

IV.

RELICS OF THE FAMILY OF INNES OF BALNACRAIG AND BALLOGIE, ABERDEENSHIRE, INCLUDING A PORTRAIT OF PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART. BY THE REV. JOHN STIRTON, B.D., F.S.A.SCOT., CRATHIE.

The family of Innes of Balnacraig, in Aboyne, and of Ballogie, in Birse, was a branch of the Inneses of Drainie, in Morayshire, descended from Robert, third son of Innes of that Ilk. The founder of the family was James Innes, of Drumgask, in the parish of Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. His descendants acquired the properties of Balnacraig and Ballogie. The old mansion-house of Balnacraig, which still stands, was built in 1735 by James Innes, a grandson of the above, whose initials and those of his wife, Catharine Gordon, may still be seen above the doorway of the house. Ten members of the family became priests of the Roman Catholic Church, of whom no less than three held the office of Principal of the Scots College at Paris, and were intimately associated with the exiled House of Stuart at St Germain. The last member of the family was the late Mrs Maria Frances Chisholm, wife of the late Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of Glassburn, Strathglass. On the death of Mrs Chisholm in 1912, the following relics passed into the possession of the writer :—

PRAYER-BOOK OF LEWIS INNES.

This little volume, which belonged to Lewis Innes, Almoner to Queen Mary of Modena, Consort of King James II and VII., is in wonderful preservation; the leather covers are beautifully stamped and gilded in the style of the seventeenth century. The title-page, in clear type, stating the nature of the contents, reads thus :—

DEVOTIONS

First Part:

In the Antient way of

OFFICES.

with

Psalms, Hymns, and Pray'rs: for every day
in the Week, and every
Holiday in the Year.

ROAN, MDCLXXXV.

1685.

Across the front page of the fly-leaf is written :—"Louisa Farquharson, Ballogie, April 1834." She was the daughter of Lewis Farquharson Innes of Balnacraig and Ballogie, and married Luke Netterville Barron, Staff-Surgeon, R.N. Mrs Barron purchased the estate of Denmore, near Aberdeen. She died in 1880.

At the top of the second page of the fly-leaf appears the following :—"To James Innes of Balnacraig." He was the builder of the house of Balnacraig. The name of his wife is written across the title-page thus :—

Cath. Gordon
her book.

Catharine Gordon was a niece of Bishop Gordon of Glastirum; she saved the house of Balnacraig when Cumberland's soldiers came to destroy it.

On the page preceding that of the Directions is written the following inscription in a bold hand, although the ink is yellow with age :—"This book was used several years by Mr Louis Innes, Almoner to the Queen of Great Britain and Principal of the Scots Colledge at Paris." Louis, or rather Lewis, Innes was the original owner of the volume. He was the eldest son of James Innes, Wadsetter of Drumgask, and was born at Walkerdale, in the Enzie of Banff, in the year 1651. Early in life he was sent to the Scots College at Paris to study for the priesthood, and in this way a connection began between his family and that college, which ended only when the French Revolution had put an end to an institution so long established. In 1682 Lewis Innes was appointed Principal of the College, an office which he continued to hold till the year 1713, when he was appointed to the important post of Almoner to the Chevalier de St George. He had been Almoner and private Chaplain to Queen Mary of Modena, the Queen-Consort of King James II. and VII., and was one of a Privy Council of five at the Court of King James at St Germain.

Lewis Innes was a man of the greatest prudence, and during the years that he acted as Almoner to the Chevalier he was often employed on matters of great delicacy. He received into his charge the original memoirs written by King James II., which form the principal source of information of the reign of that monarch, and it is generally thought that Father Innes was the author of the Life of James that was later compiled, for the original papers were long at the Scots College. (See Introduction, *Innes's Essay*, by Grub.) Lewis Innes died at Paris 22nd January 1738. The notice of his death is written in a clear hand at the top of page 519 in the prayer-book, thus :—"Our Dear Uncle, Mr Louis

Innes, Almoner to the Queen of Great Britain, dyed the 22nd January 1738. Pray for him." The handwriting is in all probability that of his nephew, James Innes, of Balnacraig. The esteem in which Lewis Innes was held is shown by a letter of the Chevalier to Mr Thomas Innes, in which the exiled King states that he greatly regrets to have lost in Mr Innes a most faithful servant, who possessed a capacity and zeal for his service not always to be found in the same person. The Chevalier's father had expressed similar opinions regarding Lewis Innes thirty-seven years before.

The death notices of different members of the family appear on various pages of the book. Under "Matins for the Dead," the following are inscribed:—

Page 520, "My Dear Mother, Mrs Claud Irwin, dyed Nov. 19th, 1733, pray for her."

