

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1900.

MEETING AT BANFF.

A meeting of the Banffshire Field Club was held within the Town and County Buildings, Banff, on Friday evening—Mr Garden M. Hossack, the president, in the chair.

Rev. George Minty, St Mary's, Fyvie, and Mr Geo. Thomson, Kindrought, Portsoy, were admitted members of the Club, and Mr Alexander Colville of Banff Castle was nominated for election at next meeting.

There was read a letter from Dr Ramsay bringing under the notice of the Club a letter he had received from Mr P. Russell, Glasgow, in which the suggestion was made of a visit by the Club to the standing stone at Auchnagorth and the stone of Clochforbie.

Thereafter, Dr Cramond, Cullen, read an exhaustive and highly interesting paper on Rothiemay House.

ROTHIEMAY HOUSE.

It cannot but appear surprising how the ancient Castle or House of Rothiemay should have almost missed having the leading incidents in its history recorded in some consecutive or connected form, seeing that castles of far less importance in the North, whether as regards their history or architectural features, have had their history written time after time. Writers have usually been content to describe the House of Rothiemay simply as "a building of some antiquity where Queen Mary passed a night in 1562," and readers as a rule have been satisfied that little more is known about it. The house and neighbourhood, however, possess many features of special interest.

It is difficult to state with exactness how many centuries the oldest part of the House has stood,

but its walls—enormously thick in some places—certainly testify to a great age, and many a stirring scene they must have witnessed in their time. The lower part of the house, including the kitchen, servants' hall, and cellars, all of which are arched with stone, is still in use as it was upwards of three centuries ago, having undergone remarkably little alteration.

Stone circles and similar remains of antiquity indicate an early population in this well-favoured spot. In the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, June 1868, occur notes of early remains on the farm of Knaughland, by the late Mr James Hunter, Rector of Banff Academy. Mr Hunter states that he found a large flattish stone lying prostrate with 13 or 14 cup-marks, most of them very distinct. There were no concentric circles, and no clear appearance of a circle of stones. A stone, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, stood about 15 yards off. There were faint indications of an old cairn near the top of the hill at Knaughland, with marks of five trenches on the side of the hill, meeting about 350 yards from the top of the hill. Mr Hunter adds that he traced two of these about 240 yards long, going up to within 100 to 150 yards of the top. They corresponded in their bendings, and were about twenty yards apart.

The Old Statistical Account of 1797 states that "about a furlong north from the House of Rothiemay is a Druidical temple, which, though situated in the middle of a beautiful and fertile field, a veneration for antiquity has hitherto preserved entire." Modern research compels us now to discard the phrase "Druidical temple," but it is pleasing to add that, after the lapse of a century, the observations of the writer of the O.S.A. otherwise still hold good. The remains at present consist of one large block and four of smaller size, all of diorite, being now all that remain of the circle. The large block is about eleven feet long, and five feet five inches high, and four to five feet broad, gradually narrowing at the one extremity, which extremity is not flat on the top as is the broad end. Only the broad flat-topped end is cup-marked, there being about fourteen cup marks visible. This large block may be in its original position, for it appears as if attached to the parent rock. The remaining four stones are about 5 feet 6 in. high, rough, unhewn blocks, somewhat slab-shaped, and lying curved

towards the centre of the circle. The position of the four stones may be roughly indicated thus:— Following the circle, the first is about 22 feet from the corner of the large block, the next is 14 feet apart, then one or more are wanting, for measuring along the arc of the circle to the next stone is 77 feet. The next stone is 14 feet apart, this last being 41 feet from the other corner of the large block. Another memorial of antiquity is part of an ancient sculptured stone now lying in front of Rothiemay House. It shows a few curved lines and parts of circles.

By the thirteenth century we have the aid of records. In the Exchequer Rolls for 1264, Philip of Meldrum, Collector of the Taxes in Banffshire, enters—"Nothing from the barony of Rothymayng, because it was escheated to the Crown." Who it belonged to before that time we know not. The lands probably remained in the King's hands a number of years, for in 1293 King Alexander III. gave to Eric of Norway when about to marry his daughter the rents of the lands of Rothiemay. Among the missing charters of Robert I. (1306-29) is a charter to Murdach of Menteith of the lands of Rothiemay, also a charter to Murdo Menteith of the half barony of Rothiemay, and a charter to David de Barclay of the lands of Rothiemay, the lands of Brechine and Kinloche, and sundry others forfeited to the King by David de Brechin. On 22nd November 1345, David II. granted a charter, signed at Elgin, of the lands of Rothiemay to "our beloved and faithful warrior," William de Abernethy, on the forfeiture of David of Strathbogie, "our enemy and rebel." The lands were granted on the usual terms to the said William and his heirs, they making three suits at the three head courts of the shire of Banff, and paying the King and his heirs, only if asked, a pair of gilt spurs at Rothiemay at Whitsunday yearly. This Sir William was present at the disastrous battle of Halidon Hill, 19th July 1333, but escaped with his life. In 1404, King Robert III. confirmed a charter in favour of William of Abernethy of Saltoun and his spouse Mary, whereby he granted to them all the lands in the barony of Rothiemay and Kyn-yaltuy, which formerly belonged to William, and which the said William resigned to the King to be held by the said William, and Mary, his spouse.

James I. of Scotland (1406-37) granted a charter

erecting the barony of Rothiemay in favour of Sir William de Abernethy, but, as already stated, even before that time the lands of Rothiemay belonged to the family of Abernethie (Lord Saltoun and Abernethie) and in that family they continued till the year 1612.

The following notes on the early descent of the family of Abernethy are chiefly from "The Frasers of Philorth." The surname Abernethy was derived from the barony of Abernethy in Lower Strathearn, Perthshire.

Hugh de Abernethy, lay abbot, died before 1164, Orm de Abernethy, lay abbot, died before 1190, and Laurence de Abernethy, last lay abbot, died about 1245. From him were descended (1) Hugh de Abernethy and (2) Sir William Abernethy, first of Saltoun, who died before 1296. Sir William Abernethy, second of Saltoun, died before 1330. Sir William Abernethy, third of Saltoun, and first of Rothiemay, died before 1350; Sir George Abernethy, fourth of Saltoun, prisoner at Durham, 1346, died before 1371; Sir George Abernethy, fifth of Saltoun, died before 1400; Sir William Abernethy, sixth of Saltoun, married Lady Mary Stewart, and died 1420. The son and heir of this Sir William fell at Harlaw on 24th July 1411, and is celebrated in the popular ballad:—

"And on the other side war lost,
Into the field that dismal day
Chief men of worth of mickle cost
To be lamented sair for aye,
The Lord Saltone of Rothiemay,
A man of micht and mickle main,
Great dolour was for his decay,
That sae unhappily was slain."

It may be noted in passing that the title "Lord Saltone of Rothiemay" is here only correct as a courtesy title. Sir William is styled by Bower "a magnanimous Knight." He died of the pestilence called "le Dubrow." This was in the year 1420, and although we meet with a reference to "Charles Abernethie of Rothiemay" in 1417, it is not likely that he was the laird. The hero of the bloody Harlaw left two sons, Sir William, seventh of Saltoun, who died before 1428, and Sir Laurence, first Lord Saltoun. "Sir William Abernethie, seventh of Saltoun, was in 1423, one of the Magnates Scotiæ who went to meet King James I. at Durham to assist in the negotiations for his release from

captivity, and to congratulate him on his marriage, and in the following year he was one of the hostages delivered to the English monarch for payment of the ransom of his sovereign, when his estates were valued at 500 marks, a considerable property then."

