

SETON
OF PARBROATH,
IN
SCOTLAND AND AMERICA,

Printed for Private Circulation.

And, O, sad emblems of entire neglect,
In rank, luxuriance, the nettles spread
Behind the massy tablatures of death,
Hanging their pointed leaves and seedy stalks
Above the graves, so lonesome and so low,
Of famous men, now utterly unknown,
Yet whose heroic deeds were, in their day,
The theme of loud acclaim.—when Seton's arm
In power with Stuart and with Douglas vied.

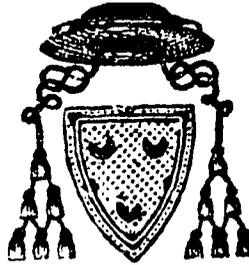
THE RUINS OF SETON CHAPEL.

David Macbeth Moir.

NEW YORK,

1890.

PRESS OF
WM. FAIRSON,
Jersey City.



THE earlier parts of this little Memoir are taken principally from the "*History of the House of Seytoun to the year MDLIX*," by Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington Knight; with the continuation by Alexander Seton, Viscount Kingston, to MDCLXXXVII., printed at Glasgow, in 1829. The latter parts have been compiled from our family Entries, Notices and Records, and from the recollections of the late Samuel Waddington Seton, Esq., of New York, who died in 1869, at the age of eighty.

The original parchment copy of the Pedigree brought from Scotland, was destroyed along with a number of letters, documents, miniatures and heirlooms, in the Great Fire of 1836. What remains, was in one small trunk which was carried off in safety.

BLAZON OF THE ARMS.

QUARTERLY, first and fourth, *or*, three crescents *gules* within a Double Tressure of the same, for SETON ; second and third *azure*, three garbs, *or*, for BUCHAN, (through Lady Margaret, sole daughter and heiress of John, Earl of Buchan, Constable of France, Grandson of King Robert II.—of which branch of the Royal Stuarts, the Setons are the only representatives.) Over all an escutcheon *per*, pale *gules* and *azure*, the first charged with a sword erect supporting an imperial crown, *or*—of special concession for the barony of BARNES ; the second charged with a blazing star *argent*—of augmentation for the earldom of WINTON ; above, for crest, a wyvern *vert*, spouting fire, with around it the family slogan, “SET ON.” Beneath, on an escroll, the motto, “HAZERD ZET FORWARD.”

These arms are engraved on the inside of the lid of a beautiful silver mounted snuff box ;—a shell, *Turbo Pica*, from the island of Trinidad—given by Robert Seton, first

Earl of Winton (1600), to his kinsman, Sir George Seton of Parbroath, Knight, and now in the possession of his descendant and representative William Seton, Esq., of New York.

The difference or mark of cadency carried by the Parbroath branch of the family, was a crescent in the centre of the original shield, as appears on a beautifully engraved oblong mother-of-pearl card counter of the Seventeenth Century, in Mr. William Seton's possession; but for a generation or two a star was substituted, as in the Book of Blazons of Sir David Lindsay, probably on account of the marriage of Alexander Seton to a daughter of Lord Lindsay of the Byres, in whose arms were three stars or mullets. For much over a century, the original arms have been carried by the Representatives of Parbroath without any difference. The middle word in our Family Motto is a puzzle to those who do not know that in MSS. of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Century a curious **g** is found, which in early English print was made to resemble **z**, as when we find "neighbor" spelt "neizbour" in Chaucer. This **g** was meant for the soft **g** of the Anglo Saxon in its transition to **y** or **i**, as in "gif" "gef," If. The meaning, then, of the motto is, **AT ANY RISK YET GO FORWARD**. Only the paternal arms of Seton are given in Mr. De Vermont's *America Heraldica* (New-York, 1887.)

ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY.

“It were great pleasure to a man to know the origin and beginning of his house and surname, and how long it has stood, with good actions and virtue of his predecessors ; and it were right profitable, because when a man remembers the good beginning of his house and surname, the long standing thereof, the honorable and virtuous actions of his predecessors, it will give occasion to every man to preserve and maintain the house that his forefathers have acquired, and he will be the more loath to do anything that may be to the hurt or decay of the same.” From Maitland’s *Prologue*.

