

ANNALS
OF
CULLEN

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ANNALS OF CULLEN:

BEING

Extracts from Records

RELATING TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF CULLEN.

960-1879.

BANFF:

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1880.



ANNALS OF CULLEN:

BEING

EXTRACTS FROM RECORDS RELATING
TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE ROYAL BURGH
OF CULLEN—960-1879.

Picked from the wormholes of long vanished days,
And from the dust of old oblivion raked.

HENRY V.

O Time,

Our dates are brief, and therefore we admire
What thou dost foist upon us that is old.

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS.

960. The Danes and Norwegians land at Cullen (Boethins). King Indulfus killed by the Danes at the battle of the Bauds, and buried first at Cullen, then at Iona.

1165-1214. William the Lion grants a Charter to the Burgh.—William confers on Gilbert, third son of Gilbert, Thane of Angus, the lands and surname of Ogilvie.

1198. William the Lion grants a toft in the burgh of Invercullan to Richard, Bishop of Moray.

1226. King Alexander II. and his Court visit Cullen.

1232. Do., do.

1236. A chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, exists at Cullen at this date.—Dispute between the Bishops of Aberdeen and Moray regarding the churches of Forscauen and Invercullen.

1264. R. de Strathewan, Sheriff of Banff, expends money on behalf of King Alexander III., on repair of the house, &c., of Inverculan.

1290. The Abbot of Welbec and Henry of Rye stop at Colane while proceeding to Norway, by order of King Edward, after the death of Alexander III.

1296. King Edward passes the night of 23rd July 'a Innerculan manoir.'

1303. King Edward passes the night of 5th Sept. at Cullen.

1306—29. King Robert the Bruce grants a charter to Cullen, and endows a chaplaincy in the church of St Mary to pray for Elizabeth, his spouse, who died here.

1329—70. Thomas Lipp, Constable of Cullen, about this period.

1330. David of Duff confirms to Robert of Holdey a tenement in the town of Invercullen, with consent of the Abbot of Arbroath.

1366. Churches of Farskane and Rathven taxed by the Bishop at twenty-two merks.

1381. Robert II. grants and confirms to Richard St Clair the lands of Findlater and of 'the grieveschip of Culane.'

1403. Charter of Robert III. to David Duff of Muldavit. This charter was made a present of to the Earl of Fife.

1404. Charter of the lands of Muldavit to David Duff in favour of himself and his wife Agnes de Camera (Chalmers), who was heiress of Muldavit.—Supposed date of the monument to John Duff of Muldavit, which was removed (1792) to Duff House Mausoleum.

1408. Robert, Duke of Albany, grants a charter to David de Haya, son of John de Haya of Tulibothi, confirming all grants and gifts by John Matulan of Netherdale to the said John de Haya of the lands of Pittenbringan and office of constable of Cullen.

1435. Alexander Sinclair renounces in favour of Margaret Sinclair, daughter and heiress of Sir John Sinclair of Findlater and Deskford, all right he can claim under an entail.

1437. Sir Walter Ogilvie marries the heiress of Sir John Sinclair, who fell at Harlaw.—Alexander Sinclair grants a charter to Sir Walter Ogilvie of the lands of Deskford and Findlater.

1440. The Abercrombies excamb Westhall and Pitmedden, receiving therefor from the Bishop of Aberdeen the estate of Birkenbog.

1442. John Duff of Muldavit and Craighead receives a charter from King James II. He wadset his lands to James Innes.

1453. Annus redditus in Villa de Colane XX. den., payable to Monastery of Arbroath.

1445. Sir Walter Ogilvie obtains liberty from James II. to build towers and fortalices in the Castle of Findlater.

1458. Declaration by Margaret Ogilvy, Lady Deskford, that she is not detained against her will in the Castle of Findlater.

1472. Alexander Fordyce, chaplain of Cullen, disposes his lands to James Ogilvie of Deskford.

1479. The Bailies and Town Council of Cullen grant a bond of maurent to James Ogilvie of Deskford.

1481. King James III. confirms to Sir James Ogilvy a charter granted by John de Haya, constable of the Constabulary of Cullen, with the office and pertinents thereof.

1482. Charter granted by the Baillies of Cullen to James Ogilvie of Deskford of the lands of Findochty, Smithston, and Seafield.

1491. Special service before the Baillies of Cullen by George, Earl of Huntly, Lord of Badenoch, as heir in special to Elizabeth, Countess of Huntly, his mother, in several crofts and pieces of land lying in Cullen, and of a piece of land under the Castlehill,

1493. John Duff of Darbruche raises an action against Sir James Ogilvie of Deskford for 'wrongwis occupationne and manuring of the landis of Fyndachy felde, and for the upbreaking of the said Johnnis compt burdis and spoliationne of certane charteris.'

1502. King James IV. mortifies certain rents out of

Findlater, &c., for the Canons of Old Aberdeen, to pray yearly for his and Bishop Elphinstone's soul.

1505-6. Death of Sir James Ogilvie of Findlater and Deskford, who married Agnes, daughter of George, 2nd Earl of Huntly.

1511. Sir Alexander Ogilvie obtains a charter for incorporating the lands of Deskford, Findlater, and Keithmore into one barony called Ogilvy.

1513. Sir Jas. Abercromby of Birkenbog falls at Flodden.

1519. Death of Andrew Duff of Muldavit, who married Helen Hay, the founder of Duff's Aisle in Cullen church.

1527. Gift of nltimns haeres by King James V. to Mr Alexander Dick, Archdean of Glasgow, of the crofts and lands in Cullen that belonged to Nicol Chamber.

1535. Culane pays £41 5s. as its quota of 5000 merks to James V.

1542. Alexander Abercromby purchases the lands of Netber Skeith, and George Abercromby those of Eehinaltery, from Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Deskford.

1543. Erection of the College Kirk of Cullen.—The parish of Deskford disjoined from Fordyce.

1545. Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Findlater alienates to his son-in-law, John Gordon, all his lands and baronies of Ogilvie, Findlater, Deskford, Keithmore, Castlefield, Castleyards, Office of Constabulary of Cullen, and Constable lands called Pattenbringan, with the Castles of Findlater, Deskford, and Anchindown, thus disinheriting his own son, James Ogilvie of Cardell, who was then with Queen Mary in France.

1553. Excambion betwixt Mr Wm. Lawtie, Prebend of St Anne, and Sir Gilbert Davidson, Prebend of St John Baptist of the Crofts, called Kirkcrofts.

1554. Monnment erected in Cullen Church to Sir Alexander Ogilvie and Elizabeth Gordon. 'One of the finest sepulchral monuments in the North of Scotland.'

1557. Culane pays £34 10s. as its quota of £10,000, being the expenses of the Queen's marriage with the Dauphin.

1560. Fen charter of alienation of Farskane by Geo. Hay, rector of Rathven, and Andrew Hay, rector of Renfrew, his brother german, to James Ogilvie of Glassagh in life-rent.

1562. Disturbance between the families of Ogilvie and Gordon. Sir John Gordon defeats at Cullen a company Moray sent to capture Findlater. Decreet arbitral by Queen Dowager. Peace said to have been sworn and ratified in the Church of Cullen in the presence of Queen Mary.

1566. Solemn decret arbitral pronounced by the Queen.

1574. George Hay, minister of Farsken, Rathven, Dnndreas, and Bellie.

1583. Charters granted by the prebends of the prebendaries of Mary Magdalene, St Andrew, and of the Holy Cross in the Collegiate Chnrch of Cullen, with consent of the other prebends, in favour of Alexander Hay, Clerk Register, of Sinclair's Croft, of Brand's land, and of a croft in the Drownars.

1586. The blessed Virgin Mary's Church at Faskin suppressed between this date and 1644.—George Hay, parson of Rathven, prodnces a reversion upon the lands of Connage made by John Duff of Muldavit, and pays 300 merks therefor.—George Hay conveys to his son James the lands of Connage, Rannas, Loanhead, &c.,

1587. Charter by Alexander Hay, of Easter Kennet, Clerk Register to John Duff of Muldavit, of the patronage of the Prebendary of St Anne, of a croft in Searoods, Gallowhill, and Maxland, Graystone Croft, and a croft under the Gallowhill, all in the territory of Cullen, for payment of a certain duty yearly to the prebend of St Anne in the College of Cullen.

1588. George Hay, parson of Rathven, sells for 500 merks the lands of Blairshinnoch to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Findlater.

