

NOTICE OF AN ORIGINAL LETTER OF KING JAMES II. TO MACDONELL OF KEPOCH, AFTER THE BATTLE OF KILLIECRANKIE; THREE LETTERS OF GENERAL MONCK; ALSO SOME DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ROB ROY MACGREGOR, AND TO SIMON, LORD LOVAT. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot.

The original MSS. (herewith exhibited), were put into my hands for perusal by George Sang, Esq., and on my expressing a wish that they might be added to the collections of the Society, he kindly agreed to apply to the executors of his late father, Mr John Sang, S.S.C. I have now therefore the pleasure of presenting them to be preserved among the MSS. of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

The following abstract of these documents is arranged according to their dates :—

I. GENERAL MONCK.

1. An authority from General George Monck “For the Governors off Finlarick, Balloche, and Weime, or athr off them,”—In regard of the many insolences and depredations of the Maknabs and their party upon the Laird of Glenorquhay; to assist the said Laird to make up his losses out of the chieffs of the Maknabs’ estates, and to assist in putting the hail Maknabs out of the country until such time as they give good security of Low Country Gentlemen that the Laird of Glenorquhay shall be in security, &c. Att Dalkeith, the 21 day of November 1654. Signed GEORGE MONCK.

2. Letter, and double or duplicate, of General Monck to the Laird of Glenurgy,—Desiring him to forbear to trouble the widow of the deceased Laird of McNab, as she has paid sesse and lived peaceably since her husband’s death, and others also; but only such as continue in arms against the Commonwealth, and desiring him also to forbear to meddle with any of the Magrigger. Dalkeith, 18th December 1654. Signed GEORGE MONCK.

3. Order by General Monck to Captain Gascoigne, Governor of Fin-

larick,—To protect the widow and children of the Laird of MacNabb in their lands, &c., and all others that live peaceably, as if the first order had never been made, as it was not intended the Laird of Glenurchy should molest any one living peaceably. And this protection was also to be given to Archibald McNabb of Agharne. Given under our hand and seal, Dalkeith, 16 January 1654,¹ and signed GEORGE MONCK.

A wax impression of the seal at the upper corner of this order, displays on a shield, a chevron, between three lion heads, erased; with the crest of a wyvern's head erased, on a barred helmet to front.

The Laird of Glenurchy referred to in these MSS. was the founder of the Breadalbane title.

The next document is of a more important character.

II. LETTER FROM KING JAMES II. TO McDONELL OF KEPPPOCH,
30TH NOVEMBER 1689.

The letter is interesting as giving a repetition of the statement made by JAMES in his letter to General Cannon, that the loss of the generalship, or rather, shall I say, the death of Dundee, took place apparently at the very commencement of the Battle of Killiecrankie. The words are—"the loss you had in a General you loved and confided in *at your verie entrance into action.*" (The italics are not in the original.) The letter is addressed on the back,

"To our Trustie and well beloved
M'DONELL of Cappagh."

" JAMES R.

"Trustie and well beloved, Wee Greet you well, The behaviour of your selfe and family, since the malise of our unaturall enemies have prevailed against us, shews us that in supporting you and doeing you Justice against the oppression of Antimonarchiall and ill men, wee shall add a lasting prop to the hereditary succession of our Crowne, and that as Innate Loyalty cannot be Debatched soe a Rebellious race by noe faire or Gentle means can be reclaimed, You may therefore Reckon upon it, That as soon as God shall please to putt itt in our power we will putt the experience wee have at soe deare a Rate acquired into practice and that you shal be one of the first that shall find the effects of it, The news we have

¹ For 1654-5, according to the English computation at the time.

receiued of the Brave Viscount Dundees death has most sinseably afflicted us, Butt as he has perpetuated his Memorie by falling in soe Just a Cause, Soe wee are resolued by extraordinary marks of our favour to make his family conspicuos, that the world may See Lasting Honnor and happiness are to be acquired, by the Brave and Loyall onely ; What he has soe happily begun and you soe Successfully maintained by a Thorough defeat of our Enemies, wee shall not doubt a Generous prosecution of, when wee consider that the Highland Loyaltie is inseperably annexed to the person of their Hereditary King; nor noe wayes feare the Event whilst the Justice of our Cause shal be seconded by soe many bold and dareing Asserters of our Royall Right; If their Couradge and your and the rest of the Commanders conduct were not Steddy, the loss you had in a Generall you loved and confided in, at your verie entrance into action with soe great inequality were enough to Baffle you Butt you have shewed your selues aboue surprize and given us proofe that wee are in a great measure like to owe you the Reestablishment of the Monarchy to your vallour, Wee are therefore resolued to send imediately our R^t Trustie and R^t well beloved the Earle of Seafort to head his freinds and followers, and (as soone as the season will permitt the Shipping of Horse) our R^t Trusty and intirely beloved naturall sone the Duke of Berwicke with considerable succors to your assistance, w^{ch} the present good posture of our affaires here will allow us to spare, ffor the Immediate hand of God appeares Signally to bess the Justice of our Cause, there haveing already fallen above tenn thousand of our Enemies by distemper and want, Wee must above all things recommend unto you a thorough union amongst your selues and due obedience to your Superior officers and that you look with the greatest indignation upon anybody that under any pretence whatsoever shall goe about to disunite you, Such an one being a more dangerous enemie to our interest then those that appeare in open Armes against us, Wee refer to the bearer to give you a full acctompt of our fforce and the present condition of our Enemies, w^{ch} is such as will putt our affaires here soone out of all doubt, and soe wee bidd you heartily farewell, Given at our Courte at Dublin Castle the Last Day of November 1689 and in the fifth yeare of our Reigne

