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The Strange Adventures
of
Lewis Gordon

BY J. M. BULLOCH

Reprinted from the "Elgin Courant and Courier"

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The Strange Adventures of Lewis Gordon.

THE Gordons have encountered many adventures in their time, but few have possessed the knack of recording them. Lewis Gordon of Aikenhead had both faculties, and his story, written in 1704, makes extraordinary reading. It takes the form of a memorial addressed to some person in authority whose name does not transpire, and it is preserved among the archives at Welbeck, belonging to the Duke of Portland, through whose courtesy I am enabled to publish it now, for the first time.

Before giving it, I may say something of his origin. He tells us that he was the son of Alexander Gordon of Salterhill, who died on January 5, 1700. Salterhill, sometimes spelt "Saterhill," or "Saturhill," is the name of lands in the parishes of Leslie and Rathen, in Aberdeenshire, and also of a place in Drainie, Morayshire. It is the last that concerns us. Aikenhead is also in Drainie, although there is another Aikenhead in Renfrew, owned to this day by a well-known family of Gordon.

There seem to have been two different families of Gordon of Salterhill. The first begins, so far as we know, with an Alexander Gordon who had a wadset on Salterhill in 1644. This Alexander makes a fitful appearance in the pages of Spalding's "Trubles" (ii. 367, 368). In May, 1644, during a success of the Covenanters, Lord Huntly "quyetlie" betook himself from Auchindoun to Bog o' Gight and took pos-

session of "sum trvnkis of gold and siiver, quhair of he had plenty, and sum costlie ritche apparell." Then disguising himself in "cot and trewis with ane blak bonet on his heid, he cums to Salterhill, quhair ane Alexander Gordon duelt, takis ane sleip, directit the said James Gordon [of Letterfury] and Johne [Gordon] of Bervik with his trvnkis to Covsie, and to provyde any boit." They found a Caithness boat by chance and landed with the trunks in Caithness, leaving the Marquis behind in Drainie "to his oune haserd," with the son of John Gordon of Auchmenzie as his only companion. Huntly then left 1000 dollars with Salterhill, "becaus he could not get thame careit: quhilk he [Salterhill] thairefter reveillit and deliuerit to the Lord Gordon." The Marquis himself "be moyan of James Gordon in Kinneddour, his sumtyme seruitour," got a fishing boat at "Covsie" and sailed to Sutherland; remaining in the far north till October 4, 1645.

Argyll heard of the escape of Huntly on May 19 when attending the Provincial Assembly at Elgin.

He wes heichlie offendit, send schortlie for the boitmen, James Gordoun in Kineddour and the said Alexander Gordon in Salterhill; and, befor the committee in Elgin, they are seuerallie sworne and examinatenent the convoying away of the said Marques. Thay all confessit the veritie of his imbarcking and landing and who wes with him. Thay wer all callit evill countrie men and so lettin go: bot the said Alexander Gordoun is ordanit to compeir befor the Committee at Aberdeen, the 24th of May and bring the 1000 dolleris with him. quhilk he did, and had ordour to deliuer the dolleris to the Lord Gordon, and so wes lettin go.

On 26th July, 1649, Alexander Gordoune of Saterhill is witness to an agreement (at Haltoune, 9th October, 1640), by which

James Geddes in Over Achinraith allows £80 yearly to his wife, Margaret Innes, while they live separately. (Elgin Commissary Record.)

Alexander Gordon "in" Salterhill is said to have died in October, 1649. He married Marjorie Geddes, who afterwards married Alexander Stronach. In 1640 Alexander Gordon of Salterhill witnessed a deed by which James Geddes of Over Auchinraith allowed his wife Margaret £80 Scots yearly while they live separately. Marjorie, "relict of the deceased Alexander Gordon, sometime in Salterhill," is mentioned on January 2, 1655 (Sheriff Court Diet Book).

Alexander Gordon, in Salterhill, had the following issue:—

Mr James Gordon who was minister at Comber in Ireland before 1649. On April 1, 1653, there was registered at Elgin the following interesting document, dated Elgin, October 17, 1649 (Elgin Commissary Record):—Be it kend—me Mr James Gordoune minister at Comber in Ireland, sone lauchfull to umqll Alexander Gordoune of Satirhill; forasmeikle as in the contract of wedsett of the lands of Aikinheid of dait ——— 1640 zeiris past betwix James, Erle of Murray and the said umqll Alexander provydit to me in fie the sume of 3000 merks for quhilk the said lands were impignorat; now for the love and favour quhilk I bear to Alexander Gordoune, sone lauchfull to said umqll Alexander and my laughful brother, Witt ye me to have resigned—(500 merks out of the said 3000m. in favour of his said brother Alexander).

Mr Alexander Gordon. He too seems to have been a minister, and Rev Stephen Ree has ingeniously suggested that he may be the Rev. Alexander Gordon, Rathfriland, Ireland, Co. Down, who founded a big Virginian family of Gordon, to which Mr Armistead Churchill Gordon, of Staunton, Virginia, a very keen genealogist, belongs. Mr Alexander Gordon was cautioner for his brother George at Elgin on September 20,

1667. The Rev. Alexander of Rathfriland left by his will in 1708 his books to the Rev. Hugh Innes of Mortlach, son of John Innes of Leichnet. The minister of Rathfriland names his brothers James and George in his will.

George Gordon, lawful son to the deceast Alexander Gordon of Salterhill (cautioner Mr Alexander Gordon "my brother"), granted a bond to Archibald Geddes of Essill for 112 merks, Elgin, 20th September, 1667, registered on October 27, 1680, in the Elgin Commissary Record. He is perhaps the George Gordon, merchant in Elgin, who married Helen Ogilvie and died about 1705.

Robert Gordon. James Done, sometime servitor to the Earl of Moray, assigned certain debts due to him as by decreet at Edinburgh, 11th July, 1635, to and in favour of Robert Gordone, sone to Alexander Gordone of Salterhill, at Ballachastell, 23rd June, 1647; registered April 7, 1650, in the Elgin Cimmissary Record.

Marjorie Gordon; married James Spence of Woodhead in Kinloss. She was alive on November 15, 1682 (Index to Sasine Register). On July 6, 1688, George Gordon, merchant in Elgin (probably her brother), James Spence, elder of Woodhead, and John Spence, yr. thereof, granted a bond of 650 merks to Alexander Dunbar, brother german to the Sheriff of Moray: registered December 5, 1691 (Elgin Commissary Record).

