

Transactions

OF THE

BANFFSHIRE FIELD CLUB.



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1907.

MEETING AT BANFF.

A meeting of the Banffshire Field Club was held this evening in the Reading-Room of the Town and County Club, Banff. In the absence of the President, Mr M'Pherson was called to the chair.

Mr Walter Gerrard, solicitor, Macduff, was admitted a member of the Club, and Messrs John Malcolm Bulloch, M.A., London; Thomas Barton, Banff; and Henry C. Hossack, solicitor, Banff, were nominated for election at next meeting.

The Chairman then called on Mr Grant, who read an elaborate paper by Mr Bulloch on

THE GORDONS OF LAGGAN.

The Gordon families in Glenlivet and in Mortlach are very difficult to trace. I am inclined to believe that most of them come from Tam Gordon of Ruthven, the brother of the famous "Jock" Gordon of Scurdargue, who were the illegitimate cousins of Elizabeth Gordon, the founder of the ducal house. But whereas the author or authors of the Balbithan MS. devoted 40 pages to the descendants of Jock, only two pages and a bit are occupied by the issue of Tam, the MS. retiring defeated in the task with the words:—

Here I find myself run aground for want of further and better information concerning the family of

Davoch [that is Tam's issue], whose representative this day [1644 or 1730 ?] is hard to be condescended upon, many of the forsaïd families and also their descendant's being now extinct and without succession.

So my Reader, I hope, will excuse this rude and imperfect draught of the whole, and if any more versant in antiquity and genealogy shall make up my defect, I'll reckon it good service done to the truth and Sirname of Gordon.

According to the Balbithan MS., Tam Gordon was three times married: (1) — Hay, sister of Sir Thomas Hay of Enzie; — Innes, daughter of Sir Walter Innes; the third wife's name is not given. He had 16 sons, and had succession by four of them. Tam died in Davoch, and was buried in the kirk of Ruthven. His sons as detailed in the Balbithan MS. were:—

Patrick Gordon, of Auchinreath, Corri-down, and Cottonhill, "which he excambed with the lairdship of Sauchen." He was the son by the first marriage; and was twice married himself. By his second wife, — Panton, daughter of the laird of Pitmedden, he had:

Alexander Gordon of Pethnick and Contly in Stryla, who dwelt in Parkmore in Balvenie. He married — Symmer, daughter of the laird of Badenoch. He "dyed in peace and was interred in the Kirk of Mortleach." He had five sons.

John Gordon of Invercharrach. He married (1) the heretrix of Invercharrach and the Barron of Carron's sister; and (2) — Innes, daughter of the goodman of Drainie. He died in peace. "He was very hospitable and a good hunter." He had six sons.

John Gordon, by first marriage. On page 67, the Balbithan MS. calls him "Barron of Achnastink," but does not give him a Christian name, adding that he "dyed wtout succession." On page 68, he is called "John Gordon of Achnastink," and he is stated to have married and begat:

William Gordon of Achinstink, who married and begat:

Alexander Gordon of Achinstink, who married Isabel Cumming, and begat sons who dwelt in Mortlach.

William Gordon of Invercharrach.

Robert Gordon of Pittglassie.

James Gordon of Kinernie.

Alexander Gordon of Parkmore.

These four sons were by the second wife, the goodman of Drainie's daughter, and died without issue. They were all located in the parish of Mortlach.

William Gordon of Achinarrow was also by the laird of Drainie's daughter. He married and begat:

Alaster Gordon of Achinarrow.

John Gordon in Easterkinmaichly.

James Gordon of Craiggon of Delmore.

Alaster Gordon at the Mill of Botarie. He was a natural son, "got on a gentlewoman."

Duncan Gordon of Clunymoir.

Alexander Gordon of Bochrone.

James Gordon in Parkbeig.

Alexander, alias Alaster, Gordon in Achorlise.

ACHLOCHRACH.

In the eighteenth century a group of Gordons occupied Achlochran, Achnastank, and Tomnagayloch, in the Glenrinness portion of the parish of Mortlach. They were cadets of the Beldornie family, which was descended from Adam Gordon, Dean of Caithness, third son of Alexander, 1st Earl of Huntly.

This group is dealt with in an unpublished genealogy compiled by Cosmo Gordon, Liverpool, in the early years of last century. His work is known as the "Birnie MS.," and the original is in the possession of the family of More Gordon of Char'ton, Montrose, represented by the present vicar of Redhill, Surrey. The late Rev. Dr Gordon, Birnie, took a great

amount of interest in it, and apparently had a copy of the MS. made for him, which is now in the possession of Mrs A. E. Davidson. She also owns a number of letters dealing with the family, and with the aid of these I am able to present a fuller account of the group than has yet appeared in print.

The Balbithan MS. stops its account of the Beldornie Gordons about 1631; but according to the Birnie MS. John Gordon, III. of Beldornie, married a daughter of Gordon of Cairnborrow, and had three sons:

(1) John Gordon IV. of Beldornie, who was a Commissioner of Supply for Banffshire in 1685, and whose issue died out, being replaced by Gordon of Tirrisoule, ancestor of the present Wardhouse family.

(2) James Gordon, who lived as Belchairy, and died without issue.

(3) Harry Gordon of Achlochrach, with whose issue I am dealing. They represent the old Beldornie stock.

HARRY GORDON OF ACHLOCHRACH.

He was the youngest of the three sons of John Gordon of Beldornie, and settled at Achlochrach in Glenrinnnes. He married a daughter of Cumming of Hillside of Balveny, by whom he had two sons:

(1) Harry Gordon, II. of Achlochrach.

(2) Thomas Gordon. The Birnie MS. (p. 263) says he lived at Achlochran; but he seems to be identical with Thomas Gordon, who dwelt at Achnastank (p. 276). I treat him separately under Achnastank.

(3) Ann Gordon; married Thomas Grant, and died without issue.

HARRY GORDON, II. OF ACHLOCHRACH.

He figured, according to the Birnie MS., at the siege of Edinburgh Castle in 1689. A mutiny had been engineered among the garrison, which was commanded by the Duke of Gordon, and His Grace ordered Francis Gordon of Midstrath "to bring up from the north, out of his own lands, 45 of the best and

most resolute men he could find to supply the places of those disbanded." Harry Gordon of Achlochrach was at the head of a party who volunteered their services. The MS. goes on to say:—

He was much in the confidence of the Duke, and during the siege was employed on several important occasions. A little before the sitting down of the Convention of Estates, the Duke discovered a new conspiracy in the garrison, which obliged him to require a new oath of the soldiers, and, foreseeing that several of them would refuse it, he appointed Harry Gordon to take on some soldiers who had laid down their arms since the Revolution and remained about Edinburgh, selecting from amongst them those for whose fidelity he could answer. Then His Grace dismissed all who refused and turned them out of the garrison, after paying them their arrears.

On April 27, Harry Gordon was sent out for intelligence, and on the 29th he returned bringing with him Lieut. James Hay, John Mackay, and one Launder, an Irishman, after losing other three owing to the darkness of the night, who had also agreed to serve in the garrison.

On May 24, Harry Gordon went out again for intelligence, and returned in safety on the night of the 28th, bringing an account that one of the besiegers' mortar pieces had split, and that the great leaders in the Revolution, upon the appearance of some Dutch luggers in the Firth, got together horse, attendants, and arms, with other such vast preparations as if they had been to fly to, or front the King's host.

On June 12, 1689, after a fruitless treaty, the besiegers fired briskly upon all their batteries, and a party of them advanced so near that their officers were heard saying, "Advance, dogs," and those in the garrison called out to them, "Ye dogs, will ye not obey your officers?" The besiegers made their last great effort this night, rolling up some great packs of wool on the Castle Hill, but were so gallantly fired on by those on duty at the low guard and the portcullis as to oblige them to retire; the men on all their posts kept singing aloud, "When the King shall hae his ain again." Harry Gordon this night commanded the post in the low half-moon at the south corner; and on the day following a treaty was commenced and the Castle was surren-

dered after a close siege of three months, the garrison marching out and departing wherever it suited them without any restriction. Harry Gordon then returned home after having exhausted much of his property and to a degree which his descendants did not recover in the two successive generations.

Harry Gordon, according to the Birnie MS., married his cousin, Janet Grant, daughter of Donald Grant of Glenloch, "his mother being one of the seven daughters of Cairnburrow, and being all women above the common size were called the 'Seven Capons.'" The Birnie MS. tells this curious story of Glenloch:—

Donald on returning home from conveying his father-in-law through Glenlivet was drowned in the water of Lochy, about a mile below his own house; and his body not having been found for some time, it was generally believed that he had been drowned in the Awin or Livet, and hence the saying of Maggy Mulloch (an idiot all covered over with hair, and on that account believed to be a witch), "Wet and weary, seeking Donald between Dalrady and the Lettach."

Donald had a feu or wadset of Dalrady, Glenloch, and Glenbruin, originally from the Earl of Moray as proprietor of the lands of Abernethy; but his cousin, who lived at Inverloch, turned his widow out under pretence of being heir male to it, and some time afterwards disposed of his interest in it to Freuchy, the laird of Grant. Donald's widow with her daughter and only child came to the neighbourhood of her cousin Achlochrach, and dwelt in Belandie, until his son and her daughter were married to each other.

Harry Gordon, II. of Achlochrach had two sons and a daughter.

- (1) James Gordon, III. of Achlochrach.
- (2) Robert Gordon. He lived in Achlochrach, and married Mrs Nairn, a widow, by whom he had one son and two daughters, who all died unmarried.

- (1) Robert Gordon, died in Jamaica.
- (2) Janet Gordon.
- (3) Mary. The Birnie MS. remarks that "the latter lived a good deal with Wardes' family."

(3) Anne Gordon, married Robert Duff of Lettach, grandson of John Duff of Clunybeg, the uncle of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, ancestor of Lord Fife.

JAMES GORDON, III. OF ACHLOCHRACH.

He married Anne MacWilliam, daughter of David MacWilliam, alias Stewart, the younger of Achmore, and granddaughter of James O'Laggan. The Birnie MS. gives some curious information about the MacWilliams, whose history is now being minutely investigated by an industrious London genealogist, Mr H. Duff MacWilliam, of Harrow View.

David was a branch of the Stewarts of Ballechin in Athole, and his grandfather, William (and hence the appellation of "MacWilliam") left that country in consequence of a feud with some of his neighbours, and exchanged his property there with the Earl of Athole, who was then proprietor of Balveny and Pittivaich, the mill, and some other lands about that place to be held in feu.

His son David settled in Achmore in Glenrines, a farm belonging to the Earl of Huntly, and married a daughter of Grant of Allachie, the sister of Alexander Duff of Keithmore's wife, the ancestor of Lord Fife, and had one son and one daughter.

