

I.

AN ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER GORDON, A.M., AUTHOR OF THE
ITINERARIUM SEPTENTRIONALE, 1726. COMMUNICATED IN A LETTER
TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY BY PROFESSOR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D.,
TORONTO, HON. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES CONCERNING GORDON AND HIS WORKS.
BY DAVID LAING, ESQ., FOR. SEC. S.A. SCOT. (PLATE XIV.)

TORONTO, 25th Sept. 1873.

Long ago, when engaged in researches with a view to my "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland," I learned incidentally from Sir George Clerk of Penicuik, sundry family traditions relative to Baron Clerk and his antiquarian confrère ALEXANDER GORDON, to which allusion is made in a footnote of the "Annals." But the subject did not admit of minute personal references to either of them. More recently, however, my interest was revived in reference to the latter, by observing the fact that it was Gordon's fate to become, like myself, an emigrant to the New World, and to close his life as a colonist in South Carolina. I accordingly instituted inquiries, with the hope of recovering some traces of his later career. At first my efforts led to results not only disappointing but misleading. There was indeed an Alexander Gordon, whose will was proved before the proper Probate Courts about 1755; but my informant added that "the records being destroyed by General Sherman when he burned Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, no such Will could now be found." But, still more, nothing was known of this Alexander Gordon, or of his having filled any post under Governor Glen, at whose invitation Gordon is said to have accompanied him to America; whereas there was a Dr Alexander Garden, F.R.S.—also an Aberdonian by birth—who had certain relations with the Governor, and was a man of mark in his day. My informant even assumed that, in the haste of writing, I had written Gordon for Garden, and so gave me sundry minute details relative to the latter. Though I had made no such mistake, I began to wonder if it were not possible that Chalmers had confounded the two, and that, after all, the real Alexander Gordon's bones lay at rest in his native soil.

Still I prosecuted inquiries about the Alexander Gordon of 1755, and

now I have the pleasure, on returning from a long vacation ramble, to find awaiting me a duly certified copy of the Will of the undoubted Sandy Gordon of the *Itinerarium*, and to Jonathan Oldbuck's appreciative flavour. I enclose you herewith the copy of the Will, furnished to me, with his official certification, by George Buist, Esq., Judge of the Court of Probate, who, as the descendant of the Rev. Dr Buist, a Scottish clergyman of the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston in old colonial times, has kindly interested himself in my inquiries.

GORDON'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, ALEXANDER GORDON, of Charles Town, in the Province of South Carolina aforesaid, Esquire, being sick and weak of body, but of sound and disposing mind, memory, and understanding, thanks be given to Almighty God for the same, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following—That is to say, principally and first of all, I recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it, and my body I commit unto the dust, decently and in a Christian like manner, to be interred at the discretion of my executors hereinafter mentioned; and as to the worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with, I give the same and dispose thereof in manner following:—First, It is my express will, and I do hereby order and direct, that my said executors hereinafter mentioned and the survivors of them, and the executors and administrators of such survivors, shall forthwith and with all convenient speed after my decease, pay off, discharge, and satisfy my funeral charges and all other my just and lawful debts; and after such payment and satisfaction so made and rendered as aforesaid, then I give, devise, and bequeath unto the Honourable Hector Berrenger De Beaufain, Esq., his picture, portraiture, or effigies by me the said testator, painted, drawn, and represented, to have and to hold the same unto the said Hector Berrenger De Beaufain, Esq., his heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto the Reverend Mr Heywood, his picture, portraiture, or effigies by me the said testator, painted, drawn, and represented as aforesaid, to have and to hold the same unto the said John Heywood, his heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my son Alexander Gordon, my own picture, together with all and singular the paintings, views, and other the representations by me the said testator, painted, drawn, and represented, to have and to hold the same, and each and any of them, unto my said son, his heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my daughter Frances Charlotte Gordon, my silver watch, to have and to hold the same unto my said daughter, her heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said son Alexander, my gold ring, to have and to hold the same unto my said son Alexander, his heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said son and daughter, my lot of land situate lying and being in Ansonborough, in the Province aforesaid, and all and singular the houses thereon standing erected, and being together, with all and singular other my pictures hereinbefore not particularly given, devised, or bequeathed, plate, and other my household furniture of every nature and kind whatsoever, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike, to have and to hold the same unto my said son and daughter, their heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, It is my express will and desire, and I do hereby order and direct, that my said son shall, as conveniently as may be, cause to be printed and published my book now remaining in manuscript, and titled "A Critical Essay towards the illustrating the History and Chronology of the Egyptians and other most Ancient Nations, from the earliest ages on record till the times of Alexander the Great," &c., &c.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said son two-thirds parts, the whole in three equal parts, to be divided of all and every such sum and sums of money that shall arise and accrue from the printing and publication of the said book, to have and to hold the same unto my said son, his heirs and assignees for ever.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my said daughter Frances Charlotte Gordon, the remaining third part or share of all and singular such sum and sums of money so arising and accruing from the printing and publishing of the said book, to have and to hold the same unto my said daughter, her heirs and assignees.

