

I.

PLAN OF THE REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT CHAPEL-ROYAL CALLED
KIRKHEUGH, ST ANDREWS, WITH A DESCRIPTIVE NOTICE. BY
ROBERT ANDERSON, Esq. COMMUNICATED, WITH HISTORICAL NOTICES
OF THE PROVOSTRY OF KIRKHEUGH, BY DAVID LAING, Esq.,
V.P.S.A. Scot.

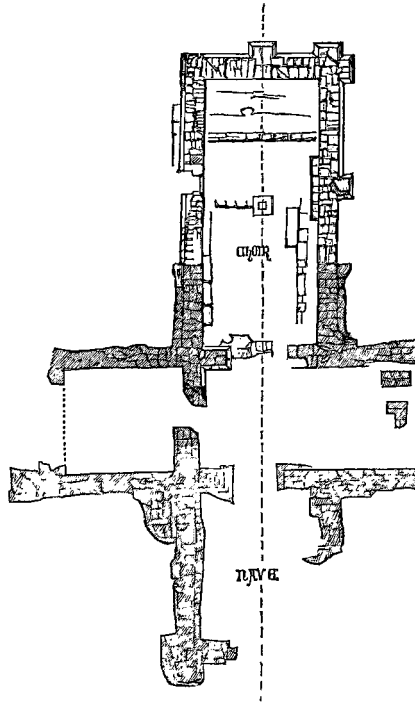
In the plan exhibited (see annexed wood-cut) it will be seen that these Remains are tolerably perfect, and show that the Chapel consisted of chancel, transepts, and nave, although no part of the masonry is higher than a few inches above the base course, which has a chamfer. The chancel shows the priests' entrance, the foundations of the altar steps, and sedillæ. In the transepts are remains of the stone seat which, no doubt, went round the whole of the chapel. In the south transept is an isolated mass of masonry, which can only be accounted for by supposing it to have been part of an altar-tomb. In the north-west re-entering angle of transept and nave is a mass of masonry, which, from its appearance and position, must have been the foundation of a circular staircase. In the nave, nothing in the way of detail can be traced. At the existing north-west angle there is a mass of masonry which doubt-

less formed the foundation of an angle turret, of the nature of the later and more fully developed ones still existing at the east and west gables of the cathedral. There are several other masses of masonry not necessary for the completion of the plan of the chapel. These are, no doubt the remains of the conventual buildings attached to the chapel.

The orientation of the chancel differs considerably from that of the rest of the building. This arises, some suppose, from the chapel having been rededicated; but from my experience in measuring buildings, both at home and abroad, I should say that this difference arises from the work having been carelessly set out by the workmen.

There are no indications to show that, in its completed state, this was an edifice of any importance architecturally. The only feature that we can with any certainty suppose it to have had is a central tower, the circular staircase already noticed giving access to it.

These remains belong to two different periods, the older being the nave and part of the transepts, and is built of very rough rubble masonry and sand; the latter consisting of the chancel and parts of the transepts, and is built of a superior class of masonry and mortar. The chancel is the only part that appears to have had buttresses; and as these are of considerable projection, may be taken as additional evidence of the greater age of the nave. The original chapel had also a chancel; and an examination of these ruins led me to the conclusion, that when the chapel



was enlarged the builders pulled down the whole of the chancel and parts of the transepts, and, when rebuilding, preserving exactly the size of the original transepts, and on exactly the same site, and built a completely new and enlarged chancel, and did not adhere to the exact site of the original one.

To approximate to the date of this edifice from the ruins would be impossible, as there are no distinctive details. A considerable quantity of stained glass was found on the altar platform, evidently the debris of the east window. As far as I could distinguish the ornament, it appeared to belong to the thirteenth century.

In the bird's-eye view of St Andrews, dated 1530, attached to the Rev. Mr Lyon's "History of St Andrews," there are no indications of this chapel. In Martine's "Reliquiæ Divi Andreae," written in 1683, they are mentioned as still to be seen, and are there stated to be the ruins of "Ecclesia beatæ Mariæ de Rupe, et Capella Domini Regis Scotorum," at that time traditionally supposed to have been founded by the Culdees on their being obliged to desert their chapel on the Ladie's Craig, in consequence of the encroaching sea. The building seen on the Kirkheugh, in the bird's-eye view above mentioned, is likely the provost's house, mentioned by Martine as then existing.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE PROVOSTRY OF KIRKHEUGH,
ST ANDREWS.