David, his son, married Jane, daughter of James O'Laggan, and died while a young man, leaving her a widow with several children. She was prevailed upon to dispose of Pittivaich and the mill to Alexander Duff of Braco, her husband's cousin, in terms as little creditable to him as disreputable to herself, it being constantly reported in that part of the country that she sat down in the mill dam to stop the mill that he might take infetment of it, the miller refusing to do it. Be this as it may, her children were reduced to great distress, for which Braco appeared perfectly indifferent, being a man callous to humanity, as well as natural affection, if he could by any means gratify his thirst for the acquirement of lands. The daughter married John Forbes of Kethack, son to Gordon Arthur Forbes, and left several children.

James Gordon, III. of Achlochrach, by his wife, Anne MacWilliam, had two sons and two daughters:

(1) John Gordon, who went to the Milltown of Laggan.

(3) Anne Gordon; married John Shand.

(4) Janet Gordon; died unmarried.

(2) Harry Gordon. He "lived first at Hardhaugh and afterwards at Boat of Bog, the name of the ferry across the Spey, near Fochabers, now replaced by a bridge. He married Helen Burges, the third daughter of Charles Burges at Clashdow, by Christian Forbes, daughter of John Forbes of Keithack. The Birnie MS. calls Helen Burges the "near relation of Harry," and says that the latter left one son and one daughter. The Mortlach Register, however, shows that another son had been born:

(2) Charles Gordon, baptised January 24, 1752: witnesses, Charles Burges in Clashdow and John Forbes in Keithack.

(1) Cosmo Gordon: baptised Dec. 28, 1752, before the same witnesses. The Birnie MS. deals at great length with him. He was employed early in life in establishing the use of "Cudbear," invented by his brothers-in-law, George and Cuthbert Gordon, sons of Thomas Gordon of Fotherletter. The Birnie MS. says that soon after his marriage (in 1778) he was induced to purchase the office of one of the nineteen Deputy King's Waiters of the Customs of the Port of London for an annuity of £70 during the life of Kenneth Macpherson, one of the Inquest of the Customs, and also during that of his wife (who was Mrs Cosmo Gordon's eldest sister). This annuity he paid for 34 years. Macpherson had got the billet by way of compensation for not having obtained the office of a Searcher in the port of London according to a promise made by Lord North to his friends, "James MacPherson, of Ossian notoriety, and to Sir John MacPherson, Governor-General of Bengal."

The emoluments, however, were much smaller than Gordon expected, so he "turned his attention to the improvement of the Revenue" in order to increase his

income. He first suggested to Pitt "a scheme for the improvement of the duties arising from wood, by defining under a specific description each individual article in terms so clear and precise as to render doubt and evasion impossible, which with additional duty advanced that branch of the Customs from an average of £43,000 to considerably more than half-a-million annually."

He next suggested to Mr Pitt the measure of warehousing tobacco. This took place on January 6, 1786, when he was appointed Comptrolling Surveyor of the Warehouse in London, with the promise of being principal surveyor so soon as an arrangement could be made for the retirement of a Mr Thomas, then an old and infirm officer, which took place the year following. (The "Gentleman's Magazine" records the fact, Dec. 1788.) The measure of warehousing tobacco having proved so beneficial to the Revenue as to cause a greater quantity to pay the duty of fifteen pence a pound than formerly had paid only sixpence and a fraction, Mr Pitt, with a view of suppressing the frauds committed in the manufacture of snuff and tobacco, directed him in 1788 to suggest such regulations as appeared to him proper for placing these manufactures under the inspection of the Excise; and the measures which he proposed for that purpose being approved of, a Bill was framed in conformity to them, and was passed into an Act of the 29th George III., cap. 69. While this Act was passing through the two Houses of Parliament, Cosmo was directed by the two Houses, through Mr Pitt, to be in constant attendance to explain to himself and the members who supported the measure whatever doubts or objections arose upon any of the clauses, and also to supply Mr Pitt from time to time with observations upon the various objections made by the evidences brought forward by the opposers of the Bill, and while it was in the House of Commons he was considered to be so much the

author of the measure as to be indulged with the kind of privilege which the author of every measure before the House of Commons usually has of sitting in the House below the Bar during the time it may be under discussion. But the most formidable opposition having been made in the House of Lords, where the witnesses are examined on oath, and the Chancellor, Lord Thurlow, upon its introduction being considered as rather unfriendly to it, Cosmo was directed by Mr Pitt to digest as concisely as he could the purport and intent of the several clauses, with distinct and separate heads explanatory of the forces and utility of each of them, and so as to serve as an index to the Bill. The outline of it was given to Lord Hopetoun before it was finished. The Chancellor desired to see it, and, on being informed by whom it was drawn up, appointed Cosmo to attend him next morning with such an Index. He accordingly waited upon Lord Thurlow and put into his hands a complete Index, and discussed with him all the clauses, and he was so far satisfied as not only to say that if the Minister had sent Cosmo to him before the Bill was brought in it should have met with no opposition from him, but he also requested Cosmo to attend him every day in his own chamber at the House of Lords, both before he took his seat on the Wool-sack and after he left it. During these interviews he talked freely to Cosmo upon what he thought of the kind of evidence that was brought forward, and upon the whole became a convert to the measure. Cosmo had repeated interviews with all the Lords who supported the measure, and even with some of those who opposed it. They admitted that the arguments he had stated in his Index were unanswerable, and consequently, if the measure had not been coupled with an extension of the Excise Laws, it was otherwise unobjectionable.

In the beginning of the 1801 Administration, after a discussion in Parliament, there was set on foot a scheme for supply-

ing such Associations as had been formed in various parts of England for the relief of the poor with herrings from the Firth of Forth and such other kinds of fish as could be procured in Scotland. Difficulties having arisen in executing such orders as these Associations had given, Cosmo was directed on January 23rd to proceed to Edinburgh and to such other places in Scotland as he should find necessary for furthering the views of Administration, and to carry on a correspondence with those in the different parts of England who were desirous of obtaining supplies of fish, as well as to supply the fishcurers with such quantities of salt as they required. Cosmo soon after his arrival at Edinburgh, and when he had taken proper measures for forwarding to England large quantities of herrings from Burntisland and Leith, proceeded along the East Coast as far as Peterhead, with a view of securing a sufficient supply of cod and ling. He reported his proceedings from time to time to the Treasury, and a change of Administration having then taken place by the resignation of Mr Pitt and the appointment of Mr Addington to succeed him, Cosmo received the following letter from Mr Rose before he quitted the Treasury:—“Sir,—The whole of your proceedings since you left London on the service of furthering supplies of herrings, cod, ling, &c., &c., for the several parts of England, and also with salt for the fisheries, meet with the entire approbation of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury, which they direct me to acquaint you with. The prices at which you state the mud cod and dried ling may be had of a good quality render it highly probable that the Committees at some of the places at least will avail themselves of a supply of these fish, especially of the former, and you have done perfectly right to make the prices and facility of supply as generally known as you could.—I am, &c., GEORGE ROSE, Treasury Clerk. —12th March 1801.” Cosmo was directed

by the Treasury of the new Administration to remain in Scotland and inquire generally into the state of the fisheries in every part of that kingdom, until it should be ascertained whether the productiveness of the ensuing harvest should render it necessary to supply the poor in England any longer with fish. He consequently continued there until September, and on his return to London made his report to the Treasury on the herring fishery; and Mr Vansittart, the Secretary to the Lords, informed him that he had placed the whole in so clear and striking a light that, if the country should fortunately be at peace, the fishery laws should undergo a complete revision. In 1803 he sent an "account of the Dutch herring fishing," communicated to him by two Dutchmen to the Highland Society, of which he had become a member on June 29, 1801. Cosmo now resumed the duties of his own office as Principal Surveyor of the Tobacco Warehouse, only, at the desire of the Commissioners of the Customs, employing his spare time in inquiring into the proceedings of the department of Searchers in London, and reporting his opinion thereon. This he executed faithfully, and pointed out that from the very loose system they pursued that the Revenue was exposed to innumerable frauds of great magnitude, particularly in regard to the examination of goods entered for bounty or drawback: that it could not be ascertained by any document or voucher in their office whether any parcel of such goods had actually been examined by any searcher, although debentures were signed and passed for the payment of great sums of money on the faith of their having been examined and shipped for exportation. All that could be seen in their office was a kind of rotation, stating on what duty each searcher was supposed to be employed in attending each day and at what places; but that he was on such duty on that day or that he or any other searcher had seen the goods said to have been shipped from that place

on that or any other day could not be traced from any record kept in their office. The Commissioners were much struck with this, and requested Cosmo to lay before them the means of correcting so great an abuse, to which he briefly replied that in his opinion no effectual remedy could be applied unless the number of searchers were increased, and every part of their duty placed upon an entirely new footing. In the meantime the Treasury received information of frauds to a great extent through the negligence of the searchers in suffering the books in their office to lie open to every one inclined to look into them, by which the quantities of goods might be altered to suit any fraudulent design. This, as Cosmo had foreseen, was actually done by a person who himself informed the Treasury of it, upon receiving both an indemnification and a reward. The facts were minutely inquired into by Mr Swainson, who was then one of the Surveyors General, and the whole found to be done precisely as the informer had stated. While this inquiry was making, the Lords of the Treasury were desirous of ascertaining how far it was expedient to extend the Warehousing system to the several out-ports in England, and in December 1804 Cosmo was selected upon the part of the Customs to examine the accommodations which each port possessed for the security of the Revenue. In this service he was engaged nine months, travelling from port to port from south to north and from east to west no less than 2897 miles, and during his absence, without the least solicitation on his part, Mr Pitt amongst the last papers he signed was Cosmo's appointment to the Surveyor of the Searchers, then considered to be the best office in the out-door department of the Customs in London. The business of this office, according to the system recommended by Mr Swainson, and adopted by the Board, Cosmo had the happiness to establish and to carry on to the entire satisfaction of all

parties for the space of two years; but at the conclusion of 1806 the Treasury, in pursuance of a report from Mr Frewin, the Chairman of the Board of Customs, directed that an officer conversant in all the parts of the Warehousing business as carried on at the docks in Liverpool might be sent there to place it, as far as local circumstances would admit, upon the same footing as London, and to remain in it until such officers as might be appointed were qualified and instructed in that duty. In this the most arduous and difficult service he was ever engaged in, Cosmo continued ten months, and even then, when he returned to London, he told the Board that in a few months it would be advisable to inquire how far the officers were adhering to the system that had been laid down for their government. But at this juncture, in consequence of the death of Mr Onslow, Mr Swainson, then the Secretary, was appointed Collector of Liverpool, and, being a stranger at that place, he requested Cosmo to accompany him for a few weeks on his first appearance there; and, as Mr Nicholas Saumarez, brother to Admiral Sir John Saumarez, had been appointed the Principal Surveyor of the Warehouses and Surveyor of the Searchers at Liverpool, with the same salary as Cosmo had in London, it was suggested, as Mr Swainson and he had lived so many years in the strictest habits of intimacy and friendship with each other, how agreeable it would prove to them both for Cosmo to exchange situations with Mr Saumarez, and which being sanctioned by the Treasury, Cosmo removed altogether from London early in 1808, and took upon him the business at Liverpool. In which situation he continued ten years, when by exerting himself in the discharge of it far beyond what one at his time of life ought to have done, his health began to decline so rapidly as to render it prudent for him to retire. "He continued for a year in the same precarious state, until he was relieved by a violent bleeding at the nose;

soon after which his health began to improve, and by the mercy of Almighty God he is now writing these memoirs [Birnie MS.] in as comfortable state of health as any one can expect to enjoy in the 74th year of his age."

