

I.

NOTICES OF SIR ROBERT CRICHTON OF CLUNY, AND OF HIS SON JAMES,  
"THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON." BY JOHN STUART, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

JAMES CRICHTON, commonly called (and apparently in his own lifetime) "The Admirable Crichton," was not the least memorable of the band of literary knights-errant who, in the sixteenth century, made Scotland celebrated throughout Europe.

His father was Robert Crichton of Elioock, who was Lord Advocate during part of the reigns of Queen Mary and her son, James VI.

James, eldest son of Robert Crichton, by Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir James Stewart of Beath, is supposed by his biographers to have been born on the 19th of August 1560. In the year 1570 he was sent to the University of St Andrews, where he took the degree of A.B. on 20th March 1574, and in the following year that of A.M. In the end of 1577, or beginning of 1578, he repaired to France, where he is said to have distinguished himself by his skill alike in literature and in arms. He is said to have gone to Italy in 1580, arriving at Venice before the close of that year. Here he became familiar with Aldus Manutius and other men of letters. On the 3d of July 1582 he is said to have met his death under circumstances of romantic interest at Mantua.

Having taken notes from the title-deeds of the estate of Cluny, which now belongs to the Earl of Airlie, when arranging his Lordship's charters some years ago, of certain facts connected with Crichton and his father, which may serve to amplify our present information regarding them, I take the opportunity of bringing them before the Society, when various portraits of the former are to be exhibited.

The lands of Cluny for some time belonged to the Herrings of Glasclune. On 11th October 1501, Andrew Herring of Glasclune and his father, James Herring of Tulibole, granted a procuratory for resigning the lands of Overcardny and others, with the lands of Cluny, into the King's hands, for infettment to be given to George Bishop of Dunkeld. This deed was granted within the Chapter House of Dunkeld before witnesses, Andrew Lord Gray, Justiciar of Scotland; Laurence Abbot of Inchaffray; Sir John Rattray of that Ilk; Mr Walter Broun, Official General of Dunkeld; George Broun, Chancellor; and Sir Thomas Lyn, Canon of that cathedral.

George Brown, the prelate, who thus acquired the lands of Cluny, was consecrated to the see of Dunkeld in 1484, and died in 1515. By a deed, dated 10th June 1504, the Bishop, in honour of Almighty God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, his Blessed Mother Mary, St Columba, patron of Dunkeld, and also out of special devotion for St Catherine, Virgin and Martyr, founded a Chaplainry for two Chaplains on the island in the Loch of Cluny, for which he mortified a sum of sixteen pounds, payable out of the lands of Wester Craigend of Cluny, along with two acres of land lying nearest to the Loch, on the south side. He constituted these chaplains guardians of the island and loch. If they should be absent from the island for fifteen days, or should keep a public concubine, or receive any woman of whatever condition to residence on the island, or retain her there for one night, then it should be lawful to the

Bishop of Dunkeld for the time, who is constituted patron of the Chaplainry, to institute new chaplains *ipso facto*.

Alexander Myln, Canon of Dunkeld, who was afterwards Abbot of Cambuskenneth, and first President of the College of Justice, in his Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, has preserved many particulars connected with the rule of Bishop Brown. In relating the foundation in the Chapel of St Catherine at Cluny, he says, "This chapel and the whole fortalice in the island (except the vault of the greater tower) was built and restored by the Bishop."

Robert Crichton, of the family of Crichton of Naughton, in Fifeshire, ascended the Episcopal throne about 1550.<sup>1</sup> His uncle, George Crichton, had previously been Bishop. Of him it has been remarked by Archbishop Spottiswood, that he was a man nobly disposed, very hospitable, and a magnificent housekeeper, but in matters of religion not much skilled. We may be inclined to recognize the truth of the last part of this statement, on hearing from Spottiswood<sup>2</sup> "of an argument which he used to one of his vicars, viz., that he thanked God he knew neither the New nor the Old Testament, and yet had prospered well enough all his days."