Then another group of Gordons became connected with Salterhill, the laird of Gordonstoun, who was the superior, having borrowed money from James Gordon, a mason, and burgess of Inverness. On October 8, 1658, James got sasine on an annual rent of £180 on Salterhill. The estate was not redeemed for a long time, for in November 21, 1690, his daughters Janet, Margaret, and Mary and his grand-daughter, their sister Agnes's daughter, Janet Fraser, were served heirs portioners on the estate, and in June, 1692, sasine was granted:—

Sasine to Janet Fraser, lawful daughter to John Fraser, sometime smith in Inverness, procreat betwixt him and the deceased Agnas Gordon, eldest lawful daughter of the deceased James Gordon, mason in Inverness, Janet, Margaret, and Mary Gordons, lawful daughters of the deceased James Gordon, and heirs portioners served and retoured to him of all and whole an annual rent furth of the lands of Saturhill with pertinents, in the parish of Kinneddar and shire of Elgin and Forres: on precept of Clare Constat granted by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, superior of said lands, redeemable by him in manner therein expressed: dated June 4 and registered June 7, 1692. (Elgin Sasines fol. 388, etc. See also fol. 89, etc., sasine Duff and Polson; also 396.)

Who James Gordon the mason was, I cannot say. He may have been only a capitalist, and quite unconnected with Morayshire.

Lewis Gordon's group of Salterhill Gordons are traced by him to "Sir Alexander Gordon of Lessmor," who is said to have married "a daughter of Sir George Heys of Dollgity." This Lesmoir Gordon I have quite failed to identify. Lewis says he had a second son John. He may be the John in Kinneddar referred to by the Elgin Commissary Record as follows:—

1698, April 20—Bond for 200 merks by Mr Andrew Geddes, younger of Essell, to John Gordon in Kinneddar; Longbryde, April 20, 1696.

1705, November 15—Bond for 100 merks by William Chalmer, glover in Elgin, to John Gordon, indweller in King Edward: Elgin, June 10, 1691, before thir witnesses, John Gordon, shoemaker in Elgin, and Alexander Philp, merchant there.

John Gordon is credited by Lewis, who does not mention his wife, with seven sons and two daughters—

- 1 Alexander Gordon of Salterhill.
- 2 John Gordon.

- 3 Walter Gordon.
- 4 Adam Gordon.
- 5 William Gordon.
- 6 George Gordon.
- 7 James Gordon.
- 8 Janet Gordon.
- 9 Lilius Gordon.

I know nothing about these children except the eldest son,

Alexander Gordon of Salterhill.

He figures in the Elgin Commissary Record as follows:—

1692, May 25—Bond for 400 merks by Alexander Dunbar, merchant in Elgin, to Alexander Gordon in Kinedare: written and subscribed by himself at Elgin, November 27, 1685.

1695, July 12—Bond by Robert Gibson of Linkwood, to Alexander Gordon in Kinnedar: written and subscribed by himself January 22, 1686.

1699, April 1—Bond for 500 merks by John Gordon of Davidston to Alexander Gordon in Kinnedar: written by Robert Gordon, schoolmaster at Kinnedar, and subscribed at Kinnedar, December 9, 1696, before thir witnesses—John Gordon in Kinnedar and said Robert Gordon.

Alexander Gordon is said to have removed first from Salterhill to Covesea and thence to Kinnedar. His son Lewis says he died on Sunday, January 5, 1700. His will (Moray Commissariat) says he died on January 7, which was a Sunday. His son Alexander erected a handsome monument to his memory within the old parish church of Drainie. Lewis Gordon says that "no person lyeth in the said church but himself." The monument, which is quite entire, has the following superscription (Cramond's "Kings of Newmill" p. 12):—

Hoc monumentum erigitur ab Alexander Gordon in Kinnedar in memoriam suorum parentum defunctorum Alexandri Gordon ibi dem aliquando in Colce, qui obiit septimo

die January [Lewis gives the date as January 5] millesimo septingentesimo, et Isabella King ejusdem conjugis qui obiit.

His will, which was confirmed at Edinburgh, Elgin, October 3, 1711, his son Alexander being executor, shows that there was owing to him the principal sum of 3000 merks contained in a bond by the deceased Sir Alexander Innes of Ortown and George Innes of Dunkintie, dated May 18, 1699, and registered October 2, 1704.

Alexander Gordon married Isabella King, daughter of John King, Plewlands (1606-1670). She was buried in the Kirk of Drainie February 21, 1711 (Drainie Session Register). They had, according to Lewis, fourteen children, of whom I know the following:—

1 Lewis, Gordon, the author of the following memoir.

2 Alexander Gordon. Dr Cramond says he was born about 1677, settled in Kinneddar, and was baron baillie there. The following entries in the Elgin Commissary Record apparently refer to him:—

1703, February 23—Bond for £32 by Richard Winchester, elder, in Kinneddar, to James Winchester, his lawful son: written be Alexander Gordor, younger in Kinneddar, December 10, 1698, before thir witnesses—Robert Stephen, servant to Alexander Gordon in Kinneddar, and the said Alexander Gordon, writer forsaid.

1705, December 31—Bond by James Winchester, younger, in Kinedor, to John Gordon, indweller there: written by Alexander Gordon, in Kinedor, and subscribed at Kinedor, December 31, 1705, befor thir witnesses—John Gordon, lawful son of said John Gordon in Kinedor, and the said Alexander Gordon, writer forsaid.

1706, September 13—Alexander Gordon of Kennedor had sasine of part (Wester Tom-bain) of Auchinadies (Banffshire Sasines).

On May 22, 1724, he acquired from William Dunbar the lands of Dykeside and Eastertown of Tullybardin in Birnie. On

February 2, 1731, he acquired from Dr David Brodie, his wife's uncle, the lands of Hillhead and Newton of Birnie, all of which he left to his daughter Mrs King of Newmill, with whom seems to have taken up his abode in his latter days. He died at Greyfriars, Elgin, February 13, 1741, in his 64th year, and was buried in the Church of Drainie February 17. Mrs King erected a monument in his memory. He married Margaret Brodie, daughter of Francis Brodie of Milntown. She died May 29, 1731, aged 63. They had

- (1) George Gordon.
- (2) Elizabeth Gordon.
- (3) Margaret Gordon.
- (4) Isabella Gordon.