Mr Anderson having requested me to lay the preceding communication before the Society, I was led to examine the subject in an historical point of view; and I avail myself of this opportunity to submit to the members various detached notices in connexion with the Provostry of Kirkheugh; an establishment which may be held as representing one of the earliest of the Culdee Churches, and which afterwards became a Chapel Royal—the oldest, perhaps, on record in this country.

I shall not enter upon the legendary history of St Regulus, the Monk of Patras, who brought from Greece the relics of our tutelar saint, the Apostle St Andrew, to Scotland, and who became the founder of the

church which in due time was raised to the dignity of the Metropolitan See. Neither shall I touch on the orders of the Secular priests called Culdees—a fruitful subject of controversy between Prelatic and Presbyterian writers. According to the current tradition recorded by our old historians, King Constantine the Third, wearied with the troubles of a public life, renounced his regal dignity, became a Canon in the Church of St Mary on the Rock, and after his death, in the year 943, was commemorated by a statue. Even this tradition would assign to the Church a venerable antiquity.

The site of this Church is thus described by George Martine, in his “*Reliquiæ Divi Andree*,” written in the year 1683 :—

“As to these Culdees (he says) at St Andrews, there goes a tradition in this place, that the Culdees of old, at least Regulus and his companions, had a cell dedicate to the blessed Virgine, about a bow-flight east of the shoare of St Andrews, a little without the end of the peer (now within the sea), upon a rock, called at this day Our Ladies Craig; the rock is well known, and seen every day at low water; and that upon the sea’s encroaching, they built another house at, or near the place where the house of the Kirkheugh now stands, called Sancta Maria de Rupe, with St Reull’s Chapel. To examine the tradition, it must be granted that the first part of it may be possible, for in my time there lived people in St Andrews who remembered to have seen men play at boulls upon the east and north sydes of the Castle of St Andrews, which now the sea covers everie tyde. So it may be that the sea of old came not so much up to our east coast as now it doeth,” &c.¹

Of this original edifice, no portion probably exists, although Mr Anderson concludes, from his careful examination of the remains of the building, that these belong to two different periods. At the beginning of the present century nothing was visible but the gable of a house, with the door entire, which fell in 1802, leaving no appearance to indicate the form of the building.

The abundance of human bones discovered was sufficient to show that the place had long been used as a burying-ground. More recent exca-

¹ *Reliquiæ*, &c., orig. MS. in my possession, 1683, p. 10; printed edition, 1799, p. 24.

vations, by removing the earth which concealed the foundation, has enabled Mr Anderson to ascertain the dimensions and form of the church, the walls being now left clear for about three feet in height from the base. During this operation several sculptured stones of an earlier period, and some other interesting relics, have been discovered. Although these remains were not likely to be overlooked by the Secretary and other members of our Society, I was induced to address a note to Robert Matheson, Esq., of H.M. Office of Works, under whose superintendence these excavations were made, soliciting the authority of the Right Hon. the First Commissioner of H.M. Works to allow one or more specimens of the sculptured stones and cinerary urns to be brought to Edinburgh for exhibition at the present Meeting; suggesting, at the same time, how desirable it would be that some specimens should be permanently deposited in what has now become a National Museum. Mr Matheson kindly transmitted my note to London, with a recommendation in favour of this request; but, although it was favourably entertained, I am sorry the intimation made in the billet was premature, that "one of the sculptured crosses found in the ruins of the Chapel Royal at Kirkheugh will be exhibited." I hope, however, that this disappointment will prove to be only temporary. In reference to the existing remains of the Kirkheugh, I may add a short extract of a letter from the Rev. Robert Skinner, Episcopal minister, St Andrews, addressed to Mr Matheson:—

"ST ANDREWS, 28th January 1861.

"It would appear as though all the *external ashlar* stones of the chancel walls, and even many of the internal, had been portions of *round pillars*—that is, that pillars had been, as it were, sawn through the middle *vertically*, and divided into sections; the flat sides form the exterior of the walls, and the round parts are imbedded in the mortar. Two stone-masons were beside me when I examined them, and they confirmed my conjectures. Might not these pillars have been portions of a former fabric which had once stood on the same site, and of a Norman character?"

