

DUNBAR'S
GUIDE
TO
DOUNE CASTLE

125
S



GUIDE TO DOUNE CASTLE.

By JAMES DUNBAR,

Late Custodian of the Castle, formerly of the 79th Cameron
Highlanders.



STIRLING:

MUNRO & JAMIESON, PRINTERS, OBSERVER OFFICE.

1900.



Preface to the Eighth Edition.



THE very cordial reception accorded the former editions of this GUIDE TO DOUNE CASTLE (in all now 12,500 copies), the very flattering opinions of the press, and the many kind letters—numbering nearly 200—received from all parts of the world, including one from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and a private one from General Sir Henry Ponsonby, Lord Wolseley, and many old Crimean officers and others, have encouraged the issue of an eighth edition. Sincere thanks are tendered to all those who have in any way assisted in the compilation of the Guide Book, and also to the press for their favourable notices.

The fact that 12,500 copies have found their way into so many households at home and abroad, is evidence that the effort to provide a readable and handy Guide has been duly appreciated.

In 1883 many repairs of great importance were made on the ancient structure, which have been much

admired by thousands of visitors ; and it was very gratifying that the late noble proprietor, the 14th Earl of Moray, completed the work then begun. On 21st April, 1885, workmen commenced to restore the western tower and roof it in with slates similar to those used two years previously in the eastern portion. This was completed, as also the centre, or Banqueting Hall, in which, by permission of his lordship, a grand concert was given, on 28th August, 1886, by the Doune Select Choir, conducted by Mr. Alfred Tomlyn, at that time organist of St. Modoc's Episcopal Church, which was a great success, and attended by the *élite* of the district. It is now pleasant to look on the grand old ruin, secured from the storms, and also to note that nothing has been done to detract in any way from the venerable appearance of the interesting building, which, it is hoped, will weather the storm for centuries to come.

It has not been deemed advisable to enlarge the book much, the endeavour being to make it as concise as possible. The Guide has been allowed to remain as written and compiled by Mr. Dunbar.

GUIDE TO DOUNE CASTLE.



MANY visitors to Doune Castle have suggested to me the pleasure they would enjoy at the close of a holiday season in perusing a little book, descriptive of the old baronial pile, written in simple language, and explaining the many apartments within its time-worn walls. Although encouraged by many intelligent friends, I must confess it was with diffidence I ventured upon such an undertaking.

Early history being very silent regarding Doune Castle, and in the absence of dates or armorial bearings on its walls, it is difficult to say when, or by whom, this grand old Castle was erected. There is, however, much that is interesting about it, even in its present state.

The Castle of Doune had for some years been showing signs of decay, and the then noble proprietor, the 14th Earl of Moray, did much, not only in works of preservation, but, in some cases, of restoration, under the supervision of an experienced professional architect who has bestowed much attention upon the ancient buildings of Scotland.

Doune Castle is beautifully situated, and is of easy access, being about midway between Stirling and Callander, and ten minutes' walk from the railway station of Doune. It is much frequented by tourists from all parts of the world.

ON VISITING DOUNE.

July 9th, 1884.

Where Teith and Ardoch waters join
 I musing love to stray,
 And view St. Fillan's Chapel lone
 And Doune's old Castle gray.

In Inverardoch's lovely grove,
 'Neath old ancestral trees,
 How pleasant 'tis at noon to rove,
 And feel the summer breeze.

And down the river's flowery side,
 Down by the fields of Row,
 Where modest, rosy milkmaids glide,
 I dearly love to go.

Here old Blair Drummond's princely ground
 Lies stretched before the sight,
 Where forest monarchs tall abound,
 Arrayed in verdure bright.

The Scottish Kings in bygone days,
 When Stirling was their home,
 This smiling path would love to trace,
 When westward they did roam.

When others by the crowded shore
 Enjoy their holidays,
 Let me the solitudes explore
 On Doune's romantic braes.

GARTH.

J. K.

ON VISITING DOUNE CASTLE.

April, 1888.

Down where the bonny Ardoch burn
 Goes rippling o'er the shingle,
 Until with Teith's meandering stream
 Its playful waters mingle,

Doune Castle, full five centuries old,
 Midst rural beauty stands,
 With walls of massive masonry,
 The work of skilful hands—

Walls which, if they could only pen
 The history which they know,
 Would lay before us many a scene
 Of merriment and woe.

How in the spacious banquet-hall
 The festive board was spread,
 Whilst minstrels to the assembled guests
 Rich strains of music made ;

And how in the baronial hall
 The awful sentence fell
 Upon the heads of captive foes
 Who shared the prisoners' cell ;

And how they were led forth to die
 On the old gallows tree ;
 Its ruined trunk alone remains
 Upon the verdant lea.

To reach the lofty battlements
 We climb the winding stair,
 And from behind the parapet
 Inhale the bracing air.

Beyond the bonny Braes of Doune,
 With nought the view to mar,
 Ben Ledi and Ben Voirlich rise,
 And the heights of Uam Var.

Ben Lomond in the distance rears
 His snow-capt peak to view,
 And midst them all there proudly stands
 The famous Ben Venue.

Long may these ancient Castle walls
 Adorn our native land ;
 Amidst the ravages of time
 May they securely stand.

9th April, 1888.

ALEX. M'MILLAN.

On the east Doune Castle is bounded by the Ardoch burn, on the west and south by the river Teith, and separated from the land on the north by a dry ditch extending between these waters.

The situation accords with the features of the sites

of the earlier forts in Scotland, which are generally upon an eminence near a river, or the junction of two rivers, or on a precipice or promontory near the sea-shore, or some situation of natural strength. The traditional name, "The Doune of Menteyth," implying the Fort of the district of Menteith, may indicate that this site had originally been occupied by one of these early strongholds.

The Castle buildings form a large quadrangle, the halls and domestic apartments occupying the entire front or north side and about half the extent of the west side. The remainder is occupied by a strong wall, 38 feet high and 7 feet thick, enclosing an inner court averaging about 105 feet square.

Upon the outside there is a base court around the entire building, enclosed by a wall with bastions at the corners, the foundations of which still remain. It is situated close to the inner slope of the dry ditch, to prevent an attacking party from obtaining a footing. It was originally from 8 to 10 feet high, and furnished with embrasures. The base court may have been used as an encamping ground when the retainers were assembled. The dry ditches were usually made so narrow at the bottom as not to admit of an attacking party forming, and the slopes so steep as to prevent a footing being obtained, thus exposing the assailants in broken order to the missiles of the defenders.

The walls of the Castle are constructed of brown sandstone (found, no doubt, in the vicinity), with light-coloured corners and dressings to the doors, windows, copes, and fireplaces, supposed to have been brought from Causewayhead and Ballengeich quarries. The slates are supposed to have been brought from Ardoch, and the red ridge stone from Kippen. There is little or almost no attempt at decoration upon the buildings. They appear to have been designed for their respective purposes, with sufficient strength for security and resistance, yet with a broad and massive imposing effect and strong French character, such as is exemplified in the 13th century buildings of that country.

The style of the buildings leads to the belief that the Castle was built by Robert, Duke of Albany, about 1370, the arrangement of the apartments being in accordance with the plans of the French and also the English castles erected about that period, the great hall being placed in a central position, and in communication with all the other apartments.

It may be worthy of observation that the Castle is divided into two distinct departments—the judicial and residential—the judicial comprising the guard-room, prison, court-room or barons' hall, with the strong room entering from it, and situated immediately over the inner prison. The residential

department embraces the whole remaining apartments.

On approaching the entrance gate we find that provision has been made for the usual appliances for security. On each side of the gate are to be seen the bolting for fixing the end of a loose chain, known as the check-chain, which was drawn across when the gate was left open, to prevent the sudden entrance of horsemen. Next is the portcullis, which could be lifted up or let down at pleasure from the window in the barons' hall above. The gate itself still remains. It is formed of strong iron of very peculiar construction, being curiously interlaced in such a manner as to equalise its strength. On the right is the guard-room, with a portion partitioned off by a stone wall, which has evidently been used as a place of temporary confinement. Similar rooms for such purposes are to be found in our modern barracks—the guard-room being usually placed near the entrance of any fortress. Two openings are formed in the partition wall, one for inspection from the guard-room, and the other, near the fireplace, for admitting heat.

