



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

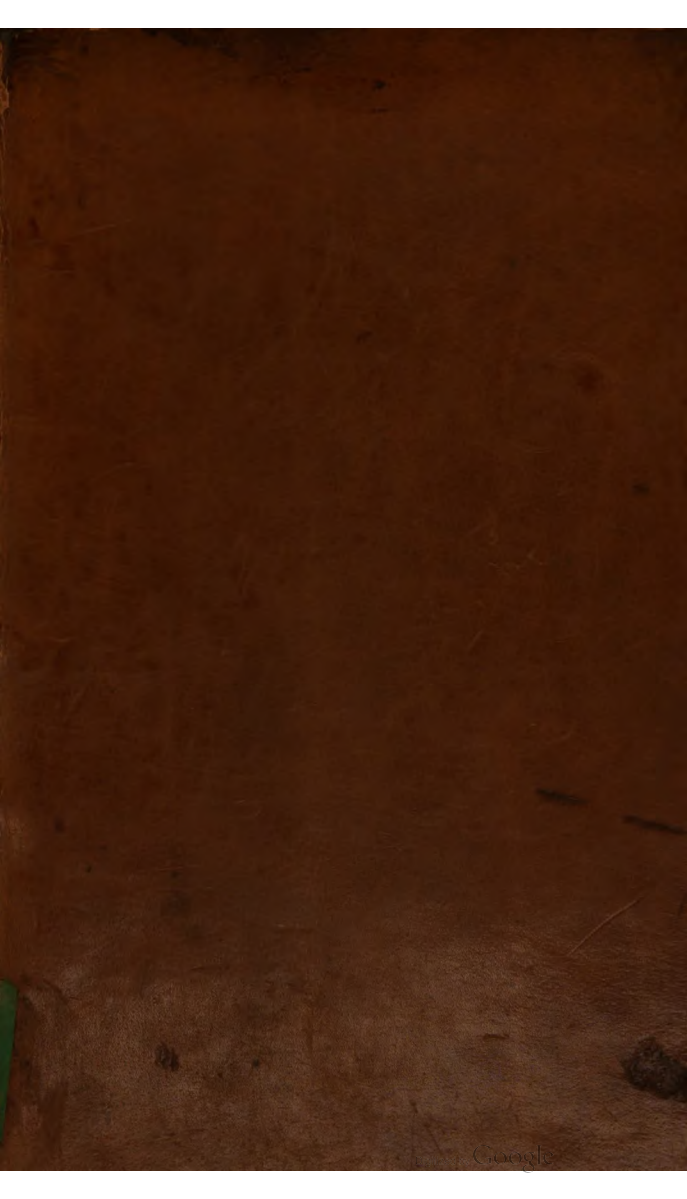
Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



Gough
Scotland.
161.





THE
HISTORY
OF THE
FEUDS
AND
CONFLICTS
AMONG
THE CLANS
IN THE
NORTHERN PARTS OF SCOTLAND
AND IN THE
WESTERN ISLES;

FROM THE YEAR M.XXXI. UNTO M.DC.XIX.

Now first published from a MANUSCRIPT, wrote in the
reign of King JAMES VI.



GLASGOW:
PRINTED BY ROBERT AND ANDREW FOULIS
M.DCC.LXIV.

T H E
C O N T E N T S.

	Page.
The description of Sutherland.	1
The conflict of Drumilea.	3
The conflict of Enbo.	4
The conflict of Bealleghe-ne-Broig.	5
The conflict of Clagh-ne-hercy.	7
The conflict of Tuttum-tarwigh.	9
The conflict of Loin-Harpisdell.	10
The conflict of Drum-ne-coub.	11
The conflict of Ruoig-hanset.	16
The conflict of Blair-tannie.	ib.
The conflict of Blair-ne-pairk.	18
The conflicts of Skibo and Strath-fleit.	19
The Cruner slain by the Keiths in the chapel of St. Tayre.	20
The conflict of Aldicharrishe.	22
The skirmish of Daill-reawighe.	23
The conflict of Torran-Dow.	25
The conflict of Aldine-beh.	28
The conflict of Gar-warie.	30
The burning of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Catteynes, at Dornogh in Sutherland.	32
The conflicts of Aldgawne and Leckmeline.	36

C O N T E N T S.

	Page.
Troubles in the West Isles the year 1586.	39
The troubles betwixt Sutherland and Cat- teyness, the years 1587, 1588, 1589, and 1590.	53
The troubles betwixt the earls of Huntlie and Murray.	59
The troubles betwixt the Forbeses and the Gordons in the years 1571 and 1572.	82
The Brige of Dee.	92
A tumult in Ross, the year of God 1597.	94
The death of Sir Lauchlan Maclean, the year 1598.	93
Troubles in the West Isles betwixt the Clan- Donald and the Seil-Tormot, the year 1601.	101
The troubles betwixt the Lord Kintaile and The Laird of Glengarrie.	105
Some troubles in the Isle of Rasey, the year of God 1611.	107
The troubles of the Lewes.	111
Some troubles betwixt Sutherland and Cat- teyness, the year of God 1612.	124
The Spanish Blanks, and what follows there- upon, the years of God 1592, 1593, and 1594.	129

TOUCHING THE
DESCRIPTION
OF
SUTHERLAND.

OUR Scottish writers have hitherto erred in describing the situation of Sutherland; for it hath Caithness toward the east and north-east; Strathnaver toward the north; Affint toward the west; Ross toward the south and south-west; and the German sea toward the south, south-east, and east. Sutherland, in the Irish language, is called Cattey, and the people Cattigh. Cattey did contain sometime all the region lying betwixt Tayne and Dungsby, being divided in the midst by a mountain called Mond, or Ord, which runneth from the south sea to the north sea: and the country which is now called

A

Catteeness, was first so named, as the ness or promontory of Cattey stretching itself eastward from the hill Ord. This is the opinion of one Andrew, Bishop of Catteeness. And in the old English writers, (such as Hoveden, Walsingham, and others) it is always written Catteeness: so that Boethius faileth in drawing the etymology of Catteeness from Catus (the proper name of a man) and ness; which doubtless proceeded from the ignorance of the Irish language.

C O N F L I C T S.

The Conflict of Drumilea.

ABOUT the year of God 1031, in the days of Malcolm the second, King of Scotland, the Danes and Norwegians, under the conduct of Olanus and Enetus, seated themselves in the north parts of Scotland, and took the castle of Nerne, where they became very strong; from thence they sent divers companies of soldiers into the neighbouring provinces, not only to prey, but likewise to seat themselves there, as they should find occasion and opportunity. Olanus did then send a strong company to invade the provinces of Ross and Sutherland, and to destroy the inhabitants; which Alane Thane of Sutherland perceiving, he assembled his countrymen, and the in-

habitants of Ross, with all diligence; and fought a battle at Creigh in Sutherland, against the Danes and Norwegians, who had then come from Nerne in Murray, and had landed in the river of Portnecouter, which divideth Ross from Sutherland. After a long and doubtful fight, the Danes were overthrown, and chased to their vessels. The monument whereof remains there, unto this day, at a place called Drumilea before Creigh.

The Conflict of Enbo.

ABOUT the year of God 1259 the Danes and Norwegians did land at the ferry of Unes, with a resolution to invade Sutherland and the neighbouring provinces; against whom William Earl of Sutherland made resistance, and encountered with them betwixt the town of Dornoch and the ferry of Unes, at a place called Enbo. After a sharp conflict the Danes are over-

thrown, their General slain, with many others, and the rest chased to their ships: in memory of which a monument of stone was there erected, which was called Ri-Chroishe, that is, the king, or general, his cross; which, together with divers burials, is there to be seen at this day.

The Conflict of Beallegb-ne-Broig.

ABOUT the year of God 1299 there was an insurrection made against the Earl of Ross by some of the people of that province, inhabiting the mountains, called Clan-Iver, Clan-tall-wigh, and Clan-Leave. The Earl of Ross made such diligence that he apprehended their captain, and imprisoned him at Dingwall; which so incensed the Highlanders, that they pursued the Earl of Ross's second son at Balnegowen, took him, and carried him along prisoner with them; thinking thereby to get their captain relieved. The Monroes and the

Dingwalls, with some others of the Earl of Ross his dependers, gathered their forces, and pursued the Highlanders with all diligence; so overtaking them at Bealleghe-ne-broig, betwixt Ferrin-donell and Lochbrime, there ensued a cruel fight, well fought in on either side. The Clan-Iver, Clan-tall-wigh, and Clan-Leawe were almost all utterly extinguished; the Monroes had a sorrowful victory, with great loss of their men, and carried back again the Earl of Ross his son. The Laird of Kildun was there slain, with seven score of the surname of Dingwall. Divers of the Monroes were slain in this conflict; and among the rest, there were killed eleven of the house of Foulis, that were to succeed one another; so that the succession of Foulis fell unto a child then lying in his cradle. For which service the Earl of Ross gave divers lands to the Monroes and the Dingwalls.

The Conflict of Clagh-ne-berrey.

ABOUT the year of God 1341 John Monro, tutor of Foulis, travelling homeward on his journey from the south of Scotland, towards Ross, did repose himself, by the way, in Strathardale, betwixt Saint Johnstoun and Athole, where he fell at variance with the inhabitants of that country, who had abused him; which he determined to revenge afterward. Being come to Ross, he gathered together his whole kinsmen, neighbours, and followers, and declared unto them how he had been used, and craves their aid to revenge himself; whereunto they yield. Thereupon he singled out 350 of the strongest and ablest men among them, and so went to Strathardale, which he wasted and spoiled; killed some of the people, and carried away their cattle. In his return home (as he was passing by the Isle of Moy with his prey) Macintosh, chieftain of the Clan-Chattan,

sent to him to crave a part of the spoil, challenging the same as due to him by custom; John Monro offered Macintosh a reasonable portion, which he refused to accept, and would have no less than the half of the whole spoil, whereunto John would not yield. So Macintosh convening his forces with all diligence, he followed John Monro, and overtook him at Clagh-neherey, beside Keffak, within one mile of Inverness. John, perceiving them coming, sent 50 of his men to Ferrin-donnel with the spoil, and encouraged the rest of his men to fight. So there ensued a cruel conflict, where Macintosh was slain with the most part of his company. Divers of the Monroes were also killed, and John Monro left as dead in the field; but after all was appeased, he was taken up by some of the people thereabout, who carried him to their houses, where he recovered of his wounds; and was afterward called John Back-lawighe, because he was mutilate of an hand.

The Conflict of Tuttum-tarwigh.

THE year of God 1406 this conflict was fought in at Tuttum-tarwigh in the south-west part of Sutherland, as it marches with Rofs. Upon this occasion Angus Macky of Strathnaver married Macleod of the Lewes his sister, by whom he had two sons, Angus Dow, and Rory Gald. Angus Macky dying, he leaves the government of his estate and children to his brother Heucheon Dow Macky. Macleod of the Lewes understanding that his sister, the widow of Angus Macky was hardly dealt withal in Strathnaver by Heucheon Dow, he takes journey thither to visit her, with the choicest men of his country. At his coming there, he finds that she is not well dealt withal; so he returned home malecontent; and, in his way, he spoiled Strathnaver, and a great part of Brea-Chatt in the height of Sutherland. Robert Earl of Sutherland being advertised thereof, he sent Alexander

Murray of Cubin, with a company of men, to assist Heuchon Dow in pursuing Macleod, and to recover the prey. They overtake Macleod at Tuttum-tarwigh, as he and his company were going to the west sea, where Alexander Murray and Heuchon Dow invaded them with great courage. The fight was long and furious, rather desperate than resolute. In end they recovered the booty, and killed Macleod with all his company. This conflict gave name to the place where it was foughtin, being then called Tuttum-tarwigh, which signifieth a plentiful fall or slaughter; and is so called unto this day.

The Conflict of Loin-Harpisdell.

THE year of God 1426 Angus Dow Macky, with his son Neill, enters Catteyness with all hostility, and spoiled the same. The inhabitants of Catteyness assembled with all diligence, and fought with Angus

Dow Macky at Harpisdell, where there was great slaughter on either side. Whereupon King James I. came to Inverness, of intention to pursue Angus Dow Macky for that and other such like enormities. Angus Dow, hearing that the King was at Inverness, came and submitted himself to the King's mercy, and gave his son Neill in pledge of his good obedience in time coming. Which submission the King accepted, and sent Neill Macky to remain in captivity in the Bass; who, from thence, was afterward called Neill-Waffe-Macky.

The Conflict of Drum-ne-coub.

THE year of God 1427 Thomas Macky (otherwise Macneill) possessor of the lands of Creigh, Spanzedell and Polrossie in Sutherland, had conceived some displeasure against the laird of Freesh-weik, called Mowat, whom Thomas Macneill did eagerly pursue, and killed him near the town

of Taine in Ross, within the chappel of St. Duffus, and burnt also that chappel, unto the which this Mowat had retired himself as to a sanctuary. The King hearing of this cruel fact, he causes proclaim and denounce Thomas Macneill rebel, and promised his land to any that would apprehend him. Angus Murray (the son of Alexander Murray of Cubin above-mentioned) understanding the King's proclamation, had secret conference with Morgane and Neill Macky, brethren to this Thomas. Angus offered unto them, if they would assist him to apprehend their brother, that he would give them his own two daughters in marriage, and also assist them to get the peaceable possession of Strathnaver, which they did claim as due to them; and (as he thought) they might then easily obtain the same, with little or no resistance at all, seeing that Neill-Waffe-Macky (the son of Angus Dow) lay prisoner in the Bass, and Angus Dow himself was unable (by reason of the weakness of his body at that time) to with-

stand them. Morgane Macky and Neill Macky do condescend and yield to the bargain; and presently thereupon they did apprehend their brother Thomas at Spanzedell in Sutherland, and delivered him to Angus Murray; who presented him to the King, at whose command Thomas Macneill was executed at Inverness; and the lands of Polrossie and Spanzedell, which he did possess, were given to Angus Murray for this service; which lands his successors do possess unto this day. Angus Murray for performance of his promise made to Neill and Morgane Macky, gave them his two daughters in marriage. Then Angus deals with Robert Earl of Sutherland, that he might have his attol-lerance to convey some men in Sutherland, therewith to accompany his two sons-in-law to obtain the possession of Strathnaver. Earl Robert grants him his demand; so Angus having gathered a company of resolute men, he went with these two brethren to invade Strathnaver. Angus

Dow Macky, hearing of their approach, convened his countrymen; and, because he was unable himself in person to resist them, he made his bastard-son (John Aberigh) leader of his men. They encountered at Drum-ne-coub, two miles from Tong (Macky his chief dwelling-place) there ensued a cruel and sharp conflict, valiantly foughten a long time, with great slaughter; so that, in the end, there remained but few alive of either side. Neill Macky, Morgane Macky, and their father-in-law (Angus Murray) were there slain. John Aberigh, having lost all his men, was left for dead in the field, and was afterward recovered; yet he was mutilate all the rest of his days. Angus Dow Macky, being brought thither to view the place of the conflict, and searching for the dead corpse of his cousins, Morgane and Neill, was there killed with a shot of an arrow, by a Sutherland-man, that was lurking in a bush hard by, after his fellows had been slain. This John Aberigh was afterward so hardly

purfued by the Earl of Sutherland, that he was constrained, for fafety of his life, to flie into the ifles.

