

## II.

NOTICES AND EXAMPLES OF INSCRIPTIONS ON OLD CASTLES AND TOWN HOUSES IN THE NORTH-EAST OF SCOTLAND. BY A. JERVISE, ESQ., BRECHIN, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

It appears to have been the fashion in Scotland from at least the beginning of the sixteenth century down to that of the eighteenth, to embellish the town and country residences of the nobility and gentry, as well as those of the more opulent citizens, with legends and maxims. These differed very much in character and sentiment, being of a scriptural, moral, and witty tendency. They were sometimes in prose, at other times in verse—in Scots, English, and Latin, and occasionally cut in Greek and Hebrew characters. They were commonly executed in raised and ingeniously interlaced letters over the principal entrance to the house, upon the chimney-piece of the great hall, also upon window-lintels. Examples are yet to be seen upon some of the more ancient houses in Edinburgh and Leith; and such of the legends in these towns as have come down to our own time have been preserved and illustrated by Dr Daniel Wilson and Dr Robertson, and by some of the earlier collectors of this class of antiquities.<sup>1</sup>

Such legends as appear upon the houses of the nobility, whether in town or country, are commonly accompanied by the National Arms, and those of the owner of the house; while the legends upon the dwellings of burghers are associated with shields charged with ingeniously formed monograms or merchants' marks, with carved representations of articles of merchandise, or of implements employed in the trade in which the owner of the house had been engaged. These latter are sometimes of a quaint description, such as that which was found about the beginning of this century, when demolishing a waulk or fulling mill at CUPAR-ANGUS, in the ruins of which a door-lintel was discovered, bearing representations of the objects named in the last line, and thus inscribed:—

<sup>1</sup> *Vide* Wilson's Memorials of Edinburgh, and Robertson's Antiquities of Leith, &c.

ANDREW CHAPMAN AND MARGET TOD  
[Waulkmill shears, and the pressing brod.]

Although inscriptions of the class under notice are of no great antiquity in Scotland, *the fashion* of using them (if it may be so termed) had been introduced here, as in many other countries, at an early period, and may have originated in the carving of symbols and inscriptions on ancient tombs. Still, though of no great antiquity, these inscriptions are worthy of being preserved, and claim a place among our minor antiquities, since they exhibit much of the taste and feeling which pervaded the minds of the more intelligent of our forefathers. Whether symbolical or otherwise, it is probable that these legends or maxims had been looked upon with veneration; and, acting as so many monitors, whether of piety, loyalty, or morality, they had been well understood, even by the unlettered, on whose life and conduct they had doubtless had a salutary influence.

These inscriptions, however, were neither confined to houses in the metropolis and in Leith, nor to castles in the country. Traces of them are yet to be found in many of our old burghs; and, as was the fashion in Greece and Rome, the walls of our courts of justice, our fountains, our charitable institutions, as well as the gateways of our public cemeteries, were sometimes ornamented by them. The door-lintel of the old Court-House of PERTH, for instance, now built into the new building, bears these admonitory lines:—

THIS HOUSE LOVES PEACE, HATES KNAVES, CRIMES PUNISHETH,  
PRESERVES THE LAWS, AND GOOD MEN HONOVRETH.

It appears that the same inscription, in Latin, was upon the front of the old Town-House or Tolbooth of GLASGOW, accompanied by a carving of the Royal Arms, and a dial:—

HÆC DOMUS ODI, AMAT, PUNIT, CONSERVAT, HONORAT,  
NEQUITIAM, PACEM, CRIMINA, JURA, PROBOS.<sup>1</sup>

The door-lintel of the old jail of ELGIN, preserved in the museum of

<sup>1</sup> M'Ure's View of the City of Glasgow (1736), p. 256.

that city, bears a rudely executed figure of Justice, with sword and balance, and these significant words:—

SUUM CUIQUE TRIBUE.

