

CARDONESS CASTLE

Mr. Dinwoodie

Corrections by A. J. McP.

Sir Raleigh June 1899.

CARDONESS CASTLE



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CARDONESS.

J S Fleming.

CARDONESS CASTLE

EDITED AND ILLUSTRATED BY

J. S. FLEMING, F.S.A.(Scot.) and M.R.L.A.S.(Ire.)



DUMFRIES

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1909



The Right Worshipfull SIR GODFREY MCKULLOCH of Myrtoone,
Knight and Bt.

Arms—Ermine fretty gules.

Crest—A hand throwing a dart proper.

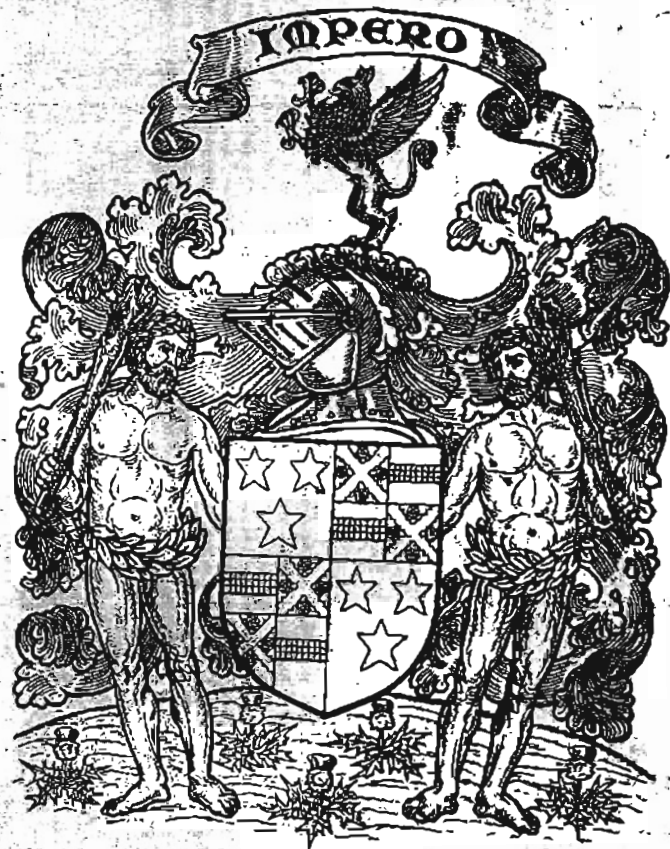
Mantling—Gules doubled argent.

Motto—"Vi et animo."

Date, 1672.

First Registry of Arms (Scotland).

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ALEX. MURRAY of Broughton, bears—

Quarterly—First and Fourth, azure three stars argent. Second and Third, Grand quarters quartered first argent a saltire engrailed canton'd with four roses gules; second, a fess cheque argent and azure; third as the second; fourth as first.

Crest—A griffin saltent. *Motto*—"Impero." *Supporters*—Two savages holding batons on their shoulders, wreathed about the head and middle with laurel, all proper.

Date, 10th May, 1809.



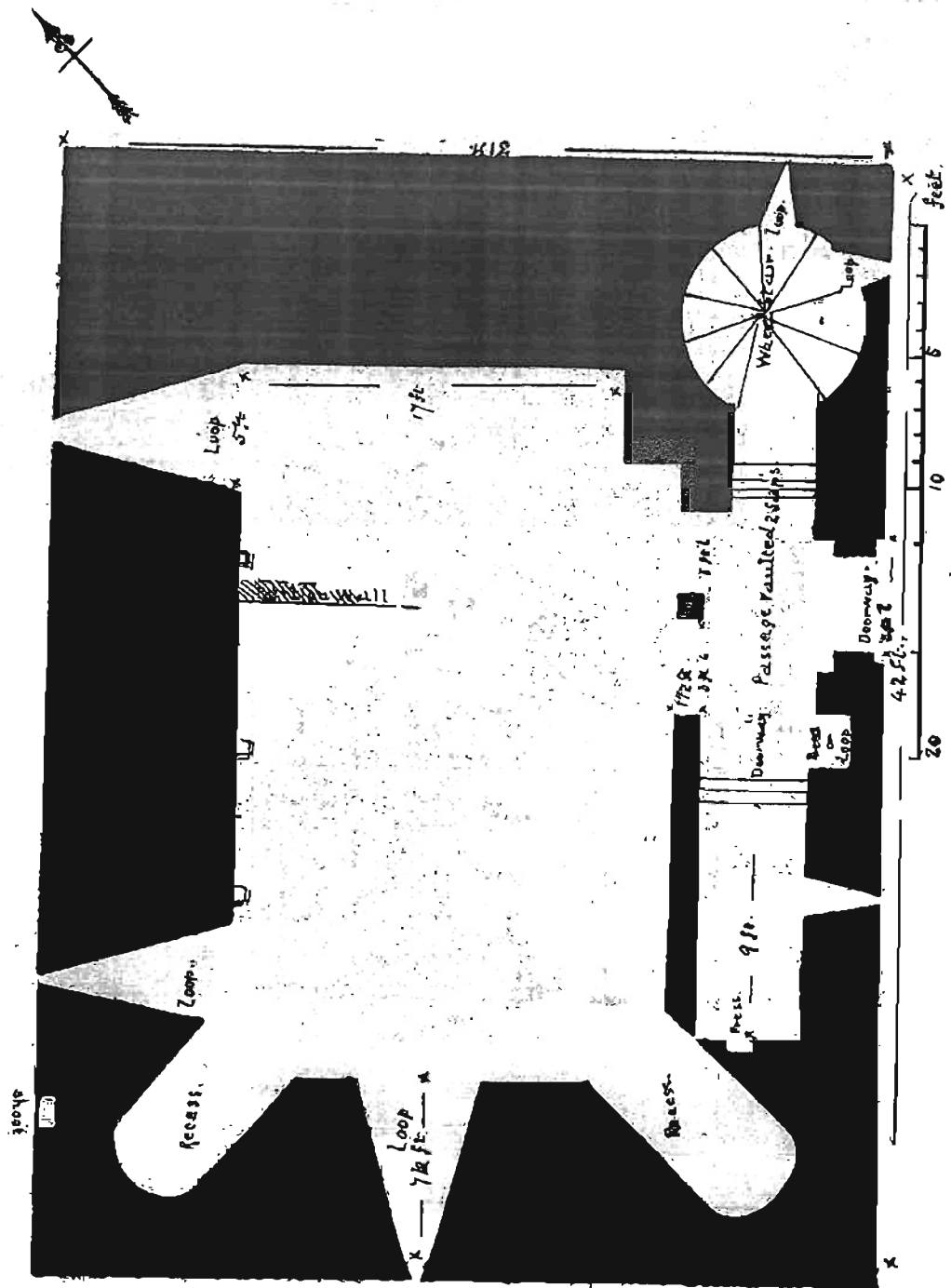
CAPTAIN WILLIAM MAXWELL, whose grandfather was William Maxwell of Newland, a second son of Sir Gavin Maxwell of Calderwood, bears—

Quarterly—First, argent a saltire sable within a bordure-cheque of two lines or, composed and counter-composed of the second and first; Second, argent a bend azure; the Third as the second; the Fourth as the first—all within a bordure embattled or.

Crest—A man's head looking foreright proper within two laurel branches.

Motto—"Think on."

Date, 17th January, 1696.



PLAN OF BASEMENT, CARDONESS.

CARDONESS CASTLE.

CHAPTER I.

THE CASTLE.

