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THE EARLS OF ABOYNE :

DOWN TO THE PRESENT MARQUIS OF
HUNTLY.

It was a sad day for Huntly when the 5th Duke of Gordon died, for the headship of the house was shifted from the Deveron to the Dee. It is true that His Grace's consort, who died in 1864, survived him for 28 years, but the fact that she had no children of her own, although she did so much for the children of others, only accentuated the poignancy of the situation. When her husband died, his dukedom became extinct, but his marquisate went to his next heir male, and so marked is the decimation in great families that that heir had for ancestor the third Marquis; that is to say, his line had branched off (1660) before the creation of the dukedom (1684).

The Earl of Aboyne, who succeeded to the marquisate in 1836, took his title from a district which had long been associated with the younger line of the family. Curiously enough another of its owners had also been extremely lucky, for Adam Gordon of Aboyne, the son of the second Earl of Huntly, married Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, in her own right, and founded the

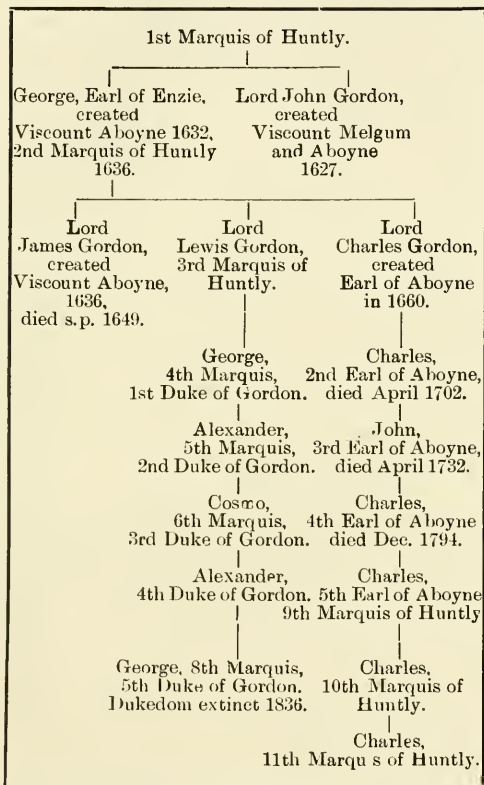
family which (characteristically) bore his name for 200 years. The luck, however, was long in coming to the Aboynes. Indeed, at first it seemed as if the separate peerage of Aboyne would not catch on at all, for there were two creations which became extinct before succession was found.

The peerage of Aboyne, first as a viscounty and then as an earldom, has existed since 1627 under three creations, although since 1836 it has been merged in the Marquisate of Huntly. The creations are as follows:—

- (1) 1627-1630—Viscounty of Melgum and Aboyne.
for the 2nd son of the 1st Marquis
of Huntly.
- (2) { 1632-36—Viscounty for the 1st son of the 1st
Marquis of Huntly.
1636-49—Transferred to the 2nd son of the 2nd
holder, who became 2nd Marquis of
Huntly.
- (3) { 1660-1836—Five Earls of Aboyne, the 5th becom-
ing 9th Marquis of Huntly. The
holders were:
1660-81—1st Earl: Lord Charles
Go don, 4th son of the 2nd
Marquis of Huntly.
1681-1 02—2nd Earl: Charles,
son of 1st Earl
1702-1738—3rd Earl: John, son
of 2nd Earl.
1738-1794—4th Earl: Charles,
son of 3rd Earl.
1794-1836—5th Earl, Charles,
son of 4th Earl. He became
9th Marquis of Huntly in
1836, and died 1853.

The present Marquis of Huntly, who is the 7th Earl, was known as Lord Strathaven from his birth in 1847 until 1843, when his father, the 6th Earl, became Marquis of Huntly. He then became Lord Aboyne, by which title he was known until 1863, when he himself succeeded to the marquisate: so that nobody has thought of a Lord Aboyne for 44 years.

The accompanying table shows the Earls of Aboyne at a glance:—



VISCOUNT OF MELGUM AND LORD ABOYNE.

This peerage was created on October 20, 1627, in favour of Lord John Gordon, the second son of George, 1st Marquis of Huntly. He married Sophia, daughter of William (Hay), 9th Earl of Erroll. He was burned to death at Frendraught Castle on October 8-9, 1630.

The Viscount (says Spalding) was laid in a nebed in the old tower (going af of the hall) and standing vpone volt, quhairin thair wes a ne round

hoill devysit of old just vnder Aboyne's bed. . . All being at rest, about midnight that dolorous towr tuke fyre in so suddant and furious maner, yea and in ane clap, that this noble Viscount, the laird of Rothimay, Inglish will [Aboyne's page], Collein Ivat, ane vther of Aboyne's ser-uitouris and vther tua, being six in number, war cruellie brynt and tormentit to the death, but help or releif.

Spalding calls him of "singular expectation." His ashes were deposited in a vault in the Church of Gartly. He died without issue, and his wife died on March 20, 1642.

THE 1ST VISCOUNT OF ABOYNE.

The peerage was conferred on Lord George, Earl of Enzie, eldest son of the 1st Marquis of Huntly, on April 20, 1632—eighteen months after the death of his younger brother John at Frendraught. It was created with a special remainder after his father's or his own death (whichever should happen first) to his second son James and the heirs male of his body. This remainder took effect on the death of his father, the 1st Marquis, on June 13, 1636, Aboyne becoming 2nd Marquis of Huntly (beheaded March 19, 1648-9).

2ND VISCOUNT OF ABOYNE.

Lord James Gordon was the second son of the 2nd Marquis of Huntly, and succeeded to the Viscountcy in 1636, on the accession of his father to the Marquisate. At first it seemed as if he were to develop into a soldier of fortune, for he joined his father's corps of gentlemen at arms for service in France, February 1633. But there were stirring ongoingings at home, so he returned, and on October 4, 1638, signed the Covenant with his father and brother at Aberdeen (Spalding's "Troubles," i. 112). The Covenanting creed, however, was not for him, and soon we find him in the thick of the fight on the side of the King, and Spalding's pages bristle with references to him and his exploits. On April 4, 1639, he met Montrose at Aberdeen (i. 160). On April 10, he lodged at Pitfoddell's house (i. 165). On April 13 he was sent by his father to bring money from Strathbogie (i. 171), but having re-started for the town and reached Percock, he hurried back, on April 16, with the "trunkis" (i. 172), the Covenanters resolving not to hold a committee at Turriff on account of his "pouer" (i. 174).

On May 3, Aboyne broke up his army, and

suddenly shipped at Crookit-haven in the Enzie "with sum few persones and to His Majestie goes he" (i. 181). His movements are traced in a letter (Sloane MSS., British Museum, 650, f. 95), dated Newcastle, May 10, 1639:—"On Tuesday night hither came to Court one Mr Seton, a young Scottissh gentleman in the habit of a fidler, to avoid discovery, with letters in his fiddle for the young Lord Aboyne, second son of the Marquis of Huntly, who with his eldest son are still straight prisoners in Edinburgh Castle. The next morning came the young Lord himself by sea, leaving lest Seton should miscarry. Aboyne affirms that he had 3000 men in arms and 300 horse in those arms that the King sent his father. Against these the Covenanters came with twice so many and summoned Aboyne's army to yield, which, he refusing, they said they would kill his father and elder brother. Then said he—'Am I Marquis Huntly?' They returned answers that because his army was led by a rash young man they would give him twenty days to consider it. In the meantime Aboyne leaving his army with one Johnstone is come hither."

He returned to Aberdeen in a collier on June 2, capturing a ship laden with guns captured by Montrose from Aberdeen (i. 200). Twelve of these he sent to the Admiral, who left them at Burntisland (i. 201). As Lord Aboyne lay in the bay "diverss ladeis and gentilwomen" went out to see his ship (i. 203). He landed on June 6, and caused the town's officer to read at the Cross a proclamation from the King commanding the people not to obey the Covenanters, and empowering Aboyne to act as lieutenant of the north in his father's place (i. 204). He finally took possession of the town. On June 14 he had a skirmish with Marischal (i. 208), and on June 18, he fought a skirmish at the Bridge of Dee. This fight was renewed on June 19, and he fled to Aberdeen (i. 210, 211), which he left on board a ship for Berwick on June 21. Aboyne remained away for two and a half years, but "cam from England home to Edinburgh" on January 28, 1642 (ii. 101), and on February 14 reached Strathbogie (ii. 102). On July 27, he accompanied Lord Huntly to the latter's house in Old Aberdeen, and on November 22 we find him in Skipper Anderson's house, having come to town about his share ("5000 merks yearly with the burdling")

from the Marquis's re-disposed estates (ii. 207). He returned to Strathbogie on December 9.

In March 1643, Aboyne, accompanied by twelve gentlemen, went to York to see the Queen (ii. 239). From there he directed his energies to Ulster, where the Earl of Antrim was engaged in a "horrid plotte." On June 9, 1643, the Scots Parliament ordered his arrest for high treason (ii. 249). Aboyne did not appear, but he went to Old Aberdeen to see his father, now in sore straits, a few days later, although he was declared a traitor, and in 1644 he, with several other prominent Catholics, sent a remonstrance to the Parliament sitting at Oxford. In April 1644, he rode from Carlisle to Dumfries with a company of horse, but returned hastily (ii. 350), and in the same month the people of Aberdeen heard his excommunication read from the pulpits of their "kirkes." He broke out of Carlisle, and appeared in Aberdeen in May 1645, on a plundering expedition for Dumfries. On May 9, he fought at the battle of Auldearn with his brother, Lord Gordon, receiving, as Spalding says, "eternall prais" (ii. 474).

At this point his history ends so far as Spalding is concerned, for he escaped to France, and was excepted from the pardon of 1648. He died unmarried at Paris, February 1648-9, from grief occasioned by the execution of King Charles. His honours are "presumed" to have become extinct at his death.

CHARLES, 1st EARL OF ABOYNE, DIED 1681.

Lord Charles Gordon, who became 1st Earl of Aboyne, was the fourth son of the 2nd Marquis of Huntly. He was clearly a man with some of the qualities which go to make a statesman, for though he began life at zero, as it were, that is to say amid endless misfortune, and though he died perhaps short of fifty, he managed to reconstruct the family fortunes in the following way:

He re-gained the estates and honours to the Huntly family.

He, himself, was created an Earl.

I think he was the first of all the Gordons who have borne the name of Charles, a name which has marked all the Earls of Aboyne down to the present time, when, of course, the title is obscured in the Marquisate of Huntly. It is very

interesting to note the first appearance of a Christian name in a family. Just as "Theodore" seems to have been introduced among the Gordons from Russia, via the family of Gordon of Auchleuchries; and as "Cosmo" came to the Gordons from the Medici family, so "Charles" was introduced from that devotion to the Stuarts (coupled with the fact that the 2nd Marquis was educated at Court with Prince Charles), which had brought the house to such a pass when Lord Aboyne was born. The misfortunes of Lord Charles's family might be summarised thus:—

1638.—His mother died.

1639.—His father, the 2nd Marquis, was made prisoner.

1644.—His father was excommunicated.

1645.—His brother, Lord Gordon, was killed at the battle of Alford.

1649.—His brother James died of a broken heart in France.

1649.—His father, the Marquis, was executed in Edinburgh.

1650.—His sister Henrietta, Lady Traquair, died.

1653.—His brother, the third Marquis, died.

1655.—His sister Jean, Lady Haddington, died.

1656.—His sister Anne, Lady Perth, died.

His younger brother who entered the service of Poland, and his youngest sister Catherine, who married Count Morsztyn, and became the great-grandmother of the last King of Poland, were all in hiding, and all had to fly to France, and as his mother was dead, little Lord Charles was left alone with his old grandmother the Dowager Countess, who was a daughter of Esme Stewart, Duke of Lennox. Thus Lord Charles began life in ruin and in anguish: which was lucky, however, for posterity, as it gives us one of the very rare peeps into the boyhood of other days.

In June 1641, his grandmother, who died in September of the following year, was driven from her home in Edinburgh; so she left Lord Charles, "being bot ane barne," with Robert Gordon, baillie of Enzie, to be "intertynnit be him, when scho cam fra the Bog." She sent Lord Charles's sister, Lady Mary, to the Countess of Perth (Spalding's "Troubles," ii. 54).

In December 1642, his father sent Lord Charles to King's College "to leirne gramar. He got Doctor Leslie (the last deposit principall), his chalmer (who had steill kept the samen for his recreation whill this tyme) for his sone and

his pedagog to remane into," and took Leslie to Strathbogie (Spalding, ii. 216). On October 26, 1644, we hear that Lord Charles "returnit bak fra Dunnoter to the scoollis in Old Abirdene." On March 24, 1645, "Charles Gordon, now callit Lord Charles with his pedagog Mr Thomas Johnston, was transportit fra the Oldtown scoolis to the place of Lesmoir to remane with his father-sister, the Ladie Strabane, in the tyme of thir troubles, lest he suld be takin as the Lord Grabame wes takin fra the scoollis in Montross" (Spalding, ii. 460).

Lord Charles began his career, as I have said, in ruin. The family estates were in the hands of Argyll, and the head of his house, his nephew Lewis, the third Marquis of Huntly, was a mere boy quite unfit to fight his own battle. Indeed, out of ten children that the 2nd Marquis had, Lord Charles was the only one alive, or in this country, in the year 1656.

He extricated his house from the slough of despond without giving up the family devotion to the Royalists. Thus, he took post under Lord Glencairn, and his army of cudgel-armed Highlanders who marched to the Lowlands via Strathspay in 1653. Again in 1663, he, along with the Earl of Linlithgow, at the head of 200 men, dispersed Middleton's troop of horse. He also remained a Catholic. Despite these State asides, Aboyne steadily went on righting the wreck of his family fortunes, and his success may be gauged from the following dates:—

1660.—September 14.—He was raised to the peerage as Lord Gordon of Strathaven and Glenlivet and Earl of Aboyne by patent to him and the heirs male of his body. For 176 years after the date of creation, the Huntly and Aboyne families remained distinct, being reunited on the death of the 5th Duke of Gordon in 1836, when the 5th Earl of Aboyne succeeded to the Marquisate of Huntly.

1661.—He had a charter under the Great Seal of the whole lands and lordship of Aboyne, and his patent was produced in Parliament. He took the oath of allegiance on January 22.

1661.—He was one of the commissioners for the visitation of the Universities of Aberdeen, and he was also on the commission to uplift the rents of his brother Lewis, the 3rd Marquis, the "plague of Moray," who died in exile on the continent in 1653.

1662.—April 14.—The King restored the Gordon property and the Deeside estates after the forfeiture and execution of Argyll.

1663.—He was made a Justice of the Peace for Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. He was also made honorary burghar of Aberdeen on March 16.

1665.—He effected a general settlement of the family affairs.

1667.—Commissioner of Supply for Aberdeenshire.

1669.—He was permitted to hold a weekly market and a yearly fair at Aboyne and a yearly fair at the kirk of the Cäbrach ("Acts of Parliament"). He built the Castle of Aboyne, which took six years to erect.

He sat in the Parliaments of 1661-3, 1668-70, 1672, and 1678.

1674.—He bought the lands and barony of Gight.

1679—July 31.—He was one of the signatories of a letter to the King denouncing the "murderers" of the Archbishop of St Andrews (Add. MSS. 23,244, f. 49).

In the management of the boy Marquis's affairs, Lord Charles had an uphill fight. A sample of this is to be found in a petition to the King's Most Excellent Majestie," which he forwarded in 1660 on behalf of his nephew, the 4th Marquis of Huntly, then a boy of 17. The petition, which is preserved in the British Museum ("Add. MSS." 23,114, f. 20) runs:—

The humble petition of Lord Charles Gordon in behalf of the Marquesse of Huntly and himself,

Sheweth—That not only your petitioner's father was for loyalty destroyed, both in life and fortune, but likewise your petitioner himself debarred from his patrimony: As also that his predecessors had for many generations continued hereditary sherifes of Aberdeen and Inverness till his grandfather was moved by your Royall Father to resigne his right into his Majestie's hands vpon the assurance of 5000 lib. sterling to be paid him for the same, which by reason of the ensuing troubles was never done.

And lastly, that your petitioner's ancestors have for a long space been hereditary governours of your Maiestie's Castle of Invernesse till his father was turned out for his fidelity to your Royall Father. By which meanes, together with the knoune sufferings and great losses of the family of Huntly vpon the account of loyalty, it is brought into a low and sad condition.

May it therefore please your Sacred Ma[jes]ty to take the sad estate of the said family and of your petitioner into your gracious consideration and order some redresse thereof, eyther at the Parliament, or by any other way your Majesty shall judg expedient. And that in the meane

time your Majestie of your princely goodnesse and justice would grant your petitioner some present subsistence that he may be the more able to goe about the affaires of his family. As also to appoint him Sherife of the said sheires till the 5000 lib. be paid.

"His great influence at Court," says Mr Murray Rose, "led people to believe that his wishes had only to be expressed to be regarded," and he was "inundated with petitions and claims against the Gordon estates." A case in point is preserved in the Add. MSS. 23,136, f. 111:—

Whereas in the action and cause pursued att the instance of George Marquis of Huntlye against John Gordon of Carneborrow, the Lords of Councell and Session by thair sentence and interloquitor found the defence founded on the Act of Parliament, James the Second Parl[iament] fourteenth cap. seventie two relevant and therefore assolyed,

I, Charles Gordon, Earl of Aboyne, for myself and the remnant trusties apointed be the said Marquis of Huntly, in name of the said Marquis, appealls from the said Lords of Councell and Session thair forsaid sentence or interloquitor in the cause above-mentioned to the King's Most Excellent Majestie and his High Estates of Parliament and protests for remead of Lawe by those presents: wreatnd and signd by me att En[inbu]r[gh], 24 of February 1674. Aboyne.

A guardianship is usually a very thankless task, and the Earl had a good deal of difficulty with his sister-in-law, the widowed Marchioness of Huntly. But his nephew, the 4th Marquis, was grateful, resigning the Deeside estates to the Earl, who received a new charter from the King of the lands and Earldom of Aboyne, November 19, 1676. The Earl at this time wished to relinquish the management of the Gordon estates, but his nephew, the Marquis, prevailed on him to continue directing the affairs of the family, which he did till his death in 1681 ("Records of Aboyne," p. 553).