The Scottish histories, in defcribing this conflict, do miftake the place, the perfons, and the fact; and do quite change the whole ftate of the hiftory. For the perfon, Angus Dow Macky of Strathnaver, is by fome of them called Angus Duff, and by others Angus Duff of Strathern. For the place, they make Angus Duff of Strathern, to come from Strathern (fome fay from Strathnaver) to Murray and Catteynes, as if thefe fhires did join together. For the fact, they would have Angus Duff to come for a prey of goods out of Catteynes and Murray, which two fhires do not march together, having a great arm of the fea interjected betwixt them, called Murray-frith; and having Rofs and Sutherland betwixt them by land. But the truth of this conflict, and the occafion thereof, I have here fet down.

The Conflict of Ruoig-hanset.

THE year of God 1437 Neill-Waffe-Macky, after his releasement out of the Base, entered Catteyness with all hostility, and spoiled all that country. He skirmished with some of the inhabitants of that province, at a place called Sanfet, where he overthrew them, with slaughter on either side. This conflict was called Ruoig-hanset, that is, the Chace at Sanfet. Shortly thereafter Neill-Waffe died.

The Conflict of Blair-tannie.

ABOUT the year of God 1438 there fell some variance betwixt the Keiths and some others of the inhabitants of Catteyness. The Keiths, mistrusting their own forces, sent to Angus Macky of Strathnaver (the son of Neill-Waffe) intreating him to come to their aid; whereunto he easily

yielded: so Angus Macky, accompanied with John Moir-Mackean-reawighe, went into Catteyness with a band of men, and invaded that country. Then did the inhabitants of Catteyness assemble in all haste, and met the Strathnaver-men and the Keiths, at a place in Catteyness called Blair-tannie. There ensued a cruel fight, with slaughter on either side. In end the Keiths had the victory, by the means chiefly of John Moir-Mackean-reawighe (an Assint-man) who is very famous in these countries for his manhead shewn at this conflict. Two chieftains and leaders of the inhabitants of Catteyness were slain, with divers others. This Angus Macky, here mentioned, was afterward burnt and killed in the church of Tarbot, by the surname of Ross, whom he had often molested with incursions and invasions.

B

The Conflict of Blair-ne-pairk.

AFTER that the Lord of the Isles had resigned the earldom of Ross into the King's hands, the year of God 1477, that province was continually vexed and molested with incursions of the Islanders. Gillespick (cousin to Macdonald) gathering a company of men, invaded the height of that country with great hostility; which the inhabitants perceiving (and specially the Clan-Cheinzie) they assembled speedily together, and met the Islanders beside the river of Connan, about two miles from Brayle, where there ensued a sharp and cruel skirmish. The Clan-Cheinzie fought so hardily, and pressed the enemy so, that, in the end, Gillespick Macdonald was overthrown and chased, the most part of his men being either slain, or drowned in the river of Connan; and this was called Blair-ne-pairk. From the ruins of Clan-Donald, and some of the neighbouring

Highlanders, began the surname of Clan-Cheinzie, from small beginnings, to flourish in these bounds: by the ruins also of the Clan-Donald, the house of Argyle and the Campbells became great and potent in the west parts of Scotland.

The Conflicts of Skibo and Strath-fleit.

ABOUT the same time Macdonald of the Isles, accompanied with some of his kinsmen and followers, to the number of 5 or 600, came into Sutherland, and encamped hard by the castle of Skibo; whereupon Neill Murray (son or grand-child to Angus Murray slain at Drum-ne-coub) was sent by John Earl of Sutherland to resist them, in case they did offer any harm unto the inhabitants. Neill Murray perceiving them going about to spoil the country, invaded them hard by Skibo, and killed one of their chieftains, called Donald Dow, with 50 others. Macdonald, with the rest

of his company, escaped by flight, and so retired into their own country.

Shortly thereafter another company of Macdonald his kin and friends came to Strath-fleit in Sutherland, and spoiled that part of the country, thinking thereby to repair the loss they had before received; but Robert Sutherland (John Earl of Sutherland his brother) assembled some men in all haste, and encountered with them upon the sands of Strath-fleit; after a sharp and cruel skirmish, Macdonald his men were overthrown, and divers of them killed.

*The Cruner slain by the Keiths in the
chappel of St. Tayre.*

ABOUT the year of God 1478 there was some dissention in Catteynes, betwixt the Keiths and the Clan-Gun. A meeting was appointed for their reconciliation, at the chappel of St. Tayre in Caithness, hard by Girnigo, with twelve horse on either side.

The Cruner (chieftain of the Clan-Gun) with the most part of his sons and chiefest kinsmen came to the chappel, to the number of twelve; and, as they were within the chappel at their prayers, the Laird of Inverugy and Acrigell arrived there with 12 horse, and two men upon every horse; thinking it no breach of trust to come twenty-four men, seeing they had but twelve horses as was appointed. So the twenty-four gentlemen rushed in at the door of the chappel, and invaded the Cruner and his company at unawares; who, nevertheless, made great resistance. In the end, the Clan-Gun were all slain, with the most of these Keiths. Their blood may be seen at this day upon the walls within the chappel of St. Tayre, where they were slain. Afterward William Mackames (the Cruner his grand-child) in revenge of his grandfather, killed George Keith of Acrigell and his son, with ten of their men, at Drummoy in Sutherland, as they were travelling from Inverugye into Catteynes.

The Conflict of Aldicharrishe.

THE year of God 1487 this conflict was foughten upon this occasion; Angus Macky being slain at Tarbot by the surname of Ross, as I have shewn already, John Reawighe Macky (the son of this Angus) came to the Earl of Sutherland, upon whom he then depended, and desired his aid to revenge his father's death; whereunto the Earl of Sutherland yeilds, and sent his uncle Robert Sutherland, with a company of men, to assist him. Thereupon Robert Sutherland and John Reawighe Macky did invade Strathoickell and Strath-Charron with fire and sword; burnt, spoiled, and laid waste divers lands appertaining to the Rosses. The Laird of Ballinewowne (then chief of the Rosses in that shire) hearing of his invasion, he gathered all the forces of Ross, and met Robert Sutherland and John Reawighe at a place called Aldicharrishe. There ensued a cruel and fu-

rious combat, which continued a long space, with incredible obstinacy; much blood was shed on either side. In end, the inhabitants of Ross, being unable to endure or resist the enemy's forces, were utterly disbanded and put to flight. Alexander Ross, Laird of Balnigowne, was there slain, with seventeen other landed gentlemen of the province of Ross, besides a great number of common soldiers. The manuscript of Ferne (by and attour Balnigowne) nameth these following among those that were slain, Mr. William Ross, Angus Macculloch of Terrell, John Wans, William Wans, John Mitchell, Thomas Wans, Houcheon Wans.

The Skirmish of Daill-rearwighe.

THE year of God 1516 Y Roy Macky of Strathnaver dying, there arose civil disension in Strathnaver, betwixt John Macky (the son of Y Roy) and Neill Na-

werighe (the said Y^rRoy his brother); John Macky excludes his uncle Neill (who was thought to be the righteous heir) and taketh possession of Strathnaver. Neill, again, alledging that his nephews John and Donald were bastards, doth claim these lands, and makes his refuge of John Earl of Catteyness, of whom he did obtain a company of men, who were sent with Neill his four sons to invade Strathnaver. They take the possession of the country from John Macky; who, being unable to resist their forces, retires himself to the Clanchattane to seek their support, and leaves his brother Donald Macky to defend the country as he might. Donald, in his brother John his absence, surprized his cousin-germans under silence of the night at Daill-reawighe, and killed two of his cousins (the sons of Neill Na-werighe) with the most part of their company; whereupon John Macky returned home, and took peaceable possession of the country. Thereafter Neill Na-werighe came and willingly rendered him-

self to his nephews John and Donald, who caused apprehend their uncle Neill, and behead him at a place called Clash-ne-gep in Strathnaver.

The Conflict of Toran-Dow.

ADAM GORDON, first of that surname Earl of Sutherland, having married Elizabeth Sutherland heretrix of that country, took journey towards Edinburgh, the year of God 1517, to dispatch some affairs there, which did concern the settling of his estate, leaving the commandment of the country, in his absence, to Alexander Sutherland (base brother to his wife Elizabeth) and to John Murray of Abirscors; which John Macky of Strathnaver understanding (having now appeased his civil discords at home, by the death of his uncle Neill) he takes this occasion, in the very change of surnames in Sutherland, to try if he could gain any thing by spoffing that



country; and thereupon assembling together all the forces of Strathnaver, Assint, and Eddirachilis, with all such as he could purchase out of the west and north-west isles of Scotland, he invades the country of Sutherland with all hostility, burning and spoiling all before him. The inhabitants of Sutherland do speedily convene together with all the parts of the country; and so, under the conduct of Alexander Sutherland, John Murray, and William Mackames, they rencounter with John Macky and his company at a place called Torran-dow, beside Rogart in Strathfleit, where there ensued a fierce and cruel conflict. The Sutherland-men chased John Macky his van-guard, and made them retire to himself where he stood in battle-array; then did he select and chuse a number of the ablest men in all his host, and with these he himself returned again to the conflict; leaving his brother Donald to conduct the rest, and to support him as necessity should require. Whereupon they do begin a more cruel

fight than before, well foughten on either side. In end, after long resistance, the Sutherland-men obtained the victory; few of these that came to renew the fight escaped, but only John Macky himself, and that very hardly. Niell Macean-Macangus of Assint was there slain, with divers of his men. There were 216 of the Strathnaver-men left dead in the field, besides those that died in the chace. There were slain of Sutherland-men 38. Not long thereafter John Macky sent William and Donald, two brethren, with a company of men, to invade John Murray, with whom they met at a place called Loch-Salachie in Sutherland; after a sharp skirmish, both the chieftains of the Strathnaver-men were slain, with divers of their men, and the rest put to flight: neither was the victory pleasing to John Murray, for he lost, there, his brother, called John Roy-Murray. Thus continued the inhabitants of these countries infesting one another with continual spoils, untill the year of God 1522,

that Alexander Gordon (Earl Adam his eldest son) overthrew John Macky at Lairg, and forced him to submit himself to Earl Adam; unto whom John Macky gave his band of manred and service, dated the year of God 1522.

The Conflict of Aldine-beh.

DONALD MACKY of Strathnaver (having succeeded his brother John) taketh the occasion upon the death of Adam Earl of Sutherland (who left his grandchild, John, young to succeed him) to molest and invade the inhabitants of Sutherland. He came, the year of God 1542, with a company of men, to the village of Knockartoll, burnt the same, and took a great prey of goods out of Strathbrory. Sir Hugh Kennedy of Griffen-mains dwelt then in Sutherland, having married John Earl of Sutherland's mother, after the death of his father Alexander Master of

Sutherland. Sir Hugh Kennedÿ being advertised of Macky his coming into Sutherland, he advises with Hutcheon Murray of Aberscors, and with Gilbert Gordon of Garty, what was best to be done. They resolve to fight the enemy; and so having gathered a company of men, they overtook Macky, unawares, beside a place called Aldine-beh, where they invade him suddenly; having passed his spies unseen. After a little skirmish, the Strathnavermen fled, the booty was rescued, and John Macean, Macangus, one of their chieftains, was slain, with divers of the Strathnavermen. Donald Macky, nevertheless, plaid the part of a good soldier; for, in his flight, he killed, with his own hand, one William Sutherland, who most eagerly pursued him in the chace. The inhabitants of Sutherland and Strathnaver (in regard of Earl John his minority) did thus continually vex one another, untill this Donald Macky was apprehended, and imprisoned in the castle of Foulis in Ross, by

commandment of the Queen-Regent and the Governor, where he continued a good while in captivity.

The Conflict of Gar-warie.

THE Queen-Regent having gotten the government of Scotland from the Earl of Arran, she made her progress into the north, and so to Inverness, the year of God 1555. Then was Y Macky (the son of Donald) summoned to compear before the Queen at Inverness, for that he had spoiled and molested the country of Sutherland during Earl John his being in France with the Queen-Regent. Macky refused to compear; whereupon there was a commission granted to John Earl of Sutherland against him. Earl John invaded Strathnaver in all hostile manner, and besieged the castle of Borwe, the principal fort of that country; which he took by force, and caused hang the captain; then demolished

the fort. In end, he beset Y Macky so, on all sides, that he forced him to render himself, and then was delivered by Earl John to Sir Hugh Kennedy, by whom he was convoyed south, and committed to ward in the castle of Edinburgh, where he remained a long space. Whilst Y Macky staid in captivity, his cousin german, John Moir Macky, took upon him the government of Strathnaver. This John Moir taking the occasion of Earl John his absence in the south of Scotland, he invaded Sutherland with a company of the most resolute men in Strathnaver; they burnt the chappel of St. Ninians in Nawidell, where the inhabitants of the country, upon this sudden tumult, had conveyed some of their goods: so, having spoiled that part of the country, they retire homeward. The inhabitants of Sutherland assembled together, and followed in all haste, under the conduct of Macjames, the Terrell of the Doil, and James Macwilliam. They overtook the Strathnaver-men at the foot of

the hill called Bin-moir in Berridail, and invaded them beside the water of Gar-warie, where there ensued a cruel conflict, foughten with great obstinacy. The Strathnaver-men were overthrowen and chased, above 120 of them were slain, and some drowned in Gar-warie. This is the last conflict that hath been foughten betwixt Sutherland and Strathnaver.

The burning of the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Catteyness, at Dornogh in Sutherland.