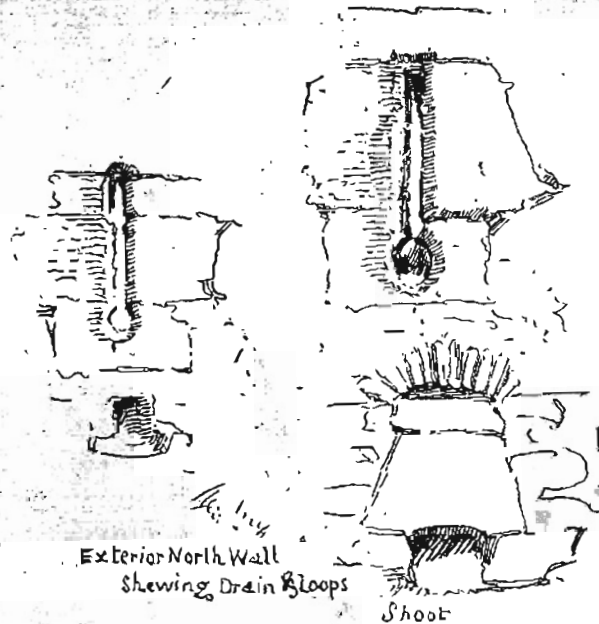
CARDONESS CASTLE is an oblong, rectangular tower or keep, of five stories. It is roofless, and occupies the whole apex of a cone-shaped rocky knoll, now covered with high trees. The knoll is situated on the right bank of the river Fleet, and rises about 150 feet above the level of the river (frontispiece).

The Castle is 42 feet long by 31 feet broad, and its height to the cope or battlements about 50 feet. The walls are of the immense thickness of $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and, with the exception of the chimney stalks, seem to be intact. They bear externally no projecting machicolations, turrets, cornices, or sculptured panels, and the doorway and window lintels, jambs, and sills are plain.

Even the doorway had its original door flush with the walls, which are extremely featureless, and devoid of projections.

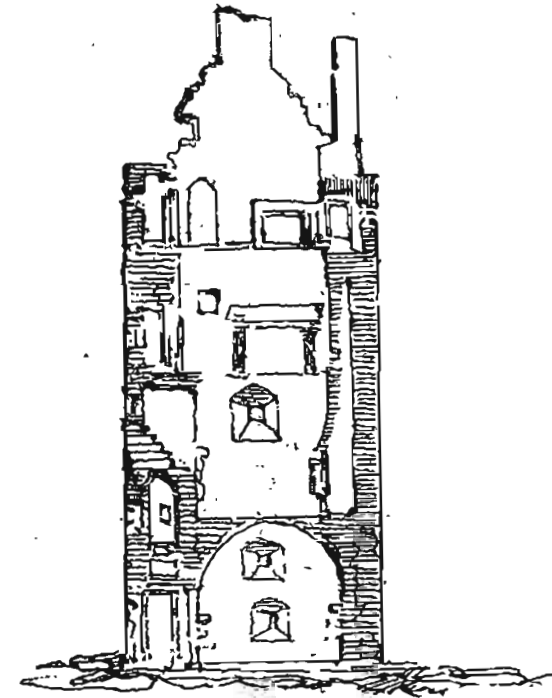
The circular doorway (see illustration) is in the south wall, slightly to the east of the centre of it. The arch of this door is formed of large dressed stones, and is 5 feet high to the spring of the arch and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. This doorway enters directly on a cross passage 4 feet wide, and fronting it are two other doorways, the entrances to vaulted chambers in the

basement (see plan of basement). The passage leads by the right to the unusually wide wheel-staircase, situated in the south and east angle-walls, and by the left to a small mural chamber 4 feet wide, which has a loop-hole. It was probably the door-porter's or guard's room. The two basement



vaulted chambers are now about 16 feet high, owing to the removal of the intermediate or *entre sol* floor. The broken division wall separating them is still to be seen. They are both lighted by mere slits in the wall. The walls on the north and south sides of these chambers carry "corbels" placed about 8 feet from the floor, evidently the support of the heavy beams

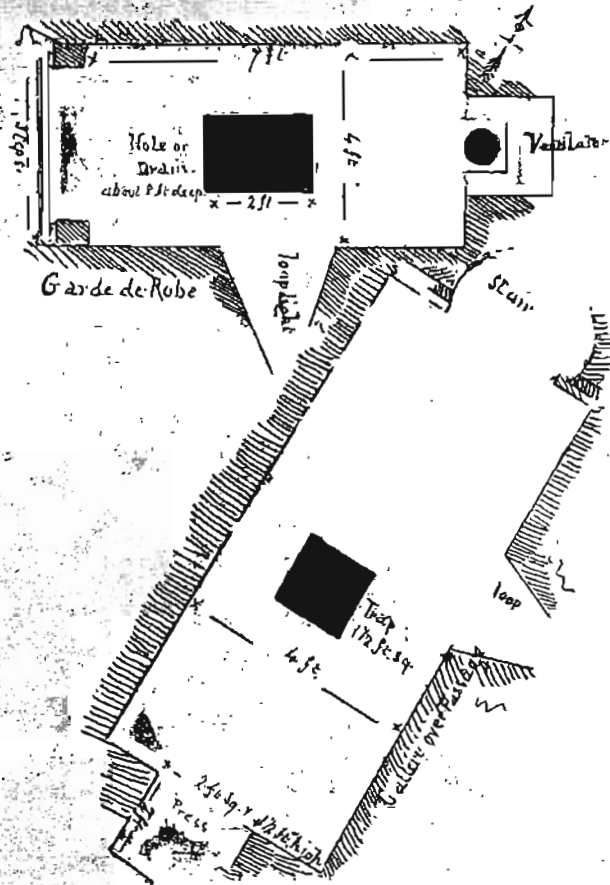
of what must have been the *entre sol*, or intermediate chamber, referred to above. This chamber was entered midway from the first floor staircase, as shown in the plans. Branching off the staircase one or two steps higher up is a gallery or narrow



CARDONESS (*Scottish*).

passage, 4 feet broad, leading to another wall recess immediately above the doorway. In the stone floor of this gallery, immediately over the passage beneath, is the aperture shown on plan (p. 4) 1½ feet square. This was useful for scrutinising unseen any suspicious visitor. If he was coming on an unfriendly

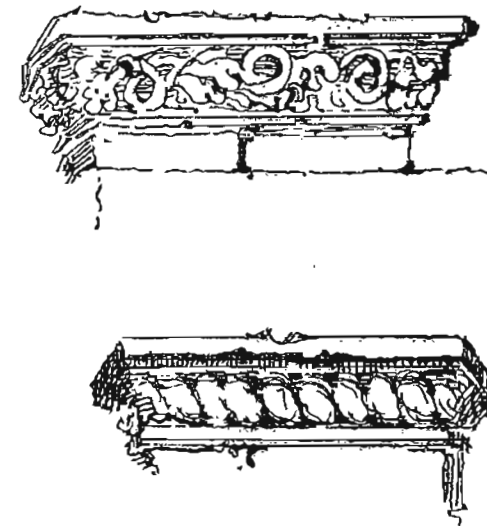
errand it gave facility for molesting and expelling him with fire-arms, stones, boiling lead, or some such missile. This was