LIKE most of the ancient Scottish families, the Setons are of Anglo-Norman extraction, and spring from Picot, of the House of Avenel, Lord of Say, in Normandy, A. D., 1030, some of whose descendants settled at the time of the Conquest, in England and Scotland. (*The Norman People*, London, 1874.) William de Say came into England with the *Conqueror*, and Geoffrey De Say was one of the twenty-five Barons appointed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta. The English branch of the family is now represented, through co-heiresses, by Lord Clinton, and Lord Saye and Sele ; the Scottish branch, through male descent, by the Earl of Eglinton and WINTON. Lord Montgomerie, Lord SETON and Tranent, etc. The first settler in North Britain

got lands in East Lothian, and built a castle near the sea, which was called *Say-Tun* : "the dwelling of Say," and gave rise to a name and family which for over six-hundred years "was pre-eminently distinguished in the annals of Scotland." The name has been variously written Say-tune, Setune, Settounne, Seyton, Seton, and sometimes Seaton, from which however it is distinct. Under one or other of these old forms it figures in Shakespeare's tragedy of "*Macbeth*," and in the "*Chronicles*," of Froissart. The SETONS-*de-la-Val*, in Northumberland, and the SETONS OF YORKSHIRE seem to have long retained a close connection with their family in Scotland, and a Scottish mode of spelling the name. From them came Roger de Seyton, Lord, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1274, Thomas de Setone Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1357, (Edward Foss : *Judges of England*.) and John Seton, D. D., a Prebendary of Winchester in 1553, who figures among the learned men of Cambridge University. (Halam, *Lit. His.* I. 348.)

The earliest records of Scotland establish that the Setons flourished in the very beginning of the Twelfth Century as a baronial family, holding extensive fiefs *in capite* of the crown. Taylor in *The Great Historic Families of Scotland* (London, 1889) says "The Setons are among the most ancient and illustrious of the great houses of Scotland and are proverbially said to have the reddest blood in the kingdom. In consequence of a remarkable number of other families of the highest rank having sprung from their main stock.

the heads of the house are styled "Magnae Nobilitatis Domini" ; and from their intermarriage upon four different occasions with the royal family, they obtained the addition to their shield of the royal or double tressure. Their earliest motto "Hazard yet forward," is descriptive of their military ardour and dauntless courage. They were conspicuous throughout their whole history for their loyalty and firm attachment to the Stewart dynasty in whose cause they perilled and lost their titles and extensive estates"—vol. I. p. 126.

LINEAGE.

Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington (of the noble house of Lauderdale) whose mother was a Seton, says he cannot find the christian name of him who first settled in Scotland; but that he must begin the *Historie* with his son or heir,

I. **DOUGALL** or **DUGDALE DE SETOUN**, who lived in the time of King Alexander I. (A. D. 1109-1124.) His arms were: *or* three crescents *gules*. The tinctures are the same as those of the family of Say, in England. It has been suggested that the *figures* were assumed by the Setons after settling in Scotland, because "their ancient territories and lands in East Lóthian are formed by the river Forth into three bays, like three half-moons": (Port Seton, Cockenzie, Preston Pans); while others incline to attribute the crescents to a Crusading origin, (Playfair, *British Family Antiquity*, Vol. VIII); and it is confirmatory of this opinion that the same arms are emblazoned at Versailles, as borne by one of the great French barons, in the fourth Crusade, Eudes du Vermandois, A. D. 1205. Dugall married Janet, daughter to Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, in England, and Constable of Scotland in right of his

wife the oldest daughter and co-heir of Alan, Lord of Gallo-way. The lands of Wintoune and the Wyvern or Dragon, vert, one of the earliest examples of a crest in Scottish heraldry, the remote and curious origin of which is given by Du Cange in his *Glossarium* under the word *Draco*, were brought into the family by this great match. Wintoune became a principal habitation of the Setons, and ultimately gave them the title of Earl. Winton House, an architectural creation of Inigo Jones, has a melancholy interest attached to it as the original of Lucy Ashton's home in Scott's tale of *The Bride of Lammermoor*, which is said to have been founded in some way, upon the misfortunes of its original possessors, victims of their loyalty and devotion to the Stuart dynasty. Saier or Secher de Quincy, first Earl of Winchester, married Maud de St. Liz, of the earls of Huntington, a branch of whose family settled at *Seton*, Co. Rutland, and assumed the surname of Seton. It is now represented by the Fieldings, Earls of Denbigh.