Upon the left of the entrance is the prison, comprising three vaulted cells, two of them with lights opposite the guard-room, the inner one being entirely dark. The outer entrance is by a low door towards the courtyard, the one opposite the guard-room being

a modern opening. The other cells communicate with each other by strongly-arched doors. From the first cell there is a square opening in the roof, communicating with the barons' hall above, covered by a dressed oak hatch, set in a stone curb on the floor of the hall. Through this opening, it is supposed, prisoners were taken into the barons' hall for trial, and if sentenced to die, were removed into the small strong room of the barons' hall, which is immediately over the inner, or condemned cell, and let down through a similar opening. The inner cell is circular, 11 feet 6 inches in diameter, 22 feet high, with a dome roof. The floor is 3 feet below that of the adjoining cell. Passing up the arched entrance towards the quadrangle, there is another strong gate before entering the court.

The tucking or binding stones left projecting in the corner of the western tower show that it was intended to continue the apartments along that side and the south wall, where windows have been formed to light the anticipated buildings.

The existing buildings appear to be defective in bedroom and servants' accommodation; indeed, it was reported in 1581, when it was proposed to lodge the young king, James VI., in Doune Castle, that there was a want of beds and other requisites. We, therefore, find a large portion of the courtyard

occupied with the foundations of temporary buildings, which apparently had been used for domestic purposes.

The well, for which search had long been made, was at last discovered in or near what would have been the centre of the courtyard, had the buildings been completed. It was filled up chiefly with the stones with which it was originally built, and other hewn stones from various parts of the Castle. Near the bottom was found a considerable portion of the old oak windlass which had been used for drawing water.* Considerable difficulty and danger were experienced by the workmen in clearing it out—the bottom, which was paved, being found sixty feet from the surface. It has now been restored, a large quantity of the original stones being utilised in rebuilding, these stones being distinctly seen when looking down the well. In the well on 15th March, 1884, there was about ten feet of water, which is good for drinking, being soft and pleasant to the taste.

A stair in the west of the courtyard, enclosed by a high wall with a gate at the bottom, constructed in the same curious style as the large entrance gate, leads to the court-room or barons' hall, which is a

* The windlass has been restored, and is now in working order. A stone was found at bottom of well which now forms the centre of ornamental window in the banqueting hall.

spacious vaulted apartment immediately over the prison and guard-room. It is 43 feet long, 26 feet wide, and about 23 feet high. This is the only room which has been restored, as far as can be ascertained, to what it was when used as a court-room and for assembling the barons centuries ago. The floor has been laid with tiles, red, buff, and black, in accordance with specimens picked up from the old floor, and now in possession of the custodian. The windows, the sides of which were very much destroyed, have been restored, great care having been taken in preserving the original stone; in many cases, where necessary, neat patches have been introduced, to save the old stones from being removed. The window in the north wall has been glazed with coloured glass, on which are the Scottish Emblems, St. Andrew's Cross, the Lion, and the Cushion of Randolph, Earl of Moray. The colours being well chosen, give a very pleasing effect. In the sill of this window is the opening for the working of the portcullis. In the other windows of the hall a similar display of good taste has been shown. In the roof are still to be seen the original rings from which the chandeliers were suspended. In the east wall are two large fire-places with the original stone mouldings, and fitted with grates after the style of those used in the sixteenth century. An oak screen is placed along the west end of the hall, on the top of which rests the front of the gallery, access to which is gained from

the winding stair, which has also been recently restored.

Within the panel upon the wall are the armorial bearings of the Earl of Moray, with the motto, "Salus per Christum Redemptorem," and round the margin the words, "Restored by George Philip Stuart, 14th Earl of Moray, 1883." On the south side of the hall there is a small retiring room with two windows, one looking into the open court, and the other into the barons' hall. From the latter window it is said that, in cases of trial, sentence was announced to the people in the hall. The strong room, already noticed, in the north side, immediately over the inner prison, communicates with it by means of an opening in the floor, covered by a stone about two feet square. There is also a door in the corner, leading to a closet connected with a shaft descending about seven feet below the ground on the outside, from which there is an arched passage, and through which exit or access to the castle may have been had. An arched space near the site of the old farm-house*

* The farm house and offices have been entirely removed, the space filled up, the mound restored, and all sown out in grass, giving the whole surroundings a pleasant, clean appearance. The root of the old gallows tree only remains. A number of copies of the guide-book have been bound in the wood of the old tree, and are much admired. I sent a copy to the Queen, and received the following acknowledgment:—

is supposed to have been the outer end of the passage. The hall has been furnished in the 14th century style as a judgment hall. The furniture consists of a large table, state chair—with the armorial bearings beautifully carved thereon—and two smaller chairs, each surmounted with the coronet. There are also seven forms and three stools, the centre stool having a brass plate showing that the whole has been made from the old gallows tree, which grew in front of Doune Castle, and was blown down in November, 1878. Ascending by the stair from the north-east of the barons' hall, and passing a small bedroom in the tower, we come to a passage leading into a spacious apartment, 43 feet long, 27 feet wide, and 18 feet high, to which access is given by stairs both from the banqueting and barons' halls. In the south wall of this apartment there is a small oratory partitioned off by a timber screen. There has been a highly decorated fireplace, indicated

Balmoral, May 29th, 1885.

General Sir Henry Ponsonby is commanded by the Queen to thank Mr. James Dunbar for the copy of his Guide to Doune Castle, which he has had the kindness to present to Her Majesty.

And the following from Sir Henry Ponsonby:—

Sir Henry Ponsonby is very much obliged to Mr. Dunbar for sending him a copy of his Guide to Doune Castle. He has called the Queen's attention to the binding and to Mr. Dunbar's Persian signature.

by the remains of the pillars and the end of the broken cornice, but the place is now built up with rubble masonry. This room has had a new floor laid recently. There has been a room above, to which access was gained from the winding stair, and this appears to have been a large family room, subdivided into various sleeping apartments. The floor seems to have been constructed of beams and joists, with timber boarding, which formed the ceiling below. Entering from this room are three large closets, on cleaning out which, before commencing the work of preservation, a number of old glazed tiles were picked up from the floors. In the south wall is a passage leading out to the top of the courtyard wall, and this wall, which is 38 feet high and 7 feet broad, had parapets with turrets in the centre and at the corners, which have been restored sufficiently for people walking round, and left very irregular on top, showing a work of preservation, and still presenting the appearance of a ruin. There is also a machicolated projection over the postern gate in the west portion of the courtyard wall.

The pathway between the parapets is divided into short spaces, and paved, with sufficient slope to run the water into stone spouts discharging upon the outside.

From the winding stair leading up to the roof of

the great tower there are three vaulted bedrooms above each other, averaging 14 by 10 feet.

Upon reaching the roof of the great tower, we find the remains of what has been a vaulted apartment—evidently for the accommodation of the watchmen—over the roof of which, and the square tower adjoining, there had been a large paved platform or look-out, commanding a most extensive view of the surrounding country. There is also a paved pathway at the base of the roof, with turrets at the corners, and stairs of communication upon each of the gables, the whole being surrounded by an embrasured parapet six feet high. The parapets at the gables have also been stepped in larger spaces than those commonly known as crow-steps. Although this arrangement provides large accommodation for the defence of the castle by men behind the parapets and upon the steps of the gables, most careful provision has been made for carrying off the rain-water, the pavement being carefully checked and closely fitted. This portion of the castle has had the roof restored, and slated with old, gray, time-coloured slates. All the stairs have been restored, and the parapets built in such a manner as to render them secure and safe from further decay; at the same time the irregular appearance of the old ruin has been preserved.

Descending by the stair at the north-west, we find

to the left a door leading into the barons' hall, and another to the right, leading into the great or banqueting hall.

This hall, which is 67 feet long and 26 feet wide, has had an open timber roof, measuring 40 feet to the top of the gable. It covers the area of three arched cellars underneath, having stairs of communication with two of them at the south-east and north-west corners.

At the west end the fixings of a timber screen appear in the side walls, behind which is a serving-room, with a minstrels' gallery above, the access to it and the roof being by the stone stair in the jamb of the west window.

Small hooks have been discovered in the walls, about twelve feet high and about thirty inches apart from each other, which doubtless were used for hanging the tapestry curtains over the plastered walls. The tops of the walls of this hall are the same as those upon the east tower, having a six-foot embrasured parapet, and the pavement is laid in the same manner as already described. A dais has been formed at the east end of the hall, elevated about five inches, and in the centre of floor is the hearth and fender of an open fire in octagonal shape, the smoke passing through a louvre in the ridge.

