

Memorial Volume

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# The Gordons of Craichlaw

By the Late

William Macmath, F.S.A. (Scot.)

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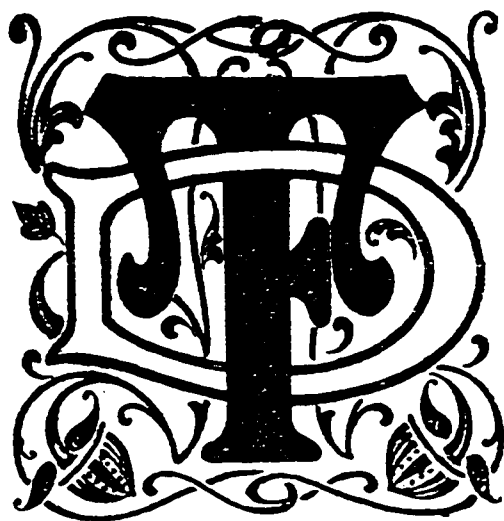
EDITED BY THOMAS FRASER

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With a Biographical Sketch by

FRANK MILLER

Author of "The Poets of Dumfriesshire"

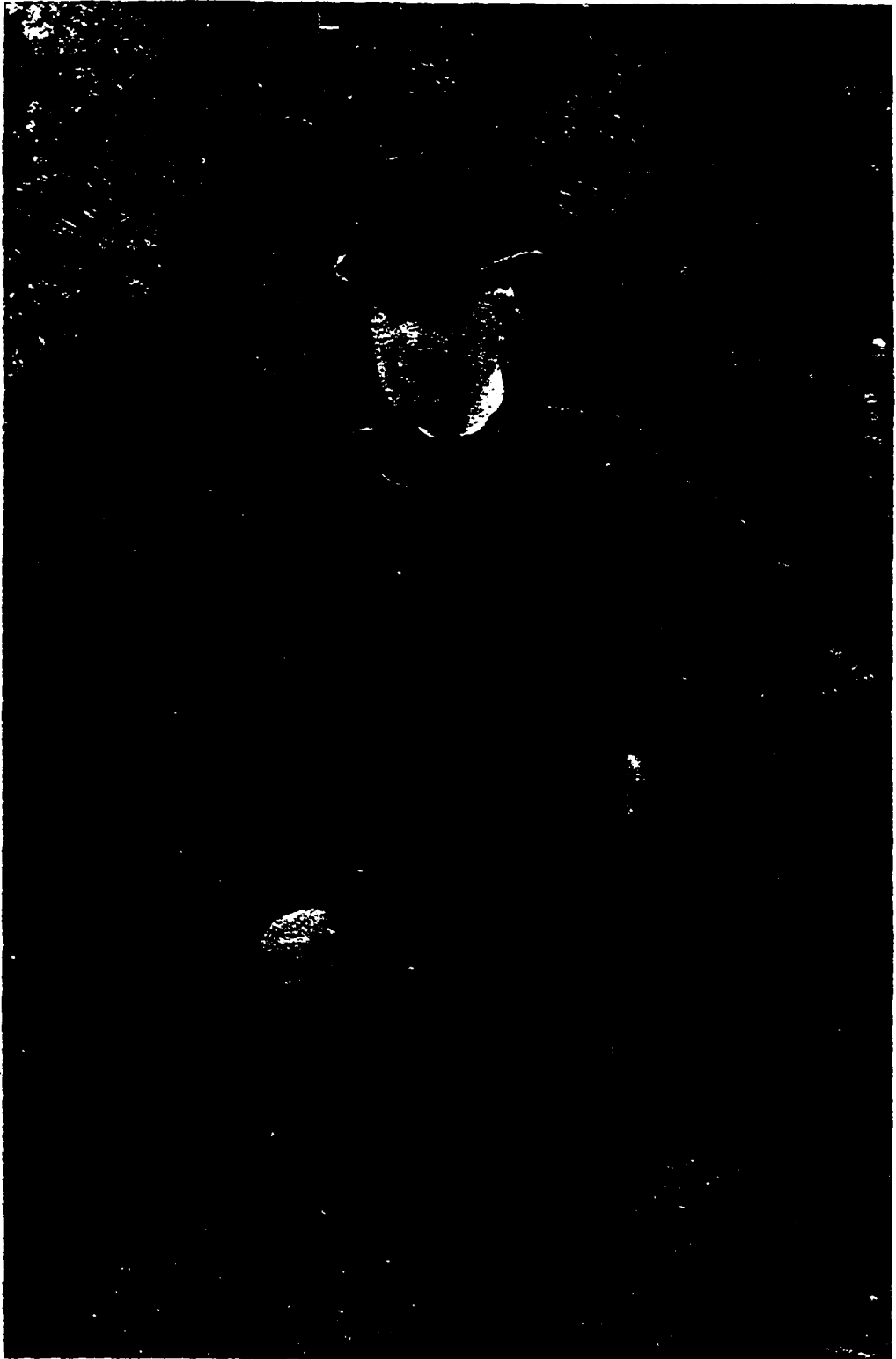


*And Two Appendixes*

: DALBEATTIE :

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## PREFACE.

FOR the publication of this volume, as a tribute to the memory of Mr. William Macmath, no apology is required, and none is offered. With such a fine Biographical Sketch as that by Mr. Frank Miller in the same volume, and the Note by Mr. William C. Bishop, W.S., appended thereto, it is quite unnecessary here to refer to Mr. Macmath and his work at any great length, or apart from the present publication.

The Genealogical work which gives the title to the book, and which is here printed for the first time, was written near the close of the author's life, having been completed in 1920. It was Mr. Macmath's original intention to have printed some copies for private circulation; but the costs of production had increased to such an extent that he was obliged to abandon his design. To insure, however, that the work should not be utterly lost, he courageously faced the labour of producing four copies of it in his own neat handwriting, the last of which was completed in the summer of 1921. These he allocated as follows:—

- No. 1. For Henry Erskine Gordon, Esq. of Aikenhead.
2. For Anthony Gilbert Francis Gordon, Esq. of Enon, Natal.
3. For the Lyon Office, Edinburgh.
4. For the writer, himself.

From No. 4, now in the possession of the author's only surviving sister, the text in the present volume has been taken, and the original has been scrupulously followed throughout. Except for a few changes in punctuation, and, it may be, an occasional typographical error overlooked in proof-reading, the printed text is as it came from the author's hands.

In case it may be thought by some that the publication of "The Gordons of Craichlaw" here is a breach of faith with the author, who only intended to have had it printed for private circulation, it has to be stated that Mr. Macmath, though he would not consent to having the work published during his lifetime, gave the present publisher express permission *to do what he liked with it* after his death, should the publisher survive him. This permission was given verbally, in the presence of

Miss Macmath, at 90 Hamilton Place, Edinburgh, only a few months before the author's death ; and the publisher feels that, in issuing the work now, he is doing no more than fulfilling a sacred trust left to him by one whose friendship it was his privilege to enjoy for well over thirty years, and whose memory he reveres.

“ The Bibliography of Popular Scottish Ballads in Manuscript ” (Appendix II.), is here reprinted to meet the desires of a large number of Mr. Macmath's friends ; as volume I. of the *Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society*, in which it originally appeared, has been long out of print and is now unobtainable.

In conclusion, the publisher has to acknowledge great indebtedness to those who co-operated with him in the promotion of this Memorial Volume, or who supplied material for it, and who assisted in its preparation for the press—particularly to Mr. E. A. Hornel, without whose sympathetic co-operation and assistance in many other ways the publication of the work at the present time would have been impossible ; to Mr. Frank Miller, not only for the Biographical Sketch, which was to him a labour of love, but for devoting a considerable portion of his time to the proofs of the other sections of the book, and for other valuable assistance and advice freely given ; to the Committee of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, who so readily gave permission to reprint the Ballad Bibliography ; and to Mr. George P. Johnston, Secretary of that society, who prepared the Papers for the press, and read the proofs of the Bibliography.

T. F.

DALBEATTIE,

22nd March, 1924.



AUTHOR'S PREFATORY NOTE  
IN FACSIMILE

*Prefatory Note.*

*The object of this sketch is to record that the Gordons of Braichlaw are not, as they have been stated to be, extinct in the male line. The writer has shown the descent of the male heirs of the family who are known to him to be in existence, without intending to imply that there are not others, whose claims it has not fallen to his lot to investigate.*

*Wm Macmillan*

*90 Hamilton Place,*

*Edinburgh, 30<sup>th</sup> June 1920*



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# THE GORDONS OF CRAICHLAW

## I.

WILLIAM GORDON, second son of Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth Lindsay, in the early years of the sixteenth century received from his father several grants of territory in the County of Wigtown, the first bearing date at Kenmore, 17th September, 1500, and embracing the four merk lands of Monhouchoun and others, in the Parish of Kirkcowan and barony of Craichlaw.<sup>2</sup> Monhouchoun seems to have been the older name of the manor-place of the barony, and to have continued in use till towards the end of the century, when it gave way to the name of Craichlaw or Craiglaw, as applicable to the mansion-house as well as to the estate in general, a tower having in the meantime been added, probably by William Gordon, about the same time as his elder brother-german, Sir Robert Gordon, is supposed to have built or added to Rusco Castle, on his marriage with the heiress,

<sup>1</sup> Sir John was the sixth in the line of descent from Sir Adam Gordon who, about 1297, acquired the half of the lands of Glenkens, including Lochinvar and Kenmure, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and the fifth immediately above the first Viscount of Kenmure.

<sup>2</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.* 22nd Oct., 1500.

Mariota Acarsane. A feature common to the houses of the two brothers is a shield bearing the Royal Arms of Scotland, a lion rampant, with the two unicorns as supporters.

On 11th July, 1526, William Gordon, the first of Craichlaw, as one of the friends and followers of his nephew and chief, James Gordon of Lochinvar, took part in the tragedy known to history as the slaughter of Thomas Maclellan of Bombie. It is only within the last few years that the origin of the feud leading up to this crime has emerged from the seclusion of manuscript. Sir Robert Gordon died in the spring or early summer of 1525,<sup>3</sup> and his widow married Maclellan in such haste as to arouse the keen resentment of Sir Robert's family and connections, who took the exceptionally strong course of procuring the abduction and sequestration of the lady. Maclellan on 26th June, 1526, presented a supplication to the Lords of Council, representing that he had remained in Edinburgh "of lang tyme bigane," and incurred great expense in endeavouring to bring to consideration and judgment the evidence which he had adduced against Lochinvar, for taking and delivering his mother, spouse of the suppliant, to Robert Scott, son of Adam Scott of Tushielaw, the notorious freebooter and outlaw. The Lords, in the hope of an understanding being come to by the parties, adjourned the matter for fifteen days,<sup>4</sup> and on the fifteenth day Maclellan was done to death in

<sup>3</sup> Six months before 7th November, 1525. Stitchill Inventory.

<sup>4</sup> Acta Dom. Conc. XXXVI., fol. 18.

the High Street of Edinburgh. A cruel slaughter committed upon forethought felony is the language applied to the transaction in the letters of respite in favour of the actors which passed the Privy Seal on 25th August, 1526, and which were to operate for nineteen years from that date.<sup>5</sup> A writ signed by King James Fifth's own hand, a month earlier,<sup>6</sup> has been called a remission, but it was probably of the nature of a respite. What appears to be the final remission is dated 13th January, 1538-9, and is in favour of nineteen persons specified, the names of James Gordon of Lochinvar and William Gordon of Craichlaw standing at the top.<sup>7</sup> On 1st May, 1544, Bombie's son and heir, of the same name as himself, granted letters of slains, forgiving Lochinvar and his associates.<sup>8</sup>

When, in 1536, Lochinvar was selected as one of those to accompany the King on his matrimonial expedition to France, he obtained a writ, taking his friends and followers, with Craichlaw at their head, under the immediate care and protection of the government until his return.<sup>9</sup>

William Gordon died before 3rd November, 1547,<sup>10</sup> and was buried at Glenluce. He married, before 10th January, 1515-16,<sup>11</sup> Janet Baillie, who survived him, and by whom

<sup>5</sup> *Fifteenth Report, Hist. MSS. Com.*, VIII., 14.

<sup>6</sup> 26th July, 1526. Kenmore Inventory.

<sup>7</sup> Pitcairn, I., i., 252.\*

<sup>8</sup> Kenmore Inventory.

<sup>9</sup> 28th Aug., 1536. *Reg. of Privy seal*, vol. II., 2155, communicated in advance of publication, by Dr. D. Hay Fleming.

<sup>10</sup> Charter at St. Mary's Isle, mentioned below.

<sup>11</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.* 14th Jan., 1515-16.

he is known to have left issue:—

1. WILLIAM, who succeeded [II.], and who had, in his father's lifetime, been styled of Largis.
2. ALEXANDER, who obtained a grant of the lands of Barquhill, confirmed 13th June, 1544,<sup>12</sup> and who is styled of Barquhill, brother of William of Craichlaw, in a contract of 30th April, 1570.<sup>13</sup> He was also of Grange in 1574 and onwards.<sup>14</sup> He married, first, Agnes Kennedy, "Lady Mundork," who died in November, 1574, leaving a will, dated the 12th of that month, in which she nominated her husband to be her executor, and the first witness to which is William Gordon, his son and apparent heir.<sup>15</sup> He married, secondly, Barbara Logie, widow of Alexander Gordon, Bishop of Galloway,<sup>16</sup> who had died on 11th November, 1575.<sup>17</sup> Alexander Gordon of Grange himself died on 7th March, 1585-6.<sup>18</sup> In addition to his son, William, who seems to have predeceased him, he had a son Robert, and two daughters, Euphame and Janet. On 20th July, 1599, Hugh Gordon of Grange, described as grandson and heir of Alexander Gordon of Barquhill, obtained a charter of confirmation of the lands of Grange and others.<sup>19</sup> He was ancestor of the Gordons of Grange, and of Balmeg, otherwise Torhousemuir.
3. MR. RODGER, who on 3rd November, 1547, obtained from James, sacristan of the Chapel Royal of Stirling, a charter of the half of the two merk lands of the Kirklands of Kirkcowan and Kirkinner of old extent, with the manse, buildings and garden, situated near the parish Church of Kirkinner, upon the glebe

<sup>12</sup> *The Scots Peerage*, IV., 156.

<sup>13</sup> Orig. in Reg. House, kindly communicated with much else by Dr. J. Maitland Thomson.

<sup>14</sup> *Correspondence of Sir Patrick Waus*, 554.

<sup>15</sup> Edin. Tests.

<sup>16</sup> Reg. Sec. Sig., lii., 22.

<sup>17</sup> Edin. Tests.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Reg. Mag. Sig.



thereof.<sup>20</sup> He had a charter to himself and Janet Stewart, his spouse, of the lands of Balcray, 28th January, 1564-65.<sup>21</sup> He was minister of Whithorn and Dean of Dunblane, under which latter designation he, in 1557, engaged in a lawsuit with the parishioners of Kirkinner and Kirkcowan.<sup>22</sup> He had a son, Alexander, who was served heir to him in Balcray, 31st October, 1598,<sup>23</sup> who died without issue, in August, 1606,<sup>24</sup> and to whom Hugh Gordon of Grange was served heir in the Kirklands of Kirkinner, 23rd February, 1608.<sup>25</sup>

4. MARGARET, married, first, after 17th July, 1542, to John Hoppringill of Smailholm, from whom she received a charter of the lands of Murehouse and others in the County of Berwick;<sup>26</sup> and, secondly, to John Hoppringill of Smailholm Craigs, brother of George Hoppringill of Wrangholme. She died 1st January, 1579-80. In her testament she is styled guidwife of Stitchill.<sup>27</sup>
5. MARION, married to Simon M'Culloch of Myrtoun, and had issue.<sup>28</sup>

## II.

WILLIAM GORDON, the second of Craichlaw, was engaged in at least two litigations with his mother, one in 1561 as to his service as heir to his father,<sup>29</sup> and another in 1566 in regard to the payment of his father's debts.<sup>30</sup>

He was one of the gentlemen cited before the Regent

<sup>20</sup> St. Mary's Isle charter chest.

<sup>21</sup> Confirmation 18th Dec., 1565, in Reg. House.

<sup>22</sup> Acts & Decrees, XV., A, 29.

<sup>23</sup> Retours, Wigton, 17.

<sup>24</sup> Edin. Tests.

<sup>25</sup> Retours, Wigton 32.

<sup>26</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 31st Jan., 1553-4.

<sup>27</sup> Edin. Tests.

<sup>28</sup> M'Kerlie, I., 239, and deed in Reg. House, 1st July, 1549.

<sup>29</sup> Acts and Decrees, XXI., 311.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, XXXVI., 249.

and Privy Council on 19th September, 1567, to give advice as to the disorders in the west of the realm.<sup>31</sup>

He died in June, 1575, desiring his body to be buried in his father's grave at Glenluce, "gif it be rype."<sup>32</sup>

He married (contract 17th July, 1542) Isobell, daughter of John Hoppringill of Smailholm,<sup>33</sup> and left issue:—

1. JOHN, who succeeded [III.].
2. ALEXANDER, in Ardlair, after his elder brother's death, Tutor of Craichlaw (*i.e.*, of William, his nephew), who acquired *inter alia* the lands of Clone in the parish of Mochrum, and the lands of Crossrie or Crosherie in the parish of Kirkcowan, the latter being held of the Stewarts of Garlies, afterwards Earls of Galloway, as superiors. In a feud, in 1584, he was mutilated in the right leg, but this seems to have had no deterring effect upon him, for in 1588-9, 1594, and 1595-6, we find he was at feud with neighbours. He married, first, Elizabeth M'Lellan, relict of Ninian M'Culloch,<sup>34</sup> and secondly, Katherine, eldest of the numerous daughters and co-heiresses of John Gordon of Blaiket,<sup>35</sup> who was killed at Pinkiecleuch.

Alexander Gordon died before January, 1596-7, when William Gordon, his son, was served as his heir in Clone, Crosherie, and others.<sup>36</sup> As will be seen, Crosherie was afterwards appraised from this William Gordon of Clone by his cousin-german, Alexander Gordon of and in Mundork.

3. WILLIAM. }
4. ROGER. } Mentioned in their father's will, 15th June, 1575.<sup>37</sup>
5. JAMES, also mentioned in the will, who, Lochinvar certified on

<sup>31</sup> *Reg. of Privy Council*, I., 570.

<sup>32</sup> *Edin. Tests*.

<sup>33</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 22nd June, 1543.

<sup>34</sup> *Acts and Decrees*, LXX., 277.

<sup>35</sup> *Reg. Sec. Sig.*, lii., 10.

<sup>36</sup> *Retours*, Wigton, 211.

<sup>37</sup> *Edin. Tests*.

20th November, 1596, "is departit at the plessor of god about tuelf yeris syne in flandiris."<sup>38</sup>

6. JANET, to whom her brother John is directed in their father's will to pay 500 merks "to marry her withall, and failing that he lay not down the same to her." Isobel Hoppringill, in her widowhood, resided at Largis, otherwise the Larg, the whole goods, gear, and corns on which are left to her. She owed her son, John, at the time of his death, for six silver spoons, at 30s. the piece. She died in July, 1596.<sup>39</sup>

### III.

JOHN GORDON of Craichlaw had, in 1567, during his father's lifetime, subscribed the bond for supporting the young King James.<sup>40</sup> He was only for four years and a half in possession of the headship of the family, and it is not surprising that little or nothing has been found on record regarding his connection with public affairs. The inventory of his personal estate, given up after his death,<sup>41</sup> is, however, of exceptional interest, showing him to have been largely concerned in country matters, not only in his native Galloway but also in Kyle, where he entered into two matrimonial alliances in succession, and thereby acquired, through the courtesy of Scotland and his *jus mariti* and right of administration, respectively, a considerable, if temporary, standing as a landlord. He was an extensive owner of flocks, herds, and agricultural pro-

<sup>38</sup> *Correspondence of Sir Patrick Waus*, 529.

<sup>39</sup> *Retours*, Wigton, 210.

<sup>40</sup> Mackenzie's *History of Galloway*, I., 503, and authorities there cited.

<sup>41</sup> *Edin. Tests*.

duce. His live stock is detailed as in various steadings, in the hands of the tenants named, a large proportion being of the nature of "steilbow guidis," that is, articles delivered by the landlord to his tenant, by means of which the latter is enabled to stock the farm, and in consideration of which he becomes bound to return articles equal in quantity and quality at the end of the lease. On the other hand, certain sheep are expressly stated to be in herding. He had stores of meal, grain, and fodder, besides ky and horses, in the Tower of Galstoun; lying in the Tower of Craichlaw, in ane coffer, he had of numerate money the sum of 2,600 merks; and utensils and domiciles in Craichlaw, Tower of Galstoun, and Martname.

He died at Monhouchoun on 11th November, 1579, having that day made his latter will,<sup>42</sup> naming as his executors Agnes Shaw, his spouse, and Alexander Gordon in Ardlair, his brother, the latter being appointed tutor and curator to his bairns. He leaves to his said brother his black horse. He commits his eldest son, and Alexander his younger son, to the care of the said Alexander, his brother, together with one half of his goods and gear; to his wife he leaves the care of "her awne barnes," who are unnamed, together with the other half of his goods and gear. His daughter Janet he leaves to the care of "the guidwyf of the Park, her guddame," and one thousand pounds money, she discharging her bairns' part of gear. There are also legacies to friends and servants. To his

<sup>42</sup> Edin. Tests.

brothers he leaves their rooms (possessions), with the profits thereof since the decease of their father; to his tenants a rebate of a third of the rents due by them; to his sister Janet forty lambs, twenty stirks, and forty pounds money; to John M'Ghie twenty merks for two oxen taken by the defunct from his father.