II. **SECHER** or **SAIER DE SETOUNE**, who was named for his great-grandfather, Saier de Quinci, Earl of Winchester, one of the twenty-five barons deputed to enforce the observance of Magna Charta, succeeded to Dougall his father. His wife's name is unknown.

III. **PHILIP DE SETUNE** succeeded Secher, and married Helen, (or *Alicia* as she was also called) only daughter to Waldevus, Earl of Dunbar and March, ancestor of the Earls of Home, through whom the Setons are descended from the Saxon Princes of Northumberland. Philip got the

barony of Wynchburg in 1169, on which he built Niddry castle, which remained in the family for five hundred years, and is associated with Queen Mary's romantic escape from Lochlenen, as described in the *Abbot*. It is now a ruin belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, to whom it gives the title of Baron. Speaking of early tenures the learned author of *Scotland in the Middle Ages*, says, "I could not give a better specimen of one of these simple conveyances than a charter of William the Lion—a grant to the ancient family of Seton. It conveys three great baronies—confers all baronial privileges, fixes the *reddendo* at one knight's service—expresses the formal authentication of a goodly array of witnesses—and is comprized in seven short lines. The original is in possession of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton."—(p. 207.)

IV. **ALEXANDER (I.) DE SETOUN** succeeded his father Philip. He married Jean, daughter to Walter Barclay, Lord Chamberlain to King William the Lion, an office of the highest dignity, and very ancient.

V. **BARTIME** or **BARTHOLOMEW DE SETOUN** succeeded his father Alexander. He married Margaret, daughter to Walter Comyn, or Cumming, Earl of Buchan and Great Justiciar of Scotland. He got the lands of Ruchlaw in Haddingtonshire, which passed eventually to the family of Sydserrff of *Ruchlaw*. He was succeeded by :

VI. **ADAM DE SETON**, who is described as a very learned man. He married Margaret, daughter to Hugh Gifford, of Gifford Hall, Lord Yester, ancestor of the Marquess of Tweeddale. He was succeeded by his son :

VII. **SIR CRYSTELL, OR CHRISTOPHER (I.) DE SETON**, who married Maude, daughter to Ingelram Percy, Lord Topcliff, in Yorkshire, whose ancestor was one of those Norman chieftains who accompanied William The Conqueror into England in 1066. He was an exceedingly pious man: "more given to devotion than to worldliness," says the chronicle; and a considerable benefactor of the church, particularly out of his estates in England. It was probably from one of his donations, that Pope Innocent IV. in 1245, confirmed to the Prior of the Monastery of Saint James of Wartry *Grangiam de Seton cum terris, pratis, pascuis, nemoribus, piscariis, et omnibus pertinentiis suis.* (Dugdale, *Monasticon.*)

VIII. **SIR CHRISTOPHER (II.) DE SETON** succeeded to Sir Christell the First, his father. He married Agnes, daughter to Patrick, Earl of March, and did many brave acts against the English when the crown of Scotland was in dispute between Bruce and Balliol. He was a friend and companion of the national hero, Sir William Wallace; and when driven out of the Lothians by the enemy he took refuge with forty of his family and friends in Jedburgh forest, "ay waiting his tyme contrair ye Inglishmen."

IX **SIR CHRISTOPHER (III.) DE SETON**, called "Good Sir Christall" for his valor, succeeded to Sir Christopher the Second, his father. He was knighted on the field by King Robert Bruce, and justified the honor by rescuing his sovereign at the battle of Methven-wood, out of the hands of Sir Philip Mowbray and the English. Sir Christopher is said to have been a man of gigantic stature.