He was twice married. His first wife, whose name does not appear in the Birnie MS., died Nov. 24, 1796. He then married, January 12, 1808, Mrs Sarah Butler, widow of Mr John Butler. He had two sons:

(1) Thomas Gordon, by the first wife. The Birnie MS. says he "seemed to possess rather more than common abilities, and never was sent to any school, except to learn French, having acquired all the knowledge he had under his father. Indeed, he was almost self-taught, for he used to say that what one had heard and seen and could not teach himself to do he was not worth being taught it. He prided himself in his penmanship and accuracy in accounts, and at the time of his death he kept as elegant a set of mercantile books as any in London." He died October 1798, in his 19th year.

(2) Robert Henry Butler Gordon, who was third mate in the Albion East Indian and died the preceding year at Bencoolan, on his voyage to China, in the 24th year of his age

Elizabeth Gordon, sister of Cosmo Gordon, married James Logie, who lived and died at the Boat of Bog, and had three sons and a daughter, including:

Alexander Logie, captain, 5th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry. He was the father of

William Logie, lieut.-colonel, 19th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry.

JOHN GORDON, I. IN LAGGAN.

John Gordon, eldest son of James Gordon, III. of Achiochrach, according to the Birnie

MS., left Achlochrach and "lived at the Milltown of Laggan, exactly opposite the former place."

He married Margaret Bonyman, and had:

(1) John Gordon, II. in Laggan. (Birnie MS.)

(2) Alexander Gordon: baptised August 16, 1746: witnesses—Alexander Gordon at Achlochrach and Alexander Shand in Balandy. (Mortlach Register.)

(3) Anne Gordon: married John Edward, "both of Mortlach." They were contracted March 12, 1776. (Mortlach Register.) The Birnie MS. calls him John Edwards of Coltonach, and says she died without issue.

(4) Elspet Gordon. She was baptised Feb. 3, 1746, James Gordon, Achlochrach, and Lewis Gordon, Mill of Laggan, being witnesses. She married James Kelman of Shenvall, being contracted Sept. 13, 1778. (Mortlach Register.) The Birnie MS. says she had no issue.

JOHN GORDON, II. IN LAGGAN.

John Gordon, the only son of John Gordon in Laggan and Margaret Bonyman, married, Oct. 11, 1774, Janet Proctor, the eldest daughter of James Proctor of Edinville, Aberlour. He "lived and died in Laggan," the year of his death being 1795. He had three sons and two daughters:—

(1) Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel John Gordon, a distinguished officer in the Army (1775-1817).

(2) Major James Gordon (1780-1817). He was baptised January 18, 1780: witnesses—James Gordon in Reclitich and James Gordon in Achnastank. The Birnie MS. says he was five years in the office of an army agent in London, and obtained through the Duchess of Gordon a cadetship in the H.E.I.C. military service—Bengal establishment. He entered the 15th Bengal Native Infantry as an ensign, Oct. 9, 1800; and was promoted lieutenant on July 13, 1808; captain on Dec. 23, 1809; and major in 1810. The Birnie MS. says he "served several campaigns in

the 15th Regiment of Native Infantry, and was twice wounded. His professional talents in a little time attracted the notice of the commander-in-chief, and at length [1810] he was appointed deputy-adjutant-general, with the rank of major. In this situation he greatly distinguished himself, until he was under the necessity of repairing in 1816, for the recovery of his health, to the Cape of Good Hope, where he remained almost a year." He returned to Calcutta, and died at Fort-William, June 12, 1817. He had clearly made his mark, for the Marquis of Hastings in General Orders, dated June 18, 1817, devotes a long passage to him:—"In publishing the following order to the army, the Commander-in-Chief considers it due to the memory of a deserving public servant to record the high sense entertained by His Excellency of the merits of the late Major Gordon, and of the loss which the army has sustained by the premature death of an officer who in the early part of his life was distinguished by his professional gallantry and exertions, and when subsequently placed in a public situation by his conduct maintained invariably the reputation of the army of which he was a member. In an early period of his service, Major Gordon's abilities and character obtained for him the gratifying distinction of being appointed to a public situation in the Adjutant-General's official department, where, actuated by the purest principles and the warmest zeal for his employers, he devoted his talents to the successful discharge of the duties of an important and laborious office until compelled to relinquish his official avocation by that state of health which ultimately deprived the country of his valuable services. As every instance of acknowledged merit must prove a powerful incentive to each honourable mind, ambitious of distinction, the Commander-in-Chief is sensible that in doing justice to the character of the late Major Gordon he is holding out the strongest encouragement to the officers of the army in whatever situation they may be placed, to acquire by an able, faithful, and

zealous performance of their duties that public acknowledgment of desert which a soldier prizes as the best reward for a life spent in the service of his country."

The Governor in Council, upon receiving the intimation of Major Gordon's death from Lieut.-Colonel Nicol, the Adjutant-General, transmitted to him the following letter from J. Young, officiating secretary to the Government, June 20, 1817:—"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., I have it in command from the Most Noble the Governor-General in Council to express his regret for the melancholy occasion which has drawn from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the eulogy on the late Major Gordon, of which a copy was enclosed in your letter now acknowledged. In the justness of that eulogy and in the utility and policy of holding up to the army for imitation the example of the late Deputy-Adjutant-General, his Lordship in Council is happy to express his entire concurrence with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief."

(3) Harry Gordon is described in the Birnie MS. as the third son. Dr Gordon, Birnie, has added in a note that he was in the tobacco warehouse at Liverpool. He married, and had:

(1) John Gordon of Charlton, near Montrose.

(2) Janet Gordon: married Aug. 10, 1848 George More, W.S., who assumed the name of Gordon, as his wife inherited the property of Charlton on the death of her brother. They had:

Rev. John Schank More-Gordon, "eldest son." He was born in 1849; was at Rugby 1863-8; matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, October 19, 1868; B.A., 1873; M.A., 1875; Ellerton Prizeman, 1873; Denyer Theological Scholar, 1873; deacon, 1876 (London); priest, 1877 (Rochdale); curate of St Luke's, Nutford Place, London, 1876-7; Kingston-on-Thames, 1877-82; and vicar of St John, Redhill, Surrey, 1882.

(3) Mary Ann Gordon, second daughter of Harry Gordon, Liverpool, married on April 15, 1852, Æneas Macbean, W.S., son of the Rev. Hugh Macbean, Ardclach, and had a son:

Harry Havelock Macbean, W.S., born 1857.

(4) Agnes Gordon, married Nov. 16, 1858, Thomas Balfour Kinnear, W.S., of Cross.

(4) Elizabeth Gordon, baptised Sept. 30, 1777. (Mortlach Register.)

BREVET-LIEUT.-COL. JOHN GORDON (1775-1818).

The Birnie MS. says that the eldest son of John Gordon and Janet Proctor was John. He is apparently the son referred to, but unnamed, in the Mortlach Register:—

“John Gordon and Janet Proctor in Mill of Laggan had a lawful son, December 1, 1775. Wit: John Gordon there and John Gordon in Laggan.”

John Gordon began his career in the North Regiment of Fencible Highlanders, under the Duke of Gordon, entering it as lieutenant Nov. 28, 1795. He then got a commission as ensign in the first battalion of the 1st Foot (Royal Scots). For the sake of clearness I give his ranks in the regiment at a glance:—

Ensign,	. . .	Feb. 26, 1799.
Lieutenant,	. . .	June 1, 1800
Captain,	. . .	Aug. 24, 1804
Brevet-Major,	. . .	June 4, 1814
Major,	. . .	Dec. 15, 1814
Lieut.-Colonel,	. . .	June 25, 1817

He wrote a series of letters to his kinswoman, Miss Anne Gordon, Spynie, between February 1800 and 1806, which are in the possession of Mrs Davidson, Forres. The first is written from 6, George Street, Adelphi, London, Feb. 24, 1800:—

My Dear Madam,—I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 11th some days ago, and should have been more punctual in answering it, had I not been obliged to leave Town, to see the few men we have

brought home with us embark for Scotland, where I shall soon follow them. Your letter certainly contains some bad tidings; and tho' I am not proof against such disappointments I must endeavour to bear them like a Soldier. I am very glad to hear that you and all my Urquhart friends continue to enjoy good health, and also that your brother and Mrs Gordon likes Ireland, tho' I shall feel the loss of them severly when I get down to Murray. My being long since forgot by a certain lady does not at all surprise me. I got credit for being a much greater favourite there, than I ever deserved. I am very sorry, however, for the bad state of her health, and sincerely wish her recovery. You may offer my best respects to her, or not, as you think proper—you see I am of a forgiving disposition.

I have been so late of getting a frank for this, that I am almost afraid of losing it, therefore cannot give you news.

I have been introduced to our Royal Colonel, and have every reason to be pleased with the manner in which I was received by His Royal Highness. Almost the whole of the officers are to be sent a recruiting and to be stationed in the Towns most contiguous to their homes: each Captain will have two or more parties to look after. My station, I believe, will be Elgin and Keith. My stay will depend on my success. I shall not therefore be able to be so much in Glenrines as I know my Mother will expect. Are good lodgings easily got at Elgin, and do you think I have any chance of men? Keith is a dull stupid place, and so damp and cold, that it would not agree well with an old West Indian. I find my health considerably better since my arrival here, tho' I am still miserably thin, and much tawnd. Can I do anything for you or any of our friends in this Metropolis? if so it will afford me great pleasure. I received the accompanying letter for Miss Jean Cuming from her brother when leaving Demerara. Have the goodness to forward it with my best respects, and say that I heard of Mr C.'s welfare by a gent. who left Demerara so late as the end of December.

I have not time to mention the names of all those whom I wish to be remembered to, but you know them all, therefore say the best you can for me.—I remain always, My Dear Madam, your affectionate and sincere friend,

JOHN GORDON.

On April 27, 1800, he wrote from Glasgow Barracks to the same lady:—

Your favor of the 17th Ulto I duly received. Instead of going to Stirling as I expected when I wrote you last, I am now comfortably set down here in my own Barrack room. I find myself very agreeably situated among my Brother Officers; they are all pleasant good fellows and such as I think I shall live happy with. An officer is put to a very considerable expence on joining this old Corps, but afterwards one can live pretty well on his pay.