Page 528, "My Brother, Louis, dyed May 26th, 1726, pray for him."

On page 529 appears the following:—

"February 28, 1744, dyed our uncle, Mr Thomas Innes."

Father Thomas Innes was an eminent critical historian. He was the author of the well-known work, *A Critical Essay on the Early Inhabitants of North Britain*; also, *The Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Scotland*. The former was published in 1729. A letter from him regarding this work to the "titular" Earl of Panmure is published in the *Registrum de Panmure*. It is now in the possession of the writer.

Thomas Innes, like his brother Lewis, was Principal of the Scots College at Paris, and assisted his brother to arrange the archives of the See of Glasgow, which had been deposited in the College by Archbishop Beatoun.

Under "Lauds for the Dead," the following are written:—

Page 532, "November 28, 1686, dyed James Innes, my Grandfather."

Page 533, "January 22, 1704, dyed Jean Robertson, my Grandmother."

Page 535, "My Dear Brother, Mr George Innes, dyed at Paris the 29 Aprile 1752 New Style; he was principal of ye Scots College."

On the fly-leaf at the end of the book, the names and dates of death of the last members of the old branch of the Inneses are written in the handwriting of Mary Innes, the Abbess of the Community at Haggerston, who, with her brother William Innes, having entered religion, the properties of Balnacraig, Ballogie, Mid-Beltie, and Carlogie passed to a cousin, Lewis Farquharson of Balmoral and Inverey, who was the grandson of Alexander Farquharson of Balmoral and Claudia Innes of Drumgask, his wife, and who added the name of Innes to his own.

The following names are included in the list :—

“R.I.P.

My Dr Grandmother, Mary Gray, died the 6th of May 1774.
 My Dr Grandfather, James Innes, died the 11th of February 1780.
 My Dr Grandmother, Cathn Gordon, died the 5th of May 1790.
 My Dear mother, Elizabeth Young, died the 5th March 1799.
 My Dr Uncle, Charles Innes, died the 15th June 1803.
 My Dr Uncle, Alexander Innes, died the 15th September 1803.
 My Dr Father, Lewis Innes, died the 27th November 1815.
 My Dr Aunt, Jean Innes, died the 12th August 1828.
 My Dr Aunt, Elizabeth Innes, died February 10th 1829, aged 91.”

Alexander Innes, above mentioned, was a man of great endurance and determination. In the French Revolution, when many priests were killed in Paris, and all the other members of the Scots College had fled, Alexander Innes remained at his post. He was imprisoned and sentenced to be guillotined, but was saved only in consequence of the death of Robespierre taking place on the day appointed for his execution. (See Introduction, *Innes's Essay*, by Grub.)

On a loose leaf inserted in the prayer-book is written, in the handwriting of Lewis Farquharson Innes, “From Lewis Innes to his beloved wife, Margaret Innes, Good Friday, 1826.”

Lewis Innes, or rather Lewis Farquharson Innes, married Margaret M'Veagh, who belonged to an Irish family which settled in Aberdeenshire. He had a son, Lewis Farquharson Innes of Ballogie, and four daughters—Catharine, Eliza, Margaret, and Louisa. Catharine and Eliza died unmarried. Margaret married William Dominic Lynch, Esq., Devonshire Place, London, and was the mother of Mrs Chisholm of Glassburn. Louisa, as already mentioned, married Dr Luke Netteville Barron, and died without issue in 1880. Lewis Farquharson Innes, their brother, died unmarried, at the age of thirty years, in 1840.

Such is the story which this little book can tell—the story of a sainted race now passed away. May it never fall into unworthy hands!

MANUSCRIPT ACCOUNT OF FATHER HENRY INNES.

This document was found in the charter chest at old Ballogie in 1845.

The text of the manuscript is as follows :—

“The Rev^d. Henry Innes, Catholic clergyman, died at Ballogie, Aberdeenshire, aged 86. Early in life he went to France, and for many years occupied a prominent station in the Scotch College at Paris, at the time when Principal Gordon presided over that establishment, to which at a former period the celebrated Cardinal Innes, a member of the same family, also belonged. Having to announce officially to many eminent persons connected with Scotland at that time very important

circumstances relative to the college, Mr Innes communicated in 1778 to Prince Charles Edward, then at Florence, the Principal's death, and immediately received a very courteous answer; and about 1787 he had some correspondence with the Duchesse D'Albanie. On various occasions these and other members of the unfortunate House of Stuart acknowledged the attachment of the Inneses to them, and several interesting reliques of the Stuarts are still in the possession of the present proprietor of Balnacraig.