The large two-handed sword wielded on this occasion by our common ancestor, is now in the possession of George Seton, Esq., of the Register Office, Edinburgh, Representative of the Setons of *Cariston*. It has been several times engraved and publicly exhibited. For this deliverance the grateful monarch gave Sir Christopher his sister, Lady Christian, in marriage, and conferred on him and his descendants the right of surrounding their arms with the Double Tressure *fleurs-de-lys*, in sign of royal alliance. It is one of the first instances of such recognition in Scottish heraldry. This noble patriot was at last made prisoner, in Lochdoon Castle, in Ayrshire, and beheaded on an eminence outside of Dumfries, by order of the English king. The spot on which he died is still known as Kirsty's (Christopher's) Mount; and the memorial chapel erected thereby King Robert Bruce, in 1324, was long spared by the Protestant Reformers. It was destroyed only in 1715, to obtain stones for a wall to defend the town against the Chevalier's army. The family from an early date was noted for the tallness of its members and their haughty bearing, so that "Tall and proud" was at one time their proverbial characteristic in Scotland. (Chambers, *Stories of Old Families*.)

X. SIR ALEXANDER (II.) SETON, of Seton, succeeded his father, and was greatly beloved by his royal uncle, who, to compensate him for the loss of his large English estates, which were now confiscated, conferred on him the barony of Barnes, and added to his coat-of-arms a sword erect, in pale, supporting an imperial crown, to show that he and his ancestors had always defended the crown of

Scotland for its lawful claimants. He married Isabel, daughter to Duncan, tenth Earl of Fife.

XI. SIR ALEXANDER (III.) SETON of that *Ilk* succeeded to Sir Alexander the Second, his father. With Sir Niel Campbell and Sir Gilbert Hay he bound himself in the most solemn manner at the abbey of Cambuskenneth, on the 9th September, 1308, "to defend till the last period of their lives the liberties of their country and right of Robert Bruce, their king, against all mortals, French, English and Scots." (*Collins' Peerage* vol. VII. p. 419.) He married Christian, daughter to Cheyne of Straloch, of a Norman-Scotch family settled in Aderdeenshire, and which came into England at the Conquest, in the person of Ralph de Caineto one of whose descendants was created Baron Cheyne in the English peerage, in 1487, and another Viscount of Newhaven, in the Scotch peerage, in 1681. Sir Alexander was Governor of Berwick about 1320, and saw his sons Thomas and William put to death by King Edward III., rather than surrender to the English. This heroic episode, in which his noble hearted wife played a conspicuous part, has often been commemorated in prose and verse. The ruins of the old castle still overlook the spot, since called "Hang-a-dyke-nook," across the river Tweed, where the "saucy Setons" were executed. A drama called the Siege of Berwick was written in the last century by Edward Jerningham, of which Horace Walpole, writing to Miss Berry, says: "George Cambridge was last night at the first representation of Jerningham's new play, and I was delighted to hear that it was received with great applause and complete success, being very interesting. . . Mr. Cambridge desired me to tell you that there

was one deficiency in it, i. e., your cousin *Miss Seton*, should have played in it, for a Governor *Seton*, and his wife and two sons, are the principal personages." With the decline of Norman influence in Scotland, the French *de*, the "particule nobiliaire" of feudal possession, fell into disuse, and a peculiar style, viz. *of that Ilk*, was introduced to signify that the name was the same as that of the fief—a point much insisted on by old Scotch families whose ancestors were feudal lords and territorial barons in the Middle Ages, and long before such things were known as Patents of Nobility.—Sir Alexander lived to be very old, and was buried in his church of Seton, which was erected in the thirteenth century, close to the original castle of the family, and richly endowed by their munificence. It is still perfectly entire; but its tombs have been rifled, its magnificent sepulchral monuments defaced or destroyed; and Seton Church, or Seton chapel, as it is sometimes called, now stands desolate, amidst ancestral trees entwined by the ivy—the Seton badge,—and is the property of the neighboring Earl of Wemyss. Sir Alexander's curious old dagger, with a silver mounted handle capped by a *crescent*, which besides indicating ownership, forms a convenient rest for the thumb in giving a thrust, is now in the possession of William Seton, Esq., of New York. This Sir Alexander was succeeded by Sir Alexander the Fourth of that name and his third son, who carried down the main line.

