

III.

NOTES ON DROCHIL CASTLE, PEEBLESSHIRE. By DAVID MARSHALL,
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The melancholy interest which attaches itself to this monument of fallen greatness will, it is hoped, be a sufficient apology for the following notes, which are submitted to the Society at the recommendation of two of the Fellows.

Sir William Douglas "of Liddesdale" had a charter from the Crown of the lands and barony of Kybechoch (Kilbothok) and Newlands, on the latter of which stands Drochil, proceeding upon the resignation of John Graham of Dalkeith, in the thirteenth year of King David II. (1342). He bestowed these lands, together with Dalkeith and Aberdour, in 1351, upon his nephew, Sir James Douglas, afterwards designed "of Dalkeith," son of John of Douglas, one of the keepers of Lochleven Castle, in the minority of David II.

James Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, great-grandson of the last named, was created Earl of Morton in the Parliament of 1457.

James, third Earl of Morton, having no sons, obtained a new charter of the Earldom from the Crown, with remainder (1) to James Douglas, brother of the Earl of Angus, husband of his daughter Elizabeth, and afterwards Regent, (2) to Archibald, Earl of Angus, (3) to William Douglas of Lochleven, descended from a younger brother of Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith, and the heirs male of their bodies respectively. Agreeably to this settlement, the Earldom came to the future Regent in 1553.

James, fourth Earl of Morton, became Regent of Scotland in 1572. According to the author of *Caledonia*, the Regent began to build Drochil Castle, on the Lyne Water, in the parish of Newlands, in 1578. "He fell under the axe," says he, "in June 1581; but this large edifice was designed," saith Pennycuick, "more for a *palace* than a castle, and now exhibits in its mighty ruins the disgrace of its ambitious founder." After the ex-Regent's death, the Crown bestowed the Earldom of

Morton upon John, Lord Maxwell, grandson of the third Earl of Morton; but on the reversal of the attainder, in 1585, that nobleman was obliged to denude in favour of the Earl of Angus, receiving the Earldom of Nithsdale in lieu of that of Morton; and on the death of Angus, without sons, in 1588, the succession came to William Douglas of Lochleven, who thus became seventh Earl of Morton.

All the authorities we have consulted agree in saying that Drochil Castle was left unfinished at the death of Morton. The late Dr William Chambers, in his *History of Peeblesshire*, states that "the year 1581 was signalized by the execution of the ex-Regent Morton, who was condemned as having been actively concerned in the murder of Darnley. The abrupt termination of his career left Drochil in the unfinished state in which it is represented in this engraving. Its remains, which occupy the brow of the rising ground between the Lyne and the Tarth, parish of Newlands, constitute the grandest of the ruined castles in the county."

"This is a massive ruin (say Messrs Macgibbon and Ross in their splendid work, *the Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*), situated on a height in a retired spot at the junction of the Tarth and Lyne Waters, and commanding a fine view of the valleys of these rivers and that of the Tweed. This edifice is believed to have been built by the Regent Morton shortly before his execution in 1581, but never to have been finished. It is described as being intended for a palace rather than a castle, and its arrangements justify this view—the defences consisting almost exclusively of shot-holes in the round towers at the north-east and south-west angles, so placed as to command the various sides of the building. These towers are round, and are placed in the usual position at two of the diagonally opposite angles; but they are very diminutive in proportion to the size of the castle, as compared with most other similar buildings.

"The plan of the main building is quite unique. The castles and houses in the sixteenth century, and for long after, were almost invariably built as single tenements, the rooms having windows on both sides, and entering through one another. But Drochil Castle is designed as a double tenement, with a great corridor or gallery 12 feet 6 inches

wide on each storey running through the building from east to west, and dividing it completely into two blocks, each containing rooms entering from the gallery and lighted by windows on one side only."

Although it may be "unfinished," we think it has been too hastily assumed that Drochil was never inhabited, or could not boast of "chambers of luxurious state." Under the head of *Morton's Friends Troubled*, Calderwood, the Historian of the Kirk, informs us that in 1581, "Dalkeith was randered upon Moonday, the twentieth of Marche to the Laird of Minto; the Drochels to Sir John Seton; Aberdour to the Lord Sanct Colme; Morton to the Lord Maxwell," which seems to prove "the Drochels" to have been equally tenable with the other castellated mansions of the Earldom.

William, Earl of Morton, first of the House of Lochleven, died in 1606, and was succeeded by his grandson, William Master of Morton, afterwards Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, whose splendid style of living, from his minority, no less than his zeal for the cause of his royal master Charles I., contributed to reduce the family fortunes. He alienated many lands of his vast estates, and among them the "Mains of Nadar Drochhoillis," with the manor place, fortalice, &c., which were wadset to Andro Howburne, portioner of Tulliebole, and Elizabeth Sinclair, his spouse, for 4000 merks Scots. Andro Howburne died in Drochil, 9th June 1608, leaving his relict in possession of the lands, and Cicill and Jane, his daughters, minors.

In addition to the wadset, Howburne held an obligation from Lord Morton for 500 merks Scots. Andro Howburne or Hopburne, portioner of Tulliebole, was the eldest son of Patrick Hopburne of Tulliebole, and brother of James Hopburne of Common of Fossoway, Perthshire, and Cockairney, Kinross-shire, who was father of Major-General Holburne or Hopburne of Menstrie.