“ By his Ma^{ties} Command.

“ Duplicat to M'Doniell of Cappagh.”

The letter, with the King's signature, is sealed on a square piece of paper above a wafer (the edges of the paper being turned over for the protection of the seal), with a large circular matrix, the Privy Seal of Scotland, displaying the shield of arms crowned, between the letters I and R, both crowned. It bears the lion rampant of Scotland, in the first, and fourth quarters; and the three lions of England quarterly, with the three fleurs-de-lis of France, in the second, and third quarters. Surrounding the shield, HONI · SOIT · QUI · MAL · Y · PENSE; and outside this, JACOBUS II. D · G · MAG · BRIT · FRAN · ET · HIB · REX · FI · DEF, and an ornamental border.

The similar letter "To our trusty and well beloved Colonell Cannon, Brigadier of all our Forces in Scotland," is dated the last day of November 1869. It is given in the volume of the "Leven and Melville Papers" (No. 262), prepared for publication in 1843 by the Hon. William Leslie-Melville for the Bannatyne Club. I quote the opening sentences:—

"JAMES R,

"Trusty and well beloved we greet you well, The conduct you have shewen, in the fall of the late Viscount Dundee, has sufficiently demonstrated unto us, how fit you are to serve us in any capacity. We need not therefore exhort you to couradge or loyaltie, which if you had not been very steady in, the loss you had in your General, at the verie entrance into action, with soe great inequality, were enough to baffle you, but you have shewed yourself above surprize, and sufficiently revenged the death of your leader." &c.

Another letter, written by James on the 30th of November 1689, to the Laird of M'Naughton, is given in the same volume (No. 261).

The letter to Keppoch is very similar to another written on this same last day of November "To our Trusty Cousin the Laird of Ballechin," published in Mr Mark Napier's "Life and Times of John Graham of Claverhouse Viscount Dundee," vol. iii. p. 654; and the reference in it to the fall of Dundee is as follows:—

"If their courage and yours, and the rest of the Commanders under you were not steady, the loss you had, in a General you loved and confided in,

at your entrance into action, with so great inequality of numbers, were enough to baffle you." &c.

III. ROB ROY MACGREGOR.

The next papers refer to an individual made famous by the genius of Sir Walter Scott, in his romance of "Rob Roy"—Robert Roy Macgregor, or Campbell, having assumed the name of his mother when compelled to relinquish that of Macgregor: I give a fac-simile of his signature.



Autograph of Rob Roy.

1. Bond of acknowledgment of John Hamiltone of Bardowie and Robert Campbell of Innersnait, having borrowed from John Grahame in Knethswood, the sum of 1700 merks Scots money, with the due and ordinary current thereof, at the usual terms, until payment, and a penalty of 300 merks in case of failure, over and above the sum borrowed. Dated at Glasgow, 20th February 1710, and signed Jo. HAMILTONE, Ro. CAMPBELL, &c.

2. Bond of acknowledgment by Robert Campbell alias McGrigor of Inversnat to John Hamiltone of Bardowie, of having borrowed 2000 merkkes Scots money, with a penalty of 400 merks in case of faylzyea. Dated at Glasgow, 21st December 1711. Signed Ro. CAMPBELL, &c.

3. Obligation by Robert Campbell of Craig Croftan to James Duke of Montrose. Dated at Glasgow, 27th December 1711.

This document, of which a copy is annexed, shows a business transaction between Montrose and Rob Roy, and is curious as giving the value of good Highland cattle at that date, being "fourtene pounds Scots per peice," or £1, 3s. 4d. sterling each, with a bull to the bargain.