Sir George Seton, of Seton, only son of Sir William Seton (slain at the bloody battle of Verneuil, 17th August, 1424,) was created a Peer of Parliament in 1448. From this Sir Alexander the Fourth descended the Earls of WINTON.

of Dunfermline, of Eglinton, of Aboyne: the Viscounts Kingston, the Marquesses of Huntly, the Dukes of Gordon, and several Baronets and Lairds; besides the Setons Seigneurs de Lavenage, de Langeais, and de Coulommiers, in France, (sprung from officers of the Scots Guard who married and settled in that Kingdom); the Setons of Gothenburg, in Sweden; the "Sitoni di Scotia," Patricians of Milan in Italy, who were distinguished *Literati* in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Sir Alexander the Third had a fourth son named John, who married one of the wards of King David II., Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress to Sir Nicholas Ramsay of Parbroath, Knight, of the ancient and illustrious family which now holds the Earldom of Dalhousie. This John branched off from the parent trunk into a flourishing race, and became the progenitor of the Setons of Parbroath, later of New York, in America: the senior cadets of the House of Winton. With him we begin a new Line, of nearer interest to ourselves.

I. **SIR JOHN SETON**, of Parbroath, in Fifeshire married as aforesaid Elizabeth Ramsay, by whom he had one son :

II. **ALEXANDER SETON**, of Parbroath, or Parbroth.

III. **SIR GILBERT SETON**, of Parbroath, Knight, succeeded to Alexander, his father. He married Marian, daughter to Pitcairn of that Ilk, by whom he had five sons:

1. **Alexander**, of whom hereafter.

2. **William**, who had a son also called William, who married Catherine Butler, or Butlair, heiress of Rungavie, and founded the now extinct branch of the Setons of *Rungavie*.

3. **John**, who married Janet Lathrisk, heiress of that *Ilk*, from which union came the Setons of *Lathrisk* and *Balbirnie*. To this branch belonged those wild Setons of Clatto Tower, a father and six sons, one of whom had such a murderous encounter with King James Fourth, that the whole family was destroyed and their property confiscated. *Gazetteer of Scotland*, (1856,) vol. II., p. 95, under *Kettle*, a parish in Fifeshire, and *The Kingdom or Hand Book to Fife*, p. 106, by "Kilrounie." Cupar-Fife. A. Westwood and Son, (1886.) Of the Setons of Lathrisk not much is known. They were connected by marriage with the old families of Bethune of Balfour, Spens of Lathallan, and Echlin of Pitaddro (now of *Ardquin*, in Ireland): Captain Patrick Seton brother german to John Seton of Lathrisk, dying on the 16th of February 1600, left by registered testament 900 merks and his saddle horses to his nephew the heir of line, and 200 merks with his "braceletts of gold," a silver salt-cellar, two spoons and a cup to his niece Janet Duddingstoun; Alexander Seton of Lathrisk figured at the funeral of his kinsman the Lord Chancellor Seton, Earl of Dunfermline in 1622. The present Henry Seton-Karr, M. P., a noted traveller and sportsman, is probably the nearest representative of this branch of the family.

4. **David**, a Doctor of Civil and Canon Law, and Rector of Fettercairn. He was a very large and tall man.

much esteemed by King James III., and lived to be over eighty years old. He was once engaged as defendant's counsel in a case against the then Lord Seton ; and Maitland has preserved a curious anecdote of his calling out in full court and in the king's presence, to one Master Richard Lawson, the royal advocate and a very insolent man : " You may be *Lawson*, but you are not *Law(s)father* to make *laws* at your pleasure and disinherit the Barons of Scotland." His name occurs as a witness to an Instrument of resignation, on April 14th, 1497, and again to a Charter of confirmation to the abbey of Lindores given at Perth on November 9th, 1500. (*Lindores Abbey and its Burgh of Newburgh*, by Alexander Laing. Edinburgh, 1876.)

5. **Master Gilbert**, also a Priest and a great scholar. Died in Rome.

IV. SIR ALEXANDER SETON of Parbroath, Knight, succeeded his father Gilbert. He was one of the counsellors of Lord Glamys, Justiciar of Scotland, in the dispute between the abbey of Lindores and the burgesses of Newburgh in 1493-4. Married Helen, daughter to Sir William Murray, Laird of Tullibardine—Ancestor of the Dukes of Atholl. By her he had one son Alexander, who died before his father, leaving by Catherine, daughter to Lord Lindsay of the Byres, two sons, John and Andrew.