Aboyne did not come into his own without a great deal of trouble. Thus in 1679 he had a dispute with his vassals in reference to the sums payable by them for, and their right to possess portions of the estate of Huntly which fell into the King's hands when the Marquis of Argyle was forfeited and which were afterwards conveyed by the King to the Earl of Aboyne. The lands in question had been feued out to vassals, but, after Aboyne got the grant from the King,

he brought actions to have the charters of these vassals reduced and set aside. He got decree in these actions, but the vassals were for some time allowed to remain paying their feu-duties as formerly. In an action on February 20, 1679, the question was whether Aboyne was entitled to rents from the vassals over and above the feu-duties which they had paid, and whether he was entitled to have the vassals removed from the lands for the future. It was held by the Court that the fact of Aboyne having collected feu-duties in the past barred him from insisting on payment of larger rents but that he was entitled to have the vassals removed from the land at the next term of Whitsunday (Morison's "Decisions, 15,319).

The Earl also had a dispute with Donald Farquharson of Birse as to the right to hold fairs at Birse. Farquharson was infeft in the Kirk Town of Birse with two fairs, but it appeared that Aboyne had subsequently got an infeftment from the King upon his own lands adjoining, giving him right to hold fairs on the same days as Farquharson was entitled to hold fairs. It was stated by Farquharson that Aboyne had got this right surreptitiously and that Aboyne "being a powerful man in the country," prevented people from resorting to his (Farquharson's) fairs. The Court decided (December 2, 1679) against Aboyne, holding that his charter from the King was of no effect against Farquharson's prior infeftment and the prescriptive usage that had followed thereon. It was further held that the Earl was not entitled to hold fairs except after Farquharson's fair was ended or a month before it was held (Morison's "Decisions," 10,879).

Aboyne, like his brother and many Royalists of his time, had a real sense of literature, which, whatever may be thought of the anti-Covenanting peerage, represented a far better caste than the illiterate noblemen of a later period, and the "g"-dropping gentlemen of our own day. Perhaps he set a fashion in his family. At anyrate the present generation of the Aboyne family, notably the late Lord Granville Gordon, has shown a far greater aptitude for writing than any other branch of the ennobled family. His verses have not been collected, but some of them remain ("Bards of Bon-Accord," p. 64). For instance,

there is a little love song, written probably to his wife, which has the real ring about it:—

It's not thy beautie nor thy witt,
That did my heart obtaine;
For non of these could conquer yitt,
Either my breast or braine;

And if you'll not prove kynd to me,
Yet true as heretofore,
Your slave henceforth I'll scorne to be,
Nor doat upon you more!

I mean to love and not to dott,
I'll love for love againe:
And if ye say ye love me not,
I'll laugh at your disdaine!

If you'll be loving, I'll be kynd
And still I'll constant be;
And if the time doe change your mind
I'll change as soon as ye.

The Earl died in March 1681, after an honourable career. Had he lived three years more, he would have seen his ward raised to the Dukedom of Gordon. He was twice married. His first wife was Margaret Irvine, daughter of the laird of Drum. "Bonnie Peggy" Irvine, as she was called, died suddenly in December 1662, leaving one child, Lady Ann Gordon. The Countess (who enjoyed that rank only two years) is the subject of the well-known ballad "Lord Aboyne," which tells of her dying through jealousy, which was confirmed by a passing joke from her lord. Perhaps they had had a tiff, as foreshadowed in the verses I have quoted; but he repented—too late, for

When he saw the letter sealed wi' black
He fell on his horse weepin':
"If she be dead that I love best,
She has my heart a keepin'."

He married secondly in August 1665, Lady Elizabeth Lyon, daughter of John, 2nd Earl of Kinghorne, infesting her with an annuity of £400. A curious echo of this marriage was heard nearly thirty years after the 1st Earl's death, for in 1709 Mrs Lyon, widow of John Lyon of Muireisk, sued John, 3rd Earl of Aboyne, in the Court of Session for payment of 3000 merks due under an obligation granted by his grandfather, the 1st Earl. The defenders resisted payment on the ground that in the obligation the words "3500 merks" had been interlined and that the deed was consequently null, but this defence was repelled on the ground that it appeared from the deed other-

wise that 3500 merks was actually due. Decree accordingly passed for the amount, December 21, 1709 (Morison's "Decisions," 11,544).

By his second wife, Aboyne had three sons and a daughter:—

1. Charles, 2nd Earl of Aboyne.
2. Hon. George Gordon: entered Douai College on November 5, 1685, at the age of 10. He studied philosophy at Paris, and became a religious but renounced in 1699. The Court of Session decided, Nov. 13, 1701, in an action brought by George Gordon against his brother, Lord Aboyne, that his father had granted him (George) a bond of provision for 10,000 merks. He pursued his brother on the passive titles for payment, and a defence was proposed that the bygone annual rents were all consumed in his aliment and education. The Court sustained the defence in July 1701, but modified 1000 merks to be paid meantime by the Earl, his brother, for his subsistence; which was accordingly done. But the Earl having neglected to make his election of his manner of probation, George circumduced the term against him and extracted the decree. The Lords allowed the Earl to be heard before the Ordinary in the case ("Fountainhall's Decisions," II., 123).
3. Hon. Patrick Gordon: entered Douai College on April 10, 1681, at the age of 9.
4. Hon. John Gordon: entered Douai on November 5, 1685, at the age of 8. He died at Edinburgh, July 22, 1762 ("Scots Magazine").
5. Lady Ann Gordon (the only child by the first wife): was served heir to her mother, June 17, 1665.
6. Lady Elizabeth Gordon. She was married at the Kirk of Glamis by Dr Halyburton, Bishop of Aberdeen, in January 1685, to John Mackenzie, Viscount of Tarbat, afterwards 2nd Earl of Cromartie. The contract of marriage is dated January 2 and 10, 1685, and was registered in the Books of Council and Session, July 15, 1697. As her father was dead, it was made with the consent of James, Earl of Perth, Lord Chancellor; George, Duke of Gordon, her cousin; and Patrick, Earl of Strathmore, her cousin. She assigned to her husband a bond of provision to her by her father for 18,000 merks, and received in liferent the lands of Easter Airds and others. After the marriage, the pair lived for some years in the Castle of Ballone, in Tarbat. In 1693 they went abroad, visiting Brussels, Amsterdam, and other places, where she "fell into acts of infidelity" with a Frenchman named Lavallette, who seems to have come to England with her. She also contracted debts in her husband's name, for "meat, drink,

cloaths, abulziments, rings, bracelets, and jowals of great value," and this extravagance induced her husband to raise letters of inhibition to prevent her incurring such debts. In the divorce action which her husband raised, she entered a defence that he had contracted debt at Brussels, and that she had to remain in pledge while he returned to England: and that her position had been misconstrued. But the Commissaries of Edinburgh granted her husband his divorce on July 28, 1698 (Fraser's "Earls of Cromartie," vol. I., pp. cciv-v). An action for improbation at her instance against her husband ended in a decree of absolver in his favour. She is connected with a curious "ghost" story, related by Bishop Keith, the historian, who says she was supposed to have poisoned my Lord Teviot in London, January 14, 1710-1. At this time Teviot's wife, a native of Nimeguen, seems to have been living with "Lady Betty" Gordon. By his will, March 1710-11, Teviot left his estate and residence Livingston House to Lady Betty (Westminster Abbey Register). Lady Elizabeth bore no issue to Cromartie, who married, secondly, the Hon. Mary Murray, by whom he had five sons and three daughters, including—

George, 3rd Earl of Cromartie (1702-66), who also married a Gordon, namely Isabella, daughter of Sir William Gordon, of Invergordon, by whom he had five sons and five daughters, including—

John Lord Macleod, on whose behalf when condemned to death for joining in the Jacobite rebellion, his uncle, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, wrote a series of letters, already printed in these columns.

CHARLES, 2nd EARL OF ABOYNE.

The second Earl was born in 1670, entering Douai on April 10, 1681 ("aged 11") for arithmetic. The Douai register says he became a religions at Rome. He certainly lived in seclusion for many years, although he succeeded to the Earldom in 1681. There is a charming reference to him in a letter which James, Earl of Perth, wrote to his sister, Lady Erroll, from Antwerp, on March 30, 1694 ("Letters of James, Earl of Perth": Camden Society, 1845: p. 18):—

My Lord Aboyne, the Jesuite, came and saw us here and stayed a week: he's a most sweet youth and humble like the dust of the street.

He was home by 1697, for on June 9 of that year he and his brother John, together with Lewis Gordon, son of Auchomachy, Alexander Gordon,

his own gentlemen, and others visited Montrose ("Scottish Notes and Queries," April 1899).

On July 27, 1698, he offered to take his place in the Scottish Parliament. An objection was raised that he had been bred and continued to be a professed papist. Aboyne publicly declared in Parliament that he had embraced the Protestant religion. This statement was corroborated by the President of Parliament and by other members. The Earl was allowed accordingly to take his seat. He was a Commissioner of Supply for Aberdeenshire in 1698.

About 1700 a serious dispute arose between the Earl and Gordon of Abergeldie regarding the right of grazing on the forest of Breckach upon the head of the water of Muick, and the neighbouring forest of Whitemunth. Breckach heritably belonged to the Earl "all except what shares thereof is sold in feu firm by his predecessor and and authors of the family of Huntly as sheallings and grazings to the lairds of Abergeldie, Braichlie and Achollie for themselves and tenants in these lands of Glenmuick." The Earl claimed that he had the right "to the total destruction of the said forest (I mean as to deer) lett (unless) what share of the said forest was astricted to the heritors' grazings aforesaid." The case, which is gone into minutely in the "Records of Invercauld" (pp. 278-80), seems to have been adjusted by a decret arbitral, the laird of Invercauld acting as arbiter.

Aboyne had also a good deal of business with the laird of Invercauld. In the Fordyce MS. (p. 21), owned by the New Spalding Club, there is under date March 11, 1701, an obligation by the Earl of Aboyne, to John Farquharson of Invercauld for 1500 merks, written by Francis Moir, notary public in Kincardine, and subscribed at Aboyne of this date before witnesses Hary Farquharson of Whytehouse and John Stewart, "now of Beletrach."

The Earl was on the committee (1701) to adjust a submission to the King of the actions raised by the Earl of Argyll and the laird of Innes against the Duke of Gordon and Earl of Aboyne. The negotiation failed and the actions sisted. The Earl died April 1702. He married his first cousin, Lady Elizabeth Lyon, daughter of Patrick, Earl of Strathmore. She married, secondly, Patrick, third Lord Kinnaird (died 1715), by whom she had

a son Patrick, 4th Lord Kinnaird (1710-27). She married, thirdly, Captain Alexander Grant of Grantsfield, and died January 1739. In 1710, Lady Aboyne had a dispute with her tenants as to payment of byegone rents due to her under her liferent infeftment in the lands of Aboyne. She had sued for these rents, and the tenants offered to refer the matter to her oath. She then deponed that she had received some partial payments from her factor, but could not particularly mention what she had or had not received. The Court of Session (February 25, 1710) held that in such circumstances the presumption was that she had been paid all (Morison's "Decisions," 10,445). In 1710, Lady Aboyne was defender in an action brought by Mrs Lyon, widow of John Lyon of Muireisk. Mrs Lyon was a creditor of the Earl of Aboyne, and arrested byegone rents of Aboyne in the hands of the tenants. Lady Aboyne, who had a liferent right in these lands, for her jointure, pleaded that the arrestment was inept, but the Court gave decree. Lady Aboyne appealed to the House of Lords, and pending this appeal Mrs Lyon laid on another arrestment for the following year's rents and brought a furthcoming. Lady Aboyne objected that it was incompetent to do this while the appeal was pending, but the Court of Session (July 19, 1710) took the contrary view and held that the appeal did not prevent a furthcoming being brought on the second arrestment (Morison's "Decisions," 580).

A curious law suit in reference to her marriage to Kinnaird caused a decision being given on February 9, 1715 (Morison's "Decisions," 6155):—

(1) Under her contract of marriage with the Earl of Aboyne, the Countess, afterwards Lady Kinnaird, was provided with a liferent annuity of 5000 merks. (2) Lord Kinnaird, with consent of his wife, assigned this liferent to a Mr Wm Black, declaring under (apparently) a separate deed, that the onerous cause of granting the assignation was that it was to be applied for the maintenance and aliment of Lady Kinnaird (who was apparently then living separate from her husband). (3) Afterwards Lord Kinnaird revoked the assignation as being of the nature of a donation between husband and wife, Lord Kinnaird apparently holding that his wife's right to the annuity was transferred to him *jure mariti*, and that his assigning it for his wife's maintenance was of the nature of a gift by him to her. (4) Mr Black subsequently assigned the liferent to Gordon of Badenscoth, his heirs and assignees, and

thereafter it passed to Badenscoth's son, who was both heir and executor of his father. (5) Previous to Mr Black's assigning the liferent to Badenscoth, he had had to take action for payment, and decree had passed for payment of the liferent as it fell due against Gordon of Inverebry, the factor on the Aboyne estate. (6) Following on this decree, Gordon of Badenscoth, as now in right of it, with consent of Lady Kinnaird, gave Inverebry a charge of payment (i.e., the first step in execution), and Inverebry brought a suspension of the charge in order to have the question decided whether Badenscoth, with consent of Lady Kinnaird, could give Inverebry a good and valid receipt for payment of the instalments of the liferent in view of the revocation which had been intimated by Lord Kinnaird. (7) The Court repelled the objections against Badenscoth's and Lady Kinnaird's title to insist on payment of the annuity, finding that Lady Kinnaird had right to all the annuities due preceding the intimation of the revocation, and that, even after the date of the revocation, Badenscoth and Lady Kinnaird were entitled to the annuities to the extent necessary to afford Lady Kinnaird a suitable aliment and maintenance, so long as Lady Kinnaird and her husband continued to live separately.

The second Eard of Aboyne had one son and three daughters:—

1. John, 3rd Earl of Aboyne.
2. Lady Helen Gordon, married George Kinnaird, son of Hon. George Kinnaird, who was the youngest son of the 1st Lord Kinnaird. She had Charles, 6th Lord Kinnaird (died 1767).
3. Lady Elizabeth Gordon: died unmarried at Aberdeen, April 14, 1770: will January 7, 1784. (Edinburgh Commissariat.)
4. Lady Grizel Gordon, married at Aberdeen, July 14, 1735, James Grant of Knockando, and died at Knockando, October 18, 1761.

JOHN, 3rd EARL OF ABOYNE.

The third Earl was served heir to his father, October 7, 1702, as a minor. Thus when the heritors in the Presbyteries of Kincardine and Alford gave bonds to enact measures for the peace of the country on April 26, 1700, Charles Gordon of Abergeldie subscribed "for the Earle of Aboyne" (Allardyce's "Jacobite Papers," 21-23).

In 1709, Lord Aboyne had a dispute with Farquharson of Invercauld in reference to the ownership of the lands of Grodies. These lands were held by Aboyne, but were claimed by Farquharson, who sought to reduce Aboyne's title to sue because he could not connect himself in

any way with the former owners of the lands from whom Aboyne's title was derived. The Court of Session (December 16, 1709) sustained Aboyne's argument and dismissed the action (Morison's "Decisions," 6659)..

The meeting which resolved on the Jacobite rising under Mar was held at Aboyne Castle, September 3, 1715, but the Earl, as a minor, took no part in it. Lord Strathmore, a keen Jacobite, wrote to Farquharson of Invercauld as follows from Edinburgh, October 13, 1716 ("Records of Invercauld," 499):—

Sir,—I find you have corresponded wt. my nephew El. of Aboyne, who is yet a pupill, and now I should take it as a particular favour if you will delay any purpose of that kind agt. him untill he shall change his gardians. I will then do all I can to get your affair reasonably adjusted and satisfyd you. Your forbearance of this will exceedingly oblige.

Mr W. A. Lindsay points out ("Scots Peerage," I. 103) that he attempted to obtain brieves for serving himself tutor-at-law to Cosmo, 3rd Duke of Gordon, and had a decree against him in February 1730.

A copy of the Earl's book plate (Jacobean), dated 1719, is in the Franks collection at the British Museum.

A curious story about the Earl is told by Lady Anne Duff of Hatton in a letter to her daughter, Mrs Grant of Grant, January 1, 1766 (Fraser's "Chiefs of Grant," II. 435):—

He had taken a fancy to call a little place nigh him by the name of New Aboyn: the old name was Buntie. The country people are not fond of noveltys and consequently, continued to call it by its former name, which intraged my Lord so much that he made an Act in Court that any person that called it by the old name shou'd pay forfeit. Notwithstanding which, one old woman was so cross, that altho' she had often been taken to task, she wou'd never alter her method; and at last, after paying a double forfeit, she stood at the door of the Courthouse, still continuing to cry "And Buntie, yet! And Buntie, yet!"

