

## II.

THE MASTERS OF WORK TO THE CROWN OF SCOTLAND, WITH THE WRITS OF APPOINTMENT, FROM 1529 TO 1768. BY REV. R. S. MYLNE, M.A., B.C.L. OXON., F.S.A. LOND., HON. FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY OF S. LUKE, ROME.

The Principal Master of Work was a recognised officer of the King's Court from the time of James V. to the death of Queen Anne.

Like other similar posts, it was tenable for life, was invested with a fixed yearly fee, and certain small perquisites. That learned writer Mr Wyatt Papworth observes, in his *Notes on Superintendents of English Buildings in the Middle Ages*,—"The Master Masons were generally the Architects during the Mediæval Period. The Master of Works may have been so." Moreover, though the particular part played by the Master of Works varied greatly according to his own personal ability and individual character, we may yet note that frequently he had more control over the finances than the Master Masons, and in some instances was more of a courtier.

In the earliest records the term is used with much vagueness, and some variety of meaning. Afterwards, when the royal power becomes dominant, on the fall of the old baronage, both lay and ecclesiastical, there is one Principal Master of Works to the Crown.

Our object upon the present occasion is to endeavour to trace, with the help of the original documents preserved in the Register House, the constant succession of the King's Masters of Works from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. To illustrate from contemporary history, to give a brief sketch of the career of each successive official, would doubtless be interesting, but is beyond the scope of the present paper: time does not permit.

We may note, however, that eventually this office was to all intents and purposes merged in H.M. Office of Works.

The first writ under the Privy Seal is addressed to Sir James Nycholay, appointing him Master of Work at Stirling, while we know from the Books of Royal Accounts preserved in the Register House that

John Scrymgeour was Master of Work to King James V. about the same time; and though no writ of his appointment is preserved, yet his formal nomination is found in the Book of Royal Accounts for the year 1537.

In the Lord High Treasurer's Accounts we find an entry under the date 1473, in which the Book of Accounts delivered to the Masters of Work is mentioned, though the book itself is lost. The actual amount of money seems large for those early days—£753, 7s. 5d.

There is reason to believe that Robert Cochrane, Earl of Mar, became Master of Work about this time. The strange story of his tragic death at the Bridge of Lauder is well known to every Scotsman.

Other early Masters of Work, whose names have been recorded, may here be noted.

In 1425 John of Walton was appointed to the charge of Linlithgow Palace, and was succeeded by Robert Wedale, Robert Livingstone, John Holmes, and John Weir, and then in 1467 by Henry Livingstone.

In 1496 Sir Thomas Smyth, a priest, was Master of Work within the Castle of Stirling, and Walter and John Merlioun were masons acting under his directions. He was succeeded by the Abbot of Lindores, and then came Sir W. Betoune and Andrew Atoune.

In 1494 Sir George Galbrathe was Master of Work to the Barge.

A few more names might be given, but it seems more to the point to note that these Masters of Work were for the most part appointed to the charge of particular buildings.

During a considerable portion of the reign of King James V., Alexander Mylne, Abbot of Cambuskenneth, possessed much influence over the expenditure upon the royal castles and palaces, and it is from the early years of the sixteenth century that we can trace without difficulty the perpetual succession of both the Principal Master of Work and the Principal Master Mason to the King. The history of the Master Masons to the Crown of Scotland was published in 1893.

We now give a complete list of the Masters of Work to the King, compiled with great labour and trouble from the original MSS., often

discovered after long search and patient examination of the old documents and early records. Where the writ was in Latin, as is usual in the Great Seal Register, a translation is in each case given.

From the year 1700 the appointments are always made "during pleasure only," showing the reduced importance of the office, and the liability to removal of the official. The three last writs of the eighteenth century come close together during the opening years of the reign of George III., and eventually the administration of the royal castles and palaces becomes vested in H.M. Office of Works.

The original documents give the names of twenty-four Masters of Work in succession, and record twenty-two writs of appointment.

It is not quite certain that John Scrymgeour was appointed by exactly the same form of writ as the other Masters, and it is certain that William Schaw's writ is non-existent at the present time. The complete list is subjoined.

MASTERS OF WORK TO THE CROWN OF SCOTLAND, APPOINTED  
UNDER WRIT OF THE PRIVY SEAL.

- 1529 Sir James Nycholay.  
He had charge of Stirling Castle.
- John Scrymgeour.  
He had charge of work at Falkland, Linlithgow, &c. See Mylne's *Master Masons*, pp. 43, 44, 49.
- 1539 Sir James Hammyltoun of Fynnart, Knight.  
At first a favourite courtier, he was afterwards executed at Linlithgow by the King's command. See Mylne's *Master Masons*, p. 51.
- 1541 Robert Robertson, Carvour.
- 1543 Johnne Hammyltoune, Vicar of Crage.
- 1579 Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock, Knight.  
The Drummonds of Hawthornden were of the same family.  
He had charge of the works at Doune Castle and elsewhere. See Mylne's *Master Masons*, p. 60.
- 1592 William Schaw.  
This distinguished builder was a great favourite with Queen Anne, executed much work at Dunfermline, and organised the Freemasons of Scotland, being Master of the Edinburgh Lodge. His signature is frequently found in the Masonic records. See Mylne's *Master Masons*, p. 62.
- 1602 David Cuninghame of Robertland.
- 1607 James Murray.  
A similar grant was passed under the Great Seal, May 2, 1614.

1615. Walter Murray.

He is appointed Assistant Master of Works.

In the document there is mention of Sir W. M'Dougall, who executed work at the chapel of Holyrood under Queen Mary, for which payments occur in the royal accounts.

1630 James Murray of Kilbaberston and Anthonie Alexander.

A. Alexander was son of Sir W. Alexander of Menstrie, Secretary for Scotland.

A similar grant was passed under the Great Seal, April 1, 1629.

