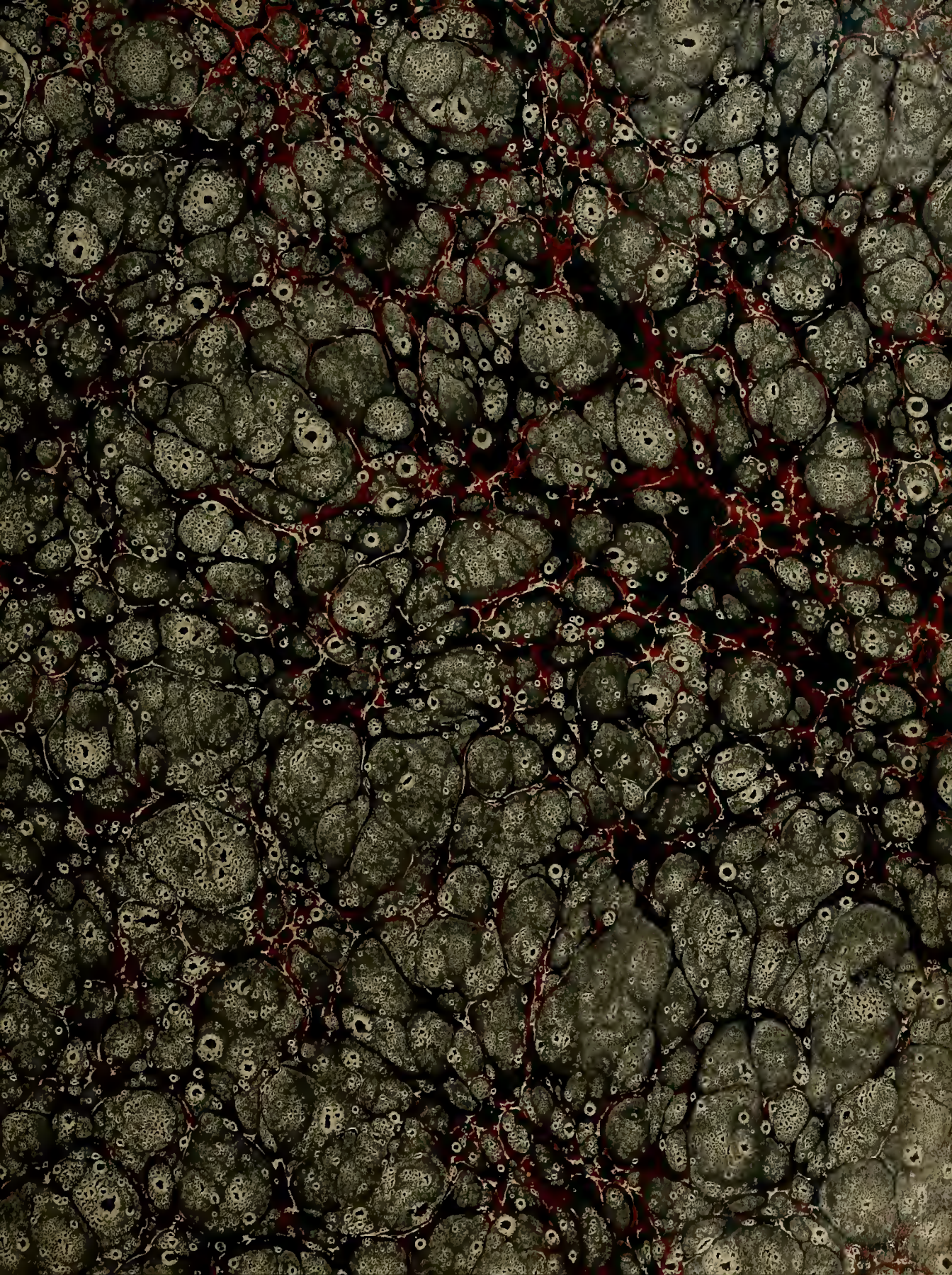


BOUND BY
JAMES
INGLES,
EDINB.



8.123.f.

30/-

Bought B. Halliday.
14. 1. 30.

LAURISTON
CASTLE
LIBRARY.

To Rev Thos. MacLachlan

with the compliments of the Author

David McCune



X

FACTS AND TRADITIONS

COLLECTED FOR


A Family Record.

Printed for Private Circulation.



EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY BALLANTYNE AND COMPANY.

M.DCCC.LXI.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
National Library of Scotland

<http://www.archive.org/details/factstraditionsc00mcco>

TO

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

To you I dedicate this little work. It is merely a collection of matter, ancient and modern, gathered for the purpose of bringing before you persons and events, which have, almost to a certainty, been connected with our progenitors, and are so, beyond a doubt, with us in more recent times.

There are in it, indeed, many shortcomings and peculiarities ; but, from its nature and pretensions, few are likely to examine its pages, and these probably friends, who will not be critics or censorious, and who may correct what they find amiss.

There is nothing new in tracing family descent. Even in Scripture we find that the Jews had their genealogical tables, which they are careful to preserve to the present day. I believe there is an innate desire in most to know their descent, unless it bear the brand of infamy, even though that descent can boast of no high reputation.

Children certainly bear a strong resemblance to their fathers and forefathers, and it is desirable to preserve the bonds of affinity and consanguinity, lest they should be forgotten and lost for ever,—an unfortunate illustration of which is exemplified in our own family. Had our ancestor in Beoch preserved records of his progenitors, we should not have been at so much trouble to search them out now. “Time passes, and with it the memorie of things ; but writeing may prevent forgetfulness, tho’ not the flight of time.”

Moreover, the record of these relationships tends very materially to keep up kindness and good feeling in the different branches of a family. And with the hope that this kindly feeling may be illustrated in our own circle,

I remain,

Your affectionate Brother,

DAVID C. M’CONNEL.

INTRODUCTION.

EARLY in the year 1860, it happened that a combination of circumstances rendered it advisable that the coat-of-arms of my eldest brother should be registered. It was known in our family that my father, the late James M'Connel, Esq., Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester, had, to a certain extent, made use of armorial bearings, as follows :—

Party per fesse vert and argent, a stag trippant between three trefoils counter-changed. Crest : a stag's head erased argent, charged with a trefoil vert. Motto, "*Victor in arduis.*"

Among some papers in the possession of Messrs M'Connel and Co., Manchester, a sketch of these arms was found, and on the back were the names of heralds in Edinburgh and Dublin. There is reason to believe that my father, about the year 1817, had caused a search to be made in the Lord Lyon Office, Edinburgh, and in the Herald Office, Dublin, and that his assumption of these arms was the result. Instructions were, therefore, sent to the writer to search for the registry of these arms, as well as to ascertain if any armorial bearings were registered in the name of M'Connel. After some examination by William Anderson, Esq., Marchmont Herald, Edinburgh, it was ascertained in the Herald Office, Dublin, by Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King-at-Arms, that these were the ensigns armorial of O'Connell of Derrynane Abbey, County Kerry. It was also ascertained that no armorial bearings were registered in the Lord Lyon Office, Edinburgh, Herald Office, Dublin,

nor Herald's College, London, under the name of M'Connel; and it was, therefore, proved that my father had never registered, but only made search for a coat-of-arms.

Whilst this search was being made in Edinburgh, a passage was pointed out by Mr Anderson in a dingy volume, written by William Buchanan, published 1723, which stated that the name M'Connel was the same as Macdonald. The passage is as follows:—

Macdonald or M'Connel of Largie; the name of M'Connel is always so designed by way of eminence, and without any further distinction. Macdonald of Slate married the daughter of King Robert II., and is ancestor of Macdonald of Largie.

This new and extraordinary information led the writer to devote his time and attention to the subject; and the greater portion of the information collected, which bears on the subject, is contained in the following pages.

There is no place in the United Kingdom where the facilities for prosecuting such a search are greater than in Edinburgh. The Advocates' and Writers to the Signet Libraries possess most of the books that have ever been published. The former contains also some valuable manuscripts. In the Edinburgh Subscription and Philosophical Institution Libraries are many valuable works which throw much light on this subject. In Edinburgh, also, are many antiquarians of great eminence, and well versed in the histories of the Macdonalds, and other Highland Clans. So, in two or three months, sufficient evidence was collected to place beyond a doubt that, little more than two centuries ago, Macdonald and M'Connell were one and the same name, and that they were the same clan.

It was evident, therefore, that we M'Connells had no right to make use of the O'Connell arms; we had no historical connexion whatever with them within the last thousand years. It was necessary, also, to adopt armorial bearings more in accordance with what both

historical and traditional evidence led us to conclude should be adopted by our family. To carry out this intention, a family meeting was held in Manchester of the six M'Connel brothers in Britain, the seventh brother, John, being in Australia. This important gathering took place on the 3d and 4th April 1860, consecutively in the houses of James, at Bent Hill, and William, at Brooklands. All sorts of schemes had previously occupied the minds of the different members of the brotherhood; all of which, no doubt, had great apparent reason and appropriateness. It was held, for some time, that the arms should indicate the cause of our father's prosperity. Books of botany, and works on the cotton manufacture, were ransacked to find some well-illustrated specimens of the cotton-plant. Hanks of yarn, and spindles, and eops, came under review; and sketches were made to shew them to advantage. Hints were also given as to the danger of ancestor-hunting too far; and a story told of the reverend and witty Sidney Smith, who succeeded, after much research, in tracing one of his ancestors to an assizes; but the ancestor suddenly disappeared at the assizes; whereupon his worthy descendant thought it high time to shut up the account at once. It was proposed by one that a gallows should be on the esentcheon, because Angus M'Connell was hanged at the Market Cross, Edinburgh, A.D. 1615, being the brother of Sir James Macdonald, or M'Connell, who had just escaped from Edinburgh Castle, wherein he had been a prisoner for political reasons. There was more appearance of danger, certainly, when it was found that some of the parish session records made mention of the delinquencies of some males of the name, brought about by the general regard which they entertained for the fair sex before and after marriage. History proves distinctly that at this period—the end of the seventeenth century—these M'Connells were in no way different from their neighbours, both high and low, in this respect; and it is with no ordinary satisfaction that the writer is able to assert that there are no such trans-

actions on record, nor any other in any way derogatory to his own family, from the very distant period of 1695 to the present day.

In the council of brothers all these suggestions were, one by one, discarded, on being put to the vote. The stag *trippant* of the O'Connell family was also unanimously considered as having no connexion with our family; and it was, at length, resolved that our armorial bearings should, in order to accord with history and tradition, bear resemblance to those adopted by the Macdonalds. The crest which our father had always used, of "stag's head erased, charged with trefoil in the neck," it was generally considered better to retain.

It was long after the famous meeting of April, however, before every particular of the arms was agreed upon. The colour of the coat was variously considered; at last, a shield or, with charges gules and sable, were agreed upon. It was comparatively easy to determine the oldest brother's arms; but several brothers objected to the bordure round the shield, proposed by the Lord Lyon Office, Edinburgh, and by means of which, and its markings, sufficient difference was to be made between the arms of each brother. The bordure was looked upon as a collar to be placed around the necks of all younger brothers from this to succeeding generations. It was discarded, and the Lyon-Depute consented to a chief, with various markings and charges, to indicate first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh brother.

In the petition to the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, for a patent of arms, Henry M'Connel was described as the

Oldest Son of James M'Connel, Esquire, of the Polygon, Ardwick, near Manchester, mill-owner in Manchester, and proprietor of the lands of Carsriggan and Urral, in the county of Wigtown, by Margaret his wife, daughter of Henry Honldsworth, farmer at Gonalston Hagg, in the county of Nottingham; which James was son of James M'Connel, farmer at Hannastown, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, by Mary Cannan of the Shield, in the said Stewartry, his first wife.



The Armorial Bearings
of
Henry McCornel Esquire
OF CRESSBROOK, DERBYSHIRE.

The following is the description of the

Ensigns armorial of Henry M'Connel of Cressbrook, Esquire, in the county of Derby, and mill-owner in Manchester.

Or, in the dexter chief a dexter arm couped in fess gules, the hand holding a cross croslet fitched erect sable ; in the sinister, a galley her sail furled up, with oars in action of the third, flagged of the second, and in base, a lion rampant also of the second, armed and langued azure ; on a chief of the second, three trefoils slipped of the first.

Above the Shield is to be placed a helmet befitting his degree, with a mantling gules, doubled argent, and upon a wreath of his liveries is to be set for Crest, a stag's head erased gules, charged on the neck with a trefoil slipped or,—and in an Escroll below the Shield this Motto, 'Victor in armis.' One word delete.

The difference and distinction between each brother was obtained as follows, all other parts of the shield remaining the same, and crest also :—

For James, second brother :

On a chief engrailed of the second, a crescent between two trefoils slipped of the first.

John, third brother :

On a chief invecked of the second, a mullet between two trefoils slipped of the first.

William, fourth brother :

On a chief nebule of the second, a martlet between two trefoils slipped of the first.

Thomas Houldsworth, fifth brother :

On a chief indented of the second, an annulet between two trefoils slipped of the first.

David Cannon, sixth brother :

On a chief wavy of the second, a fleur-de-lis between two trefoils slipped of the first.

Frederic, seventh brother :

On a chief embattled of the second, a rose between two trefoils slipped of the first.

Finally, at the family gathering in Manchester, in April 1860, the writer was requested to arrange the information which he had collected from various sources, and place it in the hands of the printer, for distribution and preservation in the family. It is in compliance with this request that these collected facts appear in the form of a little work, to render which the more complete as a family record, I have added some incidents in the life of my father and his more immediate ancestors. For the sketch of the life of my father and mother, comprised in the last chapter, I am indebted to my brother James.

As this work is intended strictly for private circulation, I do not need to make any apology for the "'prentice hand" which may be traceable in it. I should be sorry, nevertheless, if the book were to fail in its mission.

The time thus spent has gone by pleasantly with me, and the pleasure would be greatly enhanced in the retrospect by the knowledge that I had in some degree met the wishes of my family.

DAVID C. McCONNEL.

EDINBURGH, *January* 1861.

CHAPTER I.

THE earliest direct trace of our family which I have been able clearly to discover, is in the fact that my great-great-grandfather lived in and farmed the Beoch, in the parish of Tongland, Kirkcudbright, as early as the year 1696. On a paper in the possession of my eldest brother, Henry McConnel of Cressbrook, Derbyshire, is the handwriting of my father, as follows :—

My great-grandfather came from the Highlands ; he lived in and farmed the Beoch, (near Kirkcudbright) ; he married a Miss McClellan of Nether Crae.

Up to the year 1816–17, my father, who was then about fifty-five years of age, had always the impression that our unknown ancestor was of Highland origin.

About that time, or later, my father made investigations respecting the origin of his ancestors ; and my brother James states the following to be his recollections of my father's proceedings :—

McConnel and Kennedy, (cotton-spinners in Manchester,) had at that time three agents for the sale of yarn in Belfast. One of them was named William McConnell, and others John and William Hunter. This John Hunter lived much in Manchester, and my father had through these parties, and through parties living in Dublin, whom I remember seeing at his house, much facility for investigating about the McConnells of Ireland. I do not remember what facilities he had for investigating the Scotch origin of the McConnells, but he seems to have employed his Glasgow agent, Mr McGavin ; and I think it probable that his means for obtaining information in Scotland were much smaller than in Ireland.

My father also sought for information from the Herald Office in Edinburgh, and probably elsewhere in Scotland. In Ireland, in the north-eastern district, he found a large number of persons of the same name; and from the Dublin Herald Office he obtained copies of the armorial bearings of names bearing resemblance to his own, and then provisionally adopted the arms of O'Connell.

These investigations naturally modified his views as to the origin of his family. Tradition had pointed to a Highland origin; but after these investigations, he came to the conclusion that his ancestors had sprung from Ireland. Hence we cannot be surprised at the different impressions of his views which his two eldest sons retain. Henry distinctly remembers his father telling him that an unknown ancestor came over from Ireland into Cumberland, and thence into Galloway. James, on the contrary, in a letter to me, dated 1840, says:—

I remember my father telling me that nothing was known of his ancestors previous to the one who came from the Highlands. Tradition related that the latter lived for several days in the woods before he emerged in Galloway, and that his descendants did not attach any very honourable motives to his leaving the Highlands, and hiding himself in the woods.

James also informs me that he remembers that, in the later period of his father's life, the latter expressed doubts as to whether Scotland or Ireland were the birthplace of his ancestors. In February 1860, Mrs Mary Porter, daughter of Isabel M'Connell, daughter of James M'Connell of Hannaston, born A.D. 1729, told my brother James that her mother (Mrs Cairns) used to say that her great-grandfather M'Connell was a fugitive from the Highlands, and that the cause was probably religious persecution, he having been (she thought) a Nonconformist.

The following parish records, obtained by the writer this year, in the Register House, Edinburgh, throw some light upon the subject:—

PARISH OF TONGLAND, KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

Baptisms.

- 1695, Oct. 31, *Joan*, daughter of James M'Conel in Barncrosh.*
 1696, June 14, *Mary*, daughter of John M'Conel in Beoch.
 1698, Sept. 11, *Joseph*, son of John M'Conel in Beoch.
 1698, Sept. 11, *Samuel*, son of James M'Conel in Barncrosh.
 1702, May 15, *Andrew*, son of John M'Conel in Beoch.
 1702, June 9, *John*, son of James M'Connel in Dunjap.

As James and John had children baptized on the same day, and lived so near each other, the probability is that they were brothers. John M'Conel in Beoch had one other child, Samuel, not named in the parish record, (which does not go back beyond the year 1694,) who was married to Margaret M'Millan, and their first child, John, was born in 1715; therefore Samuel was born before the commencement of the parish record now preserved.

Beyond this John M'Conel in Beoch,† we have not been able to find any further direct clue to our origin. There are, however, many important facts which assist materially in removing the difficulties.

In a letter from Rev. George Murray, Manse of Balmacellan, to Thomas H. M'Connel, dated March 12, 1860, is the following remark:—

“I have looked over the Presbytery and Synod records in my possession, but to little purpose, as the name (M'Connel) does not occur at all, so far as I have been able to see, except in a petition to the Presbytery in reference to Mr John M'Millan, their minister, in a process pending before that court, and where it does occur. The date is December 28, 1703; and no fewer than five parties of the name of M'Connell subscribe it—three Roberts, a James, and an Alexander.”

* Chalmers' Caledonia—“Balmacross signifies in Irish, ‘the hamlet of the cross;’ now corrupted to Barncrosh.”

† “Two merks land of Beoch belonged to Robert Viscount of Kenmure, who became legal heir A.D. 1645, May 1.”—*Inquisitiones Ritornatorum Speciales*.

In Chalmers' Caledonia, p. 323 :—

Rev. John Macmillan was deposed by the Presbytery in 1703 ; he was the first minister of the Reformed Presbyterians.

In a minute-book, kept by the War Committee of the Covenanters in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in the years 1640 and 1641, published by J. Nicholson, Kirkcudbright, 1855, p. 55 :—

James M'Connell of Creoches, becomes actit in the Committie's will for not subscribing of the generall band. September 1640.

This was in the reign of Charles I., shortly after the institution of the National Covenant, the object of which was to resist Prelacy, and the Book of Common Prayer, which that king was endeavouring to force upon Scotland. The Covenanters took arms to support the principles which they had upheld, and for which so many had suffered martyrdom since the Reformation, A.D. 1560. This gave rise to the War Committee, who commenced their labours in 1639.

There is some difficulty in deciding as to the exact locality of Creoches. According to the Ordnance Map, Creoghs is in the parish of Balmaghie. In the Book of Retours (*Inquisitiones Ritornatorum*,) we find :—

A.D. 1611, April 30, Robert M'Ghie served heir to 16 solidatis terrarum Meikle and Lytill Creochis, parish Balmaghie.

1615, May 18, John M'Ghie, heir to the same land.

1658, Feb. 16, Alexander M'Ghie, „

1690, Oct. 21, William M'Ghie, „

On the other hand, in the same Book of Retours :—

1623, Oct. 23, Robert Mure becomes heir of his father, Ninian Mure, in respect of “20 solidatis terrarum de Over Creochis antiqui extentus, in parochia de Girtoun.”

In Blaeu's Atlas, published 1654, Nether Creoch, Over Creoch, and Creoch Burn, are in parish of Girthon ; and the water of the burn falls into the Fleet, between Castramont and Gatehouse.

In Blaeu's Atlas is Grenoch and Loch Grenoch, in the centre of Balmaghie parish.

Creoch in Girthon is only two or three miles south of Darngarroch, in Balmaghie.

It is important here to remark, that tenants were at this period distinguished by the preposition *in*, as John M'Conel *in* Beoch; and proprietors by *of*, as John Gordoun *of* Beoch.

It is, therefore, possible that James M'Connell was proprietor of Creoches; but whether by purchase or marriage, is not evident. Creoches does not appear to have been inherited by any of the name of M'Connell since this James M'Connell. All legal inheritance of property at this time is to be found in the Book of Retours, in which no M'Connell occurs in connexion with Kirkcudbright.

In Chalmers' Caledonia it is stated that—

“Maclellan and Macghie are both of Irish origin.”

The writer made a search into the following parish records for the shire of Kirkcudbright, in the Register House, Edinburgh:—

Parish of Kirkcudbright, the earliest record is A.D. 1743.

”	Borgue,	”	”	1742.
”	Rerwick,	”	”	1736.
”	Anwoth,	”	”	1727.
”	Balmaghie,	”	”	1768.
”	Kelton,	”	”	1717.
”	Crossmichael,	”	”	1751.
”	Parton,	”	”	1714.
”	Kells,	”	”	1693.
”	Balmaclellan,	”	”	1747.
”	Twynholm,	”	”	1694.
”	Minnigaff,	”	”	1694.
”	Girthon,	”	”	1699.
”	Kirkmabreck,	”	”	1703.
”	Tongland,	”	”	1694.

The following are the parish records of all the male M'Connells that could have been contemporaries of John M'Connell, in Beoch, about the year 1700 :—

MINNIGAFF PARISH.

Marriage.

1702, June —, James M'Connell, in the parish of Bar,* and Helen M'Tier.

Baptisms.

1705, July 12, *Agnes*, daughter to Alexander M'Conall and Jean Rowan.

1705, Dec. 30, *Margaret*, daughter to John M'Quhonle and Janet Cunningham.

WIGTONSHIRE.—KIRKINNER PARISH.

Married.

1708, Dec. 7, John M'Candlish and Margaret M'Connell, daughter to Hugh M'Connel, in Barness.

1713, July 18, John M'Clelland to Elspey Connel, daughter to umqll Alexander M'Connel, in Sorbie.†

GLASSERTON PARISH.

Baptized.

1701, Aug. 31, *John*, son to Adam Connel and Janet Fie.

1718, March 30, *Alexander*, son to William Connel and wife Jean.

Married.

1707, Feb. 8, John M'Conel, in Whithorn, and Agnes Bell, in this parish.

1710, Nov. 24, Alexander M'Connel,‡ in Sorbie, and Helen Gilkison, in this parish.

SORBIE.

Married.

1701, Nov. 1, Andrew M'Connell, in the Milne of Whitehills, and Elizabeth M'Goune, lately his servitrix.

1710, Nov. 24, Alexander M'Connell, weaver, in Buffhouse of Balsire, and

* Bar is in Ayrshire.

† Possibly the same as Alexander M'Conall, in Minnigaff.

‡ The same as Alexander M'Connel, in Kirkinner.

Helen Gilchriston, in Glasserton, (no doubt the same Alexander as in Glasserton, and, probably, as in Kirkinner and Minnigaff.)

1714, Nov. 5, John M^cConnell, in Whithorn,* and Elizabeth Carson, in Balltore.

Baptized.

1708, Children to Patrick M^cKonnald and Helen M^cIlroe.

KIRKMAIDEN.

Died.

1720, Jo. M^cConnel, in Crichen.

PENNINGHAM.

Baptized.

1705, Aug. 9, *Jean*, daughter to John M^cConnell and Jean Gordon.

Thus the males of the name of M^cConnell, who lived in the year 1700, and are mentioned in the parish and synod records of Galloway, do not exceed sixteen or eighteen.

In Carrick, Ayrshire, however, the following are contemporaries :—

KIRKMICHAEL.

Married.

1695, June 18, William M^cWhommell, in this parish, and Helen M^cRorie, do.

STRAITON.

Baptized.

1675, Jan. 10, *Joan*, daughter to David M^cQuhonell and Helen Ord.

1677, Jan. 26, *James*, son to Thomas M^cConell and Elizabeth Stewart.

KIRKOSWALD.

Baptized.

1694, Oct. 25, *John*, son to John M^cCunall, in Ruglane.

* Probably the same as John, in Glasserton, having been twice married.

BARR.

Baptized.

- 1691, *John*, } sons to Andrew M^cConnell.
 1694, *David*, }
 1704, —, son to James M^cConnell.
 1712, —, son to John M^cConnell.

DALMELLINGTON.

Baptism.

- 1656, *John*, son to John M^cQuhonnell, in the Claquagan.

The parish records in Carrick give about twelve more male contemporaries of the name of M^cConnell, making in Galloway and Carrick about thirty.

These records shew distinctly that there were many families of M^cConnells in existence at the time of our ancestor John in Beoch, and in neighbouring parishes and districts; therefore it is scarcely credible that that ancestor should have come from the Highlands, or could have himself been a fugitive from the Highlands. There is every probability that, for a few generations at all events, his ancestors were born and lived in the south-west of Scotland.

John M^cConnell in Beoch was married to Miss M^cClellan, who was no doubt a member of one of the families of that name which held so high a position in Galloway. The farm he occupied was not a small one. His marriage and his occupation would tend to shew that he was not a fugitive there, but was well known and esteemed. The Book of Retours mentions the following proprietors of Nether Crae, from which farm Miss M^cClellan came:—

1611, April 20, Robert M^cGhie becomes heir to 2½ merks land of Over and Nether Craik.

1615, May 18, John M^cGhie, Over and Nether Crayes.

1658, Feb. 16, Alexander M^cGhie, „

1690, Oct. 21, William M^cGhie, „

There is abundant proof that persons of the name of M^cConnell existed in Galloway and Carrick at a much earlier period. I have already mentioned James M^cConnell of Croches ; this is the earliest of the name in Galloway, and of his antecedents I can find no account.

In Carrick, the following parish records give ample proof of this :—

KIRKMICHAEL.

Baptisms.

- 1649, Feb. 1, *Margaret*, daughter to John M^cQuhonnall. Witness, Go. Kennedy.
 1653, March 13, *Jennot*, daughter to John M^cQuhanuell. Witnesses, Richard Kennedy and Thomas Fultoun.
 1663, Feb. 15, *Margaret*, daughter to William M^cQhonnall.
 1666, Feb. 4, *Marion*, daughter to William M^cWhonnall, in Burnside.
 1669, Sept. 19, *John*, son to Wm. M^cWhoynall.
 1686, Dec. 5, *William M^cConoall*, witness to a baptism.

Marriages.

- 1640, May 24, Archibald M^cColl, Kirkmichael, and Margaret M^cOnnoll, Maybole.
 1648, April 22, John M^cRenkyn, in this parish, and Marion M^cConnell in parish of Daillie (?)
 1662, Aug. 22, James M^cConnall and Katharin M^cGzean, both in Straiton parish, having brought a testimonial of y^r being there lawfully proclaimed, married at this kirk, August 22, 1662.
 1695, June 18, William M^cWhonnell, in this parish, and Helen M^cRorie, do.
 1697, April 22, Arthur Fultone in this parish, and Marion M^cCounel, do.

STRAITON.

Baptized.

- 1649, Dec. 12, *Mary*, daughter to John M^cConall, in Staneshaw, and Margaret M^cCurzte (?) his spouse.
 1672, July 21, *Margrate*, daughter to David M^cQuhonnell and Helen Or, his spouse.
 1673, Jan. —, *Marrianne*, daughter to Thomas M^cConell and Elizabeth —, lawfully begotten.
 1675, Jan. 10, *Joan*, daughter to David M^cQuhonell and Heleu Ord.
 1674, Dec. 11, *John*, son to John M^cAdam and Mary M^cQuhonell.
 1675, Feb. 11, *Joan*, daughter to Thomas M^cConell and Elizabeth Stewart.
 1675, Jan. 26, *James*, son to ditto.

Married.

1664, Dec. 1, David M^cGhonnell and Helen Or, both parishioners lawfully married.

1676, April 8, — M^cGullad and Margrate M^cQuhonell.

KIRKOSWALD.

Baptized.

1694, Oct. 25, *John*, son to John M^cCunall, in Rnglane.

Married.

1695, June 28, John M^cConnell, parish of Daly, and Margaret Abercrombie in this parish.

BARR.

In the Session record, 1653, Robert M^cConnell.

Do. 1654, Janet M^cConnell.

Married.

1689, March 16, Hngh M^cAlexander and Issobel M^cConnell.

Baptized.

1691, March 26, *John*, son to Andrew M^cConnell.

1694, Feb. 18, *David*, do.

1704, Feb. 13, *John*, son to James M^cConnell.

1712, Oct. —, *Gilbert*, son to John M^cConnell.

DALMELLINGTON.

Baptized.

1643, July 17, *John*, son to John MaConnel.

1641, Nov. 14, *Thomas*, son to John M^cQuhonnell.

1656, —, *John*, son to John M^cQuhonnell, in the Claquagan (Clachan ?)

Proclaimed for Marriage.

1646, John M^cQuhonnell and Margaret M^cMillan.

1660, July 15, John M^cOnnell, in parish of Barr, and Jannet M^cAdam.

In session records, 1641, March 21 :—

P^{rt} M^cQuhonnell, appointed by the Session to be — (?) officer.

The records of the following parishes were searched, without any result, viz. :—

Ayr, commencing in	A.D.	1664.
Dalrymple,	" "	1699.
Ballantrae,	" "	1778.
Colmonell,	" "	1759.
Girvan,	" "	1733.

In the "Cloud of Witnesses," page 352, among the list of banished is James M'Connell, parish of Straiton, in the year 1679. He was one of the prisoners taken at the battle of Bothwell Brig, and kept exposed, with many others, to the severity of the weather in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh, for several months. There were 250 prisoners, in November 1679, put on board a small vessel in Leith, with the professed intention of transporting them to America. They were kept in the hold, where there was barely standing room, and wrecked at a place called the Murehead of Darkness, near Orkney.* Only fifty of these escaped; the rest were drowned—many of them pushed back into the sea by soldiers with long poles, whilst struggling to get ashore. James M'Connell was among the drowned, and thus became one of the noble band of martyrs for the sacred cause he held so dear.

A search into the records of the University of Glasgow for any of the name of M'Connell who may have matriculated there, shews the following result:—

MUNIMENTA UNIVERSIT. GLASG., VOL. III., p. 150.

James M'Connell, (Scotus,) Feb. 29, 1692, disciple of 3d class, under Master John Law.

VOL. III., p. 534.

Thomas M'Connell paid for his first quarter xx lib.

Entered 25th Dec.; went away 10th April 1643, in the reign of Charles I.; boarder.

* See also Wodrow's "History of the Church of Scotland."

In a book in the Edinburgh Subscription Library, called "*Inquisitiones Generales*," are these entries :—

1640, Feb. 17, Agneta M^cConnell, heir of Alexander M^cConnell, "mercator burgensis" of Air, her father.

1631, July 14, Rodericus Dingwall, hæres portionarius Celestini M^cConnell, avi proaviae.

A copy of the will of the above Alexander M^cConnell, in the Register House, Edinburgh, shews the following particulars :—

Alexander M^cConnell, merchand, burges of Air, 25th Aug. 1627.—Agnes M^cConnell, lawful daughter and only executrix, and Agnes Bristwood, his spouse.

To Janet M^cConnell, natural daughter, 600 merks, on condition that it should return to Agnes, in case Janet shall decease without children.

To James M^cConnell, (a relation but not a son), 20 merks.

To John M^cConnell, weaver, an old suit of clothes.

In the Registry of Commissary Records of Glasgow, Edinburgh Register House, are the testaments of—

William M^cConnell, in Hacath, parish of Paslay, 18th Feb. 1612.

David Connell, in Beltreis, parish of Loichwinzeoch, 25th Nov. 1606.

Mairtein M^cConnell, in Lytill Trolorge, whin the parochia of Girvan, 4th July 1605.

Fergus, his son, is executor in behalf of Patrick, John, Janet, and Agnes.

There were rents due to Janet Kennedye, Lady Pinkhill. She was third daughter of the laird of Bargany, and married Adam Boyd of Pinkhill, Dailly, Ayrshire. Adam Boyd succeeded his father prior to A.D. 1530.—*Paterson's "Ayrshire Families."*

Besseta Makquhonill, relicta Rogeri Gordoune, Stratune, 7th Apl. 1551.

There is a volume published by the Maitland Club in the Edinburgh Subscription Library, entitled, "Register of Ministers, Exhorters, and Readers, and of their Stipends, after the period of the Reformation." It is taken from the earliest official document of the kind that is known to exist; and supplemented from the "Book of Assignation," or of the

Platt, for the year 1576, being the earliest of those now preserved in the General Register House. Additions from the latter are marked (+). The following is taken from the original manuscript :—

CARRIK.—DALMELLINGTON.

John Makconnell, reidar, xx^{ti} Nov. 1571.

David Cathcart, vicare and reidar, the hail vicarage, extending to Nov. 1572.

At this time, at the Convention of Commissioners, were present—

David Lindsay, Commiss^r of Kyle, Carrick, and Cunningham.

Baron Thomas Kennedie of Barganie.*

The appointment of John Makconnell, as reidar, or scripture reader, in 1571, eleven years after the Scottish Reformation, is the farthest trace of any male M'Connell in the south-western district of Scotland. He was certainly a person of better education than the common people in the parish, as his appointment shews, and was also zealous in the cause of the Reformed and Protestant religion, and no doubt well-informed in the points of controversy. It is probable, therefore, that he came from some other district where there were schools, or from a monastery or abbey, having first seen good reason to join in the great religious movement of that period ; and it is quite possible that he was the first male of the name who settled in Ayrshire. There is no proof of this, however, and it must therefore remain an open question.

In one of the Bannatyne Club works, entitled, Pitcairn's " Family of Kennedy," in the Appendix, No. VI., taken from Sir James Balfour, Lyon King-at-Arms, with considerable additions by Sir Robert Sibbald, printed from a MS. in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, the following passages occur, page 186 :—

* Acts of Parliament of Scotland, vol. ii., p. 607, and vol. iii., p. 2.

"Corsreguall, sometyme a cell of the Abey of Pasley, founded by Duncan Mackoneill, Earle of Carricke, in anno salutis 1246."

"Nigel, (or Neil,) son of Duncan Earl of Carrick, grants to Rolland and his heirs the bailliary of Carrick, with the command of the militia under the Earl, and likewise the chieftaincy of his family; which grant King Alexander III., A.D. 1275-76, confirms. It is ratified by Robert II., A.D. 1372, to the family of Kennedy, who ever after this assumed the name of Kennedy."—*Nesbit*.

"Roland was son of Uchtred, nephew of Gilbert, father of Duncan."

"Marjory, daughter of Nigel, married Robert Bruce, whose son was afterwards King of Scotland."—*Nicholson's History of Galloway*, p. 175.

Duncan Earl of Carrick was son of Gilbert, son of Fergus Lord of Galloway; but history does not give the origin of Fergus. It is possible that he was of the family of O'Neill, descendants of the great King Neill of the Nine Hostages, in the North of Ireland; but of this there is no evidence. Other historians mention no other name than Duncan Earl of Carrick, and there is great doubt as to the correctness of the surname Mackoneill. No argument, therefore, can with any propriety be brought to shew that the name of M'Connell is derived from Mackoneill.

In Nicholson's "History of Galloway," Appendix, Vol. II., is a very excellent description of Galloway, written by Andrew Symson in the end of the seventeenth century; also notes, by Sir James Balfour and Sir James Sibbald, from a manuscript in Advocates' Library; also Macfarlane MSS. in Advocates' Library, Jac. V. There are other interesting manuscripts printed in the same appendix; but in none does the name of M'Connell occur.

The name of MacDowall is frequently mentioned. This is also written MacDoual and MacDougall. This family is of very ancient origin in Galloway; but the name of M'Connell, though somewhat similar, cannot be the same.

Murray's "Literary History of Galloway" makes no mention of the name of M'Connell.

The author has in his possession a pamphlet printed in October 1699, which was "transcribed from the original copy, wrote by Mr Archibald Porteous, a young man who attended Lady Hundalee from Scotland to London." The title-page is as follows :—

"The Spiritual Exercise of Soul and Blessed Departure of Dame Mary Rutherford, Lady Hundaly, and Mary M^cKonnel, cousin to the said Lady ; which fell out in the year 1640. Both died in London."

Hundalee is in Roxburghshire, and the property of the family of Rutherford. In this neighbourhood, and from a branch of the same family, was born Samuel Rutherford, the celebrated divine, who was minister in Anwoth, near Kirkcubright, at this time, A.D. 1640.