I have been at several public places since we came to Glasgow. The people pay us more attention than they generally do to Military men. The Magistrates gave us a very elegant dinner about a week ago; and the Gentlemen of the City, gave us tickets to a subscription concert, where we see all the fashionable fair ones of Glasgow, and also hear some of the best musick in Scotland. The assemblies are over for this Season. I was at the last, which was very splendid. The Glasgow Assemblies differ very materially from that of almost every other place. Here, we have not more than half as many ladies as gentlemen, the consequence of which is, that the ladies are engaged for the whole evening sometimes a month beforehand: this renders it difficult for a stranger to get a partner. We found ourselves awkwardly situated in this respect, but in justice to the ladies I must say they looked as if it was not their fault. I had some acquaintances there, but neglected to engage them in time; and had not a beauty of forty and upwards taken pity on me, (probably because few pitied herself) I should not have had an opportunity of sporting my figure on the occasion. And though my partner was good twenty years older than I could have wished, I thought myself lucky, and was envied for falling in with her. But in case you should take it in your head to come to Glasgow, I must beg leave to inform you that the ladies are not always in such request even here.

I have seen Stuart this morning, there is not a lady in or about Elgin that he speaks well of, but yourself. And what surprises me beyond anything, he hates Miss Duncan. Our Regiment lay some weeks at Newry with the M'Leods, and one evening two of our bucks who had drunken pretty freely after dinner went into the M'Leod's Mess-room, and told the officers that there was not a gentleman in the Regiment. A scuffle ensued, and poor Stuart was

cut between the eyes with a sword, by a young man of ours, which has disfigured his face a good deal.

Have you heard from Spynie lately, and does he still speak of seeing his friends in Summer? If he goes to Murray I shall see him on the way.

I had a letter from my Mother some days ago: she does not give me a single word of news. I believe you will not hear more of taking Annie home for some time. My Brother expects to sail sometime in May. I have no doubts of his doing well, and he goes out with great advantage

I had a letter from the Minister of Urquhart, which I shall answer in a day or two. He has been very obliging in sending letters to his brother, and getting the Miss Ross to recommend James to their sister.

Don't neglect to offer my most respectfull compliments to all my fair acquaintances in Murray, particularly Miss Donaldson. Write me all the news of your good town in a day or two. Tell Annie that I am much pleased with her, and shall always be so while she continues to please you. Have you made up my peace with Mrs Gordon? Do you ever see Miss Grant about Elgin? Mrs Jamison will be good quarters for her, when she comes here. Mrs Jamison told me the other day that Nelly Grant is about to be married.

On May 29, 1800, he wrote from Leith to Ann Gordon:—

Dear Madam,—I was favored with yours of at Glasgow Barracks, and have just now only time to acquaint you that I embark along with the Battalion this evening at 5 o'clock, so that by the time this reaches you I shall most probably be in England, where we are to be encamped this summer, in the neighbourhood of Canterbury. I have been some days here, but had so much to do with the Baggage getting it put on board, etc., that I had scarcely time ever to get the length of Edinburgh. You laughed when you thought of my dancing with an antiquated beauty at Glasgow: it was lucky I did not get a young partner otherways I might have had some sorrow at leaving the place so soon which was not the case. If the English fair ones are not chang'd since I was last encamped there we shall find them much more agreeable. I shall write you all about it once I get settled in Camp. I was the youngest Ensign in the Royals when I left Elgin. I have now 17 under me. Com-

pliments as usual particularly Miss Donaldson. Tell Ann that I am much pleased with her writing, &c.

On August 20, 1800, he wrote from Kilkenny:

I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 3rd some days ago—and being anxious to preserve your good opinion and to regain my credit as a punctual correspondent, I lose no time in acquainting you of my being very comfortably situated here, which I know you will be glad to learn. I hope, however, as soon as the Volunteering is over to get to Colrain, a place your brother recommends as my station, being only an hour and half's ride from his house, where he hopes I will take up my abode, which from the kind and friendly invitation he has given me I shall have no hesitation in doing. He has not yet forwarded the letter you sent to his care: if it does not arrive tomorrow I shall write to him again, as he probably supposes I may have shifted my Quarters. It gives me great pleasure to hear of the welfare of all my Morray friends and acquaintances. I shall not say which of the Miss Browns I admire, but I assure you that I have seen none in this dear country that I like half as well as either. You must not however suppose that this place is destitute of beauty, there are a great number of very handsome young ladies in it, and it is no difficult matter to get acquainted with them. I have been at two balls, a description of which might amuse you, but I have only half an hour to write, or lose my Frank. What you mention of McDonald and Mr L. does not in the least surprise me, nor do I think you have anything to answer for by making them acquainted. When the Lady was so anxious, it would have been cruel to have acted otherwise. Let me know anything Mac says on the subject, and if he is still in Elgin remember me to him.

Your caution about money-speculations, etc., etc.. I know to be unnecessary, and however well intended to me, must have been painful to yourself. I shall be candid in giving you my sentiments on all the points you mention when I have an opportunity of forming an opinion which I long much for. Your brother offers to meet me at Belfast or any place I appoint 40 or 50 miles from his house to conduct me to it, also introductions and everything that can make that part of the country pleasant to me.

We have been very successful in getting men from 2nd Battalions in Dublin, all of them Scotchmen, who

have got leave to go home and see their friends, as they are to rendezvous at Aberdeen. I look forward to the pleasure of seeing you again in the course of a few months, but shall not leave Ireland if possible without being sometime at Clover Hill. Remember me to all friends, and believe me always most sincerely yours,

JOHN GORDON.

P.S.—The newspapers you write on they charge me Postage for as a double letter. I hope to hear from you on receipt of this. It is not surprising that my hand shakes, and my head is a little confused after being at a ball last night and dancing till 3 o'clock. Put the accompanying letter into the Post Office.

J. G.

He is the only officer of the name in the regiment at the time who would answer to the Lieutenant Gordon who was wounded at Alexandria in an attack by the French, March 21, 1801. Weatherall, in his history of the 1st Royal Scots, says, however (p. 116), that this lieutenant belonged to the 2nd battalion, and the Birnie MS. says nothing in reference to his ever having fought in Egypt.

Soon after joining the First Foot, Lieutenant Gordon "accompanied the regiment on an expedition to the West Indies, where he served, and at Demerara and Surinam five years." Proof of this statement in the Birnie MS. is forthcoming from a letter he wrote on June 10, 1801, to Miss Gordon from "Saint Martin":—

I intended to have written to you by last Packet, but a sudden call to leave the Island on business prevented me. I have now been near three months in this country, and tho' I cannot say I am much in love with it, I think I shall stand the climate. We are fortunate in being stationed in this Island, which is one of the healthiest in the West Indies. Some of the captured Islands are quite the reverse, particularly St Croix, where the 64th Regiment, which came out along with us, has already lost three officers, and upwards of 150 men. There is four Companys of the Royal detached at St Thomas, and we have lost there two officers and 50 men: our loss here is one officer and seventeen men. The officer we lost here went to St Thomas to pass a few days with his friends, and only lived one day after his return. Tho' this Island

be healthy it is one of the hottest in the country. The heat is so excessive, that we can scarcely stir out of the house from nine o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon. The inhabitants here like the British Government, and pay us every attention. Colonel Nicholson of ours is Commandant of the Island, and the Council have voted him £2000 Sterling a year for his table. He gave a ball and supper on the 4th inst., in honor of His Majesty's birthday which cost him 300 Guineas. It was known in the Island for several weeks that he was to give a ball on that day, and the Ladies, who are excessively fond of finery, were at uncommon pains on this grand occasion. There was many dresses which I was told (and from their appearance I don't doubt it) cost upwards of £150 Sterling. They certainly require a great deal of dressing to set them off, and after all, they are so stiff and formal that they look like nothing I have seen except the images in a London hair dresser's shop window for shewing ladies' wigs on; with this difference that they are not so ruddy in the complexion.

On my arrival here I had the pleasure of meeting our friend Major Gordon: he commanded a detachment of the Regiment which behaved very well at the capture of the Island. He was very comfortably settled here, but the Regiment was ordered to Dominica, one of the worst places in the West Indies, and the Major embarked for it some days ago much against his will. I would not wonder if you was to see him soon: he intends to apply for leave, and if he gets it, will not return to this country. I have had no accounts from home since I left Horsham. I hope I shall have letters per next packet. Be so good as write me on receipt of this and give me all your Murray news. Letters come twice to this country for every opportunity we have of sending home; and as there is nothing here which can be interesting to you, I hope you will write me often without waiting for answer, as I am interested in everything which happens with you.

Remember me to my friends at Urquhart, to Mrs Gordon and all the Ladies of my acquaintance whom I shall think more of when I return than ever. The Mail Boat is just going, as I do not write my Mother by this Packet send a few lines to the Post Officer to let her know I am well. I remain, sincerely yours.

The Birnie MS. says that at the expiration of five

years he was recalled home to join another battalion of the regiment. On July 25, 1806, he wrote to Miss Ann Gordon from Carlow:—

Dear Madam,—I embrace the first moment I could call my own since starting from Elgin, to acquaint you of my arrival in the Kingdom of Ireland, after a tedious, tho' not unpleasant Journey, which has, like most other Journeys, agreed very well with myself. I wish I could add that it did so with my purse also, but the system of economy I have been long determining to adopt will soon set all to right again. The period for the commencement of that system, however, has not just yet arrived. I am afraid that you and more of my friends will think me a man of great promise, and no performance. I did intend writing, and sending several things from Glasgow, but on my arrival there I fell in with some Demerarian friends, with whom I was constantly engaged, and I assure you led a very regular life, that is, I could generally go to bed in the morning without a Candle: and when I came to enquire about my carrier Man, who was in the Country the first time I called for him, and by whom I intended sending letters, &c., verily I found that he had been paid by my Landlady, and had beat his march the evening before! This put me a little out of humour with myself, and Glasgow, also, and I prevailed on my friends Fraser and a Captain Pillman, of ours, whom we picked up there to start instantly for Girvan in Ayrshire; where we only waited 24 hours for a Collier, which in six days landed us in Dublin. Here I found my Commanding Officer and about a Dozen of the Lads, among whom, was my friend Gordon, who I think I told you I had corresponded as regularly with since I came home. Meeting so many friends I could not pass the short stay I made in the village unpleasantly. The only thing I could regret, was, my destinations being fixed in the South of Ireland, which renders my getting near Clever Hill at present impossible. As soon as the Volunteering is over, which must be soon, however, I have no doubt of being able to get myself transplanted to that neighbourhood, which I have told Major Blair is my earnest wish. I have just wrote your Brother and enclosed the letters I brought over.

