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SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE FAMILY OF

DENNISTOUN OF COLGRAIN.

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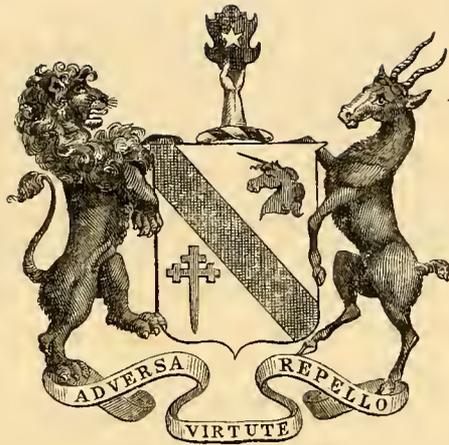
TO

MRS. DENNISTOUN

OF DENNISTOUN.

This Memoir of the House of Colgrain is slightly abridged from a copy prepared as a Family Memorial by the late JAMES DENNISTOUN, Esq., with the exception, it may be stated, of the portion relating to himself, the materials for which have been obtained from the most reliable sources.

J. I.



DENNISTOUN OF COLGRAIN.

THIS branch of the ancient knightly house of Dennistoun, which ultimately came to represent the parent stem, was founded by William de Dennistoun (or Denzelstoun, as the name is sometimes written),* third son of Sir John Dennistoun. This John was the brother of that Janet Dennistoun who married Sir Adam Mure of Rowallan, father of Elizabeth Mure, whose alliance with Robert the Steward of Scotland gave rise to the proud boast of the house of Dennistoun, "Kings have come of us, not we of kings." On the death of Sir Robert Dennistoun, in 1399, the original family estate in Renfrewshire and all the large possessions which followed the title, devolved upon two daughters—Margaret, who married Sir William Cunningham of Kilmaurs, and Elizabeth, who married Sir Robert Maxwell of Calderwood. The male line of the house of Dennistoun was represented by the family whose history we are about to trace:—

I.—SIR WILLIAM DENZELSTOUN, the first of Colgrain, third son of Sir John Denzelstoun of that Ilk, gives his consent to a grant made by

* The spelling of the name has altered considerably in the progress of ages, and, besides, has been often changed by the negligence or whim of

transcribers. Mr. Dennistoun quotes no fewer than nine variations.

I.—SIR WILLIAM DENZELSTOUN—*continued.*

his father, in 1377, in favour of the church of Glasgow. He is therein designated—“Dominus de Colgrane et de Cam-
“besescan.” Among the missing charters of Robert III. is a confirmation of a pension furth of the lands of Mauldisly in his favour. He seems to have been in the household of the unfortunate Prince David, as he had, 10th October, 1392, a charter “pro ser-
“vitis suo nobis, et carissimo primogenitu nostro Davidi Senescallo
“comiti de Carrick impensis,” of a pension of twenty merks out of the great customs of the burgh of Dunbar, to continue till the King should infest him or his heirs in a ten pound land in some fit place. This pension is accordingly charged in the Chamberlain’s books for that year. We have no evidence of the promised grant being carried into effect, although there is reason to suppose that Cameron and Auchindennan, both five pound lands, may have been acquired in this manner. His widow, Lady Marjory, is mentioned in the Chamberlain’s accounts, as drawing the tierce of this pension for six years subsequent to 17th March, 1393—the probable date of her husband’s decease. In 1399, the Earl of March receives it on her behalf. It is probable that Sir William had also acquired the estate of Hiltoun, in Berwickshire, as there is a charge in the Exchequer Rolls of 1455, for a pair of gilt spurs, as the reddendo of these lands, paid by his heirs.

II.—ROBERT DE DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain. In the last quoted entry from the Chamberlain’s Rolls, James Stewart (Senescallus) de Kilbride is mentioned as having the ward of the heir of the late Dominus Willelmus de Danielstoun, and as drawing in that capacity two-thirds of the pension due out of the customs of Dunbar. No mention is made of the name of this heir, who continued in minority at least as late as 1399, but he is probably the Robert de Denzelstoun who had a safe conduct to England and back, 14th November, 1419. His wife, Margaret, mortified to the prior and convent of Predicant Friars of Glasgow, ten merks yearly out of her tenement in Dumbarton, in 1450, when she seems to have been in widowhood, and is designated “Domina de Cowgran.”

III.—WILLIAM DE DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain is mentioned in the above mortification as son and heir of Margaret, Lady Colgrain, and he witnesses a grant by Janet Buchanan to Patrick Buchanan, of that Ilk, of the lands of Strathur, in 1456. This deed is quoted by Crawford from the archives of the Duke of Montrose. He seems to have had issue—

1.—Charles. 2.—Robert Denzelstoun of Dalnair.

