoes, and three pair of hose and accoutred with shoulder Ball Gun, pistolls and sword. I have appointed proper officers at both places for receiving the men. I peremptorily

¹ There is also amongst the Dartmouth papers a letter from Archibald Duff to the Lords of the Admiralty about his brother (*i.e.* half-brother), Arthur Gordon.

expect your compliyance, otherwise you may rely upon all manner of military execution being forthwith used against you, the factor, and the Estate under your management, which I hope your prudence will direct you to avoid, both upon your own and Constituents account.—I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

‘LEWIS GORDON.’¹

‘To Mr. Hary Milne, Factor to the Laird of Drummuir at Miln of Towic.’

To the Same

‘KEITH, 10th December 1745.

‘SIR,—I am ordered by Lord Lewis Gordon to tell you that no man has yet appeared from Drummuir lands of Dumuic. You will therefore give orders about that, upon receipt of this, for I have hitherto prevented any parties being sent thither, but longer it will not be in my power, so for God’s sake prevent any hard things happening to the poor people in their master’s absence there, and on the other parts of his estates.—I am, Sir, Your most obliged servant,

‘JOHN GORDON.’²

‘KEITH, 27th December 1745.

‘ADAM MAITLAND,—I have seen no men from the lands of Dumuic, tho’ I intimate to Mr. Mill to send them some time agoe. I am loath to do harsh things, but if you doe not Satisfye this night that they are to be imediately furnished I am to order 40 men to-morrow to use you all with military execution. This you depend I will not fail to doe. So prevent it if you be wise.—I am, Your friend,

JOHN GORDON.

‘To Adam Maitland, Tomeston.

‘Pay the bearer.’

Order from Colonel John Roy Stuart

‘These are ordering forthwith to be Brought soon to this place, for the use of his Royall Highness, Charles Prince of Wales, one Boll of oats and Sixty stone of Straw off each Hundred pound of valued Rent of the Lands and Estate Belonging to Lord Bracco within the Parishes of Glass and Botriphy, and Lands and Estate of Mr. Duff of Drummuir and Calder of Aswanly within the Said

¹ Lord Lewis Gordon, younger son of the second Duke of Gordon, left the British Navy to raise men on his brother’s lands for the Jacobite cause, and became one of Prince Charles Edward’s generals. He was one of the exiles who languished in poverty in Paris after Culloden, and is described in a manuscript in the French Foreign Office as ‘très étourdi; et quelquefois fou, jusqu’à ce que se faire enfermer.’ It is interesting to compare him with the Lord Lewis Gordon of the previous century, younger son of the Marquis of Huntly, who commanded troops at the age of fourteen, and by his sudden caprices did so much to hamper Montrose, and to wreck the Royalist cause in the campaign which ended in the tragedy of Carbisdale, April 27, 1650.

² The celebrated Jacobite general, John Gordon of Glenbucket.

Parishes under pain of military execution. Given at Huntly upon this the 14th
of March 1746 years by me, Jo. ROY STUART.¹

To Hary Miln

‘PITTIVIACH, 17th March 1746.

‘SIR,—As I am ordered to uplift the Cess and Levy money of the Parishes of Boatrifnie, you’ll on receipt hereof cause the Tennants of the Lands for which you are Factor have the money in Readiness to-morrow or next day at furthest at Treyard [*a farm on Drummuir*] where I hope to see yourself, otherways you’ll forgive what may happen on that account; there is subjoined a note of the money demanded, which I hope you’ll provide without the loss of a moment.—
I am, Sir, Your most humble servant, JAMES STUART.

‘LEVY MONEY

For Towie bog and feu-duty	.	.	.	.	£19 3 4
„ Westerton	„	.	.	.	645 0 0
„ Drummuir	„	.	.	.	387 0 0
„ Lochend	.	.	.	.	12 0 0
„ Boharm and Knocken	.	.	.	.	234 12 8
					£1297 16 0 Scots
					Cess £111 17 2 Scots.’

To the Same

‘FOCHRS: 24th March 1746.

‘SIR,—I had yesterday a party at your house, for the Cess Levie money arising due out of Drummuir Estate, and I was assured by Mrs. Milne that you was this day to be here with it. I waited you till now its past twelve o’clock, and yet before I would send the Party to doe the Execution appointed against Delinquents in payment, to show you that if Hostilities is not prevented by payment against to-morrow morning you’ll have yourself and not me to blame for what happens thereafter.—I am, Sir, Your most humble servant,

‘FFRAN GORDON.’²

To the Same

‘FOCHRS: 24th March 1746.

‘SIR,—I just now saw your Letter to Mr. Gordon, and as I this day have wrote you already so peremptorily I need only here tell you that unless you

¹ John Roy Stuart, soldier and poet; of the family of Kincardine in Strathspey; had been a Quartermaster in the Scots Greys; subsequently became a Jacobite agent, and joined the French army. Met Prince Charles at Blair Atholl in August 1745; was given command of the Edinburgh Regiment in the Prince’s army.

² Assistant-Quartermaster-General in the Prince’s army. After Culloden he was in hiding at Corsindae. See chapter xx.

come here, and somehow or other settle that affaire with me, I must of necessity, and depend upon it I will, send a party to visite, not only your own but likewise all the possessions of the Tenantry, for allow me to tell you that the Prince's Commands will not be baffled by your childish method of absenting yourself for that purpose; and that such methods must rather exasperate than mitigate the affaire; so that for your own sake as well as the Tenants I would begg leave to advise you to be here airy to-morrow morning, and not to endeavour on any pretext longer to delay this matter.—I am, Sir, Your most humble servant,

FRAN GORDON.

'P.S.—If you have not money, I am satisfied to accept of your bill.'

To the Commanding Officer of Mackintosh's Battalion

'You are hereby ordered instantly to repair with a party to the Lands of Drummuir and there cause burn and destroy the Corns and effects of Hary Miln, Factor for Drummuir, James Gall in Slackrainy, Arthur George in Drummuir, John Chalmers in Brachead, and in generall all others Drummuir's Tennents for contemptuously disobeying His Royall Highness orders, for paying the levie money demanded, and to bring such of the Tennents of Drummuir lands such as you can find, Prisoners to this place with their horses chattels all to be detained till the foresaid orders be complied with, which are not to be execute till to-morrow after twelve o'clock, and this shall be a Protection to the persons of the said Hary Miln and other tennents to pass and repass to and from Fochabers for adjusting the said affair, and Patrick Cruickshank in Cottertown of Westertown is ordered under pain of military execution this night to intimate this order for doing of which this is a sufficient warrand. Given att Speymouth this 26th March 1746.

JOHN DRUMMOND.¹

To Mr. Hary Miln

'FOCHABERS, 28th March 1746.

'SIR,—I received from the Bearer Twenty pound Sterling to acct. payment of the Levie money, for which have sent you my Receipt. Why after so many assurances sent you both by Lord John Drummond and me for your safety in coming to this Town to settle this matter, you should show such diffidence in us or awkwardness in yourself, I can't comprehend unless you imagine that I am much amused and set off with trifling paymts. of this kind. If this is your scheme, you 'll surely find yourself Deceiv'd in it. I formerly wrote that if you had not money I was satisfied to accept of your Bill and since that offer was neglected I don't think myself bound to show either Lenity to the Tennents or you, and I, once for all, tell you that, as sure as God is in heaven, my Intention

¹ Lord John Drummond, afterwards fourth titular Duke of Perth; brother of the third Duke. Raised a regiment of Royal Scots in the French service. During the Jacobite campaign he commanded the French auxiliaries.

is that both you and they shall know the effects of abused Patience. How farr I'll gett my Intention execute, the Consequence will prove.—I am, sir, Your most humble Servt.,
FRAN GORDON.'

'FOCHABERS, 28th March 1746.

'Received by me, Collector of the Cess and Levie money of Banffshire, from Hary Miln, factor of Drummuir's Estate, the sum of Twenty pounds sterling to account of the Levie money arising due out of Drummuir's Estate, at the rate of Five Pounds Sterling on each Hundered pound Scotts of valued rent.
FRAN GORDON.

'(i.e.) £5 out of every £8. 16. 8.'

'FOCHABERS, 4th April 1746.

'Received by me, Collector of the Cess and Levie money of Banffshire, from Hary Miln, factor on the Estates of Drummuir, Lochend and Knocken the sume of twelve hundred and ninety-seven pound sixteen shilling Scots as the Levie money arising due out of these Lands belonging to Drummuir, at the rate of Five pounds Str. on each hundred pound Scots of valued rent, as also one hundred and eleven pound seventeen shilling and two pennies Scots as the Cess of the fore-said lands due at and proceeding the twenty-fifth day of March last of which Levie money and Cesses, the said Hary Miln as ffactor and all concerned in payment thereof are discharged by
FRAN GORDON.'

This is the sum received on behalf of Prince Charles from Drummuir lands in Banffshire only. It does not include Dumuie in Aberdeenshire.

Besides the money the tenants in Banffshire contributed corn and straw for the Prince's army, receipts for which are to be found at Drummuir signed by James Harvie, Keith, March (various days) 1746.

'To the Officers or principal Inhabitants of the Parish of Boatrifny.

'These doe hereby ordaine the heritors or their doers and tenants of the Parish of Boatrifny to send in to ffochabers two hundred and fifty stone of straw and ten Bolls of oats for the use of His Royal Highness forces this day, and that under pain of Military execution to be done against them if not imediately obey'd. Given at Fochabers this 6th April 1746.
MAT. BAGOT.'¹

To Mr. Hary Miln

'SIR,—You are hereby ordered to deliver, or cause the tennents of Drummuir's estate deliver, in to His Royall Highness Magazine here, and that at or before twelve o'clock to-morrow forenoon, certyfying both you and them

¹ French-Irish officer in Prince Charles's army, commanded the Jacobite Hussars.



ARCHIBALD DUFF OF DRUMMAIR.

that military execution will be done immediately thereafter against your farms and effects. Given at ffochabers, this 9th day of April 1746.

'PERTH.'¹

And one letter after Culloden from the opposing party, which must, one would think, have found but little provision left to commandeer.

'To Mr. Harie Milne, at Mill of Towie,
'Factor for Drummuir.

'PORTSOY, 10th May 1746.

'SIR,—There being a Demand for a large quantity of meal for the use of the armie at Inverness, which I am employed to buy, I have sent you this day by express, desiring you 'll order in to me here on Tuesday next, two hundred bolls of meal of the Farms of Drummuir for which I am to pay ten merks per boll in July next. I am ordered to intimate to all noblemen and gentlemen in this county that unless this demand is immediately complied with, a Regmt. of men will be sent to take the meal for nothing, and to pillage the houses of those who refuse; so I will expect your ready compliyanee and am,—Your most humble servant,

ALEXR. BREBNER.'

Archibald resided very little on his own property, where the manor house, built about 1670, appears to have become ruinous, as we find he built the Kirkton House, near the present castle, which he described as his 'little cabin in Botriphnie.'

He lived chiefly in South Audley Street, but died at 'the Hot Springs of Bristol,' August 10, 1788.

He never married, and was succeeded by John, eldest son of his first cousin, Alexander of Davidston, then only six years old. He had at various times lent considerable sums of money to his first cousin, William, in the Navy, and a family compromise is still extant whereby William's surviving brothers and sisters agreed to repay some of the debt to Archibald's heirs.

Two of Archibald's letters are added :

To his cousin, Lachlan Duff, W.S.

'LONDON, Jan. 6th, 1778.

'DEAR SIR,— . . . As so many of our Scotch Gentry have undertaken to raise Regiments and drain the Country of its Inhabitants, for their particular enolument, and as Coll. Gordon (Fifcy) has I am told, already begun his operations, I beg you will take the most prudent and effectual steps to prevent the beat of the Drmm, or any other warlike call, from being heard, or at least prevent

¹ James, third titular Duke of Perth, Lieutenant-General in Prince Charles's army, escaped after Culloden, and died on his way to France.

its intended effect in our Kingdom or Territories—and that you write to Mr. Morison,¹ Mr. Milne,² and Sanders Harper,³ and if you think proper even to parson Angus,⁴ and to any other person you may consider as a-pro-pos on the occasion.

‘Your cusin Coll. Duff⁵ sets out for Edr. to-morrow. I wish him all success, and I hope he, and by his friends assistance, will be able and with credit and expedition too complete his engagements. I need say no more to you, but take care, as much as possible, of our little handful of Folks at home—can think of nothing farther at present haveing just parted wt. the Coll: half-fou and half-siek, and half-anything you please, etc., but at all times, most sincerely yours, etc.,
ARCHD. DUFF.’

To the same, a few weeks before the death of the writer :

‘LONDON, April 20th, 1778.

‘DEAR SIR,—Referring to my last which exhausted most of my particulars, I have now only to add that the present very indifferent situation of my health has hitherto prevented my fixing any plan for the ensuing Summer. Indeed, I have been advised to go to the South of France, and should probably have followed that advice had not the present Rupture between the two nations happened, but it would be very uncomfortable to be in an Enemy’s Country, altho’ permission might be obtained. If I don’t get much better, I shall not cross the Grampians this season, and yet it will be proper that you and I should meet somewhere—but we will be better able to make the appointment some time hence. Whether this overtakes you in Edinburgh or follows you to the North, I beg to hear from you as soon after the Receipt of it as you have an opportunity, with advice, I hope, that all our affairs in the latter are well settled for the present, etc. This is an expensive place and as all the world (except the French Ambassador and the American Congress) are here, and hereabouts at present, it is an expensive time, even for a person in bad health. Some animation is therefore immediately necessary and, in case of the French journey should become absolutely necessary, Bags, Baggage, and Forage money must be somehow provided. As I have got into military Language, I will touch a military subject, to say I am exceeding sorry for the late Plan of raising Fencible Regiments. After the country is already drained of more than its useless hands, it is too much to endeavour to render the rest useless also, which a service of that kind will certainly do.

‘I think I see my old Friend Bognie, like a second Nestor, mustering his men upon the green ; but I hope you will fall upon some plan to prevent our Kingdom from being Gordonized upon this occasion.—Believe me, always most sincerely,
Yours, etc., etc.,
ARCHD. DUFF.

‘To Mr. Lachlan Duff, Writer to the Signette, Edinburgh.’

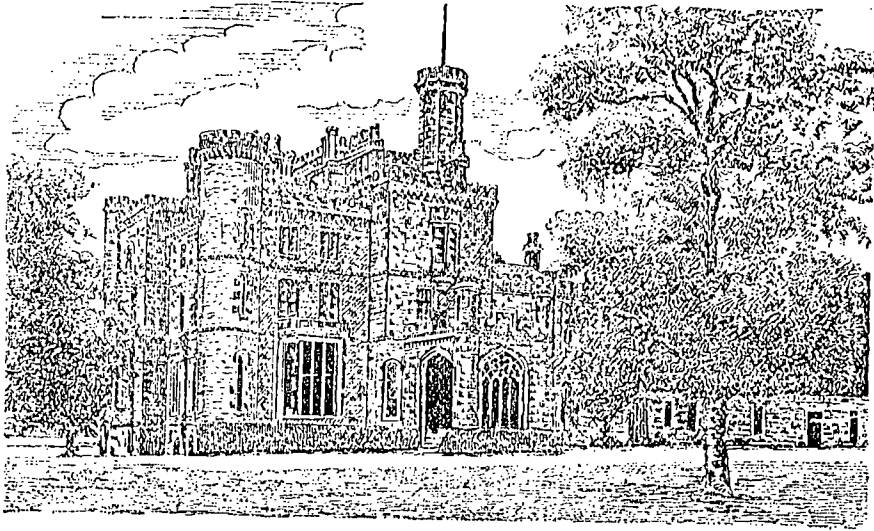
¹ Of Bognie and Mountblairy.

⁴ Minister of Botriphnie.

² His factor.

³ His grieve.

⁵ Alexander Duff of Davidston.



DRUMMUIR

CHAPTER XXV

JOHN DUFF OF CULBIN AND HIS DESCENDANTS THE LATER DUFFS OF DRUMMUIR

JOHN DUFF OF CULBIN, variously spelt Cowbin, Cubine, or Culben, was an unlucky man.

The Morayshire estate which his father bought for him was ill-omened. About 1694 or 1695 Alexander Kinnaird, in whose family the estate had been for over three hundred years, petitioned Parliament to be 'relieved from payment of cess, because his estate of Cubine was nearly all covered with sand and the mansion-house and orchard destroyed,' and some two years later 25,000 merks were advanced on it by William Duff of Inverness and his son Alexander, and a disposition of wadset granted to them. Possession was confirmed to Alexander on July 27, 1698, at Inverness.¹

On February 15, 1725, Alexander Duff of Drummuir disposed the estate by deed to his second son John, and on the same date conveyed to him the lands of Easter Moy bought from Ludovick Dunbar.²

¹ Kinnaird stating in the deed of transference that he makes over the estate 'with his goodwill and blessing.'

² Besides containing a minute description of the lands, there is also embodied in the deed the following clause: 'As also I hereby dispone to and in favour of the said John Duff and his foresaids, all the desks, seats, burying place and any other accomodation right and privilege

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Baird describes John Duff as 'a good friendly honest man, who unhappily fell into acquaintance with Mackay of Scourie¹ and his brother from the shire of Ross, who did not indeed deserve the name of Gentlemen. They got him engaged with them in a company trading to North America, by alluring him with the prospects of great profits, but for carrying on of which he was obliged to furnish all the money, and as there was a continual outlay and no returns, at least to Cowbin, the honest Gentleman was in a few years ruined, and everybody was convinced he had been egregiously imposed upon by the Mackays.' 'Patrick Mackay and William his brother withdrew themselves with the moneys, Bonds, bills, Books of accompts, Vouchers and other valuable effects of the said Company. There being diverse and sundry claims against John Duff of Cubine.' Amongst the creditors of the firm were John Duff, merchant in Elgin, and William Duff, third son of Drummuir (*i.e.* Muirtown). Among the personal creditors of John of Culbin were Robert Duff of Drummuir, his brother; Miss Katherine Duff, his sister; Alexander of Braco; Alexander of Hatton; James of Corsindae; Mary Duff, Lady Tannachy. In 1748 Patrick Mackay of Scourie, one of the above-mentioned brothers, in partial reparation, made over to Helen Duff, second wife and widow of John Duff, a portion of land which he owned in South Carolina and Georgia. This was afterwards conveyed to Thomas Duff Gordon, Helen's grandson, who in 1811 made it over to John and Archibald Duff, his cousins. The latter, with his younger brother William, went out to America to look at the land, but it is not known what became of it afterwards.

John Duff lived at Moy House, near Forres.

In 1730, in consequence of his losses in connection with the Mackays and other misfortunes, John Duff went bankrupt,² and made over to his creditors, amongst other property, 'that great tenement Lodging or dwelling house, lying within the borough of Forres, and the manor place tower and fortalice of Culbin,' and in January 1733 the estate was sold by public roup in Edinburgh for under £1000 (Fraser Mackintosh, *Antiquarian Notes*, 1865).

He married, in 1701, Mary Gordon of Ellon,³ who died June 22, 1727.

competent to me of or within the churches of Dyke and Moy and churchyards thereof, and all title and interest I have or can pretend thereto, to be peaceably possessed and enjoyed by him and his aforesaid as his and their property in all time after my decease' (Fraser Mackintosh, *Antiquarian Notes*).

¹ It is interesting to note that General Mackay who commanded in Scotland in 1689 was of this family.

² There is a letter from John Duff, senior, Provost of Elgin, dated February 27, 1731, to Andrew Hay of Mountblairy, asking for information as to 'what Cubin's creditors have resolved.'

³ Whose brothers were murdered by their tutor in Edinburgh.

A memorandum in faded ink, addressed 'to the Ladie Mackintosh of Moy (his sister) at Cubin,' gives the following particulars of John's first family: 1. 'His son ALEXANDER, born November 24, 1725.' 2. 'His daughter BETIE, born June 19, 1727, of which her mother dyed of six days illness, and herself after being two or three years old'—1730. John married, secondly, Helen Gordon of Park, daughter to Sir James, second baronet,¹ and sister to Sir William Gordon the Jacobite. John died in 1743.

His children by Helen Gordon were:

3. JAMES,² born November 20, 1729; a Captain in the 40th Regiment; died 1780.

4. WILLIAM, born February 14, 1731; afterwards a Master Commander in the Navy; died in Jamaica 1761.³

5. KATHERINE, born March 14, 1732; married to Alexander Morison⁴ of Bognie, and had issue—John, Helen, Katherine, and Jean.

Mrs. Morison died in 1803.

6. JOHN, born July 25, 1733; a Lieutenant in the Marines, retired and lived in Macduff. He died abroad, intestate, in 1794, and administration of his estate was granted to his 'brother James and brother Lachlan.'⁵

7. ANNE, born May 25, 1736, died unmarried, 1766.

8. HELEN, born September 28, 1737, and is buried in the old kirk at Moy. 'Below this stone lyes the body of Helen Duff, daughter to John Duff of Cubin and Helen Gordon his spouse, who departed this life 26th Nov. 1747.'

9. And finally, LACHLAN, born July 16, 1741, of whom presently.

Helen Duff herself died in 1767, and her will, as proved before Keith Urquhart,⁶ Sheriff-Deputy of Banffshire, contains the following provisions:

'Lachlan Duff my third surviving son, to be my sole executor.'⁷

'To my son James, my gold watch.'

¹ See chapter xxxvii.

² 1750. Regiment of Colonel the Earl of Drumlanrig—Ensign James Duff, June 2, 1747, 4th Company. Described as 'James Duff, son to Cubbin.' Later, January 3, 1757. Pensioned Ensign James Duff (*Scots Brigade in Holland*).

On January 11, 1757, James Duff became a Lieutenant in the First Highland Battalion on the raising of the Regiment. In 1758 the Regiment became 62nd Foot, in 1759 the 77th Foot, and 1764 it disappeared, and James Duff became a Captain on half-pay. On February 28, 1766, he was brought into the 40th Foot as Captain. Became Major August 29, 1777, died 1780 (Army Lists).

³ There is a transfer, dated 1773, to Captain John Gordon of Park of 'all interest which John Duff, Lieutenant of Marines, had to the effects of his deceased brother William.'

⁴ Of Alexander's father, Theodore Morison of Bognie, who died in 1766, it was said, 'He lived without an enemy, and died without a groan.'

⁵ *Registers*, Somerset House.

⁶ See chapter x.

⁷ Three sons only were then living, and one daughter.

'To Helen Morison, my grand-daughter, my tea plate and equipage, and my best Damask table cloth.

'To Katherine and Jean Morisons, each a table cloth and napkins.

'To John Duff, my 2nd son, a piece of cloth for shirts.

'To Lachlan Duff, one or two pieces of fine linen for shirts and all the best of the remaining bed and table linen, about six changes of each, and to Katherine Morison, all the rest and all the body cloaths to be used and disposed by her as she shall think proper.'

(In view of the value attached to all this fine linen, one is led to wonder whether this notable housewife had herself spun it.)

'To my son James, in place of gold watch 20 guineas, and the said gold watch to my grandson John Morison.'¹

John of Culbin's son by his first wife seems to have inherited some of his father's ill-luck. According to his grandmother's letters he was apparently destined for the law, but decided for himself to adopt the army as a profession, in spite of his grandmother's dislike to this course.

His first commission dates from October 14, 1759.

When, in that year, a French invasion was threatened, he got a company in Colonel Morris's newly raised Highland Regiment, the 89th, and had to raise sixty men or forfeit the company, which was the occasion of the following letter to his father's second cousin, Lord Fife :

Alexander Duff of Davidston to William, Lord Fife

INVERNESS, 5th Dec. 1759.

'MY LORD,—I beg ten thousand pardons for not waiting of your Lordship and my Lady Fife, when I was last in the East country. I was then soliciting for a Company in Coll. Morris Highland Regiment and was in Such a hurry and confusion, that I scarce knew what I was doing. I hope your Lordship and Lady Fife will be so kind as forgive me. I have at last, with some difficulty, procured a Company, but I have the burden of 60 men upon my Shoulders. Mr. George Morrison having got a Company in the same Regiment, makes my Recruiting more difficult, as his Brother will give him all the assistance which I might have expected if Mr. George had not been in the field.

'We are told by the Collnl. that if we do not raise our quota of men, we shall be superceded. I am the only one of the Clan that is a capn. in the Army. I hope they will stand by a Clansman and not see him affronted. Our Rank in the Regiment depends upon our soon raising our quota of men. If your Lordship would be so kind as give me your countenance, it would be doing me a very signall Service and laying me under an obligation never to be forgot by myself or friends.

¹ The copy now at Drummuir extracted by James Duff, Sheriff-Clerk.

'I have a few men already, and will with all my heart give 5 guineas for every good man.

'I depend upon your Lordship's Goodness in my present Situation. My best respects to my Lady Fife. And I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, My Lord.—Your Lordship's most obedt. and most humble Servt.,

'ALEXR. DUFF.'¹ (O.)

As the 89th Regiment was in India from 1760 to 1763, Alexander Duff saw some foreign service.

In 1764 the regiment disappeared from the Army List, and Alexander Duff became a Captain on half-pay.

He married, in 1771, his first cousin Magdalen, daughter of William Duff of Muirtown, by whom he had five children :

1. MARY, born and died during the first year of marriage.
2. JOHN, who succeeded to Drummuir, born 1772.
3. ARCHIBALD, who succeeded John, born 1773.
4. WILLIAM, born 1774, afterwards a W.S. in Edinburgh, and died, 1809, in London.
5. ALEXANDER, born 1775, who died young.

Captain Alexander died on January 24, 1778, a few months before his cousin Archibald, whom he would otherwise have succeeded in the estate of Drummuir.

Magdalen, his widow, married again, in 1780, the Rev. Andrew Macfarlane, at one time Bishop of Ross, and later of Argyll.² The second marriage was not approved of by the Duff family, as the bridegroom's birth was not considered equal to hers. The only detail preserved about Dr. Macfarlane is that he had 'seventeen uncles, college bred,' truly a wonderful feat for any family.

Drummuir papers say : 'She formed an unlucky connection and married a man noways suited to her own or her late husband's situation in life, so the children were taken from her, and Lachlan Duff, their uncle, appointed as their tutor.' There was a large family of Macfarlanes, of whom four were surviving at the date of their half-brother John Duff's death :

Arthur, Major in the Hon. East India Company's service.

Magdalen, married Dr. MacLachlan—no issue.

Duff, married Rev. Charles Fyvie—no issue.

Andrew, who left a wife and a posthumous child in Chili.³

¹ On the cover, in Lord Fife's own somewhat illegible hand, there is written : 'Cubine asking assistance to raise his Company : December 1759.'

² There is a portrait of Magdalen at Muirtown.

³ There is a letter from Magdalen Macfarlane to Lord Fife, undated, asking for preferment for her son Robert in the Church, and mentioning that his two elder brothers are abroad.

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John, Archibald, and William Duff were sent by their guardian uncle to an academy at Maryculter (where were also the younger sons of Admiral Robert Duff of Logie). John proceeded, at the age of fourteen, to Edinburgh University, where he made good progress, and some three years later went to Paris to acquire the French language, and being driven from thence by the troubles of the Revolution, proceeded to Switzerland, where he remained for two years, and during part of that time kept a delightful journal, apparently addressed to his uncle Lachlan.

John Duff's Journal (begun at Lausanne, January 9, 1790)

'I arrived in Paris in May 1789. I found enough to occupy my attention in the novelty of the scene which that Capital presented to me and the proceedings of the "Etats Généraux" (or Assemblée Nationale) who were beginning to shew their importance. As to write you an account of what happened in Paris during the five months I staid in it, and during which such a surprising revolution was effected, would be too tedious. . . . I shall only mention . . . facts as they occur to me. . . . I shall then leave Paris of which I was tired enough, by the time I left it, on account of the horrid barbarities which I saw committed in it. When the King of France still enjoyed his dignity of "Grand Monarque" (tho' not with all the Power of his predecessor), and when the Court of Versailles was still in its splendour, I and some others of my countrymen went there, out of Curiosity to see the royal family. It was upon a Sunday, and we had the good fortune to see them all several times. An English officer and I, as we were in full dress, went to see the King and Queen dine. I observed in the Queen, who sat by the King whilst he dined (as she herself dines in private) that haughty look of the house of Austria, which has been so often remarked in her and which has been so cruelly humbled since. It was lucky we had gone at that time, as I believe it was almost the last that the royal family appeared in public. The tumults of Paris began soon after and everyone knows what followed. . . . About the middle of October, after the King, Queen, and royal familie were brought to Paris by the mob, I resolved to quit it. As it was necessary to have a passport, I had gone to the Hotel de Ville for that purpose. I was told I must have a certificate from my Ambassador. I went and called upon Lord Robert Fitzgerald, from whom I had one immediately. Upon returning to the Hotel de Ville I was told that no passports were then given, not even to Strangers, by order of the Council. An Englishman of the name of Clifford, who had come to Paris with a sister, and wished to return to England immediately, was refused in the same manner and upon asking the reason why they refused Passports to Strangers, they replied, "It was not their pleasure to give any." Piqued at this impertinent answer, he formed the resolution of writing to the National Assembly at Versailles, to complain of this injustice. He accordingly wrote and expressed himself strongly upon the injustice of detaining strangers in Paris against their desire, at the same time that they were

professing the principles of liberty and passing laws to assure that of individuals. He ends his letter with telling them, "In vain they had demolished the Bastille and razed its walls to the ground, all Paris was a Bastille for us." Mr. Gordon, President of the Scots College, with whom he was acquainted, knowing I was likewise very much piqued with having been refused a Passport, came to me, with the Letter which was extremely well expressed in French, and asked me to sign it, which Clifford had already done, and at the same time put his address, in order to receive an answer. I signed my name with great pleasure, and Mr. Gordon immediately despatched the Letter to Versailles, directed to the President of the National Assembly. In some days after, we received accounts that the Letter had been publickly read in the Assembly, very much applauded, and that orders had been sent to the Hotel de Ville of Paris, to give the two English Gentlemen Passports immediately. I accordingly set out for Switzerland some days after, without waiting to see whether Clifford would receive an answer to his Letter. I arrived at Geneva in a few days, without meeting with anything remarkable on the way. We had, to be sure, occasion to remark the insolence of the "Messieurs Bourgeois" in the little towns and villages thro' which we passed. They seemed all remarkably proud of having guns upon their shoulders, and very eager to show their power. Upon our entering into a small village upon the borders of Switzerland, called St. Laurent, the Centinil called to the Postilion to stop; as there were only a few paces to the "Hotel," the man drove on: upon which the Centinil levelled his piece, but seeing the Carriage stop, put it up again. We only laughed at it at the time, thinking it nothing but a little parade in the fellow, who perhaps had never handled a gun before in his life. Upon descending at an Inn next day, we were told that the evening before at that Village, a Centinil had fired on a carriage (because the Postilion had drove on to the Inn, which was only at a few paces distance from where he had called), had shattered it, but luckily had not hurt any of the Passengers, who happened to be two Englishmen. From this you may judge of the danger there was in travelling thro' France, at that time, when there was a similar "milice" in all the towns and no subordination whatever. . . . Got to Geneva. Then went on to Lausanne, where I stayed . . . at the Lion D'Or, the best Inn in the Town. I changed a Bill on which I lost 4% on account of the present state of France. . . . At Lausanne our amusements consist in Public Balls and assemblies and small musical concerts and Soirées; at the Soirées we drink tea, play at cards, and talk, also we play billiards. . . . It is generally remarked that the English acquire a bad character by dissipation in the towns they frequent abroad, and are on that account often excluded from or are but indifferently received in the Society of the Place. I don't think those (English) here at present much inclined to vice of any kind, and even if they were, there is not much opportunity of indulging it. I have not been witness to a single excess but one since I came here, and that was at Christmas, a time celebrated here, not by feasting, as with us, but by fasting and prayers. You may easily believe we did not follow the example of the good people of Lausanne.'

He then proceeds to give a very vivid description of a New Year's dinner at which all the English and Irish in Lausanne were present, and of the excesses which took place, and their unpleasant consequences to himself. He was at this time barely eighteen, and the gravity with which he discusses the relative effects of an excess of port or of claret shows an unnatural precocity which fully justifies the amount of anxious good advice to be found in the letters of his uncle and guardian Lachlan. He also devotes a good deal of space to descriptions of the various fair ladies he met at the public balls which he frequented, which apparently began at 6 P.M. He naïvely states that he had some difficulty in persuading his foreign friends of his extreme youth. The waltz, which he there saw for the first time, struck him as 'a little odd. The gentleman clasps the lady round the waist, and she seizing him by the arms they thus whirl round and round, keeping time to the music.' He found Switzerland more expensive than Paris, and suffered a good deal at one time from the parsimony of a Swiss landlady who mixed potatoes in the bread to make it go further, and charged a portion of sour milk sent up one day with his coffee, in lieu of cream, as a separate item.

He obviously acquired a certain mastery of the French language, as he occasionally uses it as a vehicle for his feelings. He met one interesting compatriot.

' . . . Jan. 27th, 1790, at a Ball at Lausanne. In a short time I was gratified with the sight of Mr. Gibbon,¹ whom I had never seen before. He is one of the ugliest little figures I ever saw. It is impossible to give a description of him that would give any idea of the original, and the plate you see prefixed to his book, tho' none of the handsomest, yet flatters him extremely. . . . He is of an overbearing, disagreeable character and far from being liked here, where he is almost never seen in Company, except in the particular circles he frequents. The English never call upon him, nor pay him the least attention as he never returns it, and he has often behaved very impolitely even to those who have had letters of Introduction to him.'

On his return from Switzerland, John Duff obtained a commission (on February 3, 1791) as Cornet in the 1st Dragoon Guards, by the favour of Lord Fife, who describes him in a letter of the period, as 'a very worthy young man.' In June of the same year he was transferred to the 1st Foot Guards. He did not reside in Scotland again, though he paid occasional visits to his estate. The charms of the continent seem to have had powerful attraction for him, for when he left the Army in 1798—as Captain of the 93rd Foot—he lived chiefly in Paris (first in the Rue d'Artois,

¹ Author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.



JOHN DUFF OF DRUMMUIR
(Dressed as Hamlet)

By Angelica Kaufman

afterwards in the Rue de Seine), where he made a wonderful collection of china and other *objets de vertu*, some of which are now at Drummuir. His estates were managed by his uncle Lachlan. When Lachlan died in 1808, this office devolved on John's brother Archibald.

At John's death in 1836, an attempt was made on the part of the French authorities to prove that he was a naturalised Frenchman, or at least not a Scotsman, with a view to succession duty, and Archibald drew up a long memorial to prove the contrary, of which the following is a brief abstract :

' John Duff resided in London not from choice, but because he was an officer in the Guards. He was always a subject of the King of England.

' He had a house upon his property of Drummuir, the small Kirktown House, but being in such a desolate part of the country, buried in snow in winter, where no proprietor could take up his residence for more than a few months in the year, he thought it sufficiently good for the short time he could be in it. The last time he was there, he was frightened away by a fall of snow in September 1818, and never visited Scotland again during the remaining 18 years of his life. But he corresponded frequently with his brother upon the details of the estate management. In 1809, he sent down about £700 worth of furniture from Gillows in Oxford St. the first upholsterer in London, in order to occupy his house himself, with friends; the beds, seven in number, being of the very finest description, and he always kept servants in the house. When in France he lived at one time in a hotel in the Rue Richelieu. Before his death he purchased the chateau of Richebourg, styling himself " un gentil Homme écossais," but never lived there, as he had a hired house in the Rue de Seine, where he was attended by a valet, and a cook who came in by the day.'

Archibald was able to establish his point, and succeeded to the estate in full.

John Duff was buried in the cemetery of Père Lachaise, in Paris; he had possessed the estate of Drummuir for nearly sixty years.

The following letter was written by him to Sir James Duff of Kinstair, presumably during his last visit to Drummuir :

' KEITH, Tuesday mg.

' MY DEAR SIR JAMES,—As I have not ordered my paper to be forwarded to me this year, we shall feel the want of a London paper during the short time I propose remaining at Botriphny. As the *Morning Chronicle* did not appear to be made any use of at Duff House, if it is not preserved or sent anywhere, it would afford us some amusement if Lord Fife would permit it to be sent to Botriphny. I would willingly pay the postage and I should be in no hurry to receive it, as I merely wish not to miss the succession of news and the details; which the Scotch papers do not always furnish. If the paper is wanted at Duff House, pray do not say anything respecting my wish to have it. We have

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breakfasted here and are going on. It was thought better that my brother Wm. should remain at Park and not expose himself to cold—and I propose that he shall move southwards as soon as possible.—I remain, my dr. Sir Jas., In haste, Yours truly,
J. DUFF.' (D.)

ARCHIBALD, the second son of Alexander and Magdalen, was born at the house of Davidston; at the time of his expected arrival scarlet fever broke out in the house. Mrs. Duff was therefore removed to a room in one corner of the house, the passage leading to this part was walled up, and a new door made communicating with the outside. These arrangements still exist.

Archibald Duff entered the Navy, and has left the following account of his services :

' He entered as midshipman on board H.M.S. *Champion* in June 1788, and served two years in her. The remainder of his midshipman's service was with Capt. George Duff in the *Martin*, *Glory*, and *Duke*, and as Lieutenant with him in the *Ambuscade* and *Glenmore*. He was afterwards appointed to the *Foudroyant*, and retained by Lord Nelson as one of his Lieutenants when the latter hoisted his flag in this ship, and was at the capture of the *Généreux*, etc., off Malta. From the *Foudroyant* he went into *Queen Charlotte* flagship, and was burnt out of her, about six weeks afterwards, off Leghorn. Was, with others, put on board the *Minotaur* in which ship Lord Keith hoisted his flag, and from her was appointed acting Captain in the *Bon Citoyen*, but (not being confirmed by the Admiralty) went as 1st Lieutenant of the *Guillaume Tell*, 80 guns. Was again appointed as 1st Lieutenant to the *Foudroyant*, in which he served during the Egyptian expedition. On the capture of Cairo he was appointed to the *Mendovi* and sent home with despatches, but (his promotion not being confirmed by Lord St. Vincent) he again joined the *Foudroyant* as 1st Lieutenant. Afterwards appointed to the *Lutine* prison ship at Minorca; this vessel being 'broken at peace,' a few weeks afterwards.

' On the breaking out of hostilities, about two years later, he was appointed to the *Megara* fire-ship in the Channel, with a few small vessels employed in the blockade of enemy's ports. The *Megara*, in about a year, was found unserviceable, and paid off.

' In 1806 he was promoted Post-Captain. In 1808 appointed to the *Muros* at Plymouth, and despatched with a convoy to Halifax. From there he went to the West Indies, where the pilot ran the ship on a reef, going into harbour off Bahia Bonda, a port ten leagues west of Havannah. The Spaniards were fortifying it, and Capt. A. Duff considered it important to intercept their work, which he did on his own responsibility, and afterwards returned to the Bahamas with all the crew which he had brought off in his own boats. After being acquitted by a Court of Enquiry into his conduct held at Jamaica, he returned to England, and in 1813 was appointed to the *President* of 38 guns, on the

Cork station, whence he was detached to protect the North of England and Ireland. The War being over, he was paid off at Woolwich.⁷

His later promotions were as follows :

To be a retired Rear-Admiral, 1838 ; Rear-Admiral of the Blue, 1840 ; Vice-Admiral of the Red, 1849.

Archibald Duff invented a tube sight for pointing guns, which he submitted to the Admiralty in 1804. In 1799 he saved the life of a man who fell overboard at night, and received the Humane Society's medal.

Unlike his brother and predecessor, Archibald was very fond of Scotland, and resided a good deal at the house of Braemoriston, near Elgin (which he had built), also paying frequent visits to the small house previously alluded to as the Kirktown House of Drummuir. In 1848 he began the erection of the present house of Drummuir, which was completed in two years, at a cost of £10,000.

Admiral Duff was a man of strong individuality and somewhat restless nature. A Radical in politics in his early life, he was active in assisting the Liberal party up to the first election after the great Reform Bill. But the ' Papal Aggression ' was too much for him, and he ended his life as a strong Conservative, fortified by masses of anti-papal literature.

He had managed the estate of Drummuir for his absentee brother, and also occupied one of the farms as tenant. Upon this farm, in a narrow gorge among the hills, he found some thirty acres of swamp, reeds, and bog, and proceeded to drain it.¹

When the barony of Inverugie, near Elgin, was sold, his love of the sea induced him to invest in that part of it named Hopeman, and he spent £7000 in building a harbour, upon a plan quite his own ; the sea wall presenting a concave—not convex—surface to the waves. Strange to say, with the assistance of many wedges of wood it still stands, and has now been doubled in size by the present proprietor, who succeeded to the estate in 1858. The Admiral is said to have built a small vessel there, of timber from Drummuir, upon a design quite unknown to the ordinary marine architect. From his exertions sprang the present fishing village of Hope-man. His friends called this village ' the Admiral's safety valve.'

He married Frances Jones of Guestling, Sussex, but had no family, and at his death, in 1858, was succeeded by his cousin, Major Lachlan Gordon of Park, who reassumed the name of Duff, dropped by his father, Colonel

¹ For this work, the Highland and Agricultural Society awarded him a large piece of plate ' for the largest extent of draining done in one year by a tenant farmer.' The plate remains at Drummuir as an heirloom, but the acres reclaimed were converted by his successor into an ornamental loch, and now form one of the attractions of the Craigellaichie branch of the Great North of Scotland Railway.

Thomas Gordon, on succeeding to Park. Hopeman passed by Archibald's will to Thomas Gordon Duff. There is a fine portrait of John by Angelica Kauffmann at Drummuir, and also a portrait of Archibald, his predecessor, both reproduced in the present volume.

WILLIAM, the third son of Alexander Duff of Davidston, was a W.S. in Edinburgh. He was consumptive, and died at the age of thirty-six, in London. The following letter was written two months before his death :

To Richard Wharton Duff

‘LONDON, 30th Aug. 1809.

‘MY DEAR RICHARD,—I was beginning to suspect that a letter from you must have miscarried, like a former one, when your epistle of the 24th made its appearance. . . . You have not mentioned when the happy day is to be,¹ but I presume now not very distant. . . . Those were joyous days, for they were accompanied by the greatest of blessings, health. I have lost it, and know *now* how to prize it. Long may it be before you have the same to say. I hope you will learn to prize it without experiencing its loss. As to my present state, I do not fall off, but then I do not improve, and you know I ought to pick up a little to enable me to weather the ensuing winter. My stomach distresses me much. I have tried milk in every possible shape and with various mixtures, asses' milk as well as cow's, and it invariably disagrees with me, excepting butter-milk which answers very well, but which I find much difficulty in procuring. I live principally on fruit and soups, sometimes a bit of fried fish and calves'-foot jelly; everything light and nourishing. But I cannot banish my cough and expectoration and until I can do that pretty effectually I have no chance of getting stout. . . . John and Archibald are both here, and desire to be remembered to you.’²

His death is thus chronicled: ‘At his apartments in Conduit Street, William Duff, late of Edinburgh, October 26, 1809’ (*Gentleman's Magazine*).

LACHLAN DUFF, youngest child of the large family of John Duff of Culbin, was born in 1741, and became an advocate, in which capacity he did a great deal of business for various members of the family. He managed the estates of Drummuir for his first cousin Archibald and for John Duff his nephew, during the long minority of the latter, and also during his absence in London and abroad. In 1801, all the Drummuir papers in the hands of Thomas Brodie, W.S., Edinburgh, were delivered to him, and he thus came into possession of all the documents relating to the early Duffs of Torriesoul and Bade, and of all the evidence of the long litigations with Anderson of Ardbrack, with Abereromby of Glassaugh, and later with

¹ Of Richard's marriage to Lady Anne Duff.

² Drummuir papers.

Alexander Duff of Braco and his heirs. Braco was, as already explained, only a nominal holder of the Drummuir property, with the exception of the lands of Bellyhack, of which 'Adam Duff, father of Katherine, had, when an inebriate and a bankrupt, anno 1681, granted a wadset to Alex. Duff of Braco redeemable by the granter and the heirs-male of his body, including Assignees or Singular successors, for £7260 Scots, at Whitsunday 1695, after which time the lands are by the contract of Wadset irredeemable and the clause of redemption void.' The granter and his heir-male failed in 1682, the year after the wadset was granted (the child Adam died just before his father), and Braco claimed and held the lands.

A document prepared in December 1747 for the use of Archibald still exists, in which 'Duff of Drummuir claims from Lord Braco the reversion of the wadset lands of Bellyhack, a part of the estate of Drummuir which is a part of the Lordship of Balvenic.' It is here stated that Alexander Duff, son of William, Provost of Inverness, purchased the debts of Adam Duff of Drummuir and his predecessors, 'in the name of Alexander Duff of Braco as his trustee,' and Braco obtained two decreets of adjudication on these debts, in 1685 and 1687, of the whole estate of Drummuir, including Bellyhack, for the accumulate sum of £54,061 Scots (about £4500 sterling) double the value of the estate, against the heirs of line of Adam, and in 1688 disposed these two decreets and the estate of Drummuir (excepting Bellyhack) to said Alexander Duff. But the lands of Bellyhack, being the subject of a prior transaction, with the said Adam Duff, he refused to give up, and left them to his heirs, represented in 1747 by William, Lord Braco.

Archibald in this memorial, on which Lachlan acted, claimed not only possession of these lands from Lord Braco, but also repayment of all the money paid by Alexander of Drummuir to Alexander of Braco as fees, feuduty, etc., 'to which Braco had no right.'

Archibald's claim goes on to say that the 'decreet arbitrat' made in 1729 cannot affect him (Archibald), because Culbin, his uncle, had no power to take burdens for his brother Robert (Archibald's father), who was at that time and to the day of his death incapable of business and of managing or judging of his own affairs or giving directions about them. That Lord Braco knew so well the inactive situation he was in from 1729 till June 1735, when he died, that he will claim no advantage from any deed signed by him or signed by his lordship in favour of him or in favour of the memorialist (Archibald) during his minority, or by the memorialist or his curators in favour of his lordship. The memorialist is advised to raise an action against Lord Braco for the recovery of his rights.

It proved a very complicated business to settle, and Lachlan seems

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to have passed much time in Edinburgh and in London in connection with the matter. Lord Braco had never given up his right to Bellyhack, which remained Fife property until a few years ago, but otherwise an amicable compromise was effected. The following letter from Archibald shows a desire to end negotiations, but there was much left for Lachlan to do.

*Archibald Duff of Drummuir*¹ to William, Lord Braco

‘LONDON, December 2nd, 1748.

‘MY LORD,—Being inform’d of your Lordsp^s arrival at Edinb^{rs}, I take this opportunity of signifying how great my Inclination is to end amicably our long suspended submission—When last Season I came to Ed^r I was in hopes to have met with your Lds^p and to have at once hitt off all Differences in the best manner we could,—but your Ldsp^s Departure for the North prevented such agreeable measures—’Tis still, however, to be hoped that the same good disposition subsists, and I shall be very glad to hear that matters be adjusted soon, your Lds^p will no doubt give such directions as will contribute to dispatch, and on the other hand, I shall recommend it to my Friend to concurr in every thing reasonable for promotcing the same end.

‘I am likways inform’d by a letter from the North that the School-master of Botryphney has thought proper to ’vacuate his place, your Lds^p as an Heritor is somewhat concern’d in the disposal of it. Harry Miln (my Factor) and the gros of the Tenants would willingly have one Thomas Duncan, nephew to your Ldsp^s Minister at Langbridge, settl’d among them—it is a matter of no greater Consequence than that a man of Capacity, Sobriety and Diligence succeeds. This is what I presume your Lds^p will approve of, and your concurring with me in his appointment will oblige the greater part and, My Lord, Your Lordsp^s very obedient humble Sert.,
ARCHD. DUFF.’

Lachlan acted later for the second Lord Fife and his wife Dorothy.²

Lachlan Duff, W.S., to William Rose

‘EDINBURGH, 25 March 1771.

‘DEAR SIR,—Nothing since my last has occurred on that subject anyway materiall to inform you off—further than that on Sunday evening 20th, I had a message from her ladyship desiring to call on her on the Monday which I accordingly did, but she sent word she was so indisposed she could not see anybody, and desired her servant to make an excuse for the trouble of my coming and I immediately went to Mr. Mitchelson and from the circumstance mentioned I pressed him to desire the Solicitor to wait of her, which he tells me he did. I had another message to the same purpose on Thursday evening and went out,

¹ See last chapter.

² See chapter xi.

next day, but had the same return, only with this variation that she now did not choose to take Mr. Hope's house of which she seemed formerly so fond but liked one in the neighbourhood belonging to Mr. Cuming a Banker which she thought would accomodate her better, but she would only take it for the summer months. She did not mention to Mrs. Ord who delivered the above messages, anything of the chaises and horses and I now find Mr. Cuming will not lett the house for the summer months. Imagine to yourself, my dear sir, what perplexity and at the same what villainy must be in those of her friends who see much more and at the same time will not ingenuously own what, with one eye, they might perceive—Mr. Dundas, I understand waited on her last week, and told her he would go in on the submission but that she behoved to employ a proper agent, on which after some tears she desired him to send Mr. Erskine to her, but next morning received a note countermanding that order. Lett me hear from you soon and believe me always, Dr. Sir, your most obed. servant,

'LACHLAN DUFF.'¹

In 1804 Lachlan succeeded, in right of his mother, to the estate of Park (the male line of Gordons of Park having died out, see chapter xxxvii.), and assumed the name of Gordon. He died in 1808.

His wife was Rachel Hog of Newliston, near Edinburgh, and they had four sons and two daughters, the dates of whose births are not now discoverable, as the first page of the Family Bible was abstracted by one lady of the family who was anxious to conceal her age.

JAMES, the eldest son, died unmarried in the West Indies, in 1801.

ROGER was in business in Russia with his cousin, Morison of Bognie, and died at Riga, December 21, 1806.

ALEXANDER, in the Navy. He was killed on board H.M.S. *Mars* at Trafalgar. A portrait of him is in possession of Adam Gordon Duff of Chester Square, London, grandson of Captain George Duff of the *Mars*.

RACHEL, married Steuart of Auchlunkart.

HELEN, died young.

THOMAS GORDON, born 1790, succeeded to Park on his father's death when he was only eighteen. He had been for a short time in the Navy, which he entered in 1803, and was present, with his brother Alexander, at the battle of Trafalgar, and is alluded to in the letters to Mrs. George Duff, widow of the Captain of the *Mars* (see chapter xvii.). Later in life he was known as Colonel Gordon of Park, from his having held that rank in the Inverness and Banffshire Militia for forty-five years. He was made Lieutenant-Colonel when only twenty, and during the Crimean War he commanded the regiment when embodied at Fort George, where he died of

¹ Drummair papers.

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smallpox in 1855. He married, in 1814, Joanna McDowall Grant of Arndilly (who died 1872), and had three sons and nine daughters, as follows :

MARY, 1816-1908 ; married R. C. May, *o.s.p.*

LACHLAN, born 1817, of whom presently.

DAVID McDOWALL, 1818-1848 ; Lieutenant Hydrographer R.N. ; died unmarried at Singapore, of fever. He had been employed in surveying the coasts of Borneo and China for several years, and his unremitting attention to this work had undermined his health.

ALEXANDER, 1820-1856 ; Master-Commander in the Navy ; died unmarried on the West Coast of Africa. It is of this son that the story is told, relative to pressure brought to bear upon his father for political reasons. Fox Maule, M.P., is reported to have said to James Duff, M.P. (afterwards fourth Lord Fife), who asked for promotion for his young cousin. ' If Park won't budge (in the Whig interest), then his son is not Lieutenant.'

RACHEL, second daughter, born 1821, died 1890. Married, first, J. Mackie, M.D. Issue : (1) Rachel, born 1847, died 1897, unmarried ; (2) Maria, born 1849, married Rev. Augustus Donaldson, Canon of Truro—has issue. Secondly, Daniel Reid, M.D. Issue : One son, William, born 1859, married Margaret Greig—has issue.

ELIZABETH, third daughter, born 1823, died 1888. Married Andrew Steuart, Auchlunkart. Children who survived infancy : (1) Harriet, born 1847, married General William Gordon—has issue ; (2) Eleanor, born 1855, married Hastings Clarke of Acharcith—has issue ; (3) Louisa, unmarried ; (4) William, born 1858, married Florence Hammond—no issue ; (5) Mabel, born 1865, married Charles Seton—has issue.

ELEANORA, fourth daughter, born 1824, died 1895. Married, first, Rev. Henry Walker, minister of Urquhart. Issue : (1) Alexander, born 1845, married in New Zealand, Anne Bruce Bonthorn, and has issue ; (2) Joanna, born 1847, married Michael Stanislaus Dooley, M.A. Dublin, C.E.—has issue. Married, secondly, Rev. Alexander Aikman, and had a daughter Nora, married John Causton.

WILHELMINA, 1826-1842, unmarried.

HELEN ISABELLA, 1828-1910, unmarried.

JEMIMA, 1830-1900, unmarried.

JOANNA MARIA, 1832-1837.

EMILY, ninth daughter, born 1836, died 1899 ; married Rev. Henry Russell, minister of Grange. Issue surviving infancy :

Born : 1861. 1st, William, }
 1862. 2nd, James, } all died unmarried.
 1863. 3rd, John, }

1864. 4th, Alexander David, Puisne Judge in Trinidad, married

Isabel McCallum, who died 1908—has issue.

1868. 5th, Rev. Edmund, unmarried.

1870. 6th, Ernest, in South Africa, married Paula, widow of B. Bovendor—has issue.
 1876. 7th, Charles, in South Africa, married.
 8th, Mary, married — Brown
 9th, Isabella, married Geo. Ed. Renwick—has issue.

Colonel Thomas Gordon took a large part in the county business, being Convener of Banffshire from 1830 till 1849, when he retired from all public offices owing to deep grief at the loss of his second son David. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of the county in the Whig interest in 1832. It is related that Colonel Gordon of Park and Alexander Morison of Bognie (died 1874) tossed up as to who should stand against Admiral Ferguson of Pitfour in order to create a Liberal party in the county. Colonel Gordon had to stand and was beaten. For this service he was presented with a piece of plate by his supporters in the county. He was most energetic in the work of improving his estate, especially by planting and draining. It was said of him that 'he had an uncommon grip of common sense.'

LACHLAN, the eldest son, succeeded his father in the estate of Park in 1855, and three years later he also succeeded his father's first cousin Archibald in the estate of Drummuir, when he reassumed the name of Duff, but continued to hold both properties. He had a commission in the 20th Regiment, in which he served in India, Bermuda, and Canada. His return journey from India in 1836 was most adventurous. He and a friend of his own age travelled by small coasting vessels and were wrecked in the Red Sea, and had to throw themselves upon the hospitality of Mehemet Ali in Egypt. They subsequently proceeded to Greece, and then to Constantinople, in various small vessels, suffering great hardships from prolonged quarantine for plague in various ports. They then sailed up the Danube as far as Vienna, and finished their journey on horseback. When they reached London they found that their names were just about to be struck off the Army List, as they had been given up for lost.

Ensign Gordon, as he then was, had the honour of carrying the colours of his regiment at the coronation of Queen Victoria, being stationed at the Tower, and describes how the troops were under arms from 4 A.M. until 9 P.M., without having any food served out to them.

He afterwards served in the West Indies, and retired as Major in 1851. From 1857 to 1861 he represented Banffshire in Parliament, succeeding James Duff, who had become fifth Earl Fife, and being succeeded in turn by R. W. Duff of Fetteresso.¹ Though prevented by ill-health from

¹ After this Banffshire became spoken of as the 'Duff-riden County,' having been represented by members of that family for one hundred and eleven years.

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taking part in public life, Major Duff was active in improving his estates—building and planting largely.¹ He died in 1892. His wife was Jane Butterfield, daughter of the Hon. Thomas Butterfield, Chief Justice of Bermuda, and by her, who still survives him, he had two sons and two daughters :

1. THOMAS DUFF GORDON, 1848.
2. MARY, 1852-1868.
3. ARCHIBALD HAY, 1863 ; married Lady Frances Fortescue, daughter of third Earl Fortescue, and has HELEN, born 1897 ; JOHN, born 1899 ; JANE MINNIE, born 1906.
4. HELEN ELIZABETH, 1866 ; married Harold John Tennant in 1889, and died 1892 ; one son Charles, born 1890, died 1896.

THOMAS DUFF GORDON DUFF, born at Park 1848, was educated at Harrow and Oxford. Since his father's death he has resided continuously at Drummuir, where he has devoted himself to estate management and county business. He married, in 1878, Pauline Emma, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Tennant of The Glen, Peeblesshire. By her, who died 1888, he had two children, LACHLAN and JOANNA LUCY.

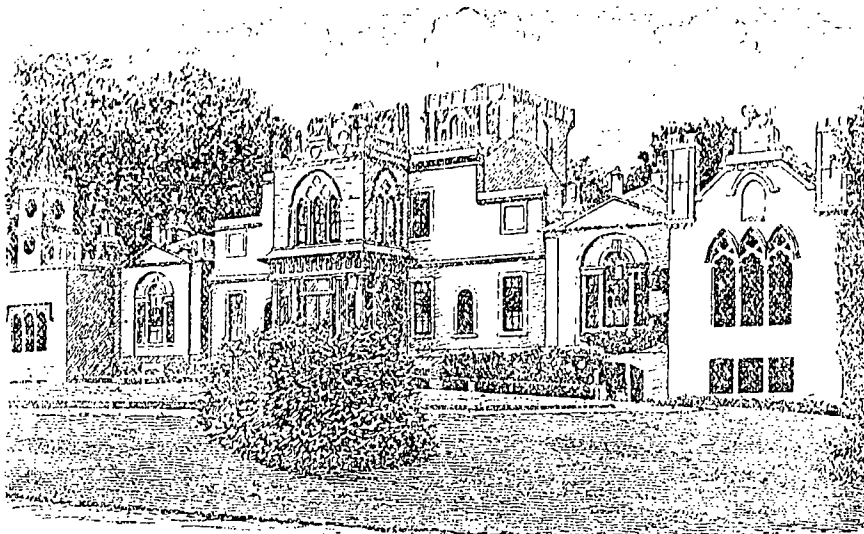
1. LACHLAN, born January 1880, educated at Eton and Sandhurst, and obtained a commission in the Gordon Highlanders 1899. He served throughout the whole of the South African War, and retired as Captain in 1908. He married Lydia, daughter of Joseph Pike of Dunsland, County Cork, Ireland, and has two children : FRANCES PAULINE, born 1909 ; THOMAS ROBERT, born 1911.

2. JOANNA LUCY, born 1881 ; married, 1906, James, son of William Lindsay, Windsor Herald, and has two sons : Michael, born 1908 ; and Harry Lachlan, born 1912.

Thomas Duff married, secondly, in 1893, Mildred Mabel, daughter of Edward Claudius Walker, and has had by her seven children :

3. GEORGE EDWARD, 1895 ; educated at Rassall.
4. MARGARET MARY, 1897.
5. CONSTANTIA HARRIET, 1898.
6. DAVID CLAUDIUS, 1900.
7. ALEXANDER BERESFORD, 1902, died 1903.
8. KATHERINE THEODORA, 1904.
9. RANDALL THOMAS, 1905.

¹ As already stated, he was the editor of Baird's *Memoirs of the Duffs*, written about 1773, and privately printed in 1869.

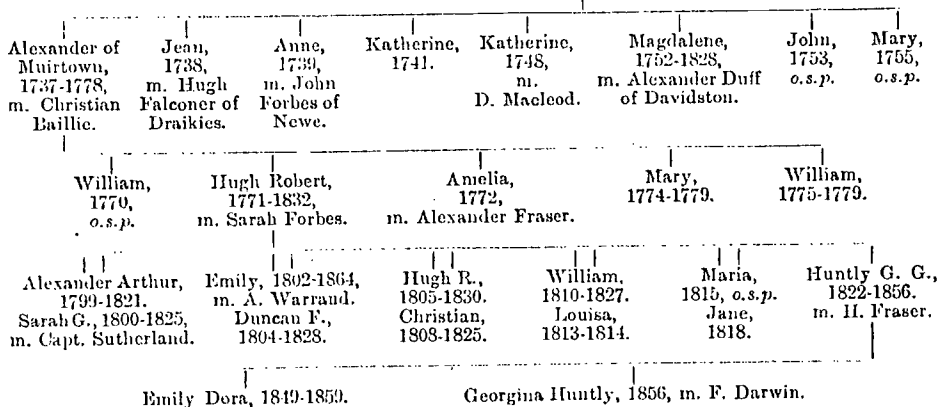


MUIRTOWN HOUSE

CHAPTER XXVI

MUIRTOWN¹ FAMILY

WILLIAM DUFF of Muirtown, ninth child, but third surviving son of Alexander and Katherine Duff of Drummuir, born 1707, died 1782, m. Mary Baillie of Torbreck.



¹ James Patterson, poet, born at Green of Muirtown, Inverness, in nineteenth century, wrote:

' Dear spot of my birth, tho' high swelling ocean
Should part me and cause me far from thee to rove,
While my bosom can beat, I will think with emotion
On Muirtown, sweet Muirtown, the spot that I love.'

WILLIAM DUFF OF MUIRTOWN was the third surviving son of Alexander Duff of Drummuir. He was born in 1707, and married Mary Baillie, daughter to John Baillie of Torbreck. She is described by Baird in 1773 as 'a graceful, handsome woman, who died lately.'

In 1740 he bought the estate of Muirtown, near Inverness, from Ludovic Grant of Grant,¹ and resided there for the rest of his life. Those were stirring times in Scotland, and William Duff must have remembered as a boy the Rising of 1715, as well as the abortive attempt at Glenelg in 1719. But these operations were brought very close to him when Prince Charles Stewart returned from his fruitless invasion of England in 1746, and with his weary army took up his quarters at Inverness. Doubtless that town and the neighbourhood were full of excitement at the prospect of hostilities so near them, but they must also have been apprehensive as to the result and the consequences.

There is no indication as to which party William Duff favoured, but it is quite possible that his sympathies, if nothing more, were with the Stewart cause, more especially as his father, Alexander Duff of Drummuir, had held Inverness for the Old Chevalier in 1715, and just before the battle of Culloden in 1746 his sister Anne, widow of Lachlan Mackintosh, received Prince Charles at the house² of her mother, Katherine Duff of Drummuir (then seventy-seven years of age).

Hugh Robert Duff, grandson of William, and editor of the *Culloden Papers*, thus describes the incidents preceding the battle of Culloden, which 'was witnessed by many gentlemen, who rode from Inverness for that purpose, among the rest my grandfather and Mr. Evan Baillie of Abriachan. They took post upon a small hill not far from where the Prince and his suite were stationed, and there remained until dislodged by the cannon balls falling about them. In their retreat they passed thro' Inverness, and at the bridge they met the Frasers, under the Master of Lovat. These had not been in time for the battle, but the Master seemed very anxious to defend the passage of the bridge, and spoke much of fighting there. Mr. Baillie, who was a warm Jacobite, and rather testy in his way, sternly addressed the Master in these words, "Fighting by G—d, Master, you were not in the way when fighting might have been of service. You had best say nothing about it now!"³

¹ In the 'disposition' of Muirtown, William Duff is described as of Kilmuir, which he sold in 1744. His grandfather had had the fishings of South Kessock in 1671 and 1673.

² In Church Street, Inverness.