(5) Elspet Gordon. Dr Cramond says they died young.

(6) Helen Gordon married George Grant of Tullochgorm. The contract of marriage is dated at Kinneddar, June 12, 1731. It is written by Robert Anderson, clerk to James Craig, writer in Elgin. The witnesses are Dr David Brodie, physician in Elgin, the bride's uncle, Robert Grant in Tamore, and the said James Craig and Robert Anderson. She predeceased her father ("Kings of Newmill" p. 12).

(7) Marjory Gordon married about 1734 as his second wife, her cousin William King of Newmill (1692-1764). She survived him for 34 years, dying on March 7, 1798, aged 86, "much esteemed by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. She seems to have been a person of high honour and integrity and of a most benevolent disposition." She lies interred in the Greyfriars, where her son erected a neat marble monument to her memory (*ibid.* p. 9). She had five sons and five daughters, whose names are recorded by Dr Cramond (*ibid.* p. 8). The King family died completely out in 1818 by the death of her daughter, Margaret, widow of Dr Alexander Munro. 3 William Gordon (mentioned by Lewis). Dr

Cramond says he seems to have been a merchant in Elgin and married his cousin Margaret King, who died in 1734.

4 John Gordon in Kinneddar died about 1715 (Cramond). Barbara Gordon married Robert Gordon in Lunan. He was a son of William Gordon in Lunan, who was a natural son of William Gordon of Arradoul and the grandson of Alexander Gordon of Buckie. She had

Alexander Gordon who founded the present Gordons of Cairnfield.

James Gordon of Briggs, and Garmouth, whose pedigree was given by the Rev. Stephen Ree, in "Scottish Notes and Queries" Dec. 1906.

5 Jean Gordon married James Anderson in Barmuckity, brother of Robert Anderson, (Commissary Clerk of Moray).

6 Elizabeth Gordon married Thomas Stronach in Walkmill.

7 Lucretia Gordon married James Gordon in Remorach (proclaimed August 1, 1695); son of George Gordon of Thornybush and brother of John Gordon of Davidson. In 1673 he gave a bond for 400 merks to George Hamilton at Belly-kirk (Elgin Commissary Record).

A Lucretia Gordon, who married as his second wife George Cumming of Lochtervandich, and died September, 1668, is said to have belonged to the Kinneddar family. She may have been this Lucretia's aunt.

Lewis Gordon Aikenhead.

He was the eldest son of Alexander Gordon of Salterhill by his wife Isobel King, but he does not appear in Dr Cramond's "Kings of Newmill"—perhaps on account of his scandalous career, which his family would not be willing to record. He is mentioned, however, in the Elgin Commissary Record—

1692, December 10—Bond for £41 10s 8d by Richard Winchester in Kinnedor to Ludovick Gordon, indweller in Aikenhead: written by Robert Gordon, schoolmaster at Kinnedor, at Kinnedor, October 17, 1692, before thir witnesses — Alexander Gordon, elder in Kinnedor, and said writer.

1696, January 2—Bond for 40 merks by John Waterston, shoemaker, in the Collodge

of Elgin, to Ludovick Gordon in Okenheid: July, 1694, befor thir witnesses—James Gordon in — and David Innes in Okenheid.

1718, July 24—Lewis Gordon was served heir general to his father.

Lewis says that he "kept ane hand with a gentlewoman" in Elgin. This is an euphemistic way of stating that he went off with Anne Anderson, sister of Anderson of Westerton, in Botriphnie, and wife of Robert Gibson of Linkwood, to whom Lewis's father had given a bond in July, 1695. Gibson was second heir to his father Robert in the lands of Linkwood, November 4, 1684. "He had a yearly rental of 2500 merks, and was reckoned an opulent man. He was unhappy in his marriage, and his domestic troubles drove him mad. He probably was naturally a weak-minded man. According to the practice of these times, when lunatics were so cruelly treated, he was imprisoned in the jail of Elgin and became a raging maniac. In the month of October, 1700, when the Magistrates were in Edinburgh on business before the Privy Council, Gibson set fire to the Tolbooth in the night time, and there being no means of quenching the flames, it was burnt to the ground." (cf. Chambers' "Domestic Annals of Scotland," ii. 239) (From Young's "Annals of Elgin," p. 7).

On March 30, 1702, it was reported that the "Lady Linkwood" was imprisoned by the Magistrates' order until she made a full confession to the Session. She was brought from her own house by Alexander Dunbar of Bishopmill, sheriff depute, to Baillie Robert Anderson's house. She acknowledged she brought forth a woman child at Daniel Sharp's house at the East Ferrie of Dundee; the child still alive. She left it at Couper in Angus in Alexander M'Intoshe's. She refused to name the father. She escaped out of prison. The case was referred

to the presbytery for advice. On April 28 Ludovick Gordon and Lady Linkwood were reported as going through the country together. (Cramond's "Records of Elgin," ii. 325).

As both persons accused disappeared, the Session could do nothing, and the case is not further mentioned. Besides, Elgin was still strongly Episcopal, and the Session had to walk warily and was forced to wink at things which would otherwise have been dealt with. Indeed, there was no need to punish Lewis, for the lady seems to have done him as well as Gibson. Lewis says—

She falling upon my house with severall others did brak open dours in the night and took all my domesels with my chartert kist, which I was at a loss abov fyf hundred pound by them.

Lewis's dates do not quite fit in with these facts. He calls the lady who ruined him "Ma. Se.": which I do not understand, and speaks of Lady Linkwood as his wife. Perhaps he was in tow with two ladies at the same time.

He had had children before this, probably legitimate, though his wife's name is not given in the Drainie Register, where their baptisms are recorded—

Alexander Gordon, baptised April 1, 1690; witnesses—Alexander Gordon in Kinnedor, the father of Lewis and John Gordon there.

Isobel Gordon, baptised June 13, 1692. In both cases he is called "Ludovick Gordon in Aikenhead."

What was the result of Lewis's petition I cannot say: nor do I know his subsequent career. The following references may apply to him or to another Lewis:—

1708—Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, and Margaret Charles, daughter to umqll James Charles, merchant there, were proclaimed 3 July, and married 14 Aug.