In 1445, the King created Laurence de Abernethy of Rothiemay a Lord of Parliament and ordained him to be styled Lord Saltoun of Abernethy. On 13th March 1448, this Lord Abernethy granted to John, son and heir of Philip of Auchanyouche, the lands of that name in the barony of Rothiemay [Auchindachy, in the parish of Keith], "he attending our head courts held at Rothiemay, and paying a pound of pepper annually, if asked." The first Lord Saltoun died in 1460. Of his two sons, the elder was William Abernethie, second Lord Saltoun, who died in 1488, the younger James, third Lord Saltoun, who died before 1512. On 13th March 1460-1 was recorded the sasine of William, Lord Abernethy in the barony of Saltoun, the said William being the son of Sir Laurence Abernethy, Lord of Abernethy in Rothiemay. William, the second lord, had a new charter of his estates in 1462. These estates were situated in no less than eight counties, and comprised the baronies of Rothiemay and Corncairn in Banffshire, Saltoun in Haddington, Ugistoun in Berwick, with lands in Forfarshire, Midlothian, Fife, Stirling, &c. These estates he resigned to the King, who re-granted them to him 10th January 1482, and erected them into one free barony of Abernethy in Rothiemay. By this charter he and his successors are to do service for the whole barony of Abernethy in Rothiemay at the court of the Sheriffdom of Banff only, instead of in the several counties. We may naturally infer therefrom that Rothiemay had now at least become his principal residence. This second lord had previously, viz., on 28th January 1463-4, a charter from King James III. of the lands of Rothiemay and others, and another of date 5th August 1464 of the baronies of Rothiemay and Corncairn and the lands of Saltoun and others. On 12th April 1475, William, Lord Abernethy of Rothiemay, granted a charter to David Auchynachie. The charter bears "given under my seal at Abernethy in Rothiemay," showing that although there is now no such place in the parish as Abernethy, there formerly was, and hence perhaps the family name. James, third lord Saltoun was retoured heir to

William, Lord Abernethy his brother in the barony of Abernethy in Rothiemay at Edinburgh on 10th October 1488, and it is interesting to note who were the "inquisitores" on the occasion. They were mostly leading men connected with the county or district: William, Earl Marischal, Sirs Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, James Ogilvy of Findlater, Alexander Straiton of Lawerenstown, Patrick Barclay of Gartly, John Barclay of Towy, Thomas Baird of Ordinhuch [Ordinhuf], and Walter Ogilvy of the Crag [of Boyne]. Five years later viz. on 16th October 1493 he lodged a protestation before the Lords of Council. He compeared and alleged that he was summoned at his Sovereign Lord's instance "for remaining fra his hoist in the Ilis and compeared first at Stirling and thereafter at St Andrews and offered himself ready to answer to the said summons but none compeared. He appears to have desired to be on friendly terms with King James IV. for on 5th October 1496 he sent to the King at Edinburgh a hamper of pears. The royal treasurer was ordered to give 9s. to Abernethy's man as a gift from the King.

The son of the third Lord Saltoun, Alexander Abernethy, fourth Lord Saltoun, married the daughter of James Stewart, Earl of Buchan, brother of King James III., and died before 1530. When Master of Saltoun he obtained a decret in 1490 from the Lords of Council against Alexander, Master of Huntly, Lord Gordon, ordering him to restore to the Master of Saltoun the teinds and profits of the Kirk of Rothiemay, which he had wrongfully usurped and taken. Even during his father's lifetime he appears to have entered into possession of a considerable part at least of the family estates, for on 9th March 1491-2 the King granted to Alexander Abernethy, son of James, Lord Abernethy in Rothiemay, the lands and baronies of Rothiemay and Corncairn, with the castle of Rothiemay and mills thereof, and the lands of Maschle and Edintoir. During 1514-17 Alexander, fourth Lord, purchased from Alexander Innes and from Sir John Ogilvie of Scattertie, the lands of Quorsque (Corskie) and Knockorthy, Auchindaveris and Romore, Ardmale, Torax and Muiralehouse, all in the barony of Aberchirder. This Alexander, in 1521, signed a deed "at Abernethie in Rothiemay," no doubt within the old part of the present building.

His widow, Lady Salton of Abernethy, built Park House about the year 1530. The barony of Corncairn belonged to the Rothiemay family from 1464 at least, and part of the barony may have been the lady's jointure. The sister of Alexander, fourth Lord, the Hon. Janet Abernethy, married Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford.

The son of the fourth lord, William Abercromby, fifth Lord Saltoun, married the Hon. Elizabeth Hay, daughter of John, second Lord Yester, and died about the year 1544. It is interesting to find in a deed of 1540 that Elizabeth Hay, lady of Salton, signs "with my hand led at the pen be Maister James Currou, N.P."; but many similar instances could be adduced from among ladies of the highest rank of that and earlier periods. In 1536 he and his wife obtained a charter under the Great Seal, and received sasine of the lands of Park of Corncairn, with the mansion thereof, from which it may perhaps be inferred that his mother, who built Park about 1530, was now dead. Alexander Abernethy of Netherdale was a witness to the instrument of sasine.

Alexander Abernethy, sixth Lord Saltoun, married Lady Alison Keith, daughter of fourth Earl Marischal, and died 1587. Of their family, George succeeded as seventh Lord Saltoun, while John obtained the property of Barrie, and died before 1609.

There is good reason to believe that Queen Mary passed a night in Rothiemay House on her way north in 1562. After leaving Aberdeen she passed the first night at Balquhain, and would naturally have spent the next night at Strathbogie, but the Gordons were not then to be relied upon, so she turned aside to Rothiemay. Her stay at Rothiemay is confirmed by Buchanan, who, describing the Queen's journey to Inverness, says—*Proxima nox at Rothimaium Abrenethiorum villam satis tranquille transacta est.* Her bedroom is still pointed out. A bed, purporting to be the identical one on which the Queen slept, was sold, with its proper curtains, at Rothiemay House in 1888 to Mrs Reid, Aberdeen, for £6 15s. One "Queen Mary" chair, at the same sale, brought £4, another £2 10s. The Queen, on her return visit from Inverness, summoned the loyal lords to her aid against the Earl of Huntly and the Gordons. Amongst those who answered her call was Alexander Abernethy, sixth

Lord Saltoun. The result was the death of the Earl of Huntly, and the defeat of his army at Corrichie. But the Gordons were not long till they were in a position to wreak vengeance on the Abernethies, for in 1568 Lord Saltoun complained of the oppression he suffered from the Gordons, being "in utter perrell and danger to be invadit and persewit with fire, sword, and all other kind of hostilitie by George Erle of Huntly." The Earl was forced next year to sue for peace, and to restore the damage he had done to Lord Saltoun's lands and possessions.

When King James VI. seized the Border freebooters in 1578, and distributed them for safety throughout the country, one, "Archie," brother of "John of the scoir," was sent to Rothiemay "to be surlie keepit unletten to libertie or sufferit to pass hame." In a few months' time, Archie, however, managed to escape, but Lord Saltoun was exonerated. There is another reference in record to Rothiemay House being inhabited by Lord Saltoun about that time, for it was here in 1580 that Lord John Innes and Robert Innes of Innermarky halted on their way north to Innes House after they had murdered Alexander Innes of Cromy in a house in Aberdeen. At Rothiemay House they procured a fresh supply of horses.