"Soon after the French Revolution broke out, in 1791, Mr Innes returned to Scotland. About 14 years ago he made a short excursion again to Paris and got a pension from the Bourbon Government in lieu of pecuniary claims which he had on that country; on this occasion he was very kindly received by Marshal Macdonald (the Duke of Turrenebrun), who recognised immediately his old friend of the Scotch College. Mr Innes was a man of great benevolence of disposition, superior attainments in literature, and most agreeable manners in society."

Father Henry Innes died in 1833. The Account had probably been written shortly afterwards. The letters from Prince Charles Edward Stuart and the Duchesse D'Albanie above mentioned were published in the second volume of the *Miscellany* of the old Spalding Club in 1842, and one of the letters from Prince Charles Edward is reproduced *in facsimile*.

A BIRTH-BRIEF.

One of the manuscripts found in the charter chest at old Ballogie was a document in Latin, written on the face of a sheet of vellum parchment, and bearing in illuminated colours, at the top, the Royal Arms, and, on the right margin, the coats of arms of:—

- (1) Innes of Drayne;
- (2) Rosse of Kilraock;
- (3) Gordoun of Carnebarrow; and
- (4) Falconer of Halcourtoun;

and, on the left margin, the coats of arms of

- (1) Young of Kinminitie;
- (2) Gordoun of Daach;
- (3) Duff of Terrisoull;
- (4) Pettindreich of yt Ilk.

This birth-brief is in favour of Walter Innes, a son of the House of Innes of Drumgask, and descended from Innes of Drainie in Morayshire.

The diploma was granted by the magistrates of Aberdeen, and bears the signature of James Kennedy, the Town-Clerk. It is dated 9th July 1669. The seal of the city was originally appended to the document, but it has, unfortunately, been lost.

Walter Innes was in the service of Queen Henrietta Maria, consort of Charles I., when resident in Paris.

The following is an English translation of the document:—

“TO ALL AND SINGLE

“Most Powerful, Illustrious, and Mighty Kings, Princes, Dukes, Lords, Bishops, Provosts, Magistrates, and Councillors of towns, cities, and maritime ports, and to all others of whatever condition or rank, Salutation and greeting from our Court. We, the Provost and Magistrates of the City of Aberdeen in the Kingdom of Scotland, Make it Known to you and Testify That upon the day on which these writings are given there appeared in presence of us sitting in judgement an honourable man, James Skeine, a citizen of ours, out of esteem for his friend Walter Innes, a Scotchman, now said to be residing at Paris, and who about 27 years ago left Scotland, petitioning that we as Magistrates of the foresaid city by the Authority which we possess both among our own people and abroad, should testify that he was sprung of an eminent race and honourable family and that he was the son of parents allied in matrimony: Which petition being so just we could not reasonably decline, and Therefore that it may be known that we did not grant this present diploma rashly or by mere assent, but after instituting a diligent scrutiny in the matter, we called into Court James Gordoune of Rothemay and James Innes of Drumgask, who, after the solemn oath of our religion had been administered to them gave evidence that the foresaid Walter Innes was the lawful son of Alexander Innes of Kinminitie by Christina Young, his wife, and that the said Alexander Innes was the lawful son of James Innes of Draynie, grandfather of the said Walter Innes by Helen Ross his lawful wife and grandmother of the said Walter Innes, the said Helen Ross being a daughter of Hugh Ross, Baron of Kilravock, by Helen Falconer, a daughter of the Lord of Halkertoune, and that the said James Innes of Draynie, was the lawful son of Robert Innes of Draynie, great-grandfather of the said Walter Innes by Catherine Gordone, his lawful wife, great-grandmother of the said Walter, she being a daughter of the Lord of Carnebarrow; that the said Christina Young mother of the said Walter, was the lawful daughter of William Young of Kinminitie, maternal grandfather of the said Walter by Bessie Gordone, grandmother of the said Walter, a lawful daughter of Thomas Gordoune of Daach by Elizabeth Duff lawful daughter of Alexander Duff of Terri-Soull, and that the foresaid William Young was the lawful son of William Young of Kinminitie, maternal great-grandfather of the said Walter by Catherine Pettindreich, lawful daughter of John Pettindreich, maternal great-grandmother of the said Walter: It is established from the evidence above recited that all the above-named ancestors of the said Walter were born under the sacred bond of matrimony and that their children lived entirely free from all blemish of spurious birth: Therefore we strenuously ask All and Single among whom the said Walter may tarry that they recognise him as born in lawful marriage and as a man sprung from a distinguished stock and that wherever he may be, when time and circumstance demand it, they shall consider him to be a man of favourable character and moral probity: If they do this (which we hope that they will do) we freely promise to render them, when the occasion arises, equal if not greater service: In Witness Whereof we have ordered this diploma to be authenticated with the seal of our city and the signature of our Secretary. Given at Aberdeen on the ninth day of the month of July in the year of our Lord One thousand six hundred and sixty nine and of the reign of our most Serene Prince,

Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, and Defender of the Faith, the 21st year."