John Gordon of Craichlaw married, first, , daughter of David Crawford of Kerse;<sup>43</sup> and, secondly, Agnes, daughter of Andrew Shaw of Sornbeg, Sheriff of Ayr.<sup>44</sup> The names of his children by the second marriage have not been ascertained. By his first marriage he left issue:—

1. WILLIAM, who succeeded [IV.].
2. ALEXANDER, sometimes designed as of Mundork, in consequence of his marriage with the heiress of that estate, and at other times designed as in Mundork, or Over Mundork, in respect of his occupancy of the lands or part of them. On 4th November, 1614, he has the double designation of in Mundork, brother-german of William Gordon of Craichlaw.<sup>45</sup> The records show him to have been an active participant in the family feuds of his day, and two examples may be noted here. As one of the adherents of Sir Robert Gordon of Glen, afterwards of Lochinvar, he was charged with having taken part in the slaughter of George Stewart, brother of Matthew Stewart of Dundaff, on the highway between Wigtown and the Clary, in September, 1600.<sup>46</sup> Again, on 1st December, 1602, an obligation was granted by Alexander Stewart of Garlies, afterwards first Earl of Galloway, by which, on the narrative that at his desire Sir John Vaus of Longcastle

<sup>43</sup> Robertson's *Ayrshire Families*, II., 173.

<sup>44</sup> Edin. Tests.

<sup>45</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 5th Feby., 1628.

<sup>46</sup> *P. C. Reg.* vi. *passim*.

had entered with him into a contract with William Gordon of Craichlaw and Alexander Gordon, his brother-german, whereby for "satisfaction of the said Alexander Gordon's bluid-drawing" they bound themselves to pay to him 1,000 merks, Stewart undertook to pay to Alexander Gordon the half of that sum in relief of Sir John under their joint obligation.<sup>47</sup>

Towards the close of his life, Alexander Gordon acquired the lands of Crosherie, by apprising, from his cousin-german, William Gordon of Clone, son of Alexander Gordon, Tutor of Craichlaw.<sup>48</sup> Craichlaw, Mundork, and Crosherie are all in the same immediate neighbourhood.

He married Grissell, only daughter and heiress of Uchtred Macdowall of Mundork, who had married Katherine Herries, Lady Garlies, second daughter of William, Lord Herries of Terregles, and sister of Agnes, Lady Herries in her own right.<sup>49</sup> The Tower of Mundork, the seat of this ancient family, was situated on the south-west side of the old Glenluce road from the Spittal of Bladenoch, on the farm of Lower Mundork. Its form was square and contracted, and it was the tradition of the country, in more modern times, that two rows of outhouses formed the approach to the entrance. A solitary ash tree marked the spot.<sup>50</sup> By contract subscribed at Glenluce and Craichlaw, 30th December, 1601, and 1st January, 1602, Grissell Macdowall and Alexander Gordon, her husband, entered into an arrangement with John Macdowall of Garthland for the transfer to him, for onerous considerations, of "all right, title, interest, claim of right, property and possession which ever the said Grissell, as heir by line or provision or otherwise to her said father," had to the Mundork estate.<sup>51</sup> Alexander Gordon, however, continued occasionally to receive the territorial designation up till

<sup>47</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Vol. 112, 30th July, 1605.

<sup>48</sup> Gen. Reg. of Sas., VI., 268, 16th Aug., 1620. Reg. of Deeds, Scot., Vol. 403, fol. 239.

<sup>49</sup> *The Scots Peerage*, IV., 408; M'Kerlie, I., 227; *Corres. of Sir P. Waus*, 95.

<sup>50</sup> M'Kerlie, I., 227.

<sup>51</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Vol. 106, 17th April, 1605.

and after his death, which occurred between 24th July, 1624,<sup>52</sup> and 30th August, 1626.<sup>53</sup> Of children of his marriage no record seems to have come down to us, except as regards his eldest or only son,

JOHN, of and in Crosherie, and latterly in Mains of Penninghame, who was probably born about 1616. He was served heir general to his father on 30th August, 1626.<sup>54</sup> According to the Aitkenhead papers, he, on retiring from military service, in which he had held the rank of lieutenant, entered on the tenancy of the lands of Crosherie, to which he had previously a proprietary right under the apprising inherited from his father. In a minute of contract, dated 27th April, 1637, between William Gordon of Craichlaw and Alexander Gordon, his son, it is mentioned that Craichlaw was an assignee of Grissell Macdowall, relict of Alexander Gordon of Mundork, and John Gordon in Crosherie, son and heir of the late Alexander.<sup>55</sup> In the public records and elsewhere, during a long series of years, John Gordon figures—in not a few instances in connection with the borrowing of money—indiscriminately as of Crosherie and in Crosherie, and in one instance he is found as “of in Crosherie,”<sup>56</sup> while in another, of early date, he is just recognisable, in a family quarrel in which ten other Gordons, all seemingly of the house of Craichlaw, were involved, as John Gordon of Mundork.<sup>57</sup>

In 1670, an arrangement having been come to for the surrender or sale of the property of Crosherie to the Galloway family who, as we have seen, held the superiority, and John Gordon's title deeds having apparently been found to be

<sup>52</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Scot, Vol. 403, fol. 239.

<sup>53</sup> Retour of his son, mentioned below.

<sup>54</sup> *Inquis. Genl.*, No. 1284.

<sup>55</sup> Culvennan charter chest, communicated by Mrs. Walker ; so also in Reg. of Acts and Decrees, Vol. 500, fol. 347 ; and elsewhere.

<sup>56</sup> Gen. Reg. of Sasines, Vol. 47, fol. 461, 17th Jan., 1639.

<sup>57</sup> Gen. Reg. of Hornings, Vol. 56, 31st Decr., 1631.

incomplete from a conveyancing point of view, James, second Earl of Galloway, signed a charter of the lands in his favour as heir to Alexander Gordon, his father, on 5th July in that year,<sup>58</sup> and on 11th July John Gordon disposed the lands to the Earl's son, Alexander, Lord Garlies.<sup>59</sup> Thereupon his lairdship ceased, but his tenancy of the lands continued; and in 1679 he appears, as John Gordon in Crosherie, in the schedule of the indictments against the Whigs (preserved at Kirkcudbright), who were charged with having been "at the Bridge of Bothwell, where you had the impudence and boldness to resist, oppose, and fight with His Majesty's forces"; and on 13th October, 1684, he is still found living at Crosherie.<sup>60</sup> The date of his removal to Mains of Penninghame has not been ascertained, but his death is thus recorded on his grave-stone,<sup>61</sup> in the Churchyard of Kirkcowan. "The burying place of John Gordon in Mains of Penninghame, who died March 14th, 1711, aged 85," an age which, it is thought, must be understated to the extent of about ten years. Beneath are recorded the deaths of his daughter-in-law, Helen M'Clellan, and seven of her children, while on the other side of the stone is the record of the death of his son Alexander.

He married, first, before 8th July, 1637, Elizabeth Brown,<sup>62</sup> by whom he is known to have had issue:—

- i. *Jean*, described as his eldest daughter, who was married (contract dated 10th July, 1665) to James Stewart, fourth son of Alexander Stewart of Bargrennan, and on the

<sup>58</sup> Inventory of Titles of Earldom of Galloway; Sasine Par. Reg. of Sas. Wigtown, 8th July, 1670.

<sup>59</sup> Galloway Inventory.

<sup>60</sup> Roll of persons in Kirkcowan, Lochnew charter chest.

<sup>61</sup> The stone is a modest one of about 3 feet 6 inches in height. Particulars kindly furnished, after personal examination, by Mr. Charles A. M'Lean, County Clerk of Wigtown, who is, like the present writer, a descendant of the veteran Covenanter.

<sup>62</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Vol. 516, 18th Aug., 1638.



marriage her father brought Crosherie into settlement by conveying it to her husband,<sup>63</sup> from which it may be reasonably inferred that she had at that time no brother. On the parting with the proprietary right to Crosherie in 1670, she and her husband granted a separate disposition to Lord Galloway.<sup>64</sup>

John Gordon married, secondly, Janet Machaffie.<sup>65</sup> Of the following children, known to have been in existence in 1684, it is thought that both of the sons may with confidence be assigned to the second marriage, while as regards the two daughters it is felt that there is room for hesitation.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| ii. <i>Janet.</i>  | } Of whom nothing further is known. <sup>66</sup> |
| iii. <i>Agnes.</i> |   |
| iv. <i>Hew.</i>    |   |

v. ALEXANDER, of whom hereafter [VII.].

3. *Janet*, married (contract dated 26th March, 1591) to John Brown, son and heir of John Brown of Carsluith.<sup>67</sup>

#### IV.

WILLIAM GORDON of Craichlaw was, as has been seen, a youth when he succeeded his father. On 14th March, 1591, being past the age of twenty and under twenty-five, he executed a revocation of two tacks made by him with consent of his curators, one to Andrew Hannay, of the three merk land of the Gass, for his lifetime, and the other to Gilbert Cannan, of the twenty shilling land of Bar-drochat, for nineteen years.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Galloway Inventory.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> Roll of Persons in Kirkcowan, 13th Oct., 1684.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> M'Kerlie, IV., 245.

<sup>68</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Vol. 38.

By charter, dated 8th and 9th February, 1621, to which his brother, Alexander Gordon of Mundork, was a witness, he obtained from Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, John Gordon, the latter's eldest son and heir apparent, afterwards first Viscount of Kenmure, and Patrick Waus of Lybreck, the lands of Glasnick, in the parish of Penninghame, on which charter sasine was given on 12th July in the same year, Alexander Gordon of Mundork being again a witness.<sup>69</sup>

He died before 23rd June, 1638, having married Jean, daughter of Sir John Vaus of Barnbarroch,<sup>70</sup> by whom he had issue:—

1. JOHN, younger of Craichlaw, of whom there are numerous notices in the public records, chiefly in connection with money borrowed by him. He predeceased his father, dying after 18th July, 1634,<sup>71</sup> having married (contract 15th and 18th August, 1614) Janet, daughter of John Cathcart of Cairltoun,<sup>72</sup> by whom he had issue:—

WILLIAM, who succeeded his grandfather [V.].

2. PATRICK, who, on 20th November, 1627, received from his father a charter of the lands of Glasnick, to him and the heirs male of his body, whom failing the other heirs male therein mentioned, whom all failing to revert to the granter and his heirs male,<sup>73</sup> a return which appears to have taken effect. He is known to have had issue:—

(1) *Isobel*, married to William Gordon of Monybuie, Balmaclellan.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Par. Reg. of Sas., Wigtown, Vol. I., fol. 44.

<sup>70</sup> Gen. Reg. Sas., xxiii., 25.

<sup>71</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Vol. 476, 511, July, 1634.

<sup>72</sup> Reg. Mag. Sig., 5th Feby., 1628.

<sup>73</sup> Gen. Reg. of Sas., Vol. 23, fol. 25.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. 27, fol. 19.

- (2) *Jean*, married (contract 23rd January, 1652) to James M'Dowall of Barnaigh.
3. WILLIAM, who received from his father a disposition of the lands of Barnernie and others, dated 23rd March, 1638. He left, as his heirs-portioners, two daughters:—
- (1) *Jean*, married (contract 9th December, 1653) to Alexander M'Kie of Drumbuy,<sup>75</sup> and
- (2) *Janet*, married to Alexander M'Crystine in Mundork; and these ladies, with consent of their respective husbands, on 12th December, 1666, conveyed Barnernie to their cousin-german, William Gordon of Craichlaw, and Jean Chalmers, his spouse.<sup>76</sup>
4. ALEXANDER, who received from his father a conveyance of the one merk lands of Culvennan and others.<sup>77</sup> His male descendants failed in the person of his grandson, William Gordon of Culvennan, who died on 29th May, 1716, and was succeeded by his sister, Joan Gordon or M'Culloch, wife of John M'Culloch of Barholm.<sup>78</sup>
5. KATHERINE, married (contract 10th November, 1619) to Alexander Stewart of Barclye.<sup>79</sup>
6. JEAN, married to Patrick Agnew of Barvennan.<sup>80</sup>
7. JANET, married (contract 17th August, 1638) to Patrick Agnew of Sheuchan.<sup>81</sup>

A daughter of a Gordon of Craichlaw was married to David Craufurd of Drumsoy, Ayrshire, who died before 1675.<sup>82</sup> She seems either to belong here, or to come in above as a child of John Gordon younger of Craichlaw.

<sup>75</sup> Par. Reg. of Sas., Wigtown, Vol. I., fol. 51.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid*, Vol. III., fol. 112.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid*, fol. 42, 27th April, 1637.

<sup>78</sup> *Services of Heirs*, 18th Dec., 1717. For an account of this family see "The Gordons of Culvennan" by J. M. Bulloch, *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*, Aug. 25 to Oct. 13, 1906.

<sup>79</sup> Par. Reg. of Sas., Wigtown, 26th Oct., 1621.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid*, 26th March, 1630.

<sup>81</sup> Gen. Reg. of Sas., 24th Nov., 1657.

<sup>82</sup> Robertson's *Ayrshire Families*, II., 192.

## V.

WILLIAM GORDON of Craichlaw succeeded his grandfather, from whom he obtained a disposition of the lands, dated 18th July, 1634.<sup>83</sup>

He was a commissioner of loan and tax for Wigtown and Kirkcudbright in 1643; on committee of war in 1643, 1644, and subsequently; and a commissioner of excise in 1661.<sup>84</sup>

On 10th January, 1654, the Protector granted to him, subject to legal reversion, the lands of Easter and Wester Loudon, which pertained to John, Earl of Loudon, and which had been apprised from him at Craichlaw's instance, in payment of 14,250 merks.<sup>85</sup>

Andrew Symson, in his *Large Description of Galloway*, written in 1684 and revised in 1692, says under Kirkcowan: "There is but one house of note in this Parish, viz., Craichlaw, a good house, situated about a mile towards the west from the kirk, and is the residence of William Gordon of Craichlaw."<sup>86</sup> Dealing with the rivers and fisheries of Galloway, Symson refers to the rivulet called the Water of Tarffe "that hath its rise about the north-west part of Kirkcowan, and for a while running southwardly divides the said parish of Kirkcowan from the parish of Glenluce; and then bending its streames more eastwardly, it runs wholly in the parish of Kirk-

<sup>83</sup> Gen. Reg. of Sas., Vol. 47, fol. 378.

<sup>84</sup> *Acta Parl. Scot.*

<sup>85</sup> *Register of Great Seal.*

<sup>86</sup> Symson, ed. Maitland, 1823, 54.

cowan, hard by the south side of the said parish kirk, where, at a place called Lincuan, the Laird of Craichlaw hath a salmon fishing where sometimes he takes good salmon with nets. From this place the said water of Tarffe runs still eastward, and a large halfe mile or more from Lincuan it empties itselfe into the river of Blaidnoch. About a mile above the meeting of which two waters, at a place called the Mill of Barhoshe, on the river of Blaidnoch, the said Laird of Craichlaw hath another salmon fishing.”<sup>87</sup>

William Gordon suffered in consequence of his eldest son’s participation in the rising of 1679, and on 14th June, 1693, his case for reparation was remitted by Parliament to the Privy Council.<sup>88</sup> The date of his death has not been ascertained, but he was still alive on 21st June, 1705.<sup>89</sup> He married Jean, second daughter of James Chalmers of Gadgirth, by whom he had issue :—

1. JAMES, younger of Craichlaw. On 2nd April, 1679, he and his wife were among those called before the Privy Council for non-conformity, who, all failing to appear, were outlawed.<sup>90</sup> For his part in the rising of that year, the estate of Craichlaw was forfeited in 1680, and in 1681 it was ratified to Lieut.-Colonel Edmond Maine, Major (afterwards Sir) Theophilus Ogilthorpe, and Captain Henry Cornwall.<sup>91</sup> In 1685 it was annexed to the Crown, and in the following year the lands were dissolved from the Crown in favour of Ogilthorpe,<sup>92</sup> who, it may be noted in

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, 87.

<sup>88</sup> *Acta Parl. Scot.*

<sup>89</sup> Par. Reg. of Sas., Wigtown, Vol. III., fol. 323, June 25, 1705.

<sup>90</sup> Wodrow’s *History*, II., 8.

<sup>91</sup> *Acta Parl. Scot.*

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

passing, was father of General Ogilthorpe (or Oglethorpe), the friend of Dr. Johnson. At this time James Gordon was residing at Glasnick.<sup>93</sup> In 1689 he was appointed cornet of horse for Wigtownshire,<sup>94</sup> and in 1690 he was a captain in Lord Kenmure's regiment, and a commissioner of supply for the county. In the same year his forfeiture was rescinded.<sup>95</sup> He was member of the Scottish Parliament for the burgh of New Galloway from 1689 until his death, which took place at Edinburgh on 27th August, 1690;<sup>96</sup> he was buried in the New Kirk.<sup>97</sup>

He married (contract 8th December, 1676) Janet, daughter of Sir David Dunbar of Baldoon, Bart. Craichlaw settled the lands of Glasnick and others upon the spouses, and the lady's tocher was 9,000 merks.<sup>98</sup> Of the marriage there was issue:—

- (1) JAMES, who succeeded his grandfather [VI.].
- (2) ELEANOR, described, in 1709, as principal tenant of the Mains of Craichlaw.<sup>99</sup> She was married to William Wallace of Gallrigge, and had a son, William Wallace, who succeeded his uncle, James Gordon, as proprietor of Craichlaw.

James Gordon, younger of Craichlaw, had also a natural daughter, *Marie*, who, on 9th December, 1687, was apprenticed to Henry Wyllie, merchant, in Edinburgh, for three years.<sup>100</sup>

2. DAVID, in Barnernie, who married Margaret, youngest daughter of James Chalmers of Waterside,<sup>101</sup> by whom he left issue:—

- (1) *Margaret*, married to William M'Millan of Glenlaggan.<sup>102</sup>
- (2) *Janet*, married to Rev. James M'Clelland, Kirkcowan.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>93</sup> Symson, ed. Maitland, 39.

<sup>94</sup> *Acta Parl. Scot.*

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>96</sup> Foster, 152.

<sup>97</sup> *Index to Genealogies, etc., in Lyon Office.*

<sup>98</sup> St. Mary's Isle charter chest.

<sup>99</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Dalrymple, Vol. 106, Mar. 6. 1716.

<sup>100</sup> List of Papers given up by Barnernie, 1701, 106, Wigtown.

<sup>101</sup> Wigtown Sheriff Court Records, 1690, Bundle XIV.

<sup>102</sup> Inventories of Heirs, Wigtown, Vol. III., 23rd Dec., 1735.

3. WILLIAM, who in 1684 was living in family with his parents,<sup>103</sup> and is supposed to have died unmarried.
4. AGNES, married to Anthony M'Kie of Glencaird.<sup>104</sup>
5. MARGARET, married, first, in 1666, to Patrick Houstoun, eldest son of John Houstoun of Drummastoun;<sup>105</sup> and, secondly, to William Hannay in Clugston.<sup>106</sup>
6. JEAN, who was living at Craichlaw in 1684.

## VI.

JAMES GORDON of Craichlaw succeeded his grandfather. He had been appointed a commissioner of supply in 1704.<sup>107</sup> In 1724 he signed a disposition of his estate of Craichlaw in favour of Patrick Crawford, merchant in Edinburgh,<sup>108</sup> which he afterwards represented "as elicite from me by fraud, at least extorted from me while in goal,<sup>108\*</sup> and in the utmost misery, ready to comply with any terms, however disadvantageous, to gain me a present morsel of bread."<sup>109</sup> In a litigation which followed, the House of Lords set aside the conveyance, subject to a charge on the lands for the money paid by Crawford. On 27th December, 1732, James Gordon sold to Patrick Heron of that ilk the four merk lands of Glasnick and others in the parish of Penninghame, and the five pound land of Culscadden in the parish of Sorbie.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>103</sup> List of persons in Kirkcowan.

<sup>104</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Dalrymple, Vol. 87, Feb. 15, 1703.

<sup>105</sup> Wigtown Sheriff Court Records, 1690, Bundle XI.

<sup>106</sup> List of Papers given up by Barnernie, 1701, 145, Wigtown.

<sup>107</sup> *Acta Parl. Scot.*

<sup>108</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Dalrymple, Vol. 120, pt. 2, Aug. 4, 1726.

<sup>108\*</sup> He was in a debtors' sanctuary in London.

<sup>109</sup> *Petition and Answers*, Feb. 19, 1731.

<sup>110</sup> Reg. of Deeds, Dalrymple, Vol. 148, July 8, 1740.

He died on 24th November, 1734.<sup>111</sup> No particulars as to his marriage have been recovered, but the following entry in the Penninghame Marriage Register points to the fact of his having left a widow: "1738, March 26th, Patrick Vance, Esquire, in the parish of Kirkmabreck, and Bettie Gordon Lady Craichlaw, in this parish, gave in their names; she consigned, they were proclaimed and married." He left no issue.

On 11th December, 1738, William Wallace was served as heir of line in special of James Gordon of Craichlaw, his uncle,<sup>112</sup> and became known as William Wallace of Craichlaw. After selling certain of the lands to other purchasers, he finally disposed of all that remained, by conveyance dated 28th March, 1743, and 2nd February, 1744, to William Hamilton of Ladyland, who had a charter of the lands on 26th July, 1744,<sup>113</sup> and whose representatives are still in possession.

## VII.

ALEXANDER GORDON, great grandson of John Gordon of Craichlaw [III.], born in or about 1682, is first heard of in the Aikenhead papers as residing at Mains of Penninghame, with his father, John Gordon, formerly of and in Crosherie, and as farming the neighbouring lands of Clary. He married three months after his father's death in 1711, and it has recently been discovered that three

<sup>111</sup> *Services of Heirs*, as below.