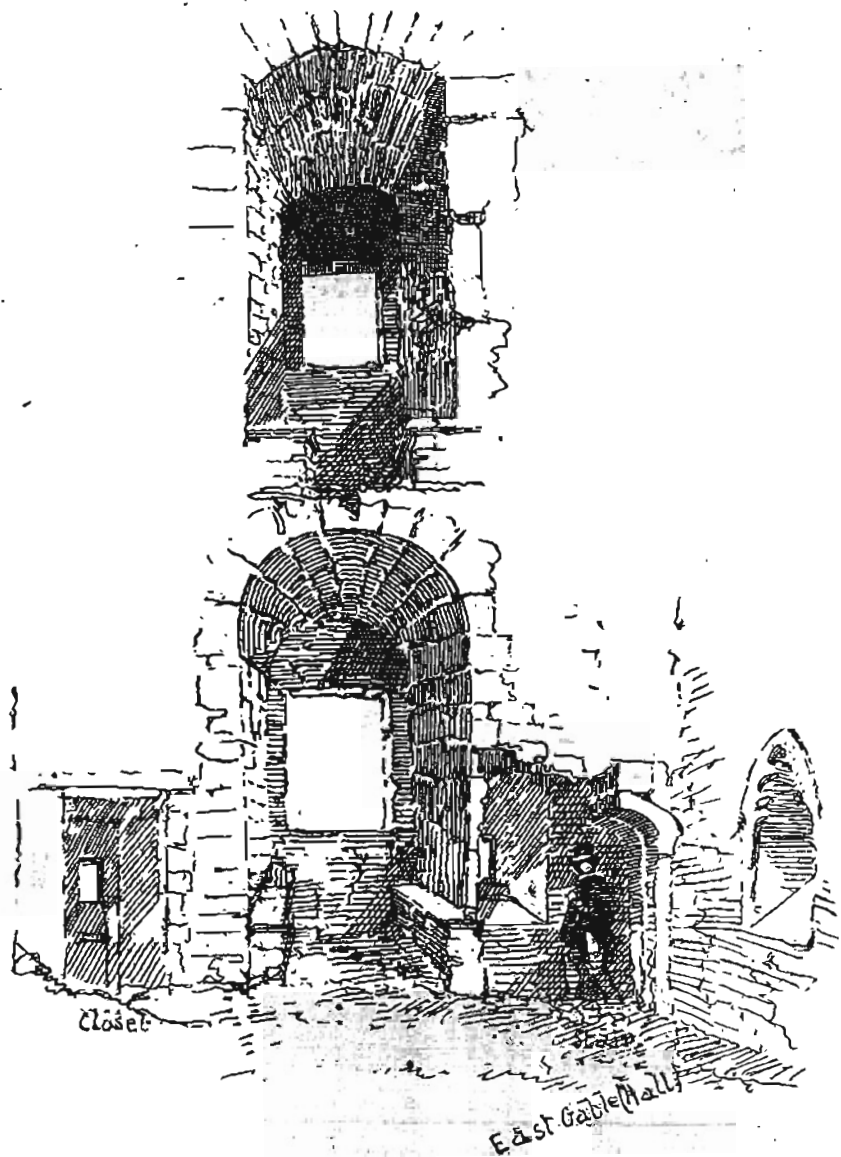
a common building device in ancient strongholds; it was general in Irish castles, where it acquired the name of the "Murder Hole."

On the same level as the *entre sol*, and entered from the stair by the right is a "garde de robe," 7 feet long and 4 feet wide, which has a similar aperture or trap 2 by 1½ feet (plan, p. 4).

This opening reveals a small dark underground chamber, designated by Ross a "dungeon, or prison."

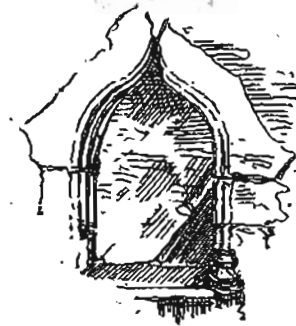


The vaulted roof of the basement chambers was levelled up to form the floor of the lofty banqueting hall, 27 feet long by 16 feet broad, and occupies the entire area of the interior. It has a large fire-place 9 feet by 5 feet in its north wall, the great lintel stone of which is gone; but the supporting arch over it remains, with the fine sculptured pillars of its jambs. Within the eastmost jamb is a small recess (sketch, p. 8). The north wall and the west gable contain all the fire-places. There are



two aumries (see sketch), with Gothic ecclesiastical mouldings, like piscinas, in the north and south walls, along with two other recesses or presses. The south wall and east gable contain two large windows, with stone seats on either side of the window recesses; the west gable has one small window (sketch, p. 11). These constitute all the lights of the hall. In the north-east

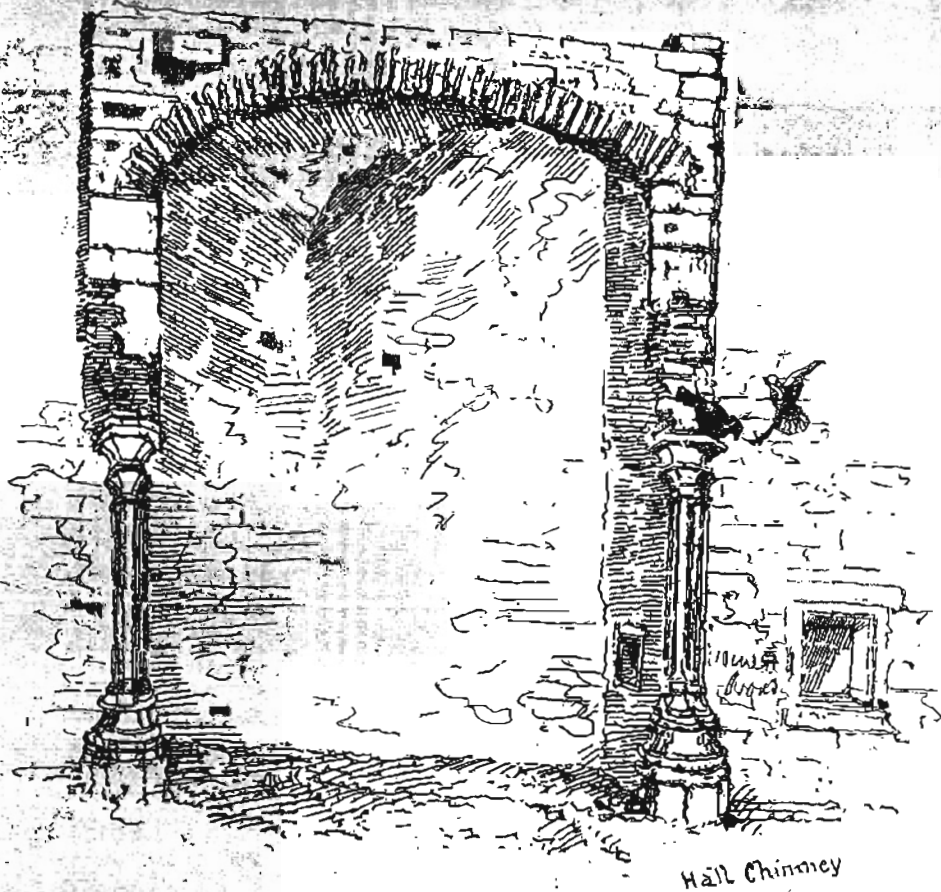
corner a door leads by two or three steps to a small lighted mural chamber or closet, as shewn (p. 6).



AUMRIE.

The wooden floors of the upper apartments, in common with every scrap of woodwork in the Castle, have now disappeared. The apartment immediately above the hall had been sub-divided into two by a partition wall, which now hangs in mid-air across the whole width of the building, without any visible support other than that afforded by a slight arched curve and the wonderful strength and tenacity of its ancient mortar. The westernmost and principal of these chambers has in the gable-wall a large, finely-sculptured chimney, with pillars similar to the one in the hall (sketch, p. 11). Here, however, the large lintel stone is intact. It bears on it, in two sub-divided parts, a stone cornice or shelf of sculptured foliage of varied designs in excellent preservation (sketch, p. 5). The cornice contains a vacant space which must have held a large stone. The different designs on the same cornice would suggest that this absent stone was also carved, and united into one design. This carries with it the further suggestion that this stone may

have contained the armorial bearings in a shield of the builder's family, the M'ullochs. These family heraldic panels were



jealously regarded and almost universally removed on a change of ownership, so as to preserve them from indignity.

The hand of the ecclesiastical builder appears in the

aumries and chimney mouldings of the Castle, and as Abbey and Church building had ceased about the middle of the 15th century, it is well known that these skilled craftsmen turned their hands to the castles of the knights and the barons. We may fix the date of the building of the Castle at about 1450 A.D.

While the visitor stands inside the old hall, undisturbed save by the flight of the scared pigeon or jackdaw, who have for ages made their nesting-place in those roofless walls, his imagination will involuntarily seek to assign to their various uses, the apartments into which the interior is separated. There, above us, was the ancient sitting-room, easily identified by its finely-sculptured fire-place. It must have been trim and neat when Gilbert M'ulloch sat in it to sign the Charter of 1466. The chamber which adjoins it was the chief sleeping-room. Those bare walls must once have heard the hushed whispers of the inmates while the births and death-bed scenes of the family were enacted. The lofty hall where we stand, divested as it now is of its oak-panelling, ceiling, doors, and wainscot, must have witnessed the marriages, christenings, Yuletide feasts—all the joys and sorrows of the successive generations as they played their various parts in life. There, on that weather-beaten battlement, in times of danger stood the vigilant warder. Here, in the guard-room, sat the armed door-porter. Let us but fill those details into the picture and bring before our eyes their occupants moving about the ancient halls clad in armour or the costume of the period, and we cannot fail to find an enhanced interest in these now deserted walls.