I have not been long enough here to say much about Ireland. The Country about this place is the finest I ever saw. The higher class of people I have not seen enough of to form an opinion of their

manners or character: the lower orders are in the most wretched condition. From the state of farming, in the country I have passed through, I have no doubt but Spynner is making a fortune. If his part of the country be like this I am not surprised at his settling in it, but this is I believe the best county in the Kingdom. If Annie is with you, which I hope she is, say that I shall send her some money soon, on the faith of which, let her want nothing you think necessary and proper. Make her write to me. Remember me at Urquhart and Burghead, and to all friends who care anything about me, particularly the Ladies whether married or single.

I hope you have a large Packet of letters for me. Address them and my papers to Kilkenny, Ireland, where, I start to-morrow after a Militia Regiment, which I expect several men from. I am now a zealous and active Recruiting Officer, and have little doubt of success. It ruins a soldier to quarter him in his own country.

In 1807 he was called to embark for the East Indies, where he remained eleven years, attached to the Madras army.

He seems to have been the Captain John Gordon who in July 1812 commanded four companies of the Second Battalion to suppress a mutiny amongst the H.E.I.C. native troops at Quilon in Travancore, which then threatened serious consequences to the British possessions in India. After performing this service, the four companies, according to Wetherall (p. 124), returned to their former quarters at Trichinopoly.

He rose to be major in 1814, and the Birnie MS. states that he continued in India only "until another major arrived from Europe to relieve him."

Indeed, while he was a captain he was ordered home, but the Marquis of Hastings, the Commander-in-Chief, at his own responsibility retained him, as the Madras Staff, in which he acted as quartermaster, could not dispense with his services.

The second battalion of the Royals having been ordered into active service, and Colonel Conrad being on the staff, Major Gordon commanded it.

On January 15, 1818, he was appointed one of a committee to decide upon all claims to

prize money in the first division of the army of the Deccar ("Memorial" of Sir Thomas Hislop, p. 16). Hislop, who commanded the army in the Deccan, sent him on a much more perilous task, namely, to head a detachment sent against the Fort of Talnier. Wetherall says (p. 140) that Gordon's storming party consisted of "the flank companies of the 2nd battalion and those of the Madras European Regiment in the service of the H.E.I.C., consisting of two battalions, placed in a convenient situation for the assault of the gates, when its services should be required." Gordon was treacherously killed by the Killidar, Feb. 29, 1818. Hislop gives a long account of the affair in his report to the Governor-General:—

A second reconnoissance having been made by Lieut.-Colonel Blacker, who advanced to the outer gate for the purpose, I determined upon storming it in the hope that at all events a lodgement might be made within. Two six-pounders were accordingly brought under cover close to the gateway, and the flank companies of His Majesty's Royal Scots and Madras European Regiment, with Major Gordon of the former corps, supported by the Rifle Battalion, the 3rd Light Infantry, and the Picquets, were brought from camp for this purpose.

Meantime the Killidar alarmed at these preparations sent to solicit terms. He was desired to open his gates and to surrender himself and his garrison unconditionally, which he promised to do. Some delay, however, taking place, and the day beginning to decline, the guns and Europeans were brought up to the first gate, which was, however, entered by the Europeans at the side by single files, without requiring to be blown up. The next gate was found open, and at the third the Killidar came out by the wicket with a number of Bougans whom he had on the previous evening forced into the Fort from the Pittah, and surrendered himself to Adjutant-General Lieut.-Colonel Conway. The party advanced through another gate and found the fifth, which led

into the body of the place, shut, and Arabs within still insisting upon terms. After some delay, the wicket of the gate was opened from within, and Major Gordon, Captain MacGregor, and Lieut.-Col. Murray entered by it, with two or three officers and ten or twelve grenadiers of the Royal Scots, who were leading.

I lament to state to your lordship that the gallant band was immediately attacked by the treacherous Arabs within, before adequate aid could be given from the wicket. In a moment they were fired upon and struck down with spears and daggers. The intrepid Major Gordon and Captain MacGregor resigned their invaluable lives at this spot, and Lieut.-Colonel Murray was wounded in several places with daggers before he had time to draw his sword to defend himself. Our casualties, besides the irreparable loss sustained in Major Gordon and Captain MacGregor, are much less numerous than might have been expected from the desperate nature of service in which the troops were engaged.

The Killidar was hanged on the spot.

Hislop, in his General Orders to the Army, dated February 28, 1818, says—

His Excellency regrets that this army and their country in general should have to lament the loss of such officers as Major Gordon and Captain MacGregor, of His Majesty's Royal Scots, the former commanding the storming party which consisted of His Majesty's Royal Scots under Captain Hulme and of the Madras European Regiment under Captain Maitland, and the latter commanding the grenadiers of His Majesty's Royal Scots. Major Gordon and Captain MacGregor fell gloriously at the head of the gallant storming party, almost at the moment when their intrepidity and courage had achieved the object of the attack.

ACHNASTANK.

Achnastank is quite close to Achlochran, in the parish of Mortlach, and had been held at

an early period by the Gordons of "Sachen." The Balbithan MS., in one of its least satisfactory moments, tells us that John Gordon of Invercharrach, son of Alexander Gordon of Pethnick, "married the heretrix of Invercharrach and the Barron of Carron's sister, with whom he begat — Gordon, Barron of Achenstink, who dyed without succession." On the very next page, however, it states that his name was John, and that he had a son William, the father of Alexander Gordon of Achenstink, "who married Isabel Cumming, and begat sons, who dwelt in Mortlach."

By a strange fatality, the Birnie MS. also blunders in the matter of Achnastank. On page 263 it says that Harry Gordon of Achlochran had a second son, Thomas Gordon, who "lived at Achlochran," and that he married late in life — Cummin, sister of George Cummin of Reclatich, leaving three sons, James, Lewis, and Thomas. On page 27 the MS. begins discussing James Gordon, "the eldest son of Thomas Gordon, who dwelt at Achnastank," and gives James two brothers, Lewis and Thomas. It seems clear that the statement on page 263 is a slip, and that Thomas Gordon, the son of Harry of Achlochran, really lived at Achnastank, which is quite close to Achlochran.

Thomas Gordon in Achnastank had at any rate three sons and a daughter:—

1. James Gordon, who lived at the Laggan of Auchindoun.
2. Lewis Gordon, who dwelt at Tomnagayloch. He was one of the executors of his brother James in 1759. He married the only daughter of John Gow or Smith, who lived at Achmore, and had four sons and a daughter. In the Mortlach Register she is always called "Janet Smith." They were married May 22, 1755. He was dead by May 1774. They had

(1) John Gordon, baptised Feb. 22, 1756: witnesses, John Gordon in Achlochran and James Gordon in Laggan. They were then living at Milltown of Laggan. John Gordon, according to the Birnie MS., died in

America "during the revolutionary war there." Mrs Davidson, Forres, possesses a letter written by John to his brother Thomas from Wilmington, North Carolina, October 30, 1777:—

"Dear Tom,—I take this long about way of letting you know I am still alive and well, and hope you and your brothers have all been the same. This goes by the way of Jamaica in a vessel wherein there goes a number of people that leave this country. I wrote you once from this place before our trade was stopped with Britain and the Colonies, but did not expect an answer, as there is no communication at present but by the way of France or Holland. I never received but one letter from you, and that in November 1773: that I impute to my leaving the Islands and not to your neglect in writing. Before this comes to your hand (if ever it does) I hope you will be well settled in some good place, and perhaps some of the rest. But if that is not the case I wish either you or Charlie would come here (as Jamie is yet too young to go through the difficulties of coming), as whoever comes must lay yourself for to encounter a good many difficulties and hardships while the War is so hot: but if the War was happily ended, which I wish to God it was, you wou'd find all only a little pleasure, in coming. I shall point out to you the several ways you may come even while the War continues, if so it should happen. For my part, I wish sincerely one of you was here now, as it would be of service to me and yourselves. The first way in my opinion is to come to New York, or wherever the English Army is, in some of the victualling ships of which there are always opportunities for some part of Ireland, or England; and after you get to America you must get a pass from the commanding officer to go in the country, which he will scarce refuse, and then you can get a pass from the commander of the American Army to go

where you please after he knows your business. You must have no more cloaths than what you can carry with you on horseback, as you don't know how far from this place you may land. If it was in South Carolina or Virginia, you could ride here in three days, but it may be farther off; whichever of you comes, must look on every stranger you meet as an enemy until you know him better, and tell no news but to those who have authority to question you. Another way is from Holland or France to any of their Islands in the West Indies, where you have an opportunity always to some part of the Continent every week, even perhaps to this place, best known by the name of Cape Fear, or to Charlestown in S. Carolina, only three days' ride from this. By any of these ways I think you could easily come, and by the uncertainty of where you land, you will see that you must not have much luggage: as much money as will pay your passage and buy a horse and pay expenses until you get here is sufficient. The first is the cheapest and to me wou'd be the safest, but I am afraid either of you wou'd find many difficulties, the people in the country being so suspicious of your countrymen particularly. The other way you run no risk, as from any of the French or Dutch Islands you can always have opportunities to South or North Carolina, or Virginia in trading vessels. This in my opinion would be the savest way altho' it would be the dearest, as there would be your passage to France or Holland, and then to the Islands, then the Continent, but if the War was ended you would always find opportunitys from Glasgow straight here, to Cape Fear. By this you will see the difficulties to have to go thro' and can determine with yourselves if you can. I hope Annie will turn out well, which would give me the greatest pleasure. I would have wrote Charlie and Jamie, but this you can show Charlie, and let him know the difficulties. The first safe op-

portunity I will write you all: at present the times are so that it is ten to one if this reaches you. You must carry none but open letters, and never give your opinion but cautiously of State affairs. I have a great deal to write if I was sure this would reach you, but shall say no more thro' that uncertainty. The same reason I have for not writing my Uncle, and the rest of my friends, but hope they are all well. I will trouble you to remember me to them all, and all acquaintances. I should be glad you had an opportunity of writing the news as I long to hear from the country much. You know all my particular ones, and refer them to you.—I am, Dear Tom, your most affectionate Brother,
JOHN GORDON.

“[P.S.] If it should so happen that you have an opportunity of writing or any of you comes here, my Direction is ‘John Gordon, Merchant, Wilmington, North Carolina.’”

Messrs Rountree & Carr, attorneys-at-law, 13, Masonic Temple, Wilmington, N.C., supply, through that enthusiastic Gordon genealogist, the Hon. Armistead Churchill Gordon, of Staunton, Virginia, some interesting documentary evidence about John Gordon, which may be arranged chronologically:—

1779—January 1.—Robert Hogg conveyed by deed to Thomas Howard & Co. and John Gordon for the sum of £7250 State money a lot of land in the city of Wilmington known as one-half of lot No. 5.