1589. Act passed that no hors be biggit nearer the gait or calsay than six elnes.

1591. James Smont in Bronntoun resigns to Muldavit his tack and possession of ye Scheralds.

1599. Tack by Mr Patrick Darg, parson and vicar of Fordyce, with consent of the dean and chapter of Aberdeen, to James Ogilvie, son of Sir Walter Ogilvie of Findlater, of the teind sheaves, and vicarage of the Kirk of Fordyce, comprehending the Kirks of Cullen, Deskford, and Ord, for the space of two nineteen years after the death of the said James Ogilvie.

16— The family of Ogilvie remove from Findlater Castle to Cullen House early in this century.

1602. John Duff of Muldavit grants a charter to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Findlater of the Battlehaugh, Cullen, which is confirmed by the town.

1603. Contract between Sir Walter Ogilvie of Findlater and the magistrates and Town Council of Cullen, whereby Sir Walter makes over to the community his fourth part of the common Mill of Cullen, and they set to him the multures of his own lands, with power to him to build a mill of his own.

1604. Tack of the teinds of the parishes of Fordyce, Cullen, and Deskford by Mr Patrick Darg to James Ogilvie, son of Sir Walter Ogilvie, for 38 years from Lambas.

1610. Harper's Croft mortified by William Ogilvie of Over Blairrock to two bedemen. And it came to pass, after the death of the said William, that the said croft of land was challenged to belong to the Knights Templars, or of St John at Jerusalem, and the Earl of Melrose having the right of property from the King to appropriate these lands to himself, he received a sum of money to compose it. The mortification was thus nullified.

1612. Jn. Duff wounds Wm. Abercromby 'with his awin daiger.'

1612. Contract between Patrick Duff and Jas. Lawtie, burgess, with consent of 'Walter Duff, son of John Duff of Muldavat, present prebendar of Cullen, fonndit and erectit in ye College Kirk of Cullen, and of ye said John Duff, present patron of ye said prebendrie, and with consent of Adam Duff, brother german to Patrick Duff, to infest ye said James his aires, &c.,

in all and hail, the crofts of land pertaining to ye said prebendarie.'

1613. Anent keiping the prayers and Weddinsday's preiching. Court haldin be the halzies. It is statut and ordanit that ye hail inhabitants of ye town, speciallie maisters and wyffis, that be found in ye town or in yair houses ye time yrof, thay sall be poyndit as gif they wer absent from ye sermone on Sunday.

1614. John Ogilvie of Glassaugh, Walter Ogilvie of Ardoch, and John Ogilvie of Overhlerock, each agree to build a house by March next, 25 feet long, 'twa hons hight and to be scleitit.'—Sixteen sellers and brewers of ale now within the burgh.—A person convict for packing and peiling of fisches at the schoir.—Another for letting his horse to the churchyard.—William Maky, Scourgar, holds out of this bounds and parochie off Deskford all stranger beggaris.—Collector of custom of ye hoites at ye boithyth pays £40 yearly.

1615. Johne Gregor confessit his offence done to Jas-Duff, halzie.—It is decernit be ye bailzies and cunsalle that ye said Johne sall stand in ye stooil of repentance on Sunday nixt and humelie confess his falt, and yareftir come down and hummell himself to ye said James, and crave his pardon for his falt.—George Duffus hes taken upon him to use ye tred of ane flesher within this burgh, and oblesit him to present his fleschis every Saterdag to ye mercat croce, and thair to remain fra nine hours till three hours efter noon.—Courts begin to be held in the Tolhooth. Before and after this time generally held in the vestry of the Church.

1616. Margrat Gillane is ordaint to be poyndit half merk money, for selling off aill in tyme of preiching.—Mercat to be haldin ilk Saterdag in tyme coming.—Cullen said to be disjoined from Fordyce and made a separate parish.—Sir Walter Ogilvy created first Lord Deskford.

1617. John Duff of Muldavat dispones Claypots to Alexander Abernethy, burgess of Cullen, for 200 merks, 'and to number and tell the said sum within the kirk of Cullan.'—The bailzies ordaines the inhabitants of

yis burghes, burgesses, frie men, and all that has houses,
 to leid, stanes to ye tolbuyt.—The bailzeis ordain ilk
 ane within the freedom of yis towne to saw peis this
 zeir conforme to ane former Act maid thairanent.—
 William Steynson decernit to restore to the towne of
 Cullane the comonn firlott and pek yroff.—The seemen
 under the hill accusid of casting in the meikle mos in the
 syd of the smidie hillock. Comperit William Findlay
 Wm. Runsie, Alex. Runsie, Thomas Findlay, and Geo.
 Findlay, Beatrix Runsie, and sik uthers. They band
 themselves that they nor na seemen under the hill in
 tym coming sall not cast fewell peitts nor tarffs betwix
 the Binloch and Cullan under ye pain of 40 poundis,
 and confiscatione of ye said elding. The bailzies order
 that they nor nane in the town, at na time herefter
 cast ony tarffes, divott, or guiding within ye meikle
 moss.—The bailzies and Counsell bes dischargit that no
 craftsmen in tyme coming brew, within the libertie of
 this burgh, viz., vobsteris, tailzeonris, cordineris,
 smythes, listeris, or merchands, except he be a borges
 and frieman, under ye pain of 20 poundis.—Town
 Council consists of:—Walter, Lord Deskford; Johne
 Ogilvie of Glassanch, Mr G. Leslie, Walter Ogilvie,
 Ardauch; Jas. Lawtie, Johne Ogilvie, jr., Glassanch;
 James Ogilvie, jr., Blerock; Johne Duff, Johne Hemp-
 seid.—Aneent the supplicatione given in be the in-
 habitants of the burgh of Culane craving the helpe and
 assistance of the commissioners of burrones for redres
 of certane inormities, oversights, and corruptions
 croppin in within the said toun, as thair supplicatione
 subscriyvit with thair hands at mair lenth conteins,
 the saids commissioners of burrones for remeid thairof
 apoints and ordeans the burghs of Abirdein, Montrose,
 Bamff, and Elgyne to direct commissioners of the most
 qualefeit persones of thair saids burghs to meit and
 convene at the said burgh of Culane the third day of
 September nixt to cum, under pain of ane unlay of
 tuentie pundis to be incurrit be the absents, and thair
 to trye the saids inormities and disordour and the
 causes thairof, and to report the samyne with thair

best advyce for redres thair of to the nixt generall conventione of burrowes, to the effect the commissioners than convinand may tak senn deliberat order for suppressing and reforming of the saids inormities and disorder; as also ordeans the said burgh of Culane to prodnce to the said nixt generall conventione ane inst rental of thair commonn good and commonn lands well employit, to the effect the saids burrowes may try if the samyn be putt to the hiest avail and well bestowed conforme to the acts of the burrones, and to send thairwith to the said nixt conventione the forme of thair election of thair magistrats and counsell at Michelmis nixt to cum and to proceed thairtill conforme to the acts of parliament and burrowes, under the pain of ane hundreth pund; and the premissis to be an heid of the nixt missive.

1618.—John Duff of Maldavat, and Johne Oglivy of Overblerok, bailzeis. It is cleirlye provin in judgment that Walter Schand, smith, and Margrat Fermour, his wyff, hes done manifest wrong to George Douglas, minister, be slandering of him oppinlie, saying he gaff him injurious langage in ye said Walter's smiddie, and sould manese him for asythment and satisfaction to ye said George for yar fault and wrang done be yame to him maist innocentlie. The saidis bailzes decernis and ordeans the said Walter and his said spous to bancoche yameselfis, yair barnes, familie, gnidis, and geir, furth off yis towne, holl bounds and paroch of ye same, in all time coming, within fyftein dayes ye daitt heiroff, and not to be snfferit to dwell heirefter within ye said paroch of Cullan, nor on ather syd of the burn yrof, betwix the Binwood and Fordyce; and in ye meintyme ordeans the saidis persones to gang presentlie to ye tolbuith to be wardit yr ay and qll they find sufficient cantion and securitie for yame actit in ye court buikis for performance of ye promiss; as lykwayes that ye said George Douglas sal be harmles and skaithles of him and his sd wyff in all tyme cominge, in word and deed, and off yar evill langage and toungis. If found to haiff done in ye contrar, he and his said