The following fac-simile of George Crichton's signature is from a precept of sasine,<sup>3</sup> dated at Edinburgh, 7th of June 1542:—

<sup>1</sup> It is well to remark, with the view of preventing confusion, that there was a contemporary family of Crichton of Cluny, in Fifeshire, possessed of the lands of Cluny and others, in the parish of Kinglassie, in that county. In the Records of the Commissariat of Edinburgh is recorded "The Testament Testamentar and Inventar of the gudis, geir, soumes of money, and dettis, pertaining to umquhile Maister George Creichtoun of Clunie the time of his deceis in March 1573," given up by Marianne Creichtoun, his spous, Andro Abirerumby, and Patriek Creichtoun of Lugtoun, his Executors, whom he nominated on 10th March and year foresaid before witnesses, Mr John Abirerumby, David Creichtoun, brother to the Laird of Lugtoun, and William Boswell of Craigsyd.

<sup>2</sup> Spottiswood's Hist. of Church of Scot., Vol. i. p. 199. Edin. 1847.

<sup>3</sup> This and the charter to which it relates, also signed by the Bishop, are in the possession of David Laing, Esq.

On the death of Bishop George Crichton, on 24th January 1543-4, the Regent Arran nominated his brother, John Hamilton, to the vacant see. Robert Crichton, who was in Italy at the time, and held several ecclesiastical appointments, appears to have had sufficient influence to prevent the completion of Hamilton's appointment, he himself having been designed for the vacant see by his uncle, and having apparently received his nomination to the see from the Pope. Legal proceedings were carried on for several years between the rival Bishops; but on the promotion of Hamilton to the Primacy of St Andrews, Crichton, in the year 1550, became undisputed occupant of the see.

It is probable that Robert Crichton was a man of more learning than his uncle, while it appears that he inherited part of his worldly wisdom. Looking forward to the probable issue of the existing confusions in Scotland, he seems to have judged it prudent to secure the lands of Cluny from confiscation; and on 1st January 1558 he entered into a contract with Robert Creichtoun, then styled simply *advocate*, by which he engaged to infest the latter in the lands of Cluny; and on 10th July 1562, Robert Bishop of Dunkeld, with consent of his Chapter and the two Chaplains of the Chapel of St Catherine on the island in the loch of Cluny, granted a charter of the lands of Cluny in favour of Mr Robert Creichtoun, now styled *Lord Advocate*, and Elizabeth Stewart, his wife, and the survivor of them in conjunct infestment, and the heirs-male to be begotten between them, or of the body of the said Mr Robert; whom failing to Mr James Crechtoun, *fiar* of Cranstoun, and the heirs-male of his body; whom failing to Patrick Crechtoun of Lugtown, and the heirs-male of his body; whom failing to Edward Lord Crechtoun of Sanquhar, and the heirs-male of his body; whom all failing to the nearest and lawful heirs-male and assignees of the said Mr Robert. *Sasine* was given on this charter on the 13th of August following, in presence of the Bishop, and Mr Robert Veitch and Thomas Atkin, *Franciscan friars*.

By a deed, dated 14th August 1562, granted by "Maister Robert Crychton, *aduocat* to the *Quenis grace*," in favour of Robert Bishop of Dunkeld, he sets forth: "Albeit his lordship has fet in feu-farm to the said Robert his lordship's lands of the barony of Cluny: Neverthelefs it fall nocht be lesum to me to intromit thairwith, nor to tak and uplift the mails and duties thereof, nor to labour the ground of the same, output or input tenants, neither yet to make residence in the said castle without the Bishop's good will, permission, and special leave had and obtained by the said Robert thereto, willing the Bishop to take up the hail profits of the said lands, and dispone thereupon as his lordship thinks good, fet and remove the tenants and inhabit the said castle so long as his lordship pleases: Providing always that the said Robert be not attricted to the keeping of the said castle, neither yet to the payment of the dutie specified in his infestment during

the time of his lordship's intromission, and the said Robert solemnly obliges himself to resign and renounce at the said Bishop's pleasure and command all and haill the said lands, and keeping of the cattle, with all title which the said Robert had to the same, to remain with his lordship's kirk and fait of Dunkeld in free property *ad perpetuam remanentiam*, the said Robert being duly warned upon premonition of 40 days; and at the making of said resignation he is to deliver all evidents made to him thereupon . . . and heirto I oblige me taking the burden upon me for my wife and heirs during the said reverend father's time only, and the same to be no farther extended, neither to his lordship's heirs, assignees, or successors, and thir presents to be reformit als oft as his lordship pleises, becawfs the making of the samyn is committit to my awin honeste and credit, and fall caws my wyfe content heirto, and ratife the premis gif neid beis, and that conform to ane contract past betwix us herevpoun, in caifs, as God forbid, it fall happin me to failze in the poynts of the said contract, utherwys thir presentis to tak no effect. In witness hereof to thir presentis subscryvit with my hand, my feill is appenfit at the Castell of Cluny, the fourtein day of August 1562, before witnesses, Walter Ramsay, Mr Robert Veiche, and William Ramsay."