And, lastly, I do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint the Hon. Hector Berenger De Beaufain, Esq., and my said son Alexander executors of this my last Will and Testament; and I do hereby also revoke, annul, cancel, and make void all and every former and other will and wills heretofore by me the said testator made, and all gifts, legacies, and bequests therein and thereby mentioned, given, devised, and bequeathed, confirming, approving, and ratifying this only as and to be and to contain my only last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, and in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George

the Second, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

ALEX^R. GORDON.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced, and declared by the testator as and for and to be and contain his only last Will and Testament, in presence of us, who in his presence and at his request have hereunto set our hands to these presents, consisting of three sheets of cap, the day and year above written.

EDWD. SMITH.

EMANUEL TODD.

JOHN TROUP.

The State of South Carolina, } In
Charleston County. } Probate Court.

I do hereby certify the foregoing pages to be and contain a true and correct copy of the last Will and Testament of Alexander Gordon, deceased.

Given under my hand and seal of office this fourteenth day of February A.D. 1873.

GEORGE BUIST,

Judge of Probate, *ex officio* Clerk.

Omitting any notice of Gordon's career prior to A.D. 1741, he then accompanied Governor Glen to South Carolina. In a list of members admitted to the St Andrew's Club of Charleston between 1740 and 1748, the name of Alexander Gordon appears; while, subsequent to 1754, "James Glen, late Governor of South Carolina," is also admitted. In connection with this it may be worth noting, as a possible clue to the relations between Gordon and Governor Glen, that among the subscribers to the "Itinerarium Septentrionale," is the name of James Glen of Longcroft, Esq., for two royal copies; and at page 55 Gordon describes a Roman altar which he found, dug out of the ruins near Barhill Fort, on the Antonine Wall, and which, he says, "is now in the hands of my curious and honoured friend, James Glen, Esq., present Provost of Lithgow." Possibly a relationship may be traceable between His Excellency James Glen, Governor of South Carolina, and the Glens of Longcroft, sufficing to account for the expatriation of the old Roman antiquary. Here, of course, it is wholly out of my power to follow up any such suggestive hint.

Unhappily the early records of the St Andrew's Club perished in the late war, though it still flourishes under the name of the St Andrew's Society; and its present president, General De Saussure—by the female

line a descendant of the Clan M'Pherson—has entered heartily into my wishes for the recovery of all traces of the antiquary.

From the recorded copy of a deed still extant at Charleston, it appears that one Hamerton, the registrar of the province, farmed out his office to Alexander Gordon, and by this deed appoints him as his attorney to transact all the business and receive all the fees of the office. Also among the recorded conveyances is one of a large lot of land in Charleston to Alexander Gordon, from which it appears that he was domiciled in South Carolina prior to 28th March 1746, the date of the conveyance to him, and that he died prior to 23d July 1755, as upon that day Alexander Gordon and Frances Charlotte Gordon, as devisees of Alexander Gordon, convey the lot to Sir Egerton Leigh.

This property is not mentioned in the will, in which, indeed, other matters of less worldly estimation occupy the larger space. But he there devises and bequeaths to his son and daughter a lot of land in Ansonborough, South Carolina, and all the houses erected thereon.

As to the Will itself it is interesting and amusingly characteristic. We knew before that Alexander Gordon was a good draughtsman; but we learn from the will that he painted portraits in oil, and that he bequeathed one of himself, painted by his own hand, to his son. But most characteristic of all are the instructions to his son to print his *Critical Essay on Egyptian Chronology*, with the formal bequest of two-thirds of the profits to him, and one-third to his sister Frances Charlotte.

From an old diary kept by a South Carolinian about a century ago, General De Saussure has ascertained for me that one Frances Gordon was married, on the 30th May 1763, to John Troup, the same, it may be presumed, whose name appears as one of the witnesses of the will. From a historical sketch of the St Andrew's Society of Charleston, which accompanies its printed rules, the office-bearers and members can be traced from its foundation. In 1757 John Troup was admitted a member of St Andrew's Club. The Revolution and War of Independence interrupted the regular meetings of the Club, but its archives and insignia were preserved, and when it was reorganised under its later name on St Andrew's Day, 1787, John Troup was chosen assistant treasurer; and from 1790 to 1794 he filled the office of vice-president after which his name disappears from the list of members.

