

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE TO THE EXCAVATION OF COULL CASTLE,
p. 49. By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON.

In *Flores Historiarum*, ed. H. R. Luard, vol. iii. pp. 133-4, the fate of Sir Herbert de Morham is related. Described as *vir cunctis Scotis formosior et statura eminentior*, he is alleged to have thrice played traitor to the English king. Having twice been pardoned, on the third occasion when captured he was lodged with his father and squire under irons in the Tower. Thence he sent a message to King Edward offering his own head on the day when Sir Simon Fraser should be taken: "for the Scots nobles lying in prison used to say that Sir Simon was invincible and not to be captured, and that so long as he lived Scotland would never be conquered." Fraser having been caught was cast into the Tower, and on the day following (September 7, 1306) Sir Herbert de Morham and his squire, Thomas de Boys, were led forth to the block.

Morham is the smallest parish in East Lothian. Its lords were descended from a family named Malherbe, who are found in possession of the manor under William the Lyon, and took the name de Morham from their estate—G. Chalmers, *Caledonia*, ed. 1889, vol. iv. p. 537, with authorities cited. In the old *Statistical Account*, 1792, vol. ii. p. 334, it is stated that the Castle of Morham stood on an eminence near the church, and was "of considerable magnitude and strength," but at that date all masonry had disappeared. Chalmers, *op. cit.*, says that "the patronage of the church has always belonged to the lord of the manor." We have here a distinct case, as at Coull, of a parish formed out of the manor of an immigrant Norman baron, its castle and church standing side by side as the civil and ecclesiastical centres of the parish.

¹ Scots Money.