Upon a fountain in the old town of LINLITHGOW, famous of old for its “wells,” and which had St Michael for its patron, there is a strangely carved effigy of the Archangel, and this laudatory legend:—

SAINT MICHAEL IS KINDE TO STRANGERS.

The celebrated well of Spa at ABERDEEN, last renovated or restored in 1851, bears representations of the Scottish Thistle, the Rose of England, and the Fleur-de-lis of France, surmounting this inscription:—

AS HEAVEN GIVES ME  
SO GIVE I THEE.

Below these words is a carving of the rising sun, and the following altered quotation from Horace:—

HOC FONTE DERIVATA SALUS  
IN PATRIAM POPULUMQUE FLUAT.

It appears that “the virtues” of this spa were early known and appreciated, for in 1615, record says that there was “a long wyde stone which conveyed the waters from the spring, with the portraicture of six Apostles hewen upon either side thereof.” It is described as having then been “verie old and worne;” and some time before his death the building was repaired by George Jamesone, the “Scottish Vandyke.” By an extraordinary overflowing of the Denburn, which adjoins the well, the building by Jamesone was destroyed. It was again restored in 1670, as the date and words “SPADA REDIVIVA” show; when, probably, the above quotation from Horace had been added, as the demolition of the work is said to have happened during the same year that the Civil War broke out, to perpetuate the occurrence of which the above lines may have been selected. According to Monteith and some old writers, it also bore this record of its virtues:—

*The Stomack, Reins, the Liver, Spleen, yea sure  
A thousand evils this wholesome Spring doth cure.*<sup>1</sup>

The couplet—

ALL YE WHO ENTER AT THIS GATE,  
O NOW PREPARE FOR YOUR LAST ESTATE,

is inscribed upon a stone on the right hand side of the entrance to the parish churchyard of KIRKDEN, or Idvies, in FORFARSHIRE.

Over one of the gates of the burial-ground of the Grey Friars', at PERTH, is the following :—

HOC GENITOR GENETRIXQUE SITI, NUMEROSA VTRIVSQUE  
PROGENIES, NATI ET NATÆ, CHARÆQUE NEPOTES  
ET NEPTES, NEC NON PRONEPTOS ATQUE PRONEPTES  
HÆC QUIVAQVE LEGIS MORTI NOS NOSTRAQVE CUNCTA  
DEBERI, TANQUAM SPECVLO REFERENTE VIDERIS;  
HÆC ETENIM TRANSIT GENERATIO NASCITVE ILLA.

In the churchyard of FORGANDENNY, in PERTHSHIRE, on the burial aisle of the noble family of Ruthven, is the date 1369, and these lines, the carving of which, it need not be said, belongs to a much later period than is indicated by the date :—

ALL MEN THINK ON ZOVR DYING DAY  
ZIT IOY TO DIE TO LIVE FOR AY.

As before said, overdoor inscriptions are sometimes carved in Greek and Hebrew characters. In the old burgh of CULROSS (where there are houses bearing monograms, initials, and dates of various periods of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, with curious representations of articles of trade), a door lintel bears this maxim :—

Ο Θεος Προνοηι Χ Προνοηξει

On various parts of the HOUSE of HILL (between the towns of Inver-

<sup>1</sup> Callirhoe (pref.), Aberdeen, 1670; Theater of Mortality, Edin. 1713.

keithing and Dunfermline) there are several scriptural quotations, in Hebrew and in Latin, two of which are also interpreted in Latin :—

גִּסְוֵה הַבֵּל  
וְרַעְהָ רַבָּה;

הוֹי בְּנֵה  
בֵּיתוֹ בְּלֵא-  
צֹק;

