

NOTICE OF SIR PETER YOUNG OF SEATON; AND COPIES OF HIS LETTERS TO THE LAIRD OF BARNBARROCH RELATIVE TO THEIR EMBASSIES TO DENMARK IN THE REIGN OF JAMES VI. BY JOHN INGLIS CHALMERS, OF ALDBAR, ESQ., F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATE XIII.)

*Extracts from "Miscellanea Aldbarensia."*

JOHN YOUNG, burghess of Dundee, died 31st August 1583, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, and was buried there. He married Margaret Scrimger, "of the ancient and noble family of Scrimgeour." She died at Dundee 11th May 1578, in the sixty-eighth year of her age. She was sister to Henry Scrimgeour. Sir Peter says that his father was of ancient family. This may be, for Andrew Wyntoun mentions "Wylliame Yong of Ouchterlony" among the killed of the Ogilvie party in 1392, in "that duleful Dawerk (day's-work) at Gasklune."

John Young left three sons and two daughters,—viz. : 1. John, parson of the church of Desert (Dysart?). 2. Peter, afterwards Sir Peter. 3. Alexander, afterwards Keeper of the Privy-chamber door to James VI.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Ane of the ordinar Ischearis [ushers] of our Soverane Lordis chalmer." So designed in several deeds. He is also designed of Eastfield.

This Alexander married Margaret Arnot. He died in his own house in Dundee, 29th December 1603. 4. Isabella. 5. Joanna. His other children died in childhood; except 6. Henry, who was killed in Scania (Schonen) in the service of the King of Sweden.

Sir Peter, who was born at Dundee, 15th of August 1544, on the 4th of January 1569 was appointed assistant preceptor, under George Buchanan, to King James VI.

In 1574, the Assembly which met in August of that year, willed their loved brethren, Mr George Buchanan, Mr Peter Young, pedagogue to our Sovereign Lord, Mr Andrew Melvill, and Mr James Lawson, to peruse the History of Job, which had been compiled in Latin verse by Mr Patrick Adamson; and to authorise it by their signatures, if they should find it agreeable to the truth of God's word.

In Lord Burleigh's list of persons worthy of being bribed to Queen Elizabeth's interests, in 1579, are, in that "of persons who were not commended by the Regent (Morton), yet by others thought meet to be entertained," the names of Mr George Buchanan, the king's tutor, a singular man, and Peter Young, "another tutor to the king, specially well affected, and ready to persuade the King to be in favour of her Majestye;" and among the names of such as are to be entertained in Scotland "by pensions out of England," are, Buchanan, £100; Peter Younge, schoolmaster, £30.

On the 20th of July 1586 Young was sent as ambassador to Denmark; in 1587 he was again sent, with Sir Patrick Vans of Barnborrow, to that court; and in 1594 he was a third time ambassador to Denmark, and to the Dukes of Mecklenburgh and Brunswick. On the 19th of February 1605, he was knighted by James I. in the palace of Whitehall.

On the 4th February 1577, he married Elizabeth Gibb, by whom he had eight sons and four daughters:—

1. Mary, born 1st June 1579. Married to John Douglas of Tilquihilly.—(Procuratory of Resignation by said Mary with consent, and dated at Brechin, 19th April 1598. Writs at Aldbar.)
2. James }
3. Henry } twins, born 1st July 1580.
4. Margaret, born, as he writes, "in my own house of Seton," 14th November 1581.

5. Peter }  
 6. Robert } twins, born 1st July 1583.  
 7. Patrick, born August 29, 1584.  
 8. John, born 25th June 1585.  
 9. Frederic }  
 10. Joanna } twins, born 1587. Frederic died 31st January 1609.  
 11. Michael, born 6th November 1589.  
 12. Anne, born 16th February 1590. "And so God blessed me with a twelfth child, the other eleven still living."

His wife died at Leith, 10th of May 1593.

He married secondly, on 6th May 1596, the Lady Janet Murray of Torphichen,<sup>1</sup> widow, who died in November 1596.

His third wife was Marjory Nairne; she brought him four daughters:—

13. Euphemia, 20th April 1601.  
 14. Elisabeth, born 11th February 1603.  
 15. Nicola, born 5th July 1604.  
 16. Arabella, born 16th December 1608.

In all eight sons and eight daughters.

Sir Peter was for many years King's Almoner for Scotland, and died at his house of Easter Seatoun, in the parish of St Vigeans and county of Forfar, on 7th of January 1628, and was buried in the parish church. There his monument, a slab fastened in the wall; is still to be seen, bearing the following inscription:—

PETRUS YOUNG A SETON, EQUES AURATUS, SERENISSIMO AC POTENTISSIMO JACOBO VI. BRITANNIÆ, FRANCIÆ, ET HIBERNIÆ REGI A STUDIIS, CONSILIIS, ET ELEEMOSYNIS, PROPTER ERUDITIONEM, PRUDENTIAM, ET MORUM ELEGANTIAM EXIMIAM DOMI REGI SUO ET CIVIBUS CHARUS, FORIS REGIBUS ET PRINCIPIBUS, APUD QUOS VARIIS LEGATIONIBUS FUNCTUS EST, CELEBRIS.