JOHN Earl of Sutherland, together with his lady, being poisoned, the year 1567, his son Alexander (being young) succeeded unto him, whose ward and marriage George Earl of Catteyness had right to, and withal gets the custody of Earl Alexander during the time of his ward; whereat Earl Alexander his most tender friends (and chiefly the Murrays of Su-

therland) being grieved, they lay a plot among themselves, to convey Earl Alexander from the Earl of Catteyness; which they effectuate, and deliver him to the Earl of Huntlie, with whom he staid until his ward was expired the year 1573, during which time the Earl of Catteyness kept possession of the land; whereupon divers troubles did ensue. The Earl of Catteyness removed the Murrays of Sutherland from their possessions; which, nevertheless, they endeavoured to keep. Hutcheon Murray with divers of his friends do possess themselves with the town of Dornogh and the adjacent lands, being formerly possessed by them. The Earl of Catteyness sent his son John, Master of Catteyness, with a number of men, to remove the Murrays from Dornogh. Y Macky did also accompany the Master of Catteyness in this journey. Being come to Dornogh, they besiege the Murrays there; who, for the space of some days, issued furth and skirmished with the enemy. In

C

end, the Master of Catteynes burnt the town and the cathedral church, which the inhabitants could not longer defend. Yet, after the town was lost, they kept the castle, the enemy still assaulting them, but in vain, without any success, for the space of a month. Then, by the mediation of some indifferent friends, they surrendered the castle, and gave three pledges, that, within two months, they should depart from Sutherland; which they did, and retired themselves to the Earl of Huntlie, with whom they staid untill the expiring of the Earl Alexander his ward; at which time they recovered their antient possessions. Not-theless that the Murrays had retired themselves, as they had promised, yet they were no sooner departed, but the pledges were beheaded. During the time that the Sutherland-men staid with the Earl of Huntlie, they served him in his wars against the Forbesses, and chiefly at Crabstaine, where they did good service against the foot-supply that was sent by

the Regent to assist the Forbesses. This burning of Dornogh and of the cathedral church happened the year of God 1570. The next year following (which was 1571) George Earl of Catteyness became jealous of some plots which his eldest son John, Master of Catteyness, and Y Macky of Strathnaver had contrived against him, and thereupon apprehended his son John, whom he imprisoned closely at Girnigo, where he died after seven years captivity. Y Macky perceiving that John Master of Catteyness was imprisoned by his father, he retired home into Strathnaver, and died within six months thereafter, the same year of God 1571.

*The Conflicts of Aldgawne and Leck-
meline.*

THE year of God 1585 George Earl of Catteynes married the Earl of Huntlie his sister; at which time, by Huntlie's mediation, the Earls of Sutherland and Catteynes were reconciled. It was then concluded among them, that the Clan-Gun should be pursued and invaded by the Earls of Sutherland and Catteynes, because they were judged to be the chief authors of the troubles which were then like to ensue; and to this effect it was resolved that two companies of men should be sent by the Earls of Sutherland and Catteynes against such of the Clan-Gun as dwelt in Catteynes, thereby to compass them, that no place of retreat might be left unto them: which was done. The Earl of Sutherland his Company was conducted by John Gordon of Backies and James Macrorie; the Earl of Catteynes his company

was conducted by his cousin Henry Sinclair, a resolute gentleman. It fortuned that Henry Sinclair and his company rencountered first with the Clan-Gun, who were now assembled together at a hill called Bingrime, and with them was William Macky (brother to Hutcheon Macky of Strathnaver, and nephew to this Henry Sinclair that led the Catteyness-men) who was accompanied with some Strathnavermen. Now were the Clan-Gun advertised of this preparation made against them; and no sooner were they in sight of one another, but they prepared both for the fight, which was begun without fear or delay on either side. The Clan-Gun although inferior in number, yet had they the advantage of the hill; by reason of which the Catteyness-men came short with their first flight of arrows: by the contrary, the Clan-Gun spared their shot untill they came hard by the enemy, which then they bestowed among them with great advantage. Then ensued a sharp conflict, at a place

called Aldgawne, where Henry Sinclair was slain with 120 of his company, and the rest chased and put to flight; who had all been destroyed, had not the darkness of the night favoured their flight. Which coming to the ears of John Gordon, James Macrorie, and Neill Macean-Macwilliam, who had the conduct of the Earl of Sutherland his men, they pursued the Clan-Gun, and followed them to Lough-Broom, in the height of Ross, whither they had fled; and there, meeting with them, they invade them at a place called Leckmeline. After a sharp skirmish, the Clan-Gun were overthrown and chased, 32 of them slain, and their captain, George, wounded and taken prisoner, whom they carry along with them unto Dunrobin, and there they deliver him unto Alexander Earl of Sutherland. This happened in the year of God 1586.

Troubles in the West Isles the year 1586.

THIS commotion in the Western Isles of Scotland did arise, at this time, betwixt the Clan-Donald and Clan-Lean, upon this occasion. Donald Gorme Macdonald of Sleat, travelling from the isle of Sky, to visit his cousin Angus Macconald of Kintyre, landed with his company in an island called Juray or Duray, which partly appertaineth to Maclean, partly to Angus Macconald; and by chance he landed in that part of the island which appertaineth to Maclean, being driven in thither by contrary winds; where, they were no sooner on shore, but two outlaws, Macconald Tearreagh and Hutcheon Macgillespick (who were lately fallen out with Donald Gorme) arrived also with a company of men; and understanding that Donald Gorme was there, they secretly took away, by night, a number of cattle out of that part of the island which appertaineth to Maclean, and

so they retire again to the sea; thereby thinking to raise a tumult against Donald Gorme, by making the Clan-Lean to believe that this was done by Donald Gorme his men, who lying at a place called Inverknock-wrick, were suddenly invaded un-awares, under silence of the night (neither suspecting nor expecting any such matter) by Sir Lauchlan Maclean and his kin, the Clan-Lean, who had assembled their whole forces against him. Maclean and his people killed, that night, above 60 of the Clan-Donald; Donald Gorme himself with the residue escaped, by going to keep in a ship that lay in the harbour. Angus Macconald of Kintyre hearing of this lamentable accident fallen out betwixt his brother-in-law Maclean (whose sister he had married) and his cousin Donald Gorme, he taketh journey into the Sky to visit Donald Gorme, and to see by what means he could work a reconciliation betwixt him and Maclean for the slaughter of Donald Gorme his men at Inver-

knock-wrick. After Angus had remained a while in the Sky with his cousin, he taketh journey homeward into Kintyre; and in his return he landed in the isle of Mull, and went to Duart (Maclean his chief dwelling place in Mull) against the opinion of his two brethren Coll and Renald, and of his cousin Renald Maccoll, who all persuaded Angus to the contrary; desiring him to send for Maclean, and so, to declare unto him how he had sped with his cousin Donald Gorme, and how far he was inclined to a reconciliation; but Angus trusted so much in his brother-in-law Sir Lauchlan Maclean, that he would not hearken unto their counsel; whereupon his two brothers left him, but his cousin Renald Macconald accompanied him to Duart, where Angus at first was welcomed with great show of kindness; but he with all his company were taken prisoners by Sir Lauchlan Maclean the next day after their arrival, Renald Maccoll escaping, and that very hardly. Angus was there de-

tained in captivity, untill he did renounce his right and title to the Kinnes of Ila, which properly appertained to the Clan-Donald, and had been by them given in possession for their personal service. Angus was forced to yield, or there to end his days; and for performance of what was desired, Angus gave his eldest son James, and his brother Renald, as pledges, to remain at Duart, untill Maclean should get the title of the Kinnes of Ila made over unto him: and so, the pledges being delivered, Angus had his liberty.

Angus Macconald receiving the wrong at Maclean his hand, besides that which his cousin Donald Gorme had before received at Inver-knock-wrick, he went about, by all means, to revenge the same; and the better to bring this purposed revenge to pass, he useth a policy by a kind of invitation, which was thus; Maclean having gotten the two pledges into his possession, he taketh journey into Ila, to get the performance of what was promi-

fed unto him, leaving Renald, one of the pledges, fettered in prison at his house of Duart in Mull, and carrying his nephew James (the son of Angus and the other pledge) along with him in his voyage. Being arrived in the isle of Ila, he encamped at Ellan-logh-gorme, a ruinous fort lying upon the Kinnes of Ila. Thereupon Angus Macconald took occasion to invite Maclean to come to Mullintrea, or Muldrhea (a dwelling place which Angus had well furnished in the isle of Ila) seeing he was better provided of all kind of provision there, than Maclean could be; earnestly intreating him to lye at his house, where he should be as welcome as he could make him; that they should make merry so long as his provision could last, and when that was done, he would go with him. For this custom the islanders have, that when one is invited to another's house, they never depart so long as any provision doth last; and when that is done, they go to the next, and so from one to one, untill

they make a round from neighbour to neighbour, still carrying the master of the former family with them to the next house: [moreover, all the islanders are of nature very suspicious, full of deceit and evil intention against their neighbours, by whatsoever way they may get them destroyed; besides this, they are so cruel in taking revenge, that neither have they regard to person, time, age, nor cause, as you may partly see in this particular.†] Sir Lauchlan Maclean his answer to Angus Macconald his messenger was, that he durst not adventure to go unto him, for mis-

† *Remark by the PRINTERS.*

We are no friends to such general reflections; they are, we think, too commonly, dictated by prejudice of one kind or other; seldom founded on genuine knowledge, or proper information. Nothing but the fidelity we owe to the publick, by which we are bound to exhibit, from the press, the MS. exactly as we find it, could have induced us to print this reflection.

trust. Angus then replied, that he needed not to mistrust, seeing he had his son and his brother pledges already; whom his friends might keep in their custody untill his return; and that, for his own part, he did intend nothing against him, but to continue in all brotherly love and affection towards him. Maclean hearing this, seemed to be void of all suspicion, and so resolves to go unto Angus his house; he carried with him James Macconald the pledge (his own nephew and the son of Angus) whom he kept always in his custody, thereby to save himself from danger, if any injury should be offered unto him. He came to Mullintrea, accompanied with 86 of his kinsfolks and servants in the month of July 1586, where, at their first arrival, they were made welcome with all courtesy, and sumptuously banqueted all that day; but Angus, in the mean time, had premonished all his friends and welwishers within Ila to be at his house the same night, at nine of the clock; for he had

concluded with himself to kill them all, the very first night of their arrival, and still concealed his purpose, until he found the time commodious, and the place proper. So Maclean, being lodged with all his men in a long house that was somewhat distant from other houses, took to be with him his nephew James, the pledge before-mentioned, with whom he never parted: but within an hour thereafter, when Angus had assembled his men, to the number of 3 or 400, he placed them all, in order, about the house where Maclean then lay. Angus himself came and called upon Maclean at the door, offering him his refreshing drink, which was forgotten to be given him before he went to bed. Maclean answered that he desired none for that time. Although (said Angus) it be so, yet it is my will that thou arise and come forth to receive it. Then began Maclean to suspect, and so did arise, with his nephew James betwixt his shoulders; thinking, that if present killing was intended against

him, he would save himself so long as he could, by the boy. The boy, seeing his father with a bare sword, and a number of his men in like manner about him, cried, with a loud voice, for mercy to his uncle; which was granted, and Maclean immediately removed to a secret chamber till the next morning. Then called Angus to the remanent within, so many as would have their own lives to be saved, that they should come forth (Macconald Tearreagh and another, whom he named, only excepted;) obedience was made by all the rest, and these two only fearing the danger, refused to come forth: which Angus perceiving, he commanded incontinent to put fire to the house; which was done, so that the two men were pitifully burnt to death. This Macconald was the author of these troubles, the other was a very near kinsman to Maclean, and of the eldest of his surname, renowned both for counsel and manhood.

After that the report of Maclean his

taking came to the isle of Mull, Allan Maclean, and some others of the Maclean, caused a rumour to be spread in Ila, that Renald (the brother of Angus Macconald and the other pledge which he had given to Maclean) was slain at Duart in Mull, by Maclean his friends; which false report was raised by Allan Maclean, that thereby Angus Macconald might be moved to kill his prisoner Sir Lauchlan Maclean, and so Allan himself might succeed to Sir Lauchlan; and indeed it wrought this effect, that how soon the report came to Angus his ears that his bother Renald was slain, he revenged himself fully upon the prisoners; for Maclean his followers were by couples beheaded the days following, by Coll the brother of Angus. The report of this fact at Mullintrea was carried to the Earl of Argyle, who immediately assembled his friends, to get Maclean out of Angus his power; but perceiving that they were not able to do it, either by force or fair means, they thought

necessary to complain to the King. His Majesty directed charges to Angus, by a herald of arms, commanding him to restore Maclean into the hands of the Earl of Argyle; but the messenger was interrupted, and the haven port stopped where he should have taken shipping towards Ila, and so returned home: yet, with exceeding travel made by Captain James Stewart, Chancellor of Scotland, and many strait conditions granted by Maclean unto Angus, Maclean was at last exchanged for Renald the brother of Angus, and pledge before-mentioned; and for performance of such conditions as Maclean did promise to Angus, at his delivery, he gave his own son, and the son of Macleod of Herris, with divers other pledges to Angus Macconald, who thereupon went into Ireland upon some occasion of business; which Maclean understanding, he invaded the isle of Ila, and burnt a great part of the same, regarding neither the safety of the pledges, nor his faith given before the friends at his delivery. An-

D

gus Macconald, returning out of Ireland, did not stir the pledges, who were innocent of what was done unto his lands in his absence; yet, with a great preparation of men and shipping, he went into the islands and Tirhie appertaining to Maclean, invading these places with great hostility; where, what by fire, what by sword, and what by water, he destroyed all the men that he could overtake (none excepted) and all sort of beasts that served for domestical use and pleasure of man; and finally, came to the very Bin-moir in Mull, and there killed and chased the Clan-Lean at his pleasure, and so, fully revenged himself of his former injuries. Whilst Angus Macconald was thus raging in Mull and Tirhie, Sir Lauchlan Maclean went into Kintyre, spoiled, wasted, and burnt a great part of that country; and thus, for a while, they did continually vex one another with slaughters and outrages, to the destruction, well near, of all their country and people. In this mean time Sir Lauchlan Maclean

did intyce and train John Macean of Ardemurchie (one of the Clan-Donald) to come unto him unto the isle of Mull, promising him that he would give him his mother in marriage, unto whom the said John Macean had been a suitor. John being come unto Mull, in hope of this marriage, Maclean yielded to his desire, thinking thereby to draw John Macean unto his party against Angus Macconald. The marriage was celebrated at Torloiske in Mull; but the same very night John Macean his chamber was forced, himself taken from his bed out of Maclean his mother's arms, and eighteen of his men slain, because he refused to assist Maclean against Angus Macconald. These were (and are to this day) called, in a proverb, *Maclean his Nuptials*. John Macean was detained a whole year in captivity by Maclean; and, at last, was released in exchange of Maclean his son and the rest of the pledges which Angus Macconald had in his hands. These two islanders, Angus Macconald and Mac-

lean, were afterwards written for by the King, and trained unto Edinburgh, the year of God 1591, with promise safely to pass and repass unhurt or molested in their bodies or goods, and were committed both to ward within the Castle of Edinburgh, where they remained not long when they were remitted free, to pass home again, for a pecunial fine, and a remission granted to either of them. Their eldest sons were left as pledges for their obedience in time coming.

