

III.

THE BATTLE OF GLENSHIEL. NOTE UPON AN UNPUBLISHED
 * LETTER IN THE POSSESSION OF C. S. HOME-DRUMMOND-MORAY,
 Esq., OF ABERCAIRNEY. BY A. H. MILLAR, F.S.A. SCOT.

In December 1882 I had the privilege of submitting to the Society an unpublished plan of the Battle of Glenshiel, which the late Duke of Marlborough had courteously forwarded to me from the library at Blenheim Palace. The plan was engraved, and will be found in the *Proceedings*, vol. v. new series, p. 57. From this document I was able to show that the date usually given by historians for this battle was incorrect, and that the engagement was much more serious than some writers have believed. The plan was drawn by Lieutenant John Bastide, who was engaged on the Hanoverian side, and had doubtless been prepared for the information of the first Duke of Marlborough.

Since that paper was read I have discovered a letter, written apparently by one who sympathised with the rebels, which gives many interesting details of the action. Through the kindness of C. S. Home-Drummond-Moray, Esq. of Abercairney, the possessor of this letter, I am enabled to lay its contents before the Society. From these two documents, written by opponents on the field, an intelligible account of this conflict may at length be constructed. The date is now placed beyond dispute, since both the papers agree upon it; and the part taken by the leaders on either side can be accurately ascertained. It is satisfactory for me to find that my conjectures as to the importance of Rob Roy's share in the battle (*History of Rob Roy*, chap. xxvii.) have been fully confirmed, though advanced in opposition to several of the biographers of that chief.

ANE ACCOUNT OF THE INGAGEMENT AT GLENSHEEL, JUNE 10TH 1719.

June 15th 1719.

SIR,—When the regular forces were approaching, Tulliebardine was fully advertised both of their numbers and the day they were to march and attack, and accordingly he called a Council of War, and by his and their unanimous

advice and consent, Brigadier Campbell made all the depositions for defending the pass and receiving the regular forces, which was in this manner.

Glensheel being straight and narrow, both sides having highland rugged hills and a water running betwixt the hills, which is the only level place there, Lord George, Macdougall of Lorn, M'Kenzie of Avoch, 100 of Seaforth's men, and 50 men of detachments, were placed upon a steep rising ground upon the south side of the Glen in an advanced Post.

The Spaniards upon the Right and Borlum M'Intosh with them.

Seaforth upon the left at some distance with 200 of his best men, upon a steep rock, the Earle of Marishall and 200 of the M'Kenzies a little below them, Sir John M'Kenzie of Coul with them and severall other Gentlemen of that name.

Tulliebardine, Locheil with 80 Camerons, Brigadier Campbell of Glendarule, and severall others such as Rob Roy were in the center, being 400 in number, where it was supposed and believed the regular troops would chiefly attack, being the most open and the best and common passage and road.

The baggage was guarded by 30 Spaniards. There is no doubt but the King's forces were advertised of all that passed in the Highlander's camp, for all that did come were welcome, heard, and were informed of all, there having a division and emulation among them who should command them in chief, in so far as that the King's troops made the best advantage of it, and instead of attacking the center, which was the best and common way, they attack't Lord George and those with him, and beat them, they giving way; Lord George, M'Dougall, and Avoch drawing their swords and crying to them to stand, but all would not doe.

That post being gained, the other where Seaforth and Marishall were, was attacked by the English and Dutch, from which they were soon beaten, and Seaforth calling for relief to support him, Rob Roy was sent from the center and others after him, to support them both, yet before they arrived Seaforth and all gave way, and the relief not being able to maintain it, returned.

Tulliebardine seeing all irreparably lost, called the Spaniards and made one orderly retreat without the loss of any of the Spaniards or others, keeping constant fire with the K.g's troops. Expecting they would all join next day and make a second tryall, but there were few or none to be had next day except the officers and the few men Locheil had, with some others, and the Spaniards.

Seaforth was shot in the arm, who behaved gallantly, but his friends were backward. In so far that it was with difficulty he had men to support him retiring to the top of the hill, and the next day very few. So that Tulliebardine was of necessity forced to grant leave and liberty to the Spaniards to surrender and make terms for their safety, there being no Meall or flour, which they could not want, and that they could not march in these rough bounds, and

wanted tents and all other Convenience for Subsisting them, which accordingly they did next day.

In all the attacks there are not upon the Highlander's side ten men kill'd and wounded.

When all was over Tulliebardine ordered Rob Roy to set fire to their Magazines and provisions, which was executed accordingly and then they all separated.