

*6th, Notice regarding the Vitrified Site of Castle Spynie, Inverness-shire.
By Sir George Mackenzie, Baronet, &c. Extract from a Letter dated
Coul, 6th August 1825.*

I visited Castle Spynie a second time lately. It is very small, 40 by 30 feet on the summit, but has been very carefully defended. On the west, south, and east sides, nature has been the chief engineer; but wherever a gap has been left, it has been filled up. On the north side a very thick wall may be traced in the rubbish; and it appears to me that there have been two, one rising from the bottom of the slope, and the other forming the inner inclosure. On this side there appear two ramparts ex-

tending in a crescent form, and occupying what was evidently the most accessible point. Some of the stones forming the inner rampart are very large. It is between this and the fort that the vitrified masses are found; and I was struck with the similarity in this respect to Barry Hill, and almost instantly formed a conjecture that fires had been lighted in these situations at the moment of attack, so as to serve the double purpose of announcing to the surrounding country, and communicating stations, the attack; and to assist in keeping off the assailants. This idea had not come across me when at Barry Hill; but I think it not at all an improbable one. Dun Jardel is not seen from Castle Spynie, but a mountain immediately behind it.