On 11th May 1566, Robert Bishop of Dunkeld granted a charter in favour of James Crichton, eldest son of Robert Crichton, of the lands of Cluny. On 20th June 1575, Mr James Creichtoun, as fiar of the lands of Cluny, with consent of Mr Robert Creichtoun of Eliok, his father, granted a procuratory for resigning the lands of Cluny into the hands of the Bishop of Dunkeld. This deed is interesting as preserving to us the signature of James Crichton, and, so far as I know, the only specimen of his handwriting. He subscribes "MR JAMES CREIGHTONE," having just got his degree of A.M. at St Andrews. It has also the signature of the father, as follows:—

*M<sup>r</sup> James Crichton*

*Robert Crichton*

On 22d March 1576, James, Bishop of Dunkeld, by his charter, confirmed

the lands of Cluny to James Crichton, eldest son of Mr Robert Crichton of Eliok; whom failing to his brother Robert Crichton; whom failing to the said Mr Robert Crichton, their father; and on the same day the Lord Advocate caused an instrument to be taken at his instance, setting forth that the conveyance in favour of the above heirs of taillie should not prejudice the contract or bond made by the said Mr James, with consent of his curator, to the said Mr Robert, for redemption of the said lands and barony of Cluny, nor the letters of regress granted thereupon by Robert sometime Bishop of Dunkeld. This deed is dated in the "said Mr Robert's foir chalmer at Bell Wynde heid, in Edinburgh," and is witnessed by James Bishop of Dunkeld and others.

It appears that at some time subsequent to his forfeiture, which occurred before February 1571,<sup>1</sup> Bishop Robert made a legal attempt to resume possession of the lands of Cluny, and a paper which is undated, of which the following are the principal parts, preserves the pleas on which the Lord Advocate meant to rest his defence:—

"Memoriale toward Cluny for defence thereof against the Bond or Reverfion made by me for renunciation thereof, and Robert Bishop of Dunkeld.

"First, there is a contract past betwixt the said Bishop and me toward the said lands dated at Edinburgh 1 Jan. 1558, registered in the Sheriff Court Books of Perth 1 June 1566, by which my lord for my service byepast and other good deeds done, as also for the sum of ij<sup>m</sup> merkis for the advancement of his causes and relief of his debts, obliged him to infest me in the lands of Cluny. By which contract also I am obliged to hyde at the faith of Haly Kirk, trew subject to the Queene and her authoritie, and to serve the fait of Dunkeld induring my lifetime, and also by said contract I am obliged to grant to the said Bishop a reverfion for redeeming of the said lands for his awn tyme allanerlie, in cais I faillie in the points foresaid.

"Item, The hale or maist part of the tenentis of the barony and mains of Cluny enterit me in possessioun for payment to me of ane part of thair dewties for the Whitsonday terme lxij yeris quhilk was afor my sening, because I had takkis to ryn quhen I tuk the heritabill rycht. Maister Johne Bartane notar to ane Infrument thereupon de data xxj Septembris Anno Domini lxij.

"Item, Katherine Donaldsfoun, relict of umquhile James Fynley, gaif to me ane herezeild naig in September Anno Domini lxij, and that be vertew of my heretabill rycht. I have ane infrument heirupoun."

[After 9 Oct. 1562 he began to hold courts and decide complaints. The Bishop took a tack from the Lord Advocate on 9 Aug. 1562 for 3 years.]

<sup>1</sup> Keith's Scottish Bishops, p. 96. Edin. 1824.

“ The Bifchoppis Licence grantit to me to intromet with my hous and landis of Cluny 30 Sept. 1570.

“ The copie of the band or reverfion geven be me to the Bifchope quhairupon the actioun may be fundit agains me, of the date at Cluny 14 Aug. 1562.

“ The copie of the fame band reformit in sum fubftantiall poyntis, of the date the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Auguft 1662, fubfcrivit be the Bifhop on the bak.

“ The copie of the Renounciatioun of the hail bandis or reuerfiounis above writtin, grantit to me be the Bifhop datit at Edinburgh the xxvij day of July 1566.