This hall must have had a very imposing effect, and, as has been remarked by a writer on Scotch

baronial architecture, was singularly well adapted for that style of rude and abundant hospitality, when every man who followed the banner of his lord found a seat at his table, and every soldier who owned a jack and a spear might have a place at his hearth.

From the great dining-room we pass to what has been the entrance hall. In the walls above are the corbels upon which the beams rested for supporting the flooring of two bedrooms, access to which is gained by the doors in the spiral stair.

Adjoining the hall is the kitchen, which is peculiar from the attention bestowed on its ventilation. The fireplace is eighteen feet wide, with channels to the outside for carrying away the refuse. There is a beautiful arch of hewn masonry over it, with a relieving arch of rubble work, the swell of masonry inside the vent contracting it and increasing the draught. Apart from this, there is a flue formed near the roof, carried up along with the chimney stalk and discharging into the vent about four feet from the top; a small ventilator is also formed in the arches over each of the windows. In the north wall of the kitchen are two large serving openings, which have been fitted with timber shutters, and above these there are two corbels, supposed to have supported the necessary shelving for keeping kitchen utensils. The presses in the walls appear to have been used for ordinary kitchen purposes, and upon

the floor are the remains of a temporary oven, and some old paving. The floor has been laid with tiles, and a slab placed with the following inscription:—
 “Remains of oven used by the Macgregors while holding the castle for Prince Charlie in 1745.”
 There are two doors, one being in the south wall, and affording access to the newly-restored stair leading into the open court; the other leads up to the top of the court wall, and is known as Lord Kilpont’s stair.

The stair from the entrance leads to Queen Mary’s Room, which is on the second floor and over the kitchen. This apartment is 27 feet long and 17 feet wide, with two small vaulted bedrooms at the west end. The arch over the fireplace has been highly ornamented, as indicated by the original mouldings on each side. This arch has been removed and the space filled up with rubble masonry. Upon the jamb of each of the windows is a seat cut in the stone (probably for a small font and crucifix), now much worn. The corbels for the floor above and the ceiling are all complete. Attached to this room, and entering from it by separate doors, are two small bedrooms. In each is a recess for a folding bed, which was brought out upon the floor in the evening; and in the morning, when no longer required, it was folded back into the recess and the curtain drawn, when the room became a neat boudoir. In connection with this portion of the Castle the following anecdote may be related:—

During the Rebellion of 1745-46, Doune Castle was garrisoned by the adherents of Prince Charles Edward, and at the same time the Edinburgh Company of Volunteers, fighting under General Hawley at the battle of Falkirk, were defeated, and while on the march towards Linlithgow, Captain William MacGhie, Lieutenant John Home, Private Thomas Barrow, student of physic at the University of Edinburgh; Robert Douglas, also student of physic; Robert Alexander, son of Mr. Alexander, afterwards Provost of Edinburgh; and Neil MacVicar, student of law, son of the minister of Isla, were taken prisoners along with many others, and confined in the bedroom in the south-west on the 25th January, 1746. There were three other prisoners in this room, one of whom was Mr. John Wotherspoon,* who was afterwards President of the College of Jersey in America, the other two being citizens of Aberdeen. In the other small room were also eight persons. This room had a door which might be made fast by those inside when they went to sleep. They had straw to lie upon, and blankets to cover them, which they had purchased in the village of Doune. There were in all about 150 prisoners in the Castle, and the sentinel was placed in Queen Mary's Room. Seeing escape by force impossible; one of those in the inner room proposed that they

* In a newspaper recently was the notice of the death, in America, of a grand-daughter, at the age of 101 years.

should make a rope of the blankets. They accordingly barred the door and set to work, finishing the rope about one in the morning, when they began to make the descent. The two officers, with Douglas and another, got down safely, but the fifth, who was very tall and heavy, coming down in a hurry, the rope broke with him just as his feet touched the ground. Mr. Home called out to the next man (Mr. Barrow, the only Englishman in the company) warning him of his danger. Notwithstanding this warning he slid down the rope to where it had been broken, and then let go his hold, dropping to the ground. His fall was, however, broken by the Lieutenant and Douglas, both of whom he brought to the ground, dislocating one of his ankles, and breaking several of his ribs. Mr. Home, who was a powerful man, carried him on his back towards the road which led to Alloa, when, unable to go further with his burden, other two of the company, one on each side of Mr. Barrow, helped him to hop along on one leg. Going so slowly, and thinking they might be overtaken, they resolved to call at the first house they should come to. They were fortunate, for the farmer in the first farmhouse was a Whig, and ordered his son to bring a horse from the stable, take the lame gentleman behind him, and go as far as his assistance was necessary. Thus equipped, they travelled by Alloa to Tullyallan, a village near the sea, where they hired a boat to carry them off to

the *Vulture* sloop of war, which was lying at anchor in the Firth of Forth. Captain Falconer of the *Vulture* received them very kindly, and gave them his barge to carry them to Queensferry.

John Home afterwards completed his studies in the university, was ordained to the ministry, and deposed therefrom for being the author of what must have been considered by some of that period a most profane book, but which is now admired by Scotsmen in every quarter of the globe. I mean the "Tragedy of Douglas."* Where is the school-boy who does not read with delight, "My name is Norval," etc., etc.? The writer of this little book has often heard it far from home in the language of Hindustan.†

At this time the Castle of Doune was commanded by James Stewart of Ballochallan, who was a man of property near Callander.‡ Sir Walter Scott, in his

* See "Waverley," chap. 38.

† "Mera nam Norval hai
Grampian pahar pur mera bap ne
Apna bheron ko khilata hai," etc., etc.

‡ See "Waverley," chap. 38. I have had several letters from Major Stewart, late Inspector of Army Schools, and now residing in Colchester, who tells me that this Sir James Stewart was his great-great-grandfather, and was deprived of his estate of Ballochallan for the part he played in the Rebellion. He managed, however, to save his head, and lived afterwards in Aberdeenshire, and is buried in Fetterangus.

notes to "Waverley," says an old gentleman told him he remembered seeing the Commander Stewart, "bloody with spurring, fiery red with haste," riding furiously through the country in search of the fugitives.

After this the stair leading up to the battlements was completely destroyed, but has now been restored. From the battlements (which are paved, and have parapets like those already described) a most extensive view is obtained of this, one of the most interesting and magnificent districts in Scotland. Standing with the back to the kitchen chimney, we have a splendid view of the river Teith, spanned by the bridge built by Robert Spittal, court tailor to Margaret, queen of James IV. Just beyond is Deanston House, the residence of Sir John Muir. To the south, among the trees, with colours flying, we admire the magnificent mansion and parks of Blair Drummond; while beyond the Braes of Doune we see Uam Var and other mountains made famous by Sir Walter Scott in his "Lady of the Lake." Towards the south-east we have a splendid view of Stirling Castle and surrounding country.

There are various opinions as to when and by whom the Castle was built. Mr. Fraser, in his "Red Book of Menteith," expresses the opinion that the Castle was not erected all at once, but at different periods. He says the oldest portion of the masonry

is obviously the remains of a peel tower or keep, which had originally formed the Castle of Doune, and which had been erected upon the highest part of the ground, as near as possible to the steep bank of the Teith, to obtain the advantage of it as a natural means of defence. That portion of the Castle, he says, was probably erected by Walter Comyn, who, in his wife's right, became in 1230 fourth Earl of Menteith. He was a most influential man in Scotland, being one of the regents of the kingdom at the time of his death. Or, by Walter Stewart, fifth Earl of Menteith, who obtained the earldom in 1258. He held a distinguished position in the government of the kingdom, and was acquainted with the mechanical arts, having, in 1263, as stated in his memoir, directed the building of several vessels with 200 oars, in the port of Ayr, for King Alexander III. of Scotland. Mr. Fraser further states that there is really no room for doubt that Duke Robert was the chief builder of the Castle as it was ultimately completed.

It appears to have existed in a complete state, and to have been occupied by Murdoch, second Duke of Albany, up to the time of his execution in 1425, and is frequently stated to have been erected by him; but, as his father, Robert, first Duke of Albany, and third son of King Robert II., died in 1419, Murdoch could only have been in possession for six years, and

is represented to have been a person of unambitious character. It is therefore probable that the Castle was begun by his father, who held the earldom of Menteith for thirty-four years, and was carried on by his son until the time of his death, when it was held by the Crown.