IV.—CHARLES DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain was probably the person who witnessed a resignation of Murrach, in 1455, and he is mentioned as having died last seized in the lands of Colgrain, two Camiseskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron, in a precept of clare constat under the Great Seal, 24th May, 1481. Although the link of connection is deficient, there seems reason to think that this Charles was the son of William, No. III., and great-grandson of William the first of Colgrain. He was succeeded by his son,

V.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN, who was infest in the lands of Ross, 28th November, 1482, on a precept from the Preceptor of Torphichen, upon the resignation of Duncan Macaulay of Spittal of Ross. He resigned the lands of Kilmalid in favour of John Sempill of Fulwood in 1495, and in 1514 had a discharge from Isobel Maxwell of “*iiij^{li}. vijs. viij^d* of the soume boukit for the slauchter of umquhile “George Porterfield.” He had a charter of novodamus of his lands of Colgrain and others, from Matthew, Earl of Lennox, by whom he is termed “consanguineus” (apparently from his wife, Elizabeth Napier, being third cousin of the Earl), and was thereupon infest, 6th August, 1512. He married Elizabeth Napier, daughter of John Napier of Merchiston, by Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick de Menteth of Rusky, and grand-daughter of Lady Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Duncan, Earl of Lennox, as appears from a charter granted by him of the lands of Little Camiseskan and Brockland to the said Elizabeth Menteth, in liferent, 1502. The Lady Colgrain was infest in the liferent of Meikle Camiseskan in 1513, and in 1528, paid 117½ merks as a relief of the ward thereof to Archibald Campbell of Skipinch. Surviving her husband, she, in that year, entered into a contract to marry Humphrey Colquhoun of

V.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN—*continued*.

Lettyr within one year thereafter, and thereby conveyed to him all her lands and moveables. Robert Denzelstoun had issue—

- 1.—Patrick, who succeeded his father. 2.—Andrew, who consents to his mother Elizabeth Napier's contract of marriage with Humphrey Colquhoun, being called her "carnal son," 1528. He had a charter of confirmation, under the Great Seal, of the Ferrylands of Cardross, 7th July, 1512, "filio carnali Roberti Denzelstoun de "Colgrain," and was ancestor of the Dennistouns of Ferryland and Auchindennan-Rhie. 3.—John, who also consents to the contract of 1528 as "carnal son," and is co-cautioner with his brother Charles in 1525. 4.—Charles, who had a four years' tack of Blairhennachan from Aulay Ardincaple of that Ilk, 1529. He was entered heir of his brother Robert in certain tenements and annualrents in Dumbarton, 19th October, 1525; and on same date mortified them in favour of David Graham, chaplain, and his successors, for the weekly celebration of a mass at the high altar of the blessed Virgin, in the parish church at Dumbarton, for the souls of himself, of his father, the late Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain; of his eldest brother, Patrick Denzelstoun of Colgrain; and of all his relations, ancestors, and posterity. 5.—Robert, also "carnal son," burgess of Dumbarton. Died 1525. 6.—William, who had from his father, in 1508, an assignation of a wadset of Gartocharn, to which Charles succeeded as his heir in 1524. 1.—Janet, married to John Darleith of that Ilk.

VI.—PATRICK DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, and Giles Colquhoun, his spouse, were infest in the five pound land of Cameron, on the resignation of his father, 8th July, 1513. There is also a sasine in his favour of the lands and mill of Little Ladrowel, Stucknaoick, and Lebarde-land, in liferent, 31st December, 1518. Upon the demise of his father, he was infest in Colgrain, Camiseskan, and Auchindennan, 12th October, 1523; and in his favour Archibald Campbell of

VI.—PATRICK DENZELSTOUN—*continued.*

Skipinch renounced the ward of the lands of Colgrain for a relief of 400 merks, 15th January, 1527, soon after which date he died. He appears to have married, secondly, in 1515, Giles Sempill, daughter of — Sempill of Fulwood, in which year he conveyed to her the liferent of Cameron. She must have died soon after, as, in 1522, he took for his third wife Matilda, daughter of Sir Humphrey Cunningham of Glengarnock, to whom he gave a liferent of the same lands, and who survived him. He had a son—

VII.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, who, in 1536, gave in wadset to Sir James Denzelstoun, chaplain, “four acres of land of the “chappelle of St. Blane,” in the lordship of Colgrain. He was infeft in Colgrain, &c., as heir of his grandfather, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, 30th November, 1543. He was associated with William, fourth Earl of Glencairn, in his machinations and correspondence with Henry VIII. of England, and had a remission under the Great Seal in his favour, 21st August, 1546, for all treasons and crimes committed along with the Earl. His attention was soon after directed to protect his estates from the lawless inroads of his Highland neighbours, and in 1549, he had a commission from the tenants and occupiers of his lands to recover the goods spuulzied from them by John Colquhoun of Luss, Duncan Macfarlane of Arrochar, and others. He seems to have abandoned his own property, and fixed his residence at South Kipperminshock, which belonged to his son-in-law, John Wood of Geilston, and which he possessed as kindly tenant. Accordingly he disposed Meikle Camiseskan in favour of John Wood and Margaret Denzelstoun, 11th July, 1550, redeemable by him upon resigning to them South Kipperminshock, or paying them 300 merks. We also find a conveyance, in 1562, by his son and successor, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, to his mother, Katherine Sempill, in her widowhood, of North Kipperminshock, in liferent, in exchange for South Kipperminshock, “quhare his fader dwelt and deit”—“because South “Kipperminshock was better bigget, and had better yarding

VII.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN—*continued.*

“to dwell in, nor was North Kipperminshock.” It may appear a strange taste which would prefer Kipperminshock as a residence to Camiseskan; but whatever the motive might have been, the arrangement does not appear to have continued beyond a few years. Nisbet says, that this Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain married Marion, daughter of Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreath, widow of David Sempill of Noblestoun; but as it appears from the above document that the mother of his heir was Katherine Sempill, and as Nisbet elsewhere assigns this Marion as spouse of — Sempill of Noblestoun, she seems to have been mother of the Lady Colgrain. Robert Denzelstoun died after 1557, leaving issue—

1.—Robert, who succeeded him. 2.—John, whose posterity carried on the male line of the family. 3.—Patrick, of whom we have found several notices as a witness in the Burgh Records of Dumbarton, between 1558 and 1577. He and his wife, Margaret Gibson, had sasine of certain subjects in the burgh, 1584, and in 1586, they were infest in a victual annualrent out of Cameron, by Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, his brother. Their son Robert was seized in certain tenements in Dumbarton, 11th December, 1607. They had another son, William, a mariner, who was infest in a house in Dumbarton, 1613. Margaret Gibson afterwards married Robert Campbell.