V. JOHN SETON, of Parbroath, succeeded his grandfather, and was slain at Flodden, (1513) beside his chief the 3rd. Lord Seton. He left no posterity.

VI. ANDREW SETON, of Parbroath succeeded to his brother John. He married a daughter to Balfour, Laird of Burleigh, now represented in the peerage by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. His only son, named Gilbert, was killed at the battle of Pinkie, in 1547, during his father's lifetime, leaving by Lady Margaret Leslie, his wife, daughter to the Earl of Rothes, one son, named David, who succeeded his grandfather.

VII. SIR DAVID SETON, of Parbroath was served heir to his grandfather in 1563 and was a prominent statesman in the reign of the unfortunate Queen Mary, having been Comptroller of the Scottish revenue from 1589 to 1595. He married Mary daughter to Lord Gray of Broxmouth, *circa* 1590, and had two sons and one daughter :

1. **George**, his successor ;

2. **John**, went to Virginia, in 1635. The late William Winston Seaton of the Washington *National Intelligencer*, was perhaps descended from him.

3. **Mary**, married to David Skene, of Potterton, now represented by the old family of Skene of *Rubislaw*.

SIR DAVID SETON raised the family to a high degree of prosperity, and is exceptionally well spoken of by Scot of Scotstarvet, in his curious little book entitled *Staggering State of Scotch Statesmen*. He says of the family that it "was numerous, and many and brave men descended thereof."

but was erroneously of opinion that the "memory of the family is extinguished." Almost indeed, but not quite. It might be said however, to have disappeared from public view for a time. The most precious heir-loom of the Setons of New York, erst of Parbroath, is a portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots, given by herself to her faithful servant. The following inscription is read on a silver plate set into the case: "This original portrait of Queen Mary Stuart is an heirloom in the family of the Setons of Parbroath—now of New York—into whose possession it came through their ancestor David Seton of Parbroath, who was Comptroller of the Scottish Revenue from 1589 to 1595, and a loyal adherent of his unfortunate sovereign. It was brought to America in 1763 by William Seton, esquire, Representative of the Parbroath branch of the ancient and illustrious family of the forfeited Earls of Winton." It was so much admired by the late Prince Labanoff, a special student of and writer on the Stuart portraits, and at that time Russian ambassador in Paris, that he accepted with great pleasure, in 1855, a beautiful copy done on porcelain, which was presented to him by the owner of the original, the late William Seton, Esq., (U. S. N.) of "Cragdon," Westchester co., N. Y.

VIII. **SIR GEORGE SETON** of Parbroath. Knight, succeeded his father David. His seal with *mullet* for difference, has been published by Henry Laing, in his valuable catalogue of Scottish seals (Edinburgh, 1850). Sir George married Isabella Seton, oldest daughter of George third Baron of Cariston, whose grandfather, Hon. John Seton, was the second son of George fourth Lord Seton. By this marriage he had one son, Robert; and one daughter.

Margaret, who married Sir John Scrimgeour, who was raised to the peerage as Viscount of Dudhope and Lord Scrimgeour, in 1641. Their grandson became Earl of Dundee.

IX. **ROBERT SETON**, of Parbroath, succeeded to Sir George, his father. He became reduced in fortune by circumstances now unknown and finally sold his patrimonial estate, with the intention probably, of emigrating to America. The ruins of the fine old castellated mansion of Parbroath, (usually pronounced *Petbroad*) with gardens and inclosures, existed in Creich Parish, on the north side of the shire of Fife when Sir Robert Sibbald published his *History*: but all that now remains of a race of Lairds who "gave the blood of their bodies and their lives in defence of Scotland," is the half of an arch standing in the midst of a field and an old deserted dovecot at the foot of a hill. It became the property of the Lindsays, to whom it gives the title of Baron, Robert Seton moved away after the sale of Parbroath, and settled near Hawick, in Roxburgshire, where he married the daughter of a gentleman of the neighborhood. Little more is known of him. He was succeeded in the representation of the family by his son

X. **JAMES**, who settled in London and married Margaret Newton, by whom he left :

1. **John**, of whom hereafter.
2. **Mary**, married to Dr. William Robertson, of the

co. Surrey, who is described as "of an ancient Scotch family," and was mother of Captain George Robertson, R. N., who married Ann Lewis, of Philadelphia, during the American Revolution, and was maternal grandfather of the first Lord Moncrieff.