After the forfeiture of Albany, Doune Castle was used as a royal residence. When an infant, less than a year old, James II. was an inmate of the Castle, as appears from the purchase of 48 lbs. of almonds sent to Doune for his use. We are also indebted to Mr. Fraser for an account of repairs on Doune Castle, 13th August, 1851, made by advice of Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock, His Majesty's Minister of Works. The sum of the whole expense of the repair of the "tour heid" is £2,317 6 shillings Scots. The mason work was done by "W. Gibe, Quarior, due-land in Stirling." When James II. married Mary of Gueldres, in 1449, the lordship of Menteith, with the Castle of Doune, formed part of her dowry. In 1469 it formed part of the dowry of Margaret of Denmark, queen of James III.; and also Margaret Tudor, queen of James IV., who resided sometimes in Doune Castle. About April, 1537, two days after she arrived there, she wrote a letter to her brother (Henry VIII.) assuring him that her son's (James V.) displeasure arose because he would not meet his uncle at York, when he chose to appoint Newcastle on

account of the free sea adjacent. Mary, Queen of Scots, is stated to have at times resided there, and her son, James VI., made frequent visits in his youth, when he lived in Stirling Castle.

In the Rolls of the Lord Chamberlain, in 1451, there is an entry for payment made to Alexander Nairn for the keepership of the Castle of Doune for one year. In the Lord High Treasurer's account, under date 24th April, 1490, there appears an entry to Andrew Wod, to bere to the King (James IV.), quhen he was in the Downe of Menteytht. And in 1462, quhen the Duke (of Ross) raid to the Downe of Menteytht for iij quarteris of Fransche black velvet to be him a payre of hoyse.

King Robert II. died at Dundonald Castle in Ayrshire on the 13th May, 1390, in the 75th year of his age and the 20th of his reign, and was succeeded on the throne by his eldest son, John Earl of Carrick. The name John, from its association with Baliol and other sovereigns who had borne it, was regarded with superstitious dislike by the Scots. The new monarch, therefore, took the title of Robert III., as heir to the crown of his heroic ancestor, Robert Bruce. He had been married for upwards of thirty years to Anabella Drummond. His eldest son, David, yet in his minority, upon the 28th April, 1398, was created Duke of Rothesay, and at the same time

the dignity of Duke of Albany was bestowed on his uncle, the Earl of Fife.

It is worthy of notice that here we have for the first time in Scotland the title of Duke. The young prince, whose fate forms so mournful a page in the history of Scotland, was now upwards of twenty years of age. He was handsome, highly accomplished, and was the favourite of the people. But all his excellencies were marred by a love of pleasure and a fondness for dissipated companions. He was ultimately confined in Falkland Palace. During the period of his confinement many conflicting stories are recorded regarding his treatment and death, which it is believed was caused by dysentery. He died in March, 1402, and his body was carried to the Monastery of Lindores, and there privately buried.

The King, who was now exhausted by age, infirmities, and family calamity, had still a remaining son, James, about eleven years old, whom he resolved to send to France.* An English vessel captured that on board of which he was sailing to France, and James was sent to London, where he was detained a prisoner. This new misfortune, which placed the only remaining son of the poor old King in the hands of the English, seems to have broken the heart of Robert III., who died about a year afterwards,† overwhelmed with calamities and infirmity. He

* 13th March, 1405.

† 4th April, 1406.

was buried in the Abbey Church of Paisley, and Albany became once more the governor of the kingdom.

At the Battle of Homildon Hill, besides Douglas, who was wounded in five places, Murdoch, the eldest son of the Duke of Albany, the Earls of Moray and Angus, and eighty nobles and knights were taken prisoner.*

On the accession of Henry V., Albany renewed his efforts for the freedom of his son and the speedy return of James. A general desire began to be expressed in England for the restoration of the great family of Northumberland, whose eminent services in defending the Borders were now specially needed, in consequence of the absence of Henry in France.† Henry Percy, the son of the celebrated Hotspur, had been left in Scotland by his grandfather, the Earl of Northumberland, and though retained by the Scottish Court as a prisoner, he was treated with great kindness. Negotiations were now entered into between the English Government and Albany for his release, which terminated in the exchange of Henry Percy for Murdoch, son of the Regent. This simple exchange could be more easily effected than the release of King James I. of Scotland, which was much desired by the Scottish nobility.

* "Wintoun," vol. ii., pp. 433 and 434.

† Ford., vol. ix., p. 323.

The increased popular desire for the liberation of James became quickly apparent. The young monarch was now of age, and as the nobles who visited England brought back the most flattering accounts of his character and accomplishments, his subjects were eager to procure his freedom. A new treaty for his ransom was accordingly begun with Henry, who consented that James should visit Scotland for a limited time, on giving sufficient hostages as security for the payment of a hundred thousand marks in the event of his failing to return on the expiry of the term of leave.

The negotiations had proceeded so favourably that the Bishop of Durham, and the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, were appointed to receive the oaths of the King and his hostages, while commissioners nominated by the Scottish Council, and consisting of the Bishops of St. Andrews and Glasgow, the Earls of Crawford, Douglas, and Mar, Murdoch Stewart, Albany's eldest son, and his brother, John, Earl of Buchan, were furnished with letters of safe conduct through England to arrange a final settlement. Henry, however, for some reason which cannot now be ascertained, suddenly recalled all his previous concessions, and the Scottish King soon saw all his fondly-cherished hopes of freedom perish on the very eve of being realised.*

* Fordun, A. Goodall, vol. ii., p. 449.

Albany died at Stirling, on the 3rd September, 1419, and so firmly had he consolidated his power, that on his death his son Murdoch assumed the vacant Regency without opposition.

On the death of the English King the prospects of James began to brighten. The Duke of Gloucester, who became the Regent of England, viewed with favour the liberation of the Scottish monarch, from the conviction that his release on generous terms was likely to secure the permanent goodwill of a powerful ally, already well disposed to England by courteous treatment and the friendship which during his long exile he had formed with many of its nobles.

Meanwhile among the people of Scotland the desire for the return of their King became earnest and universal. Duke Murdoch himself grew weary of exercising a sovereignty over a disorderly and a headstrong and unbridled nobility. The friends of James resumed negotiations with the Privy Council of England for his speedy return to his kingdom. It was ultimately agreed that a meeting of commissioners from both countries should take place at Pontefract, on the 12th May, 1423, when, in presence of the young King, and with his consent, the conditions of his freedom were to be definitely arranged. On that date the conference assembled, and matters were at length brought to a satisfactory

issue. The terms of the treaty were, on the whole, lenient to Scotland, and indicated the friendly disposition of the English Court. In lieu of a demand for ransom money, which the unjustifiable seizure of James in his childhood could not warrant, the English commissioners required the payment of £40,000, to defray the expense of his maintenance and education. The debt was to be liquidated by yearly instalments of two thousand pounds; and James not only promised on his oath to pay the sum, but, as additional security, hostages were required from the first families in Scotland, and the towns of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, and Aberdeen became bound by a separate deed to secure payment of the money to the English treasury. The English commissioners were also instructed to request the immediate departure of the Scots from France, and to procure the assent of the Scottish Privy Council to the marriage of James with an English lady of high rank. During his residence at the Court of England the young monarch had won the affections of Johanna Beaufort, a daughter of the Earl of Somerset, niece of Richard II., and granddaughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and now awaited the formal consent of the Scottish Council to their union. The high rank, great beauty and accomplishments of the lady readily secured the necessary sanction, and they were married at the Church of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark, with all the pomp befitting the occa-

sion.* The union was received by all parties with lively satisfaction. It lessened the heavy obligations which Scotland had contracted to secure the freedom of their King, as James received next day, in the name of dowry with his bride, a discharge for ten thousand pounds.

The necessary arrangements being now completed, the royal pair set out for Scotland, attended by a numerous and brilliant retinue. They were met at Durham by three hundred of the principal nobles, barons, and gentry of Scotland, from whom, in terms of the treaty, twenty-eight were selected as hostages for the national faith.

The following list of names of the hostages of James I. is not a little curious, as there is added to the name of each baron a statement of his yearly income, presenting us with an interesting picture of the comparative wealth of the members of the Scottish aristocracy in 1423:—

David, eldest son and heir of the	
Earl of Athol, returned,	1,200 marks.
Thomas, Earl of Moray,	1,500 ,,
Alexander, Earl of Crawford,	1,000 ,,
Duncan, Lord of Argyle,	1,500 ,,
William, eldest son and heir of Lord	
Dalkeith,	1,500 ,,
Gilbert, eldest son and heir of	
William, High Constable of Scot-	
land,	800 ,,

* Ryma., vol. x.

