

Altholl

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SKETCHES
OF THE
EARLY HISTORY, LEGENDS, & TRADITIONS
OF
STRATHARDLE AND ITS GLENS

PART II.

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PART II.

I will begin the second part of this paper where I ended the last—at the death of King Malcolm II., in

1033.—The year in which Malcolm II. died was remarkable for its extraordinary storms and bad weather, of which, no doubt, Strathardle got its full share, as we read in Peacock's "Annals of Perth," page 21 :—"The year in which King Malcolm died was remarkable for severe frosts and snows in the middle of summer, which destroyed the produce of the earth and caused a distressing famine."

Old George Buchanan, in his own quaint way, says :—"The year in which he died was a prodigious one, for in the winter the rivers did mightily overflow ; and in spring-time there were great inundations of the sea. And moreover a few days after the summer solstice, there were very pinching frosts and mighty snows, by which means the fruits of the earth being destroyed, a great famine did ensue."

Tradition says that the great chain of lochs that undoubtedly existed in Strathardle burst their bounds during a great flood, caused by heavy rains melting a deep fall of snow in summer, and that all the cattle were swept away down the strath, and that a great famine followed. I have no doubt that tradition refers to this time.

1057.—About this time we find the first mention of an ancient and honourable Strathardle family—the Rattrays of Rattray and Craighall, who derived their name from the Barony of Rattray, and who, according to Nisbet, flourished here in the reign of Malcolm Canmore, and whose descendants hold several estates in the district to this day.

1072.—King Malcolm Canmore and his good Queen Margaret founded the great Abbey of Dunfermline, which afterwards held the Churches of Moulin and Strathardle, with the lands of Persie and many others in the district.

1100.—About this time King Edgar changed the ancient Thaneship of Athole into an earldom, adding the whole district except Breadalbane, and conferring it on his cousin Madach, son of King Donald Bane. One of the Duke of Athole's titles now is Earl of Strathardle.

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1114.—In this year King Alexander I. founded the Abbey of Scone, one of the witnesses to the foundation charter being Madach, Earl of Athole, who afterwards was a great benefactor to the Abbey. Scone afterwards, as we shall see, held extensive lands in Strathardle.

1127.—King David I. in this year converted the ancient Culdee Monastery of Dunkeld into a regular Bishopric. It had been originally founded by St Columba as a Culdee Church about 570, and, as already stated, raised by King Constantine McFergus to the primacy of Scotland in 806. Dunkeld possessed most of the lands in middle and lower Strathardle till the Reformation.

1153.—At this time we find Strathardle belonged to the King, as it formed one of the Royal Manors of Gowrie. We read in Skene's "Celtic Scotland," Vol. III., p. 133 :—"We find there were four Royal Manors of Gowrie, viz., those of Scone, Cubert (Cupar), Foregrund (Longforgan), and Stratherdel." And in the "Chronicle of Scone," page 6, we find a charter by Malcolm IV. to the Canons of Scone :—"In principale sede regni nostra fundata," in which he conveys to them the titles "de quatuor maneriis neis de Gourin scilicet de Seon, et de Cubert, et de Fergrund et de Stratherdel."

Strathardle was also a Royal Thanage, as we find in Skene's "Celtic Scotland," Vol. III., page 275 :—"In the reign of Malcolm IV., who confirms the foundation charter of Alexander I. to Scone, we find mention of the four Loyal Manors of Gowrie paying 'cens' to the King, and these were Scone, Cupar, Longforgan, and Strathardle, and these appear to have been likewise Royal Thanages."

In Skene's "Notes to John of Fordon's Chronicle of the Scottish Nation," page 417, we find in the list of Thanages given there those of Strathardle, Alyth, and Glentilt. We also find in the "Chartulary of Arbroath," page 27, a charter granted in the reign of King William the Lion by Laurance of Abernethy, of the Church of Abernethy, to the Monks of Arbroath, one of the witnesses being Macbeth, Sheriff of Scone and Thane of Strathardle. We also find this same Macbeth, Thane of Strathardle, etc., with the additional title of "Judge of Gowrie," witnessing a charter of King William the Lion to Cupar Abbey of the Marsh of Blairgowrie, which shall be noticed afterwards in 1168.

1164.—In this year Cupar-Angus Abbey, another of those great religious houses which for so long held so much of Strathardle, was founded. From very early times we find a great deal of the lands of Strathardle in the hands of the Church, a fact

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which speaks very highly for the value of that lovely glen, even at this early date, for it is a well-known fact that the clergy have always been exceedingly wide awake in the choice of good and fertile lands for their own purposes. All the great religious houses are built on fertile fields, and to this day the manse and glebe are almost always found on the fattest land in every parish. For agricultural purposes Strathardle then, as now, certainly was behind many neighbouring districts, but its grazings were very good, most of its hills and braes were finely wooded with heavy timber, so very valuable for building purposes; that we find special foresters appointed to look after these woods; its forests and hills abounded with every kind of game; and its rivers then swarmed with the finest salmon, as we find the fishings of Drimlie and Cally let at a yearly rental of fourscore salmon; which altogether made Strathardle a most desirable addition to the estates of the luxurious ecclesiastics of the middle ages. We have already seen that the great religious houses of Dunfermline, Scone, and Dunkeld held lands in Strathardle, and we now add that of Cupar, which for four centuries afterwards held a great deal of land in the Strath, and which, by encouraging agriculture and other arts of civilisation, did a great deal of good, and helped to raise the inhabitants of the district far beyond the rude state of the people of the more inland Highland glens.

Cupar Abbey was founded by King Malcolm IV. on Sunday, 12th July, and was dedicated to the Virgin, and planted with monks of the Cistercian order. Old Andrew of Wynyntoun, in his "Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland," records the founding of Cupar Abbey, as follows :—

"A thousand, a hundyre, and sixty where
And fowre till thai till rekyne clere,
Malcolme Kyng off Scotland,
And pesyby in it rignand ;
The allevynd shere off his crowne
Mad the fundatyowne
Off the Abbey off Culpre in Angws
And dowyt it wyth hys alms."

1165.—Malcolm, 2nd Earl of Athole, grants a charter to Cupar Abbey to cut large beams of timber in his forests of Athole and Strathardle for building purposes. About this year, King William the Lion granted a charter, at Forfar, to Cupar Abbey of the Marsh of Blairgowrie; one of the witnesses being that famous man of many titles, Macbeth, Thane of Strathardle, Sheriff of