בְּחַר יְהוָה

וְרֵאיוֹ;<sup>3</sup>

HOC QVOQVE VAN  
ITAS EST ET MA  
LVM MAGNVM.<sup>1</sup>

VÆ ÆDIFI  
CANTI DOM  
VM SVAM INI  
VSTITIA.<sup>2</sup>

—The last of these inscriptions is carved upon a stone over the dining-room windows, and connects two boldly sculptured half-length figures—the one with a long robe and harp, the other habited in the costume of the period of King James VI. Near to the second quoted of these is the date of 1623, and the initials W. M., which probably refer to William Menteith of Randieford, who possessed the property about that period, and whose daughter and heiress (according to Douglas) was married to Sir John Henderson of Fordel, a distinguished officer in the army of Charles I. Four of the upper windows of the house are respectively ornamented with the insignia of England, France, Ireland, and Scotland; and these words are inscribed upon the parapet wall :—

NI DEVS ÆDIFICET DOMVM.

These inscriptions are given by Dr Peter Chalmers, in his elaborate "HISTORY OF DUNFERMLINE," as well as that over the entrance to the house of Robert Pitcairn, Abbot of Dunfermline, who died in 1584. The cautious advice which this maxim imparts (to which Dr Chalmers has found an analogy in a metrical composition ascribed to King James I. of Scotland) runs thus :—

SEN VORD IS THRALL AND THOCHT IS FRE  
KEIP VEILL THY TONGE I COVNSELL THE.

<sup>1</sup> Eccles. ii. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Jer. xxii. 13.

"The Lord hath chosen them that fear him."

Several houses in the neighbouring burgh of INVERKEITHING contain inscribed stones, accompanied by the royal and other armorial bearings. A building in the High Street presents the date of 1688, the initials I. B., with the scriptural quotation,

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS MY INHERITANCE;

also this strange motto:—

CAIR BOT CAIR NOT IN  
ORDINATLIE FOR AL BE  
AS V THERIS AND VTH  
ERIS VIL BE . . ETC.

An adjoining house is ornamented with a blank shield surmounted by the letter T, from which springs the common form of a merchant's mark (the Arabic figure 4 turned to the right), with the initials I. T. and B. T., and these words of the Psalmist:—

EXCEPT THE LORD BYLD THE HOVS THEY LABOVR IN VAINE THAT BYLD IT.

In the town of BURNTISLAND, a building of apparently about the middle of the seventeenth century bears the initials W. A : I. R., and

BLISSIT BE GOD FOR AL HIS GIFTS.

Another house, with a turret on the corner, the initials I. A : S. A., and the date of 1720, has a representation of the Scottish thistle, and this distich:—

O LORD THOU ME DEFEND FROM SUBTILE SORTS, AND THOSE  
THAT FRIENDSHIP ME PRETENDS, AND ARE MY MORTAL FOES.

The three well-known couplets on "Mar's Wark," a ruin situated at the head of Broad Street, STIRLING, have been often, but rarely correctly, printed. The two first quoted inscriptions had probably been much effaced in the time of Pennant and Grose, for neither of these gentlemen has given correct renderings of them.<sup>1</sup> The last quoted seems to have been unknown to both. Having had opportunities of repeatedly examining the originals within the last five or six years, I am now satisfied that the following is the true reading:—

<sup>1</sup> Pennant's Tour, part ii. p. 255; Grose's Antiq., vol. ii. p. 241.

THE MOIR I STAND ON OPPIN HITHT  
MY FAVLTIS MOIR SVBLECT AR TO SITHT.

I PRAY AL LVIKARIS ON THIS BIGING  
VITH GENTIL E TO GIF THAIR IVGING.

These lines are upon the front of the building—one couplet being over a door on the west side of the principal entrance, the other over one on the east side. The following is on the back part of the building:—

ESSPY SPEIK FVRTH AND SPAIR NOTHT  
CONSIDDIR VEIL AND CAIR NOTHT.

Upon the front of a large tenement, in the Nethergate, DUNDEE, are carvings of the royal arms of Scotland, with the date of 1660, and the ordinary legends, &c. In the adjoining close of Whitehall, a mutilated door or chimney lintel is built into the wall of a house. It is dated 1589, ornamented with the royal crown and shield of Scotland, and bears the following remains of a legend prettily inscribed upon a ribbon:—

OBAY ZE KING . . . . . KING IAMIS 6 . . . . . IN DE[FENCE.] . . .