Assuming the Alexander Gordon of 1740-48 to be the antiquary himself, his son's name does not appear among the old members of the St Andrew's Club, though the Gordons are otherwise well represented: in 1757 by Hon. Captain John Gordon; in 1761 by Rev. Charles Gordon; and in 1765 by the Right Hon. Lord Adam Gordon, with others of later date on to 1825, when another Alexander Gordon appears, possibly the grandson of the antiquary, who filled the office of secretary from 1828 to 1833, when he was appointed treasurer, and continued to occupy that place of trust till 1844, when he resumes the secretaryship till 1850, when his name disappears. But so far as I can learn there are no descendants of the author of the *Itinerarium* now known to survive in South Carolina.

As to the son of the antiquary, I find an Alexander Gordon, attorney-at-law, admitted a member of the Union Kilwinning Lodge, No. 4, of the Charleston Freemasons, in 1756, who may, with little doubt, be assumed to be the same. His brother-in-law—in 1762, *i.e.* the year before his marriage to Frances Charlotte Gordon—is admitted to the same Lodge of Freemasons, and in 1791 he is found entertaining the Union Kilwinning Lodge at his own house, in the capacity of Right Worshipful Master. Those are the only traces that I have been able to recover of the descendants of Alexander Gordon, the Roman antiquary. But if the portrait of himself—his veritable picture, portraiture, and effigies painted by his own hand—has not perished in the ravages of civil war, I still hope to recover traces of it, not improbably indicated beyond question by some accompaniment of Roman or Egyptian relic, emblematic of the special tastes of the enthusiastic antiquary, to whose labours we owe the painstaking record of Roman and other antiquities embodied in the world-famous volume which so won the favour of Jonathan Oldbuck and Sir Walter Scott.

Gordon, I may remind you, adds A.M. to his name. He was, no doubt, a graduate of Aberdeen. I have tried to learn whether of the Old University or of Marischal College, but in vain. With your many facilities this may be easy, and may possibly help you to his parentage or other information as to his origin, such as I should still try to recover were I within reach of books or records. I may possibly print a sketch of the old antiquary in a more popular form, in which case I shall send you a

copy ; but I should think that the Will might with great propriety find a place in the Proceedings of the S.A. Scot., with a few brief notes about the testator.

Believe me, ever faithfully yours,

DAN. WILSON.

To David Laing, Esq., LL.D., &c.

ALEXANDER GORDON, A.M.

ON receiving the preceding communication from Dr Wilson, I replied I would have much pleasure in submitting it to the Society, with some Additional notices relating to Alexander Gordon as an author, which I had previously collected.

The account of Gordon, in a popular form, by Dr Wilson, here referred to, appeared in "The Canadian Journal of Science, Literature, and History." November 1873. New Series. Toronto. 8vo.

Copies, as a separate tract, were printed with this title, "ALEXANDER GORDON, the Antiquary. By Daniel Wilson, LL.D., Professor of History and English Literature, University College, Toronto. Toronto, 1873." 8vo, pp. 31.

GORDON was a native of Aberdeen, and born, I imagine, not later than 1692. Whether he belonged to any of the Gordon families of note in the neighbouring district has not been ascertained.

As Gordon, however, had taken his degree of A.M. at Aberdeen, it was desirable to know both the exact date, and also if the registers might indicate anything as to his parentage. On applying to the Rev. Mr Fyfe, Registrar of the University, he kindly examined the College registers, and found various persons of the name of Alexander Gordon, between the years 1700 and 1720, without any means of identifying them. Gordon afterwards is said to have travelled abroad, probably as a tutor, and to have spent some years in Italy, France, Germany, &c. His residence in Italy had no doubt its influence in directing his attention to the Antiquities of his native country. Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, in 1726, in writing to Roger Gale, the eminent English antiquary, also says :—

"Mr Gordon is expected here, with his head full of a project to make

a communication between Clyde and Forth by a canal," and adds, with other remarks, "his project has been thought of a good many years ago, but it has been judged the profits would not answer the charge." (See Letters 7 and 8, at page 380.)

Gordon has been frequently noticed in the "*Reliquiæ Galeanæ*," which contains the correspondence between Baron Clerk and Roger Gale, chiefly in connexion with his "*Itinerarium Septentrionale*," 1726. In the following pages the chief passages relating to Gordon are given in the form of extracts.

Gordon himself states that he spent three years in visiting different parts of the kingdom, exploring, drawing, and measuring ancient remains; and the publication could not otherwise but entail on the author much pecuniary inconvenience, and render it necessary to complete his work with no delay for his numerous and highly distinguished subscribers.

The ordinary accounts of Gordon's subsequent career furnish us with the following statements:—"In 1736 he was appointed Secretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Learning, with an annual salary of L.50; this he resigned in 1739. In the same year (1736) he succeeded Dr Stukeley as Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, which office he resigned in 1741 to Mr Joseph Ames; having also for a short time acted as secretary to the Egyptian Club, composed of gentlemen who had visited Egypt, viz., Lord Sandwich, Dr Shaw, Dr Pococke, &c. In 1741 he went to Carolina with Governor Glen, where, besides a grant of land, he had several offices, such as Register of the Province, &c.; and died about 1750, a justice of the peace, leaving a handsome estate to his family."