Blair-Athole, while the Big Cumming held sway. Wild, lawless, and deceitful was the race of the Cummings. We have still a proverb to this effect—"Cho fad 's a bhios craobh 's a' choill, bidh foill nam a' Chummanach;" "As long as there is a tree in the wood, the Cumming will be treacherous." As one example of the unprincipled conduct which gained for them this reputation, it is said that the father of the Big Cumming put to death, on the Tariff, no less than sixteen lairds in one day, in order to possess himself of their lands. Coming down Glentilt after this prize-worthy exploit, with a party of followers, the pony on which he rode misbehaved; and 'well you may,' cried the Big Cumming, in great glee, 'with sixteen barons on your back.' The words were scarcely uttered, when an eagle, fluttering for a moment overhead, swooped down and struck the pony with its wings. The terrified animal made a bound forward; a cleft rock, which it grazed past, caught one of Cumming's feet, and he was torn asunder. The pony never stopped till at Blair Castle gate, dragging along with it one part of its master's corpse. The remainder struck fast in the cleft rock, and the spot is still known as *Kuilhe-ma-loth-choise*: The shelling or place of the one foot. The son of this worthy had married a lady of peculiar aldermanic taste. A 'choppin' of beef marrow must needs be served every day for her dinner. Cumming the Big's stores of good red gold were in a fair way of being exhausted, and it was therefore with great joy that the advent of Christmas was hailed. Then the lady or lord superior went the rounds of the retainers begging their 'Christmas.' Mackintosh of Trigney, knowing the tastes of Lady Cumming, presented her on this occasion with a bull and twelve cows. Trigney must be the place for rearing cattle, thought the lord of Blair Castle, and would be a prize worth the mint, under present circumstances. When night was right, nothing was easier than to acquire the lands of Trigney. Cumming the Big, with a body of retainers, surprised the mansion in the night, and every soul within was put to the sword—nay, not every soul: the cradle containing a young boy was upset in the scuffle, and he alone escaped. Thus the lands of Trigney were added to the estate of Blair. Among the murdered Mackintosh's tenants was a certain 'Croit-a-bhoineide' (he of the Croft of the Bonnet), so called because for his croft he gave the laird the yearly rent of a new bonnet, getting back at the time the old one for himself. He, good soul, coming with his yearly rent early next morning to the mansion, was horror-struck at the butchery. One consolation he found in the surviving child, weeping under the cradle. With the

greatest secrecy, he had it conveyed to its mother's relatives, Campbells in Argyll. There the child was brought up and well educated, visited by Croit-a-bhoineide, who passed for his father, every Christmaside. Among his numerous virtues, as he grew up, was that of being a famous archer, and, when at the age of eighteen the worthy crofter saw him fill the bull's eye with arrows, 'Bravo! Trigney,' cried he, no longer able to contain himself; 'broader far than the round on that target the brow of the murderer of your father.' 'The murderer of my father!' said the astonished youth; 'are you not then my father?'

"Half willing, half unwilling, Croit-a-bhoineide related his sad tale. Their plans were soon matured. With a band of chosen men, the young Trigney and his trusty saviour stole privily into the Braes of Athole. The men were concealed in his father's old barn, while he with Croit-a-bhoineide applied for shelter at the house of his father's foster-nurse. At first she refused admittance, but on the reiterated assurance that the son of her foster-child stood at the door—"Let him then breathe through the key-hole," said she; "for I would know the breath of a Mackintosh." The youth did as requested. 'Yes, yes!' cried the gladdened old woman, as undoing the bolt she admitted them; 'a true Mackintosh—my foster-child's son indeed.' The nurse and Croit-a-bhoineide shortly after went out separately to reconnoitre. The latter, on his way to Blair Castle, met near by an old woman, who inquired, 'What armed band of men was that I saw at the big barn of Trigney?' 'An armed band that you will never see again,' replied Croit-a-bhoineide, as he plunged his dirk into her heart. He threw the body into a ditch out of the way. Remember, gentlemen, she was only an old woman, and Croit-a-bhoineide feared her chattering might lead to discovery, and mar their plans. Some have it that the nurse had learned the Big Cumming was honouring by his presence the marriage of one of his retainers; that the Mackintosh partisans got between him and the Castle; that the alarm was given, and that Cumming rushed for his stronghold, but, finding himself intercepted, directed his flight up Glentilt. Others say that an ambush was laid near the Castle; that a party of Mackintoshes came forward to make a feint assault, and afterwards fled, drawing out the Cummings in pursuit; that the ambush intercepted their retreat; and that those who escaped from the short combat which ensued, fled with their leader up Glentilt.

"The streams that join the Tilt all the way to its source recall by their names the places where some of the fugitives fell. Thus

Scene, Judge of Gowrie, &c. The original charter runs:—"Carta regis Willielmi eisdem monachis facta de toto maresio meo in territorio de Blare," &c., &c.

1178.—At Edinburgh, on September 19th, King William the Lion granted to the Abbey of Cupar a charter of the lands of Cally and Persie, and that part of the lands of Cally held by Mackholffe, except that part of Cally on the south side of the water of Ferhill opposite Cluny, which the king kept for his own use. The original charter begins:—"Carta Donationis regis Willielmi eisdem monachis de terris de Parthesin per suas rectas dinisas, et illam Kalathin quam Mackholffe tenuit per suas rectas divisas excepta illa parte terre de Kalathyn qui est ex australi parte aque de Ferhill versus Cloyn qui ad opus monachum reservant," &c.

1180.—At Forfar, King William grants to Cupar Abbey a charter for two ploughgates of land in the district of Rethrife or Rattray.

In this year also Malcolm, Earl of Athole, grants a charter of the Church of Moulin to the Abbey of Dunfermline. The original is given in "Regist. de Dunfermline," page 85, and is titled "Malcolmus Comes Atholie: De Ecclesia de Molin," &c.

In Henderson's "Annals of Dunfermline," page 62, I also find under this date—"The Church of Strathardolf." In an undated charter of about this date King William gives to the Abbey of Dunfermline the Church of Stathardolf or Strathardolf, in the north-east part of Perthshire, "as a perpetual free gift, to be held in quiet and honourable possession," &c. (Regist. de Dunfermline, page 39).

1232.—In this year I find from the "Chartulary of Moray," page 87, that Gillemychel M'Ath, or M'Ade, Gillemichael the son of Adam, of the old Fergussons of Balmacroe, exchanges a davoch of the lands of Pitearnick, in Strathardle, with the Bishop of Moray for the lands of Dolays Michael in Strathspey. This Gillemichael, or servant of St Michael, very likely took his name from the patron saint of Kirkmichael; and I have no doubt that his son Cormac or Carmac gave his name to Pitearnick, or as it is always called in Gaelic, "Baile-charnaig," the town or dwelling-place of Carmac. It shows how ancient some of our place names are, when we consider that though nearly seven centuries have passed since Carmac dwelt at Pitearnick, his name still adheres to the place to this day. It also shows how for ages some of our Highland clans stuck to certain favourite personal names, as the Fergussons have done to Adam and Fergus. Here we find in the

ancient family of the Barons Fergusson of Balmacroe that this Gillemichael's father, about 1200, was Adam. Again, in 1358, Fergus, the son of Adam of Balmacroe, and Robert de Atholia, ancestor of the Robertsons of Struan, got into trouble with the Sheriff of Perth about their lands, and we have Adams in the family down till the last Adam Fergusson, who sold the ancient patrimony of his race, and went to America about 1840.

1235.—At Traquair, on June 1st, King Alexander II. granted a charter to Cupar Abbey of two and a-half ploughgates of land in the feu of Meikle Blair, in exchange for the Common Muir of Blairgowrie.

1246.—In November of this year, King Alexander II. stayed at Cupar Abbey, and hunted in the forests of Strathardle and Cluny.