1709, July 6—Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, and Margaret Charles had a child

baptised called John: John Gordon, merchant. . . . Margaret Gordon, witnesses.

1717, April 4—Ludovick Gordon had a son called Francis: Francis Gordon, messenger in Aberdeen . . . witnesses (Elgin Session Registers).

1795, Feb. 28—Disposition of certain lands in Elgin by Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, to Katherine Duggat, "law. dau. to the deceast — Duggat of Auchinhove, now his spouse, in liferent, and to Elizabeth Gordon, only dau. procreate betwixt my said spouse and me, and failing her to Ludwick Duff, law son to James Duff, merchant in Elgin, procreate betwixt him and Janet Gordon, his spouse and my dau. of the first marriage, whom failing to Francis Gordon, shoemaker in Aberdeen, my nephew." Dated at Elgin 4 March, 1755, before these witnesses John Gordon, writer in Elgin, and John Smith, writer in Elgin. (Elgin Commissary Record.)

The Imprisonment of the Laird of Aikenhead.

LEWIS, the hero of the narrative, calls himself a "kimster"; that, perhaps, means a chemist, because he says he practised a German art. In June, 1728, Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, was reported to the Kirk-Session of Lhanbryde for having bleached at Coldcotes on Sunday. A Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, joined the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. In 1713 a Ludovick Gordon, merchant in Elgin, brought a curious action against Sir William Gordon of Invergordon for having assaulted him and robbed him of two bills for £68 and £25. The case dragged on for eighteen years, and was ultimately taken to the House of Lords, who decided (April 5, 1731) against Sir William (Paton's "Appeal Cases" i. 60). Some of these Lewis's may have been the hero of the autobiography, which has been transcribed

for me by Mr B. Poulter of the Record Office. It is written on 11 folio pages, and runs as follows:—

The Case of Lewis Gordon.

I, Lewis Gordon of Oakenhead, or Elgin Colledge, in Muray shear, Scotland, being taken up in New Castell in England by Mathew White, Mr Mayor ther, in the midle of May last in this instant year of God 1704 years; he with others acousseing me, ane who is come from France goeing on in the Scots plot and my being at London and that I understead the gibrish lanwage, and that I was a papist, and I was goeing about sedussing the people; whereupon I presented to him letters by the Duke of Gordon and from severall others to the conterar; which he made use as evedence against me, and aifter threw me in Newgeat ther, with a poor gentlewoman and my chaild not above eleven month old being weint; and kept us closs for three dayes lyeing upon stons, not alloweing any thing; and the turnkey refused me a botle of watter one the second day to the chaild. And the very night when I did come away for London with Mr Nightengeall, one of hir Majesties Messengers (the Lord bless hir Majestie) my chaild did fall in a fever, tho I expect he is dead by the letter I have received from New-Castell by the woman that keeps him. And to satesfie hir Majestie (the Lord preserve hir) and Secretaries of Steat and whom it conserns I shall give heir ane acont as followeth of my parents, education, my nativity, and beheaveour, my religion, the places of my abodment, my employments since I was born to this present tyme, briffe as possable, as followeth:—

In primis. My name is Lewis Gordon, son and air to Alexr Gordon of Satterhill, whos Grandfaither was Sir Alexr. Gordon of Lessmor, his Grandmother a daughter of Sir Georg Heys of Dollgity. His father

was John Gordon, second son to the said Sir Alexr. The said John Gordon begat seven sons and two daughters—my faithers name 1 Alexr.; 2 John; 3 Walter; 4 Adam; 5 William; 6 Georg; and 7 Jeames. Janet and Lileis was the two daughters. My mother's name is Issable King, whos faither was John King, Plewlands, hard by Saterhill and Gordonstown, she haveing eight sisters in all, and two brothers. Hir eldist brother his name is William King of New Mill, provest for sixtein years alltogether in Elgin ther, who haith a great many children; her second brother Jeams, who dyed merchant in Elgin in November 1700 years. My faither with my mother was two and fortie years married. They haid fourtein children, who was married off them 1 Jean to Jeams Anderson, Bermuckatie; 2 Barbra to Robert Gordon off Lunnon, a vassell of the Duke of Gordons, she, to witt Barbra, haith ten children allaive or therby; 3 Elizabethth, who is married to Mr Thomas Stronach in Kirkhill; 4 Luckretia is married to Jeams Gordon of Thornhill—all in Muray shear; with two brothers Alexr. and William Gordon and a sister, they call hir Margrat; these three are to marie. My faither dyed on a Sabeth morning being the fyft of Januarii 1700 years, was buried in the new church of Drany hard by Saterhill and Kineddor wher he dyed. No person lyeth in the said church but himself and the minester of the said parish. Severall hundred relations I have in the said two shairs, to witt Murray, Bamff, Aberdain aparit. This is as to my parentuige.

2. As to my education I was put to scooll in feive years of aige in Kinedor. My first maister they callt him Robert Gordon, the 2 Mr Robert Tulloch, who is helper now to the minester of Spynie in Murashere, 3 Mr Alexr. Grant, 4 Mr William Anderson. They warr all kept

for the most part in my father's house. The fardest of my learning at that school was the two parts or three of the grammar they call disputer [Despauter], with several Latin others and the common reworks [of] arithmetic and a little music. There I stayed until I was past twelve years of age.

Then I went with Sir Robert Gordon off Gordonstown to Sutherland in March to the Earle of Sutherland's house call Dunrobin and stayed until May next. From that I went to Edinburgh and quartered with the said Sir Robert in the top of Peccarles land, a little above the cross. In Edinburgh the Earle of Cromartie now, who was Tarbit, then Lord Register, had the lodging next to our story. Buckaris [Buchane?] had a room off a floor, with Tarbet, Banockburn below them. My Lord Tarbet, Mr John MacKenzie then, had his chamber next door to Gordonstown; next to him Mr John MacKenzie, Cows brother, advocat then, who is now clerk to the Session in Scotland; next to him Sir John Gordon, advocat, Gordonstown's brother, who is dead long ago. There I was at the Duke of Lennox and Yorks parliament, who was after King James servant and second. My education and my employment for two years or thereby was to learn to write in Mr Thomas Gordon's chamber, Lesmors brothers, and a part of that time I went to a kinsman, ane Ganell, ane Heigh German, who lived at the back of Bells Wyne, and studied a part of that part; like as to dancing and fencing schools and other music schools.