*The Troubles betwixt Sutherland and
Catteyness, the years 1587, 1588,
1589, and 1590.*

THE year of God 1587 there happened some diffension betwixt the earls of Sutherland and Catteyness upon this occasion. George Gordon of Marle in Sutherland (base son to Gilbert Gordon of Gartie) had done divers contempts and indignities to the earl of Catteyness and his servants, occasioned through the nearness of George Gordon his dwelling place, which bordered upon Catteyness. These insolencies of George Gordon's, the earl of Catteyness could not or would not endure; and so, assembling a company of men, horse and foot, he comes, under silence of the night, and invades George Gordon in his own house at Marle. George makes all the resistance he could; and, as they were eagerly pursuing the house, he slays a special gentleman of Catteyness, called John Sutherland; there-

with he issued out of the house, and casts himself into the river of Helmsidel, which was hard by, thinking to save himself by swimming; but he was shot with arrows, and slain in the water. This happened in the month of February 1587.

Alexander earl of Sutherland took the slaughter of George Gordon in evil part, which he determined to revenge, and thereupon dealt with such of his friends as had credit at court for the time; by whose means he obtained a commission against the slayers of George Gordon; which being gotten, he sent 200 men unto Catteynes in February 1588, conducted by John Gordon of Golspitour and John Gordon of Backies, who invaded the paroches of Dumbaith and Lathron in Catteynes, with all hostility, spoiling and burning the same; they killed John James-son, a gentleman of Catteynes, with some others; and this was called Creach-lairn.

No sooner were they returned out of Dumbaith, but earl Alexander, being ac-

accompanied with Hutcheon Macky (who had been then lately reconciled to his superior the earl of Sutherland) entered into Catteynes with all his forces, spoiling all before him till he came to Girnigo, (now called Castle-Sinclair) where the earl of Catteynes then lay. Earl Alexander escaped himself hard by the town of Weik, which is within a mile of Girnigo. They took the town of Weik with little difficulty, and burnt the same. They besieged the castle of Girnigo for the space of twelve days, which was well defended by the earl of Catteynes and those that were within. Earl Alexander perceiving that the castle could not be obtained without a long siege, he sent his men abroad through the country of Catteynes to pursue such as had been at the slaughter of George Gordon, if they could be apprehended: so, having slain divers of them, and spoiled the country, earl Alexander returns again with his host into Sutherland in the month of Fe-

D 4.

bruary 1588. And this was called *La-ne-creigh-moir*.

The earl of *Cattheyness*, to revenge these injuries and to requit his losses, assembled all his forces in the year of God 1589, and sent them into *Sutherland*, under the conduct of his brother the laird of *Murckle*, who entered *Sutherland* with all hostility, and coming to *Strath-ullie*, he slays three tenants of the earl of *Sutherland's* in *Liriboll*, burning the house above them; from *Liriboll* they march farther into the country. The inhabitants of *Sutherland*, being conducted by *Hutcheon Macky* and *John Gordon of Backies*, met with the *Cattheyness-men* at a place called *Criffaligh*, where they skirmished a little while with little or no slaughter on either side; and so *Murckle* retired home into *Cattheyness*. In exchange hereof, *Alexander* earl of *Sutherland* sent 300 men into *Cattheyness*, conducted by *John Gordon of Backies*, the same year of God 1589, who

entering that country with all hostility, he spoiled and wasted the same till he came within six miles of Girnigo, killed above 30 men, and returned home with a great booty. This was called Creagh-ne-kain-kish.

The earl of Catteynes, to repair his former losses, convened his whole forces the year of God 1590. He entered into Sutherland with all hostility, and encamped beside the Backies; having stayed one night there, they returned homeward the next day, driving a prey of goods before the host. By this time some of the inhabitants of Sutherland were assembled, to the number of 5 or 400 only, and perceiving the Catteynes-men upon the sands of Clen-trednal, they presently invade them at a place called Clyne. There ensued a sharp conflict, foughten with great obstinacy on either side, till the night parted them. Of the Sutherland-men there were slain John Murray and sixteen common soldiers. Of the Catteynes-men there were

killed Nicolas Sutherland (the laird of Forffe his brother) and Angus Mactormot, with thirteen others. Divers were hurt on either side.

The next morning timely, the earl of Catteynes returned with all diligence into Catteynes, for to defend his own country; for whilst he was in Sutherland, Hutcheon Macky had entered with his forces into Catteynes, and had spoiled that country even to the town of Thurso: but before the earl of Catteynes could overtake him, he returned again into Strathnaver with a great booty.

Thus they infested one another with continual spoils and slaughters, untill they were reconciled by the mediation of the earl of Huntley, who caused them meet at Strathbogie; and a final peace was concluded there, betwixt these parties, in the month of March 1591. Here ends this book of Sutherland.

*The Troubles betwixt the Earls of
Huntlie and Murray.*

THE instruments of this trouble were the laird of Grant and Sir John Campbell of Calder, knight. The knight of Calder had spent the most part of his time in court, where he was very familiar with Chancellor Maitland, from whom he received instructions to engender differences betwixt Huntlie and Murray; which commission he accomplished very learnedly, and inflamed the one against the other, by the laird of Grant his means, thus, James Gordon (eldest son to Alexander Gordon of Lesmoir) accompanied with some of his friends, went to Ballendallegh in Strathspey, to assist his aunt, the widow of that place, against John Grant, tutor of Ballendallegh, who went about to do her son injury, and to detain her rents from her. James Gordon coming thither, all was re-

stored unto the widow, a small matter excepted; which, notwithstanding, he would have from the tutor, thinking it a disgrace to him and to his family if his aunt should lose the least part of her due. After some contestation, there was beating of servants on either side; and, being put asunder at that time, James Gordon and his company retired home. Hereupon the family of Lesmoir do persuade John Gordon (brother to Sir Thomas Gordon of Clunie) to marry the widow of Ballendallegh, which he did. The tutor of Ballendallegh grudging that any of the surname of Gordon should dwell among them, he fell at variance with John Gordon, by the laird of Grant his persuasion, and killed one of John Gordon his servants; whereat John Gordon was so incensed, and pursued so eagerly the tutor, and such of the Grants as would assist, harbour, or maintain him or his servants, that he got them outlawed, and made rebels by the laws of the kingdom: and further, he moved his chief the

earl of Huntlie to search and follow them, by virtue of a commission, as sheriff of that shire. Huntlie besieges the house of Ballendalleggh, and takes it by force the 2d day of November 1590; but the tutor escaped. Then began Calder and Grant to work their premeditated plot, and do stir up the Clan-Chatan and their chief Macintosh to join with the Grants; they persuade also the earls of Athole and Murray to assist them against Huntlie. They shew the earl of Murray that how he had a fit opportunity and occasion to make himself strong in these north parts, and to make head against the house of Huntlie; that they and all their friends would assist him to the uttermost of their power; that Chancellor Maitland would work at court to their effect against Huntlie; so that now he should not slip this occasion, least afterward he should never have the like opportunity in his time. Hereupon the earls of Murray and Athole, the Dunbats, the Clan-Chatan, the Grants, and the laird of

Calder, with all their faction, met at Forreſs, to conſult of their affairs, where they were all ſworn in one league together, ſome of the Dunbars reſuſing to join with them. Huntlie underſtanding that the earls of Murray and Athole did intend to make a faction againſt him, he aſſembled his friends with all diligence, and rides to Forreſs with a reſolution to diſſolve their convention. Murray and Athole, hearing of Huntlie's coming towards them, they leave Forreſs, and ſie to Tarnoway, the earl of Murray's chief dwelling place. The earl of Huntlie follows them thither; but, before his coming, the earl of Athole, the lairds of Macintosh, Grant, Calder, and the ſheriff of Murray, had left the houſe, and were fled to the mountains; only the earl of Murray ſtaid, and had before provided all things neceſſary for his defence. Huntlie coming within ſight of the houſe, he ſent John Gordon before-mentioned, with ſome men, to view the ſame: but John approaching more hardily

than warily, was shot from the house, and slain with a piece, by one of the earl of Murray's servants. Huntlie perceiving the house of Tarnoway furnished with all things necessary for a long siege, and understanding also that the most part of his enemies were fled to the mountains, he left the house and dissolved his company the 24th of November 1590. The earl of Huntlie thereupon hastens to the court, and doth reconcile himself to Chancellor Maitland, who shortly thereafter (not so much for the favour he bore to Huntlie, as for the hatred he had conceived against the earl of Murray for Bothwell his cause) did purchase a commission to Huntlie against the earl of Murray, caring little, in the mean time, what should become either of Murray or Huntlie. The year of God 1591 Huntlie sent Allan Macdonnell-Duy into Badenach against the Clan-Chat-tan; after a sharp skirmish the Clan-Chat-tan were chased, and above fifty of them slain. Then Huntlie sent Macronald a-

gainst the Grants, whom Macronald invaded in Strathspey, killed eighteen of them, and wasted all Ballendallegh his lands. The year of God 1591, the 27th of December, the first raid of the Abbay was interprised by the earl of Bothwell; but failing of his purpose, he was forced to flie away, and so escaped. The duke of Lennox and the earl of Huntlie were sent into the west with a commission against Bothwell and such as did harbour him; but Bothwell escaped before their coming. Then took the earl of Murray his fatal and last journey from Tarnoway south to Dunibrissill, where he did harbour and receipt the earl of Bothwell. Huntlie being now at court, which then sojourned at Edinburgh, he urges Chancellor Maitland for his commission against the earl of Murray; and, having obtained the same, he takes journey with forty gentlemen from Edinburgh to the Queensferry, and from thence to Dunibrissill, where he invades the earl of Murray. Huntlie, before his

approach to the house, sent captain John Gordon (brother to William Gordon laird of Geight) to desire the earl of Murray to give over the house and to render himself; which was not only refused, but also captain John Gordon was deadly hurt by a piece, by one of the earl of Murray his servants, at his very first approach to the gates: whereupon they set fire in the house, and force the entry. Huntlie commanded the earl of Murray to be taken alive; but the laird of Cluny, whose brother was slain at Tarnoway, and the laird of Geight, who had his brother lying deadly wounded before his eyes, overtaking Murray, as he was escaped out of the house, killed him among the rocks upon the sea-side. There was also the sheriff of Murray slain by Innes of Innermarkie, which happened the 7th day of February 1591. Presently hereupon Huntlie returned into the north, and left captain John Gordon at Innerkeithing, untill he were recovered of his wound, where he

E

was taken by the earl of Murray's friends and executed at Edinburgh, being scarce able to live one day longer for his wound received at Dunibrissil. Sir John Campbell of Calder, knight, who was the worker and cause of thir troubles, and of the miseries that ensued thereupon, was afterward pitifully slain by his own surname in Argyle.

The earl of Huntlie was charged by the lord St. Colme (the late slain earl of Murray his brother) to underly the censure of the law for the slaughter at Dunibrissil. Huntlie compeared at Edinburgh, at the day appointed, being ready to abide the trial of an affize; and unto such time as his peers were assembled to that effect, he did offer to remain in ward in any place the King would appoint him: whereupon he was warded in the Blackness the 12th day of March 1591, and was released the 20th day of the same month, upon security and caution given by him that he should enter again upon six days warning,

whensoever he should be charged to that effect.

After the earl of Murray his slaughter at Dunibriffil, the Clan-Chattan (who, of all that faction, most eagerly endeavoured to revenge his death) did assemble their forces under the conduct of Angus Macdonald-Williamson, and came to Strathdiffe and Glenmuck, where they spoiled and invaded the earl of Huntlie's lands, and killed four gentlemen of the surname of Gordon, among whom was the old baron of Breaghley, whose death and manner thereof was much lamented, being very aged, and much given to hospitality. He was slain by them in his own house, after he had made them good cheer and welcome, never suspecting them, or expecting any such reward for his kindly entertainment, which happened the 1st day of November 1592. In revenge whereof, the earl of Huntlie, having gotten a commission against them, assembled his power and raid into Pettie (which was then in the

possession of the Clan-Chattan) where he wasted and spoiled all the Clan-Chattan's lands, and killed divers of them; but as the earl of Huntlie had returned home from Pettie, he was advertised that William Macintosh with 800 of Clan-Chattan were spoiling his lands of Cabereghe; whereupon Huntlie and his uncle Sir Patrick Gordon of Achindowne, with some few horsemen, made speed towards the enemy, desiring the rest of his company to follow him with all possible diligence, knowing that if once he were within sight of them, they would desist from spoiling the country. Huntlie overtook the Clan-Chattan before they left the bounds of Cabereghe, upon the head of a hill called Steplegate; where, without staying for the rest of his men, he invaded them with these few he then had; after a sharp conflict he overthrew them, chased them, killed 60 of their ablest men, and hurt William Macintosh with divers others of his company.

Shortly afterward, the earl of Huntlie convened his forces, and went the second time into Pettie, causing Alexander Gordon of Abergeldie, Huntlie's baillie in Badenoch for the time, bring down his Highlandmen of Lochaber, Badenoch and Strathdowne, to meet him at Inverness; desiring him also, in his journey towards Inverness, to direct some men of Macrenalds into Strathspey and Badenoch, to spoil and waste the laird of Grant and Macintosh's lands; which was done, and afterward Abergeldie and Macrenald, with the Highlandmen, met Huntlie at Inverness, from whence (joining altogether) they invade Pettie, where they wasted, burnt, and spoiled all the rebels lands and possessions, killed a number of them, and then returned home into their countries.

Whilst the north of Scotland was thus in a combustion, the Spanish Blanks were discovered, and Mr. George Car, doctor of the laws, was apprehended in the isle of Cumray, and brought back to Edin-

burgh, 1592. Afterward, the year of God 1594, the Popish earls, Angus, Huntlie, and Erroll, were, at the earnest suit of the Queen of England's ambassador, forfeited at a parliament held at Edinburgh the penult of May 1594. Then was the King moved to make the earl of Argyle his Majesty's lieutenant in the north of Scotland, to invade the earls of Huntlie and Erroll. Argyle being glad of this employment (having received money from the Queen of England for this purpose) makes great preparation for the journey, and addressees himself quickly forward; thinking, thereby, to have a good occasion to revenge his brother-in law the earl of Murray's death: so, on he went, with full assurance of a certain victory, accompanied with the earl of Tullibairne, Sir Lauchlan Maclean and divers islanders, Macintosh, Grant, and Clan-Gregor, Macneill-Warray, with all their friends and dependers, together with the whole surname of Campbell, with sundry others, whom ei-

ther greediness of prey, or malice against the Gordons, had thrust on forward in that expedition, in all above 10,000 men. And, coming through all the mountainous countries of that part of Scotland, they arrived at River of Badenoch, the 27th of September, the year 1594, which house they besieged, because it appertained to Huntlie: but it was so well defended by the Clan-Pherfone (Huntlie's servants) that Argyle was forced to give over the siege, and to address himself towards the Lowlands; where the lord Forbes with his kin, the Frafers, the Dunbars, the Clan-Chenzie, the Irvines, the Ogilbies, the Lessies, the Monroes, and divers other surnames of the north, should have met him as the King his lieutenant, and so join with his forces against Huntlie.