³ 'After the battle a dreadful slaughter took place, involving many of the inhabitants of Inverness, who had approached the battlefield from curiosity, and few who wore the Highland dress escaped. I recollect Hugh Mackay, forester at Culloden, who died at an advanced age, telling me his grandfather was at the battle as a boy of eleven years old' (Hugh Robert Duff).

William Duff of Muirtown did not suffer in any way from the excesses perpetrated by Cumberland when stamping out the last remains of the Jacobite activity, so we must conclude he was, like so many of his family, too cautious a man to have committed himself definitely.

By Mary Baillie of Torbreck he had three sons and five daughters :

1. ALEXANDER of Muirtown, born 1737.
2. JEAN, born 1738 ; married Hugh Falconer of Draikies 1775. Their children were : Hugh, John, Mary, Anne.
3. ANNE, born 1739 ; married, in 1764, Major John Forbes (29th Regiment of Foot) of Newe. She died in England in 1780, leaving an only daughter, Mary, who married, in 1788, Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, and died in 1852.
4. KATHERINE, born 1741, died young.
5. KATHERINE, born 1748 ; married Dr. James Macleod, surgeon late 133rd Foot. They lived at Culloden Dower House.¹
6. MAGDALEN, born 1752 ; married, first, her cousin, Major Alexander of Davidston, son of John Duff of Culbin, who died in 1778. She bore him four sons and one daughter : Mary, born 1771, died young ; John of Drummuir,² born 1772 ; Archibald of Drummuir,² born 1773 ; William, born 1774 ; Alexander, died an infant. Secondly, Andrew Macfarlane, Bishop of Argyll and Ross. By him she had several children. She died in 1828. Andrew Macfarlane having predeceased her in 1819. At his death he was senior Bishop of the Scottish Episcopal Church.
7. JOHN, born 1753, *o.s.p.*
8. MARY, born 1755, *o.s.p.*

William Duff of Muirtown died in 1782, aged seventy-five.³ There is a

¹ Mrs. Macleod was left, by her father, all the furniture, etc., of Muirtown (except plate, pictures, and books).

² See last chapter.

³ Inscription in the English Church, Inverness :

‘ This Tablet was placed 1822
by H. R. Duff of Muirtown,
In affectionate remembrance
of his Grandfather, William Duff of Muirtown,
Advocate, third son of Drummuir,
who died 1782, *æt.* 75,
and of his Father, Lieut.-Colonel Alexr. Duff.
He served all the German War with Keith's Highlanders,
and when proceeding to India, in command of the 73rd
(now 71st) Regt., which he greatly contributed to
raise, in this his native town,
died in London 1778, *æt.* 41. He lies buried with
his Spouse Mrs. Christian Baillie, Daughter of Dochfour,
who died at Chatham Barracks 1776, *æt.* 29, at Gillingham
in Kent. Likewise of his Eldest Son, A. A. Duff of the
Royal Regt., who died at Negapatam 20th July 1821, *æt.* 20.

portrait of him now hanging in Muirtown House. He was succeeded by his only son, ALEXANDER DUFF of Muirtown, born in 1737. He was Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Battalion 73rd Regiment, now the 71st Highlanders. He married Christian Baillie of Dochfour on April 24, 1769, and she died December 19, 1776. Colonel Alexander Duff died in 1778. Their children were :

1. WILLIAM, born January 27, 1770, died an infant.
2. HUGH ROBERT of Muirtown, born August 30, 1771, died 1832, buried at Greyfriars, Inverness.
3. AMELIA, born December 21, 1772 ; married, 1795, Alexander Fraser of Inchcoulter and Grenada.
4. MARY, born April 12, 1774, and died in 1779.
5. WILLIAM (the second), born 1775, died an infant.

HUGH ROBERT DUFF of Muirtown, the second but eldest surviving son of Colonel Alexander Duff, was born in 1771, and was appointed Ensign in the 35th Dorsetshire Regiment of Foot on April 18, 1789. He became a Lieutenant in January 1791, but in the same year exchanged into the 37th Hampshire Regiment. He was promoted Captain in October 1793, and was present at Dunkirk, Cambrai, Landreecy, Catteau, Tournai and Nimeguen. He was wounded and taken prisoner at the crossing of the Vaal, and kept for a year in the crypt of a church.¹ A letter from James Grant of Bught to Captain Duff, 37th Regiment, 37 Suffolk Street, London, dated July 20, 1795, says : ' I am just now favoured with yours, and be assured that nothing could give me and all your friends more sincere pleasure than your once more being safe in your own country, and free of that painful restraint under which you have now been for so long a time. We hope that your health has not been impaired by the hardships you have undergone.'

Major Duff was of a literary and archæological turn of mind.² He erected a monument at Clachnaharry to commemorate a fierce fight of the Munros with the Clan Chattan in 1454,³ and restored the ancient well close to the Beauly Road, at which tradition asserts the great Montrose drank when he was being led to Edinburgh after his capture at Assynt. Major Duff had also various phrases in Latin put up in many parts of the existing house of Muirtown, which he built. The former house stood on the site of the present garden.⁴

¹ It is said that after his release he never entered a church again.

² In a diary kept during his travels he notes ' Dined with that damned Perigord ' (*i.e.* Talleyrand).

³ On the monument he placed the following inscription : ' Has inter rupes ossa conduntur.'

⁴ It is said that there was an oubliette before the front door, used by old William Duff for the temporary incarceration of those who did not agree with him.

But his greatest achievement was the editing of a volume entitled *The Culloden Papers*, which made its appearance in 1808. This interesting work is chiefly composed of letters from the Lord President Forbes, Simon, Lord Lovat, and other persons connected with the Risings of 1715 and 1745. The editor came by these letters in a curious and lucky manner. On one occasion, when shooting at Culloden House, he noticed that the wads which the gamekeeper used for the guns (those were the days of muzzle-loading weapons) were made of old paper, upon which there was some writing. His curiosity was aroused, and having unfolded one of the wads he discovered it at once to be both interesting and ancient. Having asked the gamekeeper where he got the paper, the latter informed him that he had discovered several old bags of letters in a loft at Culloden, and that he was using them up as fast as possible, since he was anxious to get rid of such rubbish, adding that he had already used up several sacks, but that there were one or two still left.

Major Duff went to the loft, and found in the remaining sacks the aforementioned most interesting series of letters which he subsequently published as *The Culloden Papers*.¹ He only selected a certain number of them, passing over many others which still exist, and might well form another volume. He modestly declined to put his name to the volume, and his industry has not therefore received the reward of fame. He also edited the *Genealogy of the Family of Forbes*, and left behind him a play, *Hannibal, a Tragedy*, which was never published, but privately printed in 1820, also some poems, and he supplied Robert Chambers with notes for his work on the Rebellion of 1745.

He went on half-pay in 1795, and retired from the service in 1826. He married at Culloden House, in July 1798, Sarah Louisa Forbes, a great beauty, only daughter of Arthur Forbes of Culloden, about whom was fought the last duel in Scotland.

The incident took place at a military ball at Inverness in 1798, when that eccentric and unpopular Highland Chief, Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry approached Miss Forbes and reminded her that she had promised him the last country dance. She had no recollection of such a promise, and told him she was engaged for it to Ranald Macdonald. Glengarry took himself away, but, in a little, returned and informed the lady that Ranald Macdonald, yielding to I know not what pressure or threats, had given up the dance to him. Miss Forbes naturally resented this discourteous treatment and replied that she would dance with neither of them. Glengarry refused to take her answer as final and tried to argue with her, whereupon a grandson of Flora Macdonald,

¹ Noticed by Sir Walter Scott in the *Quarterly Magazine*, 1816.

Lieut. Macleod of the 42nd, who was sitting by Miss Forbes, remarked, "Why do you tease the lady? Can't you allow her to choose for herself?" Later in the evening high words passed between Glengarry and Macleod, and the gallant Chief eventually struck the youth over the head with his cane. A duel ensued a day or two later, on the beach between Fort George and Ardersier, and Macleod fell at the first fire. Glengarry had to stand his trial at Edinburgh for murder, and only the skill and eloquence of his counsel, Henry Erskine, saved him.¹

There was a portrait of Miss Sarah Louisa Forbes (Mrs. H. R. Duff), by Sir Joshua Reynolds, which used to hang at Culloden House. This was 'removed' about eighty years ago, and has since been exhibited in London amongst other Reynolds pictures.

Mrs. Duff died at Muirtown, July 3, 1829; and is buried at Greyfriars, Inverness; Major Duff died at Muirtown, August 2, 1832. By his wife he had eleven children,² five sons and six daughters, of whom the following details from the Family Bible have been kindly supplied by Colonel Warrand:

1. ALEXANDER ARTHUR, born August 31, 1799. He was appointed Ensign in the 1st Royal Scots on April 5, 1820, and served in India, dying in 1821 at Negapatam, where a monument was erected to his memory by his brother officers.

2. SARAH GEORGINA, born September 11, 1800; married August 31, 1825, at Muirtown House, Captain Sutherland of the 33rd Regiment. She and her husband were drowned on October 21, 1825, in the loss of the *Comet*, the famous steamship, the centenary of whose maiden voyage Glasgow kept in 1912.³

3. EMILIA MARY DAVIDSON, born at Muirtown, January 24, 1802;⁴ married, in 1824, her cousin Alexander Warrand, M.D., of the 7th Madras Light Infantry, third son of Thomas Warrand of Lentrán, and had by him two sons and two daughters:

(1) Alexander John Cruickshank, born August 28, 1825.

(2) Catherine Munro, born September 4, 1826.

¹ Communicated by Colonel Warrand.

² Major Hugh Robert Duff, father of this large family, was the first man in Inverness to own a carriage. He was also the first to wear a top hat, and so proud was he of this that in 1807 he had a portrait painted, showing himself in this headgear, which is here reproduced by the kindness of Mrs. Darwin, his granddaughter.

³ 1825. The ship sailed from Inverness to Glasgow and Liverpool: 'Among the lost was one of the pretty Miss Duffs of Muirtown, just married to her handsome soldier husband, and on their way to join his regiment; their bodies were found clasped together, poor things, beside many others unknown' (*Memoirs of a Highland Lady*, Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus).

⁴ The following note must refer to Sarah and Emilia Duff, though the latter seems young to have been at a ball: '1814. At the Northern Meeting of this year the two Miss Duffs of Muirtown, tall, graceful girls, with a pensive air that made them very attractive, were, I thought, the beauties of the room' (*Ibid.*).



MAJOR HUGH ROBERT DUFF OF MUIRTOWN

(3) Duff Forbes, born March 8, 1828, died young.

(4) Louisa Sarah Georgiana, born July 8, 1830.

Alexander Warrand died July 1, 1836, and Mrs. Warrand on July 19, 1864.

4. DUNCAN FORBES DUFF, born at Muirtown, January 9, 1804, and died at Salisbury Place, London, N.W., unmarried, on July 9, 1828, and is buried in St. John's Chapel, Regent's Park.¹

5. HUGH ROBERT, born November 24, 1805; appointed Ensign 9th East Norfolk Regiment of Foot on June 9, 1825; promoted as Lieutenant August 15, 1826. He went on half-pay September 3, 1829, and died, unmarried, at Inches House, near Inverness, on January 13, 1830. He was buried in Chapel Yard, Inverness.²

6. CHRISTIAN BAILLIE, born at Muirtown, January 3, 1808, died, unmarried, April 26, 1825.

7. WILLIAM JOHN, born at Muirtown, 1810, died June 16, 1827.

8. LOUISA OCTAVIA, born November 13, 1813, died July 15, 1814 (of the chincough).³

9. MARY LOUISA, born at Muirtown, July 17, 1815, died young.

10. JANE DOROTHEA STRATTON, born December 15, 1818; married, January 11, 1838, Major Robert Shirreff, by whom she had one son, Robert David Forbes, born December 22, 1838.

11. HUNTLY GEORGE GORDON (so christened on account of the friendship between his father and the then Marquis of Huntly) born at Muirtown, July 5, 1822. He succeeded to the estate of Muirtown in 1832, all his brothers having died in youth or early manhood.⁴ He sold part of the estate of Muirtown to buy out Drummuir from the entail, in order to be able to leave the rest to his daughters. He married, June 17, 1847, Helen Fraser, daughter of John Fraser, fifth of Achnagairn. By her he had two daughters:

(1) Emily Dora (Amy), born 1849, died at Rome, February 9, 1859.

(2) Georgina Huntly, born 1856; married, in 1889, Francis Darwin of Elston Hall, Notts, and Creskeld, Yorkshire.

Huntly George Gordon Duff died May 23, 1856, of diphtheria, and was buried in Chapel Yard, Inverness. His widow subsequently married Mr. Middleton of Middleton Hall, Yorkshire. Mrs. Darwin is now the proprietor of Muirtown.

¹ Epitaph:

'Under this stone lie the remains of Duncan Forbes Duff
Younger of Muirtown—County of Inverness,
Who was born at Muirtown 19 Jan. 1804,
And died in London 9 July 1828, in his 25th year.'

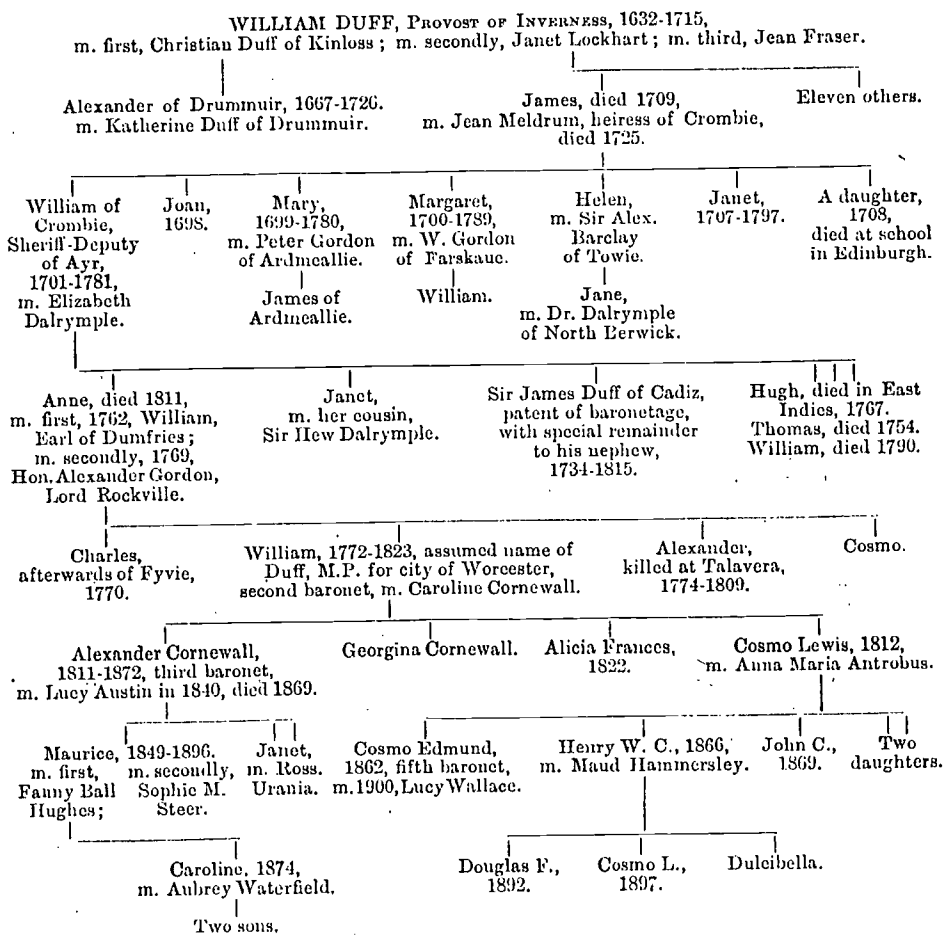
² 'Hugh Robert, born November 24, 1805, baptized by M. A. Fraser, Inverness. Cut his first tooth and began to stand about 14th Dec. 1806' (From Family Bible. Note in his father's handwriting.)

³ *i.e.* Whooping cough.

⁴ He was a famous bowler at Harrow, being in the XI. in 1837, 1838, and 1839, and afterwards a member of 1st Zingari Cricket Team.

CHAPTER XXVII

DUFFS OF CROMBIE AND DUFF GORDONS

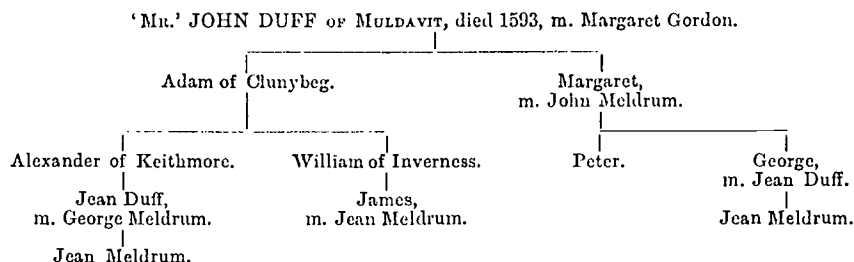


JAMES DUFF OF CROMBIE was the second surviving son of William Duff, Provost of Inverness, and uncle of William Duff of Muirtown. Little is

known of his early life and education, in fact we do not even know what business he pursued until his marriage, when it is to be presumed that he settled down on his wife's estate and managed it for her.

About 1696 or 1697 he married his first cousin once removed (who was also his second cousin), Jean Meldrum, heiress of Crombie in Banffshire. She was the eldest granddaughter of Margaret Duff, Clunybeg's sister, who married John Meldrum of Laithers. This John Meldrum had two sons; the eldest, Peter Meldrum, succeeded him in Laithers, and the second, George Meldrum, was minister of Glass, and afterwards purchased the estate of Crombie. George Meldrum had also married his cousin once removed, Jean Duff, second daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore. He was very much older than his wife, being then sixty years of age, and had baptised her.

From the following sketch tree, where Jean Meldrum appears three times, the relationship of James and his wife will be understood.



George Meldrum, minister of Glass, was an M.A. of King's College, Aberdeen, in 1637, licensed by Presbytery of Aberdeen, presented to the living of Glass by George, Marquis of Huntly, in January 1644, and ordained April 24 in the same year. He was suspended May 25, 1664, for refusing to acknowledge Episcopacy, deposed October 5, 1664, and imprisoned for a time at Edinburgh in 1684. In January 1685 he was sentenced (with three other ministers) by the Commissioners of the Privy Council for the district of Moray at Elgin, to be banished for keeping conventicles and refusing to keep the kirk, and, being a heritor, was also fined £6,666, 13s. 4d. Scots (about £222); was thereafter confined in Blackness Castle, and was ordered by the Privy Council, July 14, 1685, to be liberated on giving bond to pay his fine and finding caution to appear when called. He purchased the lands of Crombie in Marnoch. He was restored to his ministry at Glass on April 25, 1690 (Presbytery of Strathbogie Records).

He died in November 1692, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, and is buried in Marnoch churchyard, where a fine carved stone bust and the following inscription were placed to his memory: 'Here lies the late reverend and pious Mr. George Meldrum of Crombie, sometime of

Glass, a faithful preacher, who, while the times permitted, diligently discharged the duties of his pastoral office. Not being avaricious, he was rich and would not do violence to his conscience for the sake of gain. He lived peaceably and soberly and departed hence A.D. 1692 in the 76th year of his age.' (Translation.)

George Meldrum was at one time tutor to the children of Lord Findlater. In June 1676 he writes to Lady Findlater from Aberdeen: 'Your noble and hopeful children are in good health, and very careful to improve all means of education as much as the meanest in the place.'¹

In the *Records of Old Aberdeen* we find the following entry:

'January 16th, 1680. Money received by Kirk Session of St. Machar's Church of Aberdeen, for licences granted to persons to marrie without proclamation of Banes. Mr. George Meldrum of Crombie and Jean Duff, daughter of Alexander Duff—£20. 0. 0.'

The issue of this marriage was:

Jean, who married James Duff, as above stated.

Helen, married Alexander Abereromby of Glassaugh.

Isobel, married Archibald Ogilvie of Rothiemay.

The marriage of Jean, the eldest daughter, would appear to have been a matter of family arrangement, rather than affection. Jean Duff, the elder, wife of George Meldrum, writes thus to her uncle, Provost William:

'ABERDEEN, Jan. 20, 1694.

'AFFECTIONAT UNCLE,—I receaved yours, as for answer I have written my mynd fully to Braco anent my daughters marriage and you may perswad yourself that I shall be most willing that your son may gain her affectione be-for any other. Had it not been for the love I had to my relations I would not hav doon what I have doon in that affair, for mor than I cane express and truly I most confes, it is a very great horor on my spirit and truble to my mynd in giving consent to marrie her till she had com to the years of understanding what did belong to an unmarried state, and scing my daughter gave so many declarations both befor strangers and friends that she did not lov the young man and her cariage towards your son is so well knowen that if she should be married at Inverness her friends and others may hav ground to say that she is forsed, and wronged very much, and I hop you will doe nothing in that affair but what you can answer for to the great God to whom we must all, or long, giv an accompt and when I sereously refleck in betraying the truist her father left upon me to honour his memory with, for pairting with a child, the cair of her being left upon me and I most intreat again that you go noe further length in that affair

¹ *Seafield Correspondence*, J. Grant, LL.B.

till she be brought to me which iff you doe it may be matter of greaff and lamentation to me al my days, whis is all at present from, Your affectionate nice to serve you,
JEAN DUFF.

‘ ffor Provost Duff, in Inverness—these.’ (D.)

Jean Meldrum herself, who cannot have been more than thirteen, writes thus, in a large round childish hand. (She appears to have remained for many months in Inverness, in the house of her uncle.)

‘ DEAR MOTHER,—I wold be glad to hear that ye was not the wors of your travel and I am fully recovered of my spreng and I have no desir to stay hear, and I intreat you wold writ to your brother Dipl. to bring me hom, upon som acunts which I shal not writ of at this tim, and I desir you wold writ to me when you writ to your brother, no mor at preset but wishing to see you shortly, rests your obdent Da Daughter,
JEAN MELDRUM.

‘ INVERNESS, Sept. 24th, 1694.

‘ for the Lady Crombie at Aberdeen—these.’ (D.)

The date of the marriage of James Duff and Jean Meldrum has not been ascertained, but as, according to the Aberdeen Marriage Registers, they had three daughters, born respectively in 1698, 1699, and 1700, it cannot have been later than 1697, when Jean was sixteen. The elder Jean had also been married very young, so that when writing the above letter to her uncle concerning her daughter’s marriage she was a widow of under forty, with three young daughters. She died in 1725.

JAMES DUFF of Crombie had by his wife Jean one son and six daughters:

1. WILLIAM, afterwards of Crombie.¹
2. JOAN, born 1698, died young (*Aberdeen Register*).
3. MARY, born 1699; married Peter Gordon of Ardmeallie, by whom she had two sons, Archibald and James. She died 1780.
4. MARGARET, born 1700; married to William Gordon of Farskane, whose mother was a Duff of Braco, by whom she had issue two sons and two daughters (see chapter xxxii.). Her husband was the fourth and last William Gordon of Farskane. She died in 1789, in her ninetieth year.
5. HELEN, married Sir Alexander Barclay of Towie. She died soon after her marriage, leaving one daughter Jane, who married Dr. Dalrymple of North Berwick, brother to Elizabeth, Helen’s aunt.
6. JANET, born 1707.

¹ Served heir to his mother, Jean Meldrum, in the lands and barony of Crombie, July 3, 1730. Disposition of the whole lands of Crombie by William Duff in favour of James, Earl of Findlater, August 9, 1748 (*Cullen House Charters*).

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7. Another daughter, who died at school in Edinburgh.

James Duff died in 1709 and was succeeded by his only son, William Duff of Crombie, born about 1701. He studied for the law and became an advocate; he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Banffshire, and Deputy Sheriff of Ayr in 1748.

In the *Albemarle Papers* we find 'among those recommended to be Deputy Sheriffs in 1747—Air, William Duff, £200.' There is also the following note from the Lord Justice-Clerk (Andrew Fletcher): 'Mr. William Duff, recommended by the Earl of Loudon, Principal Sheriff. Mr. Duff is a Whig, and has sufficient knowledge in the Law for being Deputy Sheriff, and as I understand will be agreeable to the gentlemen of that county.'¹

William Duff married, about 1730, Elizabeth Dalrymple, born 1713, a daughter of Sir Robert Dalrymple, by whom he had four sons and several daughters, two of whom married.

1. JAMES of Cadiz, born 1734.

2. HUGH, a merchant in India, died unmarried in Bengal in 1767. In 1764 he made his will, by which he left the whole residue of his estate to his father for life, then to his mother if she survived her husband, after which it was to be equally divided between his brother William and his sister Janet. He added a codicil to the effect that he excluded his brother James and his sister Anne, 'for no other reason, only that I think them already well provided for.'²

3. THOMAS, who, according to Baird, 'commanded a ship in the country trade in the East India Company's service, and died there several years ago, leaving about £5000 Str., which he had made upon that coast.'³

4. WILLIAM, merchant in Bengal. Apparently he was not in India at the time when his brother Hugh made his will, for the latter writes: 'Should my brother William be in this country at the time of my decease, it is my will that my executors pay him 12,000 curt. Rupees.'

There is no account of William ever having been married.⁴

¹ In a letter, preserved at the Record Office, from the Lord Justice-Clerk (Thomas Miller) to Lord Suffolk, 1775, is the following passage: 'In approval of the application for a pension of £100 per annum to Mr. Duff on his resignation of the office of Sheriff of Ayr, held by him since the first institution of Sheriff in 1718.'

² *India Office Registers*.

³ 'William Duff of Crombie, Advocate, executor-dative *qua* creditor to umqle Thomas Duff, late shipmaster in Ayr, died November 16, 1754. William Duff made application to the Admiral Depute of Ayr for sale of the vessel in which the defunct Thomas had one eighth share' (*Commissariat Records*).

⁴ It is possible to identify him with William Duff of Mettapolliam, administration of whose estate was granted in 1790 (*Indian Registers*).

5. ANNE, who married, first, in 1762, the Earl of Dumfries and Stair, but had no issue by him; and secondly, in 1769, Alexander Gordon, advocate, brother to the Earl of Aberdeen. He was Sheriff of Kirkeudbright, and became Lord Rockville. By him she had four sons and four daughters:

Charles, born 1770, afterwards in Fyvie.

William, born 1772, who became Sir William Duff Gordon.

Alexander, born 1774, Lieutenant-Colonel 83rd Foot, killed at Talavera, July 28, 1809, unmarried.

Cosmo, born 1777, called after the Grand Duke of Tuscany. He married and left a son, also named Cosmo, who died without issue.

Anne, married, in 1795, John Cathcart.

Janet, married, in 1799, Hon. Hugh Lindsay.

Catherine, married, in 1800, Robert Hepburn.

Margaret, married, in 1802, Sir Coutts Trotter.

Alexander, Lord Rockville, died 1792, his wife 1811.

6. JANET, married her cousin, Sir H. Dalrymple of North Berwick.

While he was Sheriff, William Duff wrote thus to Lord Fife:

'AIR, 25th June 1764.

'MY LORD,—When I had the honour to receive your very kind obliging letter of the 4th from Edinb^r I was very much indisposed with a cold and severe cough, which brought on a spitting of blood, which two Bleedings, a Blister and other applications have not intirely removed, tho' I bless God am now much better, and as the weather and season is favourable hope that I may soon gett free of these complaints.

'This last attack, with the Rheumatism and Scurvey which have distressed me for several years past, makes me sensible of the infirmitys of approaching old age; and have pretty much cooled my ambition for preferment and I tell your Lordship with truth and sincerity that I look to my being advanced to the Bench with indifference, being uncertain if it would contribute to my happiness, as I never was anxious about being rich, and always made it my chief study to be content and satisfied with my situation in Life, and when I look round me I think I have great reason to be thankful having been lucky in my wife and children with such a competency as to make me independent. I cannot, however, conceal the satisfaction I feel from your Lordships friendship in recomending me in so strong a manner, and hope you shall always find me ready to make all the grateful acknowledgments in my power and that you will not have any reason to alter your opinion of,—My Lord, Your much obliged and Obedient humble Servant,

WILLIAM DUFF. (D.)

William Duff of Crombie died in 1781, and his son, James Duff of Cadiz was served heir to him, but the estates had already been sold by William to Lord Findlater in 1748.

JAMES DUFF was born in 1734, and, according to Baird, was 'long a merchant and factor in Lisbon,' but the only records now extant show him as trading in Spain.

In 1790 he was appointed British Consul at Cadiz, and resided there for the rest of his life. After the battle of Talavera in 1809, the Duke of Wellington (then Marquis of Wellesley) landed at Cadiz almost at the moment when despatches announcing his great victory reached that town. He was received with demonstrations of great joy, the horses were taken from his carriage, and he was drawn to the house of James Duff, amid the cheers of the inhabitants.

During the subsequent investment of Cadiz, under Soult, in 1810, Mr. Duff entertained his cousin James, Lord Macduff, afterwards fourth Earl Fife, who was then an invalid owing to a wound which he had received in the attack on Fort Matagorda, close to Cadiz.

'James of Cadiz lived all his life and died in Spain. Imbued all the chivalry of the old Spaniard—commanded the admiration of his Spanish contemporaries as if he had been one of themselves. He had unlimited credit all over the peninsula throughout the war, and during the siege of Cadiz (such was his humour) resolutely refused to allow that there was any siege going on at all—and on one occasion when a shell dropped into the fountain in the court of his house, and my late father-in-law (Gen. James Lindsay), who was sitting with him on the terrace, asked him quietly: "Sir, what's that?" replied testily—"Pooh, pooh, damned nonsense." He was the most hospitable and kind of men, and all the young officers had a home and a rendezvous at his house.'¹

James Duff's correspondence with Lord Wellesley (as well as a large number of his consular reports and other official letters), is among the Additional MSS. at the British Museum.

James Duff to the Most Noble the Marquis of Wellesley, Seville

'CADIZ, 26th Aug. 1809.

'We are inundated with reports as to the armies, etc. People must have something to talk about, but upon these subjects, in many cases, they take unwarrantable liberties.'

He took a curiously optimistic view of the possibilities of the

¹ From a letter from the twenty-fifth Lord Crawford to Major Lachlan Duff, 1870.

Walcheren Expedition, for he writes to John Forbes on September 7, 1809 :

‘ I have little doubt that the next accounts will bring us [news of] the capture of the shipping or that of their destruction ; it will be more or less contested according to circumstances ; anyhow I incline to believe that we will establish ourselves in Walcheren, and consequently masters of the Scheldt and able to internate with Holland and Guelderland by the inland navigation and render uncertain and difficult the navigation of the Rhine as far as Venlo.’

James Duff to the Most Noble the Marquis of Wellesley, Seville.

‘ CADIZ, 24th Oct. 1809.

‘ I have been happy to learn through General Boyle, your Lordship’s decision as to Lodging with me when you arrive here, and which will be highly gratifying to me.’

James Duff of Cadiz to John Forbes, London

‘ CADIZ, 13th Jan. 1808.

‘ *Private.*

‘ MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your very obliging letter of the 8th inst. It reached me upon the 28th and confirm’d what I had a few days before learnt of your safe arrival. I learn from it, Lord Wellesley being very well, may he long continue so. His magnanimity in coming forward, in the present Crisis is no more than I expected. I am confident it will prove beneficial at Home and to this country particularly and all over Europe and I expect he will prove a Powerfull instrument in compassing the downfall of Buonaparte. I will thank you to mention it to His Excellency, with my respectful Compliments and that it was my intention to have written by this opportunity ; the early departure of which has prevented me, and that I must defer to a subsequent one. I shall wave saying much as to the situation of the affairs of this Country, the Junta becomes every day more and more unpopular, and there are those who entertain opinions that we are approaching to some important Crisis—the Public opinion continues without alteration throughout the Country, as to their hatred and detestation of the French and from circumstances it may probably not be long before it becomes palpable. Buonaparte entering the Country would be probably assigned to it.

‘ I thank you for your promise of writing me when any interesting news. I suppose we may soon expect to see here Mr. Wellesley, our new Ambassador. I shall be glad of the opportunity of being known to him. . . . With sincerest regards, my dear Sir, Your most faithful and obedient servant,

‘ JAMES DUFF.’

In 1813, James Duff was made a baronet of the United Kingdom, with

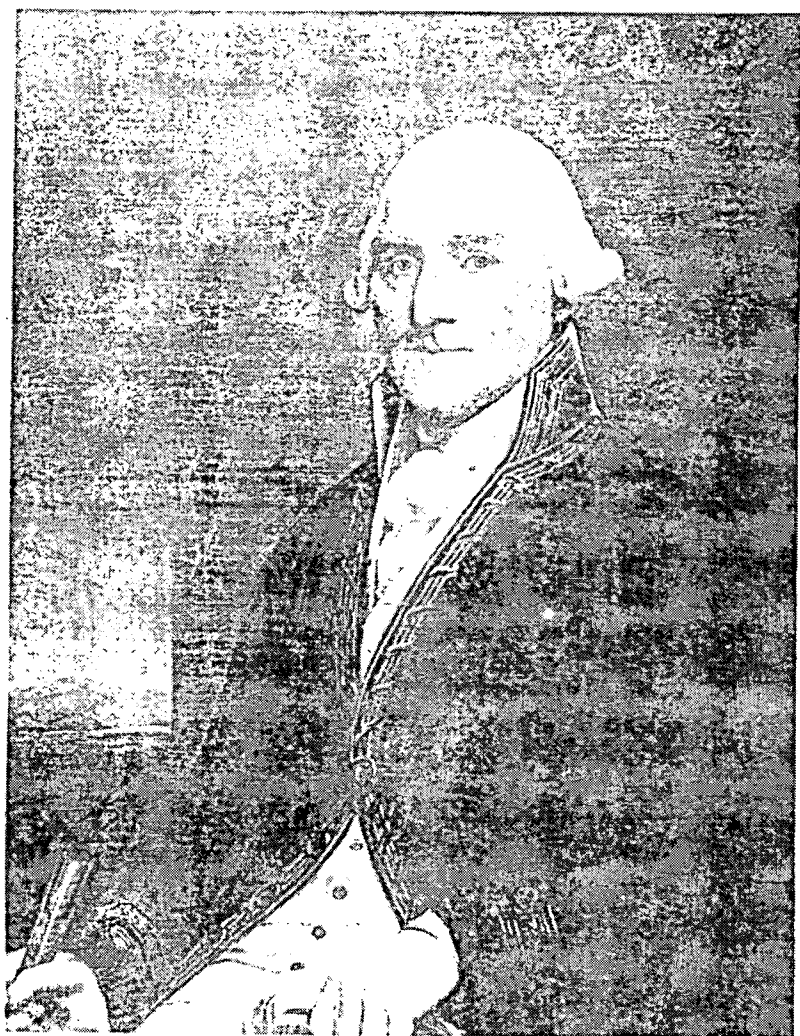
special remainder to his nephew William Gordon, son of Lord Rockville, and his heirs-male. Possibly this honour was conferred owing to the exertions of Lord Eife, who had just returned to England from Spain at that date.

Sir James Duff was the subject of discussion in the House of Commons in February 1815. The facts of the case were as follows :

Don Antonio Puigblanc, Hebrew Professor in the University of Alcala, having written various works in condemnation of the Inquisition, determined, after Ferdinand VII. resumed the crown, to seek safety in Gibraltar. Having obtained a passport, countersigned by Sir James Duff, he set sail with a friend from Cadiz for Gibraltar. At the same time, Sir James Duff sent a letter to Gibraltar pointing out these persons as being objects of suspicion to the Spanish Government. The result was that these two men were arrested by order of General Smith, the Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar, delivered to a Spanish commandant and conveyed back to Cadiz in irons. Having arrived there, Puigblanc was tried and acquitted, but was then told that he would have to be examined before the tribunal of the Inquisition. However, he effected his escape to England, where he made his case generally known, and excited much sympathy, the whole matter being much discussed.

Lord Bathurst wrote to General Smith and Sir James Duff intimating the impropriety of their action. It appears that the General had only recently succeeded to the command of the fort, and was therefore little acquainted with its civil duties. Sir James Duff was then over eighty years of age, and had spent many years in office at Cadiz, where he enjoyed general esteem.

In Parliament the matter was very vehemently debated, and one member remarked that Sir James Duff's action in ordering the examination of a British convoy at Cadiz with the view of preventing certain Spaniards from making their escape from persecution was most reprehensible, as 'participating in the detestable tyranny now prevalent in Spain.' A motion was put, that 'this House entirely disapproves of the action of General Smith and Sir James Duff, and that the displeasure of the House at their conduct be conveyed to them.' In the debate which followed, it was generally admitted that General Smith's conduct had been indefensible, but that he had been misled owing to lack of acquaintance with the practice on similar occasions. With regard to Sir James Duff, it was held that he had done nothing improper in giving information to the Governor concerning the persons who had taken refuge in Gibraltar, and, at the same time, he had left it to the General to determine what was the proper course to pursue. Further, it was held that the



SIR JAMES DUFF OF CADIZ

By W. K. Keeling

reprimand delivered by Lord Bathurst was a sufficient punishment, and that no further notice should be taken of the occurrence.

On a division the motion was lost, and Sir James Duff was exonerated and held 'not to have acted as a tool of the Spanish Government.'

Whether this matter hastened his end or not can only be conjectured, but in November 1815 Sir James Duff died at Port St. Mary's, Spain, in his eighty-second year. His interment took place in the officers' cemetery, Gibraltar, on December 3, General Don, the Lieutenant-Governor, being chief mourner. The pall was borne by eight of the Foreign Consuls at Gibraltar, and was attended by the principal merchants and inhabitants of the place, the officers of the Army and Navy, those in the public departments, and the general officers and their staff. Minute guns were fired during the march to the grave. Sir James died unmarried, and his baronetcy went to his nephew, William Gordon, who assumed the name of Duff, and was known for the future as Sir William Duff Gordon.

There was a portrait of Sir James Duff in Duff House,¹ but when this mansion was handed over to the towns of Macduff and Banff the picture was removed to Montcoffer. There is also a copy of the portrait at Drummuir.

Sir WILLIAM DUFF GORDON, second baronet, was born in 1772. He was Member of Parliament for the city of Worcester from 1807 for several years. He married, in 1810, Caroline, daughter of Sir George Cornewall, M.P., and had by her two sons and two daughters:

1. ALEXANDER CORNEWALL, third baronet, born 1811.
2. COSMO LEWIS, born 1812; married Anna Maria Antrobus, who died in 1898. He died in 1876. His family was:
 - COSMO EDMUND, born 1862.
 - HENRY, born 1866; married Maud Hammersley, and has two sons and a daughter.
 - JOHN CORNEWALL, born 1869.
 - FLORA, married Arthur Streatfield.
 - EVELYN, married Rodger Cunliffe.
3. GEORGINA CATHERINE, died unmarried.
4. ALICIA FRANCES, born 1822, died unmarried.

Sir William Duff Gordon died in 1823, aged fifty-one, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

Sir ALEXANDER CORNEWALL DUFF GORDON, third baronet, was born in 1811. He was for many years a clerk in the Treasury, and acted as Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He became a senior clerk

¹ Here reproduced.

in the Treasury in 1854, and was appointed a Commissioner of Inland Revenue in 1856. He was also Assistant Gentleman Usher of the Privy Council to Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

He married, in 1840, Lucy, daughter of Mr. Austin, Professor of Jurisprudence. Owing to indifferent health, she was compelled to spend most of her life abroad. After a visit to the Cape, she settled in Egypt, and occupied her time in literary work. At first she wrote under her maiden name of Lucy Austin, but her later works appeared as by Lucy Duff Gordon. Among the books that she published may be mentioned *Letters from Egypt*, describing her life there, *Letters from the Cape*, and *The French in Algiers*. She also translated Moltke's *Russian Campaign on the Danube* and Ranke's *Ferdinand and Maximilian*.

In Egypt, where she spent all the latter part of her life, she was very popular with the people owing to her liberal spirit. It is related that sometimes, as she passed along, the natives would raise 'a cry of joy,' and fling branches and flowers in her path. She died in Egypt in July 1869, leaving one son, MAURICE, and two daughters, JANET, now Mrs. Ross, well known as the authoress of *Three Generations of English Women*, and the *Fourth Generation*; and URANIA, who died young.

Sir Alexander Duff Gordon died in October 1872, aged sixty-one.

Sir MAURICE DUFF GORDON, fourth baronet, only son of Sir Alexander Cornwall Duff Gordon, was born in 1849. He was educated at Eton, and became a member of the London Stock Exchange. He was the owner of Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire, famous as possessing a secret chamber, but was compelled by financial embarrassments to sell this estate to the present Lord Leith. Sir Maurice had inherited this beautiful and historic old castle from his cousin Colonel Gordon, and there is a curious tradition in connection with Fyvie that it never descends direct from father to son. This has been exemplified in several instances.

Sir Maurice married twice. Firstly, in 1872, Fanny, daughter of Henry Waterton, and widow of Seymour Ball Hughes. She died in 1890, leaving one daughter CAROLINE, married to Aubrey Waterfield. Mrs. Waterfield is a well-known authoress, and writes under the name of 'Lina Duff Gordon.' *Home Life in Italy* is one of her best-known books, for which her husband supplied the illustrations. She has two sons, born in 1903 and 1906.

Sir Maurice married, secondly, in 1894, Sophie Mary, daughter of Charles Steer, but had no children by her.

He became bankrupt in 1895, and died in May 1896, aged forty-seven. He was succeeded by his cousin :

Sir COSMO EDMUND DUFF GORDON, fifth baronet, who was born in 1862,

being the eldest son of Cosmo Lewis Duff Gordon. He married Mrs. Lucy Wallace, but has no children. He owns a property at Maryculter, Kincardineshire. Sir Cosmo and his wife were on the ill-fated *Titanic* when she struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage to America on April 16, 1912, but were amongst those who were saved.

CHAPTER XXVIII

GEORGE DUFF OF EDINDIACH AND HIS DESCENDANTS

CLUNYBEG's fourth son is thus briefly disposed of by Baird: 'George of Edindiach married, first, Beatrice Duff, daughter to (Adam) Duff of Drum-bulg, and next a minister's daughter named Alexander. He left, by his two wives, three sons: Adam (great-grandfather to James Duff, presently (1773) schoolmaster at Mortlach and a student of Divinity), William, and Daniel, and two daughters, Margaret and Rachel, and their progeny is now very numerous.' There was also a son Robert.

Of these sons, Adam is now represented by the Duffs of New Noth¹ and others in America, Robert by the Duffs of Hillockhead and Towicmore,² and either William or Daniel, as is conjectured, by a family which settled in Elgin and later in London (see chapter xxx.). Baird makes no mention of the sons of any of them, but goes on at once to 'Adam's grandson, Peter, married Anne Moir, granddaughter to Moir of Waulkmilm, an Herctor, and got £500 str. of portion with her. They have six sons, James, Alexander, John, Peter, William, and Robert; and three daughters, Anne, Margaret, and Rachel.' By the courtesy of Miss Jean Macdonald, his great-granddaughter, we are enabled to give some further details about Peter, who held the farm of Mather Cluny, and his sons.

The name of his father, son of Adam,³ is not certainly known, but is believed to have been George. And this George was most probably the writer of the following letter, who was obviously of Dipple's generation, though younger; Dipple was born 1653:

'EDINDIACH, 19 Jan. 1690.

'MUCH HONOURED,—I hear that yee intend to goe for Edr. the next week (God willing) I would gladly wait upon you till yee came back becaus there is a foster sister of myn besyd Edr. that has been curious these severall years to see some of us nor can I give you Sir a positive answer to what you speak to

¹ Noth was the farm on which George Gordon, the grandfather of the great Gordon of Glenbucket, started life.

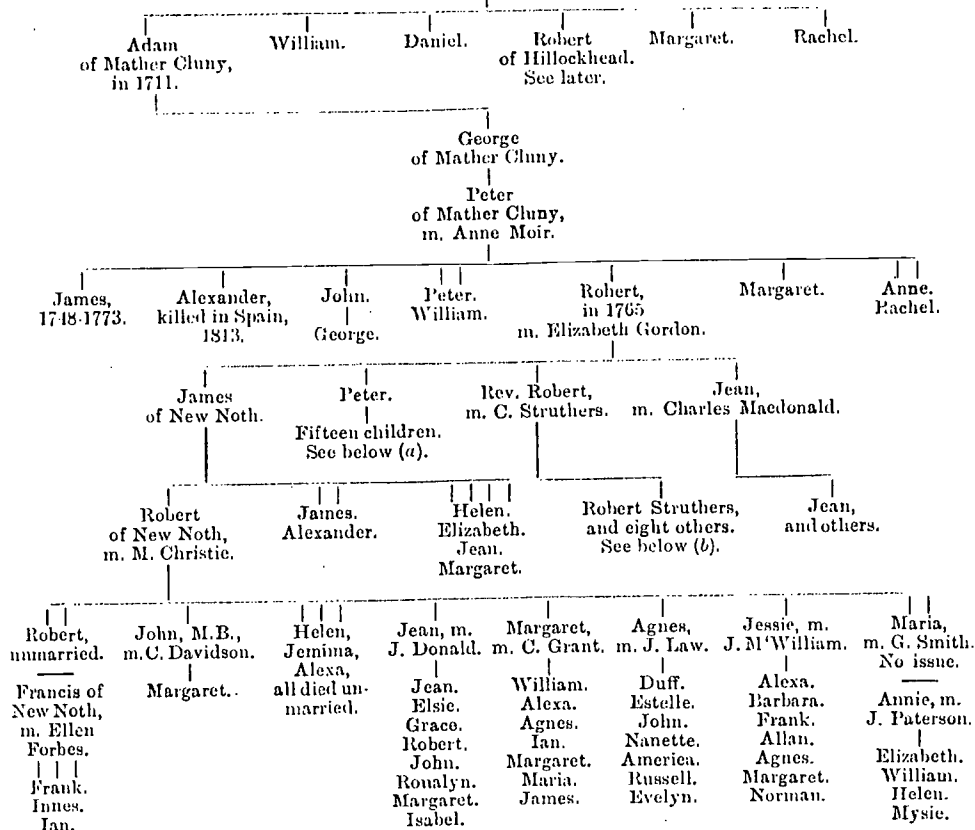
² See the end of this chapter.

³ Adam Duff in Nether Cluny was an elder of Mortlach in 1711. Both Mather and Nether Cluny still exist.

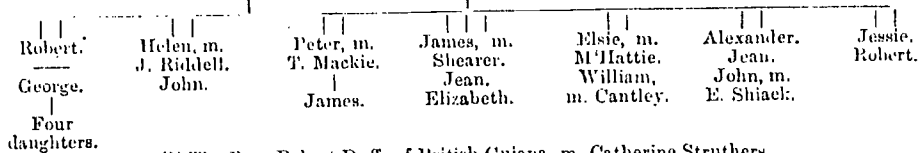
EDINDIACH FAMILY

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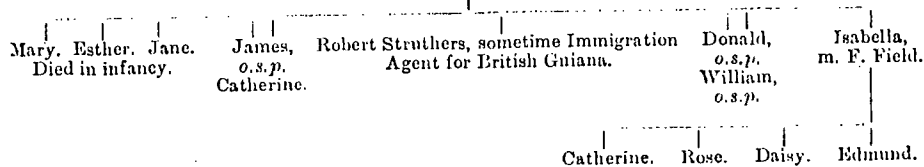
GEORGE DUFF of EDINDIACH, m. first, Beatrice Duff; m. secondly, — Alexander.



(a) Peter Duff, m. first, E. Macdonald; m. secondly, Janet Mill.



(b) The Rev. Robert Duff, of British Guiana, m. Catherine Struthers.



me till I see her, I have severall reasons too tedious to be now wrytten why I must see her before I ingadge with any so y^t I hope Sir you 'll be pleased to send me word by this bearer (if you take me with you) of your dyet that I may be ready and because my Father will have missing of me at this tym, it must be, as if it were motioned by your self and serv me off him which he will not refuse and will keep him from being angry at me, I crave your pardon, Sir, for this presumption, for I am,—Much hond., Your most affectionat and humble servant,

‘GEORGE DUFF.

‘ ffor the much hond., Bailie Duff, younger of Dipple—these.’ (D.)

Baird continues : ‘ There is, I believe, just now (1773) many more than a hundred male and female descendants of this George Duff of Edindiach within the Lordship of Balvenie, and in that country some of them pretty substantial Farmers or Farmers’ wives, but still in a situation below their rank, and this their ancestor is to be blamed for. His father gave him a good education and a competent Patrimony for those days, he likewise got good portions with his two wives, but was himself an idle, lazy, stupid fellow, very different from his three elder brothers, and his eldest son Adam was not a whit better. All their children were left in a low way, and their posterity have continued so ever since. But there are now some promising young men amongst them, whom Lord Fife takes care to educate to business or handicrafts.’

Old Baird had an almost feudal reverence for the head of the family, and the power which he ought to possess. The whole purpose of his naïve chronicle is the glorification of his successful nephew. According to tradition, Adam died in the old castle of Balvenie.

His grandson Peter, besides Mather Cluny, also held land in Buchromb, but falling into pecuniary difficulties was obliged to resign the whole into the hands of the second Lord Fife, his third cousin. Peter is alluded to in one of the letters of William Baird, as a turbulent person (see chapter viii.).

The eldest son JAMES ‘ entered as schoolmaster of Aberlour at Candlemas 1766,’ and must therefore have been born not later than 1748. He also appears as Jacobus Duff, Banffensis, in the roll of Alumni of King’s College, Aberdeen, 1767-1771, and took his M.A. in 1771. ‘ It was a common practice at that time for students to become schoolmasters during their University course, putting a substitute to teach in their absence at College, and occasionally a man held a school during the whole of his University course.’¹ James Duff was examined and approved by the Presbytery of Aberlour on April 1, 1766, and was translated to Mortlach at Candlemas

¹ The Rev. Stephen Ree.

1770, and examined and approved by the Presbytery of Strathbogie June 20, thereafter. He died before July 29, 1773 (about the very time when Baird's history of the Duffs was finished). Interesting letters from him are in the Duff House collection, and show how Lord Fife assisted these relatives. The first is addressed to William Rose, the factor :

‘MORTLACH, Oct. 10, 1770.

‘DEAR SIR,—I remember to have hinted to you, when at Inneshouse, my intintions of cum cicling the room in the school in which I sleep providing my Lord would be so good as allow me what wood would be necessary for that purpose, as rain no sooner falls from the heavens than it makes it's way in by the sleats and renders it a very uncomfortable lodging. It would therefore be obliging if you would take the trouble to talk to my Lord here anent it, and upon his condescending to grant me the number of Trees required you'd send me an order upon Mr. Duncan to deliver the same. I would apply to the Heritors in general, was it not that things of this nature are sometimes little attended to, or at least slow in their execution. I would therefore chearfully defray the expences of workmanship in order to my being more agreeably accomodated, having it in my power to remove it at my leaving this place or oblige my successor to reimbursè me in the expences thereby incurred. And, expecting your answer p Bearer, if convenient, I am, wt sincere regard and unalterable esteem,—Sir, Your much obliged ever Obed^t and very hu^{be} Ser^t,

‘JAMES DUFF.’ (D.)

Another letter to William Reid at Duff House :

‘MORTLACH, Decr. 15th, 1772.

‘SIR,—Mr. Gordon says that Lord Fife was so engaged in Business when He was at Duff house, that Mr. Rose had not an opportunity of talking to his Lordship relative to my affair ; Therefore, as you have my receipt for the £10 Stg. annually allowed by his Lordship towards the defraying my expenses at Abdn., and as I have reason to think, from his Lordship's often experienced friendship, that he will not discontinue the same till at least my Divinity courses be finished, 'tis hoped you 'll either send that sum by Bearer or a draught on Mr. Gordon for the saune, as it would enable me to buy in my winter provisions, which can be purchased at a lower rate just now than some months hereafter.—Meantime, I am wt. Regard, Sir, Your Obliged Humble Servant,

‘JAMES DUFF.’ (D.)

On April 1, 1773, John Innes of Balvenie writes to Lord Fife : ‘May heaven bless and long preserve your lordship,’ and proceeds to ask for the post of schoolmaster of Mortlach for his son Jamie, ‘as the present schoolmaster (James Duff) is given over and cannot last many days.’ (D.)

ALEXANDER, the second son, was a Lieutenant in the 71st Regiment. He was wounded at Vittoria, and killed at San Sebastian, July 25, 1813. He married, on July 2, 1805, Mary Elizabeth Gordon. His only daughter

Isabella 'died 10th September 1837 in the thirtieth year of her age,' and is buried in Elgin Cathedral.

JOHN, the third son, held the farm of Hillside. He left one son GEORGE, who married Rachel Gordon, and had a son DAVID, *o.s.p.*, also two daughters—RACHEL and MARGARET.

PETER was a surgeon.

WILLIAM enlisted in his brother Alexander's regiment, but was killed in action when quite young, leaving a widow and a child, who died without issue.

ROBERT had the farm of Milton of Buchromb.

MARGARET married a man named Murdoch.

ANNE also married.

RACHEL died unmarried.

ROBERT alone has left descendants. He had three sons, JAMES, PETER, and ROBERT, and one daughter JEAN. When young he went to America, and returning, married Elizabeth Gordon, whose sister Ann married Gordon of Old and New Noth, which farms—having no children of her own—she made over to the eldest son of Robert and Elizabeth Duff (at the time of her decease, in 1822, she was Mrs. Leslie).

This eldest son, named JAMES, was born in 1796. PETER, his next brother, had the farm of Westerton of Buchromb. One daughter of his lives in America, and three sons, JAMES, ROBERT, and JOHN in Dufftown and neighbourhood. ROBERT, the youngest, was an M.A. of King's College, Aberdeen, in 1828, and schoolmaster of Rhynie in 1835-1840. He then went to British Guiana, where he became minister of All Saints, Berbice, and was a notable man in the colony and a great agriculturist. He married a daughter of Dr. Struthers, and published a book on British Guiana. He died in 1878, leaving four sons and two daughters. One of the sons, the Hon. ROBERT STRUTHERS DUFF, was for long the Agent-General for the Immigration Department, British Guiana, which office he resigned in May 1911.

Robert Duff's daughter Jean married Charles Macdonald, steam mills, Dufftown. Their only son and four daughters are buried in Mortlach churchyard with their mother.

1. Jean, born 1835, died 1845.
2. Margaret, born and died 1838.
3. Elspet, born 1847, died 1856.
4. John, born 1853, died 1877.
5. Helen, died 1898.

Two daughters, Elizabeth and a second Jean, now live in Dufftown; Mary, married J. Miller, lives at Pitlochry; and Anne, now Mrs. Moir, at Hampstead.

HILLOCKHEAD TABLE

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JAMES DUFF of New Noth, eldest son of Robert, born in 1796, married Helen Russell, and had three sons, ROBERT, JAMES, and ALEXANDER; and four daughters, HELEN, ELIZABETH, JEAN, and MARGARET. He died 1878.

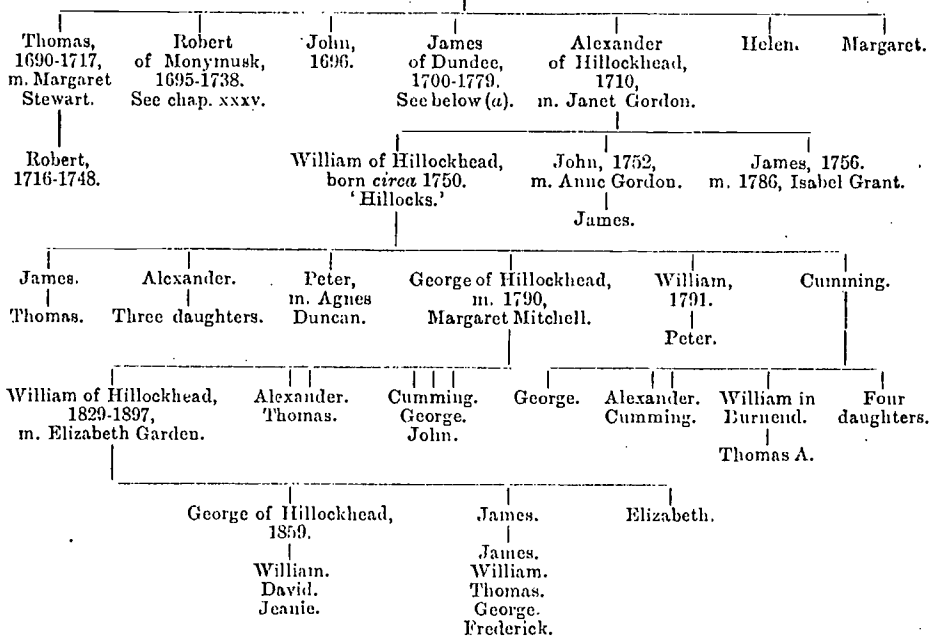
ROBERT, born 1824, died 1902, succeeded him in New Noth. His children were: ROBERT; FRANCIS, at present in New Noth; JOHN, born 1874, M.B. in Manchester, married, 1907, Christian Davidson; and nine daughters, one of whom, AGNES, married James D. Law of Lancaster, U.S.A., the author.

Three of the daughters died unmarried; the others are married in various parts of the world. See family table.

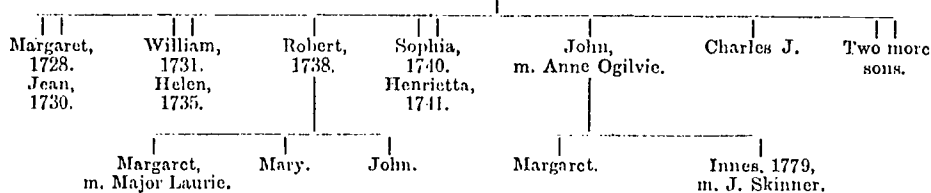
DUFFS OF HILLOCKHEAD.

GEORGE DUFF OF EDINDIACH.

Robert Duff of Hillockhead, fourth son of George of Edindiach, 1666-1754.



(a) James Duff of Dundee, 1700-1779, m. Christian Innes of Knoekorth.



The third or fourth son of George of Edindiach was ROBERT DUFF in Hillockhead, mentioned in the *Aberdeenshire Poll-Book* of 1696, with three sons, THOMAS, ROBERT, and JOHN. He must have been a comparatively young man then, as he is known by the will of his grandson Robert, who died in 1748, to have been alive in that year, and the date of his own death is given in the *Commissariat of Aberdeen* as November 1754. At least four other children were born to him subsequent to 1696. In the year 1702 he witnessed a deed signed by Alexander Duff of Braco at Edinglassie, but little is known of him personally.¹

1. THOMAS, his eldest son, lived most of his life in Banff, and was 'Chamberlain to Braco.' Under this title he writes many letters and signs many deeds. He was a merchant and burgess in Banff, and as appears from the following letter was also made an honorary burgess of Inverness by his kinsman Alexander Duff of Drummuir, then Provost. He seems to have done a good deal of business for all the family.

'ABERDEEN, 1st June 1713.

'The Much Honored

'The Laird of Drummuir at Inverness.

'MUCH HONORED,—Receive enclosed your horning against David Sutherland which I caused John Gill execute how soon I came home from Inverness. I heartily wish, and shall be glad to hear that this may find you and you Lady and family well.

'When last at Inverness my affairs obliged me with reluctancy to come away without my Burgess act, whereof you very kindly preferred me the compliment, and tho' I can make no advantage by it, yet seeing it was your compliment I shall be very fond to have it remitted by ane bearer with your conveniencé and shall always be ambitious of ane opportunity to express my self in the qualite off M. Hond.—Your most obliged humble servant, THOMAS DUFF.'²

He married Margaret Stewart, daughter of Robert Stewart, merchant in Banff, and Provost from 1715 to 1724 (and sister to John Stewart, supervisor of excise, who married Corsindae's daughter), and died in 1717. She died in 1747, when she is described as 'relict of Thomas Duff, some time merchant in Banff.' Her only son ROBERT was born in 1716,³ and died in the year 1748, having previously made three wills, all preserved in the *Commissariat Books of Aberdeen*, from which a good deal of information

¹ Lease of Hillockhead granted to Robert Duff in Hillockhead, in 1705, by William Duff of Braco, with consent of his curators.

² Drummuir papers.

³ 'November 4, 1716, Robert, the lawful son of Thomas Duff, sometime Chamberlain to Braco, and Margaret Stuart, his spouse, was baptized. Robert Duff of Hillockhead and William Duff of Braco, witnesses' (*Banff Registers*).

relating to his family has been obtained. He names his mother, Margaret Stuart (the name is spelt in either way) sole executrix, but with burden of certain legacies to his uncles and aunts and cousins on both sides of the family, and also alludes to a bond for £300 granted to him by William, Lord Braco.

2. The second son of Robert of Hillockhead, ROBERT, was minister of Aberlour, and will be found, with his large family, in the chapter on Ministers.

3. Of JOHN, nothing is known save the mention of him in the *Poll-Book*. He was probably at that date an infant, and died shortly afterwards.

4. JAMES, the fourth son, born about 1700, seems to have had a varied career. In 1718 James Duff in Elgin is described as 'son of Robert Duff in Hillockhead,' and another document calls him a 'Messenger' there. A little later, he seems to have set up as a merchant in Banff, where he is described as James Duff, younger, merchant, to distinguish him from James Duff of Corsindae. He married, on June 22, 1727, Christian Innes, daughter to James Innes of Knockorth, Provost of Banff, whose mother was Margaret Gordon of Park.

The baptisms of seven of his children are recorded in the Registers of the Episcopal Church in Banff, he being then resident in Cullen of Gamrie (east of Macduff):

MARGARET, 1728; JEAN, 1730; WILLIAM, 1731; HELEN, 1735; ROBERT, 1738; SOPHIA, 1740; HENRIETTA, 1741 ('named to Miss Henrietta Duff, Dipple's daughter').

He is also known to have had a son JOHN, and three other sons, whose baptisms may have taken place later, the Church Registers of 1745 and 1746 having been destroyed by Cumberland.

There are various bills due by William, Lord Braco, and his wife and other members of the family to James Duff, younger, merchant in Banff, for goods supplied, groceries and other luxuries of the period. But later on James Duff seems to have failed as a merchant, and the interest of the family was exerted to find him some other employment. In one of the *Orton Letters* Lord Fife alludes to him as 'Jamie Duff that wants to be a Gager,' seeming to think it a curious desire. From letters still preserved, we learn that he was both at Dumfries (1748),¹ and at Anstruther (1750-1754),² before settling down at Dundee, where he lived

¹ 'Discharge—James Duff, Dumfries—to Lord Braco for arents Mart. 1748—Mart. 1749. Rec. £15 as Interest of the principall sum of £300 sterling contained in a bond of Lord Braco.'

² 1750, James Duff, Anstruther, writes that he is obliged to pay the last of the legacies left by his nephew, and asks for the interest of his money lying in Lord Braco's hands.

from about 1760 until his death in 1779, being then described as 'Land Surveyor of the Customs.'