The present condition of preservation of the walls, exposed for 200 years to summer rain, winter frost, and storms from the sea, are a convincing proof of the care of the mason work and a

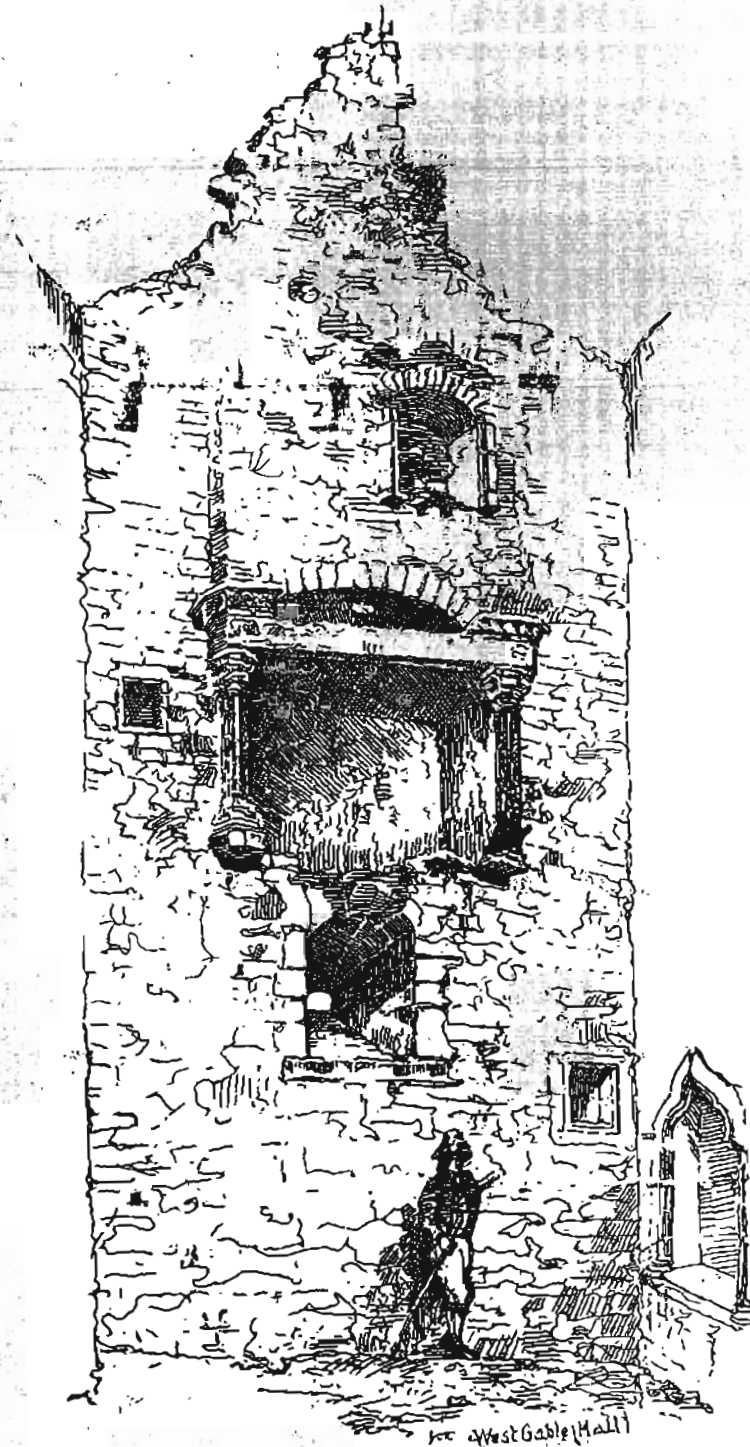
testimony of the hardness and tenacity of the ancient mortar. The walls still stand beautifully square to each other, and there is not the slightest appearance of disintegration in them to prevent their being re-roofed. Thus the tower might be preserved, at small cost, and even occupied without discomfort.

Neither the surrounding ground nor the slopes of the rock show any evidence of the walls of a courtyard, or of outworks, while a moat with water was almost a physical impossibility.

The builder seems to have so planned his fabric that the occupants might rely on its height above the surrounding country, and on the extraordinary thickness of its walls as sufficient protection against attack. Its door was probably of iron, which would prevent assailants burning out the occupants, a common method of attack in olden days. In short, famine, want of water, or treachery were the only perils the inmates had to fear.

The ancient roadway by which it was approached can be traced from the valley or glade on the north-west side. Leading down to this the rock on which the Castle stands has a gentler slope, and along this valley or glade the old king's highway seems to have run. If tradition is to be believed, and the old sketch correct, the arm of the sea, or estuary of the Fleet surrounded the base of the rocky knoll up to the line of the present public road.

This would vindicate the derivation from the Norse language ascribed to the word Cardoness, namely *Gaard-de-naes*, a castle on a promontory. The Norsemen were frequent visitors to the Galloway coast, and we also find Synnis Castle deriving its name from *Sweyn Naes*, or the promontory of Sweyn, the Viking Chief.



The ancient roadway or path above referred to ascends in a circuitous slope around the base of the west gable to the doorway in the south wall. A few turf-covered stone foundations line the side of this path. As they could hardly have been connected with buildings, they may indicate the position of the old Castle well. Sir William Maxwell, the present owner, may yet, in the operations he intends for the Castle's preservation, discover the character of these foundations.

Rusco Castle, which is smaller but of a similar type, is still entire; and Sir William Maxwell thinks that it gives the appearance the Castle of Cardoness originally presented, although Rusco Castle must be considerably later in date.

The Castle was abandoned after the tragedy of William Gordon's murder and the flight of Sir Godfrey McCulloch, its occupant, in 1690, and has never since been occupied. The reason sometimes given is that it was too dilapidated. This, however, is contradicted by the present solid strength of the walls. The more probable reason is that a more peaceful era was dawning, and his Majesty's lieges did not need to resort to such fastnesses for a dwelling. The accession of James VI. in 1603, to the Crown of England had also terminated the strife with our "auld enemies," the English. Moreover, the extension of the Castle's accommodation was almost impossible owing to the nature of the site. The steep declivity on all sides was well nigh an insurmountable obstacle to a family with its servants occupying it with any comfort. The Gordon family, therefore wisely decided to inhabit a mansion on a more suitable site. *High Ardwall*

Rusco Tower, on the other hand, is on level ground; and the extra mural additions, which are now in ruins, were quite suitable

in order to increase the accommodation for the occupants, when a fortified house was no longer required.

Ross, talking of Cardoness Castle, says that it is an excellent specimen of its class, "ingeniously contrived" in its arrangement, and is worthy of being preserved by restoration, which he considers it quite capable of, at little cost. We have taken the liberty of using the sectional drawing of the internal arrangements so "ingeniously contrived." He also expresses his opinion that the theory of Cardoness Castle being of the same date as the Castle of Threave is erroneous. The details in the construction of the former fix its date for half-a-century later, viz., the end of the 15th century.

Bleau's map of Galloway (1654) gives the old Castle a principal and prominent place, as an illustration of the Galloway Castles there depicted. It then stood solitary on an unwooded, bare, stony knoll, with its base washed by a reach or bay of the Fleet. The neighbouring Castles of Barholm and Rusco both appear enclosed within dense woods.

The somewhat imaginative sketch shows that the sea then came close to the base of the rock or knoll, on which appear a few solitary trees and no wood. This sketch, M'Kerlie says, is taken from an ancient drawing, previous to the change and contraction of the course of the Fleet by the canal, which was cut to confine the waters of the river, and reclaim the low lying morass on its banks.



OLD PRINT OF CASTLE, WITH BOAT.

CHAPTER II.

THE M'ULLOCHS OF CARDONESS.