3. **Margaret**, married to Dundas of Manour, and was mother of Captain Ralph Dundas, R. N., who served with the British fleet on the American coast, during the Revolution.

Mr. James Seton was murdered by the slaves at *Cape Français* in San Domingo, while on a voyage to the West Indies, with the intention, it is believed, of settling in Jamaica.

XI. JOHN SETON, Esq. Representative of Parbroath, born in 1712, succeeded his father in the barren honor and the family heir-looms. He married his cousin Elisabeth Seton, who was "born on the family estate of Belsies, on the 17th of February, 1719." He had two sons and four daughters, viz :

1. **John**, emigrated to the West Indies and dying unmarried, was buried "within the parish of St. James, (Barbadoes) on December 22d, 1768."

2. **William**, of whom hereafter.

3. **Isabella**, married Sir Thomas Cayley, Baronet, of a family which came in with the Conqueror, and had issue.

Their great-grandson is the present Baronet Sir George Cayley of High Hall, Brompton, co. York. (See Burke's "*Peerage and Baronetage*," under *Cayley*.)

4. **Jane**, married Sir Walter Synnot, Knight, of Ballymoyer Castle, High Sheriff of Armagh, and Lieutenant-Colonel of Lord Charlemont's regiment, and had issue. Their grandson is the present Mark Seton Synnot, Esq. of Ballymoyer House, J. P., and Deputy Lieutenant for co. Armagh. (See Burke's *Landed Gentry*, under *Synnot*.)

5. **Elizabeth**, married Robert Berry, Esq., a nephew of Ferguson of Raith. They had issue, two daughters, Agnes and Mary, beautiful and accomplished ladies, long the ornaments of London society, and the friends and correspondents of the celebrated Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford. These sisters died unmarried and at a great age. (See Miss Berry's *Journal and Correspondence*, edited by Lady Theresa Lewis; 3 vols., London 1865.)

6. **Margaret**, married her kinsman, Andrew Seton, Esq., (of the *Abercorn* branch, now represented by Sir Bruce Maxwell Seton, 8th Baronet.) He came to New York, but being a Loyalist suffered in his property at the hands of the Patriots. His family finally settled in East Florida, then a British possession, after being driven out of Long Island, N. Y., during the Revolution. The Setons of Florida and the Henrys of Albany, (of whom is the present General Guy Henry, U. S. A.), derive their kindred with us from marriage with daughters of this union.

XII. **WILLIAM SETON, Esq.**, Representative of Parbroath, was born April 24th, 1746. He went to New York first in 1758 where his brother-in-law, Andrew Seton, was already living and where his kinsman, Captain Sir Henry Seton, Baronet, A. D. C. to the Hon. Major Gen. Monckton was serving in the British Army. Mr. Seton finally settled therein 1763, and at sixteen was superintendent and part owner of Iron Works in New Jersey, and of property in New York known as the "Mohawk Lands," in which his uncle, General Robertson, then commanding in North America, was also interested. The only child of this officer became Lady Henderson in 1782. Mr. Seton was a member of the New York Chamber of Commerce in 1768, the year of its foundation; and was several times an officer of the St. Andrew's and the St. George's Societies of this city. In the year 1767 he married Rebecca, oldest daughter of Richard Curzon, Esq., of Baltimore, Md., of the very old family of the Curzons of Waterperry, Oxfordshire, extinct Baronets, now represented by Lord Teynham. He was a Loyalist, although a member of the Committee of One Hundred, elected May 1st, 1775, to control the affairs of the City and County of New York at the beginning of the Revolution, and the last Royal Notary Publick, (1779). His silver notarial seal engraved with his arms, is now in the possession of his great grand-son and name-sake. His course was so moderate, and he was always personally so popular, that although he lost much property, he remained in the city after the war and founded the great mercantile house of Seton, Maitland & Co.; and was also one of the founders and first officers of the Bank of New York, (1784). His family have a good portrait of him, by the cele-

brated American artist Gilbert Stuart. He died on the 9th of June, 1798, universally regretted. By his first marriage he had three sons and one daughter ;

1. **William**, of whom hereafter :

2. **James**, who held a commission in the English army when only eleven years old. Married and had issue. His great-grandson and representative is Alfred Seton, Esq. of New York.