cautioner to pay to ye said George the sonne of fourtie pounds money. About fourteen days afterwards Walter Schand petitions the bailies to dwell in Cullen till Whitsunday, which is granted, with consent of the minister.—During this year twenty-eight ordinary courts were held by the bailies, and one head or Michaelmas Court. About ninety cases came before these. Constable Courts were sometimes held also in the revestrie.—George S'raith tried before the Bailies for dinging and bluiding of James Duncan, seemen, with ane knyff, and fined 20s. for troubling the town and the bailies refer the censuring of ye said bluid and asytment (satisfaction) to ye constable bailie.—The balzies order that the all of this town be sold in tyme coming for twelve pence the pynt, and the beir for fourteen pence at the dairest.—Commissioners from the Convention of burghs sit at Cullen, as matters are going on to the utter decay of the same. They complain that there is na decorme in ye toune of houses and biggings. Also, there is na sufficient comoun ludging for reseitt of strangeris. The bailzies and Counsall promise to supplie this defect according to their habilitie. Also, there is na tollbuith nor ward hous for halding of justice and keiping of prisoners. Answer—They haiff already begun ane tollbuith. The Commissioners order an inn and tollbooth to be built under penalty of £100. Also, ye tounes comoun lands are not yeirly perambulat. The bailzies answer by promising to visit their marches 'betuix this and Lambes according to yr auld cnstom.' Also, ye girsinnes of the comoun lands are not paid. Answer—They shall see to it. Also, it was giffin in as a greiff that ye magistrats are not chosen of metest men and induellaris in ye burgh, that they do not meet to dispense justice or manage the burgh affairs, and non-residents are elected burgesses. It was answerit that ye bygane oversights sall be amendit. In 1591, Culane was fined by the Convention £30 for non-appearance, and £20 in 1582 and 1583. In 1587, 'having consideration of the povertie of the burgh of Culane and of the exemption

granted to thame fra Conventionis, hes gevin license to George Moresoun, commissioner thair of, to depairt and pas hame fra the presentt convention without ony danger of unlaw." In this year Culane, Banff, &c., are exempted from attending for the next three years from poverty. In 1723 the Commissioner was instructed to get the tax reduced, owing to the decay of trade, and several inhabitants having removed, and to get the burghs of barony, Portsoy, Fordyce, and Keith and neighbouring parishes to bear their share of its burdens.—Helen Barclay, vagabond, and hir dochter ar banissit out off ye hall boundis of yis paroche as unlawfull persons, with yair awin consentis, and in case ather of yame beis found within ye said paroche in time coming, to be broutt one ye cheik with ane key and scurgit throw the townes and banissit de novo agane, and sick yat happens to resalt her heireftir within ye said paroche to pay ten pounds money.—At a Court held in the revestrie, before John Duff of Muldavit and John Ogilvy, bailies, Margt. Skinner is fined four merks, for striking Margt. Ogilvy in the flank with her feet in the Mill of Cullen. Beatrix Runcie is fined two merks for dinging of Margt. Ogilvy with her steiket neff on the face. The fines were paid to the said Margaret. Helen Hay decernit to pay 2 merks to Margt. Skinner for ryving her hair in the said mill.

1619. The rental of ye common gnid of Cullane, Item, onr common landis and common mill payis of zeirlie few dewtie to the toun, sevin score ten merkis; Item, the custome of ye boittis, 20 pounds; Item, the ruid maillis, ten merkis. The common landis of Cullen; —Item, the Preistfield, 20 bollis; The mill, 32 bollis; The Crowattis, 8 bollis; Topplingishauch, 10 pecks; The Sheriffston, 1 boll.—Names of fishermeñ at this date: Hay, Runcie, Paterson, Findlay, Clerk, Bruce, Duncan, &c.—Anent the 29th Act of the last generall convention comperit Maister George Leslie, Commissioner for the said Burgh of Culane, and producit his diligence in writt anent euerie heid of the premissis, quhillk beand sene and considerit be the saids Commissioners

of burrowis, they find the said burgh of Culane to haif vsit no diligence, and thairfore to haif in-ourrit the vnlawis contenit in the said Act, quhair-with they dispens at this tyme, and ordanis the said burgh to [conforme to the Acts in the election of magistrates, to canse the burgesses make residence to rounp the common good and lands, and produce a more perfect rental and account, and not to feu lands of new—all as provided for in the Act passed last year], as also to send with their said Commissioner ther principall chairtor of their hail lands to be sene and considerrit be the saids burrowis that sum guid ordour may be taiken for supplie of the said toun in tyme; as also ordanis the said burgh to continew in repairing and bigging of the said tolbuith and streittes, and-to produce thair diligence anent euerie ane of the premissis to the nixt generall convention of burrowis vnder the pane of ane hundreth pundis. Anent the supplicatioun given in be the burgh of Culane, craving support and help to the bigging of ane tolbuith newlie foundit be theme, with thair assistance for repaying of thair decayit herbarie, the saids Commissioners of Burrowis ordanis the said burgh to continew and proceed in thair saids works, and according to the diligence to be vsit be them thairin, the saids burrowis will putt to thair helping hand to thair further furtherance in thair saids works, and thairfore ordanis ilk burgh to send thair Commissioners sufficientlie instructit to the nixt generall conventioun of burrowis to geve ansner to the said supplicatioun vnder the pane of xx. pundis.

1620. Anent the 29 act of the last generall conventioun . . . the saids commissioners of borrowis finds the said burgh of Culane to haif vsit no diligence, no point, nor heid requyrit of theme be the said act, and thairfor decernis thame in the said vnlaw of ane hundred pundis, and ordanis the agent to vplift the same; and ordanis the said burgh of Culane to produce better diligence to the nixt generall conventioun of borrowis of the hail heids abowewritten, vnder the payne of ane hundred pundis; and in respect of thair

not diligence abonewrittin, the saids commissioneris refusis to grant anie help or support to thair saids commonn warks vntill the tyme they sall satisfie the hail heids of the missiwe requyrit of them, and for their better furderance thaj ordayne thair agent to concnr and assist with thame and seik ont the ald registers vpon the commonn expensis of the borrowis.

1621. The commissioneris of borrowis findis the burgh of Culane to haif vsit no diligence anent the heides committit to theme, mentionat in the 27 act of the last generall conventioun of borrowis haldin at the burgh of Stirling in Julij last, and thairfore to haif incurrit the said vnlaw contenit in the said act, and yit at requeist of George Douglas, thair minister, and vpon honp of sum farder amendement, they dispens thairwith at this tyme, and as of before ordanis the said burgh of Culane to prodnce to the nixt generall conventioun of borrowis the forme of the electionn of thair magistrattis, connsall, and vthers officeris vsit be theme at Michaelmes last, and to proceed thairintill conforme to the actes of parliament and borrowis; as lykways to prodnce ane perfynt rental of thair commonn guid and commonn landis, togidder with thair diligence in rouping, imploying, and putting of the same to the highest avall; as also to produce the forme of the setting furth of the saids commonn landis, the personnes naymes setters thairof, together with thair naimes to quhome the saids landis wer sett, and for quhat dewtie, together with the principall chairtour of the samin landis; and last to prodnce thair diligence in repairing of thair tolbuith and commonn streitts, vnder the payne of ane hundreth pundis.

1622. The commissioners of burghs nnlaw the burgh of Culane in £20, for being absent from this convention. Instructions given to the burgh of Culane, as at last convention of burghs.

1623. Instructions given to the burgh of Culane as at last convention.—The commissioners of burghs recommend to ane particular commission the burgh of Culane, quhairby they cannot bot be iustlie greived,

seing his Majestie is lyk to lose a burgh and they are member, earnestlie to interceid with the saids lordis that since thair hes bein so manie lands givin theme, which ar now taiken from theme, that sum remeid wer fund out for repairing of that breache. Greivance givin in be the commissioneris of borrowis to the commissioneris appointit be his Majestie :—Forsamikle as the burgh of Culane is vtterlie ruined and almost altogidder left desolate be ressoun that the commoun guid of the said burgh, and landis appertening thairto, ar sett in few to gentlemen throw the cuntrey for such small dewtie as the samin ar altogidder vnprofitable, and thair is nothing remaining to intertein the chairges belonging for sustentatioun of the commoun burdeins incident to the said burgh, it micht thairfore pleas your lordships, since the burgh is both auncient in situatioun and placce, verie nsefull to the cuntrey, and hes patrimonie sufficient for repairing of the ruines thereof, if the samin wer taiken out of the handis of the vnjust possessouris; that sum course micht be fund quhairby they micht be restorit to thair owne landis, and the burgh to the former beauty. Answer maid be the Lordis of his Majestie's commissioun :—The lordis findis that thair haif no warrand by their commissioun to cognose vpon men's heretable tyillis, nor to call theme to that effect.