“ Vpon the writtis aboue expremit the defenceis following may be foundit.

“ Firft, As toward the firft pairt of the faid band quhair I obliſs me to the Bifhop that I fall not mell with the landis, nor remoue the tenentis nor mak refidence in the hous without the Bifhop’s leif willand that he intromit and uſe the famyn ſa lang as he pleiffis &°.

“ This pairt can be competent to nane bot to himſelff alanerlie, and is fa perfonall that it can not have place owt of his awin perfone. Quhairthrow he now beand euillie deid throw forfaltour, I am releuit of this poynt, becaus be the exprefs wordis of the faid band I am obliſt to the faid Bifhop for his awin tyme alanerlie, and the famyn to be na farther extendit nother to his airis affignais nor ſuccefforis, as the band fairfaid *per expreſſum* beris.

“ [2. This firft head took no effect, becauſe I have been always ſince my Infefment in poſſeſſion of the lands by holding of courts taking up herezeldis malis cayne fowlis ferms & duties, ſetting tacks & other acts of poſſeſſion.]

“ Thriddlie, The firft makis ſum intereſs to brook bot ſa lang as he pleiffis, and it has pleſit him ſenſyne, to wit, in September 1570, to grant me ſpeciall leif to intromit with my ſaidis landis & heuſs to mine behufe.

“ Ferdellie, The inſtrument of reſignatioun maid in favoris of my ſone quhen he wes put in, undecimo Maii lxij, makis plane derogacioun to the firſt poynt, for thairin the lyferent is referuit to me & my wyfe, and nane to my Lord, quhairthrow ſenſyne I had gude rycht to mell with the land, and he had na rycht to mell thairwith.<sup>1</sup>

“ Defenſis for eliding of the ſecond pairt of the faid band.

“ Item, be the ſecond pairt of the faid band I am obliſt to reſigne the landis in the Bifhop’s hands in favoris of the Kirk *ad perpetuam remanentiam*.

<sup>1</sup> As I have not been able to diſcover any deed in the terms here indicated, I have allowed the remarks on next page to ſtand, founded on the non-appearance of James Crichton’s name in the Charter of July 1562.

“ First, For eliding of this pairt I oblist my self heirto to the said Bishop for his awin time alanerlie, and the said band to be na ferther extendit, nethir to his airis assignais nor succesforis. Quhairthrow this pairt is altogether perfonall, swa that the Bishop now beand foirfalt and thairthrow ciuilie deid, nane as havand ryecht be hym or succedand in his place, can have accioun for fulfilling of this pairt, nether the new Bishop nor King, becaus succesforis ar secludit *per expreßum bot speciallye* the King, becaus the resignatioun fuld be maid in favoris of the Kirk and not of the King ; becaus also the King in sa far as he may pretend to be ane successor, is expreßlie secludit.

“ Item, secundlie, The contract quhairupoun all procedis, makis expres proviñion that this band fall have na place unles I faillie in the thre poyntis contentit in the said contractt, and thair is na declaratioun gevin agains me upoun the faidis faillies quhairthrough ye said band can not be ufit at this tyme.

“ Item, thridlie, The Bishop nor nane succedand or pretendand ryecht in his place, can have accioun for to caus me renunce the landis forfaidis. Becaus vpon the 11 day of Maii anno lxij I resignit the landis in favoris of my sone, for heretabill infestment to be gevin to him, quhilk etterwairt followit ; In the quhilk resignacioun thair was na thing referuit bot lyferent to me and my wyfe, without ony referuatioun of lyferent to the Bishop, nor yet reuerñion bot efter the forme of the contractt foirfaid, in cais it fall happin me to faillie in the thre poyntis thair of *et non aliter*, quhairupoun na declaratour is gevin, and sua this Instrument of resignatioun makis plane derogatioun to the band foresaid quhill declaratour be gevin upoun the faillies foirfaidis.

“ Item last, The last Bishop *per expreßum* hes dischargit this band of *reuerñion be his new infestment maid to my sone Mr. James.*<sup>1</sup>

“ Memorandum afoir all vther defensis to have warrandice vpon the contractt quhairvpon the infestment past.”

The date of James Crichton's birth is only known from an anonymous handbill or gazette published at Venice in his lifetime, where it is said that he was born on 19th August 1560. Some doubt must, however, rest on this statement from the absence of his name in the first charter of Cluny in 1562, which, after a general substitution of heirs-male, includes a destination, as we have seen, to several nominate substitutes, viz.,—Crichton of Lugton, Crichton of Cranston, and Crichton of Sanquhar ; while it seems likely that if James had at that time been in existence, the destination would have been taken to him in the first place.