James Duff, Anstruther, to Lord Braco

'MY LORD,—As Lord Deskford is now appointed one of the Commissioners of the Customs I believe it would be of the greatest consequence to me to be rightly recommended to him, and I flatter myself your Lordship will be so good to recommend me to that Lord, which will be of the greatest use for facilitating my removal from this and preventing my being used in the unprecedented manner I have been for some years past. My Lady Bracco has met with so much trouble already in this affair that I have not confidence to write her Ladyship on this subject and your Lordship has got a great deal more than I could have wished. But I am hopeful if I were once introduced in a right manner to Lord Deskford that my friends would get less trouble that way in time coming. My wife waited on the Master of Bracco last month at Edin^r who was so good as promise to use his good offices with that Lord and any other could be instrumentall in my return. She joins me in the offer of our most humble duty to your Lordship My Lady and all the young family, and I am with great respect,—My Lord, Your Lordships most obliged humble Servant,

'JAMES DUFF. (D.)

'ANSTRUTHER, 30th Augt. 1754.'

James Duff and John Duff, Dundee, to Lord Fife

'MY LORD,—I had the honour of receiving your Lordships two letters of the 30th ult. and 12th inst., the last gives me the happy news of Lord North's having directed a Commission to be made for my son to succeed me as Land Surveyor at this place, which will enable me to sit down with ease for the rest of my life, with the comfortable consideration that when I die (should my son survive me) my family will have the same subsistence as it has at present.

'For this great favour I am indebted to your Lordship, and be pleased to accept of the most sincere thanks of my family and self.

'I wish that your Lordship may long enjoy health and every happiness, and I have the honour of remaining with the greatest respect,—My Lord, Your Lordships most obliged and obedient humble servant,

'JAMES DUFF. (D.)

'DUNDEE, May 22d, 1774.'

'MY LORD,—I arrived here yesterday having sailed in the first vessel for this place after I had last the honour of waiting on your Lordship at London; by your Lordship's letter of the 12th inst. to my Father I find that Lord North has directed a Commission to be made out in my favour agreeably to your Lordship's desire, which is as lucky a matter as could have happened for the ease and benefit of my aged Parents and for my advantage, obtained thro' your Lord-

ships goodness and their worth which hath induced your Lordship to do them and me this service.

'I shall ever my Lord with the utmost gratitude remember and acknowledge this favour and I hope always conduct myself so as to merit your Lordships future esteem.—I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordships most obliged and devoted humble Servant,

JOHN DUFF. (D.)

'DUNDEE, May 22nd, 1774.'

Baird thus alludes to James Duff, the father: 'I think James Duff an officer of the Customs at Dundee is of Drummur (this, of course, is a mistake). He has a promising young family. In 1766 he had four sons in Jamaica, and the fifth just going there.' (The family therefore went on increasing after 1741.) One of these sons was Robert¹ of the Atholl Highlanders, who became a Captain, married, and had a large family, but no descendants are now known.² There were two daughters: Margaret, who married Major Laurie of the 79th in 1811; and Mary Barbara, died 1847. It is unfortunate that it is not now possible to trace the Duffs who went to Jamaica. There is one Charles James Duff, buried in Port Royal Cemetery (according to a book on West Indian burials in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh), who may have been one of the five sons.

JOHN, who succeeded his father as land surveyor in Dundee, married Anne Ogilvie, and had one daughter MARGARET, died 1866, and a second, INNES DUFF, born 1779, married John Skinner, Dean of Dunkeld, and lived to be ninety-three.³

The second daughter JEAN, born in Banff, 1730, married, in 1760, Captain the Hon. W. Southwell, and writes thus to Lord Fife:

'MY LORD,—As I never had the honour of addressing your Lordship before, by letter, its necessary I should begin by telling you that my maiden name is Duff. I'm second daughter to James Duff, Land Surveyor of the Customes at Dundee. I was so unhappy (about sixteen years ago) as to marry Captain William Southwell, Uncle to the present Lord Southwell. For these eight years past I have been left by him interly destitute of the necessarys of life. So far I have been obliged to trouble your Lordship with a short account of my unhappy situation in purpose to lead to what I have farther to say. A lady, a relation of my husbands has sent to me, to desire that I would write an account of my own family, which I have done, I have presumed, my Lord, to mention you as a relation and one that knows my family and parents, and I have to beg of your

¹ The Robert baptised in Banff 1738.

² Although the following notice may refer to this family: 'January 29, 1858, died at Kingstown, near Dublin, John Duff, youngest and last surviving son of the late Major Duff of Dundee' (*Gentleman's Magazine*).

³ *i.e.* she was alive in 1872. The date of her death is not known.

Lordship if any person should aske you, that you wont lessen me with regard to my birth, to my Husbands family, as they are very proud and thinks few so good as themselves; perhaps Captain Walsingham may speak to you on the subject, as he is my husbands near relation and married to his first cousin. I'll just mention one way that I have the honour of being your Lordships relation, by the Park family, your great-grandfather¹ and mine was Brothers, Sir John and Sir George Gordon. I beg your Lordship will pardon me for giving you this trouble, I would have presumed to have called for you reather then taken this method, but want of proper cloaths put that out of my power.—I have the honour to be, My Lord Your Lordships most obedient humble servant,

‘JEAN SOUTHWELL.

‘LONDON, Jan. 25th, 1776.

‘I beg your Lordship will forgive me for sending this by the penny post, as I'm afraid your servants would not take it in if I should send it to your house. If your Lordship should do me the honour to write to me please to direct for the Hon^{ble} Mrs. Southwell at Mr. Linds, opposite new Slaughters Coffee House, St. Martin's Lane. I lodge there.

‘To The Earl Fife, Whitehall.

‘forwarded to à L'Hotell Portmahon, Rue Jacob Paris.’ (D.)

Christian Innes died in 1785, the inventory of her estate being registered in the *Commissariat of Brechin*, and ‘given up’ by Margaret Duff, ‘eldest lawful daughter of Christian Innes, relict of James Duff, late land surveyor at the Port of Dundee.’ The chief asset was ‘a bond of a principal sum of £300 sterling granted by James, Earl of Fyfe, to the defunct, dated November 11, 1780.’

5. ALEXANDER, the fifth son, succeeded his father in Hillockhead. His father's ‘tack’ of that estate was due to expire four years after the father's death, *i.e.* in 1758, and Alexander had already, in 1752, been granted a new tack, for nineteen years, but before the expiry of this² he seems to have fallen on evil days, as shown by the following letter from Archibald Duff of Bilbohall to William Rose, dated Elgin, March 23, 1777:

‘DEAR SIR,— . . . Hillockhead has been in Town these severall days and has plagued the Sherriff and me both. Poor Devil, if any thing could be done for him, it would be charity. The Sheriff put it on me to tell him about the plan for putting him in Murdoch's place in the Mortification—it sounded very ill to

¹ Lord Fife's grandmother was Jean Gordon of Edinglassie, first wife of William of Dipple; Jean Duff's was Margaret Gordon, wife of James Innes of Knockorth, and these two were first cousins, daughters of the two brothers, John and George Gordon.

² Alexander Gordon writes, 1771, to Lord Fife, asking for the renewal of tack to Alexander Duff of Hillockhead: ‘This would be an act of humanity to the son of Robert Duff, an honest servant of your family.’

hear, it went so very ill down with him, that I could not find in my heart to urge it. He complains he has no place to retire to, and cannot think of a Town, as he wants his misery as much hid as possible. He trusts you can provide him in a house and yard, and two three Bolls at Hillockhead or elsewhere, and any Bounty Lord Fife pleases for him he would wish, in a less publick, or as he calls it Dishonourable, way than succeeding Murdoch as a Professed Beggar. In short, he avows the Sheriff has never done any thing for him, and he has not the least Prospect or Dependence that he will—and his whole trust being in you, he is to delay everything till you come to the country, when I daresay you will look for a visit.'

On April 7, 1777, Lord Fife had a decret of removing against Alexander Duff of Hillockhead.

Alexander's wife was Janet Gordon of Farskane, who lived until 1809, and he had three sons, two of whom, WILLIAM and JAMES, seem to have held the farm jointly, and the following letters from them are of some interest as a picture of the times :

James Duff to William Rose

'HILLOCKHEAD OF GLASS, Feb. 13, 1783.

'DEAR SIR,—I humbly Beg to acquaint your honour that as John Doull in Boddiclair his clopted the country, for which he was Dew me oupwards of nine pound sterling for two oxen that I sold him summer last, and as he had left but a smal subject Behind him on the place, I pounded upon Different articles Bellonging him : a great stack and the whole Dunge Bellonging him on the place was two of the articles and Mr. McGregor sent me word that I could not have the Dung, that he had spocke to your honour concerning it, and that it was his orders from you to keep it from me, otherways he was letting the tack of Bodde-lair to one Gerge Wilson and he offered him Both peats and Dung for the summer grass, therefore all that I want to know is your honour's answer if they are articles pondebal or that they cane Belongs to me. I am not afraid but you will give me Justice, as I know that Mr. McGregor would do his endeavours to wronge me out of them. I pounded none of this artieles without the advice of Alairer that Informed me that the Dunge was a movable poundable as their was a good number of Boles of lime mixed with the Dung. Therefore I humble Begg that your honour will send anc answer with the bearer, as it is time for me know. —Dear Sir, I am your humble servant and most obliged,

'JAMES DUFF.' (R.)

November 17, 1786, William Duff, who describes himself as 'in Hillockhead,' writes from Balvenie that he makes offer for the half of Midtown of Bellyhack.

A James Thomson writes from Balvenie, November 17, 1786, to Lord Fife that 'Win. Duff is a good tenant, and the place very convenient for him to have.' William Rose also writes that William Duff, Hillockhead, 'wants Midtown of Bellyhack, that it lies near to and commodious for him. It was offered him during the Lease of Hillockhead at the present rent, but he refused.'

James Duff, Hillockhead, to William Rose

'NETHERTOWN, 12th Jan. 1792.

'DEAR SIR,—At your Diser, I went to Elgin to get the Decreet you promised to send Mr. Falkoner. I saw your letter to him saying that you was to send it on the thursday thereafter, for which I went their that Day in hopes to get it. But Mr. Falkoner told me that he had not heard from you concerning the Submission—therfor it seems to me that your letter his been miscarried, or lying in sum of the post offices. I hope that you will Be so good as Inform the Bearer what Day you will send it to Elgin if it is not sent Before this tim, as we ar in straits of money I hope that you will Excuse me for giving you this trouble.—Dear Sir, I am your most obliged and humble servant,

'JAMES DUFF.' (R.)

James and William Duff to William Rose

'HILLOCKHEAD, 6th May 1794.

'DEAR SIR,—We received your letter the first of March last, and we ar extremely happy that you put it in our power to do any of your family the smallest favour. In obidience to your Desere we found one John McGregor a steady young Lad, a servant to us at the time, and we sent for Captain Fyfe and brought him to Hillockhead for to Inlist him, and the same McGregor in a few days theirafter found a Brother of his own, one James McGregor and listed him also, they are both much about five foot ten inches high and both perfectly stout and handsom.

'Sir, we are honoured to be with the greatest esteem, most oblig'd and humble servants,

JAMES DUFF.

WILLIAM DUFF.' (R.)

William, the eldest son of Alexander of Hillockhead, was the patriarch known as 'Hillocks,' of whom Sir William Geddes in his *Memorials of a Banffshire Glen*, tells the following story: 'The road to his farm was across a long stretch of moorland, and on one occasion when he and a shepherd were nearly lost on a wild winter's night, he is said to have sunk down, almost in despair, saying: "Jamie, I wyte ye 'll be a sair missed man gin

ye dee, but oh man, it 'll be naething to the miss o' me." He was proud of his connection with the successful Duff family, and would sometimes, in a jocular vein, wish that fate would remove some of the elder branches, to make way for the younger.'

William would appear, later on, to have been in some anxiety as to the fate of a son of his own, named William :

' HILLOCKHEAD, *Sept. 28th, 1807.*

' SIR,—I humbly take the liberty of writing you these few lines. I understand that there is to be a draught for the militia in Glass, and as my son William is on the list, and as there is no club in this parish, I think it a pity to let my son have the risk of being balloted after having him some years at Colege. I beg you would be so good as write me by this Bearer if I could get him insured at Banff—and in what manner the insurance stands, as I am quit anxious to get him out danger.—Sir, I ever am with the Greatest Esteem, Your most obedt. and Humbl. Servt.,

WILLIAM DUFF.

' Mr. Pat. Rose, Sheriff Clerk.'

(R.)

' HILLOCKHEAD, GLASS, *Oct. 12th, 1807.*

' SIR,—I humbly took the liberty of writing, some Days ago respecting my son William, as it appears there is to be no Club in Glass, I am affraid of being Drawn by ballot. I have again taken the liberty to writ you this few lines beging your advice about getting him insured, and if there is any one in Banff that insures, as there is no time to lose ; I likeway would beg to inquire if Mr. Georg Robeson from Edenbrough is in this Country at present, or if he was in it this seson.—Sir, I am honoured to be with the Greatest Esteem, Your most obliged and Humbl. Servant,

WILLIAM DUFF.' (R.)

Answer from Patrick Rose :

' BANFF, *13 Oct. 1807.*

' DEAR SIR,—I should have answered your first letter of the 28th Sept. long before now, but have been from hence for ten days and only retd. on Thursday last. I am favored with your other letter of the 12th inst., received this evening, and now in answer to both, beg leave to inform you that no insurance Militia Ballots is done in this place, but at Edinr. it is done at £3 str. per man, in parishes where there are no Volunteers, and £4 where there are Volunteers in the parish. I have not been able yet to learn accurately the name of the company who insures, but Mr. George Robinson, W.S., will be the best hand to manage this business and get your son insured, and I think you should not lose any time in applying to him. Mr. Robinson has not been, nor is not, I understand, to be in the North this season.—I am, Yours,

PAT. ROSE.' (R.)

The six sons of 'Hillocks' all became farmers in the same district :

1. JAMES in Mill of Auchindachy. He married Miss Smith from Aswanly, and had, with other children, a son THOMAS, who married Miss Shearer.

2. ALEXANDER had the farm of Midtown of Glass, married Jane Bennett, and had three daughters, JANE, CHARLOTTE, and ANNE.

3. PETER was in Midtown of Bellyhack. He married Anne Duncan, but had no issue.

4. GEORGE, in Hillockhead, of whom presently.

5. WILLIAM, in part of Hillockhead, was at college, Aberdeen, 1802-1806. He married Margaret Smart, and had, with other children, PETER, and JESSIE, who married J. Barclay.

6. CUMMING, in Parkhaugh of Glass. A noted violin player. He married Maggie Gauld, and had four sons and four daughters. The sons were :

GEORGE (now deceased), who has left a family of two sons and three daughters.

ALEXANDER, in Glass, and CUMMING (twins). Alexander had four sons : ALEXANDER, now Agent for North of Scotland Bank, Aberlour ; CUMMING, dead ; JAMES, in Netherton of Glass ; WILLIAM, in New Zealand ; and two daughters : MARY, married Davidson ; MAGGIE, married Gauld. Cumming had two sons and three daughters.

WILLIAM, in Burnend, who married his cousin, Elizabeth Duff, daughter of George Duff of Hillockhead, and has one son, T. A. DUFF, in Huntly.

The four daughters of Cumming Duff in Parkhaugh of Glass were : ANNE, married Archibald ; JANE, married Patterson ; MAGGIE, married Bonnyman ; MARY, married Proctor.

GEORGE DUFF of Hillockhead, fourth son of 'Hillocks,' married Margaret Mitchell, and had himself six sons and three daughters. The daughters were : ELIZABETH, married her first cousin, William Duff of Burnend ; MARGARET, married Mitchell ; JANE, married Menzies. The five younger sons were all unmarried.

ALEXANDER and THOMAS still living in Banffshire, CUMMING deceased, GEORGE and JOHN in America.

The eldest son, WILLIAM, born 1827, died 1897, was a well-known breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle. He had two sons, GEORGE and JAMES, and one daughter ELIZABETH. The latter married Bonnyman of Geddes, and has three children, James, Bessie, and Anne.

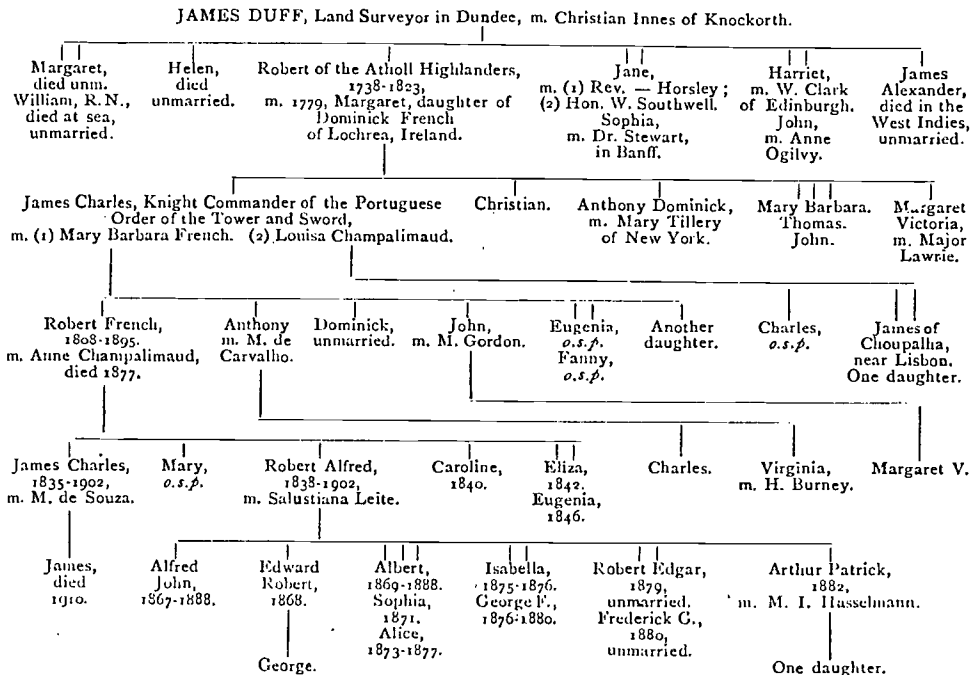
GEORGE, eldest son of William, formerly of Hillockhead, now of Towiemore, Banffshire, was born in 1859, and married Elsie Scott, by whom he has three children: WILLIAM, born 1892; DAVID, born 1895; and JEANIE, born 1900.¹

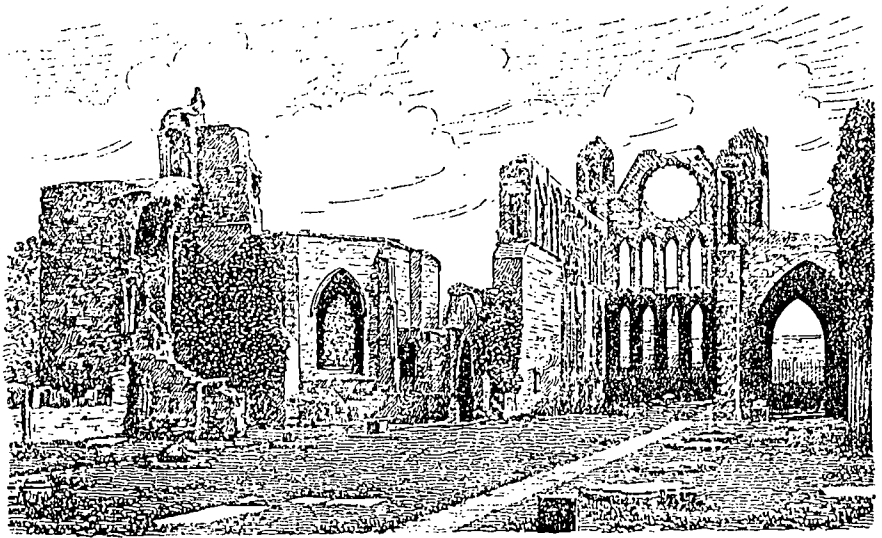
JAMES, the younger son, married Maggie Duff, and has five sons: JAMES, WILLIAM, THOMAS, GEORGE, FREDERICK.

It should be noted that this branch of the Duff family has been resident in the same place for over two hundred years.

¹ Took a musical scholarship in 1913.

Note.—As we go to press we are enabled, by the courtesy of Mr. Robert Edgar Duff of Lisbon, to print some further particulars of the descendants of James Duff of Dundee.





ELGIN CATHEDRAL.¹

CHAPTER XXIX

ELGIN DUFFS IN LONDON

BETWEEN the years 1718 and 1789 there resided in Elgin a worthy man named Alexander Duff. He was probably grandson of Daniel, third son of George of Edindiach, fourth son of Clunybeg. He had two brothers, Henry, died 1750, and Simon, a tobacconist, and heir to Henry. He must have been a prosperous and well-to-do man, for he had a burying-place and a stone in the Elgin cathedral enclosure, and was able to give a good education and start in life to several of his numerous children. He was twice married, first to Barbara Falconer, by whom he had two children (dates taken from the Baptismal Register now in Edinburgh):

‘Alexander Duff, Shoemaker in Elgin, and Barbara Falconer, his spouse, had a child baptized, named DAVID—30th September 1749; and a child baptized, named ALEXANDER—18th June 1751.’

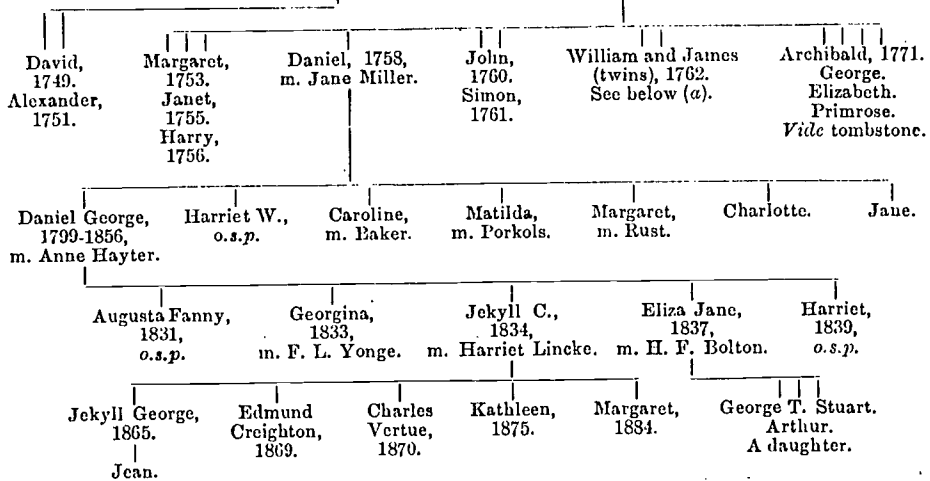
Of David and Alexander nothing is known.

‘His 2nd wife was Margaret Ross, and by her he in all had twelve children: MARGARET, born 1753; JANET, 1755; HARY, 1756; DANIEL, 1758; JOHN, 1760; SIMON, 1761; twins, WILLIAM and JAMES, 1762;

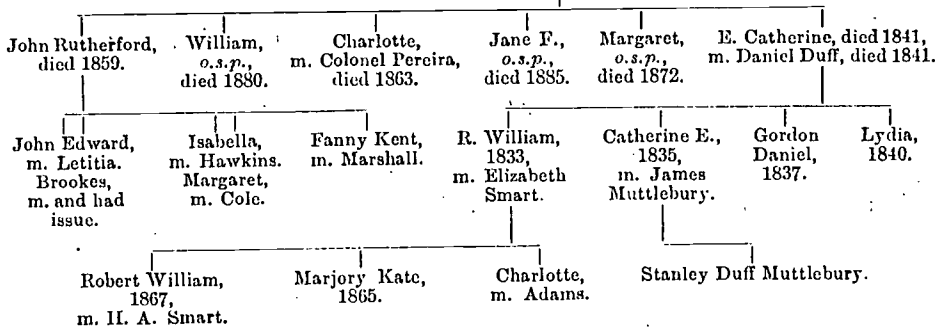
¹ Many Duffs are buried here. William Duff of Dipple and his first wife lie in the Duke of Gordon's aisle on the right hand.

FAMILY TABLE

ALEXANDER DUFF of ELOIN, 1718-1789,
m. first, Barbara Falconer; m. secondly, Margaret Ross.



(a) William (one of the twins), 1762-1822, m. Catherine M'Guffog.



and ARCHIBALD, 1771' (*Elgin Registers*). Four of the above died young, and are buried in the Cathedral grounds.¹ The inscription on the stone is as follows :

'Here are interred the bodies of Mr. Alexander Duff, who departed this life the 30th July 1789, aged 71 years, and of Barbara Falconer, his first wife, who departed this life 13th June 1751 [*the day her son Alexander was born*], and Margaret Ross, his second wife, who departed this life 18th August 1779. Together with the bodies of six children of the second marriage, named Janet, John, James, George, Elizabeth, and Primrose, who died in infancy, and of Henry [*the Hary mentioned above, born November 1756*], who died 11th July 1768, aged 11 years.'

Of three sons, Daniel, William and another, who must have been either Simon or Archibald, and of the one remaining daughter, we have trace in after life.

It is obvious that Alexander Duff, the father of the family, who is described as 'Mr.' on his tombstone, although by profession a shoemaker, and practising his trade in 1770, 1771—*vide* receipted bills to Mrs. Rose of Montcoffer and others—was himself a graduate in Arts. Alexander Duff (Moraviensis), A.M., is given in the Roll of Alumni of King's College, Aberdeen, in 1738, when the above Alexander was aged nineteen. Unfortunately, the name of the father is not given, but he was probably, as already stated, a grandson of George of Edindiach (*q.v.*).

Of the sons, we have Daniel Duff, son of Alexander Duff, Elgin, at Marischal College (*Aberdeen Fasti*) from 1776 to 1780. That is from his eighteenth to twenty-second year. In 1780 he graduated M.A.

On July 2, 1779, the same Daniel Duff was examined and admitted schoolmaster at Spynie. It was, as has been already seen, quite possible for students to hold country schoolmasterships during their college course, and Daniel Duff appears also as schoolmaster in the Session Records of Spynie in the year 1778, before his formal admission. These records also show absences from the work of session-clerk (an office held by Daniel Duff from 1778 to 1784) during the winters. Absences probably due to attendance at college before 1780, when he graduated, and also in the years 1783 and 1784, when his name appears as a student of Divinity at Aberdeen. Exhaustive search has been made in Scottish Presbytery records to discover when and where he was licensed to the ministry, but without result; it is, of course, possible that he was a schoolmaster all his life, and never a minister. Though in later life known as Dr. Daniel Duff,

¹ Together with three more, George, Elizabeth, and Primrose, whose baptisms are not recorded in the register—presumably because they died soon after birth.

his name does not occur in the records of his college as having received the degree of D.D. He 'demitted office' and left Spynie on July 5, 1785.

He next appears in the year 1788, as living at Islington, for on January 24, Daniel Duff of that parish was married, by special licence, to Jane Miller of Newington Green, at St. Paul's, Covent Garden; witnesses, William Duff and Susannah Burdett. A copy of the special licence has been obtained from Lambeth, but no further particulars are given as to either party, except the statement that they were 'of full age.'

It is presumed that Daniel Duff was pursuing in London his school-master's profession, but details are wanting. He is next heard of in the following year as writing from Battersea, June 24, 1789, to Sir Joseph Banks:

'SIR,—Along with this letter, I have sent a description of three machines, which I believe are new and useful. I flatter myself you will examine them candidly, and approve or not, as they shall deserve.

'I believe they are new, as I never had a hint of them either from reading or conversation. Of several inventions, those of which I have sent a sketch seem the most simple, and therefore the most probable to answer their intention. If they be really useful, I have no doubt but they will be acceptable to you, Sir, not only as President of the most respectable learned Society in Europe,¹ but more so, as one who, in search of useful knowledge, left wealth and ease for certain danger.

'It will naturally be observed that Experiment is the only proper proof of the effects of any machine. To this I may answer, that since the year 1781 I have attempted to make models of them and several other machines, but have hitherto been frustrated by the close attention which my employment requires.—I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

DANIEL DUFF.²

'To Sir Joseph Banks.'

This letter is annotated by Banks to the effect that he did not consider the inventions sufficiently superior to the methods already known 'as to gain the inventor such a share either of reputation or profit as a man who successfully devotes his time to the service of the public has a right to expect.'

Some years later Dr. Daniel Duff reappears as headmaster of the 'Academy for young gentlemen at Salvadore House, Tooting.'³ In the *History of Tooting Graveney*, by W. E. Morden, there is a picture of the academy, and on the personal testimony of that author there was a record of the existence at one time in Tooting Parish Church of a special gallery pew for the accommodation of 'Dr. Duff's young gentlemen.'

¹ Sir Joseph Banks was President of the Royal Society.

² This letter is in the Banks correspondence, British Museum MSS.

³ He was there for several years previous to 1796; *vide* letter among Duff House papers.

'On November 21, 1820, died at Great Ormond Street, Dr. Daniel Duff formerly of Salvadore House, Tooting.'¹ Though at one time a prosperous man, and believed to have acquired a fortune with his wife, and to have had another left to him, Daniel Duff, at the time of his death, was in poor circumstances, as his estate was sworn as under £200. His widow, Jane, did not take out letters of administration, but after her death (which occurred at 27 Queen's Square, in 1834, *vide* will), Harriet Wilhelmina, the eldest daughter, did so, on December 14, 1844. From the wills of Jane and Harriet (who herself died in 1860), Dr. Daniel Duff is known to have had one son, DANIEL GEORGE, and six daughters: HARRIET WILHELMINA, already mentioned; CAROLINE, afterwards Mrs. Baker; MATILDA, afterwards Mrs. Porkols, whose husband, Dr. Porkols of Brunswick, was instrumental in saving the Duke of Kent from assassination in Brussels; MARGARET, afterwards Mrs. Rust; CHARLOTTE, and JANE. In Harriet's will mention is also made of a portrait of her aunt, Margaret Duff, the surviving daughter of Alexander Duff of Elgin, mentioned above, born in 1753. This portrait was left to Harriet's nephew, Jekyll Chalmers Duff, still surviving, and money to his sister, Eliza Jane. Harriet, who describes herself as formerly of Queen's Square, Bloomsbury, latterly of Brunswick, Germany, seems to have been a wealthy woman. Nothing is known of the other sisters.²

DANIEL GEORGE, the only son of Dr. Daniel Duff, was born in 1799, and entered the Army in 1818. He was a Lieutenant on May 6, 1819, Captain in 1829.

He married Anne, sister of George Hayter, principal Painter-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty, member of the Academies of Rome, Florence, Bologna, Parma, Venice, and knighted in 1842, and had one son³ and four daughters:

1. AUGUSTA FANNY, born 1831, died 1833.
2. GEORGINA ANNIE CHALMERS, born 1833; married, January 17, 1854, Frederick Langford Yonge, 16th Native Infantry.
3. JEKYL CHALMERS, born 1834, of whom hereafter.

¹ There is no record of his funeral, nor any memorial stone to him either at Tooting or in the Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen's Square, in which parish Great Ormond Street is situated.

² *London Magazine*, November 19, 1821: '*Birth*. In Great Ormond Street, Queen's Square, Mrs. Duff of four fine children, three boys and one girl.'

We have, unfortunately, not been able to trace this lady, though she must undoubtedly have been of the family of Dr. Daniel Duff of Tooting, who died in the previous year—apparently in the same house. She was probably a niece.

³ Harry William Sydney Hayter Duff died at Hindhead, November 19, 1909, and buried at Kensal Green, was probably another son or grandson. His will, now at the India Office, says he was formerly of the Burmah Police, but latterly residing at Warnambool, Victoria, Australia. He appoints Jekyll Chalmers Duff executor, leaving all of which he died possessed to his wife Catherine Letitia.

4. ELIZA JANE, born 1837; married, January 17, 1854, Hely Frederick Bolton, 12th Native Infantry, and had two sons: George F. Stuart, who was in poor circumstances at the time of his death in 1912, and Arthur, *o.s.p.*; also one daughter.

5. The fourth daughter HARRIET, born and died 1839.

Mrs. Duff died of cholera at Bombay, a fortnight after the double wedding of her daughters; Colonel Duff in 1856.

JEKYLL CHALMERS was born at Surat, but was sent home to be educated, and was at Rugby School in 1844. He was subsequently in the Indian police, and lost an arm in an encounter with a tiger. He now resides at St. Kilda, Melbourne. He married, on December 30, 1863, Harriet Elizabeth Lincke, he being, at that time, Superintendent of Police at Bhundara, Central Provinces, and has three sons and two daughters:

1. JEKYLL GEORGE JOHN, born 1865. Also in the Indian Police; now district superintendent. Married, and has one daughter, JEAN, born 1906.

2. EDMUND CREIGHTON, born 1869, in the Civil Service of Nigeria.

3. CHARLES VERTUE, born 1870.

4. KATHLEEN HARRIETTE, born 1875.

5. MARGUERITE JESSIE, born 1884.

WILLIAM DUFF, seventh son of Alexander Duff of Elgin, was a successful man of business. He came to London quite early in life, and at the age of thirty-one, being then described as of Nicholas Lane, he married Miss Katherine McGuffog of Jamaica (born 1770, died 1847). He died in 1822, and administration of an estate of £3000 was granted to his widow.

He had a family of two sons and four daughters:

1. JOHN RUTHERFORD DUFF, a wharfinger of Lower Thames Street, who became bankrupt on April 15, 1840, and died in 1859, leaving a widow and five children: JOHN EDWARD, whose wife was Letitia;¹ BROOKE, also married; ISABELLA, married Hawkins; MARGARET, married Cole; and FANNY KENT, married Marshall. These are all mentioned in the will of their uncle.

2. WILLIAM, who carried on his father's business in Nicholas Lane, and died, unmarried, at his house in Orsett Terrace in 1880, leaving a large fortune which provided for most of his nephews and nieces.²

3. CHARLOTTE, married at St. George the Martyr, Queen's Square, on December 31, 1834, to Manassch Lopez Pereira, Colonel Madras Army; witnesses, William Duff and Margaret Duff. She died in 1863, her husband ten years previously, and both are buried at Kensal Green.

4. JANE FORSYTH, who died, unmarried, in 1885, leaving a considerable amount of money.

¹ Surname unknown.

² This William Duff corresponded with other Duffs in Jamaica. See chapter xxxix.

5. MARGARET, died unmarried at 18 Orsett Terrace, in 1872.

6. ELIZA CATHERINE, the youngest, married, on June 15, 1831, at St. George the Martyr, Queen's Square, to her first cousin,¹ Captain Daniel Duff of the 37th Madras Native Infantry; witnesses, William Duff and John Duff.

The father of this Captain Daniel must thus have been one of the other two surviving sons of Alexander of Elgin, Simon, born 1761, or Archibald, born 1771, but there is nothing to show which, as the bride's brothers only were witnesses to the marriage register. Daniel was apparently an only child.

Captain DANIEL was a cadet in 1819, and must therefore have been born in, or shortly after, the year 1800. He became a Captain in 1830, and 'a Major in the East Indies only' in 1841, the year of his death. In the *Madras Spectator* of September 18, 1841, occurs the following :

'It is with extreme regret that we have to announce the death of Capt. D. Duff of the 37th Regt. Native Infantry at Macao on July 7th, from an attack of Canton Marsh fever. He had arrived there on June 17th in rather an ailing state, to attend the funeral of Sir Le Fleming Senhouse, and on his way from that ceremony received, in the street, a letter announcing the death of Mrs. Duff, which completely overpowered him and confined him to his room. Two or three days afterwards he was seized with fever, which terminated fatally on July 7th, and the service has thus been deprived of an excellent and zealous officer, to whose worth the regret of a wide circle of friends will bear ample testimony.'

The present writers confess to a profound regret that more is not known of this gallant soldier. According to the will of his brother-in-law, William Duff, there seems to have been at one time a good portrait of him.

He made his will on his death-bed at Macao, dated July 5, leaving as executors his brother-in-law, William Duff, and his sister-in-law, Jane Forsyth Duff, and associated with them, for managing his affairs in the East, Captain Robert Gordon and James Binny Scott. All he possessed was to go to his son, Robert William (it is curious that in the will the name is given as William Robert, but the other is the form in the Baptismal Register), his daughter, Elizabeth Catherine Stanley (*sic*), and his other daughter, 'born some time in 1841, whom I believe to be named Lydia.' The Baptismal Register, India Office, gives his family as follows :

1. ROBERT WILLIAM, born 1833.
2. CATHERINE ELIZABETH STANLEY, born 1835.
3. Another son, GORDON DANIEL, born and died 1837.
4. CATHERINE LYDIA, born December 1840, died October 1841.

¹ This is family tradition.

One cannot help wondering who looked after these three forlorn little ones until the death of the ten-months old Lydia, when presumably the other two were sent back to England. The only other detail in connection with this family is the following letter, permission to print which we owe to the kindness of Miss Marjory Kate Duff, daughter of Robert William :

‘MINEMON, 10 o'clock Tuesday, Feb. 25, 1841.

‘MY DEAR PUSS AND BOB,¹—Here is a China Umbrella, my beloved children, for each of you. I picked them both up at Chumtee on the 7th January, take them and keep them for your father's sake. I am now going to bed with rather a sad heart. Be kind and good children to your poor Mother, the best and worthiest of wives. I kiss you all. God bless you. I pray to Him to save me for your sakes.—Ever my dear beloved children, Your Father,

‘D. DUFF.’

ROBERT WILLIAM was educated at a private school at Blackheath (where, at the same time, were four other Duffs with whom he was only remotely connected), subsequently at King's College, London, and later held a commission in the 17th Regiment Native Infantry. He married, in 1863, Elizabeth Margaret Smart, and died in 1879. £5000 was left to his widow by the will of his uncle, William Duff, and £5000 also to his sister Catherine, who became, in 1862, the wife of James W. Muttletbury, and had one son, the well-known Cambridge rowing ‘Blue,’ Stanley Duff Muttletbury.²

Robert William Duff left three children :

1. MARJORY KATE DUFF, born 1865.
2. ROBERT WILLIAM, born 1867, now of Winchester House, the founder of that successful enterprise, the ‘Duff Development Company’ in Kelantan, Malay; married, in 1901, Helen Alexa Smart—has no issue.
3. CHARLOTTE, now Mrs. Adams.

The descendants of Dr. Daniel Duff at one time believed themselves to be more nearly connected with the Earls of Fife, but the claim was not recognised by the family. It was founded upon a strange idea that Dr. Daniel, born in 1758, was a son of the Hon. George Duff of Milntown, fourth son of the first Lord Fife. The children of this George Duff are given in chapter x., and in addition to other proofs that there were no more than the two sons, the following

¹ Then aged six and eight.

² Stanley Duff Muttletbury was at Eton from 1880 to 1885, and was in the Eton Eight during his last two years. He won the ‘Pulling’ in 1883, and the ‘Sculling and Hurdles’ in 1884. From Eton he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, and was in the ‘Varsity Eight’ for five years—1886-1890, and on the first four occasions rowed in the winning boat. He was President of the Cambridge University Boat Club in 1888, 1889, and 1890; Captain of the Leander Club, 1889; Captain of the Thames Rowing Club, 1894 and 1895; coaching the Cambridge Eight on several occasions. He was one of the finest heavy-weight oars ever known. He married Christina Augusta, daughter of Major-General Parkinson, and has two children.

memorandum, addressed to William Rose, still existing, in the handwriting of James, second Lord Fife, and brother of George, is conclusive :

' I think it proper to write with my own hand the present state of my family. My father William, late Earl of Fife, married Lady Janet Ogilvie, daughter to the Earl of Findlater—no issue. He married, secondly, Jean, daughter of Sir James Grant, by whom he had seven sons and seven daughters. He died in 1763 ; my mother still alive.

' Eldest son, WILLIAM, died unmarried.

' JAMES, the second son, succeeded 1763, married Dorothea, only daughter of Alexander, Earl of Caithness—no children.

' ALEXANDER, the third son, married Mary Skene, by whom three sons and two daughters : JAMES, ALEXANDER, GEORGE, JANE, and ANNE.

' GEORGE, the fourth son, married Frances Dalziel ; she died and left two sons and two daughters : JAMES, the eldest, born an idiot, and still lives confined, but never had any reason or intellect ; GEORGE, the second son, now Captain 58th Regiment of Foot ; JEAN and FRANCES, the two daughters, yet unmarried.

' LEWIS, married Deborah Davis—no issue.

' PATRICK, died young.

' ARTHUR, unmarried.'

(R.)

Here follow the seven daughters, and the families of the six who married.

The memorandum is not dated, but it must have been written in 1785 or 1786, as the writer's nephew George only exchanged into the 58th Regiment as Captain in April 1785, and his niece Frances died in March 1787.

The following letter from Dr. Daniel Duff of Tooting, besides being interesting in itself, shows conclusively that the writer himself made no claim to be a nephew of his correspondent, the second Lord Fife :¹

Daniel Duff, Salvadore House, to Earl Fife

' SALVADORE HOUSE, TOOTING, 3 Aug. 1796.

' MY LORD,—In obedience to your Lordships commands, I have made Mastr. Harden² write the inclosed letter which I hope contains the information desired—he does not seem so quick as my anxiety to approve my attention to your Lordship's desire could wish him to be, but being in a strange place and among

¹ It may also be noted that at the time of Archibald Duff of Drummur's death in 1858, Mrs. Matilda Porkols wrote to Major Lachlan Duff, the new laird, claiming kinship, and adding that her father, Dr. Daniel Duff, had always told her never to forget she was ' a Duff of Drummur.' The letters are still in existence. There seems to have been no more foundation for this claim than for the other.

A seal formerly in the possession of Colonel Daniel George Duff bears the Duff arms and the motto *Virtute et Opera* ; but the crest is the buck's head, which has never been used by the Earls Fife since the matriculation of 1760. It has, however, been used since *circa* 1720 by the family of Duff of Hatton, though, so far as is known, no claim to kinship with this branch has been made by the descendants of Dr. Daniel Duff.

² John Harden, for forty years secretary to Lord Fife, buried in Banff.

Boys with whose conversation he is not yet sufficiently acquainted, may somewhat damp his genius. His diligence however is very commendable.

'Our Wheat Harvest is begun, but not yet general, and an intelligent Farmer in my neighbourhood says the crop is considerably more abundant than that of last season; tho' he says the grain has been shrivelled and checked in its growth by the frequent blighting frosts; and I am inclined to give credit to this from the appearance of my wall fruit which is much less in size than in former years, and much frost bitten, but as in this talk of plenty our Quartern Loaf still continues at nearly a shilling, the labouring people are almost in despair, as they say the stored wheat ought to be brought immediately to market and trust for the future to the excellent harvest now cutting. They have accordingly begun to burn in effigy the principal Mealmen, as Monopolisers and hoarders who occasion an artificial scarcity, but are restrained from greater excesses by the appearance of the military now quartered in our Village. The Hay crop is but middling, and old Hay still fetches six guineas a load of 18 cwt. or 126 stone.

'The war is likely to be as long as your Lordship said when I last had the honour of being in your Company—however on the present almost certain prospect of a Spanish war, a great number of sailors who concealed themselves in our Village as Labourers, and many more employed in the same way in the Duke of Bedford's immense Buildings that are carrying on in the fields between his House and Hampstead, but which are now all stopped, they say thro' want of money, are flocking to Enlist and talk of nothing but Spanish Dollars and large fortunes. I have no doubt but the Spaniards as formerly will pay the Piper, and am sorry for it, as they are evidently forced into a war with us by those Robbers and Firebrands of mankind, the French Directors.

'I have had the Hooping Cough in my Family and just now nearly lost two of my children in it. I formerly lost one in the same complaint, which inclines me to think its severity here and mildness in Scotland must proceed from the different modes of feeding our children. Here their food is generally solid, which obliges them to drink a great deal of diluting beverage that tends to weaken and relax the frame. On the contrary in Scotland, two of their Diets are preparations of oatmeal eaten with milk, and their dinner generally broth with vegetables, neither of which require drinking, nor create that fever of perpetual thirst which so remarkably distinguishes the labouring people of England from the same class in Scotland.

'On revising this letter I find I have written in it very freely the news of this country, in hopes they will be agreeable to you my Lord. I flatter myself they will be received in this view, and not as an unbecoming liberty in me to a Nobleman of your very superior rank, as I entertain the sincerest respect and esteem for your Lordship.

'Mrs. Duff joins me in grateful acknowledgements for the patronage you have been pleased to show us.—I am, my Lord, your Lordships much obliged and most humble servant,

DANIEL DUFF. (D.)

'To Earl of Fife, Blairgowrie.'

CHAPTER XXX

DUFFS OF BADE AND CAIRNWHELP

ALEXANDER DUFF, SECOND OF TORRIESOUL, who married Barbara Rowane, and died in 1589, had, as we know from Barbara's will, a son ADAM, of whom nothing beyond his name is known, but either that son, or another (name unknown), and younger than his brother Alexander, who succeeded, must have left a son JAMES, sometimes called of Torriesoul, as being of that family, and designed as patruelis (*i.e.* first cousin and son of father's brother) by Adam, son of the eldest son of the above Alexander. This James married Barbara Gordon.

'Aberdeenshire Sasines (30 Aug. 1617) show that on 7 August 1617 Thomas Gordon in Artlach appeared as procurator for James Duff of Torriesoill, Barbara Gordon, his mother, and Adam Duff of Waster Ardbreck; and renounced their interest in the sun half of Tyllesoill; and that on 16 August 1617, sasine was given on Tyllesoul to James Duff, son and heir of the late Mr. James Duff of Torricsoul, on precept of clare-constat¹ by the Marquis of Huntly, said Marquis also confirming a charter by which Adam Duff of Tulliesoill sold said lands to the said late Mr. James Duff, his paternal first cousin.'

James Duff and Barbara Gordon had a son, also named JAMES, who, on October 2, 1618, got a wadset for 2000 merks on the lands of Robieston then occupied by him (*Gordon Castle Charters*), and other charters and sasines, dated 1619, 1620, and 1621 (*Ibid.*). By the charter of February 12, 1620, James Duff of Bade (son of James Duff and Barbara Gordon) and his wife, Jean Gordon, a daughter of John Gordon, third of Avochie, grant reversion to the Marquis of Huntly of part of the lands of Hatton and Drum-bulg, and a fresh charter is granted to them, by which they are infeft in the said lands, July 1, 1621.

James Duff is there described as 'of Bad,' in conjunction with which he held Robieston and Cairnwhelp, all in the parish and neighbourhood of Cairnie. The name Bad, or Bade, signifies a hamlet, and the explanation

¹ *i.e.* a deed by which the superior declared himself satisfied of the legitimacy of the heir, and authorised him to be entitled accordingly.

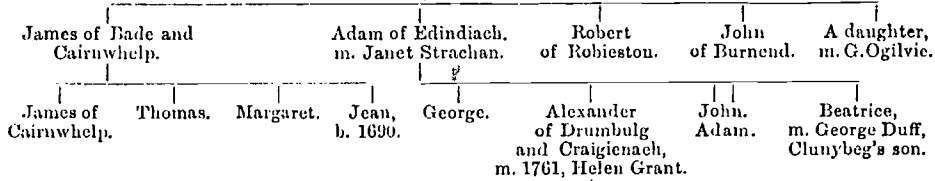
TABLE OF DUFFS OF BADE

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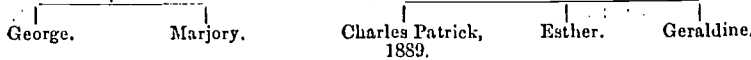
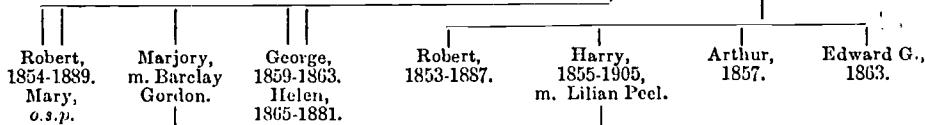
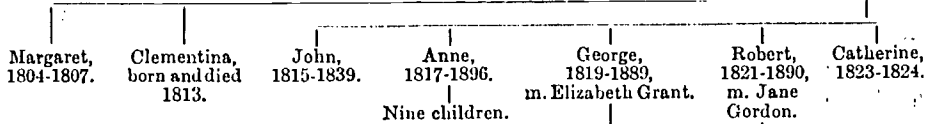
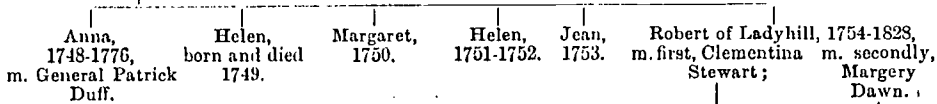
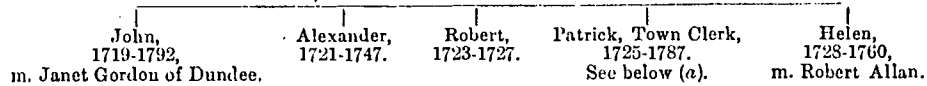
A YOUNGER SON OF THE SECOND ALEXANDER DUFF OF TORRISCOUL.

'Mr.' James Duff of Torriscul and Bade (Patruelis to Adam, first of Drummuir),
m. Barbara Gordon.

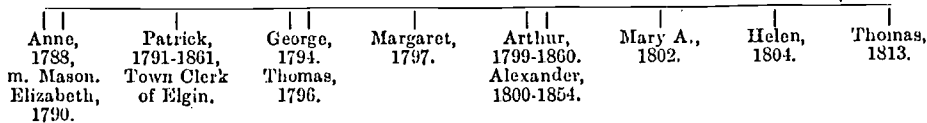
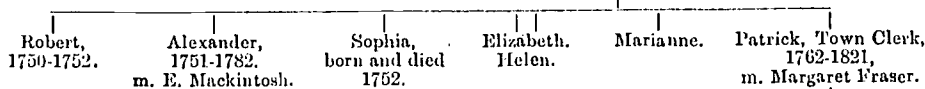
James of Bade, m. Jean Gordon, died 1648.



Robert (Baillie of Elgin), died 1758,
m. Helen Sutherland. Patrick of Ballintomb,
whence 'Tiger' Duff.
(See next chapter).



(a) Patrick Duff, Town Clerk of Elgin, 1725-1787, m. Anne Fraser.



(All these eleven children died without issue.)

of the name Robieston is that in the year 1413 'Lady Margaret of the Ard' placed her five sons in five farms called after their Christian names, and of these, Gibston, Robieston, Sandiston, and Thomaston still remain'¹ (Pirie's *Cairnie*).

The charter of 'James Duff of Baid' of the lands of Robieston is dated March 19, 1631, and another charter in 1635.

On March 18, 1638, there is a renunciation of the lands of Bade to the Marquis of Huntly, and in the same year Jean Gordon, wife of James Duff of Bade is infeft in Robieston (*Gordon Castle Charters*).

'Bad, as a place name, appears frequently in the Presbytery Book of Strathbogie, 1631-1654, and an entry of April 12, 1637, indicates that it was situated in the Parish of Ruthven. The name has been extinct for upwards of two hundred years, and does not even appear in the *Poll-Book* of 1696; by that time the estate of Bade must have been attached to the adjoining lands of Mortlach (not to be confounded with Mortlach in the lordship of Balvenie). The locality has been represented for many years by the farm of Binhall, but was not known by that name until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Bad was held by James Duff of Torriesoul by wadset right, and he attended a meeting of the Presbytery of Strathbogie, October 20, 1638, in his capacity as an elder from Botarie and Ruthven' (Pirie's *Cairnie*).

He and his wife, Jean Gordon, had two sons: James, third of the name in this branch of the family, and Adam, both of whom appeared before a meeting of the Presbytery held at Keith, June 9, 1647, and 'acknowledged their offence that they had been in actual rebellion and compliance with the common enemy (*i.e.* the Marquis of Montrose). They were referred back to their parishes, and there to make their repentance in sackcloth before the congregation.'

In 1649, James Duff (the son) is described in the Presbytery Book of Strathbogie as being willing to sign the Covenant, and he

'appeared with several others at a meeting of the Presbytery held at Ruthven, 25 Sept. 1650 and gave in his supplication and acknowledged his rebellion with James Graham and his associates, and in all humility required to be received to the League and Covenant, promising faithfully never to fall into such sinful courses again. But the Brethern, perceiving them not to be so humble as were to be wished, and that their supplications declared small remorse for anything they had done, they were referred back and continued till they further testified their humiliation.'

In 1641, he or his father had an action against one William Johnstone.

¹ The fifth is believed to have been Archiestown, now lost.

On July 21, 1643, James Duff (the elder), with his spouse, Jean Gordon, and their two younger sons, Adam and John Duff, were infeft in the dauch lands of Cairnwhelp (Rose MS.). James Duff must have died shortly after this date, as in the year 1648 Jean Gordon, described as 'sometime spouse or relict,' is infeft in eight oxygates of Bade (*Ibid.*).

James and Jean had four sons :

1. JAMES, third of the name, who succeeded his father in Cairnwhelp and Bade, which latter he resigned in 1683.

2. ADAM, who held Edindiach (in Gartly)¹ during his father's lifetime; for on February 25, 1645, Hugh Gordon of Brae assigned his wadset right of Over Drumbulg in the parish of Gartly to Adam Duff in Edindiach and Janet Strachan his spouse.

3. The third son was ROBERT, described as of Robieston in 1668.

4. The fourth, JOHN of Burnend.

There was one sister, married to George Ogilvie in Cairnic; in 1683 there is an 'obligation by the Marquis of Huntly to warrant James Duff of Baid from payment of his sister's bairns part of gear.'

To this James, third holder of the lands of Bade, a reversion of the plough of Over Robieston and Bade contained in wadset was granted, February 16, 1683. And on the same date a discharge by the Marquis of Huntly to James Duff of Bade of 3000 merks belonging to his three brothers mentioned above, Adam, Robert, and John.

In the following year, 1684, there is a bond by the Marquis of Huntly to James Duff of Cairnwhelp, signed by him. All these are among the charters at Gordon Castle.

There is also a renunciation of the lands of Cairnwhelp and all other lands in the lordship of Huntly, wherein unquill James Duff of Bad dyed infeft, by James Duff of Bad and his son James Duff of Cairnwhelp to the Marquis of Huntly, dated February 26, 1683, but James Duff, third of Bade must have received a fresh charter, as on April 12, 1684, there is a heritable bond for 7000 merks in favour of James Duff of Cairnwhelp on the lands of Cairnwhelp possessed by him, payable at Whitsunday 1703 (*Ibid.*).

In the *Aberdeenshire Poll-Book* of the year 1696, James Duff is entered as tenant of dauch of Cairnwhelp. He is designed 'James Duff, gentleman and tenant.' He and his son Thomas and two daughters, Margaret and Jane,² are assessed for the poll-tax, also 'three subtenants, ten cottars, four cottars and tradesmen,' and Thomas is separately entered as 'tenant

¹ Edindiach, Cairnwhelp, and Kinnoir have all become Gordon property.

² In the Parish Registers of Banff the following entry occurs: 'December 8, 1690. The said day Jean, younger lawful daughter of James Duff, in ye Ord, was baptized.'

in Carnie.' The elder son James must therefore either have been dead or have left the country.

Nothing is known of the further descendants of James and his son Thomas save that James was still alive in 1709, and we return to Adam of Edindiach and Drumbulg, mentioned above.

On February 18, 1655, Adam Duff of Cairnwhelp and George Ogilvie in Towie (his brother-in-law) were excommunicated by the Kirk-Session of Botriphnie 'for killing of James Henrie in Claymires' (Pirie's *Cairnie*). Subsequently Ogilvie was exonerated, and Adam appears to have suffered no further penalty.

In 1662 there is another sasine to Adam Duff and Janet Strachan, his wife (*Gordon Castle Charters*). And nine years later there is a sasine of half the town and lands of Over Drumbulg to Adam's son Alexander on his marriage.

'Alexander Duff, filius legitimus primogenitus, Adami Duff di Drumbulg and Helen Grant filia legitima de Patrick Grant of Auchmahangand.' One of the witnesses was 'Adam Duff, brother-german of the said Alexander' (*Aberdeen Register of Sasines*, August 20, 1671).

In 1673, an article of agreement was made between Adam and Alexander Duff of Drumbulg and the Marquis of Huntly anent a wadset in Gartly, and two others in 1679, between the Marquis of Huntly and Alexander Duff, with consent of his spouse, Adam apparently being dead by the latter date.

'Contract of wadsett, Marquis of Huntly, and said Alexr. Duff upon Nether Drumbulg on receipt of £1125 Scots, containing precept of sasine and clause of redemption, dated 11 Oct. 1679.'

'Disposition and conveyance by said Alexr. Duff in Craigenach, with consent of Helen Grant his spouse, of said contract of wadsett and infestment, Dec. 4, 1679' (*Gordon Castle Charters*).

The main line of the descendants of Adam of Drumbulg and his eldest son Alexander subsequently settled in Elgin, and founded a well-known family there.

Adam Duff of Drumbulg had several sons: GEORGE, 1637; ALEXANDER, 1638; one named JOHN; and another named ADAM, who appears as a witness. There was also a daughter BEATRICE, probably the eldest of the family, married to George Duff of Edindiach (*q.v.*), fourth son of Clunybeg. Of the sons, Alexander alone, so far as we know, left descendants. By his wife, Helen Grant, he had two sons, ROBERT and PATRICK. The latter, with his famous grandson 'Tiger' Duff, will be treated of in the next chapter.

ROBERT the elder was a merchant and bailie of Elgin,¹ being three times a burgess, and member of the Town Council in 1711, Dean of Guild in 1719-1720, 1725-1726, 1734-1735, and Sheriff-Substitute 1740-1742. He married Helen Sutherland, by whom he had four sons and one daughter. He died in 1758. There is one letter from him in the British Museum :

*To Robert Grant of Tamore*²

‘ELGIN, 5 Nov. 1743.

‘DR. SIR,—Receive inclosed all your accts discharged whether your own or for your father-in-law’s funerals. I have made a separate state of both and the bearer has 4. 2. 8½ to give back of your money. Newmiln has been these 2 days at Forres so that I could not get his advice what to pay for the grave cloaths, but I have paid no more than is usual on such occasions. I can get no account of the Lady Innes’s Table napkin, but Mr. Cumming has given her your wife’s in place of it. I did not know of any demand that Mrs. Gordon, Burgies daughter, had, until the lady Innes told me.

‘Make my compliments to Mr. Grant and my friend Will, to whom I wish a safe journey to Aberdeen and am, Dr. Sir, Your most humble servt:

‘ROB. DUFF.’

The children were :

1. JOHN, born 1719.
2. ALEXANDER, born 1721.
3. ROBERT, born 1723, died 1727.
4. PATRICK, born 1725.
5. HELEN, 1728-1760 ; married Robert Allan.

Of the younger sons, Alexander, the second son, was a surgeon in the British Army, and died at Campier, Zeeland, in 1747.

Robert died as a child.

Patrick, first of three Town Clerks of Elgin of his name, will be treated of later.

JOHN, the eldest, married Janet Gordon, daughter of James Gordon, a merchant of Dundee of the Farskane family, and had five daughters and one son. His daughters were :

1. ANNA, 1748-1776 ; married her second cousin, Patrick Duff, ‘Tiger’ (q.v.).

¹ Robert Duff, merchant in Elgin, was ‘Treasorer’ of Elgin. There is a record of his shop being broken into in 1738.

² Robert Grant of Tamore, a mass of whose correspondence is preserved in the MS. Room at the British Museum, was of the family of Grants of Ballindalloch. ‘He died on 4th April 1773, in the 90th year of his age. A noted agriculturist’ (*Aberdeen Journal*).

2. HELEN, born and died 1749.
3. MARGARET, born 1750.
4. HELEN, born 1751, died 1752, of smallpox.
5. JEAN, born 1753.
6. The son ROBERT was born 1754.

John Duff (who was known as Provost Duff, junior, to distinguish him from John Duff, son of Patrick of Craigston, who settled in Elgin, and was Provost on two occasions), became a very important man in his native town. In 1747 he was elected delegate to go to Cullen to attend the election of the Member of Parliament. He was Dean of Guild 1750-1751, and 1756-1757, and stamp distributor and Convener of the county. He was elected Provost five times—1771-1774, 1775-1778, 1779-1782, 1785-1788, and 1791-1792, the year of his death. Under his régime Elgin would seem to have been an extremely well-conducted town. In the year 1777, during his second term of office, the following order was made: 'The Council, considering that the inhabitants are greatly annoyed with the barking of dogs upon the High Street, enjoined and required all inhabitants within the burgh who have dogs, to keep the same within their houses at night; with certification that the owners will be fined in 5 shillings sterling for each offence, and the dogs afterwards shot.'¹ While in the previous year regulations were issued 'forbidding thrashing or winnowing of corn, or leaving dung or stones on the High Street.'²

At this period the town drummer roused the inhabitants of Elgin at four in the morning, and again drove them to bed at nine at night, one man having held the office for sixty years, 'having neither ache nor sickness the whole time.'³

Respect for the Sabbath was ensured by regulations such as the following: 'No person or persons shall presume to walk in the streets or on the fields in time of divine service; no person shall presume to make any disturbance on the streets or under the forestairs, after public worship is over, under the pains of three pounds Scots for each offence' (5s.).

Provost John, besides his public activities, was a successful merchant, and transacted a good deal of business for the various members of his family, near and remote, and a large number of his letters is to be found, both among the Rose MSS., now in the hands of his great-grandson, Mr. Edward G. Duff, and in the Grant correspondence in the British Museum. A few of these letters are here given. They are curiously full of detail, and well written for the period. The signature of this John Duff

¹ Young's *Annals of Elgin*.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

is in itself a curiosity—it is so large, and grew larger as he advanced in years.

To Robert Grant of Tamore

'DR. SIR,—I'm favour'd with yours and in obedience thereto have sent you all the things you wanted as in the subjoyn'd acctot. There is no German Sarge in Town but very light colour'd and therefore have sent you from Bailie Forsyth the remainder of a peice of cloath measuring a yard large, pritty much of the Colour of the Swatch you sent here, which the Bailie tells me will make two pair of Britches, with this provision that if it does not please he will take it back, the price of the cloath is nine shillings sterl. I have also sent you 6 Large and two Doz: small buttons for the two pair britches on the same terms. I suppose the Silk threed and hair, sent for the Coat and West will also serve the britches.

'I have sent you a discharge for two terms Cess of Baillindalloch and Struthers. I am in haste, Sir, Your most H. Servt., JOHN DUFF, JUNR.

'ELGIN, May 10th, 1745.

Dr:		
Received in Notes	.	£6 0 0
Cr:		
By two terms Cess of Ballindalloch and Struthers	.	£4 8 6
6 yards fine shallon at 18d.	.	0 9 0
2 Doz. Coat and 1 doz. West buttons	.	0 1 8
4 drop twist and 4 drop silk	.	0 0 10
1½ ounce Threed and 1 yard Buckram	.	0 1 2
Pay'd Alexr. Duff, shoemaker, ¹ for two pair shoes you was due him for Willie	.	0 7 0
		<u>£5 8 2</u>
Past to your Credit	.	<u>0 11 10</u> ²

To Robert Grant of Tamore, at Elchies

'DR. SIR,—I have yours, and have sent you pr. the bearer Four pound Sterling which is a little more than I have got in of the watch moneys Since Cluny was here for which send me Mr. McPherson's Receipt and desire him tell Cluny I shall be as active as possible in Collecting the Ballance of that money. I saw Mr. Gordon, the Duke's Factor here fourteen days ago, who told me he could not pay any part of the Dukes proportion of the watch money untill he had orders from the Duke, and I have wrote to all the Rest to send in their pro-

¹ See last chapter.