The aforesaid grants are both confirmed in 1634, under the Privy Seal on January 9, and under the Great Seal on December 15.

Special mention is made of the King's pleasure at the careful preparations for his coronation in the previous year, and "the repairing of the Church of Halyrudhous, quhilk was altogether ruynous, quhairin his majesties coronation was maist royallie and solemplye done."

Great care and caution is also to be exercised in the selection of fit and reliable workmen at the King's works, and especially at his castles and fortresses.

1632 William Govane of Cardrona and James Murray.

Govane married the daughter of Sir James Murray of Kilbaberston, knighted on the occasion of the coronation of King Charles I. James Murray was his son.

They are made Joint Assistant Masters of Works on the decease of Walter Murray.

Sir James Murray died in December 1634.

MASTERS OF WORK TO THE CROWN OF SCOTLAND, APPOINTED  
UNDER WRIT OF THE GREAT SEAL.

*N.B.*—The original documents in the Great Seal Register are in Latin.

1671- Sir William Bruce of Balcaskie, Baronet.

He played a leading part in politics after the restoration of Charles II., and acted with Robert Mylne, Master Mason, in erecting the present Palace of Holyrood. See ch. ix. and x. in *Mylne's Master Masons*.

1689 Sir Archibald Murray of Blackbarony, Baronet.

1700 James Scott of Logie.

1704 Sir Francis Scott of Thirlestain.

1705 John Campbell of Marnor and John Urquhart of Meldrum.

1707 James Smith of Whythill.

He married Janet, eldest daughter of Robert Mylne, the builder of Holyrood.

1714 John Campbell of Marnor.

1727 Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther.

1743 George Dundas.

1761 William Stewart of Hartwood.

1764 James Duff, of the Middle Temple, London.

1768 Lieutenant-Colonel James Pringle.

This last grant is No. 37 in vol. xx. of the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland. The same volume reaches to nearly the end of the eighteenth century, but contains no further grant of the office of Master of Works.

The following are the Writs of Appointment (extracted from the original MSS.) of 22 Masters of Work to the Crown of Scotland, arranged in chronological order.

*Grant by King James V. to Sir James Nycholay.*

At Stirling, Jan. 3, 1529.

Ane lettre maid to Schir James Nycholay makand hym maister of wark within the castell of Striveling and gyfand hym 20 merkis zeirly ay and quhill he be benefeit be our soverane lord of the benefice of £20 etc. At Striveling the 3rd day of Januar the zeir (1529).

Regist. Secreti  
Sigilli, vol. viii.  
fol. 157.

Per Signaturam  
manibus D. N. regis  
et thesaurarii subscriptam.

*Grant by King James V. to Sir James Hammyltoun of Fynnart, Knight.*

At Stirling, Sept. 9, 1539.

Ane lettre maid to James Hammyltoun of Fynnart, Knycht, makand him maister of werk principale to our soverane lord of all his werkis within his realm now biggand or to be biggit and to haif thre or four deputis under him quha sall ansuer to him and his directioun our all: And to haif zeirly for the said office £200 of fe to be pait to him that ane half be the thesaurar and the uther be the comptrollare at twa terms, Mertymes in wynter and Witsonday by evin proportiounis allanerlie etc. At Sterling the 9th day of September the zeir 1539.

Vol. xiii. fol. 27.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King James V. to Robert Robertson, Carvour.*

At Falkland, August 31, 1541.

Ane lettre maid to Robert Robertsoun, Carvour, makand him principale ourseare and maister of all werkis concernyng his craft and vtheris within the castell of Striveling and that he tak cure and lawbour thairupoun and ansuer to our soverane lord and to nane vther maister of werk of the samyn and that the keis of all houses in which his grace hes ony geir be deliverit in his keping in his hienes absence, he answering to his grace thairfor; and with command in the said lettre to the thesaurar now present and being for the tym to mak thankfull payment to the said Robert of his wages ouklike sicklik as he hes now presentlie etc. At Falkland the 31st day of August the zeir 1541.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by Queen Mary to John Hammyltoune, Vicar of Craige.*

At Paisley, May 13, 1543.

Vol. xvii. fol. 38. Ane lettre maid to Maister Johnne Hammyltoune vicar of Craige makand hym maister of werk of all our soverane Ladie's palices and places within the realme for all the dais of his lyve etc. At Paislay the 13 day of May the zeire 1543.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock.*

At Stirling, April 6, 1579.

Vol. xlvi. fol. 50. Ane lettre maid to Schir Robert Drummond of Carnok, Knycht, makand, constituand, and ordinand him maister of all and syndrie oure soverane lordis werkis and places, biggit and to be biggit within this realme : And gevand him the office thairof for all the dayis of his lyff, with power to him to mak deputis ane or ma under him in the said office as he sall think maist expedient, and for quhome he salbe haldin to ansuer ; for using and exerceing quhairof our soverane lord gevis, grantis, and disponis to the said Schir Robert in fee zeirlic the soume of twa hundreth pundis money of this realme. Sicylke as vmquhill Schir James Hammiltoune of Fynnart, Knycht had for using and exerceing of the said office of befoir, to be payit to him zeirlic at twa termes in the zeir Witsounday and Mertymes in wintar be equale portions furth of the reddiest of his majesties casualities be his hienes thesaurer present and being for the tyme, etc. with command in the same to his hienes thesaurer present and to cum, to reddilie ansuer, intend, obey, and mak thankfull payment to the said Schir Robert of the said soume of tua hundreth pundis for his fee for using of the said office zeirlic and termelic at the termes abone written during all the dayis of his lyftyme as said is, Quhilk salbe thankfull allowit to him in his comptis be the auditouris thairof quhome our soverane lord chargis to diffeis and allow the same, the said lettre being auis schawin vpoun compt and registrat in the rollis as use is etc. At Striveling castell the 6th day of Appryle the zeir of God 1579.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to William Schaw ; on decease of Sir Robert Drummond in 1592.*

The original writ is not recorded in the Privy Seal.