And in the March next after that parliament, which I judge was in eightie two, I read [rode] post with Sir Robert Gordon and ane other Captain to Newmarkatt in England where King Charles Court was with himself (of the blessed memorie) where

King Jeams did come from Scoatland be sea the saim moneth and landed at Year-moth, from hence to New Marcat to his brother. He haid meet with a great storm at sea at the saime tyme. Lyck-wayses the Morocayes imbassodar did come there. There habett that all the courteors did wear at that tyme was a velvit cape, with their haire in a pook, a wheit small belt, a pair of wheit glovs with a wheip in thair hand, a pair of jockie butts, without sword or cloak, because at the plahouse as I was informed a vilun ther haid stobet a whinger throu a wall [at] King Charlls back (the Lord preserve his memorie). After the hors reassing was over the King with the Court came to London, myself with them. The Lord Hado, who was presedent, was made Chanslor of Scoatland, the Marcuss of Queensberry Heigh Treasurer, the Earle of Middletown conjoined Secretarie with the Earle of Murra, the Earle of Peirth Lord Justice Generall. And I went to Winser, stayed two dayes there and then I did come back to London. The Duke of Munmunth was banisht by King Chairls for favoring the phinatick partie in Scotland that first murdered the Prymit of Scotland, Bishop Sharp, nixt raise in rebellion against the King. Munmonth haid the comand of the Scots forceis at that tyme. One the third of May I came from London in Dunbartons baing to Graives End. The Earl of Dunbarton was with me, the Earle of Aberdain, the Earle of Pearth. I chambert at Blew-posts in Pell Mell Street.

I entert into the Kings Yeaght at Graves End, wher ther was three in company. The Duke of Young within ane hour after did come aboard of the saim yeaght, with many Scots and English quality. From Gravs End we came to Yearmouth, where we all went in to the Glosseser [Gloucester] to accompany his Royell High-

ness, then Duke off York, wher his Hyness was acompined with two other men of war, three yeachts and severall other merchant ships. The very nixt morning, being Saterdag the sixt of May [1682] about three or four in morning, being misty, the ship did strik upon the utmost pairt of the bank of Limron or was desaintly done by ane English pylot or pylots to drown the Duke of York his Royell Hynos and all the quality with him; and the Duke off York at that tyme aifter he ordered the wrate [great?] guns to be fyred he made a short speech to the quality, which was a great number ther, to be the last man to goe out of the ship himself, which was ane heroick expression at such ocaion. Ther was lost the Earle of Roxbroch, Hoptown, Captain Livestown, my lord Obraion with many good gentlemen. I was miracossly preserved myself upon a fowls coop. I could git it mor large, but rome wanting.

Upon Monday I went into Leith in the Kitchin yeacht. The Duke his Royell Hynes went to the Aby the Saboth night before. The Lady Anne, Hir Majsty now with his duches was there. The nixt Saterdag theiraifter His Royell Heinoys Duke of York did take shippen for London with his daughter the Lady Ann, now hir Hajestie (the Lord preserve hir) and his dutches allongs with them. There it was the last that ever they wer in Scotland. In Jun following I contracted a feaver and egge, [ague] being in such danger at sea, it was a wearing of untill the letter end of August. Then I went north from Edinburgh with Sir Robert Gordon to Muray. I went to Invernes, throu Ross to Sutherland again to Dunroben. I stayed amongst the gentlemen in that countrie untill Crismes or therby.

Then I cam back throu Moron again and went to Edinburgh and stayed untill

the letter end of March, but the rest of that tyme I was taiken up with the German kimester. My faither would not advance me more money at Edinburgh but oalls me home. When I went home my faither, to wit Saterhill, having severell possessions in his hands, within three years he did give me Oakenhead, hard upon the Loch of Spyne within three myls of Elgin and a myll from his own house, and said Loch for fishen and fowling of all sorts is wun of the best of the kingdom. I kept that possession, and a possession in the pariss of Elgin, and ane other I kept in Linksfield within half a myle to Elgin, with a Malt kill in Elgin, for the speace of sixteen years or therby. I went not out off that shair excep some tyme to Inverness, Forres, Chandrie, Dingwall, Beulie, Dornack, Taruess and to Aberdain, all within fourtie mylls of Elgin; except once I went to Edinburgh in nyntie nyn in Jun and stayed untill the fift off August. And my busines goeing from town to town ther in the north was in buyeing horses, wod, bark, roch hyds, fox skins or the like. When I stayed at Elgin I was Captain Comedant in the town over fourteen Companies of men.

I kept ane hand with a gentlewoman ther, hir name is Ma: Se. [?] who distroyed my substance and hir own faime at a very sad rait. I cannot defeam hir excep I speak good off er and that I most speak which was the origanell cause of my leaving that Cuntry—which non in the world knows the treu naiter but His Grace the Duke of Gordon (the Lord blisse him) and myselff of that woman to witt Ma: Se. She falling upon my house with severall others did brak open dours in the night and took all my domesels with my chartert kist, which I was at a loss abov fyf hundred pound by them. In Januari seven hundred and two I went to Edin-

burgh and quartert in John Robeson a brower at the wast part. I rest letters, inhebitiōns, letters of spullie, letters of Laborores, letters exebitions (?)

I went home to the north with a desire to put them in execution. My credetors falling so hard against me ther did taikē out nyn or ten severall Captions against my person, the Laird of Brodie for a thousand marks, Georg Innes of Dunkinty for and Balzie Stewart in Elgin for two and twentie hundred marks, Archbald Dunbar of Thunderton for a hundred pound Scots, and all the rest render yt. I stayed at Gordon Castell untill the Duke came about the letter end of March the said year 1702.

I aplyed myself to him and he considring my sircumstances and bad ussaig I had and was lyeke to meet with, he kept me untill he weint south in first Jun. My creditors having arested all the money that was indue me, I had very litle to mantain me. I left a kettle at Gordon Castell with severall other domisells not worth the naming. The Duke finding that my brothers was puting me off with dealeters, out of charity he did give me four or fave sccar off pcuns Scots. Lickwayes disered me, if my brothers would not give me muneey, to asine or send up ane asignation to him with thair bond and he would use diligence upon it and send and intimate asignation to them; lykwayes left comand with my Lord Huntly to taikē notice of me as long as I was at Gordon Castell, and desaired my Lord Huntly to taikē what peapers I left and grant a receat to me for them. I told my Lord Duke I was bound for Ireland, and beggit of him for a letter of recomendation to some quality in that government. He told me he knew no man in Ireland, for all his aquantance was dead ther, but if the Earle of Rochester be at Dublin he desarit me to write to him at

Edinburgh and upon my letter from Dublin he would realy write to Rochister, and upon his recomendation to Rochister he hoped Rochister would doe for me.