1780—July 15.—David Forbes made a will in which he devised to Robert Hogg during his life all his property, and after his death to be equally divided between Joseph Tittey and John Gordon. The property described in the will consists of a number of slaves.

1783—November 20.—John Cain, Sheriff of Brunswick County (across the river from Wilmington) conveyed by sale under a writ of execution against the goods and chattels

and tenements of John Gordon in the hands of Margaret Gordon, administratrix, for the sum of £3150, two tracts of land opposite Wilmington and in Brunswick County. One of the tracts contained 640 acres, known as the Ferry Plantation, with brick tenements on it, and the other tract is a 100 acre tract adjoining it. This deed is not complete, and there is no signature of the Sheriff. The deed stops, as it appears, about the middle of it, and a new book was probably re-copied years ago, and the rest of the deed had become mutilated. The Wilmington lot may also have been conveyed under the same deed, and this explains why it is recorded in this county, New Hanover. In this it is recited that the amount of £3150 had been recovered by William Hooper, James Hogg, and James Burges, executors of the will of Robert Hogg. One of the deeds recites the fact that John Gordon was a merchant in the city of Wilmington.

(2) Thomas Gordon, baptised February 28, 1758: witnesses, James Gordon in Laggan and Thomas Gordon in Achna-stank. They were then living at Milltown of Laggan. The Birnie MS. says he lived sometime at Spynie, and married a daughter of Lawrence Sutherland of that place. He was appointed ensign and paymaster of the Ross and Cromarty Rangers June 1798, and accompanied them to Ireland. When the corps was disbanded, he settled and died near Coleraine, without issue. Mrs Davidson has a letter which he wrote to his sister Anne from Lurgan, October 12, 1800, as follows:—

“Dear Anne,—As we have left Ennis-killen, it is necessary to let you know where a letter may find me when you write; you will see by the date of this where to direct to me, and you may add, by Belfast, as it will sooner come to hand then. I have got myself very comfortably situated here, and the town is the most cleanly and neat of any I have seen in

Ireland, and the people are said to be remarkably civil. I was both pleased and surprised to have a call from one of my old Huntly schoolfellows, Harry MacVeagh, who is settled in this town, and is in a very thriving situation. Harry is the principal person in the place, and I expect to pass my time very pleasantly during our stay here. He has got his second wife already, who is a jolly lass indeed, as big as Mrs Peter Duff, and Harry is as fat as Jack Richardson was. I have not seen a better match. When you write your mother, tell her to send me word whether she ever got the order for fifty pounds which I senn her from Glasgow. I have not heard from her, and if it has not come to her hand it will be necessary to get a new order sent her. You can let me know how your own finances hold out; if they are low I shall order a supply. The first time you see Mrs Macfarlane, give my Compts. to her, and tell her to write me: she has plenty of time and I will not grudge the postage. I hope the Parson and his young wife are both well; I will write him very soon. If he thinks of taking a trip to Ireland, I can meet him now at Denaghadee without much difficulty. You can tell Sandy Anderson to make ready what barley meal you may want; I believe the oats will be needed on the farm altogether and a good deal more, so that you will have the oatmeal to buy. Give my respects to my Elgin favourites, Miss Donaldson and Miss Gordon. I hope the last got safe home from her London jaunt and found her account in it.—I remain, my dear Annie, your affectionate brother,

“THOMAS GORDON.”

(3) Charles Gordon. baptised Dec. 25, 1759: witnesses, John Gordon and James Gordon in Achlochran. The Birnie MS. says he died young at home.

(4) James Gordon. He does not appear in the Mortlach Register. The Birnie MS. says he died in the West Indies.

(5) Ann Gordon, baptised March 15, 1765: witnesses, John Gordon and James Gordon in Achlochran. She is the unmarried daughter of the Birnie MS., which says she lived in Elgin many years, "loved and respected, and died in 1836 or 1837 unmarried. Mrs Davidson has a letter written to her on August 15, 1822 by Harry Gordon, Mill of Laggan, as follows:—

"My dear Madam,—As you have this day given me up the letter which I had granted to you as a security for the payment of the legacy of £50 . . . and the yearly annuity of Ten Pounds left to you by my late Brother, John Gordon, and as you are desirous to make over to me the Legacy of Fifty Pounds upon the condition of my paying you Five Pounds a year in consideration for it, for the term of your own life, I hereby agree to your proposal, so that your annuity will now be Fifteen Pounds Sterling, payable by me to yourself during your life upon the first of January in every year. But no part of this annuity to be payable to your Heirs, if you should die before it is all due and paid over to yourself. This letter to be binding upon my Heirs, Successors, and Assignees."

3. Thomas Gordon, lived for a time at Achnastank. Before 1774 he migrated to Achlochrach, where he died unmarried about 1794. He was one of the executors of his brother James.

JAMES GORDON IN LAGGAN.

The Birnie MS. says he lived at the Laggan of Auchindoun, and married, Feb. 15, 1743, Jean MacWilliam, daughter of MacWilliam of Gauldwell of Boharm (who had four sons and one daughter by Jean Cumming, daughter of George Cumming, who was the second son of George Cumming of Lochterlandich, Glenrinnes, and Provost of Elgin). Her sister was the Nellie MacWilliam of Jacobite fame. A minute account of these MacWilliams appeared in "Scottish Notes and Queries," Oct. 1905. Some details of the family occur in a discharge

and assignation of Cumming to MacWilliam, dated April 20, 1745, copied for me by Mr H. Duff MacWilliam from the original in the possession of Mr Hugh W. Young, of Burghead. It deals with Jean Cumming, relict of William MacWilliam, late in Gauldwell, Jean MacWilliam, lawfull daughter of the said MacWilliam, and espoused to James Gordon in Laggan, with the advice and consent of her said husband. MacWilliam died without settling his worldly affairs. His children, Helen, Isobel, Elizabeth, Marjorie, and Jean (Mrs Gordon), submitted the matter to Robert Grant in Tamore, and John Grant of Rothmais, as arbitors; and they gave their decreet February 16, and 17, 1744. They decreed, among other things, that Helen, Isobel, Elizabeth, Marjorie, and Mrs Gordon were to get equally in fee 100 merks Scots contained in a bond granted by George Gordon of Buckie to the said William MacWilliam, dated July 2, 1733. The daughter, Isobel MacWilliam, died after this date, nominating her sisters trustees.

James Gordon died in 1763, sometime after the month of May. He made his will, which is a very wordy and "perniketty" document, on April 7, 1759, at Laggan, the witnesses being his brother-in-law, Francis Grant, school-master at Badavochal, and William Angus. It opens thus:—

"In the name of God, Amen. Know all men by this presents me James Grant in Laggan of Achindown, being for the present in health of body and sound in memory and judgment, for preventing all debates and that my affairs may be in order when God shall call me from time to eternity, to have made my latter will and testament as follows:—First, I recommend my soul to God, hoping to be saved by the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, my Glorious Redeemer, when it shall please God to make a separation between my Soul and Body. I appoint my corpse to be decently interred in the ordinary burial place of my ancestors, within the Churchyard of Mortlach by my executors."

His executors were his wife and his two brothers, Ludovick and Thomas Gordon—"the said Jean MacWilliam, so long as she remains unmarried, to be a *siné qua non*; but all of them precisely bound and subject to the direction, advice, and oversight of John Gordon of Cluny, Esq., at Fochabers, when he shall please to take concern, which I have reason to believe will frequently happen."

He made a codicil in May 31, 1763, "being sick in body but sound in memory and judgment." The will was ratified by the Commissary of Aberdeen, April 4, 1764. There is also an "eik" of May 12, 1774.

Gordon estimates his fortune at 27,300 merks, and his debts at 800 merks "up or down." He had lent a good deal of money from time to time as follows:—

6200 merks on three separate bonds by the late Duke of Gordon.

5000 merks by Alexander Gordon of Whiteley, advocate, in a bill and bond.

3000 merks by John Gordon of Beldornie, in four separate bills. The eik of 1774 increases this debt by £2021 15s. Scots in a bill dated May 19, 1759. The interest had been paid till 1767, but both the principal sum and interest were outstanding in 1774.

1500 merks by Alexander Stewart of Auchlunkart in a bill.

1200 merks in a bill by Patrick Stewart of Teninver.

The following sums were also due to him:—

£15 15s. stg., as the balance of a greater sum contained in letters of horning raised by Gordon against James Kelman and James Shearer, both in Enoch.

£11 10s. stg., as the balance in a decree obtained against John Gordon in Clashmore and the deceast John Gordon, late in Lettach.

£15 16s. 4½d. stg. and resting annual rents contained in a bill by the late John Smith, late in Achmore.

Out of 1000 merks to his eldest son John he appointed 300 merks to be applied for payment for life of a bond of provision granted

by his favour of his wife Jean MacWilliam, dated Laggan, March 28, 1759. "And the more to testify the love and favour I bear Jean MacWilliam, and that she may be in the better case to help the children and live comfortably, and notwithstanding that I have given her the bond of provision of £100 Scots yearly during her lifetime; yet I hereby appoint her by and outover to have 100 merks more yearly, 50 merks of said 100 to come off the annual rents of the daughters' portions, and the other 50 merks to affect the sons' portions." In case he died before his tack of Laggan was out, he arranged that his widow should continue in the tack, "with her children labouring the same and drawing her and their maintenances therefrom." He raised all sorts of obstacles against his wife's re-marriage.