Argyle came thus forward to Drummin in Strathdown, and encamped hard thereby, the 2d of October. Huntlie and Erroll hearing of this great preparation made against them, they lacked neither courage

nor resolution; they assemble all such as would follow them and their fortune in this extremity. Erroll came unto the earl of Huntlie to Strathbogie with 100 or 120 of resolute gentlemen; and so having there joined with Huntlie's forces, they march forward from thence to Carneborrow, and then to Auchindowne, with 1500 horsemen, the 3d of October; parting from Auchindown, Huntlie sent captain Thomas Car and some of the family of Tillihoudie, Gordon, to spy the fields and view the enemy. These gentlemen meeting, by chance, with Argyle his spies, they kill them all except one, whom they saved and examined, and by him understood that Argyle was at hand. This accident much encouraged the earl of Huntlie's men, taking this as a presage of an ensuing victory; whereupon Huntlie and Erroll do resolve to fight with Argyle before he should join with the lord Forbes and the rest of his forces: so they march towards the enemy, who, by this time, was at

Glenlivet in the mountains of Strathawen.

The earl of Argyle understanding that Huntlie was at hand, who (as he believed) durst not shew his countenance against such an army, he was somewhat astonished, and would gladly have delayed the battle until he had met with the lord Forbes; but perceiving them to draw near, and trusting to his great number, he began to order his battle, and to encourage his people with the hope of prey, and the enemy's small forces to resist them. He gave the commandment and leading of his vanguard to Sir Lauchlan Maclean and to Auchinbreck, which did consist of 4000 men, whereof 2000 men were hagbutters. Argyle himself and Tullibairne followed with all the rest of the army. The earl of Erroll and Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindowne, accompanied with the laird of Geight, Bonietoun Wood and captain Car, led the earl of Huntlie's vanguard, which consisted of 300 gentlemen; Huntlie fol-

lowed them with the rest of his company, having the laird of Cluny Gordon upon his right hand, and Abergeldie upon the left hand: and as he began to march forward, he encouraged his men, shewing them that there was no remedy, but either to obtain the victory, or to die with their weapons in their hands, in defence of whatsoever they held dearest in this world. Argyle his army being all footmen, and assailed, had the advantage of the ground; for they were arrayed in battle upon the top of a steep, rough, and craggy mountain, at the descent whereof the ground was foggy, mossy, and full of peit-pots, exceeding dangerous for horse. Huntlie his forces consisted all in horsemen, and were constrained to ride first through the mossy ground at the foot of the hill, and then to ride up against that heathy rough mountain, to pursue the enemy, who did, there, attend them. Before that Erroll and Auchindowne gave the first charge, Huntlie caused captain Andrew Gray (now

colonel of the English and Scottish in Bohemia) shoot three field-pieces of ordnance at the enemy, which bred a confused tumult among them, by the slaughter of Macneill-warray, an islander, and one of the most valiant men of that party. Huntlie his vanguard, seeing the enemy disordered, presently gave the charge; the earl of Erroll with the most part of the vanguard turned their sides towards the enemy, and so went a little about, directly towards Argyle, leaving Maclean and the vanguard upon their left hand, being forced thereto by the steepness of the hill, and the thick shot of the enemy; but Auchindowne, with the rest of his company, did gallop up against the hill towards Maclean; so that Auchindowne himself was the first man that invaded the enemy, and the first that was slain by them, having lost himself by his too much forwardness. The fight was cruel and furious for a while. Auchindowne his servants and followers, perceiving their master fall, raged among

their enemies, as if they had resolved to revenge his death, and to accompany him in dying. Maclean again playing the part of a good commander, compassed Huntlie his vanguard, and inclosed them betwixt him and Argyle; having engaged themselves so far that now there was no hope of retreat; so that they were in danger to be all cut in pieces, if Huntlie had not come speedily to their support, where he was in great danger of his life, his horse being slain under him; but being presently horsed again by Invermarkie, he rushed in among the enemies. Thus the battle was again renewed with great fury, and continued two hours. In end, Argyle with his main battle began to decline, and then to flie a-pace, leaving Maclean still fighting in the field; who seeing himself thus destitute of succours, and his men either fled or slain, he retired in good order with the small company he had about him, and saved himself by flight; having behaved himself in the battle, not only like a good

commander, but also like a valiant soldier. Huntlie and his horsemen followed the chace beyond the brook of Aldchonlihan, killing the enemies till the steepness of the next mountains did stay them, being inaccessible for horsemen. Argyle his ensign was found in the place of battle, and brought back with them to Strathbogie. The earl of Argyle lost in this battle his two cousins, Archibald Campbell of Lochinell, and his brother James Campbell, with divers of Auchinbreck his friends, Macneill-warray, and 700 common soldiers. Neither was the victory very pleasing to the earl of Huntlie, for besides that the earl of Erroll, the laird of Geight, and the most part of all his company were hurt and wounded, Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindowne, his uncle, a wise, valiant, and resolute knight, with 14 others, were there slain. All their hurt men were carried that night to Auchindowne, where most part of them staid untill they were recovered. This

battle was foughten on Thursday the 3d day of October 1594.

The lord Forbes, the lairds of Buquhan and Drum assembled all their friends and followers, with intention to join with Argyle; but hearing of his overthrow, they conclude to join with the Dunbars, and the rest of the forces coming from the provinces of Murray and Ross, and so to invade the Gordons when they came from the battle, thinking it now an easy matter to overthrow them, and to revenge old quarrels. To this effect the whole surname of Forbes, with most part of the Leslies and the Irvines, met at Druminour (the lord Forbes his dwelling) and so went on, thinking to overtake Argyle, and to cause him return and renew the battle against the Gordons and their partakers; but as they marched forward, a gentleman called Irvine was killed with the shot of a pistol, in the dark of the night, hard by the lord Forbes, the author of which shot was never yet known unto this day; for present-

ly all their pistols were searched and found to be full. This unexpected accident bred such a confusion and amazement in the minds of the Forbeses and their followers, being now all afraid of one another, that they dissolved their companies and returned home. The rest of the clans in the north, such as the Dunbars, the Frasers, the Monroes, and the Clan-Chenzie, being convened at Forbes in Murray, were staid by the policy of Dunbar of Munesse, who then was tutor to the sheriff of Murray, and favoured the earl of Huntlie, Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindowne having married his mother.

Whilst the earl of Argyle was thus employed against Huntlie, the King came to Dundee, where he expected the issue of that battle; which when he had heard, his Majesty took journey north toward Strathbogie. In this voyage his Majesty, by the instigation of Huntlie and Erroll's greatest enemies, permitted (though unwillingly) divers houses to be thrown down, such

as the house of Strathbogie, which appertained to Huntlie, the house of Slains, in Buchan, appertaining to the earl of Erroll, the house of Culfamond, in Garioch, appertaining to the laird of Newtoun Gordon, the house of Bagayés, in Angus, appertaining to Sir Walter Lindsey, and the house of Craig, in Angus, appertaining to Sir John Ogilvie, son to the lord Ogilvie. In this mean time that the King was at Strathbogie, the earl of Huntlie, with divers of his friends, went into Sutherland and Catteyness; and when his Majesty returned into Edinburgh, Huntlie left the kingdom, and travelled though Germany, France, and Flanders; having staid abroad one year and five months, he was recalled again by the King; and, at his return, both he, Angus, and Erroll were again restored to their former honours and dignities, at a parliament held in Edinburgh, in November 1597; and further, his Majesty honoured the earl of Huntlie with the honour of Marquis, the year 1599. All

quarrels betwixt him and the earls of Argyle and Murray were taken away, by the marriage of Argyle his eldest daughter to George lord Gordon, Huntlie his eldest son, and by the marriage of lady Anne Gordon, Huntlie's daughter, to James earl of Murray, son to him that was slain at Dunibriffill.

F

The Troubles betwixt the Forbeses and the Gordons in the years 1571 and 1572.

THE two families of Gordon and Forbes were of great power and authority in their country, both of them valiant, wise, and wealthy; both harbouring deadly feud, long rooted between them. The Gordons then lived with great concord and unity among themselves; and, by attollence of their Kings, had, for many years, governed the people adjoining unto them, whereby they became wealthy and of great power, and purchased strength among themselves, together with the attendance and following of other men towards them. When, on the contrary, the Forbeses were at wars one with another, daily impaired their own strengths, with their own slaughters, and, in end, wrought their own harm by pressing to strive against the Gordons. These two surnames did live together at

this time, rather in secret emulation than open envy; because they had (in way of reconciliation) by marriage intermingled their families together; but their hid and long rooted rancour did now burst forth, not only by following contrary factions during these civil wars betwixt the King's party and the Queen's, but chiefly because that John master of Forbes (eldest son to the lord Forbes) had repudiate and put away his wife, Margaret Gordon, daughter to George earl of Huntly, which he did by the instigation of his uncle Black Arthur Forbes, who mortally hated the Gordons. This Arthur was a man of great courage, ambitious, and ready to undertake any thing whatsoever for the advancement and reconciliation of his family. The Forbeses, from the first time of thir civil discords in Scotland, did follow the King's party; the Gordons did always remain constantly faithful to the Queen, even unto the end.

The Forbeses, by persuasion of Black Arthur Forbes, had appointed both day and place of meeting, where they should assemble together, not only for their own general reconciliation among themselves, but also to interprise something against the Gordons and the rest of the Queen's favourers in these parts; whereof Adam Gordon of Auchindowne having secret intelligence (his brother the earl of Huntlie being then at Edinburgh) he assembled a certain number of his kindred and followers to cross the proceedings of the Forbeses, who were all convened at Tillian-gus above Druminour, in the beginning of the year of God 1572. The Forbeses perceiving the Gordons coming up towards them, against the hill where they then were, they did intrench themselves within their camp, which they had strongly fortified, dividing their army in two several companies, whereof Black Arthur Forbes commanded that which lay next unto the Gordons. Adam Gordon (far inferior in

number to his enemies) presently, without any stay, fiercely invaded the first company, his brother, Mr. Robert Gordon, set upon the other: so, breaking their trenches, they ran desperately upon the spears of their enemies. After a sharp and cruel conflict, courageously foughten a long time on either side, Black Arthur Forbes, with divers others, gentlemen of his surname and family, were slain; the rest were all overthrown, put to flight, and chased even to the gates of Druminour, the lord Forbes his chief dwelling place; few of the Gordons were killed, but only John Gordon of Buckie, father to John Gordon of Buckie now living.

The Forbeses attempted nothing afterward in revenge of this overthrow, untill the time that John master of Forbes (Black Arthur his nephew and chief of that family) hardly escaping from his enemies, hastened to court, where the earl of Mar, then regent, had his residence, hoping by him to be relieved. The regent gave him

five companies of footmen and some horsemen, with letters to such of the adjoining nobility as favoured and followed that party, desiring them to associate and join themselves unto the Forbeses. These then being confederate and assembled together with certain other families of their affinity and neighbours, so advanced the spirit of this John master of Forbes, that he now thought himself sufficiently furnished against the forces of his adversaries, and so presently went to Aberdeen, to expel Adam Gordon from thence, the year of God 1572, who knowing the preparation of the Forbeses, and understanding the approach of the enemies so near at hand, assembled such of his friends and followers as he could soonest find at that time, and led them out of the town. He sent a company of musketeers, under the conduct of captain Thomas Care, to a convenient place where the Forbeses must of necessity pass, there to lye in ambush, and not to stir till the battle did join; then he sent certain of

the Sutherland bowmen (who had retired themselves out of their country during the earl of Sutherland's minority) and desired them to draw a great compass about, and so, to set upon the back of the Forbeses footmen and musketeers; he himself, and his brother Mr. Robert Gordon, with the residue of his company, stayed the coming of the Forbeses at a place called Craibstane, not far from the ports of the new town of Aberdeen. The Forbeses, being in sight of Aberdeen, began to consult among themselves what was best to be done; some were of opinion that the fittest and safest course was to go to Old Aberdeen, and there seat themselves, and from thence to molest the New Town, and compel Adam Gordon to depart from New Aberdeen, by the aid and assistance of these experienced footmen which were sent from the regent: but the master of Forbes and his kinsmen would not hearken thereto, desiring present battle, which was then concluded; and so the Forbeses advanced with

great courage against the Gordons, who received them with the like resolution. At the very first rencounter, Auchindowne his musketeers, who lay in ambush, killed a number of the Forbeses; then both the armies joined with great violence. After a cruel conflict, with incredible obstinacy on either side, the laird of Pitligo (Forbes) his two brethren, with divers other gentlemen of the surname of Forbes, were there slain; captain Chisholme with the footmen (sent by the regent to their support) were put to flight by the Sutherland bowmen, who pursued them eagerly with great slaughter. Among the rest capt. Chisholme was slain, with three other captains, which the rest of the Forbeses perceiving, they fled apace; many of the principals were taken, with their chief and general John master of Forbes, whose father was then very aged, lying sick at Druminour, expecting the sorrowful news of this overthrow. Adam Gordon used this victory very moderately, and suffered no man to be

killed after the fury of the fight was past. When all was ended he returned to the church of Aberdeen, and there gave thanks unto God for his happy success. Alexander Forbes of Strath-gar-neck, (author of all thir troubles betwixt these two families, and the chief stirrer up of Arthur Forbes against the Gordons) was taken at this battle, and as they were going to behead him, Auchindowne caused stay his execution. He intertained the master of Forbes, and the rest of the prisoners, with great kindness and courtesy; he carried the master of Forbes along with him to Strathbogie; and in end, gave him and all the rest leave to depart.

The next ensuing summer after this conflict at Craibstane, Adam Gordon of Auchindowne, following his victory, entered the Mearns, and besieged the house of Glenbervie, putting all the regent's party within that province into a great fear and tumult. The earl of Craufurd, the lords Gray, Ogilvie, and Glames, taking

part with the regent against the Queen, assembled all the forces of Angus and Mearns to resist Auchindowne, and to stop his passage at Breichin, where they encamped; but Adam Gordon, being advertised of their proceedings, left the most part of his men at the siege of Glenbervie, from whence he parted in the dead time of the night, with the most resolute men of his company, to invade these lords; and being come to Breichen, he killed the watch with divers others, surprized the town, set upon the lords, chased them, and made himself master of the town and castle of Breichen. The next morning, the lords understanding Auchindowne's small forces in regard of theirs, they assembled their men together, and came near unto Breichen to fight against him, who met them with resolute courage; but as they were ready to encounter, the lords, not able to endure the first charge of their enemies, fled a-pace with all their companies. There were slain of them above 80; and divers

of them were taken, amongst whom was the lord Glames, who was carried to Strathbogie, and being detained there a while, he was set at liberty with the rest. This conflict was called the Bourd of Breichen. Then returned Adam Gordon back again to the siege of Glenbervie, and took it; from thence he went to Montrose, and took that town. In his return from thence, he took the castle of Dun, which appertained to the regent's cousin, and so marched foreward into Angus. The inhabitants of Dundee hearing of his approach, and despairing of their own abilities to resist him, they sent for help into Fife; but Auchindowne, having done his pleasure in Angus and Mearns, returned home into the north, being contented for that time, with what he had already done against his enemies. By this good success of the Gordons, the Queen's favourers in all the parts of the kingdom were highly encouraged at that time.