In the charter-room of Kinross House, the property of Sir G. Graham Montgomery, Baronet, who owns the estate of Lochleven, once a possession of this potent branch of the Douglas family, there is preserved a registered contract betwixt William, Earl of Morton, second of the Lochleven family, and James Douglas, Commendator of Melrose, his uncle, of date at Edinburgh, 9th September, and at Dalkeith and

Dysart 10th and 16th days of September and October 1608, wherein for "certane greit sowms of money," and as an equivalent for an annual rent of 800 merks Scots, which the Earl was bound to pay to the Commendator and his spouse, and the "langest leiware of thame twa dureing all the dayes of thair lyftymes," his Lordship set in tack to the Commendator during his lifetime, and after his decease to Dame Jean Anstruther, his wife, during her widowhood only, "All and hail the landis and Maynes of Owir and Nadir Drochhoillis, with the castell, tour, fortalice, maner place, housis, biggingis, zairdis, outsettis, mosis, mures, medis, fischeingis, comounties, partis, pendiclis, and pertinentis of the samyn quahatsumeuir," lying in the barony of Newlands, regality of Dalkeith and sheriffdom of Peebles. The lands were estimated to be worth yearly 800 merks, for which an annual payment of 40 shillings Scots, required to be made by the lessees, but this the Earl at the same time discharges. The Earl and his cautioners were bound to redeem the lands of "Nader Drochhoillis," with the manor place, fortalice, &c., from Elizabeth Sinclair, relict of Andro Howburne, at the first term of Whitsunday next after the date of this contract, and to grant entry to the Commendator and his spouse "to the said castell, tour, fortalice, maner place, &c. at the feist and terme of Whitsunday nixtocum or at the farrest within the space of thrie dayes nixt thairefter," and to the lands upon the separation of the crop of 1609 from the ground.

That Drochil Castle was not left in the unfinished state generally understood at the execution of its founder, Regent Morton, is evident from the whole tenor of this contract, and particularly from such clauses as the following:—

"Resyrwand alwayes to the said noble erle, his airis maill and successoures to him in the erledome of Mortoun, and lordship of Dalkeith, the foirsaid castell, tour, fortalice, and maner place of Drochhoillis, at sic tymes as [they] pleis to remane and mak their residence thairintill." And again, "Lykeas the said comendator and his said spous bindis and obliss thame and thair foirsaidis, That dureing thair richt and possession of the saidis landis of Drochhoillis with the pertinentis, They sall vphold the said castell, tour, fortalice, and maner place of Drochhoillis with the pertinentis, housis and biggings thairof And leve the saim at

the tyme of thair removing thairfra, In als guid estaitt and integritie in all respectis as the saim salbe the tyme of thair entrie thairfo." "And siclike In case at the plesyr of God it sal happin the said Dame Jeane Anstruther To survive the said comendator and eftir his deceis it sal happin hir to be cled with ane vther husband In that cais immediatlie eftir hir said mariage the tak and assedatioun aboue written sall expyre. Lykeas sho salbe haldin and be the tennour heirof with consent of hir said spous bindis and obliss hir to remove hirself, hir familie, guidis, and geir, furth and fra the foirsaid landis, houses, biggings, and pertinentis thairfo." The Earl and his cautioners being bound to pay to her yearly, after her removal and during her life, the above named annuity of 800 merks Scots.

We have not been able to ascertain when the Commendator of Melrose died, but according to Sir Robert Douglas, his relict married, 2ndly, before July 1630, Sir John Riddel of Riddle, by whom she had a daughter, who married David Barclay of Collairnie in Fife. In 1631, Lyntoun and Newlands were purchased from the Earl of Morton by John, first Earl of Traquair, Treasurer Depute of Scotland, for the sum of 126,000 merks Scots (Letter of J. Lawson to the Earl of Traquair, "concerning the pryce of Lyntoun and Newlands," dated Traquair, 16th April 1642, Morton Papers, Bundle 48, in Kinross Charter-Room).

In June 1642, Dame Jean Anstruther had her life interest in Drochil transferred to the lands of Annacroich, Kinross-shire, with the manor place,—which then included Easter Annacroich (now Hatchbank) and Gairneybank,—from which neither she, her heirs or successors, were to be removed, until payment was made to her or them of 6000 merks Scots, with interest, being arrears of her annuity remaining unpaid (*Registered Contract in Kinross Charter-Room*). Lady Melrose was alive in 1656, and so late as 1697 (twenty-two years after Sir William Bruce, Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Works, had purchased the estate of Lochleven) the wadset of Annacroich remained still unredeemed from her representatives.

James Douglas, Commendator of Melrose, second son of William, first Earl of Morton, of the House of Lochleven, married (1) Marie Ker, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Ker of Fernihirst, and had Archi-

bald, his eldest son ; (2) Helen Scot, by whom he had Robert, Annas, Euphame and Marie ; (3) Jean Anstruther, daughter of Sir James Anstruther of that Ilk, by whom he had William and Isabel. His second son Robert is said by Mylne, the antiquary, who seems to have perused "*Morton's Charter Chist*," to have been also Commendator of Melrose, and to have been 21 years of age in 1624. The Peerages give only the third marriage of the Commendator, and mention no issue. According to Spotiswood, through the care and industry of James Douglas, who was Commendator of the Cistercian Abbey of Melrose about the time of the Reformation, all the original evidences were preserved.

Views of Drochil Castle are included, among other works, in Cardonnel's *Picturesque Antiquities of Scotland*, published in 1793 ; in the *History of Peeblesshire*, by Dr William Chambers, published in 1864 ; and in the *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, by Messrs Macgibbon and Ross, published in 1887. For an extract of the whole of their notices of Drochil Castle, we were indebted, while preparing this paper, to Dr Thomas Dickson, of H.M. General Register House, an Office-bearer of this Society. Drochil is now the property of the Earl of Wemyss.