The 3rd Earl, who died at Aboyne, April 11, 1732, was married to Grace, daughter of George Lockhart of Carnwath by Lady Euphemia Montgomerie, second daughter of the 6th Earl of Eglinton, and by her (who married secondly, in 1734, the Earl of Moray, and who died November 17, 1738), he had—

1. Charles, 4th Earl of Aboyne.
2. Hon. John Gordon: born June 19, 1728. He became a second lieutenant in the 1st Foot Royal Scots), April 19, 1746, and lieutenant June 19, 1751. He then transferred as captain to the 1st Highland Battalion, America, January 7, 1757, and was placed on half-pay in 1763. He exchanged to the 52nd Foot, becoming captain August 15, 1775: brevet major, November 7, 1775: major, 1777: brevet lieutenant-colonel, September 6, 1777. He was brevet colonel of the 81st Foot, July 28, 1778. He owned Glentana. He married at Carnwath, May 18, 1761, his kinswoman, Clementine Lockhart, only daughter of George Lockhart of Carnwath. He died October 31, 1778, at Kinsale (Burke gives the date as November 17), and was buried in St Malrose Churchyard near the door of the Tower in a low the date of his death (Darling's "St Malrose stone vault covered by a afft stone, with an inscription barely legible, and November 3 as Churchyard," p. 41). His wife died March 31, 1803. They had two sons and a daughter—
 - (1) John Gordon, born July 8, 1765. He entered the Bengal Cavalry as an ensign in 1778. His subsequent appointments were:—Lieutenant, November 8, 1778: captain, June 1, 1796: major, May 29, 1800: lieutenant-colonel, October 5, 1800: colonel, July 25, 1810: major-general, June 4, 1813: lieutenant-general, May 27, 1825. He was served heir male special to his father in the superiority of Tullich and the forest of Morven and Culblean, April 2, 1787. He was served his father's heir to Glentana on July 9, 1804. He married, at Barnwood Cottage, Gloucester, November 22, 1810, Eliza, third daughter of Robert Morris, M.P. for Gloucester ("Scots Magazine"). She re-married, at Trinity Church, Marylebone, August 4, 1836, Major J. B. Thornhill ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. VI., N.S., p. 320). The "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 103, pt. 3, p. 186) says John Gordon died in Devonshire Street, London, on January 9, 1833. December 26, 1832, is the date given on his tomb in the chancel of Marylebone Parish Church. It is a white marble monument surmounted by military trophies, and having below a coat of arms.
 - (2) George Gordon, born April 9, 1769, officer in the navy: died unmarried August 23, 1799.
 - (3) James Gordon, died young.
 - (4) Clementian, apparently the daughter who was born to Mrs Gordon of Glentana, May 6, 1763. She is not given in Burke. Douglas ("Peerage") says she died at Exmouth on December 13, 1801, aged 33, but this cannot be correct as she was served heir to her

father on July 9, 1804. Douglas apparently confused her with "Caroline A. Gordon, daughter of the late Hon. Lieutenant-Col. Gordon," who is stated by the "Gentleman's Magazine" (vol. 72, p. 86) to have died at Exmouth the same year in her "23rd year." The obituary notice of this Caroline is a fine specimen of the "Magazine's" style:—"Her life of humble virtue was concluded by a death of Christian fortitude. She excelled in all the accomplishments of modern education, and had learnt to consider them as the ornaments, not the employment, of life, and possessed information on more important subjects. She was one of the happy few that blend politeness with simplicity, cheerfulness with reflection, superiority with humility, knowledge with innocence, compliance with resolution and unostentatious benevolence with unaffected piety. Long conscious of her approaching end, she endured great sufferings with most admirable composure and resignation. Though she was blessed by the affection and constituted the delight of her family, enjoyed the esteem and admiration of her friends, and was at the age when life is just alluring, she quitted it, if not without regret, without repining; supremely happy in being early removed from a world of temptation and disappointment, her heart unwrung by misery, and her mind unblemished by vice."

(5) Grace Margaret Gordon, born September 27, 1766. She was married April 23, 1794, at Edinburgh, to William Graham of Mossknow, Dumfriesshire, and was served heir to her father, July 9, 1804.

3. Hon. Lockhart Gordon, born in 1732. He was educated at Glasgow University, and began his career in the army, being gazetted on August 10, 1759, to a captaincy in the 85th Foot or Royal Volunteers, disbanded in 1763. He immediately turned to his calf country for recruits, advertising in the "Aberdeen Journal" (October 9, 1759) as follows:—"One guinea offered by Lord Erroll over and above regimental bounty to all who enlist as a Volunteer in the Hon. Captain Lockhart Gordon's Company of the Regiment of the Royal Volunteers commanded by Colonel Crawford." As a captain in the 85th Regiment (Crawford's), he was captured after the attack on Port Andro, Bellisle, April 8, 1761 ("Scots Magazine," vol. 23, p. 326). He became a major in the army, July 23, 1772, and a captain in the 35th Regiment, August 16, 1776. He retired as brevet lieutenant-colonel in 1779 (Richard Trimen's "Historical Memoir of the 35th," p. 202). He afterwards went to India, where he became Judge Advocate General, in 1787. He was one of the nine directors of the

General Bank of India, and one of the Police Commissioners of Calcutta in 1788. He was also junior counsel to the East India Company. He was twice married. His first wife, whom he married on April 25, 1753, was a Jewess, Isabella Levi. This lady was the only daughter of Elias Levi, merchant (who had married in 1723 Judy, daughter of Moses Hart, bringing £6000 of South Sea Stock as her marriage portion). This fortune was to go to Mrs Hart, then to her daughter (Mrs Gordon), and failing her to the children of Hart's sister, Galley, who married Joy Adolphus, doctor of physic. Mrs Gordon, who died without issue, March 17, 1754, was possibly a widow when Gordon married her, for she is described in the House of Lords journals as "Isabella Gordon, formerly Lucas"—not Levi. Gordon found himself a defendant in a strange galley of Israelites over the money already mentioned. An action was brought by Jacob Galley, Myra, Helena, Susanna, Jacobit, and Semela Adolphus, the children of Joy Adolphus, formerly of Cleves, but afterwards doctor of physic in London, with David Wang as their "friend," against Gordon, and Mildred Adolphus, Judy Levy, Aaron Franks, Joseph Martin, John Lade and Hester his wife. The pleadings in the case are preserved in the British Museum (Add. MSS. 36,174, ff. 372-393). The Court of Chancery decided (November 20, 1758, and February 23, 1767) against the defendants, and Gordon appealed to the House of Lords, who dismissed the appeal on April 10, 1768 (House of Lords Journals, xxxii, p. 326). Gordon married, secondly, by license, October 4, 1770 the Hon. Catherine Wallop, the only daughter of John (Wallop) Lord Lyvington, and the sister of John, 2nd Earl of Portsmouth. The marriage register of Hurstbourne Priors, Hampshire (p. 77), describes them as "both of St George's, Hanover Square." Gordon died at Calcutta on March 24, 1788. His wife died May 1813. The "Calcutta Chronicle" (March 27, 1788) says that Gordon was "a man beloved and esteemed by all who knew him. When he found death approaching he behaved with becoming fortitude and resignation. The following very affecting note was written by him to Mr William Berrie on his pillow with a pencil a short time before he died:—'Dear B,—I am here a-dying—have no recollection—past or present.—Yours, L. Gordon.' We could quote many instances of his tenderness, humanity, and extreme sensibility." According to the same authority, he had two sons and two daughters, but I have been able to identify only one daughter:—

- (1) Lockhart Gordon, born July 28, 1775. He was educated at Magdalen College, Cambridge, taking his M.A. in 1798.
- (2) Loudon Harcourt Gordon, born May 9, 1780.

He entered the artillery as a cadet, September 15, 1794, becoming 2nd lieutenant May 21, 1796; and 1st lieutenant December 2, 1797. He was "superseded" April 20, 1803. He afterwards joined the 56th Regiment, June 18, 1807. His return to the War Office circular of 1828, shows that he was unmarried then, and had been residing the previous five years at Laverstock, near Salisbury, Wilts. Loudon and his brother Lockhart became notorious by bolting with Mrs Lee, the "female infidel," in 1804.

(3) Caroline Gordon.

CHARLES, 4th EARL OF ABOYNE.

He was born in or about the year 1726, and succeeded his father in 1732. His long minority got the estates cleared of debt. The "*Aberdeen Journal*" (January 6, 1795) says:—

His lordship had received from nature a sound understanding, which was cultivated and improved by a liberal education. Having finished the usual course of study in the Scottish universities [his name is not identifiable in the registers], he went abroad, where, mingling for several years with the higher ranks of life, his manners acquired a delicacy and gentleness which endeared him to all. On his return to Scotland, and when his character became known to the Scottish nobility, he was frequently solicited to become one of their representatives in Parliament; but from his attachment to the pleasures of calm and domestic life, this honour he uniformly declined. Though zealous for the purity and independence of his order, never was there a man more warmly attached to his King and the Constitution of his country.

On March 10, 1775, Lord Aboyne, Lord Hyndford, Lord Colvill, and others raised an action against the Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh relative to the extent and mode of levying impost duties on wines and spirituous liquors by the Town Council of Edinburgh in virtue of their charter from Charles II. It does not appear from the report of the case what interest the pursuers had to pursue the action other than the circumstance that they may have been citizens of Edinburgh. ("*Fac-Coll.*" vii., 83, No. 171.)

On May 13, 1778, the Duke of Gordon wrote him the following letter (Gordon Castle archives):

My dear Lord,—I received your lordship's letters. I am sorry it is not in my power to give your friend, Mr Innes, a company in my regiment [the Northern Fencibles]. Your lordship must

be sensible how much your part of the country is drained of men and how difficult it would be to procure a captain's quota at the rate of a guinea a man after such great bounty has been given by the new levies. My object is to raise the men soon, and for that reason shall endeavour as much as possible to fix those officers that are thought most likely to bring them. I shall, however, always be happy to attend to any recommendation of your lordship.

The "Journal" (February 3, 1795) tells a story illustrative of his kindly character:—

The Earl acquired estates in the south country, on one of which an elderly gentleman had been long settled as factor. When his lordship came to clear accounts with this gentleman, in presence of an Edinburgh agent, who had made out the accounts, a balance of several hundred pounds was found due to his lordship. This sum he, in an angry manner at the time, insisted that the factor should grant bill for a short date, which was accordingly done; but, in the meantime, he agreed that the old man's son, who had been a most careful assistant to his father in the office, should continue to uplift the rents until some arrangement was made. The contents of the old man's bill were brought up, and punctually paid by the son; but afterwards, several of the neighbouring gentlemen having taken the liberty to mention to his lordship the hardship of dismissing from his service an old man who had been long factor on the estate, and who had the character of the utmost integrity and benevolence in the whole vicinity, his lordship immediately set about not only a minute investigation of the accounts that had been cleared (of which, as an acute man of business, he was fully capable), but also made a diligent enquiry into the whole tenor of the old man's conduct; from which, being fully satisfied, that the balance due on the accounts had mostly arisen partly from inattention and inaccuracy, and partly from changes having been made of sums that ought, but which were not actually received; and being, moreover, entirely convinced of the old man's honesty, and his disinterested fair-dealing among the tenants; and got certain information that the sum in the bill had been paid by the son, from motives of filial affection, out of a small separate patrimony, with a view to relieve his father who was not in affluent circumstances, his lordship sent for the old man and his son, when he not only repaid the money he had got, with the interest, but also presented them with a joint factory, in which the salary was doubled, recommending to the son to accommodate his father with the one half of it; and assuring them that he would give orders that the factory should be continued after his death, which has accordingly been done: he also con-

tinued his countenance and attachment to the old man, by having him twice at his table in the week, while he resided in the country, as had been before practised; and insisted that, for the benefit of his health, he should travel through the country among the tenants as usual at his lordship's expense. It need not be added that this high act of generosity reflects the greatest honour on his lordship's memory.

The 4th Earl of Aboyne was twice married (1) at Edinburgh on April 22, 1759, to Lady Margaret Stewart, third daughter of the 6th Earl of Gallo-way; she died August 12, 1762. When a new church was erected at Charlestown in 1761—service ceasing to be held at Glentana Church—the initials of the Earl and his wife were carved on the north wall—"C.G., E.A.: M.S.," with the Gordon arms and the motto "*Stant caetera signo.*" He married, secondly, at London on April 23, 1774, Lady Margaret Douglas, only surviving daughter of the 14th Earl of Morton, by Agatha, only daughter and heir of James Halyburton of Pitcur. She died December 25, 1816. In December 1795, a brigantine of 150 tons, called the Countess of Aboyne, was launched from Main's dockyard, Aberdeen. It was built out of "a fine large oak" from the forest of Glentana—"an excellent example to the proprietors of land in that part of the country," said the "*Aberdeen Journal*" (Dec. 22, 1795) to cultivate oak." Two years later she was captured by a French privateer off Oporto, to which she was bound ("*Journal*," April 18, 1797).

In 1813 a dispute occurred between Lady Aboyne and Charles Ducat, tenant of the Mains of Halyburton. Under Ducat's lease he was bound to leave the houses and buildings on the farm in good condition at his removal, and it was provided that if the houses and buildings should be found at his removal to have been increased in value by any additions made by him during the lease, he was entitled to payment (meliorations) therefor. Ducat built a dwelling-house and pleaded that he was entitled to payment of meliorations in respect of it. Lady Aboyne answered that the dwelling-house was not large enough for the size of the farm, but this plea was over-ruled, and the tenant was found by the Court of Session entitled to payment of the value of it (Morison's "*Decisions*," 15,264).

The Earl died in St Andrews Square, Edinburgh, December 28, 1794, in his 68th year. The "Aberdeen Journal," in its obituary notice of January 6, 1795, declared:—

In private life his character was respectable and amiable. With a clear and discerning head he possessed a tender and feeling heart. As a husband he was affectionate: indulgent as a parent. He was ambitious of being a good rather than a great man. What he saw could be easily spared from the extravagance and parade of life he devoted to noble purposes, the improvement of the family inheritance and the support of the aged and industrious poor. Of these last a considerable number was constantly employed in executing his extensive plans. The barren mountain and requested glens which formerly produced nothing but health are now covered with beautiful and thriving plantations.

Impressed at all times with a deep sense of the importance of religion, his life as a Christian was exemplary. His approaching dissolution he sustained with uncommon firmness and resignation, and in the calmness and composure of his last moments he bore testimony to the power of religion to support the mind at that solemn season. His loss will be severely felt by his afflicted friends, and his memory long revered by his numerous and respectable acquaintances.

Lord Aboyne had two sons and two daughters as follows:—

1. George, 5th Earl of Aboyne and 9th Marquis of Huntly (by his first wife).
2. Lord Douglas Gordon (by second marriage), born October 10, 1777 (Marylebone Parish Register). On the death of his cousin, the Hon. Hamilton Douglas Halyburton of Pitcur in 1784, he succeeded to his estates in Forfarshire, and assumed the additional surname and arms of Halyburton. He was advanced to the rank and precedence of a younger son of a marquis in 1836 on his brother's succeeding to the Marquisate of Huntly. He entered the army, serving in the Royal Scots, the 113th Regiment, and the 3rd Foot Guards. He served with the Archduke Charles, and brought home despatches from Colonel Crawford, July 4, 1796. He became assistant quarter-master-general with the rank of major, June 9, 1803. He was admitted a member of the Highland Society, June 27, 1803. He married at Dublin, July 16, 1807, Catherine Louisa (born May 1, 1777), only child of Sir Edward Leslie, first and last baronet of Tarbert, Co. Kerry (Register of the Cathedral Church at Durham, Harleian Society, vol. 23, p. 20). She inherited part of her father's estates, the other part going to the heir male.

Gordon died December 25, 1841, and she on December 30, 1851. Both are commemorated by a marble mural tablet in the "catacombs" at Kenal Green.

3. Lady Catherine Gordon (by the first wife): died young.

4. Lady Margaret Gordon (by first marriage). She married at London on May 5, 1783 ("Scots Magazine") William Beckford of Fonthill (1759-1844), the famous author of "Vathek," and lived with him in Switzerland, where she died (at the Castle de la Tour, in the Pays de Vaud) on May 23, 1786, at the age of 23. The Duchess of Gordon made a daring attempt to get the widower to marry her daughter, taking the girl with her to Fonthill, where Beckford feted her sumptuously, but did not appear on the scene himself, a proceeding which greatly annoyed her Grace. The Beckfords had two daughters—through one of whom they are represented to-day by the Duke of Newcastle, by the future Prince of Monaco, and also in Hungary and Italy—a curious cosmopolitan descent. Beckford's daughters were—

(1) Margaret Maria Beckford: married on May 15, 1811, without her father's consent, Colonel, afterwards Lieutenant-General, James Orde, a member of a Northumberland family. Her father never forgave her. She died before 1829, when Orde married a widow, by whom he had a son James, who married a granddaughter of the 15th Earl of Erroll, and thereby founded the family of Orde of Hopton, near Great Yarmouth.

(2) Susan Euphemia Beckford: married on April 26, 1810, Alexander, 10th Duke of Hamilton (1767-1852), and died May 27, 1859. She had—

i. William Alexander Anthony Archibald, 11th Duke of Hamilton (1811-63), who married Princess Mary of Baden, third cousin of Napoleon III. This connection is very interesting in view of the fact that the Duchess of Gordon had first offered to Eugene Beauharnais (the Princess's cousin once removed), the daughter with whom she vainly tried to secure Beckford, the 11th Duke of Hamilton's grandfather. The 11th Duke had, with other issue—

William Alexander Louis Stephen Hamilton, 12th Duke of Hamilton (1845-95), who was succeeded by his distant kinsman, the present Duke, as he himself had an only daughter—Lady Mary Victoria Hamilton, married Lady Mary Louise Hamilton, who recently married the Marquis of Graham, and has issue.

Lady Mary Victoria Hamilton: married (1) H. S. H. Albert, Prince of Monaco, by whom she had one son, the Crown Prince of Monaco: (2) Count Tassilo Festetics, a well-known Hungarian nobleman.

- ii. Lady Susan Harriet Catherine Hamilton. She married (1) the 5th Duke of Newcastle, who divorced her, and (2) a Belgian, M. Opdebeck. By her first husband she had—

Henry Pelham Alexander, 6th Duke of Newcastle (1834-1879), who had—

Henry Pelham Archibald Douglas, the present Duke of Newcastle, who has no issue.

Lord Henry Francis Hope Pelham-Clinton-Hope, the heir presumptive, whose first wife was May Yoke, the actress.

Lady Emily Pelham-Clinton: married Prince Alfonso Doria Pamphilj, Duke of Avigliano, and has issue.

GEORGE, 5th EARL OF ABOYNE AND 9th MARQUIS OF HUNTLY.

He was the elder son of the 4th Earl, and was born at Edinburgh on June 28, 1761, being styled Lord Strathaven till he succeeded his father as Earl of Aboyne in 1794. By the death of his kinsman, the 5th Duke of Gordon, he succeeded to the Marquisate of Huntly on May 28, 1836, his right thereto being formally acknowledged, June 21, 1838. He did not, of course, get the Dukedom, as it had been created after his branch of the family broke off, and though he claimed the Earldom of Enzie and the Barony Gordon of Badenoch, he did not get them (G. E. C.'s "Complete Peerage," iv. 299), although they were created at the same time as the Marquisate (1599). It may be noted that Burke in his "Peerage" still assigns both these titles to the Marquises of Huntly.

He entered the army as ensign in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, and was promoted in 1777 to a company in the 81st Highland Regiment of Foot. He had attained the latter point with some trouble, for the Duke of Gordon, writing on May 13, 1778, to Alexander Garden of Troup, says (Gordon Castle archives):—"I am well informed Lord Strathaven did not compleat his complement in that [the Aboyne] part of the country, being assisted by Abergeldie's son [Sir

Charles Gordon?], who brought several from London." In 1780, Strathaven was one of the aides-de-camp to the Earl of Carlisle, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1782, he had a troop in the 9th Regiment of Dragoons, and in March 1783, he was constituted major of an independent corps of foot, which was reduced at the peace of 1784. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel of the 35th foot in 1789, but exchanged with Lieutenant-Colonel Lennox (subsequently Duke of Richmond) for his company in the Coldstream Guards, after a dispute between the latter and His Royal Highness the Duke of York, then colonel of the Coldstreams. Lord Strathaven quitted the army in 1792, and was appointed colonel of the Aberdeenshire Militia in 1798.