² British Museum MSS.

portions with all Convenient Speed and many in consequence of my writing have promised to pay in a very little time, when any money worth sending comes in I shall acquaint Cluny of it that he may send for it.

'Mr. James Gordon, Merchant in ffores, died very suddenly last night. I am told he had yesterday with him at dinner, Hatton, Grant and some others who after they had drunk sometime wt. him went to Bailie Bibe's where they drunk pretty mirrily. Mr. Gordon finding himself a little Fent removed from the company and call'd for water to dip his hands in, and finding himself a little better of that threw himself on a bed, Mrs. Bibe stayed in the room wt. him untill he seem'd to fall a sleep and then left him, however, his wife hereing of his being bad, wanted much to see him and going in wt. Mrs. Bibe to the room where he was found him Dead.—Receive an ounce Wafers wt. Bones, and am, Dr. Sir, Your most humble Servt.,
JOHN DUFF, Junr.¹

'ELGIN, 1745, July 9th.'

John Duff is thus briefly alluded to by Baird (1773):

'There is one, John Duff, present Provost of Elgin, descended, as is believed, of the family of Drummuir.' It is curious how ignorant Baird was of all the Duffs of this branch, which settled in and near Elgin. He goes on to say: 'I am lately informed that there are (*sic*) a great number of the name of Duff spread all over the county of Moray,' and continues, 'there is a sister of the present James Gordon of Latterfurry (Letterfourie) married with one of the name of Duff, a respectable farmer'; this was Provost John's cousin John, see next chapter.

The only son of Provost John Duff, junior, was Major ROBERT DUFF of Ladyhill, near Elgin, 1754-1828.

He was apparently at first intended to follow in the footsteps of his successful commercial father, but military ardour proved too strong for him, and at the age of twenty-nine he appears as a cadet in the East India Company's service. He became an Ensign in 1785, Lieutenant 1795, and Captain, September 30, 1803. He retired in 1810. In 1794 he was served heir to his father in 'the Aughteen Part land and Moss Wards.' He was twice married, first to Clementina Stewart, who died 1813. She had two daughters who died as infants. Secondly, to Margery Dawn, by whom he had three sons and two daughters:

1. JOHN, born 1815, died 1839.
2. ANNE, 1817-1896; married Rev. M. Walker of Llanbryde, whose mother was a sister of James Cuninghame Grant Duff. They had the following children:

¹ British Museum.

Catherine Marjory, died young.

Alexander, died young.

Alexander George, died 1866.

Robert Duff, went to Australia.

John, went to Tasmania.

Eliza Katherine, married Mr. Duff, Kerrerie, N.Z.

Ann Eleonora, married Mr. Shaw, Melbourne.

Henry, went to India.

Charles Emilius, died young.

3. GEORGE, 1819-1889, a distinguished doctor in London and Genoa. He was with Daniel O'Connell when he died at the latter place in May 1847. He married Elizabeth Grant, who died 1896, and had two sons and three daughters:

(1) ROBERT, born 1854, died 1889, at Tabriz in Persia.

(2) MARY, who in common with most Mary Duffs, died young.

(3) MARJORY, married Barclay Gordon, and had a son named George and a daughter named Marjory.

(4) GEORGE, born 1859, died as a child.

(5) HELEN, died aged sixteen.

4. The other daughter, CATHERINE, died an infant.

5. ROBERT, born 1821, died 1890; was a merchant in Liverpool and Singapore. He married Jane Gordon, and had four sons, the three elder of whom were at Rugby School:

(1) ROBERT, born 1853, died 1887; Rugby, 1867-1869; a merchant in Java.

(2) HARRY, born 1855, died 1905; Rugby, 1870-1873; then at Balliol College, Oxford; First Class Law, 1877; Fellow of All Souls, 1878; Vinerian Scholar, 1879; B.C.L. and M.A., 1881; Barrister-at-Law, Inner Temple, 1880; Tutor at Magdalen, Pembroke, and University Colleges, Oxford, 1885-1898. He married Lilian Peel, and has left one son, CHARLES PATRICK, born 1889, and two daughters, ESTHER LILIAN and GERALDINE ROSAMUND.

(3) ARTHUR, born 1857, was at Rugby 1871-1876, and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he became a B.A. in 1880. Went to Australia in 1882.

(4) The youngest son, EDWARD GORDON, born 1863, was educated at Cheltenham College and Wadham College, Oxford. He was Sanders Reader in Bibliography in the University of Cambridge, 1898-1899 and 1903-1904; President of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, 1899-1900; and Librarian to the John

Rylands Library, Manchester. He is the greatest living authority on early printed books, and has published many works on the subject. Among others, *Early Printed Books*, 1893; *Early English Printing*, 1896; *The Printers, Stationers, and Bookbinders of London*, 1899; *William Caaton*, 1903; also *The Dialogue or Communing between the wise King Solomon and Marcolphus*, 1892, etc. Mr. E. G. Duff has an unrivalled collection of letters and papers bearing on the Duff family, access to which has kindly been permitted to the present writers.

To return to the fourth son of Robert Duff, bailie of Elgin, and Helen Sutherland, PATRICK, Procurator-Fiscal, who was born 1725, died 1787. From 1746 to his death he held the office of Town Clerk of Elgin. Not many details about him are preserved, but that he had Jacobite sympathies is proved by the entry in Lord Rosebery's *List of Persons concerned in the Rebellion of 1745*, 'Alexander Ogilvie, shoemaker, lurking in the house of Patrick Duff on Speyside.'

Patrick Duff did a great deal of business in the town of Elgin, his relatives having much power in the Town Council during the forty years he held the office of Town Clerk. He was known as 'Little Clerk Duff,' to distinguish him from Archibald Duff, his distant relative and son of Provost John Duff, first of the name, who was known as the 'Muckle Clerk.'¹

His wife was Anne Fraser, and they had three sons and four daughters:

1. ROBERT, born 1750, died, 1752, of smallpox, which seems to have been raging in Elgin that year.

2. ALEXANDER, 1751-1782, Town Clerk with his father.

3. SOPHIA, born 1752, and died the same year 'of the chin cough' (*i.e.* whooping-cough).

4. ELIZABETH.

5. HELEN.

6. MARIANNE.

These three were all school-mistresses in Elgin, Elizabeth and Helen being appointed to the burgh school in 1780, at a yearly salary of £5 sterling, and Marianne afterwards joining them in 1788.

7. The youngest son was PATRICK, born 1762, another Town Clerk. Alexander was appointed Town Clerk jointly with his father from 1774

¹ Patrick Duff, Town Clerk at Elgin (first of the three), bought the house near the Little Cross in Elgin, formerly the place of business of William of Dipple (Shaw's *History of Moray*).

to 1782. He was also Dean of Guild in the year of his death. He married Eliza Angling McIntosh on August 22, 1776.

According to the account in a letter from Arthur Duff of Orton, the parents of Miss McIntosh strongly opposed the match, and an elopement followed. Alexander Duff was afflicted with the king's evil, and seems to have been in many ways an undesirable husband. In the following year his wife left him and went to Jamaica, where her father, a doctor, had formerly been resident. The following letter from her to her husband appears in the Commissariat Decrees, Edinburgh :

' Nov. 19, 1777. Sir, Your answers to my questions were not so distinct as I wished them to be, however you need not give yourself the trouble of answering them again. I shall now acquaint you with my resolution. It is this, Sir. I never will return to you, nor have any connection with you while I exist. If you choose, you may send witnesses and I will declare this resolution before them. I have nothing more to say, and to beg that you will cease to torment,

'ELIZA ANGLING McINTOSH.'

There was no child of the marriage, and at Alexander's death in 1782 his three sisters above mentioned were deemed executors.

PATRICK DUFF, 1762-1821, the second of that surname and Christian name to hold the office of Town Clerk, succeeded his brother Alexander in the office held jointly with their father, and on the latter's death was confirmed in the sole charge, which he held until his death. He was also Commissary Clerk in 1805, and Sheriff Clerk from 1805 to 1821. In fact, he was said to have held more public situations than any man who ever lived in the burgh.

His wife was Margaret Fraser, 1771-1847, and they had eleven children :

1. ANN, 1788, married ——— Mason.
2. ELIZABETH, 1790.
3. PATRICK, 1791 ; third Town Clerk of the name.
4. GEORGE, 1794.
5. THOMAS, 1796.
6. MARGARET, 1797.
7. ARTHUR, 1799-1860, Sheriff Clerk.
8. ALEXANDER, 1800, W.S., author of several legal works.
9. MARY ANNE, 1802.
10. HELEN, 1804.
11. THOMAS, 1813.

Of all these children not one descendant remains at the present day.

Patrick Duff, the second holder of the office of that name, seems to have been interested in genealogy, for he writes to Patrick Rose, March 31, 1810: 'What I want particularly to know is the connection betwixt the Braco and Craigenach family, particularly whether Duffs of Braco, Craigenach, and Drumbulg were not brothers, or nearly connected in marriage.'

Patrick Rose's answer to this, of which he subjoins a rough copy, was: 'My father's extracts and observations regarding the Braco family are of great length, and so various that under a hundred pages I could not, I am satisfied, give you a copy of them, but if you were to take a step over here, I would have no objection to give you a look of them privately.'

In another letter Patrick Duff asks for information regarding the connection of the Craigenach and Drummuir families. In answer Rose quotes the three sasines on Drumbulg and Craigenach, already given, page 456, but does not answer the query as to the connection with Drummuir (presumably the facts were already forgotten, and have only now, one hundred years later, been at length disentangled). In a third letter, April 12, 1810, Patrick Duff begs to have William Rose's MSS. sent to him for perusal, but the request was not met with compliance.

The eldest son, Patrick, third Town Clerk of that name, held the office for nearly fifty years; he was also Commissary Clerk for forty years from 1821 to his death in 1861.

He was well known as a geologist, and published in 1842 *The Geology of Moray*. At the date of his death a long account appeared in the *Annual Register*: 'The deceased, a man of note in the North of Scotland, was born at Elgin 2nd Dec. 1791, and was the third Patrick Duff in regular descent in the same family who held the office of Town Clerk of Elgin—the united terms of office of his grandfather, his father, and himself extending to nearly one hundred years. . . . The late Patrick Duff, from first to last, faithfully and conscientiously discharged the duties of his office, to the satisfaction of the Council and community, and lived on terms of goodwill and friendship with all classes in the city. . . . Patrick Duff, who was afflicted with asthma, took every opportunity of cultivating out-of-door objects of interest. Hence he held in succession the farms of Lochinver and Bardon. The same feeling led him to the study of geology, and he became such an authority on it that he was visited by Hugh Miller, Sir Roderick Murchison, Sir Philip Egerton, Lord Enniskillen, etc., when they came north on a geological tour. Mr. Duff's great feat was the discovery of a cast in the Spynie quarry in 1851 of the remarkable reptile which, from the place of its discovery, was named *Telerpcton Elginense*.

PATRICK DUFF, THIRD TOWN CLERK

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'Mr. Duff was unmarried, and a family long connected with Elgin has now no direct descendant bearing the name.'

This, of course, refers to the actual descendants of Patrick, first Town Clerk. Of the descendants of his elder brother John there are many now alive, notably Mr. Edward Gordon Duff and his nephew, Charles Patrick Duff, now of the Board of Trade, Whitehall.



OLD HOUSE OF CARNOUSIE

CHAPTER XXXI

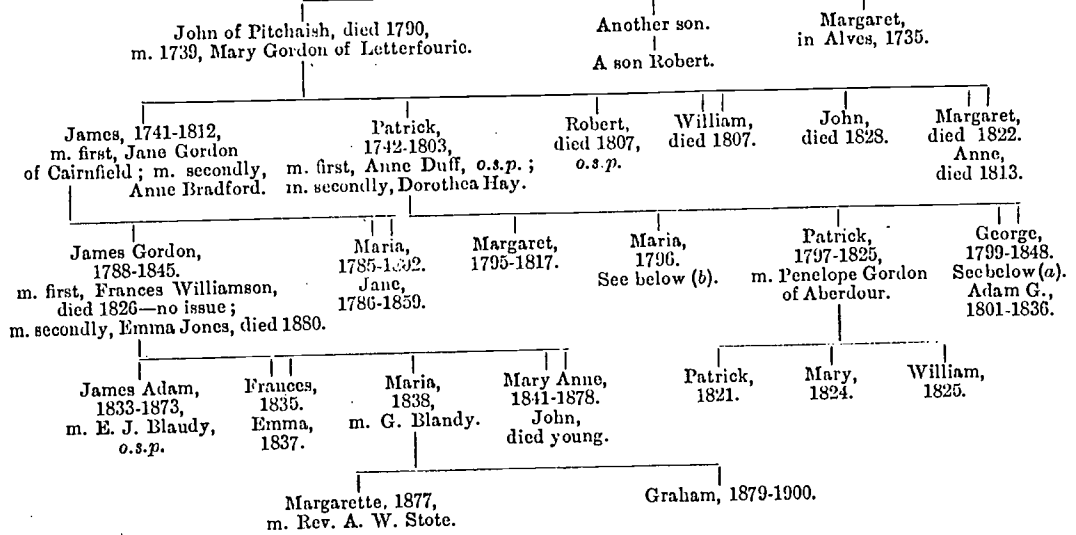
THE FAMILY OF 'TIGER DUFF' OF CARNOUSIE

It was seen in the last chapter that Alexander of Craigenach had two sons, and the descendants of ROBERT, the elder, were traced down to the present day; the younger, PATRICK, was factor for Archibald Grant of Ballintomb, and appears frequently in the Records of the Presbytery of Aberlour, being described, in the years 1720, 1722, 1727, and 1730, as 'of Craigenach' (sometimes spelt Craggenach). He was also an elder for the parish of Knockando. He and his wife, Jean Gordon, had at least three children: JOHN DUFF of Pitchaish, of whom many descendants are now living; another son, who had a son ROBERT; and a daughter MARGARET, only known to us from the following entry in the Presbytery Book of Elgin (1735): 'There are no Papists in Alves, but Jean Gordon, wife to Duff of Craigenach and Margaret Duff his daughter.' John of Pitchaish seems to have lived for many years on the farm of that name on the estate of Ballindalloch in Banffshire. Letters from him from that place are to be found among the correspondence of Robert Grant, factor for Ballindalloch, in the MS. Room at the British Museum, and are wrongly indexed as being from his first cousin, John Duff, merchant, and Provost of Elgin. He seems to have found the farm too large for him, or, for some other reason, wished to leave

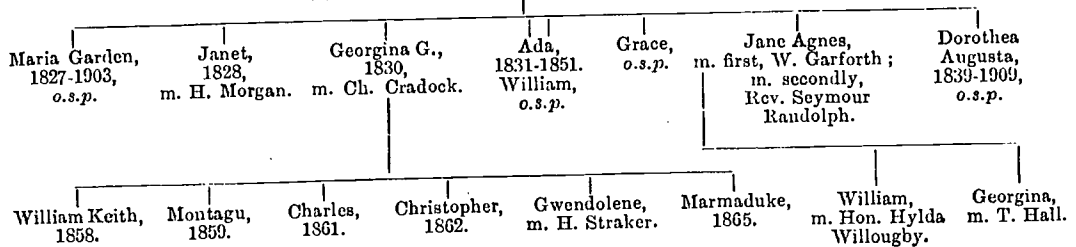
TABLE OF THE CARNOUSIE FAMILY

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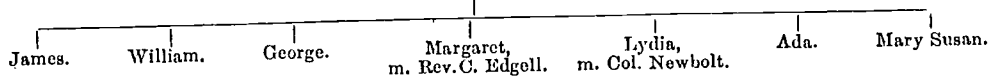
PATRICK DUFF, factor for Ballintomb (in 1720-1730), m. Jean Gordon.



(a) George Duff, 1799-1848, m. 1826, Janet Barnes.



(b) Maria Duff, 1796, m. 1822, Francis Garden Campbell, died without issue;
m. secondly, James Ramsay of Barra in 1827.



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that part of the country, and resided later at Newtown of Auchintoul in the same county. His letters from these two places give much information as to his family. He was also at one time a 'writer in Keith.'

The two first letters deal with Grant's own business and current events.

The next three with John Duff's financial position, and his departure from Pitchaish.

The four later letters are chiefly concerned with his sons, of whom he would appear to have been very proud, and the last was written not long before his own death.

John Duff of Pitchaish is thus briefly alluded to in Baird's history of the Duffs: 'There is a sister of the present James Gordon of Latterfurry (Letterfourie), married with one of the name of Duff, a respectable farmer; they have five sons, whom their uncle is educating, and by his interest and money providing for them in the army, navy, mercantile and other genteel employments.'

This, of course, explains how three of the sons came to enter the Indian army, and the other two a Gordon house of business.

John Duff, Pitchaish, to Robert Grant of Tamore

‘PITCHASH, 19 Dec. 1750.

‘SIR,—Receive inclosed two Discharges for Cess, and from the bearer seven pound six shilling and four pennies Ballance of your Bank notes, my Cousine makes offer of the Compliments of the Season to you and Mrs. Grant. My Uncle,¹ writes me, that the Distemper is raging greatly among the horses about Elgin and in Duffus. But not so much above Elgin, there are few dead and the cure used there is bleeding how soon the distemper begins or before, by way of prevention to the quantity of a pint or 3 mutkins which is to be repeated once and again as long as the difficulty of breathing continues violent, mashing several different times, all drink must be warmed, blood warm and given in the stable with some meal or provender on it, and there may be some Lint Seed boiled among water and the Lint Seed when sufficiently boiled drained out, and a small quantity of the Lint seed water put in among the ordinary drink, if wrought² at all, must be very moderately, plenty of boiled meat given, blood warm, thought very good; absolutely discharged giving any oats. Some people, for prevention, rubs all the mangers and hecke³ with tarr, and all the horse graith.⁴ My Compliments to you and Mrs. Grant.—I am, Dr. Sir, Your most humble Servant,
‘JOHN DUFF.’⁵

¹ Robert Duff, baillie of Elgin.

² Worked

³ Rack for cattle.

⁴ Apparatus of whatever kind, accoutrements of a horse.

⁵ British Museum.

The same to the same

‘PITCHASH, 20 Sept. 1754.

‘DR. SIR,—Belnespick came here this forenoon with a full resolution of seeing you and spouse at Tamore, but turning some uneasie with the fatigue of the market and hard drinking last night at Carron, he was obliged to alter his resolution, and begged of me to present his compliments to you and spouse, and to send you the inclosed bond of releiff and letters relative yerto, to be forwarded to your son. The signers of the bond had some time ago sent a missive letter adrest to you or son anent the bond granted by your son to Jas. McPherson’s creditors. If that letter be in your custody, I am ordered to gett it, and send it to any of the gentlemen signers by the first occasion that offers; so please send it pr. bearer. My compliments to you and Mrs. Grant.—I am respectfully, Dr. Sir, Your most humble Servant,

JOHN DUFF.’¹*The same to the same*

‘PITCHASH, 24 Nov. 1760.

‘SIR,—I send you pr. bearer my tack on the town and parks of Pitchash, and as the situation of my affairs are such that I cannot labour and plenish said tack for nixt crop, I am satisfied to renounce the same in favours of the Heritor and his Curators how soon I can gett a sheet of Stampt paper to extend the same. That they may dispose of the same as seems them good from and after this date, and in the meantime till the renunciation be Exped and Delivered, I agree that Decreet be pronounced agst. me for the rent due at Merst: ² last and for the rent of the Hill park, Mid park, and Haugh park at the rate of four hundred pound Scots for the Grass thereof from Candlemas last to this date, also that Decreet pass agst. me for implementing all the prestations of the tack prestable on my part.—Sir, Your Humble Servant,

JOHN DUFF.’³*The same to the same*

‘PITCHASH, 27th November 1761.

‘SIR,—I have seen William McIntosh of Belnespick’s Letter adrest to you of date 25th current and agree that ye Sell to him or any others, who may want Corn and Straw as much of the corns of the Croft of Pitchash 1760 as will satisfie and pay you the whole of the sums for which these corns are disposed by me to you at the rate of eight merks ready money or six pound Scots payable Martinmas next, to be casten by proof sheatt and estimation by Alexr. Shaw in Knockendow or William Stuart in Mains of Aberlour or any other qualified proofmen, and as my private business necessary obliges me to be out of the country for some time and that it may be necessary to have the corns casten before my return I have bespoke William Johnstown, Greive at Ballindalloch, Patrick Anderson in Bellebegglass, John Grant there, and James Donaldson in Kirdels, or any one

¹ *Aberdeen Journal*, ‘Notes and Queries.’² Martinmas.³ British Museum.

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of them to attend and deliver you the corns in my absence and they are to keep an account of the quantity that may happen to be casten in my absence. I have also provide such accomodation of houses as the neighbourhood can afford for accomodating Belnespiek's Cattle or any others to whom ye may happen to sell any of the corns, if ye can gett any better price, I will be obliged to you. But rather than have the Corns longer on hand you will dispose of them at the above price. Your complyance will oblige.—Sir, Your most Humble Servant,

'JOHN DUFF.'¹

To the men mentioned in the last letter

'PITCHASH, 2nd Dec. 1761.

'DR. FFREINDS,—As my business obliges me to be out of the country for some time, and that its probable a part of the corn and straw presently stacked in the corn yard of Pitchash, Disposed by me to Robert Grant of Tamore in security and payment of considerable sums I owe him as factor to William Grant of Ballindalloch, may be sold and disposed of by him in my absence from this country, I most therefore begg the favour of you to attend and deliver for me, what corn and straw shall be casten during my stay from the country, Alexr. Shaw, Willm. Stuart in Aberlour, or any other qualified proofmen may be employed to cast the corn by proof sheaff and I have bespoke John Hay in Tyrach, John Grant in Ffonas and Alexr. Maconachy in Culquoich to attend to estimate the corns, I have also bespoke Lewis Cruickshank, George and William MacAlesters and Donald Munro to assist at threshing the proof. These people will attend on the least notice, and I dare say William Ffalconer will give a Barn to thresh the proof, if not, one of the Barns in Braeside must be clean up for that purpose, Youle please take a signed note under the proofman's hand of the respective quantitys that may be Casten, and by these I impower you, and each of you separately to act and Doe for me as fully as I could myself if present, and shall on my return Ratify and approve of what one or all of you does in the premisses.

'Your complyance will singularly oblige, and I am, Dr. ffreinds, Your most humble Servt:

JOHN DUFF.²

'To Peter Anderson in Belkluglash, John Grant there, William Johnstown, Greive at Ballindalloch, and James Donaldson, jointly or separately, any one of you being sufficient for the above purpose.'

John Duff to William Rose (twenty years later)

'NEWTOWN OF ACHINTOUL, 28th June 1781.

'SIR,—The franks you was so kind as procure from Lord Fife for me are used, my eldest son³ leaves Madeira and comes to reside at London over this

¹ British Museum.

² British Museum.

³ James.

summer and I have reason to believe that my second son ¹ will be Home this year from India. This will occasion my writting frequently to London, I will be obliged to you to gett me some franks from Lord Fife, you have the direction, subjoined, if you 'll be so good as gett me some franks and send them to Bailie Alexander, Post Master at Banff, he will send them carefully here. I begg pardon for the freedom, Butt if I can serve you freely command and I am, Sir,
Your most humble servant,

JOHN DUFF.

'To Mr. James Duff, Madeira, Merchant,
Jamaica Coffee House, London,
and some

To Mr. John Reid, Sidney Alley, London.'

(R.)

The same to the same

'NEWTOWN OF ACHINTOUL, 15th Nov. 1782.

'SIR,—I was sorry I had not the Pleasure of seeing you when my cousin Bob Duff and I Breakfasted at your House, wec gott a very hearty wellcome from Mrs. Rose and was well entertained.

'I have frequent calls of writting to my son James at London, with former favours, I must begg youll be so kind as gett some franks from Lord Fife, I am obliged to his Lordship for giving the franks and to you for getting them, you have subjoined a note of the addresses. Pray make my Compliments to Mrs. Rose.—I am, Sir, Your most humble servant,

JOHN DUFF.' (R.)

John Duff from Auchintoul to William Rose

'NEWTOWN OF AUCHINTOUL, 28th June 1783.

'DR. SIR,—I had Letters from my Sons in India of the fifteenth November Last, they were then well, William had been ailing at Bombay and was advised to goe to Bengal for the change of climate, he got leave of absence and went to his Brother Patrick's House at Fort William, he was quite recovered before he wrote me, John is far up the country on the Bengal establishment in Colonel John McPhersons regiment, his Colonel Dimmed here lately, and showed me Letters he had from India of the 13th December last, my sons were then well. My sons mention none of my acquaintances in India, except Captain Duff (Whitchill's son) ² and Captain John Gordon (Shellagreen's Brother), they were at my son Patrick's house when he wrote me, he says in general that my other acquaintances were well, my sons are anxious for letters from me, I propose writting them soon and send my letters up to London to my son James to be forwarded by first conveyance, you 'll oblige me to speak to Lord Fife and see

¹ Patrick did not return to England till 1788.

² Petter. See chapter xix.

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if his Lordship will be so kind as give me some franks directed to my son James, subjoined I send you the direction. I have a nephew who has been in India for years past in the seafaring way, he did not write his mother who lives in Down, nor me for upwards of three years bygone, his mother imagined he was dead, I suspected it, as he used to write me by every conveyance, and the more so as my son John, happened to fall in with him at Madrass and he was then in such an ailing way that he was obliged to leave the ship and goe to Bengal for the benefit of the change of climate and there was no accounts of him since, till he arrived at London. Lately he has been several times with his cousin, my son James, he is now in good health and a stout little man, but has not made any money, which he gives as the reason he did not write his mother. My son writes me that he seems to be a clever sensible young man, and that he will take him by the hand and soon putt him in gentele bread and if he is sober and frugal, may make a little money. I have acquainted his mother of this, which makes her very happy. This fine weather has mended the corn remarkably, both corn and grass have made a remarkable advance since the rain came on. My English oats looks quite well and are in the shoot blade and some of the ears opening out, they will be very early. What they call the Tory worm has done some damage to the corns in Deys fatt Land in this corner. I had a Letter Last post from General Grant of Ballendalloch's factor, the Tory worm has done considerable hurt to the General's improved ground, and a great deal of damage in the lands of Knockandow. I hope this rains will prevent any more damage. I will be happy to hear that you, Mrs. Rose and children are well, compliments to you and Mrs. Rose.—I am very sincerely, Dr. Sir, Your most obliged humble servant,

'JOHN DUFF.' (R.)

The same to the same

'NEWTOWN OF AUCHINTOUL, 10th Aprile 1786.

'SIR,—Mr. Porteous at Myria who is married with a niece of mine, informs me, that the land he possest is now divided in Lotts among the feuars in McDuff excepting a few acres which is reserved for Mr. Porteous, but no rent of these acres as yett made. It will be doing me a favour that you cause putt a rent as soon as you can on these acres, and what favour you show Mr. Porteous, I will take it as done on my account and shall be ready to acknowledge the same. I heard from India last week, my sons were well, second of last November. I hope we may see Patrick home this year, I have been very ailing for some days past. Compliments to you and Mrs. Rose.—I am, Sir, Your most humble servant,

JOHN DUFF.' (R.)

John Duff died in 1790, as is proved by the two later letters from the Duff House papers, but the last existing letter from him, full of farmer's gossip, must first be added; he must have been an old man at the time.

John Duff to Lord Fife

‘NEWTOWN OF AUCHINTOUL, 26 Feb. 1788.

‘MY LORD,—I was favoured with yours of the 15th current, I am obliged to you for taking care of my letter. I have presumed to send under your cover a letter for my son which I begg youll cause forward.

‘We have had some snow for some days past which is better than the great falls of rain wee had. Meal continues to be sold at Banff from a shilling to twelve pence halfpenny the nine pound weight. They only give the eight pound to the peck which sells from ten pence halfpenny to eleven pence, there is of late a good deal of the meal but indifferent. There will be grain sufficient for supplying the country, but there will be a great deal of bad meal. I am of your Lordships opinion that the farmers should be very careful of providing good seed oats. There is a great deal of oats in the country not to be depended on for seed, there is a great demand from this side of Spey for seed oats from Murray which was not the case when I lived in Murray, wee bought seed oats from Banffshire and thought they were carlier and yielded more meal than the Murray oats did. Mr. Arthur Duff at Rothiemay and Ardmellie have some early oats that was ingathered before the rains broke out last harvest, there is a great demand for these oats for seed. Mr. Gordon of Cairnborro has bought several Bolls from Ardmellie for seed for Letterfoury, Major Duff’s¹ manager has bespoken some seed oats from Mr. Arthur Duff; the Major’s Rents are but poorly paid this year.

‘I presented your compliments to Miss Gordon. She is well, her Tennants are busy paying in their farm meal. She has returned some and would not accept of it, she is a good judge of meal. I am convinced her farms will be well paid, its my opinion, that the meal of this crop will not keep well, the sooner it is used it will be the better.

‘Corn and straw has risen of late, greatly. Bear and straw has given twenty-five shillings p. Boll and Oats and straw from Nineteen to Twenty shillings per Boll. There is little oats in this corner that will yeild three firlots of meal out of the Boll, so I think the Bear the best bargain, the Distillers gives Twenty shillings for the Boll of Bear, the Bear in general is wholesome and will answer for seed or malt. They complain in some places that the Bear does not yeild so much meal as usual.

‘Your acquaintances in this corner are well. No other Country occurrences worth mentioning.—Compliments and I am very respectful, My Lord, Your Lordships most obliged humble Servant,

JOHN DUFF.

‘P.S.—For all that was said about the sale of Rannas I hear the bargain is over, Lord Findlater will not pay price Rannas demanded.

‘To the Honourable the Earle of Fife, M.P., Whitehall, London.’ (D.)

¹ Lewis of Blervie.

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John Duff's death is thus announced :

Alexander Duff of Mayen to Lord Fife

'April 9, 1790.

' . . . The Colonel's father has been given over for some time, and this morning at 4 o'clock he paid the Debt of Nature. . . . ' (D.)

And his second son writes thus to Lord Fife from Dover :

'17th April 1790.

'MY LORD,—It was my intention to have waited on you for your commands and to have taken leave before I left town ; but the accounts of my Father's death which arrived on Thursday made me unfit and unwilling to see any of my friends, for altho' I was in a great measure prepared for the event it put me very much out of sorts. I could not, however, leave the Island without thanking your Lordship for your great and flattering attentions which I shall remember with great pleasure. The *William Pitt* is expected every hour, and its imagined she will sail to-morrow.—I am with the greatest respect your Lordships most obed^t and very humble Ser^t,
PATRICK DUFF.' (D.)

John Duff of Pitchaish had married, in 1739, Mary Gordon of Letterfourie. 'John Duff, son of Patrick of Craigenach, contracted matrimony with Mary Gordon, daughter of James Gordon of Letterfourie, 7 Aug. 1739.'¹

They had five sons and two daughters. The eldest, JAMES, born 1741,² PATRICK, ROBERT, WILLIAM, and JOHN ; and two daughters, MARGARET and ANNE who appear to have died unmarried. According to Imlach's *History of Banff*, they had a house in that town, and their brother Robert, who died in 1807, left annuities to both of £25 yearly. John, who lived till 1828, made his will in 1813, and left a legacy to Margaret only, Anne evidently being already dead. Margaret had died in 1822, and therefore did not benefit (*Scots Magazine*).

The most famous son was PATRICK, an Indian soldier, well known in Banff and Edinburgh at the end of the eighteenth century as 'Tiger Duff.'³

¹ Rose MSS., Advocates' Library, Aberdeen.

² This date is known from his gravestone in Banff churchyard. The dates of birth of the three youngest can only be surmised, and even their order in the family is unknown, but John was the last survivor, and became a cadet nineteen years after his brother Patrick went to India.

³ The late Dr. Cramond wrote an article on 'Tiger Duff' which appeared in the *Banffshire Journal* many years ago, in which he stated that the famous soldier was the son of Archibald Duff of Bilbohall, grandson of Patrick Duff of Craigston. He gave as his authority Mr. E. G. Duff's collection of Rose papers ; but his examination of them must have been very cursory, as he was entirely mistaken. The descent of 'Tiger' from Alexander Duff of Craigenach, and through him from the family of Bade and the early Duffs of Torriesoul has been carefully traced by the present writers, and is proved by documentary evidence, much of it among the Rose papers. Dr. Cramond was perhaps not familiar with the Fife entail given in chapter

He was born in 1742, and there is no record as to how his earliest years were spent, but in 1760, at the age of eighteen, he sailed for India with the newly-raised 89th Regiment of Foot. He was not a commissioned officer, as his name does not appear in the Army List as belonging to that regiment, but in the light of subsequent events it is clear that he was one of what were then known as 'gentleman volunteers.' These were men of good birth, who were unable to raise the money to buy commissions, but through family interest could get commanding officers to let them serve with the regiments (on field or foreign service only). They lived and messed with the officers, but did duty as non-commissioned officers. If they distinguished themselves they stood a good chance of obtaining commissions without purchase.¹

In the year 1763 orders were sent out to India to disband the 89th Regiment, and all officers and men (amounting to one hundred and nine persons) who did not volunteer for the service of the Hon. East India Company were sent home. In anticipation of this disbandment, it would appear that in the previous year (1762) Patrick Duff transferred to the Company's service, and joined the artillery, for in the Indian Army Lists he appears as a Lieutenant-Fireworker on June 12, 1763, and in the muster roll of the Bengal Artillery, dated November 1, 1773, he is noted as a 'Captain, then aged 31, who came originally from Scotland,' and had been 'received from the King's Service, 89th Regt. at Calcutta in 1762' (*India Office Records*).

He became a First Lieutenant on March 28, 1764, was present at the

xiii.; but it is obvious that had George Duff, 'Tiger's' son, who was alive in 1841, been great-great-grandson to Patrick of Craigston, he would have appeared in that entail, and his position would have been No. 12, immediately after Norwich Duff, before the Fetteresso family, and before all the descendants of Alexander of Keithmore's brothers John and William.

¹ The 89th Regiment was raised in 1759 by Catherine Gordon, daughter of the second Earl of Aberdeen and widow of the third Duke of Gordon (who died in 1752), for her sixteen year old son, Alexander, the fourth Duke. The purport of its raising was, on the rumour of the French invasion, to prove the loyalty of the young Duke to the Hanoverian government, as his father had shown marked sympathy with the Jacobite cause. The Colonel of the newly raised regiment was Staats Long Morris, second husband of the Duchess.

On October 14, 1759, Alexander Duff of Davidston got a captaincy in this regiment, on condition of his raising sixty men for it. This occasioned the extreme wrath of his grandmother, Katherine Duff of Drummair, who said, 'Soldiers is but slaves' (see chapter xxiv.). Alexander himself in writing to Lord Fife about the men, mentions that he is the only Duff then holding a captain's commission in the Army.

In the next year, Alexander Duff, afterwards of Mayen, obtained a commission as Lieutenant in this regiment, October 12, 1760, and George Morison of Bognie, brother-in-law of Alexander Duff of Davidston (whose widow became the second wife of Robert Duff of Logie), also joined. These friends and relatives among the officers probably facilitated Patrick Duff's enrolment as a gentleman volunteer. Moreover, his mother was a Gordon.

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battle of Buxar, September 22, 1764, and was mentioned in despatches. In the following year he became a Captain-Lieutenant.

In 1766, as a Captain, he was a ringleader in the mutiny against Clive, and was one of those officers specially exempted by Clive from pardon. For setting fire to the house of a brother officer in order to compel him to join the mutiny, Patrick Duff was dismissed the service, and returned to England.

In 1769 he was reinstated in his former position (having probably made interest at home during the intervening three years), and went back to India, taking with him Patrick Duff, son of Provost Duff of Whitehill (see chapter xix.); but on January 12, 1774, for some reason unexplained, he resigned the service and returned to Scotland.

While there he married his second cousin, Anne Duff, daughter of Provost John Duff, junior. He was thirty-two and she twenty-six.

She, however, died at Madras on the voyage to Calcutta, April 27, 1776, and is buried there.

Tombstone in St. Mary's Cemetery, Madras :

' Anne Duff, buried 27 April 1776
wife of Major Patrick Duff
(Hon. E. I. Co.'s Artillery),
Aged 20.'¹

The first burial after the siege of Madras (*Indian Registers*).

There were no children of this marriage.

Patrick Duff had obviously gone out to India again with the intention of rejoining the Hon. East India Company's Artillery after his temporary retirement, and was doubtful of his status in the service.

Some months after his arrival he writes thus to Lord Fife :

' CALCUTTA, 25 Nov. 1776.

' MY LORD,—I would before now have done myself the Honor of writing you, had I any thing to say which would have been agreeable to your Lordship ; that is still a good deal my case, but I can no longer defer returning you my hearty acknowledgements, for the friendly and polite treatment I experienced from you when in Europe ; a just sense of which I will always retain ; and, should it ever be in my power, will convince you by actions more than by words of the sense I have of them.

' The Letter you did me the honor to write General Clavering by me, I delivered, but he has been in so bad a State of health ever since my arrival, that I have only seen him once, he is now better, but far from being well.

¹ Really twenty-eight.

'A Board of Field officers sat, soon after my return to this place, to examine into my claim to Superior rank; their proceedings are not yet made publick, on account of the General's ill state of health; but I have reason to believe I will have the rank of Major, as soon as he is able to take his seat in Council, which will bring me near the head of the artillery.

'I am extremely sorry to be oblig'd to acquaint your Lordship with the death of my wife, she died at Madrass on the way out; I have every reason to regret her, for by a sweetness of temper and mildness of behaviour she made me perfectly happy.

'Should your Lordship think of any thing you want from India, your applying to me will be esteemed a favour, and I will take a particular pleasure in Executing your orders.—I have the Honor to be, with much respect and Gratitude, Your Lordship's much oblig'd and very Huml: Servt:

'PATRICK DUFF.' (D.)

He does not appear as a Major until February 22, 1777,¹ but in 1776 he was selected to raise a battalion of artillery for the Nawab of Oude, which battalion was in 1777 transferred to the East India Company, and Major Duff was appointed to command the artillery at Futtigurh. In 1780, while under forty, he became Lieutenant-Colonel, and commanded the whole Bengal Artillery from October 1780 to June 1784, during the absence of Colonel Pearse, while the latter was serving with Sir Eyre Coote against Hyder Ali in the Carnatic.

In 1783 he founded the station of Dum-Dum, which remained, until the Mutiny, the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery; on handing over the command he was thanked by Council for the good state of discipline. He was then appointed to 'the general command of the artillery in the field,' a post equivalent to that of Inspector-General of Artillery. From 1788 to 1790 he was in Scotland, and his father died just as he was about to sail for India again, for in the autumn of that year he was sent to Bengal to command the Bengal Artillery under Lord Cornwallis against 'Tippoo Sahib in the Carnatic, and he had charge of preparing the famous siege train for Seringapatam (92 guns, 7 howitzers, 7 mortars, and 500 tumbrils and carts). This was brought into Bangalore in such a high state of efficiency 'that the heavy guns, drawn by bullocks, came in at a gallop.' (From a contemporary letter.)

The siege ended in a treaty of peace, before the place was captured, and in 1793 Duff went back to Scotland for the fourth time, as the Court of Directors had refused him the permanent command of the whole Bengal

¹ In spite of the inscription on his wife's gravestone, where he is described as Major in 1776. Moreover, while at home and *after* he had resigned the service, 1774, he was made a burghess of Banff as 'Major Patrick Duff of the Hon. East India Company's service.'

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Artillery, although he was a full Colonel and senior officer of the corps. The reason for this is not clear, but whatever it was, it was removed, for in 1796 he was promoted Major-General and sent out to supersede Colonel Pearse, who had previously superseded him, in the command of the whole Bengal Artillery.

During his sojourn at home he married his second wife, Dorothea Hay,¹ sister of General Andrew Hay of Mountblairry (who was killed at the battle of Orthes 1814),² and two daughters were born to them before they went to India, where he took over the command, March 29, 1797. In April he was transferred as Major-General to the command of the Presidency division, and in December 1797 he finally returned to England. His eldest son, PATRICK, was probably born during his sojourn in India 1797, or on the voyage out, as he apparently came of age before April 4, 1818, and two other sons, GEORGE³ and ADAM, were born in 1799 and 1801, at the old house of Carnousie, Banffshire, which the General had purchased when last at home.⁴

He writes thus to Lord Fife about his proposed purchase :

'LETTERFAURIE, 24th Novr. 1789.

'MY LORD,—I had not the honor to receive your Lordships obliging letter of the 14th untill yesterday, on my arrival at this place from Murray where I had been for a few days.

'I consider myself much obliged by your friendly offices and for the good opinion you are pleased to express of me for which accept my hearty thanks.

'The situation of Haymount, the neighbourhood, etc., are highly agreeable to me, and I would much rather set down near my friends than at a distance ; for these reasons I should be glad to purchase it at a reasonable price ; but your Lordship knows I am no judge of these matters, and that I must therefore consult my friends before I come to any agreement in a thing of such moment and as your Lordship has been so good to offer your advice and assistance permit me to ask what you think I ought to give, for altho' I want an estate and particularly in this country, I would not give more for one than my friends thought prudent and reasonable. I know there is an idea that people from India will

¹ 'On January 11, 1794, at Mountblairry, Colonel Patrick Duff, of the Hon. East India Company's Artillery, to Miss Hay, eldest sister of A. Hay, Esq.' (*Aberdeen Journal*).

² There is a tablet to him in St. Paul's Cathedral and a monument at Bayonne.

³ From Baptismal Registers at Turriff: 'Margaret Sinclair, eldest daughter of General Patrick Duff, March 29, 1795; Mary, February 8, 1796; George, October 3, 1799.'

The Registers from November 1796 to end of January 1799 are non-existent.

⁴ James of Madeira writes from London, May 6, 1790, to W. Rose, about his brother's proposed purchase of the lands of Cluny near Carnousie; James recommends the purchase, and has written saying so to his uncle Mr. Gordon of Cairnburrow, who 'is so kind as take the direction of my brother's concerns in the north and I beg leave to refer you to him.'

give more than any person else, but I assure your Lordship this is not the case with me, as I am determined to be guided by the advice of my friends in cases of this kind where I am no judge myself.

'My uncles beg to have the honor of presenting there compliments to your Lordship, and I am with great respect,—Your Lordships, Most obg^d and very humb^l Serv^t,

PATRICK DUFF.

'Lord Fife.'

What follows is written by Lord Fife on the back of the foregoing letter :

'Wrote him from Montrose Dec^r 2d. Cannot from the knowledge of Mr. Hay's estate, offer him any advice as to the value, do not believe that my opinion would have any influence with Mr. Hay, that Col. Duff should desire Mr. Hay to make a demand, he will then judge from the actual state of Tennants and farms with the accommodations, etc., etc., what to offer. I think Carnousy and Knockorth the most desirable part for Col. Duff to purchase : there is a great deal of good ground and great deal to improve. The objection to Knockorth is want of fire, it can be very well supplied from the Mosses of Carnousie. There is a house that, with a little money, can be made very comfortable, large plantations well advanced and a good deal inclosed. The lands on the water side are good, but not so extensive,' etc., etc. (D.)

After his purchase of Carnousie and the adjoining lands from Lord Fife's brother-in-law, George Hay, Patrick Duff seems to have lived chiefly at Carnousie, in the old house shown at the head of this chapter, now used as a farmhouse. But he also owned a house in the Canongate, at that time a fashionable part of Edinburgh. It will be remembered that Jean Duff of Hatton and her husband, Sir James Grant, also had a house there.

General Patrick Duff and his wife Dorothea, who was consumptive, died within a few days of each other in Edinburgh, he on the 2nd and she on the 5th February 1803, and were buried together in the churchyard of the Greyfriars, in the burial-place belonging to her brother, General Hay. A large sum was paid for watching the grave for twenty-two nights to preserve it from the body-snatchers, and thus no stone was put up, for want of sufficient funds.

Patrick Rose, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, writes to his brother in Demerara in 1803, 'On the borders of Deveronside there has of late been a great mortality. Since spring commenced, General Duff of Carnousie and his wife and Lord Banff have all died ; the two former died within a day of each other and have left five children, the eldest of whom is six, to bewail their loss' (Rose MS., *Elgin Courant*).

Patrick Duff was a man of extraordinary strength, six feet four inches

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in height, and it is related of him that once, finding a sentry asleep at his post, he carried off the gun, a six-pounder, weighing four and a half hundred-weight 'under his arm like a telescope.'¹



DOROTHEA HAY, MRS. 'TIGER' DUFF

During his second sojourn in India in 1773 he had his famous adventure with a tiger, which he describes in a letter to his father :

'An extract of a letter from Captain Duff of the East India Company's Artillery at Bengal, dated February 26th, 1773, to his father, a gentleman of the county of Moray.

'A few days ago I happened to be out on a shooting party with several gentlemen of the military and had detached myself to some considerable distance from them, when they put up a very large tiger, who directed his course towards me. I immediately fired at him which had no other effect (being small shot) than that of irritating him, insomuch that he flew at me with great fury. I kept him at bay a considerable time with my fowling piece, on which was fixed a bayonet, as is usual in this country, when we go a-shooting, but at last I was rendered very weak, occasioned by the loss of blood, having received many wounds in my face, arms, and several parts of my body ; and none of my companions appearing to my assistance, they having all made off, the animal made a furious effort, by leaping upon me, which threw me down, he immediately got

¹ For the details of Patrick Duff's Indian services we are indebted to General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B.

upon me and was ready to tear me in pieces, when I stretched out my hand to the muzzle of my piece and unfixed the bayonet, with which I aimed a blow, so judiciously, that I pierced his heart. He instantly fell down dead upon me. I believe I may venture to observe that never was any man nearer being devoured by a voracious animal, than I was upon the above occasion. I consider my deliverance as an act of Providence.'¹

Another account of the same incident is to be found in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, in the review of a book by Captain Joseph Budworth, who says :

' On being introduced to Colonel Patrick Duff then commanding the Artillery and presenting my credentials, he told me that a Gibraltar soldier should ever be treated in the Bengal artillery as if he had commenced his military career amongst them. "Here you dine to-day, and here shall be a plate for you, whenever you please." This most excellent soldier and man was of immense strength. When young, and tiger hunting, he had wounded a panther, which sprang upon him, seized him with one claw on the cheek and the other on his breast. The party gave him up as lost and left him; and while in this situation, by mere strength and presence of mind, he reversed his fowling piece which, having a bayonet, by stabbing the beast in the back laid him dead at his feet; and terribly lacerated and faint from loss of blood, he presented himself to the Cantonment, where his death had been announced. On enquiring who were the people that could have left him, his answer kept pace with his conduct, "They should have fired, but I will never mention their names."²

' When I returned to Europe, he sent me some useful sea-stock, with a letter enclosing one to be delivered by myself only to his brother, and to take charge of two country-made swords. On delivering this letter, I found his friendship unbounded. His brother said, "Sir, you are most strongly recommended. My brother tells me you are a soldier of fortune, and he expects that you will not be sparing in making me your banker, for I have commands to assist you." And when I saw him two years after in England, he expressed himself half displeas'd at my not availing myself of his friendship.'

Patrick Duff bore the marks of the tiger's claws in his cheek to his dying day, and his eldest son Patrick was, curiously enough, born with the same mark, though not so deep.

James Imlach, born 1789, died 1881 (author of the *History of Banff*), in his own journal describes the awe with which the children in Banff

¹ Printed in the *Scots Magazine*, 1773. John Duff must then have been staying in Morayshire.

² To illustrate how such tales of encounters with wild beasts grow by repetition, it may be noted that another account of 'Tiger' Duff's exploit says that he 'killed the tiger with a pen-knife.'

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used to view the gigantic veteran soldier with this curious hollow in his cheek.

In the controversy which shook England and India for so many years, Patrick Duff's sympathies were warmly engaged on the side of Warren Hastings, as appears from the following letter, now among the Additional MSS., British Museum :

General Patrick Duff to Warren Hastings

'CARNOUSIE, NR. TURRIFF, 30 April 1795.

'MY DEAR SIR,—I have this moment in a letter from my brother, the agreeable intelligence that the Lords have decided in your favour upon every charge, and I beg leave most sincerely and heartily to congratulate you on the occasion and to assure you that none of your many friends feel more pleasure than I do, upon so much wished for an event. May you be rewarded for having done so much for your country, and may you be recompensed for having suffered, so unjustly, for these 7 years past. I beg to offer my best compliments to Mrs. Hastings and my sincere congratulations on the occasion.

'Since I have had the pleasure of seeing you, my wife has brought me a daughter. I am still determined to return to Bengal if I can go out in the way I think I have a right to expect. I only expect common justice, that is not to be a supernumary, while a much younger and far less experienced officer commands the Artillery. I always had that in view, and I hope you will pardon me for saying that I think my services entitle me to it.

'I have the honour to be, with great esteem and respect, my dear sir,—Your most obt. humble Sert.,
PATRICK DUFF.'

It must have been almost unique in those days for a man to have accomplished the long voyage to India and back five times.

Patrick Duff went out in 1760 as a volunteer, at the age of eighteen; returned in 1766, temporarily dismissed the service, being then Captain-Lieutenant; was reinstated, went out again as Captain in 1769; returned in 1774, having resigned the service; went out again in 1776 to be reinstated as a Major; returned in 1788 as Colonel, the reason not stated; went out again, 1790, to command the Bengal Artillery; returned in 1793, having been refused the permanent command; went out finally in 1796 as Major-General, to supersede Colonel Pearse in the command of the Bengal Artillery; finally retired, July 1799, at the age of fifty-seven. Died in 1803, aged sixty-one.

All three of General Patrick Duff's sons entered the Army. Patrick was an Ensign in the 1st Royal Scots, but died at the age of twenty-eight, September 14, 1825, having previously sold his father's estate of Carnousie. He married, in 1818, Penelope Gordon of Aberdour, and they had three

children. One son PATRICK, born 1821, entered the Army and became Lieutenant in the 26th Regiment; a daughter MARY, born 1824, married a Frenchman named Michel; a second son WILLIAM, born 1825, after his father's death, died young.

Four years after Patrick's death, his widow married again, to David Scott Threshie, W.S.

The second son GEORGE, born 1799, became a Cornet in the 7th Dragoon Guards, May 4, 1815, was transferred to the 19th Light Dragoons (Lancers) in 1817, and became a Captain in 1821. In that year the regiment was disbanded, and he went on half-pay. But eighteen years later he was promoted to be Major in the Army, and brought into the 93rd Highlanders as Regimental Captain, but with army rank as Major. He went on half-pay of the 90th Foot, May 13, 1842, and died abroad in 1848. He married Janet Barnes, and had one son named WILLIAM, one daughter GRACE, who died young, and six other daughters, four of whom married:

1. MARIA GARDEN, lived long at Banchory, where she died, unmarried, 1903.

2. JANET, in 1852 married Rev. F. H. Morgan of Catherington.

3. GEORGINA GRACE ABERCROMBY, married, in 1855, Christopher Cradock of Hartforth Hall, and her fourth son is Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, R.N., who was instrumental in rescuing the Duke of Fife and family from the wreck of the *Delhi* in 1912.

Her other children appear in the family tree at the beginning of the chapter.

4. ADA GORDON, married, 1849, G. L. Martin; she died without issue in 1851 in India.

5. JANE AGNES, married, 1855, W. Garforth (one son William and one daughter), and afterwards the Rev. Seymour Randolph.

6. DOROTHEA AUGUSTA, died, unmarried, at Davidson's Mains, near Edinburgh, 1909.

ADAM, the third son, became a Captain in the 14th Light Dragoons, died in 1836, and is buried at St. Mary's, Islington. A memorial tablet to him is on the wall of this church.

'Within these walls are deposited the remains of Capt. Adam Gordon Duff, late of the 14th Light Dragoons, who departed this life 10th April 1836, in the 35th year of his age.

'His memory is endeared to his relatives and friends by the many excellent qualities which distinguished his character.'

There is a shield on the tablet, bearing the arms of the Keithmore family, with the 'differences' used by the Drummuir branch.

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The crest above. 'On the wreath, a dexter arm couped at the elbow proper, holding in the hand an escallop shell, or,' which was that of Provost William Duff of the Whitehill family, and later that of Fetteresso. The reason of these arms as used by Captain Adam Duff is not clear, but Adam's uncle, John, who is buried in the same church, uses the same shield and crest, with a crescent instead of the mullet gules.

By Adam's will he left all of which he died possessed, which unfortunately was not much, to his sister Maria, with the exception of his wearing apparel, and 'his umbrella' left to a favourite servant, James Myson.

The elder daughter of 'Tiger' Duff, MARGARET SINCLAIR, died in 1817 in Hans Place, London, at the age of twenty-one (*Scots Magazine*), the younger, MARIA (baptised MARY), married, in 1822, first, Francis Garden Campbell of Troup—no issue, and, secondly, on August 13, 1827, James Ramsay of the family of Barra. Her daughter, Miss Mary Ramsay, possesses the beautiful portrait of General Patrick Duff by Romney, which is here reproduced, and Mr. Edward Gordon Duff, great-nephew of the General's first wife, has another portrait, painted by a local artist in Elgin.

Among the Rose papers is found a 'Statement of Debt due by General Duff's representatives to the Trustees of Captain Alexander Robertson, as at date January 31, 1817' (*cf.* page 488).

This statement says: 'A part of the estate of Captain Robertson was remitted from India to the late General Duff as the acting Executor, by Bill of £11,896, 4s.' General Duff on the application of his brother, Mr. James Duff, indorsed this bill, in order that Mr. James might discount it and receive the money. On this occasion Mr. James deposited certain bills amounting to between £6000 and £7000 due to himself, with the General, in security of the sum to be received by him. Mr. James Duff afterwards failed in 1801, and General Duff died in 1803. A claim was made against the General's representatives for the difference between the sum in the bill remitted to the General and the sums which were received for the bills deposited by Mr. James Duff in security as before mentioned. General Patrick Duff's trustees considered it their duty to resist this claim and not to pay without the judgment of the Court. It was therefore arranged that the question should be tried by "an amicable suit in Chancery." A bill was therefore filed in 1806, by General Duff's trustees praying for discharge, upon payment of the sum received for Mr. James Duff's bills. It was opposed by Captain Robertson's executor, who demanded payment of the whole sum of £11,896, 4s., and in December 1812 the Master of the Rolls decided in his favour. This judgment was, however, resisted by General Duff's trustees, and another action was brought



GENERAL PATRICK DUFF, 'TIGER'.

By George Knapp

against them in the Court of Session, which Court, in the year 1814, found them liable for the balance of the bill with interest, and costs of proceedings.

One of the young Robertsons was by this time dead, but the trustee of the other two children raised a summons of adjudication and letters of horning against the General's representatives, who thereupon stated their present willingness to fulfil the decree of the Court and sell some of the landed property to pay the debt. This, however, was not done, but £3500 towards paying the debt was somehow raised in July 1816, and, on further pressure being applied, Colonel John Duff, only surviving brother of the General, provided over £6000 to extinguish the debt and interest thereon, which was effected early in the year 1817. The following letter from Colonel John to his nephew Patrick bears upon this matter :

'No. 16 SIDNEY STREET, CITY ROAD,
'LONDON, 4th April 1818.

'DEAR PATRICK,—I have been duly favored with your letter of 27th ultimo. Altho' you had not then got your estate handed over by Sir George Abercromby,¹ I have no doubt, whatever, that he will do so very soon ; perhaps he has done it before now. Pray, do not send me the particulars, nor a Copy of anything, as I know full enough about these matters already.

'In the beginning of last year I sold out, at a disadvantage, all that I possessed in Government funds and strained every nerve in order to save the lands of Carnousie, Knockorth, and Clunie from being sequestered, and their rents arrested by the Creditors. My exertions at that time kept off the creditors from taking possession of the House and lands, and at same time prevented the Accumulation of the expences of a lawsuit, which would have kept the Estate in bondage for many years.

'I now owe it as a duty to myself to prevent the serious inconvenience which would fall on me by my being disappointed of those pecuniary resources on which my own support so greatly depend. I am therefore led to expect that you now on your part will step forward to prevent me from suffering inconvenience, and that you will be punctual in regularly paying the half-yearly interest of the Six Thousand five hundred pounds sterling which you owe me.'

'The interest of that capital Sum for one whole year is Three hundred and twenty-five pounds Sterling. The half-yearly interest of the same Capital Sum is one hundred and sixty-two pounds and ten shillings sterling. This half-yearly Interest falls due on the eleventh day of May, and on the fifteenth day of November, yearly, and each year, in conformity to the Heritable Bond which I hold on the lands of Carnousie.

¹ Guardian and trustee of General Patrick Duff's estate.

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'I beg to inform you that the half-yearly Interest of the Heritable Bond has already been paid by Sir George Abereromby up to the fifteenth day of November 1817, and to no later period. Of course, a half-year's interest will fall due on the 11th of May 1818. That day is not now far distant; and as any disappointment in the receipt of the half-yearly interest would reduce me to great distress, I have thought it proper to give you early information.

'The most agreeable mode to me of your periodically remitting to me the half-yearly interests, will be your paying the amount into the Banking Company at Aberdeen, of which Mr. James Brand is Cashier; you being pleased to desire Mr. Brand to remit the money on my account by a draft payable to my agents, Messrs. Paxton, Cockerel, Trail and Co., Pall Mall, London.

'About this matter I shall immediately address a letter to Mr. James Brand.

'I wish to hear from you on this subject, but I do not want any copy or Copies of the papers that have been made out by Mr. Robert Rattray, and brought by Sir George Abereromby from Edinburgh for your signature.

'Future circumstances will determine at what time I shall call for the principal sum of the Heritable Bond.

'Your Brother Adam lives now with me. He left Carnousie with eighteen shilling in his pocket, and not a farthing more.—I remain, Dear Patrick, Yours faithfully,

JOHN DUFF.

(R.)

'To Patrick Duff at Carnousie.'

In 1818, the year of this letter, young Patrick Duff, 'Tiger's' eldest son, came of age, and one of his first acts seems to have been to sell the parts of the estate called Cluny and Knockorth. A draft letter to his uncle John, dated October 25, 1818, announcing this sale as having realised £10,700 is among the Rose papers. Patrick adds that he has 'reserved a portion of the estate of Cluny in view of the windows of Carnousie.'¹

In 1819, Colonel John writes to Patrick: 'Being at present in great distress for Money, I yesterday wrote to Sir George Abereromby to remit to me the half-year's interest of the heritable bond.' Apparently he always found it difficult to get his interest. In a postscript to his letter he adds: 'Your brother George is a Lieutenant since October 14 last. Since he has been in the 19th Lancers I have been obliged to advance on his behalf one thousand and sixty-nine pounds sterling; he is totally unable to repay that sum, as he is still in debt to other people to the tune of some hundred pounds sterling.'

General Patrick seems to have managed to leave some money, by bond of provision, to his younger children, as there is a statement of accounts

¹ Patrick married, also in 1818, as has been said, Penelope Gordon of Aberdour, granddaughter of William Rose and niece of Patrick Rose.

between them and the trustees. George and Adam each had £2000, and Margaret and Maria each £1725.

While they were quite young (at their parents' death Margaret was eight, Maria seven, Patrick six, George four, and Adam two), all five children lived with Mrs. Hay,¹ their aunt, and £150 half-yearly was allowed for their keep, but four years later Patrick was taken charge of by Sir George Abercromby, and for each of the remaining four children £37, 10s. was contributed quarterly. In 1809 the two little boys went to school at 'Wallace Hall,' and later were taught by and resided with Mr. Forbes, minister of Boharn, to whom £60 a year was paid for each of them.

The two girls apparently went in 1808 to school with the Misses Mills, the aunts of Lord Macaulay, at Clifton, Bristol (the school formerly kept by Hannah More), where £125 per annum was paid for each of them. Margaret died in the year 1817 at Hans Place, London, of consumption. Maria, as above stated, became, first, Mrs. Garden Campbell, and, secondly, Mrs. Ramsay, wife of James, younger brother of the Laird of Barra. By the latter marriage she had three sons and four daughters :

1. James.
2. William.
3. George.
4. Margaret Helen, married, 1854, the Rev. C. Edgell.
5. Lydia, married Colonel Newbolt, R.A.
6. Ada, *o.s.p.*
7. Mary Susan.

There is one letter (undated) from young Patrick Duff of Carnousie to his wife's uncle, Patrick Rose :

'MY DEAR PETER,—I will be most happy to breakfast with you to-morrow, and I will be in by 9 o'clock. I am glad the business is likely to come to an End. I hear Auchintoul is to start for Banffshire—that ought to raise the price of the vote. I should like to write to Lord Fife before it is sold. Penelope unites with me in kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Rose, and believe me always to be,—Yours faithfully,

PATRICK DUFF. (R).

'CARNOUSIE, 5 o'clock.'

JAMES DUFF, the eldest son of John Duff of Pitchaish, and elder brother of Patrick, was a partner in the firm of Gordon, Duff and Co., wine merchants, London and Madeira. Amongst people whom Lord Adam Gordon met in Madeira in 1804, when on a tour, were 'Mr. Alexander Gordon, my relation and kind host, and Mr. James Duff, his nephew, in the house (of Gordon,

¹ Whose portrait, by Raeburn, was sold in 1912 for £22,260.

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Duff and Co., Wine Merchants).¹ He married Jane Gordon of Cairnfield, and had one son, JAMES GORDON DUFF, who followed his father in the business, and two daughters, MARY, who met her death by falling over the cliff at Banff when only sixteen, and JANE STEWART DUFF, who died in London at the age of seventy-three, and is buried in the vaults at Kensal Green. After the death of his first wife, and while his children were still young, James Duff married again, a widow named Mrs. Anne Bradford (with one daughter, Anne Horne). She died in 1807, and, according to her will at Somerset House, was unable to write.²

After James Duff's second marriage, his children were entirely brought up by the Gordons of Cairnfield and Arradoull, their mother's relations.

James Duff appears to have been a speculator, and failed in 1801 for a large amount, involving and somewhat crippling his brother General Patrick Duff (see above), as the following letter, now in the possession of Patrick's granddaughter, Mrs. Randolph, will show.

General Patrick Duff, to his brother-in-law, James Scott Hay, 'In his Majesty's Service,' Ceylon—dated from London, February 7, 1802, just a year before his death:

'MY DEAR JAMES,—I came up here the first of the year, on a very disagreeable business. You must know my brother James has failed, and has involved me to a large amount of four thousand pounds, but he has also converted to his own use cash belonging to four orphan children which I brought home with me from India and placed in his hands, as he was an executor and Guardian to the Children as well as me, to no less an amount than 9 thousand pounds. The money having come through my hands, I am obliged to pay. So that at present I lose £13,000. What dividend there may be, I know not, I fear a very poor one, for he has been extremely imprudent and in hopes of retrieving his losses at Lloyd's Coffee House he has run risques no wise man would do, and instead of getting better, it was, as the saying is, the longer the worse. The house at Madaira has always been in a thriving condition, but it is not certain but his conduct may also overset them—he owes them no less than three thousand pounds. . . . It will be a hard stroke upon me, but I will get over it without parting with my estate, if I only recover a third or even a fourth part of what I have lost, which I hope I shall, but am by no means certain. At any rate, should it be necessary to sell my lands, I shall be able to settle my family in a very independent manner—for I am convinced I can give Mrs. Duff the interest of £6000 or £8000, each of my daughters £3000, and the boys £1500 each.'