George, seventh Lord Saltoun, succeeded to the title and estates in 1587. He married Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Athol, and died before 1595. He was on better terms with the Huntly family than Alexander, the sixth lord, for he joined Huntly and took part in the fight at the Bridge of Dee. He was denounced rebel for failing to appear when summoned, but submitted the same year, and was pardoned on finding caution to the amount of 2000 merks. George, the seventh lord, left a son, John, eighth Lord Saltoun, and two daughters—Margaret, who married Alexander Fraser, yr. of Philorth, and Jean, who married (1) Sir John Lindsay of Kinfauns, son of Sir Henry Lindsay of Carraldstoun, who was afterwards Earl of Crawford. Sir John died during his father's lifetime, leaving two daughters, Jane and Margaret. His widow married (2) the laird of Gight. Through the marriage above referred to the family of Abernethie is now represented by the Frasers of Philorth. George, by his marriage with the daughter of the Earl of Athol,

had the lordship of Balveny disposed to him. This lady survived her husband a good many years. She had some trying experiences in 1618, when she was lying dying at her place of Corncairn (the House of Park). Sir James Skene of Curriehill happened to have "newlie lichtit" at the Kirk of Rothiemay, and, as one of His Majesty's Privy Council, he bound George Gordon, the laird of Gight, to the peace. This laird was resolved to have Lady Saltoun's last will either "nullit or reformat," and threatened to strike his opponents to the breast or "cleave them to the harn pan." He proceeded to Rothiemay; but "the yettis were locked and closed in time." The old lady refused to alter her will, and, as it was admitted the laird of Gight had hastened her end, he was ordered by the Privy Council to be confined in the Castle of Edinburgh and to be fined 500 merks.

John, eighth Lord Saltoun, married (1) Lady Mary Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Moray, and (2) Anne Stewart, daughter of the first Lord Blantyre. He died in 1617, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander, as 9th Lord Saltoun. The latter died unmarried in 1668, and the son of Margaret Abernethie and Alexander Fraser, 9th of Philorth, succeeded as 10th Lord Saltoun.

In the Kirk-Session minutes for 1605 are some references to the family at the Castle. On 14th April it is stated that "400 people communicat according to the tokens that war collectit and numberit." Next Sunday "all the rest of the parochin (except my lordis houshald) communicat this day." The entry for 9th June runs as follows:—"Quhilk day my lordis wyff and his mother, his sisters, viz., the lady Phillorthe and Maistres Jean, with all the rest of their houshald that war present, communicat, except Helen Chisome and Margaret Cragheid, servandis to the young lady, quha pretendit excuse of sicknes, bot suspect of relligioun." On 14th April 1616:—"This day my auld Lady Saltoun, with hir houshald and familie, communicat at the Lord's tabill." 3rd August 1617:—"My Lady Saltoun, with her houshald, communicat at the Lord's tabill befor nyn houris in the morning." About this time the communion began at six o'clock in the morning "for avoiding of thrang and misorder, becaus the kirk is litill." The

Saltoun family seem then to have left the district, and in April 1621, after noting that 704 persons had communicated, it is added, "The Right Honble. William Gordowne of Rothiemay, with some of his special servants, communicat."

Not long after the 8th Lord succeeded to the estates he found himself in debt, and about the year 1600 he signed a voluntary interdiction to certain friends, whereby he engaged to sell no part of his, or buy other, estates, without their consent; but in 1605 or 1606, he obtained from the Court of Session a "loosing," or reversal of the interdiction, which was duly recorded. He thereafter sold some of his lands. In 1609, to Mr Alexander Craig of Rosecraig (the well-known Banff poet) and Isobel Chisholm, his spouse, he sold the lands of Mayen, with fishings, in the Lordship of Rothiemay; and on 22nd May 1612 he made an obligation and alienation to Sir James Stewart of Killeith of the Lordship of Balveny, the patronage of Aberlour, Keith, and Rothiemay, the barony of Abernethy in Rothiemay, the barony of Corncairn, &c. On 30th July 1630, the King ratified said obligation and alienation. Inhibition was afterwards made against Killeith, afterwards Lord Ochiltree, as to the sale of the lands. Had Lord Saltoun the power to dispoise the lands? That was a question that required nearly a century to answer in all its bearings, and gave rise to one of the most extraordinary series of law disputes that ever concerned the North of Scotland. The eighth Lord Saltoun died soon after his disposition of Balveny to Ochiltree, and for about thirty-four years after his death all went peaceably. Then appears on the scene the villain of the piece, James Abernethy, of the family of Mayen, who tore out of the official record in London the decree of the Court of Session of date 1605, loosing the interdiction. This he did in 1657; but the discovery was not made till 1691, by which time serious complications had arisen, the Law Courts acting all the time as if no loosing had ever taken place. Rothiemay and others who had purchased lands from Ochiltree were decerned by the Court of Session to have no title thereto, and in order to retain their lands had to pay to Alexander, Lord Saltoun, or whom he designated, 1100 merks for each

chalders of victual. John, Lord Salton, appears to have honourably carried out his engagement to his friends; but Alexander, Lord Salton, seems to have been aware of the three leaves containing the decree being in the possession of Alexander Abernethy, brother of James, and to have made use of his knowledge. The following note of a contract exemplifies the statement regarding the former Lord:—"At Park of Carnousie, on 30th September 1601, it was agreed between John, Lord Abernethie of Salton, with consent of John Urquhart, tutor of Cromarty, John Gordon of Buckie, and Mr William Gordon of Dunmeath, to whom the said lord is interdicted on the one part, and Lady Margaret Saltoun, his Lordship's mother, on the other part, for the sum of 8000 merks Sc., paid by Lord Saltoun to his mother, she makes over to him the place, fortalice, and yards of Rothiemay, with the plenishing and furnishing within the said place, with cupboard of silver work, with the Mains thereof, &c."

Sir James Stewart possessed the lands of Rothiemay for only five years, when he sold them in 1617 for 79,300 merks, with 40,700 merks additional for the wadsets, to John Gordon of Cairnburrow for his son, William, fiar of Cairnburrow, who was thus the first Gordon of Rothiemay. John Gordon of Cairnburrow had married Elizabeth Gordon of Buckie. It was he who led his eight "whelps" to the battle of Glenlivet (1594), each with his jackman and footman. He and his sons all returned in safety. Some writers, while admitting that William was fiar of Cairnburrow, hold that John of Edin-glassie was the eldest son; but in a precept of clare constat of 1624 by the Bishop of Aberdeen, William is designated eldest son of John Gordon of Cairnburrow. In the same year William was infeft in the barony of Abernethie by a charter under the Great Seal. William had two sons—John, who was burned at Fren draught, and James, who succeeded his father as laird of Rothiemay. He had also three daughters. Of date 28th February 1617, the King granted to William Gordon, fiar of Cairnburrow, the lands and barony of Abernethy in Rothiemay, with other lands possessed by James, Lord Stewart of Ochiltree, and he erected the town and lands

of Kirktown of Rothiemay into a free burgh of barony, with power of electing bailies, councillors, burgesses, &c., having a Court-house and Market Cross, and a weekly market on Thursday, with three free fairs annually: (1) Dustan Fair, 14th December; (2) Sanct Denneis Fair, 9th October; and (3) Halycroce Fair, 3rd May, with the privilege of each for eight days. The Castle of Rothiemay to be the principal messuage. Reserving to Lady Margaret Stewart, Lady Saltoun, her life-rent of the Mains of Rothiemay, with manor and fortalice, also of Moss-side, Corskellie, and Woodhead, Cauldhome, Knachlane, &c.