1624. Lord Deskford purchases the lands of Leitchestown, Clune, Smithstown, and Dytach from Robert Leslie of Findrassie (Morayshire) for £5000 Scots. —The Commissioners, considdering that the burgh of Culane is licklie to cum to ane vtter decay, and perish furth of thair number by setting furth of ther saids commoun landis and commoun guides, and therby ar maid vnabill to sustein anie common burdein, thairfore, and for snppleing of the necessities of the said burgh, and to prevent in tyme if possible, maybe, the vtter ruine thairof, ordanis the Commissioneris of borrowis to tak to thair consideratioun the estait of the said burgh, and to consult and conelnd vpon the best meanes thair can find for prevening of thair said

decay, and restoring the same to thair former integritie, to quhome the saids commissioners givis thair full powar and commissionn to doe quhad they sall think maist meit and expedient for the weill of the said burgh. The burgh of Culane ordanit to prodnce to the nixt general conventioun ane perfytt rental of thair commoun guid and commoun landis, together with the personnes naymes to quhome the saids lands wer sett, and for what dewtye, &c., and to produce thair diligence in repairing thair tolbuith and commoun streittis vnder the payne of ane hundreth pundis.

1625. The agent produces a supplication from the burgh of Culane 'desyring, in respect of thair povertie and thair lang distance from Glasgow (where the convention was held), to excuse thair present absence.' The Commissioners dispense with the unlaws, and require the burgh to comply with their ordinances at next general convention; 'as also ordanis the burgh of Abirdein to tak tryell of the landis that appertent, and does appertein, to the said burgh, and how the samin were disponit, and for what dewtie.'

1626. Gilbert Andersone and James Andersone, millaris at the New and Auld Milnes, became bound to have sufficient locks and doors on their milnes to hald out of their milnes all insufficient boyis and lounes, and nawayis suffer them enter thairin under penalty of half-a-merk.—A harvest fee is £4, with an pair of new schoin and ane pair of auld schoin.—George Braibner brak furth the tolbuith, but was brought back. Peter Braibner fined £8 for assanlt. The person assanlted 'bestowit muckle geir upon ane leitche to cnir him of his hurt.'—Muldavit sold by John Duff to James Hay of Rannes.

1627. Prebendary lands of Mary Magdalene, St John the Baptist, St Andrew, and Holy Cross mortified to the Minister of Deskford.—Granted licence to the burgh of Culane to abide from all general conventions for five years.

1628. Alienation of Farskane by John Logie, Rector of Rathven, to Walter Ogilvie of Ardoch and James Ogilvie of Netherblerack,

1629. Charter of Alienation of Farskane by James Ogilvie of Netherblerack, with consent of Walter Ogilvie of Ardoch, to Henry Gordon of Auchanassie.

1631. Na person of farskan, seton, bromton, caetel-field, or maldavit, to cast peitts in ye melkle moss.—John Steinson fined 100 merks for stealing Wm. Runsie's cornes. The fine given to help to build the tolbooth.

1632. Whatsunnever persones within this town takis mair, efter Mounday nixt, nix ten pence for ye pynt aill and tnalff pence for the beir, the burges to tyne his freedome, and, gif it be any strawenger, to pay five pounds.

1634. Convenit balzies, minister, &c., anent the theeking of the kirk.—Thomae Knik fined 40s. for receipt of ane stranger in his service without ane testimoniall, contrare to ye act.—It is ordainit that there be dalkering till harvest be done, and that two men watch nichtlie in the over end of ye town, and two in the nether, taking turns.

1635. All hors and meares having the mortiecheane or scab be removit out of ye town or keepit in in yr hors under pain of ten pounds. If found in feilde, &c., that the samen horses or meares salbe takkin and cassin ower ane craig till thay be dead, and that but ony perrell or danger of law.

1636. Isabel Paterson steals John Duff's corn. She offere to remove out of the parish, and if she returns 'she is content to be taken and brunt with ane key upon the cheeke, and to be banest yis parochie yrefter.'

1638. Ordainit by the balzies and consall that the banks and braes be roupit on Soneday nixt efternoone eftir ye sermon, that sd banks and braes be sett to them quha will give maist for them. The banks nixt the sea to be devydit in four pairtes to serve four honest men. Some part of ye bankis of Toplinsbaugh are fallin down and brokin be ye storme. The Castlehill and sea banks next Caetlehill, let to four men for 20 shillings each a year. Ordainit that 40 pennies Scots be paid for ilk beast cow or hors trespassing; 16 pennies

ilk sheep; 6s. 8d. for every back beirer of other men's peittes, elding, &c.; swine, 'ane or mae' trespassing, to be slain by the owners or occupiers of the land, 'but ony danger of law.' All who have land in the burgh must sow peas, 'ane firiot of pise for ilk 8 bolls laboring under paine of £5.—Lord Ogilvie of Deskford created Earl of Findlater.

1639. It is statut and ordaint in respect of the great and extraordinar feis socht in the tyme of harvest be men and women servandis, that nane of them can be feicit or had but great loss and damage to ye inhabitants of this burgh, therfor every sufficient man hand sall have onlie £4 money for all thing that can be askit or cravit be him, and every sufficient woman four merks of fie. None allowed to fee outside the burgh, and if they do so, each man to be fined £4, each woman 4 merks, and if, 'that they be not responsall, salbe haneist the town thairefter.—All found among other men's peas to be fixed 6s. 8d. if in day time, and 13s. 4d. in nicht. All to pay 6s. 8d. if passing in time of corn growing with hors or ky betrix the gallowhill gett and the braid gett.

1640. Ilk persone having foules oncruiffit sall pay ane pek of victuall for ilk fowle that beis sein or fund amongst uther mennis cornes, and that to the awners of ye saids cornes. The connsall convenit, and sikit and admittit to ye Connsall Geo. Lorimer, &c.—No schep to be keipit or hirdit within this burgh at no tyme coming efter 3 May, called ye Rude Day under pain of 40s. All haveand swyne within this burgh put them away within 24 hours next heirefter under pain of 40s. ilk ane.—The fishers are disobedient in paying their dues to the Earl of Findlater. They are ordaint to pay ilk day boates goes on upon ye sea two dissoun fisches, and the skipper to be comptable for ye same.

1642. Anent upputting and edifeing the tolhuith, Baillie Geo. Hempseid is to collect contribntions fra all and everie gnde Christianes pleiss to give thairto.—It is statut and ordaint that a weekly mercat be kept on frydday at the mercat cros of the said burgh now

standing besyd the Tolhnith.—Four Seatown fishers (And. and Alex. Pirie, Alex. Collie, and John Donald) fined 13s. 4d. each for taking fish to Carnock to sell when this toun being long so scant and indigent of fisches. The surname Skaekell first occurs in the records.

1643. Elspet Anderson and John Philp at the Kirk Style has enacted themselves that they sall sell no drink at onseasonable tymes, especially in tyme of divyne service, under the pain of 20s.

1644. It is statut and ordaint that na fischeris whatsumevir be admitted heirefter to the moss of this toun callit the meikle moss to cast or win ony peites or truffes in tyme coming on na terms nor upon ony conditions, and that no persone or persones sall sell thame ony peites out of the same nor admit yame to cast ony there under ye pain of five pounds, and ordaines that sick peites as thay sall happin to cast yrin heireftir to be led and takin away from thame and disponit otherwayes.

1645. Covenanters defeated by Montrose at Battle of Auldearn. The Earl of Findlater, 'a grite covenanter,' present in the Covenanting army. Sir Alexander Abercromby of Birkenbog, 'a main covenanter,' also present under Major Urry.—In March of this year the town of Cullen plundered 'without mercy' by the Farquharsons of Braemar under the orders of Montrose. The House of Cullen also 'pitiably plundered of its valuable contents and notbing trussable left,' and only saved from being burned to the ground by the intercession of Lady Findlater (Lord Findlater being then at Edinburgh), who obtained from Montrose a respite of 15 days for the ransom of 20,000 merks, of which she instantly paid down 5000. Again in May of this year the town of Cullen is 'rednced to ashes' by Montrose when on his march through Banffshire after the battle of Auldearn. Montrose quarters himself and some of his troops at Birkenbog.