Robert, Marechal of Scotland,	800 marks.
Robert, Lord of Erskine,	1,000 „
Walter, Lord of Dirlton,	800 „
Thomas Boyd of Kilmarnock,	500 „
Alexander, Lord de Gordon,	400 „

The following were to take the place of any of the hostages who might obtain leave of absence:—

Lord William of Abernethy,	500 marks.
James Dunbar, Lord of Frendrath, ...	500 „
Andrew Grey de Foulis,	600 „
Lord Robert Levingston,	400 „
John Lindsay,	500 „
Lord Robert de Lisle,	300 „
James, Lord of Calder,	400 „
James, Lord Cadyo,	500 „
Lord William de Ruthven,,	400 „
William Oliphant, Lord of Abirdalgy,	
George, eldest son and heir of Hugh	
Campbell,	300 „
Robert, eldest son and heir of Lord	
Robert de Mantalent,	400 „
David Menzies,	200 „
David Ogilvie,	200 „
Patrick, eldest son and heir of Lord	
John Lyon,	300 „

On crossing the Borders James gave his solemn assent to the treaty on the holy Gospels, and at Melrose Abbey, amid universal acclamations, took possession of the throne from which the misfortunes of his early life had so long detained him. His character presented a striking contrast to that of his father and grandfather, and the advantages of

education at the English Court almost repaid him for his long captivity.

He and his queen were crowned at Scone, Murdoch, Duke of Albany, exercising his hereditary right, as Earl of Fife, of placing him on the throne. King James at one proceeded to the work of internal reform, and the regency of Albany and his son Murdoch being regarded by him as little less than a long usurpation, at the commencement of his reign he ordered into custody Walter, the eldest son of Duke Murdoch. Shortly after, the Earl of Lennox, father-in-law of Duke Murdoch, and Sir Robert Graham, were committed to prison. A Parliament was assembled at Perth on the 12th of March, 1424, and at that time suddenly arrested Duke Murdoch, his second son Alexander, and twenty-six of the nobles, immediately taking possession of his castles of Falkland and Doune. In the latter was found Isabella, his wife, who was shut up in Tantallon Castle; Murdoch was sent to the fortress of Caerlaverock, and Walter to the strong castle of the Bass. Immediately on the above arrests, Parliament was adjourned to meet at Stirling upon the 18th of May.

On the 24th of the month Walter was brought to trial, in a court held in the palace of Stirling, and presided over by the King himself. Walter was found guilty, condemned to death, and instantly beheaded. On the following morning Duke Mur-

doch, his second son Alexander, and the Earl of Lennox, were tried before the same jury; the nature of the charges brought against them is unknown, but they were all found guilty, and executed on the Heading Hill, before Stirling Castle, within sight of the stately Castle of Doune, which Albany had erected for his residence. Their immense estates were confiscated to the Crown. The lofty stature and commanding presence of Murdoch and his sons, and the venerable appearance of the Earl of Lennox, who had reached his eightieth year, excited a deep feeling of compassion in the breasts of the people, and provoked deep and general indignation, which ultimately brought the monarch himself to an untimely grave.

After the family of Stewart of Doune received the keepership of the Castle, and both before and after it was granted heritably along with the peerage of Doune, the Castle was frequently used as a State prison.

On the 1st of September, 1567, the Privy Council directed Oliver Sinclair of Whitekirk, and William Newton of Newton, to enter their persons in ward within the Doune of Menteith within three days, and to remain there at their own cost until relieved. On the 31st of July, 1569, the Lords of Council discovered that two prisoners, Robert Elliot, *alias* Clement Hob in Gorembury, and Archibald Elliot, *alias* Archie Kene, had not only made their escape,

but had engaged in a marauding expedition. This proved a serious matter to the keeper, Sir James Stewart, as he had become security for each in the sum of £500. Sir James appeared before the Regent Moray and his council on 3rd September following, and excused himself as best he could. However, letters for pointing and appraising his lands and goods were ordained to be made. But execution was stayed by the Regent for a few days to give him an opportunity of finding and producing his wards. Perhaps Sir James found means of shifting the responsibility off his own shoulders, as in the records of the consideration of the Border business by the Lords of Council on 19th January, 1578, Walter Scott, younger of Tushielaw, is mentioned as a pledge and surety to have entered Archie Kene within the Castle of the Doune in Menteith at a certain day of long time by gone, under the pain of £2,000, and the said Archie Kene not having re-entered within the said Castle, Walter Scott was decerned to have incurred the penalties, and order was given for enforcing the decree.*

Hugh, third Earl of Eglinton, was imprisoned in the Castle previous to 9th July, 1571; but on that day, by an ordinance of the Regent Moray and the Council, the captain, constable, and keepers of the Castle were commanded to set him at liberty on his

* Register of Privy Council, vol. iii., pp. 67, 68.

entering his eldest son into Stirling Castle, and leaving his brother in the Castle of Doune as pledges for his return, or obedience to King James' authority.* Sir Walter Scott of Braxholm was warded in the Castle of Doune on 26th February, 1571-2, but was ordered to be removed to Rosyth Castle on 3rd March following. If he was removed from Doune, he must have been sent back again, as he was ordered to be released from that fortress on 7th July, 1572, and to re-enter there again on the 1st of August, and not to interfere with William Douglas of Lochleven in the intromission with the abbacy of Melrose.†

John Livingstone, younger of Donypace, for contempt of the lawful authority, and inciting to a breach of the peace, was required on 21st December, 1577, to enter in ward into the Castle of Doune. Disturbances had arisen between the friends and dependants of John, Earl of Mar, and those of William, Lord Livingstone, whereby the public quiet of the kingdom was broken, and, to put an end to these, the Regent, James, Earl of Morton, had written to the respective chiefs to settle their differences by arbitration, promising to use his own influence in healing the breach. Notwithstanding this, John Livingstone and William Menteith of

* Register of Privy Council, vol. ii., p. 78.

† Ibid. vol. ii., p. 176.

West Kerse had sent cartels and reproachful and defamatory letters to one another, which threatened a breach of the peace on the first occasion of their meeting. "As thoch thair were na law nor justice within our realme for decisioun of their querrilis and contraveriis without feir or reverence of our soverane lord and his authoritie, and to the apparent further troubill of his Hienes peace gif tymous remeid be not providit." William Menteith was then ordered to enter himself in Blackness Castle, and John Livingstone in Doune Castle.*

Laurence, Lord Oliphant, was another prisoner warded in Doune Castle. This was the result of a fray between the followers of the Treasurer, Lord Ruthven, and those of Lord Oliphant, who were at feud with one another, when Alexander Stewart of Schutingleis, one of the Traquair Stewarts, was shot by the Oliphants. Lord Oliphant was ordered, on 7th December, 1580, to enter in ward in the Castle of Doune on the 9th, and two securities in £10,000 were found for his doing so.†

Another distinguished prisoner was Wm. Erskine, Commendator of Paisley, who having been concerned in the Ruthven Raid, was commanded to ward himself in Blackness Castle. For non-compliance he

* Register of Privy Council in Scotland, vol. iii., p. 660.

† Ibid. p. 335.

was put to the horn, but on 2nd December, 1583, received the "ward of peace till the 10th of December." Thereafter he must have been committed to ward in Doune Castle, as on the 23rd a bond of caution for £10,000 was entered into by some of his friends, that, when relieved from the Castle in the Doune of Menteith, he should within three days enter in within the bounds of Renfrewshire, and remain there till set free.*

George Home of Wedderburn, another Ruthven raider, was also a prisoner in the Castle in the time of Lord Doune. On finding sureties in £10,000 for his re-entering in ward on 15th November, 1584, and not intercommuning with her Majesty's traitors, he received licence to go home on the 21st September of that year.†

The first Lord Doune died in 1590. He was succeeded by his son, James Stewart, who married the Lady Elizabeth Stewart, eldest daughter of the Regent Moray, and was created Earl of Moray, which title, along with that of Lord Doune, has been inherited by his successor and representative, the present Earl of Moray and Lord Doune, who still possesses the ancient Castle.

* Register of Privy Council in Scotland, vol. iii. p. 63.

† Ibid. p. 689.

When James VI. adopted measures of severity against the Macgregors, after the battle of Glenfruin, in the year 1603, he granted a commission to Archibald, Earl of Argyle, to deal with the proscribed clan. They were summoned to meet the Earl on the 10th of September, 1606, at Doune of Menteith. The terms of clemency involved a renouncing of their surnames, and they all swore that in all time coming they would call themselves and their children, born or to be born, by the surname they had assumed, under the pain of death.