Lord Huntly broadened his outlook by travel on the Continent. From letters which he wrote to our genial Ambassador at Vienna, Sir Robert Keith--they are preserved in the British Museum--we know that he was abroad in 1786, 1788, and 1790. The first letter, dated from Amsterdam, November 6, 1786, runs as follows (Add. MSS., 35,537, f. 210):—

Dear Sir,—You will see by the date of this letter that I have in some degree alter'd my former intended route, but being so near Holland, I could not resist the temptation of going in person to see what was going forward at this interesting period. I left Hanover the 31st of October, and got to Utrecht last Friday; staid two days and arrived here last night. At present all seems pretty quiet, if lampooning of the grossest invective can be call'd quietness. It is hardly possible in my opinion it can continue long so; parties run so high and are so exasperated against each other that any peaceable accommodation I should think a very difficult matter to bring about. Information of any sort is very difficult to be had. Those that know anything of the matter, either don't choose, or are afraid to talk; and those that know but little make such confused work of it, it is hardly possible to understand them.

To-morrow I go to the Hague, and then set forward for Vienna as fast as possible. I shall stop two or three days at Brussels and a day or two at Munich. I hope to have the pleasure of paying my respects to you the end of this month. Any letters that may come for me I beg you will be so kind as to keep. I won't take up any more of your time, but conclude with the truest regard, my dear sir, your very obedient humble servant,

STRATHAVEN.

He wrote again to Keith on January 6, 1788, dating from Paris (Add. MSS. 35,540, f. 1):—

Dear Sir,—I should certainly have wrote to you before now had I been able to have anything at all worthy of your attention; but though in the midst of very interesting scenes I think I almost know as much at Vienna as I can by any means pick up here. I should therefore not have troubled you now if I had not been induced to it for two reasons; one, a very powerfull and urgent one, the chance I have to show my gratitude for your kindness and civility to me whilst at Vienna. I am, believe me, most thoroughly sensible of it, the more so as it happened to me at the period of my life of all others that I stood most in need of it; and the other, my having promised it.

My journey was tedious and disagreeable beyond description. I found Lady Dunmore here upon my arrival, which has made Paris much more pleasant to me than it would otherwise have been, as she knows everybody. I think I shall stay about six weeks longer, and then pay old England a visit

I have seen Arbuthnot. He looks very well. We dine together to-morrow at the Scotch College. I won't attempt giving you any views for the best of all reasons, because I don't know any.

This letter will be given to you by a Captain Mackenzie, but he is a friend of Abbe Gordon's, Principal of the Scotch College, who beg'd I would give him a letter to you. He goes with the intention of endeavouring to get into the Emperor's service. I told him, from the pleasure you took in being of service to your countrymen, I could almost venture to assure him of your doing everything in your power. Excuse my taking this liberty, but I could not well refuse it to my friend and relation, the Abbe.

Adieu. I beg to be remembered to everybody that is so good as to inquire about me.

It may have been on this occasion that he met Marie Antoinette. Patricia Lindsay (in "Recollections of a Royal Parish," 1902), says:—

I remember so well *his telling me* of having danced a minuet at Versailles with Marie Antoinette, and the thrill it sent through me to be thus brought, as it seemed, almost into touch with the tragedy of the French Revolution. The beautiful queen was the favourite heroine of my childhood, and this much-to-be-envied experience of Lord Huntly's shed a halo of romance over him also.

A third letter to Keith is dated from Aboyne Castle, October 6, 1790 (Add. MSS. 35,543, f. 140):—

You will forgive my taking the liberty of recommending to your protection my relative Lieut.

William Stewart. I am told he is exceedingly well disposed and a very good scholar, but excessively young and unacquainted with the world. I know from your goodness to me and to all my countrymen that he has everything to expect from your kindness: and that his friends need not be under the smallest apprehension if you will be kind enough in some degree to superintend his conduct. Excuse my using this freedom.

At the general election of 1796 he was returned to Parliament as one of the sixteen representatives of the peerage of Scotland. He was again chosen in 1802, 1807, and 1812.

On August 11, 1815, he was created a peer of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Meldrum of Morven, and thenceforward took his seat in the House of Lords in his own right. He was made a Knight of the Thistle in 1827. A Tory in politics, he voted in the majority for Lord Lyndhurst's motion on the Reform Bill—postponing consideration of the clauses for disfranchisement—which led to the temporary resignation of Earl Grey's Ministry on May 7, 1832. At the funeral of George IV. in 1830, he walked in the procession between the Earls of Aylesford and Kinnoull.

The Earl had to go through the same litigation as owner of the forests of Birse and Glencat against Lewis Innes, the laird of Ballogie, to have it declared that a servitude right which Innes had of hunting and shooting in the forests of Birse and Glencat was a merely personal right, and that he was not entitled to allow his gamekeepers, friends, or tenants to exercise the said right of hunting and shooting in the forest. The Court of Session held (June 22, 1813) that Ballogie's servitude entitled him to exercise the same either personally or by his gamekeeper duly authorised, or by any qualified friend whom he might permit, whether his tenants or not, or whether he was personally present or not, provided he did not exercise it abusively or encroach unreasonably, or absorb the general right of fowling as well as hunting belonging to the proprietor of the forest. This judgment of the Court of Session was affirmed by the House of Lords on July 10, 1819. (See "Faculty Decisions," vol. 19, p. 773.)

Huntly was a sportive soul. Thus we find him a subscriber to the Aberdeen horse races from 1817 to 1822, while his wife's name appears in 1817.

He was also a good cricketer. In 1791 he played an innings of "about 150" at Aldermaston Wharf (Lord Harris's "Kent County Cricket," p. 249). Harriett Countess Granville tells us in her letters (i., 401) that when he was in Paris in December 1826, he was "indefatigable. He danced with Marie Antoinette, and was still dancing at the London balls in the early years of Victoria."

He certainly danced away his fortune, and was sequestrated on November 12, 1839—under the designation of "banker, insurance broker, and underwriter in Aberdeen." The facts about his bankruptcy, as taken from the "Mercantile Compendium of Scotch Mercantile Sequestrations," 1854, are as follows:—

| | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| Amount of funds as in his estate, £365,390 | 8 | 2 |
| Amount of funds realised, | 499,648 | 10 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Preferable debts paid, | 6,340 | 17 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Debts heritably secured, | 128,064 | 19 0 |

A dividend of 1s 2d in the £1 was payable at November 1, 1863. The Marquis was allowed £1500 a year by certain creditors, though others who refused drew their proportion of the allowance. It was paid quarterly in advance, and swallowed up £20,625. The bankruptcy recalls a wonderfully prophetic utterance of a "News-letter," dated Dalkeith, February 3, 1652 ("The Cromwellian Union," Scot. Hist. Soc., p. 17), in reference to the 3rd Marquis of Huntly, brother of the 2nd Viscount of Aboyne:—

Huntly is a man more in debt than his whole estate: a man infinite proud and ambitious, vastly expensive. That which at present quiets him is that he is in possession of his whole estate. Neither sequestration nor law troubles him, and he hath by him companions for any adventure.

Baillie in his "Letters" (iii., 249) wrote in 1554—"There is more debt on the house nor the land can pay."

There is a charming description of the Marquis in Patricia Lindsay's "Recollections of a Royal Parish" (1902):—

The Gordons are so popular in these days that perhaps I may be pardoned for making a digression down the Dee from Crathie for a little, and describing another "Gallant Gordon" who was a very vivid personality to my childhood—the old Marquis of Huntly, grandfather of the present peer, and then head of the clan, the dukedom of Gordon being extinct. He was a frequent guest at my father's (the late Dr Rob-

ertson of Hopewell, Aberdeenshire), and I can see the sharp, eager, old face now, as he sat at the whist-table—for he was a keen whist player—and in right of his age and rank allowed to revoke with impunity. He was an old beau of the Regency, carefully dressed to the last, and a good deal “made up,” the blue-blackness of his hair, or wig impressing me very much. He was a small, thin man, with very courtly manners, popular with everybody, and very kind to us children.

Huntly married, April 4, 1791, at Stepney Church, Catherine Anne, second and younger daughter and co-heir of Sir Charles Cope (1743-81), Bart., of Brewerne, and Orton Longueville, Huntingdonshire. When Sir Charles's son, who succeeded him, died, as a schoolboy at Eton, his sisters Arabella Diana (Duchess of Dorset) and Lady Aboyne inherited the estates, the latter getting Orton Longueville, which still remains in the family. The Cope baronetcy (created 1714) became extinct in 1821 on the death of Lady Aboyne's uncle, Sir Jonathan Cope, but the baronetcy of the Copes of Herwell (created 1611), from whom Lady Aboyne's family was descended, still exists.

Lord Aboyne increased the estate of Orton by purchasing from William Walker in 1803, for £75,000, the adjoining parishes of Chesterton and Haddon, of which his son, Lord George Gordon, was rector for many years, and Lord Huntly is still patron of that and two other livings in Hunts. In 1836 the church of Orton, which had fallen into dilapidation, was restored by Lord Huntly and the Duke of Northumberland.

Lady Aboyne—she did not live to see her husband succeed to the Marquisate—died at Oak Bank, near Sevenoaks, Kent, November 16, 1832. Her husband died at 24 Chapel Street, Grosvenor Place, London, June 17, 1853, in his 92nd year.

The ninth Marquis had six sons and three daughters:—

1. Charles, 10th Marquis of Huntly.
2. Rev. Lord George Gordon, born at Aboyne, June 27, 1794 (“Aberdeen Journal”). He was educated at Clare Hall, Cambridge, and took his M.A. in 1817. He entered the Church in 1819, and was presented by his father to the living of Chesterton and Haddon. “He took little or no part in public affairs,” says the “Gentleman's Magazine,” and “of late years seldom moved away from his parish where his unobtrusive kindness and charity had secured him general respect.” He married, on July 29, 1851, Charlotte Anne, daughter of Thos. Wright

Vaughan of Woodstone, Hants, colonel of the county militia. He died on September 25, 1862. His wife died August 23, 1879. In her will, dated December 4, 1876, with a codicil dated ten days later, she is described as "of 9 Curzon Street," London. It was proved October 23, 1879, by John Copley Wray, sole executor, the personal estate being sworn under £16,000. There were specific gifts of pictures by Gainsborough, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Murillo, and others, and a silver hunting cup given by George IV. when Prince of Wales to Mrs Sophia Catherine Musters, and other articles among relatives and friends, and other bequests. The residue was to go in the same way as the proceeds of the Woodstone estate, under the will of her late father ("Times," November 7, 1879).

? A son. The "Aberdeen Journal" announced that the Countess of Aboyne had a son, born at Aberdeen, January 11, 1796, but he does not appear in any of the peerages: so, presumably, he died young.

3. Lord John Frederick Gordon, who afterwards assumed the name of Halyburton, was born August 15, 1799. He entered the navy, and became an admiral. He was appointed Lord of His Majesty's Bedchamber, October 26, 1836, and was created G.C.H. in the same year. He was also a member of Parliament for Forfar, 1841-52. He married at Windsor Castle, August 24, 1836, Lady Augusta FitzClarence, the illegitimate daughter of King William IV., and widow of the Hon. John Kennedy Erskine, second son of Archibald, 1st Marquis of Ailsa. Her first husband died on March 6, 1831, after four years of marriage, leaving her with a son and with two daughters, the elder of whom, Wilhelmina, married her own first cousin, the 2nd Earl of Munster, and wrote her autobiography ("My Memories and Miscellanies") in 1904. Six months after her husband's death, his father, the Earl of Cassilis, was created a Marquis, but she was raised to the rank of a Marquis's daughter before this (on May 24, 1831). She was made Housekeeper of Kensington Palace in April 1837, on the death of her sister, Lady de Lisle ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 8, N.S., p. 196). Lady Augusta became the victim of a jewel robbery which set Vanity Fair talking. It is briefly touched on by Jesse, in his book on Beau Brummell, it was canvassed in "The Times," and it is the subject of a whole chapter (pp. 71-8) of her daughter's autobiography, "My Memories and Miscellanies." Lady Munster gives the name of the culprit in the conventional dashes of eighteenth century scandal (thus "Lady ———"), but she refers to her as "Emily," which corroborates the statement in the "Observer" that

she was the daughter of Sir Charles Bagot, Governor-General of Canada, and second wife of the tenth Earl of Winchelsea. A very beautiful woman, she was a great friend of Lady Augusta, who invited her to Kensington Palace during the absence in Scotland of her husband, Lord Frederick, who disliked her very much. One day it was discovered that some lovely silver, and enamel boxes and miniatures belonging to Lady Augusta were missing. They were found in the boxes of "Emily." She immediately declared that they had been put there by Lady Augusta's maid, who had quarrelled with Lady Winchelsea because the latter would insist on keeping birds in her room. Later it was discovered that some jewels were missing. Lord Winchelsea wrote that he knew his wife had talked them, and he afterwards brought them with many tears to Lady Augusta, who indulgently returned his incriminating letter, much to the disgust of the Gordons' solicitor. Lady Munster says the whole story came out with all the names in a paper called the "Satirist." There is no copy of this journal in the British Museum, but the story was canvassed elsewhere; notably in "The Times" (Aug. 22, 1842), which quoted a paragraph from the "Brighton Gazette," "evidently inserted by some injudicious friend of the Countess of Winchelsea." The "Brighton Gazette" said: "Our readers have doubtless seen allusions (originating, we believe, in the 'Observer' newspaper) to the loss of some jewels by Lady Augusta Gordon, in which the name of Lady Winchelsea was plainly implicated as having—monstrous as the assertion may appear—abstracted the jewels in question. We have now the best authority for stating that a letter has been written to Lord Winchelsea by Lady Augusta, withdrawing the charge. It appears that Lord Winchelsea, a long time before, had presented to Lady Winchelsea a bracelet, etc., precisely similar to those lost by Lady Augusta Gordon, and on this statement being made by Lord Winchelsea to Lady Augusta, her ladyship wrote the letter in question. The charge was incredible at first sight and quite unaccountable, and the issue shows how careful persons ought to be giving currency to hasty charges, the first impression of which it is sometimes difficult to erase." This article was copied into the "Morning Chronicle," and produced a letter from the solicitors of Lady Augusta Gordon: "Our attention has been called to a paragraph relating to the Gordon jewels, copied from the 'Brighton Gazette' into your newspaper, and, considering that the discussion upon that subject had terminated between the parties, we cannot discover any correct feeling which could have influenced a well disposed person, however

favourably inclined to Lord and Lady Winchilsea, to revive the matter and to do so in a manner implying censure upon Lady Augusta Gordon, especially upon the best authority it is said, meaning, we presume, the authority of Lord and Lady Winchilsea, or some person connected with one of them. As Lady Augusta Gordon from an early period of the transaction acted under our advice, we feel it to be our duty to repel the censure upon that lady which is implied in the paragraph; but, in seeking that object, we shall at present say no more than that when the missing articles, not merely the bracelet, were restored from Lady Winchilsea's jewel box, the terms of kindness which had existed between the ladies for many years made any circumstance gratifying to Lady Augusta Gordon which would enable her without impropriety to relieve the uneasiness of Lord Winchilsea, whose conduct was characterised by high honour and good feeling; and the restoration of the articles, coupled with Lord Winchilsea's statement, did enable Lady Augusta Gordon to make the communication of which so improper and, if done with the sanction of any of the parties concerned, so ungenerous a use is attempted to be made, but which by no means warrants the commentary made upon it. We trust that no further remarks relating to Lady Augusta Gordon as connected with the transaction will render it necessary for us to enter into any further particulars." Lady Augusta never wore the jewels again, hating the very sight of them, and she did not again see Lady Winchilsea, who died six years later, her husband marrying a third time, Mary Boyle ("Her Book," p. 100) says Lady Augusta was very graceful in demeanour and playful in manner. Lord Frederick died without issue on September 29, 1878. His wife died December 8, 1865.

4. Lord Henry Gordon, born at Aboyne Castle, August 31, 1802. He was at Harrow, May 1813-December 1815, and entered the Bengal Native Infantry as a cadet in 1821. He became ensign March 10, 1822: lieutenant, 23rd Bengal H.I., May 1, 1824: A.D.C. to the Governor-General, 1826-7: deputy paymaster at Meerut, 1828-37: lieutenant, 2nd Bengal European Regiment, October 8, 1839: captain 5th Bengal N.I., November 12, 1842. He was on furlough 1843-4, and afterwards served with the 10th Irregular Cavalry. He retired May 1, 1846, in India. He was court martialled, July 22, 1840, in connection with some losses in his office as paymaster at Meerut, but was honourably acquitted. A "memorandum" dated January 18, 1839, in the British Museum (Add. MSS., 36470, f. 55) deals with this incident: "The Government of Ben-

gal in a letter received on the 15th inst., have reported the particular deficiency in Lord Henry Gordon's accounts as paymaster at Meerut. The amount of the deficiency is Rs. 82,148, occasioned by the embezzlement of the native servants attached to that officer. Lord H. Gordon's integrity and honour are pronounced to remain unimpeached and without a stain; but the misconduct of the guilty parties is mainly attributed to his very culpable carelessness and want of method in keeping his accounts, added to a natural easiness of disposition which led him to repose in his office establishment a confidence of which they were unworthy. The Government have removed Lord Henry Gordon from his office, it being apparent, they remark, from the inquiry, that he was unqualified for a situation in which unremitting diligence, with a rigid adherence to the prescribed method of keeping and checking accounts and a vigilant superintendence of the office establishment were absolutely necessary. His sureties will be called upon of the account of their bond, viz., 20,000 rupees. The only means, the Government observe, for recovering the remainder will be by monthly deductions from his pay and allowances, unless his friends at home, as supposed by himself, will come forward and relieve him from his difficulties." Lord Henry received the local rank of major in 1855. He afterwards was captain in the Aberdeenshire Militia. He married, March 6, 1827, Louisa Payne, whose origin is not stated in the peerages. He died August 28, 1865. His wife, who lived at 20 Hampton Court, died May 17, 1867. The "Gentleman's Magazine" says they had ten children, but Burke gives only eight—

(1) Augustus Henry Gordon, born 1839: died April 1869.