An act of the Commissary of Edinburgh, dated 13th May 1566, decerning cu-

<sup>1</sup> The words in italics are added in a different hand, probably by the Advocate.



rators to James and Hary Crichton, sons of Robert Crichton of Eliok, has preserved to us their nearest of kin both on the father's and mother's side, viz., on the former, Edward Lord Sanquhar, John Crichton of Ryhill, and Robert Bishop of Dunkeld; on the latter, John Lord Invermeath, and James Commendator of St Colm's Inch. This son Hary seems to have died in infancy.

A subsequent act of the Commissary of Edinburgh, dated 3d May 1580, appoints James Lord Invermeath to be tutor and curator to R—— and Grissell Crichtone, daughters of Robert Crichtone of Eliock, when the nearest of kin on the father's side are stated to be Sir James Crichton of Fren draucht, William Crychton, tutor of Sanquhar, and James Crichton of Calco; while those on the mother's side are James Lord Invermeath, James Stewart of Doune, and Andrew Stewart.

Robert Crichton was forfeited in 1571, and James Paton, of the family of Balilisk, received from the King, in September of that year, a ratification of his election, proceeding on letters of license dated in February 1571, at which date the see is said to be vacant through process of forfeiture led against Robert sometime Bishop thereof. According to some accounts James Paton did not continue Bishop beyond a few years, having been deprived of his see in 1575 for dilapidation of his benefice.<sup>1</sup> It appears from his gravestone, in the churchyard of Muckhart, that he survived till 20th July 1596, at which time he is designed "quondam Episcopus de Dunkeld."<sup>2</sup>

Among the acts of the Parliament held at Edinburgh in August 1584 appears a "Pacifiatioun grantit to Robert bischope of Dunkeld," by which is conferred on him "the elyke fauour, priuilege, and benefite of pacifiatioun as is contenit in the pacifiatioun maid and accordit upoun at Perth vpoun the xxiii day of Februar the yeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> thrie scoir tuelf yeiris, ratefeit, appreuit, and confermit in the parliament haldin at Edinburgh in the moneth of Aprill nixt thair-after . . . . and to be als largelie and fauorable extendit to him for bruiking and possessing the bishoprik of Dunkeld and utheris quhatfumeuir his landis, rentis, possessionis, roumes, houffis, benefices, lyverentis, honoris, priuileges, and digneteis quhilkis he usit befoir quhatfumeuir procefs of forfalteur hed aganis him for ony caus or occasioun bigane preciding the dait heirof, as gif he war speciallie nominat in the said pacifiatioun . . . . and ordanis the Lordis of Counfell and Session to direct letteris at the said Robertis instance for repoffessing him to the said bischoprik and utheris abouewritten."<sup>3</sup>

Mr David Laing has kindly furnished me with the following notices from the

<sup>1</sup> Keith, p. 97.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Acts of the Parliament of Scotland, vol. iii. p. 373.

Registers of Presentations to Benefices, and of Signatures, touching the restoration of the aged Prelate to his see.