This pamphlet gives evidence that Mary MacKonnel was a true servant of Christ, and a warm and earnest adherent to the Scottish Kirk, as it then was in its troublous times ; as she says—

"Oh, that I might live to see the Scottish Kirk's delivery ! I would desire only to live a year after, to sing praises to Him whose right hand has done valiantly, &c."

We have thus seen that the M'Connells were numerous in Galloway and Carrick previous to the year 1700, and in the latter district one of the name lived as far back as 1571. It is probable that the M'Connells in these neighbouring districts were distantly connected.

In Minnigaff parish, a marriage took place between James M'Connell, from the parish of Barr, in Carrick, and Helen M'Tier, A.D. 1702.

In Dalmellington, A.D. 1646, there was a proclamation of marriage between John M'Quhonnell and Margaret M'Millan.

In Balmaghie, Samuel, son of John M'Connell in Beoch, married Margaret M'Millan, on or before the year 1714.

There is no proof of this connexion, however, although tradition points to the probability of this having been the case.

Mr Mc'Connell, George Street, Edinburgh, now eighty-four years of age, says that he was born in Ayr, and has often heard of Mc'Connells in Galloway, and has a strong conviction that they were formerly connected with those in Ayrshire. My brother James also has a distinct recollection that my father paid a visit to Ayrshire many years ago, to some distant relations of the same name.

In endeavouring still further to find some clue to the ancestors of John Mc'Connell in Beoch, the author wrote to Mr George Hamilton, Steward Clerk, Kirkcudbright, to search for any of the name in the Commissary Records there, (these records contain transfers of personal property by testament or otherwise), from A.D. 1740 back for sixty years. In April 1860, the answer received was, that after examination of all the books in his possession he had found no trace of the name, but that he suspected one inventory of documents was missing; also, that beyond that period the handwriting is so illegible that no one there was able to read the old characters.

I have already stated that it was my father's impression, from tradition, that his ancestor in Beoch lived for several days in the woods before he emerged in Galloway; also, that Mrs Cairns (my father's sister) believed that the same ancestor was a fugitive from the Highlands, and considered the cause to have been religious persecution, he having been a Nonconformist, as she thought. From the period in which he lived, and the proofs already given that some of the name shewed strong sympathy with the Covenanters, it is reasonable to suppose that he, as well as most others in that district, were the subjects of persecution.

We have evidence that James Mc'Connell, from the parish of Straiton, suffered death from his zeal in the cause of the Covenanters in 1679;

also that Mary MacKonnell was a zealous Christian Reformer and Covenantant.

In the year 1703, there were five M'Connells who signed their names to a petition in connexion with the Rev. John M'Millan in Balmaghie.

All the parishes in which the many M'Connells lived in Galloway, prior to the year 1700, were in the midst of these persecutions between 1640 and 1689. This district was the scene of the labours of many very excellent divines, who boldly upheld the principles of the Reformation, and whose piety and noble self-sacrifice gained the affection of their parishioners.

About the year 1640, there was the well-known Samuel Rutherford in Anwoth, John M'Clelland in Kirkcudbright, John Livingstone in Stranraer, and Robert Blair in Ayr. The three latter came over to Scotland in the year 1638, being driven from their charges in Antrim by the Bishop of Down. Many Presbyterian families left the north of Ireland at the same time, owing to the keen persecutions there, and settled in Galloway and Ayrshire.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND. By James Seaton Reid, 1834. Vol. I., p. 205.

"The western parts of Scotland became at this period, A.D. 1637, a seasonable asylum for the oppressed people in Ulster. Many attempts were, indeed, made by the Scottish bishops, now in the plenitude of their power, to prevent this influx of persons, whom they knew to be opposed to their arrogant authority; but without success. Numbers removed thither, compelled to abandon Ireland, where fines and other punishments began to be inflicted without mercy on the non-conforming laity. These strangers in their native land sojourned principally in the shires of Ayr and Galloway, where they were harboured, and many of them kindly entertained by the faithful people of that country. The celebrated David Dickson, minister at Irvine, afterwards a distinguished ornament and pillar of the Church of Scotland, was conspicuous for his attentions to the exiled brethren."

PAGE 220.

"The following ministers were settled in charges in their native country, shortly after their flight from Ireland:—Early in the year 1638, Mr Blair was

chosen colleague to Mr William Annan, at Ayr, whence he was subsequently removed to St Andrews. Mr Livingston was, in the month of July following, admitted minister of Stranraer, from which he was, ten years afterwards, transported to Ancrum, in Teviotdale. Mr James Hamilton was settled at Dumfries, whence he was removed to Edinburgh. Mr Dunbar was installed minister at Calder, in Lothian ; and Mr Colvert settled at Paisley. Mr McClelland, who had been admitted to the ministry in Ireland, was obtained in Kirkcudbright ; and Mr John Semple, who had also preached occasionally in Ulster, became minister of Carsphairn, in Galloway. Mr Samuel Row was ordained as colleague to Mr Henry Macgill, at Dunfermline ; and Mr Robert Hamilton was settled at Ballantrae, in Ayrshire. These nine ministers were zealous promoters of the subscribing of the National Covenant, and of the other measures by which the triumph of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland was ultimately secured."

PAGE 222.

"Several of these ministers, being settled on the western coast of Scotland, had frequent communication with Ulster ; and so great was the veneration in which they were held, that many of their former hearers removed to Scotland, with no other view than to enjoy their ministry. Great numbers usually went over from Ireland at the stated celebration of the communion ; and, on one occasion, five hundred persons, principally from the county of Down, visited Stranraer, to receive that ordinance from the hands of Mr Livingston. The same minister relates that, at another time, he baptized eight-and-twenty children, brought over for that purpose by their parents, unwilling to receive sealing ordinances from the prelatical clergy of Ireland."

PAGE 242.

"Wentworth, in pursuance of his precautionary plans for preventing the Scots in Ulster from joining in the Covenant, or opposing in any way the designs of the King, had recourse to an expedient more illegal in its character, and more oppressive in its effects, than any which he had yet adopted. This was the imposition, on all the northern Scots, A.D. 1639, of an oath, styled, from the dismal calamities which it occasioned, *the Black Oath*, in which they were compelled to swear, never to oppose any of the King's commands, and to abjure all covenants and oaths, contrary to the tenor of this unconditional engagement."

PAGE 247.

"Contrary to the expectations of Wentworth, great numbers refused to take the oath in the unqualified form in which it was proposed. None of them had the least hesitation to swear, in the terms of the former part, expressive of bearing true and faithful allegiance to his Majesty. But they conscientiously and firmly

refused to take the latter part, by which they would have been bound to yield an unconditional obedience to all his royal commands, whether civil or religious, just or unjust, constitutional or unconstitutional. On these individuals the highest penalties of the law, short of death, were unsparingly inflicted, frequently under circumstances of extreme cruelty. Thus, pregnant women were forced to travel considerable distances to the places appointed by the commissioners. If they hesitated to attend, and, still more, if they scrupled to swear, they were treated in a barbarous manner; so that crowds of defenceless females fled to the woods, and concealed themselves in caves to escape their merciless persecutors. Respectable persons, untainted with crime, were bound together with chains, and immured in dungeons. Several were dragged to Dublin, and fined in exorbitant sums; while multitudes fled to Scotland, leaving their houses and properties to certain ruin."

APPENDIX No. I., p. 427.

"Diocese of Raphoe, the bishop was Knox; and in Stranorlar parish, the minister was Robert Connell, M.A., A.D. 1622."

The language spoken in and before the seventeenth century was Gaelic or Irish. In Chalmers' Caledonia, p. 240:—

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

"The Irish was the common language of Galloway, long after the epoch of the old extent. Buchanan speaks of the Gaelic language being spoken in his time. Tradition states it to have continued till the Revolution, A.D. 1688."

The following geographical distribution of the names Connal, Connall, Connel, Connell, M'Connel, M'Connell, Macdonald, M'Donald, Macdonnell, M'Donnell, O'Connell, &c., has been carefully made by James M'Connel, of Manchester, (my brother,) and throws considerable light on this subject. And, though only true for this year 1860; still, with some exceptions, somewhat similar results would probably have been obtained one hundred and fifty years ago. These exceptions are, perhaps, the large towns, to which there has been a constant stream of emigration for the last century.

The entries are collected from the Directories found in the Manchester Royal Exchange. In the Directories *one* person is sometimes entered two or three times; for instance, as butcher, as grocer, and as spirit-dealer

respectively. In other cases, a firm of two or three persons of the same name are in *one* entry. Again, there are sometimes two or three entries of the same person, in his individual capacity, and as partner in different firms. The name of the firm of Macdonald of Glasgow, sewed-muslin manufacturers, is entered in almost every town in several counties of Ulster, though none of the firm live in Ireland. The following list comprises only those entries in which individuals are specified:—

Localities.	Connell.	M'Connell.	Macdonald.	Macdonnell.	O'Connell.	Authorities.
Argyleshire	3	—	22	—	—	Slater—Scotland.
Bute, Arran, &c.	1	—	—	—	—	" "
Skye, Egg, Rasa, Rona, &c.	—	—	27	—	—	" "
Remainder of Inver- ness-shire }	—	—	64	2	—	" "
Aberdeen Town	—	1	27	—	—	" "
Edinburgh City	2	2	67	2	1	" "
Ayrshire	1	9	15	1	—	" "
Kirkcudbrightshire . . .	—	3	2	—	—	" "
Wigtonshire	—	1	3	—	—	" "
Dumfriesshire	5	1	5	—	—	" "
Glasgow Town	11	8	98	2	—	" "
Gentry in all Scotland .	4	4	56	4	—	" "
Belfast	2	17	4	6	—	Slater, 1857.
Eighteen other towns } in Ulster* }	3	29	55†	7	2	" "
Nine towns in Connaught	3	1	2	23	—	" "
Dublin City	13	6	29	68	14	Thom's Almanack, 1857.
Ten other towns in } Leinster }	—	1	13	10	1	Slater, 1857.
Cork Town	20	—	2	13	15	" "
Limerick Town	4	—	—	10	9	" "

* The M'Connells in Ulster are thus distributed:—Belfast 17; three towns in Antrim, 7; four towns in Armagh, 7; two towns in Donegal, 2; four towns in Down, 8; one town in Fermanagh, 1; two towns in Londonderry, 2; one town in Monaghan, 1; one town in Tyrone, 1. † Several of these are one Glasgow firm, resident in Scotland.

Localities.	Connell.	M'Connell.	Macdonald.	Macdonnell.	O'Connell.	Authorities.
Tipperary Town . . .	2	—	—	—	—	Slater, 1857.
Waterford Town . . .	—	—	2	1	1	"
Twenty-one other towns } in Munster . . . }	11	1	6	16	18	"
Clergy Est. Ch. Ireland .	1	—	1	5	—	Thom's Almanack.
" Rom. Cath. do. . .	—	1	6	6	19	"
" Presbyterian do. . .	—	—	—	1	—	"
Barristers-at-law . . .	—	—	—	5	3	"
Liverpool*	7	10	70	7	4	Gore's Liv. 1859.
Manchester*	15	23	77	13	3	Slater, 1858.
Bristol	—	—	—	1	—	"
London	—	1	39	10	—	Post-Office Directory.
Wales	—	—	—	—	—	Slater, 1859.

Thus it will be seen that in Scotland there are scarcely any M'Connells, except in the south-west and Glasgow, whilst in Ireland they are almost confined to the north-east. The large towns, as Liverpool, Manchester, and Dublin, do not furnish any argument, because the M'Connells have settled there, for the purpose of trade, probably within the last century.

I must now depart from facts, and try to penetrate the mists of tradition.

Mr M'Connell, George Street, Edinburgh, before mentioned, now aged eighty-four, was born in Ayr, and afterwards lived in Glasgow. He says his father and grandfather were born in and lived principally near Belfast.

* These two Directories are fuller than any of the others, giving the names even of labourers.

He knows other M'Connells in Ayrshire, and is quite certain that the father of the present Mr Primrose M'Connell, near Ayr, (who had a brother a merehant in Glasgow, with whom he, the deponent, was intimate,) came from near Belfast also. He says, also, that those in Galloway are of the same blood as those in Ayrshire, and that he knew some in Galloway long ago; that there were other M'Connells in Ayrshire who lived there before his time, but he believed them all to be of the same origin; also that the M'Connells were well made and active, not tall, but of fair height, and had fresh complexions. There is no doubt that all these characteristics are represented in his own person.

The following interesting information was given by Mr William M'Connell, wine-merchant in Liverpool, to the brother of the writer, Thomas H. M'Connell, Manchester, March 1860:—

“My father and unele now reside in Dailly, Ayrshire. My father is cousin to the father of Mr M'Connell, of the London and North-Western Railway. My father has resided on the same spot for seventy years. I believe my grandfather came from Kirkmichael, or Straiton, or from Kells, in Galloway. I think they had some connexion with all three places. There is a sort of tradition, however, that they came originally from Anstruther, (*I think in Fifeshire.*) The Belfast M'Connells are nearly all relations of mine, having gone from Dailly, and were descendants of my grandfather, who settled there. I have several cousins in Glasgow; but I know nothing for a fact beyond my grandfather. My father recollects an uncle of his from a distance coming and staying some time with him, and he thinks he probably came from Kells. My crest of cross croset fitchie in dexter hand was obtained by a silversmith from a book of crests, under the name of M'Connell.”

This account is imperfect, and rather confused. Mr W. M'Connell evidently has no trace beyond his grandfather, who settled in Belfast. From his statement there would be some difficulty in establishing any fact; but there is an interesting connexion pointed out between the families of the same name in Ayrshire and Galloway.

The following letter, written by J. E. M'Connell, Esq., engineer,

Wolverton Park, February 8, 1860, to James M'Connell, Manchester, gives apparently quite a different origin :—

“ I have been making inquiries relative to the subject of your letter. I have sent your note to my uncle, Mr Primrose M'Connell in Ayrshire, who is learned in ancestry.

The crest of our family is an arm holding a cross croslet, with the motto, ‘*Prêt, toujours prêt*’—‘Ready, aye ready!’ The coat-of-arms, I believe, is the same, or nearly so, as the MacDonalds of the Isles, from which (the parent stock of the great sept of MacDonalds) we claim our descent—M'Connell and M'Donald being in Gaelic the same name, in fact.

I believe my family came originally from Cantyre, where the M'Connells held considerable property at one time, though my uncle cannot trace so far back. I cannot go farther back than my great-grandfather, Quentin M'Connell, who lived near Dalry, in Ayrshire, on a farm which was held by his son, my grandfather, till within the last thirty years. My father was an engineer, and consequently it was given up—he having established a business of his own.

Your family, *I think*, came from Ayrshire, from the head waters of the Doon or Girvan, into Kirkcudbright.”

This letter distinctly shews the tradition of Highland descent ; also that our branch of the M'Connells probably came from Ayrshire previously to being in Galloway.

Mr M'Connell, of George Street, Edinburgh, says that this family came from near Belfast, as did his own ; therefore it is probable that the tradition of Cantyre is of a time long previous to their coming to Ayrshire.

The following letter was written by W. R. M'Connell, Esq., 1 King's Bench Walk, Inner Temple, London, March 31, 1860, to James M'Connell, Manchester :—

“ I have been favoured by a Belfast gentleman, who is acquainted with some of my friends in that town, with a letter from you on the subject of the arms proper to the name of M'Connell. I have been for some time interested in the search, which has not been attended with success. As to the name, there is no doubt that it is the same as M'Donald. In fact, it seems to be the older form of the word ; and in all histories the two forms are constantly mixed up together.

M'Connell has been supposed to be a form used and originated by the English, from the fact, I suppose, that the descendants of Angus M'Donnell, whose territory was seized by Sorley Boy M'Donnell, (killed in 1565,) were called M'Connell.

I cannot, unless in Ireland, trace my ancestry beyond three generations back ; and these all lived in County Down. The impression on my mind is, that tradition ascribes our origin to Scotland ; but I am by no means certain.

The names are, therefore, so much mixed up and confused, that I believe no arms have ever been registered distinct from M'Donnell."

The crest of this W. R. M'Connell is an arm holding a cross croslet fitchie.

In searching back from the time of John Makconnell, 1571, there is no mention of any of the name in any part of the south-west of Scotland, until we reach Saint Connel, who flourished about A.D. 1013, in Dumfriesshire, (Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. iii., p. 149.)

" Connel or Conel is merely an abbreviation of Congel."

This St Connel, who was a Culdee, a follower of St Columba, founded several chapels, called Kirkconnel ; there was one in Kirkeudbrightshire, and several in Dumfriesshire.

From the former absence of every name resembling M'Connell in the south-west of Scotland ; the distinct tradition of several families that they had come to Ayrshire or Galloway from the Highlands or Ireland ; and the evidence which will be brought before the reader in this work, that M'Connells were numerous and powerful both in the West Highlands and in the north-east of Ireland, we are, I think, shut up to the conclusion, that the M'Connells were not indigenous to the south-west of Scotland.

I have already stated that our ancestors before John M'Connell in Beoch, in all probability, were born, and lived for a few generations, in the south-west of Scotland ; and that the tradition, that *he himself* was a fugitive from the Highlands, is not altogether correct. But still, this tradition, especially when supported by that of other M'Connell

families, both in Scotland and Ireland, enables the writer to conclude with less hesitation, that, however scattered the various branches may have been in more recent times, *the name M'Connell originated in the Highlands of Scotland.*

Since 1817, the time when my father endeavoured to ascertain the origin of his family, many valuable works have been published, which throw a good deal of light on these remote periods, and which prove that both of the views which my father held—viz., the Highland and Irish origin—though apparently contradictory, are not really so.

From A.D. 1400 to about A.D. 1615, the clan Ian-Vor, who possessed Cantyre and Isla, in the West Highlands, and the Glens in Antrim, was a powerful branch of the Clan Donuill-nan-Eillean, and bore the names both of Macdonald and M'Connell.

Before entering upon the proofs of this, the writer proposes to give a brief account of the history of the Macdonalds of the Isles.

CHAPTER II.

THE early history of the Macdonalds is very vague ; and authors differ very materially as to their origin. On account of the general clearness of Donald Gregory, one of the Scottish antiquaries, I shall mention briefly his views on this subject, as expressed in his work on "The Highlands, Isles, and Clans," published, A.D. 1836 :—

"In the beginning of the sixth century, a new people was added to the inhabitants of Scotland, north of Forth and Clyde ; for at that period, the Irish-Scots, frequently called the *Dalriads*, effected a settlement in the western districts of the Highlands. In the ninth century, a revolution took place, the result of which was the nominal union of most of the tribes under Kenneth MacAlpin, King of the Scottish or Dalriadic race, and the consequent spread of the name of Scotland over the whole country. However this important event might affect the population of the rich and fertile Lowlands, it seems perfectly clear that the Dicaledones, or Picts, who formed the bulk of the Highland population in these early times, were secured from any sweeping change by the rugged nature of the country they inhabited. In these Dicaledones, therefore, we see the ancestors of the great mass of the modern Highlanders, excepting those of Argyleshire ; among whom, in all probability, the Dalriadic blood predominated. The name of Albanich, which, as far back as we can trace, is the proper appellation of the Scottish Highlanders, seems to prove their descent from that tribe which gave to Britain its earliest name of Albion.

The change produced in the original population of the Western Isles by the influx of the Scots—a cognate Celtic race—was, however, trifling, compared with that which followed the first settlements of the Scandinavians in the Isles, towards the end of the ninth century."

ANNALS OF THE FOUR MASTERS, p. 363.

"The Celts, according to Josephus and other ancient historians, were the

descendants of *Gomer*, one of the sons of Japhet, and hence called *Gomerites* and *Gomerians*. They were the aborigines, or first inhabitants of Europe after the deluge; and were called by the Greeks *Keltoi*, and by the Romans *Celtæ*. In the Celtic or Irish language, the name was *Cealtach*; which O'Brien, in his Dictionary, considers to be derived from *coill* or *caill*, a wood; hence *Coillteach* or *Cealtach* may signify a Celt, or inhabitant of woods. The Celts first inhabited those parts on the borders of Europe and Asia about the Euxine Sea, and thence spread over Western Europe, and the countries afterwards called Germany, Gaul, Italy, Iberia or Spain, Britain, and Ireland.

The Galls were the chief nation of the Celts. They were called in the Gaulish and Irish languages *Gall* and *Gaill*, and *Gaillteach*, all apparently derived from the word *Ceallteach* or *Geallteach*, signifying Celts; and the term Gael appears to be derived from the same source."

The following interesting particulars on this subject are taken from "Popular Tales of the West Highlands." By J. F. Campbell. 1860. Introduction, p. cx. :—

"The West Highlanders speak a language which is almost identical with the Irish of the north of Ireland, and they are the same people. The dialect of Irish, which varies most from Scotch Gaelic, is clearly but another form of the same tongue. Manks is another. And these three are closely related to Welsh and Breton, though the difference is very much greater. One who knows Gaelic well can make himself understood throughout the Highlands as freely as an Englishman can in England, though he may speak with a Northumbrian burr, or a west country twang, or like a true Cockney.

These form the Celtic clan—the people of the west of Scotland, the Irish, the Manks, the Welsh, and the Breton.

The Gael were represented as fair and rosy-cheeked, large-chested, active, and brave.

The Gael were followed by Kimri or Cimbri, a kindred people of a darker complexion, speaking a kindred language; and their descendants are supposed to be the Welsh and Bretons.

A people, known to their neighbours as Cimmerii, Gimiri, or probably Gomerini, attained a considerable power in Western Asia and Eastern Europe within the period indicated by the dates, B.C. 800–600, or even earlier. These people are traced to the inhabitants of Wales; and Gael and Cymri are admitted by all to be *Κελτοι*; and still keep up their old character for pugnacity by quarrelling over their pedigrees."

PAGE CXXVI.

"The Gaelic language is the same, from Cape Clear, in Ireland, to Cape Wrath, in Scotland, though there are many dialects, and there is much variety. I can converse freely in Lorn Gaelic with Scotch Highlanders in every district of Scotland; and with natives of Rathlin. I can make my way with natives of the North of Ireland; but I cannot converse with the natives of some Irish districts. I could not make the Mankmen understand me; but I can readily understand most of the words in Manks and in Irish when pronounced separately. There are a very great many words in Welsh and in Breton which I can understand or trace when they are separately spoken; but the difference in these is much wider. The author of a very good dictionary says, under the word COIG, that in the islands of Argyleshire every word is pronounced just as Adam spoke it. Dr Johnson pronounced the whole to be the rude speech of a barbarous people; and the Saxon knew as much of Gaelic as the Celt did of Adam."

The following extracts from Brown's "Highland Clans" also give a clear account of the Macdonalds:—

"The western district was inhabited by powerful clans, especially the Macdonalds, who, for a long time, exercised an almost regal sway in these wild and unsubdued regions. These different races were all included under the generic name of Siol-Cuinn, or race of Conn, being grandson to Con Centhathach, or Constantin Centimachus (of a hundred fights.)

The Macdonalds, however, deny either Irish or Norwegian descent.

Mr Skene says the Highlands and district of Gaulgael were inhabited by the Northern Picts as late as the eleventh century. From the death of Suibne, (last king of Gaulgael, son of Kenneth, A.D. 1034,) till the accession of Gillebride Mac-Gille Adomnan, grandfather of Somerled, nothing is known of the history of the clan."

ANNALS OF THE FOUR MASTERS, p. 10.

"Clann or Clan literally signifies a family or descendants."

Gregory says, page 10:—

"The origin of Somerled of Argyle, the undoubted founder of this noble race (Macdonalds,) is involved in considerable obscurity. Of his father, Gillebrede (Gilbert,) and his grandfather, Gilladomnan, we know little but the names. According to the seannachies or genealogists, both Irish and Highland, Gilladomnan was the sixth in descent from a certain Godfrey MacFergus, who is called, in an

Irish chronicle, Toshach of the Isles, and who lived in the reign of Kenneth MacAlpin. Somerled's name is Norse ; in Gaelic, *Somhairle*, and English, *Samuel*."

The genealogy of the clan Donald is thus given in "Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis," Iona Club, page 61 :—

"John, son of Allaster, son of Donald, son of John, son of Angus Og, son of Angus Mor, son of Donald, son of Ranald, son of Somerled. This Somerled was the sone of Gillebryde M^cGilleadamnane, vic Sella, vic Mearshaighe, vic Swyffine, vic Malhheussa, vic Eacime, vic Gothfred. This Gotheray wes the sone of Fergus M^cErichie, vic Cartayne, vic Ethay, vic Thola Craisme, vic Ethay de wiff Leist, vic Frathrequerwy, vic Cairpre Lissechuyr, vic Chrorin weat Alada, vic Airt Lermèche, king of Ireland, maist royall in all his actions, vic Chuyin Chide Kakay, king of Ireland, a royal prince, and lyon-like in all his actions of warre."

In the Manuscript of 1450, the genealogy is carried up through the Milesian kings of Ireland to Adam. The editor has, however, omitted this. Keating's "History of Ireland" gives this genealogy more distinctly, pretending even to give every name back to Adam :—

"The pedigree of MacDonaill is as follows :—

Donaill, from whom MacDonail took the name.	Eochaidh Liffeachair.
Randle.	Cormac Ulfhada.
Samhairle.	Art Aonthir.
Giolla Bride.	Conn Cead Chathach.
Giolla Adamhmuim.	Feidhlime Reachtmair.
Solamh.	Tuathar Teachtmair.
Meadbuidhe.	Riachadh Fionnola.
Suibhne.	Fearadbach Fionn.
Niallgus.	Criomthan Niadhmar.
Maine.	Lugh Riabhndearg.
Goffra.	Mac na ttri Bfineamhna
Feargus.	Eochaidh Feidlioich.
Eirc.	Finn.
Criomhthran.	Finlogha.
Eochaidh.	Roighnein Roe.
Colla Uais.	Easamuin Eamhna.
	Blathachta.

Labra Luirc	Bratha.
Eadhna Aighnach.	Deagatha, Lord of Gothia.
Aongus Tuirmheach Teamhrach.	Alloid, do.
Eochaidh Foltleathan.	Nuagatt, do.
Oiliolla Caisthialach.	Neannuall, do.
Conla Cruadh-Chealgach.	Faobhar Glas, do.
Jaran Gleofathach.	Heber Glunm Fionn, do.
Meilge Molbthach.	Lambfionn.
Cobthaig Caolbreag.	Adnamoin.
Ugainne More.	Tait.
Duach Laighrach.	Ogamhain.
Fiacha Tolgrach.	Beogamhain.
Muireadhach Bolgrach.	Heber Scot.
Simeon Breac	Sru.
Aodhan Glas.	Easru.
Nuadha Fionnfail.	Gadelas.
Giallcha.	Niull.
Oiliolla Olchaoín.	Feniusa Farsa, King of Scythia, and
Siorna Saogalach.	First Founder of the Universal
Dein Rotheachtaig.	Schools at the Plain of Magh
Maoin.	Seanair.
Aongus Olmuchaidh.	Baath.
Fiacha Labhruine.	Magog.
Sniorguill.	Japhet.
Eanbhotha.	Noah.
Tiaghernmas.	Lamech.
Follain.	Methusaleh.
Eithriall.	Enoch.
Iriall Faidh.	Jared.
Heremon.	Mahalaleel.
Milesius, King of Spain.	Cainan.
Bille, King of Spain.	Enos.
Bratha.	Seth.
Deagatha.	Adam."

The Milesian origin of the Irish race is by many writers considered quite fabulous; the great distance from Spain to Ireland affords at once a strong argument against the probability of this origin. According to Pinkerton, (Scotland, vol. ii., p. 19) and other writers, it is

asserted that St Patrick was the first to introduce letters in Ireland, about the year A.D. 440; therefore, it is difficult to understand how the names of their ancestors were preserved, particularly as no mention is made of them by the Roman, Saxon, or Norwegian Chronicles. Page 33, Pinkerton asserts that Ireland was peopled by the Celts, who came both from Gaul direct to Ireland, and through Wales to Ireland; that Kelts was the indigenal name; Gauls, a name given by the Romans. The Cumri, Cimmeri, or Kimri, or German Celts, were far superior to the Gallic Celts, called Guidhil or Gael, in prowess, and drove the latter out of Wales to Ireland, where other Gaels had preceded them, direct from Gaul or France.

Pinkerton also asserts that Cairbre Riada was the founder of the Scottish sovereignty in Britain. Page 62:—

“Reuda of Beda is the Reada of King Alfred’s translation, and the Riada of the ancient Irish writers. They emigrated to Scotland about A.D. 258. They ruled in part of Scotland, as well as Antrim. The Picts drove them back to Ireland under their leader, Eochad Munrevar; and neither he, nor his son Erc, could obtain a re-establishment in North Britain. This was effected, however, by the sons of Erc, in the beginning of the sixth century.”

Scotia and Scoti were names generally applied to Ireland and the Irish at this early period, as is proved by Adomnan, Bede, and most of the early writers, and is also admitted by most of the modern Scottish authors.

From all the evidence that has been examined on this subject, the writer comes to the conclusion, that the West Highlanders, especially the clan Donald, derive their origin from the Dalriads, a Celtic race living in the north of Ireland; and that the Celts or Gaels were not of Milesian origin, coming from Spain, but a colony from the Celtæ or Gauls, which occupied France during and before the Roman invasion of Britain.

It may be interesting here to insert a few extracts from a MS. History

of the Macdonalds, written in the reign of Charles II., and printed in the Iona Club "Collectanea," page 282:—

"Godfrey Du had possession of the Isles of the north side of Ardnamurchan from the King of Denmark. The principal surnames in the country were MacInnes and MacGilvrays, who are the same as the MacInnes's. They, being in sight of the enemy, could act nothing without one to command them. At length, they agreed to make the first person that should appear to them their general. Who came in the meantime but Sommerled, with his bow, quiver, and sword? Upon his appearing, they raised a great shout of laughter. Sommerled inquiring the reason, they answered they were rejoiced at his appearance. Sommerled said he would undertake to head them, or serve as a man otherwise. Without any delay, they gave him an oath of obedience. There was a great hill between them and the enemy, and Sommerled ordered his men to put off their coats, and put their shirts and full armour above their coats. So, making them go three times in a disguised manner about the hill, that they might seem more in number than they really were, at last he ordered them to engage the Danes. Withal he exhorted his soldiers to be of good courage, and to do as they would see him do. The first whom Sommerled slew he ript up and took out his heart, desiring the rest to do the same, because that the Danes were no Christians. So the Danes were put to flight.

In a short time he mastered Lorn, Argyle, Kiutyre, and Knapdale; most of the inhabitants knowing these lauds were his by right, as formerly belonging to and possessed by his predecessors. After this, Olay, surnamed the Red, King of Man, Isla, Mull, and isles southward of the point of Ardnamurchan, came with his fleet to Loch Stornua, in order to subdue all the isles south and north. As Olay encamped at Loch Stornua, Sommerled came to the other side of the loch, and cried out, if Olay was there, and how he fared? Olay replied that he was well. Then said Sommerled, 'I come from Sommerled, Thane of Argyle, who promises to assist you conditionally in your expedition, provided you bestow your daughter on him.' Olay answered, that he would not give him his daughter, and that he knew that he himself was the man; but that he and his men should follow him in his expedition. So Sommerled resolved to follow Olay.

There was at that time a foster-brother of Olay's, one Maurice MacNeill, in Olay's company, who was a near friend of Sommerled; and when Sommerled brought his two galleys near the place where Olay's ship lay, this Maurice came where he was, and said that he would find means by which he might get Olay's daughter. So, in the night time, he bored Olay's ship under water with many holes, and made a pin for each hole, overlaying them with tallow and butter. When they were up in the morning, and set to sea, after passing the point of

Ardnamnchan, Olay's ship sprung a leak, casting the tallow and butter out of the holes by the ship tossing on the waves, and beginning to sink, Olay and his men cried for help to Sommerled. Maurice replied, that Sommerled would not save him unless he bestowed his daughter upon him. At last, Olay, being in danger of his life, confirmed by an oath that he would give his daughter to Sommerled, who received him immediately into his galley. Maurice went into Olay's galley, and fixed the pins in the holes which he had formerly prepared for them; and by these means they landed in safety.

From that time the posterity of Maurice are called MacIntyres (or wright's sons) to this day.

Sommerled, marrying Olay's daughter, became great after Olay's death, and was envied by the rest of the nobility of Scotland for his fortune and valour. King Malcolm thought his kingdom would suffer if Sommerled's increasing power could not be crushed. Therefore they convened and sent an army to Argyle, under the command of Gilchrist, Thane of Angus. Sommerled, raising his vassals and followers, went after them; they fought fiercely on both sides with great slaughter, till night parted them. Being wearied, they parted and marched off at the dawn of day, turning their backs to one another. After this, Sommerled's nephew (his sister's son) was bribed to destroy him. Being suspected by none, he stabbed him, and made his escape.

Sommerled was a well-tempered man; in body shapely; of a fair, piercing eye; of middle stature, and quick discernment."

The following remarks are obtained from a "History of the MacDonalds," published 1819, and intended for private circulation:—

"Con-Cend-Chattach (or, Con of the Hundred Battles) is said to have reigned in Ireland A.D. 125; he was succeeded by his son Airt or Art; Art by his son Cormack, and Cormack by Cairbre. During the lifetime of Cairbre, there were two powerful tribes,—the Ulladh of Ulster, and the Cruithne of the north-western parts of Ireland,—who for a long time were hostile to each other. Cairbre, or Cairbre-ruadh (red-haired), took advantage of these dissensions, and conquered a considerable territory from the tribe Cruithne; this territory was, from him, named Dall-ruadh.* It appears from Ossian's Poems, that the Fingalians fought on the side of the Cruithne, and that Oscar, whose death is deplored in such elegant and pathetic language, fell by the hands of Cairbre.

* In the Annals of the Four Masters, Dalriada is distinctly shewn in Antrim and Down.

The territory of Dall-ruadh continued in the possession of the descendants of Cairbre for about two centuries and a half, when it was governed by Erc, or Eirc, a lineal descendant of the conqueror. Erc left three sons,—Feargus, Lavrne, and Angus; but these at the time of his decease being young, Olchu, his brother, (according to the laws of Tanistry,) seized the possession; and Feargus and his brothers, A.D. 503, conducted a colony to Kintyre, which they named Dall-ruadh, from their progenitor Cairbre, and their people were named by the neighbouring nations Dalruadini. It is not stated whether Kintyre and the neighbouring country was conquered, or was possessed by consent of the people, but it was divided into three parts: Feargus got Kintyre, Lavrne got Lorn, and Angus got the island of Isla.

Angus lived but a short time in Isla; he was succeeded by his son Murechad, who married his cousin Erca, the daughter of Lavrne. Murechad left only one daughter, who married her cousin Godfrey, son of Feargus, by which marriage the lands of Kintyre and island of Isla came to be united under one chief. Feargus had an elder son named Domangart, from whom several of the Scottish kings are descended, and particularly Kenneth MacAlpin, who, in 843, conquered the Picts. After this conquest, the seat of the Scottish kings was transferred to Scoon, and the descendants of Godfrey, the second son of Feargus and of his wife Erca, retained their possession in Kintyre, which they gradually extended, and they latterly assumed the title of Kings of Erraghael, (a corruption of Jar Gael.)* From this Godfrey the family of Macdonald is lineally descended.

(This account is taken from Father Innes's 'Critical Dissertations,' Chalmers' 'Caledonia,' Dr Smith of Campbeltown, and Monro, Dean of the Isles, and other authorities.)

An old manuscript, named 'Liber-Derg,' (or the Red Book,) belonging to Clanranald, gives an account of the origin of the Macdonalds, agreeing pretty nearly with that now mentioned. This book was written at different periods, by the bards of the Clanranald family, and the last part of it by M'Murric, bard to the Clanranald, and the last of the Celtic bards, about A.D. 1680. According to this account—

'Ochains Dnibhlin, son to Corbredns Leihmechair, son to Cormachus, son to Arthur, son to the most illustrious Conn-Ceud-Chattach, *i.e.*, Centimachus, (having fought a hundred battles,) had three renowned sons, viz., Coll Wais, Coll da Chrioch,

* The Gaelic name Arreghael, or Jarghael, was, in the Latin of later ages, changed into Ergadia.

and Coll Mean. Coll Wais reigned in Ireland fifteen years, when one Mauritius, his cousin-german, began to usurp his kingdom; the king, Coll Wais, in conjunction with his brothers, was obliged to come to a battle, wherein the usurper Mauritius proved victorious; the consequence was, that Coll fled into Scotland, where, for eminent services done to the king, he got large possessions. Some time after, there happened a contest between Mauritius and the Prince of Ulster, which obliged the former, notwithstanding the discord between him and the exiles, Coll Wais and his brothers, to apply for their assistance against his enemies, who, rendering good for evil, complied with the request, and went, with all their followers, to Ireland, where a very bloody battle was fought, in which the Prince of Ulster and his two brothers were slain, and Mauritius obtained a complete victory. Coll da Chrioch and Coll Meann settled in Ireland, having Ulster and the half of Connaught assigned them for the great services done to Mauritius. But Coll Wais returned to Scotland, in order to settle there on his own lands. In about nine years afterwards he went to visit his friends, and died in Ireland about A.D. 337.