(2) William Sackville Gordon, born July 14, 1842: died unmarried, September 27, 1878.

(3) Leslie Charles Gordon, born May 14, 1852. He was in the Probate Court, and died unmarried, February 8, 1888.

(4) Sarah Elizabeth Catherine Gordon, born at Hampton Court, March 26, 1829. She married at Kensington Palace, January 2, 1845, the Rev. Lord Augustus FitzClarence, brother of her aunt, Lady Augusta Gordon. He died June 14, 1854. She died March 23, 1901. Her husband's niece, Lady Munster, describes her as a "very beautiful woman," and gives some amusing details about Lord Augustus. They had six children, including—

i. Augustus FitzClarence, 1849-61.

ii. Henry Edward FitzClarence, born 1853. He married Mary Isabel Parsons, and has issue.

iii. Dorothea Fitz Clarence: married Thomas William Goff of Oakport, Roscommon, and had with other issue—

Thomas Clarence Edward Goff, who married Lady Cecilie Heathcote-Drummond-Willoughby, daughter of the Earl of Ancaster and granddaughter of the 10th Marquis of Huntly. They have issue.

- (5) Hon. Louisa Frances Charlotte Gordon, born December 17, 1829. She was maid-in-honour to Queen Victoria. She married, July 21, 1857, the Hon. Ashley George John Ponsonby (1831-98), son of the 1st Lord de Mauley, and had two sons and a daughter.
 - (6) Julia Cecile Gordon: was burned to death aged 15, at Hampton Court, March 8, 1852, by her night clothes catching fire ("Gentleman's Magazine," vol. 37, N.S., p. 430). She is not in "Burke."
 - (7) and (8) Wilhelmina Gertrude Gordon and Millicent Theresa Gordon, twins: born August 25, 1844. They lived in Suite XII at Hampton Court.
 - (9) Augusta Gordon, born March 26, 1849: married (1) July 21, 1869, Captain Gerard Walmesley, 17th Lancers, of Westwood House, Lancaster, who died January 2, 1877, and by whom she had two daughters: (2) February 6, 1879, George Nugent Ross Wetherall, 15th Hussars, of Ashley Hall, Lancaster, who died April 19, 1893. She died May 14, 1881.
5. Lord Cecil James Gordon, afterwards Gordon-Moore: born February 23, 1806. He got an ensigncy in the 76th Foot, July 8, 1824, becoming lieutenant, June 17, 1826. He became lieutenant of the 17th Foot, August 14, 1829; captain, July 22, 1836. He became captain of the Black Watch, August 10, 1836, retiring by the sale of his commission, Nov. 5, 1841. He served in Upper Canada, New South Wales, and Bombay. He married, April 23, 1841, Emily, daughter of Maurice Crosbie Moore of Moresport, Tipperary, and adopted the additional name of Moore by Royal licence, May 9, 1850. He died January 15, 1878. His wife, who lived at 10 Hampton Court, died April 26, 1902. They had three sons and seven daughters—
- (1) Cecil Crosbie Gordon-Moore, who seems to have dropped the Moore: born January 24, 1850. He entered the navy in 1866: was afterwards in the Admiralty, has been in India and the City, where he was connected with the Fire Brick Company. He started three clubs—the Home and Colonial, the Junior Turf (which lasted only fifteen months), and the Gordon House. He married in 1874, Lucy Hodges (born February 2,

- 1849), daughter of the Rev. Charles Hodges, St Peter's, Congleton, and widow of Captain James Westhead ("The Reader of Blackwood Hill, Horton, Stafford," 1906, table xxii.). She has about £500 a year of her own. He was the co-respondent in the divorce suit brought by Dr Bruce Goff, Brighton, against his wife, Mrs Goff, the case lasting four days before Mr Justice Gorell Barnes (July 26-30, 1898). It is fully reported in the "Daily Telegraph," and elicited some out-of-the-way biographical details about Mr Gordon, who stated that he had a daughter aged 22 (in 1898), but her name does not appear in any of the peerages.
- (2) Arthur Henry Wyndham Gordon, born April 18, 1853. He was formerly a lieutenant in the 7th Volunteer Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles, and has been Immigration Agent and Superintendent of Constabulary in British Guiana. He is Inspector-General of Prisons at Mauritius. He married the only daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Clements Browne.
 - (3) Hubert George Gordon, born January 23, 1858. He married at All Saints, Margaret Street, London, September 27, 1882, Helena Annie (Lena), daughter of Thomas White of Congelow, Yalding, Kent, and of 53 Portland Place, London (Burke's "Landed Gentry" for 1906, p. 1796). The marriage was dissolved on her petition in 1885. She married (2) John Carthew-Hannah. Mr Gordon is an actor, possessing a fine voice. He was once at the Savoy Theatre.
 - (4) Catherine Augusta Gordon, born at Moorefort, Tipperary, May 20, 1842 ("Gentleman's Magazine," September 1842, p. 311). She married, February 8, 1869, Oriel Farnell Walton (1846-86) of Maperton House, Somerset, and had three sons and two daughters (Burke's "Landed Gentry").
 - (5) Emily Gordon, born in Ireland, July 1, 1843 ("Gentleman's Magazine," September 1843, p. 311). She married, June 5, 1886, Charles Robert Besley (died 1896), Commissioner of Lieutenancy of the City of London, and as governor of Sir Thomas's Hospital. She resides at 28 Palace Gardens, Kensington, London. She has had two sons and three daughters—
 - i. Robert William Edward Gordon Besley, born 1878.
 - ii. Arthur Charles Gordon Besley, born 1881: lieutenant 4th Royal Fusiliers: killed at Wedelfontein during the South African war, June 23, 1901.
 - iii. Cecily Evelyn Gordon Besley: married 1892 Henry Royston Parker of Rothbury,

Wymondham, Norfolk, and has two sons and a daughter, including—

Henry Gordon Parker, born 1897.

iv. Liliast Emily Gordon Besley: married 1898, Arthur Cecil Herbert Nickisson.

v. Sybill Augusta Gordon Besley: married 1906 Captain Norcliffe William Bernard Gilpin.

vi. Muriel Edith Gordon Besley.

(6) Edith Gordon, born June 16, 1844. She married June 26, 1876, Oscar Felix Henry Cornille, and has ("Lodge's Peerage," 1905)—

i. Oscar Frederick Charles Gordon Cornille, born February 3, 1877.

ii. and iii. Cecil Alfred Gordon Cornille and Edward Piercy Gordon Cornille, twins, born May 16, 1878.

iv. Gabrielle Marguerite Cornille, born 1881. She is a well-known music hall artiste; has appeared in the Drury Lane pantomime. Some curious particulars of her career will be found in the "Daily Telegraph" of August 15 and 29, 1901.

(7) Agnes Cecil Gordon, born May 28, 1846.

She married (1) at Staverton, near Cheltenham, July 25, 1872, James Milward, who died 1879: (2) on August 6, 1891, Harry Leicester Powys Keck of Stoughton Grange, Leicester, son of the Hon. Henry Littleton Powys Keck, who assumed the name of Keck in 1861, and who was the sixth son of the second Baron Lilford. She has by her first husband a son and three daughters—

i. Esme Gordon Milward, born 1873.

ii. Margaret Gordon Milward, born 1879. She married 1906, Captain Charles M. C. Rudkin, R.G.A.

(8) Adela Crosbie Gordon, born May 18, 1847.

(9) Evelyn Gordon, born September 19, 1849. She died at 35 Maberley Road, Upper Norwood, September 16, 1906.

(10) Philippa Jane Gordon, born November 24, 1851. She married, June 1, 1881, Thomas Dunn, and son of Andrew Dunn, of Southwark, and has a daughter.

6. Lord Francis Arthur Gordon, born January 20, 1808. He was in the 1st Life Guards, becoming major and lieutenant-colonel, July 27, 1854. He relinquished the command of the regiment 1855, and after two years of declining health, died on July 3, 1857, while on his way home from the south of France. There is a monument to him in the Military Chapel at Windsor ("Times," October 20, 1859). He married, April 17, 1835, Isabel, only child of Lieut.-General Sir William Keir Grant, K.C.B. She died January 7, 1892. They had two sons—

(1) George Grant Gordon, born January 27, 1836. He was appointed a page to Queen

Victoria, April 10, 1844. He became ensign and lieutenant in the Scots Fusilier Guards, February 13, 1852: adjutant 1858-61. He served throughout the eastern campaign of 1854-5, including the battles of Alma, Balaclava, and Inkerman, the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and the sortie of October 26: and holds the medal and clasp, 5th class of the Medjidie and the Turkish medal. He became lieutenant-colonel, February 13, 1863: major of the 3rd Battalion Lothian Regiment, Edinburgh Militia, May 10, 1881. He retired by the sale of his commission Jan'y. 7, 1882, and became honorary colonel of the 3rd Royal Scots, March 7, 1900. He became comptroller to the household of Prince and Princess Christian, July 6, 1866. He was made C.B. July 14, 1891, and C.V.O. May 5, 1899. He married, August 8, 1863, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, Constance Augusta Lennox, daughter of Laurence Peel and Lady Jane Peel, which Lady Jane was the daughter of the 4th Duke of Richmond by Lady Charlotte Gordon, daughter of the 4th Duke of Gordon and the famous Jane Maxwell. Mrs Gordon was appointed Hon. Bedchamber Woman to Princess Christian, January 18, 1867. They have—

- i. Laurence George Frank Gordon, born at Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London, May 21, 1864. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1883, and became captain in 1893 and major in 1900. He went through the South African war, when he got his D.S.O. He married in 1895 Florence Juliette, daughter of C. A. Walters, and widow of Alexander McHinch, C.I.E., and has a daughter—
Thelma Esme Florence Gordon, born 1900.
- ii. Christian Frederic Gordon, born October 30, 1866, at 13 Cromwell Place, South Kensington. He is a stockbroker, and is sometimes known as "Eric" Gordon. He married August 27, 1894, Margaret, daughter of W. P. Humble, whom Lodge's "Peerage" calls "of Chester"; she was first married to J. B. Close, an Englishman who was killed in Minnesota while polo playing. She married, thirdly, in 1902, Lord Granville Gordon.
- iii. Helena Jane Gordon, born April 21, 1870. She was married at the Royal Chapel, Windsor, on April 17, 1894, to the Rev. William Henry Stone, M.A., vicar of St James's, Hatcham, Kent, and since 1896, of St Mary, Kilburn. Prince and Princess Christian, the late Prince Christian Victor, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-

Holstein, and a distinguished company were present. The service was taken by the Rev. H. C. G. Moule, principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and by Archdeacon Baly. Prince and Princess Christian afterwards received the guests at Cumberland Lodge, where, by the Princess's special order, the bridal cake had been made. Wedding presents were given by Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar. The honeymoon was passed at Woodcroft, Cuckfield, Sussex, the residence of Sir Charles Lennox Peel, the bride's uncle. She has three daughters.

- (2) Francis Frederick Gordon, born June 10, 1839. He was formerly a clerk in the Admiralty. He married, 1877, Helen Augustus Marinus, daughter of the late Rawson Hart Boddum Reid, of Stratford Place, London, and has—

i. Francis Lewis Rawson Gordon, born March 28, 1878. He went to Haileybury in 1892. He was formerly in the 3rd and 2nd battalions of the Gordon Highlanders, and fought in the South African war, 1900.

ii. Isabel Constance Helen Gordon, born 1880.

iii. Nita Florence Gordon, born 1882.

(3) Catherine Gordon, born July 4, 1837.

7. Lady Catherine Susan Gordon, born at Aboyne Castle, Oct. 15, 1797 ("Aberdeen Journal"). She was married June 18, 1814, at St George's, Hanover Square—not at Brighton as stated in the "Gentleman's Magazine"—to Charles Compton Cavendish (1793-1863) who was created Baron Chesham in 1858. She died December 14, 1866. She had a son, the 2nd Baron Chesham, and two daughters.

9. Lady Charlotte Sophia Gordon, died December 21, 1876.

10. Lady Mary Gordon: married April 15, 1822, at St George's, Hanover Square, Frederick Charles William Seymour, son of Sir Horace Seymour, and great-grandson of the 1st Marquis of Hertford. She died June 13, 1825, leaving a son and a daughter.

CHARLES, 10th MARQUIS OF HUNTLY.

He was born on January 4, 1792, at Orton Longneville, and his birth was welcomed on Decade when the news arrived. "Every demonstration of joy," says the "Aberdeen Journal" (January 30, 1792), "took place" at Aboyne and Charlestown "by ringing of bells, bonfires, illuminations, entertainments, drinking of health, and every signal of festivity suitable to the occa-

sion. Several of the neighbouring gentlemen attended with a considerable number of the inhabitants of that part of the country to testify their joy for the good news and happy event."

He was styled Lord Strathaven until 1836, when his father succeeded to the Marquisate of Huntly, when he was known as the Earl of Aboyne. He was educated at St John's College, Cambridge, taking his M.A. in 1812. He entered Parliament at the age of 26, being M.P. for East Grinstead 1818-30, and for Huntingdonshire 1830-31. His election address to the electors of Hants, 1831, will be found (printed) in the Additional MSS. at the British Museum (36,466, f. 376). He was for some time a Lord-in-Waiting, but resigned in 1841. He succeeded to the Marquisate in 1853, and was made Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire in 1861.

Like his father, he was fond of cricket. Thus in 1819 he appeared at Lord's in the Gentlemen v. Players match, but on the side of the latter, presumably because he backed them. In 1827 he appeared for XVII Gentlemen against XI Players, when he had the satisfaction of being on the winning side. He assisted Kent in 1827 and 1836, and was a member of the M.C.C. for about fifty years (Lord Harris's "Kent County Cricket," pp. 249, 368). He was also keen on hunting, getting many a spin with the Fitzwilliam pack.

He married, firstly, March 20, 1826, Lady Elizabeth Henrietta Conyngham (born February 16, 1799), first daughter of Henry, 1st Marquis Conyngham. She was at the famous ball given in Brussels by the Duchess of Richmond on the eve of Waterloo. There is a charming print of her by "I. B." showing her seated at a harpsichord. She died without issue August 24, 1839. He married, secondly, April 10, 1844, at St Martin's in the Fields, Mary Antoinetta, daughter of the Rev. William Peter Pegus, by Charlotte Susanna, Dowager Countess of Lindsey. He died September 18, 1863, aged 71, at Orton.

His widow wrote verse, and was a beautiful draughtswoman. A sample of her work is contained in a handsome quarto, entitled—

Thoughts in Verse upon Flowers of the Field. Illustrated by Mary Antoinetta, Mchioness of Huntly. London: published by Day and Son, Ltd., 6 Gate Street, W.C.

On every page there is the month, a poem on

an appropriate flower—such as the snowdrop for January—and a charming illustration of the same in colours on a gold background, the whole being enclosed in a decorative design. She laid eight poets under contribution, writing the verse for four months—April, September, November, and December—herself. She used the heather to illustrate September, beginning—

I love the hardy frugal heath,
That winds her ever constant wreath
Around each granite rock and stone,
Which but for her were quite alone;
And clothes the muir with garb as fair
As garden ground with flow'rets rare.

Lady Huntly died at Orton, August 10, 1893. She and the tenantry erected in 1868 a granite obelisk (60 feet high) with cross on the hill of Mòrtlich (1248 feet above sea level), in memory of her husband, while she herself was commemorated (in 1906) by a monument erected by her six daughters in Orton Longueville Church. It consists of a tablet of alabaster. The corbel has a cherub's head and wings carved on it, and on each side of the tablet are standing figures of angels. She has seven sons and seven daughters, born between 1815 and 1864:—

1. Charles, the 11th and present Marquis of Huntly.
2. Lord Lewis Gordon: born May 1848. He entered the navy, and was lost on board the ill-fated ironclad "Captain," which turned turtle off Finisterre, September 7, 1870, the very night that the Empress Eugenie crossed the Channel in Burgoyne's yacht on her flight from France.
3. Lord Bertrand Gordon, born July 24, 1850. He was at Eton in 1865, and died at Sydney on August 10, 1869.
4. Lord Douglas William Cope Gordon, born October 11, 1851. He began his career as an ensign in the Coldstream Guards, October 1871, and became lieutenant May 1874. He stood as a Liberal for Huntingdonshire at the general election of 1874, but was defeated by 290 votes. In May 1876, he became Liberal M.P. for West Aberdeenshire, defeating (by 2343 votes to 813) Colonel Thomas Innes of Learney, who had spoken of him during the campaign as "the terrible cornet of horse." He took his seat in the House of Commons on May 15, being introduced by Viscount Macduff, now Duke of Fife, and by Mr Adam, the Liberal Whip and member for Clackmannan and Kinross. In accordance with a previous promise to stand again for Huntingdonshire, he contested that seat

again in 1880, and won it; but he did not offer himself for re-election in 1885. He was a popular member of the Turf Club, where he was known by the nickname of "Briggs," and he was also a member of Hurlingham and the Devonshire Club. He died unmarried, of aneurism of the heart in his chambers, 90 Piccadilly, on Saturday night, August 4, 1888; and was buried at Peterborough.

5. Lord Esme Stuart Gordon, born March 12, 1853; educated at Eton. He died at Maidenhead, September 28, 1900, and was buried in the family vault at Aboyne. He married, at St George's, Hanover Square, July 21, 1874, Elizabeth Anne Phippan, only child of William Brown of Glastonbury, Gloucester, who made money in dealings with land with the Great Western Railway and the Taff Vale Company. Brown married Miss Phippan, the daughter of a wealthy alderman of Bristol, whose property now belongs to Lady Esme. Lord Esme left an only daughter—

Beatrice Mary Gordon, born July 21, 1875.

She married, March 1900, Francis Henry Meade, barrister, son of Rev. the Hon. Sidney Meade, and grandson of the 3rd Earl of Clanwilliam. She has a son—

Robert Sidney Stuart Meade, born Feb. 16, 1901.