On the 8th September 1571 "the benefice of the Bishoprick of Dunkell, alsweill temporalitie as spiritualitie, now vacand throw forfaltour led aganis Robert sometyme Bishop of Dunkell," was conferred on Mr James Paton. It appears, however, that Archibald Earl of Argyle had obtained a grant of the temporalities, dated 7th January 1571-2. "Mr James Pawtoun to be consecrated Bishop of Dunkeld, the kirk of Dunkeld vacand throw forfaltour of Robert Crichton late Bishop of the same," 20th July 1572. This was followed by a "Restitution to the temporalitie" made "to Mr James, now electit, admittit, and confirmit as Bishop of Dunkeld," on the 27th April 1573. It is a mistake in Keith to suppose that Paton resigned or was deprived in 1575. He was Bishop in 1580; and in connexion with the Crichtons we may notice, from the Register of Signatures (vol. vi., fol. 104), a "Charter of confirmation and infestment, donation and disposition, with the Sefing, &c., *grantit be James, Bishop of Dunkeld*, with consent, &c., To his lovit Mr James Creichtoun, eldest sone to his Majesteis familiar clerk, Mr Robert Creichtoun of Eliok, his Hienes Advocat, and the airis maill of the said Mr James, &c., quhilk is failzeand to Robert Creichtoun his broder germane, &c., off all and hail the landis of Cluny vnderwritten, That is to say, the Manis of Cluny, with the eift croft thairof, medowis, loch and castelhill, and keeping of the Castell and fortalice of Cluny within the said loch, &c., And alfuia of the right and patronage, full and free donatioun of the two chaiplainries or prebendaries of Sanct Katharene's Chapell, situat within the Ile of the Loch forsaid, &c. Subscrivit at Striviling Castell the 3d of June 1579." Again, on the 7th September 1580, a confirmation "of a tak and asseatioun maid be Mr Johne Bartan, Dean of Dunkeld, with consent and assent of *James, Bishop of Dunkeld*, and the Chaptour thairof, to his Hienes Advocat, Mr Robert Creychtoun of Eliok, Mr James Creychtoun and Robert Creychtoun, his sons, of the teind-schawes of all and sundrie the townes, landis, and barony of Cluny, their entrie fra the date of the said tak, 29th January 1575 [-6]." Bishop Crichton again appears on the stage, having apparently, in the year 1581, obtained a restoration to the see when Paton had been deprived. On the 2d February 1582-3 the *patronage of the hospital "befide the Watergate," in the Canongate, founded by Bishop Brown for poor folk, was granted to Patrick Creychtoun of Lugtoun, the said patronage being "in his Hienes hands, through the forfeiture, long tyme past, of Robert, fomtyme Bishop of Dunkeld, quha is ane man of great aige, waik and febill, and nocht appearandlie to have lang days."* Again, on the 7th October 1584, Mr John Bartane, Dean of Dunkeld, was confirmed as coadjutor "to Robert, now Bishop of Dun-

keld, (who) is becumyn waik and imbecill of perfone throw his great aige, that he may nawayis gudlie travell and exerce the function and cuir belonging to his vocation." Within four months the old Bishop was dead, as on the last of February 1584-5, license was granted "to the Dean and Chaptour of the Cathedrall Kirk of Dunkell, whilk vaikis and is deftitut of ane pastour be the deceis of umquhill Robert Crechtoune, laft Bishop thereof, to choofe ane other Bifchope and Pastour." Accordingly, on the 26th March that year, Mr Peter Rollok, advocate, having been chosen, letters confirming his election, and appointing his consecration, were issued. He continued to hold the see as titular bishop till 1606, when he resigned.

The Bishop's signature in the earlier part of his life differs so considerably from the form which it subsequently assumed, that I was inclined to believe that there had been two Bishops of the name, until I had ascertained the fact of his restoration. The following cuts from original deeds show his signature in the years 1562, 1566, and 1584 :—

In 1561, Robert, Bishop of Dunkeld, had granted a charter of Balnavadoch (now Balvadoch), part of Cluny, to Sir John Barns; and by a charter dated at

Edinburgh and Dunkeld on 2d and 30th October 1584, he, with consent of his chapter, confirmed these lands to John Barns, narrating, that by the ingratitude and disobedience of his tenants he had received no rents for the preceding three years, so that he had scarcely the means of living. From this it would appear that he had been in possession of the see for some time previous to his formal restoration.

As there is some reason to doubt the time of Crichton's birth, so it is difficult to fix the precise date of his death. Aldus, with whom Crichton was familiar, says he was killed on 3d July 1582,<sup>1</sup> before he had completed his twenty-second year; while, on the other hand, the Abbate Serassi, in his Life of Mazzoni (quoted by Mr Tytler), has preserved an epicedium on the death of Cardinal Charles Borromeo, which happened in November 1584, written by James Crichton. There is also in the Library of the University of Edinburgh a scarce tract, "Jacobi Critonii Scoti," in which a prefatory address, "Sfortiæ Brivio, S.P.D.," is dated "Mediolani, Cal. Mart. 1585."<sup>2</sup>

Among the latest notices of Cluny which I have marked is a deed granted

<sup>1</sup> Mr Tytler states that Aldus, in a dedication of one of his works to the memory of Crichton, refers to his death as having happened on 3d July 1583, before he had completed his twenty-second year: and he adds that, if this date were correct, Crichton's age must have exceeded twenty-two. The date, as given by Aldus, however, is really 3d July 1582, a date which would harmonize with the other part of Aldus's statement. For this correction I am indebted to Mr Halkett of the Advocates' Library.