1260.—For some time previous to this, the proud and haughty Cummings were lords of Athole, and ruled at Blair Castle with terrible severity, till about this time Ewan Mackintosh of Trigney, Thane of Glentilt, in revenge for the slaughter of all the rest of his family, surprised the Cummings at a marriage festival near Blair Castle, and, after chasing them up Glentilt, he slew the Big Cumming at Leac-na-diollaid (the Saddle Stone), in Glenloch, and his brother further on, at the Col-leum, in Glen Fernate. Col. Robertson of Lude, in his "Earldom of Athole," page 80, says—"Tradition states that when the Cummings got a footing in Athole they commenced the then usual practice to attack their neighbours. They attacked the Mackintoshes when at a feast, who were all murdered, except a young child, in a cradle, named Ewan, who, in ten or fifteen years afterwards, attacked the Cummings at a place called Toldain, near Blair-Athole. He defeated them, and the Cummings fled up Glentilt, and turned in at the stream that comes out of Lochloch; but this Ewan (Sheridan, as he was called) crossed a near way, through the hills of Bengloe, by a stream called the Cromaldan, and met Cumming at Leac-na-diold, and slew him; and which last place was so named, and signifies that Cumming had there been driven out of his saddle—he was shot. The tradition as thus stated has every appearance of probability; and to this day the cairn raised by Mackintosh where Cumming was killed remains. The situation of it is a little to the north of Lochloch. The date of the circumstance is supposed to be in, or soon after, 1260."

James Grant, in his most interesting work "The Legends of the Braes o' Mar," gives a much fuller account of this incident:—"The Trigney Mackintoshes held the lordship of that name, near

we have Allt-na-maraig, pudding-burn; Allt-na-strone, the rose burn; Allt Lung-na-smearn, the burn of the Shin of Marrow, and so forth.

"Alone at last, Cumming the Big turned away by Lochloch, east of 'Bena-gloce nan Bag.' But young Mackintosh and Croit-a-bhoineid still pursued. They kept on one side of the loch, the murderer on the other. As he sat down to rest a moment on a large stone, raising his hand to wipe away the perspiration, an arrow from the bow of Tirigney pinned that hand to his brow, and the Big Cumming fell dead. Carn-a-Chuimaneich, Cumming's Cairn, still marks the spot."

Such is the tradition in Athole and Braemar, and in Strathardle it is the same, with the addition that Cumming the Big's brother accompanied him in his flight, and stood beside him when he was shot at Leac-na-diollaich. When the brother saw him fall, he at once continued his flight eastwards through Glenloch and down Glen Fernate, closely followed by the vengeful Sheigan alone, as Croit-a-bhoineid, being now an old man, was much fatigued. The chase continued down Glen Fernate on the north bank of the river, which happened to be in full flood, Tirigney gaining very fast on Cumming. When they came to the Coileum, where the river rushes through a narrow chasm between two rocks, Cumming saw his last chance, and with one desperate bound leapt across the foaming torrent. Mackintosh dared not follow, but he drew his bow, and sent an arrow across, which killed Cumming as he fled up the brae on the south side of the river. So fell the other Big Cumming, and he was buried where he fell, where his grave is to be seen to this day.

1280.—About this time I find a charter by Duncan, Earl of Fife, to Sir Robert Lauder of part of the lands of Balmacochie, in Middle Strathardle, an estate which, as will be afterwards seen from the different charters I will give, was continually changing superiors for several centuries, though part of it was always held by the Clan Fergusson, who were also proprietors of Easter Balmacochie, or Woodhill as it is now called, for over 700 years, till the last laird, Adam Fergusson, sold the estate and went to America early in this century. This charter also includes the lands of Upper Blavag, at the head of Glenderby, which were then in the Barony of Strathardle, just as we find them at the Rebellion of 1745, when Lord Nairne held Strathardle, Glenderby, and Blavag. This charter is preserved in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh (No. 57, book of Original Charters, by Sir J. Ralfour, No. 15-1-18), and as it is very interesting and valuable, showing as it does how land

was held at that early date in Strathardle, I will give the following translation of it, as given in Col. Robertson's Earldom of Athole, p. 5:—"To all who shall see or hear this charter, Duncan, Earl of Fife, wishes everlasting salvation in the Lord.—Know that we have given, granted, and by this our present charter confirmed, to Sir Robert Lawedre, Knight, for his homage and service, all our land of Balmacochie and all our land of Loghibride, that, namely, which Lord Robert, the Rector of the Church there, held from us in farm, together with all our land of Upper Blahol, in our Barony of Strathardle, within the Sheriffship of Perth.—To have and to hold by the said Sir Robert, his heirs and assignees, of us and our heirs, in fee and heritage for ever, by all their right meiths and marches, freely, quietly, fully, peacefully, and honourably, in huntings and fowlings, ways, paths, woods, haughis, lakes, waters, warrens, fish ponds, mills, multures, moors, marshes, fields, meadows, hainings, pastures, and with all other liberties, conveniences, easements, and just pertinents named or unnamed, to the said land belonging, or that may belong in future.—Performing thence to us and our heirs, the said Sir Robert, his heirs and assignees, three suits of Court yearly, at the three Capital Pleas, of our court of Strathardle, together with the extrinsic Scotch service to our Lord, the King of Scotland, from the said land, yearly, duly, and customarily.—And rendering thence to us and to our heirs one pair of gilt spurs at the feast of Christmas yearly, if demanded, for all other secular exaction, service, or demand, which may be claimed by us and our heirs. Moreover, we, Duncan and our heirs aforesaid, shall warrant, secure, and defend forever the whole land aforesaid, with all that pertains or may pertain to it, to the said Sir Robert, his heirs and assignees, against all men and women."

1292.—In this year Sir Eustace Rattray of Rattray gave to Cupar Abbey a charter of the lands of the two Drimmies:—"Carta donatiouis eislem monachis, per Eustachium de Retaife dominum de eodem de toto nire quod habet in tritricio de Drunys, in tenemento de Glenbathlack," &c., &c. And his son, Sir Adam Rattray, also the same year gave the Abbey the lands of Dumtay in Glenbathlack. This Sir Adam Rattray, at the same time, was compelled, along with most of the other Scotch barons, to submit to King Edward I. of England, which he also had to do again in 1296.

1297.—In this year Sir William Wallace visited Cupar Abbey, and resided there for some time after he had defeated the English at Perth; and at the same time he reduced the Castles of Dundee

Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, and Aberdeen, in which exploits the Strathardle men assisted him.

1308.—In Robertson's "Index of Charters," about this date, I find a charter of King Robert the Bruce, of the lands of Mause in Lower Strathardle, to John de Kimmynmonth, and it is interesting to notice that about five centuries later the Laird of Kindrogan married the heiress of Kimmynmonth.

At the same time Bruce gave a charter of the lands of Drumloch to Thomas de Camera, or Chalmers, the ancestor of another old Strathardle family. Index of Charters, 19-95.

1314.—King Robert the Bruce gives a charter to Sir Neil Campbell, and Mary, his spouse, sister to the King, and John, their son, of all the lands which were David, Earl of Athole's. This son John was afterwards the famous Sir John Campbell of Moulin, who built the old Black Castle of Moulin.

In the same year the Bruce gave a charter to his nephew, young Neil Campbell, of Kirkmichael, Dalruizlin, Dunie, and other lands in Strathardle. It is given in Robertson's Index of Charters, 26-27:—"Carta to Nigelli Oge, the lands of Killmychill, Drondrayllen, Dummor, Keyllpoll, Reythenan, in vicecom Perth." The men of Strathardle were loyal and true to the Bruce, and fought under him at Bannockburn.