1.—Margaret, who married John Wood of Geilston, having a dispensation for marrying within the prohibited degrees (fourth degree), 17th January, 1546. She survived him without issue, and was infest on a precept from Sir James Stirling of Keir, in the liferent of Kirkmichael-Stirling, and Blairnairne, 8th March, 1582. 2.—Catherine, married to Dugald, second son of Archibald Campbell of Clachan, in Rosneath, who granted a discharge for her tocher to her brother, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, 1566. She married, secondly,

VII.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN—*continued.*

John Spreull of Cowden, and in 1599, is a party with him to the marriage of their daughter Margaret with James Weir. 3.—Elizabeth, who married Matthew, son and heir of Bartholomew M'Aulay of Ardoch-Campbell. Her husband granted her a discharge for her tocher, 1576, and in the following year they were conjunctly infest in the lands of Stuckleekie.

VIII.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, and Margaret Hamilton, his spouse, had a charter from Archibald, Earl of Argyll, of Auchindennan-Denzelstoun, 28th July, 1549. He was infest in Colgrain, two Camiseskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron, 1st December, 1563, as heir of his father, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain; and in 1567, had a charter under the Privy Seal of the non-entry and ward of these lands from Queen Mary, on the death of her husband, Henry Lord Darnley, superior thereof. He feued the Spittal of Colgrain, with three acres of arable land, in 1559, to his relation, David Watson, father of David Watson of Croslet. His wife, Margaret Hamilton, had a liferent of Auchindennan, in 1563. She was daughter of John Hamilton of Ferguslie, in the county of Renfrew, who was a younger son of John Hamilton of Orbiston. By her he had—

- 1.—John, who, in 1563, had a sasine propriis manibus from his father of the fee of Colgrain, two Camiseskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron. He did not long survive this, and predeceased his father, unmarried.
- 2.—James, who succeeded his father.
- 3.—Patrick, who appears to have joined a company of 200 archers who sailed for France, December, 1627, under the command of the Laird of M'Naughtan.
- 4.—Andrew. These last two are parties, along with their father and their elder brother, James, to a submission in 1589, as to the "kyndness of the wester half of Auchindennan."
- 1.—Elizabeth, married to John Colquhoun, fiar of Camstradden, and infest by him, in 1586, in liferent of the lands of Auchengawen.

VIII.—ROBERT DENZELSTOUN—*continued.*

2.—Catherine, married to John Macgregor of Ardineonnal and Laggarie.

IX.—JAMES DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain. The fee of the lands of Colgrain, &c., having fallen to James, second son of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, by the demise of his elder brother, John Denzelstoun, John Douglas, in Little Dumfin, became donator of the ward and non-entry thereof by a grant under the Great Seal, 13th December, 1577; and at the same time had the marriage of the heir, who was infeft in 1603. He left—

1.—Walter, who succeeded him. 2.—Robert, who was alive in 1626, but appears to have died unmarried.

X.—WALTER DENNISTOUN (as the name is generally spelt from this time) of Colgrain, on his marriage with Sarah, daughter of Sir Patriek Houston of that Ilk, by Lady Janet Cunningham, 19th December, 1605, was vested by his father in the fee of his lands of Colgrain, two Camiseskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron. She brought him a tocher of 6,000 merks, and by his marriage contract he interdicted himself to Sir James Edmonstone of Duntreath, John Houston of that Ilk, Alexander Cunningham of Craighends, and Robert Sempill of Fulwood. He was infeft, 12th April, 1610, in the lands of North and South Kipperminshoek, upon a Crown charter, which narrated the immemorial possession of his ancestors therein as “nativi tenantes, rentallatores, et prede-
“cessores,” in terms of statute 1594, c. 218, by which the production of resignations or precepts of sasine by possession infeft for forty years, is dispensed with. He resigned the Kipperminshoeks in favour of William Hall in 1611, and in 1612, the lands of Cameron were comprised by Alexander Colquhoun of Luss, for the sum of 5,000 pounds Scots. As we do not any longer find the lairds of Colgrain making up titles to Auchindennan, it was probably sold about the same time. He purchased from John
x Wood of Geilston the lands of Kirkmichael-Stirling, for which he had a charter of confirmation from Sir Archibald Stirling of Keir, 21st December, 1621. Walter Dennistoun, on 9th April, 1523,

X.—WALTER DENNISTOUN—*continued*.

took for his second wife, Grizel, daughter of John Brisbane of that ilk, by Anna, daughter of Blair of Blair, and conveyed to her the lands of Colgrain and Kirkmichael-Stirling in liferent. He died about 1640, and left two sons—

- 1.—John, who succeeded him.
- 2.—James, who, on the death of his brother without heirs male, became representative of the family, but died without issue.
- 1.—Janet, who married Mr. David Elphinstoun, minister at Dumbarton, with a tocher of 2,000 merks. She was probably by the second marriage, and died before 1656, leaving a daughter, Janet.