<sup>112</sup> *Services of Heirs*, Vol. I.

<sup>113</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, Lib. 98, No. 91.



months later than the date of the marriage, that is, on 25th September, 1711, David Gordon in Barnernie, second son of the fourth and last William Gordon of Craichlaw, granted a bond for £41, executed "at Kirkoan," to "John M'Haffie in Mains of Penninghame."<sup>114</sup> This John M'Haffie may have been a member of the family of Alexander Gordon's mother, who had come to take charge at the Mains during the transition period between the death of John Gordon and the assumption of the management by his son, as to the termination of whose tenancy of Clary we are without information. Be that as it may, what is certain is that Alexander Gordon became tenant of Mains, either as the immediate successor of his father or after an interval; his death is thus recorded on the family tombstone at Kirkcowan: "Also Here lies the corps of Alexr. Gordon In Mains of Penningham who died Feby. 16th, 1748, aged 66 years."

As already indicated, Alexander Gordon married, first, in June, 1711, Helen M'Clelland (or M'Clellan), of the parish of Wigtown,<sup>115</sup> and of this marriage the Baptismal Register of Penninghame shows the following issue:—

1. JOHN, baptized 6th April, 1712. Died young.
2. THOMAS, baptized 24th May, 1713. Died young.
3. SAMUEL, baptized 26th December, 1714. Died young.
4. HELEN, baptized 2nd December, 1716. Married to John Heron.
5. ALEXANDER, of whom hereafter [VIII.].
6. HENRY, baptized 31st March, 1720. Died young.

<sup>114</sup> Wigtown Sheriff Court Records, Bundles of Deeds, Bundle XXIV., 1.

<sup>115</sup> Wigtown Kirk Session Register, Penninghame Marriages, 1696-1800.

7. NATHANIEL, baptized 1st April, 1722. His surviving elder brother, Alexander, and he, considering themselves unkindly treated by their stepmother, left their home and went to Greenock and Glasgow, where they were found by their kind relative, Mr. Heron. In 1743 they went to London, and they were there at the time of their father's death. Their uncle, Mr. Alexander Maclelland, had been kind to them, and on his death in 1750 they succeeded to part of his fortune.<sup>116</sup>

In 1771 or 1772, Nathaniel Gordon came to Glasgow,<sup>117</sup> where his brother had for some years been established as a merchant, and in September, 1782, Nathaniel, then described as late merchant in London, purchased from John Wallace of Neilstonside and Cessnock, one of the Virginia Dons, the fine old mansion of Whitehill, which was situated on the north side of what is now Eastern Duke Street, in the suburb of Dennistoun. The centre part of the house was erected by the well-known John Glassford of Dougalston, alluded to by Smollett in *Humphry Clinker*<sup>118</sup> as one of the greatest merchants in Europe, and subsequent owners made additions to harmonise. The approach was through an antique-looking gateway, which was flanked by an equally old-fashioned lodge. The grounds extended to about thirty-three acres. The house no longer exists. The lands had been known at an earlier period as Easter Craigs.<sup>119</sup> Subsequently to his purchase of Whitehill, Nathaniel Gordon acquired the adjoining lands of Kennyhill.

Apart from the separate business interests of each, the two brothers were associated in joint concerns of various kinds. They were doubtless the Alexander Gordon and Nathaniel Gordon who on 5th June, 1770, bought 400 acres of land in the parish of St. John in the island of Tobago<sup>120</sup>; and in 1782 they were jointly,

<sup>116</sup> Aikenhead Papers.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>118</sup> Ed. Henley, II., 116.

<sup>119</sup> *The Old Country Houses of the Old Glasgow Gentry*, ed. 1878, 259.

<sup>120</sup> *Account of Tobago*, London, S. Hooper, 1777, cited by Mr. J. M. Bulloch in *The Banffshire Herald*, Aug. 9th, 1913.

and in equal shares, interested as creditors on the estate of John M'Culloch of Barholm.<sup>121</sup> Nathaniel Gordon died at Whitehill on 31st August, 1784.<sup>122</sup>

He married an English lady, Lora Turton, by whom he had issue :—

- (1) *Lora Turton*, born 2nd May, 1765. Married to James Corbett of Tolcross, and left issue.
- (2) *Mary*, born 24th August, 1767. Married, 11th March, 1794, to John Southwell Brown of Mount Brown, Co. Limerick, and died 6th December, 1842, leaving issue.
- (3) *Ann*, born 21st May, 1770. Married to Captain Robert Richard Maitland, and left issue.
- (4) *John*, of Whitehill and Kennyhill, born 18th January, 1774. At one time in the Army.<sup>123</sup> He sold Whitehill in 1802 to Robert Grahame, writer in Glasgow, whose brother James, author of *The Sabbath* and other poetical works, died there in 1811 ; and he afterwards disposed of Kennyhill. He died 25th March, 1835, having married Helen Maitland, born 27th February, 1780 (sister of Captain Maitland above-mentioned), who died 2nd December, 1855. They had issue :—

- i. *Charlotte Ellen*, born 24th November, 1797. Married, 14th September, 1824, to John Gibson, W.S., Edinburgh, born 15th January, 1796. Among his clients was the Duke of Buccleuch ; and from 1822 he acted as law agent of Sir Walter Scott, and in 1871 he published a small volume of *Reminiscences* of Sir Walter. Mr. Gibson died 14th September, 1877, and his wife 9th March, 1889. They left issue.
- ii. *Lora Turton*, born 26th January, 1799. Married to Rev. John Stevenson, D.D., minister of Ladykirk, who died 11th August, 1858. She died 5th July, 1879, having had issue.

<sup>121</sup> Glasgow Com. Tests, Vol. 70, 207, 2nd June, 1786.

<sup>122</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, LIV., 716.

<sup>123</sup> In 1796 he was presented with the Freedom of the City of Perth.

- iii. *Mary Anne*, born 29th September, 1801, and died unmarried, 24th February, 1859.
- iv. *John Nathaniel*, born 1st September, 1803. Major-General in the Indian Army. He died in 1883, having married, 4th June, 1840, *Mary*, died in May, 1886, daughter of Rev. Anthony Hedley, incumbent of Hexham, a zealous Border antiquary, and a friend of Sir Walter Scott. They had issue, three children who died in infancy, and then :—
  - (i.) *Pelham Henry*, born 14th February, 1844. He was married, but died without issue.
  - (ii.) *John Gibson, M.D.*, born 4th April, 1845. Married *Margaret Colvin Home*, and died in March, 1885, leaving no issue.
  - (iii.) *Anthony Gilbert Francis*, of Enon, Richmond, Natal, born 18th September, 1848. He married, 20th February, 1879, *Marion Sophia Saunders*, and has issue :—<sup>124</sup>
    - a. *Helen Beresford*, born 21st November, 1879. Married 23rd October, 1907, to *William Hare Home*, with issue.
    - b. *Mary Lucy*, born 27th March, 1881.
    - c. *John Kenmure*, born 23rd October, 1882. He took part in the Boer War, and was at the relief of Ladysmith, at Laing's Nek, and in the Free State, receiving the Queen's medal, with four bars and the Natal bar. During the native rebellion in Natal and Zululand, 1906, he again joined the Natal Carabiniers, and received the medal. In the campaign in German South-West Africa he joined the Imperial Light Horse and went north with General Botha. At the conclusion of the German South-West African campaign he joined the South Africa Scottish for Europe, was severely wounded and taken prisoner at Delville Wood in July, 1916 ;

<sup>124</sup> See "Galloway Gordons under Arms," by J. M. Bulloch, in *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*, Sept. 28, 1917.

and was a prisoner in a salt mine at Langensalza till January, 1919.

- d. *Roland Erskine*, born 19th September, 1883. He joined the Natal Scouts in 1899, and his services, medals and bars are almost identical with those of his elder brother. He came to England in 1915, and obtained a commission in the Highland Light Infantry; served in France; was wounded at Vimy Ridge in June, 1916; returned to France in January, 1917, and served there till May, 1919.
- e. *Gilbert Maitland*, born 13th November, 1884. He joined when fifteen the Natal Carabiniers, fighting at Laing's Nek, in the Free State, and in Natal, and receiving the Queen's medal with three bars. In 1906 he joined Royston's Horse as corporal during the native rebellion. At the beginning of the war with Germany he joined the Mounted Rifles, and took part in the two hundred miles ride through the desert from Aus to Gibeon, where he fought under Sir Duncan Mackenzie.
- f. *Francis Pelham*, born 1st March, 1886. He joined the Imperial Light Horse, 1st Regiment, at the beginning of the war in German West Africa. His regiment landed at and held Luderitz Bay, afterwards going north with General Botha's column. At the conclusion of the German South-West African campaign he came to Europe to volunteer for France. An illness caused his return to Natal. He joined at once the Fourth South African Horse, and fought through the German East African campaign.
- g. *Marion Muriel*, born 18th March, 1887. Married, 11th January, 1910, to William Scott Bigby, barrister-at-law, Maritzburg, Natal, and has issue.
- h. *Hedley Cosmo*, born 28th June, 1893. He joined the 1st Regiment of the Imperial Light Horse, and

went north with General Botha's column. He came to England in 1916, volunteered, and served in Royal Horse Artillery.

- i. *Nigel Maughan*, born 24th July, 1896. He joined the 7th Battery Citizen Force in Maritzburg and was sent to Luderitz. After having been invalided at the Cape for two months, he joined the 4th Mounted Rifles and made the desert march under Sir Duncan Mackenzie, being in the action at Gibeon. He came to England in November, 1916; went to Sandhurst; gazetted to 1st Suffolk Regiment; served at Salonica, 1916 to 1918; awarded M.C.; volunteered for North Russia in May, 1919.
- j. *Adam Lewis Lockhart*, born 17th June, 1900. He came to England in 1917, joined the Royal Air Force, and was demobilised in May, 1919.

(iv.) *Helen*, born 16th June, 1846. Married in 1873, as his second wife, to Keeley Halswelle, A.R.S.A. He died 11th April, 1891, leaving issue of the marriage.

(v.) *Maughan*, born 14th December, 1854. Died in November, 1871.

v. *Henry Pelham Maitland*, born 22nd July, 1805. Died at Calcutta unmarried.

vi. *Robert Richard*, born 1st May, 1807. Died unmarried.

vii. *James Corbett*, born 13th March, 1809. Died unmarried.

viii. *Gilbert Maitland*, born 24th October, 1814. Married Mary, and died without leaving issue, 22nd June, 1857. His wife died 11th October, 1867.

ix. *Ursula Baring*, born 17th February, 1817. Married to Rev. Edward Cross. No issue.

x. *Francis William Lockhart*, born 12th August, 1819, and died in 1883. He married, 27th April, 1843, Sarah Maskelyne, and had issue, of whom his only surviving son is

*William Henry Lockhart*, born in March, 1844; a barrister of the firm of Bain, Bicknell, Macdonell and Gordon, Toronto, who married, 25th July, 1872, Emma Gordon Smith. Of the issue of the marriage the names of the following sons have been gleaned from press notices which appeared during the time of the war with Germany.<sup>125</sup>

- a. *Henry (or Harry) D. Lockhart*, born 20th July, 1873. When the war broke out he was Lieutenant-Colonel, 9th Mississauga Horse, and on 7th June, 1916, he became Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the 4th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was awarded the D.S.O.
- b. *Francis Maskelyne Lockhart*, born 18th March, 1875. He became a lawyer in Ontario, and died on the 13th of August, 1901.
- c. *Maitland Lockhart*, born 27th September, 1882. Lieutenant, 72nd Canadian Seaforth Highlanders, then attached to the 3rd Gordon Highlanders. Wounded at Festubert, 17th June, 1915. On re-joining he was posted to the Eighth Gordons, and was wounded again in June, 1916. On 19th May, 1917, he was reported wounded and missing, and on 23rd August thereafter he was returned as killed.
- d. *Molyneux Goldingham Lockhart*, born 31st October, 1884. Lieutenant, 9th Mississauga Horse. He was badly injured while training, and had to go to the South to convalesce.
- e. *Walter Leslie Lockhart*, born 30th September, 1890. Completing his course at the law school in 1914, he became connected with his father's firm. When he volunteered for the front he was an officer of the 9th Mississauga Horse. He went to Valcartier

<sup>125</sup> *Canada Law Journal*, May, 1915; *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser*, Sept. 28, 1917.

as a lieutenant, and was promoted to a captaincy. While in command of B Company in the Second Battalion of the First Canadian Division, he was killed in action at Longemarch, Belgium, 23rd April, 1915.

xi. *Erskine Rowland*, born 14th June, 1821. Died in childhood, 1824.

8. JEAN, baptized 18th April, 1725. Married to Samuel M'Lean of Mark, Kirkmabreck. Her husband died on 6th June, 1779, she apparently surviving. They left issue.
9. JOHN (*secundus*), baptized 30th April, 1727. Died young.

The death of Helen M'Clellan is thus given on the family gravestone at Kirkcowan, below the name of her father-in-law, John Gordon: "Here lies Helen M'Clellan, spouse to his son Alexander, who died December 17th, 1730, aged 43, and 7 of their children. Her last word was 'I see Him whom my soul loveth coming to receive my soul to Glory.'" It would thus appear that there had been two children of the marriage whose names did not enter the baptismal register.

Alexander Gordon married, secondly, in December, 1733, Anna Stroyan, of the parish of Kirkcowan;<sup>126</sup> and of this marriage the following children are known, the order of seniority being, to a certain extent, conjectural:—

10. JAMES, of Charleston, South Carolina. His will, dated 8th September, 1816, shows that he was married, but does not give his wife's name. Evidently there was no surviving issue of the marriage, for the will goes on to say: "Item I give and bequeath to Mary Moore, who has been brought up in my family, and whom I consider in light of a dutiful and affectionate child, the sum of Five thousand Dollars, all my Negroe and other slaves, with the

<sup>126</sup> Penninghame Marriages, 1696-1800.



future issue and increase of the female slaves, all my Plate and Linen, and to her heirs and assigns forever." One half of the residue of his estate he leaves to "my dear sister Mary Spark, wife of Alexander Spark of Newton-Stewart, in the Shire of Galloway in Scotland" (who had predeceased him), for her life, and to her children; and the other half he leaves to "my dear niece Ann Maitland of Edinburgh in Scotland, daughter of my dear brother Nathaniel Gordon," for her life, and to her children; conclusive evidence that, whatever may have been the relations which subsisted between Anna Stroyan and her step-sons in their youth, the children of the same father did not, in after life, allow the consideration of half-blood to interfere with their regard for each other. The kind brother and uncle thought only of the two families in the Old Country that most needed his assistance. It is understood that the residuary legatees benefitted but little from the bequest. James Gordon died between 20th January and 19th June, 1817.

11. A daughter, referred to in the Aikenhead papers as Mrs. Mactaggart.
12. ANN ("Aunty Ann"), who resided at Creetown, and who died unmarried.
13. Another daughter, referred to in the Aikenhead papers.
14. MARY, baptized 8th June, 1743,<sup>127</sup> "A little woman, with fair hair." Married to Alexander Spark. She died at Holm Park, Creebridge, 18th April, 1814, and was buried in the churchyard of Minnigaff. Her husband died 3rd April, 1821. They left issue.
15. JOHN (*tertius*), baptized 14th April, 1745.<sup>128</sup> Died young, according to the Aikenhead papers.

## VIII.

ALEXANDER GORDON, born the fifth child and fourth

<sup>127</sup> Penninghame Births, 1695-1800.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*

son of Alexander Gordon in Mains of Penninghame, and Helen M'Clelland, his first wife, but who, by the early deaths of his elder brothers, became the head of the Mains family, was baptized on 20th April, 1718.<sup>129</sup> He has already been noticed as having, along with his younger brother, Nathaniel, left his home and gone, in the first place, to Greenock and Glasgow, and in 1743 to London. In 1751 he settled in Glasgow,<sup>130</sup> and on 9th June, 1755, he is entered as merchant on the roll of burgesses for the city and royal burgh. About 1775 he joined Mr. Somervell as a partner of the firm of Somervell, Connell and Co.,<sup>131</sup> afterwards Somervell, Gordon and Co., and which ultimately became Stirling, Gordon and Co., West India merchants.

He was a Magistrate of Glasgow in 1772, and again in 1775; but he declined the offices of Provost and Dean of Guild on account of his health.<sup>132</sup>

His portrait, a small pencil drawing, was shown in the Old Glasgow Exhibition of 1894, by his grandson, Mr. Robert Gray Gordon; and in a volume or paper (whether printed or in MS. does not appear) cited in the *Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser* of October 19, 1917, under the title "Old Glasgow: Notes and Indexes," it is stated, wrongly, and obviously without communication with the lender or his representatives, that he was the son of John Gordon, collector of excise, and Jane Hamilton, his wife, and was

<sup>129</sup> Penninghame Births, 1695-1800.

<sup>130</sup> Aikenhead Papers.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

baptized on 13th December, 1722 ; an unfortunate example of the danger of a resort to guesswork in matters genealogical.

Alexander Gordon died on 18th April, 1786, having married, 24th December, 1752, Isobell, third daughter of John Fleming of Blacklaw, by a daughter of John Graham of Lymekilns. Mrs. Gordon died 26th January, 1814. They had issue:—

1. JOHN, of whom hereafter [IX.].
2. ALEXANDER, born 14th March, 1765. West India merchant in Glasgow, being a member of the firm of Somervell, Gordon and Co., afterwards Stirling, Gordon and Co.

He was a member (and ultimately the father) of the first corps of Light Horse raised in Glasgow during the Revolutionary war.<sup>133</sup>

From his well-known love for and patronage of the fine arts, he was familiarly distinguished as "Picture Gordon." He was the first of the Glasgow merchants who formed a collection of paintings, and he did not escape the jeers of some who thought his money might have been more profitably invested. A year or two after the French had overrun Italy at the close of the century, and when the Italian Princes were disposed to part with their valuables for a moderate consideration, Mr. Gordon gave an order for a few pictures to his friend, Mr. Alexander Irvine of Drum, a gentleman of acknowledged taste, then residing at Rome, who executed his commission with great judgment and ability, and amongst other capital paintings secured for Mr. Gordon two very fine Guidos, which had long formed the ornament and boast of the Sala Palace.<sup>134</sup>

About 1804 or 1805, Mr. Gordon erected the dwelling house which has been removed to make way for the building of the

<sup>133</sup> *Glasgow Past and Present*, ed. 1884, 230, Vol. I.

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

Royal Bank in Royal Exchange Square and Buchanan Street. The house was constructed of the most solid materials, and was then considered the most substantially built fabric within the city. He fitted up part of his stable as a small theatre, in which his young friends performed the tragedy of *Douglas*, the comedy of *She Stoops to Conquer*, and other popular pieces, amidst the unbounded applause of the audience. That his house might not be overlooked, and its amenity otherwise preserved, he purchased the then vacant ground on the opposite side, which was subsequently formed into the street named Gordon Street, in compliment to him.<sup>135</sup>

Mr. Gordon retired from business comparatively early, and, leaving Glasgow, resided for a time at Edinburgh, and afterwards in London.

It was probably after his retirement that he paid a visit to Galloway, of which the present writer was informed by his son Robert, making his headquarters with his cousin, Mr. Alexander M'Lean of Mark, and jotting down notes as to his ancestry, from information given by relatives, and by old persons with whom he conversed. These notes are understood to be now included in what have in this account been referred to as the Aikenhead papers. While correct enough in substance, they exhibit, in some places, the looseness of oral tradition as opposed to the exactness of written record. On 2nd September, 1813, he obtained the matriculation of his Arms in the Lyon Office, describing himself as second son of Alexander Gordon, merchant in Glasgow, who was the grandson of John Gordon, an officer in the Army, and afterwards farmer in the parish of Kirkowen in the Shire of Galloway, who was descended of the family of Gordon of Culvennan. This statement is not open to any more serious objection than that of want of precision in expression: there was no standing army in the days of Crosherie's youth; and he was a collateral, and not a descendant of Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, 1637.

<sup>135</sup> *Glasgow Past and Present*, ed. 1884, 229, Vol. I.

Mr. R. P. Gillies, in his *Memoirs*, referring to the predilection shown for Edinburgh by John Philip Kemble, after his retirement from the stage, and to his taking a family house in Heriot Row, says: "I am naturally led to dwell on this epoch, because it reminds me of many pleasant hours in social circles. Mr. and Mrs. Kemble now and then dined with us, and also accepted invitations from a very few of our near neighbours whom they met, especially from my kind friend, Mr. Alexander Gordon, who entertained profusely—and who then possessed the best private collection of pictures at Edinburgh—pictures which had once hung on the walls of the Colonna Palace at Rome."<sup>136</sup> The value of the pictures in Mr. Gordon's house has been stated as estimated, as at that time, at £30,000, but a portion of them, including some of the more valuable, was unfortunately destroyed in an accidental fire after his removal to London.<sup>137</sup>

Eventually, he settled in North America, and intimation of his death is thus given in *The Scotsman* newspaper of November 10, 1849: "At Gilston, Canada West, on the 12th October, Alexander Gordon, Esq., aged 84." An interesting portrait of him, being a cabinet sized, full length, tinted pencil drawing, "by a Frenchman who was afterwards believed to be a spy," was contributed to the Old Glasgow Exhibition of 1894 by Mr. Robert G. Gordon; as were also medallions of him and his wife, by Tassie.

He married Elizabeth (who also died in 1849), daughter of Thomas Buchanan of Ardoch by his second wife, Jean, daughter of John Gray of Dalmarnock and Carntyne, by whom he had issue:—

(1) *John*.

(2) *James, M.D.*

(3) *Robert Gray*, of Clifton Lodge, Kingston-on-Thames. Following on a visit to the Old Glasgow Exhibition of 1894, the writer had the pleasure of getting into a correspondence with

<sup>136</sup> *Memoirs of a Literary Veteran*, II., 260.