1647. It is ordaint that the hail fowles shall be cruiffit betuix ye dait heiroff (10th Aug.) till ye winning and intacking of ye cornes.

1650. John Lawtis, burges, mortifiss a house and croft to the poor.

1654. Cullen is excused for three years from sending a commissioner to the convention of burghs 'in respect of inhabilitie to furnissh out thair comissioner.'

1656. Cullen is granted exemption for three years from attending conventions of burghs.

1657. William Lawtie of Myrehouse mortifiss a house and land for the use of the poor.

1658. James, third Earl of Findlater, succeeds his father.—James Duff of Deipslack, burges of Cullen, sells Dovecroft to John Lorimer.

1665. The commissioners of burghs dispense with all former unlaws dus by the burgh of Cullen on account of their poverty, and grant exemption from attending conventions for three years.—Juns 7. Fast for the naval success against the United Forces of the Netherlands.

1666. Fast for naval success.

1667. Alienation of Farskane to William Gordon.

1670. In the tax roll of the burghs the proportion of Cullen is two shillings in the hundred pounds.

1673. John Lorimer, town-clerk, bequeaths Dovecroft to educate a boy at the school of Cullen—present value about £10 yearly.—Collection in the church to build a bridge over the burn of Cullen (£5).

1674. Proclamation read in the church against Conventicles.

1675. Andrew Wilson appointed hangman for my Lord Findlater and the town, and is ordained to have a fish out of every fisher boat every day they go to sea, and to have thirty pounds money out of the common good to buy ane suit of clothes to him ysarly, and is to have ane peat and piece of fir out of every vendible load of peats and fir that is sold within the town.

1677. The Dean of Guild gives in a complaint of several persons 'macking of mnck middings and building of there peitt stacks upon the his street.' It is ordained that none be 'near the highe streat, nor upon the gavills of yr houses adjacent to the highs streat



X
 under failzie of £4.—William Leslie of Birdsbank complains upon the haill brewers of aill, bear and aquavitie that they goe abone his milne with yr malt meale and other graine belonging to them to other adjacent milnes, although they be bnd sucken to him and his milne, so he is wanting of his multer.—The Towu Council determine that no man nor woman servant fee without the towne till the towu is first servit, on penalty of £4.—Margaret Macpherson murdered her child, two years old, in the lands of Muldavat. The case referred to the Sheriff, as this is out of the jurisdiction of the Burgh Court.

1678. The haill seamen and indwellers under tbe hill, unlawed in ffour pownds each of them ffor stealling and carrieing off peitts upon yr backs out of the moss of the sd brugbe, to be peyit in to the phiscall ffor the town's behaiff.—William Hall, burgess, fined £4, for eating James Lawtie of Tochienell's pease.—Ane general bill of complaint given in be the haill inhabitants against tbe websters and shoemackers for not charging according to the Acts passed by tbe burgh authorities. Every webster is fined 40s., and every shoemaker 60s.

1679. Proclamation read from the pulpit for all heritors and freeholders to wait upon the Earl of Kintore at Striveling Bridge against the rebels now in arms.

X
 1685. George Leslia of Birdsbank, Commissioner to Parliament, allowed 24s. Scots daily while there.—The haill fencible men within the borrow rhndes to mnster upon the haugh, with sufficient airmes, to attend His Majesty's service and defence of the town and country from sorners and robbers.

1687. The harbor, at shoir of Cullen, is lyke to ruine by not clearing the sarnen of sand and stones. The Earl of Findlater is to clear it.

1688. The burgh send out five soldiers armed with three muskets and two picks. Next year 65 persons in the burgh are provided with sufficient firelock guns, and as many of the other inhabitants as possible with

swords and densaxes (Danish axes).—Duncan Frazer, Christen Fraser his mother, and others for theft to be scourged from the north end of the toune to the south end yrof.—Owing to the danger and invasion of papists ane nightlie watch of ten men with a burgess to command them. Proclamation read ordaining ye militia, heritors, and others, to march to Brechin, and there await furdur orders from his Majesty.

1689. The Bailzies and Connsell agrie to send in ane weeklie post to the Post-Office at Banff for intelligence, and for that effect the Connsell allowes to the said post foure shilling Scots weeklie, and allows to the post-master his servant ffoure shilling Scots money for transcriyveing of letters of intelligence weeklie.—Wm. Leslie of Birdsbank mortifies £40 Scots for the benefit of the schoolmaster of Cullen.

1692. The Earl of Findlater, Lord Constable of the burgh, elects John Ogilvie Constable Baillie.—Lord Boyne asks the Town Council for men 'to dight out the harbour of Portsoy.' Twenty men are sent.

1693. At a meeting of Justices of the Peace it is enacted that no man or woman capable of service shall keep themselves free from service under the paine of imprisoning their persones, and the constables are ordained to send the sds persones who are guiltie to the next prisone house. The sds judges, having founnd that many men servants have taken themselves to trades without consent of the sds justices, whereby the husbandmen in the countrie are now rendered destitute of their servants, therefore, whosoever are so engaged are hereby ordained to return from their trades, nder the failzie of imprisonment, and to be fyned at the arbitrimnt of the sds judges for their contumacie.—The Council ratify the bargain made by the magistrates with William Dick, masone in Elgin, for the stones for the cross for setting up the Kinge's and tonne's armes and ane standert, &c. In 1695 a contract made between the baylies and Lanchlan M'Petter, masone in Cullen, anent the building, finishing, and perffyting the cross of the sd burgh. In 1696, May the

ninth, the magistrats and counsell having mett anent the puting up and compleating the cross of the said burgh in order wherunto they ordain that this week, wt all convenient diligence, ther be ane sent to Elgine ffor lead, and lykeweyes yt lime, stone, and vyrs necessary be imediatly provyded, and ordaines ffive horse to be sent to New Millne of Keith ffor dails to be scaffolding, and Walter Ogilvie having promised to ffurnish qt more shall be necessar, and ordains Baylzie Sanders to condnce and agree wt some seamen in Banfe ffor coming to this place in order to give their advyce yr anent. After remaining there above 120 years, the cross was removed to the Castle Hill. It remained there about 50 years, and was re-erected in the Square in 1872 at a cost of £160.

1694. Population of Cullen, inclinding the part said to be annexed, 806.—Three markets now held—(1) Midsummer fair, 2nd Tuesday of June; (2) Saint James's fair, 3rd Tuesday of Jnly; (3) Mary Fair of Cullen, 3rd Tuesday of September.—A 'knock' ordered to be bought for not over 400 merks.

1695. Act of Parliament got for voluntary contributions through all the churches in the kingdom to erect and rehuild the ruinous decayed harbour of Cullen. £1312 collected.—The inhabitants of the burgh are at a great loss by there being no public prayers now said in the church every morning and evening.

1696. George Lohhan, thief, ordained to be scourged throughout the whole length of the street of the burgh by the hand of the common hangman, and to be banished the said burgh and liberties yroff for ever, nnder paine of death, in caice he shall ever be found or apprehended yris.—Christian Gallant, servitrix to A. Eassone, taylzour, prosecuted for stealing and theevishly away-taking her said master's meall, hear, and nther goods, and disposing of the same. The haylzie adjudges the said Christian Gallant to be publicly scourged by the hand of the common hangman, burnt on the cheek, and banished in all tyme coming the sd burgh and liberties thereof, wt certification to all such as shall give her

resett, intertainment, and harboury shall be ffyned in fyfty pound Scots money.

1699. George Leslie of Birdshank sells his lands to Earl of Findlater, along with the old mill and several crofts. Rent of Brankanentham and Thomaswell 18½ bolls meal and 20 holls bear. In 1705 rent of Broom farm 29 holls meal and 30 holls bear.—Given by the Session to George Steinson 6s. for burying some poor objects who died through scarcity.

1700. Trial at Banff, before Nicolas Dunbar of Castlefield and a jury, of James Macpherson and Jas. Gordon for lawlessness. They were hanged at the Cross of Banff. Nicolas Dunbar was constable of Cullen.

1701. James 4th Earl of Findlater created Earl of Seafield.—The magistrates determine to fine all cursers 6s. Scots for each transgression.

1702. All the inhabitants to send their horses to lead stones to rebuild the church. James Ord, bailie, sells Roserood and other crofts to the Earl of Findlater.