*Grant by King James VI. to David Cuninghame of Robertland.*

At Falkland, July 13, 1602.

Vol. lxxlii.  
fol. 40.

Ane lettre maid, makand, constituand, and ordinand David Cuninghame of Robertland maister of thair majesties workis and gevand to him the office thairof with all honouris, dignities, privilegis, preheminesces, feis, casualities, and duties pertening and belangand thairto, useit and wount during all the dayes of his lyftyme, vacand be deceis of vmquhill William Schaw last possessour thairof : and for using and exerceing off the said office, gevand and disponand to the said David in zeirlic feall the sowme of fyve hundereth merkis, to be payit to him be his majesties thesaurer present and to cum, at tua termes in the zeir, Whitsunday and Mertimes in wynter, be equall por-

tionis, begyndand the first termes payment thairof at the feist and terme of Whitsunday nixt to cum in the instant zeir of God 1602 zeiris, and sua furth zeirlic and termelic in tyme cuming during his lyfytyme : With power to the said David to use and exerce the said office of maister of work Siclyck and als frelie in all things as the said vmquhill Williame or ony utheris thair majesties maisteris of work useit and exerceit the same of before : With command thairin to his majesties said thesaurer present and to cum to ansuer and mak payment to the said David of his foirsaid zeirlic feall, deuties and casualities appertaining to the said office : Begyndand the first payment thairof as said is, and sua furth zeirlic and termelic in tyme cumming, during the said space, quhilk salbe thankfullie allowit to thame in thair comptis be the auditours thairof quhome his majestie chargeis to diffeis and allow the same, the said lettre being auis shawin and producit on compt and registrat in the rollis as effearis etc. At Faulkland the 13th day of July 1602 zeires.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to James Murray.*

At Whitehall, December 26, 1607.

Ane lettre maid makand mentioun that our soverane lord understanding Vol. lxxvi. perfyctlie the skillfull experience, knowledge, and habilitie of James Murray fol. 215. younger Master oversear and attendar over all his majesties workis and buildingis in Scotland and his sufficiencie every way. Thairfore makand constituand and ordinand the foresaid James Murray principall Master of all his majesties warkis and buildingis within Scotland. And gevand to him the office thairof with all honouris, dignities, privileges, and preheminences, fies, casualities, and deuties, pertaining and belanging thairto, useit and wont during all the dayes of his lyfytyme : Now vacand be the deceis of vmquhile David Cunninghame of Robertland last possessour thairoff. And for using and exercing of the said office gevand, grantand, dispondand, to the said James in zeirlic feall the soume of fyve hundereth merkis of usuall money of Scotland to be payit to him zeirlic be his majesties thesaurer present and to cum at tua termes in the zeir Witsunday and Mertimes in winter be equall portiounes, Begyndand the first termes payment thairoff at the feist and terme of Martimes in the zeir of God 1607 zeiris, and sua furth zeirlic and termelic in tymes cuming during his lyfytyme. With power to the said James to use and exerce the said office of principall Master of wark, Siclyk and als frelie in all respectis as the said vmquhile Schir David or ony uther his majesties principall maisteris of wark, useit, exercit, or brukkit the same of befor. With command in the said lettre to his majesties said thesaurer present and to cum, to ansuer and mak payment to the said James of the foresaid zeirlic feyall, deuties, and casualities pertaining to the foresaid office, Begynning the first terme's payment thairoff as said is, and sua furth zeirlic and termelic in all tyme cuming, during the said space, quhilk salbe thankfullie allowit to thame in thair comptis be the auditours thairoff quhome his majestie appoyntis to defeas and allow the samynn. The said lettre being aues schawin upoun compt, and registrat in the rollis as effeir is etc. At Quhythall the 26th day off December 1607 zeiris.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King James VI. to Walter Murray.*

At Edinburgh, December 21, 1615.

Vol. lxxxv.  
fol. 124.

Ane lettre maid to Walter Murray lawfull sone to makand, constituand, and ordinand the said Walter Murray maister, ouerseare, and attendar of all his majestis workis of reparatioun in his hienes kingdome of Scotland and waitter upon the craftsmen that salbe appointit to wark thairat, be his majesties maister of wark present and to cum: Now vacand be deceis of vmquhile James Murray last possessour thairof. And gevand and grantand to the said Walter Murray the office thairof for all the dayis of his lyftyme. With power and commandment in absence of his hienes principall maister of wark of all craftsmen, working in our said sovarene Lordis workis foresaid. And to use and exerce the said office be himself, sicklyk and als frelie in all respectis as vmquhile Schir William McDougall, the said vmquhile James Murray or onie uther brukit and joissit the samen of before; for using and exerceing of the quhilk office our sovarene Lord gevis, grantis, and assignis to the said Walter Murray all feis and deuties aucht and wount thairof viz: the soume of ten pundis usuall money of Scotland monethle to be payit to him be our said sovarene lordis thesaurer and resaueris of his hienes rentis of the said kingdome present and being for the tyme of the readiest of his majesties casualities, and cofferis, begynnand the first monethis payment thairof the first day of Januar 1616 zeiris: Togidder with the soume of ane hundereth pundis money foresaid as pryce of ane honest stand of Cleithing zeirlie to be ansuerit, payit, and delyverit be his majesties thesaurer and recaveris of his hienes rentis foresaidis present and to cum to the said Walter Murray with command in the said lettre to his hienes thesaurer and receiveris of his majesties rentis present and being for the tyme, to thankfullie ansuer, obey, and mak payment to the said Walter Murray of the said feall and soume of ten pundis money, monethlie for his lyftyme, togidder with the said stand of Cleithing zeirlie or pryce thairof foirsaid, and the same salbe thankfullie allowit to thame in thair comptis zeirlie in chekkar be the Lordis auditouris thairof, quhome his majestie chargis to defease and allow to his hienes thesaurer and resaveris of his hienes rentis foirsaidis the samen zeirlie in thair accomptis, the said letter being ause schawin upon compt in chekkar and registrat in the rollis as use is: And that becaus James Murray present principall maister of wark to his majestie of the said kingdome hes presentit the said Walter Murray to the said office and place as ane persone sufficientlie qualifeit, meit, apt, and habill for using and exerceing thairof etc. At Edinburgh, the 21st day of December the zeir of God 1615 zeiris.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King Charles I. to James Murray of Kilbaber-toun and  
Anthonie Alexander.*

Given at Whitehall, April 20, 1630.