¹ From the *Gentleman's Magazine*, July 29, 1807.

² 'Died in Albion Street, Blackfriars, the wife of James Duff' (*Gentleman's Magazine*).

His actual financial position at the date of his sudden death was apparently somewhat less sound than he had hoped (*vide supra*).

JAMES GORDON DUFF, only son of James Duff, was born 1788, and educated at St. Paul's School, London. He married, first, Frances Williamson, who died 1826, and, secondly, Emma Jones, by whom he had two sons and four daughters. According to his will, made in 1835, when he resided in 13 Harley Street, and to which he added later codicils, the affairs of the firm, which at one time were flourishing, had suffered reverse, owing to change of fashion in wine. By this will he desired that his son should enter the business if he 'showed aptitude' for it. Apparently the boy did not do so, as he entered the Bombay Civil Service, and at the time of his death, in 1873, was collector of Khandeesh.

The children of James Gordon Duff were :

1. JAMES ADAM GORDON, born 1833; married Eliza Jane Blandy; died without issue 1873.
2. JOHN, died young.
3. FRANCES ELIZABETH, born 1835.
4. EMMA JANE, born 1837.
5. MARIA, born 1838; married Graham Blandy, and had two children.
6. MARY ANNE, born 1841; died unmarried, 1878, and is buried in Madaira.

WILLIAM, the third or fourth son of John Duff of Pitchaish became an Ensign in the Bengal Service in 1777; Colonel, 1803. He was killed at the siege of Kamourah, December 1807, the news being received in England 1808. The *Gentleman's Magazine*, April 1808, says: 'Despatches received from Calcutta (dated Dec. 8), announce the capture of the Fort of Kitsmore (Kamourah), near Alleghur, on the 24th November by assault after a month's siege. Among the killed, Colonel William Duff.'

The administration of the property of Colonel William was granted in 1809 to 'his only brother and relative, John Duff' (Registers, Somerset House).

JOHN became a cadet in the Indian Army in 1779, rose to the rank of Colonel, and retired in 1807. He died in Sidney Street, City Road, London, in 1828, having had one daughter MARY (married to James Gibbon in 1807), who predeceased him. His will is dated 1813, and in it he leaves all his property to Mrs. Lydia Ward, widow of a carpenter, 'who had tended him in illness,' apparently his housekeeper, charged with annuities for their respective lives to his sister Margaret, his reputed nephew John (see below), his niece Jane Stewart Duff (daughter of James), and 'Mrs. Ann Horne, daughter to Mrs. Bradford, who in her second married life was wife to my brother James.' He also desires that the tomb of his daughter Mary,

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in Dawlish, Devon, be kept in repair, and the railings painted occasionally.¹ On this tomb is the following inscription :

' SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
MARY

the only child of Lieut. Colonel John Duff of the Bengal Establishment and wife of Mr. James Gibbon of London. Thirteen months after her marriage she was obliged by bad health to leave her husband's residence, and continued suffering much in mind and body for upwards of six months at Dawlish. At last with Christian fortitude and resignation, in the arms of her disconsolate Father, she departed from this transitory world on the twenty-second day of May in the year of our Redeemer 1809, aged 25 years. '

Colonel John Duff left a small house at Aldenham, near Bushey, to Mrs. Ward, at whose death it passed to his niece, Mrs. Ramsay.

ROBERT, the remaining son, who may have been older than the two last named, was also a partner in the firm of wine merchants ; he died unmarried, in 1807, and left, as has been said, annuities to his sisters, £500 each to the two natural sons of his brother Patrick,² £500 each to the two natural children of his partner James Gordon in Madeira, and the rest to his nephew James Gordon Duff and his niece Jane Stewart Duff.

¹ Somerset House.

² According to his brother Robert's will (above), dated 1807, General Patrick's two natural sons were named William and John. William became an indigo planter, married, and had a large family. He was at one time in England.

In the will of Patrick's brother John, dated 1813 (but not proved till his death in 1828), a small annuity is also left ' to my reputed nephew John Duff, reputed son of my brother Patrick, who has recently sailed for Jamaica.'

The *Indian Registers* show that General Patrick Duff had two other sons :

' 1782, David Urquhart, son of Lt.-Col. Patrick Duff, command^t of the Bengal Artillery, baptised September 24.'

' 1783, Kenneth John, son of the same, baptised December 13.'

Nothing further is known of either of them.



EDEN

CHAPTER XXXII

THE DAUGHTERS OF ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO AND GRANT DUFFS

ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO, as has already been seen (chapter vii.) had, besides his son William, who died 1718, four daughters, one of whom died young. MARGARET, the eldest, born 1679, married, November 15, 1694, when only fifteen, Charles Gordon of Glengerack,¹ and had the following children (baptisms taken from the *Keith Registers*):

Margaret, baptised February 6, 1696.

Alexander, 1698 (succeeded to Glengerack).

William, 1699 (succeeded).

Katherine, 1701, died young.

Jean, 1702, died young.

Janet, 1703, died young.

John, 1705, died young.

Katherine, 1706; married George Gordon of Birkenbush.

¹ Glengerack is a small property situated about one and a half miles from Keith, near the New Mill. Charles Gordon was one of the jury appointed to try Macpherson the freebooter in 1700 (*Chronicles of Keith*, Rev. J. S. Stuart).

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Mary, 1707.

Helen, 1709.

George, 1710, who took sasine in the lands of Glengerack in 1747, and shortly afterwards sold them to William, Lord Braco.¹

Magdalen, 1712; married the Rev. George Grant of Boharm (*Grange Registers*).

Charles Gordon was 'out' in 1715,² and after his death Margaret Duff, Lady Glengerack, married again, James Ogilvie, Collector of Excise, Aberdeen, December 22, 1718, and had one daughter Anne, born 1720, married Ludovick Grant, Wester Elchies (*Keith Registers*).

Margaret Duff's eldest son Alexander succeeded early to the property, and was in 1716, being then only eighteen years of age, one of the sixteen heirs of Banffshire. He married, in 1721, at Inchdrewer, Jean Helen Ogilvie, Lady Banff. He was a Major in the Army and fell at the battle of Fontenoy, 1745. He left no children, and was succeeded by his next brother William, who was in embarrassed circumstances, and for this reason was for some time in sanctuary in the Abbey of Holyrood.³

He died in 1747, and was succeeded by his brother George, the fourth son, who sold the property, and in 1748 Margaret and Magdalen were discerned heirs to him, all the intervening daughters presumably being dead; and these two must have died without issue, for the succession, as 'heirs of line,' to the property of Eden, bought by Alexander Duff of Braco, and belonging to William Duff of Braco and his daughter, passed to the descendants of Helen, second daughter of Alexander.

HELEN DUFF married William Gordon, third of Farskane, a small property near Cullen which was of some importance in those days, as the family is frequently mentioned. The house is still inhabited; it is now Seafield property, but the old arms of the Frasers are on the wall of the house, with date 1677.

Helen had three sons and three daughters:

William, fourth and last of Farskane, who sold the estate to Lord Findlater and went as a merchant to Norway.

Archibald, married Innes of Edingight.

James, married Jane Smith of Dundee.

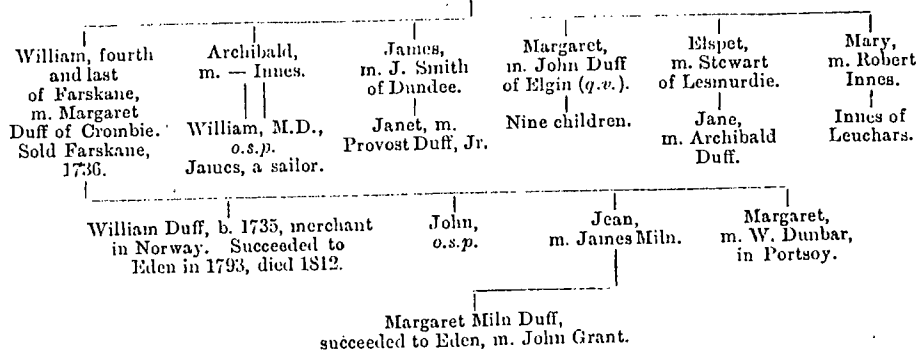
And three daughters, Margaret, Elspet, and Mary.

¹ The writs relating to these lands are all among the Duff House charters.

² William Duff of Dipple writes from Elgin in April 1714 to the Lady Glengerack: 'AFFECTIONAT NIECE,—I have disposed of the meal I bought from you to our cousine John Duff in Aberdeen.—Your affec. Uncle and humble servant,
WM. DUFF.'

³ Lady Glengerack asked for pecuniary assistance from her sister-in-law Helen, Lady Braco, in 1726.

HELEN DUFF, second daughter of ALEXANDER DUFF OF BRACO, m. William Gordon, third of Farskane, who died 1735.



The following extract from a letter, of date 1791, from Archibald Duff of Bilbohall, grandson of Patriek Duff of Craigston, gives the connections of the family, but Archibald was mistaken in thinking that the descendants of Archibald Gordon would succeed to Eden ; this property remained in the family of William, the elder brother :

'BILBOHALL.

'To William Rose, Montcoffer.

'I think I should know Faskine's descendants well. By Braco's second daughter they had three sons and three daughters. William the eldest sold the estate to Lord Findlater, and went over as a merchant to Norway. He married William Duff of Crombie's eldest daughter, who you surely remember after her husband's death. She lived long in Banff, and afterwards in Portsoy, and died the other year.¹ They had two sons and two daughters. The eldest, William, continued his father's business as a merchant in Norway, but afterwards came over to Ireland, and is still alive in Sligo in Ireland; was never married. He sold the lands of Nether Buckie to his brother-in-law, William Dunbar, merchant in Portsoy. John, second son, died a very young lad, and was never married. The eldest daughter Jean, was married to James Miln, then a merchant in Banff. They afterwards went over to Norway where she died, and James Miln still resides there. There was and is issue of that marriage; Mrs. Stewart,² in Banff, the mother of James Miln, can tell you all about them. Margaret the second daughter married William Dunbar, merchant in Portsoy. She died and left several sons and daughters. Mr. Dunbar is still alive. The second son of Faskine by Helen Duff, Archibald, married a daughter of Edingcith's, by whom he had two sons—William and James. William, the eldest, was bred a doctor at Elgin. He went abroad and died, and was never married. James was bred a sailor, and was married, but of what name, country or family his wife was I never heard. They bid

¹ i.e. 1789, aged eighty-nine.

² She had married again and lived until 1803.

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fair to succeed Lady Udney in Iden (*i.e.* Eden). Faskine's eldest daughter, Margaret, was my mother. Elspet, his second daughter, was my wife's mother; and Mary, the third daughter, was the mother of Leuchars and old Robert Innes's daughter. James, Faskine's third son by Helen Duff, was the father of Janet Gordon, Provost Duff's wife, who was his only child, by a daughter of Smith of Smithfields, a merchant in Dundee.'

On the death of Mrs. Udny Duff, on March 27, 1793, William, the eldest son of William Gordon, fourth and last of Farskane (and his wife Margaret Duff of Crombie), and grandson of Helen Duff who married William, third of Farskane, succeeded his father's first cousin in the estate of Eden; his great-uncle William Duff of Braco having, in 1713, executed a deed of entail in favour of his 'heirs male and female' as regarded this property, while the lands of Braco, etc., went to his heir-male, who was his uncle.

Beyond the information contained in Archibald of Bilbohall's letter, nothing is known about William (Gordon) Duff of Eden. He never married, nor apparently resided at Eden; he died 'at his house in Portsoy on the 19th June 1812, in his 87th year.' He had restored the old burying-ground of the Farskane family in the churchyard of Rathven, and his name, as restorer, appears upon the stone, with date 1799, but it is not known whether he was himself buried there or not.

He was succeeded by Margaret, daughter of his eldest sister Jean, who had married James Miln, grandson of James Duff of Corsindae. This Margaret Miln was fifty-five at the time of succeeding, 'a handsome and accomplished woman.' She had been married many years before to John Grant of Kincardine O'Neil (died 1799); by whom she had had a large family:

1. Margaret, born 1777; married, 1813, James Allen; died 1848; buried in Banff.
2. Jane, born 1778; died unmarried, in 1857; buried in Banff.
3. Helen, born 1781; married, first, — Duncan; secondly, Colonel Grant of Woodside, Elgin.
4. James, born 1789, of whom presently.
5. Thomas, died unmarried.
6. Elizabeth, married Rev. Alexander Walker of Elgin and Urquhart,

one of whose sons married one of the Duffs of Elgin (see chapter xxix.), and another married one of the Gordons of Park (see chapter xxv.).

Mrs. Margaret Miln Grant assumed the name of Duff (from her great-grandmother and great-grand-uncle), and went to reside at Eden, where she died and was buried in 1824. Her grave bears the following inscription:

'In the hope of a blessed resurrection, here rest the remains of Mrs. Grant

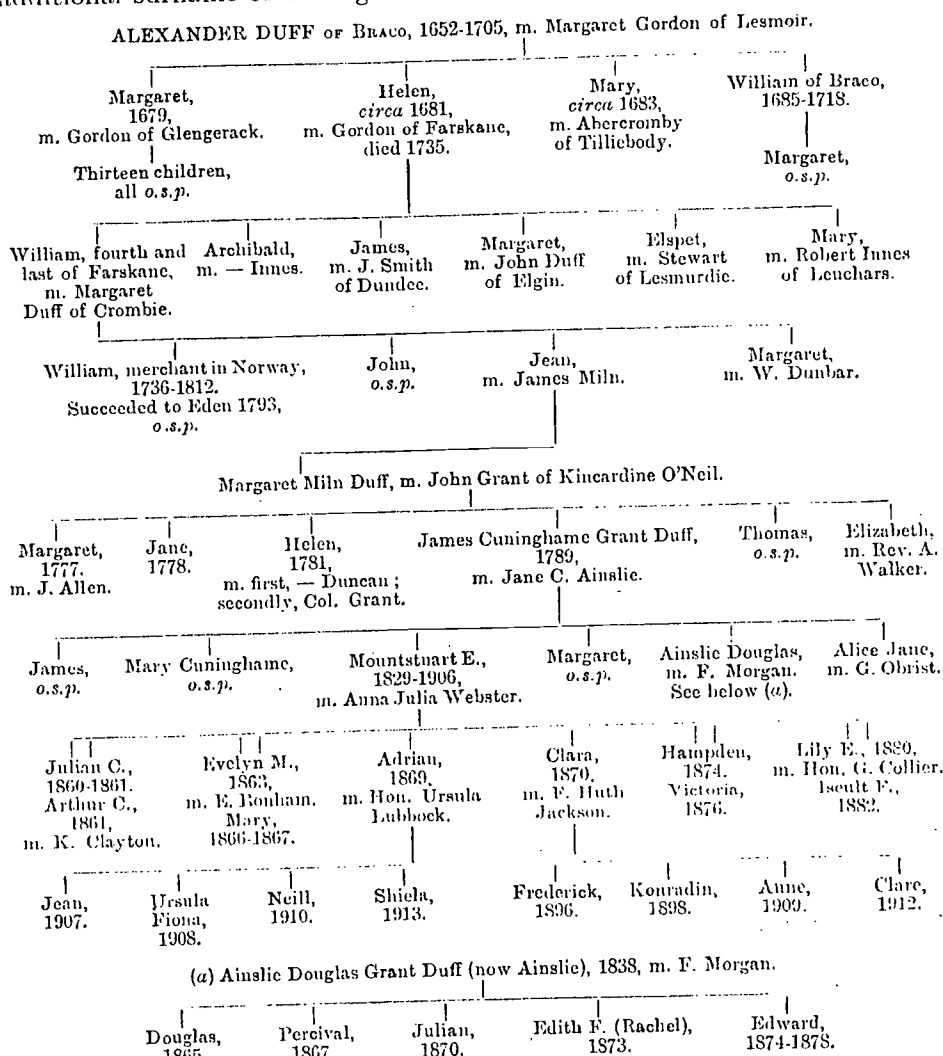
Duff of Eden, relict of John Grant, Esq., of Kincardine O'Neil, first resident proprietor and third possessor of the estate of Eden under an entail executed by her grand-uncle William Duff, Esq. of Braco, A.D. 1713, in favour of his heirs male and female, died at Eden, 20th Aug. 1824, aged 67.¹

She was succeeded by her eldest son, known later as JAMES CUNINGHAME GRANT DUFF. He was born in Banff on July 8, 1789, and his father having died in 1799, his mother removed to Aberdeen for his education (Marischal College). He was destined for the East India Company's Civil Service, but too impatient to wait for a cadetship, he sailed for Bombay in 1805. On his way to India he was wrecked off Cape St. Roque in Brazil, and had the misfortune to lose everything that he possessed, including all his family papers. He was next present at the taking of the Cape of Good Hope by the expedition under Baird in 1806, where his patriotism was stirred by seeing three Highland regiments leap to their feet and advance to the strains of 'the Rothiemurchus rant.'¹ On April 23, 1807, he obtained a commission as Ensign in the 1st Bombay Grenadiers, and was present in 1808 at the storming of Maliah, and subsequently at the battle of Kirkee and the operations against the Paishwa Bajee Rao. He was a Lieutenant in 1811, and shortly after was made Adjutant and interpreter to the regiment, which preferment nearly involved him in a duel with a brother officer. Later, he became the assistant and devoted friend of Mountstuart Elphinstone, who recognised his great power of managing the natives, and, in 1818, while Grant was only a Captain, appointed him to be First Resident of Sattara, in the heart of the Mahratta country, where by his personal influence, and with only one European companion, he maintained peace and order. He also acted as tutor to the Rajah, and by his skilful management reorganised the exhausted revenues, and restored prosperity to the country. After five and a half years of these arduous labours his health gave way, and in 1822 he returned to Scotland, where he devoted himself to compiling his great work on the history of the Mahrattas, published 1826. On his mother's death in 1824 he succeeded to the estate of Eden and assumed the name of Duff. He occupied himself with agriculture, cattle breeding, and planting—the hedges he planted being still a feature of the neighbourhood. In the year 1827 he retired from the Hon. East India Company's service, and married Jane Catherine, only daughter of Sir Whitclaw Ainslie, M.D. (compiler of the *Materia Medica of India*), and twenty-five years later,

¹ Here, too, he had another hairbreadth escape from drowning, a boatful of soldiers being upset, and Grant only saved himself by the skill in swimming he had acquired in his early days in Banff.

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she succeeding also to an estate in Fifeshire, from her mother's family, the additional surname of Cuninghame was inserted before the Grant.¹



¹ Sir Whitelaw Ainslie, who died in 1827, aged seventy, is buried in the Grant Duff burying-ground at King Edward, with his wife, Mary, died 1840, daughter of James Cuninghame of Balbogie, Colonel of the Scots Brigade in the service of the United Provinces. Robert Ainslie, the friend of Burns, and his brother Whitelaw married two Cuninghame sisters, but Whitelaw's wife, Mary, was the elder, and through her the property of Balbogie came into the Ainslie family and thus to the Grant Duffs. Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff sold this property to Hamilton Duncan Mercer Henderson.

James Cuninghame Grant Duff died September 23, 1858. His grandson, Arthur Grant Duff, possesses a fine portrait of him, and there are three copies of a miniature of him in the uniform of the Bombay Grenadiers, of which the original is in the hands of Lady Grant Duff, and the two copies in those of Mrs. Huth Jackson and Ainslie Douglas Ainslie.

Mrs. Cuninghame Grant Duff died in London, May 1, 1866, aged sixty-five. They had the following children :

1. JAMES, died in infancy.
2. MARY CUNINGHAME, born 1828, and died at the age of seventeen, to the great grief of the family.
3. MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE, 1829.
4. MARGARET, born 1833, died 1835; buried at King Edward.
5. AINSLIE DOUGLAS, 1838.
6. ALICE JANE, married, in 1859, Gaspar Obrist of Zurich, and had two sons.

Sir MOUNTSTUART GRANT DUFF was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and Balliol College, Oxford, of which he was B.A. in 1850, M.A. 1853. He was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple (after gaining a studentship offered for competition by the United Inns of Court), and in 1857 he was elected Liberal member for the Elgin Burghs, for which constituency he continued to sit for twenty-four years. He was Under Secretary of State from 1868 to 1874, and Under Secretary for the Colonies from 1880 to 1881. In the former year he was made Privy Councillor. In 1881 he resigned his seat in the House of Commons on his appointment to the Governorship of Madras, which he ably administered for five years, making several tours throughout the whole district. Towards the end of his tenure of office he received the Grand Cross of the Star of India. After his return from India he eschewed political life and occupied himself with literary and scientific pursuits. For some years he lived in London and at York House, Twickenham, which he had purchased from the Comte de Paris after parting with Eden in 1875, but ten years before his death he sold York House back to the Orleans family, and bought a small estate near Colchester.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the Royal Geographical Society 1889-1893, and of the Royal Historical Society 1892-1900.

He was Lord Rector of Aberdeen University from 1866 to 1872, and was one of the most distinguished men of letters the Duff family has produced. Among his published works were *Studies in European Politics*, *Memoir of Sir Henry Maine*, *Life of Ernest Renan*, *Miscellanies Political and Literary*,

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and *Notes from a Diary*, in over a dozen volumes, in which are to be found many interesting reminiscences of the period.

He married, in 1859, Anna Julia, daughter of Edward Webster, of the North Lodge, Ealing, and Sturston, Derbyshire, by Hannah, daughter of Richard Ainsworth of Smithville Hall and Moss Bank, County Lancaster, and had ten children :

1. JULIAN CUNINGHAME, 1860, died young.

2. ARTHUR CUNINGHAME, 1861; entered the Diplomatic Service in 1885; was Chargé-d'affaires, Caracas, 1900-1901, Mexico, 1903-1904, Darmstadt and Carlsruhe, 1906; Minister-Resident, Havana, 1906; now British Minister in Dresden. Married, in 1906, Kathleen, younger daughter of General Powell Clayton, sometime United States Ambassador to Mexico.

3. EVELYN MOUNTSTUART, born 1863; entered the Diplomatic Service, 1888; was Chargé-d'affaires, Teheran, in 1904 and 1905-1906; Minister-Resident, 1910; Consul-General, Budapest, 1911; now Minister at Berne; C.M.G., 1911. Married, 1900, Edith F. Bonham, elder daughter of Sir George Bonham, Bt.

4. MARY, born 1866, died 1867.

5. ADRIAN, born 1869; Major in the Black Watch, 42nd Royal Highlanders; has served on the North-West Frontier of India, 1897-1898, and has the medal and clasp. In South Africa, 1902, Queen's medal and three clasps; Staff College, 1903-1904; General Staff, War Office, 1905-1909; Assistant Secretary, Committee of Imperial Defence, 1910-1913; C.B., 1913. Married, in 1906, the Hon. Ursula Lubbock, fourth daughter of first Lord Avebury, and has JEAN, born 1907; URSULA FIONA, born 1908; NEILL ADRIAN MOUNTSTUART, born 1910; and SHIELA, born May 11, 1913.

6. CLARA, born 1870; married, 1895, Rt. Hon. F. Huth Jackson, and has Frederick Huth, born 1896; Konradin Huth, born 1898; Anne Marie Huth, born 1909; Clare Huth, born 1912.

7. HAMPDEN, born 1874; Lieutenant R.N.; retired 1910.

8. VICTORIA ADELAIDE ALEXANDRA, 1876.

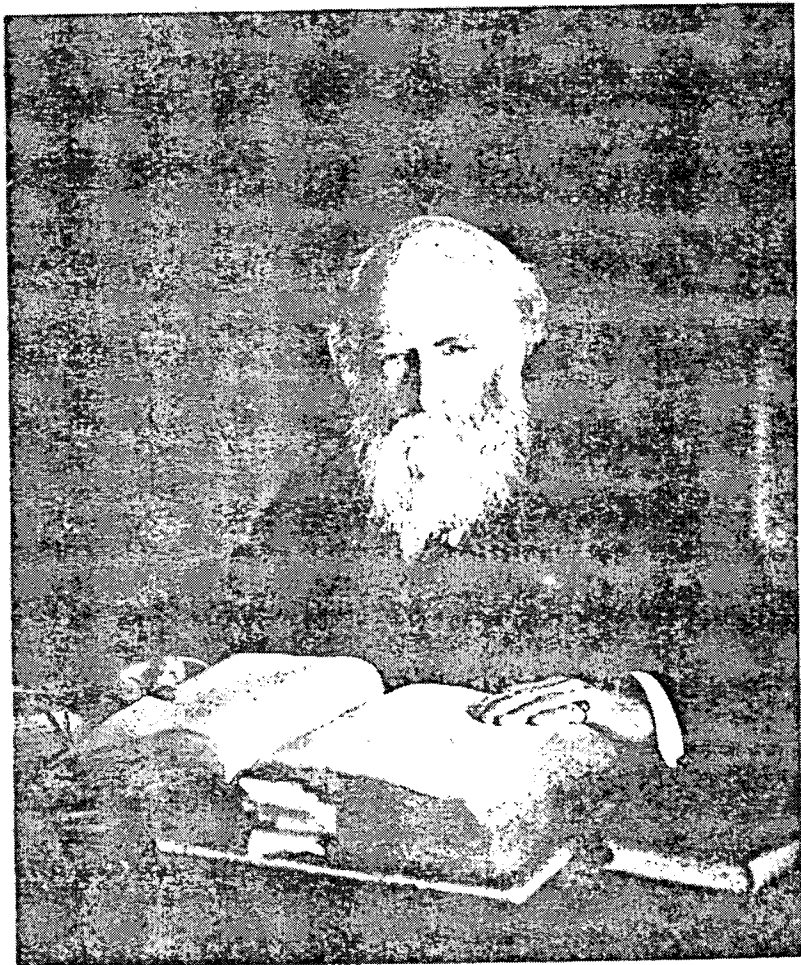
9. LILY ERMENGARDE FANNY, 1880; married Hon. Gerard Collier, second son of second Lord Monkswell.

10. ISEULT FREDERICA, 1882; now in India.

Sir Mountstuart died January 1906, and is buried in Elgin Cathedral.

AINSLIE DOUGLAS was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and was for some time in the Diplomatic Service. He married Fanny, daughter of E. J. Morgan of St. Petersburg, and has had five children :

DOUGLAS, born 1865; educated at Eton and Balliol College,



SIR MOUNTSTUART E. GRANT DUFF, G.C.S.I.

From photograph by Ellen A. Fry.

Oxford. Author of *Escarlamonde*, *John of Damascus*, *The Epic of the Stewarts*, etc.

PERCIVAL, born 1867, died 1890; married Beatrice Brabazon-Moore, and left one daughter, EILEEN RACHEL, married, 1912, Tristram Beresford, barrister.

JULIAN, born 1870; married Florence Elphinstone, daughter of Sir Nicholas Elphinstone, Bt., Hereditary Cupbearer to the Kings of Scotland,¹ by whom he had two daughters, STELLA (1894) and ALIX (1895); and, secondly, Juliet, second daughter of Mrs. Molesworth, by whom he has one daughter CYNTHIA, born 1900.

EDITH FANNY (RACHEL), 1873.

EDWARD, 1874-1878.

Mr. Ainslie Douglas Grant Duff assumed, in 1866, in accordance with his mother's will, the surname of Ainslie (dropping that of Grant Duff), and his children, except his eldest son, were all born to that name, which is still retained by the sons.² His daughter, however, is now known as Miss Grant Duff.

In 1863, the estate and castle of Delgaty had been purchased from Lord Fife by the trustees of the late Douglas Ainslie, younger brother of Robert and Whitelaw, and made over to his niece, Mrs. Grant Duff. At her death, in 1866, it passed to her younger son.

Delgaty Castle had been for three and a half centuries the property of the Hays of Erroll, who sold it in 1762 to Peter Garden of Troup. Garden's son resold it in 1798 to James, second Earl Fife, whose nephew, General Alexander Duff, and his son James, afterwards fifth Earl, long resided there. The oldest part of the castle dates from the early sixteenth century or possibly earlier. The keep is exceptionally fine, and measures sixty-six feet from the battlements to the ground.

MARY, third daughter of Alexander Duff of Braco and Margaret Gordon of Lesmoir, married Alexander Abercromby of Tilliebody, County Clackmannan. He was a cadet of the family of Birkenbog,³ between whom and the Duffs there were many connections by marriage. They had three sons, George, who succeeded to Tilliebody, James of Brucefield, M.P. for Clackmannan, and Alexander; and two daughters, Helen, who married her cousin Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog, and Margaret, died unmarried.

¹ As a fact he did not establish his claims.

² The third son uses the form Grant Duff Ainslie.

³ The estate of Tilliebody (now Tullybody) having been inherited from the family of Abercromby of Skeith.

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George Abercromby of Tilliebody, who married Mary Dundas, had eight children, among whom was the famous Sir Ralph Abercromby, killed at Alexandria, 1801, at the age of sixty-seven.

Other sons were Robert and James, both in the Army.

The following letter from George to his son Ralph is interesting. Lewis Duff was also at Cambridge. He seems to have been allowed exceptional educational advantages. (See chapter x.)

‘KINCORTH IN MURRAY, Sept. 18, 1754.

‘D. RALPH,—This will be delivered to you by Mr. Lewes Duff, My Lord Braccos son and when I have named him, this I know will be inducement sufficient to engage you to see him settled in a proper house and entered to such colleges as shall be found fit for him and that according to the progress he has made, you will concert with him what books are proper for him to read, and in a word that you will in everything behave as one friend—who is a little more advanced in years¹ and studies—to another. You know how agreeable this will be to all Mr. Duffs relations, and in particular to, D. Ralph, Your most affectionate Father,

GEO. ABERCROMBY.

‘To Ralph Abercromby, Esq., Student in Law at Leipsick.’

(D.)

Mary Duff, Mrs. Abercromby of Tilliebody, to her mother, widow of Alexander of Braco

‘EDR., 23 Jany. 1721.

‘DEAR MOTHER,—I long to hear from you. I have not heard from you sine David farquhar cam up. This hes ben a winter of very unconstant wader. I long to hear how ye have kiped your health, ther is many daying hear. I am soray to hear the Collector² my Sisters husband is so ill and my sister farsken is grouen worss. Lett me know when ye wrett hou they are. I disen, God willing, to leve this place the next weck, and I am to board Gorg till the Colledg rise. Dear Moather I wold recommend mester William³ your Brother to you, he is in a very sterving condition. I have supplied him severell tims this winter and I think it is a Christoun doutay in you to bestow sumthing on him, your bouels of Cheraty is not shut up to strangers and sertenly ye have a far greter call to give to your ouen brother. My husband and Gorge gives ther humbell services to

¹ Ralph was then twenty, and Lewis seventeen.

² James Ogilvie, second husband of Margaret Duff.

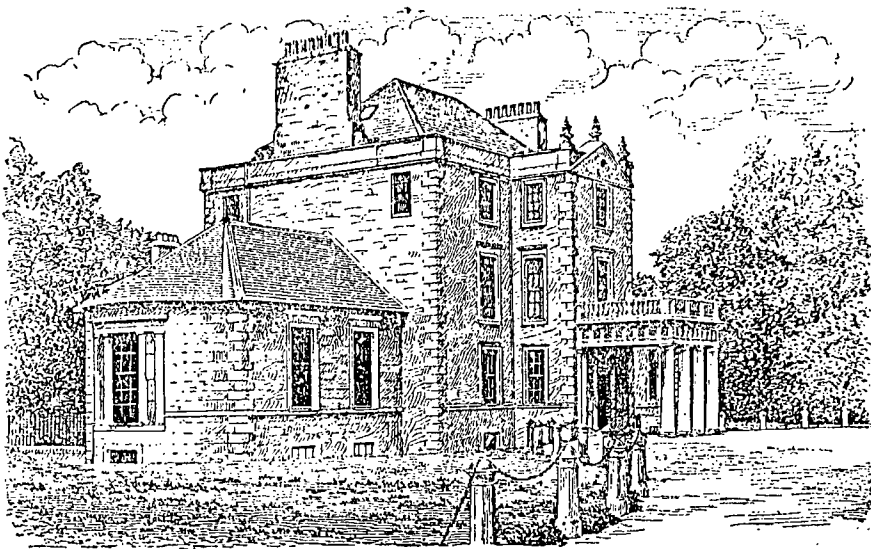
³ William Gordon, second son of Sir William Gordon of Lesmoir, lived at Balcomie, in Fife. He was King's Solicitor to James VII. in Scotland, and raised a regiment of a thousand men for the King's service. After the accession of King William III. his estate was forfeited, and he himself ruined and imprisoned for debt. (Bulloch's *House of Gordon*.)

you and so douth, Dear Mother, Your loving and affectionat dauther and humble servent,
 MARY DUFF.¹ (D.)

¹ The above Mary is one of the few Duffs bearing that Christian name who have lived to grow up.

The combination of Mary and Duff has otherwise been unlucky.
 Alexander Duff, Keithmore, 1623, had a daughter Mary, married Fraser and Tulloch.
 William Duff of Inverness, 1632, " " " married Baillic of Dunane.
 William Duff of Dipple, " " " married Abercromby of Glassaugh.
 (And another who died young.)
 James Duff of Crombie, " " " married Gordon of Ardmeallie.
 Alexander Duff of Braco, " " " married Abercromby of Tilliebody.
 Alexander Duff, third Earl Fife, " " " died young.
 James Duff, fifth Earl Fife, " " " " "
 Patrick Duff of Craigston, " " " married Leslie of Melcross.
 James Duff of Craigston, " " " died young.
 Colonel Robert William Duff, " " " " "
 Thomas Fraser Duff, " " " " "
 Adam Duff of Woodcote, " " " " "
 Robert William Duff, " " " " "
 Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton, " " " " "
 Colonel James Duff, " " " " "
 Captain George Duff, R.N., " " " " "
 Alexander Duff, third of Hatton, " " " married Robert Cockburn.
 Alexander Duff of Drummuir, " " " married Campbell of Delnies.
 Alexander Duff of Davidston, " " " died young.
 Lachlan Duff of Drummuir, " " " " "
 William Duff of Muirtown, " " " " "
 Alexander Duff of Muirtown, " " " " "
 William Duff of Grauge, " " " " "
 Hugh Robert Duff of Muirtown, " " " " "
 James Duff of Madeira, " " " " "
 James Duff of Banff, " " " " "
 James C. Grant Duff, " " " " "
 Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, " " " " "
 Folliot Duff, " " " " "
 James Duff of Bruntyards had two daughters named Mary, " "
 William Duff, minister of Foveran, had a daughter Mary, died soon after marriage.
 Colonel John Duff (' Tiger's ' brother), " " " " "
 Patrick Duff, younger of Carnousie, " " " " "
 James Gordon Duff of Devonport St., " " " died young.
 Dr. George Duff of Elgin, " " " " "
 Patrick Duff, second Town Clerk of the name at Elgin, " " " " "
 Archibald Duff of Aberdeen, " " " " "
 Thomas Duff of Aberlour, " " " " "
 Archibald Duff, Toronto, " " " " "
 Robert Duff, British Guiana, " " " " "

Of the above forty-two Duffs christened Mary, thirty-four have died young.

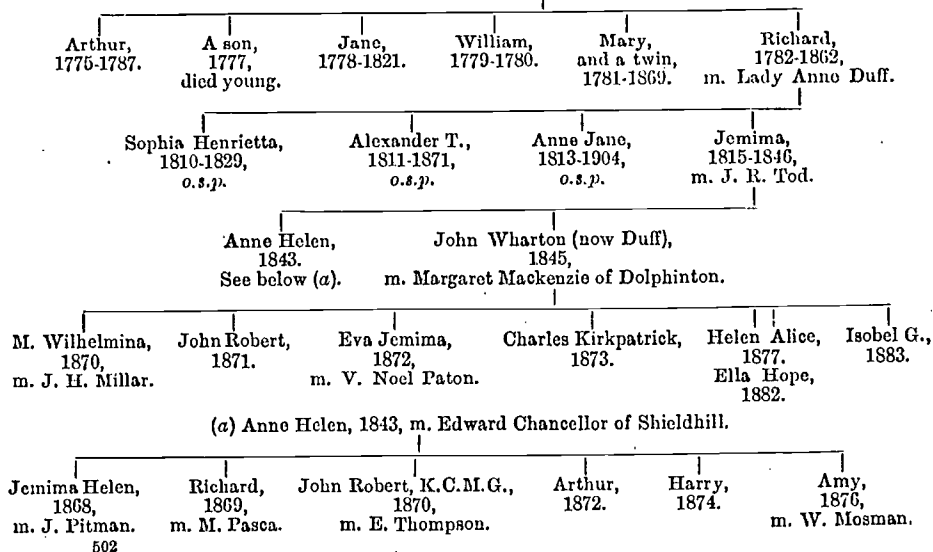


ORTON HOUSE

CHAPTER XXXIII

WHARTON DUFFS OF ORTON

THOMAS WHARTON, 1735-1816, m. first, Judith Massey; m. secondly, Henrietta Mackenzie; m. third, 1774, Lady Sophia Duff, 1740-1826.





LADY SOPHIA WHARTON DUFF.

By William Smith.

THE family of Orton must be said to begin with the delightful Arthur Duff, youngest son of the first Lord Fife, to whom his father left this property (see chapter x.). At his death, in 1805, he left the estate to his nephew, Richard Wharton (son of Lady Sophia, his fifth sister, and Thomas Wharton, Commissioner of Excise), who then assumed the additional name of Duff.

Thomas Wharton, who was born in October 1735, had already been married twice. His first wife, Judith Massey, left him three sons (who do not come within the scope of this history); his second was Henrietta Mackenzie of Coul, who only lived a year, and had one child, Mally, who died an infant, and is buried in the family tomb at Restalrig, near Edinburgh. He was verging on forty when he married his third wife, Lady Sophia Henrietta Duff, who was then thirty-four. They had in all seven children. ARTHUR, born in 1775, 'a promising boy,' who died at Rothiemay in 1787, at the same time as his cousin Fan, possibly of some epidemic. In 1777 there was another infant who died young. Sophia herself makes allusion to the difficulty of nursing the child while in constant attendance upon her husband, who was a most 'exigcant' invalid. And Lady Fife writes to Arthur:

'Mr. Wharton is still in bed, unless it be when he rises to have it made. They have sweated him and physick him enough to kill a horse. He is one of the most passionate temper that ever I saw. I am afraid that he fret himself into a fever. Much do I sympathise with poor Sophia. She is almost wore out attending him.'

The third child was JANE, born 1778, and died unmarried, aged forty-three, in 1821. WILLIAM, born 1779, and died the following year. Twin daughters in 1781, of whom one died, and the other, MARY, became the wife of Daniel Buller in 1811 (it is said she eloped with him). They had no children, and she died at Brighton in 1869. The youngest of this family was the above-mentioned RICHARD, born in 1782, who succeeded his uncle Arthur in his office of Commissioner of Excise, as well as in the estate of Orton.

He married, in 1809, his own first cousin, Lady Anne, daughter of his uncle Alexander, who had, a few months previously, succeeded to the title and estates of the earldom of Fife. She was a year older than himself, and died in Edinburgh of typhus fever, in the same day as her eldest daughter Sophia, a beautiful girl of nineteen, who succumbed to the same disease, February 1829.¹

Lady Anne only survived her mother-in-law, Lady Sophia, by three years. Richard Wharton died June 8, 1862, aged eighty. He was educated

¹ There is a note among the Duff House papers, 1829: 'Deaths of Lady Anne and her daughter Miss Sophia Duff. Funeral to leave Edinburgh 2d Feb. 1829, and expected to arrive at Duff House on Sat. morning 7th Feb. Wins at the funeral only £2 or £3, as former scenes to be avoided. The bodies were interred in the mausoleum at Orton.'

at the Edinburgh High School, and resided chiefly in Edinburgh until, the Board of Excise moving to London, his office of comptroller ceased to exist. He was also a trustee of the Fife estates. According to the *Annual Register*, 'he was a model landed proprietor with a passion for arboriculture.'

His children were :

1. SOPHIA, born 1810, died 1829.

2. ALEXANDER THOMAS, born 1811. A Captain in the Gordon Highlanders, who succeeded to the estate of Orton, where he latterly lived the life of a hermit. He never married, and died January 15, 1871. He was a great linguist, speaking, it is said, eight languages, and in his youth travelled much abroad. Some extracts from his letters are here given :

'CONSERVATIVE CLUB, LONDON, 20 May 1848.

'MY DEAR FATHER,—Inglis called upon me to-day with the lease, assigning over Balmoral to Prince Albert. As the risk and annoyance likely to result from the transaction seemed to me to be pretty well guarded against by the insertion of a clause to the effect that the Trustees were not to be held liable for any claim on account of additional buildings, I signed the lease, the General and I being the only two Trustees in London. There is also another clause providing that should the Prince wish to throw up the lease, we (the Trustees), were to have the first offer. Inglis told me that he was to write to you to-day and to send you a copy of the two clauses above mentioned.'

'HOTEL MEURICE, RUE DE RIVOLI,
PARIS, 1 July 1848.

'MY DEAR FATHER,—I arrived here on Monday evening, just at the close of the Insurrection, but could not get to my hotel that night as "the retreat" had beaten and no person was allowed to appear in the streets after that. However, I got a lie near the railway station and proceeded to the Meurice hotel early next morning, meeting with no interruption except occasionally to produce my passport, when challenged by a sentry. Paris was then and is now, in a state of siege, that is "under martial law," and though now you may walk the streets freely in the day time, you cannot be out at night much after ten o'clock—all the principal streets and places are crowded with armed men in uniform and out of uniform . . . on the Place de la Concorde and along the boulevards cavalry, infantry, artillery, garde mobile, etc., are bivouacked, which, with the ravages made by cannon and musketry during the fighting, gives one, I should think, a pretty good idea of a town taken by storm. . . . From the traces, one can easily imagine what a desperate struggle it must have been—the fighting lasted about four days—in one or two places I observed the ruins of houses still smoking, others shattered by cannon and dotted over with musket balls, and there is one street, the Rue St. Jacques, with scarcely a pane of glass in it, in fact the destruction of the latter article is so great generally that the glaziers must make their fortune, that is to say if there is any money to pay them. The loss of life, as you may well imagine has been enormous—its exact amount will never be known. I have been told that the lowest computation makes it about en



JEMIMA AND ANNE WHARTON DEEPE

By Thomas Dimsie

thousand killed and fifteen thousand wounded on both sides—some accounts carry it a good deal higher. The insurgents, from fighting principally under cover, have suffered less than the other side. There are, I understand, fourteen general officers killed and wounded—some battallions (*sic*) of the National guards and garde mobile lost an immense number of men, and a regiment of the line has been nearly annihilated. The insurgents were all well armed and well supplied with ammunition, and must have been well organized and ably led. Their plan is generally allowed to have displayed great military intelligence, and they were within an ace of succeeding—if they had, the fate of Paris would have been horrible. . . . I think it probable that I shall remain here for a fortnight or three weeks longer.

‘Do you expect Tod and the children in August?’

‘So the coach is to start at last. I daresay it will be useful and profitable during the summer months.—Your affectionate son, A. T. WHARTON DUFF.’

3. The third child was ANNE JANE, born July 5, 1813, one of the most wonderful members of the long-lived Duff family. She had completed her ninetieth year when she died in January 1904, and had possessed the estate of Orton for thirty-three years. Though, latterly, her memory was not quite to be relied upon, yet her reminiscences of her long life, and of the many friends and relations she remembered, were a perpetual source of joy to those privileged to know her. In her youth she was both a poetess and an artist.

4. The youngest child was JEMIMA, born 1815, and called after Lady Anne's eldest brother James, fourth Lord Fife. She married at twenty-six, John Robert Tod of Edinburgh (whose mother had been a Duff of Hatton, and sister to Byron's Mary Duff, see page 247), and had two children: Anne Helen, born 1843, and John Wharton, born 1845. She died in 1846. Anne Helen Tod married Edward Chancellor of Shieldhill, Lanarkshire, and has six children: (1) Jemima Helen, married to James Pitman, and has issue; (2) Richard Alexander of the Singapore Police, married Margaret Rose Pasca, one son; (3) John Robert, K.C.M.G., Major Royal Engineers, and at present Governor of Mauritius, married Elsie Howard Thompson, one son and one daughter; (4) Arthur, Captain Cameron Highlanders; (5) Harry; and (6) Amy, married to W. Mosman.

John Wharton Tod, of the firm of Tods, Murray and Jamieson, Edinburgh, married, in 1869, Margaret M. Mackenzie, daughter of John Ord Mackenzie of Dolphinton, Lanarkshire, and has two sons and five daughters: Margaret Wilhelmina, born 1870, married to J. Hepburn Millar, two children; John Robert, born 1871; Eva Jemima, born 1872, married to Victor Noel Paton, four children; Charles Kirkpatrick, 1873; Helen Alice, 1877; Ella Hope, 1882; and Isobel Grace, 1883, unmarried.

John Wharton Tod succeeded to Orton on the death of his aunt in 1904, and he and his family then assumed the name of Duff, becoming Wharton Duff.



SIR JAMES DUFF OF KINSTAIR

CHAPTER XXXIV

FAMILY OF SIR JAMES DUFF OF KINSTAIR

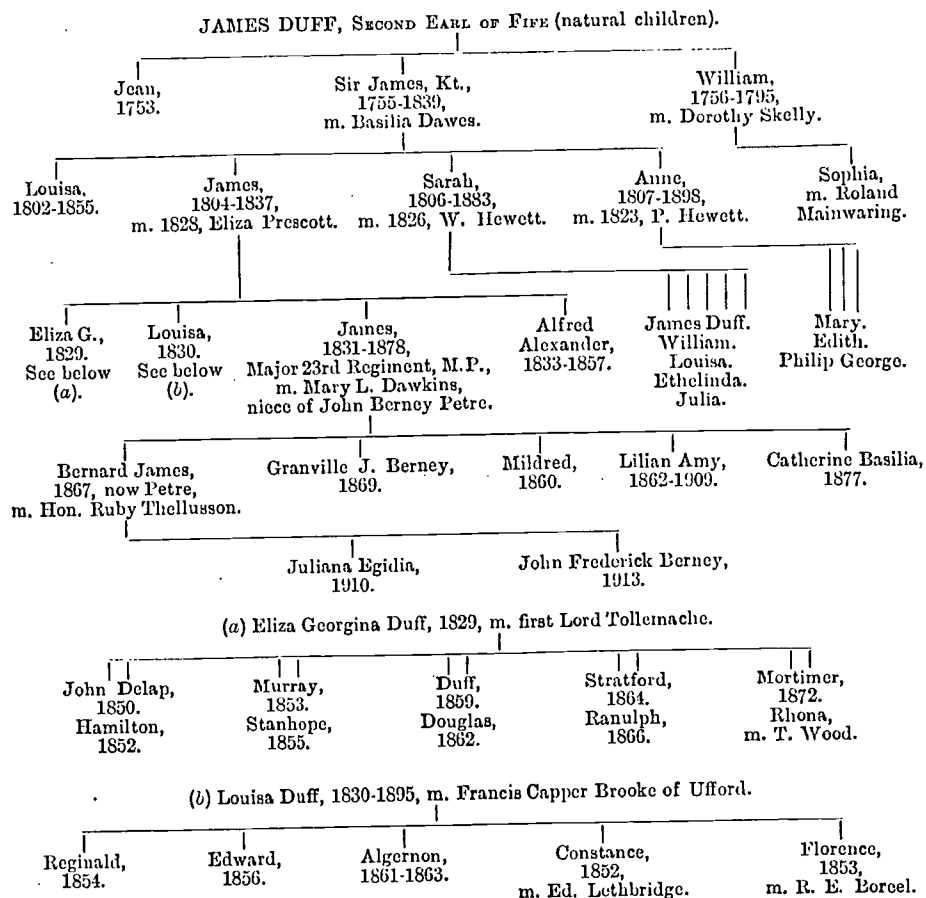
IN *The Political State of Scotland, 1788* (a confidential report in the interests of the Whig opposition), it is thus noted :

‘ Sir James Duff of Kinstair got his vote from Lord Fife, whose son he is.’

Sir James Duff, Kt., the eldest natural son of James, second Earl Fife, was born in 1755 ; he had a brother William, and a sister Jean, of whom we shall treat hereafter. Unfortunately no record has been preserved of the name of their mother, and a suggestion that she was privately married to the Earl is not borne out by facts.

Though the Earl Fife married, subsequently, in 1759, Lady Dorothy Sinclair, the only daughter of the Earl of Caithness, he had no children by her, and it seems fairly conclusive that if he had been previously married to Sir James’s mother, he would have been only too glad to recognise this son as his legitimate heir. However, the Earl was always particularly kind to his three natural children, as he had the boys to live with him during a great part of their childhood, gave them a good education, and provided well for their future, and made an allowance to his daughter all

KINSTAIR'S FAMILY TABLE



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her life. Of the three children, James Duff was undoubtedly the favourite, as is shown by many of Lord Fife's letters. A commission in the Army was procured for him, and he was gazetted Ensign, 1st Foot Guards, on April 18, 1769, when fourteen. He was promoted Lieutenant and Captain in the same regiment on April 26, 1775, and became Adjutant January 2, 1777.

The earliest letters of his are addressed to William Rose, his father's factor, at Montcoffer :

'LONDON, May 15th, 1775.

'MY DEAR ROSE,—I have unfortunately been second to a Brother Officer of the Regiment, in which affair he had mortally wounded his man, if he is not already dead, it is impossible he can survive, being shot quite through the body. I keep myself private till to-morrow morning when I shall sett off in the Fly for Edinburgh, as by the Laws of this country I am equally lyable to be apprehended and tryed for my life.—In haste ever yours,

'JAS. DUFF.' (D.)

To the Same

'MAR LODGE, 29th May 1775.

'MY DEAR SIR,—Your express arrived here last night, both my Lord and self being anxious to hear from you.

'I am happy to think their is some chance of Mr. Daw's recovery, it is a very disagreeable affair for me to be engaged in, but impossible for me to avoid. I did not undertake it out of any friendship for Mr. Frederick, but at the desire of the officers of the Regiment, who agreed I should be the man that should see him clear his Honor, and do credit to his Regt.

JAS. DUFF.' (D.)

In the same year he appears to have been ill, as in one letter from Arthur Duff of Orton we read that, 'Captain Duff has had a severe fever, was in great danger, but now upon recovery. The poor Earl had been much to be pitied had it proved fatal.' In a subsequent letter it is stated that, 'The Earl's son is now as well as ever.'

James Duff was, in 1779, knighted as proxy for Sir James Harris (diplomat), afterwards first Earl of Malmesbury, at his installation as Knight of the Bath. It must be noted that Sir James Duff was made a Knight Bachelor, not K.C.B.

He became Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel July 18, 1780, and full Colonel on November 18, 1790. In October 1794 he was promoted Major-General, being still a regimental Captain. However, we find that on March 7, 1795, he was gazetted a regimental Major. In 1797 he took command of the Limerick district; while there he rendered important services during the insurrection of 1798, and managed to keep his district

quiet, in spite of the state of affairs elsewhere. During his Limerick command he had as aides-de-camp two men who subsequently became famous, namely Sir William Napier and James Davies Douglas. Many allusions to Sir James Duff are to be found in the *Life of Sir William Napier*.¹ On leaving Limerick he was presented with a sword of honour and the freedom of the city.

On August 31, 1798, General Sir James Duff was appointed Colonel of the 50th Foot (West Kent). He was promoted Lieutenant-General, January 1, 1801; General, October 25, 1809; at the time of his death at Funtington, Sussex, on December 5, 1839, he was senior General in the British Army, and was one of the few officers who have held a commission for over seventy years.

From Sir James Duff's letters we get some sidelights on the history of the period, as well as indications that he was on terms of intimacy with many of his relatives.

Sir James Duff to William Rose

‘WHITEHALL, 1775.

‘I gave you an account in my last of the state of matters in Canada, you will see it is but too true. There was a letter arrived from William, two days ago, to my Lord, it was dated St John's, 3rd Nov. They had surrendered the day before and were going to embark for New England, he only wrote a few lines being, I suppose, uneasy in his mind, and not at liberty to write. There are upwards of 500 men made prisoners, besides Capt. Duff's Regt., every man of them will be obliged to lay down their arms. Most people are of opinion Quebec will fall to the Provincials. Carleton has collected about 1800 men, 1400 of which are Canadians, and, he says, not to be trusted. This is the present situation of affairs.’

(R.)

In December 1776 he writes from Fife House, Whitehall (his father's residence), to William Rose at Montcoffer, congratulating the latter on the birth of his second son :

‘No one feels more real joy at every additional happiness that befalls you than I do. You must for the future contrive some method of getting a few girls, all of them as beautiful as the mother. . . . The army in Canada is very healthy, but at New York they are greatly distressed with the Flux. We are expecting daily accounts of the attack on Washington Fort. Our army must get possession

¹ In the Additional MSS., British Museum, there are three letters from Sir James Duff to the Earl of Chichester. They are written from Adfinnan Camp in 1796, and deal with the arrangements for parade service. The Roman Catholic soldiers had apparently been cheerfully attending these, until some agitator had endeavoured to stir them to the idea that it was a grievance. Sir James is said to have shot some rebels after they had laid down their arms, and to have hanged a Roman Catholic priest.

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of it, or their winter quarters at New York may be made very disagreeable to them.' (R.)

To the same

'ST. JAMES'S, 5th August 1776.

'MY DEAR ROSE,—By the Aberdeen Newspaper which I have this moment brought me, I see an advertisement from the Justices of Peace of the County of Banff empowering you to bring from London one hundred pounds sterling in good halfpence. Upon receipt of your letter, I immediately spoke to a friend of mine who has promised to get me the first £100 of Halfpence that are made at the Tower.¹

'I suppose my Lord has draged you up to Mar Lodge. I know you have no great love nor oppinion of that part of the Country. If you are there, I dare say you will find time to write about papers.

'Make my best love to Mary, with my good wishes for the Family, I ever am,
my dear Rose, Your ever affectionate, etc., etc., JAS. DUFF. (R.)

'Faites bien mes Compliments à Monsieur Frembley.'

To the Same

'DUFF HOUSE, 21st Sept. 1777.

'SIR,—I do hereby authorise and impower you to uplift for me and in my name the Feu Duties and other Casualties due to me as Superior of the lands of Kinstair,² and Knowhead and that in time past, and in time coming, for which this shall be sufficient power and authority.—I am, Your humble servt.,
'JAS. DUFF.' (R.)

¹ From the *Aberdeen Journal*, July 22, 1776:

'At Banff, The Sixteenth Day of July, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six Years: at a Meeting of the Justices of Peace of the County of Banff, Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog, Baronet, chosen Præses.

'The Meeting being informed, that a great Deal of Bad Halfpence has of late been brought into the Country; they thought it incumbent upon them to put the People upon their Guard, and to advise them to be cautious of receiving the Copper Money in circulation, as that must be the only check against the Importation and Circulation of bad Copper Money. They also thought it their Duty to recommend the Encouragement of the Produce of their own Country, particularly with respect to Porter and Flour, in preference to those Articles imported from other Places, which had been for some time past brought in at a very great Expence to the Country; and recommended to the Clerk to cause this be published in the Aberdeen's News Paper, and to Mr. Rose, to bring from London, One Hundred Pounds sterling in good Halfpence, and to insure the same, the Expence of the Insurance and Commission to be paid by the County.

(Signed) ROBERT ABERCROMBY, P.

'Extracted from the Records of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Supply of Banffshire, by JAMES DUFF.'

² Kinstair is a small place in the parish of Alford, on the estate of Haughton, of which Lord Fife held the 'superiority,' and made it over to his son for voting purposes.

Another letter to William Rose, written from Harley Street in February 1784, when Sir James was Member of Parliament for Banffshire: 'Strong report of a dissolution taking place, a few days hence must determine the point.'

In 1789 he resigned his seat for Banffshire (owing to a difference of opinion with his father on the question of the Regency, when he voted against Pitt and against his father), and he writes to William Rose, informing him of this fact, adding that:

'I could never have thought of holding any place of that nature, when I was totally debarred from having an opinion of my own, nor even where I think my interest is concerned. His lordship and I had a long conversation on all matters. I told him my mind freely and heard everything he had to say. But I expect no alteration from it—numerous professions of Friendship and affection—but words have lost their effect with me. . . . I beg you do everything you can to prevent Packets being now put under my cover as I shall have to pay for them after this day.'

(R.)

Lord Fife does not appear to have been pleased by his son's action in this matter, as is shown by the following letter, written in January 1789, by Sir James Duff from Harley Street to Rose at Montcoffer:

'There is no communication betwixt his Lordship and me. On my informing him of my difference of sentiment on the present state of Politics, my disapproving of Mr. Pitt's conduct and resolution not to take any active part in opposition to the Prince of Wales, every art of persuasion and flattery, of which he is master, were put in practice to dissuade me from it, but, if I could not bring myself to vote for Mr. Pitt, imploring me as the greatest service I could do him, to resign my seat. I took two days to consider on the subject of our conversation. I then wrote him, that, anxiously wishing to do everything in my power that I consistently could, I, in compliance with his request, was willing to vacate my seat. Were I not too well acquainted with the insincerity of his professions, I should have been surprised, on his seeing me next day close to him in the street, turning short the other way. Thus stands the state of matters, and there it shall rest for me. . . . I hear Pitfour is to come in for Banffshire. I am perfectly satisfied in quitting that station, not being allowed a deliberative opinion and called upon to exercise that power in opposition to the Prince, to whom in future I must owe everything in my professional line. . . . Lady Duff joins me in every good wish to you and yours.'

(R.)

Whether Sir James Duff were right or wrong in his action, he at least appears to have felt very strongly on the subject, and to have adhered to his opinions, caring little what others thought, as is

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shown by another letter to Rose, dated February 28, 1789, in which he says :

‘ I have taken your hint respecting Lord Findlater, by writing a state of my Parliamentary conduct in as few words as I possibly could. Having done so I am indifferent whether he approves of it or not. Self-applause will satisfy me on that occasion. His Majesty is perfectly recovered. I sincerely wish it may continue, and it is certainly a fortunate thing for the country that his recovery has been prior to the Regency Bill passing, which would have brought in new men and new manners and have put the country to great expense. I have no kind of communication with Whitehall, nor shall I solicit any.’ (R.)

Previous to his marriage Sir James Duff seems to have lived chiefly with his father at the latter's residence at Fife House, Whitehall, but on his marrying Miss Dawes in 1785 he moved to Harley Street, and later on he went to live at Bexley, Kent, which he much liked, and where he was ‘ constantly employed in gardening and raising of poultry.’ In 1787-1788, he had a furnished house in Downing Street. He had also speculated in land in Jamaica, as his brother-in-law, Sholto Douglas, returned from that place in 1789 and informed Sir James that ‘ Mr. Fordyce is well and settled as a bookkeeper on our estate, where I hope he will prosper.’ The following quotation from *Scottish Notes and Queries* tends to throw light on the state of affairs at that period :

‘ Several young men went from the North of Scotland to Jamaica. William Johnston, son of the minister of Monquitter, went there in 1795. Francis Fordyce arrived there in 1789, after a passage from England of eight weeks. He writes from Grange Estate, Hanover, Jamaica—“ Sir James Duff's estate, Grange, is reckoned a very good one. Last year it made and shipped 120 hogsheads of sugar and 60 puncheons of rum. The only deficiency is want of strength, having only 205 negroes, which is thought too few for the size of the plantation. To manage and govern all these slaves there are only four white people on Grange, viz., the overseer, carpenter, myself, and another book-keeper. Few acquire fortunes here now, even those that are supported by them. A person in the planting line never expects to make money here sooner than twenty years. A beginning in this country is everything, and often before you can obtain that, toil, disappointment, and sickness close the career of life, and put a period to a wearied-out existence.”’

In October 1790, Sir James writes to William Rose that he is under orders for foreign service, and that the destination was supposed to be the West Indies. He makes full arrangements for the comfort of Lady Duff in his absence. But apparently he was either mistaken, or the orders were countermanded, as in November of the same year he is still at Bexley, and

he refers with regret to the expense incurred in 'the preparations for the intended campaign in South America.'

Sir James was, however, destined to see some foreign service, as we find him with the army fighting against the French in 1793. The following letter to his father gives interesting details of the action round Valenciennes :

'CAMP FAMARS, May 24th, 1793.

'MY DEAR LORD,—Tho' I am half dead with fatigue I cannot let this first opportunity escape without informing you of our having yesterday attacked the French Camp supposed about 40,000 strong fortified with redoubts and in the strongest ground I ever saw ; it was the finest sight ever seen. We marched from the Austrian camp about twelve o'clock at night, and at day-break in the morning saw our army in different columns with numerous artillery marching up the sides of the hills on which they had redoubts, in an open country, with the sun shining upon them. I suppose our army might amount to upwards of 60,000 men. We attacked severall of their Batteries in the course of the day and carried them ; night only put an end to the engagement, at 3 o'clock in the morning the whole army again under arms and ordered to attack the remaining Batteries that defended the French Camp ; happily for the preservation of Thousands we found their Batteries and Camp totally abandoned. I am now writing this in my Tent, already pitched in their Camp, while the guns are firing on the Town of Valenciennes. This is not all the good fortune of the day, General Clairfaict has defeated the French army, by driving them from their strong position on the other side of Valenciennes and is now likewise firing on the town. The same day (yesterday) the Dutch attacked the French at Orchic, defeated and took possession of the place ; I expect great good consequences from the result of these different defeats : convinced their army will never face an Austrian one in the field : your Lordship will easily conceive that numbers of men have fallen in these different attacks, I have not yet heard any calculation, no English officer has been kill'd. The Austrians must have suffered severely, as they bore the principal front ; several Hanoverian officers and men killed. The Guards, by great good fortune have escaped unhurt ; this is the third day we have had our Cloaths on, Lying constantly in the open air and without any thing to eat but amunition Bread. I shall write again when I have more time, and hear more particulars.—I am, etc.,

JAMES DUFF,¹

(R.)

'To Lord Fife.'

¹ 'The Allies have accumulated 80,000 men in front of Valenciennes, resolved to make a general attack on the entrenched camp which covered that important city. (The camp was called Famars.) The English troops under Abercromby formed part of the second column under Ferrari, crossed the Ronelle and carried some of the redoubts of the camp. The French resolved not to wait for the issue of an attack on the following day, but evacuated their position during the night, and fell back to the famous camp of Caesar, leaving Valenciennes to its fate. May 24-25, 1793' (Alison's *History of Europe*, vol. iv.).

Sir James Duff and his wife Basilia to Lord Fife

‘FIFE HOUSE, April 27th, 1802.

‘MY DEAR LORD,—We returned here yesterday from Lady Fermanagh’s and found the servants employed in taking away the last of the things to the ship. This morning at seven o’clock they sailed with a fair wind, and I have little doubt but they will reach Banff in a few days. Mr. Harden is on Board.

‘I find the Thellussons have been frequently here, since we went to the country, and have minutely inspected the premises. Harden can inform your Lord^{sh} how far matters have already gone, I shall endeavour to see him either this day or to-morrow and give you what further information I can procure. I see by this day’s paper that the Secretary at War proposes accepting the services of certain Volunteer Corps who have applied to continue their Services. I imagine from that the Services of the Banffshire Volunteers will be accepted of.