1317.—In this year King Robert the Bruce resided at Cupar Abbey for some time, and hunted in the forests of Strathardle. There is an old tradition of the Bruce hunting on Pitcairn Hill, near the little lake of Loch-nan-Biorrach, a place of evil repute to this day, and for centuries one of the most dreaded spots in the district for travellers to pass, even in daylight, as it was supposed to be haunted by all sorts of spirits, and I well remember, when a boy, how carefully I kept away from its dark waters. As the story goes, Bruce had a favourite hound, which, as they were hunting near Loch-nan-Biorrach, raised and pursued some "droch-bheist"—some evil or uncanny beast—that haunted the loch. It endeavoured to reach the loch, but was prevented, and it fled up Corrie-Charaisa, pursued by the hound, which gained on it very fast. When it reached the head of the corrie, it sped up the face of Craig Corrie-Charaisa to the famous cave near the top of that hill, into which it disappeared, followed by the hound, whose baying and barking could be heard for some time after, getting feebler as it descended into the bowels of the earth, till at last all was still. Bruce and his companions waited long for his favourite hound to reappear, but in vain, as the dog did not return, and they gave it over as lost. About a week after that, the hound,

was seen coming out of the opening of a small cave in the rocks of Craighall, about a dozen miles down the strath. What became of the "evil beast" is not known, as it was never seen again, but the poor dog must have had a long and weary experience of the lower regions before it once more appeared above ground at Craighall. To this day there is believed to be an underground passage between Craig Corrie-Charaisa cave and Craighall rocks; and I have known old keepers who so firmly believed this, that, when fox-hunting, they would not allow their terriers to go near that cave, for fear of their landing at Craighall. The entrance to this cave is low and narrow, and at some distance from its mouth a great, dark, yawning chasm sinks down into the very bowels of the earth, and when a stone is thrown in, it is heard rumbling and knocking down against the rocky sides till the sound is lost in the far distance. The mouth of this famous cave was filled up with large stones some years ago, by Mr. McNab, the then tenant of Pitcairn, as his sheep were in the habit of going in and getting lost. If all old tales be true, perhaps he might have found these lost sheep amongst the rocks of Craighall, had he looked there for them. I hope some day the depths of this famous cave may be explored. There is another famous cave a little further south, at Craig-na-h-Uaimhaigh (Rock of the Cave), in Dunkeld wood, the other end of which is said to be near Loch Ordie. Several of Prince Charlie's Strathardle followers took refuge there in the troublous times after Culloden, and lived there in safety till better times. No doubt the most blood-thirsty of Cumberland's butchers would think twice before he attempted to follow them underground as far as Loch Ordie.

1320.—About this time we find the Rattrays of Rattray very powerful barons in lower Strathardle, and taking a leading part in the affairs of the kingdom. Dr. Marshall, in his "Historic Scenes in Perthshire," says:—"Alexander Rattray was one of the barons of the Parliament held at Ayr in 1315, which settled the succession to the Scottish Crown. His brother Eustatius, who succeeded him, was, in the Parliament held at Perth in 1320, charged with being an accomplice in the conspiracy of Sir William Soules and Sir David Brechin against Robert the Bruce, but on investigation the charge was found false, and he received an honourable acquittal."

David, Earl of Athole, at Scone, confirms the lands of Moulin, &c., to the Abbey of Dumfermline, and as the old names are interesting, I may give them, as in "Index of Charters," 28-7:—"Appunctamentum parliamenti terti apud Sconam, 1323, inter

Davidon de Hastings et Abbatem et Conventum de Dunferline, super terras de Molyn, Peldunedy, Petnalduc, Balcolme Pet M'Duffryll," &c.

1335.—This was a great year in the annals of Strathardle. John Munro, tatar of Foulis, and a party of the Clan Munro, were returning to Ross-shire from Edinburgh, and travelled north through Strathardle, and up Glen Fernate. Night coming on they encamped on a little haugh on the north side of the Fernate above Craigslogte, but they neglected to ask the usual permission from the proprietor to encamp on his lands. This neglect the men of Glen Fernate took as an insult, and in revenge they, during the night, cut the tails off all Munro's horses, in memory of which that haugh is still called "Dal-nan-carball"—Field of Tails, to this day. Munro determined on revenge, and hastening home to Ross, gathered 350 of the best men of his clan, returned to Strathardle, devastated the country, killed many of the people, and carried off all their cattle. So savage was this raid carried out, and so disastrous the consequences, that it gave rise to a very bitter hatred in Strathardle against the north country clans, which was the origin of the common Strathardle proverb:—"Cha thainig ni math riamh a tuath, ach a ghaoth fhuair s' t-floghair"—"Nothing good ever came out of the north, but the cold wind in harvest." A noted Strathardle worthy, who died about half a century ago, and whose wife was from Ross, used to relieve his pent up feelings, on the occasion of domestic squabbles, by quoting this old proverb for her edification.

Munro got the Strathardle cattle, but he had to fight again for them before he got them home to Foulis; for, when passing Moy, the Chief of Mackintosh demanded part of the spoil. This was customary amongst the clans when a party drove a "Creach" of lifted cattle through another Chief's property, and was called a "Staoig Rathaid" or "Staoig Creich"—a Road Collop. Munro offered a fair share, but Mackintosh demanded half the spoil, and as he did not get it, gathered his clan in hot haste and pursued to take the whole by force, an exploit which ended in the great clan battle of Clachnaharry.

As Sir Robert Gordon, in his "History of the Earldom of Sutherland," page 46, gives a very good account of this affair, I may give it here:—"John Munro, tatar of Foulis, travelling homewards on his journey from the south of Scotland towards Rosse, did repose himself by the way in Strathardle, between Sanct Johnstoun (Perth) and Athole, where he fell at variance with the inhabitants of that country, who had abused him, which

he determined to revenge. Being returned home to Rosse, he gathered together his whole kinsmen and followers and declared into them as he had been used, craving with all their aid in revenging himself of that injurie. Unto the which motion they harkened willinglie, and yielded to assist him to the whole of their abilities. Whereupon he singled out thrie hundred and fyfite of the best and ablest men amongst them and went with these to Strathardle, which he wasted and spoiled, killed some of the people, and carried away their cattle. In his return home, as he was passing by the ile of Moy with the prey, Mackintosh (Chetain of the Clann Chattan) sent to him to crave a part of the spoile, being perswaded hereto by some evil disposed pepleous about him, and challanging the same as due into him by custome. John Munro in curtsie offered into Mackintosh a reasonable pirt, when he thorrow evill councele refused to accept, and would have no less than the half of the whole booty, whereunto Munro would not harken nor yield, bot goelt on his intended journey homewards. Mackintosh convenes his forces with all diligence and follows Munro, whom he overtook at Clagh-ne-Hayre, besid Inverness, hard by the ferry of Kessock. John, perceiving Mackintosh and his companie following them hard at hand, he sent fyfite of his men home to Ferrindonald with the spoile, and encouraged the rest of his followers to fight, so there ensued a cruel conflict, wherein Mackintosh was slain with most part of his companie, divers of the Munros were also slain. John Munro was left as deid in the field, and was taken up by the Lord Lovat, his professors, who carried him to his house, where he was cured of his wounds, and was from thenceforth called John Beclaugh, because he was mutilate of one of his hands all the rest of his days. From this John Munro the familie of Milntoun Munro descended."