Vol. cli. fol. 191. Ane lettre maid be our sovarene lord with advyce and consent of his hienes richt traiste Cousigne and counsallor Williame, Earle of Mortoun, etc. to and in favouris of his hienes lovittis and Servitouris James Murray of Kilbaber-

toun and Anthonie Alexander sone lawfull to his hienes trustie and familiar counsallor Sir William Alexander of Menstrie Knicht, his hienes secretare of the said kingdom of Scotland, generall surveyaris and principall maisteris of all his hienes werkis and buildinges within the said realme of Scotland makand mentioun that forsameikle as be contract maid and perfyttit betwix our said soverane lord and his hienes said gret Thesaurer, Comptroller and collectour and deputy in the saidis offices for thame and thair successours Thesaureris, Comptrolleris, and collectoris principalls and deputies in thair saidis offices within the said kingdome with advyce and consent of the remanent lordis of his hienes exchequer of Scotland his hienes commissioneris one the ane part, And the said James Murray and Anthonie Alexander generall surveyaris and principall maisteris of all his majesties workis within the said kingdome on the uther part of the daite of thir presents and at Halyrudhous the penult day of July, the said James Murray and Anthonie Alexander hes undirtaine the chaarge and function, and burding and have bund and obleist thame and aither of thame conjunctlie and severallie thair aires executouris and successouris induring thair and athir of thair lyftymes for beitting, mending, repairing, uphauling and making new of all the breckis, defaultis, decays, and ruines of his majesties castellis of Edinburgh, Striveling, and Dumbartane and of his hienes palices of Halyrudhous, Striveling, Linlithgow, Falkland, and Dunfermling, and of his hienes Chaples of Halyrudhous, Striveling, Linlithgow and Falkland with all utheris his majesties chapellis being within the precinct of his majesties said palices and castellis. Togidder with the tinneis courtis thairof and all utheris houses being within the saidis castellis and palices pertening to his majestie. And that induring all the dayis of the lyftymes of the saidis James Murray and Anthonie Alexander and the langer livar of thame tua. For the quibilkis thair is appoyntit to be payit to thame equallie betwix thame during thair lyftymes conjunctlie and eftir the deceis of athir of thame to the uther of thame survivand during his lyftyme, and to thair aires and asigneyes the soume of ane thousand pundis usuall money of the said realme of Scotland, monethlie, and ilk moneth during all the dayis of the lyftymes of the saidis James Murray and Anthonie Alexander and the langer livare of thame tua and that furth of the first, best, and readiest payment of his majesties impostis and Custumes of wyne or ony utheris his hienes rentis and reveueis of the said realme of Scotland pertening to the thesaurie, comptrollarie, or collectorie, or ony of thame, and for thair bettir payment thairof It is ordenit be the said contract that lettres salbe past undir his hienes privie seale contening particular assignatiounes of the said monethlie dewtie of ane thousand pundis to be payit to thame monethlie and ilk moneth furthe of his hienes impostur of wyne as the said contract of the daite foirsaid in itself mair fullielie proportis thairfore and for fullfilling of that part of the said contract and but prejudice, hurt, or dirogatioun thairto, security and obleischment thairin contenit, our said soverane lord with advys and consent foirsaid by the said lettre, giveand, grantand, assignand, and disponeand lyk as be the tenor heirof our said soverane lord with advyse and consent foirsaid, Gevis, grantis, assignes, and dispones to the saidis James Murray and Anthonie Alexander generall surveyaris and principall maisteris of all his majesties workis within the said realme of Scotland and to the langer livare of thame tua, during thair

lyftymes, the said soume of ane thousand pundis scottis monethlie and ilk moneth during the lyftymes of thame and the langer livare of thame furth of the first and readiest of his majesties saidis impostis, and custumes of wyne zeirle and ilk zeir during thair lyftymes and the langer livare of thame tua quhilkes his hienes with consent foirsaid, assignes for the payment of the said monethlie deutie and ordines the takismen and customeris of the saidis impostis of wyne zeirle during the said space and als his hienes thesaureris and comptrolleris principall and deputy and undir ressaveris of his majesties saidis impostis and all utheris intromettouris thairwith quhatsumevir to mak gude and thankfull payment to the saidis James Murray and Anthonie Alexander during the space foirsaid of the said monethlie deutie of ane thousand pundis scottis monethlie and ilk moneth during the space foirsaid in manner and forme above specifeit beginnand the first monethis payment thairof upon the first day of the moneth of August nixtocum and sua furth monethlie and ilk moneth thairafter during all the zeiris, tyme and space of the saidis lyftymes of the said James and Anthonie, and the langer livare of thame tua, with power to thame to giff discharges thairuponn, quhilkes his hienes declaires salbe gude, valide, and sufficient in thameselfis, and ordaining the auditouris of his hienes exchequer of the said realme of Scotland to allow the samyne to the payeris thairof in his hienes exchequer uponn the discharges to be gevin be the saidis James Murray and Anthonie Alexander or be either of thame conjunctlie and severallie haveand power of the uther to that effect uponn thair resseit thairof monethlie and ilk moneth during the space foirsaid and to direct lettres of horning at thair instance for payment thairof uponn ane simple charge of ten dayis Allennerlie. Gevin at Quhyt-hall the 20th day of Apryll 1630 zeiris.

Per Signaturam.