When an old house was being lately taken down, in the High Street of Dundee, a number of copper coins was found about the walls; also a well, in the middle of a stone wall about 4 feet thick. The sides of the well were built of ashler: it was about 15 feet deep from the mouth to the rubbish at the bottom; but it was unfortunately covered up without being further searched. A fine slab of old red sandstone, about 9 feet long, was also found in the ruins, embellished with the initials A. S. and I. K.; also a shield bearing the arms—a columbine flower slipped (? for Stirling) in chief of the sinister side; and a merchant's mark in base; on the dexter side, a pine tree eradicate, proper; upon the stem, a hunting horn, stringed, between two of the last, and three mullets in chief (? for Kyd of Woodhill).<sup>1</sup> The following inscription, carved in one line, runs along the whole length of the base of the stone:—

FEIR GOD ABOVE AL THING  
BE EVIR TREV VNT0 YE KING  
INVAY VLFVLNIS<sup>2</sup> AND PRYD  
MAKITH MAYNY TO SLYD.

<sup>1</sup> Nisbet's Heraldry, vol. i. pp. 363, 402. Edinb. 1804.

<sup>2</sup> Wilfulness.

On the castle of MAINS, near Dundee, an old residence of Graham of Claverhouse, are these words and date, in beautifully ornamented Roman capitals :—

PATRIÆ ET POSTERIS GRATIS ET AMICIS. 1582.

Over the front door of the farm-house of Cossans, near GLAMIS, is an inscription which resembles, in some part, the sentiment expressed by the Psalmist (xci. 10, 11). It may have reference either to the fate of the first Lyon of Cossans, who fell at Flodden, or to the disasters which came over the house and family of Glamis after the death of the sixth Lord Glamis :—

PROTEGENDAM PRÆSIDIO DEO GRADAS  
SALUTEM REM SOBOLEM DOMUM  
NEC ÆDES VIS PROPIUS TUAS  
AVI DAMNA TANGENT ———  
DEUS ANGELOS CUSTODIÆ PRÆFICIT.

This stone is said to have been taken from the ruins of the old castle of Cossans, which stood near the site of the present farm-house. It bears the date of 1627, and the names of "MR THOMAS LYON, and MRS JEAN YOUNG," with the armorial bearings of both families. This estate was long possessed by a family who took the surname of "Cossans," and the title "of that Ilk."<sup>1</sup>

After the property of FERNE, in ANGUS, passed into the hands of the Southesk family, the castle of Vayne appears to have received considerable repair and ornamentation; and Robert, the third Earl of Southesk, had the door and window lintels inscribed with Horatian and other maxims, of which three examples still exist, built into various parts of the farm offices :—

- (1.) DISCE MEO EXEMPLO FORMOSIS POSSE CARERE.
- (2.) —VS PLACITIS ABSTINVISSE BONIS.
- (3.) NON SI MALE NVNC ET SIC ERAT.<sup>2</sup>

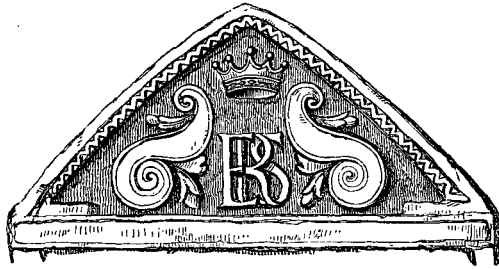
The first of these is carved along the base of a stone, upon which are an

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 251.

<sup>2</sup> "Non si malè nunc et olim sic erit."



earl's coronet, and the monogram E. R. S.,—*i.e.*, Robert Earl of Southesk (see woodcut): the other two are both dated 1678.