During the Rebellion of 1745 the Castle of Doune was rendered prominent by its being taken possession of by the Jacobites. John, Lord Macleod, who was with Prince Charles, thus explains the position of the insurgents and the Castle. Towards the end of December, Lord Macleod was sent to Dunblane with the regiment, the Camerons and some other troops. The reason was that some time before the Prince marched into England, he appointed Mr. Macgregor of Glengyle to be governor of Doune Castle, which was at that time a place of consequence to the Highlanders, as it covered a bridge over a rivulet which secured their communication with the Fords of Frew on the Forth. Mr. Macgregor had his own clan for a garrison; but when the Highland army was marched into England, and the King's troops were at Stirling from Berwick, Mr. Macgregor, thinking

himself too weak to stand an attack, applied to Lord Strathallan for succour. Mr. Macdonald of Glencoe, with his men and a body of the Stuarts of Appin, were sent to reinforce Doune Castle. But these gentlemen, thinking themselves still unable to sustain an attack from the troops at Stirling, should General Blakeney think fit to disturb them, applied for another reinforcement, which Glencoe and the commander of the Stuarts came themselves to Perth to solicit. It was then resolved to send a detachment to Dunblane, which was sufficient to secure Doune Castle from any attacks which could be made against it by the enemy at that time, as the army was within two miles of that place, and within sight of Stirling.*

The bridge referred to by Lord Macleod is the ancient Bridge of Teith, a short way above Doune Castle. It was built by Robert Spittal, who acquired a fortune as master tailor at Stirling to Queen Margaret, dowager of King James IV. Spittal was a very benevolent man, and founded an hospital in Stirling for the relief of poor tradesmen, although tradition does not give him credit for an act of pure generosity in building the Bridge of Teith. Formerly there was only a ferry over the Teith at this place. On one occasion the tailor came to the ferry without money to pay the boatman, who refused to

* The Earls of Cromartee, vol. ii., p. 386.

give him credit, and left him behind. To resent such an insult to the Queen's tailor, the later built the bridge, and punished the boatman by ruining his business.*

In Grose's "Antiquities of Scotland" there is an engraved view of the Castle of Doune, from a drawing made in 1790. In the "Tour through Scotland" by T. Garnett, M.D.,† in the year 1800, a drawing of Doune Castle is given, made by W. H. Watts, and engraved by Wm. Green, with a description of the ruins of the Castle. In Billings' "Antiquities of Scotland" two views are given of the Castle, one of which represents the exterior on one side, and the other the court.

Several notices of the Castle of Doune appear in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vols. v. and vi. It appears from Exchequer accounts of 1431 that King James I. and his family occasionally resided there, and the accounts also show that it was much resorted to by King James II. In one year, £34 18s. 4d. was spent in the purchase of forty-four marts for the royal household at Doune Castle, and 38s. 9d. was paid for swine and kids. Next year there is an item of 18s. for bread, ale, capons, and poultry used at Doune Castle on 9th June, 1454, omitted to be

* Old Statistical Account, by Wm. Fraser, vol. ii., p. 386.

† Dr. Garnett's Tour, vol. ii., p. 163.

entered into the household books. And we have a later payment of £117 8s. for the expenditure of the Prince at Doune Castle, from 12th June to 24th December, 1457. The keeper of the Castle in 1451 was Alex. Nairn of Sandford; the comptroller afterwards, William Moray of Tullibardine, whose fee was 20 marks, or sometimes £20 yearly. In 1448 the customer of Linlithgow supplied seeds of cabbage, scallions, and onions for the gardens at Doune Castle and Falkland Palace; and a like entry occurs in the "Menteith Accounts," with fees of the gardeners and park-keepers of Doune Castle; two chalders of oatmeal, said on one occasion to be "male meritas." The watchman and porter together got three chalders of oatmeal. The kings, when at Doune, resorted for the chase to the adjacent forest of Glenfinlas. The description of game is not mentioned, but it was probably red deer. A hunting-lodge was built at Glenfinlas in 1459.

Sir Walter Scott was an ardent admirer of this noble ruin. He had frequent opportunities of seeing it on his visits to his friends, the Buchanans of Cambusmore and the Edmonstones of Newton, both on the Teith. Such a picturesque ruin could not escape notice in the "Lady of the Lake," where the author makes the Knight of Snowdon sleep at Doune castle on the night previous to the chase. The poet also makes his favourite river, the Teith, and Doune

Castle figure in his description of the chase in the beautiful lines:—

“Along thy banks, swift Teith! they ride,
And in the race they mock thy tide;
Torry and Lendrick now are past,
And Deanston lies behind them cast;
They rise, the banner'd towers of Doune,
They sink in distant woodland soon;
Blair-Drummond sees the hoof strike fire,
They sweep like breeze through Ochtertyre;
They mark, just glance and disappear,
The lofty brow of ancient Keir;
They bathe their coursers' sweltering sides,
Dark Forth! amid thy sluggish tides.”

In “Waverley,” also, Sir Walter makes Doune Castle figure as a fortress, with a janitor and a governor, Donald Stewart, lieut.-colonel in the service of His Royal Highness Prince Charles Edward. Doune being for some time the only important castle which the Jacobite army held in Scotland, it was allowable for them to make the most of it. Sir Walter says—
“This noble ruin is dear to my recollection, from associations which have been long and painfully broken.”

Robert Stewart, Earl of Menteith, and first Duke of Albany, made Doune one of his favourite residences. As Earl of Fife he possessed several other attractive residences, including the Palace of Falkland, the Castle of Leuchars, and others, where he

resided from time to time. But the vicinity of the Castle of Doune to the Royal Castle of Stirling induced him to spend much of his time at the former place. The river Teith was a marked natural boundary between the highlands and the lowlands. Where the Teith and Forth united, it was said that "the Forth bridles the wild Highlanders." The Earl of Menteith, possessing both the Teith and Forth separately, as well as a considerable part when united, and also a Castle so commanding as Doune, exercised a vast power over the adjacent highlands and lowlands.

As early as the year 1381, we find that Janet of Menzies made resignation of the lands of Faithley in the hands of her superior, Walter Leslie, Lord of Ross, at Doune in Menteith.

The frequent occupation of the Castle by Robert, Earl of Menteith, is instructed by charters bearing to be granted by him there in the years 1406, 1407, 1410, and 1413, from the first year of his governorship of Scotland till near its close. Two years after the forfeiture, the King, having deprived Malise Graham of the earldom of Strathearn, granted to him a part of the ancient earldom of Menteith, with a new peerage of the name of Menteith, but the king reserved a large portion of the earldom of Menteith, and also the Castle of Doune. These possessions continued with the Crown for upwards of half-a-

century, and were dealt with as Crown property. After the forfeiture of Albany, Doune Castle was used as a royal residence. The chamberlain's accounts contain payments to the serjeant of Doune, to the King's fisher at Doune, to his gardener at Doune, and also for repairs to the King's stables at Doune. Subsequent accounts contain payments to the King's household, and also three shillings paid to the gardener, John Henryson, for leek and onion seed sown in the garden at Doune. The accounts from 1454 to 1456 contain payments for grain consumed when the King was hunting, and for three bolls of corn for the King's horses at Doune. The wages of the gardener, the park-keeper, and the jailer of Doune are entered in the chamberlain's accounts.

Doune Castle was a convenient residence for the kings when they engaged in the amusement of hunting in the royal forest of Glenfinlas, which is in the parish of Callander. King James III. was sometimes there, and on one occasion, 28th November, 1465, he granted a commission at Doune to certain ambassadors to meet with others from Edward the Fourth of England at Newcastle. King James IV. visited Doune Castle, in April, 1490, and his brother, James, Duke of Ross, was at Doune in July, 1492, as appears from the Treasurer's accounts of these dates. The accounts of the Lord Treasurer contain payments connected with the taking of venison for

the King out of the forest of Glenfinlas. Alexander Nairn, as before mentioned, was keeper of the Castle in 1451.

Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreath was, so far as ascertained, the next keeper or captain of Doune Castle, in addition to which he was appointed steward of the lordship of Menteith. In this capacity he witnessed the infestment of the Princess Margaret in the lordship of Menteith and Castle of Doune, in 1503. He was grandson of Matilda, only daughter of James Stewart, son of Murdoch, Duke of Albany, she having married his grandfather, Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreath. Sir William, the captain of Doune Castle, was slain at Flodden in 1513, and was succeeded by his two sons, William and Archibald, the former of whom was declared of lawful age on account of his father's death at the battle of Flodden.