To return to the history of the Church.—The order of Culdees, consisting of Canons Secular, having acquired lands and churches from

kings, nobles, and other donors, formed a Chapter, and had the power of electing a bishop in several dioceses, when a vacancy occurred. The Canons Regular of the order of St Augustine had their first establishment at Scone in the year 1114, and Robert, the first prior, became afterwards Bishop of St Andrews, and, in 1144, founded in that city the Priory, and obtained from the king, Alexander the First, the old Culdean Priory of Lochleven to be annexed to his new foundation. This grant was confirmed by Pope Eugenius III. in 1147; but while it gave rise to protracted disputes with the Culdees, the Priory became one of the first in rank and wealth of the religious houses in Scotland. The Culdees were in a great manner superseded by the Canons Regular, yet they continued to assert their rights in the election of the bishops of that See, and this controversy has proved the means of preserving some of the earliest notices we have of the Collegiate Church of St Mary on the Rock, or the Kirk-Heugh. The date when this church was founded, and the name of the founder, are alike unknown. When it was endowed and enlarged into a Collegiate establishment, probably in the reign of King Alexander the Second (1214–1249), it may then have become a royal foundation, and received its name of *Capella Regis*. As such it had a provost and ten prebendaries; and as it existed before the middle of the thirteenth century, it may, so far as can be ascertained, have been the earliest Collegiate Church in Scotland. The prebends connected with the Church are thus enumerated:—

- The prebend of Arbuthnot.
- The parsonage and vicarage of Kinglassie and Kingask.
- The prebend of Duray and Rungallie.
- The parsonage of Feteresso.
- The parsonage of Dysert.
- The prebend of Cameron and Cairns.
- The parsonage of Bervie.
- The parsonage of Strabrok.
- The prebend of Benholme.

The lands holden of the Provostry of Kirkheugh, in the time of Bajamont's taxation, near the end of the thirteenth century, were these following:—

Balmaine and the Mylne.

Southern Kinaldie and the Mylne.

Kinaldie Norther.

Gilmertoun, Lambieytham, and Carngow.

The Kirklands of Seres, Kinkell, and Snadoun ;

with the teynds of Ouchter Struthers, Craigrothie, Cassindellie,
of the baronie Craighall, Inglis-Tarvet, Halteses, Hilteses,
Tesemylne, Easter Pitscottie, Baltillie, and Kingerrock.¹

The state of this benefice at the general assumption of the rents of church benefices of this kingdom, Anno 1561, is recorded thus in the Books of Assumption :—

“The rental of the Provestrie of Kirkheugh, called the Kirkhill, consists of the fewed lands of Kinaldie in Gilmerton, and the teynds of Craighall and Inglis-Tarvet, and the lands of the parish of Seres,—

“In money,	. . . . .	£176 14 8
Beare,	. . . . .	3 chald. 9 bolls
Meall,	. . . . .	9 „ 11 „
Kean oats,	. . . . .	1 „ 6 „
Kean fowls,	. . . . .	5 dusson.”

In a rental of the Bishopric, more than a century later, is contained the following “Rental of the Provostrie of the Kirkheugh:”—

“The Laird of Kinaldie for the lands of Kinaldie,	. . . . .	£46 13 4
More be him for Gilmertoune,	. . . . .	15 0 0
James Watson of Arthernie for his part of		
Lambeletham,	. . . . .	2 0 0
More be him for Murehead’s part thereof,	. . . . .	12 0 0
Robert Hamilton for Kinkell and Snadoun,	. . . . .	4 0 0
The Laird of Craighall for the kirklands of Cires,	. . . . .	20 0 0

Note.—This is detained by Craighall for his fee as
Baillie of the Provestrie of Kirkheugh.

The Manse of the Provestrie,	2 0 0
------------------------------	-----------	-------

Note.—This house and yeard, with the croft belonging to it, are now
fallen in my Lord’s own hands.”²

¹ Martine’s Reliquiæ, &c., MS., p. 88 ; printed edition, p. 216.

² Rental of the Bishopricks, &c., 1689. MS., folio, in my possession.