In a lecture given by the Rev. Alex. Macgregor in Inverness in 1875, he gave a graphic account of this famous raid, and in a conversation I afterwards had with him he told me that a Strathardle man told him over thirty years before that the field on which the Munro's encamped when the tails were cut off their horses was well known, and still called "Dal-nan-carball"—Field of Tails, and Mr Macgregor asked me if I knew it. I told him I did not, though I was quite familiar with the circumstances of the raid. I then made every possible inquiry, my only clue being that Mr Macgregor knew it was a "high-lying haugh near the river" but I could not fix the spot, though I visited every likely place above Bridge of Cally, and cross-examined all the old folks,

For eleven years I was unsuccessful, till at last I got a letter from my old teacher, Mr Morrison, the able and worthy schoolmaster of Kirkmichal, to whom I had at first applied for assistance, saying:—"I was lately in Glenshee seeing an old man, Robert Fleming, with whom I had a conversation about his earlier days. His parents removed to Glen Fernate when he was a child to the service of the late Mr Spottiswood. I asked him if he knew a place by the name of Dal-na-carball. He said he knew it well. It is that level haugh above Craigslogte on the north side of the Fernate, at the foot of a round hill. There is a small stream winding through it. I am afraid old Rob is now one of the very last to recognize the place."

I was very pleased indeed to get this valuable information, and so to be able to settle exactly the locality of one of our most historic scenes in Strathardle. Had it not been for Mr Morrison's kind interest in hunting up this place, and the happy chance of his meeting old Rob away in lone Glenshee, the secret of the whereabouts of Dal-nan-carball would have died with the old man, who soon after went over to the majority, which shows that not a moment should be lost in collecting what is left of our old lore.

1335.—This was a black year for Strathardle, fir after the terrible ravages of the Munros, and the carrying away of all their cattle, the country was in a very bad state, which was aggravated by a terrible famine all over Scotland at the same time; Tyler, in his History of Scotland, says:—"A greivous famine, occasioned by the continual ravages of war and the cessation of all regular agricultural labour, had for some time desolated Scotland." And in Peacock's "Annals of Perth," page 69, we read:—"At this time a severe famine raged in Scotland, by which thousands of the lower classes in Perth, as well as other places, perished." No doubt such dire consequence following cured the good folk of Strathardle from indulging in such practical joking as cutting off horses' tails.

1336.—Still another year of war, want, famine, and turmoil in Strathardle, as it was overrun by both friend and foe, including Sir Andrew Moray, Regent of Scotland, and even the great King Edward of England himself, who, after a forced march, endeavoured to surprise and capture the Regent Moray at Strone of Cally; but the Regent, after showing surpassing coolness and bravery, eluded Edward, who then marched the English army up Strathardle, over the hill to Blair Athole. In Skene's, John of Fordun's, "Orygynale Cronykyle," page 353, we read:—"In 1336, in the month of October, Andrew of Moray, then Guardian of Scotland,

mustered an army, and besieging the strongholds of Dunnotter, Kynnielf, and Lauriston took them and led them to the ground. Then he tarried the whole winter in the Forest of Platen and other very safe places in Angus, being often waylaid by the English, and braving their dangerous attacks. So through the ceaseless marauding of both sides the whole land of Gowrie, Angus, and Mearns was almost, for the most part, reduced to a hopeless wilderness and to utter want."

Tyler says, in his "History of Scotland," Vol. I., page 180:—"Prompted by the restless desire so often formed, and so constantly defeated, of compelling the subjugation of Scotland, the English Monarch penetrated first to Perth, and afterwards into the more northern parts of the kingdom. His march was, as usual, marked by the utter destruction of the district through which it lay. After wasting the northern counties, he in vain endeavoured to bring the Regent, Sir Andrew Moray, to battle. Under the command of this leader, the Scots, intimately acquainted with the country, were ever near the enemy, and yet always invisible to them; and an anecdote of a masterly retreat made during the northern campaign has been preserved, which is characteristic of the cool discipline of Moray. On one occasion word being brought to Edward that the Regent was encamped in the wood of Stronkaltore, he instantly marched against him. The intelligence was found to be true, the English and Scottish outposts came in sight of each other in a winding road leading through the wood, and after some skirmishing the Scots fell back to inform Moray of the near approach of the English army. The Regent was then at mass, and although the danger was imminent, none dared interrupt him until the service was concluded. On being told that Edward and his army were at hand in the forest, he observed there was no need of haste; and when his squires brought him his horse, he began quietly to adjust its furniture, and to see that the girths were tight and secure. When this was going on the English every moment came nearer, and the Scottish knights around Moray showed many signs of impatience. This, it may be imagined, was not lessened when one of the straps which braced his thigh armour snapped as he buckled it; and the Regent, turning to an attendant, bade him bring a coffin from his baggage, from which he took a skin of leather, and sitting down leisurely on the bank, cut off a broad strip, with which he mended the fracture. He then returned the box to its place, mounted his horse, arrayed his men in close column, and commenced his retreat in such order that the English did not think it safe to attack him; and having at last gained a

narrow defile, he disappeared from their view without losing a man." "I have heard," says Winton, "from knights who were then present, that in all their life they never found time to go so slow as when their old commander sat cutting his leather skin in the wood of Stronkalteryre."

Tytler adds a note:—"The exact position of this ancient wood cannot now be discovered. I conjecture it was in Perthshire, somewhere between Dunkeld and Blair." Tytler is quite wrong in this, as the ancient wood of Stronkalteryre is well known to students of Perthshire history, and is simply the old wood of Stroneally, at Bridge of Cally, in Strathardle, or as it was usually spelt, Stroneally, Stronkalathyn, or Stronkalteryre. In proof of this, we find in the Rent-Roll of Cupar Abbey this ancient wood of Stronkalteryre very often mentioned, and the Abbey from its very earliest date always kept a special head forester to look after it. For instance, in the Rent-Roll, page 198, we find a tack from the Abbot David in 1473:—"Our lands of Calady ar set to Neyl Mkkeden for all the days of his lyfe: And he shall keep the Wuddis (woods) of Stroneally and be master forester of all our wuddis in Strathardyl." So that there can be no doubt whatever about Stronkalteryre, or Stronkalathyn, as it is differently spelt in old records, though Tytler was not aware of the ancient spelling of Stroneally, or of there being a famous forest there of old, of which we have many records.

There can be no doubt whatever as to the "narrow defile" through which the Scottish army disappeared when the English came upon them, as the entrance to Glenshee up the Blackwater afforded one of the best possible retreats from Stroneally, and a few brave men could there have successfully opposed the whole English army.

After the Regent escaped at Stroneally, Edward marched the English army up Strathardle and Glen Brierachan to Blair Athole, as Winton informs us:—

"And northwartis on his gate can ga
He came to Blare, and there thai lay."

King Edward stayed some time at Blair Castle, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Athole, who were then on the English side.