The Brige of Dee.

THE year of God 1588 there were some secret emulations and factions at court; the earl of Huntlie being in favour with his Majesty, obtained the captainry of his Majesty's guards, which the master of Glames had before; for this cause the master of Glames and his associates, joining themselves to the English ambassador then lying at Edinburgh, do surmise to the King's Majesty, that some letters of the earl of Huntlie's, sent by him to the King of Spain, were intercepted in England. Huntlie was called to make his answer; he compears, and refuses these letters to have been written or sent by him, but only devised by his enemies, thereby to put him in disgrace with his master; yet he is warded in the castle of Edinburgh, in the latter end of February, and being tried, he is released the 7th day of March following; whereupon the earls of Huntlie, Craufurd,

and Erroll address themselves unto the north, and take journey towards St. Johnstoun, where they were advertised that the earls of Athole and Morton and the master of Glames had conveened forces to intrap them within St. Johnstoun. Huntlie, Erroll, and Craufurd issued forth of that town, with such small companies as they then had, and rencountered with the master of Glames, whom they chased and apprehended in Kirkhill, and carried him prisoner with them into the north.

Chancellor Maitland and the rest of the master of Glames his faction at court, hearing of this accident, they inflame the King with anger against Huntlie and his associates, and do persuade his Majesty to take a journey into the north. Huntlie, in this mean time, assembles all his friends and dependers, to the number of 10,000 men, and came forward to the Brige of Dee, with a resolution to fight against his enemies, the 20th of April the year 1589; but being certainly informed that the King

was coming in person against him, he dissolved his army, and submitted himself to his Majesty, withal releasing the master of Glames from captivity; whereupon Huntie was committed to ward at Edinburgh, then at Borthwick, thereafter at Finnevin; from whence he was shortly afterward released by his Majesty. The earl of Erroll was also warded in Edinburgh castle, where he was detained untill he pays a sum of money, which was employed to the use of Chancellor Maitland.

A Tumult in Ross, the year of God 1597.

THE year of God 1597 there happened an accident in Ross, at a fair in Laggvreid, which had almost put Ross and all the neighbouring countries in a combustion. The quarrel did begin betwixt John Macgillicallum (brother to the laird of Rasey) and Alexander Bane, brother to Duncan Bane of Tulloch. The Monroes did

assist Alexander Bane, and the Clan-Cheinzie took part with John Macgillicallum, who was there slain, with John Mac-Marthow-Mac-William, and three others of the Clan-Cheinzie. Alexander Bane escaped, but there were killed on his side John Monro of Kulcraigie, with his brother Hutcheon Monro, and John Monro Roberts-son. Hereupon the Clan-Cheinzie and the Monroes began to employ the aid and assistance of their friends from all parts to invade one another; but they were in some measure reconciled by the mediation of indifferent friends and neighbours.

*The Death of Sir Lauchlan Maclean,
the year 1598.*

SIR LAUHLAN MACLEAN his ambition, together with his desire of revenge, thrust him on to claim the inheritance of the whole isle of Ila, being always the possession and ancient inheritance

of the Clan-Donald, all which Maclean thought easily now to compass, Sir James Macdonald (the just inheritor thereof) being young, and his father Angus Macdonald aged. Sir Lauchlan assembleth his whole forces, and, in warlike manner, invades Ila, to take possession thereof by virtue of a new right which he had then lately obtained: which Sir James Macdonald (Maclean his sister's son) understanding, he convened his friends, and went likewise into the same island (being his own and his forebears possession) to interrupt, if it were possible, the proceedings of his unkind uncle Maclean. Being both arrived in the island, such as did love them, and desired peace, did mediate a long time betwixt them, and took great pains in essaying to agree them. Sir James (being the more reasonable of the two) was content to let his uncle have the half of the island during his lifetime, although he had no just title thereto, providing he would take it in the same fashion as his predeces-

fors, the Clan-Lean, had it ever before his time, to wit, holden of the Clan-Donald; and moreover, he offered to submit the controversy to the King's Majesty's arbitrement, thereby to eschew all debate with his uncle. But Maclean, running headlong to his own mischief, much against the opinion of his friends, who advised him to the contrary, did refuse all offers of peace, unless his nephew would then presently resign unto him the title and possession of the whole island. Whereupon they do both resolve and prepare to fight, Sir James being far inferior in number of men, but some of these he had with him were lately before trained in the wars of Ireland. Thus there ensued a cruel and sharp battle, at the head of Loch-Groinart in Ila, courageously foughten a long time on either side. Sir James, in the beginning, caused his vanguard make a compass in fashion of a retreat, thereby to get the sun at his back, and the advantage of a hill which was hard by. In end, Sir James having repulsed

G

the enemies vanguard, and forcing their main battle, Maclean was slain courageously fighting, together with 80 of the most principal men of his kin, and 200 common soldiers lying dead about him. His son Lauchlan Barrach Maclean (being sore wounded) was chased with the rest of his men even to their boats and vessels. Sir James Macdonald was dangerously wounded, whereof he hardly recovered afterward, for he was shot with an arrow through the body, and was left the most part of the ensuing night for dead amongst the slain bodies. There were slain of the Clan-Donald about 30 in all, and above 60 wounded, which happened the year of God 1598. And thus the war begun by Maclean, without reason, the year of God 1585, ended now, this year, by his death. Maclean had three responses from a witch before he undertook this journey into Ila; first, desiring him not to land there upon Thursday; the next was, forbidding him to drink of the water of a well beside Groi-

nart; and thirdly, he told him that one called Maclean should be slain at Groinart. The first he transgressed unwillingly, being driven into that island by a tempest on a Thursday. The second he transgressed negligently, and drank of that water before he knew the name of the place, and so he died at Groinart as was foretold him, but doubtfully, and as commonly all such responses be. These broils and uproars did so move the King against the Macdonald, that his Majesty afterward finding the inheritance both of Kintyre and Ila to be at his own disposition, he gave all these lands to the earl of Argyle and the Campbells; whereupon proceeded the troubles that arose since, betwixt the Campbells and the Clan-donald in Kintyre and Ila, after his Majesty's coming to the crown of England, which I omit to relate; only thus far, that Sir James Macdonald was, by Argyle his means, warded in the castle of Edinburgh, and was kepted there a long time; from whence he escaped by

the means and diligence of his cousin Macrenald, who fled with Sir James into Spain and Flanders, where they were entertained by the Spaniard; from whence they are now of late (upon the earl of Argyle his flight thither to the King of Spain) both recalled home by his Majesty, the year of God 1620, and are now in England, at this time, with the King, who hath given Sir James a yearly pension of 1000 merks Sterling, and a yearly pension of 200 merks Sterling to Macrenald, together with a pardon for all their bygone offences.

*Troubles in the West Isles betwixt the
Clan-Donald and the Seil-Tormot, the
year 1601.*

DONALD GORME MACDONALD of the Slaitt had married Sir Rory Macleod of the HERRIS his sister, and for some displeasure or jealousy conceived against her, he did repudiate her; whereupon Sir Rory Macleod sent message to Donald Gorme, desiring him to take home his sister, Donald Gorme not only refused to obey his request, but also intended divorcement against her; which when he had obtained, he married Kenneth Mackenzie lord of Kintail his sister. Sir Rory Macleod took this disgrace (as he thought it) so highly, that, assembling his countrymen and followers, without delay, he invaded, with fire and sword, a part of Donald Gorme his lands in the isle of Skie, which lands Sir Rory did claim to appertain to himself. Donald Gorme, impatient of this injury,

conveened his forces, and went into the Herris, which he wasted and spoiled, carried away their store and bestial, and killed some of the inhabitants. This again did so stir up Sir Rory Macleod and his kin the Seil-Tormot, that they took a journey into the isle of Ouyft (which appertaineth to Donald Gorme) and landing there, Sir Rory sent his cousin Donald Glasse Macleod, with some 40 men, to spoil the island, and to take a prey of goods out of the precinct of Kille-trynaid, where the people had put all their goods to be preserved as in a sanctuary, being a church. John Macean-Macjames (a kinsman of Donald Gorme's) being desired by him to stay in the island, accompanied with 20 others, rencountered with Donald Glasse Macleod. This small company of the Clan-Donald behaved themselves so valiantly, that, after a sharp skirmish, they killed Donald Glasse Macleod with the most part of his company, and so rescued the goods. Sir Rory, seeing the bad success of his

kinsmen, retired home for that time.

Thus both the parties were bent headlong against others with a spirit full of revenge and fury, and so continued mutually infesting one another with spoils and cruel slaughters, to the utter ruin and desolation of both their countries, untill the inhabitants were forced to eat horse, dogs, cats, and other filthy beasts. In end, Donald Gorme assembled his whole forces the year of God 1601, to try the event of battle, and came to invade Sir Rory his lands, thinking thereby to draw his enemies to fight. Sir Rory Macleod was then in Argyle, craving aid and advice from the earl of Argyle against the Clan-Donald. Alexander Macleod (Sir Rory his brother) resolves to fight with Donald Gorme, though his brother was absent: so assembling all the inhabitants of his brother's lands, with the whole race of the Seil-Tormot, and some of the Seil-Torquille, out of the Lewes, he encamped beside a hill called Bin-guillin in the isle of Sky,

with a resolution to fight against Donald Gorme and the Clan-Donald the next morning, which were no sooner come but there ensued a cruel and terrible skirmish, which lasted the most part of the day, both contending for the victory with great obstinacy. The Clan-Donald, in end, overthrew their enemies, hurt Alexander Macleod and took him prisoner, with Neill Macalester-Roy, and 30 others of the chieftest men among the Seil-Tormot, killed two near kinsmen of Sir Rory Macleod's, John Mactormot and Tormot Mactormot, with many others. After this skirmish there followed a reconciliation betwixt them, by the mediation of old Angus Macdonald of Kintyre, the laird of Colle, and others. Then Donald Gorme delivered unto Sir Rory Macleod, all the prisoners taken at Bin-guillin, together with his brother Alexander Macleod. Since which time they have continued in peace and quietness.

*The troubles betwixt the Lord Kintaile
and the Laird of Glengarrie.*

THE year of God 1602, the lord Kintaile and his kin, the Clan-Cheinzie, fell at variance with the laird of Glengarrie (one of the Clan-Donald) who being unexpert and unskilful in the laws of the realm, the Clan-Cheinzie intrapped and insnared him within the compass thereof, and charged him, with a number of his men and followers, to compear before the justice at Edinburgh, they having, in the mean time, slain two of his kinsmen. Glengarrie, not knowing or neglecting the charges, came not to Edinburgh at the prefixed day, but went about, at his own hand, to revenge the slaughter of his kinsmen. Thereupon the lord of Kintaile, by his credit in council, doth purchase a commission against Glengarrie and his countrymen; which being obtained, Kintaile (with the assistance of the next adjoining neighbours,

by virtue of his commission) went into Moroll (which appertained to Glengarrie) and wasted all that country; then, in his return from Moroll, he besieged the castle of Strome, which, in end, he took, by treason of the captain unto whom Glengarrie had committed the custody thereof. Afterward the Clan-Cheinzie did invade Glengarrie his eldest son, whom they killed with 40 of his followers, not without some slaughter of the Clan-Cheinzie likewise. In end, after great slaughter on either side, they came to an agreement, wherein Glengarrie (for to obtain his peace) was glad to acquit and renounce to the lord of Kintaille, the perpetual inheritance of the Strome, with the lands adjacent.

*Some troubles in the Isle of Rasay, the year
of God 1611.*

IN the month of August 1611 there happened an accident in the isle of Rasay, which is among the West Isles, where Gillcolme laird of Rasay and Murthow Mackenzie (son to the laird of Garlogh) with some others, were slain, upon this occasion. The lands of Garlogh did sometime pertain to the lairds of Rasay, his predecessors, and when the surname of Clan-Chenzie began first to rise and flourish, one of them did obtain the third part of Garloch in wadset; and thus once getting footing therein, shortly thereafter doth purchase a pretended right of the whole, which the lawful inheritors did neglect; whereby, in process of time, the Clan-Chenzie do challenge the whole, whereof this laird of Garlogh his father obtains the possession, excluding the laird of Rasay and his kin, the Clan-Vic-Gillcolme; whom Gar-

logh and the Clan-Cheinzie did pursue with fire and sword, and chased them out of Garlogh. In like manner, the Clan-Vic-Gillcolme invaded the laird of Garlogh and his country with spoils and slaughters. In end, the laird of Garlogh apprehended John Macallen, and chased John Holmogh, two principal men of the race of Clan-Vic-Gillcolme, and near cousins to the laird of Rasay; at which skirmish there was slaughter on either side; the year of God 1610. The laird of Garlogh not fully satisfied herewith, he sent his son Murthow, accompanied with Alexander Bane (son and heir to Alexander Bane of Tulloch) and some others, to search and pursue John Holmogh; and to this effect he did hire a ship (which then, by chance, happened to ly upon that coast) to transport his son Murthow, with his company, into the isle of Skie, where he understood John Holmogh to be at that time. But how soon Murthow with his company were embarked, they turned their course another way.

and (whether of set purpose, or constrained thereto by contrary winds, I know not) arrived at the isle of Rasey, running headlong to their own destruction. The laird of Rasey, perceiving the ship in the harbour, went aboard to buy some wines and other commodities, accompanied with 12 men. How soon Murthow did see them coming, he, with all his company (least they should be known or seen) went to the lower rooms of the ship, untill the other party had gone away. The laird of Rasey entered the ship, and having spoken the marinells, he departed with a resolution to return quickly. Murthow understanding that they were gone, came out of the lower rooms; and perceiving them come again, he resolved not to conceal himself any longer. The laird of Rasey desired his brother Murthow Macgillcolme to follow him unto the ship, with more company, in another galley, that they might carry to the shore some wine and other provision, which he had resolved to buy

from the marinells; so the laird of Rasey returning to the ship, and finding Garlogh his son there, beyond his expectation, he adviseth with his men, and thereupon resolveth to take him prisoner, in pledge of his cousin John Macallen, whom Garlogh detained in captivity. They began first to quarrel, then to fight in the ship, which continued all the day long: in end, the laird of Rasey was slain, and divers of his men; so was Murthow the son of Garlogh and Alexander Bane killed, with their haill company, three only excepted, who fought so manfully, that they killed all those that came into the ship with the laird of Rasey, and hurt a number of those that were with Murthow Macgillcolme in two galleys hotly pursuing them; at last, feeling themselves deadly hurt, and not able to endure any longer, they sailed away with a prosperous wind, and died shortly thereafter.