They were appointed in 1516 joint-keepers of Doune Castle, and were under curators in 1520, till they arrived at the age of twenty-one. In 1525 the younger brother seems to have been separated from the charge, as William Edmonstone was then the recognised keeper. In this year he received a command from Queen Margaret, by a messenger, to prepare the Castle for her reception, and the messenger bore back the reply that he was willing to receive the Queen and her gentlewomen, but he would not admit her servants.

Her Majesty regarded this as a refusal, and after her marriage, in 1527, with Henry Stewart, afterwards Lord Methven, she instituted proceedings against Edmonstone for the delivery of the Castle to her, and an order was issued by the Privy Council, on 4th July, requiring him to surrender the Castle within forty-eight hours, under pain of rebellion; but Edmonstone obtained the King's signature to stay the process. The Privy Council annulled this order, although they suspended the execution of the surrender for twelve days. On the 20th of August he was ordered by King James to deliver up the Castle within twenty-four hours after receiving the message. For non-compliance he was put to the horn, but was relaxed by the King, who again, on 20th October, withdrew the relaxation, as it had been obtained "throw circumvention and wrang information." *

At a Steward Court, held near Doune Castle on 6th August, 1528, at which the Queen and her husband were present, the lease and commission of William Edmonstone were declared to have expired by his non-fulfilment of their obligations, and his successor was formally installed into the offices. Sir James Stewart received, 14th July, 1528, a charter from Queen Margaret, granting him the offices of captain and steward. He also received, on 8th

* Original documents in charter chest of Earl of Moray.

August, 1528, a commission from King James V., and on 1st September, another commission, dated at Stirling, constituting him steward of the lordship of Menteith, and captain of the Castle of Doune. He also received the office of chamberlain of Menteith, to uplift the rents during the Queen's lifetime.

The following is a copy of the above-named "commission" by Margaret, Queen of Scotland, with consent of Henry, Lord Methven, her husband, to James Stewart, his brother, to be captain of Doune Castle, and steward and chamberlain of Menteith, 1st September, 1528:—

Margaret, be the grace of God, Quene of Scotland, coniunct fear of the landis and lordschip of Menteith, to all and syndry quhome it efferis, quhais knowlege thir oure lettres sal cum, greting. Wit ze ws, witht perfit and mature deliberacioun, for oure awin wele and singular proffett, and for the commone weill of oure said lordschip, with express consent and assent of oure derrest spouse, Henry Stewart, of Methven, to have maid, constitut, and ordanit, and be the tennoure of thir presentis makis, constitutis, and ordinis oure traist familiare seruitour, James Stewart, brothir-german to oure said derrest spouse, oure Stewart of oure said lordschip of Menteith, and Capitane of our Castelle of Down within the samyn, for all and sindry the days and termes of oure lifytyme, the entres of the said James, in and to the saidis



officis of Stewardry and Capitanry salbe at the making hereof, to be broukit and josit, be the said James during our lifytyme as said is, witht certane landis vnder written pertenyng to the Capitanry and keping of our said Castelle, that is to say, ten mark land of auld extent of Estir Frew, five mark land of auld extent of Middle Frew, five mark land of auld extent of Wester Ergady, auch pound, six shillingis, aucht penne land of auld extent of the Kerss of Camyss, witht the myln and cruvis of Down, and fisching of Lowis and Stankis of Lugnok, Lochbanaquhare, and Gudy, witht all thair pertinentis, and witht all and syndry vtheris proffettis, commoditeis, fredomes, asiamentis and rychtuus pertinentis, pertenyng and liand thereto be vse and wount, quhilkis William Edmenstoun of Duntreath, last stewart and capitane of oure said lordschip and Castell, had and josit for the said stewartry and capitanry, and in all sort and manner as he broukit the samyn. And altoure we commit to oure said seruitour James Stewart oure full power to substitut and deput vnder him in the said office of Stewardry ane or maa of smallare degre than himself, and of smallare power, for excersing of that office, for quhame he salbe haldin to ansuer till ws. And rychtsu to imput and output in oure said Castelle of Doune, constabillis and vtheris officiaris necessaris for sure keping of the saymyn to our vtilitie and proffit, for quham siclik he salbe haldin to ansuer, and to observe and kepe trulie our said Castell to the

behalf of us and our said derrest spouse, at all tymmes quhen we sall charge. And ferder, because we have gret confidens and traist in the said James oure seruitour, witht express avise and consent of our said derrest spouse we commit vnto the said James be thir presentis oure full power of Chavmerlanry within the said lordschip, witht strynth to substitut vnder him in that office sic personis as he sall think expedient for his help and our vtilitie and proffit, to lift, raise, uptak and inbring all and syndry our malis, fermes, gressomes, and dewiteis of the same zerly and termly during our lifytyme as said is, and gif neid be is to prynd and destringze tharefor as efferis; firme and stable halding and for to hald all and quhatsumeuir thing our said Seruitour James Steward and Capitane foresaid, he himself and his substitutis and deputis foresaid, in oure name in the premissis ledis to be done, in vsing of his offices of Stewardry, Capitanry, and Chavmerlanry above expressit. In faith and witness of the quhilk think, to thir oure present lettres, subscruit witht oure hand and with the hand of oure said derrest spouse, in takyning of his consent to the same, our propre sele is affixt.

Striuling, the first day of September, the zere of God, j^mv^c twenty and aucht zeris.

MARGARET R.
HENRY, LORD METHVEN.

The office of keeper of the Castle of Doune was inherited by Sir James Stewart's eldest son, who had the title and designation of Sir James Stewart of Doune, Knight. He was indicted for being concerned in the assassination of David Rizzio at Holyrood, and was ordered to appear before the Council. A remission in his favour was granted by the Privy Council on 5th June, 1566,* which states his crime to have been the incarceration of their Majesties, Henry and Mary, in the Abbey of Holyrood, and accession to the murder of Rizzio.

Sir James Stewart was considered to be one of the supporters of Queen Mary by Morton's Council, which, on 23rd May, 1568, after the defeat of Queen Mary at Langside, commanded him to surrender the Castle and Fortalice of Doune to the officers appointed by the Council, as one of those houses to which the Queen's party were resorting in order to repair their forces.

It does not, however, appear to have been surrendered, as Calderwood relates that in 1570, after the Regent Lennox had returned to Stirling on the 15th August, he went from Stirling to the Castle of Doune to besiege it. It was kept by the servants of the Lord of St. Colm's Inch, who was then in the Castle

* Original remission in the charter chest of Earl of Moray.

of Edinburgh. Doune Castle was surrendered after a siege of three days. Sir James Stewart of Doune was also Commendator of St. Colm's Inch in the Firth of Forth, and as such was a member of the Privy Council. On 24th November he was made a Lord of Parliament, with the title of Lord Doune, by King James VI., when the stewardry of Menteith, the Castle of Doune, and certain others were erected into the lordship of Doune, of which the Castle was declared to be the principal messuage.

This grant included the patronage of the two Chapels of St. Fillan, situated the one within and the other without the Castle of Doune. The former has now disappeared, but part of the walls of the latter, on the banks of the Teith about a mile below the Castle, still remain. It is within the grounds of Inverardoch, where the late Mr. Campbell erected, on the site of the original chapel, a mortuary chapel or mausoleum. Above the door is the following inscription:—"Built by John Campbell of Inverardoch, A.D. 1876, on the site of the Ancient Chapel of St. Fillans, the remains of which form the east gable, and by authentic record was in ruins in 1568. This is the last resting-place of the present family."

In 1580 James Stewart, eldest son of Lord Doune, married Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the Regent Moray, and assumed the title of Earl of Moray.

Thus, on both sides, the first of each that branched from the Royal Family were Regents of Scotland. Sir James Stewart of Beith, father of Lord Doune, was the third son of Andrew, Lord Avandale. He was Gentleman of the Bedchamber of King James V., and Lieutenant of his Guards. The King also granted to him the custody of Doune Castle, which afterwards came into the possession of his son. He was killed at Dunblane, May, 1547, by the Edmonstones of Duntreath. His son, Sir James Stewart, obtained the Abbey of St. Colme in commendum, and he died 20th January, 1590. By his wife, Lady Elizabeth Campbell, eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Argyle, he had two daughters and two sons, James, "the bonnie Earl of Moray," and Henry, Lord St. Colme.