From the authenticated copy of Gordon's last Will and Testament, communicated by Professor Daniel Wilson, we learn that Gordon died at Charleston, South Carolina, on or after the 22d of August 1754; and besides notices of his family, and his collections for a posthumous work on Egyptian Antiquities, it proves that among his various accomplishments he had practised for some time as a Portrait painter. He is also sometimes styled "Singing Sandie," which implies a knowledge or love of music. Before the present communication will be required for inserting in the Proceedings of the present session, I hope Professor Wilson may have succeeded in tracing the portrait of Gordon, painted by himself.

Dr Wilson, at p. 10, says, "According to the traditions of the Penny-

cuik family, as communicated to me by the late Sir George Clerk, the author of the *Itinerarium* was a grave man, of formal habits, tall, lean, and usually taciturn." In the "Literary Anecdotes," by John Nichols, vol. v. p. 278, in his account of Beaupré Bell, a learned numismatist and antiquary, Mr Nichols says, he made a cast of the profile of Dr Stukeley, prefixed to his "Itinerarium," and an elegant bust of Alexander Gordon, after the original given by him to Sir Andrew Fountaine's niece.

Gordon was undoubtedly a man of considerable acquirements and learning, a good draftsman, and very indefatigable. His circumstances, however, were not favourable for his varied pursuits; and it may have required all that he could obtain for eulogistic dedications, flattering inscriptions, and the money collected from subscribers, to keep him free from pecuniary difficulties and occasional disputes, as we may infer from his own letters. His want of business habits may have rendered him careless in regard to money transactions, without accusing him, as in the following extract, of actual dishonesty. Mr John Nichols, in his "Literary Anecdotes," has given a note, written by John Whiston, a London bookseller, which says of Gordon, "He was but in narrow circumstances. For some time he was in partnership with Mr John Wilcox, bookseller in the Strand; but his education, temper, and manners did not suit him for a trade." Whiston appears to have had some prejudices against him, as he says further, "He had some learning, some ingenuity, much pride, much deceit, and very little honesty, as every one who knew him believed. Poverty tempted him to dishonesty, his national character and constitution to pride and ingenuity, and his dependence on the great to flattery and deceit."—(Vol. v. p. 699.)

The following may be considered a complete list of Gordon's publications :—

1. *Itinerarium Septentrionale* : or, a Journey thro' most of the Counties of Scotland, and those in the North of England. In two Parts, &c. The whole illustrated with sixty-six copperplates. By Alexander Gordon, A.M., London, printed for the Author, and sold by G. Strachan, J. Woodman, W. & J. Innes, and T. Woodward, 1726, folio.

Other copies were issued having a new title, with the following imprint :—London, printed for F. Gyles, D. Browne, Woodman & Lyon, and C.

Davis, 1727. A considerable number of copies were printed on Royal paper, as there are 71 mentioned in the list of subscribers, and also of the Additions in 1732, which are not always bound with the book. One of these large paper copies I bought at a London sale, said to contain the Author's original drawings. These drawings, not very numerous, are chiefly of a small size, very neatly drawn, but of no special importance.

The author says that, in prosecuting this work, "I confess I have not spared any pains in tracing the footsteps of the Romans, and in drawing and measuring all the figures in the following sheets from the originals, having made a pretty laborious progress through almost every part of Scotland for three years successively."

It is dedicated to his Grace Charles Duke of Queensberry, Dover, &c. Many of the plates have special inscriptions to some of the nobility and persons of distinction, whose names appear in the list of subscribers. The map of the principal Roman camps, forts, walls, has the name Johannes Mackay, *deliniavit*.

On page 188 is an advertisement, "The Author of this Work designs, in a few days, to publish Proposals for Engraving, by subscription, A Compleat View of the Roman Walls in Britain, viz., those of the Emperors Hadrian and Severus, in Cumberland and Northumberland, in a large Map, near 14 foot in length, and 6 in breadth; and that of Antoninus Pius in Scotland, in another map of about 6 foot in length, and 4 in breadth." It is much to be regretted that this Survey or work intended to delineate the Roman Walls, with drawings of all the inscriptions, and altars discovered, should not have appeared.

In 1731 Gordon informs us—"Some lovers of antiquity in Holland being now printing a Latin edition of my 'Itinerarium Septentrionale,' were desirous to know, at the time they began the said work, if I could transmit to them any additions and corrections for the original in English." (See Letter 10, in Appendix and note.)