A panel in the middle of the richly ornamented chimney of the great hall of the castle of CARESTON, or Caraldstone, below the royal arms of Scotland, surrounded by banners, spears, and other warlike trophies, contains this incentive motto :—

THIS . HONORIS . SINGE  
 AND . FIGVRIT . TROPHE . BOR—  
 SVLD . PVSE . ASPYRING . SPRE  
 ITIS . AND . MARTIAL . MYND  
 TO . THRVT . YAIR . FORTVNE  
 FWRTH & . . IN HIR SCORNE  
 BELIIVE . IN FAITHE  
 OVR . FAIT . GOD . HES . ASSINGD.

The oldest part of the castle of Careston, in which the above is to be seen, was built by Sir Harry Lindsay of Kinfauns, afterwards third Earl of Crawford.

Two or three miles to the north-east of Careston stood the castle of FINDOWRIE, which was erased so late as 1840. The lands of Findowrie, which were held of the bishop and chapter of the cathedral church of Brechin, were purchased in 1574 by Robert Arbuthnot of that Ilk, and given by him to David, his eldest son by a second marriage.<sup>1</sup> Probably this David Arbuthnot built the castle of Findowrie; at least the older portion of it was in much the same style of architecture as are castles

<sup>1</sup> Regist. Episc. Brechin., vol. ii.

which bear the date of the close of the sixteenth century. It received some additions, and heraldic and other ornaments, at subsequent periods, as is shown by several carved stones, now preserved about the farm offices. One of these, which is dated "May 12, 1684," along with the initials of the laird and lady of the period, bears the excellent maxim:—

HIC ARGVS NON BRIARI' ESTO,

which, if better attended to, would save regret on the part of antiquaries and others who have a desire to acquire a knowledge of the past from existing monuments.

When the manse of the first minister of BRECHIN was demolished a few years ago, a mutilated lintel was found built into the foundations of the walls, bearing the initials M. W. R., and the date of 1644. These refer to Mr William Rait, and the year of his removal to Brechin from Aberluthnot, or Marykirk, in the Mearns, where he was previously minister. The stone, now preserved in the garden dyke of the new manse, is thus inscribed:—

. . . . . CRVX SERRATA MIHI INSIGNI EST CRV. . . . .  
 . . . . . SVS SIT TVTELA MIHI CRVXQVE CORONA . N . . . . .

Overdoor inscriptions, however, were not confined to castles and dwelling-houses in the lowlands. In remote glens we find traces of the same laudable taste. The door and chimney lintels of the now demolished castle of the M'Combies at Crandart, which stood far up, in a lonely part of GLENISLA, were similarly ornamented. Examples of these, with the date of 1660, still remain in the district:—

THE LORD DEFEND THIS FAMILIE,

may be seen upon a stone lintel at a house in the neighbourhood; and another, which was carried from the same ruin, bears this record of the owner's faith and gratitude to God:—

I SHALL OVERCOME INVY VITH GOD'S HELP :  
 TO GOD BE AL PRAIS HONOVR AND GLORIE

Upon the castle of AUCHANACHIE in ABERDEENSHIRE there is a somewhat similar supplication (dated 1594) to one of those in Glenisla:—

FROM OVR ENEMIES DEFEND VS O CHRIST.

Upon the old dovecot or pigeon-house, at the now sadly disfigured castle of TOWIE BARCLAY, near TURRIFF, are the initials P. B., the date of 1662, and this motto :—

ÆTHIR DOE OR DIE.

The elaborately carved chimney-piece in the hall of the ruinous castle of HUNTLY, Aberdeenshire, dated 1609, bears these words :—

TO THAES THAT LOVE GOD AL THINGIS VIRKIS TO THE BEST.

Surrounding a beautiful monogram of the initials of George Gordon, the first Marquis of Huntly, and those of his Marchioness, Henrietta Stuart, is the following :—

SEN GOD DOETH VS DEFEND  
VE SAL PREVAIL VNTO THE END.