I stayed at Gordon Castell a month aifter the Duke went south, tampring with my brothers and other debtors and creditors untill the first day of July, but nothing would preveall with them. Three dayes before a party of sejours rade throu Fochabers, come from Marie Broch [Maryburgh or Fort-William] in Lochabor, did assert to me off two ships that was lyeing ther bound for Ireland, which was from Gordon Castell but three scoar and six myls. I went up to Jeams Gordon in Kingussie countrie privly. I did geatt hors from [him] and went into Glenevis countrie privly, hardby the garison. I sent in to Marie Broch for William Gordon a merchant, and he told me there was a Gabert goeing for Newport Glasgow, I would feind, that ocation. I slipt away with a gyd to the gabert at a Loch callt Collort or Glencow, fyf myls beyond the garison. They call the skipper Georg Rollens. We did lye at a place callt Badenshall and Milbey eight dayes wit conterar weinds. Then we cam to Lamlash. At sea there were severall ships turning for Dublin. I weint out of the Gabert into a ship was bound for Dcublin, they callt the skipper Heu. Rea, belonging to Belfast. We was put ashcar at Lamlash with contrar wind's, with many other ships with us. Ther we stayed eight dayes.

About the sixt of August we gott into Ringsend and went to Dublin. The first man I spoak to was Andrew Forbes, a Scotsman who had been ther two or three years befor. He laid us to ane John Cambell in Esck Street, being a publick hous, and stayed but eight dayes. The saime Forbes laid me to Mistress Revenscroft, being a pryvett house in Essike

Street, but the Earle of Rochester was come for London befor I went to Dublin. I sett fourth the first adverteisments and destrobeit them in the Colidg of Dublin, likwayes my Lord Desentrie he did geat on of them and spoak to myself and told me he would call for me again but did not.

My aquantances I haid in Dublin at that tym was Arthur Gordon in Couls Eally, Castell Street, hade been a long tym in King William's servise, born in the Duke of Gordon's land; ane other Allexr. Gordon, Abercorns brother, a stationer in Plunket Street; Andrew Comstie a gunner and astroliger belonging to the Castell of Dublin; Mr Steana, Mr offe the fyre works ther, who hade a roun with his wiffe where I was quartered, himself is a hy German; and ane Mr Cuninghame, who is a merchant in Dublin of Scots parents, who did axcedentallie meet with me upon Assens kei [quay], and asket Forbes what I was, and aifter he had given him account he invited me, being in the eivning, to a drink, wher he told me in that very minut befor he seit me, he had kept a ship to goe for Bank to Scoatland to a hyland loch belongin to ane M'Donall, lyckwayes he was informed by hiss partonars there that the Duke off Gordon hade a fishing at Mary Broch that a man might maikε gain by, and rood's and ground that might be improven, and if the Duke pleas to give a leass of years he would taikε his fishen with a peice of ground and wode nearest to Marie Broch; where upon I desaired him to not down a memorandum with his own hand in my book and I would give ane account to the D.G. that he might see it, and I should aither give him or send him a treu account of the D.G. mynd. This is all the sosity I hade or aquantance in Dublin at that tym. The very day I com of from Dublin he noted the memrandum in my book.

The first of October I sealt from Dublin with Skiper Adomson, Grinak [Greenock]. The first land I mett with was Camoltown [Campbelltown] in the lothead of Kintaire. We stayed ther two dayes and then we sailt to Grinak. I stayed ther a night. The nixt day being Saterdag I went to Newport, Glasgow. My footman falling seek I stayed in Skiper Rollens house untill Munday. Munday I cam to Glasgow, from thence to Edinburgh. I stayet in John Robeson my old land lords. Tomorrow I calt for Thomas Tulloch, writter in Edinburgh, and borowed mony to have me to Gordon Castle, because the D.G. was gonn ther. The nixt day I went over to Gingorn [Kinghorn], that night I stayed in Andrew Rotries; the nixt night to Kenoway. I stayed in widow Ramses two nights by ocaion of great rain.

The nixt night I stayed in widow Dunbars at the Fyf syde of the water of Dundie, nixt at the four myll house, the nixt at Suelton in Strathbougie, the nixt at the brigend of Keith, the nixt in Fochabers. I went the nixt day to the Duke of Gordon and did give him my Lord Huntlies receipts, my Lord Huntlie being gon to his travills ten dayes befor. I received my peapeis from the D:G: and he write to my brother to come to him and asked the mony I asinet him who promist faithfully to geat a two thousand marks against the middle of December.

The Duke goeing to the Seshion in Edinburgh left order with [George Gordon of] Sualtown [chamberlain in Strathbogie to the Duke of Gordon] to receive it, and deliver the money to me. I stayed untill the letter end of Deser. at Gordon Castell. My brothers ansor was that Provist King did promiss it, who was endue him tweis more, but he was disapointed. The last day of Deser. I took my jurny and went to Edinburgh the twelt of Januarie 1703, by

reason of great storm detain me. I received a letter from my wife from Thomas Tulloch in Edinburgh. With the travill and want of mony threw me in seeknis untill the midle of Feb. or I was weill. I chambert in Georg Watsons, peuterer, near Todriks Wyne. When I recovrt I did give Mr Georg Gordon off Sachen ane asignation of ane other bond of my brothers containing four thousand marks with ane factorie of all my other bussines where I caused the said Mr Georg Gordon give a back bond to pay into the Duke of Gordon whatever money he shoud receive upon my acount. The said Mr Georg sent north and having arested what money was indue my brothers in hands of Provist King [Sir Alexander Innes of] Cokstown, Faskin [Farskane] Dunfail and others, they having suspended both the bonds, to witt the bond I aseint to the D:G: and to Mr Georg, the D:G: advise was to me to stay with Mr Georg in Leith Citydeall, untill he shoud goe north and speak with my brothers and my unkell to geat mony for me. Accordingly I stayed and the D:G: did call them severall tymes but they would not give ane farding but at extordenar lcs to me. I received severall letters from the D:G: when I stayed in Leith Sitydeall upon that acount, for every fortnight he sent a fittman to Mr Georg Gordon, his Secrotaire, with letters. I did geat always wan too. I did see the parlyment on the sixt day of May and the D:G: did come to Leith Sitydeall upon the fyft of Jun on Saturday, and he did give me ane acount ther was no doeing with my brothers without law or great loss. I did leat him see severall letters I had gotten from my wiff at Dublin. He considering hir want and my circumstances, he lent me three hundred marks upon my bond, with two letters off oblidgeMENTS to me and backed them for

the Lady Linkwood. Had he granted ane obligation in my name creditors would [have] arrested in his hand. I refused the said letters. The D:G: ansor was he wouid taikie writ from no man; without write again.