The following summary note is interesting and informatory:—On 28th July 1625 the King confirmed a charter made by William Gordon of Rothiemay, by which for implement of a Matrimonial contract at Aberdeen, 31st July 1606, between Arthur, Lord Forbes, and Mistress Katharine Forbes, his sister, then wife of the said William, on the one part, and the deceased John Gordon of Benholm and the said William, his son and heir, on the other part (by virtue of which the said Katharine had been seized in conjunct fee in certain lands of Cairnburrow), he granted to the said Katharine the Mains of Rothiemay, Coer, &c. A witness was Sir Adam Gordon of Park, brother of the said William Gordon of Rothiemay; another was John Gordon, the elder son of the said William Gordon.

The incident of the burning of Fren draught in all its bearings illustrates well the wild and lawless state of the North in bygone times; but we can only briefly allude to it, and that only in so far as it is connected with the House of Rothiemay. The two places are about four miles apart, and they seem to have been fated to be ever at feud. On 15th March 1543, William, Lord Abernethy of Saltoun, Alexander Abernethy of Nathirdull, and forty-four others found surety to underly the law at the next Justice Aire at Banff for art and part of convocation of the lieges, armed in warlike manner, with a great force in ambush in the houses, out-houses, and barns of the place of Fren draught, for the slaughter of George Crechtone of Conze and James Crechtoune, being in the said place for

their slaughter, and for the slaughter of Robert Crechtoune with a gun. A dispute regarding fishings on the Deveron arose between James Crichton of Frendraught and William Gordon, the new laird of Rothiemay, the latter having sold the former some of his lands. The Privy Council, on the case being carried before them, decided in Frendraught's favour. Thereupon, in accordance with the custom of the times, Gordon in revenge harried Crichton's lands. Crichton obtained a commission from the Lords of Council to apprehend Gordon and his associates. Crichton with his company, which included Sir George Ogilvy of Banff and others, on proceeding to Rothiemay on 1st January 1630, was met by Gordon, who in the conflict was wounded and died three days afterwards. The other side also suffered loss. It is said that the laird of Rothiemay "sore hurt" though he was, when he arrived at his house called for a drink for his men and himself, ordered his piper to strike up "The Lady Rothiemay's Lilt," danced round and round his hall, then took to his bed, and in three days, as has been said, died. The son of the slain laird now joined himself to the rebel James Grant and 200 Highlandmen to waste Frendraught's lands. These men were all assembled in the House of Rothiemay ready for action, but Sir Robert Gordon, tutor of Sutherland, succeeded in persuading them to disperse. The Marquis of Huntly made peace between the two parties, and Crichton, although he acted according to law, had to pay 50,000 merks to the widow of Rothiemay and her children. But the Marquis had next to arrange matters between Crichton and the Leslies of Pitcaple, who had been on Crichton's side against Rothiemay, but were now at feud. For safety the Marquis sent his own son, Viscount Melgum, and John Gordon, the laird of Rothiemay, to conduct Frendraught home from the Bog of Gicht, it being feared that Leslie of Pitcaple was lying in wait. All arrived safely at Frendraught, and Crichton and his lady earnestly entreated Lord Melgum and Rothiemay to remain all night. That night, the 8th October 1630, the Tower of Frendraught took fire, and Lord Melgum, the laird of Rothiemay, and four attendants were burned to death.

The Gordons accused the Lady of Frendraught for setting fire to the Tower, and the laird of Frendraught to clear his family appealed to the Privy Council, who sent Commissioners to Frendraught; but the origin of the fire could not be made out clearly, although one Meldrum was convicted and executed for his share in it in the year 1633. The Gordons in revenge sent Highlanders to plunder Frendraught's lands. They numbered some 40 horsemen and 60 footmen. "They fortified the House of Rothiemay with meat, men, and munition, and from thence they make daylie incursions against Frendret, and kill some of his men." On one occasion they carried off 260 cattle and 160 sheep, which they drove to Rothiemay House, "wherein the lady with her daughters were then dwelling, entered the house masterfully, took the keys of the gates and doors, syne put the lady and her daughters to the gate to the kiln barn, but this was done with consent, as was thought." Here they enjoyed themselves, "and caused to kill three-score marts and a hundred wedders." In 1634, the Sheriff of Aberdeen attempted with 200 men to seize the rebels, but could find none within his shire. The Marquis of Huntly was charged to present the "broken" men, but he was sick. The Sheriff of Banff, George Baird of Auchmedden, with 200 men, went, but was equally unsuccessful. He found the House of Rothiemay open; but "no man was there, for they had fled about two hours before the Sheriff came." As soon as the Sheriff left, they "came all back to Rothiemay, and held house in wonted form." Part of Rothiemay House was burned about this time; for in 1634 a party of Gordons came to the Manse and carried off the minister's riding horse in revenge for the burning of Rothiemay House. There was probably not much of the House burned, perhaps one wing or the upper part of one wing, judging from the walls of the upper storeys being now much thinner than the lower. The Privy Council took a serious view of these ongoing, and the Marquis of Huntly was ordered to appear in Edinburgh to answer for the conduct of the Gordons acting thus, even so near Strathbogie. When he arrived in Edinburgh, which was nearly two months after the 19th of January 1635, the day

he had left the Bog of Gicht (Gordon Castle), he was imprisoned and ordered to find caution for a very large sum that Fren draught would be allowed to live in peace. While the Marquis was on his journey south a herald charged Lady Rothiemay to render the keys of Rothiemay, which she obeyed. The herald locked the gate to deliver the keys to the Council. Then the Gordons returned, brake open the doors, and dwelt in the House. One of those who obtained letters of remission in 1635 from the King as an abettor of rebellion, with others of the name of Gordon against the lands of Fren draught, was Adam Gordon, son of the deceased Sir Adam Gordon of Park. The Marquis apprehended some twelve of the rebels. Ten of these, including John Gordon, Woodhead of Rothiemay, were hanged. Most of the rebels, however, fled to Flanders. "Catherine Forbes, Lady Rothiemay, was also seized and carried to Edinburgh, and John Gordon, Woodhead, Rothiemay; while John Gordon in Corskellie, John Gordon in Rothiemay, and James Cruickshank there, as well as James Gordon, the young laird, and his tutor, David Abercrombie, were summoned to appear in Edinburgh as parties engaged against Fren draught. Alexander Kellas, Abraham Mathieson, George Abernethie at Walkmilm, William Abernethie in the Scheill, Walter Haket, and the minister, the Rev. Alexander Innes, were summoned as witnesses. Meanwhile, the Sheriff of Banff fortified Rothiemay House with 24 soldiers, who remained there at Lady Rothiemay's expense. Lady Rothiemay herself was detained as prisoner in Edinburgh till the end of the year 1637"—(Shearer's "Notes on the Parish of Rothiemay.")