Several carved stones, of an oval shape, and similar to the one last mentioned, are affixed to the bridge at the Quarry Gardens of GORDON CASTLE, near FOCHABERS. It is said that these stones, and some other pieces of old carvings at the same place, were brought from Huntly Castle. Some of these oval-shaped stones bear the same initials in monogram as above noticed; but the centre ornaments, as well as the inscriptions, are mostly effaced, and the two mottoes which follow, both dated 1614, are alone decipherable :—

- (1.) TIMETE DOMINVM OMNES SANCTI EIUS \* QVIA NON EST INOPIA  
TIMENTIB' EVM.
- (2.) OMNE GENV FLECTATVR . . . . . NOMINE IESV.

Probably the last of these stones had been ornamented with an effigy of our Saviour, since traces of "a glory" or halo are still visible upon it.

CULLEN HOUSE, in BANFFSHIRE, a seat of the Earl of Seafield, is embellished with some interesting old carvings and inscriptions, which probably belong to about the year 1668. Surmounted by representations of the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, which form the triangular-shaped top lintels of attic windows, are these legends :—

- (1.) FAYTH Y<sup>E</sup> GRVND OF AL.
- (2.) HOPE Y<sup>E</sup> ANKER OF FAITH.
- (3.) CHARITIE COVERETH MANIE SINS.

Upon another part of the same building, in recently carved and conjoined characters, and in the style of those above noticed, a window lintel is thus inscribed :—

CAST YE BEAM OVT OF THINE OVNE EYE AND THOV SHALT SEE MORE  
CLERLIE TO PULL YE MOTE OVT OF THY BROTHIERS.

Over the curiously carved chimney lintel of the interesting old castle of CAWDOR, in NAIRNSHIRE, with the initials I. C., the Campbell arms, and the date of 1510, are these words :—

CERI MANI MEMINERIS MANE.

There is also a curiously ornamented bedroom chimney-piece, dated 1667, and inscribed “FEARE THE LORD.”<sup>1</sup>

Upon the chimney of an old house in the town of NAIRN is a monogram composed of the letters I.T.M.D., with the undermentioned legend. The legend, I am told, is similar to one in Fortrose, except that the words “Pax” and “Salus” are transposed in the latter :—

PAX INTRANTIBVS—SALVS EXEVNTIBVS.<sup>2</sup>

Upon an adjoining house, once a residence of a cadet of Rose of Kilravock,<sup>3</sup> dated 1722, is the following :—

OMNIA TERRENA PER VICES SVNT ALIENA  
NVNC MEA NVNC HVIVS POST MORTEM NESCIO CIVIS  
NVLLI CERTA DOMVS.

But there are other interesting examples of old inscriptions upon private houses in the north, which are worthy of being preserved. An old house in Castle Lane, INVERNESS, is ornamented with the Innes arms, surrounding which are the words :—

OVR BVILDING IS NOT HEIR, BVT WE HOPE FOR ANE BETTER IN CHRIST.

In another part of the town, under the figure of an old-fashioned

<sup>1</sup> It may be added, that, upon the glass of a small window in one of the garrets at Cawdor Castle, the word “*overcome*,” and the date of 1665, are rudely scratched. It is unknown to what person or circumstance these refer: *Story* says that in 1745 Lord Lovat was for some time concealed in this garret.

<sup>2</sup> A similar inscription occurs on a house in Blackfriars Wynd, Edinburgh.—Ed.

<sup>3</sup> Family of Rose of Kilravock, Spalding Club, p. 398.

plough, and the date of 1667, may be seen the still common and well-known sentiment of

SPEED THE PLOUGH.