HIC BEATORUM RESURRECTIONEM EXPECTAT. OBIT JANUARIJ VII. ANNO MDCXXVIII: ÆTATIS SUE LXXXIV.

<sup>1</sup> Summons against Sir Peter Young, for payment of debts contracted by Dame Janet Murray Lady Torphichen, deceased, in preparation to her marriage with said Sir Peter, her last spouse.

Peter Young acquired the lands of Easter Seatoun by purchase from John Carnegy of that ilk, but the year in which the purchase was made is not given. It was probably 1580 or 1581, as he bought Dickmount-law in the former year, as appears from a charter of confirmation by Esme, Duke of Lennox and Commendator of Aberbrothock.

1. *Copy from the Original in the Charter Chest at Barnbarroch.*

“MY LORD,—Eftir maist hertley commendation, I have gotten the arrestment subscrivit togidder with the othir letters for staying of proces, and hes delyverit thame to my Lady your bedfellow, quha has not been ydle on hir part for y<sup>r</sup> L/ departing. I have obtenit ane uther letter of arrestment to stay the schips hier presently, maid at his Majesty’s awin instance but ony mentioun of us, quhilk sal be partly put in execution this same day at Leyth, and thairafter at Montros and Dondy, St Androis and langis all the coste syde, and for that same cause I am instantly to tak over Capten Arnat with me. I have spoken his Majestie at Creichtoun sen your departing, and has his Heines promeis that na precepts sal pass quhill we be first staikit. My Lord Secretare has hecht to hold his Majetie in remembrance, and to hald band that we be not preventit be ony. I am making hame till the first of the nixt, quhair I sall not be unmyndful of our erand, for I feir my Lord Secretare sall forget, and Mr George allsua. The Clerk Register is busy casting over all the register for sic things as I have cravit of him. The Skippar was at me again to see gif we wad give the 1800 merkis. I stude still at the 1000 merkis that your Lordship offerit him. This day we be to speik farther. I sall not pass the 1200 quhill I see quhat schipping there is in uther partis. Ye will remember that the gentilmen be clad in blak but cullouris, for sa his Majestie spak unto me and my Lord Secretare baith sa, that sall represent a gravitie and half ane duell. The grat lang ruffis and meikle belliis wad be castin away. This I writ that the gentilmen may be warnit in deu tyme or they mak thair claithes utherwyis, as I sall warne neyne. I schewe y<sup>r</sup> Lordship that the last Abbot of Glenlusse has promesit me Hegisippas in Greek written with hand, and Commentaria Cæsaris Manuscripta siclyk. I wald pray y<sup>r</sup> L/. to inqyre quha gat his bukis that theis micht be

recoverit yit, war not they war ald and evil-favourit. Jhone Hume of Cumeragane had brocht thame to me, y<sup>r</sup> L/ kennis the taile. Because I am pressit to depart for the tyde that is at hand, I will commit y<sup>r</sup> L/ to God, be quhais grace I haist to be in this toune again the first or second of the nixt. From Halyrude house this xviii of Mairche 1586.

“Your Lordship at command for ever,

“P. YOUNG of Setoun.

“To the richt Hon<sup>ble</sup> and my very special gud  
Lord, My Lord of Barnbarrow, Lord of his  
Hienes Privy Counsall and Sessioun.”

The preceding letter evidently has reference to Barnbarroch's and Young's second embassy to Denmark, on which they sailed two months afterwards—viz., on 15th of May 1587. They were to be dressed in “dule” or black, in consequence of the death of Queen Mary, in the preceding month. The letter which follows this ought properly to have preceded it; the despatch of the embassy had not been resolved on at its date.

2. *Copy from the Original in the Charter Chest at Barnbarroch.*

“MY LORD,—I have obtained leif of his Majestie to go hame for sum few days. At my lief taking I have recommendit te his Heines the purpos y<sup>r</sup> Lordship kenis, and has schawin that is ever at hand, and that wee have worne threid bair all excuses, ellis that quhither alliance be marriage be meinit or not, ambassadouris maie be send for the mater of Orkney, gif thair war na mair or less, his Majestie wald [suffer] the reproche of breaking of promis to ane prince and natioun that makis meikle of plain dealing. I have said quhat I can, and hes promis to be reddy how sune his Majestie plesis to command me to cum to help to inform sic as sal be send. I pray y<sup>r</sup> L/ to go doune and hold his Heines in remembrance. Alace that sa gude ane purpos hes sa feu friendis, and that his Majestie hes sa littel care of himself. My Lord Coronnel will remember for his pairt, bot he is boune over the watter. I spak my Lord Chancellor, and hes remembrit his L/ assurit of the

Kingis g[racis] promis be his last writtis, as if his L/ awin. Hold matteris in frame quhill my back-cuming, and I sall relief y<sup>r</sup> L/ again the best I may. The Lord graunt our deir Maister and King to happen upon the worthiest Princess that is in the world for his half marrow. God bless y<sup>r</sup> L/, and send mony sic servantis to his Majestie.—From the Quenisferry the xxij of februar at xj houris at nicht.