*Grant by King Charles I. to William Govane of Cardrona and James Murray.*

At Holyrood, September 7, 1632.

Vol. clv. fol. 177. Ane lettre maid be our soverane lord with advys and consent of his hienes right trustie freind and weilbelovit cousin and counsellour William, Earle of Mortoun, lord Dalkeith, and Aberdour etc. high thesaurer, comptroller, and collectour of the kingdome of Scotland, and als with advys and consent of his hienes trustie cusing and counsellour John, Lord Stewart of Traquair his majesties deputies in the saidis offices and with consent of the remanent lordis of his hienes exchequer commissioneris appointit be his majestie for governing his hienes rentis and casualties within the said kingdome. Makand, constituand, and ordinand lyk as his majestie with advyce foirsaid makis, constitutis, and ordains his hienes lovittis Williame Govane of Cardrona and James Murrey lawfull son to James Murrey of Kilbabertoun, maister of his hienes warkis, and the langest livar of thame tua, his hienes principallis oversearis, and attendaris of all his hienes warkis buildinges and reparatiounes within the said kingdom. And in speciall of his majesties hail warkes and buildinges within his hienes hail castellis, pallaces, fortes, strenthis or uther wayes and chief oversearis and attendaris upon the saidis warkis and craftsmen quhairever thay sall be appointit to worke be the principall maisteris of his

hienes warkes. And gevis and grantis to thame the office thairof during all the dayes of thair lyftymes and langest livar of thame twa now vaikand in his hienes be deceis of vmquhill Walter Murray last possessour thairof with power and commandment to the saidis Williame Govane and James Murray and to the langest livar of thame twa in absence of the principal maister of wark over all the haill artificiers and Craftismen all uther oversearis and under officiaris concerning his hienes warkis. And to use and exerce the said office be thame-selffis sicklyk and als frelie in all respectis, as the said vmquhill Walter Murrey or ony uther bruikit and injoyit the samyn of befor for using and exercing of the quhill office, our said soverane lord with advyce and consent foirsaid, hes gevin, grantit, and disponit, and be thir presentis gevis, grantis, and dispones to the saidis Williame Govane and James Murray, and langest livar of thame twa, all feis, wages, deuties, and casualities belonging, or known to belong to the said office; and in speciall the soume of ten pundis money of Scotland monethlie to be payit to the saidis Williame Govane and James Murray and the langest livar of thame twa, be his majesties thesaurer, thesaurer deput, and ressavear of his hienes rentis within the said kingdome present and being for the tyme furth of the readiest of his majesties rentis, casualities, and cofferis, beginand the first monethis payment thairof at the first day of August in this instant zeir of God 1632 zeires and swa furth monethlie thairefter, during the said Williame Govane and James Murray thair lyftymes, togidder with ane honest stand of claithes zeirlie or the pryce thairof conforme to the said vmquhill Walter Murray's gift and possession thairof. With command in the said lettre to the said thesaurer, thesaurer deput, and ressaveris of his majesties rentis present and being for the tyme, to thankfullie answer, obey, and mak payment to the saidis Williame Govane and James Murray and langest livar of thame twa of the said feall and soume of ten pundis money foirsaid monethlie during thair lyftymes with the said stand of cleithing or pryce thairof zeirlie. And the samyn sall be thankfullie allowit to thame in thair comptis zeirlie in exchequer be the auditoures thairof quhome his majestie charges to defease and allow to the said thesaurer, thesaurer depute, and ressaveris thairof, the samyn zeirlie in thair comptis. The said lettre being auies schawin upone compt in exchequer and registrat in the rollis as said is. And als in respect that the said James Murray of Kilbaltoun, and Anthonie Alexander maisteris of his hienes workis and generall surveyaris within the foirsaid kingdome, hes presentit the saidis Williame Govane and James Murray as habill and qualifiet to exerce the said office and that the said lettre be extendit in ampill forme with all claussis neidfull. Gevin at Halyrudhous the 7th day of September the zeir of God 1632 zeires.

We James Murray and Anthonie Alexander, maisteris of worke and generall surveyaris within this kingdome efter tryell takin be us of the qualificatioun of the within namit Williame Govane and James Murray to exerce the office within specifeit, findis thame qualifeit, be thir presentis subscribit with our handis at Halyrudhous the 6th day of September the zeir of God 1632 zeiris. Sic subscribitur.

James Murray  
An. Alexander  
per Signaturam.

*Grant by King Charles II. to Sir William Bruce, Knight Baronet.*

Given at Windsor Castle, June 3, 1671.

*Translation.*

Charles, by the grace of God King of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, to all his worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Know ye, whereas we are earnestly desirous that certain of our palaces and castles in our kingdom of Scotland, which lately by the injuries of a calamitous time are either altogether fallen down, or become unfit for dwelling in, should be built and restored, particularly our Royal Palace of Holyrudhous, and because it is expedient for this purpose that some fit person should be appointed, who should superintend the appointment of workmen, and the building and direction of the said works, and we having sufficiently understood the integrity of soul, faithfulness and remarkable ability of our well beloved servitor Sir William Bruce of Balcasky, knight baronet, and his skill in architecture and other qualifications worthy of such a trust: Therefore we have made, constituted, and ordained, and by the tenor hereof make, constitute, and ordain the foresaid Sir William Bruce our General Overseer and Superintendent to take care of and attend to all works at our said palace of Holyrudhous, and such other buildings and palaces belonging to us within our foresaid kingdom as we, by warrant directed to the commissioners of our Treasury shall ordain to be repaired: With full power to the foresaid Sir William Bruce to substitute and create deputies under him, one or more, as the said work shall require (for whom he shall be bound to answer), and all other persons necessary, such as masons, wrights, glaziers, slaters, plumbers, smiths, painters, plasterers, and all other workmen of whatever kind, pioneers or barrowmen, as shall seem to him expedient, and to make use of them on all occasions and admit them to work, at such rates and prices and upon such conditions as it shall please him to agree on with them: Which Sir William shall not be bound to make use of or admit anyone under the name of our masters in any of the said crafts or occupations. To whom also it shall be lawful to summon before him the foresaid workmen, to render an account of their work, and to pay to them what was agreed and covenanted on between them, as resources and power shall be had to that effect: Provided always that the foresaid Sir William Bruce shall render an account and reckoning to the lords of our Treasury, and their successors or others whomsoever to be ordained by us, of the agreements to be entered into by him, and of whatever sums of money to be received by him and expended, whenever he shall be required: And that he shall be bound to follow such orders, directions, and instructions as he shall receive from us, or the said commissioners of our Treasury and their successors in our name, in time to come: And during the time of the said reparations, we will and ordain, for the advantage of our service and the better administration of the said works, that our foresaid General Superintendent shall have the use of some parts of our said palaces and the keys of the same for his proper habitation, and for the habitation of his deputies, under masters, keepers of storehouses, and all other officers necessary to be admitted by him to any of the said works: And also for the better keeping and preservation of the whole materials and tools