XI.—JOHN DENNISTOUN of Colgrain, had a resignation in his favour, by his father, in 1638, of Colgrain and the Camiseskans; and in 1655, made up titles to Kirkmichael-Stirling, on a precept of clare constat from Sir George Stirling of Keir. He was a steady and zealous friend to the royal cause, and ultimately crowned his exertions with the sacrifice of his life. The Earl of Glencairn having been appointed by Charles II., in 1653, commander-in-chief of the Royalist troops in Scotland, granted commissions to Colgrain in November and December of that year. The Parliamentary leaders—Monk, Couper, Twisleton, and Argyll—came to Dumbarton in 1654, “advising on a hard and sorrowful work, what “houses and what corn to burn.” They lost no time in seizing upon John Dennistoun as one of the most active Royalists in that part of the country. There is a family tradition that he was about this time hit by a random cannon shot from Dumbarton Castle while going to the town in his boat, but his son-in-law mentions that he was wounded in the Highland expedition. After lingering for many months, he died of that wound in July, 1655. Colgrain married, 15th February, 1648, Jean, daughter of William Sempill of Fulwood. She married, secondly, Thomas Fleming, merchant, burgess of Dumbarton, and had by him a son, Charles. They acquired the estate of Dalchurne from Mr. Archibald Dennistoun in 1669, as we shall presently have occasion to show. Her children by Colgrain were—

XI.—JOHN DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

- 1.—Margaret, born 1649. 2.—Jean, married to ——— Stirling of Milliken. 3.—Janet, married William Sempill of Fulwood or Dalmoak, who discharged her tocher of 2,500 merks in 1671.

Before his death, Colgrain executed a special settlement and destination of his estate, whereby he “dispones his estait to “Margaret Dennistoun, his eldest daughter, with the burdein of “his debts, she always matching and marrying with William “Dennistoun of Dalquhurne, and no otherwayes; whom failzing, “to the second daughter, Jean, and the third, Janet, successive, “upon the same terms; and failzing of all uther by deceas or “reprisal, to the said William Dennistoun, his airs and assigneys “whatsomever; and failzing of him by deceas, to Archibald “Dennistoun, his brother, in the same manner as to William”—these two, next to his own brother, being the next heirs male of the family, after the decease of their father and grandfather, who were alive at the time. Before proceeding to narrate the consequences of this arrangement, we must deduce the genealogy of this William Dennistoun from—

JOHN DENNISTOUN, second son of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, No. VII. of this memoir. He is designated “second son of Robert “Denzelstoun of Colgrain,” in a resignation by himself of the Spittal of Colgrain into the hands of his brother Robert, fiar of Colgrain, 20th April, 1559. He and his son continued notwithstanding to be designated generally “in Colgrain,” being probably kindly tenants, retained in that part of the estate on account of their relationship to the lairds. He and his wife, Euphemia Bontine, were infeft in an annualrent of ten merks out of Portnellan-Halliday, 4th May, 1564; and in 1566 and 1584, had sasines of tenements in Dumbarton. He was succeeded by his son,

IX.—WALTER DENNISTOUN, who is designated in various deeds “son of John “Dennistoun in Colgrain.” Along with his spouse, Janet Buchanan, he had an infeftment of an annualrent out of tenements in

IX.—WALTER DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Dumbarton, 8th May, 1600; and in 1614, Walter with his heir-apparent, John Dennistoun, had a wadset of Little Kirkmichael-
 ✕ Stirling from John Wood of Geilston. His testament was confirmed in the Commissary Court of Glasgow, 1618, by his wife, Janet Buchanan, who survived him, and left—

- 1.—John. 2.—James, infest in a tenement in Dumbarton, on the resignation of his father, 1611. 3.—Walter. 4.—Patrick. 5.—Robert, burgess of Glasgow, a witness to his brother's sasine in Dalchurne. 1.—Janet, married 1607, to James Wood, brother of John Wood of Geilston. ✕
 2.—Helen.

X.—JOHN DENNISTOUN in Colgrain acquired the lands of Dalquhurn by a conveyance from James Spreull of Cowden, father of his second wife, dated 1st December, 1620. Previous to this he was generally designated “in Colgrain,” or “in Kirkmichael,” but henceforward he assumed the designation “of Dalchurne.” He conveyed Nether and Over Cordales to John Sempill, fiar of Fulwood, in 1660. He was member of the Committee of War for Dumbartonshire in 1642, and Sheriff-Depute of Dumbartonshire in 1632. He married, first, Margaret Houston, who died 1617, leaving—

1.—Sarah. 2.—Agnes, married to Daniel Ewing of Keppoch. He took for his second wife, in 1617, Margaret Spreull, widow of Adam Colquhoun of Hill, in the parish of Bonhill, and daughter of James Spreull of Dalquhurn and Cowden. By her he had—