<sup>2</sup> JACOBI CRITONII SCOTI

Ad Nobilissimum Virum  
Prudentissimumque summæ  
Questuræ Regiæ Mediolanen.  
Administratorem,  
SFORTIAM BRIVIVM.

De Musarum ac Poetarum inprimis illustrium autoritate,  
atque præstantia, soluta et numeris Poeticis vincula  
oratione, ab eodem defensa,  
Judicium.

In quo de studendi Poeticæ ratione, singulari quadam agitur  
methodo; cui etiam, in calce, varia, eaq.; haud ille-  
pida adjuncta sunt, Lectissimis  
de rebus, carmina.

DISTICHON CRITONII AD LECTOREM.

Qui legis has fruges, iterumque iterumq. revolve,  
Invenies aliquid semper adesse bonum.  
Mediolani, ex Typographia Pacifici Pontii, habita  
Moderatorum Facultate.

M.D.LXXXV.

by Sir Robert Crichton during his son's absence in France, dated 27th August 1578, in which he grants license to James Bishop of Dunkeld to fish one day in the week in the loch of Cluny, for the sustenance of the Bishop's house, when he should happen to reside at Dunkeld.

The Lord Advocate appears to have died in 1586, as a confirmation of his testament was granted on 24th January of that year. The will is dated 18th June 1582, when he refers to his son James as then in Italy, and appoints "my Lord Downe, and Archibald Stewart, his broder, to haif the infycht and handling of all my evidendis concerning my sone Mr James, and that Johne Haliday and Mr William Kellie haif the keiping of the key of the keft to that effect, quhilk is in Douhill."

On the supposition that James Crichton was killed shortly after this date, one would expect that some alteration of the provisions to him in his father's will would have been made; but this does not appear to have occurred. The next deed in the progress is an instrument of resignation of the lands of Cluny into the King's hands, after the act of annexation, by Robert Crichton, brother of the Admirable Crichton, on 23d January 1591. He got a charter under the Great Seal on the following day.

In regard to Crichton's personal appearance, while it has been flatteringly spoken of by his panegyrists, there is a peculiar mark indicated which must have somewhat detracted from it, viz., a red spot or red rose, as Manutius explains it, by which his right eye was surrounded.<sup>1</sup>

The unknown writer of the notice of Crichton, printed at Venice in 1580, says he is distinguished by a birth-mark or mole beneath his right eye.<sup>2</sup>

There is an early engraving of Crichton in the *Museum Historicum et Physicum of Imperialis*, published at Venice in 1640; but it does not appear from what portrait it was taken.

Pennant has given an engraving of Crichton from a portrait then belonging to Lord Eliock, and now to his descendant, Mr Veitch of Eliock, copied from an older portrait at Airth. It appears in the Appendix to Pennant's *Tour of 1769*, along with a *Life of Crichton*, which, however, is merely a reprint of a tract printed, and probably edited, by Francis Douglas at Aberdeen in 1760, and which again was compiled from the loose statements of Mackenzie in his *Life of Crichton*. A coarse engraving of Crichton appears in the *Edinburgh Magazine and Review* for June 1774, and one of no greater merit is prefixed to "*The Admirable Crichton, a Tragedy in five acts, by George Galloway,*" Edinburgh, 1802, 12mo.

<sup>1</sup> Quoted by Irving, in his *Lives of Scottish Writers*, vol. i., p. 270.

<sup>2</sup> Tytler's *Life of Crichton*, p. 81.

Pennant adds, in his notice of the print in his work, "I am told that there is a very fine portrait of this celebrated person, the property of Mr Morrison of Bognie, which was sent from Italy by Crichton a short time before he was killed." This portrait originally belonged to the Crichtons of Frendraught, and came into Mr Morison's family by marriage about 150 years ago. Nothing is preserved of its history except the family tradition alluded to by Mr Pennant, that it was sent from Italy to Frendraught about the time of Crichton's death. It must be remarked, however, that the artist has inserted in a corner of this portrait<sup>1</sup> a copy of the following verses by John Johnston, in memory of Crichton, which first appeared in 1603 in his work, "Heroes ex omni Historia Scotica lectissimi." Johnston here dates Crichton's death in 1581.

JACOBVS CRITONIVS, *Clunius*.