I shall now, so far as I have succeeded in tracing their names, enumerate the chief officials connected with the Church of St Mary on the Rock, or the Kirkheugh, signifying the kirk or church on the *heuch* or *heugh*, the crag, or steep hill, or bank. But first I may observe, that the term *Præpositus Sancti Andree*, so frequently used in early deeds, had no reference to the provost or chief magistrate of the city; while the title *Præpositus*, occurring so early as the thirteenth century, may be held as conclusive evidence that the Church had then been erected into a Provostry or Collegiate Church. The following extract from Martine's *Reliquiæ*, 1683, describes the Seal of the Chapter:—

“This benefice was called of old, *Ecclesia beatæ Mariæ de Rupe, et Capella domini Regis Scotorum*, as the charters and writs granted to the vassells of the lands holden thereof, by the provest and chapter of this chapell with the seall of the convent of the same appended thereunto, do evidentially testifie; which seall bears the blessed Virgin carrying the holy Babe, sitting, as it seems, under a cloath of state, or in a great portico or entrie, excellentlie cutt, with a little division on each side, and there a man worshipping on each hand of the image, with this circumscription: *S. capituli ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ capellæ domini regis Scotorum*. The reverse bears a king crowned, sitting with a long close mantle and garment, girt in the middle, very antique, holding a sword in his right hand, and a monde or globe in his left, with the same circumscription.”¹

At St Andrews, the Culdees or Keldees appear to have met in chapter and exercised their privilege in electing the Bishops of that See until the erection of the Priory in 1140, when, for upwards of a century such elections were made jointly with the Canons Regular, who afterwards assumed to themselves the exclusive right.

Magister ADAM MALKARUISTON is the first person who appears as Provost in our Records. In 1250 he is styled simply *Clericus* or *Clericus Episcopi*; but in the Register in the Priory of St Andrews he is expressly designed “Magister Ada de Malkaruiston, Prepositus Capelle Sancte Marie civitatis Sancti Andree,” 4 Kal. Febr. 1266-7.² On the election

¹ MS. 1683, p. 86; printed edition, p. 209.

² Registrum Prioratus Sancti Andree, Edinb. 1841, 4to, p. 311. This very valuable work was printed for the Bannatyne Club.

of two Bishops in 1272 and 1279, the ancient Culdees or Secular Canons were not allowed to have a vote: "Pridie Non. Aug. 1279. *Exclusis Keldeis sicut in electione precedenti.*"¹ The next Provost was not inclined to be so excluded. This was

Dominus WILLELMUS CUMYN. In 1297, when William de Lambyrton was elected Bishop of St Andrews, "Dom. Willelmus Cumyn, tunc Prepositus Keldeorum," went in person to Rome, to oppose the election, and debated their cause before Pope Boniface VIII., though to no purpose, partly on the ground of *non utendo jure suo*, they having suffered two former elections to proceed without their consent, and had entered their appeal only against the third.² The Pope consecrated Lambyrton on the 1st June 1298.

The next vacancy occurred in 1328, when James Bene having been chosen Bishop by the Canons of St Andrews without the concurrence of the Keldees, their Provost, the same Sir William Cumyn, styled "Prepositus Capellæ Regiæ," was again at the Court of Rome to oppose the election. It seems, however, that Bene, being himself present at the time, obtained his Episcopate by the collation of Pope John XXII., before any account was received of his actual election by the Canons; and Cumyn, having withdrawn his opposition, he obtained for himself the Archdeaconry of Lothian in place of Alexander Kyninmonth, who was then promoted to the See of Aberdeen.³

Dominus JOHANNES DE ROXBURGHE next appears as Provost. He was *Clericus* to the Chamberlains of Scotland in 1329 and 1337. As "Prepositus Sancti Andree," he was one of the Auditors of the Chamberlain's Accounts, 11th June 1342.⁴

Magister WILLEMUS DE DALGARNOCK, held the office of "Prepositus Sancti Andree" in 1375.⁵

Magister DUNCANUS PETYT, who was much employed in public negotiations, first appears in 1379, when he went to Rome on the King's affairs.⁶ A safe-conduct was granted to "Magister Dunkanus Petyt,

¹ Forduni Scotichronicon, vol. i. pp. 360, 361.

² *Ib.* p. 361.

³ *Ib.* p. 363.

⁴ Chamberlain Rolls, vol. i. pp. 41, 43, 133, 152, 267.