THERE seems little doubt that in the M'ulloch family we are met with the sons of the original Celtic stock, who peopled Scotland before the incursion of Saxon, Roman, Dane, or Norman. One tradition traces the M'ullochs to Ulgric, who was killed at the Battle of The Standard in 1138. This story is quite unsupported by any documentary evidence, but it is as likely to be true as any other.

The first man in connection with whose name the Castle of Cardoness appears is Sir Bertram of Cardoness. This was in the 13th century, when the ruling force in Galloway was the Balliol family. He appears as a witness to the remission by Nicholas Campania, of Lands of Bogue to Devorgilla, Lady Balliol, in 1282.

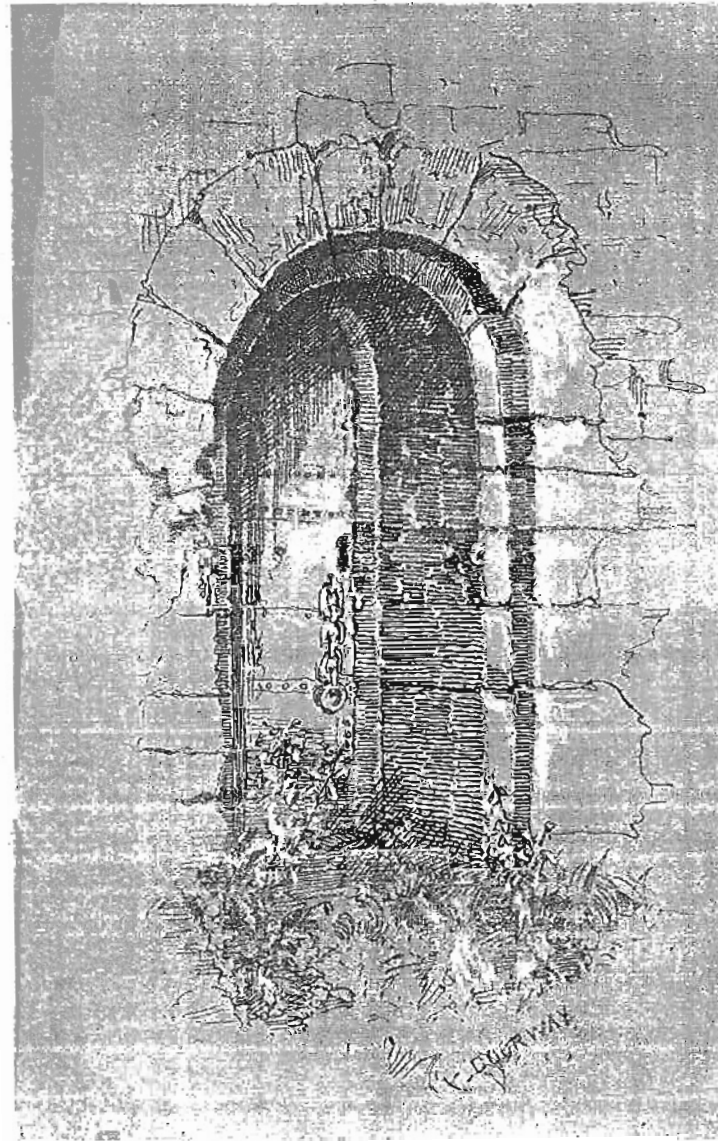
In the "Ragman's Roll" (1296) we find the names of several M'ullochs, among whom were Michel and John de Cardenisse. A Thomas M'ulloch, who also swore fealty to Edward I., appears to be recognised as the head of the family, as he affixes his seal—device, a squirrel with legend "S. Thomas Macali." The reader will remember that Balliol married Devorgilla, daughter of Alan, the hereditary lord of Galloway. It was, therefore, only natural that the Galloway barons should stand by the Balliol family; and when John submitted to Edward I., after his disastrous war against the English King, can we wonder that

the Balliol followers should imitate their lords' example? When Robert the Bruce rose against Edward, the Galloway families pursued him in his hour of misfortune with even greater vindictiveness than did Edward. They hated the Bruces, who were their Dumfriesshire rivals. The animosity they showed in the capture and execution of the Bruce's brothers, and the pursuit of Bruce himself in Glentworth, was amply repaid by the latter when he came into his kingdom, 1314.

In 1309 Edward restored to Thomas M'Culloch (who signed the Ragman's Roll at Berwick) the M'Culloch lands in Galloway.

In 1342 Michel is mentioned as receiving 4s daily from the English King, until repossessed in his lands in Scotland; and in 1343, Edward III., "for their good services, and as having adhered to him, grants Michel M'Culloch and Thos. M'Culloch 12d daily at the Exchequer till receiving their lands in Scotland."

Again, in 1346, Michel, one of the brothers, was serving Edward III in Brittany, and in 1347 he gets payment of 3½ years' wages, while his daughter Annabelle receives £239. While Michel was serving in France, another M'Culloch, Gilbert by name, who was a liegeman or personal attendant of Edward III., fought for the English against the Scots, and in June, 1346, was in receipt of 12d per day "to go north in the King's service." This was in the Neville's Cross campaign, in which the Scottish army was defeated, and David II. taken prisoner. From some motive, difficult to understand, either from contempt of Balliol or because he thought it desirable that Scotland should be kept disunited by the presence of two kings, Edward III. entered into negotiations with the Bruce party for the release of David II. Balliol deputed three knights, Patrick M'Culloch,



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DOORWAY

J. S. Fleming

William de Aldebury, and John de Wigginton to appear before Edward and protest against the infringement of his rights as King of Scotland.

In 1353, while Balliol was absent at the English Court, William, Lord of Douglas, invaded Galloway in such force as to overawe the Barons into taking the oath of fealty to David, who now, with the aid of the great Douglas, consolidated his authority as far as the Mull of Galloway.

The loss of the Scottish records at sea when being conveyed from London to Leith causes a blank of nearly 150 years in the M'Cullochs' history. It would have been interesting to know the M'Cullochs' relations with the great Douglas House, and whether the Cardoness family ever rallied to their standard, but this unfortunate gap makes this stirring epoch a sealed book to us as far as the family is concerned.

The records do not throw light on the Cardoness history till after the fall of the Douglasses at Arkenholm in 1455. On the 8th July, 1466, Gilbert M'Culloch of Cardoness appears as a witness to a charter by his relative William M'Culloch of Kirkmabreck, of certain lands in Galloway. The ~~seal~~ was "a red rose delivered at the Bridge of Dumfries." From the style of building and ornamentation still to be seen in the Castle, experts in architecture have concluded that it must have been constructed about 1450. It is, therefore, probable that this Gilbert was the builder.

Gilbert was succeeded by James, who in 1471 was outlawed for various misdeeds. On 23rd June, 1480, the Vicar of Cally, Maister Wm. Lennox, had a lawsuit with him, and the Court ordered James M'Culloch of Cardoness "to pay 6 cwt. of bere (barley) of the measure of Galloway for his wrongous occupation

token

of the lands of Marybute and Marytown, and to be published because it stood as a redding of marches." James would seem to have been an undesirable and truculent neighbour, for on 17th October, 1483, we find he had another dispute, and at the instance of Agnes Spot, he was brought before the Court "for the wrongous occupation of the lands of ~~Kirkcubright~~ by tak from the Lords foundationer as pertaining to his Highness (James III.), by reason of vacation during the 'Siege of Galloway' (this was the Siege of Thrieve Castle, 1455)." James alleged, unsuccessfully, his "tak" from the Rev. Father in God, George, Bishop of Galloway. But Agnes produced a charter prior in date, and the Lords decided against James.

Reading between the lines of the documents which contain the Cardoness narrative we gather that on James' death, without children, a family quarrel took place between Ninian M'Culloch, the next-of-kin, and Elizabeth Lennox, the widow of James. Ninian strained every nerve to get possession of the widow's lawful share, and endeavoured to settle the succession to the lands in the event of he and his wife, Agnes Murray, having no family. He remains gibbeted as a robber in Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, under date 1508. He was made to compound to Elizabeth Lennox for "reiving from her 1500 sows, wedders, and younger sheep, for taking rents which were by right due to her, and for breaking in her barn doors." The court was held at Kirkcudbright. We can picture to ourselves the misery of the bereaved woman as she saw Ninian and his gang of ruffians despoiling her steading; and, again, the triumph of her Lennox relations when they brought the robber to his knees at Kirkcudbright.