James Gordon and his wife, Jean MacWilliam, had four sons and three daughters as follows:—

1. John Gordon, captain.
2. William Gordon, minister of Urquhart. They seem to have been twins.
3. Thomas Gordon ("my third son") got 4000 merks under his father's will.
4. Alexander Gordon, baptised April 17, 1748: witnesses, Alexander Stuart of Lesmurdy and Alexander Sime at Manse of Mortlach (Mortlach Register). Under the codicil to his father's will he and his brother James got 6000 merks equally betwixt them, "leaving the keeping of them and Marjory [their sister] till they are of age, allowing while they are young, at least till they be ten years of age, the sum of 350 merks yearly to their mother, and what is saved to be added to their stocks." James died in London 1769 on his way back from the East Indies.
5. James Gordon entered the Bengal Artillery as ensign Oct. 4, 1778: he became captain Nov. 24, 1786; major, May 6, 1795. In 1801 he was member of a committee to consider the material equipment. He was killed Feb. 27, 1803 by the explosion of a powder magazine during the siege of Bidje-

gurh—described in the Birnie MS. as “Bidji Guzie.” There seems to be some doubt as to the cause of the explosion. Captain Buckle (“Memoirs of the Bengal Artillery,” pp. 246-74), regards it as accidental, and says that Gordon was proceeding round the fort, “most probably with a view to ascertain the ordnance and stores, it having been evacuated by the enemy during the night.” The Birnie MS. takes the same view. Philippart (“East India Military Calendar,” III., 415) says that Lieut. Swinton having made the trenches and batteries commanded by order of Lord Lake “a chosen party of twelve Europeans” from the 76th Regiment, and “stormed a small work within the Rowney (or outer fort) which commanded the breach and gateway. The enemy abandoned the fort just before the storm took place, having done all the mischief in their power by putting a slow match in the powder magazine, which blew up just as this officer entered; and killed about 300 natives, together with Colonel Gordon of the Artillery.” Stubbs, in the history of the Bengal Artillery (I., 203), says that the explosion “was supposed” to be the work of “one of the Raja’s people.” A very curious statement was made in 1834 in some articles on Military Autobiography in the “East India United Service Journal” (II., 463). “Poor Gordon of the Artillery . . . had always felt a presentiment that he was to fall the first time he went into action, and this idea was so rooted in his mind that he was supposed to have avoided several occasions of going on service, so that he attained the post of Lieutenant-Colonel and had been nearly five and twenty years in the country without smelling hostile powder. At length, however, in the mud war of 1800, he had the command of a small battering train, and after breaching Bijeeghur, which the enemy evacuated on the following night, he was proceeding into the fort for the purpose of taking an account of the captured stores, thinking, no doubt, that now at last the charm was over, when on passing through

the narrow gateway the magazine of the place exploded and buried him beneath the ruins." Stubbs, however, doubts the story, remarking that the esteem in which he appears to have been held argues him to have been too good a soldier to give way to such a feeling; if ever it existed." In reporting his death, the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Lake, says he felt particularly indebted to Gordon for his exertions, directed by uncommon zeal and ability. The Governor-General, in the Order published to the Army, "deeply regrets the severe loss which the public service had sustained by the death of Lieut.-Colonel Gordon." Sir William Hunter, in his Gazetteer of India, says that a monument was erected to Gordon at Bijaigarh. The Rev. W. V. K. Treanor, of the Church Mission, Aligarh, to whom I applied, wrote to me, February 14, 1906:—"My colleague, with some catechists, went to camp at Bijaigarh [as it is now spelt], and after some difficulty found a tomb of masonry work in ruins. The people thought it was just the tomb of some white man, and knew no more about it. After some inquiry they came across an old man who said that he had been told that it was the tomb of a British officer. There is no inscription to be found on the tomb, and it seems to be altogether neglected." He left £59,999 14s. (Inventory in possession of Mrs Davidson.)

6. Ann Gordon, baptised Feb. 8, 1746: witnesses, Alexander Sim at Mains of Mortlach and Lewis Gordon in Milltown of Laggan (Mortlach Register). Under her father's will of 1759 she got 2500 merks. She married the Rev. Thomas Macfarlane. In 1774 she granted a discharge to her brothers John Gordon and Rev. William Gordon, the original of which is in the possession of Mrs Davidson:—"I Ann Gordon, daughter of the deceased James Gordon in Laggan, spouse to Thomas Macfarlane, Minister of Langbride, with consent of my husband for his interest, and I the said Thomas Macfarlane for myself and as taking burden on me for my said spouse, and both of us with

one consent and assent: Whereas John Gordon in Laggan and William Gordon, Minister of Urquhart, died at the term of Martinmas last, made payment to me, the said Thomas Macfarlane, the Sum of Three Thousand Merks Scots contained in a bill granted by them to the said Ann Gordon, their sister, dated the day of January Seventeen hundred and seventy-three, payable at the said term of Martinmas, and likewise at the same time made payment to me, the said Thomas Macfarlane, of the sum of 2000 Scots contained in their obligation dated the day of January 1773 granted by them to the said Ann Gordon: Of both which sums I hereby grant receipt, renouncing all objections to the contrary: Therefore we, the said Ann Gordon and Thomas Macfarlane, with consent and assent as above hereby discharge the said John and William Gordons of the sums contained in the above bill and obligation and have herewith delivered them up: And we hereby discharge them and every other concerned of all claims competent to us any manner of way as representing the said deceast James Gordon, or Thomas, Marjory, and Alexander Gordons, his Children, and this Discharge we bind and oblige us, our heirs, Executors, and Successors to warrand at all hands and against all severally as law will consenting to the registration hereof in the books of Council and Session or others competent therein to remain for preservation and to receive execution in form as we for that purpose constitute. In witness whereof these presents written on this and the preceding page of Stamp paper by me the said Thomas Macfarlane are subscribed by us at Longbride February 23, 1774 before these Witnesses, Alexander Bremner, Mason in Longbride, and Patrick Anderson, Haymaker there.— Thomas Macfarlane: Ann Gordon. Alexander Bremner, witness; Patrick Anderson, do." Mrs Macfarlane died in 1832.

7. Marjory Gordon, "my second daughter," got 2500 merks under her father's will of 1759. The father laid down very strict con-

ditions as to their future—"If both [Ann and Marjory] or either of them live to enter a married state of life, and does marry with the consent and approbation of any two of the executors, and also two of their brothers, or yet obtain the consent of Mr Gordon of Cluny," they were to get their legacies "at next term succeeding marriage." If they married without such consent they were to get only 500 merks, the rest to be equally divided among the rest of the children, "with this provision, that whichever of these daughters shall marry with foresaid consent and approbation shall have 1000 merks of the other daughter's portion who marries otherwise, over and above the 2500 merks."

8. Helen Gordon, baptised April 29, 1755 (Mortlach Register). She is not mentioned in her father's will, and apparently died young.

9. Robert Gordon, "my illegitimate son begot before marriage," get the annual rent of 1000 merks under his father's will, "to be paid yearly or termly or otherwise that my said executors and children shall sufficiently maintain him in meat and cloaths during his lifetime, and upon their so doing let the said executors so dispose of that 1000 merks to one and all of the children as they see necessary."

CAPTAIN JOHN GORDON IN LAGGAN.

He was the eldest son of James Gordon in Laggan, and is apparently one of the "twin lawful sons" baptised Feb. 12, 1744, as mentioned in the Mortlach Register, which however does not give their names. John is described in the will as "eldest son." He was to get 1000 merks on attaining his majority, with the annual rents of 7000 merks "yearly and termly thereof after my death, or, at least, as much of said annual rents as he shall have real use for in order to complete his education." He is the John Gordon, "son of James Gordon, Mortlach," who was at Marischal College in 1757, where William, similarly described, entered in the same year. John,

according to the Birnie MS., "lived first at the Laggan, and then at Boghead, near Elgin, and died unmarried."

The Birnie MS. also describes him as "Captain," but I have failed to discover his regiment. Mrs Davidson, Forres, possesses several letters written by or about him. On September 21, 1793, he writes from Boghead to Captain Stuart, Pittyvaich:—

"Dear Sir,—The backward sales in this country determined me to drive my Cattle to Falkirk, where I met with as bad a market as at home after losing a great deal of expences and being at much trouble, my being so long from home. Having some unexpected business in this corner since my return prevented me from getting to Mortlach. However I hope to get there this day-se-night from Tammore, where I go to deliver the Cattle grassing there that day, when you will send for your horses. Inclosed I send you Twenty-two Guinea notes, the remainder of the £25 you shall have at meeting. When do you come to visit your friends at Leuchars and Blackhills? Best compliments to Mrs Stuart. I shall give her the approbation she wants of Captain Charlie's money being given to her for her sisters by Tam-breachie and when I come to Pittyvaich. There is a report, which tho' I have it not from any of the parties, yet I begin to believe, that Spynie is to be married in a few days to your acquaintance Miss Sutherland. No other country news. Toulon with the French Fleet there is in the hands of the English by last Gazette. It is rather uncertain yet whether the Duke of York has again been able to take up his ground before Dunkirk."

Duncan Campbell writes from Forres, Jany. 11, 1796, to Alexander Carmichael, Forres, to acknowledge the receipt of £20 stg., "on account of Captain Gordon of Laggan." On February 8, 1797, Carmichael writes to "Captain John Gordon of Laggan," from Forres, as follows:—

"I duly received your kind favour of 30th

January with a state of your Account [for] £72 ls., which is perfectly correct and cheap in so far as I am concerned, and I hope Mr Grant's will turn out well also. The day I received your letter Mr Campbell called upon me for £8 15s., which I paid him, and inclosed you have his acknowledgment for it. You have also inclosed your Bill of £30 to be cancelled, having never been used. I also send you two Copies of Acct Currt. betwixt us both, which you may sign and send me on, and keep the other by you, as it will serve for a Discharge of your Acct. Balance on the inclosed Acct. Currt. £2 13s. 10d. you will find herewith sent to close in the transaction, and you have my best and most hearty thanks for your kindness and friendship on all occasions.

"The grass seed season is coming on, when I will be obliged to you for your own and your Friends' orders for what may be needed this year, which will be adding to former favours. Prices, I think, will be about 10d. for Red, and 12d. or 13d. for White Clover. What you may need for yourself is by special agreement to be less. Mrs Carmichael unites in best respects to you."

On October 10, 1798, Gordon wrote from Boghead to John Gordon of Edintore:—

"I send per Bearer 150 Guinea Notes of the Bank of Aberdeen, which be so good as place to my Account. I go west to-day, but will not have time to do myself the pleasure to call for you, but will try to have an hour or two to spend with you on my return on Friday or Saturday. At any rate I will be with you next week to retire my bills, &c., in your house."

On February 23, 1799, George Gordon wrote from Aberdeen to the Captain as follows:—

"I was glad to hear lately by the Minister of Urquhart, that you was well. When you have nothing else to do, if such a time ever happen, I wish you would strike the balance of those accounts that are between us, and

let me know what it is. Trifling as they are, it is better to have them settled, more especially as it is not at present likely we shall have any transactions of a similar kind, at least for a dozen of years or so, as I am not sooner projecting to return to the country, and renew my operations as a Farmer. The amount of my charge against you is £9 6s. 6d., as I see by our correspondence in 1794. When you come to this Town, I hope you will at any rate have one day for me, to let us talk over our old stories, and amuse ourselves with fancying what is to come.

"We have nothing here in the way of news of any consequence, but what you will have heard. The disbanding of the second Battalion of the Caithness Legion has occasioned a good deal of speculation, and is still a little mysterious.

"With best Compliments to you from Mrs Gordon and me, I always am, Dear Sir, yours sincerely and with much regard,

"GEORGE GORDON."

The "Aberdeen Journal," December 26, 1791, records that Captain Gordon of Laggan was ordered by the Court of Session to answer the interrogation put, in October 1790, to the freeholders, respecting the nature of his vote.

The "Gentleman's Magazine" (Vol. 69, p. 1194), records that "Captain John Gordon, late of Laggan, died on December 23, 1799, at Boghead.

REV. WILLIAM GORDON, URQUHART.