necessary for this effect to be laid up and provided : Without prejudice of the rights granted to the heritable keepers of the said palaces after the said repairs and buildings shall be finished, which shall in nowise be infringed or prejudiced : With power also to the said Sir William Bruce, during the space aforesaid, to do all other things necessary and requisite, as shall to him seem expedient ; and to punish, mulet, incarcerate, and amerce delinquents and transgressors at the said works ; and courts by himself or his deputes (as oft as need shall be), for this purpose within the said palaces, houses, and precincts thereof to us pertaining, to fix, hold, and continue ; clerks, serjeants, officers, and other members of court necessary, to make, create, appoint, and cause to be sworn as is fit : Moreover, we prohibit and interdict all other persons to molest the said workmen or their servants for any quarrel or enormity to be committed by them within the said works, and which have a relation to the same, during the time in which they actually remain in our service : And also we have given, granted, and disposed, and by the tenor hereof give, grant, and dispose to the foresaid Sir William Bruce the salary of three hundred pounds money sterling, to be paid to him yearly at the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas by equal portions, Beginning and uplifting for the first at the term of Whitsunday next to come in this instant year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventy one, and so thereafter in time to come every term till the same be retracted by us : Moreover, we hereby charge the lords of our Treasury, or our principal Treasurer or depute and their successors, to prescribe a method for preparing and making payment to the foresaid Sir William Bruce of the said annual salary, which shall be allowed to them in their accounts : Which salary shall be in full content and satisfaction to the foresaid Sir William Bruce of the casualties formerly enjoyed by our masters of works, to wit, scaffolding, old furnishings, and materials of the said works which have been demolished and otherwise by us disposed of, and of all other emoluments and casualties in any wise due by the said office, And in satisfaction of all other expenses to be expended in the said administration. In witness whereof we have commanded our great seal to be appended to these presents at our Court of Windsore Castle the third day of the month of June the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventy one, and of our reign the twenty third year.

By signature superscribed  
with the hand of our  
Sovereign Lord the  
King.

*Grant by King William III. and Queen Mary to Sir Archibald Murray of  
Blackbarony, Knight Baronet.*

Given at Holland House, December 24, 1689.

William R.—Our Sovereigne Lord and Lady considering for the advancement of their service, that the place of Master of Work within their Majesties' ancient Kingdome of Scotland be exercised by a person able and qualified, and being sufficiently informed of the loyalty, abilities, and good qualifications of Sir

Archibald Murray of Blackbarony, Knight Baronet, their Majesties Ordain a letter to be passed under their Great Seal of the said Kingdom of Scotland, giving, granting, and disposing, likeas their Majesties by these presents, give, grant, and dispone to the said Sir Archibald Murray the foresaid Office of Sole Master of Work, Overseer, and Director-General of their Majesties' buildings, and all thereto belonging, during ; together with all fees, pensions, privileges, emoluments, employments, rights, immunities, and casualties whatsoever belonging thereto, and as fully and freely in all respects as the same was possessed and enjoyed by any other Master of Works, Surveyor, or Director-General within the said Kingdom ; Dispensing with the Generality foresaid, and holding all that ever did belong to the said office as if they were herein particularly repeated ; with full power to the said Sir Archibald to substitute and create Deputes and others, under receivers and fit persons for doing of what belongs to their Majesties' buildings and houses, for whose abilities and fidelity he shall be answerable, and to do all other things necessary and requisite anent the premises ; and that the said letter be further extended in the most ample and best form, with all clauses needful, and to pass their Majesties' Great Seal aforesaid, per saltum, without passing any other Seal or Register : In order whereunto these presents shall be to the Directors of their Majesties' Chancellery, and their Deputes for writing the same, and to the Lord High Chancellor, or Lords Commissioners, appointed for keeping the Great Seal for the time being, for causing the same to be appended thereunto a sufficient warrant.

*Grant by King William III. to James Scott of Logie.*

Given at Loo, October 3, 1700.

Commission to James Scott, younger of Logie, of the Office of Master of Works.

William, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith. To all worthy men to whom these our present letters shall come, greeting.

Whereas we, considering how necessary it is in regard to our service that the gift and office of Master of our Works within our ancient Kingdom of Scotland be entrusted to some skilful and suitable person, and that the said office at present is vacant in our hands, and at our gift and disposition, through the decease of Sir Archibald Murray of Blackbarony, the last possessor thereof : And we assured of the good faith, skill, and excellent mental gifts of our beloved James Scott, younger of Logie, for discharging the same office :

Know therefore that we have given, granted, and disposed, as by the tenour of these presents we give, grant, and dispone to the said James Scott, younger of Logie (during our pleasure only), the said office of Master of Works, Overseer, and Director-General of all our buildings and all things pertaining to the same, together with all fees, pensions, profits, privileges, emoluments, immunities, and casualties belonging thereto, as freely and fully in every respect as the same appertained to the said late Sir Archibald Murray or any other Master of Works, Surveyor, or Director-General within the said Kingdom. With full

power to the said James Scott of Logie to appoint under himself deputies and other fit persons in the said office to do whatever pertains to our houses and buildings aforesaid, for whose fidelity and skill he shall be answerable, and to carry out all else requisite and necessary anent the premises.