- 1.—ARCHIBALD, minister of Campsie. Principal Baillie says :
 “He was deposed by the Remonstrants without
 “any considerable fault, much against the hearts
 “of his parishioners who loved him.” He married,
 ✕ first, Jean Noble, daughter of Humphrey Noble of Ferme, and had by her: 1.—William, afterwards of Colgrain, born 1647. 2.—Archibald, matriculated as a student in the College of Glasgow, 1634. Archibald married, secondly, 11th April, 1557, Catherine Stirling, eldest daughter of James Stirling, Auchyle, and infest her in liferent in part of

X.—JOHN DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Dalquhurn. Her husband, 15th April, 1665, granted an annualrent of 240 merks out of Dalquhurn in favour of their children: (1.—Anne, married James Gillespie, minister of Tarbolton. 2.—Margaret, married James Gordon, minister of Rosneath. 3.—Jean, died 1665. 4.—Mary, died 1665. 5.—John, dead before 1686. 6.—George, writer in Edinburgh. 7.—Walter). II.—WILLIAM, in Colgrain, who had a tenement in Dumbarton from his father, in 1654, and was entered in another as heir of his brother Robert. He was treasurer of that burgh, 1664. In 1654, he married Agnes Buchanan, daughter of Walter Buchanan in Colgrain, by Elizabeth Dennistoun, by whom he had three sons: 1.—John, who with his father witness a wadset from William Dennistoun of Colgrain to Zuille of Darleith, in 1675. He studied divinity—became tutor to the family of the Archbishop of Glasgow—was presented by Lord Sempill to the church of Glassford, but refusing to conform at the Revolution, was deprived of his living. He acquired the Ferrylands of Cardross before 1672, and conveyed them, in 1707, to John Dennistoun of Colgrain. 2.—Walter. 3.—George, who became a merchant in Dublin, and married, first, an Irish lady of fortune; second, Jean, daughter of Craig of Riccarton, and left a son, George. 4.—Robert, died without issue.

XII.—WILLIAM DENNISTOUN, son of Archibald, minister of Campsie, and grandson of the above John, being but a boy at the time he was named provisional heir of the Colgrain estates, by the settlement of the last laird, was unable to preserve his rights intact against the interference of a number of interested individuals. Precluded by his circumstances from taking an active share in the convulsions which during his time agitated the political world, the Laird of Colgrain was forced to cherish in private life those feelings of loyalty which would otherwise have rendered him an active supporter of the high

XII.—WILLIAM DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Tory party. He was named as Commissioner for the county of Dumbarton in the Acts of Supply for the years 1678-1685 and 1704. In 1674 he was engaged in a scuffle with John Maxwell of Blastoun, in Paisley, and having been wounded, the matter was brought under the cognizance of the High Court of Justiciary; but the diet was deserted of consent, the matter having apparently been compromised. By his wife, Margaret Dennistoun, eldest daughter of the last Colgrain, who died 20th November, 1718, he had sixteen children, of whom only three grew up, and only one survived his parents—

- 1.—John, who succeeded him.
- 2.—James, who died abroad, 29th October, 1720.
- 3.—William, who died, 20th November 1719.

XIII.—JOHN DENNISTOUN succeeded his father, and in 1725 got a charter of novodamus of his lands of Colgrain, two Camiseskans, and Kirk-michael-Stirling. During his life the estate was entirely cleared of debt, and he was enabled to leave it to his son considerably augmented in value. To effect this, the most prudent management was indispensable, and Colgrain seems to have abstained from taking any part in the public events which convulsed Scotland during his time, in order to devote his whole attention to his private affairs. That his feelings were in favour of the Jacobite cause, we have evidence besides the family tradition, in his uniform absence from all meetings of the gentlemen of his county about 1715, as most of these were noted for their attachment to the Hanoverian succession. He married, in 1700, Jean, only child of Moses Buchanan of Cummings-glen, a younger son of Carbeth, by Jean, eldest daughter and co-heiress of William Hamilton of Auchentoshan. Through her he succeeded to certain claims upon the estates of Glinns (or Cummings-glen) and Branshogle, in the county of Stirling, which he submitted to arbitration in 1708, and obtained decret for 4,747 merks, 5 shillings, and 4 pence, Scots. They had seven sons and nine daughters, of whom only the following attained a mature age—

XIII.—JOHN DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

- 1.—James. 1.—Margaret, born 1701, died unmarried, 1793.
 2.—Jean, married, in 1735, to John Brown, afterwards
 Provost of Glasgow, with issue. 3.—Janet, married,
 in 1733, to John Stevenson, merchant in Glasgow,
 and died without issue, aged eighty-two. 4.—Grizel,
 married, in 1735, to William Dunlop, shipowner in
 Glasgow, and had one son, who predeceased her.
 5.—Elizabeth, married, 1752, Patrick Carnegie, ship-
 master in Port-Glasgow, with issue.

XIV.—JAMES DENNISTOUN of Colgrain had a resignation from his father of the family estates in 1752, with reservation of his liferent of the mansion-house, and an annuity of 1,700 merks, and succeeded him in 1756. In 1779, he purchased two-thirds of the lands of Auchenvennal-Mouling from the heirs portioners of Parlan M'Walter. When the rebellion broke out in 1745, being prevented by his father from joining the Prince's standard, he retired to England, but on the defeat of that attempt, he took the oaths to Government in 1746, and devoted himself to the peaceful pursuits of commerce. He was for many years one of the leading American merchants; and preferring a town life, gave up the estate to his eldest son, from which period he generally resided in Glasgow, until his death in 1796. He married, first, in 1746, Janet Baird, daughter of John Baird of Craigton, merchant in Glasgow. By her he had—

- 1.—John, who died young. 2.—James, who succeeded him.
 1.—Jean, who died young. 2.—Jean, married, in
 1769, to Andrew Buchanan of Ardinconnal, and had
 issue.