In justice to his English subscribers, who encouraged the publication of his Itinerary, he printed such proposed Additions in a separate form, with this title—

2. Additions and Corrections, by way of Supplement, to the "Itinerarium Septentrionale," containing several dissertations on, and descriptions of Roman Antiquities discovered in Scotland, since the publishing of the

said Itinerary, together with Observations on other Ancient Monuments found in the North of England, never before published. By Alex. Gordon, A.M. London, printed for A. Vandenhoeck & Comp. And sold also by Mr Innys and Mr Knapton, Mr Strahan, and Mr Davis. 1732. Folio pp. 30, and four plates (lxvi.—lxix.) In the dedication, "To the Honourable James Makrae, Esq., late Governor of Fort St. George," the author says :—

SIR,—The many favours I have received from you, when I was honour'd with your acquaintance abroad, and the continuance of them at home, oblige me to take the first opportunity of declaring to the World how much I am indebted to your friendship.

Accept therefore these Papers, not as any retribution for the many favours receiv'd, but as a sincere acknowledgment of a grateful heart.— I am, Sir, your most humble and most obliged servant,

ALEX. GORDON.

3. The Lives of Pope Alexander VI. and his son Cæsar Borgia : comprehending the Wars in the Reigns of Charles VIII. and Lewis XII. Kings of France ; and the chief Transactions and Revolutions in Italy, from the year 1492 to the year 1506. With an Appendix of Original Pieces referred to in the Work. By Alexander Gordon, A.M. London, printed in the year 1729, folio. The dedication, to his Grace James Duke of Montrose, is followed by a large and notable list of the names of the subscribers, beginning with Her most Sacred Majesty the Queen. Part II., after page 182, has a separate title and dedication to the Right Honourable John Earl of Stair. The volume contains portraits of Alexander VI., Pont. Max., and of Cæsar Borgia ; the former probably etched by the Author.

4. A Complete History of the Antient Amphitheatres, more particularly regarding the Architecture of these Buildings, and in particular that of Verona. By the Marquis Scipio Maffei, made English from the Italian original by Alexander Gordon, A.M., Adorned with Sculpture ; also some Account of this Learned Work. London : printed for Harmen Noorthuek. 1730. 8vo, pp. xvi. 423, and 25 plates. Dedicated to George Bows of Streatleham Castle, Esq.

A second edition, enlarged, was printed at London in 1736. 8vo.

5. *Lupone, or the Inquisitor.* A Comedy. London, printed for J. Wilford, behind the Chapter-house in St Paul's Church-yard, 1731. 8vo, pp. 84. It is dedicated to his Grace Cosmus, Duke of Gordon. The copy I have was from the Roxburghe collection; a pencil note after the Duke's name says, "Then (1731) eleven years old. After his father's death in 1728 he was educated in the Protestant religion." This explains the first part of the dedication, which begins "MY LORD, the sincere regard for truth, of which your Grace has given the world such early examples, renders you the proper patron of every attempt that tends to the exposing those whose employment is to promote the most pernicious error that ever deluded mankind, &c.—ALEX. GORDON." The scene is laid in Naples; and Lupone, a Dominican friar, is styled chief Inquisitor. In the "Biographia Dramatica," under Gordon's name, it is said—"This gentleman is known only as the author of one play."

6. An Essay towards Explaining the Hieroglyphical Figures, on the Coffin of the Ancient Mummy belonging to Capt. William Lethieullier. By Alexander Gordon, A.M. London, printed for the Author, 1737. Folio, pp. 16. Dedicated to the Right Honourable Arthur Onslow, Esq.

7. An Essay towards Explaining the Antient Hieroglyphical Figures on the Egyptian Mummy, in the Museum of Doctor Mead, Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty. By Alexander Gordon, A.M. London, printed for the Author, 1737. Folio, pp. 10. Dedicated to Dr Mead; and on a separate leaf the following advertisement to the reader:—

Advertisement to the Reader.

The Two preceding Essays being design'd to explain Three of the Twenty-five Copper-plates already deliver'd to Subscribers, an Explanation of the remaining Prints will come forth with all convenient speed; first, what belongs to the other antient Mummies exhibited in the said Plates; next, what regards the rest of the Monuments on Stone, Wood, Metal, &c.

N.B.—When this is finish'd according to the Terms of the Subscription, the Author intends to offer the Public another Work, viz., The History of the Egyptians, from the earliest Accounts given of them, to the Time of Darius, cotemporary with Alexander the Great; which

Work is not intended to be publish'd by Subscription, and is now very near ready to put to Press.

Subscribers will please to observe, That the xiiiith Plate which is describ'd in the Second Dissertation, as well as all the other Prints in their Hands, must be cut to the Size of the printed Sheets, because the rest of the Work will be of the same Dimensions.

