

IV.

NOTES ON A HERALDIC MONUMENT AT KILMANY, FIFESHIRE. BY
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In the churchyard of Kilmany, Fifeshire, I recently discovered on a tombstone in the open air a large plate containing eight probative quarters or proofs of nobility by four descents. This is probably unique in Scotland. The monument is in memory of John Melville of Cairnie, or Murdochcairnie, a property in the parish of Kilmany, which now belongs to Mr Gillespie of Mountquhanie. It is a flat stone, on the top of which is inserted a copper plate about 3 feet long by 18 inches broad. At the top of the plate is the following inscription:—

MEMORIAE JOHANNIS MELVILLE A KARNIE
QUI VITA PURITER ACTA AVITAM AUXIT GLORIAM
SACRUM ESSE VOLUIT, QUOD CERNIS MONIMENTUM
FIDA, PUDICA, MOERENS
MARIA UXOR
ALEX^{RI} METELLANI COMITIS LAUDERIAE FRATRIS
FILIA MAXIMA
OBIIT SINE PROLE APR. 25 1734 ÆT. 38

Below this inscription are the following lines:—

In what soft language shall my thoughts get free,
My dearest Cairnie, when I talk of thee?
Ye Muses, Graces, all ye gentle train
Of weeping loves, assist the pensive strain.

But why should I implore your moving art ?
 'Tis but to write the dictates of my heart ;
 And all that knew his real worth will join
 Their friendly sighs and pious tears with mine.
 His soul was formed to act each glorious part
 Of life, unstained with vanity or art ;
 No thought within his generous breast had birth,
 But what he might have owed to heaven and earth ;
 Practised by him, each virtue grew more bright,
 And shone with more than its own native light.
 Whatever noble warmth could recommend—
 The just, the active, and the constant friend,
 Was all his own. But oh ! a dearer name
 And softer eyes mine endless sorrows claim ;
 Left now alone, comfortless, and forlorn,
 The lover I, and tender husband, mourn.
 As thou alone hast taught my heart to prove
 The highest raptures of a virtuous love,
 That sacred passion I to thee confine,
 My spotless faith shall be for ever thine

MARY MELVILL.

At the foot of the plate are the arms of John Melvill impaled with those of his wife Mary Maitland. At the dexter side are the paternal quarters, and on the sinister side the maternal quarters. A careful drawing of the plate has been made by Mr. T. S. Robertson, F.S.A.Scot., an engraving of which is annexed. The arms are beautifully and correctly engraved, and are as follows:—In the base of the plate those of John Melvill and his wife. They are “gules, a sun between three crescents argent, within a bordure of the second charged with eight roses of the first” ; for Melville of Murdocairnie, impaled with first and fourth, “or, a lion rampant gules coupé at all its joints of the first within a double tressure flory counter flory of the second” ; for Maitland, second and third, “argent, a griffin segreant sable, beaked and membered gules, holding a sword with its forefoot supporting a Saracen’s head proper” ; for Lauder of Hatton, in the centre of the quarterings, an annulet, for difference. Above the arms is a helmet surmounted by the crest, a crescent argent (?), with the motto “Denique Cœlum.” The shield is surrounded by a beautiful and elaborate mantling.

On the dexter side, beginning at the foot, are the paternal quarters. These are—

1. Father, Alexander Melvill of Cairnie.
2. Father's mother, Christian Aiton, "argent, a cross engrailed cantoned with four roses gules," for Aiton of Inchdairnie.
3. Grandfather's mother, Jean Gourlay, "sable, an eagle displayed argent, armed and beaked gules," for Gourlay of Kincaig.
4. Grandmother's mother, Helen Hamilton, first and fourth, "gules, three cinquefoils ermine," for Hamilton of Kilbrackmont; second and third, "or, on a bend sable three escalops of the first," for Dischington of Ardross.

On the sinister side, also beginning at the foot, are the maternal quarters. These are—

1. Mother, Grizel Foulis, "argent, on a fesse between three bay leaves vert, a primrose or," for Foulis of Ravelston.
2. Mother's mother, Margaret Primrose, first and fourth, "or, a lion rampant vert, armed and langued gules"; as a coat of augmentation, second and third, "argent, on a fesse azure between three primroses vert, as many mullets or," for Primrose.
3. Grandfather's mother, Sinclair, "argent, on a cross engrailed gules five bezants."
4. Grandmother's mother, Elizabeth Keith, "argent, a bordure gules on a chief of the second three palets of the first."

The shields round the sides are oval in form, and have neither helmet nor crest, which is correct according to Nisbet (*Heraldry*, vol. ii. part 4, p. 144).

Alexander Melvill of Murdochcairnie married Grizel Foulis, daughter of Sir John Foulis, Baronet, of Ravelston, whose wife was Margaret Primrose, daughter of Sir Archibald Primrose of Dalmeny and his wife Elizabeth Keith, daughter of James Keith of Benholm, second son of George, Earl Marischal. Sir John Foulis of Ravelston's mother was a daughter of Sir John Sinclair of Stevenson. This accounts for the maternal quarters.

Alexander Melvill's father married Christian, daughter of Robert Aiton of Inchdairnie. His grandfather married Jean Gourlay, daughter of Sir

Thomas Gourlay of Kincaig, while Robert Aiton married Helen Hamilton, daughter of James Hamilton of Kilbrackmont. This accounts for the paternal quarters.

A sketch of the pedigree is annexed, which shows the different quarters.