<sup>137</sup> *Glasgow Past and Present*, ed. 1884, I., 230.

him, which was only too soon terminated by his death. On 24th September, 1894, Mr. Gordon wrote, "My gt. gt. grandfather, John, first took the farm of Goshery [Crosherie] in the parish of Kirkcowan, but removed to the Mains of Penninghame. . . . The farm house was close to the village, and the site was afterwards known by the appellation of Gordons' Walls." The present house of Mains stands half a mile from the old clachan, and Mr. William M'Conchie, the tenant, whose family have been in occupation for several generations, has no knowledge of there having been a change of site. On 5th October following, Mr. Gordon wrote, "I was not aware that my ancestors were Covenanters, but suppose that austere persuasion had its day, for certainly the late Sir John Gordon of Earlston exhibited no leaning that way: he was often with us, my father and uncle having been his guardians." Mr. Gordon died at Clifton Lodge on 22nd March, 1895, aged 83. In the death register he is described as "Colonial Landowner," which may have reference to a Canadian purchase made by his father. The writer regrets that he has not found himself in a position to give fuller particulars as to his kind correspondent and his brothers and sisters; but he may record his understanding as being that with Robert Gray Gordon the male issue of "Picture Gordon" failed.

- (4) *William Alexander*, also of Kingston-on-Thames, who died on 13th February, 1888, aged 73, and who, along with his brother Robert, is buried in the cemetery there.
- (5) *Jane*.
- (6) *Isabella*, who was married to John L. Tottenham.

## IX.

JOHN GORDON, elder son of Alexander Gordon, senior, and who became the first of Aikenhead, was born in High

Street, Glasgow, opposite the College, on 17th November, 1753; and in due time entered his father's firm of Somervell, Gordon and Co., afterwards Stirling, Gordon and Co., West India merchants. At the date of the new style, 1795, the partners were John Stirling of Kippen-davie, John Gordon (now under notice), Alexander Gordon, his brother, Charles Stirling (Cadder), James Fyffe, Neil Malcolm of Poltalloch, James Murdoch Wallace, and David Russell of Woodside.<sup>138</sup>

The Estate of Aikenhead is situated in the parish of Cathcart (the church patronage of which went with the lands), and at the time of its purchase by Mr. Gordon was within the County of Lanark, but has now been transferred to the County of Renfrew. Aikenhead House, as it stands, was built in 1806, and wings were added to it in 1823 from designs of the celebrated architect, David Hamilton.<sup>139</sup> By the extension and development of the city of Glasgow in the Cathcart direction, a considerable part of the property has been built upon.

A writer who lived in Mr. Gordon's own time passes what may be called an eulogium upon him: "Perhaps few in the community held a more prominent position than this leading partner of the well-known firm of Stirling, Gordon and Co., whose members were then (1798), and for a long period thereafter, justly regarded as the chiefs of the flourishing West India aristocracy. Mr. Gordon and his partner, Mr. Charles Stirling, were also

<sup>138</sup> *Cat. Old Glasgow Exhibition.*, 1894, p. 49.

<sup>139</sup> *The Old Country Houses of the Old Glasgow Gentry*, ed. 1878, 2.

looked upon as the central luminaries of the Tory party, then dominant in the city ; and it was within the walls of their business establishment that the leaders of Mr. Pitt's most ardent supporters were always summoned for consultation and counsel. Here the qualifications of gentlemen attempting to become members of Parliament were canvassed, and hence came forth the decree that was to render them either eligible or not to a seat in the House of Commons. . . . Mr. Gordon resided in an elegant mansion which, with its large garden, occupied the site of the Prince of Wales' Buildings in Buchanan Street [1856], and while there . . . he was lavish in entertainments to his friends, which he conducted in a style of Apicean taste and luxury. He was always ready with his purse when city wants required his aid, heading, at that period, every subscription, whether opened as a tribute to the good or the brave, or as a fund for the relief of epidemic disease or manufacturing distress, while he did not fail to imitate the perhaps too sensitive benevolence of his other large-hearted associate in business, Mr. Fyffe, in his daily gifts to the wandering mendicancy which ever tracked the latter gentleman's footsteps. Mr. John Gordon, after a long life of mercantile activity, of political consistency, of great hospitality, and of much charity, died on the 2nd of December, 1828. He was a jolly-looking, well made man, with rather a lordly bearing [as his portrait by Raeburn testifies], and showed himself as strict a Conservative as Mr. Walter Graham by sticking to breeches and stockings after all the world had dis-



carded them.”<sup>140</sup>

He married, first, 19th April, 1784, Margaret Peter, of the Crossbasket family, who died 19th February, 1788, aged 22 years, by whom he had issue :—

1. MARION, born 7th May, 1787, and died 10th January, 1802.

Secondly, he married, 14th July, 1800, Ann Hay, eldest daughter of John Alston of Muirburn, merchant and banker in Glasgow. She died 27th May, 1811, aged 42 years, and by her he had issue :—

2. ISABELLA CRAIGIE, born 16th May, 1807. Married 9th September, 1825, to Mungo Campbell, merchant in Glasgow, and had issue. She died 30th September, 1836.

He married, thirdly, 19th April, 1813, Janet, daughter of Gilbert Hamilton of Glenarbuck, Provost of Glasgow, 1792. She died 1st January, 1847, and by her he had issue :—

3. JOHN, of whom below [X].
4. CATHERINE, born 24th April, 1816. Married in 1850, as his second wife, to John St. George Deane of Berkeley, Co. Wexford. She died 9th July, 1899, leaving issue.

## X.

JOHN GORDON, the second of Aikenhead, was born 2nd February, 1815, and was educated at Christ Church, Oxford. When, after the election of Sir Robert Peel as

<sup>140</sup> *Glasgow and its Clubs*, by John Strang, LL.D., 264.

Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, on 15th November, 1836, it was resolved to entertain him to a banquet on the occasion of his visit to the city to deliver his inaugural address, the first duty of the committee in charge was to look out for a suitable piece of ground on which to erect the banqueting hall. The committee had hardly entered on this duty when Mr. Gordon, "in the most handsome manner made offer of his splendid mansion in Buchanan Street, with the large garden behind it, with liberty to take out the fruit trees, and to pull down the inner gateways for the admission of building materials. Such noble conduct," says the official report, "is worthy the son of a father who was long acknowledged as the head of the Conservatives of Glasgow." The banquet took place on 13th January, 1837, and was attended by nearly 3,500 persons. Mr. Henry Monteith of Carstairs was in the chair, and Mr. Gordon occupied a seat on the chairman's platform. The toast of "The Conservative Constituencies of England and their Representatives in Parliament" was coupled with the name of Mr. William Ewart Gladstone, M.P., who responded.<sup>141</sup>

Mr. Gordon was a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew; and was admitted a member of The Royal Company of Archers on 19th August, 1842.

He died at Aikenhead House on 6th August, 1897, having married, at Dryburgh Abbey, on 4th June, 1840, Lady Christian Isabella Glencairn Erskine, second daughter of Henry David, Earl of Buchan, who died 3rd July, 1886,

<sup>141</sup> *Description* of banquet by James Cleland, LL.D.

and by whom he had issue:—

1. A daughter, born 4th August, 1841, and died the same day.
2. JOHN HENRY, of whom hereafter [XI.].
3. HENRY ERSKINE, of whom also hereafter [XII.].
4. CHARLES SHIPLEY, of Rowerdenan, Merton Park, Surrey, born 12th October, 1851. Married, 2nd August, 1875, Erskine Mary Katherine, eldest daughter of James Stirling Stuart of Castlemilk, Lanarkshire, and has issue:—
  - (1) *John Stuart*, born 13th February, 1881.
  - (2) *Hamilton William Fortescue*, born 1883.
  - (3) *Muriel Isabella Erskine*, born 1879.
  - (4) *Gwendolen Mary Harriet*, born 1888.
5. HAMILTON, born 13th February, 1856. Married, 1898, Alicia Jane Errol Young.
6. ALEXANDER STUART, born 24th June, 1860, died 12th July, 1909.

## XI.

JOHN HENRY GORDON, eldest son of John Gordon the second of Aikenhead, was born on 21st October, 1842, and died on 7th February, 1902. He was a member of the Salvation Army, in which he held the rank of Major.<sup>142</sup> He married, first, 10th November, 1868, Marianne Craig, who died in 1870, second surviving daughter of The Hon. James Augustus Erskine, and niece of Walter Coningsby, Earl of Kellie; and secondly, 21st April, 1871, Margaret Elisabeth, who died 26th March, 1918, daughter of Colonel Grierson of Bardannoch, Dumfriesshire. He left no issue, and was succeeded in the headship of his family by his brother [XII.].

<sup>142</sup> The Army, in whose work in Italy he was specially interested, buried him at Dumfries.

## XII.

HENRY ERSKINE GORDON, now of Aikenhead. He was born on 11th September, 1849, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1872. He became a member of the Scottish Bar in 1874, but does not practise. A member of the Royal Company of Archers; Lieut.-Col. (retired) Lanarkshire Imperial Yeomanry, and Vice-Chairman of the Renfrewshire Territorial Force Association; a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of Peace for the Counties of Lanark and Renfrew, and a Justice of Peace for the City of Glasgow; Convener of Renfrewshire 1910-1914; O.B.E.; a director of the Union Bank of Scotland, the Caledonian Railway Company, and other companies. A past member of the University Court, and a patron of the drama in the West.

He married, at the Parish Church, Windlesham, Surrey, on 1st October, 1895, Bertha Agnes, born 6th December, 1869, second daughter of Major John Finlay of Castle Toward (then of Woodhay), by whom he has issue:—

1. JOAN VICTORIA CHRISTIAN ERSKINE, born 30th August, 1897.
2. NANCY ALTHEA, born 26th November, 1898.
3. DOROTHY BERTHA, born 10th October, 1900.
4. VIOLET ERSKINE, born 1st April, 1903.
5. BARBARA ISOBEL, born 21st May, 1906.

# WILLIAM MACMATH

(1844-1922)

## A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY

FRANK MILLER

*Author of "The Poets of Dumfriesshire."*



DALBEATTIE: THOMAS FRASER

1924

## PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS brief biography of the late Mr. William Macmath, Edinburgh, who, as Professor Child and Andrew Lang both said, had an " unrivalled knowledge " of Scottish ballad lore, was written by me at the request of his sister, Miss Agnes Macmath, Dalbeattie, and of some of his chief friends.

I am indebted to not a few correspondents for serviceable information about Mr. Macmath. Special thanks are due to his relatives, Miss Macmath and Mrs. Hamilton ; to his friend and literary executor, Mr. George P. Johnston, Edinburgh ; to Mr. William C. Bishop, W.S., with whom he was long associated as a worker in one of the principal Edinburgh law offices ; to Mr. Thomas Fraser, the well-known Galloway publisher ; and to Mr. E. A. Hornel, the famous artist, who has secured all Mr. Macmath's ballad manuscripts (except two volumes of family interest, retained by Miss Macmath), and most of his Galloway and Dumfriesshire books and pamphlets, for permanent preservation at Kirkcudbright.

FRANK MILLER.

ANNAN, 15th *January*, 1924.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

WILLIAM MACMATH, F.S.A.(Scot.), was born on 2nd May, 1844, at Brighton, where his father, Alexander Macmath, a native of the Galloway parish of Parton, and at one time the proprietor of Woodpark, in Kirkpatrick-Durham, carried on business as a draper.<sup>1</sup> Alexander Macmath's mother, Agnes Locke, was a full cousin of Sir Walter Scott's friend, Dr. Nathaniel Paterson, grandson of "Old Mortality," and author of *The Manse Garden*, a book which passed through many editions. His wife, Mary Webster, was the eldest daughter of Alexander Webster, an Aberdeenshire man, and Janet Spark, whose mother, Mary Gordon, belonged to the old Galloway family of Gordon of Craichlaw.<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Macmath was born in Minnigaff parish, but during her childhood Mr. Webster removed with his family to Airds of Kells, a romantically situated estate which had once been owned by the father of Mary M'Ghie, the heroine of John Lowe's affecting lyric, "Mary's Dream."<sup>3</sup> Alexander Webster farmed Airds

<sup>1</sup> The name Macmath is now rare, but it appears to have been fairly common in the South-West of Scotland in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. See *Memorials of the Macmath Family*, by Frank McMath, Detroit, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> See "The Gordons of Craichlaw," in the present volume, p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> "The house of Airds, situated on the declivity of a wooded hill which is washed on opposite sides by the Dee and Ken, two rivers whose streams unite at its base, commands an

till his death in 1857, when his son Robert succeeded him as tenant.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Macmath had six children : William, the subject of this biographical sketch, Helen, Jessie Jane, Agnes, Mary Mina (who died in infancy), and Minnie. Agnes and Minnie long resided with their brother, whose tastes they shared, and who was devotedly attached to them. Miss Minnie Macmath died in 1905, and there is a pathetic reference to her under that date in a note by Mr. Macmath on the margin of a page of his copy of William Alexander's *Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk*: "I read this book to my dear sister Minnie on her deathbed." Miss Agnes Macmath is now the only surviving member of the family. The death of Mr. Alexander Macmath took place in 1870, and that of his wife in 1875.

Though William Macmath was born in the South of England, he spent many of his early days at Airds, and his life was largely moulded by Galloway influences. Both in conversation and in correspondence he always called himself "a Stewartry man." The Galloway of his boyhood was a good land in which to live. Wealth had not "accumulated" there, nor had men "decayed."<sup>4</sup> As in the days when Ruskin first knew the district, there

extensive view of a beautiful and varied landscape. The hand of Nature has shut it out from almost all communication with the living world : it seems, indeed, intended as the nursery or dwelling of a poet." Murray's *Literary History of Galloway*, Second edition, 1832, p. 271. Lowe was for a short time tutor in the family of M'Ghie. An arbour at Airds in which he studied was piously visited by Burns in 1793.

<sup>4</sup> Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

Goldsmith.



was considerable intellectual life in its small and isolated towns. Every parish had some spot famous in history or in legend. Ancient and picturesque superstitions yet lingered in such parishes as Kells, and everywhere—

The air was full of ballad notes  
Borne out of long ago.

Mrs. Alexander Macmath, her sister Miss Jane, or Jeanie Webster, and Mr. William Macmath's sisters were all deeply interested in the traditionary verse of Galloway. Miss Webster, in particular, had a wide knowledge of the ballads and songs of the South-West.<sup>5</sup> No fewer than sixteen versions of ballads recovered by her were afterwards published in Professor Child's *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, a monumental work with which the name of Mr. Macmath will always be closely associated. Verses communicated by Miss Jessie Jane Macmath and Miss Agnes Macmath, through their brother, were also printed by Child, and he was indebted to Miss Minnie Macmath for eight of the not very numerous "ballad airs from manuscript" published by him.

William's love of ballads was manifested at a very early age. Miss Webster, who long resided at Airds, often sang those ancient Scottish ballads and fragments of ballads in which she delighted. Listening to her, the child would

<sup>5</sup> Miss Jane Webster was born in the Parish of Minnigaff on 19th January, 1819. Latterly she lived at Dee View, Cross-michael, where she died on 25th February, 1901.

place his hands on her knee and look up with a strange earnestness. As soon as she stopped he would say, "Again, Aunt Jeanie, again!"<sup>6</sup>

The boy received his education at Hutton Hall Academy, an excellent school in the Dumfriesshire parish which contains Caerlaverock Castle, the Ellangowan of Sir Walter Scott. A good many of the Hutton Hall boys were boarders, and young Macmath was one of the number. The headmaster of the school was Mr. James MacDonald, a native of Cupar-Fife. To the end of his life Mr. Macmath spoke with deep respect of his teacher; and it was largely owing to his exertions that Mr. MacDonald was on 3rd January, 1882, entertained at a public dinner in the King's Arms Hotel, Dumfries, and presented with his portrait, painted by Sir Daniel Macnee, President of the Royal Scottish Academy. Mr. Macmath was one of the speakers at the function, the health of the distinguished painter being proposed by him.<sup>7</sup>

On the completion of his school course William Macmath was apprenticed to the late Mr. Richard Hewat, solicitor, Castle-Douglas. Leaving the Stewartry in 1867, he settled in Edinburgh, where he was employed first in the office of Messrs. W. & J. Cook, W.S., 61 North Castle Street,

<sup>6</sup> For the information contained in this paragraph I have to thank Mr. Macmath's cousin, Mrs. Hamilton, Dalbeattie, who got it from "Aunt Jeanie" long ago.

<sup>7</sup> "The meeting was one of the largest of the kind ever held in Dumfries, and the proceedings, which were the unconstrained expression of genuine affection and esteem, were characterised throughout by an unusual degree of concord and enthusiasm." *Dumfries and Galloway Standard*, 4th January, 1882.

and afterwards, for more than fifty years, in that of Messrs. Dundas & Wilson, 16 St. Andrew Square. Mr. William C. Bishop, W.S., of the last mentioned office, has favoured me with a note containing an interesting account of Mr. Macmath's professional career ; and I cannot do better than print it in full, as an appendix to this memoir.

Like Paulus Pleydell, one of his favourite characters in fiction, Mr. Macmath held that "a lawyer without history or literature is a mechanic, a mere working mason." He devoted nearly all his leisure to the study of books and manuscripts, and nobody could have a chat with him without perceiving that he had "eaten paper and drunk ink."<sup>8</sup> Those old bookshops which are among the glories of Edinburgh were haunted by him, and his eye was swift to discern prizes. Books were regarded by him as the real necessities of life. In a letter written a good many years after his removal to Edinburgh he said, "While my friends around me are making and saving money, I will probably have nothing to leave behind me but a few interesting books." It would have refreshed the soul of John Ruskin, who often lamented that the average Briton "starved" his library, could he have known how large a sum was annually expended on books and binding by an Edinburgh man of comparatively small means. Latterly Mr. Macmath's books and pamphlets numbered many thousands. His collection of ballads (which embraced

<sup>8</sup> "He hath not eat paper, as it were ; he hath not drunk ink."  
*Love's Labour Lost*, Act iv., Scene ii.

what Henley called the "vanished Mansfield MS."<sup>9</sup> and most of Kirkpatrick Sharpe's ballads in manuscript) and his collection of Galloway and Dumfriesshire books and tracts formed the distinctive features of his library, but he had numerous choice works in most departments of literature. Among the older English authors who appealed to him were Bacon, Selden, Sir Thomas Browne, Samuel Butler, and Pope. He possessed copies of no fewer than eleven editions of John Selden's *Table Talk*, including, of course, all the early editions. The nineteenth century authors of wide fame most frequently read by him were Scott, Carlyle, Ruskin, Thackeray, and Andrew Lang. Much though he liked Sir Walter Scott, he found it hard to forgive him for the liberties he sometimes took with old texts. "Scott," he said, "did almost everything which a ballad editor, as his duties are now understood, ought not to have done."<sup>10</sup>

Hundreds of volumes in Mr. Macmath's library were enriched with marginal notes from his pen, giving curious information on many subjects, and in some cases referring to intimate personal matters. In addition to his printed books and pamphlets he had a vast collection of cuttings from magazines and newspapers, poems in manuscript,

<sup>9</sup> This MS. was acquired by Mr. Macmath in 1900. It is one of the oldest of the Scottish Ballad and Song manuscripts, dating back to about 1780; and it has been in very few hands. Mr. Macmath surmised that the lady who made the collection was a Miss St. Clair. (See *The Poets of Dumfriesshire*, Glasgow, 1910, p. 80).

<sup>10</sup> Lockhart "firmly believed" that, in editing the Border ballads, Scott "interpolated hardly a line or even an epithet of his own" (*Life of Sir Walter Scott*, Vol. I., p. 380). But those who have compared the Glenriddell ballads as printed in the *Minstrelsy* with the original texts know that Sir Walter too frequently tried to improve old lays.

letters by men of note, and old law-papers.<sup>11</sup> He was also the possessor of a large number of drawings and other works of art, embracing etchings by Thackeray and Kirkpatrick Sharpe and water-colour sketches by Alexander Reid.<sup>12</sup>

Mr. Macmath soon became known in Edinburgh as an able "literary antiquary," and on 14th December, 1874, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. In later years he was also connected with another learned body—the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, of which he was one of the original members. At the meetings of this association he read numerous notes, exhibited rare volumes, and often joined in the discussions which took place, his remarks on such occasions being always listened to with deep interest. Two papers by him, entitled respectively "The Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript" and "The Ballad Manuscripts of Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe and James Skene of Rubislaw,"<sup>13</sup> were printed in the

<sup>11</sup> Among the deeds he lent me were an original Contract, dated at Kirkcudbright, 4th December, 1688, betwixt George Maxwell, Younger of Orchardtoun, and Hew McGuffog of Rusco, to which the Laird of Coul (then "Thomas Maxwell Younger of Cooll"), the hero of a famous ghost story, is the second attesting witness, and the "Post-nuptial Contract betwixt Provost Crosbie and his Ladie," 1741. Like Snuffy Davy, in *The Antiquary*, Mr. Macmath sometimes detected a ballad "among the leaves of a law-paper."

<sup>12</sup> Some interesting notes on this Scottish artist by Mr. Macmath's friend, Mr. John Muir, Glasgow, will be found in *The Athenæum* for 24th October, 1914.

<sup>13</sup> Of the fourteen Sharpe manuscripts described by Mr. Macmath nine were owned by himself.

*Publications* of the Society.<sup>14</sup> These papers supplied a want which had long been felt by every serious student of the ballad literature of Scotland. Referring to "The Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript," Professor Child wrote: "Your list is what the Germans call a piece of work that helps things on."