How Rothiemay and the North appeared in the seventeenth century may not on every point be clear to us; but matters were certainly not so bad as they are represented in a letter to Sir Edward Harley (Hist. MSS. Com.) from Denis de Repas, an ex-Capuchin monk:—

"I may assure your Honour that in all my travels I never saw a nation in general more nasty, lazy, and less ingenious in the matter of manufactures than they are. In several places, though nature doth afford them all manner of materials to build houses, they are so lazy that

they had rather lay in cabins covered hardly with earth and turfs, and so be exposed to the injury of the weather, than to take the pains to build as they do anywhere else; nay, amongst the Highlanders, they live like savages and go half naked. That peoples is so lazy that generally, except in the great towns, they do not do so much as bake bread, though they may have plentiful of corn, but make nastily a kind of stuff with oat half-grinded, which they do call Cake, which hath no more taste or relish than a piece of wooden trencher. I was forced for two months' time, in the north, in a place called Rothimay, to live altogether upon pap for want of bread."

It has been stated that John, Lord Abernethy of Saltoun, disposed the Castle and lands of Balveny to Sir James Stewart; but in 1666 the superiorities and feu-duties of Balveny were still in possession of Alexander, Lord Saltoun, son of the said John. Arthur Forbes, brother to Blackton, succeeded to the property of Balveny prior to 1670, for about the year 1669 the Dowager Lady Saltoun writes: "The Lord Saltone hath maid a disposition to on Arthur Forbus." It was presumably about that time that the said Arthur, with James Gordon of Rothiemay, Sir John Forbes of Craigievar, and others to the number of 24 or 30, went in riotous manner to the Master of Saltoun's house at Balveny, and called his servants and vassals to state upon oath what money they had given to the Master. The Master was not there, and the servants fearing an attack left the place, after "rainforcing the gates with great trees and posts of timber. The attacking party, not being allowed admission, entered by the windows of the second storey, and after doing considerable damage left the house because they did not find it tenable, and threatened to return."

James Gordon, the well-known Parson of Rothiemay (1641-1686), and author of the "History of Scots Affairs," was son of Robert Gordon of Straloch. He married (1) Margaret, sister of James Gordon, laird of Rothiemay, and (2) Katherine Gordon, and had four sons and two daughters. The laird was married to Margaret Menzies, sister to Gilbert Menzies,

younger of Pitfodels, who was slain with the "excommunicat traitor, James Graham." Neither the ministers nor the laird of Rothiemay were zealous for the Covenant. Rev. Alexander Innes was deposed, and his successor, the famous "Parson," would probably have shared the same fate but for the influence of the laird. But the parson had it sometimes in his power to screen the laird, for in 1651 the Synod complained that the parson "had slighted over Rothiemay's satisfaction for two casual slaughters." In March 1651 we find the laird making public repentance in the Kirk of Rothiemay for his "accidental slaughters." The "accidents" were slaying a woman named Catherine Gordon in the year 1647, and a man named Henry Pirie in 1648. Before he had completed his public repentance he was called south to do battle for King Charles, in whose army he was a Colonel. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester. One Sunday, in December 1651, there was no service in the church, the parson having gone to Aberdeen to plead with the English commander for the release of his brother-in-law, the laird, who was then a prisoner at York. The minister had also to complain of quartering of soldiers in his manse. He again went to Aberdeen in the following March, for it is noted in the Kirk-Session minutes that no meeting could be held on "28th March 1652—the day before the total eclipse—the minister having gone to Aberdeen concerning the enlargement of James Gordon of Rothiemay." In April 1653 English soldiers were quartered in the Castle, and, as the Session records show, two of the female servants of the Lady Rothiemay, elder, were not acting circumspectly in the circumstances. Soldiers had caused not a little trouble in the parish. In October 1651, they had "shooke all thinges loose." Next month "the country was all distracted" with them. Soon after the minister complains of discipline "at the weackest," the "sac-cloth tackine awaye," and the stool of repentance "tumoultously throwne downe upon the very lordes daye." "Mistris Margaret Menzies, Lady Rothiemay, yr.," was a Roman Catholic, and was frequently dealt with by the Session and Presbytery. On 21st July 1661 the Dowager Lady was reported to have put on a fire on midsummer night, being

Sunday. She pleaded that it was on account of her birthday, but the Presbytery ordered her to be admonished. At a County Court held on the Castle Hill of Banff, 5th October 1554, "the lands of Rothemay and Corncairne" are entered as a "xxx lib. land."

The lands and barony of Rothiemay was a twenty pound land of old extent, and included the lands of Mayen, Quoir, Auchincloich, and Ternemnie. As appears from an attestation by the Sheriff-Clerk, Robert Sharp, these four said lands were c. 1679 valued at £420. The whole valuation of the parish at that time was £2790 Sc., of which the lands of Rothiemay, apart from Mayen, &c., were valued at £1500. Auchincloich was owned by Thomas Abernethie in the beginning of the seventeenth century, by Alexander Abernethie c. 1660-80, and by John Abernethy c. 1695. The last-named disposed his lands in favour of John Gordon of Rothiemay. In 1679 there were eleven proprietors in the parish. By the close of the 18th century there were only two—Earl Fife and Colonel Duff of Mayen. At the present day there are about fourteen heritors in the parish, and the valuation of the parish is over £5700 stg.

It may be added that James Gordon of Rothiemay purchased some lands in the parish of Grange, including Fortrie, &c., between the years 1670 and 1682.

The Saltouns were associated with Rothiemay in common opinion even long after their time, e.g., the second edition of Camden's Description of Scotland bears on its title page to be published at Edinburgh in 1595, but that is evidently a printer's error for, say 1695. The following is a quotation therefrom:—"From Buquhan, as the shore bendeth backward and turneth full into the North, lyeth Boene and Bamff, a small Sherifdom, also Ajnza, a little territory of no especial account, and Rothamay Castle, the dwelling place of the Barons of Salton, sirnamed Abernethy."

A charter, of date 1649, exemplifies the vicissitudes of the lands of Rothiemay. In that year the King granted to James Gordon of Rothiemay the lands and barony of Rothiemay, formerly called the barony of Abernethie in Rothiemay, with castle and fishings, also superiority of the

castle and fishings, also the superiority of the lands of Auchanachie, formerly belonging to Patrick Sinclair of Auchanachie, and held as a tenantry of the said barony. The said lands, as the deed narrates, were formerly incorporated into the barony of Rothiemay in favour of the deceased William Gordon, fiar of Cairnburrow, afterwards of Rothiemay, which John Gordon, then of Cairnfield, son and heir of the deceased Mr William Gordon of Cairnfield, at whose instance in 1628 they were appraised by the said William Gordon of Rothiemay, resigned in favour of the said James, as assignee, constituted by the deceased Robert Gordon of Culdrain, 3rd January 1644, and which Walter Halket of Mayan, who had obtained the decret of adjudication against the said James, as heir of the said William Gordon of Rothiemay, his father, resigned. Walter Halket had his rights of Meyan, Quoir, &c., reserved to him. In 1656, James Gordon disposed the lands of Rothiemay in favour of John Gordon of Balmad, and in 1666 John Gordon was infeft in the said lands. In 1672 is recorded a charter, and in 1676 the sasine, of Charles Murray, merchant burges of Edinburgh, of the lands and barony of Rothiemay, James Gordon having disposed the lands which were holden by service of ward in favour of John Gordon of Balmad without the Sovereign's consent, and the said lands were therefore at the Sovereign's gift. In 1677, the Court of Session decided in favour of the said Charles Murray as owner of the lands against James Gordon of Rothiemay and Isobel Gordon, only daughter and heir to the deceased John Gordon of Balmad, spouse to William Cuming of Auchry. In 1683, Charles Murray disposed the lands of Rothiemay to John Gordon, eldest son of James Gordon of Rothiemay. In 1690, John Gordon of Rothiemay had sasine of the lands and barony of Edinglassie, and held them till they were acquired by Alexander Duff of Braco. About the same year, John Gordon resigned the lands of Rothiemay for new infeftment to himself and his wife, Elizabeth Barclay, Lady Towie, and after their decease to Patrick Barclay, their son. The rest of their family besides this son was two daughters. In 1709, and again in 1712, we find a decret of ranking before the Lords