Ninian completed his inglorious career in 1509, leaving one

son, Thomas, a ward. This resulted in the King taking possession, by reason of the holding being a "knight's service." On 4th May, 1509, the King made a gift of the wardship to Sir Alexander M'Culloch of Myreton, one of the same clan, but no countable kinsman. Of all the M'Cullochs this Sir Alexander is the most notable and romantic figure. He was an intimate friend of James IV. He held in 1505 the office of Keeper of the Palace at Linlithgow. He was the custodian of the King's falcons, and was allowed money from the Exchequer to make journeys to Orkney for procuring hawks, and so bringing new blood into the Royal falconry. As a reward for his hospitality to the King during the monarch's pilgrimage to Candida Casa at Whithorn, Myreton was created a Barony, and a room known as the King's chamber was shown to succeeding generations as the apartment used by James IV.

Another interesting extract tells us that Sir Alexander won money from James IV. at the butts, for in the Lord Treasurer's accounts we find the following item:—"Samin day (12th Sept., 1512) tint be the King at the buttis with Sande Makculloch ijz Fr. Cr." which means that the King lost at the butts (with bow and arrow) 2½ French crowns, or 35s Scots. But in spite of being an intimate of James IV., Sir Alexander seems to have found just as much delight in deeds of violence as the other M'Cullochs. Having a feud with the Adairs of Garthland, he attacked them and starved them into submission at Dunskey Castle, and later in the same year he fell upon his clansman, M'Culloch of Ardwell (Wigtownshire), drove him from his own house, which he gutted, plundered, and then burnt. Sir Alexander was pardoned by the King for both these escapades, so his high favour at Court stood him in good stead.

Sir Andrew Agnew, in his *Hereditary Sheriffs*, identifies our hero with Cutler or Collard M'Culloch, who led an expedition against the Isle of Man in revenge for the descent of Lord Derby, the Prince of Man, on the Galloway coast. This seems likely enough, as few but a powerful chief could have raised so large an expedition. His end befitted the man of action that he was, for, along with Lord Cassilis and Sir Alexander Gordon of Lochinvar, he fell at the side of his Royal Master at Flodden Field, 1513. Pitscottie, the historian, mentions an interesting fact about his death:—"The same day of the Field, he (James IV.) caused Ten to be clad in his coat of armour. Among the rest there were two of his guard, the one called Alexander M'Culloch and the other the Squire of Cleish, which were men of makedom both like the King. Therefore when they were dead gotten in the field, and the King's coat of armour upon them, the English men, believing that one of them was the King, they took one of them whom they thought to be most apparently like the King, and cast him in a chariot and had him away to England with them, but yet we know surely that they got not the King, because they never had the token of the iron belt to show to no Scottish man."

In 1512, however, before Sir Alexander left for the war, he made over the rights over Cardiness to Alexander M'Culloch, on the occasion of the latter's marriage with his daughter Margaret. Alexander was probably a son or younger brother of Thomas, Ninian's son (who was Alexander's ward). The name of Thomas does not appear in the records, so it is probable that he did not succeed to Cardoness.

In 1528 Alexander paid £8600 to the King's Chamberlain for entering into the lands of Cardiness, Kirkmabreck, and

Auchinglour, and on 22nd July, 1536, James V. confirmed Alexander M'Culloch and his second wife, Beatrice M'Lellan, daughter of the tutor of Bombie, in the possession of the 10 merk land of Cardiness with the fortalice and mansion thereof. This is the earliest actual allusion to the Castle which overlooks the estuary of the Fleet. In 1538 Alexander got into trouble for the oppression done to Archibald Cairns and Henry, his son, "coming upon them with arms in the sanctuary of the Parish Church of Anwoth to the effusion of blood. *Item*, for robbing Gilbert Ryall of his lett and tak of the lands of Drummuckloch, and of 120 bolls of oats during the last 3 years. *Item*, for stouthrift of 60 sheep, 5 cows, and a mare furth of Ardwall, and a blak horse and mare furth of Kirkmabreck. *Item*, from Sir Adam Stark, chaplain, of 7 head of cattle furth of Cambret. *Item*, felony, oppression, and hamesuoken, and for stouthrift of 8 oxen and 1 cow." All these quarrels and disputes are distinctly traceable to a disputed title to the succession of Cardoness.

Sir Alex. Stewart of Garlies and Murray of Broughton tried him for his assault of the Cairns family, and acquitted him. A suit of error was brought against these judges for their acquittal of Alexander, and as they did not appear to answer their charge, their cautioner (Lord Maxwell) was fined £40 for their non-appearance.

Sometime in the forties Alexander must have died, for in 1547 we find a Privy seal grant of the Wardship of Cardoness to William M'Lellan of Merton. ~~The son of Ninian, who was left in Alexander's wardship, was called Thomas.~~ How Thomas entered into full enjoyment of the Cardoness acres we cannot say, but we find him possessed of them when making

*The Ward
Alexander's
son, was
called
Thomas*

his marriage settlement with Katherine Gordon of Lochinvar in 1561.

After Queen Mary's marriage with Bothwell had enraged all classes of the community, and the unfortunate Queen had surrendered at Carberry Hill in July, 1567, the Galloway lairds at first stood by Herries and the Queen, and would be no parties to secure her abdication. Lord Herries would not allow the herald to proclaim Murray's regency in Glasgow. Later (October), however, Herries acknowledged the King and the Regent, and the Galloway lairds on 8th October, at Edinburgh, in presence of the Regent and secret Council, renounced a bond subscribed by them to Lords Huntly and Herries, and acknowledged the lawful coronation of King James VI. At this meeting Thomas M'Culloch of Cardoness was present and acknowledged James VI as his King. Afterwards, however, when Mary escaped from Lochleven, the M'Cullochs again followed Herries and rallied to his standard. Stewart of Garlies, the Dunbars, and M'Kies were the only Galloway lairds who declared for the Regent. Langside battle should have been a victory for Mary had there been any cohesion in her ranks, or any General to lead her force. As it was, it resulted in a disastrous defeat. The Galloway lairds departed to their homes, and soon yielded a tacit obedience to Regent Morton's government. This is the last time that M'Culloch throws anything of a lustre on the family history by taking a place in the world of great events. After this the stream of the family fortunes drags itself mournfully through sloughs of mismanagement which resulted in wadsets over the family acres, and suicidal strife with more careful neighbours, till it finally vanishes from the scene in the execution of the last baron of Cardoness.