Declaring by these presents this our Commission shall be without prejudice to Walter Murray, now Clerk of our Stores, who by these presents is ordained to be continued in his said gift and office, he always showing to the said James Scott, as to his superior in the same, every duty, reverence, and obedience.

In testimony whereof we have commanded our Great Seal to be appended to these presents at our Palace of Loo, the third day of October seventeen hundred, and the twelfth year of our Reign.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign Lord the  
King.

*Grant by Queen Anne to Sir F. Scott.*

Given at Kensington, October 17, 1704.

Commission to Sir Francis Scott of the office of Master of Works.

Anne, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith. To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Wit ye us to have given, granted, and disposed, likeas by the tenor of these presents we do give, grant, and dispoise to Sir Francis Scott of Thirlestain the gift and office of Master of Works in our Kingdom of Scotland, and Inspector and Director-General of all our buildings, and of all pertaining thereto, during our pleasure only; together with all fees, pensions, privileges, emoluments, occupations, rights, and casualties pertaining to the same, as fully and freely in every respect as the same has been possessed by any other Master of Works, Inspector, or Director-General within our said kingdom; with power to the said Francis Scott to substitute under him deputies and other qualified persons in the said office, for doing what pertains to our houses and buildings aforesaid, for whose fidelity and skill he shall be answerable; and to do all other things requisite and necessary concerning the premises: Declaring by these presents that this our commission shall be without prejudice to — Murray, present Clerk of our Stores, who by these presents is permitted to continue in his said gift and office,—performing in every respect to the said Sir Francis Scott, his superior therein, all due service and obedience; and we by these presents have revoked all prior gifts of the aforesaid office, to any person or persons whatsoever, in prejudice of the same. In witness whereof we have commanded our Great Seal to be appended to these presents at our Palace of Kensington the 17th day of October 1704, and of our reign the third year.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign Lady the  
Queen.

*Grant by Queen Anne to John Campbell and John Urquhart.*

Given at S. James', August 17, 1705.

Commission to Mr John Campbell of Mamor and John Urquhart of Meldrum of the office of conjunct Masters of Works of the Kingdom of Scotland.

Anne, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith : To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Wit ye us to have nominated, constituted, and ordained, likeas by the tenor of these presents we nominate, constitute, and ordain Mr John Campbell of Mamor and John Urquhart of Meldrum to be conjunct Masters of our Works in our kingdom of Scotland, and inspectors and directors-general of all our buildings, and of all pertaining thereto, during our pleasure only : Giving, granting, and disposing to them, during the space aforesaid, the said office of our masters of works, together with all fees, profits, privileges, emoluments, rights, and casualties pertaining to the same, or which in time coming shall be known to belong thereto ; with full power to them conjunctly, as said is, to substitute and nominate deputies and other qualified persons in the said office, for doing what pertains to our houses and buildings aforesaid, and all other things requisite and necessary to be done concerning the premises, as fully and freely in every respect as any others their predecessors in the said office did or could do : Declaring always by these presents this our commission to be without prejudice to — Murray, present clerk of our stores, who by these presents is permitted to remain in his said gift and office, performing in every respect to the said Master John Campbell of Mamor and John Urquhart of Meldrum, his superiors therein, all due service and obedience : And we by these presents have revoked all prior gifts of the aforesaid gift and office to any person or persons in prejudice of the same : In witness whereof we have commanded our great seal to be appended to these presents at our palace of St James' the 17th day of August 1705, and of our reign the 4th year.

By signature superscribed  
with the hand of our  
Sovereign lady the  
Queen.

*Grant by Queen Anne to James Smith of Whythill.*

Given at Windsor, July 15, 1707.

Commission to Mr James Smith of Whythill of the office of Supervisor of all the works of our Sovereign lady the Queen.

Anne, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith : To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Whereas we, considering that our palaces, strengths, and castles in that part of our united kingdom of Great Britain lately called Scotland are becoming ruinous, unless they shall be preserved by being carefully roofed and repaired, and that such necessary repairs may be executed under the best management, and to the greatest utility, we deem it expedient to appoint a

qualified person who may supervise and construct the same, as the said palaces, strengths, and castles may from time to time require; and we having been sufficiently informed of the integrity and eminent endowments of Master James Smith of Whytehill, and of his knowledge and experience in Architecture, and other qualifications suitable for undertaking the said office: Therefore we have nominated, made, constituted, and ordained, likeas we do nominate, make, constitute, and ordain the same Master James Smith supervisor of all our works at our palace of Holyroodhouse, and other palaces, strengths, and castles in that part of our united kingdom called Scotland, as by warrant to the masters of works and others we shall destine to be repaired and to supervise the same; and from time to time to render account of the condition of the said palaces, strengths, and castles, and of what repairs are necessary in the same: We ordain the said Master James Smith to enjoy the whole privileges, immunities, and exemptions heretofore possessed, or which to persons actually employed in our service, by whatever act, law, or statute, are known to belong, but especially exemption from all taxations, billetings, and wardings, as fully and freely as others occupied in similar cases possess or can possess the same, together with such salary or pensions as to us shall seem expedient to allow: In testimony whereof we have commanded our seal, ordained by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in Scotland, in place and stead of the great seal of Scotland, to be appended to these presents, at our palace of Windsor Castle the 15th day of July 1707, and of our reign the 6th year.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign lady the  
Queen.

*Grant by King George I. to John Campbell.*

Given at S. James', November 16, 1714.