1704. The church skaited at 14 merks ye rude.—James Ogilvie deponed yt he had no chartour concerning the sd burgh, except ane double and transcript of ane chartor of confirmation granted by King James the Sext confirming the originall charter granted in ffavor of the sd burgh by King Robert Bruce. This he delivered up. Walter Sanders confessed to him yt he had the princ^l chartour, wherof the above produced transcript is a copie. Robt. Sharp, laite dean off gild, declared yt he saw and read the sd princ^l chartour in the cnstody of the deceast Patrick Sanders, late Baillie. The Baillies are to make furder search. In 1725, James Stewart, merchant, Cullen, stated before the Council that a person in his shop said Mr W. Keir W.S., had the Town's Bonnding Charter, and would give it up for £15 sterling. He never saw it himself. The writer of the Old Statistical Account, Rev. Mr Grant, states that he had a copie of the charter lying before him (1794). It is believed to be now irretrievably lost. The confirmation by King James VI. was in existence in the present generation, and infor-

mation about it is now (1880) specially requested.—£15 5s. Scots, the price of 30 hens, 30 capons, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ lambs. In 1702 two wedders cost £6 Scots. In 1612 ane pair of schoin cost 10s. Scots. In 1752 shoes cost 4d. to 1s. stg. In 1779 the Session judged 4s. 7d. to be the value of a pair of strong shoes to a woman. In 1792 they cost 1s. to 3s. stg. In 1721 boll bere cost £5. In 1770, 1000 new slates cost 16s. 8d., and 3000 bricks £2 5s. In 1722 a cow cost £10 Scots, a mare £9 Scots, a ewe and lamb $2\frac{1}{2}$ merks.

1705. Bridge of two arches built over the Burn of Cullen at the Crooked Stock for £250 Scots, the mason to be furnished with materials and barrow-men.

1708. James Lawtie, schoolmaster, resigns 'in respect Providence had provyded him in ane nthere way of liveing mor suitable to his present inclinations.'

1709. Decreet of sale of lands of Boyne.

1710. Consideration as to building a bridge over the Coallpotts, near Tochieneal.

1711. James Third Earl of Findlater dies.—Staircase addition on east side of Cullen House made about this time.

1712. Battle Haugh (Sc. baitle meaning short, rich pasture) and the brae above let in all time coming to Lord Seafield for £9 Scots yearly.

1713. The magistrates agree with Wm. Raphen to build ane bow bridge at Tochieneill, with arch of six foot wide, for £24 Scots, and to give ane chalder of lime and 200 loads stones, but no more materials, and to give £6 more if the work is well done.—Third election of M.P. for the Burghs. Held at Cullen. Hon. Jas. Murray elected.

1715. Lord Deskford imprisoned as suspected of Jacobite leanings.—James Smith of Norwich mortifies a rood of land for educational purposes. Present value 28s. yearly.—September 11. Paid to express in the night time to Fochabers to know if the Clan Chattan were there, 12s. September 14. Given to another express to Fochabers to learn when the Earle of Huntly was to march, 8s.

1716. Collection in the church to help to build a bridge at the upper end of this town (£15).

1717. John Hay of Muldavat sells Muldavat, Auchingall, Craighead, and Shirraids to the Earl of Findlater.—Paid Mistress Thompson for wines, &c., spent when the Justiciary Lords and servants were made Burgeses, £6 14s. Paid Mrs Thompson for wines, &c., spent on King George's birthday, £6. Paid Mrs Thompson the day of the election of the magistrates, for wine, &c., spent that day, £8 10s.

1718. William Fordyce receives £334 for mpputting of the steeple and tolbooth and bell and public clock.—Bridge at the south side of the town ruined by the spaitt of water.—Complaint given in by the fiscal against possessors of land on the east and west sides of the road from the north end of the town to the Green gate towards the Seatown. It used to let two carts pass. The march stones now put in again.

1719. The Council agrees with James Robertsons, a pyper, to goe thorow the town with his pypes, playing at each morning at five and at night at eight o'clock, and for which they are to give him eight pound Scots yearly, with two pair of shoes and a coat yearly.—Collection in the church for a hridge at Burumouth, and bridge at upper end of the town (£22).

1720. William Gordon, second son, succeeds his father in the lands of Fsrkane.—Butchers must bring their fleshes to the public mercatt, and to bring no flesh without the hyd and skin.—For liquor and peats spent by the Council at solemnizing King George's birthday £7 15s. For ale and brandy at stenting the Lambas cess 15s. For eight bottles ale at granting tack to tenants in Towuhead 8s.—To liquor spent when the town sent money south with Mr Ross for their cess, £2 11s.

1721. Alexander Abercrombie of Skeith sells his lands to the Earl of Findlater.—Act made that none keep bestial without a visible way for their maintenance.—A woman put in prison for stealing, then put on the cockstool an hour, then put back to prison, and then

banished out of the town by tuck of drum.—John Watson, Edinburgh, bequeaths £60 for the education of a boy at Cullen school.

1722. At the Regality Court of Deskford a burgess fined £9 17s. Scots, or to go to prison at Cullen, for feeing a servant at a higher fee than was allowed by the Acts of Regulation.

1723. For stealing a web of cloth Wm. Gerrie is banished the town, with his wife and children, and his goods confiscated.—The bedall gets 8s. yearly for ringing the bell at 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day.—P. Wiseman fined 20s. Scots for keeping eleven unringed swine.—T. Reid put in the tolbooth, but he 'rysed the daill of the foot of the door with his hands, and crap out from below the door.' For this he had to stand in the jogs every day from 9 to 3 p.m., then to be kept in prison till he would tell who aided him in stealing. He escaped a second time by unloosing the ropes and towes he was fastened with, and got out of the stocks and came out at the same hole as before. After lurking three days, he was caught and imprisoned, tied, and kept in the stocks with a guard of four men sightly over him. He was then banished from Banffshire, and if he returned 'death would be inflicted on him without process of law.'—The hall tenants and possessors in the parish of Deskford ordered by the Michaelmas Court to repair the garden dykes of Deskford, ilk chalder within the parish conforme to the former practice under the falzie of ten pounds Scots for ilk chalder.—John Ord of Findochtie built houses and furnished them to the white fishers to fish for him, and furnished them with boats 'as other heritors are in use to doe,' and John Ord, being to sell the lands of Findochtie to James, Earl of Findlater, the fishers agree to serve the Earl at the Brodhyth of Findochtie. There were in all 13 men and 4 boys (Flett, Campbell, Smith, &c.)

1724. Lands of Findochty sold by John Ord to Earl of Findlater.

1725. Claim given in by R. Gerrie in Ardoch against Marg. Davidson for using diabolical practices. She

said at seeking the sheep, Margaret ye doe not neglect to curse your neighbour, and if our Jamie doe not thrive better than he has done before, there shall be more of itt. Ye may be a good woman, but ye have ill fashions to goe to your neighbour's house and curse. Margaret replied, Lett never his spirit gett rest till she was revenged of him.—An ox got in and ate forty stocks of kell. The Court cause the owner of the ox to pay sixpence for the kell.—Coats to be bought for the town's officers—5 ell broad reed cloath, 9 ell mixed sarge for west coats and breeches, 10 ells lynning, 2 pair course stokins.—All idle persons flocking together about the seaside on Lord's day afternoon to be fined 20s. Scots.

1726. The Bede House on John Lorimer's mortification of Dovecroft now ruinous, and worth only £6 Scots.—Heads of families exhorted to restrain their children and servants from rambling on the streets on the Sabbath day, as also not to allow the bringing in burdens of water to their houses on the Lord's day, otherwise the transgressors to be processed when discovered before the Session.