‘The Proclamation of Peace and the illumination is to take place on Thursday. On Friday we leave Town for Sussex where I propose remaining till towards the end of May; when I shall think of my Journey to the North, but of that your Lord^{sh} shall have more certain information after. Lady Duff is well and joins me in good wishes, being, My Dear Lord, Your affectionate, etc.,

‘JAS. DUFF.’

What follows is in a different handwriting :

‘Many thanks to your Lordship for your kind Inquiries after me. I am perfectly well and preparing for my journey to Sussex, where I intend to pass a quiet summer with my sister. I am sorry not to accompany Sir James to Scotland. Your Lordship will let him know when you wish him to be with you. We were very comfortable with our good friend Lady Fermanagh, and were fortunate in having good weather. I greatly enjoyed the country, as I always do, and always envy my neighbours of a comfortable house.—I am, Yr. L^dships most affect,

B. D.’ (D.)

Sir James Duff died at Funtington, December 5, 1839, and is buried in the churchyard there. A memorial window and a brass plate are to be found in the church.¹

¹ Memorial brass in Funtington church :

‘To the Glory of GOD and in memory of General Sir James Duff, Colonel of the 50th Regt., who died December 5, 1839, in his 85th year (born 1755).

‘Basilia, wife of General Sir James Duff, died May 28, 1849.

‘James Duff, only son of General Sir James Duff and Basilia Duff, born Jan. 6, 1804, died Feb. 10, 1837.

‘Louisa Duff, eldest daughter of General Sir James Duff and Basilia Duff, died Sept. 1, 1855, aged 53 years.

‘Alfred Alexander, son of James and Eliza Duff, born Sept. 13, 1833, died Nov. 29, 1857, buried at London, Canada West.

‘The window was erected by Major James Duff, late Major Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in 1874.’

Lady Duff died in 1849.

There is a portrait of Sir James, by Russell, in possession of H.R.H. the Princess Royal.

Extremely ample provision was made for Sir James by his father, which arrangements, after the Earl's death, led to much litigation. He held as has been seen, the small estate of Kinstair, in Aberdeenshire, for voting purposes, and at his father's death was allotted various rights over other portions of the Fife estates.

In the trust deed executed by Lord Fife in 1801 Sir James Duff is named 'General factor and cashier during all the days of his lifetime, and to be paid £1000 sterling by way of recompense or remuneration to him for his trouble in the execution of the said Trust,' and 'he is further to occupy, enjoy, and possess, during all the days of his lifetime, free of all rent or tack duty, the mansion-house of Innes, in the county of Moray and thirty acres of ground adjacent thereto, as also the house of Rothiemay in the county of Banff, with the ground adjoining thereto, with the pigeon-park and water-side. Likewise the Castle of Delgaty with thirty acres of ground adjoining thereto, and Mar Lodge with the grounds adjoining, together also with the use of the whole household furniture in the foresaid four houses of Innes, Rothiemay, Delgaty, and Mar Lodge.'¹

A letter from Earl James to his son, dated November 23, 1805, and included in the deed, adds :

'I have now to direct that, as I have given you, Sir James Duff, a lease of the house and mains of Rothiemay, that Innes house, formerly intended as a place of residence for you, shall be kept by a maid servant, the same as Delgaty Castle is directed to be kept, and the grounds about Innes to be annually set to the best account in grass.'²

¹ The mansion-house of Rothiemay was only granted to Sir James during the lifetime of his father, the second Earl, as on June 8, 1809, Alexander, the third Earl, granted a lease of this property to his eldest daughter Jane and her husband, Major Alexander Francis Tayler, for thirty-eight years, at a 'nominal' rent of £10 per annum for 'the mansion-house, office-houses, pigeon-house, orchards and gardens, with the grounds around the house which were in the late Earl of Fife's natural possession at the time of his death,' with a provision that they shall 'not be liable to pay any peijoration on the said mansion-house, or any way obliged to repair or support the same, except to keep the roof wind and water tight, and if they shall meliorate the same, or shall for the ornamenting or beautifying of the lands let or plant wood, the meliorations, etc., shall be paid for by the proprietor at the issue of the lease.' For the salmon fishing on the Deveron the annual rent of £2 was to be paid, while various farms and crofts were rented at £3 and £4 apiece. The lease of Rothiemay was held by Major Tayler until his death in 1854, and subsequently by his son William James Tayler, who died in 1886.

² Printed copies of these deeds were in the hands of many members of the family.

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During his father's lifetime he passed much of his time in the north of Scotland, but in the latter part of his life he lived entirely at Funtington, near Chichester, in a house which he had purchased, now the property of J. Anderton Greenwood.¹

Sir James married, August 12, 1785, Basilia Dawes,² daughter of James Dawes of Rockspring, Jamaica, and had by her one son and three daughters :

1. JAMES, born January 6, 1804, of whom presently.

2. LOUISA, born in 1802 ; died unmarried 1855.

3. SARAH, born February 2, 1806, died 1883 ; married, June 21, 1826, Major W. Hewett (afterwards Colonel), third son of General Sir George Hewett, Bt., G.C.B., of Betherseale. Lieutenant-Colonel Hewett was in the Rifle Brigade, and was born July 2, 1795. He was present at Waterloo, and was the last survivor of the officers there present, dying October 26, 1891. There were two sons, James Duff Hewett, born 1832, Captain in the Army, killed by the Maoris, February 9, 1863 ; Captain William Hewett, R.N., *o.s.p.* One daughter, died young, and three who survive—Louisa Ann, born 1829, and Ethelinda, unmarried, and Julia, married Captain William Carey, C.B.

4. ANNE, born in 1807, and died 1898 ; married, December 20, 1828, the Rev. P. Hewett of Binstead, Ryde, Isle of Wight, of which parish he was rector for forty-six years, the fifth son of Sir George Hewett. One daughter only, Edith, born 1829, now survives. An elder daughter, Mary, died in 1909, aged seventy-three, and the only son, Philip George, Lieutenant-Colonel, died in 1900, leaving three sons and two daughters.

As the younger brother and the sister of James Duff of Kinstair left no descendants, they will be dealt with first, and James's only son and *his* descendants will be found on page 527.

WILLIAM DUFF, the second natural son of James, Lord Fife, was born in 1756. Nothing is now known of his early life until 1770, when he was at Woolwich.³ He was always acknowledged by his father and undoubtedly received a good education. He was not, however, treated in quite the same manner as his brother James, and during the latter years of his life he does

¹ In the garden of Funtington House were discovered, in October 1913, the colours of the 50th Regiment, which tradition always asserted had been buried there by Sir James Duff, Colonel of that regiment.

² The entry of the marriage of James Duff and Basilia Dawes in the registers of St. Marylebone Parish Church is witnessed by Dr. and Mrs. Fotheringham, previously well known in Banff.

³ There is a letter from him of this date, written in a round childish hand, describing his course of studies: 'Rise at 6 and go for a walk. Breakfast 7.30. Study from 8 to 12. After dinner, military exercises. 3 to 6 study.' (D.)

not appear to have had any intercourse with Lord Fife. Perhaps this arose from a greater independence of spirit or from the fact that he was less of a diplomat than his elder brother; but it seems that the same lavish monetary provision was not made for him as for Sir James, nor was he given any landed estate. His portrait (by Russell), in the possession of the Princess Royal, shows him to have been a remarkably good-looking young man.

On December 14, 1770, he obtained a commission as Lieutenant in the 7th Royal Fusiliers, and in September 1771 he writes from Chatham Barracks to his father at Duff House :

'Since I wrote your Lordship last I have been detailed, with twenty men, for a week, to Upnor Castle, a place about four miles from here. This is a duty we take by turns. All this marching about of late has been very expensive to me, and within these two months (during which time I have never been settled in one place) it has cost me upwards of eighteen pounds. Our regiment, I believe, will remain as it is for the winter, but it is generally thought we shall march some other way before February next. My brother sets off for Scotland, with the first ship. I wanted to get to London, for a day or so, to see him before he went, but I really could not get leave. We are now so thin, that I have the Sash every other day almost. I understand your Lordship is killing the Deer just now, and I dare say you will have good diversion. I have just got another step in the Regt., so that there is now five under me.'

(R.)

About this time he writes to William Rose (1771) :

'I suppose you have heard of his lordship's generous allowance? Besides my pay, I have now about one hundred and twenty pounds per annum. Which is a pretty income and might make me a laird in Scotland.'

Quite early in his military career William Duff was sent on foreign service, as at the beginning of 1773 he was making preparations to embark for Canada to take part in the operations going on in that country. In January of that year he writes to congratulate Mrs. Rose of Montcoffer on her marriage, and tells her that he is to embark with his regiment on April 15 for Quebec. The journey thither seems to have been somewhat tedious, as appears from the following letter :

'BEAU PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF CANADA,
14th July 1773.

'With all my faults my dear Rose, you will not accuse me of forgetting my best friends; I have hitherto forgot them indeed in one respect, by conducting myself in such a manner as to give them uneasiness. However, I shall have done with this subject. After being almost eleven weeks on Board of a ship fit

only to transport common felons in, we all landed in Quebec the 28th of last month. We marched immediately into the Country by orders of the Commanding officer of Quebec. It is very pleasant to enjoy a little air, after being almost suffocated on board the transport; this is a pretty little village about seven miles from Quebec; a fine view from it of the town and the river St. Lawrence which is a very extraordinary river, runs through all Canada into America. This is a very fine Country. We shall remain in the Country a few days longer, till the Barracks of the Regiment we relieved are repaired. Quebec is by no means what we expected; the people may be agreeable; but it is one of the dirtiest Holes I ever was in; accounts of it have been much exaggerated; it is very pleasantly situated, tho' the inhabitants are much exposed to the Cold in the Winter, which is remarkably severe; so much so that there is no stirring out. At present, and always for four months in the year, Broiling hot—the extremes will not do for me. I begin to look out for a Grave here. You shall be remembered in my Will. I have been a little sick several times since I came, and am as brown as a West Indian. But I never had too fine a complexion. Pray how is my good friend Mrs. Rose? God bless you both, for I assure you there is no Couple I wish happier. Will this appear flattering? I hope not, from one whose heart is entirely your own. You shall have a little news if there be any here in my next letter, but I am not yet settled. I am obliged to practise my French here, the natives speak nothing else. This Country jaunt will prove a little expensive; provisions always dear in the summer, but cheap in the winter; at least for four or five months. Whisper now and then to his Lordship to forget and forgive what is past, and not let him despair of my amendment, but I know there is not much interest necessary to make him do it, his humanity always gets the better of his resentment. What must I feel at the thoughts of having given offence to such a friend. I assure you, my dear friend, there is no describing it. But for the future. However, I shall make no promises, not even to you who has always made allowances for me. I hope to see you in a few years. I intend to marry Miss Abernethie if you can settle matters betwixt us. I mean Miss Jennie.¹ My kind compliments to her and all that family, to all your friends and relations whether I know them or not. I hope your mother and mother-in-law keep their health and that they will live long to be a witness of the felicity of you and Mary: I shall never forgive you if you dont let me hear from you as often as you can, and never write without telling me of Mrs. Rose, to whom I beg to be kindly remembered. Brodie's Brother who is a Lt. in the Scots Fusiliers, the regiment we relieved here, asked after you. You will see him soon I suppose in the Country. He fought a duel lately in the regt. and was dangerously wounded, but is now recovered, about a very trifling affair and might have been settled without pulling a trigger. God bless you and grant you and Mrs. Rose much health and happiness, and believe me with the truest attachment, my dear Rose, Your very afft: and obliged, etc.,

'WILLIAM DUFF.' (R.)

¹ She actually married Alexander Duff of Mayen. See chapter xviii.

He saw a good deal of service in Canada, and was still there when the War of American Independence broke out.

To Sir James Duff of Kinstair

‘QUEBEC, 21st May 1775.

‘MY DEAR BROTHER,—I have received your letter and all the things you mention, Lord Fife is to send me—have only time to acquaint you that the rebels in this country have commenced hostilities. They have surprised a Captains detachment at a place called Crown Point about two hundred and fifty miles from this—and taken it. We have received sudden orders to march to it, which we do to-morrow morning. I suppose—to attempt its relief. God send us success. My love to my sister and compts to all friends. I did not think it proper to acquaint the female of this.—Your aff. bror.,

‘W. DUFF.’ (D.)

In a letter to Rose, dated from ‘St. John’s in the Province of Canada, June 13, 1775,’ he writes :

‘The American rebels having made incursions upon Canada, we received sudden orders about three weeks ago to march from Quebec up the country, to stop their progress. They have made themselves masters of two or three places by surprise—Tyconderoga and Crown Point—the taking of which, last war, cost us many a brave and gallant soldier, and now we are deprived of them by a sett of ragamuffins. They had ventured as far as this place, and took prisoners a Sergeant and twelve men that were upon detachment here, but afterwards abandoned it. We are upwards of two hundred miles from Quebec and a hundred and eighty from Tyconderoga or Crown Point, where the rebels now are. . . . We have exchanged a few shots with the rebels who came down under cover of the woods with an intention to attack us, but upon finding us ready to receive them they decamped. I was the other day ordered out upon a reconnoitring party, and upon my return was near done for. The rebels fired upon us from the woods and a ball passed ’twixt me and another man and bruised his firelock. I wish the same good luck may attend me during the campaign. We are immediately under General Carleton’s¹ command, who is at Montreal, about eight and twenty miles distant. What is to be our fate, I know not. Some are of opinion we shall, with a body of Canadians and savages, endeavour to drive the rebels (at present it is said not above three hundred in number) out of Canada, but of this hereafter. We are now in a most disagreeable situation. All of us packed into a house together, men and officers, and almost devoured by musquittoes—a very troublesome kind of insect; rather larger than what we call the midges in Scotland, and of a very poisonous nature. I hope there will, one day, be an end to all this, that consolation supports me. You may give my

¹ General Carleton drove the Americans out of Canada in March 1776.

Lord a gentle hint that a twenty pound extraordinary, upon service would not be amiss. At present, however, can put up without it.'¹ (R.)

He had been taken prisoner sometime during the war in Canada, according to a letter from his brother already quoted and another from his sister to William Rose in 1776 :

'I see by the papers that there is to be a thorough exchange of prisoners in America soon ; so that I hope poor William will again taste the blessings of liberty, which he must sensibly relish now that he has been so long deprived of them. I am surprised that we have never had any letter from him during his confinement, as I understand there has been two received from other officers in the same captivity with him. I am very glad, however, he was not one of those that purchased their liberty at the expense of their veracity.' (R.)

William Duff to Earl Fife

'STATEN ISLAND, 6th February 1777.

'MY DEAR LORD,—I may perhaps give your Lordship reason to think me rather a troublesome correspondent, this I believe is the fourth letter I have had the honor of writing you since my releasement from captivity ; I hope your Lordship will receive them all as the subject of them is very interesting to me.

'Your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed that I am now the first for the purchase of a Company in the Regiment, and my motive for obtaining a letter from the Commanding Officer to signify this. Should any of our Captains here think proper to leave us it will reduce me to a disagreeable dilemma as in this case I shall be at a loss how to manage the money matters. I have no doubt of your Lordship's intentions to purchase for me, and sincerely wish that no part of my conduct may give you reason to alter them, however, should any offer of a purchase turn out here some security must be given for the money, and it is a power to give this security that I request from your Lordship.

'There is not a Company that has sold for less than Seventeen hundred pounds. Should this sum be demanded from me I have in a former letter mentioned to your Lordship that I am willing to consider the additional two hundred

¹ Most of William Duff's letters to William Rose of Montcoffer conclude 'your affectionate friend,' which was an unusual conclusion in those formal days. The two were evidently very good friends, and it is almost touching to find the Major requesting Rose to put in a good word for him with Lord Fife. Mrs. Rose seems to have been equally friendly, as she frequently corresponded with William Duff when he was in Canada. In one of his letters to her he writes 'I sincerely congratulate you upon the springing up of the Rose plant'—a delicate reference to the birth of Mrs. Rose's first child—and that upon my return to Scotland I shall find a little family at Montcoffer, blessed with the perfections of the father and mother. Rose has promised me I shall have the pleasure of being a godfather.' As the eldest child of the Roses was christened William, we conclude that William Duff acted towards him in the capacity of sponsor.

as a loan and shall most faithfully repay it. By this I do not mean an affront to your Lord^{sh}'s generosity, but by way of an economical experiment.

'Matters here remain in much the same situation as when I wrote your Lordship last. The Troops in winter quarters are harrass^d by Rebel parties. The opening of the Campaign will relieve them, for then I doubt not the Rebels will fly as usual. They derive impudence from our scattered situation, and yet, except the surprise of the Hessians at Fenton some time ago, they have attempted nothing of consequence after that. The Seventeenth Regiment stopt the progress of their whole army, which even their own accounts allow. They sometimes fall in with our Foraging parties and almost always come off with the worst. For an exact detail of our operations I shall always refer your Lordship to the Commander-in-Chief's dispatches.

'The Congress has declared their General Washington Protector of the United States—a most pompous tittle; Who knows, my Lord, but he may turn out a second Monk, at present it is with him "Delenda est Carthago." This country is approaching fast to ruin, and nothing can save it but a speedy termination to the War.

'Troops have lately arrived from Rhode Island. General Prescott is left Governor of New Port in that Colony.

'Our Regiment's going to Canada in the Spring is not so certain as we had reason to think it some time ago, it seems General Howe now waits for directions from home in regard to us, so that your Lordship will soon know our fate. I hope your Lordship will take the earliest opportunity of writing me, and that you will believe me with the greatest attachment and regard.—My dear Lord, Your Lord^{sh}'s most obliged most affect^e and most obed^t Humble^{le} Serv^t,

'WILLIAM DUFF.' (D.)

We do not know when he returned from Canada, but on April 9, 1777, he was promoted Captain 26th Foot. In June 1783 he was at Musselburgh, and in December of the same year he writes to Lord Fife from Dublin:

'I have been here three days and in three more shall set out for Arklow, where I am to be quartered. Have but indifferent accounts of it. However, the society of a few friends and my books will prove a sufficient recompense. I thank your Lordship for your recommendation to Sir W. Montgomery. Messages have passed, but we have not yet met. I was greatly disappointed in not finding a letter from your Lordship and still hope it may be gone to Wexford or Arklow. . . . Government here have received letters from England mentioning an intention of sending out twelve Battalions to the East Indies in the event of Mr. Fox's success. Should it be so, we certainly will be one of the Regts. We can go nowhere and have a less chance of promotion than in this country, justice and seniority are scarce, in any instance. However, I should not much relish the E. Indies, not from any dread of the climate, but an apprehension that when there we shall have nothing to do, and consequently little prospect of getting

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forward, circumstances that would render our banishment intolerable. . . . At all events I must be reconciled to my fate, whatever it is. If I come home with a little money, have thoughts of settling in Macduff. I most sincerely wish your Lordship health and happiness.'

Three months later he writes from Musselburgh to William Rose :

' . . . We have received orders to be in readiness for Ireland, and shall certainly march in the course of a fortnight. . . . We are going to the most disagreeable of all countries. . . . I had resolved in case of going North, to have besieged the Heiress of Gight,¹ and with your assistance to have made her surrender to the arms of your sincere, etc.,

WILL. DUFF.'

In September 1785 William Duff was at Drogheda, and he writes to Mr. George Robinson in Edinburgh for financial assistance. He naïvely adds that he has not ' been a good economist, yet more from habit than principle. He also asks Mr. Robinson whether he has seen Sir James Duff and his lady, and adds, ' Give me a description of her.' Sir James had married in 1785. Unfortunately George Robinson's description of the lady is not extant.

About this date William Duff must have gone on leave and visited his relations in Scotland. Lady Fife, writing from Hatton Lodge, 1785, says :

' Major William Duff came to Rothiemay, Wednesday. He stayed two days and would have longer, but Fife ordered him to meet him in Banff. He is a well-behaved young man, and I am truly fond of him. It is a pity that his father does not do more for him. Well does he deserve to be his favourite, in preference to the nominal knight.'²

(O.)

William Duff was promoted Major 26th Foot, January 4, 1786, although Lady Fife describes him as ' Major ' in 1785, and in 1787 he married Miss Dorothy Skelly of Yarm, near Durham, niece of Lord Adam Gordon³ and the third Duke of Gordon. In May of the same year he writes to William Rose from Cork : ' We expect to sail to-morrow for Quebec. After various delays we reached this place a fortnight since. I am, as you often told me I should be, happier than ever in possession of a real, confidential friend. Everyone likes her. Were we richer it would be better.' He occasionally spoke ruefully of the difference made by Lord Fife between himself and his elder brother. ' There is nothing I should dislike so much as being at variance with him (*i.e.* his father), except being the cause of it.

¹ Catherine Gordon, who afterwards married Captain J. Byron.

² Sir James Duff of Kinstair.

³ In 1769 ' died Lady Betty Skelly, sister to the late Cosmo, Duke of Gordon, and aunt to the present Duke ' (*Aberdeen Journal*). Lord Adam Gordon was commander-in-chief of the forces in Scotland.

I wish all my friends to suspend their judgments till both sides are heard. He talks to everyone of the debts he has paid—the last was ten years since! I know he will extenuate nothing, nor, I trust, “set down ought in malice.” He even refuses me a hundred pounds. However, Canada is a cheap country, and when my wife’s matters are settled we shall do very well.’ (R.)

Major Duff embarked for Canada in 1787, taking his wife with him. He was still there in 1791, as is shown by a letter from his sister, Jean Duff, written in that year to William Rose :

‘I am glad to hear you have heard so lately from the Major. . . . It is some time since I had a letter. He was then at Niagara, where he was afraid he should be obliged to remain for two years. I shall rejoice to find he gets home sooner than he then expected, for by his account it was wretched quarters they were at. Poor Mrs. Duff must have gone through many difficulties in travelling in such a country as the Back Settlements of Canada are described. By every account I hear of her she must be a very amiable prudent woman. I feel a strong prepossession in her favour, and indeed I think the Major has been uncommonly fortunate in his choice.’

Whether or not Major Duff remained in Canada for two years from 1791, as is suggested in the above letter, we do not know, but the next we hear of him is that he has settled down at Durham, and he must have left the Army in 1793, as his name does not appear in the list for 1794.

As stated above, Major William Duff married Dorothy Skelly in 1787, and by her had one daughter :

SOPHIA HENRIETTA, born after 1790; married Rowland Mainwaring of Ball, and had issue.

Major William Duff died at Durham in 1795, and is buried in the mausoleum at Duff House, where there is a monument to his memory. By his will, dated October 15, 1794, and proved January 18, 1800, besides providing for his widow, he left £500 to his sister Jane at Scarborough.

Dorothy Duff (William's widow) to Earl Fife

‘RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE, Dec^r 23rd, 1801.

‘MY LORD,—I have to thank you for a letter which y^u were so good as inclose me fr^e Lady Duff before you left Duff House, and after being so long without hearing fr^e your Lordship, was glad to have so good an account of you which was confirmed to me by y^e Miss Whartons who wrote me after y^e Ball you gave them and that they seemed to have much enjoyed. I have to thank you, my Lord, likewise for your visit to Sophia at Doncaster, where, she tells me, you were so kind as to call upon her notwithstanding a very bad day on which you walked

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up to y^e School, and by which she was much flattered. I had y^e pleasure of receiving her a few days ago in perfect health when I returned home after being near three months with my friends at Rednoss Hall. Sophie is wonderfully grown, and is now nearly as tall as I am. When she was with me in Summer I had her at Scarborough two months for y^e sea bathing, which gave us an opportunity also of being w^t Miss Duff who we had not seen for a very long time. She is by this time gone to L^y Norecliffe. I hope y^e much wished for Peace will be y^e means of bringing Sir James and L^y Duff soon to England. Your Lordship may perhaps have heard that my Brother is married. It took place here a week ago, before I came home, and he has entirely left y^e army—in which he has relinquished very flattering prospects.

‘Your Lordship would be sorry for y^e death of poor L^d Adam Gordon—in whom I lose an affectionate relation and friend. I was deeply hurt at y^e event—Sophia and I were to have spent this coming Christmas w^t him at y^e Burn. It was so settled when he was so kind as visit me here in y^e summer, but our plans formed so long have proved vain. Sophia sends her duty to your Lordship.—W^h my respectful good wishes I remain, My Lord, your much obliged, etc., etc.,

‘D. DUFF.

(R.)

‘The Earl of Fife, Fife House, London.’

Mrs. Duff subsequently married Captain Tobin, R.N., in 1804.

The following document, found among the Rose papers, shows how William Duff obtained his vote. Copy undated.

‘I, James, Earl of Fife, Viscount Macduff, Lord Braco, etc. In consideration of [a certain sum of money—now illegible] instantly advanced to me by Lieutenant William Duff of the English Fuziliers, do by these presents grant, alienate and dispose to and in favour of the said Wm. Duff in liferent, during all the days of his lifetime, All and whole the lands of Hatton of Longbride lying in the Barrony of Coxtoun, parish of Longbride, and sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres, all and hail the lands of Murraystouns with the parts and pertinents lying in the Parish of Spynie and sheriffdom aforesaid.’

JEAN DUFF was the natural daughter of James, second Lord Fife, and sister of James and William. No record has been preserved of the date of her birth, but she is known to have been older than her brothers, Sir James Duff of Kinstair and Major William Duff (as she was apparently at least seventeen in 1770). Nor do we know anything of her childhood, or where she lived. A few letters have been preserved, but they give very meagre information.

Mary Gilvy, Bath, to Earl Fife

‘BATH, the 9 Aprile 1770.

‘MY LORD,—I hope this shall find your Lordship and Lady Fife in good health; some weeks ago I wrote your Lordship that Miss Duff neither liked a

Boarding nor was a School a proper place for one of Miss Duff's age nor sise ; Miss being quite a woman and I dare say will turn out to give your Lordship great satisfaction, she being a prudent sensible young woman, she now likes her situation, and I hope your Lordship will approve of it ; as Miss Duff will always be sure of having good company and likewise will have an opportunity of learning Housewifry, Pickling and preserving, marketing and such things of that nature that your Lordship wanted Miss to get knowledge of. Doctor Gusthart has been with Miss and does not doubt but the Bath water and pumping her side will restore her to perfect health and strength, her disorder has been long settled, of course must take the longer time to perfect a cure, but the Doctor is positive she will be perfectly well, I must trouble your Lordship to send me four Franks, two to Lady Betty Anstruther, Couper in Fife, and two to Mrs. Chichester of Arlington, near Barnstaple ; I am sorry to give your Lordship this trouble, but as you was so good as offer to supply me I make bold to ask them and hopes you will excuse me freedom and believe me to be with regard and respect, My Lord, Your Lordships Most obliged obedient humble Servt., MARY OGHIVY.' (D.)

In 1774 Jean was living at Berwick, and from there she wrote very often to William Rose of Montcoffer, but, unlike those of her brothers, her letters are somewhat prosy, and are chiefly concerned with her health and the health of her friends. She varies this subject with anxious inquiries about the date of arrival of her next draft, as it appears that William Rose was in the habit of paying to her her allowance from Lord Fife. On one occasion she writes to Rose :

'I often deny myself the pleasure of writing to you when my inclination leads me, because having nothing of consequence to communicate, I naturally think my letters must be trifling to one who has got so much business to attend to. At the same time the hearing from one's friends is a satisfaction that we should not neglect.'

It is possible that Jean Duff, when a child, spent part of her time with the Roses, as she is constantly sending her love to Mrs. Rose (Rose's mother) and to Rose's wife, and she often refers to the many happy days in the past.

In 1778 she writes from Scarborough, and most of her subsequent letters are dated from that place. She complains very much of 'the bustle during the season there,' and wishes to be out of it, but cannot give up her lodgings which she had taken for a year, for fear of her landlady. The arrival of the Pressgang rouses her to make some trite remarks on its duties, and she goes on to state that war with France is inevitable, 'though it is to be wished it may not commence until we are in a better state to attack them than at present.' In the same letter she gives an unusually interesting piece of information : 'We have had an American Privateer at Whitehaven (which is not far from Scarbro') that had formed a most diabolical plot

for the destruction of the town and shipping, but was most happily frustrated by a timely discovery.' She then allows herself some sententious reflections: 'Old England seems to be reduced to a sad state now, not only at war with herself,¹ but on the eve of being engaged in a foreign one.' After which she begs Rose to 'excuse this jumble of nonsense.'

Anon she complains that her 'finances are but in a poor state,' and goes on to say that she has given Lord Fife some indication of it, 'but I am much afraid his Lordship does not pay much attention to hints of that kind.' In the same letter she refers to the death of Lady Helen Duff, and expressing her sympathy for the Admiral, adds, 'they lived so happy together, so different from the modern couples that disgrace that state.'

As far as we know, Jean Duff continued to live on at Scarborough, but the place and date of her death are not known.

Jean Duff to William Rose

'SCARBOROUGH, 17th Oct. 1779.

' . . . You would see by the Papers the Danger we were in of a visit from Paul Jones when he was off Scarbro'. Many of my Acquaintance was much alarmed with the apprehensions of his landing. For my own part I was perfectly composed, not having any thing of value to lose. The engagement was dreadful. I stood upon the Cliffe untill between Eleven and Twelve o'clock. We saw the Firing very plain, but was at too great a distance to hear the reports. Had our Fleet been so fortunate as come the day following the engagement, Jones would have fallen an easy prey, as he lay off, mending his sails and setting himself and his ships to right, all that day. Several Gentlemen, with the help of a glass, saw him and his company at work, which was very provoking—not to be able to send any ship to catch him, but he knew our weakness and upon that rested his security' (Rose papers, *Elgin Courant*).²

¹ The War of American Independence.

² John Paul Jones, a commander in the American naval service, was born in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1747. His father, whose name was John Paul, was gardener to Mr. Craik of Arbigland and to the Earl of Selkirk, and his mother, Jean Macduff, lady's maid to Mrs. Craik. He entered the merchant service, was engaged in the American and West Indian trade, and is said to have realised a handsome fortune. On the outbreak of war between the colonies and the mother country he offered his services to the former, and in 1778, being then in command of the *Ranger*, he made a descent on Whitehaven, set fire to the shipping, and plundered the Earl of Selkirk's mansion. Next year, in command of the *Bon Homme Richard* (42 guns), and a small squadron, he threatened Leith, and captured the British sloop *Serapis* off Flam- borough Head. On his return to America he was neglected by Congress, and in 1788 entered the Russian service with the rank of Rear-Admiral (on the recommendation of Louis XIV., to whom the Czar had applied), but, owing to the jealousy of the Russian commanders, soon retired from this service. He returned to Paris, where he died in poverty, July 18, 1792. The name 'Jones' was assumed in America.

We have no actual proof of Jean Duff having been married, but in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and the *Scots Magazine* for 1775 there is an entry: 'Married at Berwick, April 5th, 1775, Henry Lascelles Ord and Miss Duff, nearly related to Lord Fife,' which may possibly refer to her, though, if so, it is curious that she should still have retained her maiden name and concealed her marriage, even from William Rose. That the Miss Duff above mentioned is described as 'nearly related to Lord Fife,' justifies the theory, more especially as there has been, so far as is known, no other Miss Duff married to an Ord. Persistent efforts have been made to find the marriage register or any proof of this marriage, but without success.¹ The couple, whoever they were, were probably eloping, as within a few miles of Berwick-on-Tweed was the small place known as Lamberton Toll, answering to Gretna Green, on the west side of the Border, but the records preserved there do not go back as far as 1775. The identity of the pair must therefore still remain in doubt, though the following extract from a letter among the Duff House papers shows that the theory above advanced gained some credence at the time.

Alexander Stuart of Edinglassie to William Rose

‘EDINGLASSIE, 8 May 1775.

‘ . . . I observed in the newspapers that a Miss Duff nearly related to Lord Fife was married at Berick to a Hendric Lassols Ord, Esqr. The description of the Lady makes me apprehend she is Miss Duff, Lord Fife's Daughter. In that case I hope it is a good marriage. The gentleman has got a valuable good wife. I wish she may have got as agreeable and valuable a husband, and that the Earl has approved of the match. It will be obliging if you will write me what you know of the matter.’
(D.)

But unfortunately, in this case, no note of the answer appears on the back of the letter.

The only son of Sir James Duff and Basilia Dawes was born on January 24, 1804. He was educated at Winchester College, and was subsequently at Brazenose College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1822, and left 1824. Three years afterwards he married, December 22, 1827, in Paris, Eliza Charlotte, daughter of Sir George Beeston Prescott of Theobalds, Herts, and resided chiefly at Innes House, which belonged for life to his father, and would seem to have been made over to him. For several years of his married life he kept a brief journal of his daily doings. He seems to have had very indifferent health, and finally fell

¹ In the *History of Durham*, by J. Raine, Henry Lascelles Ord, second son of Francis Ord of Longridge, baptised November 11, 1751, a Lieutenant in the Artillery, is stated to have 'died unmarried,' so in any case the marriage was a secret one.

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into consumption, of which he died at Leamington on February 10, 1837. He left four children, two daughters and two sons:

1. ELIZA GEORGIANA (MINNIE), born February 2, 1829, at Gordon Castle. She married, January 17, 1850, as his second wife, John Tollemache, M.P., created first Baron Tollemache of Helmingham, and had nine sons and one daughter: (1) John Delap, October 1850; (2) Hamilton James, 1852; (3) Murray, 1853; (4) Stanhope Alfred, 1855; (5) Duff, 1859; (6) Douglas Alfred, 1862; (7) Stratford Haliday Robert Louis, 1864; (8) Ranulph, 1866; (9) Mortimer Granville, 1872; and one daughter, Rhona Cecilia Emily, 1857, married to Thomas Wood of Gwernfed.

Lord Tollemache died in 1890. Lady Tollemache now lives at Bourne-mouth.

2. His second daughter, LOUISA, was born at Funtington in 1830, and married, in January 1852, Francis Capper Brooke of Ufford Place, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and had five children: (1) Reginald, born 1854, Lieutenant 1st Life Guards; (2) Edward, 1856, formerly in the Grenadier Guards, now of Ufford Place; (3) Algernon, 1861, died 1863; (4) Constance, 1852, married Edward Lethbridge; and (5) Florence, 1853, married R. E. Boreel, great-grandson of Sir W. B. Boreel of Amsterdam.

3. His eldest son, JAMES, was born at Innes, and is thus noted in his father's diary. July 21, 1831, 'At half-past one, Master Jem arrived.' On October 12, 'Master Jem registered.' On December 22, 'Jem was christened, and was taken ill in the night, with cold and fever, caught at his christening.' His history will follow later.

4. The youngest child, ALFRED ALEXANDER, was born at Innes, September 13, 1833, and christened in Elgin, October 15. He entered the Navy, and became 'a midshipman, acting as mate' in 1854. In 1857 he died and was buried in Canada. Administration of his estate of £30,000 being granted to 'his brother James, of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, now serving in the East Indies.' He is then described as 'Midshipman, late of the *Tartar*.'

James Duff himself seems to have been a great sportsman. His journals for the years 1830, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1836, are filled with notes of his stalking and shooting, beagling and going out with harriers;¹ and game-books of that period are also preserved. He was in very comfortable circumstances, and was able to indulge his hobbies of gardening, carpentry and turning, horse and dog breeding, etc. He seems to have seen a great deal of his second cousins, Lady Jane Tayler and Lady Anne Wharton Duff and their families, who with the two Hewetts, husbands of

¹ The two latter forms of sport are now unknown in Morayshire.

his sisters, and the Gordon Castle party, are frequently mentioned in his daily records.

In October 1831 he describes a journey to London :

' Sat., Oct. 15. Left Innes in the *britska*¹ for England with children, Eliza, and Maids. (The children at that period were aged two years, one year and three months.) Dined at Aberdeen with Lady Jane, and went on board the steam boat at 8. Terrible ground swell just off the Pier, which soon drove me to my miserable bed.

' Sun., 16. Fine day, with a good breeze. Laid in bed all day, pitched about pretty much all day. Some frightened thercat.

' Mon., 17. Fine day, began to get a little better. Got out of bed and cat some Scotch broth.

' Tues., 18. Landed about 3. Could not get our carriage out, as the tide was too far back, came down to Hendon in two Hackney coaches.'

A letter from Mrs. James Duff to the nurse left at Innes in charge of the four children describes another voyage south, three years later :

' LONDON, May 24th, 1834.

' We have been wrecked and had a most dreadful passage. We left Dundee on Wednesday at 5 o'clock in the *Perth*, and at five o'clock in the morning of Thursday, the Machinery went to pieces, from the carelessness of the Engineer. Luckily our minute guns were heard by the *Soho*, a Leith steamer, which came and took us all on board. No births (*sic*), very filthy, a heavy swell and all very ill, we arrived last night half dead. I got your letter this morning with one directed to Funtington, to tell me about my darlings. I am indeed glad to hear they are so well. We shall come back by land. I am well pleased that I have left you, as it keeps my mind easy, and the poor girl [*evidently another maid*] does her best for me. Good-bye, my good Lizzy. E. C. DUFF.'

James and his wife seem to have come to England every year to visit his father and mother at Funtington, and in the south also he tried to enjoy what sport there was, but found it poor. There is one entry, 'horribly disgusted with Sussex hunting.' He was a most fond father, being specially devoted to his eldest daughter, Minnie, whose portrait he had painted by Landseer. On May 19, 1833, he notes, 'Took Minnie [*aged four*] to church for the first time.' August 1835, 'Took Minnie to school.' As his health became worse he seems to have tried the climate of Brighton and Worthing, in both of which he was, as he describes himself, 'much bored.' His wife also was frequently ill.

In May 1831, according to the *Aberdeen Magazine* of that date, James

¹ A form of carriage.

Duff 'declared himself a candidate for the Elgin Burghs, *versus* Major Leith Hay,' but, as the matter is not mentioned again, or in any other contemporary periodical, it seems probable that he very shortly abandoned the idea. His health would certainly never have stood the strain, as his lungs were always weak, and he suffered habitually from sleeplessness. In February 1835 he notes 'This being my time of year for being poorly, was so accordingly.' (He was only to see one more February.) At the same period he notes 'Jemmy ill with croupy cough.'

A little later he describes how two doctors from Elgin 'shook their wise heads over me, somewhat alarmed, and gave lots of advice.' He then went to London for a consultation, but refused to believe that his lungs were diseased, and complains of mistreatment. Travel in those days, even in one's own carriage, was anything but comfortable, and James Duff notes many instances of crowded inns, bad food, damp beds, black beetles, etc. In one case he notes 'much bullied by bugs,' and in another place, 'bien content d'être chez moi.' He passed the winter and part of the summer of 1835 at Ryde, where he complained much of the heat, and in September returned to Innes. In November he quotes another doctor, M'Quin, who 'gives me promise of suffering.' In December he notes, 'Alfy [*aged two*] tumbled under the fire. God was gracious and little harm done.' In July 1836 he put himself under the care of the famous Dr. Jephson at Leamington, but it was apparently too late; after this time he led an entirely invalid life, and all his valuable dogs were sold in that year at Tattersall's, fetching £400. In November he took a furnished house, 35 Lansdown Place, into which he 'was carried in a sedan chair,' and from that time onwards scarcely left his bed. On January 8, 1837, he records that his 'mother left, taking with her the two little girls'; the last entry is on January 26, when he says he 'passed a tranquil day.' On February 4, his family was hurriedly summoned to his dying bed, and his eldest sister Louisa has left a touching record of the last six days of his life. He died on February 10.

A year later his widow married again, Frederick Thellusson, afterwards fourth Baron Rendlesham, and became the mother of the fifth Lord Rendlesham; she died in 1840.

JAMES DUFF, eldest son of the above James Duff, and great-grandson of the second Lord Fife, entered Rugby in 1845. On May 15, 1851, he was gazetted Second Lieutenant 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Lieutenant April 1854, Captain December 1854, Major 1858. The *Annual Register* of 1878 contains the following account of his career:

'Dec. 23rd, 1878, Col. James Duff, M.P. for North Norfolk, died at a late hour at his town residence, 36 Upper Brook Street. Colonel Duff was born at

Innes House, Elgin, in 1831, and married in 1859 Mary Laura, daughter of Mr. Edward Dawkins. He entered the Army in 1851. Serving in the Crimean War, he fought at Inkerman and was there taken prisoner. (He was in command of a picquet in the White Horse ravine, where he was captured.) At the close of the war he received the Crimean medal with two clasps, and also some Turkish decoration.¹ In April 1876, on the death of the Hon. F. Walpole, Colonel Duff came forward as a candidate for North Norfolk in the Conservative interest, and defeated Sir F. J. Buxton by a narrow majority. He became popular among all parties in the constituency through his courteous and gentlemanly bearing to all with whom he came in contact. He spoke well on military topics and took an active part in carrying the Norfolk and Suffolk Fisheries Act (1877) through Parliament.²

He left five children: (1) BERNARD JAMES, born 1867; (2) GRANVILLE JOHN BERNEY, born 1869; (3) MILDRED BLANCHE, born 1860; (4) LILIAN AMY, born 1862, died 1909; (5) CATHERINE BASILIA, born 1877.

Mrs. Duff and her eldest son assumed, in 1882, the surname of Petre, from her uncle, John Berney Petre of Westwick, Norfolk, whose property she inherited—the change being made under a clause in the will of her grandfather, Jack Petre; the other children retain the name of Duff.

BERNARD JAMES PETRE was educated at Eton, and was formerly in the 18th Hussars. He retired as Major, and now lives at Westwick. He married his cousin, granddaughter of his grandmother by her second marriage, the Hon. Ruby Thellusson, and has one daughter, JULIANA EGIDIA, born 1910, and a son, JOHN FREDERICK BERNEY, born 1913.

Colonel Bernard Petre went to India with the 18th Hussars. He served on the Staff Corps, and was present in the Burma Campaign of 1889-1890, in the Tirah Campaign, and in the South African War. He is now Colonel of the 5th Battalion (Territorial) Norfolk Regiment. Tirah medal, two clasps; South African medal, three clasps; King's medal; Coronation medal.

GRANVILLE DUFF was also at Eton. He served as Lieutenant with the 12th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry in the South African War, 1899-1902; King's medal with two clasps. He was Captain in 4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment (Militia), and is Hon. Captain in the Army (Reserve of Officers).

¹ Order of the Medjidie.

CHAPTER XXXV

MINISTERS OF THE DUFF FAMILY

MANY members of the Duff family have been ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, and those whose history has not been given under one of the family headings already dealt with are here grouped together.¹

It has been found impossible to make the list strictly chronological, but cross references are given wherever practicable. Besides the various members of the family of Duff of Muldavit who were ecclesiastics, records have been found of several others in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, particularly in Inverness.

1. 'Dominus JAMES DUFF, Vicar of Durris, 1552.'

2. One ALEXANDER DUFF was reader at Dykeside 1567-1585.

3. THOMAS DUFF was reader at Edinkillie 1596.

4. JAMES DUFF, parson of Kinoir in 1580, will be found under the Torricsoul family. Chapter xxii.

5. ALEXANDER DUFF, minister of Golspie, ratified promise of marriage to Jean Douglas, daughter to 'umquill' John Douglas, burgess of Elgin. Later, his horse was seized for £50 (presumably Scots) for failing to marry Jean, 1626.

6. John Chalmer, translated from Inveravon to Gartly, in 1649 married Jean Duff, daughter of Adam Duff of Drummuir, and their eldest son William was also minister of Gartly in 1666, and of Rathven 1699.

They had, besides, the following children: John, Adam, Alexander, Janet, Elizabeth, Jane, Beatrice, and Isabel.

7. One HUGH DUFF was minister of Fearn, Ross-shire, from 1698 to 1739. Nothing is known about him, but he presumably belonged to the same

¹ For many of the details given we are indebted to Mr. Ree's *Presbytery of Strathbogie*; also to information kindly supplied by the present incumbents of the various parishes.

family as Christian Duff, first wife of Provost William Duff, as that family held property in Nigg and other parts of Ross-shire; it is also conjectured that they were originally of the same family as the Muldavits, and had settled further north.

8. Hugh Duff's son WILLIAM was in his day a famous personage. He was a professor in Marischal College, Aberdeen, about 1730, having been admitted Regent in 1727, but in the year 1738 he quarrelled with the authorities and was 'extruded forth from the University,' and in the following year he published in London *The case of William Duff, showing the barbarous treatment of an honest family*, and in 1749 the first volume of a History of Scotland.¹

Baird in his *Memoirs of the Duffs*, after giving his name wrongly as 'Robert,' and stating that he came from Orkney, says, 'In his history of Scotland there are some good things, particularly a description of the manner of building and fortifying the old Castles in this Kingdom, but he was of an ill temper and fell out with his fellow professors and left the College.'

He had married, in 1727, Sarah Hamilton, and had six children.

The three following letters, which were discovered by the present writers amongst the Sloane MSS. in the British Museum, show how poor William Duff fared during the early part of his residence in London. Nothing further is known about him, nor of the fate of his five remaining children. (One died in London.)

'To the Honourable Sir Hans Sloane,
att his house in Bloomsbury Square.

'Sept. 1st.²

'HONOURABLE SIR,—I return you my sincere and hearty thanks for your favour and goodness in lending my family a crown, some time ago. I should still be glad to serve Sir Hans Sloane for it and doe all in my power to be gratefull. I have taken the liberty to send the bearer to know if you have anything to doe in the way of writing att present. I should endeavour to doe it to your satisfaction, for I have a great family of six children to support and nothing to

¹ 'A new full, critical, biographical and geographical History of Scotland, containing the History of the Succession of their Kings, from Robert Bruce to the present time, with an impartial account of their constitution, Genius, manners and customs, with a geographical description of the Several counties, their commodities, rarities, Antiquities and commerce, Together with an appendix of a short, but just history of their most remarkable writers and learned men, and a map of each county in Scotland. Pro Rege et Patria. By an impartial hand. London. Printed for the author and sold by the book sellers of London and Westminster, 1749.' A second edition of the first volume was issued in 1750. No other volumes ever appeared.

² No year given, but from internal evidence 1739-1740.

doe it with ; and my trust is in Gentlemen of Learning and Polite Knowledge to doe somewhat for me. My circumstances are so straitened that without some business my family must starve. Therefore I was under necessity to undertake something in the way of my own business and to advertise some Lectures in Natural and Experimental Philosophy. But I am afraid, without the Countenance and help of some friends, I shan't be able to goe on, the Expense of Instruments being beyond what I can afford. The Lectures began last week, and are continued upon Wednesdays in the City and Fridays in High Holborn. Some worthy good Englishmen have been pleased to contribute their help and assistance toward supporting me to carry on the Design : I take the Liberty to address myself to you who are so eminent a promoter of everything that is good and ingenious, who are known to delight in being usefull and in doing beneficent and generous actions for the encouragement of learning. If you be pleased to doe me the honour and favour to be a Contributor and Subscriber I will be always exceedingly bound to you and be ready on all occasions to show my gratitude.

'The subscription for the whole Lectures is a guinea, which I acknowledge by receipt, and the enclosed ticket gives admittance to any Gentleman Subscriber or to his friend whom he sends. Please to pardon this application which arises from the most intire confidence in your honour and goodness toward one who inclines to doe for his family but cant find business : I have no motive to encourage you to this but your goodwill and my necessity. The bearer will carry your answer to me carefully and honestly. I wish you and all your Concerns the greatest prosperity and happiness, and I have the honour to be, Honourable Sir, Your most humble, obedient, and devoted Servant,

WILLIAM DUFF.'

'Sept. 7th.

'HONOURABLE SIR,—I have sent according to your Desire for your answer to mine and I hope and look for the honour of having Sir Hans Sloane's favour to promote my design. The Lectures did begin only last week so that yet only two are over, and tho' they may not be so worthy of your regard and notice yet any of your choice or friends is entitled to the whole course of the Lectures by the ticket ; and as it is the only present mean I can have for the support of so numerous a family I take the liberty to depend on your generous favour for which I shall endeavour to be suitable thankful and gratefull, and I have the honour to be, Honourable Sir, Your most humble, obedient, and devoted servant,

'WILLIAM DUFF.'

'HONOURABLE SIR,—By the goodness of a spitefull Landlord ; I and my five children are turned out of Doors and Left to Perish in the fields : I know you a man of honour, I have all my friends from town and I am exceeding sorry to send or trouble a man whom I justly regard and honour so much as I doe Sir Hans Sloane, but I not having a farthing to lodge or accomodate five and myself ; I hope and believe there is so much honour and humanity in London as wont allow us to be exposed ; I ask you, Dear Sir, pardon for telling my condition, and if you, who are in all respects a Gentleman and a man of honour,

be pleased to show any regard to such barbarous and uncommon treatment : we shall ever be much bound to you and most gratefull. I had rather dye or be shot than apply if it were not for my children. The bearer is my Son and will be very carefull. Wishing Sir Hans Sloane may (in Providence) have a hundred pounds for every shilling given us, I have the honour to be till Death, Honourable Sir, Your most affectionate,
 WILLIAM DUFF.'

Sir Hans Sloane, born 1660, died 1753, was made a baronet 1716. Among his papers are innumerable appeals for help, pecuniary and professional, and it is clear that he was rarely asked in vain. He settled in Bloomsbury Square in 1689, and retired to Chelsea 1741.

These letters, therefore, must have been written shortly after Professor William Duff's arrival in London, before he had exchanged the business of lecturer for that of historian. From the tone of the last letter it seems probable that he received substantial help from Sir Hans Sloane.

9. ROBERT DUFF, son of Robert Duff of Hillockhead (who died 1754), was presented to the living of Kildrummy by William Duff of Braco in 1718, and must therefore have been born about 1690.

He was translated to Aberlour in 1719, and died there 1738.

He married Isabel Innes of Culquoich, and had five children : PATRICK, WILLIAM, JOHN, MARY, and MARGARET.

The will of Isabel Innes, who died October 15, 1780, is preserved at Somerset House. She left all her furniture to her son William, with the exception of a 'chest of mahogany drawers' to her eldest son Patrick, and a 'bed to Bell Lumsden.'

10. PATRICK, the eldest son, born 1728, was minister of Glenbucket for one year 1754. In 1755 he was transferred to Old Machar, which charge he held until his death in 1784, but continued to have a tack of land in Glenbucket, and numbers of his letters on the subject of crops, valuations, etc., to Lord Fife's factor are among the Rose papers. The following, from the Duff House papers, is the only one of any interest.

Mr. Patrick Duff to Lord Fife, 'informing of the death of the minister of Echt':

'MY LORD,—Some time ago I gave your Lordship the trouble of a letter in favours of my brother for the Kirk of Echt, which it was probable at that time would be soon vacant. I have heard that Mr. Willoks has been dead some days ago, and therefore I hope your Lordship will not be offended wth me for again suggesting it to you whether it would not be proper to make Glenbucket the first settlement for all your Ministers, and to promote them afterwards according to their merit and whether Mr. Thomson's services would not be very well rewarded wth this settlement to begin with. I will not presume to add one word more on

the subject excepting that when your Lop comes to any fixed Resolution w^t respect both to this affair and the business of my last letter I should be glad to know it. I beg leave to offer my most respectfull compliments to the Countess and all your good family. I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and most humble servant,

PAT. DUFF.

'O. ABERDEEN, March 21, 1761.'

His mother also wrote to Lady Fife on behalf of William :

'3rd Feb. 1761, GLENBUCKET.

'MY LADY,—Permit me to take this opportunity of returning my most respectful and heartyest thanks for the encouragement you have been pleased to give to an application I made some months ago to your Ladyship in behalf of my son and this Madam is a fresh instance of that good will and kindness which your Ladyship has often condescended to express to me in the most obliging manner and by real services. When I did myself the honour to write to your Ladyship in favour of my son I had no particular view to any settlement as I knew of none vacant in My Lord Fife's gift at that time. I only intended with the outmost deference and respect to solicit your Ladyships interest on his account when it might be most properly and successfully employed.

'An opportunity of this kind seems to offer at present as there is an appearance of a vacancy being like to happen in the Church of Echt by the Death of Mr. Willocks the present Minster who is thought to be in a way that he cannot live long. May I presume in the event of his death to request that your Ladyship would recommend my son to Lord Fife as his successor. It was not without a good deal of pain that I prevailed with myself to solicit your Ladyship's interest for the office of a man still in life, but I considered that if I delayed others perhaps would not be so delicate as to do the same, and would be before hand in their application. This circumstance determined me to do a thing to which I should otherwise have been extremely averse ; and this I hope will excuse me to your Ladyship upon account of this early address.

'I beg leave to present my most humble compliments and best wishes to your Ladyship, Lord Fife, and all your noble family in which my son desires most respectfully to join, and to declare that high esteem and gratitude with which I have the honour to be, My Lady, Your Ladyship's much obliged, most obedient, and most faithfull servant,

ISABELL INNES.' (D.)

Patrick Duff married, in 1764, Harriet Lumsden, who died in 1777, and in the same year he married again, Elizabeth Forbes, who survived him, dying in 1828. Both his wives are buried in the churchyard of Old Machar Cathedral, Old Aberdeen.

11. WILLIAM DUFF, the second son, was a well-known writer. He was born in 1735, and in 1755 succeeded his brother Patrick as minister of Glenbucket ; in 1767 he was transferred to Peterculter, and in 1775 to Foveran, where he died in 1815.

Baird's Memoirs thus allude to him : ' One of the sons of the minister at Aberlour is author of an elegant and learned performance in the Belles Lettres, dedicated to Lord Littleton, and is now about publishing another work, to be dedicated to Lord Fife.' His works were (amongst others) : *Essay on Original Genius and its various modes of exertion in Philosophy, etc.*, 1767 ; *Critical Observations on the Writings of the most celebrated Geniuses in Poetry*, 1770 ; *Letters on the Intellectual and Moral Character of Women*, 1807 ; *The Last Address of a Clergyman, in the Decline of Life*, 1814.

He was also a contributor to Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*.

There is a stone at Foveran to his memory, and to that of two of his daughters, Helen and Isabella.

He married, in 1768, Anne Mitchel (who died in 1797), and had two sons and five daughters :

ALEXANDER, 1771-1809, went to Amhertsburgh, Upper Canada, where sons and grandsons of his were living in 1871. One of the latter, named Alexander Callam, wrote to Major Lachlan Duff in 1869, claiming kinship.

ROBERT, born 1790, went to Batavia, where he died in 1815, shortly before his father.¹

HELEN, 1773-1848, and ISABELLA, 1775-1847, died unmarried.

JEAN, married John Booth, merchant in Aberdeen, in 1805.

MARY, born 1785; married, on October 15, 1803, at the manse of Foveran, Alexander Forbes of Jamaica, but ' died of consumption in Aberdeen, at the early age of twenty-three, February 1808.'²

MARGARET, the youngest daughter, married James Perry, surgeon of Bilbo Park, Logie Buchan, and had several children.

12. WILLIAM DUFF, natural son of William Duff of Braco, who died in 1718, was born about 1700. He was appointed minister of King Edward in 1733, and remained there thirty-two years; he was then transferred to Rothiemay, where his ministry lasted for thirty-one years. He became the intimate friend of his relatives at Rothiemay House, and his death is mentioned with regret in several family letters. He died August 23, 1786, ' in very advanced age,' at Glenbucket, at the house of his third son.

He married, in 1734, Anna Turing, sister of the minister of Oyne, and had four sons—PATRICK, ROBERT, WILLIAM, and JOHN, three of whom were ministers; and three daughters—HELEN, JEAN, and ANNE ELIZABETH, the latter born in 1747.

The son Patrick died in Jamaica in 1779, leaving money to his father,

¹ *Scots Magazine*.

² *Ibid.*

his brothers Robert and William, and his sisters Helen and Anne (*Jamaica Wills*).

Nothing further is known of any of the daughters.

13. ROBERT DUFF, second son of the preceding, was born in 1739, and succeeded his father in 1765 as minister of King Edward, where he remained for fifty years, thus making eighty-two years of Duff ministry in that parish. He married, in 1785, his cousin Janet Turing, daughter of the minister of Oyne, and had three sons and four daughters:

JAMES, born 1786; an East Indian cadet 1803, Lieutenant 1804, lost at sea in the wreck of the *Duchess of Gordon*, March 14, 1809.

ANNE, 1787-1867; married Charles William Gibbon, minister of Lonmay, and had three sons—Thomas, Robert, and William Duff Gibbon, estate agent in Ceylon, and two daughters—Amelia Anne and Robina.

GRACE, the second daughter, born 1789, died in Banff 1867.

ROBERT, born 1791; drowned at sea, the ship being burnt.

WILLIAM, born 1793, was a doctor, and was killed in the famous retreat from Kabul, 1842.

HELEN, 1794-1796, 'drowned in the burn.'

JANET, 1796-1854, lived with her sister Grace in Banff.

The following story is taken from J. A. Henderson's *Aberdeenshire Epitaphs*:

'The Rev. Robert Duff, who was a courtly mannered gentleman, followed the practice of asking, after performing the marriage ceremony, the leave of the bridegroom to kiss the bride. Upon one occasion, on putting the question in his usual dignified manner, he got the nonchalant answer, "Help yourself."'

There are several letters to and from the Rev. Robert Duff among the manuscripts in the British Museum, and others among the Rose correspondence and in the Duff House papers, but they are not of general interest, with the exception of the following:

Lord Fife to Mr. Robert Duff, Minister at King Edward (1768)

'SIR,—On account of the spiritual good of the people of my town of Doun¹ and neighbourhood, now turned very numerous, and as they are at a distance from the parish church and from the Reverend Gentleman who has the common concern of them, I intend to settle the bearer, Mr. Peterkin, among them, who is recommended as a very fit person to take the charge of the people, to instruct them in their duty, see their children educated in the necessary branches of education fit for their situation, and to bring them up in good principles and

¹ Now Macduff.

religion. I will, therefore, be obliged to you to lay this before the presbytery of Turriff, presenting my compliments to the members of it, hoping they will give their approbation to this settlement with the proper sanction in the matter.—I am, Sir, your most humble servt.,
FIFE.' (R).

14. WILLIAM DUFF, third son of the minister of King Edward and Rothiemay, was born about 1741. He was English Master at the Banff Academy, and succeeded his namesake and remote cousin in the living of Glenbucket in 1767, being the third minister of the name of Duff in succession to hold this living. He was translated to the parish of Keig in 1772, but died there almost directly after his arrival.

15. JOHN DUFF, his younger brother, fourth son of the minister of King Edward and Rothiemay, was born 1745; educated at King's College, Aberdeen, 1761-1765; licensed by the Presbytery of Turriff in 1775; ordained in 1776; and appointed to the parish of Grange, where he died 1779.

16. There was one ROBERT DUFF who applied for the living of Rhynie in 1716, and solicited the interest of the lairds of Torricsoul and Birkenburn, but nothing further is known about him. He may have been the same man who afterwards held the living of Aberlour.

17. ALEXANDER DUFF was minister of Tibbermuir, Perthshire, from 1762 to his death in 1785. It is not known to what family he belonged, but presumably to the Perthshire branch. He was born in 1733; took his degree at St. Andrews in 1752; licensed 1758; and married, in 1764, Henrietta Thomson, who died 1814. He had one son JAMES, a merchant in Perth. Alexander Duff wrote a history of the Gowrie Mystery, entitled *Traditional Account of the town of Perth, concerning the death of John, Earl of Gowrie, and his brother Alexander Ruthven, in the year 1600*, published 1785.

18. ALEXANDER DUFF, minister of Monymusk, was probably of the family of George Duff of Edindiaeh. He was born in 1741, and studied at King's College, Aberdeen, from 1759 to 1762. He was subsequently schoolmaster at Achairn, Keith, and Newmill, and was ordained in 1796, and became assistant to the minister of Monymusk in 1781, being presented to this living, which he held until his death on February 2, 1814. He was the last minister to be buried within the church.

He married Elizabeth Mortimer, who died in 1791, and had two daughters, died unmarried, JANE in 1785, and the last surviving in 1857 (at which period a legacy left by Alexander Duff to the parish became

available). There was one son, LEWIS ALEXANDER, born 1768, schoolmaster of Monymusk, who died in 1840, leaving a widow, Mary Garden, who died three months later, but had no issue.

19. WILLIAM DUFF, son of John Duff and Margaret Latimer, was born and baptised at Dryfesdale (now Lockerbie) in January 1790,¹ and was presented by Lord Fife to the living of Grange in December 1821, being then English Master in the Academy of Banff, having been licensed by the Presbytery of Lochmaben in 1817. His great-grandmother was one of the thirty-six children of Patrick Duff of Craigston, who had married one Benjamin Duff, an Irishman. He was a personal friend of the fourth Lord Fife, who was very kind to all his children. He married, on October 18, 1821, Mary Steinson of Elgin, who died 1875; he died in 1844.

There were nine children :

1. WILLIAM LATIMER, 1822; afterwards General U.S.A.
2. CAROLINE MARIA MANNERS, 1824; called after the wife of the fourth Lord Fife.
3. JAMES, born and died 1826.
4. JOHN, 1827; M.A. of Aberdeen; died 1848.
5. ANDREW HALLIDAY, 1829; so named after his father's friend and fellow-student, Sir Andrew Halliday, sometime Domestic Physician to the Duke of Clarence, afterwards King William IV.
6. MARY KEITH, 1832-1848.
7. JAMES SMITH, 1834, still living in Chicago.
8. JANE SIMPSON, 1837; married James Martin of Macduff.
9. MARGARET, 1840. Died young.

WILLIAM LATIMER began life in the Union Bank in Banff, but, after his father's death went to America, where he married, in 1850, Anne Esther Francis, and had two sons—WILLIAM LATIMER (1853) and CHARLES FRANCIS (1855), who died in infancy; and three daughters—(1) MARY STEINSON, 1856-1910, married to Hugh Stewart, Solicitor, Elgin, and had four sons and five daughters, Edith, William, Evelyn, Charles, Catherine, George, Oolma, David, and Meta; (2) EDITH JANE, 1857-1862; and (3) SARAH BAKER (SARENA), 1859, now living in Folkestone, to whom we are indebted for the following account of her father's career :

‘He volunteered in the early part of the Civil War, and having some military knowledge, was appointed Chief of Artillery on General Grant's staff, which

¹ He was the third child of his parents, the baptisms of nine others being thus recorded, but nothing is known of them :

1786, Benjamin; 1788, Grissell; 1790, William; 1791, Andrew; 1793, John; 1796, James; 1798, Matthew; 1800, Thomas; 1801, Margaret; 1804, Andrew.

position he occupied until the end of the war. He was present at the surrender of Vicksburg in 1863, and at many other engagements. A coat of his, riddled with bullet holes, is still preserved, and he twice had his horse shot under him; on one occasion the rebels coming up to finish him, he feigned death, and they went away, leaving the supposed corpse. At the end of the war he was offered a colonelcy in the Regular Army and the command of a Regiment in Mexico, or the Consulship at Glasgow, and chose the latter (with the rank of General), on his mother's account. When Grant was succeeded in the Presidency by Hayes in 1876, a new Consul was appointed, and General Duff came to London. He was correspondent for the *New York Herald* throughout the Franco-Prussian war, was one of the first to enter Paris after the siege, and was present at the triumphal entry into Berlin and at the dinner given by the Emperor. He had a curious experience in France: his valise with all his credentials was stolen, and notice given to the police. He subsequently found it in a railway carriage, and upon leaving the train was arrested for having in his possession stolen property, and could not be released until Lord Dunraven (then Lord Adare) came to identify him.

'He went to reside in Elgin (of which he became a bailie) in 1881, and died there June 29, 1894.'