As the claim of James to the earldom was doubtful, he had a charter from James VI. in 1592. His personal attractions and accomplishments are said to have made an impression on the heart of the young Queen, Anne of Denmark. Some commendations of his beauty made by her Majesty in the King's hearing excited his jealousy, and he commissioned the Earl of Huntly to bring Moray into his presence. On the pretence that the Earl of Moray had harboured the turbulent Earl of Bothwell, Huntly, on 7th February, 1592, beset his Castle of Donibristle in Fife, and summoned him to surrender. A gun

being fired from the Castle, which mortally wounded one of the Gordons, Huntly's men set fire to the house.

Dunbar, Sheriff of Moray, said to him, "Let us not stay to be burned in the flaming house ; I will go out first, and the Gordons, taking me for your lordship, will kill me, while you escape in the confusion." He rushed out, and was at once slain. Moray followed, but the silken tassels attached to his skullcap or helmet having caught fire as he ran through the flames, betrayed him to his enemies. He was pursued by Sir Thomas Gordon of Cluny (whose brother had been slain at Darnaway two years previously) and Gordon of Gight, and mortally wounded. Having been stabbed in the face, some say by Huntly himself, with his last breath he exclaimed, "You have spoiled a better face than your own."*

The above circumstances brought forth the following old ballad :—

Ye Highlands and ye Lowlands,
 Oh ! where ha'e ye been ?
 They ha'e slain the Earl of Moray,
 And they ha'e laid him on the green.

Now, wae be to thee, Huntly,
 And wherefore did you sae ?
 I bade you bring him wi' you,
 But forbade you him to slay.

* From "The Scottish Nation," vol. iii.

He was a braw gallant,
 And he rid at the ring.
 And the bonnie Earl of Moray.
 Oh! he might ha'e been a king.

He was a braw gallant,
 And he played at the ba',
 And the bonnie Earl of Moray,
 Was a flower among them a'.

He was a braw gallant,
 And he played at the gluive,
 And the bonnie Earl of Moray,
 Oh! he was the queen's luv.

Oh! lang will his lady
 Look o'er the Castle Doune
 Ere she see the Earl of Moray
 Cum sounding through the toon.



I have written much more than I at first intended, and cannot close without acknowledging my indebtedness to James Turnbull, Esq., late Commissioner to the Right Honourable the Earl of Moray, for much kindness and encouragement; also, to the late Charles Stirling Home Drummond Moray, Esq. of Blair Drummond, for permission to take extracts from the valuable "Red Book of Menteith," and for the hospitality shown me whilst taking my notes in Blair Drummond Mansion; to the late Andrew Kerr, Esq., Edinburgh, and to James M'Call, Esq., of Glasgow, Fellow of the Antiquarian Societies of Edinburgh and Glasgow, for much valuable information and assistance; and to the gentlemen in the district generally, for the courtesy shown towards me during the years I have had the honour of occupying the responsible position of custodian and guide to this most interesting and historic baronial edifice.

I humbly trust this little book, with all its imperfections, will serve the purpose for which it has been written, viz., to enable visitors to remember the many interesting apartments and associations which they

had pointed out and explained when visiting Doune Castle ; and, also, to appreciate the patriotic efforts made by the late noble proprietor, the 14th Earl of Moray, to preserve this ancient building, so much connected with the Royal Family and national history of Scotland.

JAMES DUNBAR.



Opinions of the Press

REGARDING THE

GUIDE TO DOUNE CASTLE,

By JAMES DUNBAR,

Late Custodian, formerly of 79th Cameron Highlanders.

"An interesting brochure, giving a short history of the Castle and the principal events which have taken place in connection with it, has been written by James Dunbar, the custodian, many of the events which are narrated having been authenticated by extracts from the 'Red Book of Menteith,' in possession of Charles Stirling Home Drummond-Moray, Esq. of Blair Drummond. The little book, which has been compiled for the use of visitors, will prove of considerable advantage in enabling them to recall the main features of a pile around which cluster many notable incidents in Scottish history."—"Glasgow Herald."

"After Inchmahome and its child garden memories of Queen Mary, the old Castle of Doune is perhaps the central spot in this unexplored region which will most richly repay the antiquarian and ordinary visitor, and Mr. James Dunbar, the custodian, has just issued a useful little handbook for the guidance of those who may pay it a visit. He has crammed into small space much valuable information about the Castle and its famous memories, which cannot fail to interest even a complete stranger. The little book is worth possessing apart from tourist purposes."—"North British Daily Mail."

"In this little book of sixty pages Mr. Dunbar, who styles himself custodian of Doune Castle and formerly of the 79th Cameron Highlanders, narrates in charming style all that is worthy of mention in connection with Doune Castle. His description of the building is most minute; and his relation of the historical events and personages associated with it is most interesting. These latter are drawn from a wide area. Indeed, there is not an authority, whether antiquarian or historical, that Mr. Dunbar has not laid under contribution. His work has evidently been a labour of love, it is so thoroughly done. No visitor to Doune Castle can be fully equipped without a copy of this extremely interesting guide."—"Perthshire Advertiser."

"Mr. Dunbar, the attentive and intelligent custodian of Doune Castle, has just published a little work which is worthy of commendation, not only as a useful guide for visitors to this interesting ruin, but as the best description and historical account of the Castle which has yet appeared. Mr. Dunbar has done his work of compilation very creditably indeed. The descriptive part is quite original, and affords evidence in every page that Mr. Dunbar has entered heart and soul into his duties as keeper of the grand old ruin. There is not a corner of the building which he has not explored, and if his explanation of present appearances cannot always be agreed with, their ingenuity and probability must be frankly admitted. Next to enjoying Mr. Dunbar's company as cicerone, the visitor to Doune Castle cannot experience a greater pleasure than the perusal his neat and compact little guide book will afford."—"Stirling Observer."

"This venerable pile is annually frequented by large numbers of visitors, and is rendered all the more interesting from the recent operations by which the Castle has been restored under competent management. It is of great importance to have a really reliable guide to a building of

such national interest, and this, we are satisfied, is now in possession of the public, Mr. Dunbar having special facilities for preparing such a work. The description of the building is clear and interesting, and sufficient is given of its history to illustrate the important part it played in the past."—"Perthshire Constitutional."

"A guide to this ancient Castle, which has been prepared by Mr. Dunbar, custodian of the structure, will prove of much value to tourists visiting the locality, as it describes intelligently the construction and arrangement of the building, and chronicles the latest discoveries made amongst the ruins. The writer has made discreet use of the historical material at his disposal, and his guide, unlike the majority of similar productions, is thoroughly accurate."—"People's Journal."

"His lordship (the Earl of Moray) has thrown the fine old monument of other days open to all, and appointed a capable caretaker, and guide in the person of Mr. James Dunbar, custodian, who, by the way, has a neat and clear literary style, as witness his guide to the Castle, full of historical information, carefully gleaned and annotated from the best sources. Again we say, let the tourist step aside at Doune for a few hours' ramble in and around the Castle, and an interesting crack with Mr. Dunbar, whose book will, when the tourist leaves the spot, recall pleasant memories of his intelligent chaperone."—"Railway and Tramway Express."

"For some time past the lack of a handy guide book to this noble building has been keenly felt, but at last Mr. James Dunbar (late of the 79th Cameron Highlanders, and now custodian to the Castle) has given us one that is in all respects satisfactory. Its size is convenient; it is well printed; and it tells all that the curious visitor can reasonably expect to know. Mr. Dunbar seems to have gone to

the best authorities for his facts, and the little volume will no doubt, in its own way, prove a success."—"The Chiel."

"Early history being silent regarding the old Castle, Mr. Dunbar has evidently taken considerable trouble in searching for a very large number of interesting particulars—which he has given tersely, and in regular historical order—acknowledging his indebtedness to the Commissioner to the Earl of Moray, and other gentlemen who possessed the most authentic documents. A full description is given of the whole building, followed by the most interesting historical narrative. This portion of the guide cannot fail to be perused with pleasure."—"Kirkcudbright Advertiser."

"His little work will be found a very interesting contribution to our guide-book literature. Much research has evidently been resorted to, and many historical facts are brought together having a bearing on the events connected with the occupants of the building in the past, while they have been arranged with unpretentious ingenuity, and the result is a handy little book, which will be read either by visitors or others with much interest."—"Galloway Gazette."

The above are a few of the many extracts from the papers, sufficient to show the general opinion of the press.