The ancestors of Coll Wais, back to Conu-Ceud-Chattach, were called Siol * Chuinn; and the descendants of Coll Wais, to Renuit M'Somhairle, (Rauald the son of Somerlett), were surnamed Siol Cholla.

Coll Wais left four sons, the eldest of whom was named Ochais, who was succeeded by Carranus, Carranus was succeeded by Eric, Eric by Mainus, Mainus by Fergus, Fergus by Godfrey, Godfrey by Neill, Neill by Suimkna, Suimkna by Mearradha, Mearradha by Solamh or Solomon, Solomon by Galen or Gillodhunnán, Galen by Gilbride, Gilbride by Somhairle or Somerlett, Somerlett by Reginald, (Ranald,) all named Siol Cholla, or the descendants of Coll Wais, and not Macdonalds up to Coll Wais. Reginald was succeeded by Douald, from whom is the origin of the name of Macdonald. Reginald had a brother named Dugall, from whom the Macdougalls of Lorn are descended. Donald was King of the Isles and western parts of Scotland.

Most of the Scottish historians treat the Irish and Highland account as fabulous; the subject is very ably handled by Dr John Macpherson, in his 'Critical Dissertations.' He states that the whole of the Highlanders are of genuine Caledonian extraction, and particularly alludes to Somerlett, the undoubted ancestor of the family of Macdonald. Crawford, Douglas, and Wood, in their 'Peerages,' under the head of Lords of the Isles, speak of them as of Nor-

* Annals of the Four Masters, p. 10.—"Siol signifies a race or descendants, or a tribe; for instance, Siol Muireadhaigh, pronounced Sheel Murray, as descended from Muireadhach Muilleathan, king of Connaught in the seventh century."

wegian descent ; but as they give no authority, it is doubtful from what source they have derived their information."

ANNALS OF THE FOUR MASTERS, p. 20.

"A colony of Picts, from North Britain, settled in Ulster at a very early period, chiefly in Uladh or Dalaradia, and other parts of the present counties of Down, Antrim, and Derry. The Picts were called by the Irish 'Cruithnidh,' which signified 'Painted Men.' The Cruithneans, or Irish Picts, had their own princes and chiefs, and are frequently mentioned in Irish history, from the first to the tenth century."

PAGE 416.

"In the latter end of the fifth century, Erc or Eric, a descendant of Cairbre Riada, was prince of Dalriada in Ulster, and his sons, Fergus, Loarn, and Aongus, led a colony from Ulster to Albany, and became masters of a great part of Western Scotland ; and Loarn became the first king of the Albanian Scots in the beginning of the sixth century, A.D. 503. Fergus, brother of Loarn, succeeded as king, A.D. 513 ; and kings, the descendants of Loarn and Fergus, ruled in succession till the ninth century, when Kenneth MacAlpin, one of their posterity, became king of Albany, and, in A.D. 842, he conquered the kingdom of the Picts, and thus became the first king of all Scotland."

The following extracts from the Irish Annals of Tighernac, Innisfallen, Buellan, and Ulster, in "Iona Club Collectanea," give account of the early history of the Highlands, as follows :—

"A.D. 502. Fergus the Great, son of Erc, held a part of Britain with the Dalriadic nation, and died there.

A.D. 505. Death of Domangart, son of Nissi, King of Alban.

A.D. 520. The birth of Columcille, (Columba,) in the same day in which Bute, son of Bronaig, died.

A.D. 538. Comgall, son of Domangart, King of Alban, died in the thirty-fifth year of his reign.

A.D. 560. Death of Gabrain, son of Domangart, King of Alban. Flight of the Albanich before Bruide, son of Maelcon, King of the Cruithne.

A.D. 563. The voyage of Saint Columba from Ireland to the island of Ia, (Iona,) in the forty-second year of his age.

A.D. 574. Death of Conall, son of Comgall, King of Dalriada, in the sixteenth year of his reign, who gave the island of Ia to Columba. Battle of Delgen, in

Kintyre, in which Duncan, son of Conall, son of Comgall, and many others, fell.

A.D. 596. Death of Columba, on Whitsuneve, the fifth day of the Ides of June, the thirty-fifth year of his ministry, and the seventy-seventh year of his age.

Thirty years, without dispute, was
Columba in his dark church;
He passed with the angels out of the body,
After seven years and seventy.

A.D. 606. Death of Aedan, son of Gabran.

A.D. 622. The battle of Cindelgen, in which the two sons of Libren, the son of Illand, and son of Cerball, were slain. Conall, son of Suibne, was victorious, and Donald Brec along with him. Conan, the son of Aedan, son of Gabran, was drowned. Bimudine the learned thus sung:—

The resplendent billows of the sea, the sun that raised them is my grief;
The storms were against Conan with his army;
The woman of the fair locks was in the Curach with Conan;
And there was great lamentation this day at Bili Tortan.

A.D. 624. The birth of Adomnan, abbot of Iona.

A.D. 631. The death of Kenneth, son of Lachtren, King of the Picts, King of Alban.

A.D. 642. Donald Brec, slain by Sloan, King of the Britons.

A.D. 660. Conall Crandamna died.

A.D. 673. The slaughter of Domangart, the son of Donald Brec, King of Dalriada.

A.D. 681. The slaughter of Conall Coil, the son of Duncan, in Kintyre. The slaughter of Lechnasagh, the son of Airmetagh, and Conan, the son of Congal.

A.D. 689. Death of Malduin, son of Conal Crunamna.

A.D. 692. Adomnan proceeded to Ireland.

A.D. 696. Slaughter of Conall Crandomna, and Donald, his son.

A.D. 697. Adomnan proceeded to Ireland, and gave the law of the Innocents to the people.

A.D. 704. Adomnan the Wise, Abbot of Iona, rested in Christ. Slaughter of the Dalriads in Glen Lemna.

A.D. 721. Duncan Beg, King of Kintyre, died.

A.D. 733. Muredach, son of Aubhcellach, acquired the kingdom of the tribe Lorn. Eoch, son of Each, King of Dalriada, and Conall, son of Concobar, died.

A.D. 741. The downfall of the Dalriads, by Angus, son of Fergus.

A.D. 798. The Hebrides and Ulster laid waste by the Gentiles, (Danes.)

A.D. 807. Slaughter of Conall, son of Taidg, by Conall, son of Aedan in Kintyre (in Alban, Inis.)

A.D. 820. Death of Constantine, son of Fergus, King of Alban.

A.D. 858. Kenneth, son of Alpin, King of the Picts, died, (Inis, King of Alban.)

A.D. 891. The fish Banscal thrown out of the sea of Alban. It was one hundred and ninety-five feet long, seventeen feet in circumference. Its paw was seven feet long. As, likewise, its nose and the whole was white as a swan.

A.D. 976. Foray by Gillacolum O'Canandan, King of the Cenel Conall,* in O'Failge."

PAGE 70.

"The following poem, generally termed the 'Albanic Duan,' is one of the most interesting and valuable relics of the ancient history and literature of the Highlands of Scotland. Its great antiquity gives it very great value as an historical authority, and as the earliest specimen of the traditionary origins of the race which remains to us ; while, at the same time, it possesses additional interest from being an authentic specimen of Gaelic poetry of the eleventh century. It is the most ancient piece of Dalriadic history preserved.—*Donald Gregory, Secretary to the Iona Club.*

THE GAELIC POEM

A EOLCHA ALBAIN UILE.

Written circiter A.D. 1057, and edited from the "Codex Stowensis," No. XLI.

TRANSLATION.

1.

Ye learned of all Albin,
Ye wise, yellow-haired race,
Learn who first
Acquired the districts of Albin.

* "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 10.—"The word Cineal, Cinel, or Cenel, pronounced Kinel, signifies a people or race. Thus Cinel Conaill was applied to the people of Tyrconnell, or Donegall, the posterity of Conall Gulban."

2.

Albanus acquired them with his race,
The illustrious son of Isiocon,
Brother to Britus, without treachery :
From him Albin of ships takes its name.

3.

Britus expelled his intrepid brother
Over the sea, called Iocht :
Britus acquired illustrious Albin
To the territories of the Fiaghnach Fothudain.

4.

Long after the pleasant, good Britus,
The race of Neimhidh, after they had come
From their ships, acquired Earglan,
Till after the building of the Tower Conaing.

5.

The Cruithne acquired the western region
After they had come from the plains of Erin :
Seventy noble kings of them
Acquired the Cruithen plains.

6.

Cathluan was the first king of them,
(I relate it to you explicitly :)
This was the last king of them,
The daring hero Cusantin.

7.

The race of Eathach after them
Acquired Albin by great deeds.
The race of Conaire the mild
Elevated the strong Gaël.

8.

The three sons of Erc son of Eathach the prosperous,
The three who obtained the blessing of Saint Patrick,
Acquired Albin, great their strength,
Lorn, Fergus, and Angus.

9.

Ten years Lorn with complete dominion
In the kingdom of Oirir Alban (reigned).
After Lorn, (keenly the tale,)
Twenty-seven years Fergus.

10.

Domangart, the son of high Fergus,
Numbered five years of fierce life.
Four and twenty, without strife,
Comgall the son of Domangart.

11.

Two gentle years, without contumely,
After Comgall to Gabhran (are assigned.)
Three years, and five without division,
Was king, Conall son of Comgall.

12.

Four years, and twenty besides,
Was king, Aidan of golden swords.
Ten years and seven by fair means
In the kingdom (was) Eocha the yellow-haired.

13.

Conad Cerr three months, a shooting star.
Sixteen after him to his son Ferchar.
After Ferchar, by dominion of swords,
Fourteen years Donald.

14.

After Donald Brec of renown,
Conall (and) Dungall ten years.
Thirteen years, Donald duin,
After Dungall and Conall.

15.

Moalduin, son of Conall of the booties,
Seventeen (years) to him rightfully.
Ferchar of arrows (you may read)
Reigned one and twenty years.

16.

Two years Ethach of horses,
He was daring, the royal king.
One year was Lord of the western region
Aincheall the good, son of Ferchar.

17.

Seven years (was) Lord, Dungall the eager,
And four years to Alpin.
Three years Muiredach the good.
Thirty to Aodh the high Lord.

18.

Four and twenty, not feeble,
Of years reigned Donald.
Two years Conall, by pure descent,
And four another Conall.

19.

Nine years Cusantin the beloved,
Nine Angus over Alban (reigned ;)
Four years Aodh the honourable,
And thirteen Eoganan.

20.

Thirty years Kenneth the hardy,
Four Donald of the ruddy countenance,
Thirty years with strength
To the hero, to Cusantin.

21.

Two years, his success was dearly bought,
To his brother, to Aodh the white-shielded.
Donald son of Cusantin the beloved
Reigned one year under four.

22.

Cusantin, daring was his struggle in battle,
Reigned six and twice twenty (years,)
Malcolm four years,
Indulf eight in the supreme government.

23.

Seven years Dubhoda the eager,
And four Culen,
Seven and twenty over every clan
To Kenneth son of Malcolm.

24.

Seven years Cusantin in direct line,
And four the son of Duff ;
Thirty years of chequered portions
Was king of the mountains, Malcolm.

25.

Six years Duncan the pure,
Seven years and ten the son of Finlay ;
After Mecbeath with renown
Seven months in the kingdom, Lugaidh.

26.

Malcolm is now the king,
Son of Duncan of the yellow countenance,
His duration no one knoweth
But the knowing (One) who (alone) is knowing.

27.

Two kings and fifty (listen)
To the son of Duncan of the ruddy countenance,
Of the race of Erc, high, clear in gold,
Possessed Alban, (ye learned.)"

Many historical facts prove that the ancestors of the Macdonalds were much connected with the early rise of Christianity in the north of Ireland and the Western Isles of Scotland. Nisbet, in his "Heraldry," vol. i., p. 268, writes:—

"The M'Donalds have a dexter hand coupé, fess-ways proper, holding a cross croslet fitchie sable ; upon the account, it's said, that one of their progenitors assisted St Patrick to propagate the Christian faith in Ireland, and to reduce the

barbarous people there to civility and Christianity; and then their ensign was the hand holding a cross croslet fitched, (pointed.)”

Jamieson, in his “History of the Culdees,” p. 14, states that—

“Columba (who afterwards went to Iona) was born in Ireland A.D. 521, and was grandsou of Connal, from whom the district of Tireonnel (Donegal) took its name.”

P. 21.—“Iona was given to Columba by Conal or Conval, son of Congal, King of the Dalriad Scots.”

In his “History of the Culdees,” Rev. Duncan M’Callum says:—

“The Culdees, who were refugees from the persecution of the Romans, and who embraced a purer form of Christianity, came to South Britain A.D. 177. The Scriptures were then known and circulated among Christians. Christianity was introduced into Ireland by the Culdees in the third century. Pope Celestine sent Palladius to Ireland to convert the inhabitants to the Romish faith, but was unsuccessful.

St Patrick next appears among them. He was born in the neighbourhood of Dumbarton, on the banks of the Clyde, — (?) He went to Ireland, A.D. 432, and was called the ‘Apostle of the Irish.’ He was married, and being a Culdee, promoted that religion against the Druids and Bards. It is said that he founded 365 churches. He died A.D. 472.

Columba, the ‘Apostle of the Picts,’ a Culdee, was born A.D. 521. He was son of Felim, son of Neill the Great, King of Ireland. Adamnan, ‘Vit. Columb,’ lib. i., calls him Colum M’Felim M’Fergus. Columba was very learned and pious, and received a good education. He landed A.D. 563 in I, (Iona,) then possessed by the Druids. By his labours, and those of his associates, the whole kingdom of the Picts was changed. He applied to Conal, son of Comgal, A.D. 573—‘Conail MacComgail,’ King of the Dalriad Scots—for protection.”

The Norwegians called the Western Islands of Scotland “Sudreyiar,” in opposition to the northern isles of Orkney. Hence the Bishop of the Isles was called “Bishop of Sudoër,” corrupted into Sodor. Afterwards the name of Sudreys was restricted to those southward of

the point of Ardnamurchan, and the isles north of that point had the name of "Nordreyiar" transferred to them. After being separated from the Western Isles, the Bishop of Man continued to be called "Bishop of Sodor and Man." Among the most eminent of Columba's immediate disciples was St Connall, Abbot of Innes-caoil, Ireland.

There was also a St Conail, son of Failbhe, Abbot of Iona, who died A.D. 708.

St Connhall, Abbot of Iona, (*scriba selectissima*) died A.D. 797.

Robertach M'Donell, Coárb of Columba, died A.D. 1057.

Extract from a letter to James M'Connell, Manchester, by W. R. M'Connell, Esq., King's Bench Walk, Temple, London, April 19, 1860 :—

"In a book, entitled 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ,' the succession of the prelates and members of the cathedral bodies, by H. Cotton, D.C.L., Archdeacon of Cashell, a late work, and founded on Sir James Ware's 'Ireland,' translated from the original Latin and re-edited by Harriss, it is written :—

'Circa, A.D. 571. St Ennes M'Conail was bishop of the diocese of Clogher.

A.D. 903. Flan M'Conail, Bishop of Emly.

Conal, Bishop of Clogher, probably between A.D. 640 and 700.

A.D. 590. Conal, Bishop of Ciutrather (Coleraine) entertained St Columba.'

I have examined Ware. His words are, vol. i., p. 178 :—

'St Enna or Ende MacConail is placed in the registry of Clogher next after Altigerna, and to him was dedicated the island of Arnanoam, or the altar of the saints ; but as this Enna flourished in the life of St Patrick, how is it possible he should be the fifteenth bishop in this catalogue?'

"Scotland in the Middle Ages." By Cosmo Innes. P. 111 :—

"Whatever may have been their original institution and discipline, the Culdees, in the time of David I., A.D. 1124-53, lived in a manner that must have been inconsistent with any monastic or collegiate discipline. They were generally married, which brought about the appropriation of the common property by the

individual members of the house, and no less certainly led to a hereditary succession in the office of the priesthood, than which no greater mischief can befall a church and country. We are not to be surprised, then, that David everywhere superseded them by the introduction of the strict monastic orders, brought from France and England."

The word Connal or Connel appears to be often mentioned among the ancestors of the Maedonalds. In Ossian's poems a hero of this name is frequently referred to. But the author now enters into the genealogy of the Maedonalds, from the time of Somerled, the undoubted founder of the clan. The four charts following will perhaps lay the subject in a clear form before the reader. The source of the information is principally Gregory's "Highlands, Isles, and Clans." Donald Gregory has entered into the general history of the Clan Donald more minutely than any other writer; and has taken care that his facts are well founded, and, therefore, they can be fully relied upon.

According to some authors, there were two Somerleds; and the following extracts are taken from Brown's "Highland Clans," to shew this, and also some other early accounts of the history of the Maedonalds:—

"Somerled was driven from his possessions to Ireland; and, with the assistance of the Macquaries and Macmahons, returned and expelled the Norwegians. He obtained a grant of Man, Arran, and Bute, and married Ragnhildis, the daughter of Olaf the Red, Norwegian King of the Isles, fraudulently. There were disputes between Somerled and his brother-in-law, Godred, Norwegian Lord of Skye. Somerled was killed.

Somerled had, by the daughter of Olaf the Red, sons—Dugall, Reginald, and Angus; and by a previous marriage he had one named Gillecallum (Malcolm.) Gillecallum perished by his father's side, leaving a son, Somerled, who succeeded to his grandfather's possessions, which were the whole district of Argyle, and that portion of the Western Isles called 'Sudereys.'

In 1221, Somerled retired to his own dominions. After being defeated by Alexander II., he perished, and his party became crown vassals. Lochaber was then held by the Chief of Clan Chattan; Lorn, by the sons of Dugall; Knap-

dale, by the ancestors of the MacNeils; South Kintyre, by a grandson of Somerled.

The power of the Macdonalds then went into the hands of Dugall, eldest son by the second marriage; and then Reginald, or Ranald, the second son. Islay, Kintyre, and part of Lorn, fell to him. Reginald was titled Lord, or King, of the Isles, Lord Argyle and Kintyre; and founded an Abbey at Saddell, in Kintyre.

The descendants of this Reginald were Roderick, and then Allan, and then Roderick, who forfeited his lands for conspiracy, in A.D. 1328; then John of the Isles, chief of the clan Donald, who married Amy, only sister of Ranald, and thus claimed succession.

The clan Donald derive their origin from Donald, the second son of Reginald, who inherited South Kintyre and Islay, not much known before 1266.

Donald made a pilgrimage to Rome, and made grants of land to the monastery of Saddell. He was succeeded by his son Angus Mor.

Angus Mor had two sons, Alexander and Angus Og.

Alexander's possessions were forfeited, and given to his brother, Angus Og, who was ally to Robert Bruce, who secured to Angus Og his possessions, and added Lochaber, Durrour, Glenco, Mull, and Tyree.

Angus Og died early in the fourteenth century, leaving two sons, John, his successor, and John Og, ancestor to the Macdonalds of Glenco.

Robert II. induced John, Lord of the Isles, to divide the districts among different members of the family, who became feudally independent of one another. John received from Robert II. charters of large territories on the issue of his marriage with his daughter (the second marriage.) By this marriage his son was Donald, his son John, and his son Angus Og, his son Donald Dhu.

This Donald Dhu was imprisoned by the Macconnells of Kintyre and MacIans of Ardnamurchan in the castle of Inch Connell for forty years, afterwards retired to Ireland and died there in the reign of James V.

After this the clans became confused."

The following remarks are principally taken from Gregory's "Highlands, Isles, and Clans :"—

John, Lord of the Isles, had large possessions. He died, A.D. 1380, at his own castle of Ardtornish, in Morvern, and was buried in Iona, with great splendour, by the ecclesiasties of the Isles, whose attachment he had obtained by liberal grants to the Church, and who evinced their gratitude by bestowing on him the appellation, which tradition has handed down to our days, of "the good John of Isla."

Donald, the eldest son of the second marriage, became, on his father's death, second Lord of the Isles; and in that capacity was, most undoubtedly, feudal superior and actual chief of his brothers, whether of the full or of the half blood. He married Mary Leslie, who afterwards became Countess of Ross; and his contest with the Regent, Duke of Albany, regarding that earldom, in the course of which the battle of Harlaw was fought, is well known. The whole array of the Lordship of the Isles followed him on that occasion. He was not weakened by any opposition on the part of his elder brothers, or their descendants, which certainly might have been looked for. The claim of "Donald of Harlaw" to the Earldom of Ross, in right of his wife, was, after his death, virtually admitted by King James I.; and he may, without impropriety, be called the first Earl of Ross of his family.

Donald's brother, John Mor, or John the Tanister, was the progenitor of a numerous tribe, called the Clandonald of the South, or the clan Ian-Mhor of Islay and Kintyre, where their hereditary possessions lay.

Alexander, Earl of Ross, and Lord of the Isles, son of Donald, died at his castle of Dingwall, and was buried at the Chanonry of Ross, 8th May 1449.

John, his oldest son, succeeded to his titles and estates, rebelled against King James II., and seized the royal castles of Inverness, Urquhart, and Ruthven in Badenoch. He also collected a fleet of many hundred galleys, with a force of five thousand men on board, and dispatched them, under the command of his kinsman, Donald Balloch, son of John Mor, of Isla, to attack the coast of Ayrshire. They met with little success, however, and ravaged the Cumrays and the Isle of Arran, and levelled the castle of Brodiek with the ground. John, Earl of Ross, finding himself, however, alone in rebellion, became alarmed, and entreated forgiveness of the King. James at first refused the application;

but, after a time, consented to extend to the humbled chief a period of probation.

In A.D. 1461, after the death of James II., John, Earl of Ross, and Donald Balloch, agreed to become for ever the sworn vassals of England, along with all their retainers, and to assist King Edward IV. in his wars in Ireland. Commission was given to Colin, Earl of Argyle, to prosecute a decree of forfeiture against him, and sentence was pronounced. In 1476, however, John of Isla was restored to the forfeited estates of the Earldom of Ross and Lordship of the Isles. The title and estates were secured in favour of Angus, son of John, who was married to a daughter of the Earl of Argyle.

Angus rebelled against his father, and defeated his adherents with great loss, in a bay in the Isle of Mull, near Tobermory. This affair is known in tradition as the battle of the Bloody Bay. After Angus's death in 1490, John resumed possession of his estates. In the year 1493, John, fourth and last Lord of the Isles, was forfeited and deprived of his estates; and retired to the Monastery of Paisley, a foundation which owed much to the pious liberality of himself and his ancestors. Here he died about the year 1498, and was interred, at his own request, in the tomb of his royal ancestor, King Robert II.

Celestine, or Gillespick, second son of Alexander Lord of the Isles, was the first of the family of the house of Lochalsh; in 1492, Alexander son of Gillespick styles himself Lord of Lochiel, and was closely connected with the Clan Chameron, to one of whom, Captain Ewin Alanson, heritable keeper of his Castle of Strone in Lochcarron, he gave one of his sisters in marriage. Several descendants of Ewen Allanm, or MacAllan, bore the name of M'Coil, or M'Conell Duie, after this, and were chiefs of the Clan Cameron.

The house of Sleat, whose representative, Lord Macdonald, is now the undoubted heir-male of John, last Earl of Ross, sprang from Hugh,

third son of Alexander, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles. They were known as Clan Huistein, or children of Hugh, and sometimes as Clan Donald North. Since the extinction of the direct line of the family of the Isles, in the middle of the sixteenth century, Macdonald of Sleat has always been styled in Gaelic, "MacDhonuill na'n Eilean," or Macdonald of the Isles.

The Clan Ian Vor was founded by John Mor, second son of "the good John of Isla" and of Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of King Robert II. John Mor received from his brother Donald, Lord of the Isles, large grants of land in Isla and Kintyre; and afterwards increased his possessions by his marriage with Marjory Bisset, heiress of the district of the Glens in the county of Antrim.

The footing which he thus obtained in Ulster was improved by his successors, whose matrimonial alliances, down to John Cathanach, were all contracted in Ulster. From Ranald Bane, a younger brother of Donald Balloch, sprang a race called the Clanranald Bane of Largie in Kintyre; this tribe were followers of the Clan Ian Vor, after the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles. The Clan Ian Vor had the appellation Clan Donald South, and the chiefs were usually styled Lords of Dunyveg (a castle in Isla) and the Glens.

The intermarriages above alluded to were with the families of O'Donnell, O'Neill of Claneboy, and Savage of the Arde; and several cadets of the family settled as tenants in the territory of the Glens.

The Clan Donald South held their possessions in Ulster, notwithstanding the numerous attempts at various times to dislodge them. They do not appear to have spread beyond the county of Antrim, on account of the animosity of the Irish against them.

Sir James Macdonald married Lady Agnes Campbell of Argyle; and after his death his widow married Torlogh Luincach O'Neill, afterwards Earl of Tyrone. This Lady Tyrone used interest, through Sir Henry

Sidney, with the Queen of England, and passed over the claims of her eldest son Angus to the estates of the Glens, and had them granted to her second son Sorley Buy Macdonald, from whom Angus was never able to recover them.

In A.D. 1585, a feud broke out between Angus Macdonald of Isla and the Macleans, in consequence of which, Angus was brought to trial, and a sentence of forfeiture was brought against him A.D. 1594, but he retained possession of part of Isla and Kintyre. In A.D. 1598, Sir James Macdonald, son of Angus, took command of the clan. He was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, A.D. 1604, by the intrigues of the Earl of Argyle, (the House of Argyle had long been hostile to the Clan Donald South.) In 1615, Sir James escaped from prison, and attempted to recover his possessions, but the Earl of Argyle and his friends overpowered him, and he fled to Ireland and thence to Spain. In 1618 he was recalled from Spain and pardoned, and died in London, 1626. His brother Angus Oig was unjustly hanged in Edinburgh, 1615. In 1644 the castles of Dunyveg in Isla and Dunivertig in Kintyre were taken, and the garrison of the latter, three hundred men, treacherously murdered, after surrender of their arms. After the capture of Dunyveg, two hundred men were transported to Jura, where most of them died of famine or plague.

Thus the Clan Ian Vor was totally extinguished.

Sir Ranald MacSorley or Macdonnell, second son of Sorley Buy Macdonald, in 1618 was created Viscount of Dunluce, and afterwards advanced to the dignity of Earl of Antrim. He is described as having been "a singular promoter and patron of civility in the north of Ireland." Ranald, his son, succeeded as second Earl, and, for his services against the Irish rebels in 1641, was created, in 1643, Marquis of Antrim.

The youngest brother of Sorley Buy was Coll MacGillespick of

Colonsay, the father of the celebrated Coll Keitache or Kittoch, whose name was so much dreaded in the rebellions in Ireland and Scotland, about A.D. 1640. His son, Sir Allaster Macdonald, acted as lieutenant-general to the Marquis of Montrose, and joined the Royalists in Ireland, where he was killed. Dr Macdonnell, who resided at Belfast, 1836, is believed to be the representative of this branch of the Clan Ian Vor.

The chieftain of the Macdonalds, or Clan Ranald Bane of Largie, succeeded in preserving his estate from forfeiture under James VI. In the direct male line, this family has been for some time extinct, the estate having gone by marriage to the family of Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath. The Macdonalds of Sanda and Largie were actively engaged in supporting both Montrose and Dundee.

The Clan Ranald of Lochaber, or Macdonalds of Garragach and Keppoch, were one of the most active clans on the Royal side in the great civil war. Coll Macdonald of Keppoch vanquished the Macintoshes, with whom he was at feud regarding the lands which he occupied, in the last clan battle that was fought in the Highlands, on a height called Mulroy, near the house of Keppoch, immediately before the Revolution in 1688. Keppoch afterwards joined Dundee, and fought at Killiecrankie; he likewise joined the Earl of Mar, and was present at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715. His son, Alexander Macdonald, entered eagerly into the rebellion of 1745, and fell gallantly leading on his clan, when the hopes of the Jacobites were finally extinguished at Culloden. There are still numerous cadets of this family in Lochaber.

From Clan Ranald of Gannoran have descended the Macdonalds of Benbecula, Boisdale, Staffa, Kinlochmoidart; also Macdonald of Glenaladale, from the uncle of Donald MacAllan, captain of the Clan Ranald in the reign of James VI.

The family of Knoydart fell into decay about 1614. The estate of

Morar has passed into other hands, but the family still exists in the male line.

The family of Glengarry prospered ; the principal families descended from this house were the Macdonnells of Barrisdale, Greenfield, and Lundie.

The Clan Ian of Glenco were massacred in 1692. Several families of Macdonalds of Glenco still possess lands in the vale where their ancestors so long resided.

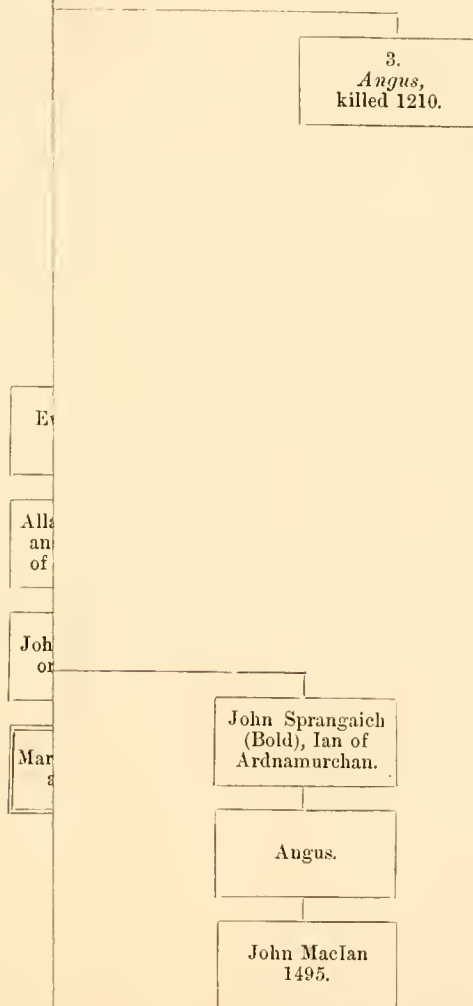
In the following Charts, the double line always shews the female side, marriages, &c. ; the dotted line shews the number of generations to be uncertain : thus Chart I. from Alexander of Clan MacAllaster to John Dubh Macallaster, 1493, the number of generations is uncertain.

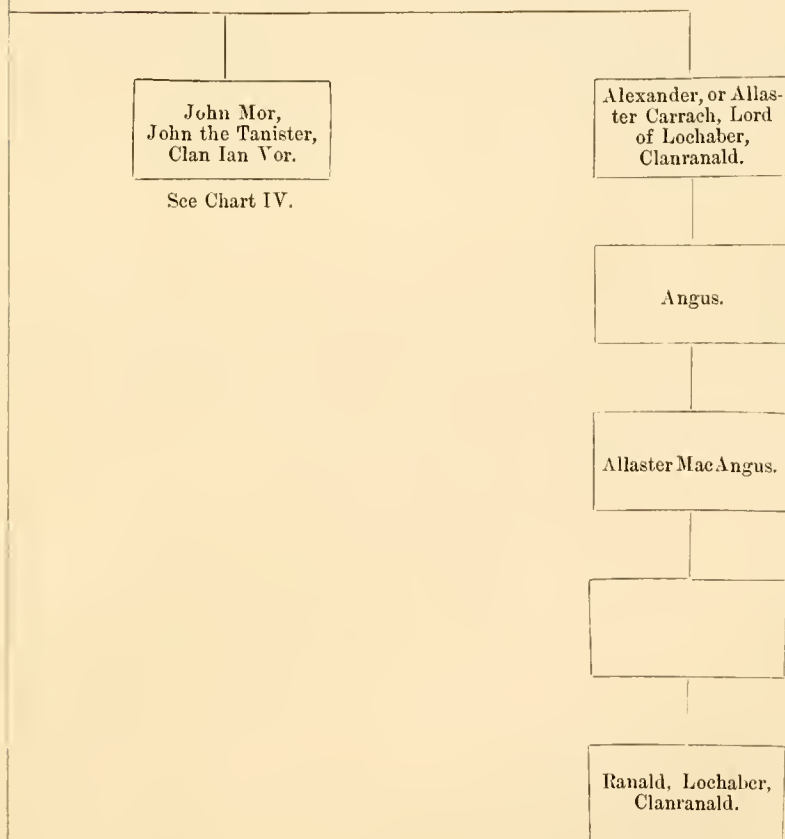
The oldest son is always to the extreme left and the youngest to the extreme right, and the others in their order between.

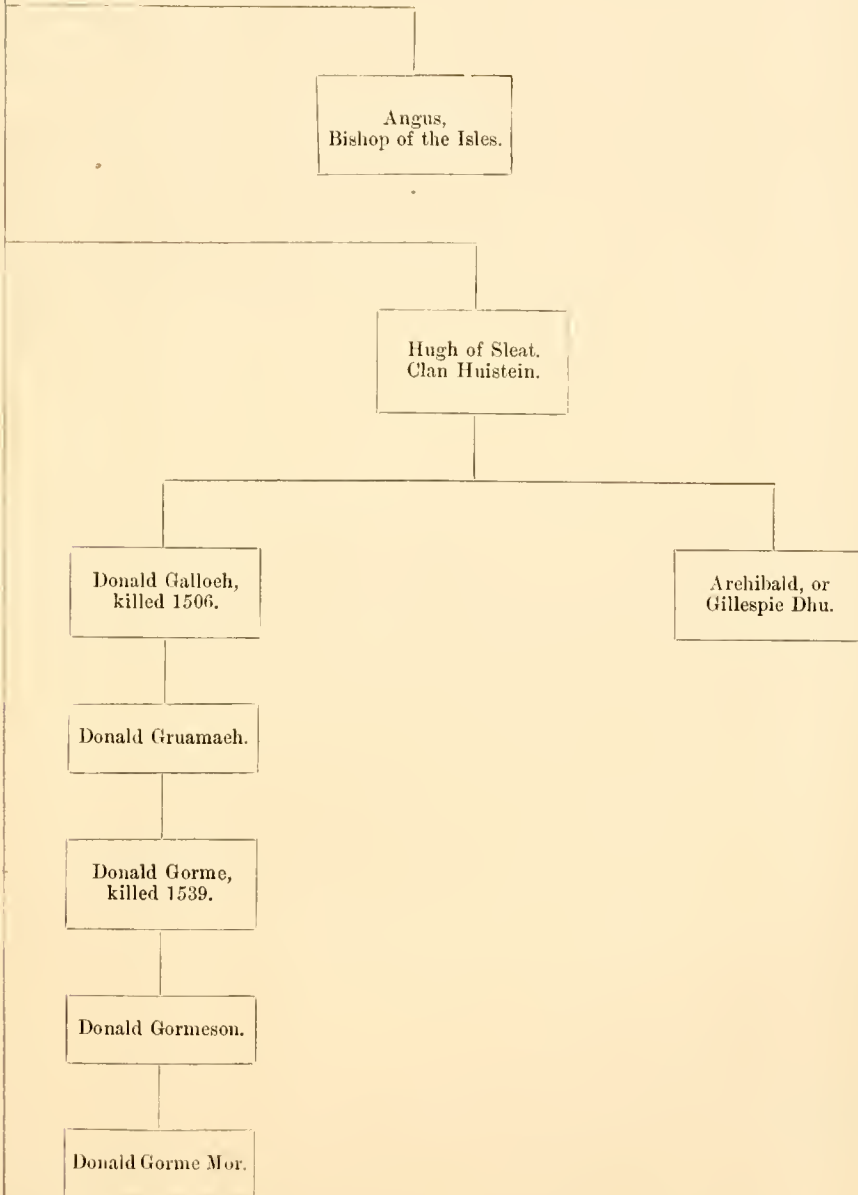
The name in italics, as *Angus* third son of Somerled, shews that the person alluded to died without issue.

The letter N. signifies the natural son.