6. Lord Granville Armyne Gordon, born June 14, 1853. He was the only member of a noble family who attended the University of Aberdeen during the whole of last century, thus reviving a very happy custom of former days. He attended the sessions of 1872-4 at Marischal College. Lord Granville was keen on sport. Mr Aflalo (in "The Candid Friend" of June 1901) says he was "one of the first gentlemen openly to lay against horses. He was also one of the first gentlemen to ride a bicycle in the streets of London, which made the late Lord Esme Gordon, his brother, say it was enough to make generations of dead Gordons turn in their graves. Quite twenty years ago, he was laughed at in the Turf Club for his conviction that golf was a grand game. He travelled extensively in search of big game." In 1881 he went into the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, paying a second visit to the west in 1888. In his "Sporting Reminiscences" he describes hunting in the Rockies; reindeer shooting in Norway; mutton hunting in Albania; deer stalking in Morsgail in the Lewes; salmon, grouse, pigeon shooting, glove fights, and billiards; and he writes a chapter "Why I took to Laying." He wrote other books, inheriting the ability from his mother: "The Legend of Birse and other Poems"; London: Bliss, Sands and Foster, 1894; "The Race of To-day," a novel. London: F. V. White,

1897: "Warned Off," a novel. London: F. V. White, 1898: "Nookta," a take of Vancouver: London: Sands and Co., 1899: "Sporting Reminiscences," edited by F. G. Aflalo, with 13 illustrations in half-tone and 4 in photogravure, by Harrington Bird, J. G. Millais, and Archibald Thorburn; London: Grant Richards, 1902. This last book contains a characteristically frank expression of opinion. In relating how three of his friends and he took a shooting between Aberdeen and Peterhead, Lord Granville says—"Two are dead, and the third I never see any more. I had a very smart body servant in those days, who is since gone to the bad; and . . . most of my friends and relations think that I had done the same." The same insouciance marks one of his verses in "The Legend of Birse":—

Death! What is Death? To leave your over-
coat

Hanging in dismal solitude upon the peg

At home! until the faithful old domestic

Vends it for two florins to the wandering
Jew.

On October 31, 1884, he applied for a patent (Specification 143,737) for "sights for firearms and ordnance," but did not proceed to patent it. He married, at Christ Church, Dublin, September 4, 1878, Charlotte D'Olier, eldest daughter of Henry Roe, the distiller of Mount Annville Park, Dublin, who spent a little fortune on Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. After her father lost his fortune she opened a milliner's shop in Grosvenor Street, London, under the title "Lierre" (French for "ivy"), being one of the first ladies of position to do so. Curiously enough, Lady Duff-Gordon of Maryculter has done the same under the title "Madame Lucille." Lady Granville, who was one of the founders of the Ladies' Kennel Association, died suddenly in London, May 28, 1900. Lord Granville married secondly at the British Consulate, Dieppe, August 5, 1902, Margaret, daughter of W. F. Humble, Chester (U.S.A.), widow of J. B. Close, and divorced wife of Christian Frederick Gordon, Lord Granville's cousin once removed. On November 25, 1901, the lady was divorced from Mr C. F. Gordon, Lord Granville being the correspondent, with no defence. She, however, took away the child, Cicely Margot Gordon, born April 30, 1899; whereupon Mr Gordon raised an action to regain possession. The case lasted from February 14 to March 10, 1903, before Sir Francis Jeune, who described the story as beyond anything he ever heard in fact or fiction. He decided that the child was Mr Gordon's, although the lady maintained that Lord Granville was the father. The decision

was followed by another sensation, when Lady Granville decamped with it (on a tug) to Dunkirk to get beyond the leash of the law. This was on March 11, and next day Sir Francis Jeune granted, on the application of Mr Christian Gordon, a committal order against her for contempt of Court. Several other legal proceedings took place, and her presentation at Court on March 13, 1891, as Mrs Christian Gordon was cancelled. "The Annual Peerages" still assign the fatherhood of the child to Christian Gordon. Lord Granville died June 14, 1907 (his 51st birthday), on board the liner Prince Ludwig, on the voyage between Suez and Aden. He was on his way to Yokohama with Lady Granville and the child. He had been taken ill on June 4 of pneumonia. He was buried in the General Cemetery, Colombo, June 21. By his first wife he had two sons and a daughter—

- (1) Charles Henry Granville Gordon, born June 19, 1880. He was educated at Eton, and spent the sessions of 1896-7 and 1897-8 at King's College, Aberdeen. He then became second lieutenant in the 3rd battalion Gordon Highlanders. At midnight of Friday, July 13, 1899, he and three brother officers set off to rag the rooms of his cousin, Mr Francis Lewis Rawson Gordon (who was also in the regiment), at Albert Cottage, 448 King Street, Aberdeen. In clambering along the waterspout to gain an entrance, which gave way, he fell to the ground and ruptured his stomach. He died of his injuries in the Northern Nursing Home, Carden Terrace, on Sunday morning, July 16. "Although only nineteen, he was close on six feet in height, and when he wore the Highland costume, of which he was very fond, he was as handsome a figure," says the "Aberdeen Free Press," "as one could see in the street." He was buried at Longueville.
- (2) Granville Cecil Douglas Gordon, usually known as Douglas Gordon, born April 28, 1883. He began his career as 2nd lieutenant, September 14, 1901, in the 3rd battalion Gordon Highlanders ("23rd Mounted Infantry," in South Africa), and joined the 1st Scots Guards at Bloemfontein, December 1901. He took part in the operations in the Transvaal, July-December 1901, and in the Orange River Colony, January-May 1902. He became lieutenant, February 1, 1904. He played centre forward football for his regiment. He married at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, April 4, 1907, Violet, only daughter of Gerard Streatfeild, Fulbrook House, Elstead, Surrey, a member of the Streatfeild family of Chiddingstone,

Kent. Her uncle Eric was an officer in the Gordon Highlanders. Mr Douglas Gordon is heir presumptive to the Marquisate of Huntly.

- (3) Armyne Evelyn Gordon, born June 21, 1879. She is a keen sportswoman, a great golfer, a fine walker (she once walked the 25 miles from London to Hertford in 6½ hours), an enthusiast in motoring and hunting, a good swimmer, and a famous breeder of chows. She is engaged to be married in the spring to Lionel Lawson, younger son of Sir George Faudel Faudel-Phillips, Bart., once Lord Mayor of London, by his wife Helen, sister of Lord Burnham, the owner of the "Daily Telegraph."
7. Lord Randolph Seaton Gordon, born May 17, 1857: died at Tunbridge Wells, July 16, 1859.
8. Lady Mary Catherine Gordon, born January 8, 1845. She married, on April 17, 1866, at Orton, Longueville, Edmund Turnor, M.P., of Stoke-Rochford and Panton Hall, Lincolnshire, son of Christopher Turnor and his wife, Lady Caroline Finch-Hatton, the stepdaughter of the Lady Winchelsea who was connected with the jewel scandal at Lady Mary's aunt's (Lady Augusta Gordon). Mr Turnor died without issue December 15, 1903.
9. Lady Evelyn Elizabeth Gordon, born March 22, 1846. She married, on July 14, 1863, at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the Hon. Gilbert Henry Heathcote, only son of Lord Aveland. He assumed the additional name of Willoughby Drummond in 1872, and was created Earl of Ancaster in 1892. This marriage was very interesting as re-establishing the ancient connection of the Gordons and the Drummonds, for the third Earl of Perth married Lady Anne Gordon, daughter of the second Marquis of Huntly, and their son, the 4th Earl of Perth, married as his third wife Lady Mary Gordon, daughter of the 3rd Marquis of Huntly. Lord and Lady Ancaster have four sons and six daughters.
10. Lady Grace Cecile Gordon, born October 15, 1854. She married at Orton Longueville, June 27, 1878, the 5th Earl of Lonsdale, and has no issue.
11. Lady Margaret Ethel Gordon, born February 5, 1858. She married, July 25, 1881, the 3rd Baron Harlech, and has a son—
Hon. William George Arthur Ormsby-Gore, born April 11, 1885.
12. Lady Elena Mary Gordon, born November 29, 1861. She married, February 28, 1885, George Lamplugh Wickham of Parkhill, Wetherby, Yorkshire, and has a son—

John Lamplough Wickham, born 1836: lieutenant in the Scots Guards.

13. Lady Edith Blanche Gordon, twin with Lady Elena, died December 25, 1862.

14. Lady Ethelreda Caroline Gordon, born posthumously January 31, 1864. She married Sept. 16, 1884, Henry Wickham, brother of her sister (Lady Elena's) husband, and has two daughters.

CHARLES, 11th MARQUIS OF HUNTLY.

He was born at Orton Longueville on March 5, 1847, was known as Lord Strathaven till 1853, and as Earl of Aboyne until he succeeded to the peerage in 1863, at the age of 16. He was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered the House of Lords—where he sits as Baron Meldrum—as a Liberal. In the Gladstone Administration of 1870-3 he was Lord-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria, and was Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, January-June 1881, being also created a Privy Councillor. He was President of the Social Science Congress at Liverpool in 1876, and was Lord Rector of Aberdeen University for three terms, 1890-9, a unique record in the history of that extremely interesting office.

Lord Huntly inherits the literary instinct of his mother. He has published at least two books:

"Travels, Sport and Politics in the East of Europe"; London: Chapman and Hall, 1887: pp. 311. It bears the dedication, "I dedicate this book to my wife, who accompanied me in our travels and to whom I am indebted for the [six] illustrations, as a token of my love and regard." It deals with the Danube, Constantinople, Batoum, Georgia, the Caucasus, Athens, Corfu, Albania, and Montenegro.

"Social Interest: a Rectorial Address," delivered March 6, 1891; Aberdeen: Wyllie, 1892: 8vo., pp. 38.

He married, July 14, 1869, at Westminster Abbey, Amy (born 1850), elder daughter of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart. (1819-1900), the Manchester banker, by his first wife, Jane Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Orrell, Stockport. The will of the baronet, who left a big fortune, has been the subject of much litigation. So far, it has been decided that he was an English subject.

Lord Huntly has no issue, his heir presumptive being his nephew, Mr Douglas Gordon, son of his brother, the late Lord Granville Gordon.

TWO YOUNG ABOYNE GORDONS.

THEIR "ELOPEMENT" WITH MRS LEE.

Generalisations, if handy, are usually misleading, but the impulsiveness expressed in Scott's rollicking ballad on Young Lochinvar connotes much of the spirit of the House of Gordon, root and branch. In its particular application to marriage by capture, the ballad is particularly applicable to the Aboyne branch of the family, which supplied one of the most extraordinary chapters in the history of elopement. The story of the elopement of Rachel Fanny Antonia Lee with the Rev. Lockhart Gordon and his brother Loudoun on Sunday night, January 15, 1804, is more like a fairy tale than a narrative of real life: only, unlike a fairy tale, it leaves a rather bitter taste. But it is readable in its very incredibleness.

It is typical of the neglect of Gordonology that so little has been written about this remarkable episode. Mr G. S. Street, in his new book "*The Ghosts of Piccadilly*," does not even mention it, although it would have added picturesqueness to his subject; and the late Dr Garnett was guilty of several errors in dealing with Mrs Lee in the "*Dictionary of National Biography*." Yet, quite a small literature has arisen round the whole affair, for it was the subject of two big pamphlets, and various other subsidiary side lights, as follows:—

1. "*An Apology for the Conduct of the Gordons*": containing the whole of their correspondence, conversation, etc., with Mrs Lee, to which is annexed an accurate account of their examination at Bow Street, and their trial at Oxford, by Loudoun Harcourt Gordon, Esq. Non Jovi Datur Sapere Et Amare. London: printed for John Ginger [a most appropriate name], 169 Piccadilly; and Thomas Hurst, Paternoster Row, 1804. [Printed by Slatter and Munday, Oxford, 8vo., pp. xxxiv. and 143.] It consists of—

(a) An introduction (pp. iii.—xxxiv): a verboso and sanctimonious production.

(b) A narrative (pp. 35—96), going over very much the same ground in more detail and mainly without comment.

(c) Examination of the Gordons before Mr Bond and Sir William Parsons, two Middlesex J.P.'s (pp. 97—111).

(d) Trial of the Gordons before the Oxford Assizes, March 5, 1804 (pp. 113—143), when they were acquitted.

(e) MSS. annotations of the same, written in a neat, clerical hand in a copy of the Apology belonging to J. M. Bulloch. These annotations defend Mrs Lee through thick and thin. The volume was purchased from Mr Bertram Dobell, the scholarly bookseller of Charing Cross Road, in 1904.

2. "A Vindication of Mrs Lee's Conduct towards the Gordons": written by herself. London: Greenland and Norris, 1807: 4to., pp. viii., 66. It consists of two parts—

(a) A Vindication of Mrs Lee's Conduct, pp. 1-50.

(b) Questions and remarks relative to the Gordons' pamphlet and particularly addressed to those who may have perused it: pp. 51-66. These notes are very similar to the MSS. series just mentioned.

3. "Memories of R.F.A." Printed by James Gillet, Crown Court, Fleet Street: 4to., pp. 105. This extraordinary production probably issued in 1812, was suppressed.

4. A Defence of Mrs Lee, written in 1865, by the Rev. T—s D— F—ke, of Horsley, Gloucester, was in Mrs Lee's possession. Perhaps it is the copy of the "Apology" now in my possession.

The abundance of the material, however, is confusing, for the story is told from different points of view. The Gordons insist that Mrs Lee eloped with them voluntarily; the lady declared that she had been abducted; the law, while acquitting the Gordons, gravely censured them, so that it is extremely difficult to settle the rights and the wrongs of the question. I shall attempt, however, to write a consecutive narrative of the events beginning with the origins of the three chief actors.

The Gordons were the sons of the Hon. Lockhart Gordon (1732-1788: son of the 3rd Earl of Aboyne) by his second wife, the Hon Catherine Wallop, only daughter of Lord Lymington, and sister of the 2nd Earl of Portsmouth. Lockhart, born July 28, 1775, took his degree at Magdalen College, Cambridge, in 1798. He ran away with a pretty girl, whom he married in haste and deserted with celerity. His brother Loudoun, born May 9, 1780, entered the artillery in 1794, and after becoming a 1st lieutenant, was superseded in April 1803.

Rachel Fanny Antonina Dashwood, the "female infidel" of De Quincey's elusive autobiography,

came out of a bad nest, for she was the natural daughter of the notorious Sir Francis Dashwood, Lord le Despencer, who was born in 1708. Chancellor of the Exchequer under the Bute Ministry—1762-3—he was summoned to the House of Lords as Baron le Despencer in virtue of the fact that his mother was the daughter of the fourth Earl of Westmorland, whose second title was Baron le Despencer. His lordship was a notoriety in his day. From the mere Lord-Lieutenancy of Bucks, he rose to be Keeper of the Wardrobe, Joint Postmaster-General, and Privy Councillor, while he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, and other learned bodies. Indeed, his daughter has left it as her opinion that “a more constant application to business might have produced a great and valuable statesman.” As it was, his lordship delighted in “burlesque pictures of human life.” Thus it came about that, while he played the patron to the sombre Franklin by setting up a printing press for him at West Wycombe, he also gathered round him in his mature old age a band of wastrels as irresponsible as himself, and they used to hold high festival at Medmenham Abbey, near Marlow. They called themselves, after the ruling spirit, the Franciscans; but scandalised society called them the “Hell-Fire Club,” and by that name posterity will remember them. The curious will find some entertaining information about the whole circle in a rather rare little book, entitled, “The Adventures of a Guinea.” Wraxall has recorded that Despencer “far exceeded in licentiousness of conduct any model exhibited since Charles II.”; and even John Wilkes, who, with Churchill the poet, formed one of that “unholy fraternity,” the Franciscans, has left it as his opinion that his lordship was made Chancellor of the Exchequer “for his skill in casting-up tavern bills.”

The death of his wife, the daughter of a Bucks squire, removed the last suspicion of a brake on the wheel, and in his late sixties, Despencer installed a lady named Mrs Barry in his house. According to a scandalous sketch of his lordship in the “Town and County Magazine” of 1774, Mrs Barry was the “lady friend” of a mercer in Ludgate Hill. She bore him two children, a son and a daughter; and it is a curious comment on the morality of the time to



note that Despencer's sister, Lady Rachel Austen, was quite friendly with Mrs Barry (who was baroness in everything but name), and allowed his lordship's natural daughter to be named Rachel after her.

Despencer seems to have had a warm spot in his rakish old heart for his daughter, for when he died in 1781—despite all his misdemeanour he had crossed the three score years and ten—he left the child, then only eight years old, a fortune estimated at between £45,000 and £70,000. His barony became extinct, but the title of Despencer continued to attract public attention until 1829, when Mrs Lee, who had assumed it—wrongfully, of course—left a world that had not been big enough to hold her. His baronetcy, however, went to his half-brother, whose great-grandson Sir Edwin Hare Dashwood married Roberta Henrietta, daughter of Sir Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog.

The evil reputation which Lord le Despencer—whom his daughter describes frequently in her mystic memoirs as “a beloved nobleman”—had acquired was illustrated in his lifetime by a collection of scandal entitled, “The Abbey of Kilkhampton: a Monumental Record for the Year 1980.” This publication was so popular that it ran through six editions at least, the sixth appearing the year before Despencer died. The epitaph assigned to him runs as follows:—

To the merry memory of F[rancis] D[ashwood] Lord Le D[espencer], the most careless and perhaps the most facetious libertine of his age. He was never known to have corrected one error, or to have been reclaimed from one vice he had once determined to indulge. His residence in town and country was a rendezvous for the choicest geniuses of the reign he lived in. Having no religion of his own, he never inquired into the principles of others; and being unable to hit on any moral system thoroughly adapted to his taste, he considered the manner of every man, whether W[il]kes, Lord S[andwich], or P—l Wh—d, as unexceptional. His notions were peculiar to himself, and originated from a species of good humour highly commendable, though it had not obtained universally with the less eccentric part of mankind. He built abbies, consecrated churches, and dug caverns for the sake of good mirth and fellowship; and having lived to see his dearest schemes completed, departed this life on the 17th of Jan. 17—, in strong convulsions, occasioned (as his domestics report) by the agitations of his life on

hearing that Lord S[andwich, whose "friend" Miss Martha Ray had been stabbed to death by her clerical admirer in 1779], proposed taking the veil and passing the remainder of his days (by express command of His Holiness) in a Roman Catholic nunnery.