He was the twin brother of Captain John Gordon, the second son of James Gordon in Laggan, who died in 1763. He was baptised on February 12, 1744, and remembered seeing as a child in the summer of 1746 John Gordon of Glenbucket, who was "out" both in the '15 and the '45. After Culloden, Glenbucket lay in hiding in his own neighbourhood for some months. One day he called at the house of Mr Gordon's father, who went to the door to speak to him, his little boy "toddling" after him. The old warrior had been lying

out all night: his hair was unkempt, his beard unshaven, and the child asked in terror, "Father, is that a man or a beast?"

Under his father's will of 1759 he got 4000 merks at his majority, and the interest was to pay for his education. He entered Marischal College in 1757, and graduated in 1761. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Strathbogie, May 6, 1767; and was ordained by the Presbytery of Aberlour, August 23, 1768, a missionary at Glenlivet. He was presented in September 1768 to the Church of Urquhart, and admitted January 12, 1769. On receiving the presentation he walked from Glenlivet where he was settled to a point whence he could see, as he said, "the promised land"—the whole "Laich o' Moray," afterwards so prettily diversified with woods, was treeless from end to end! Planting had not begun. He wrote the notice of Urquhart in the old "Statistical Account of Scotland."

He died July 18, 1810, in his 6th year. On July 12, 1800, he married Margaret (born January 31, 1779), daughter of Rev. Joseph Anderson, minister of Birnie. The Rev. Professor Cooper describes her as a "bright old lady." She died October 24, 1864. They had:

1. Rev. George Gordon, minister of Birnie.
2. James Gordon, born February 6, 1803, died 1810.

3. William Gordon. He was born at the Manse of Urquhart, October 26, 1803, educated at Marischal College (1817-1821), taking his M.A. there, and his M.D. at Edinburgh in 1827. He became assistant surgeon, Bengal Medical Establishment, October 13, 1827. In 1830 he was serving with the Artillery, and in 1831-36 with the 5th Battalion of the Horse Artillery. He was at the civil station, Mirzapore, 1837-44; was appointed surgeon, February 16, 1844; and surgeon of the 53rd Native Infantry, May 20, 1844. He retired October 10, 1849, and died at Forres House, Forres, November 1, 1881, and was buried in Elgin Cathedral. He married Margaret Johnston, who died at Burgie House, November 23, 1880, and had:

George James Gordon, born September

5, 1841. He entered the army as ensign of the 24th Regiment, July 23, 1861; and rose thus:—lieutenant, April 28, 1863; major, December 17, 1881; adjutant, 1st Suffolk Rifle Volunteers, July 12, 1880. He died at Rushmere, near Ipswich, January 26, 1885. He married, and had two daughters:

May Margaret Gordon: married John Anderson, coffee planter, Ceylon.

Anne Gordon: married Feb. 11, 1892, John David Davidson, who died March 11, 1903. She resides at Mayfield, Elgin.

REV. DR GEORGE GORDON, BIRNIE.

He was the eldest son of Rev. William Gordon, Urquhart, and was born at the old Manse of Urquhart, July 23, 1801. He entered Marischal College in 1815, graduated M.A. in 1819 (and LL.D. in 1859), studied divinity at Edinburgh—where Row's Hebrew Grammar (published at Aberdeen in 1643) was still in use as a class-book. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Elgin April 5, 1825.

When he was licensed his friend, "Parson" William Gordon, minister of Elgin took him to Gordon Castle to present him to the Duke of Gordon, who held a sort of levee at which young gentlemen of the north on-entering public life were expected to appear: a charming patriarchal custom, the disappearance of which is greatly to be regretted. On Dec. 13, 1832, on the presentation of Francis, Earl of Moray, he was ordained minister of Birnie, holding office until 1889.

The Rev. Dr Cooper informs me that Dr Gordon as a young man visited Sir Walter Scott—by Waverley's special invitation—at Ashestiel, and was driven by him to see the progress of the building at Abbotsford, then in process of erection.

"He belonged by descent and by connection to the moderate party in the Church, and in the conflicts which led to the rupture of 1843, he took up a clear and strong position, even preaching for the seven Strathbogie ministers whom the majority of the General Assembly had deposed. He was the first in the north

to resume the practice of reading a lesson from Holy Scripture without a running commentary; and was accordingly adversely criticised by the congregation, who would gather in knots behind him as he left the kirkyard, remarking, so that he could hear—'We could hae done that at hame. He jist wanted to shorten his sermon.' But he had no love for ecclesiastical polemics; and the ample leisure which the smallness and scanty population of his parish allowed him, he devoted to scientific and anti-quarian research. So early as 1839 he published *Collectanea* for a Flora of Moray; he added the plant *Pinguicula Alpina* to the British Flora; to the "Zoologist" he contributed a series of papers (1844-1860) on the Fauna of Moray, and on the geology of the province to the "Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal," 1859. He took an active part in the formation of the admirable Museum at Elgin; and indeed was for half-a-century the local referee on all scientific subjects. He had a controversy with Sir Roderick Murchison; and was a correspondent of Professor Huxley." In 1845 he wrote the description of Birnie for the new "Statistical Account." He wrote an introduction (pp.i-viii) to the third edition of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's *Account of the Great Moray Floods*, published by Mr M'Gillivray, Elgin, in 1873.

"As a preacher," says Professor Cooper, "he was always admired by the discriminating, for the originality and practical wisdom of his discourses. In private life he all along enjoyed an esteem and veneration accorded to the few. None who ever visited the Manse of Birnie during his long incumbency is likely to forget the sweet spot, at once so cosy and so elegant: the shrubbery with its rare shrubs, the garden with its wealth of 'fulgent' roses: the bees with all the apparatus for studying their habits, the fossils and arrow-heads in the little study, and the drawing-room presided over by the kind and hospitable lady who had been a beauty in her youth, and retained the charm to the last. The Church of Birnie is the most ancient, perhaps, in use in Scotland. Architects and antiquaries, as well as men of science,

found their way to Birnie, and all were hospitably entertained."

In 1889, Dr Gordon resigned his charge, and retired to Elgin. Even as an old man he retained extraordinary vigour. Dr Cooper tells me that at the age of 86 he visited Mrs Cochrane, of Abbotshall, Galashiels, to whom he told his experience with Scott. Though he was 86 years of age, he had no sooner arrived, from Edinburgh, than he set off to see the curious old "broch" on the hill of Torwoodlee, a couple of miles, or so, from the station, and up a steep hill.

Preaching at Birnie February 1891) on the occasion of the re-opening of the Church, Professor Cooper said of him:—

"The minister who wrote the description in the New Statistical Account (1845) is happily stil with us, the most venerable and, I am safe to say, the most venerated of the clergy of the province. His services to the parish you will yourselves recall. His services to the Church of Scotland in the conflict which eventuated in the sad secession of 1843 ought not to be forgotten. His name is honourably associated with the great intellectual revolution of his country—the wonderful advance of Natural Science. We all, my brethren, associate his name with something better still—the integrity and courtesy of a Christian gentleman, the gravity and fidelity of a minister of Christ. He has been to us a living example of how science can subsist with faith, and how, in this century as in last, the active mind, and the cultivated intellect can flourish in a Scottish manse."

He married, March 20, 1834, Anne Maria (born 1814), daughter of James Stephen, M.D., of Brucefield. He died at Elgin, Dec. 12, 1893. She died Dec. 9, 1889. They had five sons and three daughters. Their births as recorded here are from the Elgin Parish Register:—

1. William Gordon, born on Oct. 3, 1840. He was manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, Madras, and died in London, April

5, 1900, and was buried at Birnie. He married Jessie, daughter of the late John Forbes of Haddo, Banffshire, and had:

Charles Forbes Gordon.

William Forbes Gordon, died in infancy in India.

Margaret Forbes Gordon.

2. James Lewis Joseph Gordon, born Aug. 13, 1844. He entered the 58th Regiment as ensign June 3, 1864, became lieutenant July 4, 1868, and captain Dec. 17, 1875. He transferred to the 59th Regiment as captain Oct. 20, 1876, and became paymaster of the Devonshire Regiment Oct. 14, 1882, with the honorary rank of captain. He died at Naini Tal, India, May 7, 1886. He married Marion Willis, daughter of the late General Willis, Bengal Army, and had:

James Guy Birnie Gordon, born Oct. 14, 1881. He became 2nd Lieut., Royal Lancashire Militia, Nov. 19, 1899, and Lieut. July 20, 1901, and became Lieut. in the Manchester Regiment, Nov. 27, 1901. He fought in the South African War, 1900-2, being slightly wounded. He took part in the operations in the Orange River Colony, May—Nov. 29, 1900; in Cape Colony and south of the Orange River, Feb.—April 1900; in the Transvaal, July 1901—May 31, 1902; and in the Orange River Colony. He was mentioned in despatches ("London Gazette," April 25, 1902), and got the Queen's medal with four clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. He then joined the Indian Army, becoming Lieut. Double Company Officer of the 52nd Sikhs, May 27, 1905.

Irene Anna Birnie Gordon.

3. George Harry Gordon, born June 11, 1846, is a merchant in London. He married Emma Louisa, daughter of the late General Wahab, H.E.I.C. (Madras Army). He has:

Letitia Wahab Stuart Gordon.

Ivy Anna Wahab Gordon.

Janet Wahab Gordon.

4. Stephen Gordon, born March 6, 1850; merchant in Smyrna. He married Ida

Olivia, daughter of the late Thomas Rees, Wales and Smyrna, and has:

George Innes Gordon; married Muriel Whittall, and has a daughter.

Stanley Innes Gordon; married at St Mark's Church, Alexandria Gertrude May, daughter of Henry Barker, Norwegian Consul-General at Alexandria ("Times," May 5, 1906).

Douglas William Gordon.

Stephen Rees Gordon.

Thomas Langdon Gordon.

Gladys Forbes Gordon.

Helene Rees Gordon.

5. Robertson Barclay Gordon, born July 28, 1858; procurator-fiscal of Elgin; married Marjory Frances, daughter of George Duff, M.D., Elgin, and has:

George Duff Gordon

Marjory Gordon.

6. Jean Anne Gordon, born Dec. 16, 1835, eldest of the family; unmarried.

7. Ann Gordon, born December 25, 1837; married July 21, 1881, Rev. William Gordon, Braemar. He was born in 1833; began life as parochial schoolmaster, Alvie; and was inducted in 1873 to the charge of Braemar, then a chapel of ease, being one of the last ministers under the patronage system. He got Crathie and Braemar made into a quoad sacra parish. He took a great interest in Gaelic. He died October 11, 1906, without issue.

8. Margaret Gordon, born September 27, 1842; married Captain Edward S. Cooke, Bengal Staff Corps, and died at Aldershot, September 22, 1876, leaving:

George Gordon Cooke.

Undine Margaret Cooke.

A short discussion followed, and the meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Mr Bulloch for his important paper, to Mr Grant for reading it, and to Mr Macpherson for presiding.