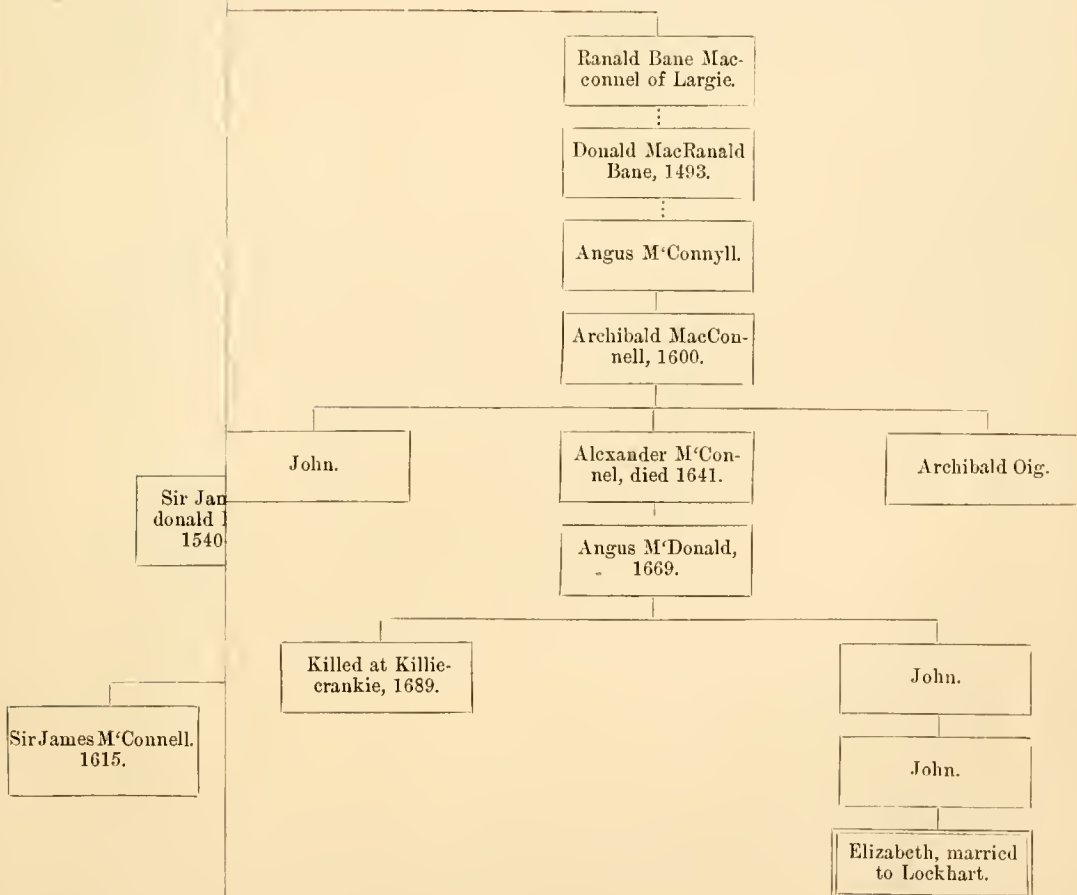
I.







R.



CHAPTER III.

HAVING mentioned that the names of M'Connell and Macdonald are the same, the author now enters into proofs of this.

Even at the present time, in the Western Islands, the Gaelic name of Macdonald is pronounced *MacGhonell* or *MacChonell*, aspirating the *ch* in the German manner.

The following remarks on these words have been kindly given by the Rev. Thomas M'Lauchlan, an eminent Gaelic scholar :—

“Domhnall is the Gaelic for *Donald*, and is pronounced *Donnell*.
Dhomhnuill is the Gaelic for *of Donald*, the genitive, and is pronounced *Ghōnell*.
Mac, Gaelic for son ; *Mhic*, of the son.”

The same rule applies to the word Dougall. Patrick C. MacDougall, Professor of Moral Philosophy, University, Edinburgh, says :—

“Dougall in Gaelic is *Dùghall* ; of Dougall, *Dhùghaill*, pronounced *Ghùgaill*, or *Chùgaill*, (hard,) *MacChùgaill*, or *MacCoul*.”

Farther interesting information is given in four lectures delivered by Rev. Thomas M'Lauchlan in Edinburgh, in 1857, and called “Celtic Gleanings :”—

“The word *Dòmhnall* literally means, ‘*Brown eye*.’ *Clann Dòmhnuaill*, or *Clann Chuinn*, the Clan Donald ; *Gilchrist*, *Gillachriosd*, the *Servant of Christ* ; *Gillies*, *Gilliosa*, the *Servant of Jesus* ; *Malcolm*, *Maolcholum*, the *Servant of Columba* ; *M'Nab*, the *Son of the Abbot* ; *Gilmore*, the *Servant of Mary* ; *M'Callum*, the *Son*

of *Malcolm*; McLellan, *Macgill Fhaolain, the Son of the Servant of Faolan*; Gilbert, *Gillabrid, the Servant of St Bridget*."

In Gregory's "Highlands, Isles, and Clans," the following extracts add further proofs:—

P. 61.—"Since the extinction of the direct line of the family of the Isles, in the middle of the sixteenth century, Macdonald of Sleat has always been styled in Gaelic *MacDhonnail na'n Eilean*, or, Macdonald of the Isles."

P. 146.—"Remission to Archibald Ilis, *alias* Archibald the Clerk, *Alexander MacConnell gallich*, and many others, for their treasonable fireraising and burning of boats at Elandonan, &c."

P. 147.—"Various chieftains, claiming their descent from the ancient Lords of the Isles, A.D. 1540, came to meet their sovereign, particularly John Moydertach, captain of the Clan Ranald, Alexander of Glengarry, and others of *MacConeyllis kin*."

P. 417.—"As some persons attach great importance to the mode of spelling the name '*Macdonald*,' it may be proper to observe here that, until of late, the spelling of Highland names was so lax as to deprive of all weight any argument resting on so uncertain a foundation. It could easily be shewn that, on many occasions, the Glengarry and Keppoch families, who have now adopted *Macdonnell*, frequently used *Macdonald*. The most proper way of spelling the name, according to the pronunciation, was that formerly employed by the Macdonalds of Dunyveg and the Glens, who used *Macconnell*. Sir James Macdonald, however, the last of this family in the direct male line, signed *Makdonall*."

The following notices* regarding Scottish Archery, particularly that of the Highlanders, &c., by Donald Gregory, further prove the point:—

"King James V., as will appear by the subjoined curious notices from the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer, seems to have encouraged archery in the Highlands, by introducing among the Highlanders both English and Flemish bows, which, as the prices testify, were then considered much superior to those manufactured.

* *Archæologia Scotica*. Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries, Edinburgh. Vol. iii. p. 250. A.D. 1831.

Item, the 2d day of December 1532, paid to the English bowar for a dozen of bows and six dozen of arrows, delivered at the king's command to Alexander *Canochson*, (*a.*) and for four dozen of arrows delivered to the king's grace for his own shooting, £20.

Item, in August 1538 or 1539, given for a dozen of hand-bows, sent at the king's grace's command to James *Canochson*, (*b.*) of which the one half were Scottish bows and the other half English, &c. In all, £7, 10s.

(*a.*) Alexander *MacConnell* of Dunnyveg and the Glens, chief of a very powerful tribe of the Clan Donald, inhabiting Kintyre and Ilay.

(*b.*) James *MacConnell* of Dunnyveg and the Glens, son and successor to Alexander.

The last time archers appeared in a battle in the Highlands is said to have been at a great clan battle, fought in the year 1688, between the laird of Macintosh and Macdonald of Keppoch."

In "Archæologia Scotica," vol. ii., p. 362, are observations by John Dillon on the Norwegian expedition against Scotland, year 1263:—

"The names of Scottish commanders, besides the Earl of Ross, are so disguised in the Norwegian manuscript, that we cannot with any certainty distinguish who they were. They are called Kiarnach, and the son of M'Camal; and perhaps signify Mackenzie, and Macdonald, which name is constantly pronounced *M'Connal* in the Highlands."

In a work called "Authenticated Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland." By William and Andrew Smith, Mauchline, Ayrshire. P. 37:—

"Lord Macdonald of Slate and Lord of the Isles.—Lord Macdonald of Slate is the acknowledged chieftain of the MacDonalds of Slate, and as the representative of the last 'Lord of the Isles,' is called by way of pre-eminence in the Highlands *MacConnal na'n Eilan*."

Nisbet's "Heraldry," vol. i., p. 284:—

"Many Highland families carry lions and hands coupéd, and lymphads, as the *McOnells*, branches of the M'Donalds."

Work on Genealogy by William Buchanan, A.D. 1723, in the Lord Lyon Office, Edinburgh :—

“Macdonald or M'Connel of Largie. The name of *M'Connel* is always so designed by way of eminence, and without any farther distinction.

Macdonald of Slate married the daughter of King Robert II., and is ancestor of Macdonald of Largie.”

“*Miscellanea Scotica*,” 12mo. In the Library of the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh. Vol. I., History of Feuds and Conflicts among the Clans. Published 1764, from a manuscript written in the reign of King James VI. :—

“*Feud in the Western Isles*, 1586, between *Clan Donald* and *Clan Lean*.

Angus Macconnald of Kintyre is cousin of Donald Gorme Macdonald of Sleat, in Sky.

Isle Juray, or Duray, partly appertaineth to Maclean, and partly to Angus Macconnald.

Angus Macconnald renounced right to Kinnes of Ila. His eldest son was James.

Angus Macconnald, in 1591, was put in ward in Edinburgh castle, fined, liberated, and returned home.”

George Buchanan's Genealogy, vol. iv. :—

“Macdonald of Sleat hath always been reputed the chief family of that surname since the extinction of the Lords of the Isles ; and, as such, is always designed, by way of eminency, *Maconel*, or *MacDonald*, without any further distinction.

The first family is Macdonald of Sleat in Skye.

„ second	„	Clanranald.
„ third	„	Glengarry.
„ fourth	„	Keppoch and M'Intosh.
„ fifth	„	Largy and also Sanda.
„ sixth	„	Glencoe.”

In another page :—

“Sir James *Macconeill* of Kintyre is the second house of the Isles. Clan Iannore is the second house of clan Donald.”

“History of Scotland.” By John Leslie, Bishop of Ross. Bannatyne Club. The manuscript was written principally in A.D. 1571.

P. 156.—“A.D. 1538. King James V. sailed with a fleet to Orkney and the Isles. And salit be the coast of Ros by Kintail to the Ile of Trauternes, quhair diverse of *M'Coneyllis* kin, sic as the laird of Glangarry, Johne Moydert, and utheris, wes brocht lykewayis to the Kingis presens. And thairfra cummand to Kintire, Knapdane, and the rest of the Iles, Maclane and James *M'Oneile*, beand the tua principall capitanes of the small ilis, come to the King sic like.”

P. 160.—“A.D. 1541. The King of England causit proclamé him selfe King of Ireland. Quhairwith the King of Scotland was nothing contentit, because thair is greit parte of Ireland, specialye in the north thairof, quhilk has been possessed mony hundreth yeres be Scottismen, and under the obedience of the King of Scotland; quhilkis notwithstanding the said acclaimit title, James *Mackoneillis* ayres, and utheris Scottismen, dois yet possesse in thir dayes.”

The following extracts are from Skene's “Highlanders :”—

“The family of Sleat are the undoubted representatives of the last Lord of the Isles. By the daughter of Robert II. John had four sons :

Donald, Lord of the Isles, ancestor of Macdonald of Sleat.

John Mor, from whom proceeded the *Macconnells* of Kintyre.

Alister, progenitor of Keppoch.

Angus, who left no descendants.

Macconnell of Kintyre, and some others, imprisoned Donald Dhu in the Castle of Inchconnell for forty years.

Donald Galda, a near relation of Donald Dhu, was then Lord of the Isles, and made reconciliation with the *Macconnells* of Kintyre.”

“History of the Highlands and Highland Clans.” By James Browne. 8vo. 4 vols. Vol. iv., pp. 444 and 445 :—

“John of the Isles, in the reign of David II., 1329 to 1371, married Amy, daughter of Roderick of the Isles, and had three sons—John, Godfrey, and Ranald. The last only left descendants; and from him the clan Ranald derive their origin.

John of the Isles also married the daughter of King Robert II., who reigned from 1371 to 1390. By her he had four sons—

Donald, Lord of the Isles, ancestor of the Macdonalds of Sleat.

John Mor, ancestor of the *Macconnells* of Kintyre.

Alister, progenitor of Keppoch.

Angus, who does not appear to have left descendants.

The Macdonalds of Islay and Kintyre, after maintaining themselves in a state of independence, sunk gradually under the usurping ascendancy of the Campbells (Earl of Argyle,) and were finally extinguished soon after the accession of Charles I., 1625.

The Campbells compelled Sir James Macdonald to fly to Spain (1615,) the last representative of that house. The most valuable portion of the property of the ducal house of Argyle consists of the lands of which the Macdonalds of Islay and Kintyre were thus violently despoiled. The Earl of Argyle obtained a grant of his lands.

The Macdonalds of Sleat constitute the only branch which, in modern times, has increased in power and station; and their chief is ennobled by the title of Lord Macdonald."

The following extract is from a letter of Chancellor Cusacke to the Duke of Northumberland, dated May 8, 1552. (Harleian MSS. British Museum, No. 35, fol. 181 to 194.) Quoted in the appendix of "Irish Presbyterian Church." By James Seaton Reid. 2 vols. 8vo:—

"M'Mahon's country is Cavan.

Magenis's " Iveache, Moira.

White's " Dnffreyn.

Arde Savage's " Strangford Promontory.

O'Neil's " Clanneboy.

Hngh M'Neile Oge went to calle *M'Connill* to assist him, and the Scotts of the Glynnnes. Knockfergns (Carrickfergus) is in Clanneboy. Glynnnes (glens,) inhabited by the Scotte, is twenty miles long, by four miles broad.

Route, or M'Quoillyn's, (M'William's,) between the Bann and the Boyse.

O'Cahan's country, Derry, (Londonderry,) west of the Bann.

Tyroon, country of Shane O'Neill.

Tyrconnell, (Donegal,) O'Donnell's country.

Fermanagh is M'Gwyer's country."

The following extract is from a letter by T. Hibbert Ware, Esq.,* Hale

* To Mr Ware the writer is much indebted for the kind assistance he has given to carry out these researches.

Barns, Cheshire, member of the Society of Antiquaries, Edinburgh, to Thomas H. McConnel, Esq., Hale Carr, March 1, 1860 :—

"I come to the following opinions from Skene's 'Highlanders':—

That in the year 1266, the cession of the Western Isles by Norway to the king of Scotland first brought forward the Clan Macdonald as *Lords of the Isles*, (vol. i. p. 135.)

That the Clau Donald derives its origin from Donald son of Reginald, and that the possessions which fell to him were South Kintyre and Isla, (vol. ii. p. 58.)

That the family of *McConnells* were also powerful in Kintyre, (vol. ii. p. 88-90.)

That the common ancestor of the Macdonalds and *McConnells* was John, Lord of the Isles, (vol. ii. p. 97.)

That doubtless the Macdonalds of Kintyre and Isla and the *McConnells* of Kintyre were one and the same family and clan; for it appears (vol. i. p. 178) that in 1545 Alexander *Macconnill* (modern, *McConnell*) was 'captain' of the Macdonalds of Sleat in Skye. 'Captain' was the title taken by the oldest cadet of a clan when he assumed the leadership of it during the minority or other disability of the chief, as is stated by Skene.

That in the reign of Charles I. the Macdonalds of Isla and Kintyre were dispossessed of their power and property, partly by force, but chiefly by the cunning and fraud of the Argyle family, (vol. ii. p. 95.)

The *McConnells* of Kintyre, being the same family and clan, would be involved in the same disaster, and on the dispersion of the clau it is probable that many individuals would attach themselves to other branches of the Macdonalds, while others would emigrate to the mainland of Scotland.

The circumstance of there being no armorial bearings *especially* designated for the *McConnells* is accounted for from the fact of their being the same family as the Macdonalds of Kintyre and Isla, and, of course, they would bear the same arms.

I doubt if much information can be obtained from the Church Registers of Scotland, as they were very irregularly kept, particularly in those disturbed times; but as the Scotch have always been more advanced in education than us, it is very probable, that after the dispersion of the clan, many individuals of it, particularly those who had emigrated to the mainland, would send their sons to Glasgow University; in this case, the Matriculation Registers might afford information."

In a letter dated 17th December 1860, Mr Ware says :—

"I was interested to observe the very many proofs of the identity of the names

McDonald and *McConnell*; one chief, in particular, M'Connell of Dunivaig, frequently writing his name both ways.

There is in Iona Club 'Collectanea,' also, p. 121, A.D. 1616, a curious act, directing the chiefs and other principal clansmen to send their bairns into the Lowlands to be educated at the schools there. Moreover, a rather severe penalty was attached to noncompliance with the act, (*i.e.*, the children were not to be served as heirs to estates), and it is not unlikely, therefore, that there was some public record, as lists of scholars, in order that those who had been educated as commanded might prove the fact."

Further on, I have shewn two of the name of *McConnell* who were educated at the Glasgow College. The first record of students' names preserved in Edinburgh was not till after the middle of the seventeenth century, which date is too late to prove the points of connexion of our family with that of Macdonald of the Isles.

My brother, James M'Connell, of Manchester, had correspondence with W. R. M'Connell, Esq., 1 King's Bench Walk, Temple, London, on the subject of the origin of his family, and on April 19, 1860, the latter remarks :—

"I should have mentioned that I consulted Dr O'Donovan, Professor of Celtic Literature and Language in the Queen's University, Ireland, as to the names *McConnell* and *McDonnell*, and he said that in Gaelic or Irish there would be no difference in their pronunciation.

In a catalogue of the Stow MSS., I find the forms *Cconaill*, *Conall*, *Chonaill*, temp. Jac. I.

In the original 'Annals of the Four Masters,' shewing the Irish writers of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, we have :—

Sean Conn Mac *Conal*, an Baird.

Crooked John Mac *Conal*, son of the Bard ; died 1459.

Ware mentions John de *Conal* in connexion with Kildare in a list of 1294, and again about 1319; Nicholas *Conyall* in 1500; Cornelius *Conyall* or *O'Connyll*, 1498; Hygate *Conell* or Bonell, vicar-choral of Limerick, 1615; and William *Connell*, M.A., Archdeacon of Ossory, 1758."

Many authors can be referred to as further proofs of the identity of extraction of *McConnell* and Macdonald; as Burnet, Clarendon, Baillie,

(Letters,) Nicoll, (Diary,) M'Crie, Kirkton, Fountainhall, Calderwood. Some of these authors, as well as Ware and Reid, prove that the MacDonalds, MacDonnells, and *MacConnells*, in Antrim, sprung from the Clan Donald South or Clan Ian Vor of Cantyre, Isla, and the Glens, (Antrim;) therefore the writer considers this point as proved beyond all doubt.

The best authority that can be obtained to shew that *MacConnell* and *Macdonald* are the same, is perhaps that of authors who lived in or soon after the sixteenth century. One of the most important of these is perhaps Camden. Some remarks of his are in Bleau's Atlas, published 1654 as follows :—

“CANTYRE.—La maisou de *Mac-Conell* gouverne tout ce pays, soubs le bon plaisir du comte d'Argathélie, laquelle ensuite estant passée en Irlande avec de gros vaisseaux, s'est emparée des petites provinces qu'ils appellent Glines et Rowte.

Irlande, Ultonie ou Ulster—La Comte de Antrim ; Glinnes :—

Du temps de nos pères quelques courreurs Escossois et Irlandois, venant de Cantire et des Hebrides, s'en saisirent sous la couduite de Jacques *Mac-Conell* Sieur de Cantire en Escosse, qui repetoit les droits des Bissets.

Rowte.—Car Surley Boy, c'est à dire, Charles le Roux, père de Jacques *Mac-Conell*, qui occupa Glinnes, s'en saisit aussi.”

It appears that the name *Macconnell* was more particularly given to the Macdonalds of Isla, Kintyre, and the Glens, and was in common use among them from John Mor, the founder of this clan about the year 1400, till about 1600, after which time the word Macdonald and Macdonnell was generally substituted.

It is difficult to ascertain the cause of this change, but it is probably owing to the advanced state of education introduced at the time of the Reformation, 1560. Donaldus is the Latin for Donald, Gaelic Domhnall ; and it seems probable that the Latin form, Anglicised into Donald, became more used by those who received education at the universities and parish schools.

There is some difficulty in ascertaining the date when the surname of Macdonald was first applied to the Clan Donald. "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 149 :—

"Surnames were partially adopted by various tribes as early as the ninth and tenth centuries, but hereditary and permanent surnames were not established until the eleventh and twelfth centuries. It appears that surnames were not arbitrarily assumed, but each family or clan were at liberty to adopt a surname from some particular ancestor, and generally took their names from some chief of their tribe celebrated for his valour, wisdom, piety, or some other great qualities,—some prefixing Mac, and others Ua or O."

Bleau's Atlas. "Les Hebrides par Camden" :—

"Les familles qui dominant sur ces Isles sont celles de *Mac-Conel*, de Mac-Alen ou Maclen, de Mac-Cloyd de Lewis, et de Mac-Cloyd de Harich, dont la plus puissante est celle de *Mac-Conell*, qui se dit de la race de Donald, lequel du temps de Jacques III., se fit Roy de ces Isles."

Skene, "Highlanders of Scotland," p. 94 :—

"The descendants of the different Lords of the Isles professed to form one clan. These branches all adopted the name of Macdonald ; and the first great division which took place among them was between the descendants of the sons of the two marriages of John, Lord of the Isles, in the fourteenth century. P. 96,—By the daughter of Robert II. John had four sons—Donald, Lord of the Isles, from whom came the Macdonalds of Sleat ; John Mor, from whom the *Macconells* of Kintyre ; Alaster, the progenitor of Keppoch ; and Angus."

In the public records this John of the Isles is always styled *Johannes de Yle, John of Isla, Johannes de Insula*.

Gregory, "Highlands, Isles, and Clans" :—

P. 61.—"*Clandonald North, or the House of Sleat*. Their appellation of Clandonald arose probably from the circumstance, that six successive chiefs of this clan, after John, the son of Hugh, bore the name of Donald ; and the addition *North*, indicating their residence in Sky and North Uist, was adopted to distinguish them from the clan Ian-Vor, of Isla and Kintyre, who were also called clan Donald. Since the extinction of the direct line of the family of the

Isles, in the middle of the sixteenth century, Macdonald of Sleat has always been styled in Gaelic, '*MacDhonuill na'n Eilean*,' or Macdouald of the Isles."

P. 63.—"*Clan Ian-Vor*. The clan Ian-Vor was known also as clan Donald, from its celebrated chief, Donald Balloch, who died A.D. 1476; whilst, to distinguish it from the race of Hugh of Sleat, the appellation, *Clandonald South*, was employed. The chiefs were usually styled Lords of Dunyveg (in Isla) and the Glens. John Mor himself is so styled in a writ of the year 1400."

From these extracts it is evident that the surname Macdonald is comparatively of recent date.

It may be interesting here to give the following extract on Irish proper names. "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 41:—

"Aodh, pronounced Ee and E, signifies fire, and was probably derived from the Druidical worship. The name has been Anglicised into Hugh, and Latinised variously, Hugo, Ædus, Aidus, and Odo.

Aongus, the name of kings and chiefs, pronounced Angus, derived from *Aon*, excellent, and *Gus*, strength. This has become a surname—MacAongusa, or MacGeunises.

Art, derived from *Art*, noble. It has been Anglicised to Arthur.

Cairbre, probably derived from *Corb*, chariot, and *Ri*, king.

Conn, derived from *Conn*, wisdom or sense; or from *Cu*, a hound, figuratively applied to a warrior, as the genitive case of *Cu* makes *Con*. Conn of the hundred battles.

Conall, derived either from *Conall*, friendship; or from *Cu*, making in the genitive *Con*, signifying a warrior, and *All*, mighty. An instance of which may be given in the famous warrior, Cearnach, or Conall the victorious.

Cuchullain, from *Cu*, hound, and, figuratively, a swift-footed warrior, and *Ulladh*, or Ulster; sometimes inflected Ullain, a famous warrior of the Red Branch Knights of Ulster.

Domhnall, pronounced Don-all, and Anglicised Daniel, became also a surname, as in the great family of the O'Donnells, princes of Tirconnell.

Rudhraighe, or Ruadhraighe, derived either from *Ruadh*, valiant; or *Ruadh*, red, and *Righ*, king; signifying the valiant king, or the red-haired king. Anglicised to Rory and Roderick."

In Chalmers' "Caledonia," vol. i. p. 492,—shewing in which way the Celtic and Gothic people applied the patronymic mark:—

"The Celts prefixed it; the Goths affixed it. Hence we see the *Aps* of the Welsh, the *O's* of the Irish, and the *Macs* of the Scottish people prefixed to the names of sons; while we perceive the Gothic affix, by adding the name son or dotter after the name of the father."

The following extract is from a document, titled—"A Proposal for Uniting Scotland with England, addressed to King Henry VIII. By John Elder, Clerke, a Reddshanke." 1542 or 1543. Printed in the Bannatyne Miscellany. In this document the word *Yrische* is applied to the Highlanders and Islanders of Scotland; and to this day the Gaelic language is called *Erische* or *Erse*, by the Lowland Scotch:—

"The said people which inhabitede Scotland afor the incumnyng of Alban-actus, being valiant, stronge, and couragious, although they were savage and wilde, had strange names, as Gillecillum—*i.e.*, Malcolmus; Donyll, *i.e.*, Donaldus. Then their sonnys, followinge theame in manheid and valiauntness, callide theame selves after this maner of wyse, leaving ther proper names un-expresside.

Makconyll, *i.e.*, filius Donaldi; *Makgillecillum*, *i.e.*, filius Malcolmi; and so they have contenevide unto this daye, and never expressis ther proper names but when they subscryve a lettir, as Donyll Mak Leode Lewis, *i.e.* Donaldus filius Ludovici de Levisia. The *Yrische* lordis names in the saide plotte be theis, Mak Eoyn Whanyghe, *i.e.*, filius Joannis bellicosus.*

Mak-kye, *i.e.*, filius Hugonis; *Mak-Yllean*, *i.e.*, filius Kellani; *Mak-Neill Varray*, *i.e.*, filius Nigelli de Barra insula; for Mak in *Eyrische* signifieth a sonne.

Likewise your Maiesties subiecties were callide O'Neill, *i.e.*, nepos Nigelli; O'Bren, *i.e.*, nepos Bernardi; a degree forthir of then the *Eyrische* lordes in Scotland, bicaus the sonnys of the forsaide Neill, Bren, chancede not to be so valiaunt in manhede and chivalre at the begynning as ther ffathers, but ther nephiew. Therfor they wer callit O'Neill, O'Bren, omittinge also ther propir

* Mak Eoyn Whanyghe, *i.e.*, MacEoin Chathanach. The person bearing this patronymic in 1542 was James *MacConnell*, or Macdonald, of Isla and Kintyre, whose grandfather was Sir John *MacConnell*, surnamed Cathanach, or warlike, a word derived from Cath, signifying, in the Gaelic language, a battle. James Macdonald, of Dunyveg and the Glens, called Cannochson, after his grandfather, Sir John Macdonald, surnamed Cathanach, chief of the clan Ian-Mhor of Isla and Kintyre.

names, and pleas your Hignes, but when they subscriyvede a lettir, as Ewwyn O'Neill, *i.e.*, Engenius nepos Nigelli; for O' in Eyrische signifieth a nephew.*

Moreover, wherfor they call us in Scotland Reddshankes, and in your Graces dominion of England, roghe footide Scottis, pleas it your Maiestie to understande that we of all people can tollerat, suffir, and away best with colde; for, boithe somer and wyntir, (excepte when the froest is mooste vehemente,) goynge alwaies bair leggid and bair footide, our delite and pleasure is not only in hwn-tynge, but also in rynninge, leapinge, swymmynge, shootynge, and thrawinge of dartis; therfor, in so muche as we use and delite so to go alwaies, the tendir, delicate gentillmen of Scotland call us Reddshankes. And agayne in wynter, when the froest is mooste vehement, which we can not snffir bair footide, so weil as snow, whiche can never hurt us whene it cummes to our girdills, we go a hwn-tynge; and after that we have slayne redd deir, we flaye of the skyne, bey and bey, and settinge of our bair foote on the insyde thereof, for neide of cunnyge shoemakers, we play the swtters; compasinge and mesuringe so moche therof as shall retche up to our anklers, pryckynge the npper part therof, also, with holis, that the water may repas when it entres, and stretchide up with a stronge thwange of the same, meitand above our saide anklers, so we make our shoois; therfor, we usinge such manner of shoois, the roghe, hairie syde outward, we be callit roghe footide Scottis."

It was stated in the last chapter that Ewin Allanson, captain of the clan Chameron, married the sister of Alexander, son of Gillespiek, second son of Alexander, Lord of the Isles; and that several descendants of Ewen Allanson, or MacAllan bore the name of M'Coil or *M'Connell* Duie. It is probable that Ewen Allanson added the name of *M'Connell* or Macdhonuill, to his own on account of this marriage. Gregory says, p. 77:—

"The chief of the Clanchameron was generally known in the Highlands by his patronymical appellation of 'MacDhonuill Duibh,' *i.e.*, *MacConnell* Duy; or, the son of Black Donald."

* "Annals of the Four Masters," p. 10:—"Hy, in Irish Ibh, pronounced Iv, is the plural of Ua, or O, which is the preposition *from*. The word Ua, or O, prefixed to Irish surnames, signified originally a grandson, but was afterwards applied to all the descendants. Mac signifies a son."

The clan Cameron were vassals and followers of the clan Donald till about the middle of the sixteenth century ; and the name *M'Conell* was used only by the chiefs ; therefore, it is very improbable that any cadets sprung from that clan, who might settle in Ayrshire and Galloway, would use the name *M'Conell*.

The following list of the chiefs of the Clan Cameron is taken from Cameron's "Memoirs of Lochiel," in the Edinburgh Subscription Library :—

" John Ochtery, A.D. 1320 to 1333.
 Allan M'Ochtery.
 Ewen M'Allan, first.
 Donald M'Ewen, first, M'Coilduy.
 Ewen *M'Conell*, 1441, M'Coilduy.
 Donald Dow *M'Conell*, his brother.
 Ewen *M'Conel* Duie.
 Donald M'Ewen, second.
 Allan *M'Conell* Duie, first, 1472, married Marion, the daughter of Angus Macdonald, of the Isles.
 Ewen M'Allan, second.
 Donald M'Ewen, third.
 Ewen *M'Conell*.
 Donald Dow *M'Conell*, second, 1561.
 Allan *M'Conell* Duie, second, or M'Ian Duie.*
 John M'Allan.
 Ewen M'Ian, or Sir Ewen.
 John M'Ewen.
 Donald M'Ian, died 1748."

"Annals of the Four Masters, with Notes by M'Dermott." 1846.
 P. 571 :—

"The MacDonnells of Antrim and the Hebrides were originally descended from

* Gregory says, p. 203 :—"The contemporary records style him, in numerous instances, MacIanduy. Occasionally, no doubt, he appears as *MacConnell* Duy; but this is evidently the well-known style of the chief of the Camerons, derived from a remote ancestor."

the Irish race in Ulster, called Clan Colla ; some of their ancestors, having gone from Ulster in remote times, settled in Scotland, chiefly in Argyle and the Hebrides, and, according to Lodge's 'Peerage' on the MacDonnells, Earls of Antrim, they became the most numerous and powerful clan in the Highlands of Scotland, where they were generally called MacDonalds. In the reign of Malcolm IV., king of Scotland, in the twelfth century, Somerled, Samhairle, or Sorley MacDonnell was Thane of Argyle, and his descendants were styled Lords of the Isles or Hebrides, and Lords of Cantyre, and were allied by intermarriages with the Norwegian Earls of the Orkneys, Hebrides, and Isle of Man. The MacDonnells continued for many centuries to make a conspicuous figure in the history of Scotland, as one of the most valiant and powerful clans in that country. Some chiefs of these MacDonnells came to Ireland in the beginning of the thirteenth century ; the first of them mentioned in these annals being the sons of Randal, son of Somerled, the Thane of Argyle above mentioned, and they, accompanied by Thomas MacUchtry, a chief from Galloway, came, in A.D. 1211, with seventy-six ships and powerful forces to Derry ; they plundered several parts of Derry and Donegal ; and fresh forces of these Scots having arrived at various periods, they made some settlements in Antrim, and continued their piratical expeditions along the coasts of Ulster. The MacDonnells settled chiefly in those districts called the Routes and Glynnnes, in the territory of ancient Dalriada, in Antrim, and they had their chief fortress at Dunlnece. They became very powerful, and formed alliances by marriage with the Irish princes and chiefs of Ulster, as the O'Neills of Tyrone and Clannaboy, the O'Donnells of Donegal, the O'Kanes of Derry, the MacMahons of Monaghan, &c.

The MacDonnells carried on long and fierce contests with the MacQuillans, (MacWilliams,) powerful chiefs in Antrim, whom they at length totally vanquished in the sixteenth century, and seized on their lands and their chief fortress of Dunseverick, near the Giant's Causeway.

Many distinguished chieftains of the MacDonnells are mentioned in the course of these annals ; they were celebrated commanders of Galloglasses* in Ulster and Connanght, and make a remarkable figure in Irish history, in the various wars and battles from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century, and particularly

* Galloglasses—in Irish, Galloglacha—were the heavy-armed foot soldiers of the Irish ; they wore iron helmets, and coats of mail studded with iron nails and rings, had long swords by their sides, and bore in their right hand broad battleaxes, with very keen edges, by a single blow of which they often clove the skull of a warrior through his helmet. It appears that the Scots also had troops called Galloglasses and Kerns, as in Shakspeare's *Macbeth* mention is made of "the merciless MacDonnell, from the Western Isles, with his kerns and galloglasses."—*Galloglasses*, p. 156.

in the reign of Elizabeth ; they are sometimes called Clan Donnells, and by some of the English writers *MacConnells*.

The MacDonnells generally fought in alliance with the Irish, as the O'Neills, O'Donnells, &c., and also with the Burkes of Connaught, against the English ; but very frequently there were fierce contests between the MacDonnells and the Irish chiefs.

The Sorley Buighe, above mentioned, was son of Alexander MacDonnell, by a daughter of O'Kane ; and Sorley makes a remarkable figure in Ulster for a period of about twenty years ; he was mostly joined with the Irish chiefs in the war against Elizabeth, but he afterwards became reconciled to the Government, and his son, Sir Randal, (Reginald,) was created Earl of Antrim by King James I., and that title has been since held by the family of MacDonnell."

P. 156. A.D. 1366.—"The Bishop of Raphoe, that is, MacMaengail, (Patrick MacMoengal, or *Magonail*) died."

P. 562. A.D. 1586.—"The official (Vicar-General) MacCongail, (*MacConnell*), namely, Owen Balloch, died on the festival day of St Bridget precisely.

Cormac, the son of Donal *MacConnell*, died on the 17th of March."

P. 568. A.D. 1589.—"Donal MacCongail, (or *MacConnell*, called Donal *Magonail* in Ware,) Bishop of Raphoe, died on the 29th September."

The historical accounts of the origin of the name *M'Connell* having been examined, it only remains to ascertain how far official documents and records corroborate the statements before given. These are very numerous, and a few only have been selected, which shew clearly the identity of the name *M'Connell* and *Macdonald*.

"*Origines Parochiales Scotiæ*," vol. ii. Collected from official documents by Cosmo Innes. In the Edinburgh Subscription Library :—

KINTYRE, p. 5.

"In 1545, Queen Mary, for good service done by James *Makconnnyll* of Dunyveg and Glens in opposing the English, granted to him the barony of Bar in North Kintyre, with remainder to his brothers Angus, Colin, Charles, Alexander, and Donald Gorme *M'Connnyll* and heirs, lands of Carnebeg, Carnemoir, &c.

In 1554, Neill Makneill of Geya sold to James *M'Connnyll* of Dunyveg and Glens and Agnes Campbell, his wife, with remainder to his brothers Angus, Coill, Alexander Og, and Sorell Boy *Makconnnell*, various lands.

In 1563 and 1564, Queen Mary confirmed to James *M'Coneill* of Dunnyvaig

and Glens the same lands ; and in 1564, the barony of Bar to Archibald, his son and heir.

In 1619, the office of Tossochdoir of all Kintyre from the Mull to Altasynoché was inherited by John *M'Connell*, one of the same family.

KILLELANE.

In 1619, Archibald Oig *M'Connell* was served to his grandfather, Archibald *M'Connell*, alias Angus Elochsoin of Macireache, in the lands of Saint Ninian.

KILMICHAEL.

In 1619, John *M'Connell* was served heir in some lands to his father, Archibald, who was a natural son of Angus *M'Connell* of Dunavaig.

KILLEAN.

Some lands, in 1627, united into the tenantry of Largie, in which Alexander *M'Connell* was in that year served heir to his father, Archibald.

KILCALMONELL.

The same as in Killean.

GIGHA.

1619. John *M'Connell* served heir to his father, (or brother,) Archibald *M'Connell*, who was the natural son of Angus *M'Connell* of Dunavaig.

APPENDIX.

In the year 574 was fought the battle of Delgen in Cuidtíre, (Cantire,) in which fell Dunchad *M'Conal* *M'Comgal* and many others."