As we have just read, in the quotations given from Tytler, of Edward's conduct during this expedition:—"His march was as usual marked by the utter destruction of the districts through which it lay." Now, if such was the case *before*, we may be sure that *after* being outwitted and out-generated by the Regent at

Stroneally, Edward and his army would be more savage and destructive than ever during the march up Strathardle and Glen Brierachan. Wynton says Edward "was wa" when the Scots escaped, and as the English were so numerous, 20,000 men, nothing could have escaped them, so that the whole district must have suffered utter destruction. As King Edward's attempt to capture the Regent Moray at Stroneally is one of our principal historical events in Strathardle, I may give the original account of it as it is given in Wynton's "Orygynale Cronykil" for year 1336:—

"A thousand and thre hundyr yhere
And sex and thretty to tha clere,
And then the Kyng of England,
Wyth twenty thousand chosen men,
He held his way wyth his menyhe,
And sume he passyd the Scottis Se;
And syne to Perth he tane his way,
Schyre Andrew off Murrawe than lay,
Wyth the menyhe that wyth hym were,
In the wode of Stron Kalteryre,
That to the Kyng Edward wes tald,
Tharefor evyn till hym he wald,
And came so near in tyll a thrawe,
That thaire dyscoverowris athir sawe
Sum off thaim justyd off were,
Schyr Andrewe in Stron Kalteryre
Herand his Mes was standand then,
Bot there wes nane of all his men,
That evyr wes in his rowt that day,
That ony word durst till hym say,
Qhill he wes herand Mess, for he
Thareat said anyth be,
Tharefor thai made thaim bowne and hade
Qhill that he herd his Mes all had;
Than have thai tald till hym how nere
That the Kyng and his gret ost were.
He said, "Na hast," quethyr perlay
Hys folk wald fayne have bene away,
For the gret ost wes then so nere
That sum bot schort space for thame were.
Hys hors till hym thai browcht in by;
Thai wald, he had bene on blythly.
He hym dresyt his sted to ta;
Hys cusche laynere brak in twa.

Than wald he nowcht sterc off that place,
Bot for all hast, that evyr thare was
He gert bryng hym a lyttill cofyne;
A rone skyne tuk he thar off syne,
And schayre a (thawing) all at lay sere,
And tharewyth festynd up his gere,
I herd sere Knychtis syndry say,
That thame thowcht nevyre in thare day
So rycht annoyis a bydyng,
As thai had at that (thawing) scheryng.
He lape on syne, and in arsy
Held welle hys folk, and held hys way,
And quhen the Inglis saw thame then
Hald sa toggydyr all thare men,
Thai folowyd, noucht owt off aray,
Bot in hale batale folowyd ay
Sa fast that thai had bene outtane,
Na war, that thai had wyth (thaim) ane,
That kemyd thame a by way,
That ewyn down betwix craggys lay,
Throw that straye rode, that dewys,
Thai gat welle fra thare inynnyis,
And left nothir man na lad,
And (quhen) the Kyng sawe that he had
Tynt thame off swilk wys, he was wa,
And northwartis on his gate can ga,
He came to Blare, and there thai lay."

1340.—About this time I find King David II. giving many charters of lands in the district, such as:—"To John Stewart of half the lands of Perhill. To Hugh Blair of the lands of East Mause, or Mader-est, paying five chalders of victuall yearly. To John Hering of the lands of Glasclume. And to Adam of Blar-craddock the lands of West Mause."

1355.—In Peacock's "Annals of Perth" we read:—"At this time such dreadful torrents of rain fell in Perthshire as carried away water-mills, bridges, houses, men, and herds of cattle, and destroyed many of the towns which stood near the banks of rivers. These disasters were succeeded by an awful pestilence, which carried off a great number of the inhabitants. There had also been a terrible plague in 1346, which carried off a third of the inhabitants of the kingdom."

1358.—In this year we find Fergus Fergusson, son of Adam, Baron of Balmaconchie, and Robert, son of Duncan de Atholia,

ancestors of the Robertsons of Struan, getting into trouble with the Sheriff of Perth about their lands, as we read in the "Book of Garth and Fortingall," p. 118:—"In 1358 the Sheriff of Perth is allowed £12 for deforcements made upon him by Robert, son of Duncan (de Atholia), and Eergus, son of Ade, who failed to give suit for the lands of Balmaconchie, Balmaconchie, Balmakand," &c.

1365.—Once again we find part of Balmaconchie changing hands, as there is a charter in Robertson's Index, 49-4, of the lands of Balmaconchie, Loggybride, and Blawalg, to the Abbey of Dunfermline. These lands, as we have already seen, were granted to Sir Robert Lawdere in 1280.

1375.—In this year we find King Robert II. residing twice during the winter at Cupar Abbey, and hunting in Strathardle; and he dates one of his charters in Glenshee, and another at Cupar, to his nephew, James de Lindsay, of lands in the Thanedom of Alyth, and the old Castle of Inverquich, which for long was a stronghold of the Lindsays. The charter as given in the "Index," 121-75, is:—"The castle stead of Inverquich, together with the lands within the same Thanedom of Alyth, which belonged to Thomas de Rettre." In this year also died, David, the last of the ancient Celtic Earls of Athole; and Skene says:—"When the Celtic Earls of Athole became extinct, and, in consequence, the subordinate clans in the district of Athole assumed independence, the principal part of that district was in the possession of the Clan Donnachie, or the Robertsons." Up till the end of last century most of the upper part of Strathardle belonged to that powerful clan.

1389.—In this year one of the greatest events in the annals of Strathardle took place—the famous Raid of Angus, when the Clan Donnachie, or Robertsons, led by the sons of their chief—Robert, Patrick, Thomas, and Gibbon, and other allied clans, under the leadership of Duncan Stewart, son of the famous and ferocious Alexander Stewart, called the Wolf of Badenoch, fourth son of King Robert II., made a raid, and harried Glen Isla, Glen Esk, and other districts of Angus, killing many of the Ogilvies and Lindsays, and driving off all their cattle. The men of these districts gathered, and followed the Highlanders to Glasclume, in the Sornont, where a bloody battle was fought, in which the Clan Donnachie were victorious, and they continued their march up Strathardle, driving their spoil before them. Meanwhile, news of the raid had spread all over the country, and most of the Angus lairds gathered their forces, and, joining the defeated men of Glen Isla and Glen Esk, hurried up Strathardle, and overtook the High.

landers at Dalnagarn, at the very head of Glen Brierachan. Here a second battle took place, one of the fiercest ever fought in all the conflicts of the clans, when the Highlanders, in kilt and plaid, and armed only with target and claymore, met and routed the flower of Scottish chivalry, mounted, and armed with long lances, and fully clad in steel armour of the finest temper, and led by Sir David Lindsay of Glen Esk, the most renowned warrior of his time in Scotland, Sir Walter Ogilvie, Sir Patrick Gray, and other barons of equal renown. Tytler, in his "History of Scotland," Vol. II., page 3, says:—"Sir Walter Ogilvie, then Sheriff of Angus, along with Sir Patrick Gray, and Sir David Lindsay, of Glen Esk, instantly collected their power, and, although inferior in numbers, trusting to the temper of their armour, attacked the mountaineers. But they were almost instantly overwhelmed, the Highlanders fighting with a ferocity and contempt of life, which seem to have struck a panic into their steel-clad assailants. Ogilvie, with his brother, Wat of Lichtounne, Young of Ouchterlony, the lairds of Cairncross, Forfar, and Guthrie, were slain, and sixty men-at-arms along with them, whilst Sir Patrick Gray and Sir David Lindsay were grievously wounded, and with difficulty carried off the field. The indomitable fierceness of the mountaineers is strikingly shewn by an anecdote preserved by Wynton:—"Lindsay had pierced one of these, a brave and powerful man, through the body with his spear, and thus apparently pinned him to the ground, but although mortally wounded, and in the agonies of death, he writhed himself up by main strength, and, with the weapon in his body, struck Lindsay a desperate blow with his sword, which cut him through the stirrup and steel-boot into the bone, after which his assailant instantly sank down and expired."