The troubles of the Lewes.

RORY MACLEOD of the Lewes had three wives; he married first Barbara Stewart, daughter to the Lord Meffen, by whom he had Torquill Yre, who died, before his father, without issue; after Barbara Stewart's death, Rory married Mackenzie's daughter, who bore Torquill Connaldagh, whom Rory would not acknowledge as his son, but held him always a bastard; and repudiating his mother, he married Maclean his sister, by whom he had Torquill Dow and Tormot. Besides these, Rory had three base sons, Neill Macleod, Rory-Oig, and Murthow Macleod. After the death of old Rory Macleod, his son Torquill Dow Macleod (excluding his brother Torquill Connaldagh as a bastard) doth take possession of the Lewes, and is acknowledged by the inhabitants as the lawful inheritor of that island. Torquill Connaldagh (by some cal-

led Torquill of the Cogigh) perceiving himself thus put by the inheritance of the Lewes, he hath recourse to his mother's kindred the Clán-Cheinzie, and desires their support to recover the same. The Lord Kintaille, Torquill Connaldagh, his brother Murthow Macleod, and the Brienre of the Lewes met altogether in Ross, to advise by what means Torquill Connaldagh might obtain the possession of the Lewes, which they were out of all hope to effectuate so long as Torquill Dow was alive; whereupon the Brienre of the Lewes undertook to slay his master Torquill Dow, which he brings thus to pass; the Brienre, being accompanied with the most part of his tribe (the Clán-vic-gill-voir) went in his galley to the isle of Roney; and, by the way, he apprehended a Dutch ship, which he brought by force along with him to the Lewes; he invites his master Torquill Dow unto a banquet in the ship; Torquill Dow (suspecting no deceit) went thither accompanied with seven of the best of

his friends, and sat down in the ship, expecting some drink: instead of wine, they bring cords; thus were they all apprehended and bound by the Breinre and his kindred, who brought them to the lord of Kintaile his bounds, and there beheaded them every man, in July 1597. Neither did this advance Torquill Connaldagh to the possession of the Lewes; for his brother Neill Macleod opposed himself, and pursued the Breinre and his kin, in a part of the island called Neise, which they had fortified; where he killed divers of them, and made them leave the strength. Thus did Neill Macleod possess the island, to the behoof of his brother Tormot, and the children of Torquill Dow, whom he did acknowledge to be righteous heirs of the island. Torquill Connaldagh had now lost both his sons, John and Neill, and had married his daughter to Rory Mackenzie (the lord Kintaile his brother) giving her in marriage the lands of Coighigh. Hereupon Kintaile began to think and advise by what

H

means he might purchase to himself the inheritance of that island, having now Torquill Connaldagh and his brother Murthow Macleod altogether at his devotion, and having Tormot Macleod in his custody, whom he took from the schools; so that he had none to oppose unto his designs but Neill Macleod, whom he might easily overthrow: Kintaile deals earnestly with Torquill Connaldagh, and, in end, persuades him to resign the right of the island into his favours, and to deliver him all the old rights and evidents of the Lewes.

In this mean time, the barons and gentlemen of Fife, hearing these troubles, were intysed, by the persuasion of some that had been there, and by the report of the fertility of the island, to undertake a difficile and hard interprize. They conclude to send a colony thither, and to civilize (if it were possible) the inhabitants of the island: To this effect, they obtain, from the King, a gift of the Lewes, the year of God 1599, or thereabouts, which was al-

ledged to be then at his Majesty's disposition. Thereupon the adventurers, being joined together in Fife, they assemble a company of foldiers, with artificers of all sorts, and did transport them into the Lewes, where they erected houses and buildings, till, in end, they made a pretty little town, in a proper and convenient place fit for the purpose, and there they encamped themselves. Neill Macleod and Murthow (the sons of old Rory) withstood the undertakers; Murthow Macleod invaded the laird of Balcolmy, whom he apprehended together with his ship, and killed all his men: so, having detained him six months in captivity in the Lewes, he released him upon his promise to pay him a ransom.

Now Neill Macleod was grieved in heart to see his brother Murthow entertain the Breinre and his tribe, being the chief instruments of their brother Torquill Dow his slaughter; and thereupon Neill apprehended his brother Murthow; which, when the undertakers had heard,

they sent message unto Neill, shewing, that if he would deliver unto them his brother Murthow, they would agree with himself, give him a portion of the island, and assist him to revenge the slaughter of his brother Torquill Dow. Whereunto Neill hearkened, and delivered his brother Murthow to the undertakers; then went Neill with them to Edinburgh, and had his pardon from the King for all his bypast offences. Murthow Macleod was executed at St. Andrews.

Thus was the earl of Kintaile in despair to purchase or obtain the Lewes; and therefore he bends all his wits to cross the undertakers: he setteth Tormot Macleod at liberty, thinking that at his arrival in the island, all the inhabitants would stir in his favours against the undertakers; which they did indeed, as the natural inclination is of all these islanders and Highlanders, who, of all other people, are most bent and willing to hazard and adventure themselves, their lives, and all they have, for

their lords and masters. The King was informed, by the undertakers, that the lord of Kintaile was a croffer and hinderer of their interprize; whereupon he was brought into question, and committed to ward in the castle of Edinburgh, from whence he was released, without the trial of an affize, by the lord chancellor his means. Neill Macleod returning into the Lewes with the undertakers, he fell at variance with them; whereupon he went about to invade their camp, and they began, in like manner, to lay a snare for him. The laird of Wormistoun, chusing a very dark night, sent forth a company to apprehend Neill; who, perceiving them coming, invaded them, and chased them, with slaughter, to their camp. By this time came Tormot Macleod into the island, at whose arrival the inhabitants speedily assembled, and came to him as to their lord and master. Thereupon Tormot, accompanied with his brother Neill, invaded the camp of the undertakers, forced it, burnt the fort, kil-

led most part of their men, took their commanders prisoners; and released them, after eight months captivity. Thus, for a while, Tormot Macleod commanded in that island, untill the undertakers returned again to the Lewes, being assisted by the forces of all the neighbouring countries, by virtue of the King's commission, directed against Tormot Macleod and his kin the Seil-Torquill. How soon their forces were landed in the island, Tormot Macleod rendered himself to the undertakers, upon their promise to carry him safe to London, and to obtain him a remission for his bypast crimes; but Neill Macleod stood out, and would not submit himself. Tormot being come to London, the King gives him a pardon; but withal he sent him home into Scotland, to be kept in ward at Edinburgh; where he remained untill the month of March 1615, that the King gave him liberty to pass into Holland, where he ended his days. Tormot thus warded in Edinburgh, the adventurers did settle them-

felves again, for a little while, in the Lewes; where, at last, the undertakers began to weary: many of the adventurers and partners drew back from the interprize; some, for lack of means, were not able; others died; others had greater occasions and business elsewhere to abstract them; many of them began to decline and decay in their estates; and so, being continually vexed by Neill Macleod, they left the island, and returned into Fife.

The lord of Kintaile, perceiving all things thus fall out to his mind, did now shew himself openly in the matter; he past a gift of the island, in his own name, under his Majesty's great seal, by the lord chancellor his means, by virtue of the old right which Torquill Connaldagh had before resigned in his favours: some of the adventurers complained hereof to the King's Majesty, who was highly displeas'd with Kintaile, and made him to resign his right into his Majesty's hands; which right being now at his Majesty's disposition, he gave

the same to three of the undertakers, to wit, the lord Balmerinoch, Sir James Spence of Wormistoun, and Sir George Hay: who, now, having all the right in their persons, assembled their forces together, with the aid of most part of all the neighbouring countries; and so, under the conduct of Sir George Hay and Sir James Spence, they invaded the Lewes again, not only to settle a colony there, but also to search for Neill Macleod.

The lord Kintaile (yet hunting after the Lewes) did underhand assist Neill, and publicly did aid the undertakers by virtue of the King's commission; Kintaile sent a supply of victuals, in a ship from Ross, to the adventurers; in the mean time he sendeth quietly to Neill Macleod, desiring him to take the ship by the way, that the undertakers, trusting to those victuals, and being disappointed thereof, might be forced to retire, and abandon the island; which fell out accordingly: for Sir James Spence and Sir George Hay, failing to apprehend

Neill, and being scarce of victuals to furnish their army, they began to weary, and so dismissed all the neighbouring forces. Sir George Hay and Wormistoun did then retire into Fifê, leaving some men in the island to defend and keep the fort untill they did send them a fresh supply of men and victuals: whereupon Neill, being assisted by his nephew Malcolm Macleod (the son of Rory-Oig) invaded the undertakers camp, burnt the same, apprehended all those which were left behind in the island, and sent them home safely: since which time they never returned again into the Lewes. Then did the lord Balmerinoch, Sir George Hay, and Sir James Spence begin to weary of the Lewes, and sold their title of that island to the lord of Kintaile for a sum of money: whereby, in end, after great trouble and much blood, he obtained that island. And thus did this interprize of the Fife undertakers come to no effect, after they had spent much time, and most part of their means about it.

Kintaile was glad that he had now at last caught his long expected prey; and thereupon he went into the island, where he was no sooner landed, but all the inhabitants yielded unto him, except Neill Macleod and some few others. The inhabitants yielded the more willingly to Kintaile, because he was their neighbour, and might still vex them with continual incursions if they did stand out against him; which the undertakers were not able to do. Neill Macleod was now forced to retire unto a rock, within the sea, called Berriffay, which he kept for the space of three years: during the time of his stay in the fort of Berriffay, there arrived an English pirate in the Lewes, who had a ship furnished with great wealth; this pirate (called Peter Lowe) entered in friendship and familiarity with Neill, being both rebels: at last, Neill took him prisoner with all his men, whom he sent, together with the ship, to the council of Scotland, thinking thereby to get his own pardon, and his

brother Tormor released out of prison ; but neither of them did he obtain : and all the Englishmen, with their captain (Peter Lowe) were hanged at Leith, the year of God 1612. Neill Macleod being wearied to remain in the fort of Berriffay, did abandon the same, and dispersing all his company several ways, he retires into Heres, where he remained a certain while in secret : then he rendered himself unto his cousin Sir Rory Macleod, whom he intreated to carry him into England to his Majesty ; which Sir Rory undertook to do ; and coming to Glasgow, with a resolution to embark there for England, he was charged there, under the pain of treason, to deliver Neill ; whom he presented before the council at Edinburgh, where he was executed in April 1613. After the death of Neill, his nephew Malcolm Macleod (the son of Rory-Oig) escaping from the tutor of Kintaile, did associate himself to the Clan-Donald, in Ila and Kintyre, during their troubles against the Campbells, the

years of God 1614, 1615, and 1616; at which time Malcolm made a journey from Kintyre into the Lewes, and there killed two gentlemen of the Clan-Cheinzie; then he went into Spain, and there remained in Sir James Macdonald his company, with whom he is now again returned into England, the year of God 1620.

Some troubles betwixt Sutherland and Catteyness, the year of God 1612.

THE year of God 1612 there happened some discord and dissension betwixt Sutherland and Catteyness, which troubled, a little, the peace of that part of the kingdom. The occasion was this; one Arthur Smith (a false coiner) being, together with his servant, apprehended for making and striking of false money, were both sent to Edinburgh, the year of God 1599, where his servant was executed; but Arthur himself escaped, and retired into Catteyness, and dwelt there with the earl of that coun-

trety. The report hereof coming to the King's ears, the year of God 1612, his Majesty gave a secret commission to his servant Sir Robert Gordon (the earl of Sutherland his brother) for apprehending this Arthur Smith; but as Sir Robert was going about to perform the same, he received a commandment from his Majesty to accompany Sir Alexander Hay (then secretary of Scotland) in apprehending John Leslie of New Leslie, and some other rebels in Gereagh; which Sir Robert obeyed, and committed the execution of the commission against Arthur Smith, unto his nephew Donald Macky of Farr, John Gordon of Gospeter younger (nephew to George Gordon slain at Marle the year 1587) and to John Gordon, son to John Gordon of Backies. These three, parting from Sutherland with 36 men, came to the town of Thurso in Catteynes, where Arthur Smith then dwelt, and there apprehended him; which when John Sinclair of Skirkag (the earl of Catteynes his ne-

phew) understood, he assembled the inhabitants of the town; and opposed himself to the King's commission. There ensued a sharp skirmish upon the streets of Thurso, where John Sinclair of Skirkag was slain, and James Sinclair of Dun left there deadly hurt, lying upon the ground; Arthur Smith was there likewise slain: divers of the Sutherland men were hurt; but they perceiving Smith dead, they left Thurso, and retired themselves all home into their own country.

Thereupon both the parties compared before the secret council at Edinburgh; the earl of Catteyness did pursue Sir Robert Gordon, Donald Macky, and John Gordon, for the slaughter of his nephew; these, again, did pursue the inhabitants of Catteyness for resisting the King's commissioners. The secret council (having special commandment from his Majesty to that effect) dealt earnestly with both the parties; and, in end, persuaded them to submit these questions and debates to the

arbitriment of friends. A certain number of the lords of council were chosen as friends for either party; the Archbishop of St. Andrews and the earl of Dumfermline, Chancellor of Scotland, were appointed oversmen by consent of both the parties. These friendly judges having heard the business reasoned in their presence, and finding that the examination thereof would prove tedious and intricate; they direct a power to the marquis of Huntlie to deal in the matter; desiring him to try, if, by his means and mediation, these contentions might be settled, happening betwixt parties so strictly tied to him by blood and alliance, the earl of Sutherland being his cousin-german, and the earl of Catteynes having married his sister. The marquis of Huntlie did his best, but could not prevail, either party being so far from condescending to others demands, and so he remitted the business back again to the secret council; which Sir Robert Gordon perceiving, he moved the King's Majesty for a pardon

to Donald Macky, John Gordon, and their associates, for the slaughter of John Sinclair of Skirkag; which his Majesty easily granted, seeing it was committed in the execution of his Majesty's service: yet, nevertheless, there still remained a grudge in the minds of the parties, searching by all means and occasions to infest one another, untill the year of God 1619, that the earl of Catteyness and Sir Robert Gordon (then, by his brother's death, tutor of Sutherland) were reconciled by the mediation of George lord Gordon, earl of Enzie; by whose travel and diligence, all particulars betwixt the houses of Sutherland and Catteyness were finally settled: and then went both of them familiarly to eithers houses; whose perfect reconciliation will doubtless tend to the peace and quiet of these parts of the kingdom.