The 25 plates for the most part have, as usual, each a separate dedication, by Gordon, to persons of distinction. These two Essays (Nos. 6 and 7), were intended to be followed with an additional description of the copperplate engravings, and another work, the History of the Egyptians, according to the above advertisement. In Bowyer's "Literary Anecdotes" by Nichols, this work, it is said, was left by Mr Gordon in MS., under the new title of "An Essay towards illustrating the History, Chronology, and Mythology of the Ancient Egyptians, from the Earliest Ages on Record, till the Dissolution of their Empire, near the time of Alexander," which is dated London, July 6, 1741.

It will be observed that Gordon, in his last Will, gave special directions to have this work printed; which, however, never appeared.

APPENDIX.

ORIGINAL LETTERS OF ALEXANDER GORDON, A.M.

I.

*Letter to James Anderson, Esq.*¹

SIR,—Since you did me the favour of lending me Mr Sibald's book,² I have been very much instructed and informed by it, have therefore ranged over all the booksellers shoaps in town in search of purchasing it, but to no purpose, save that Paton has promis'd to procure me it this week. However, seeing the Baron and I probably go out of town tomorrow, I have in a manner an indispensible necessity of having that book of Sibald's along with me in my antiquary peregrination, so if I

¹ From Vol. iv. No. 46, of the Anderson Papers, in the Advocates' Library.

² So in the orig. MS. evidently a mistake for Sir Robert Sibbald.

could so far prevail on your goodness to lend me it till I come back from the virtuoso Tuer, which can be no farther than Glasgow, Sterling, and Perth this Summer, I should take it as a demonstration of very condescending goodness in you, seeing I can nott get another at present; and this book is absolutely necessary for my designes, seeing it directs me to 50 or 60 places which I know nothing about, besides am to trace the *Vallum* according to the stages sett down in his draught. All this considered, and that it may chance to be of publick good, I hope you'l indulge me with this favour which I came to ask of you in person; but I heard you was at the Fowl Briggs; am therefore impatiently waiting your commands this way, or if possitively you will have it returned, I shall, but at any rate should not, keep it long from you. I beg a thousand pardons for this my presumption on so early an acquaintance; but if ever there be anything wherein in the future I can serve you, the effectuating it shall be the greatest pleasure imaginable to,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

ALEXANDER GORDON.

Aug. 19, 1723.

To Mr James Anderson, at the Foulbriggs.

2.

*Letter to Joseph Ames.*¹

TUESDAY, 21st June 1726.

SIR,—I received your letter of Monday, in which you desire me to meet you at the Quaker's, which I cannot, by reason of a prior engagement with Mr Mackay and others; nor do I know well what you mean by insisting on my promises, seeing, I think whatever I promised I have faithfully fulfilled, in a manner sufficient to any services I have had of you, which if you are not content, nor willing of a continuation of friendship, if you have a mind that justice shall decide the matter, let me know, that my attorney may appear, wherever you think proper to let me know, in a friendly manner, and if required, shall have sufficient bail ready, till a judge decide our difference. For my part, I thought by

¹ Printed from Nichols's "Literary Anecdotes," vol. v. p. 329, 330. When Gordon resigned the Secretaryship of the Society of Antiquaries, London, previous to his setting out for Carolina, Joseph Ames became his successor in 1741.

this time, on receipt of your clothes, you had been perfectly satisfied; and that the value of L.26, 10s. is reward for all you have done me. I think you go a very strange way to work in gaining friends and people's esteem, by such unreasonable pretensions, when you know with what difficulty I can get the two ends of my book's expense to meet. I did not expect this at your hand. Had you been easy till I had seen what profit I may have if any, or how my matters stand, I still would have exerted myself on your account, as I have already done, which is all from, Sir,
 your most humble servant,
 ALEXANDER GORDON.

P.S.—With the evening tide I go for Richmond to Sir Andrew Fountain, then to Twitnam, with Brigadier Bisset's books, next to Hampton Court, about a particular affair, so when I return I shall be very willing to lay the affair before Mr Colvill and Mr Richardson, your two friends; and I hope thereby exonerate myself and conduct in any affair betwixt you and me.

3.

Letter to Mr Nourse, Bookseller.

SIR,—I shall be obliged to you if you will at your leisure draw out the Credit part of our accompt, what you shew me in your shop last time is the Debtor side of your books I had of you; but I can instruct that you had 24 setts of my Dessertations on the Mummies, sent to you and not 18 as your memory misleads you in thinking, and as such I shall instruct it upon oath if required; besides I cannot possibly be owing you a ballance of a guinea, for you may remember after you had your Diogines Laiertius you told me yourself and since, that the ballance due you from me was about 18 or 19 shillings, and I dare say if you ever have stated your number of those Dissertations you received, and sold, right in your books, you will find I owe you no more, I should be sorry to have the same difficulty with you in settling this, as Mr Mackerther says he has had in his accompts with you, what I have told you is facts I can prove, therefore I am determined I will pay you no more then the ballance we had before settled, and what I realy owe you.—Sir, your very humble servant,
 ALEX^r. GORDON.