Two valuable articles were contributed by Mr. Macmath to *The Scots Peerage*—"Borthwick, Lord Borthwick" and "Gordon, Viscount of Kenmure." The preparation of these papers involved much labour, and while engaged upon them he sometimes remained in his study till four o'clock in the morning. In "Kenmure" he made an interesting conjecture regarding the identity of the hero of the song, "O, Kenmure's on and awa', Willie." It had generally been taken for granted that the piece related to William Gordon, sixth Viscount Kenmure, the recognised head of the Border Jacobites in the insurrection of 1715. Mr. Macmath, however, suggested that the hero of the song was possibly Robert Gordon, the fourth Viscount, who took a leading part in the Highland rising of 1653. This gallant and reckless young soldier organised levies in Galloway to fight for the second Charles, attracting recruits by exhibiting at the head of his corps a rundlet of strong waters called "Kenmore's Drum." He certainly seems more likely to have inspired a stirring lyric than the "grave, full-aged gentleman . . . too calm and mild to be

<sup>14</sup>The two papers are reprinted in the present volume (Appendix II.).

qualified for such a post," who was thrust into the Jacobite command in Southern Scotland in 1715.<sup>15</sup>

But the results of most of Mr. Macmath's labours are incorporated in the work of other men, for he gave ungrudgingly of his stores of knowledge to all who sought his help, and often engaged in troublesome research on behalf of strangers. Numberless letters remain to attest the zeal with which he aided inquirers in matters of history and literature.

His characteristic modesty always led him to underrate the value of his work. In thanking his friend, Mr. Thomas Fraser, Dalbeattie, for a well-deserved compliment which that writer had paid him, in the preface to his edition of the old lampoon, *The Galloway Herds* (1909), he declared that he was unworthy of high praise, "being a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water, as John Nicholson said of himself."<sup>16</sup> But, genuinely modest though he was, Mr. Macmath did not readily pardon correspondents who failed to make suitable acknowledgment in their writings of appreciable help received from him. In the great

<sup>15</sup> "Gordon, Viscount of Kenmure," in *The Scots Peerage*, edited by Sir James Balfour Paul, Vol. V., p. 121. There seems to have been a tradition in the Kenmure family connecting the old lyric with the rising in which the fourth Viscount figured. In Ruskin's *Præterita* (Vol. III., section 73) we read: "I was staying with Arthur and Joan at Kenmure Castle itself in the year 1876, and remember much of its dear people; and, among the prettiest scenery of Scottish gardens, the beautiful trees on the north of that lawn on which the last muster met for King Charles; "and you know," says Joanie, "the famous song that used to inspire them all, of 'Kenmure's on and awa, Willie.' ""

<sup>16</sup> John Nicholson, Kirkcudbright, who in 1843 published *Historical and Traditional Tales*. He died in 1866.

majority of cases his assistance was adequately acknowledged, but a few of the many writers who were indebted to him for information and the loan of materials did not consider it necessary even to name him in their books. This was not only wrong but also foolish, for discerning readers knew that the association of his name with a volume afforded a sufficient guarantee that the book was not worthless. It has been well said that his contributions "gave pith to many a volume."<sup>17</sup>

I have already referred to the fact that Mr. Macmath's name is inseparably associated with that of the great ballad editor, Francis James Child, Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory, afterwards of English Literature, in Harvard University.

The correspondence between Macmath and Child commenced in the spring of 1873 and continued till the death of the American scholar in September, 1896, thus covering a period of nearly a quarter of a century. All Child's letters and notes, with the envelopes that contained them, were mounted on strong paper and carefully preserved by the recipient, together with copies of the communications sent in reply.<sup>18</sup> The letters show that Mr. Macmath took almost inconceivable pains to secure good materials for his correspondent, and that Child was indebted to him not only for numerous and valuable texts, and for illustrative selections from rare old books of every kind, but also for many very helpful suggestions.

<sup>17</sup> *The Glasgow Herald*, 10th February, 1922.

<sup>18</sup> This huge pile of letters is now in the possession of Mr. E. A. Hornel, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright.



As far back as 1857-58 Professor Child had published a work in eight small volumes, called *English and Scottish Ballads*. It was based almost entirely on printed texts, and no one knew better than Child himself that, although it had much value, it was not an ideal collection. He began to prepare a new work, designed to embrace all the accessible popular ballads in the English language in their different forms. By collating manuscripts and early printed copies of the British ballads, and discarding editorial changes which did not seem justifiable, he hoped to get "as near as possible to genuine texts." To produce a satisfactory work it was necessary, in the first place, to make a strenuous effort to obtain some important manuscripts known to have been used by the chief English and Scottish ballad editors. At Professor Child's instance, Frederick James Furnivall applied to the descendants of Bishop Percy for permission to examine and print the entire contents of the seventeenth century manuscript which the editor of *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* found "lying dirty on the floor under a Bureau in ye Parlour" of Humphrey Pitt of Shiffnal, in Shropshire, "being used by the maids to light the fire." Eventually the famous Folio was handed to Furnivall, and in 1867-68 it was printed in London, and thus made available for public reference.<sup>19</sup>

Other materials being urgently needed, Professor Child addressed a letter to the readers of *Notes and Queries*,

<sup>19</sup> *Bishop Percy's Folio Manuscript*. Edited by John W. Hales and Frederick J. Furnivall, 3 Vols. (N. Trübner & Co.) Mr. Macmath had a list of the contents of the Manuscript in Percy's own handwriting.

asking them to lend him or his friend, Mr. Furnivall, any "original copies of printed ballads" or "unprinted manuscripts of ballads" in their possession, and to exert themselves to collect anything suitable which was still "left among the people."<sup>20</sup> This "Appeal" interested Mr. Macmath, and understanding that it was to be reprinted in the form of a circular, headed "Wanted, Old Ballads,"<sup>21</sup> he wrote to Furnivall offering to distribute separate copies in suitable quarters. As originally printed, Child's letter referred to a manuscript that would have been used by Professor Aytoun "had he lived to make a third edition of his collection." Mr. Macmath pointed out that three "editions" of the book in question, one of which might indeed be described as a reprint, were published before Aytoun's death in 1865; and Mr. Furnivall substituted the word "revised" for "third" in the circular.<sup>22</sup>

In March, 1873, Mr. Macmath sent to Mr. Furnivall some elaborate historical notes on "The Baron of Brackley," asking him to give them to Professor Child "as they stood,"<sup>23</sup> and early in April he transmitted a few notes on :

The grand old ballad of Sir Patrick Spence.

<sup>20</sup> *Notes and Queries*, 4th January, 1873.

<sup>21</sup> This heading did not commend itself to the severe taste of Mr. Macmath, who said it "smacked of an advertisement."

<sup>22</sup> Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Furnivall well knew the value of Mr. Macmath's work. Writing to him on 19th June, 1895, he said: "You have been, and are, most kind in helping Child; and no one else could give the help that you have done. All we Ballad men thank you for it."

<sup>23</sup> "The Baron of Brackley" was dealt with by Child in the Seventh Part of his work, pp. 73-89. In a note on p. 83 he said, "Mr. Macmath . . . suggested and urged the hypothesis of a mixture of two events in this ballad."

The subject of the first letter which Macmath sent to Child direct was "The Laird o' Logie," a piece relating to an occurrence in the time of James VI. On 9th May, 1873, the Professor wrote to Mr. Macmath thanking him for his assistance. Referring to the historical matter which his correspondent had furnished, he said: "The questions which you investigate are such as I am peculiarly ignorant of, and peculiarly unqualified to go into. So much the greater is my thankfulness." He regretted to say that his printed letter had met with but a poor response. "Some fifteen hundred or two thousand circulars dispersed through Scotland have brought out not one new ballad, and, so far, no unknown important version of an old one."

Child visited Scotland a month or two later, and on 8th August he called on Mr. Macmath at 16 St. Andrew Square.<sup>24</sup> As he mentioned to his friend, the primary objects of his trip to the Old World were health and recreation. But while in this country he managed to obtain the use of a manuscript which he justly regarded as second in importance only to the Percy Folio, the Motherwell MS.—a volume of nearly seven hundred pages in the neat handwriting of William Motherwell—being lent him by Mr. Malcolm Colquhoun Thomson, Glasgow. After his return to America the Professor became especially anxious to see the manuscripts of another Scottish editor, George Ritchie Kinloch, whose work, *Ancient Scottish*

<sup>24</sup> He was described by Mr. Macmath as "a short, pleasant-faced gentleman in a lightish tweed suit."

*Ballads recovered from Tradition and never before Published*, bears the same date as Motherwell's more widely known *Minstrelsy, Ancient and Modern* (1827). Mr. Kinloch was still living, and, having received a letter of introduction to him from Mr. George (now Sir George) M. Paul, Mr. Macmath waited upon him at his house in Edinburgh with the object of getting the use of his manuscripts for Child. Though willing to lend his valuable papers, Mr. Kinloch not unnaturally hesitated to incur the risk of sending them to America; and to obviate the necessity of transmission Mr. Macmath undertook to copy them for his correspondent. In January, 1874, he received a letter from Professor Child, saying, "Your proposition to copy the MSS. with your own hand relieves me from all fear about the *accuracy* of the transcript, and, as for the beauty of your writing, I never have seen the like." Mr. Macmath's transcript, which was a literal copy of the original, with all its interlineations and alterations, was finished in about twelve months, and, after being suitably bound, was sent to Child. The value of the duplicate was enhanced by a "Transcriber's Preface," which embodied much useful explanatory matter. After Mr. Kinloch's death, in 1877, Harvard College Library acquired the original—still through the agency of Mr. Macmath.<sup>25</sup>

Owing to indifferent health and pressure of College duties, Child made but slow progress in his work as a ballad editor. "I want two years to myself," he wrote

<sup>25</sup> An obituary notice of Mr. Kinloch, written by Mr. Macmath, appeared in *The Athenæum*, 28th April, 1877.

to Mr. Macmath, "but nobody has clear time except the man who does not know what to do with it." Towards the close of 1879 he had the ballad of "Gil Brenton" set up as a specimen of his book, "principally for the enlightenment of publishers, partly to arrange mechanical details." To show how anxious Mr. Macmath was that Professor Child's "edition of the Ballads" should be correct in every detail, I may quote some of his notes on the print :—

In title or heading of E, "Song Book" is printed in italics, the same as the printed works in the other headings. Should it not be in ordinary type, same as "MS." in A and F?

In prose introduction, p. 1, line 2, after A, should "Gil Brenton" not be added, if it is in MS.?

Lines 9 to 12. With etc. This is not a quotation, though marked as one.

P. 2, lines 5 and 8, "Leaves" and "song" are in the original "leaves" and "Song." Do not inverted commas imply a literal following, and is an author quoted not entitled to have his mind shewn as to his capital letters?

P. 2, last line. Take out inverted commas from "Illustrations."

In a letter to the Professor, dated 28th February, 1880, Mr. Macmath referred to one of his favourite English authors, John Selden. Percy in his *Reliques* states that four lines of "King Edward IV. and the Tanner of Tamworth," a once-popular ballad, were restored by him from a quotation in Selden's *Titles of Honor* (erroneously printed *Honour* by the Bishop).<sup>26</sup> "It seems now time," Mr. Macmath wrote to Professor Child, "that it should be

<sup>26</sup> *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*. Bohn's edition, Vol. I., p. 311.

mentioned that Selden quotes *eight* lines of the Ballad. . . . I annex an exact copy of the entire passage, preserving the spelling, capitals, and punctuation of the original—the verse being in black-letter, except the word ‘Esquire.’ It is not in the first edition of the work, a small quarto, 1614, but appears for the first time in the second edition, a small but thickish folio, 1631, page 836. Percy’s reference, therefore, is not precise enough.”

Mr. Macmath’s next letter related to “Johnny Cock,” an ancient Scottish ballad, well known in such forms as “Johnie of Breadislee,” in Scott’s *Minstrelsy*, and “Johny of Cocklesmuir,” in Kinloch’s *Ancient Scottish Ballads*. Some writers have located the scene of “this precious specimen of the unspoiled traditional ballad”—as Child describes “Johnny Cock”—in Dumfriesshire.

#### JOHNY COX OR JOHNNY COCK.

EDINBURGH, 2nd March, 1880.

DEAR SIR,

I annex an extract from an article called “A Two Days’ Tour in Annandale,” which appeared in *The Dumfries Monthly Magazine and Literary Compendium*, Vol. III., p. 246 (the passage being on p. 250), Dumfries, 1826. The Magazine was under the charge of Mr. William Bennet, by whom this article was written, and it ceased with this third volume, in consequence of his leaving Dumfries to assume the editorship of the *Free Press* Newspaper in Glasgow, in succession to Sheridan Knowles. While in Glasgow he was the intimate private friend of Motherwell (altho’ they were rival editors, on opposite sides, in very stormy times), and Motherwell dined with him on the last day of his life. (See Moir’s *Life of Macnish*, 356).

Mr. Bennet is still alive : he speaks of Motherwell in the highest terms, not so highly of Macnish.<sup>27</sup>

The tour is stated to have been made in the beginning of August (1826), and the article appeared in the September number of the Magazine. It is plain that Mr. Bennet was unaware of what had been printed by Ritson, Scott and Fry :<sup>28</sup> and Kinloch, Motherwell and Buchan had not yet appeared upon the scene. This is therefore an independent contribution to the story of the famous hunter.

Yours truly,

WM. MACMATH.

Professor Child.

P.S.—Another portion of this article is quoted in Moir's *Macnish*, 263, and Mr. Bennet is several times referred to, 156-343.

(In Thomson's Map of Dumfriesshire, dated in 1828, the name is given "Cocketfield," and there is also "Cocket Hill."—W. M.<sup>29</sup>)

Thomas Carlyle says that in May, 1834, at sight of London, he "hummed to himself" these words from a version of "Johnny Cock" sung by his mother :—

For there's seven foresters in yon forest,  
And them I want to see, see,  
And them I want to see.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> William Bennet, a native of Moniaive, died in Edinburgh, 3rd June, 1882. In his youth he could repeat a considerable number of traditionary ballads, learned from his mother. One of them was the foundation alike of his ballad "Young Edward" and of Dr. Simpson's tale, "A Legend of Morton Castle" (in *Traditions of the Covenanters*). See *The Poets of Dumfriesshire*, 1910, pp. 74, 75. Mr. Macmath was an intimate friend of Mr. Bennet and his family.

<sup>28</sup> Fry's two versions (Bristol, 1814) were transcribed from a quarto MS., "appearing to be the text-book of some illiterate drummer." Unsuccessful efforts to trace the MS. were made by Mr. Macmath.

<sup>29</sup> Professor Child used this information in his book, mentioning that he owed it to Mr. Macmath. "Cocketfield" appears in an older map than Thomson's—Crawford's Map of Dumfriesshire, 1795.

<sup>30</sup> *Reminiscences*, Vol. II., p. 171.

Mr. Macmath obtained from Mrs. Aitken, sister of Carlyle, the two lines which, in the following stanza, precede those already quoted :—

O busk ye, O busk ye, my three bluidy hounds,  
 O busk ye, and go with me,  
 For there's seven foresters in yon forest,  
 And them I want to see, see,  
 And them I want to see.<sup>31</sup>

Carlyle was so favourably disposed towards Child's work that he wrote on his behalf to the Hon. Mrs. Maxwell Scott of Abbotsford, the great-granddaughter of Scott, in regard to some of Sir Walter's manuscripts ; but it was not known in Carlyle's lifetime that he could repeat a few lines from " Johnny Cock." It seems probable that an Ecclefechan man named Pool was the source of the ballad sung by Mrs. James Carlyle.<sup>32</sup>

Among the texts furnished by Mr. Macmath in 1880 was a " full and good " version of " Lord Randal," a ballad familiar to many through Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*. The version was taken from a manuscript volume thus described by Mr. Macmath :—

<sup>31</sup> Letter from Mrs. Aitken to Mr. Macmath, dated 15th January, 1884.

<sup>32</sup> " Presently I have the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Jno. Carlyle Aitken, Nephew of my celebrated namesake ; to whom I handed yr Letter, but he cannot supply the want. He tells me that, when his Uncle Tom was a Boy, there was an old man of the name of Pool, from Ecclefechan, who frequently visited his Grandfather, & who sung & recited many old Border ballads ; & Mr. J. C. A. suggests as likely that the three lines [from " Johnny Cock "] you refer to had come to his Uncle's knowledge through this medium." —Letter from Thomas J. Carlyle, Templehill, Waterbeck, to Mr. Macmath, dated 4th January, 1884.



*Charles Mackie's Manuscript.*—A little oblong volume, if such it can be called, containing four pieces, not traditional, written about 1710, and the ballad "O where ha you been, Lord Randal, my son" in a late hand. *In possession of Mr. Macmath.*<sup>33</sup>

Professor Child attached so much importance to the Mackie text that he gave it the first place among his fifteen versions of "Lord Randal."<sup>34</sup>

At Christmas, 1882, the first instalment of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* came from the press, and on 20th January, 1883, Mr. Macmath received from Professor Child two copies of the part, one for himself, the other for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He did not quite like the title chosen, holding that as the work was exhaustive only so far as possible at the time, the word *The* should have been omitted; and he had criticisms to offer on a few other points.<sup>35</sup> But the instalment as a whole seemed to him a triumphant success. It embodied much fresh material, mostly taken from the collections of Motherwell and Kinloch, and all the material gathered was subjected to an adequate scrutiny. The introductions to the different ballads were especially noteworthy, being masterpieces of solid learning.

<sup>33</sup> "The Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript," in *Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society*. See Appendix II. in the present volume.

<sup>34</sup> *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, Part I., pp. 157, 158. A set of the ballad taken down by Miss Webster in Galloway was printed in Part II., pp. 499, 500.

<sup>35</sup> Professor Child had said, "I may rely upon your sharp eye to detect any slips and trips, and I shall be very glad to have it exercised." Mr. Macmath sent the Professor a memorandum book with notes on the Part.

In the beginning of 1883 Mr. Macmath asked several lovers of Scottish verse to help him in his quest for unprinted or merely locally printed ballads. From Miss Robertson, daughter of Dr. Joseph Robertson, the famous record scholar, he received a good version of the old Aberdeenshire ballad, "The Fire of Frendraught," and the loan of her father's Note-books, with permission to copy for Child any ballads contained in them. About the same time he got a set of "The Lochmaben Harper," one of the best of the Border lays, from the Rev. George Murray, Greenock, whose father, the Rev. George Murray of Troquhain, minister of Balmaclellan from 1838 to 1843, and again from 1851 to 1881, had taken it down from the singing of a half-witted woman in his parish, called Sarah Rae.<sup>36</sup> The music to which the woman sang the ballad was not obtained with the words, but after Child's death Mr. Macmath got a copy of it from Sir Arthur Mitchell.<sup>37</sup>

From Dr. Robert Trotter, Perth, a member of a well-known Galloway family, the indefatigable collector received a good many pieces. Most of them were lyrics and conse-

<sup>36</sup> Sarah sometimes sang an old English song, with this chorus :

" O the golden days  
Of good Queen Bess ;  
Merry be the memory  
Of good Queen Bess."

She was " the last person known to Mr. Murray—and he was a keen observer of such matters—to use the distaff."—Macmath MS., Vol. I., p. 35. The minister of Balmaclellan wrote some verses on Sarah, which appeared in a little volume entitled *Sarah Rae, a Link of the Past*, London, 1866.

<sup>37</sup> Preserved in the Macmath MS., Vol. II., p. 39. This MS. contains more than ninety ballads, songs and " other things " collected by Mr. Macmath during the thirty years between 1882 and 1912. In *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* it is mentioned as one of the sources of the texts given

quently outside the scope of Child's book. But among them was the following fragment of a Galloway version of a ballad known under a variety of names, such as "Katarine Janfarie," "Catherine Johnstone," "The Laird of Laminton," "Lochinvar," etc., and of special interest as the original of Sir Walter Scott's song, "Lochinvar":—

They askéd him and speiréd him,  
And unto him did say,  
" O, saw ye ocht o' an arméd band,  
As ye cam on your way ? "

He jested them and jeeréd them,  
And thus to them did say,  
" O, I saw nocht but a fairy troop,  
As I rode on my way."<sup>38</sup>

Dr. Trotter knew the whole of the Galloway ballad when he was a boy, in the distant 'forties ; but with the exception of the two verses given above it had now faded from his memory. " The story of the ballad," he wrote, " was that Lochinvar went to Netherby with a band of men dressed in green, whom he concealed near the Tower, and with whose assistance he forcibly abducted the young lady."<sup>39</sup> Lochinvar is the hero of the ballad in several printed versions.

in the work ; but only the first volume of the manuscript (which consists of two volumes) was known to Child. Miss Agnes Macmath is now the owner of the collection.

<sup>38</sup> Macmath MS., Vol. I., p. 72. The verses quoted were printed by Child, in Part VII., p. 230.

<sup>39</sup> Dr. Trotter to Mr. Macmath, 13th January, 1883.

In the prospectus of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, Professor Child had stated that the book would be completed in "about" eight parts. Writing to Mr. Macmath at the beginning of 1884 he said: "Time is short, my work goes on slowly, and I am afraid of dying before I get my eight parts done." But though conscious of the fact that the task he had undertaken was almost too great for his strength he bravely continued to grapple with it. In March, 1884, Mr. Macmath received from him a large parcel of proofs; and in July a copy of Part II., now through the press, arrived. The second instalment of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads* was equal in interest and value to the first. Good use was made in it of Robert Pitcairn's Manuscripts (1817-1825)<sup>40</sup> and the Note-books of Dr. Joseph Robertson—two collections borrowed from the owners by Mr. Macmath; and space was found for some fragments which had been recovered in Galloway by members of the Macmath family.