of Session at the instance of Sir George Innes of Corton and Dame Elizabeth Gordon, his spouse, daughter of John Gordon of Rothiemay, against the said Patrick Barclay of Towie, alias Gordon of Rothiemay. Under date about 1712, we learn that the deceased John Gordon of Rothiemay's eldest daughter was Anna, while another was Elizabeth, as has been said. John Gordon's sisters were Marjory, who married John Ogilvie, and Margaret. The free rent of Rothiemay was then £4344 Sc., which at eighteen years' purchase amounted to £78,195. The lands then included Castletown, Inchcorsie, Murifold, Auchincloich, Corskellie, &c. In 1712, the lands and estate of Rothiemay were purchased at a judicial sale by Mr Archibald Ogilvie for £101,751 5s. Sc. Mr Archibald Ogilvie of Rothiemay is referred to in sundry documents as living there in the years 1713, 1719, and 1728, at least. In 1731, he disposed the lands in favour of James Ogilvie, his eldest son, who in 1741 sold the lands and estate to William, Lord Braco, afterwards Earl Fife. Braco built the new house of Balveny about 1724, and he lived there about the time when Duff House was built—1740-45. He never lived at Duff House, and is frequently referred to as living at Rothiemay from 1750 till his death in 1763. During that period, viz., in February 1753, he granted a charter to Patrick Duff, W.S., of the barony of Rothiemay, and in the following month Patrick Duff granted a disposition to William, Lord Braco, of the said barony, so it was perhaps for political purposes only. The teinds of Turtory were disposed so early as 1693 by Gordon of Rothiemay to Alexander Duff of Braco. Rothiemay remained in the possession of the Fife family till it was purchased in the year 1890 by Colonel Foster-Forbes. The second Earl Fife lived at Duff House. The Hon. Arthur Duff of Orton had a tack of the estate, Mains and Manor-place of Rothiemay, from his brother, Earl Fife, about the year 1777, and was resident there at least in 1786.

A few marriages and deaths that occurred in Rothiemay House during the latter half of the eighteenth century may be noted. Here, on 25th October 1753, Keith Urquhart, yr. of Meldrum, was married to Jean Duff, daughter of

Lord Braco, and here in 1759 Lord Macduff, eldest son of Earl Fife, was married to Lady Dorothea Sinclair, only child of the Earl of Caithness. At Rothiemay House, on 31st October 1762, died Sir Harry Innes of Innes, and in the following year, 30th September, William, first Earl Fife. On 16th January 1788 died here Jean, Countess Dowager Fife, and was buried first in the family burying-place at the Church of Grange. In the preceding March died here Miss Frances Duff, youngest daughter of the Hon. George Duff of Milton, and was buried at Grange. It does not appear clear where the family of Saltoun buried when they held these lands. There seems no evidence that it was in the church or churchyard of Rothiemay. In the middle of the 17th century they buried in the Abbey Church of Holyrood.

Closely connected as the Church of Rothiemay is with the bygone history of the Castle and the family, space forbids us making more than a few brief references thereto. From the windows of the House of Rothiemay one now looks down on many a pleasant field and many a spreading tree, here a gentle rising ground, there the winding Deveron; but in former times the first and most prominent object that met the eye was the Parish Church and Churchyard. The church in ancient times was a mensal church of the Bishop of Moray. A few years after the Reformation—in 1570—Alexander, Lord Saltoun, had a tack of the parsonage of Rothiemay and Keith from the Bishop of Moray for nineteen years, on payment of 460 merks yearly, Lord Saltoun undertaking “to uphald, beit (help), and mend the queir of Rothemay in theking,” and other necessary repairs. In 1726, it is described as standing “amid a wood of birch and alder on Doavern.”

James, second Earl Fife, probably the most distinguished and most energetic of the Fife family, resolved to improve the view and improve the privacy of the House of Rothiemay by the removal of the church and churchyard, a course for which it would have been difficult for him to find a precedent in Scotland; but he succeeded in obtaining the sanction of his sole fellow-heritor, also the sanction of the Presbytery, and in 1752 a decret of the Court of

Session in his favour, and now from the Castle windows the site of the old church and churchyard is no longer discernible in the wide expanse. Even when one proceeds to investigate the site at close quarters, unless he defies the decree of the Court of Session by taking a spade and digging a few inches under the surface in search of bones or other remains, all he can make out is the line of the ancient walls and aisle. The zealous antiquary, inspired, of course, with due respect, comes at every spadeful on the remains of the old inhabitants of the parish, and on the slates and stones of the old church. A single flat tombstone relieves the eye, for a copy of the inscription on which I am indebted to the kindness of a young lady of the House of Rothiemay:—"Among his ancestors underneath this stone is interred John Abernethy of Mayen, a young man of an amiable character. He died 2nd May 1779, in the 21st year of his age; also Helen Abernethy, his sister, who died — April 1787, aged 34; — also their nephew, Charles Graham, who died December 1800, aged 28 years." The Ordnance Survey map inaccurately places the site of the old church on one side of the burn and the churchyard on the other, but the churchyard here, as in almost all other cases in old times, certainly circled around the church.

A few words may be added regarding the more recent appearance of the House, and, in passing, one cannot but remark on the modest designation of "House" applied of old by the landed proprietors of this part of the country to their noble mansions. Thus, we have Cullen House, Rothiemay House, Duff House, &c., some of them erected when defence was the main requisite and when "Castle" was therefore, one would think, the more appropriate term. For a time in the 17th century the low Latin term

"palatium" came in vogue as the designation of a well-to-do gentleman's house, examples of which may be found in the "Palace" of Banff, and sundry "palaces" around the Firth of Forth. In this present century no designation is too pretentious for even comparatively humble residences. Looking at what Rothiemay House was, and, in fact, still is, one cannot help thinking that the "Castle of Rothiemay" would have been and would be a more correct designation for this splendid pile; but I make no further remark on this point, not knowing the views of the proprietor thereon. I need only remark that, as in the case of Cullen House, when a great building several centuries ago succeeded to a small one, the name evidently remained unchanged. On 23rd March 1780, Alexander Stronach, Lord Fife's sub-factor at Knock, reported that a storm had tirmed several parts of the House of Rothiemay, both the old tower and the south side. The O.S. Account of 1797 states that "the most ancient part of Rothiemay House, which was fast going to ruin, his Lordship has lately taken down." The walls of the older part of the Castle are eight feet thick. These form the kitchen, cellar, and servants' apartments, and have been little altered from their original form. Altogether, they form one of the most interesting series of ancient apartments we know of in the North: still capable of being conveniently utilised for modern purposes. With their comparatively low and stone-vaulted roofs, the great fire-place, and so on, they give us a good idea of castles three or four centuries ago. A few years ago a small secret apartment was discovered in the walls. Strange to say, some of the internal walls which are built of stone, a newer near an older part, are so built that there is an opening of a foot or two in width from top to bottom. The old manse near the burn is now converted into the washing-house and laundry of the Castle. One of the cellars contains an iron press used chiefly by the first Earl for preserving his correspondence and other documents, which became so ruined by damp that bagfuls of them had to be burned a few years ago. I had previously reported on their hopeless condition. A similar iron press is in the inner charter-room of Duff House.