⁵ *Ib.* vol. ii. p. 75.

⁶ *Ib.* p. 109.

Prepositus Sancti Andree in Scotia," 22d January 1382-3.¹ "Mestre Duncan Petit, Provost de Sanct Andrewe," was one of the Commissioners on the part of Scotland for the time which was agreed to by the English in 1384. His safe-conduct is dated 26th July.² He again visited Rome on public affairs in 1392.³ Two years later he was preferred to the Archdeaconry of Glasgow.⁴ On the death of John Peblis, Bishop of Dunkeld, in 1396, Duncan Petit was nominated Lord Chancellor of Scotland; but within a short time, before the last of August that year, he was deprived of that dignified office. As Chancellor, his name occurs as a witness to the charter of erection of the Regality of Paisley, granted to the Abbot and Convent of that monastery by King Robert the Third.⁵

Magister ROBERTUS DE LANY, the next Provost, was similarly employed in public affairs. As "Prepositus Sancti Andree" his name is included in the safe-conducts granted to Sir John Steward, Lord of Lorn, 29th April, and 16th September 1411.⁶ His name occurs in the Chamberlain Rolls in 1412.⁷ In 1413, 16th April, he is designed Licentiate in Decrees.⁸ "Robertus de Lany, Prepositus Ecclesie Sancti Andree," is included in the safe-conduct to Walter, Bishop of Brechin, 1st September 1413.⁹ In the renewals of subsequent safe-conducts to Scottish ambassadors sent to England, Lany appears in 1413 and 1414.¹⁰ "Magister Robertus Lany, Prepositus Capelle Regie nostre Sancti Andree," was a witness to deeds relating to St Salvator's College, St Andrews, 31st March 1432, and 20th March 1432-33.¹¹

The following names of Canons, apparently of this Chapel Royal, are also met with:—Magister Johannes de Leonis, Capellanus Regis Scotiæ, 20th January 1415-16;¹² Dominus David Broun, Canonicus Capellæ Regiæ, 1425;¹³ Magister Thomas Roule, clericus et Capellanus Regis

¹ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 46.^a

² Ib. p. 64.^b

³ Chamberlain Rolls, vol. ii. p. 212.

⁴ Ib. p. 271.

⁵ Registrum Magni Sigilli.

⁶ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. pp. 194-197.

⁷ Chamberlain Rolls, vol. ii. p. 47.

⁸ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 204.

⁹ Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 207.

¹⁰ Ib. vol. ii. pp. 209-211; Chamberlain Rolls, vol. iii. pp. 58, 67, 76.

¹¹ University Commission Reports, St Andrews.

¹² Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 261.

¹³ Chamberlain Rolls, vol. iii. p. 127.

Scotorum, 31st October 1427;¹ Thomas Logy, canonicus Capellæ Regiæ, 1436;² Magister Thomas Logy, canonicus Capellæ Regiæ, Rector de Glendovan et Decanus Facultatis, &c. Sancti Andree, 20th December 1447;³ and Canonicus Dunkeldensis, 1456.⁴

HUGO KENNEDY, Prepositus Sancti Andree, was a witness to a royal charter, dated 5th September 1439.⁵ Hugo Kennedy, Prepositus Capelle Regie Sancti Andree, is named in a deed, entitled "Concordia per Jacobum Kennedy Episcopum, inter Suppositi Universitatis et Cives Sancti Andree," 6th May 1444.⁶ Accompanied by twelve persons, his attendants, *Venerabilis vir Hugo Kennedy, Scotus*, had a safe conduct, 20th October 1447. Hugo Kennedy, Prepositus Ecclesie Sancti Andree, is included in the safe-conduct to James Stewart, husband of the late Queen of Scots, 17th August 1451.⁷

Magister ALANUS CANT, Cancellarius Sancti Andree et Decanus Capelle Regie, on the 13th August 1456, was one of the benefactors when the library of the University was founded; but the "notabilis liber cum diversis aliis voluminibus" which he presented are unfortunately not now preserved at St Andrews. His successor,

Magister JOHANNES KENNEDY, Prepositus Sancti Andree, was present in the parliament held at Perth, 6th November 1458.⁸ His name occurs in a safe-conduct 28th August 1460, and again 28th March 1465.⁹ The Provost was one of the Lords Auditors in March 1469;¹⁰ and Mr John Kennedy was still provost 3d November 1470.¹¹

Magister JOANNES HUME, Decanus Capellæ Regiæ, appears as witness to a charter under the Great Seal, 15th April 1478.¹²

Dominus JACOBUS ALLIRDES, under the several denominations of Prepositus Sancti Andree—Ecclesie beate Marie de Rupe—beatissime Virginis de Sancto Andrea—or Prepositus Capelle Regie prope ripam Sancti Andree, is met with as one of the Lords of Council, and in other capa-

¹ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 261.