St Martyn's Lane, 20th Oct. 1739.

To Mr Nourse, Bookseller at Temple Bar.

[A facsimile of this letter, which I lately bought in London, is given on Plate XIV. I would have preferred Gordon's letter to James Anderson, No. 1; but the size and faintness of the ink rendered it less suitable. If I mistake not, I have two or three other letters of Gordon, which have fallen aside. They may afterwards be added, if they prove of any interest.]

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS, published by Mr John Nichols in *RELIQUÆ GALEANÆ*, in the "Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica," Vol. II. Lond. 1782.

[Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, best known by his designation of Baron Clerk, having been appointed one of the Barons of Exchequer on the institution of that Court after the Union. He was a man of considerable learning and accomplishments, and a zealous antiquary. He succeeded to the title as second Baronet on his father's death in 1722, and survived till the year 1755. His representative, the late Right Hon. Sir George Clerk, Bart., presented to the Society, in December 1857, a portion of his collections, consisting of four large and twelve smaller Roman Altars and Mural Inscriptions. See Proceedings vol. iii. p. 55, 1858, where they are specially described; also the tract published by Sir John himself "Dissertatio de Monumentis quibustem, etc. Edinburgi 1750. 4to."]

4.

Sir John Clerk to Mr Gale.

EDENBURGH, 16th April 1726.

I received this moment the honour of yours of the 9th instant, and at the same time one from Mr Gordon, wherein he tells me, that he had laid aside all thoughts of inserting our letters in his Appendix, and that he was only to take the substance of them in his own way. this piece of news pleases me extremely; and I hope you will keep him to his word.

5.

Sir John Clerk to Mr Gale.

PENNYCUICK, 2d June 1726.

I cannot now help what is done, but have caused the errata to be printed after the Appendix in as many copies as are to be sold here; I

likewise ordered the printer to send them to Mr Gordon, that they might likewise be inserted in other copies.

To return to Mr Gordon, tho' he had done me a great kindness not to put me so much in his records, yet I am obliged to forgive him, for I dare say he had my credit no less in view than his own. As to the errata, I must impute them to my own bad hand and way of writing, with which I doubt you are scarcely acquainted as yet. As to the rest of Mr Gordon's book, it is really a book above my expectation, and might have pleased every body had he been less precipitate in publishing it. I was not wanting in giving him Horace's advice :

—Nonumque prematur in annum :
Membranis intus positis, delere licebit
Quod non edideris ; nescit vox missa reverti.

But possibly, he has done better if he has acquired by it new and able friends to get him put in a new way of living. I cannot omit making some apology for him in relation to what he says of the speech of Galgacus, p. 136. I once endeavoured to persuade him that it was only a fiction of Tacitus conformable to a liberty among historians, and that there was no reasoning from any thing contained in it to the advantage either of Galgacus or his Caledonians ; but Mr Gordon's high respect for his country hath carried him too far, and made him commit a sort of laudable fault.

There are other instances of this infirmity in p. 137 ; but his business as an antiquarian will atone for all : the best that could be said for the Caledonians was, that though they had been conquered, yet the Romans could not retain their conquests. I am, I confess, of the opinion of some learned men, that it is a reproach to a nation to have resisted the humanity which the Romans laboured to introduce. As to the rest of Mr Gordon's book,

Ubi plura nitent—non ego paucis offendar maculis.

6.

Mr Gale to Sir John Clerk.

LONDON, 24th June 1726.

By what Mr Gordon had said to me, I concluded he had your free leave to publish your letters, otherwise should by no means have parted

with them to him, much less have suffered my crude and hasty answers to have attended them into the world, had not the printing of yours indispensably required it. The errors you complain of must be wholly imputed to the stupidity and perverseness of the printers. I corrected the sheets myself with all the care I could; and finding, when the book was finished, most of their faults still left, I persuaded Mr Gordon to stop the publication of it for a week, whilst those sheets might be once more corrected and reprinted, which he did; but then returning from the press with some of the old errata set right, and new ones added in their room, stop them again he could not, having engaged a second time in the publick prints to deliver them at a certain day to his subscribers, which promise having broke, upon pretence the map was not ready (though the delay in reality was only to reprint the aforementioned sheets), he thought he could by no means excuse another non-performance of his engagements. I offered him to peruse every sheet of the whole book as it came out of the press, for which he seemed very thankful, but never sent me one, except those of the Appendix, containing our letters. I wish it was not his, being persuaded that he was perfectly right in all his notions which occasioned it, though you see as well as myself that he is not clear of mistakes; to which I must add, an impatience of getting the work abroad upon the prospect of getting a little money by it, his circumstances, as I believe, requiring and prompting him to it. I hope also that it has been a recommendation to him to some of our great men here, who, as he tells me, have given him some reason to expect they will do something for him. He may urge in his defence that strong plea of *Res angusta DOMI* for his hasty publication, as he may that other of *Vincit amor PATRIÆ*, where his zeal for the honour of his country has sometimes caused him to enforce his arguments too far.