All this was a bad beginning for a young girl, but fortunately she owed little or nothing to her mother's training. At an early age she was sent to a French convent (with a view, she insinuates, of making her take the veil), where she met a woman who had a great influence on her lively imagination. On returning to England in 1789, she was placed for nine or ten months in charge of the Hon. Mrs Lockhart Gordon, who had just been left a widow with two boys and a daughter, and lived with her in Kensington Square. Here she met John Walker, the well-known lexicographer, whose opinion of her, according to her own account, was "very flattering." The Gordon boys saw a good deal of the girl during their holidays. Loudoun wrote afterwards that she should have derived benefit from the virtuous precept and exemplary conduct of a learned, a pious, and an enlightened Christian, to which the commentator retorts:—

It appears that the virtuous precepts and exemplary conduct of this pious Christian have operated no stronger on those, whose duty it was by all the ties of Nature to adhere to them, than on Mrs Lee, and if the author had related the particulars of a trial with the late Lord P[orts-mouth?] it would not be so much wondered at that neither of them derived the benefit so highly spoken of.

During the next four years, Miss Dashwood saw a very great deal of life. Despite her birth, she seems to have moved in the best society—her brother married an earl's daughter—and as an heiress herself, her hand was sought for by more than one suitor. First, she got engaged to one of the sons of the sixteenth Lord Forbes; but her mother broke off the match. Then she promised her hand to a son of the immortal Blackstone; and she wound up by running away to Haddington (May 9, 1794) with a young Oxford man, Matthew Allen Lee, who was "distinguished for nothing but a splendid person, which had procured him the distinguished title of 'Handsome Lee.'" He was put into prison for his trouble, she being a ward in Chancery, and when he

came out she led him such a dance that they soon took their own ways. A judicial separation finally parted them (January 4, 1796), Lee enjoying half of her fortune until he committed suicide in 1808.

It was during one of her earlier separations from Lee that she encountered De Quincey. She had met De Quincey's sister at the seat of Henry Swinburne (the author of the well-known *Travels through Spain* and the great-grand-uncle of the poet) in Durham, and Mrs De Quincey invited her to Greenhay. She dropped on the household like a thunderbolt. She was young (scarcely past her majority), she was exceedingly beautiful, she had many "extraordinary accomplishments" —

not only eminent in their degree, but rare and interesting in their kind." Thus she "astonished everyone by her impromptu performances on the organ and by her powers of disputation. These last," adds De Quincey, "she applied entirely to attacks upon Christianity, for she openly professed infidelity in the most audacious form; and certainly proved more than a match for all the clergymen of the neighbouring towns." Like a great many of De Quincey's statements, this must be taken with a grain of salt, for, as Dr Garnett has pointed out, Mrs Lee's writings do not bear out this imputation of "infidelity." That she was exceedingly "outré," however, there can be no doubt, and shock with horror a house that sheltered John Wesley's niece (the governess of Mary De Quincey), while on the Opium-Eater, then a boy of nearly eight, her visit left an indelible impression. The truth may be that Mrs Lee simply argued freely with the parsons, for she was "deplorably ignorant of English life," which at that date regarded the intellectual woman as an abnormality. But the picture of the captivating creature (with her footman, "a showy and audacious Londoner," standing behind her chair) disputing with the local clergy at the De Quincey dinner-table is not to be forgotten; and her "marble beauty, her Athenian grace and eloquence, the wild, impassioned nature of her accomplishments, her acting, her dancing, her conversation, and her musical improvisations" startled young De Quincey out of his precocious wits.

A few years passed during which Mrs Lee resided at different places, notably Bath; and

what was only a strong individuality became a pronounced eccentricity. So long as the lady lived among such sober people as the religious Miss Wesley and the dignified Mrs De Quincey she was passable, but when she encountered a nature as ill-balanced as her own, the result was instant explosion. That, at any rate, was how her re-acquaintance with the Gordon brothers ended.

The Gordons had also been through the mill. Lockhart the elder had taken his degree at Cambridge and holy orders. He had, however, eloped with a pretty girl of one and twenty from Shropshire, and had married her in Marylebone Parish Church (still a great place for actresses marrying young gentlemen of good families), greatly to her people's wrath. He had deserted her, and in 1833 had been lodging for three years with a Mrs Sarah Westgarth at No. 8 Alsop's Buildings, New Road, London, at a guinea a week. At his trial she swore he owed her £26 besides £64, for which he gave her a note not the ndue. Loudoun describes him as a "great sportsman."

Loudoun had been equally unsuccessful. He had been "superseded" in the artillery for having taken advantage of the Insolvent Debtors' Act. He boldly excuses his debts on several grounds. He says that in the West Indies and British Settlements in America, where he had spent six years, every article was twice or three times the price at home. He was compelled once during that period to return to England and once to go to America for his health at his own expense. He was confined three months at Belise, in the Bay of Honduras, by "a dreadful and expensive illness, the terrible effects of a coup-de-soleil." Besides, he had been brought up with aristocratic ideas, had lived with those "greatly his superiors in fortune, and had not had benefit of the experience and control" of a father who might have informed him that "a man who lives beyond his income, whatever may be his situation in life, can neither be respectable nor happy." Furthermore, he had lost his only sister Caroline, who is clearly the lady identified in the "Scots Peerage" (i. 104) with Clementina, the daughter of the Hon. John Gordon, and the first cousin of Caroline. The latter died at Exmouth, December 13, 1801, aged 33, "her heart unwrung by misery, and her mind unblemished by vice"—in striking

contradistinction to both her brothers.

Altogether all these three young people were more or less at a loose end—Mrs Lee (31), a grass widow; the Rev. Lockhart (28), a deserting husband; Lieutenant Loudoun (23), a cashiered officer.

Loudoun landed at Liverpool on October 19, 1803 (without paying the captain of the ship), and joined his brother in London. In the following month he called on his mother's apothecary, a Mr Blackett, enquiring casually for Mrs Lee. But it was not till seven o'clock on the evening of December 14 that he found himself on the lady's doorstep in Bolton Row. Bolton Row, which has now vanished in name, was a fashionable terrace at the end of Bolton Street, Piccadilly, a little west of Devonshire House. Several notable ladies—notably Mrs Delaney, the friend of Fanny Burney and the Royal Family, and Mrs Vesey, who gave famous literary dinners there in 1780—had resided there. Mrs Lee was living in quite a style, her rent running into £250 a year and her household consisting of two maids and a man servant. She lived, however, very much to herself, for the neighbours clearly looked upon her as rather queer.

On Loudoun Gordon, according to his own story, she acted as a magnet. He insists on the deep impression she had made on him "in childhood"—a charm that the years had not effaced. "Separated from her by many hundred leagues amidst the terrors of a vertical sun," he had frequently contemplated, "with melancholy pleasure, upon her beauty and talents, which even during infancy had created a lasting passion" in his heart. The commentator of the trial, not unjustly, suggests that this appears very much like a piracy from a romance or a novel. "It is a rhapsody of the most unmeaning texture. Mr Gordon tells you he was eight years old, and with three months' acquaintance falls violently in love with a lady of 15. He leaves her for 14 years, but returns and brings his passion with him." Even the lady's beauty is cast in doubt, for Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, who was a cousin of the Gordons, declares that she was "exceeding ill-favoured, with a bad complexion and withered lips." At anyrate Loudoun says that the "warm reception" which he received "re-kindled the latent flame." He was "insensibly ensnared." Even Mrs Lee admits that her "manners and con-

versation, generally speaking, throughout her life may have been too frank and familiar." In defence, however, she declares that she acted on the principle "that the mind is independent and never can under any outward circumstance, except by its will, be altered; consequently that no communication except by its will can affect it."

The descent to Avernus was indeed rapid, as will be seen in this chronological summary of events:—

December 14.—Loudoun paid his first call on Mrs Lee.

December 16.—Called again: was asked to bring Lockhart.

December 24.—Third call.

December 30.—Lockhart called with Loudoun.

January 1.—Loudoun got a letter from Mrs Lee.

January 2.—Loudoun called on Mrs Lee, who was out.

January 3.—Loudon again called.

January 5.—He wrote to Mrs Lee.

January 6.—He got a letter from Mrs Lee.

January 8.—He called on Mrs Lee—twice.

January 9.—He called again: he says she proposed elopement.

January 10.—He wrote a letter to her.

January 11.—He received a letter from her: wrote two to her: and called.

January 12.—He wrote to her.

January 15 (Sunday).—He and Lockhart called and bolted with her to Tetsworth in a post chaise.

January 16.—Lockhart left them, and was arrested the same night in London. Loudoun and she spent the night at Northleach.

January 17.—They arrived at Gloucester.

January 18.—Loudoun was arrested by a Bow St. officer.

January 19.—Loudoun was taken to Clerkenwell prison.

January 20.—Lockhart was taken to Bow Street, with Loudoun.

January 27.—They were committed for trial.

March 5.—They were tried and acquitted at the Oxford Assizes.

In her curious memoirs, Mrs Lee declares that "it is scarcely necessary to attest that neither deception nor collusion existed with respect to the Gordons: that she received them as young men whom she remembered as boys, and whom, she presumed, had paid their respect to her with honourable and friendly intentions." While referring to the Gordons as her "perfidious guests," Mrs Lee adds: "With respect to any private conversation which may have passed between us,

perhaps it would be wiser not to enter into particulars which might give rise to cavils"; and she adds mysteriously: "were I to mention a circumstance, which was imparted to me by one of the Gordons, I should expose an action, now known only to a few, to very unfair animadversions and excite uneasiness in the breast of a worthy female" [Mrs Gordon?].

Mrs Lee's champion declares that the Gordons worked like "skilful mole-catchers," but a good deal is admitted to have taken place above board. The first critical day was Sunday, January 8, when Loudoun and she discussed elopement. She seems to have thought better of it, for when he called the same night at 11 he was not admitted; yet next day she told him that "she wanted to pass the remainder of her life in the society of a male companion, and with him follow the plan of a sect in Germany who led a monastic life with the exception of celibacy." The commentator admits that Mrs Lee "only shew'd him that there was a sect in Germany of that description, but did not add that it was her determination, etc." On January 11 she wrote:—

You have drawn a true and faithful picture of my situation, but you have proposed a strange means of alleviating it. By consenting to your proposal you will gain much, and I shall lose the little which I still possess; neither your age nor your situation will be able to afford me that protection and support which will be necessary. Consult your own heart, your own reason, and let me know the result. If pleasure were my object, neither my mind nor body are at present in a state which would make the enjoyment of it desirable to me. You must be well aware of the opinion which the world will form of you and me. You say you are my friend: prove it by the sacrifice of a youthful passion. When you were a boy, I perceived in you generous sentiments. Let me see that time has not destroyed but matured them. You say you will submit to my better judgment and discretion. I now exact from you the fulfilment of your promise. My determination is fixed, and those who will not second it are not my friends. Communicate this letter to your brother, and believe me to be, yours truly,

F. A. LEE.

To the plain reader, this letter would seem a clear cry off, but Loudoun saw in it a trap—"She asked Lockhart in the plainest, although the most artful, terms whether he would unite his protection and support to mine." Her champion, however, gives quite a different interpretation:—

It must be observed that Mrs Lee's age and experience had not been matured by adversity—the only school of true philosophy. In fact, she was not so extensively acquainted with the world as to suppose that the author's behaviour arose from any other motives than those he professed. She did not imagine Lockhart Gordon in the sacred character of a clergyman, to be a sheep in wolf's clothing. The design attributed to her could only have been created in the brain of a person famous for plots, and the idea suggested is so much in unison with the author's conduct that no one can seriously doubt his legitimate claim to the invention. Mrs Lee thought, as every rational being would think, that when a younger brother made an appeal for advice to an elder . . . whose bounden duty it was to snatch even vice from the brink of ruin would feel the effect of such an appeal from a younger brother in such a situation; he would have pointed out to him that path which might ultimately have ensured his honour and happiness. Lockhart's fortune, his support and protection, are repeatedly and highly spoken of. These assertions certainly insinuate that to the rest of his disinterested services, he was ready and capable of giving his pecuniary assistance. Admit then that this generous, but alas! short-sighted, philanthropist conceived himself to be purely asked to unite his protection and support with Loudoun and that from his consequent conduct, it implied an admission on his part to accede to it—was he in a situation to effect it? No.

Mrs Lee's letter was followed by extraordinary epistles from both the Gordons. Loudoun wrote:

My dearest Madam,—If you assent to my proposition, I shall gain an inexhaustible source of felicity: you will lose the pity of the ignorant and the prejudiced. The protection that I have to offer, Madam, is the strength of body and mind, the courage and the life of a man not unused to danger. My age, Madam, has been matured by adversity, the only school of true philosophy: my situation, though it is not what I could wish, nor what my education and birth might have led me to expect, is rendered less irksome by the possession and enjoyment of that inestimable treasure "*mens conscia recti*," which can neither be purchased nor stolen. I have consulted my heart, and would have plucked it out had it dared to think you less than the most perfect of human beings. I have consulted my reason: in a low, but clear, voice it whispered praise. Pleasure, name it not, my heart, for I have found no traces of you imprinted there.

If the union of congenial souls can be rendered more complete by the union of their bodies, obey, Madam, the first mandate of God and of nature, or tremble at the thoughts of your disobedience.

The world, Madam, is unworthy of you; the false opinion which it will probably form with regard to your conduct, will never be able to shake your constancy or fortitude. You exact from me the fulfilment of my promise. I have obeyed your injunction by absenting myself for two whole days from viewing the splendour or feeling the vital warmth of that sun which must illuminate or destroy me. In obedience to your commands, I have communicated your letter to my brother. He respects, he admires you, and he says that he will protect you at the hazard of his life and fortunes. I can feel, though I cannot express, what I am to you, more than that I am, my dearest Madam, your sincere and affectionate,

L. H. GORDON.

The parson's letter was not less vivid:—

My dear Madam,—I consent with all my heart to every thought, word, and expression contained in Loudoun's answer to your letter, which you did me the honour to communicate to me. If Loudoun deceives you, Mrs Lee, I will certainly blow his brains out, and then we shall both be eternally damned as we shall most richly deserve. Strong feelings burst the fetters of ceremony and express themselves in the untutored language of nature. Mrs Lee will find in Lockhart Gordon a friend who has a head to conceive, a heart to feel, and a hand to execute whatever may conduce to Mrs Lee's happiness.

He followed up his letters with a call on January 12, and, according to his own story, declared that if the elopement did not take place, she must never expect to see him again. Mrs Lee's champion animadverted on this point thus:—

The admission (worded as it is), coupled with the author's present situation (that of a prisoner in the King's Bench), clearly shews that the only hope he had of extricating himself from a prison was his success in the intrigue with Mrs Lee. The declaration itself shows that so late as three days before he and his brother entered upon the scheme of taking her from her house, no consent was obtained from her to go, and they never had any further intercourse till the transaction took place. After a knowledge of these facts, is there any possibility of doubting the real motives by which the author's conduct was influenced? Any other scheme that would have extricated the author from his difficulties with less trouble had no doubt been more acceptable, and would have been adopted in preference.

The extraordinary situation lasted exactly a month, and then a Sunday (January 15)—the better day the better deed—proved the culminating point of the crisis. The Gordons went to

dine with Mrs Lee between four and five in the afternoon. At half-past six a post-chaise drove up in charge of Mrs Westgarth, their landlady. Her presence is extremely interesting, for although she was dunning Lockhart for his rent, she was clearly not averse to his schemes; indeed, the commentator might have pointed out that her presence there gave colour to the suggestion that the elopement was a plan for raising money. The night was very dark, but the chaise took the precaution of drawing up 50 yards from Mrs Lee's door. Meantime a curious scene was being enacted in the lady's house. It is very difficult to say exactly what occurred, for three completely different accounts are given. According to Loudoun, Mrs Lee took the proposal to elope at first as a boyish jest; the post-boy who drove her away, said she entered the carriage laughing; but according to her maid, Janet Davidson, and other servants, there was quite a scene. Davidson attempted to rescue her, upon which Lockhart Gordon took a pistol from his pocket and swore he would shoot her if she made the least noise. Even Loudoun admits this. In any case the three got into the chaise, Lockhart telling the post-boy to drive on or he would shoot him—"a phrase" which Loudoun says his brother, "from having been a great sportsman, is very apt to make use of." Meantime the servants were in the streets shouting "Fire! Murder! Thieves!" but the post-boy galloped off with the three, and they were soon on the Tyburn turnpike.

We are equally in doubt as to what occurred in the carriage. There was much to do about a ring which the Gordons had brought with them. They tried to get Mrs Lee to wear it in Bolton Street, but she had declined; but in the carriage she slipped it on her finger. The commentator of the trial writes very sarcastically about the ring:—

I have watched this wonderful ring like a lynx; and yet I cannot discover by any clue they give me by what magic it was conveyed to the author's finger in the post chaise. On page 72 he leaves it motionless on the table, and perhaps it is too insignificant for him to state by what conjuration a small quantity of gold travelled a short distance in the hope of its attracting a greater portion at the expiration of the journey. However, it clearly proves that amidst the hurry and confusion of taking Mrs Lee from her house, not one

particle of that dark and systematic plot they had arranged ever escaped them. The ring must have been conveyed into the chaise by the author or his brother. There it was nursed, like the darling offspring of a priest's creation, who gave it birth to answer purposes (which tho' many may presume) few but themselves can explain.

Then there was a mysterious steel necklace bearing a camphor charm which was supposed to save the wearer from the baser man. She threw it out of the window of the carriage, declaring that she had no more use for it.

The horses were exchanged at Uxbridge, then at Wycombe, the ancestral home of her late father, and a halt was drawn at Tetsworth. Here the lady calmly discoursed on the Pyramids, Greek architecture, and the source of hieroglyphics.

The night was spent at Tetsworth in a way which Lord Campbell's Act precludes my detailing. To use the words of the "Apology" itself, "the curtains were drawn." Indeed, they were drawn to such good purpose that it is difficult to understand why Lockhart set off to London by himself next day, Monday, January 16. The commentator feels the hiatus so great that he (or she) has been at the trouble to fill it in thus:—

The author submits to an enlightened public an accurate statement of the whole of his brother's and his own conduct towards Mrs Lee, but in the introduction and narrative every part of their conduct which was culpable (which the public were not acquainted with) has been passed over in silence. I shall therefore subjoin a material part which they have omitted.

On Monday morning, the 16th of January, Lockhart, who had slept with four loaded pistols at his bedside in an adjacent room, rang his bell about eleven o'clock, and on its being answered by the chambermaid, desired her to bring him pen, ink, and paper, which she did, and he began writing in bed. He then desired the chambermaid to ask the lady if she would have a fire in her bedroom. Mrs Lee declined. Loudoun pressed her to have one, but she still refused. Lockhart's bell again rang, and, on the girl's going in, he desired her to tell the gentleman to get up immediately. Loudoun did so, and went into Lockhart's room The chambermaid was then desired to quit the room and go and assist the lady. This she did, and Mrs Lee then went down to breakfast. Mrs Lee waited a considerable time, and at last sent up to Loudoun and Lockhart to say breakfast was ready. After they had spent an hour in conversation, they at

length came down, apologising for their not appearing before, and say'd they did not know she was there.