Colgrain married, second, in 1752, Mary, daughter of John Lyon of Parklee, in the county of Renfrew, the great-great-grandson of Archibald Lyon, a younger son of the Lord Glamis, who came to Glasgow with Archbishop Gavin Dunbar in the fifteenth century, and who, marrying Margaret, daughter of Dunlop of that Ilk, became a merchant there. In token of this descent, Robert

XIV.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Dennistoun, the eldest son of Mary Lyon, differenced his paternal arms with a canton in the dexter chief point, bearing a demi-lion rampant azure on a field argent, being the arms of Strathmore. They had issue—

- 1.—William, an Ensign in the 55th Regiment, lost at sea.
- 2.—George, died unmarried.
- 3.—Robert, a merchant in Glasgow, married Anne Penelope, daughter of Archibald Campbell of Jura, and had issue, eight sons and six daughters.
- 4.—Richard, of Kelvingrove, merchant in Glasgow, married Christian, daughter of James Alston of Westertoun, and had issue.
- 5.—Stevenson, died young.
- 6.—John, drowned in a West India hurricane, 1780.
- 1.—Mary, married John Alston of Westertoun.

XV.—JAMES DENNISTOUN of Colgrain made up titles to his estates in 1796, and soon after acquired the superiority of Colgrain and the Camiskans from James, Duke of Montrose. He was successful in mercantile speculations, but preferring country pursuits, he was chosen Convener of the county of Dumbarton in 1787, and held that office until his death. He was named Vice-Lieutenant of Dumbartonshire by Lord Elphinstone, and continued to act in the same capacity under the Duke of Montrose. During the long series of years in which he held these appointments he devoted a great portion of his time and attention to the business of his native county. His influence was particularly useful in promoting the establishment of the militia and volunteer systems, and till the end of his life he commanded the regiment of Dumbartonshire Local Militia. He married, first, 1777, Margaret, daughter of James Donald of Geilston, who died January, 1781, after giving birth to a son and heir—
James Dennistoun.

Mr. Dennistoun married, secondly, Margaret, second daughter of Allan Dreghorn of Blochairn, county of Lanark, merchant in Glasgow, and by her, who died in 1822, he had four daughters, co-heiresses of their maternal grandfather and granduncle—



XV.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

- 1.—Isabella Bryson, married, 1804, to Gabriel Hamilton Dundas of Westburn, county of Lanark, and Dudingstoun, county of Linlithgow, and had issue, six sons and five daughters. 2.—Janet Baird, married, 1814, to Hugh M'Lean of Coll, county of Argyll. She died 1819, leaving four daughters. 3.—Elizabeth Dreghorn, married, 1815, to Sir Duncan Campbell of Barcaldine, Bart., Argyllshire, with issue. 4.—Mary Lyon, married, in 1815, to Sir William Baillie, of Polkemmet, county of Linlithgow, Bart., with issue.

XVI.—JAMES DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun succeeded his father, in 1816, in his estates of Colgrain, Camiseskan, and Kirkmichael. In 1825, he acquired from Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart., the lands of Drumfork, in excambion for those of Auchenvennal-Mouling. In 1828, having adduced satisfactory evidence of his descent as heir male of Sir John de Denzelstoun, Lord of Denzelstoun, he obtained the authority of the Lord Lyon to bear the arms pertaining to the chief of his house, and thereupon assumed as his designation, Dennistoun of Dennistoun. He had a troop in the Yeomanry raised in Dumbartonshire in 1796, and was nominated Major-Commander of a corps of that constitutional force, raised in the county during the disturbances of 1820,—an appointment which he continued to hold until the corps was reduced, in 1827. He married, in 1801, Mary Ramsay, fifth daughter of George Oswald of Auchencruive, in the county of Ayr, and of Scotston, in the county of Renfrew. By her he had—

- 1.—James. 2.—Margaret. 3.—George. 4.—Isabella. 5.—Richard, died 6th January, 1829, aged nineteen. 6.—Mary. 7.—Elizabeth. 8.—Robert. 9.—Camilla. 10.—Janet. 11.—Alexander. 12.—John, died in infancy. 13.—Catherine, died in infancy.

James Dennistoun died 1st June, 1834, and was succeeded by his eldest son, James.

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun was born on the 17th of March,