1728. The hail weavers summoned to hear the Act of Parliament read. There were six in Cullen, two in Portknockie, one in Brunton, one in Seafeld, one in Craighead, one in Bridgend, and two in Shirrells.—William Cook, Hallyards, Fordyce, convict of stealing bear. He is allowed to banish himself from the shire of Banff, and in case he shall return thereto he shall suffer the pain of death, to which he voluntarily subjects himself.—January 20. A ship of 170 tuns, bound from Amsterdam to Stockholm, loaded with tobacco, salt herring, and Spanish salt, fine silks, paper, oynions, apples, nutmuggs, raisins, and severall other valuable commoditys, was driven by the east storm at sea on upon the rocks near Portknockie called the Scarr-noss or Bowfdle, and in fifteen minntes was broke in wrack as small as if she had been hewen with aixes. There was aboard twelve men and a boy, all of which saved their lives except the captain, who perished. All the

crew say that their captain was wrong in the head four days before they were cast away. But some people suspect that there is something more than ordinary in it. The wreck of the ship is cast in upon that part of ground Forskan holds of the town. There has been some protestations taken by Forskan against the town, and they against him, about the wreck. However, Forskan is taking care to catch all he can and promises to be accountable. He has gott one box, in which is twenty-four webs of fyne flowered garden silks, and seaverall other things. The seamen say that all that was betwixt decks are cast in, hut that the second deck and hulk of the ship is sunk, in which lyes 30 last of herring, and seaverall other things. The whole of the crew are Dutch and Sweddisch. The supercargo and haill loading belonged to Stockholm. The eleven men and boy were miracullously preserved, for they were thrown upon a rock so steep and inaccessible that it was thought that a cat could not hold feet where they travelled, and had not one of the crew brought to the rock with him a pice of a small roap, all of them had perished; hut by God's providence, and the small roap, the first man drew up all the rest from the bottom to the top of the rock, and so were saved. It is said that Forskan will make a dale of money by this ship. (Extract of letter to Earl of Findlater.)

1729.—The east arch of the Bow Bridge at the north end of the town damnified by the late speats.—George Ogilvis, schoolmaster, resigns, as 'resolved, God willing, to follow some other employment than the teaching of the school of Cullen.'

1730. For cutting down and taking off an ash tree, ten or twelve years old, a man is imprisoned till the next day at ten o'clock, then carried to and put on the cockstool, to stand there two hours with a placard affixed to a board, on which his offence was written, then returned to prison till he found caution for keeping the peace for two years. The cockstool is to be repaired, that it might be safe for the panel to ascend and remain there. He is also fined £50 for the riot

—that is, for breaking the peace by cutting the tree.— James, 4th Earl of Findlater, dies. He was Solicitor-General, Secretary of State for Scotland, High Commissioner to the General Assembly, and Chancellor of Scotland.

1735. William Gordon of Farskane disposes to the Earl of Findlater, Farskane, Crewats, Portknockis, Greencastle, &c.

1738. John George, fifth Lord Banff, drowned at the Black Rocks of Cullen while bathing with Lord Deskford.

1741. Tenth election of M.P. for the burghs. Held at Cullen. Sir James Grant of Grant elected.

1744. Cullen House Bridge built by James, fifth Earl of Findlater, and Sophia, Countess of Findlater. The bridge is 84 feet wide and 64 feet high. Two years after the Duke of Cumberland's army pass over it.

1745. John Cope at Cullen 7th September, having left Elgin two days before.

1746. The rebels destroy Lord Findlater's house and property to the value of £8000.—Earl of Findlater distributes 200 guineas among the Duke of Cumberland's troops when passing through Cullen (11th April).—The twenty-one white fishers in the three fishing boats at findochty appear before the Court of Regality of Ogilvie to pledge themselves not to ingadge in bad practices with the rebels or disaffected persons, and to fairy no person whatever to sea other than the crew belonging to the boat, and upon no consideration to go on board any ship at sea, and all of them depone that they cannot write but the two unithall letters of their names.

1747. Eleventh election of M.P. for the burghs. Held at Cullen. Wm. Grant, Lord-Advocate elected.

1748. Linen and damask manufacture introduced here by the Earl of Findlater.—The following lands perpetually disposed to the Earl of Findlater in accordance with the Acts of Parliament and Acts of Convention of Royal Burghs, 'without any manner of reversion, redemption, or regress whatsoever':—Castle Hill, Seabraes, Topplinshaugh, Banks of Burngreen,

Crooked Stocks, Falinbrae, New Mill haugh, Old Mill haugh, Green Gate, Wawkmill, Ely Moss, &c.

1750. Fourteen plaids lent by the inhabitants to the soldiers presently lying in Cullen.

1752. Bleachfield established at Deskford by Lord Deskford. He planted on the estate 32 millions of trees (8000 Scotch acres).—Bell erected in the old Town House (now the Kirk Bell).

1755. The town give a bounty of 25s. to every seaman enlisting in the navy, 'to promote his majesty's service.'

1758. Earl of Findlater purchases the estates of Rothas and Easter Elchies.

1759. The Town Council consists of Earl of Findlater, Preses, Lord Deskford, Sir L. Grant of Grant, M. Rannie, and John Bald, manufacturers; Alex. Grant, Tochieneal; and thirteen others.

1760. Elspet Lorimer dies, aged 98, the oldest person recorded in the Old Churchyard.

1761. Margaret Murray fined and imprisoned for selling bad yarn. She is made to burn it on the market cross.—Death of Lady Sophia Hope, Countess of Findlater and Seafield.

1763. Rate of Customs: For each beef sold in the shambles 3d., each mutton 1d., each veal $\frac{1}{2}$ d., for each pair of brogues sold at the cross $\frac{1}{2}$ d., each pair of double soled shoes $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each fisher boat 2s. 6d., hand-bell 6d., big-bell 1s. 6d., each travelling chapman 6d., each stage player 1s. a day, each quack doctor 1s. a day.

1764. James 5th Earl of Findlater, Vice Admiral of Scotland, dies, and is succeeded by his only son.—Jas. Peterkin and his son Arthur accused of debauching the morals of the inhabitants, particularly by playing cards for money with schoolboys, and running them into debt for ginger bread and otherways, which, without stealing, boys could not pay. They are committed to the Tolbooth, therein to be kept till Monday, then released and publicly carried from one end of the town to the other, with the town-officer and drum at their back, betwixt 12 and 1 mid-day, having labels upon their breasts with these words in large characters, 'A

receiver of Stolen Goods and Corrupter of Youth,' and that they shall during this course have their hands tied behind their backs, then banished for ever from the town. If they return, to be publicly whipt and prisoned.—Dr W. Lorimer's mortification establishing two bursaries now yielding £35 annually.

1765. The inhabitants all aid in cassawaying the street. It was 'calsayed' before in 1685.—Seven persons get licenses to sell drink in Cullen, three in Portknockie, two in Seatown, one in Findochty.—Earl of Findlater, Chancellor of King's College, Aberdeen, purchases for £650 the patronage of Redhythe bursaries.

1767. The walls of the Tolbooth are slender and insufficient for a prison. The lower part is of two vaults, one a meal house, the other a prison for criminals. Both are damp, with no fire-places. The doors are both insufficient. The wall is slapt to make a slit to give air to the criminal prison, and built up so that one could easily get out. The upper part of the Tolbooth has two rooms, one generally used as a guard room, the other a prison for debtors. The outer door is quite rotten and useless, the inner not fit for a prison. There are iron grates on the outside of the window, but they can be easily pushed out. The two upper rooms are not vaulted, and any prisoner has access to the roof, the wooden part whereof is rotten, so that any person can escape.—Earl of Findlater purchases Estate of Linkwood.

1770. James, 6th Earl of Findlater, distinguished as a scholar and agriculturist, dies, and is succeeded by his only surviving child.—Eggs, 14 for 1d.; hens, 4d. each; beef, 1d. to 2d. a lb.; haddocks, 1d. to 2d. a dozen. Twenty-five years later these prices were 2d., 7d., 4d., and 7d. respectively.

1773. Dr Johnson, passing from Banff to Elgin, breakfasted at Cullen (26th August).

1774.—Eighteenth election of M.P. held at Cullen. Colonel S. L. Morris elected.

1775. All hutchers must begin to kill feshes not sooner than Wednesday weekly, and begin to sell on

Friday at 10 A.M.—The Town Officer receives £5 sterling annually to constantly patrol along the street of Cullen, and to be careful never to suffer any beggar to call or halt in the town; and as often as he shall observe any beggar coming towards the burgh, to conduct him by the nearest road out of the burgh; and if any beggar shall be abusive or obstinate, to throw the said beggar into prison.

1782. The town's people want both the tolbooth and kirk bell rung as the last bell on Sabbath.

1787, September 6th. Burns passes the night at Cullen during his Highland tour.

1788, Dec. 14. Sir James Clark, Bart., M.D., born in Cullen House, where his father was butler.

1791. Ordination in Cullen Church of Rev. George Donaldson, Kinnethmont, as minister of Rathven, the Presbytery being compelled to betake themselves thither from Rathven, where the men were armed with bludgeons and the women with lapfuls of stones, shouting:—

Wi' bludgeons we'll crack their crowns,
And kill them in a crack, sirs.