² Acta Rectorum S. Andree.

³ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 331.

⁴ *Ib.* p. 347.

⁵ *Ib.* p. 348.

⁶ Acta Rectorum S. Andree.

⁷ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. p. 348.

⁸ Acts Parl. Scot., vol. ii. p. 79.

⁹ Rotuli Scotiæ, vol. ii. pp. 400, 416.

¹⁰ Acta Auditorum, p. 8.

¹¹ Regist. de Aberbrothok, p. 166.

¹² Regist. Magni Sigilli.

cities, between January 1479-80 and December 1496.¹ The title of "Provost of the Lady Kirk beside Saint Andrews," also occurs in 1490.

Magister LEONARDUS LOGY, Vicarius de Kilconquhar, Prebendarius de Dura in Ecclesia collegiata beate Marie de Rupe infra Civitatem Sancti Andree, 15th June 1506.

Mr ROBERT ERSKINE, Canon of the Collegiate Church or Chapel Royal (Collegiate Ecclesie sive Capelle Regie) of St Andrews and St Mary of the Rock, was collated to the canonry and rectory of Arbuthnot, called a prebend of the said collegiate church, vacant by the resignation of William Rynd, 2d Ides [14th] July 1552.²

Mr JAMES LERMONTH was Provost of Kirkhill beside the Citie of St Andrews, at the eventful era of the Reformation. In April 1561, the Presbytery of St Andrews resolved and declared that "the Lady College Kirk upon the Hauch was ane prophane house, and sa to be haldyn in tyme cuming."³ Lermonth, as Provost, granted leases of land in the Parochine of Seres, 7th December 1565, and 16th September 1570.⁴ He died 20th March 1577-8.⁵

Mr THOMAS BUCHANAN was presented to the Provostry of Kirkhill, in the room of unquhill Mr James Lermonth, 1st April 1578.⁶ He was the nephew of George Buchanan; was educated in St Andrews, and became master of the Grammar School of Stirling before he was appointed minister of Ceres, which was conjoined to the Provostry. "Mr Thomas Buchanan, Provost of Kirkheuch, and minister at Ceres," died 12th April 1599.⁷ His successor was his nephew.

Mr ROBERT BUCHANAN, son of unquhill Walter Buchanan of Drumkill, was presented "to the Colledge Kirk of Sanct Marie of the Heuch, liand within the Citie of Sanct Andrews, 12th April 1599.⁸ He also was minister of Ceres, and died in the year 1617.

¹ Acta Auditorum, p. 138; Acts Parl. Scot., vol. ii. p. 153. Registrum de Aberbrothok, pp. 210, 298.

² Spalding Miscellany, vol. iv. p. 52.

³ Extracts of Presbytery Proceedings, Maitland Miscellany, vol. iii. pp. 270, 292.

⁴ McOrie's Life of Melville, vol. i. p. 260.

⁵ Reg. Conf. Test., Edinb., 10 Feb. 1580.

⁶ Register of Presentation to Benefices.

⁷ Register of Presentations to Benefices.

⁸ Register of Conf. Testaments, Edinburgh, 12th June 1599.

It is only necessary to add, that Kirkheugh lost its importance as a Chapel Royal towards the close of the fifteenth century. Restalrig was designed as the Chapel Royal in the reign of James the Third, until the Chapel Royal at Stirling, in the reign of James the Fourth, became the chief place so designed, the Dean enjoying, by Papal authority, episcopal dignity, being conjoined with the See of Galloway. At a later period, subsequent to the Reformation, the Provostry was annexed to the Crown, and in the arrangements for the introduction of Episcopacy by James the Sixth, the Provostry, with Ceres and other church livings, was conveyed to the Archbishop of St Andrews in 1606, in return for his having resigned the Castle of St Andrews to the Crown.