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

1803. He spent the greater part of his youth at Scotston with his grandfather, George Oswald, Esq., and has often been heard to remark, that to the example and precepts of this old gentleman, more than any other thing, did he owe the first excitement of those literary tastes which distinguished him in after life. About 1814, James Dennistoun, and his brother George, were placed under the care of a tutor, the Rev. Alexander Lochore, afterwards minister of Drymen parish. The youths studied at Glasgow College, and some of their class-fellows still speak with enthusiasm of the successful appearance made by James on the occasion of a Blackstone examination. His studies for some years after this time continued to have special reference to the legal profession, though it does not appear he had ever any intention of entering upon its practical details. He passed advocate in 1824. As his father had succeeded to the family estate eight years before this date, there is good reason for believing that James, while attending with all strictness to his proper legal studies, also availed himself of the choice opportunities within his reach to perfect his acquaintance with some of those departments of knowledge to which his youthful mind had been directed at Scotston. If, as may be reasonably supposed, he turned first to the annals of his own house, it was not long before he undertook the labour incident to a history of all the old families connected with Dumbartonshire. At this project he wrought most ardently for many years, gathering together, by his own researches in local charter chests, a mass of accurate genealogical and topographical details, the value of which can only be appreciated by those who know from experience the laborious nature of such investigations. To his extensive researches the "History of Dumbartonshire," by Mr. Irving, has been very largely indebted. Without Mr. Dennistoun's aid, he says, it would have been impossible to complete the genealogical and topographical sections of the work in a manner worthy of the old families of the county. Mr. Dennistoun commenced his investigations at a most auspicious period in the history of Scottish antiquities. The example set by Sir

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Walter Scott had infected all classes, and it is no exaggeration to say, that during the last twenty years of his life more was done to preserve and illustrate our national antiquities than had been accomplished for centuries previously. It is to the zeal then felt for this branch of study that the most important of our Printing Clubs owe their origin. Mr. Dennistoun was admitted a member of the "Bannatyne" in 1829, and presented to the club the following year an edition, edited by himself, of Moysie's "Memoirs of the Affairs of Scotland from 1577 to 1603." He was also an active member of the Maitland Club, instituted in 1828, on a basis similar to the "Bannatyne," but designed especially to illustrate the antiquities of the west country. "Moysie" was presented to the members of the "Maitland" by Mr. Dennistoun, and he afterwards edited for the club the following useful publications:—"The Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax," presented by Alexander Campbell, Esq., in 1833; "The Coltness Collection," presented by James Bogle, Esq., in 1842; and the "Cochrane Correspondence," presented by James Smith, Esq. To the first volume of the "Miscellany" of the club he contributed the "Letters from Henry II., King of France, to his cousin, Mary, Queen Dowager of Scotland;" "Royal Letters and other Documents addressed to the Lairds of Barnbarroch;" and "De Jure Prelationis Nobilium Scotiae:" and to the second volume of the selection from the Cumbernauld charter chest, known as the "Wigton Papers." In 1825, Mr. Dennistoun undertook a tour on the Continent, in company with a few friends; and at Rome, about the Christmas of that year, met with his future wife, Isabella-Katherina, eldest daughter of James Wolfe Murray, Lord Cringletie, whom he married in 1835. The following year Mr. Dennistoun sold the family estate of Colgrain. He afterwards purchased Dennistoun Mains, in Renfrewshire, the property which gave name to his house; but the sale of the old patrimony seemed to break the tie that bound him to Dumbartonshire, if not to Scotland. His studies took a new turn.

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

Local genealogies and topography were thrown aside, to be superseded at no distant period by art and art literature. During his continental tours Mr. Dennistoun had not only visited the best galleries, but made lengthened sojourns at some of them, and carefully studied the different schools represented. His impression regarding several of the best known collections are embodied in an article on the National Gallery, contributed by him to the "Edinburgh Review" for April, 1853. The sale of Colgrain gave Mr. Dennistoun additional opportunities for residence abroad, of which he seems to have frequently availed himself. To his sojourn on the continent we owe a fine paper on Early Italian Art, in the "Foreign Quarterly Review," and another, on "The Stuarts in Italy," in the old "Quarterly," but the most important result of his residence in Italy appeared in 1852, when he published the "Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino"—a work not more to be commended for the research it displays, than the fine taste and just criticism which pervades it throughout. On its appearance, the book received, as it merited, the most marked approval from the highest critical tribunals in the country. In 1853, Mr. Dennistoun was examined at some length before the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the constitution and working of the National Gallery. His suggestions, as contained in the printed Report, appear to be of an eminently practical character, and might have been adopted in their entirety with great advantage to the institution. His last work of any kind, was the "Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange, Engraver, and his Brother-in-law, Andrew Lumisden," the first copy of which reached Mr. Dennistoun's residence on the day of his death. The original papers on which this work is based, came into his hands through Mrs. Dennistoun, who was the great grand-daughter of the eminent Jacobite engraver. Mr. Dennistoun died at his residence in Edinburgh, on the 13th of February, 1855, and was buried, at his own desire, in the Greyfriars' Churchyard, in the last resting-place of a former Sir Robert Dennistoun of Mountjoy, instead

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

of in the family vault at Cardross.* During his residence in Dumbartonshire, Mr. Dennistoun took an active part in the business of the county, though he does not seem to have mixed himself much up with its politics after 1832, when he published anonymously a pamphlet on the Conservative side, in the form of a "Letter to the Lord Advocate, on the Scottish Reform Bill." In addition to his many other accomplishments, Mr. Dennistoun was an excellent man of business. This is best shown by the judicious manner in which he unravelled other affairs besides those of his own family—such as the Drymen Road Trust, the Ayrshire Iron Company's Bankruptcy, and Sir Philip Durham's estate. During the last two years of his life Mr. Dennistoun was Deputy-Governor of the Forth and Clyde Canal Company, the directors of which held a special meeting after his death, and unanimously agreed to a resolution expressive of the great loss they had sustained thereby, and deeply sympathizing with Mrs. Dennistoun in her bereavement. By a liberal provision in his trust-deed, Mr. Dennistoun provided for the whole of his manuscript collections being placed in the hands of his friend, Mark Napier, Esq., Advocate, who was empowered to go over, select, and arrange the different parcels, to have them properly bound,

* A monument to Mr. Dennistoun's memory bears the following inscription :—

In memory of
 JAMES DENNISTOUN, Esquire of Dennistoun,
 Born 17th March, 1803.
 Distinguished in literature,
 Of cultivated mind,
 Sound judgment, and refined taste ;
 His Christian character,
 Moral worth, and courteous manners,
 Endeared him to many friends.
 He died, 13th February, 1855.