"Inquisitiones Ritornatorum." Edinburgh Subscription Library :—

"1619, March 30. John *M'Connell*, heir to Archibald *M'Connell*, natural son of Angus *M'Connell* of Dunavaig.

1619, Dec. 16. Archibald Oig *M'Connell*, heir to Archibald *M'Connell*.

1627, July 3. Alexander *M'Connell*, heir of Archibald *Mak-Connell* of Largy, his father.

1669, May 19. Angus Macdonald of Largy, heir of Alexander *M'Connell*.

1698. Joannes Macdonald of Largy, heir of Angus Macdonald."

In the Chancery Office, Register House, Edinburgh, are instruments or deeds which prove that

Archibald *MacConnell* held title to Largie, by charter, February 7, 1600.

Alexander *McConnel* died about the year 1641.

Angus Macdonald, son of Alexander *McConnel*, became his heir in 1669.

Largie property remained in the hands of M'Donalds during most part of the eighteenth century, and has since gone by marriage to the Honourable A. H. M'Donald Morton.

"Statistical Account of Scotland." Argyle. 1843:—

PARISH KILLEAN AND KILCHENZIE.

"Largie is now the property of the Honourable Mr Moreton Macdonald. The rent roll is £1343.

PARISH SOUTHEND.

In the churchyard at Saddell are the burial-places of the collateral branches of the Macdonald family."

"Acta Parliamentorum." Carol. I., p. 345. Edinburgh Subscription Library:—

"1649. *Macconnel* is discharged of his former rebellion, and employed without finding caution, himself and all his friends. (This is *Macconnell* of Largie.)

1661. P. 102, Carol. II. Angus M'Donald of Largie's forfeited for taking arms with Montrose in 1645, '46, and '47; but his estates are recovered, 1661." *

"Index to Charters of Great Seal." In the Signet Library, Edinburgh:—

"*Macconnyll* de Dunnyveig et Glennis terrarum de Mule de Kintyre et in Baronia de Bar, North Kintyre. April 1545.

1554. *McConnell* of Dunyveg and Agnes Campbell, his spouse, Gey and Tarbert.

Ditto, lands of Kelleland, Garcloskane, &c.

1558. Ditto, four merks land in the Barony of Bar.

1563. Ditto, land in South Kintyre.

* "At the battle of Killiecrankie, the laird of Largo, twenty-four years of age, chief-tain of a branch of the M'Donalds of Kintyre, was killed, and several gentlemen of the same family."—Cameron's "*Memoirs of Lochiel*," p. 280.

1563. *M'Onell* of Dunavaig, lauds of Kilfedder, Kirhillie, Askemes, &c., Inverness.
 1598. Archibald, natural son of Angus *M'Connell* of Dunavaig, lands of Geya.
 1600. Archibald *Makconnell* of Largie, lauds of Carnebeg, Little Corseheleeke, &c.
 1618. Douald *M'Connald* of Sleat.
 1634. Archibald M'Donald of Sanda, lands of Kildouan, Bute."

Iona Club "Collectanea." Published, Edinburgh, 1839 :—

P. 9.—"Obligation, James Maedonald, of Castell Kames, to the Bishop of the Isles, 1575-6. Be it kend till all men be thir present lettres, me, James M'Donill, Growemych of Castell Cames, sikerlie to be bunden and oblist, &c. that we sall content, pay, and deliver to the said reverend fader, his airis, executouris, and assigneis, all males and deuteis pertaining to the said reverend fader within North Uyest, Slait, and Troternes, that I tuik up or intrometit with sen the decess of umquhile Donald M'Donald, gorme of Troternes, (nephew to James M'Donill,) maid betwix me and Clane-alespik, elerych of the said Donill M'Donill, gormes, &c. Donald M'Donill, son and air to the said umqle Donald M'Donald, gormes of Troterues. The xvij day of Marche, the ycir of God 1^m v^c threscore fiveteen (1575) yeris, befor thir witnesses, Archbald, Joline *M'Conill* M'James, servitors to James *M'Conill*, and William Cuniug, notar-publick. (Sic subscribitur,) I, James *M'Conill*, growmeicht, with my hand at the pen led by W. Cuming, uotar-publick, be me speciale desirit thairto."

P. 12.—"Obligation, Angus Maedonald, of Dunyveg, to the Bishop of the Isles, 1580. Be it kend till all men be thir present lettres, we, Angus *M'Conill*, of Donyvaig. (Sic subscribitur,) Angus M'Donald, of Donovaig."

P. 88.—"Obligation by James, Duke of Chastellaura ilt, Earl of Arran, and Lord Hamilton, to James Maedonald of Dunyveg, in reference to the Duke's Isle of Arran, 1556. We, James, Due of Chastellaurault, Erle of Arrane, and Lord Hamilton, oblicis us to ane honorable man, James *M'Onle*, of Donnawaik, to Agnes Campbell, spouse to the said James, that we shall, in all gudly hest, infett the said James, and Agnes Campbell, his spouse, in all and haill the landis of Saddell."

P. 96.—"Bond of maintenance by Angus Maedonald, of Dunyveg and the Glens, to Ninian Bannatyne, of Kames, with obligation of maurent by Bannatyne in return, 1577. Angus *M'Conaill*, of Dunavaig and Glennis. Subscribed by Angus Maedonald and Hector Bannatyne, (for his father.)"

P. 115.—"Bond by nine of the principal Islesmen, declaring their religion, and binding themselves for the improvement of the Isles, both in religion, and obedi-

ence to the civil law, 1609. Subscribed to by Angus *M'Coneill*, of Dunivaig; Donald Gorme of Slait, Donald M'Donald, of Illintyrim, and others."

P. 119.—"Two statutes for the same object, 1609. Subscribed to by Angus M'Donald, of Dunnoveg; Donald Gorme M'Donald, of Slait; Donald M'Allane, vc eane of Ilanterame, and others."

P. 102.—"Proceedings before the Privy Council in a complaint by the burghs of the realm against some of the Highlanders, for molesting those burgesses engaged in the fisheries in the North Isles and adjacent mainland, 1586.

Mention is made of Donald Gorme, in the Sky; James *M'Konnell*, of Sklaittay; Allaster Neilsoun, the Laird of Trouternes, and others."

P. 141.—"Disposition or deed of sale by Mary of Guise, Queen Regent, to James Macdonald, of Dunyveg and the Glens, of the said ward, non-entries, relief, and marriage of Mary Macleod, heiress of Dunvegan, 1559."

"*Remarks.*—The Earl of Huntly having fallen into disgrace with the Regent for neglect of duty in not putting a stop to some disorders in the Highlands, was compelled, among other penalties, to divest himself of his interest in the estate of Dunvegan. This he did by a special deed of assignation in favour of the Queen Regent herself. The Earl of Argyle, having openly declared for the Protestants, could not, at this time, expect any favour from the Regent, who endeavoured to procure the support of James Macdonald, by making him the guardian and administrator of the wealthy heiress, Mary Macleod. The following notices from Sir Ralph Sadler's state papers shew that the Regent was disappointed in her expectation.

Extract letter, Sir R. Sadler and Sir James Croft to Mr Secretary Cecill, 25th October 1559. Sadler, ii., p. 517:—

'The Erle of Huntley remayneth at home in his countrey; but his son, as they say, is coming to the Protestants with iiij^c horse; and James Macdonnell, whom the Regent heretofore stirred against the Erle of Argyle, is also commyng to them with vii^c footmen.'

As early as 1554, if not before that time, James Macdonald of Dunyveg was married to Agnes Campbell, sister to the then Earl of Argyle.

In this disposition the above James Macdonald, or Macdonnell, is written twice, James M'Concill of Dunneveag and Glenniss.

In the "Calendar of State Papers." Domestic. Temp. Jac. I., published 1859, (Edinburgh Subscription Library:)—

"1624, July 19. Royston. A pension of 1000 merks, now enjoyed by Sir James *McConnell* is to be equally divided between him and Pat. Maull.

1624, July 27. Westminster. Grant to Sir James Macdonald of a pension of 500 marks per annum, on surrender of his former pension of 1000 marks, of which 500 is granted to Pat. Maull.

1625, Aug. 24. Freshwater. Sir James *McConnell* much laboured with to make a disturbance in the Isles of Scotland."

CHAPTER IV.

SUFFICIENT proof has already been given to shew that the Clan Donald possessed Cantyre, Isla, and the Glens in Antrim, for some centuries before A.D. 1615, when Sir James Macdonald fled to Spain. It has also been clearly shewn that at that period *MacConnell* and *MacDonald* were one and the same name, and often applied to the same person.

There is no document found, of date prior to the year 1600, giving indication of any of the name *M'Connell* holding property on the mainland of Scotland. The only male of that name was the Scripture-reader in Dalnellington, who, in all probability, was neither born nor educated in that parish. When we consider that, at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century, the Clan Donald South, or Clan Ian Vor, became extinguished as a clan, and that the property which was once theirs fell into other hands, we may reasonably infer that some few individuals of the clan would seek their fortunes on the mainland of Scotland, in a different sphere from that in which they met their downfall.

Accordingly, it is just at this period that we find the first trace of the name M'Connell in Ayrshire, and shortly afterwards in Galloway.

A very evident connexion between Antrim and Galloway in covenanting times—between 1638 and 1640—has been traced, when it is possible, and even probable, that some M'Connells may have come over from Antrim to Galloway. But there were M'Connells before this in Ayrshire; and the probability is, that these latter came from Cantyre

rather than from Antrim. Carrick shore is but twenty-eight miles distant from Cantyre, and crossing over in open boats an easy matter, each being distinctly visible from the other.

If M'Connells came over and settled in Carrick, they may, however, have come from both Cantyre and Antrim, in both of which places they were the same clan. The war of extermination which was carried on so successfully by the house of Argyle, for more than half a century, against the Clan Ian Vor, sufficiently accounts for the impoverished condition into which we find this once-powerful clan reduced at this period; and naturally leads to the conclusion, that any who escaped and settled in Carrick could have but little means of acquiring landed property there. The records of landed property, or "Retours," prove that they had none.

There are, fortunately, some circumstances which can be brought forward to shew the connexion which the Macdonalds or MacConnells of Cantyre had with Ayrshire previously to the seventeenth century; and which prove that any fugitives coming over to Ayrshire could not have been among total strangers, but that they would have found some friends to have received them and have given them a helping hand in their newly-adopted land.

I. As early as the thirteenth century, Angus Oig of Isla was a staunch and faithful ally of Robert Bruce, A.D. 1286. (Tytler's "Scotland," i., p. 65, and Gregory, p. 26.) All the lands of Cantyre, Isla, and other districts, were bestowed upon him; and before King Robert's death, the house of Isla was already the most powerful in Argyle and the Isles. Angus Oig and his munificent patron died about the same time; but John of Isla, the son and heir of the former, was far from exhibiting the same devoted loyalty to the house of Bruce which had characterised his father. When the star of Edward Balliol was in the ascendant, John of the Isles was induced to join his party.

II. The Lord of the Isles held for a short period some property in Ayrshire :—

“A.D. 1476. John Lord of the Isles had restored to him, besides other lands, the lands of Greenend, with all that belonged to it, in the county of Carrick and neighbourhood of Ayr.”—*Crawford*, “*Peerage of Scotland*,” A.D. 1715.

In Paterson’s “*Ayrshire Families*,” vol. ii., p. 353 :—

“Greenan, three miles from Ayr, in the parish of Maybole, is mentioned as belonging once to John Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, who feued the barony of Greenan to John Davidson, his native esquire, in 1475. Davidson had also a crown-charter of the lands of Grenane, 31st January 1476, in consequence of the forfeiture of the Earl of Ross. In 1591, this property belonged to John Kennedy, of Baltersan, and now forms part of the Marquis of Ailsa’s estate.”

Gregory, p. 14 :—

“Arran was the property of Somerled.”

P. 17.—“Arran was divided between Reginald and Angus, and may have been the cause of the deadly quarrel which we know existed between them.”

Iona Club “*Collectanea*,” p. 88 :—

“James M’Onele of Donnawik gave over to James Duke of Chastellaurault, Earl of Arran and Lord Hamilton, the right he had or pretended to have to the lands of Ceskane, and to the bailliarie of the ten-penny land, both within the isle of Arrane. A.D. 1556.”

III. At the end of the fifteenth century, John Earl of Ross, fourth and last Lord of the Isles “retired to the Monastery of Paisley, a foundation which owed much to the pious liberality of himself and his ancestors.” In A.D. 1493, “John was forfeited and deprived of his title and estates.” He died in the Monastery of Paisley, “about the year 1498; and was interred, at his own request, in the tomb of his royal ancestor, King Robert II.”—(*Gregory*, p. 58.) There is, therefore, every reason to believe that he had some influence in the neighbouring dis-

tricts of Renfrew and Ayrshire, and that not only he himself but other members of his family and relatives would be known there; some of these may, in consequence, have settled in Paisley as merchants; and about a century after this, we find several M'Connells in and near Paisley.

Thus in the parish of Kirkoswald, a child was baptized to John M'Cunal in Ruglane, (Rutherglen,) A.D. 1694; this is near Paisley.

William M'Conell, in Hacath, parish of Paisley, 1612.

David Conel, in Beltreis, parish of Loichwinzeoch, 1606.

In the course of these researches the writer has observed that the word *Mac* is frequently omitted. The parish records in Galloway and Carrick are sufficient to shew this. Even in the present day the omission is made, and not again adopted by the family dropping the prefix.

In Paterson's "Ayrshire Families," vol. i, p. 279:—

PARISH OF BEITH.

"John Fulton of Muirton married Jean Connel, daughter of Robert Connel of Grangehill, in 1670, and acquired that property. (Patrick Connel was proprietor of Grangehill in 1635.) His brother was Hugh Fulton, a merchant in Paisley in 1688."

To shew the probable intimacy that subsisted between the Fultouns and M'Connells or Connels, I may point out a parish record in the parish of Kirkmichael, in which Thomas Fultoun is witness to a baptism of Jennot M'Quhannell, A.D. 1653; and a marriage, A.D. 1697, of Arthur Fultone to Marion M'Connel.

Paterson, p. 264:—

"The lands adjoining to the barony of Beith on the east and north belonged to the Abbey of Paisley."

It is very probable, also, that most of the land between Beith and

Paisley, especially Loehwinnoeh, the next parish, belonged in the sixteenth century to the Abbaey of Paisley.

In the Chartulary of Paisley (Maitland Club) is a long account of extensive property in Cantyre given to the Monastery of Paisley by John of Isla and his ancestors. There is, therefore, no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that some M'Connells settled in and near Paisley, being encouraged and supported to a great extent by the Abbey; and here the origin of some of the M'Connells of Ayrshire is very evident.

IV. A.D. 1544. During the minority of Queen Mary, the Earl of Lennox had formed an expedition against the west coast of Scotland. He had obtained a well-manned fleet of ten or twelve sail from Bristol, and then attacked and plundered Arran and Bute, taking possession of them in the name of the King of England, (Henry VIII.)

Gregory, p. 167 :—

“While engaged in this expedition, Lennox, following his instructions, had entered into communication with the islanders, from several of whom he took bonds of service. Their anxiety to destroy the power of the Earl of Argyle, and to procure for their lord the restoration of the ancient possessions of his family, disposed them to enter readily into the views of Lennox and the English king. So great was the terror which this armament created in Kyle, Carrick, Cunningham, and Galloway, that many gentlemen of these districts, seeing no other mode of escape, placed themselves under Lennox's protection”

P. 170.—“On 5th August, the Lord and Barons of the Isles were at Knockfergus in Ireland, with a force of four thousand men and a hundred and eighty galleys, when, in presence of two commissioners, they took the oath of allegiance to the King of England, at the command of the said Earl of Lennox.”

From these circumstances, it is evident that there was much connexion between the Maedonalds of Cantyre and the mainland of Scotland, which may have led to friendship with many of the proprietors.

V. Intermarriage was, however, the most likely cause of such ac-

quaintance with the landed proprietors of Ayrshire, as might induce some of their relatives to settle there. The earliest marriage was with the family of Montgomery of Eglintoun, in the fourteenth century.

In Iona Club "Collectanea" is a fragment of a manuscript history of the Macdonalds, written in the reign of Charles II. P. 298 :—

"John (of the Isles) had a daughter by Lady Margaret Stewart married to Montgomery of Eglinton, who had Macdonald's arms in their house for a long time ; till of late years a countess in the family removed the bloody hand out of the arms, because it held a cross—she being a rigid Presbyterian."

The daughter of Lady Margaret Stewart was sister of Donald, second Lord of the Isles, and this marriage to Montgomery of Eglinton was probably about A.D. 1370.

In Paterson's "Ayrshire Families," vol. ii., p. 229, it is stated that Sir Hew de Eglintoun had as second wife Egidia, half-sister to Robert II., from whom, in 1372, he had a charter for the lands of Bonyngtonn, &c. In A.D. 1528 the castle of Eglintoun was consumed by fire, and the evidents destroyed ; and as there appears, according to Paterson, to be a difficulty in coming at the real facts, owing to contradictory statements, it is possible that the marriage was with the daughter of Lady Margaret Stewart and John, Lord of the Isles, as above stated, and therefore granddaughter of King Robert II. Whether Eglinton married the granddaughter or half-sister of Robert II., he was, at all events, connected by marriage with John, Lord of the Isles, who married the king's daughter about A.D. 1350.

From Robertson's "Ayrshire Families," vol. i., p. 54, Thomas Bannatyne of Kames, (Isle of Bute,) "appears to have been married to a second wife, Agnetta M'Connyle, or M'Donald, daughter of M'Donald of Kintyre and Islay." This was prior to A.D. 1473.

P. 57.—"Ninian Bannatyne appears to have been one of the west country

gentlemen who, early in the reign of Queen Mary, took part in the insurrection of the Earl of Lennox against Regent Hamilton, A.D. 1554."

P. 59.—"By Ninian's second marriage he had three daughters. The third, Annabella, married to Ronald M'Connyle, or M'Donald, younger brother to Angus of Kintyre and Islay. In consequence of which marriage, Ninian, and his son and heir, Hector, came under a bond of manrent to Angus; and obtained from him a bond, 15th May 1579, obliging themselves to support him against all men, the King's grace and the Earl of Argyle excepted. In consequence of which alliance, he was among the friends who accompanied Angus in that conflict between him and the M'Leans, which led to the forfeiture of the immense possessions of his family, then comprehending the greater part of Kintyre, the island of Islay, and a considerable part of Knapdale, and to their being the subject of a grant to the family of Argyle."

Paterson's "Ayrshire Families," vol. i., p. 208 :—

"The ancestor of the family (of Ballantine, of Castlehill, about a mile east of the town of Ayr) was Richard Bannatyne, (the name having been afterwards spelled Ballantyne,) a younger son of Bannatyne, of Kames, in Bute. He married a daughter of Sir Alexander Kennedy of Guiltree, and settled in Ayr in the beginning of the sixteenth century. He was provost of Ayr in 1535."

The above extracts shew the close connexion which existed by marriage between the Bannatynes, of Kames, and the M'Connells, of Cantyre; and that Richard Bannatyne, who settled in Ayr, being provost, was a person of considerable influence there. It is, therefore, a natural inference, that, when persecution fell so heavily on the M'Connells in Cantyre, some of them would seek a new home on the mainland of Ayrshire, where they had influential friends.

That these friends gave the helping hand, that was so much needed, we cannot positively assert; but subsequent events prove that there were M'Connells in Ayr at a date not much later than these to which I have just alluded. Amongst these was Alexander M'Connell, merchant and burgess of Ayr, whose will (before alluded to) was dated A.D. 1627.

Also, Celestinus M'Connell, A.D. 1631.

Mairtein M'Conel, parish of Girvan, 1605.

Besseta Makquhonill, parish of Stratune, 1551.

John Makeonnell, parish of Dalmellington, 1571.

It is evident that there are several sources from which the M'Connells might have come to Galloway: the principal of which are from Antrim direct; from Cantyre to Ayr; from Cantyre to Paisley, and thence to Ayr and Galloway. In all these cases, the M'Connells, being of the same clan as the Macdonalds, would have originated in Cantyre and Isla.

The question might be asked, Is there no connexion between the M'Connells of Antrim and the O'Connells who live in many parts of Ireland?

The following account of the families of the name of O'Connell is taken from the "Annals of the Four Masters," by Philip MacDermott:—

P. 152.—"O'Conaill, or O'Connell, (p. 178, O'Conghaill,) chief of Hy Cuilein, from Luachair Aille to Claenglais, according to O'Heerin. The commons of Claonglas are marked on the maps south-east of Abbeyfeale, in the barony of Upper Conello, on the verge of the county of Limerick, towards the river Feale, and the borders of Cork and Kerry. The territory of the O'Connells was called Hy Conaill Gabbra, and comprised the present baronies of Upper and Lower Conello, in the county of Limerick, and got its name from Conall Gabbra, one of its ancient chiefs, the ancestor of the O'Connells. The O'Connells, chiefs of Hy Conall Gaura, had also a district, called Aos Greine, extending from Knock Greine to near Limerick, and had their chief residence at Castle Connell.

At an early period, in the twelfth century, the O'Connells settled in Kerry, where they had a large territory, extending from Sliablu Luachra, and the river Feale, to Claenglais, on the borders of their ancient possessions.

Of the Clanna Deaga was Conaire II., monarch of Ireland in the beginning of the third century, who was married to a daughter of his predecessor, Con of the Hundred Battles, monarch of Ireland; by whom he had a son, named Cairbre Riada, from whom were descended the Dalriadians of Ulster. This Cairbre Riada, about the middle of the third century, settled the colony of Dalriadians, in that part of North Britain called Albany, afterwards Scotland; and from this colony were descended the Scottish kings, and the House of Stuart.

A son of Cairbre Riada got large possessions in South Munster, in parts of the

present counties of Cork and Kerry; and from him were descended the O'Connells of Kerry.

The O'Connells had large possessions in Kerry, chiefly in the barony of Iveragh, and branches of them were also settled in the county of Clare. After the Cromwellian wars, and the Revolution, a great part of the extensive possessions of the O'Connells were confiscated; but there are still many very respectable families of the O'Connells in the counties of Kerry and Clare; and of this ancient family the head is the celebrated Daniel O'Connell, of Darrynane Abbey, in the county of Kerry, who retains in his possession ancestral estates which never were forfeited during a tenure of sixteen hundred years."

"Annals of the Four Masters," p. 51:—

"The territory of Tir Conaill (Tyreconnel, or Donegal) got its name from Conall Gulban, who took possession of it in the beginning of the fifth century. He was son of the monarch Niall of the Hostages, and from him the territory obtained the name of Tir Conaill, or the country of Connell, and his posterity were designated Kinel Conaill, or the race of Connell, a name which was also applied to the territory. Tir Connell was formed into the County Donegal by the Lord Deputy Sir John Perrott, in the reign of Elizabeth, about 1585."

P. 609.—"The names Donegal and Tirconnell are Latinised Dúngallia and Tir-Connellia, and sometimes Conallia."

P. 52.—"The O'Donnells in the twelfth century became princes of Tir Connell, being descendants of Conall Gulban. They took their name O'Domhnaill, or O'Donnell, from Domhnall, or Donal, one of their ancient chiefs. Conall Gulban was son of Niall of the Hostages."

P. 436.—"Niall was monarch of Ireland for twenty-seven years, and ruled from A.D. 379 to 406. He was ancestor of the O'Neills and O'Donnells."

As the O'Connells resided for more than a thousand years in Kerry and Limerick, and but few, if any, of them in the north of Ireland, there is no reason whatever to suppose that the M'Connells could be in any way connected with them subsequent to the third or fourth century. The family of the O'Donnells is also perfectly distinct from the M'Connells, and has been so for quite as long a period as the O'Connells. After all the evidence that has been brought forward, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion than the one already stated, that the

M'Connells of Galloway and Ayrshire were branches of the Clan Donald, who possessed Cantyre, Isla, and the Glens of Antrim.

It has been already shewn that Macdonald was pronounced Macconnell in Cantyre, Isla, and the Glens; in this and other parts of Argyle the name is now, however, MacDonald and MacDonnell. In fact, since the middle of the seventeenth century, the large landed proprietors in Cantyre and Antrim have adopted the names MacDonald and MacDonnell. An instance of this was given in the MacDonalds of Largie, who for two generations at least were written in official documents MacConnell; the Earl of Antrim is also MacDonnell. There are, however, some branches, especially in Antrim, who retain the name M'Conuell even to the present time. Those also who came over to the mainland of Scotland retained the name M'Connell. This latter name is now quite extinct in the Highlands of Scotland, Cantyre and Isla, as well as all Argyleshire and the north. No doubt each clan thinks their own method of spelling the name the most correct; but still there are many good arguments to shew that MacDonnell is more correct than MacDonald, according to the Gaelic pronunciation, as well as the mode of spelling; Donald is derived from the Latin name Donaldus. In the Gaelic, the termination is *aill* and *uill*; and there is no reason why a good Gaelic word should be made into bad Latin.

With regard, however, to the words M'Connell or M'Donnell, the former resembles more the pronunciation, and the latter the spelling, so that either party could have good arguments for the correctness of their name. If the *Mac* were omitted, there could be no question as to the more correct manner being Donnell; but when the *Mac* is retained, the best Gaelic scholars of the present day have difficulty in pronouncing an opinion whether MacConnell or MacDonnell is the more correct.

CHAPTER V.

THE oldest record of armorial bearings borne by the Macdonalds is mentioned in Martin's "Western Islands," p. 261 :—

The arms of Macdonald of Isla, on a tombstone in Iona :—"Ship with hoisted sails, a standard, four lions, and a tree."

On the tombstone is the following inscription :—

"Hic jacet corpus Angusii Mack-Donuill de Ile."

In Lyndsay's "Heraldry," written A.D. 1542, in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, are the

"Arms of Lord of y^e Isles.—Or, eagle displayed gules, surmounted by lymphad sable."

According to Logan's work, entitled "The Scottish Gael,"

"The armorial bearings of the Lords of the Isles were, of old, quarterly, 1st and 4th, sable, three battleaxes, or ; 2d and 3d, gules, three biorlins (or large Highland boats of antique construction), or.

Macdonald of the Isles carries—Or, an eagle displayed gules, surmounted by a lymphad sable, and in the dexter chief point a hand gules, holding a croslet fitchée. Supporters, two bears with arrows stuck in their bodies proper. Crest, a raven sable on a rock azure."

In Burke's "Peerage," 1858,

The arms of Lord Macdonald are—

"1st, argent, lion rampant gules.

2d, or, hand in armour, holding cross croslet fitchie gules.

3d, vert, salmon naiant in fesse proper.

4th, argent, lymphad, sails furled, sable."

The arms of Sir Archibald Kepple Macdonald, brother of Lord Macdonald :—

"Quarterly, 1st, or, hand in armour, holding cross croslet fitchie gules.

2d, argent, lion rampant gules.

3d, row-galley sails furled sable.

4th, argent, salmon naiant in fesse proper."

The arms of the Earl of Antrim are—

"1st and 4th, quarterly.

1st, or, lion rampant gules.

2d, or, dexter arm coupé in fesse, holding cross croslet fitchie azure.

3d, argent, lymphad sable, oars saltireways.

4th, per fesse argent and vert, dolphin naiant proper."

According to "The Scottish Gael," by James Logan. A.D. 1831 :—

"The common heath, *Erica vulgaris*, is the badge of the MacDonald, MacAlaster, and MacNab Clans.

The war-cry of the MacDonalds was, 'Fraoch eilan,' the Heathy Isle."

The dexter hand holding a cross croslet fitchie is the well-known crest of the MacDonalds, and is seen on all their armorial bearings.

This crest is used by Mr William M'Connell, wine merchant, of Liverpool, before alluded to :—Dexter arm coupé erect, holding a cross croslet ; motto—" *Toujours prêt*," Always ready.

The crest of Mr J. M'Connell, Penrith, Cumberland, is the same as this.

The crest of Mr J. E. M'Connell of Wolverton Park is also a dexter arm coupé fessways, holding a cross croslet, with the motto, "*Prêt, toujours prêt*"—Ready, aye ready ; and his arms the same as the Macdonald arms, or nearly so.

The crest of W. R. M'Connell, Esq., barrister in London, is also—Dexter arm holding a cross croslet fitchie.

The following crest was taken from Deuchar's "Collection of British and Irish Crests." Published 1817 :—

"A dexter arm fessways, couped, proper, holding a cross croslet fitched, with motto, '*Toujours prêt !*' belonging to M'Connell, advocate, Edinburgh."

In Fairbairn's "Book of Crests." 1860 :—

"M'Connell, Sco. a dexter arm, in fess, couped, proper, in hand a cross croslet, fitched. '*Toujours prêt.*'"

This crest, although used by other families, is well known as a MacDonald crest, and tends to shew that the M'Connells derived it from them.

Many families have armorial ensigns, to some extent resembling those of MacDonald and MacDonnell; but in most of these instances, if not in all, a distant connexion can be traced, either by marriage or by common origin. Thus the arms of O'Neill of Clanneboy are—

"1st and 4th, per fess wavy, chief argent, base representing waves of the sea, in chief, a dexter hand couped at the wrist, gules; in base, a salmon naiant in fess proper for O'Neill.

Crest—Arm grasping a sword."

The armorial bearings of MacNiel, Maclean, Macalister, Clanranald, Macdougall, MacLachlan, as engraved in Brown's "Highland Clans," are very similar in many respects, and shew a common origin, though no doubt in many cases this is now very distant.

A search into the armorial bearings of these families is a very interesting study; but as it does not bear directly on the subject of this book, it is unnecessary to enter fully into it.

The following extracts from Burke's "General Armoury," 1851, are however of some interest :—

Arms of Daniel O'Connell, Derrynane Abbey, County Kerry.—"Party per fesse vert and argent, a stag trippant between three trefoils counterchanged. Crest—

a stag's head erased argent, charged with a trefoil vert. Supporters—two stags proper. Motto—(in Irish) 'Cia'll agos Ncart;' (in English) 'Power used with judgment.'"

O'Connell (Ireland).—"Argent, a lion rampant, sable; in the dexter forepaw a trefoil slipped vert; on a chief azure, three mullets or. Crest—a stag statant proper."

Burke's "Landed Gentry," 1858:—

"Daniel O'Connell, Derrynane Abbey, co. Kerry. From the district of Upper and Lower Connelloe, co. Limerick. Removed thence to Iveragh, co. Kerry, and remained there for a considerable period, until the rebellion of 1641. Transplanted thence to the county of Clare."

These are the arms which my father, as has been before stated, provisionally adopted, and which he considered, in later years, that he ought to use, as he was induced to believe that he was of similar origin to the O'Connells. But for this supposition there does not now appear to be any foundation.

The arms of O'Donnell are as different as those of O'Connell from those which are the true source of the armorial bearings of the M'Connells. They are as follows, taken from Burke's "General Armory," 1851:—

O'Donell. Newport, county Mayo. Baronet.—"Gules, issuing from the dexter side of the shield, a cubit sinister arm vested azure cuffed or, the hand proper grasping a cross fitchie of the third. Crest—two armed arms, embowed proper, crossing each other in saltire; the hand on the dexter side holding a heart; that on the sinister a scimitar, all proper. Motto—'*In hoc signo vinces.*'"

"Armorial ensigns of M'Connald, as they appear recorded in one of the ordinaries now remaining in the office of Ulster-King-at-Arms of all Ireland, January 1, 1816. No memorandum of time, or to whom granted. A Scotch family.

Argent, a lion rampant, gules; on a chief gules, three mullets or."

This is on a memorandum in possession of James M'Connell, Esq., Manchester. Also the following:—

"*Connel.* Bears argent, a cheveron gules between two spurs in chief sable.



The rowels of the second in base, a battle-axe azure shafted or. Crest—a bee erected proper. Motto—'Non sibi.'"

Armorial ensigns of Connell, as confirmed by Richard St George, Esq., Ulster-King-at-Arms of all Ireland, to John Connell, of Ashtown, in county of Dublin, 13th September 1668. O'Connell bears exactly the same; but there did not appear to be any for M'Connell.

The arms of M'Connald, having the lion rampant, are evidently allied to Scotland. The *lion rampant gules* is the Scottish arms, used by King Robert. But the arms of Connell have nothing Scotch about them; and, in fact, are the arms used by some branch of the O'Connells.

By means of armorial bearings and crests another link in the chain of connexion between the M'Connells and M'Donalds can be distinctly traced. And if these arms had been handed down from father to son, instead of having been collaterally propagated, their identity would have provided an argument that would have rendered our conclusions indisputable.

Having gone through all the evidence that I have been able to collect, which tends in any way to throw light upon the ancestry of John M'Connell, in Beoch, and the origin of the name M'Connell; and as I only write for those who are interested in these family particulars, it is scarcely necessary for me to crave their indulgence, while, as briefly as possible, I recapitulate some of this evidence, and, at the same time, express what appears to me to be the most correct conclusion to which this evidence leads.

My father writes,—*My great-grandfather came from the Highlands.*

Mrs Porter, niece of my father, states that her mother's great-grandfather, M'Connell, was a fugitive from the Highlands.

That John M'Connell, in Beoch, came from the Highlands, is the tradition that my father and his sister, Mrs Cairns, held. In their youth, and whilst living among their relations, this tradition was so impressed

upon their minds, that, in after life, it was never forgotten. The main fact in this tradition is, without doubt, correct. Still, there is evidently in it that amount of untruth to which all tradition is liable, arising from the length of time that has intervened between the event and its record. I believe that our ancestors did owe their origin to the Highlands; though the one who came from thence belonged, perhaps, to a generation many times removed from John M'Connell, in Beoch.

This John M'Connell had, apparently, a brother, or near relation, who occupied the adjoining farm of Barncrosh. These farms were both of considerable extent; and the proprietors would not be likely to give them on lease to mere strangers. Besides this, John M'Connell married into one of the best families (M'Clellan) in the district. There is also the circumstance that other M'Connells lived, not only in Galloway, but in the adjoining parts of Ayrshire, long before this time.

The tradition again states, that John M'Connell in Beoch *lived for several days in the woods before he emerged in Galloway, and that his descendants did not attach any very honourable motives to his leaving the Highlands and hiding himself in the woods.* No importance can be attached to this imputation of dishonourable motives; for when a person is obliged to have resort to concealment, and the cause is not known, it is natural to impute such motives. Mrs Porter considers that religious persecution was the cause of his being *a fugitive*, as she thought he was a Nonconformist.

This opinion is corroborated by the well-known persecution which ravaged that district from 1638 to 1688.

I have already given evidence to shew that the M'Connells were connected by marriage and otherwise with the Covenanters of that sad period. For instance:—John in Beoch married Miss M'Clellan, a member of a staunch covenanting family; five contemporaries of the name of M'Connell, in 1703, signed a petition to depose a minister in

the neighbouring parish of Balmaghie, for unsound views of Church government.

Another contemporary in the parish of Kirkmichael, in Carrick, joined the Covenanters at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, was made prisoner, and suffered martyrdom by a cruel death.

There is, therefore, every reason to believe, that not only John, in Beoch, but also his father and other relations, suffered persecution, and that not for a few days, but for many years; and that tradition has somewhat changed the account of these sufferings into a more recent form, namely, that of *hiding in the woods*.

There is some difficulty in forming a correct opinion as to the time when the M'Connells first came to Galloway, but there is evidence to shew that James M'Connell of Creoches was there in A.D. 1640. Before this date, there is no trace of any of the name in Galloway.

There are two important points of view, both supported by reasonable grounds, from which to look at this subject:—

First, On the hypothesis that the M'Connells migrated from the north-east of Ireland to Galloway.

Secondly, That the M'Connells migrated from Ayrshire to Galloway.

In support of the first of these views, we know that several Scotch families migrated from the north-east of Ireland to Galloway and Ayrshire, A.D. 1638 and 1639, on account of the persecutions in the former, and on account of the Black Oath, the signing of which was enforced upon those who remained in Ireland. We know also that the district of Galloway where some of these M'Connells lived was supplied by covenanting ministers who had been expelled from Ireland. Mary M'Konnel, also, cousin to Dame Rutherford, was a staunch Covenanter, A.D. 1640. We do not know, however, that she was in any way connected with Galloway.

On the other hand, James M'Connell of Creoches, A.D. 1640, was

cited *for not subscribing of the general band*, and therefore did not sympathise with the general movement of taking up arms in support of the National Covenant.

There is, therefore, no evidence to shew that any M'Connell migrated from Ireland to Galloway.

True, my father, during the later years of his life, had some idea that his ancestors had come from Ireland to Galloway, after finding that there were many other families of the same name near Belfast. This idea was probably encouraged by his agents in Glasgow and Belfast. Still, during the earlier portion of his life, before he left Scotland, and whilst living among his own relations, his impressions had always been that his family owed their origin to the Highlanders. It does not appear that he had the slightest idea, until a later period, that they had been connected with Ireland; and even then he could not divest himself of the earlier impressions, which he retained till his death.