Then I begyt his advise what I shoud doe in Irland and a letter of recomendation to some of the Government, particularlie to D: Ormond. As for his advise it was if my wiffe would pairt with me, he desairt me to come to London and give him account when I came there, and he would writ to some quality about the court in my favors; if she would not pairt he said it was my best to go to some country place and taikie a posseshion, because of cheap liveing, and although he haid no aquantance, if I could maikie aquantance with any person that will aither doe for me or show me kindness upon his or my own account, desairt me to writ to him and he would send them thanks untill they should be requited in thair own terms, for he would be obliged to any who did for me. I recived two lynes to Cuningham from him showing that, if Mr Cuningham should aither come to Edinburgh or Gordon Castell, he should have a leass of fishin at Marie Broch or any pairt of land or woods in Lochaber, and desairt as I went throu Glasgow or Air to see if I could geat sold two or three thousand bolls of meall or bear of his fearms in the north of Scotland and he would be thankfull to me. This is all, as God leivs, that past betwixt the D:G: and me at parting last.

In the middle of Jun I cam from Edinburgh to Glasgow, from Glasgow to Port Patrik, but could not come near the pryss the D:G: laid on his victuall; at Glasgow from Po[r]t Patr[ick] I cam over to Danochie Die in Irland in a boat, they calt the skiper John Innes in Port Patrik. From Danachie Die I went all be land to

Dublin. I went in upon a sabbath day being the twentieth seven of Jun, my wife being removed to Mr Roberts in Bryd Streett. Saterday heirafter she was brought to bead. I payd Arther Gordon that mony he hade lent hir, and the said Arther would taikē no intrest from me, and was kynd to me in severall respects. The first I write I did give the D:G: account of his sevilyaty, and it was the main thing that made me to keep a club in his house, and that I should leiv temporate, to drink but once in a month; for before the club was made I could not goe over my chamber doar, but fellers pressing me to drink. When the club was made everie one that spake to ane other of me told I would not drink with any untill the club-day, and then they did leat me allon. I'm scribe I have not the articles of the club heir if ther be any that is need to be explaint, and that I might distinguish their subscriptions with thair designations, places wher they live, with thair imployments and traids.

Seing I have not the articles of the club, I shall guese as near as possabill to them first my own name Lewis Gordon provis; then Chairls Gordon, ansein [ensign], who is a sister son of Generall M'Keys, who went to Portegeall with the first forcess went out of Irland Septr. last; John Gordon, a gentleman in Heasten's [Houstons?] Regiment [in the Scots Brigade in Holland]; John Gordon, a showmaiker in Dublin; Alexr. Gordon, stationar in Plunket Street; Alex. Gordon, Tayllor in Skinner Roe; Archbald Gordon at the Seign of the Coak and Bctle in Bryd Street, I suppose he is a merchant Tyler; Robert Gordon, ane old mau, a Tyllor in Patriks Cloas; Thomas Gordon, doctor and dextrous in cutting of the ston, he is known throu the whole kingdome of Irland, he told he was married in Countie of Cork;

Alexr Gordon, brother to Arther Gordon, he is a man that ryds in Cornell Deyeall [Dalziel] troupe of Dragouns, a corprall, was lying in Dublin when I come off; Alexr. Gordon, ane old man, he was made officer, we did give him somthing every club night for goeing eronds to any belonging to the club; severall others heiring off the artickls by Mr Alexr. Dunckon, whom I made Clark to the said club, he leivs in Bryds Ally, keeps a scoall there. Many others wad a [would have] come in but we had no rounge in the house to hold them; howe ever I tooke in those as followeth:—Lewetenon Leslie in Denygaills regiment; John M'Kenzize, ansein, in the regiment of Foot that came over just befor the Duke of Ormond from Irland; John Ford, ane house keeper in Castell Street, where the Earle of Inshiequin did severall tymys dine with Maior Hunter and others; Mr Gemitt, ane Englishman, who was in Flanders in the Duke of Ormand's trup and at Wigo in Spain with the Duke, and the Duke sent for him to London to come to Dublin, did give him a comition; with ane other pretty gentleman that was born in Irland, his name is Geskin I suppose; with ane other Mr Roberts or Robeson, haith a post under the Duke of Ormand, ane acquaintance of the forsaid Lewten Leslies. Ther is but phew or any mor subscribers.

My other acquaintances was in Irland as followeth:—the Earle of Abercorn, my Lord Lisborong lodged off flour with him in Mr Robert's house, Bryde Street, he being a relation of the English lady that kept King Charls of the blisshed memorie when he was in exaill in England (O I love the said Lord upon that ladyes account). I know Alderman M'Queen, leat Mayor in Dublin, he is a pothiscar in Skinar Roe; Lewetenant Carr in Hestans regiment, dyed in September last; Alexr. Man, Ensein ther, Leweten Bortown and Mun-

creif belonging to the regiment that did come over with the Duke off Ormond's horses. I had not the acquaintances of six persons by what I have sett down. In Irland I was never in a coffie house nor Tavrin, phew or any Eallhouses except in the said Arther Gordons. I did give account to the D:G: I had mett with severall of my name and did keep a club with them the first Teusday of every month, all of the said club was of the Church of England excep Alexr. Gordon, Stationer, who is a presbeterein and did know his Gr[ace] best, and his Gr. health was nixt mynded aifter the Queen and Goverment; whereupon in his nixt letter to me he had his servise to all the name of Gordon that wist him weill.