Conspirators generally manage their proceedings in that secret way, that it is rarely if ever you can get any positive evidence of the fact unless you seize their documents, or one of the accessories afterwards become a witness; but as the author has pledged himself to lay an accurate statement of the whole before the public, I would ask him why the above transaction has been omitted. I would ask also the contents of those papers which were so immergent as to require writing in bed. I would ask him why Lockhart's summons was so important as not to allow him time to put on his cloaths before he went to the conference. I would ask him the nature of this mysterious conference which was so pressing as to require his attendance for an hour in direct violation of good manners to a lady for whom he professed the greatest regard, but whom . . . he left to breakfast by herself. On Lockhart's coming downstairs, I would ask him why he should bring paper and desire Mrs Lee to write for her cloaths; why he should tell her he would be her best friend, or most bitter enemy. Why he should look in the glass and observe he thought he saw the devil, and that if he was a villain he was no common one, and many other expressions equally violent. I will assert these facts have been omitted, and leave the reader to draw his conclusion.

This rhetoric leaves us almost as ignorant as before. Equally mysterious is the commentator's account of what happened after the parson left:—

Soon after Lockhart was gone, Mrs Lee retired to her bedchamber, and sent for [Mrs Edmonds, the innkeeper at Tetsworth]. On her going up, she was asked by Mrs Lee if she had any sincerity. Mrs Lee at that time looked at her very steadfastly, and she felt alarmed at the question and the manner it was expressed, but reply'd, "Madam, I hope I have." Mrs Lee again say'd, "Have you any integrity?" She told her she might rely on her integrity. Mrs Lee then say'd, "I suppose you know my situation here?" She say'd she did not, but had understood from the chambermaid that she was very ill equipped for a journey. Mrs Lee then delivered to her the letter [written to her maid Davidson, bearing the words, "No money, no cloathes, death or compliance"] saying, "now that I can rely on your integrity, you will not mention till after I leave this house that I have given you a letter, or what I am now going to say to you." She then told her that she had been dragg'd there with pistols over her head, from her own table in danger of her life. Mrs Edmonds say'd she was very sorry for her situation, but from this unconnected story,

and what she had before heard, she was induced to suppose that Loudoun was actually Mrs Lee's husband, from whom she might have been separated, and that he was then forcing her to live with him again. Mrs Lee [then declared of Lockhart, whose cropped hair did not give him the look of a parson]:—"He is mad and very mad too; he may well look grave for he is a great villain and a hardened villain, and he will surely suffer for this."

Mrs Edmonds then left her, but soon after returned and say'd if she could render her any assistance she should be happy to do it. Mrs Lee again requested that she would send the letter either by some private hand or the post, and not mention it till after she had left the house. She added: "They want me to write for my cloths, but that I do not chuse to do, and further begg'd to be accommodated with a shawl, upon which Mrs Edmonds asked her if she meant to pursue her journey; and Mrs Lee replied, "As things are, I suppose I must."

The alarmed and unsettled state of Mrs Lee's mind is so forcibly portray'd in the above recital of facts that after what I have written all comment on them is perhaps needless.

Notwithstanding all this, the solid fact remains that Mrs Lee and Loudoun continued their journey, stopping at Oxford to buy some haberdashery, for Mrs Lee had brought no clothes with her. They changed horses at Witney, which has recently come into prominence as the home of the Druces; and put up at night at Northleach.

Meantime the hue and cry had been raised. Mrs Lee's maids had gone to her attorney and trustee, Anthony Parkin, in Great Ormond Street, at whose request a warrant was issued for Loudoun's arrest. The same night (January 16), Lockhart actually had the effrontery to present himself at Mrs Lee's house at 11 o'clock armed with a loaded pistol. He had first gone to a ball in Portland Place, then drove to Bolton Row. Finding a stranger in the house, however, and scenting danger, he returned to his carriage, and was driving off, when Miller, the Bow Street officer in charge of the case, came up with another officer, while two local watchmen stopped the carriage by striking one of the horses on the head. Lockhart then bolted towards Clarges Street with a pistol in each hand, but was arrested and taken to St Martin's lock-up.

In the morning he was conveyed in a hackney coach to Mr Parkin's house in Great Ormond Street. The annotation of the "Apology" gives

an account of this interview so minutely as if the writer had been a clerk in Parkin's employ:—

Lockhart, in the utmost apparent agitation, was brought into the presence of Mr Parkin, who say'd: "I understand, sir, you wish to see me." Lockhart reply'd: "I wish, sir, to have a private interview." Mr Parkin: "After the manner you have behaved I shall not suffer it." Mr Gordon: "All I have to ask of you is that I alone may be prosecuted, because I alone am guilty; give me you word that I alone shall be punished, as I only am to blame, and I will give up everything." Mr Parkin: "I shall not promise any such thing; those who are to blame shall be proceeded against, and take the consequence. How can you talk of your being only to blame? Did not your brother assist in carrying her off, and is he not with her at this very time?" Gordon: "Yes, certainly, he is; and all I ask is for him to leave the country. I don't want but for him to leave the country—he tenderly loves her—he acted from passion—what I did was cool and deliberate. I had pistols; he had none. I declared I'd shoot him if he did not bring her down. O, sir, I feel much for her condition—she has no cloths; but my brother is not to blame. It was only me; I am willing to meet any prosecution. It was a mercy to God I did not shoot him. Will you consent to strike his name out of the warrant, and I will immediately give up where she is?" Mr Parkin: "I will not, sir." Mr Gordon: "Will you indulge me with a private meeting before the Magistrates?" Mr Parkin: "I will speak to them, and I have no doubt that they will grant me that favour if you give up where Mrs Lee is."

Mr Gordon again urged that his brother might not be proceeded against, and Mr Parkin say'd "he should not make terms with him; the first thing he ought to have done was to have given up where Mrs Lee was, as an atonement for his past conduct."

Mr Gordon: "Then, sir, I have nothing more to say." Mr Parkin: "I will not be talked to in this way; we shall meet at Bow Street. Take him away." The officers and Gordon were retiring, when the latter returned and say'd: "Mrs Lee has no cloths; I pity her condition. I will write where she is." He wrote on a paper the word "Gloster" and deliver'd it to Mr Parkin, who say'd: "It is a very general direction." Gordon: "It is the best I can give; they will be at the head inn. I promised to bring her cloths there if I was alive." As Mr Gordon went away, he say'd he was given to understand Mr Parkin was a gentleman, but he had found him very different.

While this interview was in progress, the Bow

Street officer (Miller), accompanied by the maid Davidson, was off in pursuit of the other brother, and he encountered the elopers in the Bell Inn at Gloucester on Wednesday afternoon (January 18). He brought them both back to town, which was reached on the evening of January 19, and Loudoun was taken to Bow Street, while the lady went to Parkin's house, "being conducted into a room in which his wife and daughters were sitting. A friendly interest cannot be presumed. The measure was perhaps taken to make witnesses against R. F. A. in case of necessity, and she holds that she has proved her interpretation, because she never saw them afterwards, and Mr Parkin after the trial almost wholly neglected her."

The affair became the talk of the town. Edward Jerningham, in the "Jerningham Letters" (volume i., p. 233), describes how the inhabitants of Bolton Row peeped out of their windows to catch a glimpse of the lady on her way to Bow Street:—

Nothing else is talked about but this perplexed, unaccountable story. Buonaparte will be jealous of Mrs Lee. I dined in a French set yesterday, and their observations upon this romance of the day were entertaining. . . . The tense of the conversation took its course from Mrs Lee, and as it flowed it imbibed a tincture from every person's remarks, till it sparkled with wit and gayety.

On January 20, the brothers were placed in the dock at Bow Street. In her memoirs Mrs Lee writes that she found it "impossible to dwell without a mixture of horror and indignation on her appearance at Bow Street, and afterwards at Oxford. She says that she was conveyed to Bow Street in a hackney coach by Mr P[arkin] with a mind full of the oppressive circumstances which had led to the event in question, and with a certainty that all possible means had been taken, though under somewhat specious appearance, to prejudice individuals and the public against her."

On January 27, the brothers once more came up at Bow Street, and were committed for trial at the Oxford Assizes.

The case came on before Mr Justice Lawrence and Mr Justice Le Blanc, the grand jury being presided over by the Marquis of Blandford. The Gordons were charged under an Act passed in the reign of Henry VII. with having to "the

great displeasure of Almighty God, the disparagement of Rachel Fanny Antonia Lee, and the evil example of His Majesty's subjects, forcibly carried away" the lady. The Gordons pleaded not guilty in a court crowded with undergraduates. De Quincey, who was then tormenting his bewildered tutors at Worcester College, was present, and has left a picturesque account of the scene. "Pitiable," he says, "was the humiliation expressed by Mrs Lee's carriage as she entered the witness-box." "Pitiable was the change, the world of distance between this faltering and dejected accuser and that wild leopardess that had once worked her pleasure amongst the sheepfolds of Christianity."

When Mrs Lee admitted that she had thrown away her necklace, the judge stopped the case, remarking to the jury that "it did not appear that any force had been used to bring Mrs Lee into the county of Oxford. She might have had assistance at the different turnpikes through which she passed on the road to Tetsworth, as well as at the inns where the horses were changed." "You must therefore acquit the prisoners"; and a verdict of not guilty was pronounced. Had they been tried in their father's native country, the verdict "not proven" would probably have been given. The commentator of the "Apology" gives this curious gloss on the verdict:—

It ought to be recollected that this trial ended equally on a point of law as well as fact; for admitting the camphor bag to have fell in the county of Oxford, and that to have been proved, the trial would have went on, but the impression the judge made on the jury was, that at the time the bag was thrown away, the force ceased, and that a jury in that county could not decide on facts which passed in another.

It is, I believe, generally admitted that Mrs Lee, in giving her evidence at the trial, acted with the most rigid impartiality, and it is doubted whether in order to preserve an unlimited degree of candour on her part she did not give an assent to or at least not positively contradict questions that were put to her, which, in truth, she might have negatived without hesitation.

When it is considered the every extraordinary situation in which Mrs Lee was so suddenly placed at Tetsworth, I trust every candid person will make some allowance for her conduct. Mrs Lee has sworn "that she was apprehensive that a serious scuffle might ensue in which lives might be lost," and has repeatedly declared that all her

fears arose from the violence of Lockhart's behaviour, who even held his brother as well as herself in terrorism.

When the whole of the rashness of Mr Lockhart Gordon's conduct in this affair is seriously reflected on, I would ask any impartial person if there was not just grounds for her apprehension. But if there wanted a further proof of her real feelings on the occasion I submit with some degree of confidence that her manner of sending for and behaviour to Mrs Edmonds is one of the strongest confirmations of her testimony. It is worthy of remark that before Mrs Lee sent for Mrs Edmonds, Lockhart had set out for London; consequently the principal cause of her alarm was removed.

As it was, Mr Justice Lawrence tacitly took up this attitude. According to the "Apology" he said that their acquittal was no cause of triumph to them, as their conduct had been disgraceful. The annotator of the "Apology," however, gives us the benefit of the judge's complete rebuke, which, not unnaturally, is omitted in the pamphlet:—

London and Lockhart Gordon, you are acquitted, but it is no cause of triumph for you. Your conduct has been disgraceful, and your letters infamous.

You, Lockhart, in the sacred character of a clergyman, have not only attempted to seduce a defenceless woman and plunge her into a state of vice and dissipation, but have endeavoured to lug your younger brother into the diabolical plan. However, you are acquitted, and I have nothing more to say to you.

According to the "Apology," Mr Abbot, the Gordons' counsel, "exactd a promise from Lockhart, just before the judge made his observations upon their conduct that he would not speak: which promise was the cause of his silence."

De Quincey tells us what happened to Mrs Lee. In the dusk of the evening, the lady, "muffled up and in some measure disguised," made her way to a chaise. Before she could reach it, however, she was recognised by a mob that had been waiting. A savage howl was raised, and a rush made to seize her. Fortunately a body of gowmsmen formed round her, so as to secure her from personal assault; they put her rapidly into the carriage, and then joining the mob in their hootings, sent off the horses at a gallop. Such was the mode of her exit from Oxford." She tells us that after the trial she was called on by a

man who offered to be of "service by writing in the newspapers." In her "Vindication" she makes some extraordinary statements about receiving anonymous letters, and having had letters forged in her name sent to her friends.

Loudoun's trials, however, did not come to an end with the close of the trial, for he was immediately arrested for a debt of £200. Of this sum £118 was for a debt contracted in the West Indies. A sum of £58 was due to the captain of the ship who brought him home; and the rest of it was to his tailor. The issue of the notorious "Apology," which ran through at least six editions, was clearly to raise the wind. Although Loudoun's name is on the title pages as the author, it is probably the case, as the commentator makes out, that "those who are acquainted with the methodical cant and hypocritical writings of a crafty priest will not long study to discover its real author." The commentator goes on to say:—

Immediately after the publication of the following work, the author was removed by writs of Habeas Corpus (at considerable expense) from Oxford Castle to the King's Bench Prison. It is extremely difficult to ascertain when interest is the ruling passion of a mercenary individual what he would hesitate saying to disguise his real motive.

The following sheets are handed to the public as an apology for the conduct of the authors while the very groundwork of the undertaking is to raise a pecuniary sum in order to release an embarrassed man from the difficulties under which he laboured, and so confident was he in his expectation before the pamphlet came out, that he imagined the profits arising from its sale would extricate him from his confinement. He asserts the elopement (by him so called) to be a previous arrangement, etc., which he and his brother could have proved on entering on their defence. Had it turned out so, it seems they would have done more, by the assistance of their legal advisers, than they could do, by the matter of fact or their own ingenuity, for if the reader will candidly peruse this book and even take for granted all the lies laid down (for lies there are most certain), together with the fallacious arrangements made use of, it will most clearly appear "that not a single tittle of the assertion has been substantiated either with respect to the previous arrangement or even any direct consent at any time on the part of Mrs Lee to quit her own house."

The author says: "I was impressed from my earliest infancy with the highest aristocratic

ideas of the dignity and consequence which ought to be attached to those persons who are connected with many of the most illustrious families in England and most of those in Scotland."

If ever he was possessed of those notions, alas, how does the publishing of this book prove him to be degenerated: how little in unison with [certain] exalted ideas. Would not such public (or even private) declarations disgrace a Plebeian who is not callous to every sense of candour, generosity, or honour—but allow these assertions to be (as they are) chiefly, the fabrication of the author, sent forth only to traduce Mrs Lee, and then they sink him into a degree of insignificance lower than the meanest of mankind.

The commentator is equally severe on Lockhart:—

It is say'd [by Loudoun]: "Lockhart went to London after his acquittal with a determination to bear the whips and scorns of outrageous fortune rather than publish a single line in his defence." Generous philanthropy! Perhaps, as he observed in the "Morning Post" soon after the trial, "because he would not injure Mrs Lee's reputation." Yet now it is tauntingly observed, had he known the whole of her conduct, he should have expected the return she made him. "Women who have once forfeited their characters, etc." Is this mean, unmanly assertion substantiated here by any kind of proof made by the man who only nine lines before talks of the eternal love and friendship which he must for ever feel for Mrs Lee? Is this the effect of that sacred regard? Or has the dignified resolution of his noble brother to bear the whips and scorns of outrageous fortune been abandoned by him, and has he at last had the condescension to hammer out a quotation, and cram into his brother's book applied with a scurrilous meaning to swell the catalogue of abuse and calumny, while by extending the pages it draws money from the purchasers for sentences reprinted which his own brain was not prolific enough to produce?

In her cryptic "Memoirs," Mrs Lee states that she received a few lines from Loudoun after the trial. They were "written in a style in which he evinced gratitude and respect towards her, and apparently contradicted the supposition that he had been willingly concerned in a publication which had reflected much additional disgrace on him. She could not for obvious reasons, but particularly with reference to the situation in which she had been placed, answer the letter."

It would seem as if the "Apology" had been issued as a threat, for in her vindication Mrs Lee states that after the trial she got a letter

from Lockhart "threatening to injure her by all possible means in the public opinion; and his intention was made evident sometime afterwards by the communication of a bookseller."

Soon after Lockhart was held up to public obliquy by the "Gentleman's Magazine," which stated that his deserted wife had died on May 1, 1804, in poverty and broken-hearted at Dorchester, and was buried at Holy Trinity Church there at the hands of charity. The rector kindly informs me that the burial book gives this entry: "May 9—Mary Ann, the wife of the Rev. Lockhart [sic] Gordon." She was a beautiful creature of only one and twenty, but her husband, after eloping with her, had deserted her. Mr Thomas Hardy, the great man of Dorchester to-day, might very well cast her sad story into one of his "Life's Little Ironies."

It is curious that amid all my researches I have not discovered what became of Lockhart. His brother Loudoun so far retrieved himself as to get a commission in the 56th Regiment, June 18, 1837, and in 1828 he was living in retirement and unmarried at Laverstock, near Salisbury.

As for Mrs Lee, she went on (for a quarter of a century) as she had begun, age only accentuating her peculiarities. After the trial she was placed by her friends in the house of a Gloucestershire clergyman, and Mrs De Quincey was glad to think that "in submitting to a rustication so mortifying to a woman of her brilliant qualifications," Mrs Lee "must have fallen under some influences more promising for her respectability and happiness than those which had surrounded her in London." But she quarrelled with the clergyman, as, indeed, she ultimately did with everybody she had anything to do with—every squabble being recounted by her in pamphlets long forgotten. Amid all this, however, she led a curious intellectual life, even studying Hebrew with one Bolaffy. In 1808 she published, under the pseudonym of "Philopatria," an "Essay on Government." It is an extraordinary fact that Wordsworth, "who read so very little of modern literature, in fact next to nothing," should have read the book. Indeed he spoke of it frequently to De Quincey "as distinguished for vigour and originality of thought." In 1812 she told the story of her life in "The Memoirs of R.F.A.," but the book was suppressed, Cosway painted

her portrait, but I can find no trace of its existence. At last she departed this life, which had been too much for her, in the early part of 1829, in the 56th year of her age, leaving nothing for posterity to remember but her eccentricities and elopements. She was a New Woman in an Old Age, and therefore an anachronism.