Part III., which was published early in the summer of 1885, embraced twenty-nine ballads, and among them were such favourites as "Sir Patrick Spens," "Fair Annie," "Clerk Saunders," "Lord Thomas and Fair Annet," and "The Wife of Usher's Well." A few months

<sup>40</sup> This collection is in three volumes, small 8vo. "It purports to be 'chiefly from Tradition,' but a considerable part is derived from printed sources. The few ballads taken down by Pitcairn are of good quality, and one fragment, 'Burd Ellen & Young Tamlane,' III., 47, is not found elsewhere." ("The Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript,"—see Appendix II. in present volume).

after the receipt of his copy of the number, Mr. Macmath sent to Professor Child "Notes and Corrections on Part III. of The English and Scottish Popular Ballads." His criticisms on the work done were gladly received by Child, who said, "Keep *your sharp eye* on me, I beg," and, again, "I always find your strictures useful, which is what I cannot say of other people's, when I *get any*."

The Fourth Part of Child's book was done with dispatch, and copies were in the hands of subscribers before the end of 1886. In the Advertisement to the Part the Professor expressed his obligation to Mr. Macmath, whose accuracy was "not surpassed by photographic reproduction," for several "facsimile copies" of manuscripts. Four ballad versions recovered from tradition in Galloway by Miss Jane Webster were included in the section.

Professor Child wished to devote the whole of the Fifth Part to the numerous Robin Hood ballads extant, but the number of separate versions of these being limited, he was obliged to take in some other pieces. The place of honour in the Part was given to "Johnny Cock," which he described in a letter to Mr. Macmath as "one of the prettiest of all ballads." Mr. Macmath said the ballad was not merely pretty, it was grand. Johnny Cock was a splendid man to start off with in Part V. Even his enemies admitted,

That there was not a man among them a'  
Would blaw such a blast as yon.

Part VI., which came out in July, 1889, had a unity wanting in some sections of Professor Child's book, con-

sisting, as it did, entirely of "historical ballads."<sup>41</sup> Among the pieces which made up the instalment were such famous recitals as "The Battle of Otterburn," "Johnie Armstrong," "Mary Hamilton,"<sup>42</sup> "Kinmont Willie" and "Jock o' the Side." Mr. Macmath helped the Professor in many ways in the preparation of this Sixth Part, and, as before, was "prodigal of time and pains."<sup>43</sup>

In the Introduction to the Seventh Part of his book, a number issued late in the Autumn of 1890, Professor Child acknowledged the liberality of Lord Rosebery in sending to Edinburgh for inspection a large collection of rare seventeenth century and eighteenth century Scottish broadsides, formed by David Laing and now the property of his lordship. The careful inspection of these sheets on behalf of "the most learned of editors" occupied a good deal of Mr. Macmath's spare time in the summer of 1890.

That same year a yet greater service was rendered to Professor Child by his friend. It had long been to Mr. Macmath a matter of regret that Child was not in a position to use the texts of the *Border Minstrelsy* ballads as given

<sup>41</sup> Ballads popularly regarded as historical. A good many of those given do not relate to incidents of which we have knowledge from independent and trustworthy sources.

<sup>42</sup> Much to the regret of Macmath, Child, in Part VI., expressed his acceptance of Sharpe's opinion that a Russian tragedy of 1719 gave rise to this very fine ballad. In a later number the Professor intimated that he no longer held the Russian theory, having come to think that the piece was probably evolved from "a notorious domestic occurrence of the date 1563, the adventure of Queen Mary's French maid and the apothecary." Mr. Macmath had discovered a text with these lines—

" My love he was a *pottinger*,  
Mony drink he gae me."

<sup>43</sup> Advertisement to Part VI.

in the original manuscripts. In a letter to the Rev. William Forbes-Leith, S.J., Selkirk, editor of *Narratives of Scottish Catholics under Mary Stuart and James Sixth* (1885), dated 28th January, 1890, Mr. Macmath expressed his hope that a thorough examination of the Abbotsford MSS. would shortly be permitted :—

You are perhaps aware that David Laing, a number of years ago, made application to the Abbotsford Trustees on behalf of Professor Child—or, as I ought rather to say, on behalf of the Ballad cause, for it is no mere selfish, personal matter with the Professor—and at a later date Thomas Carlyle wrote to Mrs. Maxwell Scott on the subject.

The reply on both occasions was, I understand, to the same effect : that there was no unwillingness to afford facilities to Professor Child, but that no Ballads in MS. could be found.<sup>44</sup>

It did not seem to me fitting that I should attempt to rush in where such eminent names had failed. But though silent, I have remained unconvinced and dissatisfied. Though the Abbotsford Library may contain no Ballads in MS. bound up together *as such*, the Ballads which Sir Walter collected in MS. must, I think, still be in existence, and are probably bound up with or form part of his correspondence. I have always felt that anyone having his heart in the matter, and having due permission, might find much in Abbotsford which, on patriotic grounds, ought not to be omitted from this great gathering of the National Ballads under the editorship of the most capable man now alive.

Father Forbes-Leith informed Mr. Macmath that Mrs. Maxwell Scott, who alone could grant permission to see

<sup>44</sup> Mr. Laing did get for Professor Child copies of some Abbotsford MS. ballads ; but they were of little value, not being original transcripts of ballads taken from oral tradition, but copies from the versions of Mrs. Brown of Falkland, altered and interpolated.

the papers of Sir Walter Scott, was quite willing that he should have access to the collection. Mr. Macmath then mentioned to Professor Child that he intended to devote his next summer vacation to the examination of the manuscripts at Abbotsford, as he found that it would not be possible to look at them except in holiday time. The Professor hesitated to take advantage of his kindness. "I have been only surprised," he wrote, "that you should have been able to give so much of your time to Ballads. I need not say that the more time you have given, the better it has been for the work. When it comes to your sacrificing your holidays I must in decency shrink and protest."<sup>45</sup>

But the Scott Collection could not safely be neglected ; and to be near it for a short time Mr. Macmath went to Melrose on 7th July, 1890. That same day he was met at Abbotsford by Father Forbes-Leith, who showed a hearty interest in his researches, and promised to do what he could to further them. During the next few weeks much fresh and valuable matter was obtained for the great ballad book.<sup>46</sup>

After his return to Edinburgh, Mr. Macmath wrote to Child :—

Pray dismiss from your mind the idea that I am anything of a martyr in having gone to Abbotsford in holiday time. I would have

<sup>45</sup> Letter dated 30th April, 1890.

<sup>46</sup> The Visitors' Book at Abbotsford has the following entry under 6th August, 1890 :—" Wm. Macmath, Edinburgh, Daily since 7th July, on behalf of The English and Scottish Popular Ballads, edited by Francis James Child."



gone years ago, if I had found a suitable opportunity for striking in, because I have regarded the omission of Abbotsford from among the sources of material in your book as a very grave reproach and scandal, which I am only too glad to be able at length to wipe out. At the same time, you will please not print any word about *holiday time*. It is a thing between ourselves that no other mortal has any concern with, and it is not known in my own office. It is known I was staying at Melrose, and that is all. The plain and simple truth is, that there is no other way of doing what is required ; and when that is said all is said.<sup>47</sup>

Mr. Macmath returned to Abbotsford in 1891, and again in 1892, sacrificing his holidays each year in the interests of Child's undertaking. A portion of Part VII. and a much larger portion of Part VIII. were devoted to texts from Abbotsford, many of which had not been used by Scott. All these texts, we read, "were transcribed with the most conscientious and vigilant care by Mr. Macmath, who has also identified the handwriting, has searched the numerous volumes of letters addressed to Sir Walter Scott for information relating to the contributors and for dates, and has examined the humbler editions of printed ballads in the Abbotsford library ; this without remitting other help."<sup>48</sup>

For a considerable time it had been clear to Professor Child that he would have great difficulty in getting all his matter compressed into eight Parts. Mr. Macmath strongly advised him to extend his limits : " All this talk of finishing in eight parts is absurd nonsense. The virtue was in the

<sup>47</sup> Letter dated 13th September, 1890.

<sup>48</sup> Preface to Part VIII.

‘about’ of the Prospectus, which gave clear warning to subscribers that it was impossible to say how many parts there might be. But there *was* a definite promise made—‘The collection will embrace *every* accessible independent *version* of *every* ballad.’ ”<sup>49</sup>

Two additional Parts were issued, the first containing ballads; the second a glossary, a bibliography, and indexes. While Part IX. was in course of preparation many of Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe’s manuscripts—which were known to comprise numerous ballad texts—were offered for sale. “All the ballads,” said Child in his Preface to the Part, “including, besides loose sheets, several sets of pieces, were secured by Mr. Macmath, and turned over to me (mostly in transcripts made by his own hand) with that entire devotion to the interests of this undertaking which I have had so frequent occasion to signalize. A particularly valuable acquisition was the ‘old lady’s complete set of ballads,’ mentioned by Scott in his correspondence with Sharpe, which was the original of most of the pieces in the Skene MS.”

The transcription of the old lady’s ballads was, in Professor Child’s words, “a fearful piece of work.” The poems were written very closely, with only a line between them in each case, and the lady’s writing and spelling were eccentric. The MS. contained many words that had baffled Skene, and would have baffled anyone but Child’s helper. “I would gladly send the originals for your use,”

<sup>49</sup> Macmath to Child, 17th January, 1891.

wrote Mr. Macmath to the Professor, "but it would *kill* you *outright* to set you to the reading and copying of them!!"<sup>50</sup>

Knowing that "the days of our years are three-score years and ten," and being painfully conscious of the fact that his health was precarious, Professor Child always feared that he might not live to complete his gigantic task. Fortunately, however, he had finished his book, except for the introduction and the general bibliography, before the end came, in 1896.<sup>51</sup> In accordance with the Professor's own wish and the wishes of his family, Professor George Lyman Kittredge, Harvard University, saw Part X. through the press. A bibliography was supplied, but no history of the collected ballads as a whole was given. Mr. Macmath honoured Mr. Kittredge for his decision not to write an Introduction to Child's book. In a note to Mrs. Child, his friend's widow, dated 3rd December, 1896, he said:—

It is just *because* he [Professor Kittredge] is an able and accomplished scholar, and a devoted pupil of Mr. Child, jealous of his fame, that he knows and feels that no proper Preface to the English and Scottish Ballads—at least in the present edition—can be written by him or any one else. A man who knew and cared less

<sup>50</sup> Letter dated 30th June, 1893.

<sup>51</sup> He died at Boston on 11th September, 1896, aged seventy-one. As a token of remembrance, he left to Mr. Macmath his copy of Edward Arber's *A Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London, 1554-1640*, in five folio volumes—a work of high value constantly referred to in *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*.

about it would have rushed in with a Preface without making any difficulty!<sup>52</sup>

Francis James Child was not the only professor with whom Mr. Macmath corresponded. Among his other literary friends were Professor Ewald Flügel, Stanford University, California, author of a *Chronological Index to the Ballads in Child's Printed Collection* [in German]; Professor Henry M. Belden, University of Missouri, who recovered many strays of balladry in the Western States of America; and Professor Hans Hecht of Basel University, now of Göttingen University, best known in this country as the editor of David Herd's MS. Songs.<sup>53</sup> In an article published in 1910, Dr. Hecht paid a compliment to Mr. Macmath, whom he had visited in Edinburgh:—

One meets with joy and reverence this friend of Child, with his personality unaltered by old age—whether it be in the dusty rooms and stalls of his favourite bookseller in George Street, or in the friendly domesticity of the remote Hamilton Place.<sup>54</sup>

Many years after the publication of the article quoted, Professor Hecht asked leave to dedicate a projected English translation of a work in German on Robert Burns to the “kind friend” who had “done so much, and in so

<sup>52</sup> An abridged edition of *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*, under the joint editorship of Helen Child Sargent and Professor Kittredge, was issued in 1904. It has a useful Introduction.

<sup>53</sup> *Songs from David Herd's Manuscripts*, Edinburgh, 1904.

<sup>54</sup> *Englische Studien*, Leipzig, O. R. Reisland, p. 306. The quotation given above is from a translation of Dr. Hecht's article by Mr. James T. Johnstone, M.A. Mr. Macmath resided at 90 Hamilton Place.

disinterested a way, for the literature of Scotland.”<sup>55</sup> The translation has not yet appeared.

The publication in 1902 of a new edition of the *Border Minstrelsy* interested Mr. Macmath greatly. He rendered a little assistance in connection with the work, and his help was thus acknowledged by the editor, Mr. T. F. Henderson : “ Very special thanks are due to Mr. Macmath of Edinburgh for permission to make use of his old MS. copy of ‘ The Raid of the Red Squair,’ and for valuable information regarding the ballad of ‘ Helen of Kirconnell ’ and other matters.”<sup>56</sup> The copy of “ The Raid of the Red Squair ” or “ The Raid of the Reidswire,” a ballad describing one of the last of the Border skirmishes, was found by Mr. Macmath amongst some old law papers. His account of the discovery of the copy is interesting :—

By the kind permission of Mr. Hugh Lockhart, S.S.C., I have to-day had the privilege of examining two boxes of manuscripts in his custody, taken from the drawers of the secretaire in the room of the late Mr. George Wilson, S.S.C., at his (Mr. Wilson’s) office.

I was searching for an old MS. supposed to be of The Outlaw Murray, and soon came upon a piece of verse in a distinct and beautiful handwriting of the seventeenth century, and, to my thinking, early rather than late in that century. It proved to be, not The Song of The Outlaw Murray, but The Song of the ridsquare, and is clearly earlier than the only copy of that piece hitherto known to literary or ballad men. Near it I found an old MS. volume relating to the Carmichael Family, with which I have no doubt it is associated.

. . . . .

<sup>55</sup> Letter dated December, 1920.

<sup>56</sup> Mr. Henderson’s Prefatory Note to his edition of *The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, William Blackwood & Sons, Vol. I., xxxiv-v.

The message which I received in Mr. Wilson's lifetime referred to one Ballad only, and it seems probable that by mistake the Outlaw Murray was named instead of the Ridsquare.

WM. MACMATH.<sup>57</sup>

EDINBURGH, 23rd December, 1895.

In 1910 Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. Fitzwilliam Elliot published a volume entitled *Further Essays on Border Ballads*. The book was able and interesting, but most students of ballad literature refused to agree with the author that "Kinmont Willie" was entirely the work of Scott, and that "Auld Maitland" was a forgery by Hogg, palmed off on the public by Scott.<sup>58</sup> Having resolved to defend Sir Walter from charges that he justly regarded as grave, Andrew Lang wrote to Mr. Macmath, with whom he had many years before had a little correspondence, asking information on various points. Mr. Macmath's help was gladly given, and his minute knowledge of the manuscripts at Abbotsford, which papers Colonel Elliot had not taken the trouble to examine, proved highly useful to his correspondent, especially when "Auld Maitland" was under consideration. "Can you remember," Mr. Lang asked, "if there is any *Auld Maitland* MS. at Abbotsford?" Mr. Macmath replied: "Fortunately I do not require to apply to my recollection as to any ballad material at Abbotsford which I thought important. I brought

<sup>57</sup> Macmath MS., Vol. II., p. 40. This MS. contains an exact copy of the original, page for page and line for line.

<sup>58</sup> "My view is that Hogg in the first instance tried to palm off the ballad on Scott, and failed; and that then Scott palmed it off on the public, and succeeded." (*Further Essays on Border Ballads*, Edinburgh, 1910, p. 247).

everything with me in black and white. I knew that Child did not intend to print Auld Maitland,<sup>59</sup> but I knew (or supposed) also that Maitland would continue to be of interest, and therefore secured him. I enclose him for your use, and also Hogg's letter of June 30, which refers both to Telfer and Maitland. As I take these out of bound volumes you will kindly return them that they may be replaced."<sup>60</sup>

A careful study of all the known facts about "Auld Maitland," a ballad published in the second edition of the *Border Minstrelsy*, which appeared in April, 1803, strengthened Andrew Lang's belief that it was not a "fake" by the Shepherd; and in an article contributed to *Blackwood's Magazine* he affirmed his confidence in the good faith of both Hogg and Scott. At the close of the article he said:—

But for the very kind assistance of Mr. William Macmath, who aided me with his exhaustive knowledge of the Abbotsford MSS., and with his exact transcripts of the Hogg-Laidlaw MS., and of letters from Hogg to Scott, I could not have so thoroughly cleared the honesty of both "the laird" and "the herd."<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> I find among the Child-Macmath letters this pithy undated note by the Professor (probably written in January, 1889): "I will have nothing to do with the Outlaw Murray or Auld Maitland—dreadful bores both of them. I wonder that Sir W. could take them in—or they him." Afterwards Prof. Child decided to give a place in his collection to the "Outlaw," but I do not think he ever spoke of inserting "Auld Maitland." Unluckily, he did not give in detail his reasons for rejecting the ballad. "Maitland," said Andrew Lang, "is a much more difficult problem than Mr. Child guessed." (Letter to Macmath, 20th April [1910]).

<sup>60</sup> Letter dated 19th April, 1910.

<sup>61</sup> "The Mystery of 'Auld Maitland,'" in *Blackwood's Magazine*, for June, 1910.

Several of the letters which passed between Mr. Lang and Mr. Macmath related to "Kinmont Willie," a ballad in comparison with which the most spirited of the Lays of Macaulay and of Aytoun are tame. The conclusion of the ballad first received attention. In *The Poets of Dumfriesshire* the present writer had conjectured that the animated closing verse of "Kinmont Willie" had its origin in four lines contained in the Glenriddell MS. version of "Archie o' Cafeld," but not given in the *Minstrelsy* copy of that ballad :—

Surely thy minnie has been some witch,  
Or thy dad some warlock has been,  
Else thow had never attempted such,  
Or to the bottom thow had gone.

Reviewing the book in *The Morning Post*, Andrew Lang said he agreed with the writer that in putting "Kinmont Willie" into shape Sir Walter Scott made use of lines in an "Archie" ballad, but he suggested that the adaptation was from a version which Bishop Percy received from Miss Fisher of Carlisle in 1780, not from that in Glenriddell. Certainly the last four lines of "Kinmont Willie" bear a closer resemblance to the stanza from the Percy "Archie o' Cafield" which Lang quoted in his review than to the Glenriddell stanza. But had Scott seen the Percy MS. of "Archie"? Being asked that question by Lang, Mr. Macmath said emphatically, "You may take it that Scott never saw the Archie o' Cawfield which Percy got in



1780.”<sup>62</sup> Mr. Lang was now led to the welcome conclusion that the “Kinmont” stanza was taken down from the mouth of a reciter, not adapted from any written verse:—

1 Marloes Road, W.,

May 4.

MY DEAR SIR,

If Scott never saw the Percy MS. of *Archie o' Ca'field* (and apparently he did not), still stanza 42 in it is much more like the last in *Kinmont*, than 28 in *Glenriddell* or 31 in *Buchan*.

“ I think some witch has bore thee, Dicky,  
Or some devil in hell been thy dadee ;  
I would not swum that wan water [double-horsed],  
For a' the gold in Christenty.”

If Scott did not take the Scrope speech in *Kinmont* from *that*, then he heard it recited nearly so, in one ballad or another ; and improved it.<sup>63</sup> He keeps very close to the Percy formula, and could not have come so very near it only from the *Glenriddell* 28. Now I am sure he never saw the Percy MS. ; so he must have heard something very like it.

Mr. James Telfer is where you place him, but is not historic.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Lockhart says, “ Scott opened in the same year [1800 or 1801] a correspondence with the venerable Bishop of Dromore, who seems, however, to have done little more than express a warm interest in an undertaking so nearly resembling that which will ever keep his own name in remembrance.”—*Life of Sir Walter Scott*, Vol. I., p. 330.

<sup>63</sup> Three ballads of rescue—“ Kinmont Willie,” “ Archie o' Cawfield ” and “ Jock o' the Side ”—were printed in the *Minstrelsy*, and Scott writes regarding them, “ As there are several verses, which, in recitation, are common to all these three songs, the Editor, to prevent unnecessary and disagreeable repetition, has used the freedom of appropriating them to that in which they seem to have the best poetic effect.”

<sup>64</sup> “ Mr. James Telfer ” is the hero of the ballad of “ Jamie Telfer of the Fair Dodhead.” Mr. Macmath had said, “ I don't mind very much whether Jamie Telfer is a person or not, so long as he is allowed standing room in the same company as Robin Hood and Sir Patrick Spens.”

Did you ever notice, in Satchells,<sup>65</sup> the dedication to Scott of Gala, beginning "O! for a Quill of that Arabian wing"? (p. 38, 1894). This is admirable Elizabethan verse: see also p. 12: both in the *Postral*. I have consulted the learned: they know no source for these verses. If Satchells composed them he really was *inspired*. If he stole them—whence?

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

A. LANG.

In his answer to this letter, Mr. Macmath said:—

I do not dissent from your argument about the swimming of that wan water for a' the gowd in Christentie. It is quite fairly put. And if Scott never heard any verses of Kinmont Willie not made by himself he cannot be held to be speaking the truth in the Minstrely. His language is not equivocal, whatever Colonel Elliot may say to the contrary.

I shall look at Satchells, with whom I am less familiar than I ought to be. Not having been able to achieve the original edition, I have turned up my nose at the re-issues.<sup>66</sup>

Andrew Lang's next letter contained these jubilant words: "I'm winning! Satchells serves my purpose." Clearly "Kinmont Willie" and the account of Buccleuch's exploit in rescuing the Scottish reiver from Carlisle Castle given in Satchells's *True History* are not independent, and Lang was able to give good reasons for his belief that a ballad now represented by the "Kinmont" of the *Border*

<sup>65</sup> Captain Walter Scott of Satchells's *A True History of Several Honourable Families of the Right Honourable Name of Scot.* (1688).

<sup>66</sup> Letter dated 5th May, 1910. Mr. Macmath afterwards bought a copy of the Hawick reprint of the book.