There are many circumstances which give support to the *second view* — That the M'Connells came to Galloway from Ayrshire.

1. The families of that name are very numerous, commencing with John Makconnell, scripture-reader in 1571, and extending from Paisley to Ayr, Kirkoswald, and the parishes of Kirkmichael, Straiton, Barr, Dalmellington, on the borders of Carrick and contiguous to Galloway, from A.D. 1600 to 1700. In Dalmellington, especially, the records are very clear; and as mention is made in the session records, 1641, of Patrick M'Quhonnell or M'Connell being appointed as — officer, probably church-officer, we may readily presume that he was son of John Makconnell, scripture-reader, and had that post given him out of respect to his father. There was also Alexander M'Connell, a wealthy burgess in Ayr, who died before A.D. 1627.

2. The distance from Dalmellington, Straiton, or Barr, to Beoch, is not more than thirty miles, and the communication between these and other

parts of Galloway very frequent. Covenanting ministers were constantly moving about, holding conventicles in various parts of these districts. Those who risked their lives in attending these field-meetings would certainly be drawn together by a close tie of friendship and sympathy, and no doubt used great efforts to assist each other.

3. Instances of intermarriage, of which I have given proof, between parties living in Galloway with others in Carrick, give additional force to the latter argument, and still further shew evidence of their connexion, otherwise than merely by name.

4. In addition to these arguments are the traditions of other families connected with Ayrshire at the present day. Mr M'Connell, George Street, Edinburgh, Mr William M'Connell, Liverpool, Mr J. M'Connell, Wolverton Park—all agree that the M'Connells in Ayrshire and those in Galloway are of the same blood.

5. My father also apparently held a similar view, and considered he was distantly related to those in Ayrshire, and we have already mentioned that he went over there, and spent some time in endeavouring to trace out this relationship; but owing to the length of time that had elapsed, and the imperfect records to which he had access, his visit was not attended with success.

I do not, therefore, think that I can be considered as giving undue weight to these facts, when I venture to assert as my opinion this second view—That the M'Connells spread into Galloway from Ayrshire.

There is still, however, my father's and Mrs Cairns' tradition of a Highland origin; and, having shewn that the M'Connells halted in their migration for several generations in Ayrshire, it remains to be proved how they came over to Ayrshire.

Here, again, there are two distinct arguments, both of which can be supported on reasonable grounds.

1st. That the M'Connells came from the Highlands direct to Paisley or Ayrshire.

2d. That they came from the Highlands to Ulster, and, after a time, migrated to Ayrshire.

Here, I take it for granted, that I have brought forward sufficient evidence that the M'Connells and M'Donalds of Cantyre and Isla were, till the beginning of the seventeenth century, one and the same clan; that the same chieftain signed his name, and was called by others, both MacConnell and MacDonald, and that the words are synonymous—the former being written according to the usual pronunciation in Cantyre and Isla. History also distinctly shews, that the MacDonalds of Cantyre and Isla had large possessions in Ulster; and that, when the name M'Connell was banished from the Highlands of Scotland, it had representatives in Ulster, and still has even to the present day.

Several proofs were brought forward to shew that the M'Donalds of the Isles had considerable connexion with Ayrshire. The most important of these are—

1st. The retirement of John, of the Isles, to the Monastery of Paisley, where he died, A.D. 1498. In consequence of this, some relations of the name would probably meet with encouragement from the Abbey when they wished to settle there, or in the neighbourhood. In support of this idea, we find some M'Connells settled there in the seventeenth century.

2d. Intermarriage with Ayrshire families, more particularly with the Bannatynes of Kames, and, consequently, assistance from a member of that family, who was provost of Ayr, A.D. 1535.

The second argument is supported most distinctly by the tradition of those families of the name of M'Connell, who are now connected with Ayrshire. Most of them seem to trace their descent from Ulster; and, therefore, it must be admitted that for many generations they lived in Ireland. As both these arguments have considerable weight, I have

come to the conclusion, that the present Ayrshire families of M'Connell came at a comparatively recent date from Ulster; whilst those of older date, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, were a former migration from Cantyre or the Highlands direct to Paisley and Ayr, or other parts of Ayrshire. Though this latter, or older branch, appears now to be extinct in Ayrshire, still it is from it that those in Galloway have sprung.

Mr M'Connell, of George Street, Edinburgh, in his traditionary account, says, that "there were other M'Connells in Ayrshire, who lived there before his time; but he believed them all to be of the same origin." This statement adds considerable weight to my opinion.

In the treatment of this subject I have striven to set myself to the task with an unbiassed mind. Yet it is particularly gratifying to find that the conclusion to which I have been brought, by all the evidence I have been able to collect, coincides so completely with the views which my father held, and which were impressed so firmly in his mind during his early life in his native land, and amongst his own relations—namely, that, whatever may have been the peregrinations of the family before they settled in Galloway, their true source is to be found in the Highlands of Scotland.

CHAPTER VI.

THE first ancestor on record in our family is John M'Connell, *who lived in and farmed the Beoch*, in the parish of Tongland, district of Galloway, near Kirkcudbright. *He married a Miss M'Clellan of Nether Crae*, in the parish of Balmaghie. The date of this marriage is not on record; but it was probably before 1690, as Samuel, their son, was married before 1715.

In the parish records his name is spelled M'Conel, being the nearest to the pronunciation of the Gaelic word MacDhomhnuill, pronounced MacGhònell or MacChònell. Gaelic was the language commonly spoken at that time, though English was being introduced; and it is evident that the parish records were intended to be written in English.

There is no account of the family of Miss M'Clellan, to whom he was married; although the name is well known as that of one of the oldest and most distinguished families in Galloway, upon which the active part which many of its members took as Covenanters sheds additional lustre.

John M'Connell lived in troublous times. From his childhood, until about the time of his marriage, he saw and experienced little else but persecution, and that of the most cruel and direful nature. To give some idea of the period of trial in which he lived, I extract the following from the beautiful work just published by James Dodds, "Fifty Years' Struggle of the Covenanters:"—

"The Pentland rising commenced A.D. 1666, in Dalry, parish of Balmacellan, Galloway. One of the most active was M'Leilan of Barscobe. He was one of

four Wanderers, (as those of the Nonconformists were then called, who were obliged to seek refuge from persecution by betaking themselves to a vagrant life,) who were under hiding together in the hilly region of Glenkens. From this arose the battle of Pentlands, near Edinburgh, which was so disastrous to the Covenanters, not only in their defeat, but in the treacherous death of all the prisoners, to whom quarter had been promised. The property of those known to have been party to the conflict was also confiscated.

The year 1676 witnessed an almost universal prostration. Masters were enjoined to see that none of their servants or dependants attended conventicles; otherwise, they were instantly to dismiss them. Landlords were to enforce upon their tenants subscription to a bond, obliging themselves not to attend conventicles; and on the latter failing so to subscribe, their property and possessions were to be forfeited, and the forfeiture to fall to the landlord, as his bribe for enforcing the bond.

Garrisons were stationed in the most disaffected districts; and were intentionally and maliciously placed in the mansions of eminent Presbyterian gentlemen.

Is it to be wondered at that the Covenanters staggered under these merciless blows? Only figure to yourselves the situation of an individual who still adhered to the old national creed and worship. For every Sabbath he was absent from the bosom of the ignorant, dissipated curate of his parish, there was a heavy fine. If he attended in a house, or in the open air, to hear the gospel according to the way of his forefathers, that was a conventicle, and he was liable to be fined, imprisoned, transported, sold as a slave in Barbadoes or Virginia. He might at any time be dragged before the Secret Committee, who owned no law, were amenable to no appeal, and seized, not to try, but to destroy. There was no security for person or property, no redress for injustice or oppression. He was shut out, by the dreadful ban of intercommuning, from the common hospitalities and courtesies of life. Neighbour, friend, relative—all must shun him, all must close the door upon him. He was civilly, socially dead. Trying, awful situation for an individual! for a nation!

In the year 1677, not fewer than seventeen thousand persons were harassed in this way for the crime of frequenting conventicles.

Still further to harass the Covenanters, the Higbland host was let loose upon them. Thus writes Quintin Dick of Dalmellington, a sufferer of that period, in a little diary left behind him:—‘The Highlanders were sent in swarms through the country, there to lie and to plunder, pillage, and await orders for more havoc, against all who should seem to scruple whatever should be enjoined them. In such a shock, when all refuge failed me, I thought it high time to make haste to the Rock of Ages.’ It was an incursion of ten thousand *ticket-of-leave men* with licence from the Government to exercise their vocation to the uttermost. During

the two months the invasion lasted, the damage in the county of Ayr alone was moderately estimated at £36,000.

In 1679 was the battle of Bothwell Bridge, in which the Covenanters again suffered defeat, and consequently increased persecution.

Some of the great men who braved all the dangers and preached to the poor and outcast Covenanters at these conventicles at this period were Richard Cameron, Alexander Peden, and James Renwick.

Cameron gave his name to the strict Covenanters.* They bore it down to the Revolution, and afterwards; and it is being perpetuated at the present time. Cameron was a remarkable man; although his management, in the eyes of the world, was utter foolishness,—the blind frenzy of fanaticism. His whole modes of thought were drawn from two very old sources,—the Bible, and the standards of the Scottish Kirk. He could not halt between two opinions. Cameron was not merely the preacher of the *persecuted remnant*; he was the champion who first proclaimed that the House of Stuart had forfeited the British throne. In one of his sermons he thus expounds his views:—

‘If you would have God be for you, you must cut off this king, and these magistrates, and make able men be rulers; men endued with suitable qualifications, both of body and mind. I know not if this generation will be honoured to cast off these rulers; but those that the Lord makes instruments to bring back Christ, and to recover our liberties, civil and ecclesiastical, shall be such as shall disown this king and the magistrates under him!’

In 1680 this was treason; in 1688 it became the Revolution Settlement.”

The following account of the district of Galloway during the last few years of the persecution, taken from Nicholson’s “History of Galloway,” p. 261, will assist in giving further insight into the miserable state of the county during the life of John M’Connell in Beoch:—

“The beginning of 1685 presented a dismal prospect to the inhabitants of Galloway. This unfortunate district of Scotland was now treated as if it had been a revolted province. It was overrun and possessed by a soldiery composed of the very dregs of the people; for the army had become the great recipient of the profligate, the reckless, and the sanguinary. No place afforded an asylum from the intrusion of these infamous agents of destruction—these messengers of death. Sequestered caves of the mountains, and *hidden dens of the forest*,

* Cameronians, MacMillanites, or Reformed Presbyterians.

escaped not the eager search and keen inspection of such bloodhounds. The poor man's house was not his castle of defence; and even innocence of life, coupled with inoffensiveness of demeanour, yielded no protection against their tyrannical visits. Mutual confidence among the people became almost annihilated, and man shunned the society of man, as if a destructive pestilence pervaded the land, spreading in all quarters its deadly poison. Multitudes were murdered every month, without the tedious formality of a trial. At this period the *abjuration oath* was violently pressed upon people of every age and sex. Grierson the laird of Lagg and Captain Douglas displayed much activity and severity at this melancholy period."

The flight of King James II. of England and VII. of Scotland, in 1688, and the accession to the throne of William and Mary, in 1689, fortunately terminated this period of suffering. Prelacy was now banished from Scotland. Still that country was far from being in a state of tranquillity.

P. 298.—"The ex-King James sailed from France to Ireland, and found himself at the head of an army of forty thousand men. While on his passage, his fleet continued for some time windbound in the bay of Kirkcudbright. The battle of the Boyne followed, where James suffered a complete defeat, and fled on board a French vessel which awaited him.

Many were disappointed in William's government, and threw themselves into the arms of the Jacobite party. At this period, A.D. 1706, numerous misunderstandings existed between England and Scotland, and the minds of the people were filled with national animosity. A treaty of union was proposed between the two nations, against which petitions poured into Parliament. In November 1706, all the inhabitants of Kirkcudbright petitioned Parliament against sanctioning an incorporating Union with England in the terms of the Articles; similar addresses were sent from Glenkens and the burgh of New Galloway. These addresses, however, were totally disregarded; the whole Treaty of Union received the sanction of the English Parliament, and Queen Anne added the royal assent, A.D. 1707."

In the year 1695, Beoch became the property of Robert Gordon, Viscount of Kenmure, by inheritance. In the same manner, A.D. 1690, Nether Crae became the property of William M'Ghie.

John M'Connell held no property of his own, and was a tenant farmer.

We do not know the number of his children, but there were not less than four.

1. Samuel.
2. Mary, born 1696, in Beoch.
3. Joseph, " 1698, "
4. Andrew, " 1702, "

Andrew appears to have been the last, as no more are mentioned in the parish records.

We have no record of the time of decease of John M'Connell. His son Samuel M'Connell married Margaret M'Millan. The date of their wedding is not given, but their first child, John, was born A.D. 1715.

My father's words, as shewn on a paper in the possession of Henry M'Connell, Esq. of Cressbrook, Derbyshire, are as follows:—

"My grandfather lived and farmed in Egerton; he married Margaret M'Millan of Kirkconnell."

Egerton is in the parish of Balmaghie, and Kirkconnell in Tongland. The family of M'Millan were of old standing in Galloway. In the year 1703, Rev. John Macmillan, minister of Balmaghie, was solemnly deposed for contumacy. As before stated, five of the name of M'Connell were among those who signed their names to the document demanding his deposition. Respecting this person, Nicholson's "History of Galloway," (vol. ii., p. 309,) has the following:—

"He still, however, continued to perform all the duties of the ministry in the parish of Balmaghie, keeping possession of both church and manse. In 1710, Mr William M'Kie was ordained minister of Balmaghie, in the town of Kirkcudbright. Notwithstanding this appointment, such was the spirit of the times and the powerlessness of the laws, that Mr Macmillan retained possession of the church, manse, and glebe. So much were the people of the parish incensed at the proceedings against their beloved minister, that they violently attacked Mr M'Kie.

At length, after the struggle in the parish had continued about twelve years, Mr M'Millan retired voluntarily, and became an itinerant preacher, and founder of the sect of the M'Millanites, or modern Cameronians. In the year 1743, Mr M'Millan was joined by Mr Thomas Nairne, late minister of Abbotshall; they erected a presbytery of their own, under the name of the Reformed Presbytery. The distinguishing principle of this sect is, that no obedience or subjection is due to the king, government, or inferior magistrates, because they do not adhere to the Covenant, and because, in the opinion of the body in question, they want the qualifications required by Scripture and the Covenants, one of which is, that the king should be a native of the kingdom over which he reigns, (Deut. xvii. 15.) Hence they do not pray for the king, nor take the benefit of the courts of law.

Mr M'Millan died at Broomhill, in the parish of Bothwell, 1st December 1753, in the eighty-fourth year of his age."

He was therefore thirty-four years of age when he was deposed at Balmaghie. It appears that he was loved by his parishioners; and there is every probability that Margaret M'Millan, whom Samuel M'Connell married, was a sister or near relative, and that Samuel adopted some of Mr M'Millan's views. The principles of the sect of M'Millan were evidently partly political, and peculiarly applicable to that period; for we have seen that much animosity prevailed in the Glenkens against the incorporated union between England and Scotland, which became law A.D. 1707. There were still strong Jacobite sentiments abroad, especially among the aristocracy; and, A.D. 1715, the Earl of Mar raised the standard of rebellion at Castletown of Braemar, and proclaimed the Pretender king of Scotland, England, and Ireland. The Roman Catholics joined the standard, also the Earl of Nithsdale and Viscount Kenmure. When the rebels threatened to attack Dumfries, vast numbers of volunteers flocked into the place from many of the parishes of Galloway, headed in some instances by their ministers.

We quote again from Nicholson:—

P. 368.—"So enthusiastic had the people become in the royal cause, that Captain Fullarton, last provost of Kirkcudbright, Mr Samuel Ewart, and Sergeant Currie set out from that town with a company of foot, and reached Dumfries the

same night, and prevented Lord Kenmure from occupying it. The rebels retired to Lochmaben, where they proclaimed the Pretender. After this they entered England, were defeated, and surrendered in Preston; and in February 1716, the Earl of Derwentwater and Viscount Kenmure were beheaded on Tower Hill. Lord Kenmure made no speech, but left a letter, in which he asserted his loyalty to the Pretender. He declared, at the same time, that he had lived, and would die, in the profession of the Protestant religion."

The following is in the handwriting of my late uncle, John M'Connel, in the possession of Henry M'Connel, Esq., and evidently refers to the children of Samuel M'Connell and his wife, Margaret M'Millan:—

" John M'Connel, born in 1715.			
<i>Alexander</i>	"	"	1717.
<i>Agnes</i>	"	"	1719.
<i>Andrew</i>	"	"	1721.
<i>James</i>	"	"	1723.
<i>William</i>	"	"	1725.
<i>Janet</i>	"	"	1727.
<i>James</i>	"	"	1729, in March.
<i>Margaret</i>	"	"	1731."

Before 1741, there is no record of the doings of Samuel M'Connell, who *lived and farmed in Egerton*. Farming in Galloway in those days was confined to the feeding of sheep and black Galloway cattle on the native pastures. Nicholson, p. 404:—

"In 1725, potatoes were first introduced into the Stewartry of Galloway by William Hyland, from Ireland. No wheat grew in the district, and even so late as the year 1735, no mill existed for grinding this sort of grain. Cattle still continued of small value. The low state of rents enabled tenants to graze cattle at two shillings and sixpence per head per annum. In 1749, labourers had only sixpence a day, and the best masons, one shilling. In 1741, grain was so scarce, that the magistrates of Kirkcubright, to prevent the inhabitants from starving, procured from Wales two cargoes of oats, which they sold at a somewhat reduced price."

At the term of Whitsunday, A.D. 1741, Samuel M'Connell and his son

John entered upon the farms of Hanniston, Barchock, and a third part of Drumbuy, with a lease of nineteen years, at a yearly rent of £33.

This lease is as follows :—

“ Att Barskeoch, the first day of April, one thousand seven hundred and forty-one years,—It is appointed and finally agreed betwixt William Newall of Barskeoch and Samuel M^cConnell, in Edgartoun, and John M^cConnell, his son, on the one and other parts, in maner following :—That is to say, the said William Newall hereby sets in tack to the saids Samuel and John M^cConnells, their heirs, and exe^{rs}, and successors whomsoever, . . . All and Haile the lands of Hanniston and Barchock, with an equal third part of the lands of Drumbuy, with houses, biggings, yeards, parts, pendicles, and pertinents thereof whatsoever, lying within the parish of Kells and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and that for all the years and terms of nineteen years nixt and immediately following the term of Whitsonday first to come, one thousand seven hundred and forty-one years, which term begins this present tack, and from thenceforth to continue and be peaceably possessed by the said Samuel and John M^cConnells and their for^{ds}, during the said spacc, by all the right marches thereof, as the same . . . length and breadth, and formerly possessed by the deceast Gilbert Grierson, freely, quietly, peaceably, but revocation or again calling whatsoever. Which tack the said William binds and obliges him, his heirs and successors, to warrand to be good and valid to the said Samuel and John M^cConnells, and their forsaid, att all hands, all deadly as law will. For which causes and tack above written, the said Samuel and John M^cConnells binds and obliges them, conjunctly and severally, their heirs, exe^{rs}, intromattors with their goods and gear, and successors whomsoever, thankfully to content and pay to the said William Newall, his heirs, exe^{rs}, or assignies, all and haile the sum of thirty-three pounds sterling money yearly, att two terms in the year, Whitsonday and Martinmas, by equal proportions ; beginning the first term's payment thereof att the term of Martinmas next to come, for the half year immediately preceding, and so forth yearly and termly during the said space ; with two stones and threc-quarters salt butter, two dozen poultry fowls, three gasterneen hens, six shearers and a bandsman, two m—, with two spades and two barr., to the peats casting, and to lead and lay in ninty loads of peats yearly, with two men and two horses att the haystak-making yearly, with three long carrigges yearly. And the said Samuel and John M^cConnells binds and obliges them, their foresaid, to pay the teen and few-duty due and payable forth of the said lands yearly without any allowance : that is to say, the teen of Hanniston and Barchock, with the few of his whole possessions ; as also to pay the supply payable forth of the saids lands yearly and termly, Barskeoch being oblidged to discount and allow the equall half of the said supply in the fore-

end of the yearly rent above written ; as also to keep the houses upon the saids lands in a sufficient habitable condition, wind and water tight, and the march dykes in good condition ; as also to live in a peaceable, amicable manner with all his neighbours. And the said Samuel and John M'Connells are hereby thirled to Barskeoch's milln, and to pay the twenty-fifth corn, excepting horse-corn and seed-corn, for his own use, and to pay other dues belonging to the miller. And, lastly, both parties binds and oblidges them, and their foresaids, *hinc inde*, to observe, keep, and fullfill to others this present tack, haile oblidgements thereof, under the pain of thirty-three pounds sterling money, to be paid by the party falzien to the party observe or willing the premises, astour performance of the same. And both parties consents their presents be insert and registrate in the books of Council and Session, or any other judges' court-books competent within this realm, to have the strength of a decreet and horning on six days ; and all other letters and exce^{lts} necessary may pass hereupon in form as effeirs, and for that effect constitutes their Br^{ors} :—In

witness whereof, their presnts, written be Robert Grierson, in Barskeoch, (on stamped paper,) both parties have subscribed thir presents on this and the preceding page, day, place, and year foresaid, before these witness, Mr John Edgar, in Waterside, and Robert Grierson, writer, forsaid.

WM. NEUALL.
SAMUELL M'CONNELL.
JOHN M'CONNELL.

JOHN EDGAR, *witness*;
ROBERT GRIERSON, *witness*.

I, William Newall, oblidges my self to repay to Samuell M'Connall ten shillings sterling, at the end of his tak, for a set in the church, holean^{ng} the seat in as good condition as when he got it.

WM. NEWALL."

April 19, 1747, Samnel M'Connell made his will, a copy of which is in the family papers, preserved by Henry M'Connel, Esq. This will was registered at Kirkeudbright, 11th January 1755, in the Court-books of the Stewartry of Kirkeudbright. The will commenees as follows :—

" I, Samuel M'Connell, farmer in Hannastoun, in the paroch of Kells, being exceeding sick at the making hereof, but ripe in memory, and sound in judgement, thanks to Almighty God, and knowing nothing more certain than death, and nothing more uncertain than the time and manner thereof, am resolved so to order my worldly interest in my own lifetime, that after my death all debates

and disputes may be obviated and prevented. In the first place, I recommend my soul to God Almighty, hoping that the same shall be saved throw the merits of Jesus my Redeemer; and ordains my executor, whensoever God shall call me hence, to cause decently interr my corps, and ware upon my funeralls; and, in the next place, I make, constitute, and appoiut James M^cConnell, my yougest son, to be my sole executor, legator, and universall intronetter, with all and sundry my goods, gear, debts, sums of money, corns, cropts, cattle, gold, and silver, . . . with full power, immediately after my death, to intronett with the haill goods and gear, . . . not only to pay all my just and lawfull debts, funerall charges, and servants' fees, but also . . . to my other children, . . . at the terms hereafter described—viz., to Johu M^cConnall and Andrew M^cConnall, my two eldest sons, sometime merchants near Manchester, in England, the sum of twenty pounds Scots money each one thereof; item, to Agnes M^cConnell, spouse to James M^cNish, in Gatehouse, near Claughenpluik, and the said James M^cNish, for his interest, the sum of six pounds Scots money; item, to Jannet M^cNish, my second daughter, the sum of one hundred pounds Scots money; and, lastly, I leave to Margaret M^cConnall, my yougest daughter, the sum of two hundred pounds Scots money. . . . To make payment to my said children . . . at the first Whitsunday or Martinmas after my death with a rent thereafter during the not payment, . . . these presents shall no way preclude Margaret M^cMillan, my spouse, of her legal share . . . effects as by law iustituted. . . . And, because the said James M^cConnell . . . is as yet a minor, and lest he should not be fully capable to manage his own affairs, I hereby recommend him to the oversight of William Newall, of Barskeoch; his mother; James M^cMillan, in Grabtale; and Andrew Livingston, in Grobtalc. . . . In witness whereof, I have subscribed these presents, upon this and the preceding page of stamped paper, with the marginal note upon this page, all wrote by Jire Hair, wryes, (wryter;) in St John's Claughen, at Hannastoun, the nineteenth day of April, and forty seven years, before these witnesses, the said William Newall, of Barskeoch, Mr Robert Grierson, his chaplain, and the said Jire Hair. (Signed thus)—Samuel M^cConnell. Wm. Neuall, witness; Robert Grier, witness; Jire Hair, witness. Extracted upon this and the preceding pages by Will. Gordoune."

From the registration of this will, in January 1755, it is probable that Samuel M^cConnell died in 1754; in which case, he lived seven years after he signed the will. He was at least sixty-four years of age when he died, as he must have been born in or before the year 1690.

There is much to be said in favour of Samuel M^cConnell, from the

persnal of his will. He was just and honourable ; for he was anxious to pay all his debts, and the wages due to his servants. He provided for his wife all that could be hers by law ; and for his children, he left to each a good share of the small hoard of wealth he had been able, through prudence, industry, and economy, to lay by for their good. It was probably on account of the absence of his two older sons, John and Andrew, near Manchester, and also because, being merchants, they were engaged in providing for themselves, that he constituted his youngest son, James, his exeecutor.

Nicholson's "History of Galloway," vol. ii. p. 18 :—

"Scotch was to sterling money as one to twelve. A penny sterling was a shilling Scots ; and one shilling and eightpence sterling made a Scotch pound. —Ruddiman's Preface to Anderson's 'Diplomata.'"

The money thus left was to—

John,	£20 Scots =	£1 13 4 sterling.
Andrew,	20 „ =	1 13 4 „
Agnes,	6 „ =	0 10 0 „
Janet,	100 „ =	8 6 8 „
Margaret,	200 „ =	16 13 4 „
	<u>£346 „</u>	<u>£28 16 8 „</u>

Besides this, there was suffieient for the widow, and for his son James, and two hundred merks more, which James gave to his sister Margaret. This amount seems little to us now, but at that period it was a good deal ; for money went much farther then than it does now.

Documents, among the family papers in the possession of Henry M'Connel, Esq., of subsequent dates, contain acknowledgments of the receipt of the various portions left to each in Samuel M'Connell's will.

First, September 17, 1755.—Subscribed for Margaret M'Millan (the spouse of the deceased) by a notary-public, she being unable to write,

but touching the pen, in which she warrants a discharge and consents to the resignation and recognises her son James M'Connell as executor.

Second, January 8, 1756.—Subscribed by *Margaret M'Connell*, daughter of the deceased, acknowledging receipt not only of three hundred merks Scots, and the rent thereof left by her father, but also two hundred merks added thereto by her brother James M'Connell, of his his own good will.

This document shews that a merk Scots is two-thirds of a pound Scots.

Third, Subscribed by *Janet M'Connell*, January 1, 1757, daughter of the deceased, and her husband, *now* Andrew Heron in Laghead, April 14, 1756; in which they acknowledged receipt of their portion, and make mention of the decease of Margaret M'Millan, relict of Samuel M'Connell.

From this we see that Janet, the second daughter, who was married, in 1747, to — M'Nish, is married again, in 1756, to Andrew Heron.

Fourth, Subscribed by *Agnes M'Connell* and her spouse, James Miknish of Slogarie, dated December 6, 1760, also acknowledging receipt of their portions.

As Samuel M'Connell does not mention in his will his sons, Alexander, born 1717; James, 1723; and William, 1725, we may presume that they died prior to this time.

We have no account, since this period, of John and Andrew, who, it was stated, were merchants, near Manchester.

In the parish records of Girthon, 1767–69, mention is made of children born to Andrew Heron and Janet M'Connal, in Laghead.

At Whitsunday 1760, the lease or tack granted in 1741 to Samuel and John M'Connell, was renewed for another nineteen years to James M'Connell, my grandfather. The lands were Hanaston and Barchock, (one-third part of Drumbuy not renewed;) the rent, £26, 13s. yearly

of silver rent. The terms are somewhat similar to the last, and the lease is signed three times by William Newall, proprietor, and James M'Connell, the lessee, at Earlston, 7th January 1760.

A few months after my grandfather took this lease, he married Mary Cannan, daughter of James Cannan, in Shield, near New Galloway, and sister of Mr William Cannan, machine-maker, of Chowbent, Lancashire.

The following is in my father's handwriting among the family papers :—

“Children by Ja^s M'Connel and Mary Cannon, married 29th August 1760 :—

James, aged 30 years ; Mary, aged 18 years.

James, born Wednesday, June 25, 1762.

Samuel, born Sunday, 31st May 1765, or 6, or 7 ; lived about 2 months.

Janet, born Monday, 14th March 1768 ; lived about 1 week.

By Mary Haffie :—

Isabel, born Friday, 17th November 1770.

Mary, born Friday, 17th July 1773 ; lived 3½ years.

Margaret, Sunday, 28th August 1775.

John, Sunday, 4th Oct. 1777.

Samuel, Friday, 10th Feb. 1780 ; lived 10 months.

William, Sunday, 13th Oct. 1782.”

The records of Kells parish, in the Register House, Edinburgh, give the following

“*Baptisms.*

1762, June 25, *James*, son to James M'Connell, in Hannastoun.

1768, March 15, *Janet*, daughter to James Connel and Mary Cannon, at Hanaston, by Mr John Gillespie.

1770, Nov. 17, *Isabel*, daughter to James M'Connel and his wife, Margaret M'Haffie, at Hannahston.

1772, July 20, *Mary*, daughter to James M'Connel and Marg. Haffy, at Hanaston.

1774, Aug. 28, *Peggy*, daughter to James M'Connel, in Hanaston, and Margaret Haffie.

1777, Sept. 8, *John*, son to James M'Connel and Mary Haffie, at Hanaston.”

Mary Cannan, my grandmother, died from giving birth to her young-

est child, Janet, April 28, 1768, when my father was five years old. He has been told that she was a beautiful and elegant young woman, but remembered only that she was very slender at the waist.

On 20th May 1768, James Cannan, in Shield of Park, father of Mary Cannan, wrote a settlement upon his grandson James M'Connel, my father, that in the event of his decease, my father should succeed to the claim of Mary, his daughter, as far as her share should go. This was signed by James Cannan, Thomas Cannan, and John Newall, of Barskeoch. James Cannan had five children.

My father was the only child of Mary Cannan then alive, Samuel and Janet having both died in infancy. His father married again, and his stepmother made his home uncomfortable by shewing a preference to her own children.

In the parish records of Twynholm, (Register House, Edinburgh,) there is this item :—

“Proclaimed, 1770, Jan. 12, James M'Connal, in the parish of Kells, and Mary Haffie, in this parish.”

At Whitsunday 1779, on the expiration of the lease granted in 1760 to James M'Connell, it was renewed to him for nineteen years more by John Newall of Barskeoch, at £52, 10s. sterling yearly silver rent. Signed four times thus—*James M'Connell*, 1st January 1776.

In this lease the rent was doubled, and some other burdens added, which caused my grandfather to insert a reservation that he had full liberty, at the expiry of the first three years, to give up his lease upon his giving at least six months' previous notice. Accordingly, in 1782, he left Hanaston, and, March 26, 1782, a letter is addressed to him as “Mr James M'Connell, tenant in Nether Crae,” (parish of Balmaghie,) which accepts an offer for building a substantial stone dyke round some land which he occupied; signed by Walter L. Laurie.

In May 26, 1782, the following lines were signed by the minister of Kells, Rev. John Gillespie :—

"These do certify that the bearer, James M'Connel, and Mary Haffie, his wife, both in this parish, have still maintained a fair and unblemished character, they having always behaved themselves as it became good neighbours and Christians, so far as is known to the Kirk-Session of Kells, and may be admitted as members into any Christian society where Providence may order their lot.—Given in the name and by appointment of said session, day and place above mentioned, by me,

JOHN GILLESPIE, *Minr.*

WILLIAM GORDON, *Sess. Clk.*"

From a paper dated 8th February 1785, it appears that James M'Connell took the farms of Kennick and Nether Crae, at a rent of £40 yearly, for six years, commencing at Whitsunday 1782. Soon after this time he retired to live at Gatehouse of Fleet, where he was supported by my father until his death in 1809.

In a letter from James M'Connel, my brother, in Manchester, dated February 7, 1860 :—

"My father's niece, Mrs Porter, remembers her grandfather, James M'Connell. He was a good-looking man, with considerable colour in his face ; and was expert with his fingers, being able to make his own wheelbarrows, &c. He was unfortunate in his farming operations at Hanaston, and was induced by his son James (my father) to leave the farm and live near Gatehouse of Fleet. The house he lived in was afterwards pulled down. During his difficulties at Hanaston, he yielded to intemperance, but afterwards he had sufficient principle and strength of character to abandon this habit, and was a man much liked and respected.

Mrs Porter remembers going with her grandfather M'Connell to see his sister Mrs Heron, who at the time lived at Gatehouse of Fleet. Mrs Heron's son, and perhaps also her husband, had a farm called *Hill Head*. Mrs Heron was a pretty old woman.

Mrs Porter's grandfather had another sister, Mrs Nairn, who lived at Dalnotty, (pronounced Danotty,) on the road from Newton-Stewart to Stretton, and another sister, also married, whose name she forgets.* The husband of Mrs Nairn was shot dead in mistake by Government officers in pursuit of smugglers.

* Probably M'Nish.

Mrs Porter's grandfather M'Connell had also a brother John, who was drowned.

I well remember the son of this Mrs Nairn. He was, of course, cousin of my father. He travelled with a pack in Yorkshire, and when he came to Manchester to buy goods, he slept at my father's house at the Polygon ; perhaps once or twice a year.

Mrs Porter said that my father, on paying his first visit home after he had lived in England, pulled his hat over his face, and speaking with a feigned voice, asked his father, at Hanaston, whether one M'Connell lived there. The father detecting the fraud, replied,—‘ Ay, Jamie, he does live here.’”

The following is a copy of the gravestone in Kells churchyard, New Galloway :—

“In memory of James M'Connel, late in Hannastown, who died August 11, 1809, aged 80 years ; and of Mary Cannon, his wife, who died April 28, 1768, in the 27th year of her age. Also Samuel and Janet, their children, who died in infancy. And also Mary Haffie, his second wife, who died April 9, 1811, aged 71 years. Also Mary, their daughter, who died in January 1777, aged 4 years. And Samuel, their son, who died in December 1780, aged 10 months. Also William, their son, who died on the 7th of October 1816, aged 32 years. Also of John, their son, who died 10th of January 1828, aged 50 years. Also Margaret, their daughter, who died 30th January 1829, aged 53 years. Also Isabella Cairns, their daughter, on the 2d of September 1849, aged 78 years. And also James, son of the above-named James M'Connel and Mary Cannon, his first wife, who died in Manchester, the 3d September 1831, aged 69 years.”

Although there are no documents or records to shew the religious doctrine which was held by our ancestors, still from many circumstances there can be little difficulty in inferring that they were Presbyterians.

John M'Connell in Beoch, as already mentioned, lived in times of great persecution suffered for the defence of the doctrines of John Knox, and doubtless the scenes of cruelty and suffering, to which he must have been witness, would establish these views all the more firmly in his breast.

We have good reason to suppose, from his marriage with one of the M'Millan family, from his residence in the parish where the Rev. John MacMillan was beloved by his parishioners for the many years he

laboured in the gospel amongst them, and from the religious sentiments expressed in his will, that Samuel M'Connell was a member of the Covenanting Church of Scotland.

James M'Connell, his son, my grandfather, also belonged to the Scottish Kirk. So did my father, until the time of his sojourn in Chowbent.

Before entering upon my father's career, however, I shall complete all that remains to be told of the last century.

The following extracts are taken from letters written to Thomas H. M'Connel, Esq., Manchester, by Rev. George Murray, Manse of Balmaclellan,—who kindly gave great assistance in searching out many particulars connected with our family,—February 11, and March 12, 1860:—

“If M'Clellan was of Crae, (which is a small property in Balmaghie,) the commissary books of the county must be examined, and from infeftments, retours, &c., it is possible that you may trace that family. The M'Lellans were at one time the greatest family in this county,—they gave the name to this parish—M'Lellan of Barscobe was a leader in the Covenanting times—and a branch of the family was ennobled under the title of Lord Kirkcudbright.

If M'Clellan of Crae were only a tenant, there may be more difficulty. Still it is possible that there may be rent-rolls, old tacks, valuations of teinds, &c., that may throw light on the matter; as also tombstones, though these in general do not go very far back, and, from neglect, can scarcely be read.