Commission to Mr John Campbell of Mamor of the office of Master of Works.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith: To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Wit ye us to have nominated, constituted, and ordained, likeas by the tenor of these presents we nominate, constitute, and ordain Master John Campbell of Mamor to be the only Master of our Works and inspector and director-general of all our buildings within that part of our kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland, during our pleasure only; giving, granting, and disposing to him, during the space aforesaid, the said office of Master of our Works, together with all fees, profits, privileges, emoluments, powers, rights, and casualties pertaining to the same, or which in time coming shall be known to belong thereto: And also with power to him to substitute deputies in the said office, and to nominate all qualified persons for doing whatever pertains to our houses and buildings aforesaid, and all other things requisite and necessary concerning the premises, as fully and freely in every respect as any others his predecessors in the said office did or could do: Declaring by these presents this our commission to be without prejudice to the Clerk of our Stores, present or future, performing in every manner to the said Master John Campbell as his

superior in the same all due service and obedience: And we by these presents revoke all prior donations of the aforesaid gift and office, to whatsoever person or persons: In witness whereof we have commanded our seal, ordained by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in Scotland in place and stead of the great seal thereof, to be appended to these presents. At our Palace of St James' the 16th day of November 1714, and of our reign the first year.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign lord the  
King.

*Confirmation of Grant by King George II. to Sir John Anstruther.*

Given at Kensington, July 31, 1727.

Commission to Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther of the office of Sole Master of Works, Inspector and Director-General of all royal buildings in Scotland.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith: To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Whereas our royal father of glorious memory, by letters patent under the seal of Scotland ordained to be kept instead of the great seal thereof, did nominate, constitute, and ordain Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther sole Master of his Works, and Inspector and director-general of all his buildings within that part of our kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland, during his pleasure only, with such powers, privileges, rights, authorities, and business transactions as is further contained in the said letters patent: Wit ye us now to have revoked the letters patent before recited: And to have of new granted the said office to the said Sir John Anstruther, in the same manner and form in all respects as by the prior letters patent it was granted; to be held and had by him during our pleasure only. In witness whereof we have commanded our seal, ordained by the treaty of union to be kept and used in Scotland in stead and place of the great seal thereof, to be appended to these presents, at our Palace of Kenzingtoun the 31st day of July 1727, and of our reign the first year.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign lord the  
King.

*Grant by King George II. to George Dundas.*

Given at S. James', April 19, 1743.

Commission to George Dundas, Esquire, of the office of Master of the King's Works.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith: To all worthy men to whom our present letters shall come, greeting. Wit ye us to have revoked the letters patent by which Sir

John Anstruther, Baronet, was nominated and appointed sole Master of our Works, and inspector and director-general of all our buildings within that part of our said kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland, during our pleasure, and to have granted the said office to George Dundas, Esquire, that the same may be held by the said George Dundas, for and during our pleasure, in the same manner and form in all respects, and with such powers, privileges, rights, authorities, and business transactions as the same was held and possessed by the said Sir John Anstruther: In witness whereof we have commanded our seal, ordained by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in Scotland in place and stead of the great seal thereof, to be appended to these presents: At our Palace of S. James' the 19th day of April 1743, and of our reign the 16th year.

By signature superscribed  
by the hand of our  
Sovereign lord the  
King, and subscribed  
by the hands of some  
of the Lords Commis-  
sioners of the Treasury.

*Grant by King George III. to William Stuart of Hartwood.*

Given at S. James', Feb. 12, 1761.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith: To all worthy men to whom these our present letters shall come, greeting: Know ye we have revoked the letters patent by which George Dundas, Esq. was nominated and appointed sole Master of our Works and Inspector and Director-General of all our buildings within that part of the said Kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland during our pleasure, and have granted the said office to William Stuart for and during our pleasure, in the same way and manner in all respects, and with the same powers, privileges, rights, authority, and business transactions as the same was holden by the said George Dundas.

In testimony whereof we have commanded our seal, appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in Scotland instead and place of the Great Seal thereof, to be appended to these presents.

At our Palace of S. James', the 12th day of the month of February, and the first year of our reign.

Per Signaturam manu S.D.N. regis suprascript.

*Grant by King George III. to James Duff, Esq.*

Given at S. James', July 5, 1764.

George, &c.

Know ye we give and grant, as we by the tenour of these presents give and grant the office of sole Master of our Works and Inspector and Director-General of all our buildings within that part of our said kingdom of Great Britain called

Scotland to and in favour of James Duff of the Middle Temple, London, Esq., in the place of William Stuart, Esq., deceased.

The said office to be holden by the said James Duff for and during our pleasure, in the same way and manner in all respects, and with such powers, privileges, rights, authority, and business transactions, as the same was holden by the said William Stuart.

In witness whereof we have commanded our seal, ordained by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in Scotland in stead and place of the great seal thereof, to be appended to these presents.

At our Palace of S. James', the fifth day of the month of July 1764.

Per Signaturam manu S.D.N. regis suprascript.

*Grant by King George III. to Lieutenant-Colonel James Pringle.*

Given at S. James', March 8, 1768.

George, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, to all worthy men, &c.

Know ye we have revoked the letters patent by which James Duff of the Middle Temple, London, was nominated and appointed sole Master of our Works, Inspector and Director-General of all our buildings within that part of our said kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland during our pleasure, and have given and granted, as we by the tenour of these presents give and grant to our beloved Lieutenant-Colonel James Pringle the said office of sole Master of our Works, Inspector and Director-General of all our buildings in that part of our said kingdom of Great Britain called Scotland.

The said office to be holden by the said Lieutenant-Colonel James Pringle for and during our pleasure only, in the same manner and way in all respects, and with such powers, privileges, rights, authority, and business transactions as the same was holden and enjoyed by the said James Duff.

In witness whereof, &c.

At our Palace of S. James', the eighth day of the month of March 1768, and eighth year of our Reign.

Per Signaturam manu S.D.N. regis suprascript.