The General wrote thus in the Family Bible regarding his father:

'The Rev. W. Duff died at Manse of Grange on 23rd September 1844, having been incumbent of the Parish for 23 years. He was a good husband and father, whose whole life was the practice and precepts inculcated in this Holy Book. I, his son, bear this testimony to his character, and record it here that it may, with God's help, induce his descendants to follow his example.

'W. LATIMER DUFF.'

CAROLINE MARIA MANNERS married, in 1842, Henry M. Elderton. She was a great favourite with the fourth Lord Fife, who attended the wedding and presented the bride with a Duff tartan shawl.

Mrs. Elderton, who died in 1875, had two sons, Charles Keith and Ernest Christopher, and one daughter, Edith, still living, besides six others, William, Henry, Mary, a second Henry, Benjamin Felix, and Septimus, all dead.

ANDREW HALLIDAY, the third son, was educated at Aberdeen University, and afterwards went to London, where he adopted a literary career, and dramatised many of the works of Charles Dickens. He also wrote for the *Morning Chronicle*, *Leader*, *Cornhill Magazine*, and *All the Year Round*, using as *nom de plume* his Christian names only.

He founded the Savage Club, and at its fifty-fifth annual dinner, 1912, Sir John Hare, in responding to the toast of the 'Visitors,' said that no doubt many of them remembered, with strong and affectionate regret,

their founder, Andrew Halliday, and quoted the bon-mot of Harry Leigh on being introduced to Halliday's brother, and learning what was his real name, to the effect that 'Positive was Duff, comparative was duffer, and superlative Halliday!'

Halliday was married, but had no children; he died in 1877.

JAMES, the fourth son, went to America in 1852, and still lives in Chicago. He married, in 1860, Pamela Amanda Killick, and has four children:

1. ELLA MAY, married John Brown, Chicago.
2. WILLIAM LATIMER.
3. EDITH ANN, married George Cardinal, Colorado.
4. MARY, married Arthur Maderis, Denver.

20. One JOHN DUFF of the Perthshire Duffs, was minister of Kinfauns in 1797, D.D. 1811, and died 1816. He married, 1804, Miss Helen Barron, who died at Richmond in 1844, and had two daughters, HENRIETTA, who became Mrs. Baillie, and MARGARET, who became Mrs. Jobson.

John Duff had an uncle, PETER DUFF, a merchant in Perth, died 1806.

21. DAVID DUFF, minister of Moulin in Perthshire, took his degree at St. Andrews in 1802, and was successively at Fordoun, Kenmore, and St. Andrews. Married, in 1810, Grace M'Laggan, and had issue.

22. ROBERT DUFF, schoolmaster of Rhyndie in 1835, was afterwards minister of All Saints, Berbice, Demerara; he was of the family of Duffs of New Noth (*q.v.*).

23. There was one JAMES DUFF, minister of Methil, Fife, in 1855.

24. ALEXANDER DUFF, minister of Kirriemuir, 1887, son of Duncan Duff, teacher, Perth.

25. ALEXANDER DUFF, the well-known Indian missionary, born April 26, 1806, and died at Sidmouth 1878, was of the family of the Perthshire Duffs of Fandowie.

His father was James Duff, gardener and farmer at Auchnahagh, and his mother, Jean Rattray, of the same place. He was educated at St. Andrews, and became the first missionary sent by the Missionary Committee of the General Assembly to India.

He was ordained in August 1829, and started immediately, but was

shipwrecked twice on his voyage to Calcutta. He opened a school in Calcutta, and was the pioneer of English and general, as well as of religious, education. He also, from the beginning, trained up native preachers. In 1834 he returned to Scotland to recruit his health, as well as to arouse interest and raise funds, and when he went back to India in 1840 he found his college housed in a magnificent building, and attended by six hundred students.

The disruption of the Scottish Church occurred in 1843, and as all the foreign missionaries adhered to the new Free Church, they found themselves obliged to resign all their buildings, books, etc., and start afresh; but a new institution was built, and the education given there proved so excellent that in 1844 Lord Hardinge declared Government appointments to be open to its students on the same terms as to the students of Government colleges. In 1849 Alexander Duff was again at home, and in 1851 he presided over the General Assembly of the Free Church. In 1854 he went on a preaching tour in America.

In 1856 he returned to India, and two years later published in book form a series of letters which he had contributed to *The Witness* newspaper on *The Indian Mutiny, its Causes and Results*. For seven years he superintended the work of his school in Calcutta, and the foundation of the University there. On his final departure for his native land in 1863, the memorial in his honour took the form of the erection of a marble hall, and the founding of four Duff scholarships. A gift of £11,000 made to him was invested for the benefit of invalid missionaries. On his way home he visited South Africa, and later on he went to inspect the missions in Syria. He was the first occupant of the missionary chair in the New College, Edinburgh, and in 1873 again presided over the Free Church Assembly. He died in 1878.

He was the author of a large number of religious works.

CHAPTER XXXVI

PERTSHIRE DUFFS

THE Duffs of Findowie or Fandowie claim to represent the original stock of the old Earls of Fife. They have the authority of Sibbald's *History of Fife and Kinross*, in which occurs the following passage: 'There were several Cadets of the Macduffs, Earls of Fife, viz. the Predecessors of the Earls of Weems and the Predecessor of Mackintosh, who in his mother tongue calls himself Maktosich Wickdhuie, that is, the son of the Thane who was the son of Duff, the Predecessor of Toskay of Minevaira and the predecessors of the Baron of Fanduy, Craigtoun and others of the name of Duff, who still retain the Surname Duff.' This is from the edition of 1710.

William Baird, in his history of the Duffs, has the following passage: 'One Mr. Duff, a clergyman near Perth, a very ingenious, sensible man, told me, August 28th, 1768, that the estate of Findowie was possessed by a family of his name for nearly three hundred years.'

There is a charter by King James I. in the year 1431, of the lands of 'Wester Fandowy in the barony of Strathurde and shire of Perth, which lands formerly belonged to Gilbert, son of William, and were resigned by him into the King's hands, in favour of Finlay, the son of John Duf and Christina, his spouse, 1431' (*Historical Manuscripts Commission Records*).

Another account says the lands of Ballinloan and Findowie¹ (the two estates seem to have gone together) were bestowed on a Duff by James IV. (1488-1513) in return for hospitality.

The traditions of this family are fairly complete for the last three centuries. One John Duff or Macduff, otherwise Ferguson of Fandowie in Athole, was hanged at Perth, August 13, 1600, for his share in the Gowrie conspiracy. This John Duff had previously fought for Queen Mary at Langside. In the Privy Council Register, Edinburgh, Duncan Duff, brother of David Macduff of Fandowy, is also mentioned in 1602. These must have been sons of John Macduff who was hanged, and from David

¹ In the list of 'fines for resetting the Clan Gregor,' *Privy Council Records*, 1624, the following names occur of 'persones not content in the Gentlemen of Atholl's band.'

John Gromich McDuff.

David McDuff, alias Barrown.

James Duff, younger of Fandowie.

Allester McDuff, his brother.

Allester McDuff in Tullebeltane.

is descended the present Alexander Macduff of Bonhard, the seventh generation from John.

JOHN MACDUFF, hanged 1600.
 |
 David, died 1647.
 |
 Alexander, died 1708.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1698-1705.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1762-1806.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1792-1816, m. Margaret Ross.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1816-1866, m. Mary Brown of Jordanhill.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1849, m. Edith Shield.
 |
 Alexander of Bonhard, 1884, Cameron Highlanders.

The following letter was presumably written by the second Alexander in the above table :

Alexander Macduff, Perth, to Earl Fife

'MY LORD,—Mr. McDuff son to Archibald McDuff of Ballinloan,¹ bearer hereof, has got a first Lieutenants Commission in Captain Robert Campbell's Company of Highlanders to be furthwith raised now lying at Stirling. This young man's father and his predecessors have been Lairds of the said possession which lyes in Strathbrann in this County, near to Dunkeld for some hundreds of years. That as Perthshire has been within these few years much exhausted of men for the Army and Navy by the numbers of Commissions which have been granted to Noblemen and Gentlemen's sons I am afraid that the bearer who is your Lop.'s namesake and my friend may have great difficulty in raising his Quota of the Company, I have used the freedom to apply your Lordship in his favours that you may give him your countenance and assistance, for I should be sorry if any one of the name should not be able to raise his proportion of men with the rest of the officers in the Company.—I always am, with the greatest respect and esteem, My Lord, Your Lordships most humble and most obedient servant,

ALEXR. McDUFF. (D.)

'PERTH, 4th October 1760.'

The Macduffs of Stanley, of Strathord, Tomnagrew, etc., are of the same stock as the original Findowie family; the latter is now all dispersed from its native country.

A walking-stick bearing the following inscription was long preserved in one branch of the family : ' Johnne Duff, Baronne of Fandowie, 1600.'

¹ At this date he was apparently not of ' Findowie,' but the Ballinloan property seems to have passed into the hands of another branch of Duffs, who were not Jacobites. Ballinloan was sold in the last century by a Captain Duff, who afterwards went to live in Dumfriesshire.

The Duffs of Ballinloan and Findowie always considered themselves the chiefs of the clan. They were all Jacobites, and disowned William Duff of Braco, who was a Hanoverian. They claimed the right, granted to Malcolm, Thane of Fife, and last exercised by Isabel, Countess of Buchan, of assisting at the coronation of the King of Scotland.

'The powerful tribe of Duffs' is said by authorities on clan lore to be 'represented to-day by all of the name of Fife or Fyffe, Duff or Macduff, Wemyss, Mackintosh, or Farquharson, all of whom carry the Lion of Scotland' (*Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, F. Adams).

Thus far tradition, but the history of the more recent representatives of the family is sufficiently romantic. The first of the family of Findowie in modern days of whom we have record is ALEXANDER, Laird of Findowie about 1715. His son, JAMES, also Laird of Findowie, was a captain in Prince Charles Edward Stuart's army in 1745, all the family, as already stated, having been Jacobites, as were most of their neighbours in Perthshire.

Alexander Duff of Findowie and Patrick Duff of Craigstoun (*q.v.* chapter xvi.) had some correspondence relative to the funds for the Jacobite cause, but these letters are now lost, and the only record of the transaction, as regards Patrick, is in Oliphant's *Jacobite Lairds of Gask*, where the repayment of a sum of money advanced by him is noted. The date of Alexander's death is not known, nor that of his son, Captain James, who may possibly be identified with the 'James Duff in Dalmarnock, present at Culloden, and afterwards taken prisoner' (Atholl papers).

'There is no record of how James of Findowie escaped after Culloden, but his estates were forfeited. It is said that he was with the Prince Charles in his wanderings until Flora Macdonald took him under her care, and a pipe and shoe buckles belonging to him were long preserved in the family. After the Prince was safely on board the vessel which carried him to France, Duff lurked in the Western Highlands for a time and then returned to Perthshire, where he lived in retirement. His sons, with the exception of the eldest, were born at Drumachar, in Logicalmond.

'Although an ardent Jacobite, James Duff was all his life a Presbyterian, and extended his protection to some co-religionists and relatives named Drummond, who refused to go out with the Highlanders when the Duke of Perth sent round the fiery cross. But for the intervention of "the Gentle Lochiel," this action would have led to a duel between James Duff and the Roman Catholic head of the Drummond family.'¹

James Duff of Findowie had a younger brother DANIEL, who, with Walter

¹ Communicated by John Duff.

Menzies, was among the Jacobites who surrendered at Carlisle, December 1745. James Duff and Ian Menzies had, between them, raised over a thousand men for the Prince's service, and these two younger brothers were their lieutenants.

James Duff's wife was Janet Menzies of Shean. After the disaster of Culloden, when even the loyal parts of Perthshire were overrun by Hanoverian troops, she was in hiding in a cave in Strathbraan, and it was there that her eldest son WILLIAM was born; the birth was, of course, not officially registered, and no trace of the date could afterwards be found.¹

William Duff got into political and financial troubles, through assisting certain of his friends who had illicit whisky stills, and forcibly resisted the excisemen. He was sentenced to a heavy fine, and as he could not pay the amount, a warrant for his arrest was issued, and he went to a friend named Reid at Rosslyn, where, in order to conceal himself, he engaged himself to Mr. Reid as watchman at his mills. He used to say that in any case he was 'not so far down as the old Duke of Perth, who was forced to take work in an English coal mine after Culloden.'

There were two younger brothers of William, THOMAS and DANIEL, of whom there are now many descendants in Canada and South Africa.

THOMAS, the elder of the two, who went to Canada, had some family relics which he had borrowed from his elder brother William to wear at a county meeting and never returned. These included a leather shield with silver studs used by the ancestor of the family at the battle of the Clans on the North Inch of Perth 1396; an old broadsword, with a broken blade, engraved on the handle with the name of Duff of Findowie, and a bonnet crest with the motto 'Touch not the cat but the glove,' worn by John Duff of Findowie when he went up to Edinburgh at the time of the expected declaration of war by James VI. on Queen Elizabeth, on account of the latter's treachery to Queen Mary.

The descendants of the two sons of this Thomas, JOHN and JAMES (who married a daughter of his uncle William by the first wife) now live at Esqueezing, near Georgetown, Ontario.

The grandson of Daniel, the third brother, THOMAS DUFF, settled in Durban, and had three sons, HARRY, JOHN, and THOMAS.

WILLIAM DUFF, who died in 1809, and is buried in the little burying-ground near Rosslyn Castle, was twice married. The name of his first wife is now not known; by her he had several daughters. His second wife was Janet Menzies, by whom he had four sons:

¹ It was this accident which rendered William's son unable to obtain restitution of the family estates when urged to do so (about the year 1834) by the rest of the family.

1. DANIEL or DONALD¹ DUFF, of Logicalmond, of whom presently.
2. THOMAS, inventor of the screw propeller for steamships, a merchant in Perth (bankrupt 1840), died unmarried.
3. JOHN, who went to America and left no issue.
4. WILLIAM, whose only son died 1869.

The family of Daniel, therefore, is now the sole direct representative in this country of the Duffs of Findowie.

Daniel had at one time engineering, flax-spinning, and jute works in Dundee; the works were the largest of their kind in the world, but were unfortunately destroyed by fire, and the family nearly ruined. He married Margaret Low,² and had a large family.

In 1829, two of Daniel Duff's brothers, two first cousins, and several others, emigrated to Canada; Daniel was then residing in Dundee, and as about thirty of the emigrants sailed from thence, he found accommodation for them before starting. A number of them had been illicit distillers and whisky smugglers, and the excisemen had a warrant for the arrest of one Thomas Duff, which warrant was served on Thomas, brother of Daniel, as he sat at tea in his brother's house. He was about to resist, when Daniel whispered to him, 'Go quietly, let them take you'; so he submitted to the handcuffs and was taken to prison in Perth. The real Tom Duff thus escaped to Canada, and the innocent man brought an action against the Excise Department, and got damages for false imprisonment.

Low, the old Jacobite quoted below, remarked of his son-in-law's family: 'The Duffs may belong to a broken clan, but they are dangerous devils to meddle with.'

The family of Daniel Duff of Logicalmond, Dundee, and Margaret Low was as follows:

1. ROBERT LOW DUFF, 1824-1893; in business in Liverpool; unmarried.
2. PATRICK, 1825, died an infant.
3. THOMAS, 1829-1896, of whom presently.
4. JANET MENZIES, 1832; died unmarried in London 1852; a poetess.
5. MARGARET, 1833; died young.

¹ These two names are the same in Scotland, as are Peter and Patrick, Janet and Jessie.

² Margaret Low, who also belonged to a Perthshire Jacobite family, remembered, when a young girl, about the year 1822, hearing her father and Lady Nairne discussing the question as to whether Jacobites should pray for the ruling monarch or not. Lady Nairne affirmed that they should, on the principle that 'the powers that be are ordained of God.' 'Then, Caroline,' replied the other, 'you should pray for the devil also, for he is one of the powers that be, and, moreover, he is a great crony of George Guelph's, and they both go about like lions, seeking whom they may devour.' For this story, as well as for most of the history of this family, we are indebted to Margaret Low's sixth son, John Duff.

6. MARY MENZIES, 1834; died suddenly in Liverpool 1903.
7. ANNE, died young 1837.
8. DANIEL (DONALD), 1839; went to America in 1863; unmarried.
9. WILLIAM, 1841-1863. He was most of his life in India, and during the Mutiny he volunteered for service with the 78th Highlanders. He was washed overboard from the ship *Edith Burn*, January 18, 1863, on his way back to India.

10. JOHN, 1844; formerly in business as mechanical engineer, inspector of machinery and shipbuilding, now resident in Dublin. He is a member of the Glassite or Sandemanian Church, and is our authority for the history of this branch of the Duff family.

THOMAS DUFF, the third in the above family, was a successful man of business, who owned at various times the estates of Garth (Perthshire), Aberlour (Banffshire), Harefield (Hants), and a villa in Cannes. In 1865 he matriculated his arms, being at that time resident at Barnagore House, Richmond, Surrey.

He took a part of the arms of Keithmore as follows: 'Thomas Duff of Richmond, Surrey, 1865, Parted per fesse vert and or, a fesse dancetty ermine, between a stag's head cabossed in chief of the second, and two laurel leaves in base of the first.' See the chapter on Heraldry.

He married a Miss Byles of London, sister of Sir Bernard Byles, and had two sons and nine daughters.

The eldest son, THOMAS HERBERT KNOWLES, 1857-1901, married Miss Johnstone of New Zealand, and left one son, KENNETH, now lives in Wales.

The second son, WALTER WILLIAM, is the owner of the Sunnaggur Jute Works in Dundee; he married the daughter of the Rev. S. Clark, Aberdeen, and has one son, W. K. DUFF. He resides at St. Andrews.

The daughters are:

MARY MARTHA, 1856; died young, 1869.

MARGARET JANET, 1859-1869.

MARTHA ELLEN, married to the Rev. Gerald O'Neill of Eaton Bishop, Hereford.

KATHERINE EMMA, married to H. P. Cuthbert, M.D., Croydon.

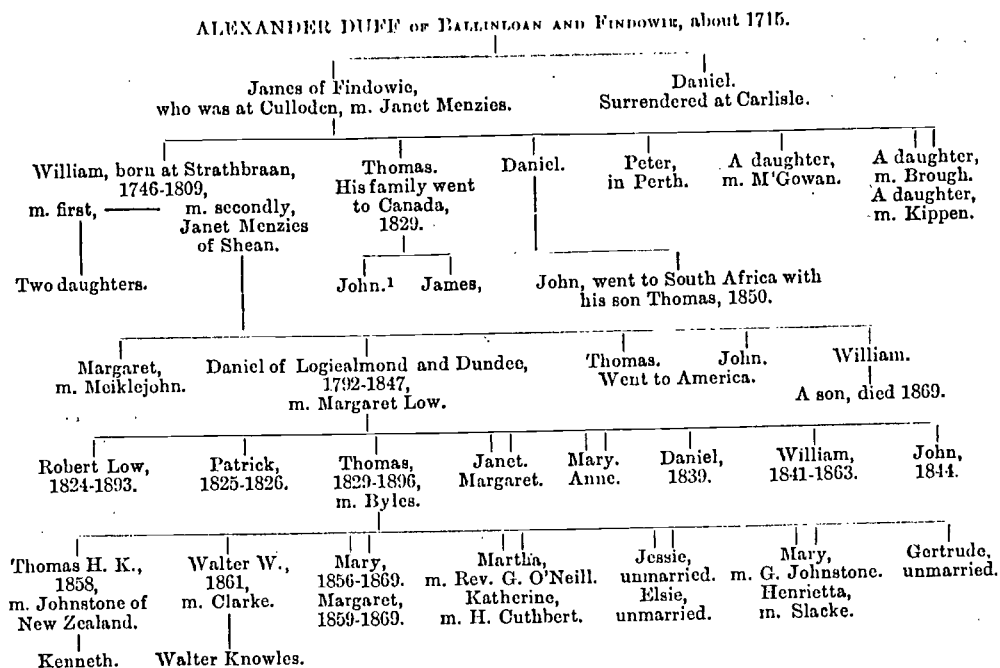
MARY MARGARET, married G. Johnstone of Alva, lives at St. Andrews.

HENRIETTA, married the Rev. Owen Slacke of Brawardine, Hereford, nephew of Sir Owen Slacke, Commissioner of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

JESSIE, ELSIE, and GERTRUDE, all unmarried, live at St. Andrews.

Alexander Duff, the well-known missionary (*q.v.* chapter on Ministers), was a relation of this family, and Daniel Duff of Dundee assisted his father, who was in poor circumstances, in sending him to college at St. Andrews.

PERTSHIRE DUFFS



APPENDIX

There are various other families of Duff from Perthshire, which were doubtless originally of the same stock as the Findowie family, but the links are now lost.

There was one ARCHIBALD DUFF, born 1769 (whose family came originally from Perthshire), a musician and dancing master in Aberdeen, in the early nineteenth century; he appears frequently in the records of that town.

From the *Aberdeen Chronicle*, July 26, 1817:

'Mr. Duff respectfully begs to inform his friends and the public of Aberdeen that his dancing school will open on Monday the 4th August, when every exertion will be used, on his part, to gain a continuance of the Patronage of his employers. Mr. Duff would be wanting in gratitude did he not embrace this opportunity of offering his sincere thanks to those friends who have already patronised his son as a teacher of the pianoforte, violin, etc., etc., and sincerely hopes that he may be able to gain a share of the public favour.

'N.B.—Mr. Duff begs leave to add that his hall is now painted, etc., and he

¹ A grandson of this John, another John Duff, now in the Red River district of Canada, has the family relics.

hopes that it will be sufficiently dry and comfortable by the time the school opens.'

His son, ALEXANDER, born 1799, assisted him in the musical part of his work, and afterwards went to Montreal, where he became the foremost musician of the city, and was organist of the Episcopal Cathedral. He died in 1838.

An elder brother of Archibald was Charles, born 1765, well known as a musician and collector of Scottish music.

Archibald, who was a Mus. Bac. of Aberdeen University, and resided in Milne Court, Gallowgate, Aberdeen, was twice married. His first family was :

1. JANE GRACE, 1792, afterwards Mrs. Lowe.
2. ALEXANDER, 1799, a musician and assistant to his father.
3. JAMES, 1802, also a musician, *o.s.p.* 1860, in Banff, Canada.
4. CATHERINE, 1804, afterwards Mrs. Walton.
5. MARY, 1806, died 1816.

He married, secondly, Margaret Heriot, and had :

6. ARCHIBALD, D.D., born 1810.
7. SIBELLA HUNTLY.
8. CHARLES.

Mrs. Archibald Duff, the second wife, had a school in Aberdeen from 1832 to her death in 1848. Her husband, Archibald Duff, Mus. Bac., died on August 14, 1840.

Archibald Duff, D.D., was Congregational minister at Fraserburgh; he married Catherine Hamilton, and had seven children :

1. MARGARET ELIZABETH, 1842.
2. JOHN MORELL MACKENZIE, 1844.
3. ARCHIBALD, 1845; Professor.
4. CHARLES, 1847.
5. CATHERINE HAMILTON, 1850.
6. EDWARD, 1852.
7. JOSEPH, 1854.

John Morell Mackenzie Duff, eldest son of the above, has had seven children:

- (1) LUCY, 1872.
- (2) WILLIAM ARCHIBALD, 1874; Manager Westinghouse Engineering Co., Winnipeg.
- (3) MORELL M'DUNNOUGH, 1876; Manager Canadian Pacific Steamships, Montreal.
- (4) ALEXANDER HUNTLY, 1878; Solicitor, Montreal.
- (5) FREDERICK PERCY, 1880; lately Private Secretary to the Manager of Canadian Pacific Railway.
- (6) GWENDOLEN MARY, 1890.
- (7) DOROTHY, 1893.

Archibald Duff, second son of the minister of Fraserburgh, Professor of Semitics and Theology at Bradford United College, was born at Fraserburgh, Scotland, 1845; married Elizabeth Craigmile, and has four children :

1. ARCHIBALD EDWARD, born and died 1879.

2. MARGARET NOBLE, 1880.

3. ARCHIBALD CRAIGMILE, 1882; B.A. Oxford. Now in the Indian Civil Service.

4. MAX HAMILTON, born and died 1884.

Professor Archibald Duff married again, 1897, Mary Hannah Cockshott, but has no children of this marriage.

ALEXANDER WILMER DUFF, of Worcester, Mass., U.S.A., is of the Perthshire stock. His great-great-grandfather came from Strathbraan, and was also ALEXANDER DUFF, who had a son ROBERT, who had a son ALEXANDER, who had a son ALEXANDER, father of Alexander Wilmer Duff.

Robert, in the above table, had a younger son who went to Prince Edward Island, where his descendants are now numerous.

Robert's eldest son, Alexander, came to New Brunswick from Scotland, and another brother came later and settled in Maine.

Another family of Duffs came from Perth about 1830.

There were three brothers, sons of a J.P. in Perth, who came to London, each with £3000. They were JOHN ALEXANDER, who bought a manufacturing tailor's business; PETER, who became a wholesale draper; and ALFRED, who became a chemist and druggist, and is now represented by Pearce, Duff and Co.

John Alexander had a family of seventeen children, and his eldest son had twelve children, one of whom, WILLIAM S. DUFF, kindly supplied the above information.

PETER DUFF of Braco, West Kirby, Cheshire, and his brother, R. M. DUFF, Norland House, Montrose, came also from the Perthshire stock.

Another family of Duffs from Perthshire settled in America.

THOMAS DUFF and his wife, Miss Robinson, had a son ROBERT, a stock-dealer of Kindalachan, Perthshire. Robert married Elizabeth Douglas, and died in 1836. He had seven sons, who all went to America after his death: THOMAS, JAMES, WILLIAM, ROBERT, JOHN, ALEXANDER, and DANIEL. They all became farmers in Illinois, and Daniel fought in the Florida Seminole Indian War.

All of them married and had sons.

Daniel had five sons—ALEXANDER, WILLIAM, DANIEL, GUY, and JAMES; of whom Dr. Guy Duff of 4516 Malden Avenue, Chicago, is our informant as to this family. William, the second son, served in the Civil War.



PARK HOUSE

CHAPTER XXXVII

FAMILIES CONNECTED WITH THE DUFFS: GORDONS OF PARK, URQUIHARTS, ABERCROMBIES, AND MORISONS

THE present family of Duffs of Drummuir represents also the Gordons of Park, two of whom, in the eighteenth century, married Duffs.

Sir William Gordon of Park was Convener of Banffshire and 'preses' of the Commissioners of Supply. He joined Prince Charles at Glenfinnan, when the standard was raised August 19, 1745, and was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of Lord Ogilvy's Regiment, took part in the march to Derby and the retreat to Scotland,¹ and was present at the battle of Culloden, from which he escaped. After the defeat, the Chevalier de Johnstone met Sir William, Lord Lewis Gordon, John Gordon of Avochie,² and Park's half-brother, James Gordon of Cobairdy, at Rothiemurchus, and describes how they travelled together to 'Sir William Gordon's Castle of Park.' In that neighbourhood Sir William lurked for nearly two years; his wife

¹ As to the advisability of which he and the Duke of Perth were the *only* two dissentients.

² The man who afterwards remained hidden for some time within the staircase of his own house on Deveronside.

meanwhile being with her mother at Rothiemay, about eight miles distant, and presumably sending him what help she could.

The day after the battle of Culloden, Sir William wrote to his wife :

‘ April 17, 1746.

‘ DEAR MADAM,—As you have heard of our misfortune in general I have sent you this line to assure that I am well, and most earnestly beg you ’ll take care of your health and my child’s. I wish you would go to your own house as soon as possible. You can get leave that you may be brought to bed there, as the country you are in¹ will be nothing but a source of misery. When I can get a safe opportunity you shall hear from me. Till then, my dearest in life, God bless you. Adieu.’

And four months later to his mother-in-law :

‘ Aug. 22, FRIDAY’S MORNING.

‘ MADAM,—I have the Honour of your La^{ps} letter this morning, and hopes you will be so good as excuse my sending the enclosed under your cover. Pleas forward it to my Wife as I must have an answer to it upon Sundays afternoon at farthest, as I leave the country then. I am under very great obligations to all your friends here both the old and the young, and shall beg the favour your L^{ps} will take an opportunity to return them thanks. My guide ran a great risque of Dr—ing to help my getting forward on my journey. I return your La^p a great many thanks for your good wishes, but am afraid the season is too far gone for the dark clouds to be removed from us untill summer return, at present. I expected after our Countrymen the Cambells left the country that the greatest cruelty would be over—if these new people continue in the same way the most of people who can leave the country will soon be glad to doe it.

‘ I again beg your La^p will send the enclosed letter. I have the honour to be with very great respect,
W. G.’

On the cover :

‘ To the Right Honourable
The Lady Braccoc at Rothiemay.

Haste.’

Endorsed on the cover in Lady Braco’s handwriting ‘ Sir William Gordon, when in hiding.’²

He did not effect his escape from Scotland for some months.

Among *Scottish Forfeited Estates Papers*, Scottish History Society, there is an

‘ Inventory of the writes produced by Dame Janet Duff, wife of Sir William Gordon, late of Park, upon the estate that belonged to the said late Sir William

¹ She was then a prisoner of the Duke of Cumberland in Inverness.

² Drummuir papers.

Gordon. Being the bond of provision granted by the late Sir William Gordon in favour of the said Dame Janet Duff for Infesting her in life rent during all the days of her Lyfetime, in all and haille the Lands of Kirktown and others therein named which contains Proxy of resignation and Precept of Seasine, 3rd Sept. 1745. And a Missive by the said late Sir William Gordon to James Hay, writer to the Signet, wherein he desires him to deliver the foresaid bond of provision to Dame Janet Duff, dated 4th Sept. 1745.' (Three weeks after the raising of the standard at Glenfinnan.)

It will be noted that Sir William is described as 'late,' he being attainted.

A report which reached the Government in November 1746 that Sir William Gordon and several others had escaped from Arbroath on board a Danish ship was untrue. On November 4, 1747, Lord Findlater, Sheriff of the county, reported to the Lord Justice-Clerk that on the previous Sunday a party of soldiers from Banff and Cullen had made an ineffectual search for 'persons attainted and exempt from the indemnity.' The commander of this party was, curiously enough, also a Captain Gordon. In the neighbourhood of Park this party had seen and chased a mounted and well-dressed man (whom the country people afterwards confessed to have been Sir William Gordon), who eluded them and escaped by riding through and across the bogs and rough ground at the base of the Knock, and so, 'by his better knowledge of the country, threw off his pursuers and fairly made his escape.' Shortly after this he escaped abroad, and obtained a commission in Lord Ogilvy's Scots regiment in the French service. He was joined in France by his wife and his daughter Jean, born at Rothiemay six weeks after Culloden. Ogilvy's regiment was in garrison at Douai, and there the family lived until Sir William's death in 1751. He was buried 'in the ramparts of Douai.'¹

The estate of Park had been 'made over' for safety to Sir William's brother, Captain John Gordon of the Marines, or, as others say, *passed* to him under the attainder, it having been entailed. It has now been ascertained from a paper, dated January 13, 1762, concerned with the litigation between Lord Fife and Captain John Gordon as to the provision to be made for Sir William's three children, that 'The Captain in his own right recovered the estate of Park from under forfeiture, *after* his brother's death, as he left no inheritable issue' (that is, no sons born in Great Britain). The gross rental of Park appears at that time to have been under £300.²

¹ According to a letter from James Duff of Kinstair, twenty-five years later.

² 'When David Gordon of Lascelles Regiment died at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1752, he named on his deathbed Sir William Gordon of Park as the nearest relative his son would have. As a matter of fact, Sir William was already dead at this period, for among the Stuart

Sir William Gordon's eldest son was JOHN JAMES, born at Boulogne, of whom mention is made later on.

The second son, WILLIAM BRACO GORDON, was also born abroad in 1750, but had an ardent desire to become a British subject (it is not known if he succeeded in doing so), and writes to Lord Fife from Rothiemay, January 24, 1775 :

'I could not omit taking the liberty to write your Lordship a few lines at this period wishing you a good New Year with many happy returns of the season. . . .

'At the same time I must request it as a very particular favor being extremely anxious to be naturalised hopes during this session of Parliament to meet with your assistance in getting my Name added to some of the Bills which passes the House of Commons. I have only to add that I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and obliged humble servant,

'WILLIAM BRACO GORDON.' (D.)

He had, however, entered the British Army as Ensign in the 52nd Regiment on January 21, 1769, and he became Lieutenant in 1773.¹ He was in command of a recruiting party of the 52nd in Banff in 1776, and died December 18, 1776, at Mountblairy.²

He wrote thus to his uncle from America :

'CHARLESTOWN HEIGHTS, 24th June 1775.

'I could not possibly omit embracing the earliest opportunity of writing your Lordship to inform you of my safe arrival, likewise of our having attacked Yenkie's the 17th of this month on Charlestown Heights opposite Boston.³ We drove them out of their intrenchments with much difficulty. Their loss cannot easily be ascertained, they having carryd off many of their dead and wounded. On our side their was five hundred and ninety wounded. Two hundred killed, amongst which their was Ninety Officers—one would naturally conjecture they

papers there are letters to be found from three officers of Ogilvy's Regiment, then in garrison at Douai, dated June 1751, announcing to the exiled James, Chevalier de St. George, the death of the Lieutenant-Colonel, and asking for a step in the regiment. The child who was thus consigned to the dead man's care belonged to a Gordon who had fought on the Hanoverian side at Culloden, and was named William Augustus. He was the grandfather of "Chinese Gordon."
See *Life of General Gordon* (Butler).

¹ The fact that, though not naturalised, he was holding the King's commission as an officer in the Army seems to have been in contravention of the Act of Settlement. His sister Jean, born at Rothiemay, before her mother's flight to Douai, saved her rights as heir-female in the entail, but did not, of course, survive her uncle and cousin, and when the property eventually went in the female line, it passed to the son of her aunt Helen, wife of John Duff of Culbin.

² 'My nephew, Lieut. William Gordon of His Majesty's 52nd of Foot, died at Mountblairy on Wed. the 18 last, and is to be interred at the Kirk of Park upon Sat. the 21st.' Letter from Captain John Gordon of Park to W. Rose at Montcoffer, 1776, inviting him to the funeral, December 19 (Rothiemay papers).

³ This is the battle of Bunker's Hill.

had singled us out from our dress. Our regt. lost—One Major—three Capts.—one Licut.—wounded, one Capt.—two Licuts. and three Ensigns killed.

'The Sixty-Third Regt. and a party of Marins are just gone to attack Dorchester Neck. I wish they may meet with great success. I cant presume to give your Lordship a description of the country nor inhabitants which is generally expected, but I flatter myself of having soon that honor, when our boundarys are more extended; we have not in our present possession a dozen of miles. Were I permitted to judge from the few opportunitys I have had of mixing with the people for to make observations I would most certainly say that I admired and loved the country, but detested the people. I have nothing further to add, but that I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordships most obedient and very humble servant,

WILLIAM BRACO GORDON.' (D.)

Jean, born at Rothiemay six weeks after Culloden, married Colonel Duncan Urquhart of Burdsyards (Sanquhar), and died in 1767 in giving birth to her son Robert, who married 'beneath him.' A manuscript in the Advocates' Library speaks of him as being (in 1821) 'now at Longtown in Northumberland.'¹

John James Gordon, Sir William's eldest son, who was properly designated Sir John, was born at Boulogne on March 26, 1749. He did not get his father's estates, not in consequence of the attainder, apparently, but through being an alien by birth; for it was decided by the Court of Session, November 24, 1751, that his uncle, Captain John Gordon, had no right to enter upon the possession of the estate during the life of Sir William's sons, 'nor cut off the Crown's rights' (to the attainted estate). Captain John Gordon, however, apparently did hold Park, and enjoyed its revenues, as according to a letter from Lady Fife, anent her grandson's (Sir John's) constant demands for money, she says that 'the Captain must draw his purse to him, and that indeed he has some right to it, and that though he (Sir John) does not make good use of the money, the Captain makes but little better.' On Captain John's death in 1781 the baronetcy was assumed by Ernest, son of James Gordon of Cobairdy, a half-brother of Sir William, who, however, had no right to the title (Fraser's *Chiefs of Grant* and Record Office papers).

John James had some interest, and obtained first a commission in the French army when he was a child, and later, in 1765, he joined the British army as Ensign in the 9th Foot.

The first we hear of him in his military career is in a letter to Lord Fife,

¹ Robert Urquhart was at one time an officer in the Army, but, being extravagant and dissipated, in a few years spent all his fortune. Between 1796 and 1798 he sold his estate to Mr. George Grant, and was soon reduced to beggary. In Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families*, it is stated that he actually begged at the door that had once been his own.

from General Grant, Governor of Florida, from St. Augustine, January 17, 1770 :

'Your nephew, Ensign Gordon, was drawn into a quarrel the 31st Oct. Words passed between him and Ensign Goodacre of the same Regiment (9th). Though Goodacre was the aggressor he refused to make an apology, upon which Mr. Gordon was under the necessity of sending him a challenge. They fought with pistols and Goodacre was killed. Your nephew behaved with great spirit and propriety, and never was blamed or found fault with either by the officers or gentlemen of the country. The Coroner's inquest brought it in manslaughter in his own defence, and the jury at the trial confirmed that verdict, so the affair is over and much to his credit. 'Tis unlucky to kill a man, but he could not avoid that misfortune, which I flatter myself will make him guarded and cautious for the remaining part of his life.'

Unfortunately, he seems to have been unsteady, and was court-martialled in Dublin for drunkenness in 1772. The finding of the court being 'that the prisoner John James Gordon, Lieutenant in the 9th Regiment, is guilty of having behaved in a manner unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and adjudge him to be suspended from pay and duty for twelve months, and to be reprimanded by the commanding officer at the head of the Regiment.' Lord Townshend, the Lord-Lieutenant, however, considering this sentence not severe enough, caused it to be 'revised,' and the unfortunate young man was 'discharged from His Majesty's service, July 6, 1772,' while in spite of the intercession of his Colonel, Lord Ligonier, and his Duff uncles, he was not allowed to sell out,¹ but departed penniless. Then began the demands upon his family for money, already recorded (in the chapter on the children of Lord Braco). Having by the assistance of his uncles proceeded to France, he was, in March 1774, presented to the French King, and by the interest of Baron Grant of Blairfindy, a Jacobite and a friend of his father's, he obtained a captain's commission in a French regiment commanded by the Marquis de Conflans.² But even before joining, his drinking habits had again got him into so much trouble that he apparently lost his French commission, and his patron had to advise his return to Scotland, and even to advance the money for the purpose. Through the influence of his mother's family he obtained a cadetship in the East India Company's service on February 4, 1776, became an Ensign in 1777, and died gallantly in India. On the occasion of his death, Baron Grant, writing to Sir James Grant of Grant, who had married Sir John's first cousin, says: 'He was an excellent young man when sober, extravagant to excess

¹ The fact that he had served for four years in the West Indies without pay was urged (unsuccessfully) as a reason for his being allowed to sell his lieutenantcy, which he had bought.

² On April 3, 1774, he wrote from 'Haute Alsace,' to his uncle Lord Fife, asking for an introduction to the Duc d'Aiguillon.

when drunk. He was killed in the field of battle. If there can be any consolation after the death of a friend, certainly it is that, to have died in the bed of honour.' The death referred to took place at Basscin on December 10, 1780, where he was with the small force under General Goddard which besieged and took this place on the Malabar coast, the General reporting the loss of one officer only, 'Lieutenant Sir John James Gordon' (regiment not stated).

By Hannah Corner, already mentioned,¹ Sir John James had three children: John Benjamin, who died young, born 1779; Sir John Bury Gordon, last baronet of Park, born posthumously 1781, entered the East India Company's army, raised a regiment known as 'Gordon's Horse,' and died at Madras 1835; and Jessie, born 1780, who married Richard Creed of Hans Place, London.

After the death of Sir John James Gordon, and in recognition of his gallantry, a subscription was raised for his widow. She lived for some time in Banff, where her younger son was born. This son did not assume the baronetcy till his twenty-fourth year, when his second cousin, the 'Sir' John Gordon then in possession of Park, died 1804. Both these 'Sir' Johns were the great-nephews of Helen Gordon, second wife of John Duff of Culbin, and sister of Sir William Gordon, and through her (failing male heirs), the estate of Park came into the family of Duff of Drummuir.²

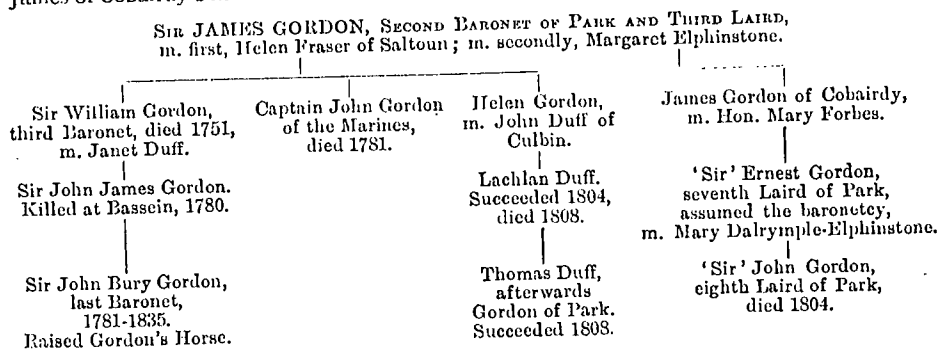
¹ See chapter x.

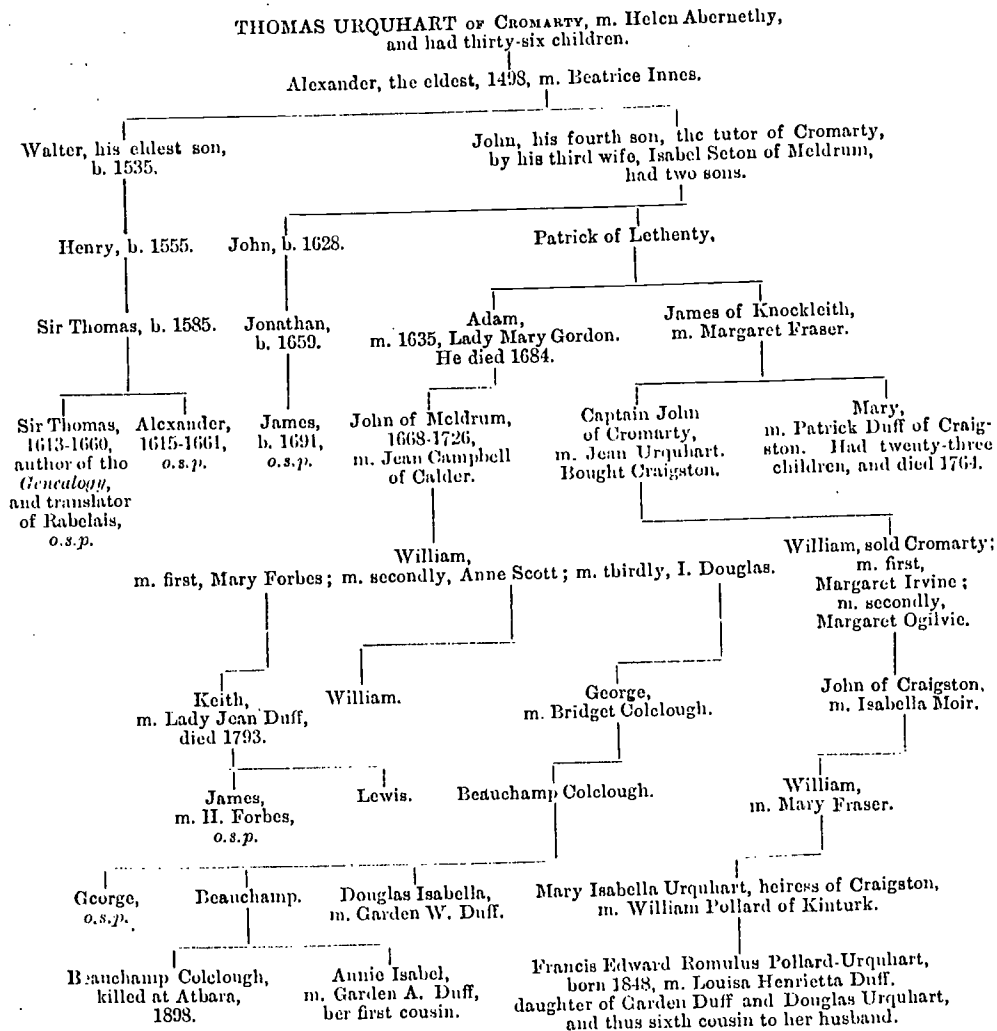
² See chapter xxv.

The descent of the Gordons who held Park after the '45 is as follows:

Sir James Gordon of Park (out in the '15) married, first, Helen Fraser of Saltoun, and by his second wife, Margaret Elphinstone, had a son, James Gordon of Cobairdy, and two daughters, Elizabeth, second wife to Lord Forbes, and Anne, married Cheyne.

James of Cobairdy (a Jacobite and one of these excepted from the indemnity of 1747), married Mary Forbes, his sister's step-daughter, and had Ernest, his successor, who in 1780 succeeded also to Park on the death, without issue, of his father's half-brother Captain John Gordon of the Marines. Ernest assumed the baronetcy, it being held that the attainder did not affect him as heir-male, out of the direct line. He married Mary Dalrymple Elphinstone of Logie and was succeeded by his son 'Sir' John of Park and Cobairdy. The latter died *o.s.p.* 1804, and the estate of Park (under entail October 19, 1713) reverted to Lachlan Duff, son of James of Cobairdy's half-sister.





URQUHARTS

The family of Urquhart has been intimately connected with the Duffs, especially the Hatton branch, and mention must here be made of that unique genealogical work, Sir Thomas Urquhart's 'Pantochronochanon' (*PIANTOXPONOXANON*) 'or a peculiar promptuary of Time wherein

(not one instant being omitted since the beginning of motion) is displayed a most exact directory for all particular chronologies in what family soever. And that by deducing the true pedigree and Lineal descent of the most honourable and ancient name of the Urquharts in the house of Cromartie, since the creation of the world until this present year of God 1652.'

'God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who were from all eternity, did, in time, of nothing create red earth; of red earth, Adam, and of a rib out of the side of Adam fashioned Eve—after which Creation, Plasmation, and Formation, succeed the generations as follows:

'Adam married Eve—he was surnamed the Protoplast.

In the . . .	In Generation	In the year
Year of the world	From Adam	Anno Domini
5423	148	1476

'Thomas Urquhart married Helen.

'He was agnamed Paterhemon, because he had of his wife Helen Abernethie, a daughter of my Lord Saltoun, five and twenty sons, all men, and eleven daughters, all married women.'

Alexander Urquhart of Cromarty, born 1498, was the eldest of these twenty-five sons (of whom seven fell at the battle of Pinkie).

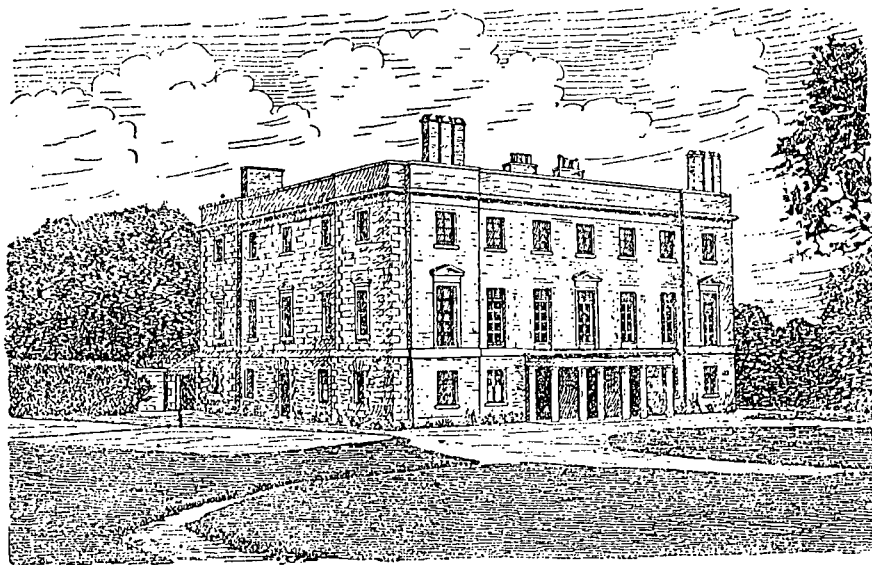
John, fourth son of Alexander, was the famous tutor of Cromarty, who built Craigston Castle in the years 1604-1607. He lived from 1547 to 1631. He was tutor, *i.e.* guardian, to his great-nephew, Sir Thomas, whose son was Sir Thomas, author of the *Genealogy*, and translator of Rabelais, born 1611, died 1660.

This Sir Thomas played a prominent part in the Stewart troubles, indeed it is said that the first skirmish of the Scottish war (1638-1650) was occasioned by Sir Thomas Urquhart's attempt to recover, by force, a store of arms deposited by him in Balquholly House (afterwards rebuilt as Hatton Castle), which had been seized by the Barclays of Towie. Shortly after this followed the 'Trot of Turriff,' May 14, 1639, for participation in which engagement Urquhart was knighted by Charles I. at Whitehall. He was present at the battle of Worcester, where he was made prisoner, and lost many manuscripts, he having apparently taken all his valuables into action with him. During his imprisonment in the Tower, and elsewhere, he composed the genealogical work above described, with the avowed intention of proving to Oliver Cromwell that a family 'which Saturn's scythe has not been able to mow, in the course of all former ages, ought not to be prematurely cut off.'

He died abroad, it is said of a fit of uncontrollable laughter on hearing of the Restoration!

562 FAMILIES CONNECTED WITH THE DUFFS

Sir Thomas Urquhart was succeeded by his brother, Sir Alexander, after whom came the descendants of John (son of John the tutor of Cromarty and his third wife, Elizabeth Seton, heiress of Meldrum), and later the descendants of John's brother Patrick, who had two sons, from whom were descended respectively the families of Meldrum and Craigston.



GLASSAUGH

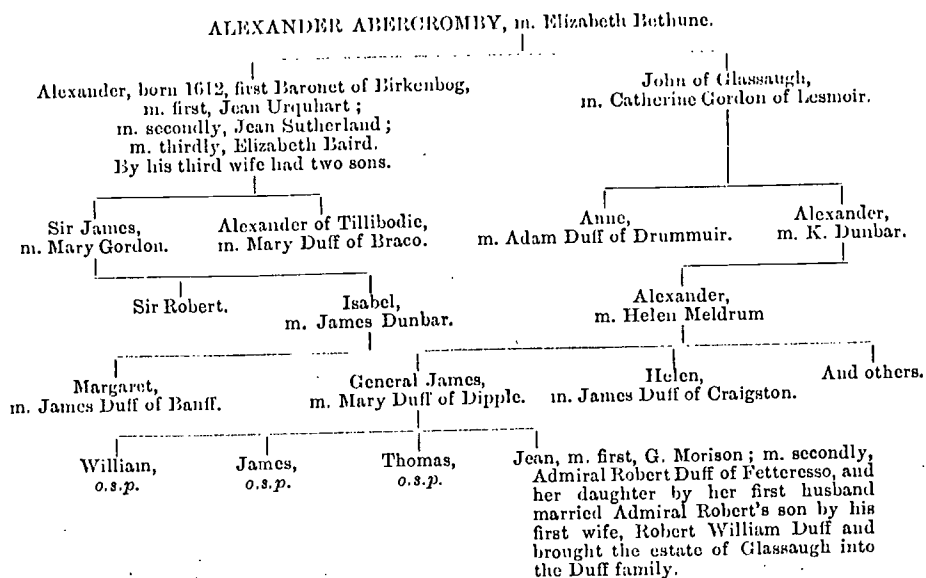
(BROUGHT INTO THE DUFF FAMILY BY MARY MORISON, GRAND-DAUGHTER OF GENERAL JAMES ABERCROMBY OF GLASSAUGH, WIFE OF R. W. DUFF)

ABERCROMBIES AND MORISONS

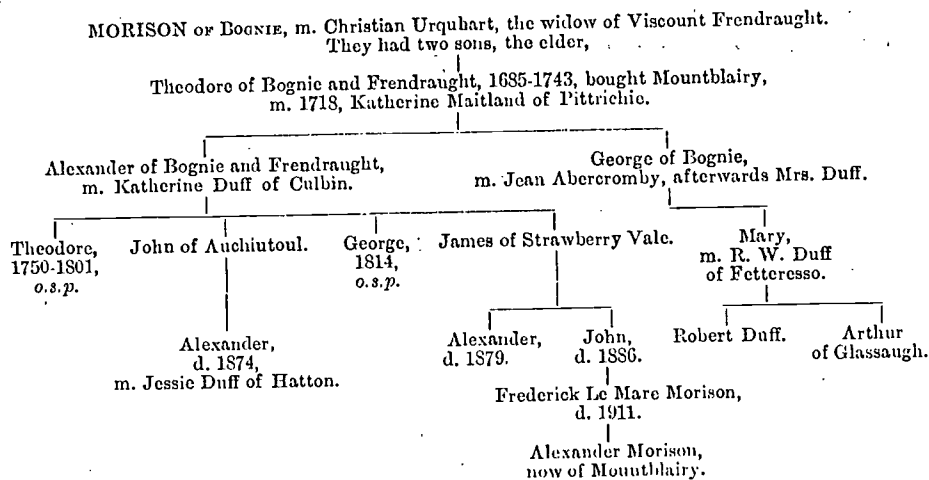
The family of Abercromby also has been so much connected with the Duffs for three centuries that a brief table showing the intermarriages seems almost necessary.

The family, which is one of the oldest in Scotland, had its origin, like the Duffs, in Fifeshire, but came north at a later period.

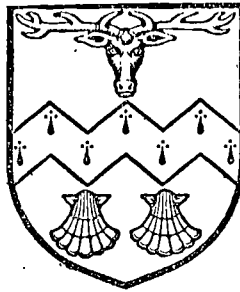
Alexander Abercromby (falconer to Charles I.), who owned the estate of Birkenbog, married Elizabeth Bethune of Balfour. His two elder sons were Alexander and John.



With the Abercrombies are also connected the Morisons, three of whom married Duffs.



With the family of Ogilvie there were many intermarriages in the earlier history of the Duffs. In later times the only notable example was Lady Janet Ogilvie, first wife of William, Lord Braco, of whom there is a good portrait by Kneller, reproduced in chapter ix.



ARMS OF ALEXANDER DUFF OF KEITHMORE

CHAPTER XXXVIII

NOTES ON THE HERALDRY OF THE DUFF FAMILY

ARMS BORNE BY THE DUFF FAMILY FROM THE TIME OF THE OLD
EARLS OF FIFE TO THE PRESENT DAY

THE *Armorial de Gelre*, a beautiful manuscript in the Royal Library at Brussels, is believed to be the work of Claes Heynen (who held the office of Gelre Herald to the Duke of Gueldres between 1334 and 1372), later additions to the manuscript having been made by another hand. The Scottish shields from this work have been reproduced in colour by Stoddart in his *Scottish Arms*, 1881.

Scottish arms were well known on the Continent at this time, and the coat there assigned to the Earls of Fife, then premier nobles of Scotland, is the Scottish royal lion, gules, rampant on a field of gold.¹ The holder of the title at that date was Duncan, twelfth Earl and last male Duff of the line. This lion had apparently been borne by all the Earls of Fife, and continued to be so until the title died out in 1425.² It was revived again in the coat of arms granted to the first Lord Fife in 1760; was placed in a canton upon the shield of Drummuir in 1750; as a demi-lion it was also granted as the Fife crest, 1760; and at the present day is the crest of the larger part of the Duff family.³

¹ Reproduced as heading to chapter i.

² On one seal of Robert, Earl of Fife and Menteith and Duke of Albany, the coat is given as—first and fourth, a lion rampant; two and three, a fesse chequy, with a label of five points in chief.

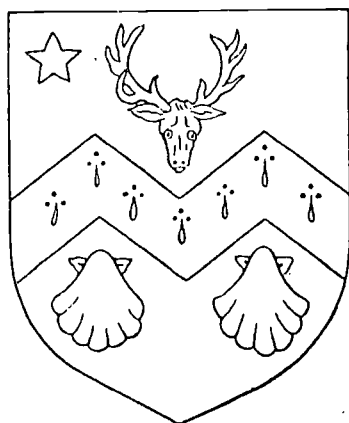
³ It was used by Patrick of Craigston at the time of his first marriage:

In the Roll of Matriculation of Scottish Arms, in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, with which only we are concerned, there are nineteen entries referring to the family of Duff.

Sometime between 1672 and 1676, two sons of Adam Duff of Clunybeg, Alexander and William, matriculated their arms. They had doubtless borne them all their lives, but, in 1672, the Act had been passed compelling matriculation of all arms carried, and the payment of proper fees, in default of which the coats displayed, in whatever manner, were condemned to be broken and defaced by the Lyon King and his subordinates.

These two men, then, matriculated the arms of the ancient family of Muldavit and Craighhead, from which they knew themselves to be unquestionably descended. Apparently no other member of the Muldavit family took the trouble to matriculate the arms, though it is well known that there were then living several descendants of older brothers of Adam of Clunybeg. Alexander of Keithmore, therefore, matriculated the arms without a difference, and drew upon himself the wrath of the unknown annotator of the Matriculation Roll, who added, as already quoted in chapter v. : 'There is good reason to believe he is not the representor of Craighhead.'

The arms matriculated were, as already stated in chapter v. : 'On a field vert a fesse dancetty ermine a buck's head cabossed in chief and two



PROVOST WILLIAM, 1672



PROVOST WILLIAM

escallops in base or.' They are reproduced on page 564 and on the cover of this volume. The crest used on Alexander's monument at Mortlach is the dexter hand holding the scallop shell, but it does not appear in the Matriculation Roll. 'Above ye shield anc helmit besitting his degree,

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mantled gules, doubled argent. The motto in ane escroll *Virtute et Opera,* dated 1676.

The Muldavit arms, matriculated by William, third son of Adam Duff, are registered higher up on the same page with those of his brother Alexander, undated, and the date is given in papers at Drummuir as 1672, but it is unlikely that his matriculation preceded that of his elder brother by four years. These arms are duly differenced with a mullet, in England the recognised mark of a third son,¹ though in Scotland greater latitude in the choice of marks of cadency is allowed, and variations of the bordure are those most frequently employed.² The unknown annotator of the Roll makes no comment on these arms or on William's description of himself, as a third son of Craighead. William seems to have used as a crest the hand holding the clam or scallop shell, though this is not registered. 'Above ye shield ane helmet befitting his degree, mantled gules, doubled argent, and for his motto in ane escroll *Omnia fortunae committo.*'

John of Bowmakellach, the brother intermediate between Alexander and William, also displayed the undifferenced arms of Muldavit on the portraits of himself and his wife by Jamesone, but he did not register his right to them.

In the illustrated manuscripts of an earlier date than that of the Act, which are preserved at the Lyon Office, there are two early specimens of the Duff coat of arms. No territorial designation is added. They are the arms of 'Duff' merely.

The first occurs in the manuscript known as Workman's, since it belonged to James Workman of the Lyon Office in 1623, but the date of the MS. itself is 1565 or 1566, as the series of figures of sovereigns with their arms ends with those of Mary, Queen of Scotland, and her second

¹ The old works on Heraldry provide distinctive marks of cadency for nine sons in one family but do not go further.

The eldest son bears a label, which he discards at his father's death.

The second a crescent, emblematic of hopes of future increase.

The third a mullet, or rowel of a spur, showing that he must make his fortune by knightly deeds.

The fourth, a martlet, typifying the very small portion of land upon which a fourth son may expect to rest.

The fifth son bears a ring, as showing that he can only hope for fortune through marriage.

The sixth, a fleur-de-lis, to denote the quiet life of a student.

The seventh, a rose, to show that he must blossom amidst hardships.

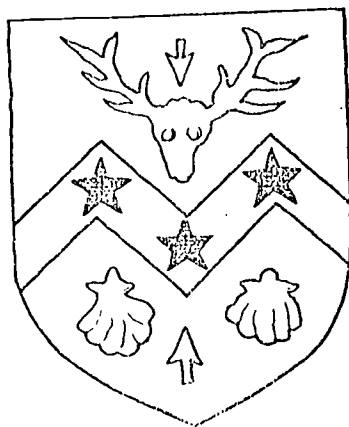
The eighth, a cross, as indicating the churchman's career.

And the ninth, a primrose, since he must needs dwell very humbly.

² The mullet was or, and originally placed in the dexter chief, though William's descendants now place it below or on the fesse.

husband, Henry Darnley. The Earl of Bothwell's coat occurs in its place, but a sketch in ink is added of his new arms as Duke of Orkney.

The charge on this coat of the Duff family is the same as in the arms matriculated by Alexander of Keithmore, viz. the fesse dancetty with the buck's head cabossed in chief, and the two escallops in base, or, but there are two pheons—one in chief between the stag's antlers, point downward, the other in base between the escallops, and point upward. Moreover, the field is parted per fesse, and is vert above the fesse and gules below, and the fesse which is left blank, and therefore presumably argent, is charged with three mullets, apparently sable. In the MS. called 'Gentleman's Arms,' dated 1628, the Duff arms occur without pheons, but upon a whole field of gules, and the fesse is without the mullets.

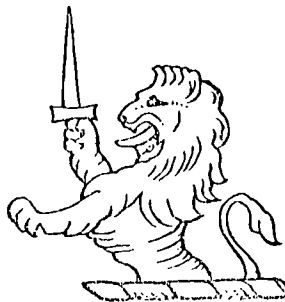


EARLY COAT, 1565

The next registration in the books of the Lyon Office, after that of Alexander of Keithmore in 1676, is that of the arms of William Duff of Braco, grandson of Alexander, on July 19, 1723. He registered the same arms as those of his grandfather, but further had a grant of two savages as supporters (apparently as 'head of the family'), and a hart's head



CREST OF 1723



CREST OF 1760

proper for crest (the same which is now borne by the family of Duff of Hatton, and 'for Duff' by the Grant Duffs), and the motto *Virtute et Opera*.

Thirty-seven years later, on January 22, 1760, the same William Duff, having in the interval been created first Baron Braco, and then Earl Fife, registered new arms, viz. 1st and 4th: a lion rampant gules, armed and

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langued azure, for Viscount Macduff and Earl Fife; 2nd and 3rd: the field vert, fesse dancetty betwixt a hart's head cabossed in chief, and two escallops in base, or, 'for Duff of Braco as representing Duff of Muldavit, commonly called Craighead.' For crest, a demi-lion gules, holding in the dexter paw a broad sword erected in pale proper, hilted and pommelled, or; and for supporters, standing upon a compartment,¹ the two savages previously granted, wreathed about the head and middle with laurel leaves, holding branches of trees in their hands, all proper. In an escroll above the crest the motto, *Deus juvavit*, and in the compartment below, *Virtute et Opera*.