1794. Population of Cullen, 1719 (Cullen, 1214, annexed part, 505). In 1734 the population, including the annexed part, was 1040. Seven fishing boats now at Cullen. Seven stocking looms in operation.

1795. The 'Tosh Rant.' Several of the young men concerned in this fled from Cullen, and ultimately passed through the Peninsular war.

1797. Postage of a letter from Cullen to York, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, or Cambridge, 1s. 2d.; Bristol, 1s. 7d.; Plymouth, 1s. 8d.; Jersey, 1s. 9d.—Sept. 26. The minister collects £40 as voluntary contributions to Government for defence of the country. Rev. R. Grant, £5 5s.; Lieut. Smith, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr Somerville, postmaster, £1 1s.; Mr Watt, surgeon, 10s. 6d.; James Anderson, merchant, £1; Mr James Fordyce, schoolmaster, 10s. 6d.; James Young, weaver, 5s.; Charles Pirie, labourer, 1s.; James Black, lintmiller, 2s. 6d.; Janet Smith, servant, 2s.; Alex. Young, manufacturer,

£1 1s.; James Hay, sunnmiller, 1s.; P. Mortimer, miller, 5s.; John Duncan, blacksmith, 1s.; John Duffns, wright, Portknockie, 1s.; John Laveny, manufacturer, 7s. 6d.; T. Rannie, manufacturer, £3 3s.; Al. Mortimer, miller, 5s.; W. & G. Eddie, glovers, 2s.; Jas. Addison, weaver, 2s. 6d.; G. Jamieson, teacher, Portknockie, 1s. 6d.; James Marquis, farmer, 10s.; A. Craib, fowler, 2s. 6d.; James Duncan, blacksmith, 5s.; Messrs Runcie, Findlay, Gardner, Addison, &c., 2s. 6d. each.—Thomas Rannie appointed captain and James Smith first lieutenant in the Cullen Company of Volunteers.

1800. £8 paid to the poor by Lord Seafield, being the price of trees cut down in the Churchyard.

1802. Election of M.P. for the burghs (the twenty-third), held at Cullen. Colonel F. W. Grant elected.

1803. Price of meal, 18s. per boll; tea, 6s. 8d. per lb.; sugar, 9d. per lb.; black rappee, 2s. 8d. per lb.; common twist, 2s. 7d. per lb.; whisky, 4½d. per gill; molasses, 4d. per lb.; mutton, 6d. per lb.; cotton, 1s. 3d. per yard.

1807. The brig *Mary* of London lost with all hands near the Scar Nose on the night of 7th September. (Burrish Lyons, captain and owner.)

1811. James, seventh Earl of Findlater, and fourth Earl of Seafield, dies, and with him expires the earldom of Findlater and viscounty of Seafield. He is succeeded by his cousin, Sir Lewis Alexander Grant, Bart., as 5th Earl.

1812. First mail coach started from Aberdeen to Inverness.

1819. Harbour erected at a cost of above £4000.

1820. The old bridge over the burn at Cullen sold for £3 16s., as a new stone one is to be built.—Last election held at Cullen of M.P. for the Burghs (the thirtieth election since the Union). Great excitement and discussion. Mr J. Ivory (afterwards Lord Ivory) appears for General Duff, and Mr J. H. Mackenzie (afterwards Lord Mackenzie) for Mr Farquharson of Finzean. The latter is elected. Protests made against the right of Cullen to vote, &c.—Oldest house in the town of Cullen (now

occupied by Mr J. Thomson, shipowner) built.—Amount of the last dinner bill paid from the Burgh Funds for dinner at election of Magistrates and Town Council, £20 9s.

1820-30. Removal of Old Town of Cullen to its present site; building of the New Town; diversion of the Toll Road; erection of the Town's Buildings, the Temple, the walls at base of Castle Hill, &c.

1821. Paid for whisky, porter, &c., given to the inhabitants on the day of His Majesty's coronation, £11 7s. 6d.

1822. First steamer, the Brilliant, seen in the Moray Firth.

1823. Subscription from the Burgh Funds to aid in erecting an equestrian statue of King George IV., £10 10s.

1829. Ordination of Rev. George Henderson, LL.D., as minister of Cullen, the longest holder of the office since the Reformation.—New Cemetery opened.—Destruction of Cullen House flower garden and the old hermitage by the floods.

1830. Destruction of bridge of Burnmouth by a flood.

1832. Preses of the burgh elected for the last time (Hon. F. W. Grant of Grant.) Eldest baillie, 1771-8, Wm. Robertson; 1779-86, Alex. Wilson; 1787-1812, John Wilson; 1813-16, Alex. Wilson; 1817-32, John Fraser. Provost, 1833-48, John Fraser; 1849-55, Jas. Sinclair; 1855-64, W. L. Taylor; 1864-67, Wm. Ross; 1867-72, Wm. Smith; 1872-77, Geo. Davidson; 1877, Geo. Will.—Death of Rear-Admiral Oughton.

1837. Paid £3 6s. for entertainment of special constables, appointed to preserve the peace of the Burgh at the election of a Member to Parliament, 8th and 9th August.

1838. Paid for porter, ale, and spirits, furnished to the inhabitants by order of the Magistrates and Council on the day of the Queen's Coronation, £77s. 4d.—Rates of postage in Great Britain: To a place at any distance from the Post-office where the letter shall be put in,

not exceeding 8 miles, 2d.; 8 to 15 miles, 4d.; 15 to 20 miles, 5d.; 20 to 30 miles, 6d.; 30 to 50 miles, 7d.; 50 to 80 miles, 8d.; 80 to 120 miles 9d.; 230 to 300 miles, 1s.

1840. Francis William Grant-Ogilvie succeeds his brother as Earl of Seafield.—Paid for whisky furnished to the inhabitants on 10th February, to celebrate the Queen's marriage, £2 17s. 6d.

1841. Gas introduced into the burgh.

1842. Town Council consists of:—John Fraser, Provost; John Wilson and John R. Munro, Bailies; James B. Minty, treasurer; Thomas Duncan, Alex. Anderson, Alexander Duncan, John Smith, William Wilson, William Kemp, Wm. Forsyth, Alex. Desson, George Lobban, John Allan, John Gadie, Alex. Jack, James Thomson, James Ross, John Duffus.

1845. Alexander Duncan bequeaths his property for educational purposes. Net income about £20 annually.

1847. Expense of New Jail, £247.

1848. Deaths of John Fraser, commissioner, and Lieutenant Duncan, R.N.

1852. Death of John Wilson, factor to the Earl of Seafield.

1853. John Charles Grant-Ogilvie succeeds his father as Earl of Seafield.

1854. Appointment of first registrar of births, &c.

1855. Public demonstration on 25th July to welcome the Earl and Countess of Seafield on their arrival.

1856. Two cannons presented to the burgh by George Skene Duff, M.P.

1858. Extensive alterations and additions to Cullen House. Mr D. Bryce, architect.

1859. Railway opened to Portsoy.—Streets first lighted with gas.—Opening of Cullen Library and News-room.

1860 (November). Cullen Artillery Volunteer Company formed.

1861. Subscription from the Burgh Funds to Cullen Volunteer Artillery Corps, £21.

1862. Railway proposed from Portsoy to Portgordon.—Public rejoicings on Prince of Wales's marriage, a

bonfire, fire-works, &c. A hogshead of porter broached on the Square.

1866. The Walter Frederick lost in Cullen bay with all hands.

1867. Life Saving Brigade organized.—Death of Provost Ross.

1868. Old Churchyard closed by interlocutor of Sheriff Gordon. Ann Gaudie the last person buried in it.—August 11th. First telegraphic message transmitted between Cullen and Portsoy.

1871. Population of Cullen 2056, and of Seafield district 1755.—Agreement with Lord Seafield and the Town Council to introduce water into the burgh, to give over the town's buildings to the burgh, and to erect the old Cross in the Square, the Town Council renouncing all supposed claims.

1872. Public rejoicings on majority of Lord Reid-haven.—Death of Provost Smith.

1873. First election of a School Board.—Extension of the New Cemetery.

1875. Death of Mr W. Anderson, The Square.

1876. Public school of Cullen built at a cost of £2500. The two former schools were erected in 1713 and 1821 respectively.—Death of Dr Watson, B.N., Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets.

1877. Death of Dr Sharp.

1879. Death of ex-Provost Taylor.—Nov. 29. Earl of Seafield invested by her Majesty with the Order of the Thistle.