*Minstrelsy* was in existence before the old chronicler's narrative in verse, and that it formed one of its sources. Though Mr. Macmath had been baffled in his diligent search at Abbotsford for a manuscript "Kinmont Willie," he was as confident as Mr. Lang that Scott when engaged on the *Minstrelsy* had before him some fragments of an ancient ballad on the rescue of the freebooter. "As regards 'Kinmont Willie,'" he said to me, "I can't go a yard with the Colonel. It has the undoubted ring of an old ballad, patched up and added to by a modern hand."

Late in 1910 Mr. Lang published *Sir Walter Scott and the Border Minstrelsy*, a work in which he maintained that facts made havoc of the conjectures of the Higher Criticism regarding such compositions as "Auld Maitland," "Jamie Telfer of the Fair Dodhead,"<sup>67</sup> and "Kinmont Willie." In the last chapter of the book he printed "Simmy o' Whythaugh," "The Young Ruthven," and "The Dead Man's Dance," "fakes of his own"—exhibiting them in connection with an opinion expressed by Professor Kit-tredge that it would not be possible for any versifier to-day to deceive readers with imitations of traditional ballads. Some months before the publication of the book he had sent a copy of "Simmy o' Whythaugh" to Mr. Macmath, asking him to consider it, and help to remove any evidences of modernity. The versatile author's intention was innocent, but Mr. Macmath had a horror of all imitations, and in a characteristic note he refused to assist in the improvement of "Simmy":—

<sup>67</sup> Mr. Macmath told me that, as concerns "Jamie Telfer," he was "nearer Colonel Elliot than Mr. Lang."

16 St. Andrew Square,  
Edinburgh,

22nd April, 1910.

MY DEAR SIR,

I got "Young Ruthven" in a present, when he was born—from Mr. Blaikie, as I suspected. I had no doubts about the parentage, and may frankly confess I was not in a very good humour for some time after the reading.

"Simmy o' Whythaugh" I thought better done, certainly less objectionable because of the accompanying prose. But I am not going to take part in the further improvement of Simmy! I am a very humble adherent of the other School! I would rather give such information as I have about any number of old ballads than suggest a single word for a new one! And, besides, D. & W.<sup>68</sup> have some little claim on my time and attention!

Yours in haste,

Faithfully,

WM. MACMATH.

Andrew Lang, Esqre.

Mr. Lang hoped to have an opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with his correspondent, but only a brief portion of his life now remained, and the two great lovers of Scottish ballads never met. Mr. Macmath received the news of Mr. Lang's sudden death, on 20th July, 1912, with much regret. A fine poem entitled "In Memoriam—Andrew Lang," which appeared in *The Spectator*, one of his favourite papers, was highly appreciated by him, and I have heard him recite with deep feeling these lines from the piece: --

Master of mockery and scorn,  
Your praise was potent to adorn;

<sup>68</sup> Dundas & Wilson, his employers.

And never did you flag or falter  
In lauding Homer or Sir Walter.

. . . . .

Farewell, O Blondel of our day,  
Fighter and singer, brave and gay,  
Whose scutcheon never bore a stain,  
When shall we see your like again ? <sup>69</sup>

Many of the letters on literary subjects written by Mr. Macmath during the last few years of his life were addressed to me. As far back as 1898 I had the honour of being introduced to him by the late Mr. James Macdonald, W.S., Depute Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, and we became firm friends at once. Learning that I had begun to write a book on the Poets of Dumfriesshire, he lent me an exquisitely beautiful copy of the Glenriddell Ballad MS., made by himself, and a large collection of the papers of Kirkpatrick Sharpe. Through his kindness I was enabled to print in my book a portion of a hitherto unpublished version of "The Lochmaben Harper" from the Mansfield MS., a copy of "Annie Laurie" exactly as given in Kirkpatrick Sharpe's MS., and other texts of considerable value. In later days he lent me numerous books and pamphlets, including all his scarce Border chap-books; and to the end of his life he never failed to communicate to me any information acquired by him which seemed likely to be of use to me in my small researches.

<sup>69</sup> *The Spectator*, 27th July, 1912. Mr. Lang's letters and copies of Mr. Macmath's replies were mounted on stout quarto sheets, and bound in dark grey cloth. The volume is now in the library of Mr. Hornel.

During all the years in which his pen was so busy, Mr. Macmath lived quietly at 90 Hamilton Place, in the midst of his books. Unlike his friend Professor Child, whose love of flowers he shared, he had no beautiful rose-garden, but a few ferns were cultivated by him. In a letter written at Melrose he said to Child :—

My ferns have one advantage over your roses—they are more easily associated with ballads. I have a maidenhair spleenwort (I think that's the name) growing well, which two years ago I picked out of the wall of Earlstoun Tower, and since I came here I have appropriated a prickly shield from the bank of Huntly, where True Thomas sat, and another fern from a wall near Melrose Abbey, where the Knight of Liddesdale and the Earl of Douglas were buried.

For Mr. Macmath the hills and moors of Galloway never lost their charm, and nearly every summer he spent a month in the heart of the Stewartry, rejoicing in the sights and sounds of Nature. His last visit to Galloway was paid in August 1921, just a few months before his death. On 31st December 1921 he retired from the responsible position he had long occupied in the office of Messrs. Dundas & Wilson. A month later his friends at 16 St. Andrew Square were startled to learn that he had passed away. He died on 30th January 1922, at the age of seventy-seven, after an illness of about a fortnight, and his remains were deposited in the family burying ground in the old Galloway churchyard of Parton.

As the portrait which adorns this book well shows, Mr. Macmath's face was full of character. I understand that

in personal appearance he bore a close resemblance to a Scottish judge who died a few years ago. He was always dressed in seemly black ; his speech was measured ; and in manner he had the quiet dignity and unobtrusive courtesy of a gentleman of the old school. In politics he was a Liberal after the pattern of Mr. Gladstone, whom he greatly admired,<sup>70</sup> but in most things he was intensely conservative. "The old is better," was with him a favourite saying. Any wanton change in custom always excited his horror. To remove ancient landmarks was, in his view, a positive crime. So great was his indignation at the cutting down of some old trees at Airds, that after the outrage he ceased to visit the house where his happiest hours had been spent.

Mr. Macmath was able to recognise unsound literary work at a glance. He had nothing but contempt for authors who indulged in baseless conjectures and gave quotations at second-hand. As a writer on ballads he belonged to the school of Ritson and Motherwell, not to that of Percy and Scott. He could not tolerate unacknowledged interference, however slight, with original texts:<sup>71</sup> the "faking" of ballads seemed to him a deadly sin. His accuracy was unfailing, and he put conscience into every stroke of his pen. In all his investigations his one desire

<sup>70</sup> He had a large collection of caricatures and other pictures of Mr. Gladstone.

<sup>71</sup> On one occasion he vigorously protested to Child against the expansion of a contraction in a text, and the Professor acknowledged that he was right. Mr. Macmath always said, "To me the charm is gone if an old manuscript is rendered otherwise than as it stands."

was to ascertain the truth. "I wish the evidence had been on the other side," he would sometimes say, "but the truth is always valuable." On different occasions I suggested to him that he should write a book on Scottish Ballad Literature. Since the publication of Child's work he had gathered a good many fresh texts, and had gone minutely into various questions connected with the history of the older Scottish ballads. But his leisure was scanty ; he seemed to find consecutive writing burdensome ; and he had that "sense of fine perfection" which often makes the ablest men hesitate to undertake suitable work.

Gifted though he was, Mr. Macmath received none of those public honours that are sometimes showered on much less useful and interesting men ; but such scholars as Child and Kittredge in America, Furnivall and Andrew Lang in England, and Hans Hecht in Switzerland, all recognised the permanent value of his work, and revered him as a student who loved knowledge for its own sake. It is pleasant to relate that a worthy tribute was paid to his memory by the association with which he was most closely identified. At a meeting of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, held on 9th February, 1922, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

That the Society places on its Minutes a record of the very great loss which it has sustained by the death of its highly gifted member and past President, Mr. William Macmath, for long recognised as the first authority on Scottish Ballad Literature, one of the founders of the Society, whose many contributions to its proceedings include the two notable and valuable studies of Scottish Manuscript Ballads printed in its Papers, and who in many other ways loyally and zealously



forwarded its interests : and that the Secretary be instructed to send an excerpt of the Minute to Miss Macmath, with an expression of the deep sympathy of the Members in her heavy loss.

I cannot close this brief sketch without saying that the memory of William Macmath will always be affectionately cherished by his personal friends. According to Oliver Wendell Holmes, the brain not infrequently “ runs away with the heart’s best blood.” But Mr. Macmath was at once a great student and a kindly, hospitable and utterly unselfish man. If the sacrifice had been required, he would, like Saint Dominic, have sold even his books and manuscripts to help others. His life was singularly rich in what Wordsworth calls—

“ Little, nameless, unremembered acts  
Of kindness and of love ”



# APPENDIXES.



## APPENDIX I.

NOTE BY MR. WILLIAM C. BISHOP, W.S.

My acquaintance with William Macmath, as a fellow-worker on the staff of Messrs. Dundas & Wilson, extended over the long period of almost fifty-two years. In the earlier and more intimate days of that acquaintance, he used to tell me something of his previous experiences as a law clerk in the employment of Mr. Richard Hewat, writer in Castle-Douglas, and of Messrs. W. & J. Cook, W.S., from which last mentioned office he joined that of Messrs. Dundas & Wilson in the Spring of 1870. Altogether his business life cannot have been of much less duration than sixty years. Associated with him for so long a time, it may seem strange that, being asked to give some short account of my late friend's career as a "limb of the law," I should feel some difficulty in complying with the request. The truth, it must be admitted, is that he did not, any more than Charles Lamb, one of his favourite authors, love his official desk, or feel any particular ambition to distinguish himself at it.

In the seventies of last century old customs in the conduct of business still largely prevailed in Messrs. Dundas & Wilson's office, in particular the payment of junior clerks by their "writings" at so much a sheet. Macmath's very neat, while essentially individualistic, caligraphy ensured his pretty constant employment as a penman, more constant perhaps than he liked. In some of the deeds in which his handwriting survives he took a certain pride, but in none I think that he put out at 16 St. Andrew Square so much as in a duplicate or copy which he made of the Deed of Mortification by Thomas Carlyle to the University of Edinburgh of the lands of Craigenputtock, the original of which was "extended" by our mutual friend James Steven Burns in Messrs. Cook's office.

Macmath and I were early drawn to each other by a common taste for antiquities and research ; but the predilection thus shared very soon led us in widely different directions. Under the system of payment by

“ piece work ” which I have mentioned, the apprentice or junior clerk who wished to advance in his profession by undertaking more responsible work had to sacrifice money, if he did so in office hours, or leisure, if he worked at home. It was at this critical time that our common taste for research affected my friend and me in different ways. I drifted in the direction of charters and teinds, where of course a vast field of usefulness was open to me within the limits of my employment:\* he came across Professor Child and gave all his energy and enthusiasm to that quest of ballad literature and kindred subjects which became his real life work, but which as regards his office work was of practically no value to him. After vainly trying to induce him to follow me in the direction of legal antiquities, I could only share with his other friends at 16 St. Andrew Square the hope that some post more congenial to him than a clerkship in a law office would come in his way, but that was not to be.

Of course in so large a business as that of Messrs. Dundas & Wilson, it would have been surprising if at no point Macmath's attainments as a genealogist and bookman had come to be useful to them. The successful claim of a client of Messrs. Cook to the Borthwick peerage, in connection with which he was employed and attended before the Committee of Privileges at Westminster, gave him a certain prestige in such matters; and led to his being entrusted with the interests of those noble clients of the firm who from time to time requested the suffrages of their peers in the recurring elections of Scottish representative peers at Holyrood. Nor did his knowledge of books and acquaintance with booksellers and bookbinders fail to be useful at some time or other. I remember particularly the interest he took in the Mazarin Bible when, for some years, it reposed in the firm's strong room.

Macmath was never definitely attached to any special department of work in the office, but as the years passed and payment by “ writings ” was superseded by fixed emolument, he was entrusted with a variety of work in which his natural ability, too little aided by special study,

\* In recognition of these proclivities of mine, I owe to gifts from him on two special occasions a very presentable copy of “ Dirleton's Doubts ” and a neatly-framed engraving of old Holyrood.

carried him through to the general satisfaction of his employers. Certainly not always to his own, for his was a nature which did not incline to compromise, and not infrequently the policy of give and take had to be enforced upon him by his superiors. In the earlier days, before Estate work was entrusted to a special department, such incidental business was not confined to the desk ; and our friend had his share in country work, which was by contrast a relaxation. Presiding at rent collections, rousps of grass parks, sales of growing corn and the like, and, not being given to suffer fools gladly, I am afraid he was not so popular as some of us with those of the company assembled who set at least as much store on the attendant refreshments as on the business of the day. A special piece of work of Macmath's which comes to my mind is the re-arrangement and docqueting, in his own neat and methodical way, of the business letters received by Mr. James Dundas, C.S., between 1791 and 1831. I recall the interest with which, on discovering it, he would point to a letter from one of the eminent men or their connections who flourished at that time, *e.g.*, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, and Gilbert Burns, the letter of the last-named being carefully scanned for any reference to the writer's illustrious brother. As the years continued to roll on, the work entrusted to our late friend became almost purely formal, and latterly indeed was almost nominal.

I have only to add in a few words an impression of William Macmath in the lighter aspects of office life. At all times popular, and friend as well as comrade of the staff in its ever-changing units, there was a shade-of touchiness in his composition which repelled too great freedom in intimacy. Latterly he became the Nestor whose advice was first asked in all matters of common interest, such as the form of a presentation to a departing comrade, and the phrasing of an inscription or address. He loved to attend any social meeting of the staff ; and if he preferred at times to recite a ballad, the theme of which was not necessarily of a cheerful character, to making a speech, he had a fund of anecdote related with a kind of dramatic touch of tone and gesture, and a facility for pungent comment on men and things, which made his company on such occasions very acceptable. Although not himself a golfer, it was his custom for many years to accompany the 16 St. Andrew Square

Golf Club on their annual meeting at Archerfield, and to join in the symposium which followed at Dirleton Inn.

Some five or six years my senior, I found Macmath, when I first knew him, much more widely read than I in general literature, which I had perhaps too much neglected for the legal studies which had not attracted him ; and I owed to him, I think, my first acquaintance with Thackeray, George Eliot, Samuel Warren and the later English Dramatists. Observing our late friend and comrade, Thomas Tait Sim, or me glancing at a financial paper in the newsroom of the Philosophical Institution, it was his custom to playfully warn us against incurring the fate of Colonel Newcome with the Bundelcund Bank. I found him in a modest way a theatre-goer, and a collector of playbills ; and I can remember his conservative instincts being offended when these were superseded by the modern programme. I recall other instances of his dislike of change ; and a favourite quotation of his from Carlyle was the well-known reference to " Doghood suffrage not yet treated of." Yet in politics he was through life a Gladstonian, or, as he himself called it, a Party Liberal.

When, towards the end of 1921, it became evident that age and infirmity had terminated our friend's usefulness to his employers, it was intimated that he was to be retired at 31st December, on a pension equal to his full salary. It was as a matter of course proposed by the staff that they should give him, at parting, some tangible mark of the esteem and regard in which we all held him. This, however, on hearing of it, he positively refused to accept : nor would he even receive an address. All that he would agree to as a memento of the occasion was the signature of each one of us, from myself, the sole survivor of 1870, to the latest joined, in an Album which he carried round.

We little thought when we gave the final handshake that one short month would cover the period of our friend's retirement. At work on an old letter book, or treading the familiar route between the office and the " Phil," I often think of him and the days that are done. May he rest in peace in the green churchyard of his beloved Parton !



## APPENDIX II.

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# THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SCOTTISH POPULAR BALLADS IN MANUSCRIPT

By WILLIAM MACMATH.

[THIS Bibliography, compiled in 1891-93, forms part of the *Publications of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society* (vol. I., 1896, pp. 9 and 20), and is reprinted here by permission. A slight but necessary re-arrangement and a few alterations have been made. Most of Mr. Macmath's own collections of Ballads in Manuscript were purchased from his executors by Mr. E. A. Hornel, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright, but a few have passed to other collectors; and the names of the *present* possessors have been substituted for that of Mr. Macmath wherever necessary. The same remark applies to any other items that are known to have changed hands since 1893.]

WHILE adhering in the main to its title, the following list notices a few pieces not especially Scottish as distinguished from English, and some not strictly of the nature of Popular Ballads which have been customarily regarded as such.

'YT FELL ABOWGHT THE LAMASSE TYDE' [The Battle of Otterburn.]

Cotton MS. Cleopatra, c. iv., leaf 64.

about 1550.

ANOTHER COPY. Harleian MS. 293, leaf 52.

*Both in British Museum.*

'THE PÆRSË OWT OFF NORTHOMBARLONDE' [The Hunting of the Cheviot.]

MS. Ashmole, 48.

about 1550.

*Bodleian Library.*

The theme of these two ballads is one of equal interest to Englishmen and Scotsmen. It is treated in both instances from an English standpoint.

GEORGE BANNATYNE'S MANUSCRIPT.

1568.

' Quhy sowld no<sup>t</sup> allane honorit be ' [Allan a'Maut], fol. 107. ' The wyf of auchtirmwchty,' fol. 120. ' This hinder zeir I hard be tald ' [The Bludy Serk], fol. 325. ' Robene sat on gud grene hill ' [Robene and Makyne], fol. 365.

Added about the beginning of the eighteenth century, ' The song of the rid sqware.'

*Advocates' Library.*

Though sometimes found in our printed ballad books, these pieces are not truly popular ballads.

' IT BEFELL AT MARTYNMAS ' [Captain Car, or, Edom o Gordon.]

Cotton MS. Vespasian, A. xxv., No. 67, fol. 187. 1575-1600.

It is a remarkable circumstance that of a ballad upon an incident in purely Scottish history, of which there is no copy in a Scottish form till about two hundred years later, there should be two distinct copies in English manuscripts, one of them almost contemporary with the event, and the other less than a century posterior. This is the earlier of the two, and the second is in the Percy folio.

*British Museum.*

BISHOP PERCY'S FOLIO MANUSCRIPT.

about 1650.

Additional MSS., 27879.

The most famous collection of popular ballads in the language, of which, even in its mutilated and imperfect state, the English nation has just reason to be proud. See the print of the manuscript by Hales and Furnivall, 1867, and Ward's Catalogue of MS. Romances in the British Museum, I., 1883. What concerns us here is the fact that this manuscript, English as it is, contains a number of ballads in which Scotland can claim a special interest, of one kind or another. Certain of those pieces are founded on historical events, the common property of England and Scotland, such as: ' Durham ffeilde,' p. 245, ' S<sup>r</sup> Andrew Bartton,' 490, ' fflodden ffeilde,' 117, ' Musleboorrowe ffeild,' 54, ' Northumberland Betrayd by Dowglas,' 259, and ' John a Side,' 254, as well

as 'Cheuy Chase,' 188, whose noble original has already been mentioned. In others of them (in addition to Captaine Carre, p. 34) either the scene of the story is laid in Scotland or the principal actors are Scots, witness 'Kinge James & Browne,' p. 58, 'Earle Bodwell,' 272, 'Will Stewart & Iohn,' 428, and 'Christop[h]er White,' 513. The manuscript further embraces, in an English form, several romantic ballads that we have also in Scotland, examples of which are The Child of Ell, p. 57, 'Sir Aldingar,' 68, 'Childe Waters,' 274, 'Hugh Spencer,' 281, and 'Childe Maurice,' 346.

*British Museum.*

'HE STEPS FULL STATLY ON Y<sup>E</sup> STRE[ET].' about 1670.  
Laing MSS., Div. II., 358.

*University Library, Edinburgh.*

'ELIZABETH COCHRANE HER SONG BOOK.' about 1730.

A small quarto of 204 pages, some few of the leaves having been torn away, perhaps by W. C., who seems to be responsible for this title

<p>Collection of Songs, English &amp; Scots corrected by W.C.</p>
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Mostly taken up by songs and love pieces, but comprises three popular ballads, 'Lord Benwall he's a hunting gone' [Gil Brenton] p. 146, 'Some talk of lords, and some talk of lairds' [Robin Hood and the Bishop of Hereford] p. 149, and 'Fair Isabell of Rochroyall,' p. 151, the earliest copy we have of The Lass of Lochroyan. Contains also a copy of Young Hasilgreen, the piece which suggested Sir Walter Scott's song.

*Harvard College Library.*

OF BISHOP PERCY'S OWN COLLECTING. 1766-1780.

(1) Seven pieces furnished by The Rev. P. Parsons of Wye, near

Ashford, Kent, including 'There was a king lived in the North Country' [The Twa Sisters], 'Where have you been to-day, Randall, my son?' and 'Long Longkin' [Lamkin].

- (2) A small book sent by Miss Fisher of Carlisle, which includes 'Archie of the Cawfield,' and 'Johny he has risen up i the morn,' a copy of Johnie Cock to which Percy has given the title 'The Seven Forsters at Pickeram Side.'
- (3) Several ballads from Principal Robertson of Edinburgh, including 'The Braes of Yarrow.'
- (4) From George Paton of Edinburgh, 'The Jewis Daughter' and 'Lord Maxwell's Last Goodnight.'
- (5) From The Rev. Robert Lambe, Norham, 'Luk ye to yon hie castel' [Edom o Gordon], 'Jean o Bethelnie,' 'Sir William Wallace,' and 'The Bonny Braes of Yarrow.'
- (6) From Roger Halt 'An excelent old song cald Dick of the Cow and 'Hobie Noble.'
- (7) Sent from Keelder 'John o the Side.'
- (8) From the recitation of Mr Leadbeater a fragment of the same ballad.
- (9) From the Duchess Dowager of Portland 'Hugh Spencer.'
- (10) Some other single copies.