Beoch is a farm in Tongland, near Kirkconnel. Kirkconnel is one of the best farms in the parish, consisting both of hill and lowland. I have seen a ring of gold—found in Kirkconnel garden—which must have been a marriage ring, and is now worn by Mrs Wallace, lately residing there. The probability is, that the lady was buried with her marriage ring on her hand, and in the same grave with her husband; for inside of the ring, at the part touching the finger, were the words, in old characters,—

‘*His gift and ge giver
Are thine for ever.*’

I have seen the M'Connells in this parish, but they can give me little or no information beyond what I know. Old Mr John M'Connell in Blackcraig died here in 1844, aged 88. He told me that he was of the same family as yours. He came from Lairdmanagh, a farm in Tongland. Lairdmannoch and Beoch are

neighbouring farms. I suspect that a tombstone, of which I have just got the inscription, in Tongland churchyard (the only one there I can hear of) belongs to him. As follows :—‘ *Erected by John M’Connell in Lairdmannoch, in memory of his son Alexander M’Connell, who died June 15, 1775, aged 30.*’ Now, old John M’Connell in Blackcraig had an only brother, Alexander, who died in early youth, having been drowned in the Lairdmannoch burn in the time of peat casting. Upon the reverse of the stone we have the following :—‘ *Also here lies the corpse of the foresaid John M’Connell, late in Lairdmannoch, who died 12th October 1793, aged 84 years.*’

The son of John M’Connell in Blackcraig is now an old man.

In an old book, called ‘The War Committee of the Covenanters in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright in the year 1640, 1641,’ *James M’Connell of Creoches becomes actit in the committee’s will for not subscribing of the general band.*

Creoches is in Girthon.

I wrote to Dr Murray of Edinburgh, who says that William M’Connell, who was long Sheriff-substitute of Wigtonshire, and who died about thirty-five years ago, was son of a writer of that name in Wigtown, and was born there about 1750. The latter date carries you back a long way, but unfortunately his only surviving son and daughter have long been settled in the United States of America.* The probability is, they would be ignorant of their genealogy.

There is a schoolmaster of the name—an oldish man—in the isle of Whithorn, to whom I intend to write ; but I fear he may know nothing of the family whose name he bears.

There is also a Mr M’Connell, nephew, I think, to M’Adam of the Waterhead family, the great road reformer, and whom he succeeded as a road contractor and overseer. He is, for example, overseer of the roads in the Lothians, which he visits periodically, but his residence is in England.”

The writer of this book has corresponded with this Mr J. M’Connell, of Penrith, Cumberland, who frequently visits Edinburgh, living at the New Club, Princes Street, but has been unable to obtain any information leading back to any distant period. His crest is, however,—*A dexter arm couped, holding a cross croslet, with motto, “TOUJOURS PRET.”*

It is impossible that John M’Connell in Blackcraig, who died in 1844,

* In an American paper, called *Zanesville Courier*, mention is made of a fall of meteoric stones near M’Connellsville, which is perhaps thirty miles from Concord in Eastern Ohio.

aged 88, can be of the family of *John in Beoch*; for John M'Connell in Blackcraig was born in 1756, whereas John, son of John in Beoch, was born in 1715, and his brother Alexander, 1717. It is probable, however, that the M'Connells in Blackcraig and Lairdmannoch were descendants of James M'Connell in Barncrosh, whom we have every reason to believe was brother to John M'Connell in Beoch. In this manner they would be of the same family as ours, but of that generation of which the adults lived in the year 1700.

The parish records which I have obtained in the district of Galloway, and remarks of some of the registrars, are in the Appendix. These records give but little insight into the M'Connells more immediately connected with our own particular family; but, as those spoken of are distantly connected, they may not be devoid of interest.

It may be worth while to notice here James M'Connell in Beith, Ayrshire. The following account of him is written in a note in "Statistical Account of Ayrshire," p. 587:—

"James M'Connell was a native of Wigton, where he was born in 1706. Having enlisted into the 43d Regiment of Foot, he was for a considerable period on foreign service. On the return of the regiment, the company to which he belonged was quartered in Beith, where James married Jean Love, a native of the place. After obtaining his discharge he returned to Beith and settled as a teacher. He was afterwards made constable, sheriff-officer, and town-drummer. Having a turn for polemical divinity, he attacked Mr James Ferguson, minister of Kilwinning, as unsound in his doctrine, and libelled him before the Presbytery of Irvine. The case remained in the Church Courts for some years, and Mr Ferguson died before it was finally disposed of. The drummer published two pamphlets on this subject, which are now become scarce. They shew some talent, and much zeal in the cause."

P. 822.—"Mr Ferguson died 1770, so that James M'Connell was then sixty-four years old. An account of the process may be seen in the *Scots Magazine* of the time."

In Penningham parish, Wigtonshire, James, son of John M'Connell and Jean Gordon, was baptized in January 1707.

It may strike the reader as singular that the name M'Connell should be so variously written. In the parish records, the method of spelling the word is rather vague. It is generally either M Connell or M'Connel. The incorrect spelling in the last century, in the parish and other records, is easily accounted for by the fact that the parties themselves being generally rather illiterate, the writing was left to the registrar or session-clerk, who wrote it as he considered most correct from the pronunciation given. Parish records at the present day are nowhere remarkable examples of accurate spelling; much less would they be so at a time when the spelling of the English language itself was not definitively settled by the authority of lexicographers.

In the Appendix, (see Parish of Leswalt,) the registrar, William Main, states that *M'Connell* is the way in which the name was always written; and as he had ancestors of that name, he had good opportunities of knowing.

This statement is borne out by our own family record. We have no record of the manner in which John M'Connell in Beoch wrote his name; but his son Samuel (my great-grandfather) always signed *M'Connell*. His son John also signs himself *M'Connell*; also his son James, and his daughters Margaret, Janet, and Agnes.

All others of that name in Galloway, Ayrshire, and the North of Ireland now write *M'Connell*.

In addition to this testimony, the Gaelic word MacDhomhnuill has always the LL at the end; and all the eminent Gaelic scholars of the present day, whom the writer of these pages has consulted, consider the name most correct with the final letter double.

It seems that my father and uncles M'Connell changed the name into *M'Connel*, for what reason we cannot now ascertain. It may have been to distinguish their family from others of the same name, not related or very distantly related. But the most probable reason was, that the Rev.

John Gillespie, minister of Kells, or the session-clerk, wrote it *M'Connel*, as will be seen in the lines of James M'Connell, my grandfather, A.D. 1782. This name has been retained as *M'Connel* by our own family ever since this period.

A similar change has been made with many other surnames; the name signed *Cannan* last century, is now written *Cannon* by descendants of the family of that name in Galloway.

CHAPTER VII.

As far as this record has yet gone, it has dealt with the past and unseen ; but the remainder is principally within my own personal knowledge, or that of my brothers and sisters. As my father died when I was still a boy, I am not so conversant with his earlier struggles in the battle of life as the elder branches of the family. I have therefore requested my brother James to furnish me with any interesting particulars or incidents in my father's life which he could gather or recollect. To this request he has complied in the following letter, the notes of which alone are mine :—

MANCHESTER, *January* 1861.

MY DEAR DAVID,—As you have asked me for any facts which I can furnish respecting the life of our late father, I will give them to you, as far as I can collect or remember them, in the form of a connected narrative.

The account will necessarily be very imperfect, for it is now nearly thirty years since he died ; and as he left no written record of his life, and there exist scarcely any memoranda even of his business affairs till 1795—when he was already thirty-three years old—I must rely chiefly on my memory for several of the particulars now to be related.

My father, James McConnel, was born at Hannastoun, (which is variously spelt,) in the parish of Kells, in the district called Glenkens, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The farm of Hannastoun and

Barskeoch had been in occupation of his father, James M'Connell, and of his grandfather, Samuel M'Connell, since Whitsunday 1741.

Our brother Tom, who, as you know, has for some years been tenant (Mr Forbes of Callander being the owner) of his father's birthplace, and who goes to shoot over it in the autumn, thus reports of it:—"The farm consists of about six hundred aeres, and is situated between two rivulets falling into the river Ken, (from which the district takes its name.) The greater part of the farm is high, exposed land, abounding with heather. The arable portion is more sheltered, and is good land. The farmhouse in which my father was born was pulled down some thirty or forty years ago, and was, I believe, a thatched cottage, without any pretension. It was pleasantly situated on the south-east side of a farm road, leading from the Garroch burn to the present homestead, about two-thirds of the way up the hill, and commanded a beautiful view of the richly-wooded Garroch valley immediately below, bounded on the east by the hills through which the river Ken finds its way, and on the west by the fine mountains of the Kells range, conspicuous among which is the bold summit of the Millyea, about two thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea."

My father was baptized on June 25, 1762, and seems to have supposed that he was born on the 22d or 23d of the same month. His parents (James M'Connell and Mary Cannan, the latter only eighteen years old at the time) were married 29th August 1760, and my father was their firstborn. Another son and daughter were born afterwards, but they died in infancy. The mother died on April 28, 1768, when James was nearly six years old. She was the only daughter of James Cannan, (so he wrote his name,) tenant of the Shield, in the same parish of Kells. My father's subsequent impression of his mother was, that she was a beautiful but fragile woman, having a tendency to consumption, and whose waist could be encircled by her husband's two hands.

The widowed father married again in January 1770, and James never felt towards his stepmother the affection which his own mother had inspired. I may mention here the tradition of a curious incident which had happened in the house at Hannastoun in the olden days, and was handed down to my father. An old woman was lying dead in her coffin, when a broom in the same room vaulted into the air and struck the ceiling. The old woman was, of course, "a witch." The mechanical explanation of this unusual phenomena was, that the coffin, not being adequately supported, fell down, and in doing so gave such a fillip to one end of the broomstick as to occasion the strange somerset above mentioned.

The youth in the less travelled parts of Scotland, especially in hilly districts like the Glenkens, were at that time (indeed still, though in a less degree) brought up in hardy simplicity. In the house and out of it, except on Sundays, they wore no shoes or stockings; oatmeal served them for breakfast and supper. Doubtless in these respects my father was treated like other young people about him. I remember his mentioning a little incident, shewing the rarity of luxuries. On one occasion, when the "gudeman" of the house was away from home, and James and the other children were supposed to be too young to take much notice, the stepmother stealthily indulged herself in a cup of tea. The circumstance dwelt on my father's memory, as tea was then considered a luxury to be used only when visitors were present.

Thanks to the laudable desire for education in the Scotch of all ranks, my father was enabled to acquire the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, probably at the parish school of New Galloway, distant four or five miles from my father's house. In riper years, he contended with and gradually overcame some of the deficiencies of his education; and, recollecting his own early struggles in this respect, was most careful that his children and other young persons under his influence should receive the advantage of good instruction.

Samuel M'Connell, the grandfather, seems to have been a prosperous man, farming part of Drumbuy as well as Hannastoun and Barskeoch, and leaving a will of some pretensions; but his son James was not so fortunate, and became more and more embarrassed in his circumstances as my father grew into manhood.

This state of things had its influence, no doubt, in determining that my father should leave home to seek an opening for himself in life. This he did in 1781, I believe about the 12th February, when in his nineteenth year. But other circumstances conspired to bring about this important step.

Whilst his father had been becoming less able to support his increasing family, and his position as tenant at Hannastoun, (which he was forced to relinquish in the following year,) his late mother's brothers, the Cannons or Cannans, were prospering in their worldly circumstances. One of them, Alexander Cannon, a planter in Jamaica, wrote on July 25, 1779, a letter, yet extant, to James M'Connell, the father, inquiring what James, the son, was going to do, and rather advising him to be a carpenter. Another brother, William Cannon, had settled at Chowbent, Lancashire, as a machine-maker; and a third brother, David, also well off, lived then or afterwards in Chowbent. A fourth brother succeeded to his father in the farm of Shield.

Adam Murray, a young man of New Galloway, in the same parish, had, in 1780, (a year before my father,) gone to Chowbent to James's uncle, Mr William Cannon, and Mr Cannon had as partner a Mr Smith, also from the same district of country; so that James, in going to Chowbent to learn machine-making with Cannon & Smith, and to live in the house of his uncle, did not go altogether to strangers. George Murray, brother to Adam before mentioned, and Alexander Smith, also from the same part of Scotland, followed, and continued his friends through life, and, like himself, became rich men; and John

Kennedy, of Knocknalling, who had been a near neighbour at home, came afterwards, and with him my father was subsequently a partner in business for many years.

My father's journey to Chowbent was made chiefly, if not entirely, on foot. He carried in his pocket a kind of passport from the Rev. Mr Gillespie, the minister of the parish. Before he had been long at Chowbent, it was his duty one day to carry a clock across his shoulders to a place seven miles distant, where it was to be put up. The cord, or other part of the apparatus, shift it as he would, hurt his shoulder so badly, that he was sorely tempted to throw his burden on the ground, and to run away then and there for ever from clock, clock-making, and machine-making. But he withstood the temptation. Whilst at Chowbent, he heard a resident there, and a spinner of cotton by hand, (and at that time there was no spinning otherwise than by hand,) say that he had received twenty shillings for spinning a pound of yarn. Assuming that N^o. 80 was the highest N^o. then spun, and consequently requiring the most-labour, the wages of that N^o. would now be about 3d. per lb.

It is somewhat doubtful when my father left Chowbent for Manchester. He and his companions probably served an apprenticeship of seven years to Cannon & Smith. If so, he would leave Chowbent in or about February 1788. This idea is confirmed by his having amongst his papers a printed list of prices, dated April 2, 1788, of Peter Atherton & Co.'s cotton twist, at Manchester, Glasgow, and Paisley. It is strongly impressed on my memory that my father, after leaving Chowbent, worked, for some time, as a practical cotton-spinner with Mr Eggesome, of Manchester, and thus acquired an intimate knowledge of the manufacture in which he was afterwards so extensively engaged. I find, however, that my brother Henry's recollection is to the effect that my father worked for Mr Eggesome as a machine-maker, and not as a

spinner. A gentleman whom I thought likely to know whether Mr Eggesome was a cotton-spinner or a machine-maker, said, on being referred to, that he believed Mr Eggesome was *both* a machine-maker and a cotton-spinner; and thus the point must be left in doubt. My father became soon, however, a machine-maker on his own account, selling the machines to those who were going to work them. He had thus made two mules for some person who had stopped payment before the mules were delivered; and they were therefore thrown on my father's hands. He determined to work them on his own account; and he thus added the business of a cotton-spinner to that of a machine-maker.

It may be interesting, at this point in our sketch of my father's personal history, to take a rapid survey of the principal inventions, and other circumstances, by which the cotton manufacture had become, not merely of great interest in the districts in which it was carried on, but even of national importance. The materials are taken from Baines' "History of the Cotton Manufacture."

In 1738, John Kay took out a patent for the use of the fly-shuttle in weaving, which was not, however, applied to the weaving of cotton till about 1760. In 1738, too, a patent in the name of Lewis Paul, a foreigner, but with which John Whyatt was also connected, was taken out for spinning by rollers; and, in 1748, the same Lewis Paul took out a patent for carding. The time was not, however, yet come; for these two patents, though evincing extraordinary mechanical genius on the part of the inventors, and though perhaps the most important improvements ever made in the cotton manufacture, became almost extinct, owing to mismanagement, in 1760 or 1764. A carding-engine, invented by Paul in 1748, was, however, in 1760, introduced by a gentleman of the name of Morris into the neighbourhood of Wigan, Lancashire, from the cotton-spinning establishments in Northampton, where these patents had been worked, and formed, perhaps, the sole link of

connexion between the early efforts of Paul and Whyatt and the gigantic efforts of the present day.

The spinning by rollers, if entirely lost sight of, as some deny, was revived in 1767 by Thomas Highs, and in 1769 by Richard Arkwright, whose machine acquired the name of the "water-frame," or "throstle."

In 1764, James Hargreaves had invented the spinning-jenny, which, as it had become a valuable invention, he patented in 1770. It is from about this latter year that the cotton trade began that extraordinary development which has continued, though with occasional intervals of languor, ever since. Improvements in detail were made and patented every year, until, in 1779, Samuel Crompton completed "the mule," a machine now more generally employed in the spinning trade than any other, and which rendered possible that manufacture of fine spinning into which my father entered ten or twelve years subsequently.

In 1774 the barbarous law which prohibited the printing, in this country, of cloth composed entirely of cotton, was repealed; and in 1785 the steam-engine was first applied to the manufacture of cotton,—a service of which my father availed himself twelve years afterwards, when his accumulated capital enabled him to do so.

The consumption of cotton kept pace with the improvements made in its manufacture. Thus, in the years 1771–1775 the average annual import of cotton into the United Kingdom was 4,764,589 lbs. In 1776–1780 the average annual import had risen to 6,766,613 lbs., an increase of 43 per cent. In 1790 the import had increased to 31,447,605 lbs., an increase of 668 per cent. on the amount first stated. Nor did the cotton trade become stationary at the period of my father's early residence in Manchester. In 1800 the import of cotton had augmented to 56,010,732 lbs., an increase of 1192 per cent.; and in 1860 to about 1,435,840,000 lbs., an increase of 30,135 per cent.

It was whilst the cotton trade was being thus rapidly extended, and

whilst principles and applications were successfully brought to bear, so novel and important, that nothing seemed impossible in cotton-spinning, that my father was, in the first years of his mature life, and in the heart of the manufacturing district, learning and exercising the art of constructing and "gaiting" (that is, setting to work) cotton-spinning machinery.

During my father's early residence in Manchester, his father was wholly incapable of assisting him; he and his family were, on the contrary, maintained by his son James, who also put his half-brother John, then about thirteen years old, into a boarding-school near Wigan, and paid his school bills. Notwithstanding these heavy, but self-imposed claims, on his limited means, my father had accumulated, up to March 1791, (the earliest date at which I believe any account of his property is now to be found,) those first savings, on the possession of which the turn of the battle of life so often depends, and which formed the greater part of the capital which he advanced as his share into the firm, then established, of Sandfords, McComel, & Kennedy. But in October 1790, the sum of £47, 11s. 6d. came very opportunely to him under the will of his grandfather, James Cannan of Shield. This will, dated May 20, 1768, gave to my father the share of property which would have come to his mother, who had died three weeks before the date of the will.

My father's partners, Benjamin and William Sandford, had each had the advantage of a good education, understood accounts; and having already been in business, and having possession also of more capital than either Mr Kennedy or himself, were very eligible persons to become associated with. His friend and fellow-apprentice, Mr John Kennedy, though he had then had no experience either in cotton-spinning or in business, being only twenty-one years of age, shewed during his career great mechanical ability.

"Formed a partnership with Benjamin and William Sandford, who were fustian warehousemen, and James M'Connel, under the firm of Sandfords, M'Connel, & Kennedy; and we immediately commenced business as machine-makers and mule-spinners—I taking the direction of the machine department. Our first shop was in Stable Street, or Back Oldham Street; and our capital was not more than £600 to £700. Here we made machines for others as well as ourselves, putting up our own mules in any convenient garrets we could find. After some time we removed to a building in Canal Street, called Salvin's Factory—from the name of the owner, who occupied a portion of it himself, letting off the remainder to us. . . . Here we continued to the end of our partnership, which lasted four years, terminating in 1795. The Sandfords choosing to remain in Salvin's factory, James M'Connel and myself now removed to a little factory in the same street, where Mr Fairbairn's machine-shop now stands. Here we continued to make machines for ourselves and others—the cards being turned by horse or by hand."

The firm of Sandfords, M'Connel, & Kennedy was prosperous; for the account on the other side records that, on the termination of the partnership, on March 2, 1795, my father's share of the profits was £816, 6s. 0½d. during the four years, and that he drew out £921, 10s. 0½d.

The years 1792 and 1793 were, however, most trying for young beginners in business, and with difficulty did the new firm keep on its legs; and my father at a later period, when in affluent circumstances, often mentioned how, on one day in that eventful period, he had gone about from morning till night endeavouring to collect money from those who owed it to the firm, and that one guinea was the full amount which he was able to procure. I have no definite knowledge of the description of yarn which was spun by the firm; probably, however, No. 70 and upwards. It would appear, from a memorandum, that my father's half-brother John was employed by Sandfords, M'Connel, & Kennedy.

In March 1795 the partnership was, as I have said, dissolved, and my father and Mr Kennedy rented, at £102 per annum, from John Mac-Michael, the building mentioned by Mr Kennedy, which is described, in a deed now extant, as being in Derby Street, Ancoats, Manchester, and in

M'Connel & Kennedy's business letters, as being near Shooter's Bridge, or Shooter's Brook, where they continued the two businesses of machine-makers and cotton-spinners. A letter of theirs, dated February 28, 1795, gives the following very interesting reply to the question of a correspondent :—

“ It is difficult to say what size of mules are most profitable, as only two years ago what was thought best is now thought too small. 216 [spindle mules] are made to run as light now as 144 [spindle mules] used to do then, though it cannot be said that they will do so much work in proportion to the number of spindles. We are making now from 180 to 288 spindles ; and as far as we can judge of the future from the past, we would recommend a building not less than ten yards wide within, which would hold 240, with plenty of room at the end.”

The sum advanced by my father as his capital into the new firm of M'Connel & Kennedy was £921, 10s. 0½d., being the amount withdrawn from Sandfords, M'Connel, & Kennedy.

By June 1795, M'Connel & Kennedy appear to have got to work their new machinery, which they wholly or chiefly made for themselves, and the range of numbers then spun by them was from No. 60 to No. 200, both warp and weft. They not only spun yarn in their own premises, but they also gave rovings to be made into yarn by outside spinners. Their business was now so prosperous that in 1797 they bought a plot of land in Union Street and Henry Street, Manchester, and erected, in that and the following year, on the easterly side of Henry Street, the “ Old Factory,” as for nearly sixty years it has been called, and it was turned by a sixteen-horse steam-engine, supplied by Boulton, Watt, & Co., whose invoice is dated 8th September 1797.

M'Connel & Kennedy, though able to build this (then) large factory, thought that they had not capital enough to work the whole themselves. They accordingly let at £300 a year the half of the building to Peter and Andrew M'Candlish & Co., who, however, gave it up at the end of 1802.

M'Connel & Kennedy still continued to occupy and work the mill near Shooter's Brook, and in January 1799 introduced steam power to it. In January 1801, they gave up their interest in this concern to John M'Connel, who had been with them for several years, and who was then twenty-three years old. He, however, did not make the business answer, and in three or four years returned to M'Connel & Kennedy, for whom he was manager till his death in 1828, at the age of fifty.

On May 28, 1799, being then nearly thirty-seven years old, my father married, at Gonalston Church, Nottinghamshire, Margaret Houldsworth, at that time in her twenty-first year. She was the second daughter of Henry Houldsworth, and was born, 11th July 1778, at his farm of Gonalston Hagg. Her mother's maiden name was Ann Hooton. Her father's mother's name was, I think, Deverill. There were four brothers and four sisters, who all lived to be adults, and nearly all to old age. I think I may say that my mother was a great favourite in the family; she was so at least in after life. I can give you no account of her education; but I cannot but think that the ease of manner in society, which we remember in her later life, can only have been acquired by her intercourse in youth with persons of a social standing superior to her own. When growing into womanhood, she made a friend of Mary Chowath, of Annesley, near Newstead Abbey, a Nottinghamshire heiress, well known by the romantic attachment she inspired in the youthful Lord Byron. This young lady more than once invited Margaret to her house. It was not, however, in Nottinghamshire, but at the house in Manchester, of her brother, Thomas Houldsworth, that my father became acquainted with her. Thomas, like my father, was settled in Manchester, as a fine spinner, and became a most prosperous one.

I gather, from entries I have been permitted to see in an old ledger at Mr Houldsworth's mill, (and, as I know you like "facts," I shall give you the particulars,) that she resided with her brother Thomas from

January 19 (perhaps sooner) till about May 7, 1799, when she went home to be married. Entries of "Cash to Peggy" are made, 1799, January 19, 5s.; 21st, 10s. 6d.; February 20, 10s. 6d.; March 16, 10s. 6d.; 20th, £1, 1s.; 26th, Cash to music-master, £4, 14s. 6d.; April 12, Cash to her, 5s.; July 1, Cash for Mrs M'Connel, £6; September 22, piano, £1, 16s.; October, bill, Bennett & Co., "for Peggy," £3, 10s. 5d. These sums are all charged to her father, "Henry Houldsworth, sen., Gonalstone." Another account, in the name of "Miss Houldsworth," (and there is added at another time,) "or Mrs M'Connel," is as follows:—

<i>Dr.</i>			<i>Cr.</i>		
1799.			1799.		
April 17.	To Cash, . . .	£12 15 0	April 17.	By Bill, . . .	£12 15 0
27.	„ Bank Note, . . .	5 0 0	22.	„ Cash, . . .	5 5 0
„	„ Cash, . . .	1 16 6	26.	„ „ . . .	1 11 6
May 10.	„ Bill, . . .	8 8 0			
„	„ Cash . . .	5 5 0			
7.	„ Expenses to				
	Nottingham, . . .	1 12 4		Settled, . . .	£19 11 6
					15 5 4
		£34 16 10			£34 16 10

Perhaps we may infer, with probability, that the amounts of 5s., 10s. 6d., and £1, 1s., in the first account, indicate the modest sums for pocket-money allowed to "Peggy" by her father. It seems certain that she had lessons on the pianoforte; but as I do not recollect ever seeing her sit down to play, I fancy she made small proficiency in that branch of her musical education. She had, however, a good ear, and natural taste for music, and sang very nicely and with feeling a few simple airs, of which "My boy, Tammie," was, I remember, the one which was most generally liked. I incline, therefore, to think that the charge of £4, 14s. 6d. included instructions in singing.

We may venture, perhaps, to conjecture that the second of these accounts was opened after she had engaged herself to my father, and that one or more of her brothers advanced to her, or became responsible for, the sums, amounting to £34, 16s. 10d., entered in the account, to enable her to provide her marriage equipment. That my father escorted his bride on her farewell visit to her home, I will not positively say. It is probable he did; for she used to tell us how he and her brother William accompanied her one day in a ride on horse-back in Nottinghamshire; how the horse she rode started off in a dangerous manner; that William tried to snatch its bridle, but failed; and how her lover galloped up, seized the rein, and saved his bride. He must, however, have returned to Manchester, after a very short visit; for, owing to some very urgent business, which he wrote to say might possibly detain him, my mother was in anxiety whether or not he would be able to arrive from Manchester before the time fixed for the marriage. The sole additional particulars of the marriage which I can communicate are, that Miss Chowath was one of the bridesmaids, and the Rev. Mr Oldacre the officiating clergyman, who, some dozen or fifteen years afterwards, had the two first offspring from this marriage dining at his house, and seemed to regard them with almost a paternal interest.

It is difficult for a son to form a correct notion of the personal appearance of the mother with whom he was brought up; but, if we may rely on the report of her contemporaries, she must have been, at the time of her marriage, tall, graceful, and good-looking. She had quick perceptions, and warm sympathies with those around her; and was an affectionate mother, and loving wife. She was always remarkable for neatness in her person and in her house.*

* The portraits of my father and mother, in this work, are photographed from two excellent likenesses in oil colours, in the possession of their eldest son Henry, and which were painted for him, soon after my father's death, by Mr Graham, now Graham Gilbert, of Glasgow. That of my father was copied from a miniature drawn, in the spring of

My father was living, previous to his marriage, in Tib Street, leading from Oldham Road to Piccadilly, and parallel to Oldham Street; but, after his marriage, he and my mother occupied a house in Great Ancoats Street, (formerly, and still generally, called Ancoats *Lane*, though a wide street,) the side of the house being in Mill Street.

Shortly after her marriage, my mother, "on household cares intent," espied some parchment, well adapted, as she doubtless thought, for tying round the tops of preserve-pots; so she cut it into the proper sizes, used it accordingly, and, when her husband returned to dinner, shewed him her handiwork. She had destroyed a legal document! He could not but be angry. She was much distressed; and when the dinner was eaten, he went, brooding, to his business. But he could not thus leave till evening his young wife; before reaching the mill, he turned back, said some kind words, and all was right again. They resided in Great Ancoats Street for seven years, till September 1806; and here Henry, James, and William were born; the latter died young. Opposite, lived three bachelors, John Kennedy, James Kennedy, and John McConnel; and next door lived the Stuarts, the eldest daughter of whom was afterwards married to my father's partner, John Kennedy.

Business continued to prosper. At the end of 1800, my father's capital in the firm was increased from £921, 10s. 0½d., the amount in March 1795, to £10,919. In 1801, the firm began to build the half of the factory then called the "New Factory," but in 1819 changed to the appropriate name of the "Long Faactory,"—which it has since retained. One steam engine of forty-five horse-power for this mill, invoiced by Boulton, Watt, & Co., in May 1802, is now, in its extreme old age,

1831, by Miss Hornblower, then governess at the Polygon, with slight alterations suggested by my brother Henry; it shews too plainly, however, the debility under which he suffered, during his last illness. That of my mother is an admirable likeness, taken from life, and when in mourning for my late father; but the scarf, which the painter has, for artistic effect, thrown over her head, was not a part of her usual costume.—[D. C. M'C.]

doing, unaided, three or four times the work for which it was originally intended.

In 1804, my father bought a plot of land in the Polygon, Ardwick, and built on it a house, which must have cost him, with the stables, garden, fences, &c. included, not under £7000.

Indeed, my father had a taste for good work, and could not have erected, for his own residence, any but a substantial, well put together, and good house, such as this was. The building of this house, and the removal to it, were a great stride in my father's life. He, as was formerly the universal practice of cotton-spinners, had hitherto lived near "the mill,"—he was now one and three quarter miles from it; it was his first important outlay except for business purposes, and it involved a much larger annual expenditure than he had yet ventured upon. The house was entered in September 1806, just before the birth of my brother, John McConnel. In 1805 and 1806, McConnel & Kennedy completed the remaining half of the "New" or "Long" Factory. I ought to add, that the profits of the firm were in the early part of this century so great, as almost to justify these rapid and great additions to fixed capital. In the same year, 1806, they began to make preparations for lighting by gas; but it was not till 1810 that their premises were thus lighted; and as gas light was first extensively used only in 1805, McConnel & Kennedy were amongst the very earliest who adopted the new plan. The apparatus came from Boulton, Watt, & Co.

It may be worth mentioning, as an indication of my father and mother's social position in 1811, that they in that year gave a large ball, at which I remember there were present members of the most respectable families in Manchester. On that occasion, country-dances were the principal amusement of the evening. A thick cord divided the dancing-room, which measured about thirty feet long and eighteen wide, into two parts lengthways, and on either side two long files of ladies and gentle-

men carried on briskly these then favourite and fashionable dances. The cord was removed to give space for the more measured and dignified movements of the minuet, and to permit my eldest brother, Henry, then ten years old, to exhibit his "College hornpipe," in which he acquitted himself to the admiration of the assembled guests.

The families with whom, at this period, we were by far the most intimate, were the George Murray's, the John Kennedy's, the James Kennedy's, and the Peter Ewart's. There were in each of these families children of our own age. Mr Ewart came from Dumfriesshire; the heads of the other families were from my father's own parish.

My father was, as I have said, solicitous that his children should be well instructed. We boys were all sent to the school of Mr Johns, in George Street. As far as I recollect, I should say that before 1815 there were in Manchester few instructive or amusing entertainments—the theatre being almost the only public place of amusement; but we were permitted to see *everything* in the shape of conjurors, lecturers, panoramas, &c. that came to the town.

I think that about 1815 my father's habit was to leave home for business on horseback about half-past eight or nine in the morning, the horse being brought from the mill (where it was kept) for that purpose, and to return to a two o'clock dinner, to go back to the mill shortly afterwards on horseback, and to come home from the mill on foot about half-past seven in the evening.

My father was extremely hospitable, and frequently brought home "for pot-luck," as he called it, some stranger or bachelor without the formality of notice. Regular dinner-parties assembled at four, and broke up at ten; and my father, being of temperate habits, was obliged to protect himself from too much wine, in that wine-drinking period, by the use of very thick glasses, which held less than the others distributed round the table.

My father's hair became gray at an early age. I never saw him with hair-powder; but he attributed his gray hair to the injurious effect of using the powder in his youth, according to the fashion of the day. He always wore a white cambric neckcloth; collars were not introduced when I first remember him, and he never adopted them. At one time, he wore his boots over his trousers; then came the great change, which has continued to our day, of wearing them under the trousers. If I remember right, the old style of boots was called "Hessian," as the new is called "Wellington." But when dressed for a party, he wore the customary knee-breeches and black-silk stockings. These little details, which refer to about the year 1815, may interest your children twenty or thirty years hence, and I therefore record them.

In 1818 to 1820, McConnel & Kennedy built the fireproof mill called "Sedgwick Mill," on completion of which they were for some years the most extensive spinners in the trade. My father had been looking out for an investment in land, and in 1817 purchased the property of Troquhain, near Balmaclellan, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright; but he sold it again shortly afterwards. In 1821 he bought Carsriggan and Urral in Wigtonshire, and retained them during life.

In December 1826, Mr Kennedy retired from the firm, and my father made his two oldest sons partners in the business. For the last two years of his life, his health, which had previously been good, declined; and he died on September the 3d, 1831, aged 69 years. My mother had been always more or less delicate; but she survived her husband, and died, on March 4, 1845, at the Polygon, where she continued to reside after his death.

My father was buried in St Luke's Churchyard, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester, where his four deceased children had been previously interred. But in the interval between his death and that of my mother, the congregation to which they belonged, removed to

Upper Brook Street Chapel, opposite the end of Clifford Street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock; and my mother, during her last illness, expressed strongly the wish to be buried there, and that my father's coffin should be removed from St Luke's, and be placed side by side with hers. This wish was strictly carried out; and their remains lie together in a double vault in the yard, on the south side of Upper Brook Street Chapel. Of this congregation the Rev. John James Tayler had long been minister. After my mother's death, my brother William bought the house in the Polygon, but sold it, in May 1855, to Mr Benjamin R. Murray.

My father was, in business matters, pains-taking and persevering, rather than acute. He possessed common sense, rather than talent; was thoughtful, prudent, and even somewhat timid, rather than impulsive or rash. In society, he shrank from putting himself forward, and was perhaps a little too sensitive as to the good opinion of others; but, when amongst friends, the expression of his native kindness of disposition was unrestrained, and he was warm-hearted and genial in manner, and fond of innocent mirth. At home, he was ever alive to the comfort of his wife, and the improvement of his children. In politics he was a Whig. He did not take much active part in public matters; but I remember that, foreseeing the probable increase of Manchester, he was, as commissioner of the highways, extremely desirous that Market Street, when widened, should be increased to thirty yards; but his advice and great exertions to effect this object were unfortunately not successful.

In 1826, my father, along with ten other Manchester gentlemen, contributed £600 each for the establishment of a mechanics' institution in the town. Ultimately, the money was in part repaid; but, at the time, the undertaking partook much more of a philanthropic than a money-making character.

My father was brought up in the Church of Scotland; but, during his residence at Chowbent, he became, from conviction, and continued during life, an Unitarian Christian.* He attended the Unitarian Chapel in Mosley Street, at the corner of Marble Street; it is now pulled down. He was a devout man. I remember, as one instance, how constantly, in watching the progress of events which led to the downfall of Napoleon I., he attributed those events to a superintending Providence.

I must now close my letter. I wish I could have remembered or collected more facts for you to preserve; but even the few I have recorded may be interesting, not only to ourselves, but to the rising generation of M'Connels.

I am,

MY DEAR DAVID,

Yours, affectionately,

JAMES M'CONNEL.

* I recollect, in my days of childhood, when looking at the portrait of my father's uncle, David Cannon, of Chowbent, (from whom I take my name,) which was hung on the dining-room wall of my father's house, being told that this grand-uncle was a man of great shrewdness and talent, and that it was under his influence, that my father, with others, was led to examine into the Unitarian views of religion, which he ultimately adopted. For these views my grand-uncle was much abused by his neighbours and fellow-townsmen. And at one time, on account of the great success of himself and his brothers in introducing machinery, which was erroneously supposed to take away the means of subsistence which the spinner earned by the work of his hands, their factory was attacked by the mob, most of the machinery destroyed, and he barely escaped with his life.—[D. C. M'C.]

In the burial-ground of Upper Brook Street Chapel, facing Clifford Street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester, is the family tombstone of my father, on which is the following inscription :—

In Memory of

JAMES M'CONNEL,

WHO WAS BORN AT THE FARM OF HANASTOWN, IN GALLOWAY.

HE LEFT HIS NATIVE COUNTRY FOR CHOWBENT,

IN THE YEAR 1781 ;

AND AFTER A RESIDENCE OF 45 YEARS IN MANCHESTER, DIED AT THE POLYGON,

ON THE 3D OF SEPTEMBER 1831, AGED 69 YEARS.

ALSO OF

MARGARET HOULDSWORTH, HIS WIFE.

BORN AT GONALSTON HAGG, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ; DIED AT THE POLYGON,

ON THE 4TH MARCH 1845, AGED 66 YEARS.