A good deal of confusion exists amongst our old writers about the raid of Angus; Bower and some others give the date as 1391. Bower says:—"In 1391 the Caterns invaded the Braes of Angus, with Duncan Stewart at their head, and were encountered by Walter Ogilvie, Sheriff of Angus, with such of the barons of Angus and their followers as he could hastily summons, at a place called Glenbreth (Glen Brierachan), where the Sheriff and sixty of his followers were slain" (Scottichacon, vol. ii., page 450). Wynton and others give the date as 1392, but both these dates are wrong, and it must have been in 1389, as we find the King, Robert III., holding a Council at Perth, for making arrangements for punishing the leaders of the Highlanders, as early as 20th March, 1390. Skene, in his "Celtic Scotland," vol. iii., page 309,

says:—"It is unnecessary to enter into the particulars of the conflict, striking though the details are, but we have more certain information as to the leaders of the Highlanders in a brief, issued by King Robert III. at a general council held at Perth on 20th March, 1390, and addressed to the Sheriff and bailiffs of Aberdeen, directing them to put to the horn as outlaws the following persons guilty of the slaughter of Walter de Ogilvie, Walter de Lichton, and others of the King's leiges:—Duncan and Robert Stewarts, Patrick and Thomas Duncansons, Robert de Athole, Andrew Macnair, Duncan Bryceson, Angus Macnair, and John Ayson, junior, and all others their adherents, and as taking part with them in the slaughter; Strach and his brothers, with the whole Clanqwehiv, &c. (N. Acts of Parliament, vol. i., page 579). The Stewarts were sons of the Wolf of Badenoch, Earl of Buchan; the Duncansons, with Robert de Athole, were the heads of the Clan Donnachie, descended from the old Earls of Athole, who possessed the north-western district bordering on Badenoch; the Macnairs possessed Foss, in Strathmummel; and the Aysons, Tullymet, in Athole. The others belonged to Buchan and Strathmair, and were followers of the Wolf of Badenoch; and the cause of the raid seems to have arisen from this—that Sir David Lindsay had inherited Glenesk in Angus and the district of Strathmair from his mother, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Sir John Stirling of Glenesk, while another of the daughters had married Robert de Atholia, chief of the Clan Donnachie. His possession of Robert de Atholia, bring him into contact with the Wolf of Badenoch and the northern clans, and a quarrel regarding the succession probably brought the Clan Donnachie into the field."

I find another link of connection, which Skene seems to have overlooked, in Col. Robertson of Lude's "Earldom of Athole," where we find (pages 26-27) that Robert de Atholia, and his wife, the co-heiress of Glenesk's daughter; also Janet, married the Wolf of Badenoch's son, Duncan Stewart, the leader of the Highlanders at the raid of Angus. This Duncan Stewart was the ancestor of the Stewarts of Garth, Bonskeid, Fincastle, &c.

The Angus barons overtook the Highlanders at Dalnagarn, at the very head of the Glen, and the battle took place on the field to the west of the farmhouse, which, as before mentioned, took its name, Dal-nan-carr, Field of Cairns, from the cairns raised over the slain, according to the ancient custom of the Highlanders, both as a memorial and to prevent wolves from scratching up the bodies. When defeated, the Angus men fled eastward, and many other place names in the Glen still recall the deeds of that famous day,

such as Cluneskea, *Cluan-cath*, Haugh of Battle; Dalchosnic, Field of Victory, on the south side of the river opposite Tomchulan, where the Angus men made their last stand; Clash Cath, Pass or Ravine of Battle, that narrow pass at the very foot of Craigmor-Cunnaig, one of the most romantic spots, and finest bits of scenery, and one of the most unfrequented places in Strathardle, through which the defeated barons rode, and where they lost many men, whose bodies were afterwards thrown into the little loch—Loch-an-Dun, or An Lochan Dubh—the Black Loch of the Dun, which ever since then has had a very evil repute, as being haunted by the ghosts of the slain Angus men. The *Chioic-Dhailh*—Black Hills—this range of black heathery knobs that lie between the Pass of Clash cath and the present road from Ceann-gilline to Strathloch, also got their name then, and ever since have been reputed about the very worst haunted place in the district, and up till the present generation the bravest men in the glen did not care to take that road after dark, and always had an eerie feeling, especially in passing the burn that comes from Loch-an-Dun. A lady friend of mine told me not long ago that the worst fight ever she got was when a girl at school she was playing with others in the Chioic-Dhailh, where the burn from Loch-an-Dun passes under the road, and on looking into the dark pead under the road, she saw something blood-red which, from the evil repute of the place, she at once set down as something uncanny, but which on further investigation turned out to be only old Norman Shaw, the road surface man's dinner tied up in an old Turkey-red handkerchief. Such were the effects of superstition which lingered there and kept alive the memories of deeds done nearly six centuries before.

Early in this century a number of silver coins were found on Stronachavie, which are supposed to have been hid there immediately before or after the battle of Dalnagarn. Colonel Robertson of Lude, in his "Gaelic Topography of Scotland," p. 337, says:—"Glenbrierachan is in Athole, and is derived from 'Glenm-braghe-riallach-an,' and signifies the valley of the stream of the great heights. Within this glen the Clan Donnachie, or Robertsons of Athole, gained a second victory over the Lindsays, who had followed them to their own country after the battle of Glaslune, where the Lindsays were also defeated, and which is known in Scotch history as the Raid of Angus. Near the site of this ancient battle, in Glenbrierachan, there was found about fifty years ago a considerable number of silver coins of the period. It is probable the owner had hid them there before the fight began, but had been killed."

In the New Statistical Account of the Parish of Moulin, we read:—"Coins have been dug up in different parts of the parish. A few of Edward I. of England, and Alexander III. of Scotland, were found several years ago on the farm of Stronachavie, in Glenbrierachan." And in the same work, the Rev. David Duff, in the account of the Parish of Kenmore, says:—"In the Parish of Moulin, when the writer was minister of that place, there were found well up towards the ridge of a lofty hill at the head of Glenbrierachan, nearly two dozen of the same kind of coins, of which two or three were of Alexander, and the rest of Edward. Of these the writer has half-a-dozen, and the singularity regarding those of Edward is, that while the obverse of all presents the head of the King, the reverse of one bears the inscription 'Civitas Cantor;' of another, 'C. London;' of another, 'C. Eborac;' and of a fourth, 'C. Dunelm;' thus indicating, as it were, the different stages of the progress of that rapacious monarch towards his destined prey."