"Be it knouen to all men be thir pn^{ts} me Robert Campbell of Craig Crostan for as much as Thomas ffraser of Dunechae as prin^t and Malcome Murray of Marchfeild as Cau^t be y^r obligatiōne subscribed be them of the

daite heirop band and oblidged them con^{llie} and seallie y^r aires &c, thankfully to deliver to his Grace James Duke of Montros his aires &c the number of Sixtie good and sufficient Kintail Highland Cowes betwixt the age of five and nine years at fourtene pounds scotts per peice with ane bull to the bargane and that at the head dykes of Buchanan upon the Twenty eight day of May nixt to come under the pain of Tuo Hundereth merks Scots money in caise of fealzie attour performance and the said Thomas Fraser granted him y^rby to have received the soume of Eight Hundereth and fourtie pounds Scotts as the pryce of the said coues and bull as the s^d obligation of the daite forsaid in itself more fully bears. Yet notwithstanding that I am not oblidged as caut^r for the s^d Thomas Fraser in the said obligatiene I heirby bind and oblidge me my aires exec^{rs} and successors q^tsomever that the s^d Thomas Fraser and his s^d cau^r shall full-fill and performe the hail contents and conditiones of the s^d obligatiene to the s^d James Duke of Montrose and his fors^{ds} against the time and at the place y^rin contained and y^t under the paine of Two Hundereth merkes Scots money of liq^{td} penaltie and expences in caise of fealzie attour performance and Last the said Thomas Fraser hereby oblidges him to relieve the s^d Robert Campbell of his hail oblismnt above writtⁿ and of all dange and expences y^ranent Consenting thir pn^{ts} be insert & regeratr in the books of counsell and sessione or any oy^{rs} competent that leti^s and exe^{ts} of horning on six days and oy^{rs} neidfull may heiron pass in forme as effeirs and yr^{to} Constituts proc^{rs} in witnes
 whereof thir pre^{ts} writtⁿ be Henry Wooddrop serv^d to Walter Buchanan wryter in Glasgow are sub^d at Glasgow the twenty seventh day of Dece^r I^m vij^o and eleven yeares before these witnesses the s^d Walter Buchanan and Henry Woodropp.

“ RO : CAMPBELL.

“ WAL : BUCHANAN, *Witnes.*

“ THO : FRASER.

“ HENRY WODDROP, *Witnes.*”

The following is written on the back of the document :—

“ Glasgow, The Twentie first May one thousand seven hunderd and twelve years, I do herby impouer you John Graham officer in Mugdock to receive in my name from ye w^tin designed Robert Roye Campbell y^e number of cattle w^rin mentioned, and upon delivery to discharge ye w^tin Bond and bond of corroboration relative thereto herew^t delivered, bearing

date at Glasgow the fifth of April one thousand seven hundred and twelve years and in case of fealzie on y^e pairt of y^e s^d Robert to protest and take instruments for penalties, cost, skith, and damage, written and signed by me day & place foresaid.

MONTROSE."

4. Extract of a Registered Protest, William Buchanan in Tarbert, Argyleshire, against Robert Roye Campbell of Inversnart, for non payment of a bill for a sum of L.85 sterling. Dated Att Edinburgh the Eight day of Aprill, 1712 years. Extracted by JO. ALEXANDER.

IV. SIMON, LORD LOVAT.

The last of the documents is a MS. List of the Officers of Lord Lovat's clan to serve his Majesty, with Lovat's autograph twice repeated. As it may be of some interest to give the names and designations of so many families of Frasers, I append a copy of the list, which is written in two separate columns in the original, one for each battalion of the regiment. This paper has no date, but it evidently belongs to the year 1715-16, when Lovat exerted himself to suppress the Rebellion in the North, in order to secure for himself a pardon under the Great Seal, which he obtained 10th March 1716.

"A List of the Officers of the Name of Fraser as they may be Regimented for his Majesties Service.

MY LORD LOVAT Collonel for the Aird and Strathglass
 HUGH FRASER of Struy Lievtenant Collonel
 HUGH FRASER yo'r of Killboky major
 JAMES FRASER of Beladrum First Capt.
 JAMES FRASER of Achnigairn Second Capt.
 ALEX^r FRASER son to Struy Third Capt.
 HUGH FRASER Son to Belladrum Fourth Capt.
 ALEX^r FRASER of Phopachie fift Capt
 THOMAS FRASER yo'r of Bublanc Sixth Capt.
 ALEX^r FRASER of Teanikeil Seventh Capt.
 HUGH FRASER of Culmulin Eight Capt.
 ALEX^r FRASER Son to Eskedeil Ninth Capt.
 THOMAS FRASER Son to Deany Tenth Capt.

LOVAT."

* JOHN FRASER alias M^TAVISH 2d Capt. "JOHN FRASER my Lord Lovats Brother Collonel for the Stratherick Side
 HUGH FRASER younger of Foyers Lev^t Collonel
 JAMES FRASER Son to Culduthel major
 * ALEX^a FRASER of Faraline first Capt.
 * JAMES FRASER Son to Foyers Second Capt.
 WILLIAM FRASER of Kinmonigie Third Capt.
 ALEX^r FRASER Son to Faraline ffourth Capt.
 HUGH FRASER of Bonchronbine fift Capt.
 HUGH FRASER younger of Eregie Sixth Capt.
 HUGH FRASER of Daltalich Seventh Capt.
 JOHN FRASER Son to Culduthel eight Capt.
 JOHN FRASER of Drumund ninth Capt
 JOHN FRASER Son to Garthmor tenth Capt

LOVAT.

"Every Capt. should have the power to make his Subaltern's."