ALSO OF

WILLIAM, THEIR THIRD CHILD,

WHO DIED ON THE 25TH APRIL 1806, AGED 13 MONTHS.

ALSO OF

MARY CANNON, THEIR FIFTH CHILD,

WHO DIED ON THE 6TH JANUARY 1810, AGED 1 YEAR AND 9 MONTHS.

ALSO OF

MARY ANNE, THEIR SEVENTH CHILD,

WHO DIED ON THE 2D MARCH 1815, AGED 4 YEARS.

ALSO OF

MARGARET, THEIR EIGHTH CHILD,

WHO DIED ON THE 14TH APRIL 1824,

AGED 11 YEARS.

MEMORANDA ON THE RELATIONS OF THE LATE JAMES M'CONNEL.*

My grandfather, James M'Connell, and his second wife, after he had been unfortunate in farming, retired to Gatehouse of Fleet, where, till his death, in August 1809, and till her death, in April 1811, they were supported by my father. Of the four children by the second marriage Isabel was the only one who married. Her husband was William Cairns, who died in 1838. She died in 1849. For several years my father maintained them, and left them an annuity after his death. Four of their children lived to maturity. Of these Mary, the eldest daughter, was an inmate in my father's house for a great number of years, and was married from it, more than thirty years ago, to Mr Samuel Porter. They live in Manchester, and have no children. When Mary left my father's house, her younger sister, Isabella, took her place, but died in a few years, unmarried. James Cairns, the eldest son, was for some time in M'Connel & Kennedy's mill, but afterwards went to Canada. He is married and has children. John Cairns died in November 1860, leaving a widow and one daughter, married to Mr William Orr, an agent in Manchester.

John M'Connel, my father's eldest brother of the second marriage, after being unsuccessful in business on his own account, in about 1805, was manager for M'Connel & Kennedy till his death, in 1823. William M'Connel, his youngest brother, was in the army, and died in 1816. Margaret M'Connel, who had resided with her father and mother in Gatehouse of Fleet, remained there till her death, in 1829. She was supported by my father.

J. M'C.

* My father's only surviving relative, I believe, of his own generation, is his first cousin, Mrs Murray of Ancoats Hall, Manchester, daughter of Mr William Cannon of Chowbent. She was married to Mr George Murray, who, it will be remembered, left New Galloway soon after my father, became his fellow-apprentice at Chowbent, and in the same way, owed his success in business, with the blessing of God, to his industry and persevering energy. Thus thrown together in youth, they remained friends through life. The two families grew up together; and an intimacy thus formed, and strengthened by the friendly relationship of Mrs Murray to my father, was confirmed in the present generation, by the marriage of my brothers Henry and Tom to two of her daughters.—[D. C. M'C.]

MEMORANDA ON THE FAMILY OF THE LATE
MARGARET M'CONNEL.

The Houldsworths were supposed to have come from Yorkshire. I remember hearing my mother's father say that his grandfather was the first person who grew potatoes near Chesterfield. My mother's father, when living as a little boy with his father, in Nottinghamshire, at the time the Pretender arrived at Derby, witnessed the alarm which prevailed. My mother's father's mother was a Deverill, I believe. My grandfather's name was Henry Houldsworth; his wife's name was Ann Hooton; and they resided at Gonalston Hagg farm, about one mile distant from the villages of Gonalston and Epperstone, in Nottinghamshire. They had four sons and four daughters, in the order of age as follows—William, Thomas, Henry, Mary, Margaret, (my mother,) Ann, John, and Elizabeth. Thomas and Henry were placed, when youths, at Nottingham—Thomas in a surveyor's office, Henry in a shop. A paternal uncle, having an estate in Jamaica, died, and the property fell to William. Being desirous to sell the estate, and not having been much from home, he offered Thomas, in whose business-aptitude and shrewdness he had confidence, (though Thomas was then under age,) a handsome sum to leave his occupation in Nottingham, and to accompany him to Jamaica. They went there, sold the property, and returned to England. Henry (whether before or after this event, I do not know) conceived the idea that the cotton trade presented a good opening, and, being of an enterprising spirit, went to Manchester and learnt the trade, probably about the time my father went there, say in 1788 or 1789. After some time, Thomas was induced, by the favourable reports of Henry, to follow the example of his younger brother. They were not long in discovering that William's capital would be useful to them; and the three brothers were in partnership together as cotton-

spinners in Manchester—William, however, continuing to reside as a squire in Nottinghamshire. In 1793, business being very bad, Henry went to Glasgow to push sales; and having married there, in 1795, left Manchester about 1799, and settled in Glasgow as a spinner. He became a magistrate, and attained an influential position. His bookkeeper or manager, Mr William Hussey, from Nottinghamshire, having married Ann, my mother's younger sister, was assisted with money, commenced business as a spinner, and was very prosperous. John Houldsworth, the youngest brother, went as a youth to his brother's factory in Manchester, but died, unmarried, in early manhood, after giving promise of much ability. The eldest daughter married Thomas Duffield, who filled a post of importance in the factory at Manchester. Thus seven out of the eight Houldsworths were connected with fine spinning. All four brothers possessed ability, but in different ways. Thomas became, under the inspiration and management of William, (who had a taste and talent in that direction,) famous on the turf. He paid three thousand pounds, or guineas, for a race-horse, Filho de Puta, which had previously won the Doncaster St Leger. He became, in 1818, member of Parliament for Pontefract; in 1830, for Newton-in-the-Willows; in 1833, for North Nottinghamshire. He was owner of large estates in his native county, and of Coltness, in Lanarkshire. No individual in Manchester was, probably, so successful in the business of cotton-spinner as he. But at the time my mother was married, he was in the first steps of his prosperity. The only one of my mother's brothers and sisters still living is her youngest sister, Elizabeth, Mrs Dufty. J. M'C.

January 1861.

All that remains to be mentioned of my father and mother is their family, which is as follows :—

1. *Henry*, born 16th July 1801.
2. *James*, „ 11th Aug. 1803.
3. *William*, „ 17th Mar. 1805 ; died 25th April 1806.
4. *John*, „ 3d Oct. 1806.
5. *Mary Cannon*, „ 21st Mar. 1808 ; „ 6th Jan. 1810.
6. *William*, „ 31st Aug. 1809.
7. *Mary Anne*, „ 18th Feb. 1811 ; „ 2d Mar. 1815.
8. *Margaret*, „ 3d Dec. 1812 ; „ 14th April 1824.
9. *Sarah Jane*, „ 11th Aug. 1814.
10. *Thomas Houldsworth*, „ 3d Nov. 1816.
11. *David Cannon*, „ 14th Jan. 1818.
12. *Mary Anne*, „ 7th Mar. 1819.
13. *Frederic*, „ 27th Feb. 1821.

For the particulars annexed of the seven brothers and sisters still remaining, with their marriages and families, I hold myself responsible only for my own.

HENRY M'CONNEL.

Born 16th July 1801, at Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.

Married, 1st June 1829—

MARGARET ALEXANDER, eldest daughter of John Kennedy, Esq., of Ardwick House, Manchester, and Knocknalling, in Glenkens, Galloway.

ISSUE.

1. *Mary*, born 13th August 1830. Married to James Worthington, Esq.
2. *James Alexander Kennedy*, born 16th December 1831.

Margaret, his first wife, died 31st December 1831.

Married, for his second wife, 30th May 1837—

ISABELLA AITCHISON, second daughter of George Murray, Esq., of Ancoats Hall, Manchester, and Clugston, Wigtonshire.

ISSUE.

1. *Margaret*, born 20th March 1838.
2. *Jane Cannon*, „ 23d December 1840.

Resides on his own estate of Cressbrook, Derbyshire.

JAMES M'CONNEL.

Born 11th August 1803, at Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.

Married 5th October 1842, at Ashford Church, Derbyshire—

ANN, (born 25th December 1816, at Newington Green, near London,) third daughter of George Morewood, Esq., of Thornbridge, near Ashford, Derbyshire; by Ellen Pierpoint, his wife, daughter of John Barrow, Esq., Solicitor, of Basinghall Street, London.

NO ISSUE.

He resides at Bent Hill, Prestwich, near Manchester, (his property.)

JOHN M'CONNEL.

Born, 3d October 1806, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married, 25th April 1855, at St Thomas' Episcopal Chapel, Edinburgh,
by Rev. D. T. K. Drummond—

AMELIA ELIZABETH, born 3d December 1826, daughter of ——
Bunting, Esq., M.D., R.N., Newfoundland.

ISSUE.

Arthur John, born 17th May 1856.

Resides in Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia, where he is sheep
and cattle farmer, and landed proprietor.

WILLIAM M'CONNEL.

Born 31st August 1809, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married, 29th July 1852—

MARGARET BRADSHAW, born 22d March 1824, eldest daughter of John Bradshaw Wanklyn—whose father, William Wanklyn, came from Gloucestershire, and settled in Manchester A.D. 1790; and was a descendant of John Wanklyn, one of Oliver Cromwell's Commissioners, and who fought for him at the battle of Worcester; but whose property was confiscated on the accession of Charles II., and given to the Earl of Essex—by Jane, daughter of Smith Wilson, Esq., who was Alderman for twenty years, and twice Mayor of Kendal.

ISSUE.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. <i>Margaret Jane,</i> | born 25th July | 1853. |
| 2. <i>John Wanklyn,</i> | „ 14th February | 1855. |
| 3. <i>Mary Anne,</i> | „ 12th July | 1856. |
| 4. <i>William Houldsworth,</i> | „ 12th January | 1858. |
| 5. <i>Henry Wilson,</i> | „ 14th June | 1859. |
| 6. <i>James Cannan,</i> | „ 26th October | 1860. |

Resides on his own property of Brooklands, Prestwich, Manchester.

SARAH JANE M'CONNEL.

Born 11th August 1814, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married, 23d August 1841, at Upper Brook Street Chapel, Manchester—

WILLIAM RAYNER WOOD, Esq. of Singleton Lodge, Manchester, a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster, born August 26, 1811, only son and heir of George William Wood, Esq. of Singleton Lodge, Manchester; a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Lancaster; M.P. for South Lancashire, in the Parliament of 1832, and for Kendal, in the Parliament of 1837 and 1841; President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce from 1828 to 1832, and 1836 to 1839; by Sarah, daughter of Joseph Oates, Esq. of Westwood Hall, near Leeds.

ISSUE.

George William Rayner Wood, only son and heir, born May 23, 1851.

THOMAS HOULDSWORTH M'CONNEL.

Born 3d November 1816, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married, 25th September 1846, in the Old Church, Manchester—
CATHERINE, daughter of George Murray, Esq. of Ancoats Hall, Manchester, and Clugston, Wigtonshire.

ISSUE.

George Murray, born 31st July 1857, at Bowden, Cheshire.

Resides on his own estate of Hale Carr, parish of Bowden, Cheshire.

DAVID CANNON M'CONNEL.

Born 14th January 1818, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Sailed, 19th February 1840, to Australia.

Married, at Edinburgh, 25th April 1848, by the Reverend John Sym, of
Free Greyfriars—

MARY, born 4th January 1824, eldest daughter of Alexander Macleod,
Esq., from Assynt, Sutherlandshire, and of Edinburgh, by Katharine
Rose, daughter of John Rose, Esq., son of Bailie Rose, of Nairn,
son of Hugh Rose, Esq. of Conless, branch of the ancient and still
existing house of Rose of Kilravock.

ISSUE.

1. *James Henry*, born 18th April 1850, on his father's property of
Bulimba, Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Australia.
2. *Alexander Walter*, born 20th September 1852, at Bulimba, died
31st March 1853, at Ipswich, Moreton Bay.
3. *David Rose*, born 11th August 1854, at Edinburgh.
4. *Katharine Rose*, born 7th August 1855, at Edinburgh.
5. *William Macleod*, born 2d February 1857, at Tooting, Surrey,
died there 25th November 1857.
6. *Mary Macleod*, born 2d February 1861, at Edinburgh.

Is sheep and cattle farmer, and landed proprietor, in Moreton Bay,
Queensland, Australia.

MARY ANNE M'CONNEL.

Born 7th March 1819, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married 26th August 1852, at Prestwich Parish Church, near Manchester, by the Reverend James M'Connel Hussey, B.A. of St James' Episcopal Chapel, London, assisted by Reverend H. M. Birch, Rector of Prestwich—

CHARLES HENRY FELIX ROUTH, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S., Physician to the Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, &c., born at Malta, 4th January 1822, third son of Sir Randolph Isham Routh, K.C.B., Commissary-General of the Forces, who served at Walcheren, the Peninsula, Waterloo, Canada, during the Rebellion (where he was created Honourable and Legislative Councillor in the Canadian Parliament), also in Ireland, during the famine; by Adèle Marie Josephine Lamy, grand-daughter of Monsieur de Laminière, private Secretary of Louis XVIII., who was guillotined by order of Robespierre during the French Revolution.

ISSUE.

1. *Amand Jules M'Connel*, born 10th November 1853, at 52 Montague Square, London.
2. *James Isham*, born 28th October 1854, at do.
3. *Reginald Lamy*, „ 30th June 1856, „ do.
4. *Annie Julia Adèle*, „ 28th May 1858, „ do.
5. *Margaret Josephine*, „ 4th November 1860, „ do.

FREDERIC M'CONNEL.

Born 27th February 1821, at the Polygon, Ardwick, Manchester.

Married, 24th October 1845, at Burnfoot, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire—

JOHN ANNE, born 13th July 1824, at Allanton, Dumfriesshire, sixth daughter of George Whigham, Esq. of Halliday Hill, Magistrate and Commissioner of Supply for the County of Dumfries; by Jane Anderson, daughter of Robert Anderson, Esq. of Stroquhan.

ISSUE.

1. *George Frederic*, born 8th Aug. 1846; died 23d Sept. 1850.
2. *Margaret Lucy*, „ 29th Nov. 1847; „ 29th Jan. 1855.
3. *Jane Anne*, „ 25th Nov. 1849; „ 2d Feb. 1855.
4. *Catherine Lilius*, „ 5th July 1851; „ 30th Jan. 1855.
5. *Frederica Helen*, „ 8th Sept. 1853; „ 31st Jan. 1855.
6. *Frederic John*, „ 5th Aug. 1854; „ 7th Feb. 1855.
7. *Florence Mary*, „ 6th Jan. 1855.
8. *Frederic Robert*, „ 26th Nov. 1857.
9. *Henry Morewood*, „ 17th Oct. 1860.

Resides on his own estate of Robgill Tower, near Annan, Dumfriesshire.

APPENDIX.

PARISHES IN WIGTONSHIRE.

KIRKCOLM.

Archibald M'Kinney, Registrar, March 28, 1860.

The registers of births, deaths, and marriages do not go further back than 1775.

LESWALT.

William Main, Registrar, 29th March 1860.

"There are no records of births, &c., in existence in this parish beyond 1729.

The name McConnell is quite familiar to me, some of my ancestors being of that name ; and so far back as the time of my great-grandfather, and since, the name was, and has always been written *McConnell*,—indeed, I find a name of a female, recorded in the records of this parish in 1731, written in the same way. There were people, who resided in this parish, that commonly went by the name of Whannell ; but when it happened that they had to sign their name to any particular thing, they wrote Buchanan ; and which is so done upon a gravestone in the churchyard of this parish."

PORTPATRICK.

Andrew Niven, Registrar, 26th March 1860.

"I have made search in all the parish records in my possession, but can find nothing recorded prior to 1727."

STONYKIRK.

Thomas Kennedy, Registrar, 9th May 1860.

“ I can find none of our session records dated back beyond 1739.”

KIRKMAIDEN.

Register House, Edinburgh ; commences 1700.

1720. Died—Jo. M^cConnel in Crichen.

STRANRAER.

John Ritchie, Registrar, April 6, 1860.

“ No entries of the name of M^cConnell prior to 1700.”

INCH.

Register House, Edinburgh ; commences 1729.

Married.

1733, Archibald M^cConnell and Catharine M^c——, both in this parish.

Baptized.

[Date?] *Agnes*, daughter to —— M^cMurtrie and Elizabeth M^cConnel, —— Sorbie.

1802, Oct. 1, *John*, son to Thomas Agnew and Mary M^cConnel, at Culbrowne.

1804, *William*, son to James Kerr and Elizabeth M^cConnel, at Balzeth.

1806, May 4, *Robert*, son to Robert M^cMurtrie and Elizabeth M^cConnel, in Littleleggenoch.

GLENLUCE.

John Douglas, Registrar, 26th March 1860.

“Our session book begins in June 1731. The first name of McConnell is :”—

Born.

1732, March 26, *Jane* McConnell.

Baptized.

1799, Dec. 31, *Alexander*, son of Stewart McConnel and Isabell McConnell, born at Castle Sinniness.

1803, Aug. 2, *James*, son of Stewart and Isabell McConnel, born at Challoehtmund.

1808, April 6, *Thomas*, son of do., born at Craigenarget.

KIRKOWAN.

John McCallum, Registrar, 1860, Newton-Stewart.

No record prior to 1720.

MOCHREUM.

Register House, Edinburgh.

Baptized.

1729, March 16, *John*, son to Andrew Connell and Jane Fie.

1733, March 25, *Jean*, daughter to William Connell and Eliz. McIvamore [?]

1736, Feb. 6, *Agnes*, daughter to do.

1738, July 23, *Adam*, son to do.

Married.

1738, May 18, John Douglas and Agnes McConnel, of this parish.

GLASSERTON.

Register House, Edinburgh ; 1st date 1700.

Baptized.

- 1701, Aug. 31, *John*, son to Adam Connel and Janet Fie.
 1703, Aug. 8, *Janet*, daughter to do. do.
 1711, Sept. , *John*, son to Alex^r. Connel and Helen Gilkison.
 1715, Jan. 9, *Agnes*, daughter to do. do.
 1718, Mar. 30, *Alexander*, son to William Connel and wife, Jean.
 1720, Sept. 18, *John*, son to do. do.
 1723, Feb. 10, *Jean*, daughter to William Connel and Janet Christian.
 1724, Aug. 10, *Janet*, daughter to do. do.
 1725, Aug. 29, *John*, son to do. do.

Married.

- 1707, Feb. 8, John M^cConel, in Whithorn, and Agnes Bell, in this parish.
 1710, Nov. 24, Alexander M^cConnel, in Sorbie, and Helen Gilkison, in this parish.
 1721, July 20, Archibald M^cKonnel, in Mochry, and Janet Braliner [?]

PENNINGHAM.

Register House, Edinburgh ; 1st date 1696.

Married.

- 1702, April 9, John M^cConnell, in Minnigaff, and Jean Gordon.
 1729, June 18, William M^cConnel, in parish of Wigton, and Janet M^cWhirter.

Baptized.

- 1705, Aug. 9, *Jean*, daughter to John M^cConnell, and Jean Gordon.
 1703, Sept. 5, *Marion*, daughter to do. do.

- 1707, Jan. 5, *James*, son to John M^cConnell and Jean Gordon.
1709, May 31, *William*, son to do. do.
1739, Feb. 18, *William*, son to William M^cConnle and Janet
M^cWhirter.

WIGTON.

Register House, Edinburgh.

Proclaimed.

1731, Jan. 17, John M^cConnel and Grisel M^cAdam, both in this parish.

1737, Mar. 18, Alexander M^cConnel and Jean Christie, both in this parish.

1749, Oct. 29, John Newtoun and Elizabeth M^cConnel, both in this parish.

Baptized.

1740, Jan. 29, *Isabel*, daughter to Alexander M^cConnel and Jean Christy.

1741, June 12, *Alexander*, son to do.

1744, April 3, *Dunbar*, son to do.

1745, Oct. 15, *John*, son to do.

1744, Nov. 4, *Grisal*, daughter to John M^cConnel and Elizabeth Guthrie.

1746, Sept. 7, *Elizabeth*, daughter to do.

1763, Mar. 4, *Isobel*, daughter to Alexander Burton and Isobel M^cConnel.

1783, Oct. 22, *William*, son to William Henderson and Agnes M^cConnell.

KIRKINNER.

Register House, Edinburgh ; 1st date 1694.

Married.

1699, April 11, William Hanna, taylor, son to James Hanna, in Clutage, and Agnes M^cConnell.

1708, Dec. 7, John M^cCandlish and Margaret M^cConnell, daughter to Hugh M^cConnel, in Barness.

1713, July 18, John M^cClelland, to Elspey Connel, daughter to umqll Alex^r. M^cConnel, in Sorbie.

1728, Feb. 2, Samuel M^cConnel, tailor in Dalragh, to Agnes Cornock.

1728, Nov. 28, John Hanna, widower in Whitehills, in Sorbie, to Janet M^cConnel, in Newmills of Bladnoch, in Wigton.

1730, July 11, Andrew M^cKenna, to Janet M^cConnell, in New Mills, Wigton parish.

Baptized.

1697, Sept. 26, *Hugh*, son to Hugh M^cConnell.

1704, May 3, *Andrew*, son to do. and Agnes Templeton.

No search later than 1755.

SORBIE.

Register House, Edinburgh ; 1st date 1700.

Session records 1701 make frequent mention of Andrew M^cConnell, and his servant Elizabeth M^cGoun, also of Elizabeth M^cConnell.

Married.

1701, Nov. 1, Andrew M^cConnell, in the Milne of Whitehills, and Elizabeth M^cGoune, lately his servitrix.

1705, July 30, Andrew M^cConnell and Jean M^cMillane.

1710, Nov. 24, Alexander M^cConnell, weaver in Buffhouse of Balsire, and Helen Gilchristson, in Glasserton.

1714, Nov. 5, John M^cConnell, in Whithorn, and Elizabeth Carson, in Balltore.

Baptized.

1703, Feb. 4, *Janet*, daughter to Andrew M^cConnell and Elizabeth M^cGoune.

1704, May 25, *John*, son to do., at the Milns of Whitehills.

1708, *Children* to Patriek M^cKonnald and Helen M^cIlroe.

1715, Nov. 2, *William*, son to John M^cConnell and Elizabeth Carson, in Balltera.

WHITHORN.

Register House, Edinburgh ; 1st date 1763.

Married.

1803, Dec. 20, William M^cConnel and Jean M^cAdam.

Baptized.

1797, June 15, ———, daughter to John M^cConnel, tenant in Bal-smith, and Margaret Stewart.

1800, *Children* to Alexander Connel, and Henry Connel, labourers.

1806, Dec. 18, *Elizabeth*, daughter to William M^cConnel and Jean M^cAdam.

1808, Aug. 26, *Elizabeth*, daughter to John M^cConnel, tenant in Chapel Heron, and Margaret Stewart.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

All these records from the Register House, Edinburgh.

MINNIGAFF.

Earliest date, 1694.

Married.

1702, June, James M^cConnell, in parish of Bar, and Helen M^cTier.

Baptized.

1705, July 12, *Agnes*, daughter to Alexander M^cConall and Jean Rowan.

1705, Dec. 30, *Margaret*, daughter to John M^cQuhonle and Janet Cunningham.

1708, Sept. 12, *Alexander*, son to Alexander M^cConnle and (?)

KIRKMABRECK.

First date, 1703. No record of M^cConnels before 1750.

ANWOTH.—Begins, 1727.

BORGUE.— „ 1742.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.— „ 1743.

RERWICK.— „ 1736.

GIRTHON.

Register House, Edinburgh. First date, 1694.

Baptized.

1737, July 27, *James*, son to James M^cKonel, in Gatehouse.

1767 to 1769, *Children* to Andrew Heron and Janet M^cConnal, Laghead.

TWINHOLM.

Proclaimed.

1768, Oct. 29, James M^cConnal and Mary Paterson.

1770, Jan. 12, James M^cConnal, in the parish of Kells, and Mary Haffie, in this parish.

1774, Aug. 18, Hugh M^cConnel, from Wigton, and Jannet M^cNish, in this parish ; *married*, Aug. 25.

1779, Sept. 5, Anthony Campbell, from Tongland, and Isabell M^cConnel, in this parish ; *married*.

1813, April 1, Robert Campbell, in Anwoth, and Mary M^cConnel, in this parish ; *married*.

1816, April 11, James M^cConnel and Helen Carson, at Trostree ; *married*.

Baptized.

[?] April 24, *Jannet*, daughter to Hugh M^cConal, at Old Mill.

1780, May 18, *Agnes*, do. do.

1781, May 18, *Agnes*, do. do.

1783, May 21, *Grizall*, do. do.

1785, Jan. 29, *Mary*, do. do.

1787, Sept. 14, *David*, son do.

TONGLAND.—1694.

Baptized.

- 1695, Oct. 31, *Joan*, daughter to James M^cConel, in Barnerosh.
1698, Sept. 11, *Samuel*, son to do.
1702, June 9, *John*, son to James M^cConnel, in Dunjap.
1696, June 14, *Mary*, daughter to John M^cConel, in Beoch.
1698, Sept. 11, *Joseph*, son to do.
1702, May 15, *Andrew*, son to do.
1753, Feb. 5, *Agnes*, daughter to John M^cConnel, in Lairdmannoch.
1777, March 14, *Isabel*, daughter to Hugh M^cConnel and ——— M^cNish,
his wife, at Bridge of Tarff.

KELTON.—1717.

Baptized.

- 1793, March 12, *Robert*, son to John Connel or M^cConnel and Elizabeth Paulin, in Rhonehouse.
1778, July 7, *Mary*, daughter to do.
1782, April 13, *John*, son to do.
1798, Oct. 28, *William*, son to Robert M^cConnel and Mary Scott, in Castle Douglas.
1806, Dec. 1, *George*, son to John Connel or M^cConnel, in Kelton Hill, and Jean Caldow.
1809, Jan. 24, *Margaret Jarabina Laurie*, daughter to do., in Rhonehouse.
1811, Aug. 5, *Adam*, son to do.
1813, Aug. 27, *Elizabeth Donald*, daughter to do.
1817, July 29, *Robert*, son to do.

1817, May 4, *Elizabeth*, daughter to Adam M^cConnel and Mary Cowan, in Rhonehouse.

BALMAGHIE.

A few records of baptisms at 1769, and then missing to 1804.

Baptized.

1769, July 22, *Alexander*, son to William M^cMin, weaver, Gatehouse, and Martha M^cConal.

CROSSMICHAEL.—1751.

Baptized.

1759, March 10, *Jannet*, daughter to John M^cClure and Grizell M^cConnell, in Blackzean.

1809, June 16, *William*, son to Thomas Connal and ———, in Blairmuck.

Married.

1797, Jan. 20, William Connel to Margaret Thomson, both in Kirkland.

KELLS.

Baptized.

1744, Aug. 26, *John*, son to Samuel M^cDonel, in Upper Garvary.

1762, June 25, *James*, son to James M^cConnell, in Hannastoun.

1768, March 15, *Janet*, daughter to James Connel and Mary Canan, at Hanaston, by Mr John Gillespie.

1770, Nov. 17, *Isabel*, daughter to James M^cConnel and his wife, Margaret M^cHaffie, at Hannahston.

1772, July 20, *Mary*, do.

1774, Aug. 28, *Peggy*, daughter to James M^cConnel and his wife, Margaret M^cHaffie, at Hannahston.

1777, Sept. 8, *John*, son to do.

PARTON.

Baptized.

1750, October 31, *Margaret*, daughter to James M^cConnell, at Corsockmiln.

1753, May 17, *Jean*, do.

1755, Jan. 17, *James*, son to do.

1757, April 26, *Richard*, son to James Connel, at Corsockmiln.

1761, May or June, ——— daughter to James Connell, in the mill of Corsock.

1754, July 9, *John*, son to Robert M^cConnell, at Nether Ironmanock.

Died.

1753, Oct. 9, *Jean*, daughter to James M^cConnell.

BALMACLELLAN.—1747.

Married.

1817, July 20, James Macmillan and Jane MacConnell, both in this parish.

Died.

1792, April 19, *Jane*, infant daughter of John M^cConnel, in Urlosh.

1797, April 27, *Mary*, daughter of do.

1799, Feb. 9, *Grizel* M^cConnel, sister of do., aged 35, not married.

1799, May 7, *David*, child of John M^cConnel, in Urlosh.

Baptized.

1784, Oct. 13, *James*, child to John M^cConnel, in Urlosh, and Jane Robison, his wife.

1786, June 14, *James*, do.

1788, May 16, *Alexander*, do.

1792, April 5, *Jane*, do.

1793, Mar. 8, *Jane*, do.

1795, May 1, *John*, do.

1799, Mar. 9, *David*, do.

1800, Apr. 15, *David*, do.

1802, Dec. 9, *Gordon*, do.

1806, Jan. 23, *Mary*, do., in Blackeraig.

1808, Jan. 15, *William*, do. do.

1799, Feb. 10, *William*, son to Grizel M^cConnel.

[?] June 24, *John*, son to James Macmillan, in Mimmihive, and Jane M^cConnel.

LETTER, *written to* JAMES M'CONNEL, Esq., *Manchester, by* EUGENE O'CURRY, M.R.I.A., *Professor of Irish History and Archæology in the Catholic University, Dublin; Member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*

2 PORTLAND STREET, NORTH,
DUBLIN, 4th Feb. 1861.

JAMES M'CONNEL, Esq.

SIR,—Your letter of the 8th November last, after much journeying, came to my hands a considerable time after date; but illness, under which I still labour, and other impediments, put it completely out of my power to give it the attention which it required, and which I was most willing to pay to it.

I never knew of any family, either Irish or Scottish, *purely* MacConnell, or of any modification or blunder of that form.

The Irish families deriving their names from Domhnall (Donnell) are in Ulster; the O'Donnells of Donegall; and the MacDonnells of Clankelly, in Monaghan, who are of the same race as the MacDonnells of Scotland.

There was another family of O'Donnell in my own native county of Clare, but they were of a race different from either of the above.

The only family deriving their name from *Conall*, are the O'Connells of Kerry, of the Connarian race, and some minor families in the middle and western parts of Ireland.

The late "Dan," the most conspicuous of the name, was induced to

believe that the O'Connells, MacConnells, O'Donnells, MacDonnells, were originally one name, and the same family; and so far was he carried away by some writers, that he took his Coat-of-Arms from a quatrain of a poem, written for one of the O'Donnells in the seventeenth century. Shortly before his death, however, I was able to satisfy him of the distinct identity of his name and original ancient patrimony in Kerry.

Throughout the south, and, indeed, in all parts of Ireland, the name MacDonnell is now, and has been for generations, pronounced by the Irish-speaking people, in Irish *MàwCònaill*, but always MacDonnell, in English.

This substitution of C for D, &c., arose in this way:—In the olden times, the prefix, Mac, was pronounced distinctly, Mack; but, in the seventeenth century, the word came to be written *Màg*, *Mèg*, and pronounced *Màwg*, *Màw*, *Mè*, and *Meg*; and then the final C, or G, of Mac or Mag came to be prefixed to, or substituted for, the initial letter of the surname, for the mere sake of fancied euphony; as, for instance, —MacCarthaigh (MacCarthy) is universally pronounced *MàwCarthaigh*; MacUidhir, (Maguire,) *MàwGuidhir*; MacDomhnaill, (MacDonnell,) *MàwCònaill*; MacFlannchaidhe, (MacClanchy,) *MàwClannchaidhe*; MacFeorais, (Birmingham,) *MàwCeorais*; MacAengusa, *Màwgaengusa*, (now Magennis, MacNeece, &c.;) MacAmhalgaidh, now MacAwley, Macauly, Magauley, &c.; MacDonnchaidh, which in Ireland is pronounced MacDonnogh, is in Scotland called MacConchie, Makonkey, &c.

But although the Irish-speaking people have used these modified forms, as well in conversation as in writing, still they seldom, or never, were ignorant of the true forms. Not so with Anglo and Scottish writers, in English,—they almost invariably wrote our surnames phonetically; and families themselves have, both in Ireland and Scotland, followed the same corrupt and disgraceful course, when attempting to write these

names in English ; as,—MacDomhnaill, *i.e.*, MacDonald, MacDonnell, MacConnell, MacConwill, &c. &c.

MacAedh, (properly pronounced Mac-ee,) now written Mackee, Makee, MacGee, Magee, Mackay, Mackey, MacHugh, and Makew.

The case is worse in Ireland. Take my own name—O'Comhraidhec, (pronounced O'Cove-ree,) and now written Corey, Corry, Curry, Currey, Currie, &c. My father wrote it *Corey*, but my eldest brother wrote it *Curry*; and the rest have followed him.

I feel that these examples do not in any way help to advance your researches ; but, however, they shew how slavishly we have been attempting to bring the natural forms of our most ancient and pure language down to the appreciation of the ears, tongues, and eyes of the very worst linguists in the world, perhaps.

Of the identity of the name MacConnell, in all its variations, with the MacDonnell of Scotland (and, I believe, of Monaghan) and the Glennis, in Ireland, since the marriage of John of Ilc with O'Kane's daughter, there can be no doubt ; and your being able to trace your name to the Highlands, leaves no room to doubt that you descend from the great royal Irish stock of Colla Uais, (monarch of Erin,) the ancestor of the Macdonnells of Airer Gaidheal, (Argyle,) &c.

The names O'Donnell and MacDonnell are each derived from an ancestor named Domhnall. The Macdonalds of Scotland have theirs from Domhnall, son of Randal, (one of the Crusaders, who died A.D. 1207,) son of Somhairle, (Sorley,) son of Gilla Brighde, son of Gilla-Adamnan, &c., &c.

The O'Donnells take their name from Domhnall Mòr, chief of Donegall, who died A.D. 1241.

There were no family names in Ireland until about the year 1000, when King Brian Boru ordered them. At this time, the living chiefs of all the clans were given the choice to fix permanently for their descendants

the name of their immediate fathers, or of any other in preference, of their aucestors. And thus some took Mac—that is, son of the immediate father; whilst others took Ua, or O'—that is, grandson or descendant of their immediate grandfathers, or any other, say more famous ancestor. This rule, however, was not fully carried out for several generations after; but the new names were always taken in conformity with the rule. Thus—Torlogh O'Brien, grandson of Brian Boru, had two sons, Mortogh and Dermot. This Mortogh, the elder, had a son, Mahon, (or Mathghamhain;) and thus Mahon's descendants took his name, that is, MaeMahon, and abandoned the O'Brien.

I regret that this letter can afford you but little information on the subject in which you are interested; but I have no local Scottish authorities or resources within my reach. Do you know an old friend of mine, W. F. Skene, Esq., of Edinburgh? He is a clever Scottish genealogist.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

EUGENE O'CURRY.

JAMES M'CONNEL, Esq.

ERRATA.

- Page 1, line 9, *for* "Messrs M'Connel & Co., Manchester," *read* "my eldest brother Henry, Cressbrook, Derbyshire."
- " 12, " 1, *for* "the parish records of all the," *read* "the only parish records preserved in Galloway of."
- " 22, " 6-8, *omit* "my brother James also has a distinct recollection that my father paid a visit to Ayrshire many years ago, to some distant relations of the same name."
- " 26, " 7, *for* "comprises only those entries in which individuals are specified," *read* "records each entry as in every case representing one individual."
- " 28, " 12, *after* "Mr William M'Connell, wine-merchant in Liverpool," *insert* "and Manchester."
- " 101, third line from bottom, *for* "James M'Connel, Esq., Manchester," *read* "my eldest brother, Henry M'Connel."
- " 109, second line from bottom, *for* "parish of Balmaclellan," *read* "Glenkens."
- " 116, line 12, *for* "Kirkcudbright," *read* "Kircudbright."
- " 116, " 22, *after* "att all hands," *insert* "and against."
- " 116, " 31, *for* "gasterneen," *read* "fasterneen."
- " 117, " 10, *after* "willing," *insert* "to observe."
- " 117, " 26, *for* "holeanng," *read* "he leayng."
- " 118, " 22, *for* "James M'Connell," *read* "James M'Connall."
- " 118, " 27 and 30, *for* "Jire," *read* "Ivie."
- " 119, " 18, *for* "Janet," *read* "Jannet."
- " 122, " 6, *for* "M'Connel," *read* "M'Connell."
- " 122, " 9, *after* "Barskeoch," *insert* "and Alex. M'Gowan."
- " 122, " 21, *for* "M'Connell," *read* "M'Connell."
- " 124, " 20, *for* "also Isabella Cairns, their daughter," *read* "also of Isabella Cairns, their daughter, who died."
- " 127, " 5, *for* "whom," *read* "who."
- " 132, " 8, *for* "phenomena," *read* "phenomenon."
- " 136, " 2, *for* "efforts," *read* "operations."
- " 142, " 8, *for* "Gonalstone," *read* "Gonalston."
- " 153, " 17, *for* "Filho de Puta," *read* "Filho da Puta."
- " 163, " 15, *for* "6th Jan. 1855," *read* "6th Jan. 1856."
- " 141 and 143, "Mary Chowath," *vide* Murray's edition of Moore's "Life of Byron," in which she is called "Mary Anne Chaworth."