We should naturally look for S. Drostan's Well, seeing that a good well exists so near the site of the old church, but no well now so named exists. It is well-known that the church was dedicated to S. Drostan. Some authorities, however, give S. John. We find S. Peter's Well in the neighbourhood of the House, with a stone lintel, bearing apparently the date 1520 or 1580. St Mary's bridge over the burn, at least the present erection, is comparatively modern, and the trees in "St Mary's Avenue" could perhaps have been planted by Lord Braco c. 1750. "Queen" Mary, and not "Saint" Mary, may have been the original form of these names.

One of the rooms of the House contains an interesting piece of tapestry. It represents three ladies seated at lace work, before whom, in hostile guise, appear three soldiers, the first a handsome young man armed with a sword, the others of ruder type with shackles and thongs. The ladies seem startled. Alongside of them is a tent or bed. The age and name of the worker of the tapestry may be discovered from two monograms worked into it, one a capital H, from the horizontal bar of which rise an arrow-head with the barbs reversed, and surmounted by a capital B. The other is similar, except that a combination of A and N take the place of H. These are evidently the marks of Bernardin van Hasselt, the indefatigable colleague of the famous Pierre Fevre. Pierre Fevre settled in Florence c. 1620, and died there in 1669. What scene is here actually represented I am not prepared at present positively to say, but in all probability it represents Michal deceiving Saul with an image in David's bed (1 Sam. xix., 12).

It is impossible now to say when the fine trees near Rothiemay House were planted; but it is interesting to have some well-ascertained facts regarding the plantations in or close to the parish. In the Report of the Society of Arts is found the following report detailing the number and names of the trees planted by Lord Fife. The numbers are given in thousands:—

(A) Corskellie,	97 acres,	planted	1798.
(B) Ballochhill,	400	" "	1799.
(C) Scaib,	180	" "	1800.
(D) Turlory,	" "	" "	1801.

	A.		B.	C.	D.
Larch, ..	40	..	200	25	18
Oak, ..	15	..	30	20	5
Elm, ..	20	..	30	7	3
Beech, ..	15	..	50	5½	2
Fir, ..	16	..	144	40	5
Birch, ..	12	..	60	8	8
Ash, ..	8	..	45	12	6
Alder, ..	4	..	10	3 1-5	3
Sycamore, ..	3	..	6	2	1
Poplar, ..	2½	..	20	2	2
Spr. fir, ..	2	..	5	—	1
Mt. Ash, ..	1	..	5	2	—
Norway maple, ..	1	..	5	1	—
Sweet chestnut, ..	1	..	10	2	—
Horse, ..	1	..	6	1	—
Limes, ..	1	Rhoans,	10	1	—
Pineaster, ..	1	Willows,	5	3	—
		Laburnums,	6	2	1

This paper would be very incomplete and unsatisfactory could I not furnish a few particulars regarding the present worthy proprietor of the ancient House of Rothiemay, who acquired the property in the year 1890. From Walford's County Families we learn as follows:—"Lieut.-Colonel John Foster Forbes of Rothiemay, Banffshire, eldest son of Lieut.-Colonel John Forbes, of the Bombay Army (who died 1866), by Eliza, daughter of Captain John Orrok, of H.M.'s 33rd Regiment; born 1835, married (1873) Mary Livesey, only daughter of Thomas Wardle, Esq. of The Beach, Cheshire, and has, with other issue, Ian Rose-Innes Foster, born 1875, Lieutenant 92nd Gordon Highlanders. Lieut.-Colonel Forbes, who was educated at Edinburgh and the Military College, Edinburgh, and was formerly Commanding 6th Bombay Cavalry, is a J.P. and D.-L. for Co. Banff."

Colonel Forbes belongs to the family of Forbes of Skellater in Strathdon, whose motto, "Solus inter plurimos," is distinct from all other families of that name because they were the only Forbeses that were not Covenanters. Col. Forbes, who is a grandson of the late Mr Forbes of Castleton, Kincardineshire, served through the Indian Mutiny in 1857-8. He was twice wounded and twice mentioned in despatches, being recommended once for the Victoria Cross. It may be added that the Captain Orrok referred to as Colonel Forbes's grandfather on the mother's side was of the family of Orrok of

Orrok in Fifeshire. Colonel Forbes's family consists of seven sons and two daughters:—(1) Alistair Stronach Foster, b. 1874, d. 1876; (2) Ian Rose-Innes Foster, b. 1875, Lieutenant 92nd Gordon Highlanders; (3) William Stronach Foster, b. 1879, of Royal Navy; (4) Ronald Foster, b. 1881; (5) Roualeyn Duncan Foster, b. 1882, in Royal Navy; (6) Henry Gordon Foster, b. 1888; (7) John Foster, b. 1889; (1) Anna Orrok Stronach Shiela Foster; (2) Sybil Mary Foster.

One can scarcely pass from Rothiemay House and the Laird thereof without referring to William Stronach, tenant of Ardmeallie, in Marnoch. He was married to Colonel Forbes's mother's sister, was son of Rev. William Stronach, minister of New Machar (1782-1804), and Marnoch (1804-1837), and Harriot, daughter of Sir James Reid, Bart. of Barra. He was born at Manse of New Machar, 9th Dec. 1795, educated at Grammar School, Aberdeen, when 13 years old went to England to prepare for Military Academy, Woolwich, got a commission, Royal Engineers, c. 1812, went to Bantry Bay, Ireland, came back to England, and was made Lieutenant. He was at Dover when the troops for Waterloo embarked. He went on half-pay c. 1820, and married Anna Orrok, 1822, and died 4th April 1893. Alexander Stronach, his elder brother, was an advocate in Aberdeen. Alexander Stronach, tenant, Knock, and sub-factor to Lord Fife, was the brother of the minister of Marnoch.

The following is a list of the more important pictures now at Rothiemay House:—

- (1) Portrait of a Lady (Dahl).
- (2) Portrait of the Duke of Marlborough (A. Vander Were).
- (3) Hon. Charles Gordon.
- (4) Landscape with Peacocks, &c. (M. Hondelcoeter).
- (5) Mrs Masham (Dahl).
- (6) Alexander Udny Duff.
- (7) Portrait of a Gentleman (Sir Peter Lely).
- (8) Portrait of Schalcken (by Himself).
- (9) Sir Peter Lely's Mistress Painting Cupid (Sir P. Lely).
- (10) Madame Loftus, second wife of Lord Lisburne (Sir G. Kneller).