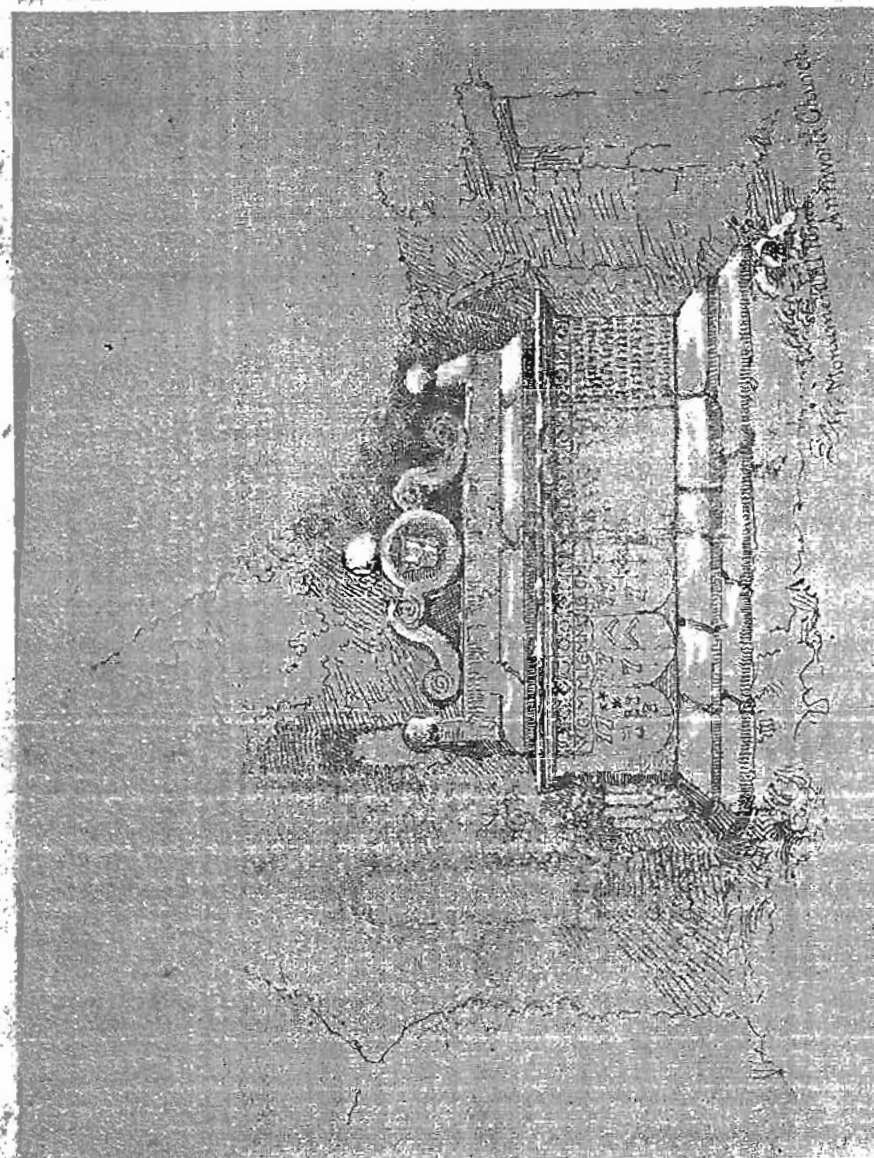
The Regent (James VI. was then a minor), in 1571, gave to Thomas Kennedy of Bargany rights over Cardoness, forfeited by the late Thomas M'Culloch to the King on account of alienation without license. But in 1584 King James amended this infestment and gave the lands of Cardoness to William M'Culloch of Myreton, and Marie, his spouse, for good services rendered. This Marie was a daughter of the Thomas with whom we have just dealt. This William granted the lands of Nether Ardwall (Kirkcudbrightshire) to his nephew, William M'Culloch, by Charter dated 12th January, 1587. From this nephew the late Walter M'Culloch of Ardwall was descended.

In June, 1609, the estates of Parliament appointed as Commissioners for Wigtownshire and the Stewartry to keep order, Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar and William M'Culloch of Myreton; and on 17th April, 1612, they were instructed to capture Duncan M'Millan, a fugitive. On 21st August, 1613, Sir Robert Gordon and William M'Culloch of Myreton were appointed Justices of the Peace for Kirkcudbright, of whom William M'Culloch was to be Keeper of the Rolls. But whether it was the attractions of town life and its consequent expenses, an extravagant family, or more luxurious habits of living that made borrowing a necessity, at any rate from 1592 onwards William began a disastrous course of getting loans on mortgage. One unmerited pecuniary mischance did fall on him, when he had to pay a large fine as surety for Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar, his cousin, who came to the place of Barnbarroch, belonging to Sir John Vans of Long-castel, and pursued him and his servants for their lives; and who also slew George Stewart of Dunduff in the highway between the town of Wigton and Clarie. Sir Robert and the others who accompanied him on his murderous errands apparently did not

appear for trial, and the unfortunate William had to forfeit the security money.

In 1622 he mortgaged Myreton and Cardoness for £10,000 to Dr John M'Culloch, who was Court physician to the Stuarts, and appears to have been a relative of the family. This accounts for the rights of possession to the barony held by Dr John as mortgagee. It is not surprising to find that ere long John Gordon of Over Ardwall, and Robert M'Culloch, burgess of Kirkcudbright, as mortgagees, are in possession of Cardoness and Kirkclaugh respectively. By 1633 the right of redemption of the Cardoness estate lapsed, as the unfortunate William was not in a position to redeem the family acres, which were the pledge for his rash borrowing. John Gordon, by this means, converted his "possessory" into an "absolute" title, and the old owners were forced to yield up their ancestral domains. The story of the transfer is the old tale of the thriftless owner, of whose misfortunes advantage is taken by more careful neighbours. John Gordon was a cousin of William M'Culloch, whose mother was Marion Gordon. Their letters were full of kind messages, which shows that as yet no animosity existed between the families. William M'Culloch also mortgaged Myreton to Sir Pat Vans Agnew, Lord of Session; but in 1622, Dr John M'Culloch came to the rescue of the family, paid off the debt, and took over the mortgage. In 1623, after his Court physician's death, Charles I. gave the mortgagee's rights to Margaret M'Culloch, his widow. In 1662, John M'Culloch, son of David M'Culloch, heir of Dr John, held those rights over Myreton (and over Cardoness to a small extent); and in 1684 these rights, as far as pertained to the Myreton estate, passed to Sir Godfrey, probably as a distant relative and only surviving heir.

in 1614



J. S. Fleming

MONUMENTAL TOMB OF THE GORDONS OF CARDONESS IN THE OLD KIRK OF ANWOTY.

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To revert to the thread of the Cardoness story, William M'Culloch was the victim of still further misfortunes. Eventually the lords ordered a Captain of the Guard into William's house to take possession, on account of his debts. He died in poverty in Ireland in 1640; in fact, he must have been bankrupt, for John M'Culloch of Barholm, his executor, was ordered to attach any personal effects he might find to meet William's debts, which amounted to £5782 6s 8d.

It was, therefore, only to a few sorely-burdened farms that Sir Alexander succeeded in 1640. We cannot trace how the baronetcy came into the M'Culloch family at this low ebb in their fortune. It was probably Sir Alexander who, along with Lords Cassilis, Kirkcudbright, and Galloway, attended an Anti-Royalist Parliament on 7th January, 1645, and ordered the execution of several of the most famous Royalist prisoners taken at Philiphaugh. Of this, however, we have no certain proof: the chronicle merely states that the laird of Cardoness attended the Parliament.

The disgraceful tale of Alexander's cruelty to the widow of Gordon of Cardoness at the Bush o' Bield must, it is to be feared, have some foundation (vide *Dumfries and Galloway*, Sir Herbert Maxwell, page 293). It was stated that Sir Alexander and his son Godfrey, after "invading her in her ain hoose, did first beat her almost to death with the stilt wherewith she walked, and then dragged her out of the house and left her upon the dunghill, which shortly thereafter was the cause of her death." So ran the indictment. But it was grossly exaggerated, and as usual the indictment alone is preserved, not the defence. Some good reasons were given for what was little more than an altercation with the old lady. The death was probably due to

the excitement caused by the quarrel. The M'Cullochs were indeed convicted and sentenced to fine and imprisonment, but their sentences were rescinded the following day. This lenient treatment of the culprits was probably accounted for by the fact that a reasonable story of the affair was presented in defence by the M'Cullochs, a story which, unfortunately, has not been handed down. In 1675 Sir Godfrey M'Culloch succeeded to little more than a few doubtful rights. He was doubtless a man of character, for he represented the Stewarty in the Convention of Estates in 1678. He was one of the few Anti-Covenanters in Galloway, and was, therefore, appointed Sheriff-Depute for Stranraer in 1682. A commission was issued to him, David Graham (brother of Claverhouse), and William Coltran "for tendering the Test to the Gentry and Commons within the Shire of Wigtown in the same year," but they failed to get the Agnews, M'Dowalls, and Gordons of Craighlaw to take the Test, though they did so later (in 1684). Sir Godfrey, in his speech made before his death, protests against being "branded" as a Roman Catholic. He seems, however, to have had no scruples in "harrying" the Covenanters.