3. **John**, married and had issue. There is a good portrait of him (1798) in the aristocratic *St. Memin Collection*.

4. **Anna-Maria**, a great beauty in society one hundred years ago, when New York was the seat of Congress, and gay with the first administration of Washington. She married at eighteen, John Middleton Vining, Esq., of Wilmington, United States Senator from Delaware, and had issue.

By a second marriage Mr. Seton had besides *Henrietta* and *Cecilia* who died nuns at Emmitsburg, Md., children who intermarried with the Farquhars, Hoffmans, Ogdens. Maitlands, Wilkes, and other well-known old American families. All his children were distinguished for their tallness and good looks.

XIII. **WILLIAM SETON, Esq.**, Representative of

Parbroath, born at sea, April 20th, 1768, was educated at a private school at Richmond, in England, and travelled in Spain, Italy, and other parts of Europe before returning to America. He was an eminent Merchant of New York, and succeeded his father as head of the firm of Seton, Maitland & Co. His family possesses an exquisite miniature of him by Malbone. He married on January 25th, 1794, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Bayley, Esq., M. D., founder of the Quarantine System and first health officer of the port of New York. Mr. Seton died at Pisa, Italy on December 26th, 1803, leaving by his wife, who became a Roman Catholic and established the Sisters of Charity in the United States : dying at the Mother-house, Emmitsburg, Md., on Jan. 4th, 1821 :

1. **William**, of whom hereafter ;
2. **Richard**, U. S. Assistant Agent at Monrovia. Died in Africa, unmarried, on June 25th, 1823.
3. **Anna-Maria**, a nun, died at Emmitsburg, Md. ;
4. **Rebecca**, a nun, died at Emmitsburg, Md.
5. **Catherine**, a nun, still living at the age of ninety years, in the Convent of Mercy, New York.

XIV. **WILLIAM SETON, Esq.**, late of "Cragdon," Westchester co., N. Y., succeeded his father in the Representation of Parbroath. Was born in the city of New York on

November 25th, 1796, died there on January 13th, 1868. At one time a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. Married July 17th, 1832. Emily, daughter of Nathaniel Prime, Esq., of an old New England family, founder of the once famous New York banking house of Prime, Ward & King. Mr. Seton left three sons and four daughters :

1. **William**, of whom hereafter :

5. **Henry**, Captain in the fourth U. S. Infantry Served in the Civil War, married Ann, only child of Major General John Gray Foster, of an old and well-connected New Hampshire family, a distinguished officer of the Engineer Corps, U. S. Army, and has issue :

John,

William,

3. **Robert**, (Monsignor), in Holy Orders. Educated in Rome, for the Church 1857-1867. Named Private Chamberlain to Pope Pius IXth, and later a Prothonotary Apostolic. Is Rector of Saint Joseph's Church, in Jersey City, N. J.

4. **Emily**, died unmarried.

5. **Elizabeth**, unmarried.

6. **Helen**, a nun in the Order of Mercy.

7. **Isabella**, married to Thomas Jevons, Esq., a grandson of Roscoe, the historian, and cousin to the present Sir Henry Roscoe, M. P. Has issue, three sons and one daughter.

XV. WILLIAM SETON, Esq., Representative of Parbroath, born in the city of New York, January 28th, 1835. Served as Captain of U. S. Volunteers during the early part of the Civil War, and was twice severely wounded at the battle of Antietam. Married Sarah Redwood Parrish, of an old Newport and Philadelphia family, and had issue, *William*, died an infant. Mr. Seton is a man of letters and the author of several interesting works. (See Appleton's *Cyclopædia of American Biography*.)