7.

Sir John Clerk to Mr Gale.

EDENBURGH, 29th August 1726.

Mr Gordon is expected here, with his head full of a project, to make a communication between Clyde and Forth by a canal; when I see it is

probable he will be less fond of it, for his project has been thought of a good many years ago, but it has been judged the profits would not answer the charge.

8.

Mr Gale to Sir John Clerk.

LONDON, 6th September 1726.

I told Mr Gordon my thoughts of his project to cut through the Northern isthmus very freely. I could not see what manner of commerce could be so promoted by this new passage, as to pay the immense expence it would require to perfect it; at the same time the public is so poor here, and so many necessary demands upon it, that I am sure it will be impossible to obtain the least sum for such experiments, and I believe your treasury in Scotland is not much richer; he has, however, communicated it to some great men. My Lord Islay treated it, as I hear, with great contempt; and if Sir Robert Walpole gave it a more favourable reception, it proceeded from the recommendation of Secretary Johnson, and from his usual affability and desire to dismiss everybody that applies to him as well pleased as he can.—I am, Sir, your most humble servant.

[The scheme referred to in these two letters was one of various other projects in the course of last century for “cutting a navigable canal between the Firths of Clyde and Forth; but it was not till 1768 that Parliament sanctioned the measure. The business was set on foot by a subscription for L.150,000. In this year the cutting commenced; the sum, however, was inadequate, and it was only by a present of L.50,000 from the forfeited estates, made by Government, that the whole length of the canal was finished. On the 28th of July 1790 the navigation was opened from sea to sea.”—(Chambers’s “Gazetteer of Scotland.”)]

9.

Sir John Clerk to Mr Gale.

7th April 1729.

Last week I received your letter of the 24th of March, and return you my acknowledgements for so valuable a favour. Being in a little hurry at

the time, I only took notice of two things in relation to the publishing my letters by Mr Gordon. [At the end of his "Itinerarium Septentrionale," p. 169-184, without mentioning the names of the writers.]

10.

Sir John Clerk to Mr Gale.

EDENBOROUGH, 13th March 1732.

I had the favour of yours of the 11th January, but could not get so much time as to thank you for it, such was the hurry of some affairs in which I am concerned; and on the like occasions you have been so good as to excuse me. I never saw Mr Gordon's Supplement till within these eight days. He had done well either not to have printed at all, or done it with less precipitation. His dispute with Dr Hunter (physician at Durham) is amazing, for both what he and the doctor says, about the time of erecting the Basilica, may be true. I was out of all patience when I found him making remarks on some of your observations, which, I believe, were never printed; but, it seems he is one of those that would rather lose their friend than their jest, and a little more learning would make him a compleat modern critic. I have been sorry often to observe such weaknesses; but I was so much obliged to him for the happiness he introduced me to of your acquaintance, that I could overlook many faults in him. I beg it of you not to discountenance him altogether, but continue to give him your good advice, though he may be very little capable of benefiting by it. I have troubled you with the inclosed to him, which I beg you would allow a servant to carry him. I see he has helped off some of his errata in the "Itinerarium," but has taken no notice of some ridiculous things he made me say; wherefore I have sent him a few corrections, if there be place for them in his Latin edition.

[I suspect that the proposed publication in Holland of Gordon's *Itinerary*, translated into Latin, to which we are indebted for the Additions and Supplement by the Author in 1732, never was completed. I do not at least recollect ever having seen the book, nor does the title appear in the catalogues of various libraries where such a book was most likely to have been found. D. L.]

I shall be obliged to you if you will let Mr. Leizure draw out
 the Credit part of our account, since you then are in of Shop
 his time is the 8th side 2 of books I had of you, but I can instruct
 that you had 24 letters of my Dissertations as if immunities, sent
 to you, & not 10 as your memory misleads you, ^{in shooting,} & as such I shall
 instruct it upon oath if required. Besides I can not possibly be
 owing you a balance of a guinea for you may remember after
 loss of Diogenes Laertius you told me of self 2 time, that the
 balance due you from me was about 10 or 19 shillings, & I dare
 say if you ever have stated up number of these Dissertations
 you received & sold, right, & in of books, you will find I owe you
 no more. I should be sorry to have of same difficulty with you
^{keeping} as Mr. Mackenzie says he has had in his account with you,
 what I have told you is fact, & I can prove, therefore I am deter=
 mined I will pay no more than of balance we had deposited
 & what I owe you.

Jⁿ W^s

very humble Serv^t

Alex^r Gordon

S^t Mark's Lane Dec^r 20. 1739