Musarum pariter ac Martis alumnus, omnibus in studiis, ipsis  
etiam Italis admirabilis; Mantuæ, à Ducis Mantuani filio ex  
nocturnis insidiis occisus est, A<sup>o</sup> Christi 1851.

Et genus, et censum dat Scotia. Gallia pectus  
Excolit. Admirans Itala terra virum  
Ambit; et esse suum vellet. Gens æmula vitam  
Abstulit. An satis hoc dicat ut illa suum?  
Mantua habet cineres, scelus exsecrata nefandum.  
At tumuli tanto gaudet honore tamen.

Nothing is known, so far as I can learn, of the history of the Airth portrait, but it is believed to be old and of merit.

Lord James Stuart, writing of the portrait at Dumfries House, says that nothing is known of its history, and that he does not consider it of much merit. It is a copy of that at Airth.

Equally little is known of Mr Mackay's portrait, which is small and on panel, and was bought at a sale by that gentleman's father about thirty or forty years ago. It also resembles the Airth portrait.

In the first edition of Tytler's *Life of Crichton*, there is an engraving of a portrait of Crichton, in the possession of Colonel Crichton, residing in Edinburgh. Through the kindness of a friend, I have obtained from a descendant of Colonel Crichton, the following notice of this painting: "The portrait in question was bought by the late Dr Forsyth (known in the literary world) between the years 1792 and 1794 in the city of Milan. When Dr Forsyth re-

<sup>1</sup> This portrait was engraved in Pinkerton's *Scottish Gallery of Portraits*, and also in the second edition of Mr Tytler's *Life of Crichton*.



*From a painting belonging to Alex<sup>r</sup> Morrison, Esq<sup>r</sup> of Dugrie*

W. & A. C. Johnston Edin<sup>o</sup>

JAMES CRICHTON  
commonly called  
"THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON"

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

turned to England he gave the portrait to Sir Alexander (then Dr) Crichton, and when Sir Alexander went to Russia in 1804 he gave the portrait to his brother, Colonel Crichton, whose son Sir A. W. Crichton now has it in his house in St Petersburg. It has always been thought an original likeness, and there is a Latin inscription painted on it, telling the year in which the likeness was taken, with a character of the original of the portrait. Two copies of this painting were made, one for Sir George Mackenzie, and another for Mr Tytler." The latter, now belonging to Mr Tytler of Woodhouselee, is exhibited to the meeting. It resembles the Airth portrait, and has a mark about one of the eyes. The Latin inscription which is on the original does not appear on the copy, but there can be no doubt that it consisted of Johnston's lines, which occur on most of the portraits.

The portrait belonging to George Dundas, Esq., advocate, now exhibited, was bought in Italy as a likeness of Crichton by Captain Stirling of Glentyan about twenty years ago. It differs entirely from the other portraits, and probably is a likeness of some other person.

I have only heard of other two portraits of Crichton supposed to be originals.

One of these is in the gallery of the Duke of Bedford at Woburn. The portrait, as I am informed by Mr Martin, his Grace's librarian, "is three quarters, representing a youth probably about sixteen years old, his head turned to the shoulder, and holding a wreath of laurel in both hands. It differs *toto cœlo* from the engraving given in the *first* edition of Mr Tytler's Life, and the second edition of Pennant, which are the only editions in the library." This portrait was recently purchased by Sir Henry Bulwer in Spain, where it was called a portrait of Crichton, but nothing beyond this is known about it. As its authenticity was so little supported, the Duke of Bedford did not think it worthy of being sent here to be exhibited with the others.

The other is a portrait at Lennoxlove belonging to Lord Blantyre, which, upon examination, proves to be a good copy, after the type of that at Airth.

It is said by some of Crichton's biographers that many likenesses of him appeared in Italy at the time of his death, and that he was represented with a sword in one hand and a book in the other; and it seems far from improbable that both the Airth portrait and that of Mr Morison were taken from contemporary likenesses, if indeed the latter be not painted from the original.

The Society is greatly obliged to the owners and custodiers of the various portraits for now exhibiting them to the members, and it is to be hoped that this exhibition may tend towards a wider collection of Scottish historical portraits, such as was suggested by Mr Carlyle and Mr Laing during last session.

Of the various Portraits of Crichton, after careful examination, the best



judges having pronounced in favour of that at Fren draught, a photograph of it was taken, from which, with permission of Mr Morison of Bognie, the accompanying mezzotint portrait has been engraved.