—
 This corruptible must put on incorruption ;
 This mortal, put on immortality.

—
 Erected by his Widow,
 Isabella Katherina Murray.

XVII.—JAMES DENNISTOUN—*continued.*

indexed, and catalogued, and then to present the volumes, in the name of Mr. Dennistoun, to the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh. Availing himself of such opportunities as his avocations afforded, Mr. Napier carefully examined the whole collection of manuscripts, and having had them bound into eleven volumes, presented them, in terms of Mr. Dennistoun's bequest, to the Faculty of Advocates, in whose noble library they now are—a rich mine of information on all subjects relating to the history of Dumbartonshire.*

XVIII.—JAMES-WALLIS DENNISTOUN. On the death of James Dennistoun, in 1855, the representation of the family devolved upon his nephew, James-Wallis Dennistoun, R.N., eldest son of George Dennistoun, by Margaret-Helen Wallis of Maryborough.

* On the occasion of the presentation of the MSS. by Mr. Napier, the Faculty adopted the following minute:—"Having heard Mr. Mark Napier's very gratifying communication, intimating that he was now desirous to discharge himself of a trust committed to him, as literary executor of the late Mr. Dennistoun of Dennistoun, by presenting to the Faculty that gentleman's manuscript collections upon a number of subjects connected with the Antiquarian, Topographical, and Family History of Scotland, and containing, more particularly, materials for a complete county history of Dumbartonshire, the Faculty unanimously resolve, that so valuable a gift should be gratefully accepted, and placed in the library. The Faculty feel that they have reason to congratulate themselves on becoming the possessors of these collections, which cannot fail to be of great interest and importance, as being the work of one whose eminent qualifications for researches of that kind were so well known and universally acknowledged. And while they think it due to the memory of the learned author to record their high sense of the value of the gift, they would, at the same time, express their cordial thanks to Mr. Napier for the manner in which he has exercised his discretion as executor, and for the care he has taken to put the volumes in a state most worthy

of the acceptance of the Faculty."—Faculty Minutes, 28th June, 1856.

The volumes, so indicative of the untiring industry, the fine taste, and sound judgment of the author, are—(1.) A folio volume, entitled, "Dumbartonshire Topography," being the first part of Mr. Dennistoun's proposed history of that county; (2.) A folio volume, entitled, "Dumbartonshire Families," being a genealogical account of the chief families in the county, and the second part of Mr. Dennistoun's proposed work; (3.) A folio volume, entitled, "Dumbartonshire Localities;" (4.) A folio volume, entitled, "Notes of Dumbartonshire Families;" (5.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Diploma Britannodunensia," being a collection of ancient writings relating to the county of Dumbarton; (6.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Buchanan Charters;" (7.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Wigtou Writs," being notes from the charter chest at Cumbernauld House; (8.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Notorial Protocols"—1471 to 1515; (9.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Corbett of Bonyll," containing tracts relating to John Corbet, minister of Bonhill; (10.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Scot. Monasteries Abroad;" (11.) A quarto volume, entitled, "Notes from Foreign Libraries."

The following is believed to be a correct list of

FAMILY ARMS:—The early cognizance of the Colgrain family seems to have been simply—Argent, a bend sable; but on establishing their title to the representation of the parent family of Dennistoun of that Ilk, they assumed the arms borne by that house, thus blazoned by Nisbet—Argent, a bend sable, between an unicorn's head, erased gules, horned, or, and a cross crosslet fitchee of the third, supported on the dexter by a lion, gules, and on the sinister by an antelope, argent, unguled, and horned, or. Crest—A right hand holding aloft an antique shield, sable, charged with a star, or. Motto—"Adversa virtute repello."

Mr. Dennistoun's writings, exclusive of the works edited for the Bannatyn and Maitland Clubs, mentioned in the text:—

Letter to the Lord Advocate of Scotland on Reform, 1832
 The Lochlomond Expedition, with some short reflections on the Perth Manifesto, . . . 1834
 Records of Early Italian Art, in "Foreign Quarterly Review," No. 68, 1845
 Pictures and Picture Dealing, in "Foreign Quarterly Review," No. 69 (frequently reprinted), 1845
 The Stuarts in Italy, in "Quarterly Review," No. 157, 1846
 Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino, illustrating

the Arms, Arts, and Literature of Italy, from 1440 to 1630; 3 vols., 1852
 Article on National Gallery, in "Edinburgh Review," No. 198, 1853
 Article on National Gallery, in "Edinburgh Review," No. 202, 1854
 Article on Hill Burton's History of Scotland, in "Edinburgh Review," No. 204, . . . 1854
 Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange, Knt., Engraver, and of his Brother-in-law, Andrew Lumisden, Private Secretary to the Stuart Princes; 2 vols., 1855

James Dennistoun

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1847.

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