The unfortunate Sir Godfrey's end is well known and is exhaustively dealt with in M'Kerlie's *Lands and their Owners in Galloway*, Vol. I., page 242. Great animosity existed between Sir Godfrey and William Gordon. One day Sir Godfrey went to Gordon's house at Bussabiel to get some cattle released which had been pounded. Sir Godfrey had a loaded gun in his hand, and Gordon came out to meet him similarly armed, but on a quarrel ensuing the former was the only one who fired. He wounded Gordon in the leg. The wound proved fatal. Sir Godfrey fled and was outlawed. He

afterwards returned from foreign parts and lived in Edinburgh. One day when attending public worship he was recognized by a Galloway gentleman, who shouted out, "Steik the door, there's a murderer in the kirk." Sir Godfrey was arrested, tried, and condemned to death. He was the last man to perish on the maiden—the old Scottish equivalent of the guillotine. Nowadays the death penalty would hardly have been meted out to one who committed the crime upon an armed adversary in the heat of a quarrel. No one, however, can maintain that the action of Sir Godfrey was justifiable. If he had suffered misfortunes, he had only his thriftless ancestors to blame for it. If he had suffered wrongs, the remedy was to be found at law. His resort to violence seems to show that he had a bad case, and the Gordons a perfectly good right to be where they were. The family misfortunes were no excuse for the brutal behaviour of Godfrey.

Violent man though he was, he seems not to have been altogether without certain better feelings. In spite of being a strong Anti-Covenanter he sternly refused to have any share in the brutal treatment of the Wigton Martyrs, when the unfortunate women were tied to stakes and drowned in the estuary of the River Bladenoch. Perhaps if the whole truth were known Godfrey may not have been quite such a ruffian as he is usually painted. It was an era of violence. Let us remember this when we see the curtain fall, as the last M'Culloch of Cardoness disappears from the scene, and let our memory of him be one of pity, rather than of anger, as we review the fortunes of the family of whose joys and sorrows the old Castle remains the grim and silent witness.

A. J. M'C.

CHAPTER III.

THE GORDONS AND MAXWELLS OF CARDONESS.

THE Castle of Cardoness came into the possession of the Gordons early in the seventeenth century. Letters passed between the laird and a neighbouring proprietor in 1628 with regard to a change of ownership of the property. The result was that Cardoness was disposed irredeemably to John Gordon of Upper or High Ardwall on the 23rd March, 1629.

He was closely related to the seller of the estate,* and seems to have been his cousin. John Gordon's son was warmly attached to the Presbyterian cause, and held the rank of Captain in the army raised by the Covenanters. He was killed at the Siege of Hereford in 1645, leaving a widow and three sons, John, William, and Alexander.

John, the eldest, succeeded to the estate, which was heavily burdened at the time. He was born in 1631, and married in 1656, Elizabeth, the only child of Colonel William Stewart, who was second son of Alexander Stewart of Clarie, in the parish of Penninghame. She was an heiress with considerable expectations, both in money and property. Her husband died in 1660, when only twenty-nine years of age. Of a family of four children, one daughter, named Elizabeth, alone survived. As heiress of her mother she inherited Castle Stewart, while Cardoness passed to her uncle, William Gordon. Between the

*NOTE.—This was William M'Culloch, whose mother was Marion Gordon.

Gordons and the M'Cullochs of Myretoun, who represented the old family of Cardoness, there was a long-standing feud, which at length culminated in a tragedy.

Sir Godfrey M'Culloch, having been obliged to sell his property of Myretoun, resided at Cardoness, while William Gordon, the rightful owner, resided at Bush o' Bield, in the immediate neighbourhood.

Between the proprietor and the dispossessed laird a bitter animosity existed, and Sir Godfrey in the course of a dispute and altercation fired at Gordon and fatally wounded him, for which, some years later, M'Culloch suffered the penalty required by the law. Since 1697 the old tower has been tenantless and deserted. It was sold in 1766 by Sir David Maxwell to Mr Murray of Broughton and Cally, who died in 1825. It is now the property of Sir William Maxwell, the present Baronet of Cardoness, who re-purchased it in 1904 from Colonel Murray-Bailie of Cally. The Cardoness estate came into the family of Maxwell through the Gordons in the following manner:—After the death of William Gordon in 1687 the property passed into the hands of his niece and heiress, Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of William Gordon's elder brother, John. Elizabeth Gordon, who married the Honourable William Stewart, youngest son of James, second Earl of Galloway, had a son and daughter. William, the son, succeeded to Castle Stewart, in the parish of Penninghame; and Nicolas, the daughter, inherited Cardoness. She married Colonel William Maxwell (of the family of Maxwells of Calderwood), and their descendants from that time to the present have been continuously in possession of the estate, though, through part of the property being sold, the old Castle passed for a time into the hands of the

Murrays of Broughton and Cally. The Gordons of Cardoness were cadets of the family of Gordon of Earliston and lords of Kenmure, and staunch upholders of the Covenant and Presbytery in Scotland. Nicolas Stewart, the heiress of Cardoness, and representative of the family of Gordon of Cardoness, was married at Ravenstone, in the parish of Sorbie, in Wigtownshire, the residence of the bride's uncle, the Honourable Robert Stewart, on 13th February, 1696, to Colonel William Maxwell.

Colonel Maxwell had a distinguished career, and having espoused the cause of the Prince of Orange, he got rapid promotion for his gallantry, and was one of those who came over to England in the train of King William at the Revolution. His biography was published a few years ago under the title of "*One of King William's Men.*"

Note.—Colonel Maxwell erected the present mansion house at Bardarroch, changing its name to Cardoness, which it has since retained, and, with many additions and alterations, is the residence of his descendants.

J. M.

CHAPTER IV.

HISTORY OF THE MURRAY OWNERS OF CARDONESS CASTLE.

THE old Castle and the farms of Boreland, Kirkbride, Goat-end, Killeron, and Blackloch were sold by David Maxwell, October 9th, 1766, to James Murray of Broughton and Cally, who died in 1825. The mother of James Murray was Lady Euphemia Stewart, second daughter of James, fifth Earl of Galloway; she died at Cally, May 11th, 1750. James Murray married, in 1752, his cousin Catherine, eldest daughter of Alexander, sixth Earl of Galloway.

At his death his estates and the old Castle passed to his son Alexander, who married, in 1816, the daughter of Richard, second Earl of Lucan, the Lady Anne Bingham. She died at Twickenham, 1850. Her husband was for several years M.P. for the Stewartry. He died in 1845 without issue.

By the will of James Murray, the estates were entailed on his mother's (Lady Euphemia Stewart's) family, failing his son Alexander having issue. Thus they passed, on Alexander Murray's death in 1845, to Horatio Granville Murray Stewart, who succeeded to the property at the age of eleven years, and who possessed it 60 years. His father, Captain Horatio Stewart (Sir William Stewart's second but only surviving son), died in 1835, having married, in 1833, Sophia, his cousin, and daughter of the Honourable Montgomery Stewart, younger son of John, seventh Earl of Galloway, and leaving issue an only child, the above

Horatio Granville Murray Stewart, born at Corsbie, Newton-Stewart, September, 1834. The latter married, in 1858, Anne Eliza Wingfield Digby, third daughter of the Rev. John Digby Wingfield Digby, vicar of Coleshill, Warwickshire, and sometime Prebendary of Kildare and Rector of Gearhill, King's County, Ireland, and Anne Eliza, his wife, daughter of Sir John Wyldebore Smith, Bart., of the Down House, Blandford, Dorset.

On Mr Murray Stewart's death (April, 1904), without issue, the estates and the old Castle passed to his first cousin, Colonel James Baillie of Ilkeston Grange, Leicestershire, eldest son of J. Baillie, Esq., and Louisa, his wife, who was only sister of Captain Horatio Stewart (Rifle Brigade) and only daughter of the Hon. Sir William Stewart, above-named, of Cumlodan, Newton-Stewart.

E. W. D.



APPENDIX.

A SKETCH is given of the old house of Bussabiel, or Bush o' Bield as it is sometimes called:

High Ardwall and Bussabiel were both occupied by the Gordons when they owned the barony lands of Cardoness. Bussabiel was the scene of two of the deeds of violence referred to in the history of the families connected with Cardoness Castle. It was a plain small dwelling-house, as shown on the sketch. It was, by permission of the Gordons of Cardoness, given to and used by the famous Covenanted divine, Samuel Rutherford. It conveniently adjoined his Church at Anwoth, now roofless and in ruins. It was entirely razed to the ground in 1826, so that not a stone remains to indicate its site.