On May 29, 1780, James, second Earl Fife, son of William, rematriculated the arms, and had the following additional grant: 'On a mantling gules, the doubling ermine, on a wreath of his liveries is set for crest a knight, denoting the ancient Macduff, armed at all points, on a horse in full armour, in full speed; in his dexter hand a sword erected, all proper, his surcoat argent; on his sinister arm a shield or, charged with lion rampant gules, the visor of his helmet shut, over which on a wreath of his liveries, with a long mantling flowing therefrom behind him and ending in a tassel of the fourth, the doubling of the third, is set a lion rampant issuing out of a wreath of the fourth. The caparisons of the horse of the last, fimbriated of the third, and thereupon six shields of the last, each charged with a lion rampant of the fourth. (This is practically the figure, though reversed, used on the seal of Malcolm, eighth Earl of Fife, 1228.) The mottoes, *Deo juvante* and *Virtute et Opera*. The Earls Fife, of course, still retained the right to use the former crest, a demi-lion rampant. These arms and crest are reproduced as a heading to chapter xv.

These changes are thus alluded to in the family correspondence. In June 1780, when the new crest was granted, James Cumming of the Lyon Office, writes: 'In my humble opinion, the new adopted crest has a very pretty effect, and most significantly implies that with God's help, while the family of Fife remains, there will never be wanting a representative of the great MacDuff.' And later in the same year he writes again: 'Mr. Boswell, the Lyon Depute, observes that Lord Fife's motto would be more classical if expressed in these words *Deo juvante*' (and this was adopted).

The title from 1759, when it was granted, was Earl Fife. James, second Earl, would have preferred to have had the title Earl of Fife, but it was pointed out to him that the terms of the original patent decided the matter, and it was not until the new creation in the peerage of the

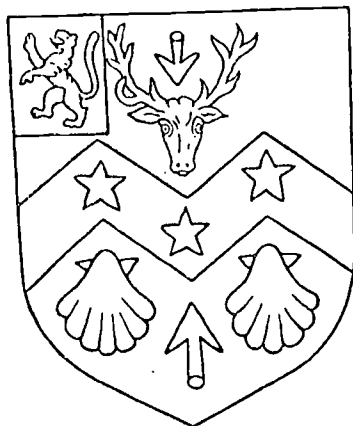
¹ In Scottish heraldry this word is used for the ground upon which the figures stand.

ARMS OF ARCHIBALD DUFF OF DRUMMUIR 569

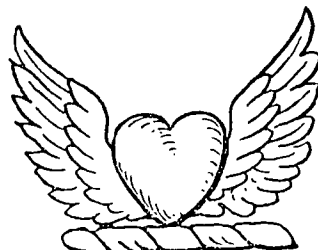
United Kingdom of 1885 that the right was obtained to use the coveted preposition.¹

On January 31, 1750, Archibald Duff of Drummuir matriculated his arms. He was of a younger generation than the first Lord Fife, being second cousin once removed to him, and third cousin to his son, the second Earl.

In his arms we find the field vert with the fesse dancetty, but in this case argent differenced with three mullets gules, in the middle chief a deer's head, and in base the escallops. The two pheons or also reappear, which points to the possibility of the Duff coat in Workman's MS. having been (at least in Archibald's opinion) that of the early Duffs of Torriesoul, who may have been of the same stock as the Muldavit family. On other



DRUMMUIR, 1650



DRUMMUIR CREST

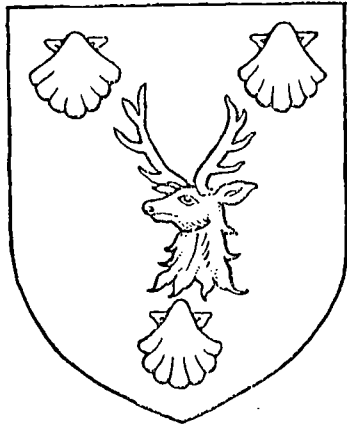
grounds, the latter conclusion is not improbable. But the special feature in Archibald Duff's coat of arms is 'A dexter canton of the second (that is, or) charged with a lion rampant of the third (gules). This being the first heraldic indication of the claim of the family of Duff of Muldavit to descent from the ancient Earls of Fife,' and preceding by ten years the registration of the same lion by the first Lord Fife.

At the same time, Alexander Brodie, the Lord Lyon of the period, granted to Archibald the supporters still borne by the Drummuir family, viz. dexter, a savage armed with a club proper, and sinister, a stag proper, chained and horned or, standing upon a compartment on which is this device, 'Be true, and ye shall never rue.'

¹ Alexander, who succeeded, was an Irish Earl only, while the fourth Earl had a new creation in the peerage of the United Kingdom in 1827, and this became extinct in 1857.

‘Above the helmet, for crest, a man’s heart proper, winged or, with the motto, “Kind heart.” Mantling vert, doubling argent.’

Archibald of Drummuir describes himself, or is described in the Register, as ‘Heir of line to the old family of Duff of Drummuir’ (as heir of line covers female descent, this of course is correct), ‘who were heirs of line of the old family of Duff of Craighead’ (the latter statement not being in accordance with fact); but the arms of Archibald were unchallenged, though it is not clear on what grounds either the Scottish lion or the supporters were granted.



OLD DRUMMUIR

Though 1750 is the first date of the matriculation of the arms of Duffs of Drummuir, this family had borne them at least a century earlier, for the funeral escutcheon of Katherine Duff of Drummuir bears this coat: On a field vert, a stag’s head crased, between three escallops or; the crest a human heart, winged, proper; and the motto, above the crest, ‘Kind heart,’ and below the shield,

‘Be true, and you shall never rue’—which her father Adam had placed on the house of Drummuir, built about 1670, and also on the house in Inverness.

Alexander, husband of Katherine (and son of Provost William, who had matriculated the Muldavit arms, differenced with a mullet), himself used, on his book-plate, the stag’s head crased, instead of cabossed, between three escallops, *i.e.* the arms of Drummuir. Crest, a human heart, winged, proper, thus abandoning his father’s arms in favour of those of his wife, when assuming the territorial designation.

Archibald of Drummuir, grandson of Alexander, as has been already seen, registered the Keithmore arms with three differences.

John Duff, cousin and successor of Archibald, used the supporters granted to his predecessor, but varied the coat by adding the dexter canton with the lion (showing alleged descent from the old Earls of Fife) to the old Drummuir, and not to the Keithmore arms. He also turned the lion round, making it face to sinister.¹

His brother Archibald, the Admiral, used the same, and their

¹ The peculiarity of John Duff’s arms, as displayed upon his book-plate, is his use of the helmet affronté and barred, actually reserved for the sovereign and princes of the blood royal.

cousin and successor, Major Lachlan Gordon Duff, quartered this variant with the arms of Gordon of Park. None of these variants was registered.

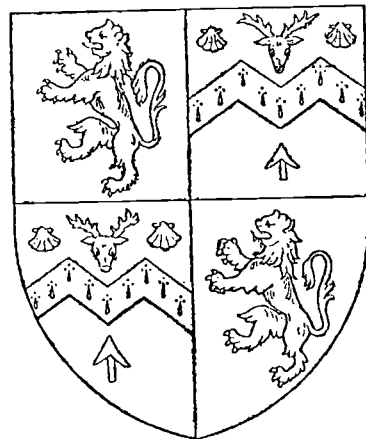
The present arms of Gordon Duff of Drummuir, rematriculated on March 7, 1909, show, 1st quarter: arms of Duff of Muldavit differenced with a mullet (as Provost William's), but now the mullet, or, is placed below the fesse, instead of in the dexter chief; 2nd and 3rd: arms of Gordons of Park; 4th: arms of Drummuir, *i.e.* the stag's head, but now (by oversight) cabossed instead of erased, between three escallops or; the Scottish lion has been dropped. Mantling as before.

Two crests and mottoes. The mailed hand and 'sic tutus' for Gordon, and the winged heart and 'Kind heart' above, and a third motto, 'Be true, and ye shall never rue' below, for Duff of Drummuir. The supporters as before.

On an old china plate at Muirtown the arms of the family of Drummuir occur—the stag's head erased, with three escallops, but the motto *Concilio et animis*.

The family of Muirtown has not registered any difference or mark of cadency, but Major Hugh Robert Duff and his father, Alexander, at one time used a coat of arms bearing an unusual form of the Keithmore or Drummuir arms, with the field parted per fesse, vert and gules, and quartered with the Scottish lion. This was, of course, quite unauthorised.

On June 27, 1781, Admiral Robert Duff of Logie, then Vice-Admiral of the Red, matriculated his arms (he did not become 'of Fetteresso' until the following year). He is described as 'of the family of Craigston, descended from Keithmore,' and being possibly the twentieth son of Patrick of Craigston (certainly one of the youngest of the thirty-six children, see chapter xvi.), he bears the arms of Keithmore, all within a bordure, or, though he omitted to register the mark of cadency to show Patrick his father, as third son of Keithmore. Crest, a demi-lion, or, rampant, issuing out of the wreath, gules, and motto 'Virtute et Opera.' He was also granted at this date (in recognition of his naval services) as supporters, two sailors as centinels (*sic*) each with a drawn cutlass



MUIRTOWN

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proper in short jackets azure, their under vestments white, with round hats sable and knee strings gules.

No later matriculation of arms has been made by this branch of the family.

The late Sir Robert Duff, G.C.M.G., used the hand holding the shell as an additional crest, and some of the junior branches of the Fetteresso family do the same. This crest has always been in the Duff family, as taken from the Muldavit arms without any specific grant, and has, of course, nothing to do with Crusaders or Pilgrims, to record the exploits of whom a similar device was often used in England and France. As is well known, the use of crests is not governed by the same strict laws which apply to the bearing of arms.

The next matriculation of Duff arms in the Lyon Register is that of Richard Wharton Duff, July 21, 1810.

The first and fourth grand quarters are quartered 1st and 4th a lion rampant gules, from the modern Fife family (both Richard's mother and wife having been daughters of Earls Fife), 2nd and 3rd quarters the undifferenced arms of Duff of Muldavit. The first and fourth grand quarters being actually the arms of the Earls Fife. The second and third grand quarters are the arms of the Whartons. Sable, a manche argent, within a bordure or, charged with eight pairs of lions' gambes saltirewise crased gules. Both the Fife and Wharton crests and mottoes are borne.

On August 31, 1813, James Duff of Cadiz, son of William Duff of Crombie, and great-grandson of Provost William of Inverness, registered his arms on being created a baronet.

In virtue of his 'descent from a third son of the ancient family of Duff of Muldavit or Craighead, he bears the Muldavit arms charged with a mullet gules (formerly or) on the fesse for difference,' as registered by William Duff of Inverness, *circa* 1672, with the badge of a baronet of the United Kingdom. The crest is a demi-lion charged on the breast with a mullet argent for difference. Above the crest, *Deo juvante*,¹ and on an escroll below, *Virtute et Opera*. Two months later he was granted supporters. Dexter a savage, as in the Drummair arms. Sinister, a stag proper, unguled and attyred or, gorged with a ducal coronet of the last and pendent thereupon an escutcheon charged with the aforesaid arms of Duff. No explanation is given in the register of any reason for the ducal coronet.

On December 10, 1829, Norwich Duff, R.N., of the Hatton family,

¹ Being the only member of the family to borrow the Fife second motto. The present family of Duff-Gordons use the motto, *Deo adjuvante*.

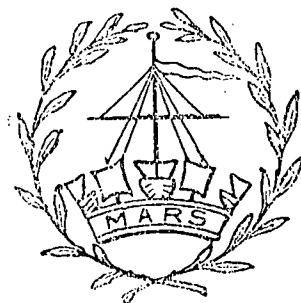
registered his arms, viz. those of Keithmore as before, with crest, the demi-lion rampant¹ and 'with a mark of congruent difference and an honourable augmentation,' but *without* marks of cadency.

The difference and augmentation were as follows: 'On a chief wavy of the second (*i.e.* ermine) the Trafalgar medal pendent by a ribbon argent, azure, argent, between a wreath of cypress and laurel with Trafalgar under the medal. As an additional crest, a Naval crown or, with the word Mars, and issuing therefrom a ship of war's mast, with the pennant half mast lowered, emblematical of the death of the officer in command. All encircled by a wreath of laurel with the motto *Cupressus honores peperit*. Mantling gules, doubled argent.'

Granted to Norwich Duff and his heirs.



NORWICH DUFF



NORWICH DUFF

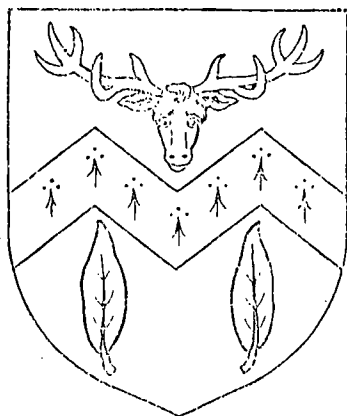
On July 10, 1865, Thomas Duff of Barnagore House, Richmond, Surrey, and late of Calcutta, made application to the Lord Lyon for a grant of arms, and although he does not seem to have put forward any claim to connection with the family of Muldavit, he was granted their arms, with a difference. The grant runs thus:

'Whereas Thomas Duff hath, by petition, represented unto us that he is the second son of the late Daniel Duff, engineer and flax-spinner of Dundee and Margaret Low, his wife, and hath prayed that we would grant our licence and authority to the Petitioner and his descendants to bear and use such Armorial

¹ Though the rest of his branch of the family were using the buck's head, as they have always done.

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ensigns as might be found suitable, according to the law of Arms, know ye therefore that we have devised and do by these presents, assign these arms. Parted per fesse vert and or, a fesse dancetty ermine between a hart's head cabossed in chief of the second, and two laurel leaves in base of the first.



THOMAS DUFF OF CALCUTTA

'Crest, a demi-lion rampant, proper. Motto, *Virtute et Opera.*'

On September 2, 1905, Charles Garden Duff of Vaynol, eldest surviving son of the late Robert George Duff of Wellington Lodge, Ryde, made petition to the Lord Lyon to be allowed to bear the arms of Keithmore as before, all within a bordure chequy vert and or, with the mantling vert doubled or, and for his crest a buck's head proper. Motto, *Virtute et Opera.*

The other arms registered in the books of the Lord Lyon are :

Those of Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B., on February 22, 1908.

He bears the arms of Keithmore with four marks of cadency, viz. (1) on the fesse a mullet vert; (2) a bordure or, which is (3) engrailed, and (4) parted per pale or and ermine,¹ all surrounded by the collar of his order as G.C.B., with the star of the same pendent therefrom, and also the badges of K.C.V.O., K.C.S.I., and C.I.E. Mantling vert, doubling or.

The arms of the house of Hatton have never been matriculated. The crest used by this branch of the family is the buck's head proper, the same as that granted to William Duff of Braco, 1623, and the motto *Virtute et Opera.*

Those of the late Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff who bore : 1st and 4th, gules, a lotus flower, slipped, between three antique crowns or, for Grant; 2nd and 3rd, the arms of Keithmore differenced by charging the fesse with a cross flory (for Ainslie), between two boars' heads crased or (for Gordon), representing his descent; with two crests and mottoes, the flaming mount and 'Stand fast' for Grant, and the buck's head proper and *Virtute et Opera* for Duff. These arms were matriculated August 20, 1904.

Those of Major Adrian Grant Duff, C.B., the third son of the above, registered on November 5, 1906, which are the same as his father's, the

¹ Strictly speaking, Sir Beauchamp Duff should only bear the mullet of the field for Patrick Duff of Craigston, third son of Alexander of Keithmore, and two subsequent marks of cadency. The third was added under a misapprehension.

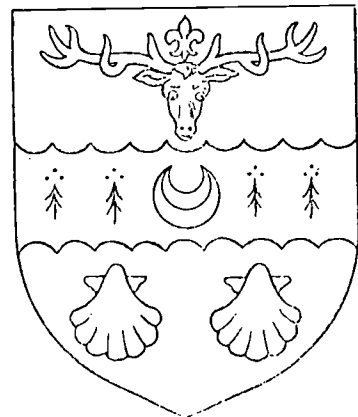
whole within a bordure argent, and now impaled with the arms of the first Lord Avebury, his father-in-law.

And those of Sir George Duff Sutherland Dunbar, registered on December 19, 1898, which are Dunbar quartered with Sutherland, Duff, and Randolph; 1st, gules, a lion rampant within a bordure argent, charged with eight roses of the first, for Dunbar; 2nd, gules, three mullets or, a crescent of the last for difference, for Sutherland; 3rd, vert, on a fesse dancetty ermine between a buck's head cabossed in chief, and two escallops in base or, a mullet of the field on the fesse for difference, for Duff; 4th, or, three cushions within a double tressure flory counterflory gules, for Randolph, all within a bordure, vairy gules and or. Crest, a key and sword in saltire proper. Motto, *Sub Spe.*¹

Besides these members of the Duff family who have registered their arms, many others have borne them, with certain differences.

Those borne by 'Tiger' Duff himself are no longer extant, but on the gravestone of his third son Adam are placed the arms of Keithmore, though not quite correctly done, as the fesse is indented instead of dancetty, a peculiarity which also occurs in some of the old Braeco coats.

Adam's arms are differenced with a mullet gules on the fesse, he being the third son of his father, but it is not clear why any of this family should have borne the arms of Keithmore, from whom they were not descended. Their proper armorial bearings would have been those of the old Drummair family, that is, a stag's head erased, instead of cabossed, without the fesse dancetty and with three escallops, but these would have required a good many marks of cadency for the descent through the Duffs of Bade and Craigenach. The crest used by Adam was a dexter arm couped at the elbow proper, holding in the hand an escallop shell, and first used by Provost William Duff of Inverness and Alexander of Keithmore, also by the family of Duff of Whitehill, and now by the junior members of the Fetteresso branch.



COLONEL JOHN DUFF

On the tomb of Colonel John Duff, brother of 'Tiger' Duff, in the same church (St. Mary's, Islington), the arms are the same, except that there is a

¹ There is a slight inaccuracy in these arms also, as the helmet used is not of the form usually assigned to a baronet.

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crested with a crescent gules instead of the mullet; this is the mark (in England) used to indicate a second son, but probably was not used consciously for this purpose, as Colonel John Duff was either the fourth or fifth of his own family; and there is a further difference in the shape of a fleur-de-lis between the stag's antlers.

James Duff of Madeira, eldest brother of Patrick ('Tiger') and John, used the Keithmore arms differenced with a crescent gules and without the fleur-de-lis.

Many of the Duffs of the present day are using arms which, strictly speaking, should be rematriculated with proper differences, and failure to do this renders them technically liable to the old fine of £100 Scots, or incarceration in the nearest Tolbooth.

CHAPTER XXXIX

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON THE FAMILY, AND ON DUFFS UNCONNECTED OR UNIDENTIFIED

ATTENTION must be drawn to the extraordinarily large families common among the Duffs :

There is one instance of thirty-six children (Patrick Duff of Craigston).

Another of twenty-two (Isabel Duff, Dipple's daughter).

Another of sixteen (John Duff of Hatton).

While families of ten, twelve, and fourteen are quite common, both in remote and modern days.

Mr. John Duff of Muldavit had at least fourteen.

Adam Duff of Clunybeg, twelve.

William Duff of Inverness, thirteen.

His daughter Jean, fourteen.

Alexander Duff of Drummuir, fourteen.

Margaret Duff (Alexander of Braco's daughter), thirteen.

William Duff, Lord Braco, fourteen.

Robert Duff of Inverness, fourteen.

William Duff of Dipple, fourteen.

Janet Duff (Dipple's daughter), thirteen.

Jean Duff (Alexander of Hatton's daughter), thirteen.

William Duff of Muirtown, ten.

Alexander Duff of Elgin, fourteen.

Magdalen Duff (Dingwall), thirteen.

James Duff of Banff, thirteen.

Jean Duff (Abernethy), his sister, eleven.

Helen Duff (Tod), thirteen.

Major Hugh Robert Duff, ten.

Lady Louisa Duff (Brooke), thirteen.

James Duff, Bruntyards, thirteen.

Thomas Duff (Gordon), twelve.

Garden William Duff, ten.

James Duff, Knockleith, fourteen.

John Alexander Duff, seventeen.

Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, ten.

Peter Duff of the New Noth family, thirteen.

Robert Duff of the New Noth family, twelve children, and about forty grandchildren.

Also to the longevity of the family :

Adam Duff of Clunybeg was eighty-four when he died.

His son, Provost William Duff, was eighty-three.

Margaret Duff of Culter, eighty-three.

James, the second Earl, Alexander, the third Earl, their brother George, and their sister, Lady Anne, were all eighty. Lady Sophia, eighty-six.

James, the fourth Earl, was eighty-one.

Sir James Duff of Kinstair, eighty-three. His daughter Anne, ninety-one.

James Duff of Corsindac, eighty-four. Margaret Duff of Corsindac, eighty-nine. William Duff of Corsindac, eighty-four.

Margaret Duff of Crombie, eighty-nine. Her nephew, James Duff of Cadiz, eighty.

Richard Wharton Duff, eighty. Anne Jane Wharton Duff, ninety. Mary Wharton Duff (Mrs. Buller), eighty-five.

Anne Duff of Banff (Mrs. Biggar), ninety-two.

Innes Duff of Dundee, ninety-four.

Janet Duff of Ayr, ninety.

Mary, sister of Major Lachlan Duff, ninety-two.

Jemima, sister of the same, eighty-two.

Maria Garden Duff, eighty-four.

Benjamin Duff of Hatton, eighty-nine.

James Duff of New Noth, eighty-one. General Robert William Duff, eighty-two.

And many others.

HORNING

In the early history of the Duff family there have been so many instances of men being 'put to the horn,' that a full description of that ceremony may be interesting.

A person who disobeyed a charge was proclaimed a rebel by 'denunciation.' Prior to the year 1838 this Act of Denunciation was performed by a messenger-at-arms, who proceeded to the Cross of Edinburgh, or to the Market Cross of the head burgh of the county in which the man charged had his residence, and there, in the presence of two witnesses, cried three several 'oyez's' with an audible voice, and then read publicly the letters of horning and the execution of charge, and thereafter denounced the offender as a rebel and put him 'to the horn,' as it was termed, by three blasts of a horn. If the offender was 'forth of the kingdom,' the denunciation was proclaimed at the Cross of Edinburgh and the pier and shore of Leith. The denunciation was declared null if the letters of horning and the execution were not registered within fifteen days in the Sheriff Court Books of the jurisdiction within which the debtor resided, or in the General Register at Edinburgh.

Denunciation also proceeded against persons cited to the Court of Justiciary on account of crimes: First, when they appeared with more followers than were allowed by the Act of 1555. Secondly, where, in consequence of failure to appear, sentence of fugitation had been pronounced against them.

The consequences of a Denunciation were formerly penal.

1. The rebel's 'single escheat fell' (that is, his whole moveable effects were forfeited to the Crown), and his liferent escheat fell to the superior, if he remained a year and a day unrelaxed.

2. Prior to 1612, persons denounced, even for a civil debt, might be put to death with impunity.

3. After denunciation, the rebel had no *persona standi in judicio*.

But the severity of these penalties was greatly mitigated, first by usage and then by legal enactment.

In our researches into the history of the Duff family we have come across various small incidents relating to persons of that name not otherwise known to us, whose relationship to the family it is quite impossible to trace; but some such incidents seem worth preserving on their merits.

From Stoddart's *Scottish Arms*.

'DUFF. In 1330 the Abbot of Arbroath confirmed to David dictus Duffus, son and heir of John called Duffus, a charter of lands at Inverallon.

'In 1361 Brokynus Duff was on an inquest at Aberdeen, and the next year Machabeus Duff, burges of Cullen, was on another at Banff.'

From the Book of Pluscarden, *Historians of Scotland*.

1426. 'Arestatus est ibidem Angus Duff, cum suis quattuor filiis et multis aliis malefactoribus, ad gentaculum convocatus et arestatis, accusatis, judicatis et condampnatis, quibusdam decollatis, quibusdam suspensis, aliis proscriptis et exulatis.

'Et sic patriam per multa tempora pacificavit et in quiete remanavit.'

That the quiet was not of long duration the next extract shows :

From Balfour's *Annals of Scotland*.

1428. 'Angus Duff of Strathaverne, with Murray his brother (both of them the King had laily pardoned), enter Moray with ain army of 3000 men, and destroy it with fyre and sword, bot they were met by Angus Murray, a bird of that same fether, betwix Quliom there was ain offe the creuclest battells fought

that cuer was hard offe. That of both armics thar were onlic tuelffe persons left alive and these sore woundit.'

Thomas Duff was burgess of Forres in 1492, with John, James, and Nicholas Duff, his sons. Another Nicholas Duff was Town Clerk in 1610, and Alexander, his son, was Clerk of the Exchequer.

Rudolph Duff, in Elgin, 'dead before 1635.'

In the early records of Inverness there are notices of a good many Duffs.

On December 16, 1558, James Duff was owner of the forty-schylling fyshing in the Ness, and of his son Alexander we have the following account :

'Comperit in jugement Alexander Duff, eldest son lauchfulle gotten to unquhile James Duff, burgess of Inverness, and gaif in his bill and petition desyred to be cognescit as narrest and lauchfull ayr to the said umqhill James Duff his fadyr and to be entrit in all landis, tackis, and stedings quhilkis his seid fadyr deit westit and saisit and was in possession of the tyme of his deceise, viz. the fourte schilling waling of the Watter of Ness, the half and all and anc half anchtan pairt landis of the Barnehillis, etc., quhilk was proclamit at the tolbuyth stayr as us is. And James Paterson and Martyne Wasces, burgesis of Invernis, ar becumin actit in our burrow buikis of Inverness that Alexander Duff sall seot and lot walk and ward conforme to orderis nychtbouris of this burgh, to his perfection.' May 1570.

In 1568 Gilbert Duff was Burgh Clerk, and was 'electit and chosin be the provost, baillies and cunsall for the intaking of the threddis of the benefices within the parochin.'

In 1603, Alexander Duff was Clerk, and notary public.

In 1619, James Duff, his son, was also Clerk, and continued to exercise this office until 1686; they transacted business for one Mungo Duff. It has not been found possible to connect these Duffs in any way with the Muldavit stock, but it is possible that they were a branch of that family, and that because of their presence in Inverness, William Duff, afterwards Provost, went to settle there in the seventeenth century.

In 1715, Alexander Duff, armourer, is mentioned as holding land in Inverness. This must be the same man described in the Registers, in connection with the birth of his children, as 'sword slipper.'

Richard Duffe of Islington, Canon of Smithfield, was allowed a pension of £6, 13s. 4d. per annum at the dissolution of the Monastery in 1540. Payment of this pension is noted many times in the *Domestic State Papers* of Henry VIII.

In 1602, one Patrick Duff, an Irishman, was convicted of speaking treason against the Queen, 'but is not yet executed.'

A branch of the Duff family settled in Ulster (at the time of the plantation of Ulster in 1611), and has resided there ever since.

The present representative of this family is the Reverend John Duff of the Deanery, Athlone (one of ten children), ten generations of whose family are buried in the same churchyard.

Baird's *Memoirs of the Duffs* gives this brief note: 'About 1750, one John Duff, was sovereign of Belfast, in the province of Ulster, and Mr. Duff of Cromby used to correspond with him, from the shire of Air. This is a heritable office belonging to the Earl of Donegal, and to which that family appoints a deputy.' The Mayor of Belfast is now properly known as the Sovereign, that being the ancient title, and John Duff was probably Mayor.¹

There was a Thomas Duff, burges of Dantzic in 1619.

From the *Court Books of Cullen*.

'1644. Margaret Duff: Adulteress, is ordaynit to mak her publick repentance Sabbathlic, viz.

'To stand in ye joggles from ye ringing of ye first bell to ye beginning of ye sermone, and from thence to the stoole and sit in sack cloth, bare-footed and bare-legged, and to continue this Sabbathlic, untill the Minister, be advyse of ye brethren of ye Presbytric, do give her absolutione.'

'1664. Margaret Duff gave in ain bill of complaint against Isobell Thaine for calling her a drunken jade, filthic quean, and lousie hussie.'

From Stuart's *Chronicles of Keith*.

'At Botarie, Aug. 25, 1652. The said day, Mr. William Jamison, Minister of Kinoir, declared there was a murder committed by William Duff, pariocher of Kèith, at a penny bridal in the pariochin of Kinoir, as was alledged, the said William being drunk.

'Jan. 5, 1653. Compeired William Duff in Keith and produced ane act of assoylment from those that were in civil power for the tyme, exempting him from any civil punishment; moreover ane absolutione from the friends of the woman killed; yet notwithstanding of all that was produced, the presbyterie, judging the scandal still to remain, ordained him, for purging away the scandall, to compeir in sack cloth before the congregation of Dumbennan, quher the scandal was given, and there to testify his sorrow for his sinne.'

¹ Baird also states that one Thomas Duff was Mayor of Coventry in 1450, but reference to the Lect-Book of Coventry shows his name to have been Thomas Dove.

From the Banff Presbytery Records and Registers.

'1674. Accused, Robert Duffes, one of the deacons, for scandalous transgressing the Sabbath in the parish of Alvalh, in apprehending, by violence, men to the French captains, by my Lord Banff his commandments.'

'1675. Baptised, George, son of Alex. Barclay, Litster and Christian Duff his spouse.'

'1678, Feb. 12. The said day, Helen Duff spouse to Patrick Barclay died in childbirth, having brought forth 3 children, two boys baptised James and John, and a girl baptd Margrt.

'1682. Baptised Hary, son of Alex. Barclay, Dyer and Christian Duff his spouse—wit. Hary Duff (nat. son of Robert Duff of Drummuir).

'1683. Baptised Rachel, dau. of the above. J. Ramsay of Melross a witness.

'1686. Baptised Patrick, son of the above A. Barclay and C. Duff.

'1687, 16 Oct. Baptised Walter, lawful son of Frances Duff in Banff.

'1697. Baptised Patrick, son of Alex. Leslie of Kininvie—one of the witnesses Patrick Duff of Castletown.'

'1699. Baptised Anna, dau. to Mr. William Scott, goldsmith; witnesses, Anna Innes, Lady Castletown and Patrick Duff.'

SIMON DUFF, Ensign in the Tangier Regiment of Foot (now 2nd Queen's Royal West Surrey), in 1683.

'In our withdrawal from Tangier in 1684 he was in Captain Barbour's Company, and sailed home with him in the *Montague*; this company was only 45 strong. They landed at Falmouth, the 3rd of April 1684. He was one of Kirk's Lambs, but was not at the battle of Sedgemoor. He was afterwards an Ensign in the Scots brigade in Holland, in the regiment commanded by Brigadier-General Ramsay. He became Major in the regiment, then called the Queen Dowager's regiment, 29th Feb. 1696; served in the Cadiz expedition in 1702.'

In the records of the Scots College at Douai is found, under date Julii 26, 1686: .

'Joannes Duff, qui post rhetoricam ivit ad tyrocinium (*i.e.* military service) sed dimissus inde.'

From E. Dunbar-Dunbar's *Documents relating to the Province of Moray*, 1895.

Testimony to the prosperity of the family:

'Early in the eighteenth century there was in the parish of Dallas a cattle lifter, said by his fellow parishoners to be a "verra pious man" because, before setting out to pillage in the low country, he laid his bonnat on the ground, went down on his knees and prayed "that the Almighty would keep him from harming the

widow and the fatherless, and guide him to the nout (cattle) of Duff of Dipple and sic like.”’

From the *Calendar of State Papers* (Domestic Series).

1765. Mr. Samuel Garbett, writing to William Burke, states that: ‘Two workmen in Scotland, viz. Peter Duff and Thomas Lewis, were engaged to go to Gothenburg, by one Creswell, a Scotsman, who lives there. They were arrested at Montrose, and only released upon bail of £100 Scots (equal to £8, 6s. 8d.) Creswell left the kingdom. It being then a punishable offence to “export Scottish workmen.”’

In 1742 my Lords confirm the following presentments:

‘James Duff, a boatman at Scilly, loco. John Mitchell superannuated’ (*Domestic State Papers*).

The following note occurs in Baird’s history of the Duffs, without context: ‘London Packet, May 29, 1773. Portsmouth, May 25, arrived the John and Mary Duff, from Scilly, a Shipmaster of that name, originally from Scotland, and settled in the West of England.’

In 1620 there is also a record of ‘Certificate of John Duffe, of St. Mary’s, London, a Scotchman (*sic*), Master and owner of the *Angel* of London, being wrecked at the Isle of Scilly, going from Ireland to Rochester’ (*Historical MSS. Commission*).

There is now a family of Duffs in Scilly, which has been settled there for two and a half centuries, of which the present representative is Mr. William Duff, Rosevean, Sutton, Surrey. Family tradition states that a Duff from the North originally went to Scilly with Prince Charles (subsequently Charles II.) in 1645.¹

The voyage of the *Duff* missionary ship in 1797 is hitherto unexplained. It was apparently fitted out by some one of the name, and from that fact, and their discovery by those on board this vessel, the Duff Islands take their name.²

¹ Mr. William Duff possesses a family tree going back to John of Gaunt, but the first Duff appearing in it is his own father, William Duff, born in Scilly in 1806, whose father was Samuel Duff, and his father another William.

² The present writers have lost no opportunity of consulting works of reference for Duff lore of any sort, and a Spanish encyclopædia in the British Museum yields the following information:

‘Duff o’ Taumako.’ ‘Grupo de once islas, proximo al Archipelago de Santa Cruz. Le dié nombre el capitán Wilson del navio Duff.’ ‘Group of eleven islands, near to the Archipelago of Santa Cruz, Captain Wilson of the ship *Duff* named them.’ This refers to the islets mentioned above.

The next entry is:

‘Duff, Isleta del archipelago Tuamote Polinesia, que Wilson creyó ver in 1797, y que despues se ha buscado inutilmente.’ ‘Another island in the same part of the globe, but in a different group, which Captain Wilson thought he had discovered, but which has since been searched for in vain!’

Extract from the *Chronicles of the Atholl Family*.

'In 1797 Donald Duff was a boatman at Tummel's house. Stuart of Ballechin writes about him.'

This is the direct ancestor of Daniel Duff, late General Manager of the London Road Car Company, whose father James died in 1894, while the above Donald, his grandfather, was born in 1742. The lives of father and son thus covering a period of one hundred and fifty-two years.

The father of Donald was David Duff, a small farmer in Strathtay, early in the eighteenth century.

List of all the persons in Atholl below the Pass of Killicrankie who at any time during the Rebellion joined the Rebels, given up by the several ground officers 1746 :

Alexander Duff in Dalmarnock—killed.

James Duff in Dalmarnock—present at Culloden, taken prisoner.

Charles Duff, Dunkeld, a labourer.

On December 30, 1745, Carlisle surrendered to Cumberland. Amongst those who surrendered were: of Lord Ogilvie's regiment—Daniel Duff and Walter Menzies (see chapter xxxvi.). Of Roy Stewart's regiment—Daniel Duff, James Duff, John Duff in Kirkton, Ballinluig, labourer.

Other Atholl vassals in the Rebellion of 1745 :

John Duff in Glenalbert.

Robert Duff in Wester Kinnaird.

William Duff in Bellmacree, servants.

In the list of the rebels attainted in 1747 there is one Daniel Duff, found guilty, but recommended to mercy. This individual is possibly identical with the 'Gentleman with a small estate in the brae of Angus' who, according to Baird, 'engaged with Prince Charlie in 1745,' and was still alive when Baird wrote (1773).

From Rosbery's *List of Persons concerned in the Rebellion (1745)*.

Rebels from the Dundee district :

Alexander Duff, apprentice. Lived in Dundee, County Forfar. Carried arms in Rebel army. Not known what became of him.

Glasgow district :

Robert Duff, Painter, Glasgow. Listed with the Rebels after Preston battle and continued to the end. A prisoner.

John Duff, baxter in Banff. The baptisms relating to this John Duff's children are to be found in the registers of the Episcopal church in Banff, one born in the year 1745. After which date the registers are lost.

From the *Albemarle Papers*.

List of Rebels against whom there is proof, above the rank of private men :
 James Duff of Torphics younger (presumably James, yr of Hatton, *q.v.*).¹
 Alexander Ogilvy, shoemaker, Banff, *ibid.* A private man and lurking in
 the house of Patrick Duff on Speyside.²

In 1755, there died at Tarves, Alexander Duff, aged near one hundred. He
 was a soldier in the reign of Queen Anne.

From the *Scots Magazine*.

' On July 23, 1777, John Duff, sentenced for robbing the Mail, was executed
 at St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, and after hanging the usual time, was cut down,
 put into a coffin, and carried away by his friends. He was "let blood" in a
 field, and brought alive into a cabin near Milltown, where being too plentifully
 supplied with whisky, the bandage came off his arm in the night, and a violent
 hæmorrhage ensued, of which he died about three o'clock next morning, most
 solemnly declaring his innocence.'

From T. A. Fisher's *The Scots in Germany*.

' Augustine Duff, from Fochabers in Scotland, was abbot of the Monastery
 at Wurzburg in the eighteenth century. He is called "the type of a good
 shepherd." He was an excellent scholar and patron of the library. His death in
 1753 prevented him from finishing the reconstruction of the Chapel of Saint
 Macharinus.'

' Thomas Duff, or Duffus, was a monk there in the previous century. He died
 in 1626. He is called "poeta celeberrimus."'

From Jervise's *Inscriptions*.

Churchyard of Mains (Angus).

A table-shaped stone inscribed ' J. D.' and ' G. Y.'

' Heir one beneeth this stone consuming lyes,
 Of wirtues honest. John Duff by nam,
 Who while he lived he was beloved by al,

¹ Yet another Duff is said to have left Scotland during the '45, and taken refuge in the north
 of Ireland. This was Samuel Duff, who had a son Samuel, and a grandson Dr. Duff of Chester.
 The connection of this Samuel with any other Scottish Duffs has been lost. Another family
 went to Ireland to escape persecution under John Knox!

² This was Patrick Duff, Town Clerk of Elgin, who must have had undeclared Jacobite
 sympathies.

And did dies the 11th November 1654, and of his age sixty.
 I rest in hop until the tym apear
 That I shal rest and mit my Saviour.'

Also in the churchyard of Fearn, Ross-shire.
 ALEXANDER DUFF.

'Live well and die well, said Solomon the Wise,
 Here lies Alexander Duff and his three wives.'

From the *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*.

1808. (This refers to a very humble member of the clan).

Letter to the Duke's factor :

'The petition of poor Helen Duff, relict of the deceased John Duff, late residing in Dunkeld, February 19, 1808, most humbly sheweth that the Petitioner's Husband died several years ago, left her with a helpless familie, two of them perfectly deranged in their judgement, by which means they are not only rendered incapable of earning any sustinence for themselves, particularly one of them (a girlic) is so much distracted that she is tyed with a strait jacket and ropes, that she requires attendance night and day, and has nothing but what she gathers from well disposed members and benevolent.

'That the same girlic is at present much swelled in her hands and feet with the ropes, etc., and the poor Petitioner has no other way of confining her, without being in danger.

'She humbly pleads of your honour that you would be pleased to grant her as much of coarse wood as would close up her bed at sides, ends, and top. By way of a cage to keep her into, to relieve her from the pains she suffers from the ropes, etc.

'May it therefore please your honour to consider this petition, and thereon to grant the poor petitioner the desire therefore, and that she may ever pray that God may bless you.
 HELEN DUFF.'

'CHARLES ADAM DUFF, of Abchurch Lane, merchant, a bankrupt in 1789.'¹
 In 1785, Alexander Duff of Mayen had written about this Charles Adam as 'a fine promising young man, who had lost his father,' but we have no other clue to his parentage or history.

JAMES DUFF at Shrewsbury School 1823-1825.

¹ *European Magazine*.

From the *Times*, Wednesday, February 12, 1800.

'Married at St. Martin's church. James Alexander Morley to Miss MARIA HARE DUFF of St. Martin's Court; a most beautiful and amiable young lady of the age of seventeen.'

H. A. DUFF, of 32 Coleraine Road, Blackheath, also traces his descent to an Aberdeenshire family. His great-great-grandfather, William Duff, came from Aberdeen, as the result of a family quarrel, and was resident in Broad Street, Carnaby Market, in 1777; on January 25 of that year he apprenticed his son, another William Duff, to James Burgess, citizen and musician. William Duff the second was admitted to the freedom of the city in 1790. He had three sons, John, Charles, and William, and two daughters, Anne and Jane Anne Gibbon. The eldest son, John, had a son, George William, father of H. A. Duff. William the Freeman of 1790 had also a brother Thomas and another, James, churchwarden of St. Botolph's, Aldgate, whose daughter, Phoebe, married, on May 1, 1824, by licence, William Humphrey Pilcher. She is described in the registers of St. Botolph's church as of America Square.

It is perhaps possible to connect the first William given above with the family of William Duff, the Professor 'extruded forth from Aberdeen University, 1738,' and afterwards resident in London. See page 533.

From Kay's *Edinburgh Portraits*.

Sergeant WILLIAM DUFF of the 42nd Royal Highlanders.

He was a native of Banffshire, born 1792, and enlisted August 16, 1806, aged fourteen. He was promoted Corporal in 1810, Sergeant 1812. He fought in the Pyrennees, at Pampeluna, Nive, Orthes, Toulon, etc., and was wounded at the storming of Burgos. At Waterloo, where he greatly distinguished himself, he was severely wounded, but was soon able to return to the regiment. He was promoted Sergeant-Major in 1818, and in 1825 was raised to the rank of Adjutant. He died at Ayr, October 8, 1833.

JAMIE DUFF, or 'BAILIE' DUFF.

A person of weak intellect, son of a poor widow in the Cowgate, who lived chiefly on charity. He had a passion for attending funerals, with paper weepers on his hat, and loved to wear a brass medal and chain in imitation of the City Magistrates, which peculiarity gained him his nickname.

He was tall and robust, though he walked with a shambling gait. When annoyed, he would strike at the first person he met. On one occasion, when some boys were teasing him, he seized a ladder standing near him, flung it over his shoulder, and pursued the flying foe for some distance before he perceived that a painter's apprentice was on the top of the ladder, and had been forcibly carried away from his work.

NOTES ON THE FAMILY

EDWARD JAMES DUFF, Holly Lodge, Cressington Park, Liverpool, descends from a branch which left Scotland early in the eighteenth century and settled near Durham.

— Duff came from Scotland about 1715, born *circa* 1690.

Joseph, born *circa* 1745.
|
William, born *circa* 1780.
|
Joseph, born *circa* 1820.
|
Edward James.

It is tempting to identify the first Duff in the above tree with the James Duff of Beaufront, who writes to Lord Braco in 1746 about his son William (see chapter x.). Tradition asserts that the Durham family was descended from Adam Duff of Clunybeg. James would thus probably be a grandson of Clunybeg's son Peter, who 'went south and never returned,' and second cousin to Lord Braco.¹

JOHN DUFF, I.S.O., British Consul in Gothenburg comes from Inverness.

THOMAS DUFF, cooper in Inverness, went to Sweden in 1808, his son Frederick William, born 1805, served in the British Consulate from 1824 till his death in 1881. He left three sons and three daughters, John, I.S.O., Richard, Thomas, Virginia, Elizabeth, Mary.

GEORGE M. DUFF of the Education Department, Kingston, Jamaica, traces his descent to a Banffshire or Aberdeenshire family; but beyond his father, James Duff, who was a W.S., and went to Jamaica early in the nineteenth century, the records have been lost.

James Duff married Margaret Dallas and had twelve children:

Margaret, John, Katherine, William, Eileen, George, Louisa, Alexander Gordon, Dora, Isabella, Arthur, Charles.

JOHN WIGHT DUFF of the Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and his uncle, Professor DAVID DUFF, are presumably connected with the Perthshire Duffs. The Professor's grandfather, James Duff, was a farmer in the neighbourhood of Greenock. His wife was Isabella Neill.

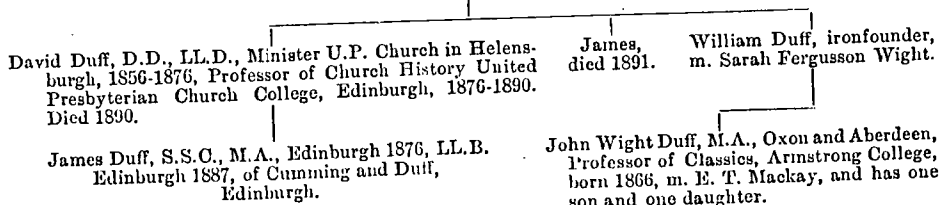
¹ The following persons of the name of Duff have been found in the Durham registers: Jane Duff of the parish of Lesbury, County Durham, married Andrew Scott, May 15, 1763; Eleanor Duff of St. Margaret's, Durham, married Robert Sturgess, July 22, 1766; Daniel Duff of Whickham, County Durham, married Jane Seymour, August 19, 1811.

DUFFS OF BRUNTYARDS

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JAMES DUFF, m. Isabella Neill.

James Duff, brassfounder in Greenock, and Provost there on two occasions,
1796-1890.



ARCHIBALD DUFF of Annfield was well known in Aberdeen for fifty years as an official of the Great North of Scotland Railway, being at one time Superintendent of the Mineral Department. He was born 1822, died 1901. His connection with any other part of the family is not known.

His son, James Murray Duff, now resides in Aberdeen.

The actor, Charles Duff, who took the name of Dornton, was a cousin.

Charles Duff married Louise Robertson, sister of T. W. Robertson (author of *Caste*), and Harry Edwin Dornton Duff is his grandson.

JAMES DUFF of Bruntyards, King Edward, born 1796, died 1874, married, January 20, 1825, Charlotte Todd, born 1805. They had thirteen children:

1. Robert, born November 10, 1825, died November 28, 1825.
2. Mary Ann, born 1827, died 1837.
3. James, born 1828, died 1882; married Annabella Tod.
4. Andrew, born 1830, died 1866; married Mary Lillie.
5. Robert, born 1832, died 1837.
6. Charlotte, born 1834; married James Watt, and, secondly, John Milne.
7. Janet Monson, born 1836; married Captain Blacklock.
8. Allan Todd, born 1839, died 1872; married Marion Kennedy.
9. Mary, born 1840, died 1873; married James Milne.
10. Alexander, born 1842.
11. Isabella Jane, born 1844.
12. Robina, born 1846, died 1867.
13. George Skene, born 1849, died 1870.

Of the above, the two Roberts, Mary Ann, Andrew, Robina, and George Skene, are buried in the old churchyard, Banff.

JAMES, the eldest surviving son of the above family, and his wife, Annabella Tod, had eight sons:

1. James Erskine, born 1869; married Elsie Watson of South Africa.
2. Robert Tod, born 1871, died 1890.
3. Hatton, born 1872, died 1878.

4. Andrew Allan, born 1874 ; married Eleanor Watson of South Africa.
5. John, born 1875, now in Mains of Tippetry ; married Margaret Duncan.
6. Charles, born 1877, now at Bruntyards.
7. Stuart, born 1879, died 1892.
8. Hatton, born 1881.

The earlier history of this family is not known, but the father of James Duff was carting contractor for Banff ; he is conjectured, by the family, to have been some connection of the Corsindae Duffs, and James Duff was wont to remark that the property of Eden should rightly have come to him !

James Erskine, the eldest grandson of James, is now in the firm of Duff, Mitchell, and Eadie, accountants, Pietermaritzburg.

James, second Lord Fife, granted land in Botriphnic and Mortlach to ALEXANDER DUFF, an illegitimate son of some member of Keithmore's family.

The family down to the present day is shown in the following table :

Alexander Duff, who went blind in his latter days, married Elspet Dey, and had—

1. James, born 1762, died young.
2. John, born 1766.
3. Alexander, born 1768.
4. James.
5. Margaret, died unmarried, buried in Mortlach.
6. Janet.
7. William, born 1778.
8. Lauchlan, born 1782.

He married, secondly, Margaret Chalmers, and had one daughter, Anne, who had a free house in Macduff from the fourth Lord Fife. She also went blind, and died unmarried.

The seventh of the above children, WILLIAM, born 1778, died 1858, married Margaret Christie. He had ten children :

1. Helen, married W. Walker, and had William, Helen, James, and Elizabeth.
2. Janet, born 1812 ; married, in 1831, James Reid, and had one daughter Isabel, born 1835, married, in 1865, to William Boddie, and had two sons, George Duff Boddie and William Boddie.¹
3. William, who was in business in Keith, and was succeeded there by his son George.
4. Margaret.
5. George } twins.
6. Elspet }

¹ Mrs. Boddie is the source of information as to this branch of the Duff family. She possesses a sampler giving the names of the children of Alexander Duff and Elspet Dey.

GEORGE married Margaret Stables, and had one daughter, Maggie, who went blind and died in 1894; another, Jeanie, who went to America; and three sons, William, George, and James.

7. Christina, married to J. Edwards.

8. Eliza.

9. Alexander.

10. James, who married Anne Watson, and had one son James; a daughter Maggie, who died; and a son George, now in Macduff, who has a family.

Two generations of Duffs to whom we have no clue are buried in Banff churchyard.

Robert Duff, born 1748, died 1810, and Isabel Leslie his wife, 1745-1813. Also William Duff, son of the above, born 1773, died 1842, and Sarah Reid, his wife, 1781-1851.

They presumably had some connection with Banffshire, though William Duff is only described as 'of Liverpool.'

Court-Martial held at Bilboa, January 27, 1814.

Lieutenant JAMES DUFF of the 11th Regiment of Foot was arraigned on the following charges:

1. For disobedience to orders and neglect of duty in quitting Santander without communicating with the commanding officer.

2. For taking away with him, and endeavouring to carry off to England, Private Donovan of the 11th Regiment without leave.

3. For having left behind him in the town several debts and demands unsatisfied.

4. For going on board a vessel at Bilboa with intent to sail for England, without previously acquainting the commandant there.

5. For having drawn stores at Bilboa, equivalent to twenty-nine days' rations, without orders, and then selling a considerable part of the same.

6. For buying a horse by means of a bill on England, and meantime selling the horse.

7. For ordering shoes for the regiment, and selling the same for his own profit.

The court found him guilty of the majority of the above charges, which, being 'to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and in breach of the articles of war,' did sentence him to be dismissed from His Majesty's service, which sentence was confirmed by the Prince Regent.

We have no clue as to the birth and parentage of this officer.

JOHN DUFF, Quartermaster-Sergeant of the 71st Foot, residing in Dundee, who died 1835, had two sons: James, who went to America, and another who

left a son Alexander, served heir to his grandfather in 1868; and three daughters: Janet, afterwards Mrs. Thompson; Mary Ann, afterwards Mrs. Fenwick; and Isabella.

JOHN DUFF, Surgeon-Major, R.A., was the son of Hugh Duff, farmer, Edderton, Ross-shire, who died 1847. John himself died 1874. He had two brothers, Hector and Walter, and all three were at Aberdeen University in 1844.

GEORGE DUFF was a banker in Dunkeld, and married a Miss Smyttan of Perth. His son, John Duff, was twice married. Of his second family there were three sons: George Smyttan; Andrew, who was drowned at sea; and Charles Murray Duff, a surgeon in India, married Eliza Jane Wallace, who died in 1883, and is buried at Kensal Green.

GEORGE SMYTTAN lived at one time at the manse at Kinfauns, with some relatives of his grandmother, Miss Smyttan. He was afterwards a banker and planter in Ceylon, and after his retirement held the property of Heatherly, near Inverness. His wife was Louisa Rodney, who died 1895. He left three sons:

1. George Alexander, now at Folkestone.
2. Charles Edward, late of the 8th Hussars, retired as Brevet-Colonel, March 7, 1906, now of Bradford Abbas, Sherborne, Dorset. Served in the Afghan War, 1879-1880, and in South Africa. Queen's medal, with five clasps; King's medal, two clasps; C.B.

3. Frederick, Captain 9th Lancers, 1889.

And two daughters:

4. Louisa, now Mrs. Nevett.
5. Alice, now Mrs. Percy Oswald.

There are families of all three sons. D. G. Duff, known as a runner at Eton, and now at Sandhurst, is a son of Captain Frederick Duff.

Early in the eighteenth century, a WILLIAM DUFF went to settle in King George County, Virginia, and with him went his sister Eleanor, married to William Green, one of the bodyguard of King William III., as shown in the *Census of the Officers of the Court*, 1693-1694. According to American tradition, William and Eleanor were 'the children of Alexander Macduff of Keithmore, died 1700, and his wife Helen, died 1694, daughter of Alexander, second son of James de Grant of Freuchie.' It is tradition that 'William assumed the name of Duff because his father had been obliged to do so, having been outlawed because of his services with Montrose.' There is, of course, something wrong with the story here, because, though Alexander Duff of Keithmore was outlawed, he did not change his name; moreover *his* son William remained in Scotland and founded the family of the Earls Fife; but William Duff of Virginia may, quite possibly,

have been a nephew, son of one of Alexander's younger brothers, or some remoter relative.

Eleanor Duff and William Green had a son Robert, born 1695, died 1747, whose son, Duff Green, was a General in the American War of 1812.

William Duff made his will in 1741, and it was proved in 1745. In it he mentions his 'wife Elizabeth, and his kinsmen William and John Duff and William's daughter Anne, Robert Green, his nephew, and his seven sons, William Green, Duff Green, Robert Green, Nicholas Green, John Green, James Green, and Moses Green.' There is a town Macduff in Texas, and towns of Duff in the states of Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska and in Orange County, Virginia, which probably show that members of the family were once settled in those parts.

There was also a THOMAS DUFF, Colonel in the Revolutionary War, 1777, who lived in the village of Newport, Wilmington City, Newcastle County, Delaware.

He died in 1808, leaving three sons: Thomas, a lawyer; Henry, who also served through the Revolutionary War, and died 1789; Edward, a surgeon, died 1785; and a daughter Jane.

Thomas Duff was believed to be of Scottish extraction.

ROBERT A. DUFF of Montgomery, Alabama, states that he represents the fourth generation of Duffs settled in the U.S.A.; his great-grandfather came from Scotland, but there is no record of the county. Robert's father was Alexander Tillery Duff, born in 1837, who fought under General Custes in the American Civil War. He married Mary Schoolcraft.

Alexander had three younger brothers, Charles, Adrian and Correy.

Adrian, now deceased, left three sons: Charles, James, and Adrian, now living in New York City.¹

The following letter from an early genealogist seems worth inserting:

P. Wemyss to the Hon. Mr. Duff of Premnay

'HONOURABLE COUSINE,—I send you here a short list of our Noble Ancestors the Thans and Earls of Fife, the Great Macduffs. A family, in my opinion, much above the Duglasses, who not only learned subjects to rebel, but even to fight

¹ All families of Duff with whom we have been able to get into communication are here noted, but there are still innumerable branches in England which apparently have no connection, or at least no record of such connection, with the parent stock in Scotland.

A 'general search' in the Somerset House Registers revealed the existence of such a vast number of unknown Duffs that the attempt to deal with them all had to be abandoned. In one quarter of one year seventeen John Duffs were baptised, to none of whom have we any clue!

against their Sovereigns who had raised them to that Greatness. Nothing like it in this Illustrious family. 'Tis true, the Iniquity of the times made the two last Duncans act against the Interest of the Kingdome; and that was their ruine. I shall leave other reflexions which may be made, to your Prudence. Here you have the origine of your own family and all that ever I heard of it. If it do not displease, pray let me have a short and exact account of it that I may put it in fine Latin for a Dedication of a book I intend to write. I resolve to offer it to you as a testimony of my love, respect, and gratitude, because you appeared a friend in time of need, which favour shall never be forgotten by me. I flatter myself that the performance will be acceptable to all True Scotsmen, yea, to all Lovers of Ancient Learning seeing it is work in the common language of Europe, and for the Glory of the ancient Kingdome. It will be therefor a very great pleasure and satisfaction to me to see your name at the front of this little book. 'Tis all I can offer you, being nothing else in my small power. I shall waite your answer, seeing my weakness confines me almost now to my Room that I cannot come abroad and a visit would be most acceptable from you whom I love, revere and esteem, and shall do while I breath. This, with my best wishes to yourself, my Lady Braco, your own Sweet Lady, and commending you all to the Protection of the Almighty.—I am in all respects, Honourable Cousin, Ever Yours in Christ,

P. WEEMYS. (D.)

'FROM MY ROOM, 9ber the 4th, 1726.'

THE END

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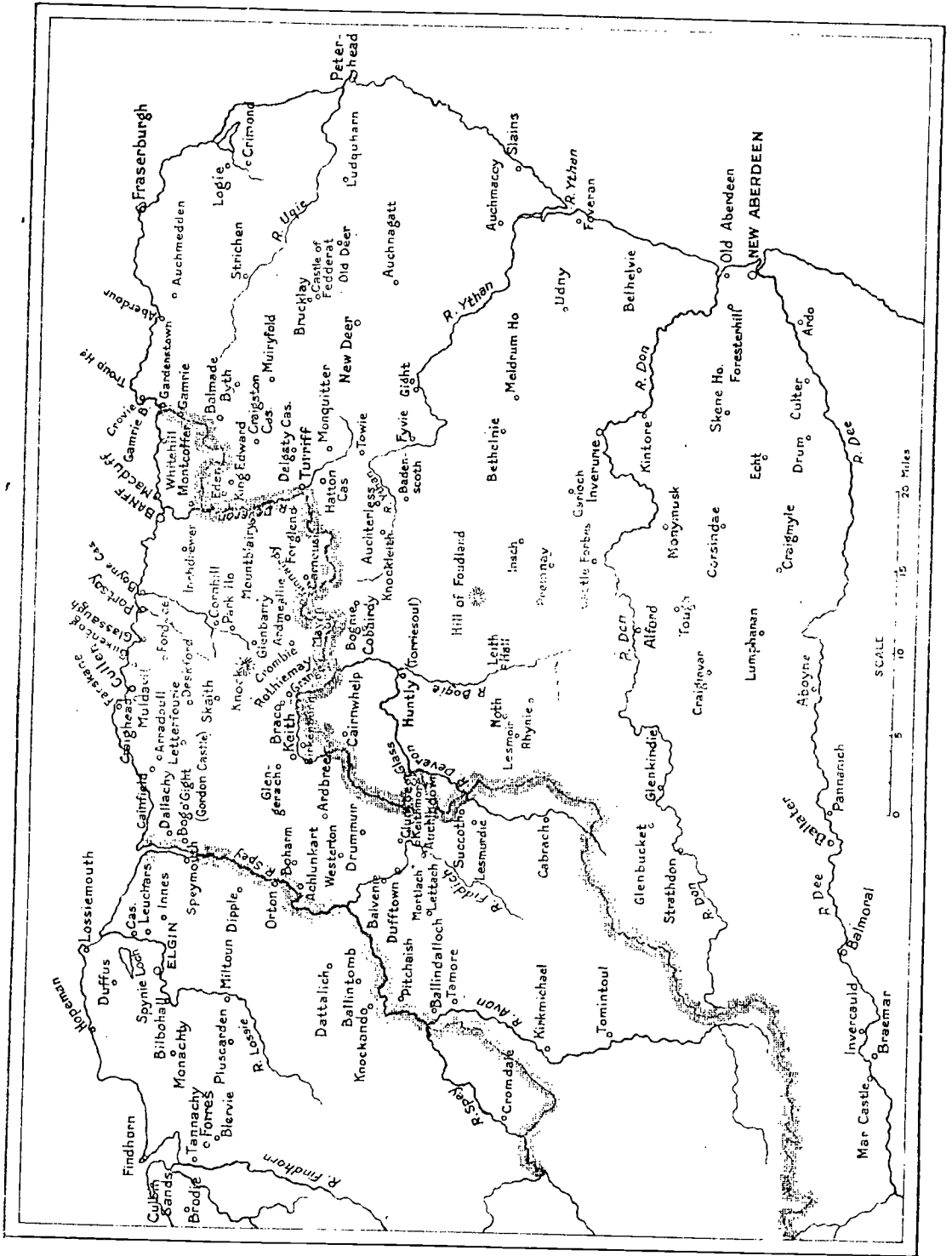
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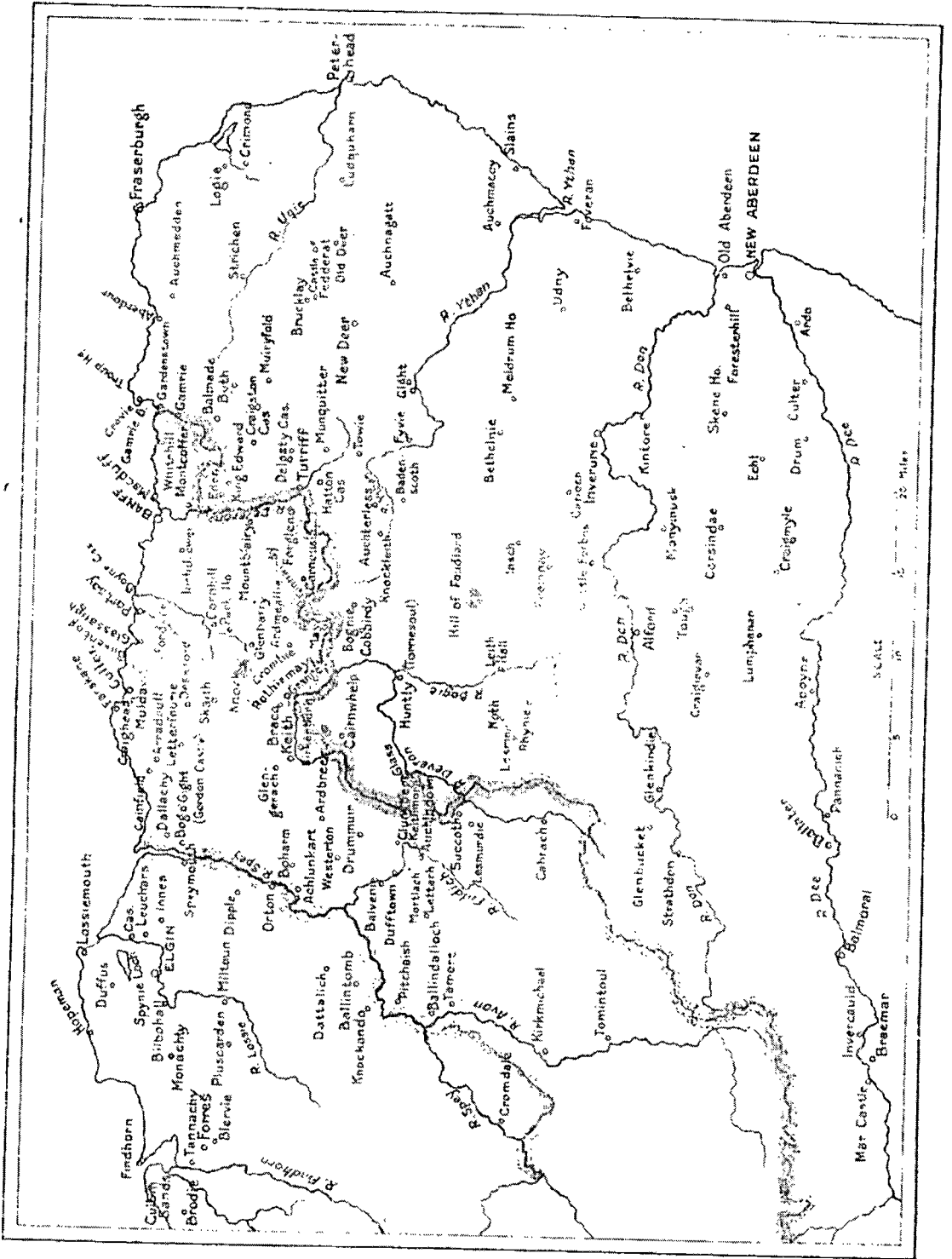
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MAP OF THE DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF ABERDEEN