*All in Harvard College Library.*

Bishop Percy also received ballads in manuscript from Lord Hailes, including the tragic 'Edward,' but I am not aware if the manuscripts are still in existence.

DAVID HERD'S MANUSCRIPTS.

1776.

Two volumes folio. Additional MSS. 22, 311-12.

A full description, with an enumeration of the ballads embraced, is given in Ward's Catalogue of MS. Romances in the British Museum, I., 531.

*British Museum.*

MRS BROWN OF FALKLAND'S MANUSCRIPTS. 1783-1801.

Anne or Anna Gordon, afterwards Brown, born 24th August 1747, was the youngest surviving daughter of Professor Thomas Gordon, of King's College, Aberdeen, by Lillias Forbes his wife, one of the three daughters of William Forbes of Disblair. It was from her aunt, Anne Forbes (Mrs. Farquharson of Allanquoich), and from Lillias Forbes (Mrs Gordon) and an old maidservant long in the Disblair family, that Mrs Brown derived and transmitted to us the best versions of a considerable number of our popular ballads, almost all romantic.

- (1) Jamieson-Brown MS. 'Popular Ballads.' Laing MSS. XIII., 473. A small quarto, containing twenty-four ballads, twenty of which were written down from Mrs. Brown's singing or recitation by her nephew, Professor Robert Scott of Aberdeen, about 1783, and sent by him to Robert Jamieson in or before 1799; these form the body of the book, pp. 1-43. An appendix preserves three pieces taken from Mrs Brown's recitation and forwarded to Jamieson in 1800 or 1801, and one 'Lizie Lindsay' got by Professor Scott from another source. Two ballads in the Jamieson-Brown MS. are not found elsewhere, 'Allison Gross,' p. 41, and 'The bonny birdy,' p. 42, in the latter of which the main part of the action is the same as in the English ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard.

*University Library, Edinburgh.*

- (2) William Tytler-Brown MS. A collection of fifteen ballads with the music, thirteen of which were selected and transcribed from the immediately preceding collection, after revisal by Mrs. Brown. All sent in 1783 by Professor Gordon to William Tytler of Woodhouselee. Enumerated in a communication by Dr Robert Anderson to Dr Percy, Nichols' Illustrations, VII., 176. One article, 'Young Betrice,' No. 5, not otherwise known, may be a version of Hugh Spencer.

*Whereabouts at present uncertain. But see sale Catalogue of Library of Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, 1852, p. 69, lot 2300.*

- (3) Alexander Fraser Tytler-Brown MS. A collection of nine ballads

with the music written down by Mrs Brown and sent to Lord Woodhouselee on 21st April 1800.

*Aldourie Castle, Inverness-shire.*

Writing to Lord Woodhouselee on 23rd December 1800, Mrs Brown mentions four Aberdeenshire ballads as having come to her recollection, three of which are not included in the above manuscripts. Joseph Ritson seems to have had a transcript of some of Mrs Brown's ballads, *Letters at Abbotsford*, I., No. 60. Two pieces copied from (2) are in the possession of the Fraser-Tytler family, who have also a Manuscript written by a granddaughter of Lord Woodhouselee including about sixteen ballads.

#### GLENRIDDELL'S MANUSCRIPT.

1791.

'A Collection of old scottish Ballads' made by Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, as part of his general Collection on Scottish Antiquities, small folio, Vol. XI. pp. 1-88. In the handwriting of several copyists, with occasional notes in Glenriddell's hand. Embraces sixteen poetical pieces, of which nine are popular ballads: 'Lads of Wamphray,' p. 34, the only known copy, 'The Blind Harper of Lochmaben,' 42, 'Lochmaben Harper,' 39, 'Young Tom Line,' 84, 'Archie of Cafield,' 14, 'Adiew Madam my Mother dear' [Lord Maxwell's Goodnight], 18, 'McNaughtan' [Johnie Scot], 78, 'Young Brechin' [Beichan], 80, and 'Sir Andrew Barton,' 20. Includes also 'Outlaw Murray,' p. 61.

There is an earlier transcript of Tamlane in Glenriddell's MSS. VIII., 1789, p. 106.

*Library of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*

[A copy Vol. XI. pp. 1-88 by Mr. Macmath, showing every turn of a letter as in the original, is in the possession of Mr. Frank Miller, Annan.]

#### SIR WALTER SCOTT'S COLLECTION.

1783-1830.

- (1) Inserted at the beginning of a volume in small folio, Abbotsford Library L 2 (Catalogue p. 57) without title, but having in the after part a number of prose pieces in manuscript, of a considerably older date, are three copies of 'The Fray of Suport,' two of them in Sir Walter's handwriting as a boy, and a fragment of 'John o'

Cockielaw ' and another of ' John the little Scot,' both also in his hand of an early date.

Mr Lockhart is mistaken when he states, *Minstrely*, 1833, i., 227, that the six small volumes of printed broadsides collected by Scott in his youth (Library, P 6) contain also ballads in MS.

- (2) ' Scottish Songs,' quarto, 1795, Abbotsford Library N 3 (Catalogue p. 104). Includes seven ballads with the music, and three fragments, all in the handwriting of Sir Walter, mostly from Mrs. Brown's collection, with changes.
- (3) Letters addressed to Sir Walter Scott, in twenty-three volumes quarto, 1796-1831, at Abbotsford. In most cases where a ballad was transmitted Sir Walter bound the letter alone and the enclosures are now in No. 4 below, but there are about seven ballads remaining in their original places.
- (4) ' Scotch Ballads, Materials for Border Minstrely,' a folio volume made up, within the last few years, of detached poetical pieces at Abbotsford. This important collection, which includes a quarto Manuscript of 81 pages that had belonged to Thomas Wilkie, 1813-15, contains upwards of eighty ballads and fragments, the majority of which are in the handwriting of Sir Walter's friends and correspondents. Richard Heber contributes ' The Earl o' Boyn,' No. 17, ' The Earl o' Bran,' 22 b., and ' Clerk Sandy,' 22 c; John Leyden ' Archie o' Ca'field,' 90, ' The Queen's Marie,' 90 a, ' Thomas the Rhymer,' 96, and ' Tamlane,' 96 a; and William Laidlaw and James Hogg each a considerable number, the latter's including ' The Battle of Otterburn,' 132 and 5, ' Old Mai[t]land,' 78, and ' My love he built me a bonny bowr,' 133 b. In the hand of Joseph Ritson we have ' The Gallant Grahams of Scotland,' 137. The Rev. Professor Paxton sends the only known copy of the ' Lament of the Queen's Marie ' [Mary Hamilton], 92, that connects that ballad with the apothecary mentioned by Knox, while Bruce Campbell, Sornbeg, sends a fine fragment of Edom o Gordon in a Scottish form, ' It fell about the Martinmass

Time,' 75. Among the other known contributors are Mrs Greenwood of London, Major Henry Hutton, and James Skene of Rubislaw.

- (5) 'North Country Ballads,' eleven pieces, of which nine are ballads, occupying the first place in the quarto volume 'Miscellanea Curiosa,' Abbotsford Library, B 5 (Catalogue p. 15).
- (6) A folio volume made up by Sir Walter Scott, with the title 'Miscellanies,' includes a copy of Hasilgreen, 'In a sweet May morning,' No. 43, in the hand of Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, and the unique fragment on 'The Slaughter of the Laird of Mellerstain,' last piece.
- (7) A volume, which I have not seen, said to contain the pieces sung in Sir Walter's family circle. Perhaps the source of the airs given by Lockhart in his edition of the Minstrelsy, 1833. See his Advertisement, p. v.
- (8) A few single copies not calling for enumeration.

*All at Abbotsford. [A beautiful Transcript of this collection, by Mr Macmath, is now in the possession of Mr Hornel.]*

There ought to be other ballads in manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's collecting, but up to this time they have not been recovered.

#### CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE'S COLLECTION.

1790 and after.

- (1) Book mentioned in Sharpe's letter to Sir Walter Scott, Au. 5th, 1802 (Correspondence I., 136), as including 'Mary Hamilton' and 'Lady Dysmal,' and perhaps also 'The Douglas Tragedy,' taught Sharpe by a nursery-maid, and which he says he committed to paper as soon as he was able to write.

*In the collector's possession at the above date ; whereabouts at present unknown.*

- (2) 'Songs,' a duodecimo in a yellow cover, 45 pages, all in Sharpe's handwriting. Includes 'O Errol it's a bonny place' [The Earl of Errol], p. 17, 'It fell on a day, and a bonny summer day' [The Bonnie House o' Airlie], p. 22, 'Richie Storie,' p. 27, 'Word's gane to the kitchen' [Mary Hamilton], p. 29, 'Maxwelton banks are bonnie' [Annie Laurie], p. 33 (with the original letter of



particulars from Miss Margaret Laurie, of Sep. 10, 1812, inserted) ; and other pieces afterwards printed in A Ballad Book.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (3) Note Book, apparently intended originally for remarks on the Scottish Dramatists (Scottish Plays, Play-makers, and Players), which soon gave place to songs and ballads. See A Ballad Book, ed. 1880, pp. xiv., 173. Mr Bedford informs me that the volume has a green cover, and is somewhat smaller in page than ordinary note paper.

*Recently in possession of Rev. W. K. R. Bedford.*

- (4) Scrap Book or Note Book, small quarto, in cover of black American cloth, containing communications by Sir Walter Scott to Sharpe on the subject of ballads, consisting of letters, notes, memoranda and citations, partly in the original and partly in the form of transcripts by Sharpe. See A Ballad Book, ed. 1880, pp. xii., 135. The following rather misleading title has been supplied in pencil by David Laing : ' MS. Notes, &c., on A Ballad Book, 1823, by Sir Walter Scott, from his autograph notes, &c., addressed to Charles K. Sharpe.' Lot 77 of Sale Catalogue of Sharpe's Manuscripts, 1893.

*In possession of Lord Rosebery.*

- (5) Manuscript described (playfully and gallantly) by Sir Walter Scott as ' the collection of an old lady's complete set of ballads, written in her own beautiful orthography and calligraphy ' (Sharpe's Correspondence II., 264). In two portions, small folio. The first portion extends to 53 pages, on paper having the years 1805-6-7 in the watermark, the numbering of the pages and of the ballads being in Sir Walter's writing. The second portion consists of 10 pages on paper of 1818. The manuscript contains in all forty-seven poetical pieces, of which thirty-two are versions of strictly popular ballads, mostly of decided importance, including the unique ' I was bat seven year alle ' [The Laily Worm and the Machrel of the Sea], I., p. 1, and interesting copies of ' Fair Ellen ' [Child Waters], p. 34, and ' Ther was a wife in yon toun ' [The Jolly Beggar], p. 46. At the end there is a list of twenty-nine

pieces, some of which are not in the collection. The manuscript was obtained, evidently in Aberdeenshire or the adjoining district, by James Skene, who gave it to Sir Walter Scott, by whom it was in turn handed over to Sharpe on 27th July 1823. It is unfortunate that Scott, Sharpe, and Skene all passed away without recording the name of the old lady by whom it was written.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (6) A transcript, with changes, by Sharpe, of nineteen pieces and a fragment, from the immediately preceding MS. (5). Small quarto of 24 pages.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (7) Manuscript of 32 pages, small quarto, not in Sharpe's handwriting, on paper of the year 1822. Contains eight pieces, and the music of seven of them, commencing with 'Johnny Armstrang.' Commented on by Sir Walter Scott, *A Ballad Book*, ed. 1880, 141.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (8) Manuscript of 12 pages folio, not in Sharpe's hand, on paper of 1820. Contains fourteen pieces, beginning with 'Wote you how the guise began.' Commented on by Scott, *A Ballad Book*, ed. 1880, 144.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (9) A transcript (small octavo of 22 pages), by Sharpe, of the eleven pieces of which Sir Walter Scott had also a copy, and to which he gave the title 'North Country Ballads' (No. 5 of Scott's Collection). The original manuscript was evidently one to which both Scott and Sharpe had access, but which belonged to neither.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (10) The following single copies of ballads, not in Sharpe's handwriting :
1. 'An Old Ballad intituled Jamie Telfer in the Fair Dodhead,' 12 pages, duodecimo. In a good hand, of the end of the last or beginning of the present century. This is the only known copy of the ballad in MS. and is in the Martin Elliot form, as distinguished from that adopted by Scott in the *Border Minstrelsy*.

2. 'The Gipsies they came to my Lord C[assillis] yett,' 2 pages, small folio, on paper of 1812.
3. 'There were two Brothers in the North,' 3 pages, small quarto, on paper of 1817. Communicated by Elizth. Kerry.
4. Another version of the same, 'Perthshire Tragedy,' 2 pages, small folio.
5. 'As I cam in by boney Glasgow town' [Glasgow Peggie] 2 pages folio, on paper of 1819.
6. 'Old Song Rob Roy,' 4 pages, small quarto, on paper of 1822.

*No. 1 in possession of Mr. Hornel.*

*[Nos. 2 to 6, formerly in the possession of Mr. Macmath, now missing.]*

- (11) Other single copies of ballads and songs, including some printed in A Ballad Book, 1823, or referred to in Sharpe's Correspondence. Either not calling for enumeration or their whereabouts at present unknown.

*In possession of Mr Hornel and others.*

- (12) Letters relating to the story of The Lady of Arngosk, folio, 1823.

*In possession of Sir Thos. Dawson Brodie, Bart. A Transcript in possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (13) The following letters from William Motherwell to Sharpe, small quarto :

1. Of 6th December 1824, with six ballads.
2. Undated [1825] citing several fragments.
3. Of 8th Oct<sup>r</sup> 1825, with eight ballads, and some citations.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

- (14) An annotated copy of A Ballad Book, 1823. See edition of 1880, pp. xi., 127.

*In possession of Sir James Gibson Craig, Bart.*

#### JAMES SKENE OF RUBISLAW'S MANUSCRIPT. 1805 and after ?

Consists of thirty-five ballads and ten lines of a thirty-sixth, written on nine parcels or quires of paper, of an oblong form, and extends in all to 125 pages. The pieces are, in a large proportion, copies, with changes, from the old lady's Manuscript, No. 5 of Sharpe's Collection

above, which was originally obtained by Skene. The first 51 pages and part of page 52 are in a very regular and beautiful hand, the rest of 52 and the whole of page 53 in the handwriting of the old lady. The remainder, pages 54 to 125, is in Skene's own hand.

*To page 118 in possession of Mr. Allardyce ; [remainder, formerly in possession of Mr. Macmath, now missing.]*

CHARLES MACKIE'S MANUSCRIPT.

1808.

A little oblong volume, if such it can be called, containing four pieces, not traditional, written about 1710, and the ballad 'O where ha you been Lord Randal my son' in a later hand.

*[Formerly in the possession of Mr. Macmath, but now missing.]*

'COLLECTION OF BALLADS . . . BY R[OBERT] PITCAIRN.' 1817-1825.

In three volumes, small octavo, all in the collector's handwriting. It purports to be 'chiefly from Tradition,' but a considerable part is derived from printed sources. The few ballads taken down by Pitcairn are of good quality, and one fragment, 'Burd Ellen & Young Tamlane,' III., 47, is not found elsewhere.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

WILLIAM MOTHERWELL'S MANUSCRIPTS.

1825 and after.

- (1) A folio volume, second only in importance to the Percy. Of this precious book Mr J. Barclay Murdoch furnishes the following account: This manuscript collection by William Motherwell is, with the exception of one or two pieces, entirely in his own handwriting, and is indexed by himself. It consists of 679 folio pages of ballads, besides some introductory pieces, songs, &c., which are not indexed. It has evidently been written from time to time, and afterwards bound. Some of the ballads have been first written in pencil and afterwards copied with ink. Each page contains from twenty to thirty lines. There are altogether two hundred and twenty-eight ballads indexed, but many of them are second, third, and in some cases even fourth versions of the same ballad. They frequently bear to have been taken from the recitation of various old people in the West Country.

*In possession of Mr Malcolm Colquhoun Thomson, Glasgow.*

- (2) A Ballad Note-book, small octavo, 178 pages. Contains lists of ballad reciters or singers, and what they know, portions of ballads and some complete copies, and various matters pertaining to ballads.

*Was in possession of Mr J. Wyllie Guild. See sale Catalogue of his MSS. 1888, p. 9, lot 92 or 93.*

- (3) An interleaved and annotated copy of Motherwell's Minstrelsy, containing a few manuscript variations of and notes on the ballads.

*Was in possession of Mr P. A. Ramsay, and more recently of Mr W. C. Angus.*

- (4) Some single copies of ballads, dispersed.

GEORGE RITCHIE KINLOCH'S MANUSCRIPTS. 1826 and after.

In seven volumes, five of them being small quarto, one larger quarto, and one octavo. The first, second and third volumes are almost wholly in Kinloch's own handwriting. The fourth is an interleaved copy of his Ancient Scottish Ballads, with a few manuscript additions and variations. The fifth contains ballads in the handwriting of James Beattie, John Hill Burton, Robert Chambers, James Chambers, and Kinloch himself, and includes the original copy of 'The Clerk's twa sons o' Owsenford,' p. 403, as sung to the grandmother of the Chamberses by an old woman, Miss Ann Gray of Neidpath Castle, about 1759. The sixth contains ballads and notes in the hand of Joseph Robertson, and a few pieces in the hands of Robert Chambers, James Beattie, and Kinloch. The seventh is almost all in Kinloch's writing, and comprises the majority of the pieces printed in his Ancient Scottish Ballads.

*Harvard College Library. A transcript by Mr Macmath is in the possession of Mr Hornel.*

PETER BUCHAN'S MANUSCRIPTS. about 1828.

- (1) Two volumes folio. Additional MSS. 29, 408-9.

Fully described in Ward's Catalogue of MS. Romances, i. 537.

*British Museum.*

- (2) Two volumes folio.

*In possession of Mr David Scott, Peterhead.*

## JOSEPH ROBERTSON'S MANUSCRIPTS.

1829-1832.

Contained in four little note-books and an interleaved and annotated copy of the first edition of *The New Deeside Guide* [1832]. The first note-book is in the form of a *Journal of Excursions* made in 1828-9 in company with John Hill Burton, and contains seven ballads, one of them remarkable as being the only known Scottish copy of Hugh Spencer. The second is called '*Adversaria*,' and contains a number of ballads and fragments. The third is dated 1st January 1830, and also contains several. The fourth is dated in 1832 and contains one ballad, '*The Fire of Frendraught*.' The guide-book has one additional ballad, '*The Laird of Drum*.'

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

## JOHN HILL BURTON'S MANUSCRIPTS.

1829-30.

Most of Dr Burton's youthful gleanings are in the Kinloch collection, but his daughter Mrs Rodger, Aberdeen, has a small volume containing portions of two genuine ballads and two made by the Book Hunter himself.

## ALEXANDER LAING OF BRECHIN'S MANUSCRIPT.

1829-1835.

'Ancient Ballads & Songs, &c., &c., from the Recitation of Old People, never published, 1829.' 44 small pages. Includes but three ballads and a fragment.

*Harvard College Library.*

## HUME-CAMPBELL MANUSCRIPTS.

about 1830.

In two volumes. The title is '*Old Scottish Songs, Collected in the Counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk & Peebles*.' A note at the beginning of each volume, by Sir Hugh Hume-Campbell, the present owner, says, 'I believe them to have been placed there [*i.e.* in his library] by my father, about the year 1830, but where he got them, or who made the collection, I do not know. H. H. C.' Many traditional ballads from recitation and other popular sources, political and sentimental pieces, some from books, with occasional notes. Vol. I. has 369 pages, and seventy-seven articles; Vol. II. 359 pages, and one hundred and twenty-one articles.

*Marchmont House, Berwickshire.*

## THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BALLAD MSS. 107

ROBERT WHITE'S PAPERS. 1829 and after.

Include at least eight ballads obtained on the Borders.

*In possession of the collector's representatives.*

'AMELIA HARRIS' COLLECTION OF TRADITIONAL ANTIENT BALLADS AND  
FRAGMENTS, . . . ' about 1830 and after.

Quarto, 44 leaves. Contains fifty pieces in all, of which rather more  
than twenty are traditional ballads or fragments. Annexed are  
thirty airs.

*Harvard College Library.*

JAMES GIBB'S MANUSCRIPT. 1863.

Twenty-one ballads written down from the recitation of his mother.  
Derived by Mrs Gibb from her grandmother. They 'very nearly  
represent,' he says, 'the form in which the ballads were recited  
about the beginning of the century in the howes of Angus & Mearns.'

*Harvard College Library.*

MRS A. F. MURISON'S MANUSCRIPT. about 1873.

Disconnected, and extends to 122 pages, written on one side of half  
sheets. Contains about forty-two pieces, mostly Northern ballads  
gathered in Old Deer.

*Harvard College Library.*

DAVID LOUDEN'S MANUSCRIPT. about 1873.

A book of ten pieces taken from recitation in Haddingtonshire, four  
of them being ballads.

*Harvard College Library.*

DR ALEXANDER LAING OF NEWBURGH'S MANUSCRIPTS. about 1873.

A few ballads.

*Harvard College Library.*

REV. WILLIAM FINDLAY'S MANUSCRIPTS. current.

Two volumes, small octavo.

*In possession of Mr Hornel.*

‘BALLADS AND SONGS COLLECTED BY WILLIAM MACMATH.’      current.  
One volume, small quarto.

*In possession of Miss Agnes Macmath.*  
[*A second volume has since been added, which also is in the possession  
of Miss Macmath.*]

I am indebted to Professor Child for the information as to the Hume-Campbell manuscripts, and all the collections in Harvard College except Kinloch's.



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