A PORTRAIT OF PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART.

A number of highly-interesting relics of the Stuarts were in the possession of the Inneses of Balnacraig and Ballogie. These included: a lock of Prince Charlie's hair; an antique silver case, given by King James II. and VII. to Lewis Innes, the Almoner; a shagreen pocket-book, having a secret spring concealed in its folds, which, on being pressed, revealed a miniature, exquisitely painted on ivory and in gold frame, fixed in a steel case, of the Chevalier de St George—a gift from the Chevalier to Lewis Innes; and a portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart as a youth—also a gift from the Chevalier to Lewis Innes, shortly before the death of the latter in 1738.

On the death of Lewis this portrait passed to his niece Claudia Innes, who married Alexander Farquharson of Balmoral and Inverey. The portrait remained for some years in old Balmoral Castle. When Lewis Farquharson Innes, the grandson of Claudia Innes, succeeded to the properties of Balnacraig and Ballogie in 1815, it was brought along with the portraits of the Balmoral Farquharsons to Ballogie and hung in the dining-room of the old house, now demolished. When the estates were sold in 1850, Mrs Louisa Farquharson or Barron, daughter of Lewis Farquharson Innes of Ballogie and Balnacraig, retained the portrait in her own possession, after having handed over as gifts the other Stuart relics of her family, to Thomas, 12th Lord Lovat. After her death in 1880 the picture came into the possession of her husband, Dr Luke Netterville Barron, Staff-Surgeon, R.N., who bequeathed it to his wife's niece, Mrs Maria Frances Chisholm, widow of Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of the Black Watch. In a letter from Glassburn to the writer, dated 7th July 1901, Mrs Chisholm speaks of it:—"Mr Barron's special legacy to me of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' came safely. It is a true likeness of the Prince; a large, old-fashioned picture I remember so well as hanging in the dining-room at dear old Ballogie, and it now hangs in my drawing-room, near my mother, whose people all fought for him, and some died at Culloden.

"The portrait came into our family through Claudia Innes, the Prince having given it to her uncle Lewis. Mr Rule tells me it is probably worth £500."

Mr James Faed, the late well-known Scottish artist, examined the portrait and pronounced it to be one of considerable merit and the work of an Italian artist. The picture is that of a youth in his teens, of fair, open countenance, with large, beautiful hazel eyes and full

ruddy lips. The head is held erect, and the neck and shoulders are most graceful in their proportions. The Prince is wearing a wig, beneath which some of his own hair is seen falling in graceful curls over his shoulders. He is dressed in a bluish-grey embroidered coat, over which a mantle of crimson velvet lined with ermine has been flung. On his breast is the Star of the Garter, and across his left shoulder is displayed the blue ribbon of the same Order. His neck-cloth is of delicate lawn. The frame of the picture, with the "clam shell" design at the top and bottom, is a contemporary one. It is richly gilt and moulded in the ornate style of the period. Looking at the picture, one is struck with the resemblance between the Prince and his unfortunate ancestress, Mary Stuart.

A recent writer speaks of this resemblance. "Strangely alike in some ways, were Mary Stuart and her equally hapless descendant, Prince Charles Edward. To both these members of an ill-fated line the fairies at their birth were kind. To them was given the gift of beauty—brown eyes, radiant chestnut hair gold-tipped, fair complexion, graceful figure. A light and happy heart, full of generosity and kind thought for others, was possessed by both. Both owned the saving grace of humour, the endearing quality of recklessness, a gallant spirit and a dauntless courage, and, above all, with all these possessions, both Queen and Prince were endowed with that indefinable possession that we call 'charm.'"

This "charm" is noticeable in the portrait, which is undoubtedly a fine one, and the fact of its being a gift from the old Chevalier to a member of so intensely Jacobite a family as that of Innes, and having been retained and cherished by that family for so long, renders it of the greatest value and interest. Its existence has been comparatively unknown, because its owners always maintained a discreet silence regarding their Jacobite possessions, and were most reticent when any mention was made of relics associated with the Royal Family of Stuart. The subject to them was a sacred one, and only second to their devotion to the Church of their fathers was their zeal and fervour in the cause of their King.