The old poors'-house of Inverness, which was bequeathed to the town by Provost Dunbar in 1668, presents interesting examples of the class of antiquities under notice; and here, as in many other instances, the inscriptions are upon the top, or triangular-shaped lintel stones of the attic windows. The house, which has been uninhabited for some time past, is now but little cared for, and it is probable that the carvings, which have already suffered from the inclemency of the weather, will soon be altogether illegible; even now some of the letters are so worn and effaced as to make the passages difficult to read. There are five attic windows which face Church Street, and respectively contain the following emblems and inscriptions, viz.—(1.) An old man with a beard, cowl, and gown or cloak, leaning upon a staff; (2.) The royal crown of Scotland; (3.) A fleur-de-lis; (4.) The Scottish thistle; and (5.) The date of 1668. These lintels also present the following Scriptural quotations, carved in Roman and interlaced capitals, viz.—(1.) THIS POOR MAN PRAYED AND THE LORD HEARD HIM AND SAVED HIM OUT OF ALL HIS TRVBLE : (2.) A LITTLE THAT A RIGHTIOVS MAN HATH IS BETTER NOR THE (3.) RICHIS OF MANYE VIKID MEN : (4.) HIE THAT GIVETH TO THE POOR LENDITH TO THE (5.) LORD, AND HEI VIL PAYE THEM SEVEN TYMES MOR.

Another building, also in Inverness, bearing a later date than that last mentioned, has the following :—

BE TRUE, AND YOU SHALL NEVER RUE.

During the summer of 1857, when an old house in the High Street of ELGIN was being taken down, a stone about 2 feet long and 18 inches broad was found, dated 1688, and bearing these words :—

O LORD MAK VS LYVELLYE STONIS OF THY ETERNALL BVILDING. DEO GLORIA.

There are several fragments of inscribed stones in different parts of the town of TURRIFF, some of which are ornamented with the arms and initials of the old families of Mowat and Hay. One of the more entire of the inscriptions, dated 1707, is built into the front wall of a house in Manse Lane, and bears this couplet :—

FRINDS ARE WELCOM TO COME HERE,  
BUT FOES ARE WELCOM TO RETIRE.

Over the door of an adjoining house, embellished with the insignia of "the gardeners," are the initials G. R., the date of 1784, and this loyal and brotherly sentiment,—

GOD SAVE THE KING AND THE CRAFT.

Still more curious and lengthy admonitions are occasionally to be met with. A stone, preserved within the garden of the house, No 15 High Street, OLD ABERDEEN, bears the date of 1715 and the following inscription :—

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS MY INHERITANCE.  
I THANK MY GOD FOR POVERTY,  
FOR RICHES AND FOR GAIN;  
FOR GOD CAN MAKE A RICH MAN POOR,  
AND A POOR MAN RICH AGAIN.

Upon the front of a house in Back Street, FRASERBURGH, initialed P. D : I. R., and dated 1718, is the following verse, which occupies four different tablets, one line being inscribed upon each tablet, and a tablet is placed between each window :—

TRVST IN GOD FOR HE IS GOOD,  
HIS MERCY IS FOR EVER;  
GIVE YE HIM THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE  
FOR HE IS THE ONLY GIVER.

The pretty seaport of BANFF is also possessed of some of these legends. It was a favourite resort of the county gentry in old times, such as the Ogilvies of F'indlater. In a thoroughfare called the Strait Path, there is a house with an inscribed stone, bearing the names of John Anderson and Helen Ogilvie, the date of 1699, and this verse :—

O MORTALL MAN SEEK THOV THE LORD,  
THY RISE AND FALL KEEP IN RECORD.  
IN WHAT ESTATE SOEVIR THOV BEE  
OBEY AND THANK HIS MALESTIE.

A small slab, built into the front of a house in another part of the town of Banff, with the initials A. S., and the date of 1675, presents this admirable advice :—

SAY NA MAIR ON ME  
THAN YOV VALD I SAID ON YE.

Traces of inscribed stones are to be seen in different parts of the town of PETERHEAD. The legends, which are now illegible, are mostly given in Buchan's "Annals of Peterhead" (p. 12), and in Pratt's "Buchan," (pp. 52-3). [Similar legends to those which form the subject of this paper are printed in "Proceedings," vol. ii. p. 339, and vol. iv. p. 387.]