I made a very interesting discovery last year, when at Dalnagarn visiting my respected friend Mr. Donald Stewart, the present tenant. In talking over the battle, I asked him if ever he had come across any relics of it in tilling the ground; and he told me that some years ago one of his sons had found an ancient stone grave when ploughing in the middle of the field of battle. I wrote that son, Mr. John Stewart of St. Fink, for details, and he replied as follows:—"I remember quite well, several years ago, of coming on an ancient stone grave in that field. I was ploughing, and the horses, having taken fright at a shot fired there, I stuck the plough deep into the ground to stop them, and came right against the stones. I would have thought nothing about it, had it not been for the strange hollow sound I heard, which caused me to examine it. There were two flat stones lying on the top, about two feet from the surface. They were lying north and south. I did not see but the one grave, and when taking out the stones I did not see any trace of bones, only I must say I was not looking for them; but I came across pieces of old metal. I have come across several other flat stones near the same place. I have also come across several pretty large cairns on the hill to the east of Dalnagarn, and I have no doubt but that if they were dug out to the bottom they would reveal something."

I have no doubt but what this stone grave was that of Sir Walter Ogilvie, or of some of the other Angus barons who fell with him there, and that the other flat stones Mr. Stewart refers to very likely cover the other graves, and no doubt the pieces of

old metal he found were the remains of those suits of mail, of tempered steel, in which the bold barons put so much faith, but which proved of so little use as a defence against the tremendous blows of the Highland claymores. As to the several cairns he mentions on the hill to the east of Dalnagarn, no doubt they were raised over the remains of some of the fugitives who fell there on their retreat from Dalnagarn, as part of them fled along the south side of the river by Dalchosnie.

I may now conclude this account of the battle of Glenbriechan by giving the poetical account of it given by old Andrew of Wyntoun in his "Orygynale Cronykil off Scotland." I must, however, point out that he makes a mistake both as to the time and place of the battle, giving the date as 1392, when we know now from the Acts of Parliament that it took place in 1389. He also mixes up the two battles together, making all the fighting to take place at Glasclune, whereas we know that the Angus barons were not at Glasclune at all, only the men of the raided glens of Isla and Esk fought there, and the Angus lairds afterwards joined these and followed on to Glenbriechan. However, a Churchman living quietly in St Andrews Abbey is to be excused though he gets rather confused about the conflicts of the clans. Wyntoun says (Book IX., Chapter xiv.):—

"When slane wes off Angus
The Scherrawe gud and vertuous.
A thousande thre hundyr ninty and twa
Fra Cryste wes born off Maria,
Thar fel a hey grete dyscorde
Between Schir Davy Lyndesay, Lorde
Off Glenesk, and the Heyland men.
Thre chiftanys gret war off thaim then
Thomas, Patrik, and Gibbone;
Duncansonys wes thare sumowne.
For this discorde a day or twa
Wes set, bot all held nocht of tha.
Schir Davy de Lyndesay, that wes wys,
Trowit nocht in thaim, bot malys;
In pivate he send fon-thi
Up into the land a spy.
Fra that spy passit in that land,
Off hym hard he na tithand,
Quhil thare com down all suddenly
Off Scottis a gret company :

That gud Lord thare wondit wes,
And had delt thare that day,
Had nocht his men had hym away
Agane his will out of that pces.
Schir Patrike Gray sare wondyt wes,
And trowyt thar til half bene ded,
Had he nocht bene had of that stede.
Gud Schir Walter off Ogylwy,
That manly knyght and that worthy
Scherrane that tyme of Angus,
Godlike, wis, and vertuous;
And a gud squire off grete renown
His bruthire Wat, cald off Lichtoune
(To this gud Scherrane off Angus
Half bruthire he wes, and richt famous;
Off syndry fadris ware that twa,
Off lauchful bed ilkane of tha)
Carnoors, Forfare, and Guthery,
And Wylliane Yong of Onchtirlony,
And uthir gentillis and yomen ma
Off his kyn and his (house) als wa
Wald nocht fra hym pas away;
Bot bidand in the feyld that day,
Slane al togiddy (thai) war,
That bidand ware wyth the Scherrane thare,
Al oure land sare menynt done
That dolefull dawerk at Gasklune.

This "doleful work at Glasclune," which good old Wyntoun laments so pathetically, was not done there at all, as we have already seen, but at Dalnagarn, and there the "gud Sheriff" lies, with the "other gentles of his kin, who would not from him pass away, but stayed in the field that day, slain all together."

1492.—In this year I find a charter from King Robert III. to Thomas Duncanson, or Robertson—the first Robertson on record called "of Struan" (the previous title being "de Atholia")—and who was one of the leaders of the Clan Donnachie at the raid of Angus, of the lands of Straloch, Easter Davan, Tomanturie, Dekerwand, and Dalcharineh (now Glen Fernate Lodge). This is the first written record I have come across of the Clan Donnachie's connection with Strathardle. This charter is given in Robertson's "Index of Charters," 141-47:—"To Thomas Duncanson of Athol, of the lands of Strathloche, Easter Davache, and Tomcury, Dekar-

Off tha ilke Hyeland-men
Thre hundyr, or ma, ware somnyt then.
The Schirrane of Angus in Ketymys lay,
And by hym neire Schyr Patrik Gray,
The Lord de Lyndesay at Dundee.
Quher word ourspreid than the cuntrie,
That the Scottis Hieland-men
Ware neire the watty off Ile then.
Schyr Walter off Ogylwy, that gud knyght,
Stowt and manfull, bald and wycht;
And the gud knyght Patrik Gray,
That in the emere that nyght lay;
Schyr Davy Lyndesay out off Dundee
Sped hym fast at thaim to lee;
Wyth tha thre Lordis gadrit then
Passit few atoure thre scor of men.
The Scherrane and Schyr Patrik Gray
As foremost held the nearest way,
And thought to gere sum thing be done,
Suppos the Lyndesay nevyr sa sone
Suld cum among the Scottis men.
Befor the lawe tha Knychtis then,
That ware of larte balf stern and stout,
Presyt thame fast to skale that rout.
In the sternoud at Gasklune
That doleful dawerke that tyme was done.
Suhile thar ware in that pres fechtand,
The Lyndesay gud wes at thare hand,
And if tha Scottis heire and thare
Sum he slewe, sum wondyt sare,
Sua, on his hors he sittand than
Throw the body he strayk a man
Wyth his spere down to the erde:
That man held fast his awyn swerd
In tyl his neve, and up thrawand
He pressit hym, nocht agayn standand
That he was pressit to the ord,
And wyth a swake thare off his swerd
The sterup lethaire and the bute
Thre ply on foure abouc the fute
He straik the Lyndesay to the bane
That man na straike gave bot that ane,
For thar he deit; yett nevirtheless

wand, and Dalacharmy." The next charter in the "Index," No. 48, is also to Thomas Duncanson of Athole, "of the lands of Strouane, ane ratification of all his lands, with a faille." About the same time I find a charter—"Index" 148-32—to William Buttar, of the lands of Gormack. And also a charter—"Index" 149-43—to James Spalding of the lands of Fernald and Fornachty in Forfarshire. These charters are the first records I have found of the old families of Buttar and Spalding, who have been so long connected with Strathardle.

1404.—The winter of this year was noted for one of the greatest snow storms ever known in Perthshire. In the "Chronicle of Fortingall" we read:—"In the year of the Lord 1404 a great snow fell generally on the land at the Feast of All Saints, and remained, increasing always, even to the Feast of St Patrick." That is, from 1st November to 17th March, a period of nineteen weeks, the snow went on increasing.

Having now, in this second paper, followed the history of Strathardle for about another four centuries, I will leave what follows for another year.