THE
SPANISH BLANKS,
AND WHAT
FOLLOWS THEREUPON,

The years of God 1592, 1593, and 1594.

THE year of God 1592 the ministry and church of Scotland thought it necessary that all such as professed the Roman religion in the kingdom, should either be compelled to embrace the reformed religion, or else that the censure of excommunication should be used against them, and their goods decerned to appertain to the King so long as they remained disobedient. Mr. George Car, doctor of the laws, was the first that withstood, and was excommunicate; the next was David Graham of Fintrie. This Mr. George Car, considering that hereby he could have no quiet residence within his native country, did de-

liberate with himself to pass beyond sea into Spain; and therefore, that he might be the welcomer there, he devised certain blanks, as if they had been subscribed by some of the Scottish nobility, and directed from them to the King of Spain, to be filled up at his pleasure: which project was first hatched by the Jesuits, and chiefly by father Crightoun, who, for some discontentment had, few years before, left Scotland and fled into Spain: where he endeavoured to insinuate himself into King Philip his favour, and published a book concerning the genealogy of his daughter, the Infant, married to the Archduke; wherein he did his best to prove, that the two crowns of England and Scotland did appertain unto her: and, that this cunning Jesuit might the rather move King Philip to make war against the King of Scotland, he writeth books and pamphlets in the disgrace of his own native prince. Then he adviseth with himself that his next and readiest way was to sollicite some of his friends

in Scotland, who were of his faith; and to this effect, he writeth letters this year of God 1592 to this George Car, and to such of his own colleagues the Jesuits as were then in this kingdom, whereby he made them understand what great favour and credit he had with the King of Spain, who, by his persuasions, was resolved both to invade England, and to establish the Catholick faith in Scotland: but, first, that King Philip would be assured of the good will of the Catholicks of Scotland; wherefore he behooved to have certain blanks subscribed by the Catholicks, and that he should cause them to be filled up afterwards; which if he did obtain, he had promise of the King of Spain, to send them 250,000 crowns to be distributed among them. After this advertisement of father Crightoun's, this George Car (by the advice of the Jesuits then resident in Scotland) devised these blanks, to the effect that George Car might transport them into Spain. Car addressed himself to the town

of Air to have taken shipping there, and lying in the isle of Cumray, attending a fair wind, he was discovered by the indiscretion of father Abercrombie, and apprehended in the ship; from whence he was carried back to Air, and from thence conveyed to Edinburgh; with him was found a packet of letters, directed (as it were) from some Scottish noblemen into Spain and some parts of France: therein were found blanks alledged subscribed by the earl of Angus, the earl of Huntley, the earl of Erroll, and Sir Patrick Gordon of Achindowne, uncle to the earl of Huntley. The blanks were thus, *Imprimis*, two missive bills directed to the King of Spain; the one subscribed *de vostre Majesté tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur, François Comte d'Erroll*; another on this manner, *de vostre Majesté tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur, Guilliams Comte d'Angus*; item, another blank subscribed by them all four, as it were by form of contract or obligation conjunctly thus, *Gulielmus Ari-*

gusiae Comes, Georgius Comes de Huntley, Franciscus Erroliae Comes, Patricius Gordon de Achindowne Miles; item, a blank subscribed apart by *Franciscus Erroliae Comes*; item, one by *Georgius Comes de Huntley*; item, one by *Gulielmus Angusiae Comes*. Hereupon the ministers sent some of the privy council to the King to Alloway (where his Majesty then lay) to advertise him of these blanks. The King came to Edinburgh, where all the matter was debated to him at length, partly by Mr. Bowes Leiger, ambassador for the Queen of England in Scotland, and partly by Mr. Robert Bruce, principal minister at Edinburgh, shewing that the realm of Scotland was in apparent danger of Spaniards to be brought in by the forenamed earls being Papists; and thereby, both his Majesty's crown was in danger, and the established religion in hazard to be altered. That Mr. George Car had sufficiently delated the whole circumstance of the business in his confession, accusing the Popish lords as

guilty of these blanks; and thus, taking the matter already *pro confesso*, they urge the business vehemently, and do intreat his Majesty to proceed against them with all celerity and rigour. Then was David Graham of Fintrie apprehended, arraigned, and executed at Edinburgh, in February this year 1592, (or 1593 *stilo novo*) who, thinking to save himself thereby, did write a long letter, subscribed with his own hand, directed to the King, wherein he made mention that the Roman Catholicks of Scotland had undertaken to receive such a number of soldiers as the King of Spain and his council should appoint; and in case he would bestow any money for levying of men here, they should willingly both convoy the King's army into England, and retain a certain number in Scotland, for reformation of religion, and to purchase liberty of conscience: that he himself had given counsel thereunto divers times, after that the matter was communicate to him by the Jesuits, and because he fore-knew this purpose,

and concealed the same, he was in danger of the law: for this cause he desired not to be tried by a jury, but offered himself unto the King's mercy and will, when he was arraigned at the bar. The King (notwithstanding of this his voluntary confession) commanded to proceed against him according to the law; which was done.

After this, the King's Majesty (believing certainly that these blanks, together with the informations and intelligence of father Crightoun concerning the Spanish King, were true indeed) addressed himself to the north of Scotland, for prosecuting of Huntley, Angus, and Erroll, and made his Majesty's residence at Aberdeen. Themselves and their dependers were, by open proclamation, at their dwelling places, required to show their obedience and appearance before the King: but they having understood before the King's coming, and how his Majesty was incensed and stirred up against them, they had all left their ordinary habitations void. The countesses of

Huntley and Erroll came to the King, to whom he granted their houses and rents, without making any account thereof to his Majesty's thesaurer for the supposed transgression of their husbands.

In this mean time, the Queen of England sent an extraordinary ambassador into Scotland, whom the King received at Edinburgh, after his Majesty's return from Aberdeen. This ambassador required, that the peace and confederacy concluded and confirmed at Leith, after the expulſion of the French army from Scotland, ſhould now, *de novo*, be ratified by his Majesty in his perfect age; and further, that he ſhould, without delay, puniſh the lords and gentlemen ſuſpect of treason, and tried by their own writs and meſſages; that he ſhould grant them no favour, but extreme rigour; for fear of the inconvenient that ſhould follow upon their wicked pretences, if they were unpuniſhed, when both time and occaſion permitted the ſame. Still the Engliſh ambassador and the Scottiſh miniſters urged

the King to call the Catholick lords to a trial of their peers; but the King procured to the ministers thus much for them, that, by their favours, they might be brought to be tried without warding; and thereafter to make such satisfaction as should be thought requisite; that in case they were found culpable, to be punished as justice should require; and, if it were otherwise, that they should be absolved: but the ministers would not yield unto the King's pleasure therein, nor permit that the Popish lords should have any trial, till they should be first warded untill the nobles should convene to try them. The King refused to ward them untill they were found guilty; knowing, by this time, their innocence: for George Car had refused what he had before, through fear, confessed against the lords, touching the Spanish blanks. His Majesty was earnest with the ministers that no excommunication should pass against the lords before their trial; which was refused: whereupon there was a convention of

the estates holden by his Majesty at St. Johnstoun, the year of God 1593, to curb the power of the presbyterial ministers. There it was resolved (to suppress their liberty) the estate of bishops should be erected and restored. Within few days after, the King went from St. Johnstoun to the abbay of Halyrudhouse; whither also came secretly the earls of Huntley, Angus, and Erroll. The next day, the King riding at Lawder to visit chancellor Maitland (who was then sick) these three earls came to his Majesty on the highway; and there humbling themselves, in few words demanded licence to be tried, which his Majesty granted. But the King thereafter, in respect that he had promised both to the ambassador of England and to the ministers at Edinburgh, that he should neither receive them, nor admit them to his presence and favour, till they were tried; he directed the master of Glammes and the lord Lindores unto the ambassador and the ministers, to certify them of their coming to

his Majesty on the highway, at such time and place as he looked not for; and although he had used but some few words unto them, yet he would proceed no further, nor show them any other favour, but according to justice and reason. Then the ministry assembled themselves, by their commissioners, at Edinburgh, together with certain barons and balzies of burghs (the King being then at Jedburgh for some affairs of the commonwealth.) They concluded, all in one voice, some articles to be presently demanded of his Majesty; which I omit to relate, as fitting to be suppressed.

Whereupon the affairs of the King and of the church were directly opposite and repugnant to another: the King caused proclamations to be made, commanding all his lieges and subjects to reset and receive the earls of Angus, Huntley, and Erroll, which should not be imputed unto them as a crime at any time thereafter; whereby also licence was granted unto them to pass and repass freely in any parts of the coun-

try publickly, as best should please them : The ministers, upon the contrary, offered their proclamation in the churches, to their parochiners, commanding the people to abhor them, and to refuse their companies in any kind of way, and exhorting all men to be upon their defence, and to arm themselves for expelling of these earls and their adherents : moreover the ministry, by their sollicitation, had drawn a great number of people into Edinburgh. Whereupon his Majesty did call a convention of the estates, and caused a proclamation to be made, and published in divers capital towns of the realm, charging all and sundry his Majesty's subjects, of what estate, quality, or degree soever, that none of them should resort or repair to the burgh of Edinburgh, or place of his Majesty's residence, upon whatsoever colour or pretence, during the handling and ordering of these matters in question, except such persons as were appointed and specially written for, or that did crave and obtain

his Majesty's licence for their coming. In this commission, which was appointed at Edinburgh for decision of all controversies, there were nominate six earls, six lords, six barons, six burgeses, and six ministers, elected and chosen by his Majesty and his council; and although the six ministers were well qualified men, and such as the rest of the brethren could justly find no fault withal; yet, because they were not nominate by themselves in general voices, they were afraid to be prejudged in their authority and estate; and therefore, not only opposed against them, but also suborned them which were chosen by the King and the council: therefore the King, with advice of his council, commanded their names to be blotted out, that no minister thereafter should be nominate in commission, but that they all, or some certain number, by command of the rest, should only be supplicants, if they had any thing to crave, and no otherwise: and thus were

the ministers themselves the cause that their authority was diminished.

The commissioners did assemble at Edinburgh, as was appointed; and after some few days disputation and reasoning, amongst divers other things, they decerned that the three Popish earls and Achin-downe should not from thence forth be accused for the crime they were summoned for, founded upon the blanks; but the same to remain abolished and in oblivion, and to be null thereafter: which was proclaimed, by edict, at the market cross of Edinburgh.

The advertisement of this edict being sent from Edinburgh to the Queen of England by her ambassador, she sent the lord Southe into Scotland, willing the King to remit his lenity towards the Catholick lords, and deal plainly with rigorous justice, as the cause and good reason required. The two ambassadors of England followed the King from Edinburgh to Stir-

ling; by whose diligence and procurement letters were directed, charging the Roman Catholick earls to enter their persons in prison, under the pain of treason. There was also a parliament proclaimed, to be holden the 15th of April next ensuing. In the mean time, great instance was made by the ministers of Scotland and by the ambassadors of England, that the Roman Catholick lords should be summoned to hear and see the process of forfeiture led against them. In end they do prevail; and direction was given for the same against the parliament, which was appointed to be in April 1594. Not-theless of all this, the ambassadors of England, and the ministers of Scotland, thinking that the King and his counsellors were more negligent in prosecuting of the Popish lords than was promised or expected; it was secretly devised that the earl of Bothwell, being an outlaw, should invade Scotland, by the assistance of England, upon two pretences; the first was, that, by the help of the ministers, he might

banish the Popish lords out of the realm of Scotland, and that the Queen of England should support him with money; which being known and revealed, did so incense the King against her ambaffador, that a special gentleman of the lord' Southe's was committed to prifon in the caſtle of Edinburgh, who confeſſed, that, by the command of the ambaffador, he had ſpoken with the earl of Bothwell and with Mr. John Colvill (Bothwell his chief counſellor.) The ſecond pretence was to revenge the earl of Murray his death againſt Huntley and his partakers; and to fortify his purpoſe, the earls of Argyle and Athole ſhould be ready in arms, attending Bothwell his coming, to join with him againſt Huntley.

The King, hearing of theſe two pretences, thought expedient, with advice of his council, to make a general proclamation that no manner of perſons ſhould convoke his lieges in arms, for whatſoever occaſion, without his Majeſty's licence, under the pain of death. Whereupon Both-

well came to Kelso, and from thence to Leith, the 2d of April 1594. The King being advertised of his coming, went to sermon that morning in the High Church of Edinburgh; and there, sermon being ended, he made great instance to the people, that they would assist him to suppress their common enemy Bothwell; and, to animate the ministry and the people, he promised, in their presence, that he should never lay down arms, till he either suppress or banished the Popish lords and their adherents: so, the King led the people out of Edinburgh towards Leith; and, betwixt Leith and Edinburgh, there was a company selected out of the army, which, under the conduct of the lord Hume and Weimes Colvill, should invade Bothwell; who, perceiving the King marching out of Edinburgh, with his army, towards Leith; and seeing that the earls of Argyle and Athole had failed him, he retires from Leith, with his company, and takes the way to Mussilburgh, and so to return into England: but

K

the lord Hume, with his train, overtakes Bothwell beside Duddistoun, where, after a little skirmish, the Lord Hume was overthrown, and all his people beaten and chased back again to Edinburgh. Bothwell, perceiving that the King was sending more forces against him, retires towards the south borders, and so into England.

The earl of Bothwell being thus gone, the King returns to Edinburgh, and seeing no other means to satisfy the ministers, and all utterly to suppress Bothwell his rebellion, he condescends to the forfeiture of the Popish lords, being forced to yield to present necessity. A parliament was holden at Edinburgh the penult day of May 1594; all and whatsoever petitions then craved by the ministers were assented to by this parliament, where there were present but only three earls and six lords; by reason whereof things were violently carried by the ministers. The criminal cause of the Popish lords being read and considered by the few number of nobles there present,

they would gladly have delayed the determination thereof untill a fuller convention of the nobility were assembled; but the ministers and commissioners of burghs, being the greater number, prevailed; and found their hand-writs by witnesses cognosced; the rest was past over, as proven by presumption; the nobles suspended their voices, because the Popish lords intentions were not proven judicially; always they were forfalted and made proscript by plurality of such voices as were there present, and their arms were riven in the justice place, in presence of the parliament.

These noblemen, being thus forfalted, the King was also moved to make the earl of Argyle his Majesty's lieutenant-general in the north of Scotland, to invade the earls of Huntley and Erroll; whereupon followed the battle of Glenlivet in October 1594; which happened as I have declared already; and were afterward restored the year of God 1597.

F I N I S.