Several gentlemen of this club urgt me to sett forth that advertisment of the Duke of Ormands name and taitle and writ to the Dewk becauss it was hard to geat axes to him. Acording I did writ him and to the Earle of Abercorn an don sight of my letter Ab[ercorn] did come to me in his own lodging and told me he had a sweet remembrance of the D:G: famolie and his ansestors was come off the D:G: famoly but not himself, and upon further ashurance I was the D:G: favoreit he would doe all in his poyer for me in the Goverment; lykways he desaired me to goe Inshequeen; he judged Inshequeen was a relation of the D:G: from the famolie of Strathban and that he would speak the Earle of Inshequin himself upon my account. Acordingly the nixt day I went to Inshquens lodging in the other syd of the water. Infortunatlie he was under feisek, I could not geat axes. Abercorn said that Inshequen had a great stroak with the Duke of Ormand. The nixt day following Mr Foord, who is one of my own club, advist me to write a letter and leave it with him [for] Inshequin wold come to his house when he cum first abroad and he

would deliver the letter with his own hand and geat me a positive anser. Acordingly I did. I would not delay writing to the D:G: but writt and gave account what passed betwixt Abercorn and me ass afor-said and I had write Inshequin to ingratiat myself in his feavors but I hade received no anser. The D:G: delayed writing untill the post, they call after him John Ross, cum from Scotland to Irland, which in his letter to me he hade his hartie servise to Abercorn and his complements with my own aktivities wod obleidge freinds to doe me servise; hade he known wher Abercorn stayed he wod a write to him, it was my falt I did not give ane account where Abercorn lodged. The account I did geat from Mr Foord of the letter I write to Inshequeen was that his mother in law and some of his famolie [were] seek and he was hard in business, however he would apoint some aifternoon at Mr Foords house and speak with me. I never did meet with him nor seid him untill I received the D:G: letter which was long a coming. When it came to my hand, I weint to Abercorn and showd him if I was not imedeatlie prefert I could hold it out no longer, I did not intend to taik on debt from any person and to goe away unpayd or play such ragish triks. He comfort me he was not in such feavor with the D[uke] [of] Or[mond] as to doe me servise and he was sorie for me but he would goe imeditly to the House of Lords with me and speak to Inshequeen who hade a great ear with the Duke of Ormond. Acordingly he went as a faithfull honest and just noblemen as he is (I pray the Lord bliss him and his noble famolie). Abercorn spok to Inshequeen upon my account, and Inshequeen anser was that he hade many poor relations of his own that he could not geat prevealt with [the] D[uke] of Or[mond] to geat them provided for,

and would obledge me to waite longer if I expected any preferment ther.

Abercorn knowing my circumstances, and that I was not eable to hold longer out in Dublin, I durst not goe to Edinburgh, the D:G: being in the north my creditors would fall on me as I prepost to him, he advist me to goe and stay at New Castell and writte to the D:G: for a letter in my feavours to the Earle of Rochester and upon the D:G: letter, that Rochester might wreitt to Esquair Kettby, his own good brother, in my feavors, who is Lord Chiff Justiess in Irland in the Duke of Ormond's absence, one of them and undoutadlie Esquair Ketbie would provid for me or if the D:G: would wreit or causs any nobleman in Scotland write to the Steat at London in my feavors, and that he was goeing for London himself, to witt Aber[corn], if he seit me he would what lay in his power to doe me serviss (for which cause I pray the Lord to bliss him); and acording as he advist I weint to New Castell. After I payed my landlords, dischairgt my nurss, sold my watch, severall suts of fyn cloths and other abulements to clear what I was endue in Dublin, upon twentie day of March about four a'clock in the afternoon on the bank below Rings End I cam abourd off the ship, Charls Luckas Maister. In the mein tyme his Grace the Duke of Ormond came by with severall cannon, was stylt at Rings End and fyred but once round, hade been taiken cut from the castell yeard of Dublin and planted ther to that effect.

The twentie second day of March 1704 I landed at Wheitheaven, wher I chambert for sixtein dayes by reason of my seek chaild, who was seek to death, yet the Lord recovrt him. My landsladys nam was widow Walles, and ther I observed there might be a good fishing and any man with a leitll mony might leiv weill in that

place. I took my jurny from White-heaven on Theursday aifternoon the nixt day to Cockarmith, which is but ten myls from Whytheaven. The nixt day being Saturday and ranie I cam but to Churchtown hard by Sir Wallfirt Lawsen. I quartert in ane Mr Clemens, wher the parish minester was borded. My chaild being seek I stayed untill Munday afternoon. Nixt town was Carlyl, nixt to Brantown [Brampton], nixt to Ardwhisell [Hallwhistle], nixt to Hixson [Hexham], nixt to New Castell, wher I stayed a month or therby befor I was taiken up and in all that months tyme I was naither in Eall house nor Tavrin.

I writ to the D:G: for some suplie of mony and howe my affairs went one and for letters of recomendation from himself or any other quality by his desair wod write to the quality heir to doe for me, becauss he knew that it was my firm resolution to serve hir Majsty under the Church of England's goverment, becausie I was baptist by the hand of the most revernd Mr Murdoch M'Kengzie, Lord Bishop off Murray, and confirmed be the sain holy man, who was aifterwards replanted to Orknay; which I hold thair doctrim to be suffecent for my salvation. And now seing I am kept in custody heir at London not knowing any person to doe for nor have I ane fardin of mony, I having severall actions in befor the Seshon at Edinburgh and for want of information from me my peapers being in custodie, with reverance I say I am at a great loss, and I hope this will be considered by those whom it concerns, and if any of the said club will or the fornamed perscns will say, or any person whatsoever in England or Irland, that ever I spoak any word that was desloyell to hir Majstie (God preserve hir) and goverment, counsolers or heird or seit me in compony where there was taiken

that could offend the government, I'll be lyable to greatest punishment, or if any person can say that ever I heart any doctren preacht but the episcopell church I shall acknowledge it to be all lyes I have write.

All this that I have writte for my own vindication is a trouth as I shall anser to God at the great day off judgement, and if I know anything againest hir Majestie (the Lord preserve hir) with hir goverment, I pray the greatest judgement fall one me sudenlie that ever befell mankind, and this I all atest and sincerlie subscribe.

LEWEIS GORDON.