“Your Lordship’s awin man,

“P. YOUNG.

“As for my small particulars, gif y<sup>r</sup> L/ may help thame do it. Gif not, I sall beir it the best that I may, and sall be never the less reddy for ane gude turne to his Majestie or the common weil, according to mein powar.

“To the richt hon<sup>ble</sup> and my very good Lord,  
my Lord of Barnbarracke.”

The foregoing letter has no date of the year, but taking it in connexion with that of 18th of March 1586-7, and for other reasons, I have no doubt that it is of the same year.

3. *Copy Letter said to be from Sir Peter Young to Sir Patrick Vans of Barnbarroch.*

“MY LORD,—I am still awaiting upon his Majesties returning from the raid and y<sup>r</sup> L/ advertisement according to my late writing, qlk I doubt not bot y<sup>r</sup> L/ has reseavit. I lang to heir from Denmark, and I marvel seeing the vind has bene sa fair and sa long in the est that the messinger the burgomaster writs of is not cum, nor na uther vord, unless it be the hoip thay had of the cuming of our Ambassadors have stayit thair sending. I pray y<sup>r</sup> L/ will writ unto me at lenyth quhat ye ar doing (and quhat neuis occuris from all partis, namely, quhat is done and likely to fall out amang ourselves at hame). The Lord send his Majestie sune and weil hame agane from the borders (upon quhais bak cuming I request y<sup>r</sup> L/ to awaite, and eftir ye have spekken to his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, to work for me as occasion shall require). I was yesterday at Montross, quhair I saw ane very

proper schip and veil accouttrit—thar vantis nother ordanance, ensignys, flaggis, nor stremars. Sche is of fourscore and twelf tonne of brith or better, ane trim sailer and vierlyck schip, and sal be had as I sappese bettir schip nor ony uther sic schip in Scotland, for I have felt thair myndis adreich and vill knaw mair of it vithin twa or three dayis, quhairof I sall adverteiss y<sup>r</sup> L/ God willing, to quhais protection I committ y<sup>r</sup> L/, with y<sup>r</sup> gude Lady and familie for evir.—From Setoun this xij of Junij 1588.

“Your L. awin

“J. YOUNG.

“Cummer Petre desyrit hir dewtifull commendation to be rememberit to y<sup>r</sup> L/ and my gude Lady. Let myne be joynit thairwith alsua.”

4. *Copy of the Original in the Charter Chest at Barnbarroch.*

“MY LORD,—I ressavit upon the xvj of this instant your Lordships of the xij and ane uther of the xiiij, quhairby I was informit of sindry things that I was glad to heir quhairof I hertly thank your L/. I awaite still as before upon your L/ advertisment, and that eftir y<sup>r</sup> L/ hes spokkin his Majestie, not that I wald cloisse y<sup>r</sup> L/ handis from writting and sending unto me before that tyme, bot to schaw y<sup>r</sup> L/ that I intend not to steir quhill I heir of y<sup>r</sup> L/ quhat his Majestie intends to do. I feir the sylver was ordinit for the iourney has bene employit to serve the maist haist. It sal be viel done to lat his nieues onderstand quhat ye have learnit of Captain Kincaid, and gyf his Majestie remains styll of the mind we left him in to be in reddiness as before. As for my part I sal be reddy to serve and no willing to lye ydle, and suinge [dream], with my bukis the wyffe and bairnies, gif his Majestie will permit me. Y<sup>r</sup> L/ knows my inward mynd heirin. Being lately for sum occasion in Montrosse and seeing ane propre schip thair, I enterit to feil the mynd of the vwneris in caisse we had ado with thame. Thair answer y<sup>r</sup> L/ will consider be thair awin letter. Let me onderstand at all occasions of y<sup>r</sup> L/ weilfare and of cummer Patrickis, quhome with y<sup>r</sup> L/, eftir cummer Peter's maist hertly commendations and myne

unto you baith, I committ to Godis protection.—In haste from Setoun  
this xix day of Junij 1588.

“ Your Lordship’s at command for ever,

“ P. Young of Setoun.

“ Gif we chauce to have ado I know not ane schip meiter for us nor  
this of Montroise, for she is ane trim sailer and is fyfeteen or saxteene  
tuns mair nor Jhone Gardeneris schip, and wantis nathing necessare to  
decere hir. I wald thay had ane answer. I belief thay might be  
brocht to brak of this soume.

“ To my very good Lord, my Lord of Barn-  
barroch, ane of his Majesties Privy Counsall  
and Session.”

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