- (11) Maria, Countess of Coventry.
- (12) Countess of Ranelagh (Sir G. Kneller).
- (13) Portrait of William Gray (executed 1707 for carrying on a treasonable correspondence with France when Secretary in Mr Harley's Office).
- (14) Portrait of Sir Wm. Petty (Sir G. Kneller).
- (15) Mrs Cibber, actress (Hoare).
- (16) William III., when Prince of Orange, on horseback.
- (17) Earl of Essex (F. Zuccherò).
- (18) Queen Mary d'Este (Sir P. Lely).
- (19) Eleanor Gwynn (Sir P. Lely).
- (20) Sir William Acton of Acton Hall (Sir G. Kneller).
- (21) Penelope, Lady Herbert (Sir P. Lely).
- (22) Mary, Queen of Scots (on panel, from a French convent).
- (23) William Duff of Braco (Sir G. Kneller).
- (24) Helen Taylor, Lady Braco (Mossman).
- (25) Prince of Orange, 1645 (Sir P. Lely).
- (26) Princess of Orange, 1645 (Sir P. Lely).
- (27) James the First (Cornelius Janssen).
- (28) Prince Rupert (Sir P. Lely).
- (29) Duke of Monmouth (Sir G. Kneller).
- (30) Earl of Carlisle, d. 1684 (Sir G. Kneller).
- (31) Lady Eliza Howard, eldest daughter of Charles, third Earl of Carlisle (Sir G. Kneller).
- (32) George III., when Prince of Wales (Ramsay).
- (33) Duke of Cumberland, with view of Battle of Culloden.
- (34) Prince Henry, son of James VI.
- (35) Lord Falkland (Vandyck).
- (36) Viscount Grandison, father of Duchess of Cleveland.
- (37) Henry VIII. (after Holbein).
- (38) William, Earl Fife, with his son, Hon. George Duff (Mossman).
- (39) Jane, Countess Fife, with her son, Hon. Lewis Duff (Mossman).
- (40) Charles I. in his Marriage Dress (Vandyck).
- (41) Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark (Dahl).
- (42) Ruins in Rome (Pannini).
- (43) King Edward III.
- (44) Ruins in Rome (Pannini).
- (45) King Henry VII.
- (46) King William III. (Sir G. Kneller), Painted to send to Holland).

- (47) Queen Mary (Sir G. Kneller). Companion picture to (46).
 (48) Frederick, Prince of Wales (Merci).
 (49) Landscape.
 (50) Mrs Udry Duff, when young.
 (51) Fruit Girl (Northcote).
 (52) Queen Elizabeth.
 (53) Dutch Winter Piece.
 (54) View of Greenwich from the Observatory.
 (55) Do., before Hospital was built.
 (56) Mrs Fordyce of Ayton, sister to Jane, Duchess of Gordon (Angelica Kauffman).
 (57) Girl's Head (Greuze).
 (58) Girl Reading (after Greuze).
 (59) Ruins in Rome (Pannini).
 (60) James VI. on horseback, with view of Holyrood Palace (Vansomer).
 (61) Portrait of a Composer of Music.
 (62) Ruins near Rome (Pannini).
 (63) Do. (Do.).
 (64) Rural Landscape (Tomkins).
 (65) Do. (Do.).
 (66) Landscape with Cupids Hunting (Tomkins).
 (67) " " Drinking (Do.).
 (68) Edward, Duke of York, 1764 (P. Batoni).
 (69) Landscape.

Also numerous Engravings, &c.

It is pleasing to add in conclusion that in the recently drawn-up lease of the farm on which stands the ancient circle of stones referred to at the beginning of this paper, the proprietor, Colonel Forbes, has caused a clause to be inserted to the effect that these interesting remains of antiquity be not interfered with.

ANE ACCOUNT OFF THE HAILL PLEUCHES OF LAND BELONGING TO THE SEVERAL HERETORS WITHIN THE PAROCHINE OF ROTHEMAY AND OFF THE LOCALLED STIPEND PRESENTLIE PAYABLE ON EACH PLUGHE TO THE PRESENT INCUMBENT, MR WILLIAM HAY [Mr Hay, 1685-1716, was deposed for supporting the Pretender], abstracting from the ease Rothemay enjoyes by vertue off the tack of teinds granted by the present Incumbent att his entrie and which ought to be communicat to the rest of the heretors in caice of a decretit off modificatiene.

Imprimis the lands of Turtrie belonging to the Laird of Braco consists of fyve plughes and four oxgates of land, each plugh therof payes of yeirlie stipend to the minister fyve pound of money and two bolls meall, inde 27 libs 10s. 11 bolls.

Item the lands of Mayen and Shadow Plugh of Ternemnie being valued to six plughes, each plugh wherof payes of yeirlie stipend to the minister fyve pound of money and one boll three firlots meall, inde 30 libs 10 bolls 2 fir.

Followes the severall lands of Rothemay belonging to Mr Archibald Ogilvie, heretor theroff, wherof each plugh payes one boll thrie firlots meall and fyve pound of money yeirlie.

Item the lands of Corskellie, consisting of four plughes and four oxegate, being half a plugh, inde 22 libs 10s. 7 bolls 3 fir. 2 p.

Item the lands of Reidhill consists of two plughes, inde £10 3 bolls 2 fir.

Item the lands of Cairnhill, being one plugh of land, inde £5 1 boll 3 fir.

Item the lands of Woodsyde, being 2 plughes, inde £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the lands of Auchincreive, being 4 plughes, inde £20 7 bolls.

Item the lands in the Muir of Auchincreive, 2 plughes, inde £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the lands of Coldhome and Parrack, 2 plughes, inde £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the lands of Rotnodie, one plugh, inde £5 1 b. 3 f.

Item the lands of Claymyres, one plugh, inde £5 1 b. 3 f.

Item the lands of Auchinleich, 2 plughes, £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the sunn plugh of Ternemnie, inde £5 1 b. 3 f.

Item the lands of Knauchland, 2 plughes, £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the lands of Ratanach and Ralashes, 2 plughes, £10 3 b. 2 f.

Item the lands of Inschorsie, 3 plughes, £15 5 b. 1 f.

Item the lands of Mossyde, 1 plugh, £5 1 b. 3 f.

Item the Mains of Rothemay, Lossett, and Milnetowne are 3 plughes, inde £15 5 b. 1 f.

Further, ther ar the crofts of Walkmilne,

Woodhead, and Brewcroft in Corskellie, and two in Inschcorsie, belonging lykeways to the laird of Rothemay, not included in the forsaid plugh above mentioned. Summa £225, 80 b. 0 f. 2 p. The above present localled stipend is payable to each incumbent at Rothemay besyds the viccarage teinds. But Mr William Hay, present minister at Rothemay, at his admision gave a tack of the hail teinds of the parochin to the deceast Sir George Gordon of Edinglassie, who disponed the same to his sone George Gordone of Carnousie, and he thereafter transmitted the same to the late Rothemay's persone, which clearlie discovers that the said tack hes bein att first granted for Rothemay's behooffe. The tack duetie of the forsaid localled stipend being 400 merks money and two chalders meall, by which the late Rothemay and the present heretor did and does enjoye ane ease of 238 merks and upwards yeirlie, if a due proportione of the said ease be communicat to the lands of Turtrie, Mayen, and Shadow Plugh of Ternemnie, Bracco and Mayen will frankly concurr for a decret of modificatione, but, if refused, their compliance cannot be expected in a thing so much to their apparent hurt and leysione. The present minister granted a tack on his admission for reasons well enough known, derogatory to his interest, but this should not bind his successors.

At the close, on the motion of the President, Dr Cramond received the hearty thanks of those present for the pleasant evening he had provided.