

## IV.

## CULROSS ABBEY AND ITS CHARTERS, WITH NOTES ON A FIFTEENTH-CENTURY TRANSUMPT. BY WILLIAM DOUGLAS, F.S.A.Scot.

No authentic record exists of there having been a church at Culross before 1217, the date at which Malcolm, Earl of Fife, granted a charter for the foundation of a new Abbey; but from the legends of St Serf and St Kentigern, and from certain indications in the Abbey buildings, as well as from the presence of some Celtic stones in the churchyard, I think we are quite justified in saying that there was such a church, and that Earl Malcolm's Abbey was built upon its site.

One of these legends, as given by Mr Skene,<sup>1</sup> briefly runs as follows:—

St Serf in the early part of the eighth century came to Adamnan, on the island of Inchkeith, and asked him how he was to dispose of himself and his family. Adamnan told him to occupy Fife. He went to Culross, and after removing the thorns and brushwood from a suitable spot made for himself a habitation. Then the King of the Picts was wroth because he dwelt there without his leave, and sent to have him killed. There was the usual deadly sickness of the King and his cure by the prayers of the Saint. The King gave him the land he inhabited as an offering for ever, and St Serf founded a church and cemetery there. Finally, St Serf died at Dunning, and his body was brought by his disciples to Culross and honourably buried.

The part of the Abbey buildings which strengthens the tradition is to be seen in the lower portion of the existing south wall of the nave, the masonry of which is "arranged in cube courses peculiar to early work."<sup>2</sup>

Three Celtic stones, of the eighth or ninth century, are now in the churchyard; and as they do not appear to have been previously described, I may mention that one is at present resting against the wall of the church near the entrance door. It seems to be a fragment of a free-standing cross-shaft which had been sculptured on four sides. Its front and back have been defaced, but on both the outer edges the Celtic ornamentation is still fairly distinct. On one side the design is that of the key pattern and spirals combined, and on the other of

<sup>1</sup> *Celtic Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 255.

<sup>2</sup> M'Gibbon and Ross, *Ecclesiastical Architecture*, vol. ii. p. 234.

the key pattern only. The fragment measures 31 inches long, 16 inches broad, and 8 inches thick. The second is the half of a pedestal-base and is also beside the church door. It is ornamented with a dog-tooth border, and measures 42 inches by 23 inches, and is 28 inches high. The socket for the shaft is 22 inches by 9 inches. The third also appears to be a part of a cross-shaft. It is partly embedded in the ground, and is at present serving the purpose of a border to a flight of steps near the north-east corner of the churchyard. I have not been able to examine it properly.



Fig. 1. Cross-shaft at Culross Abbey.

When Earl Malcolm granted the whole schyre of Culenros in 1217 there was a church there at that time, for it is included in his charter.

The first authentic record of the Abbey appears in the *Melrose Chronicle*, where it is stated, under date 1217, that Malcolm, Earl of Fife,<sup>1</sup> founded the new Abbey of Culross, that a deputation was despatched to it from Kinloss on the 18th of March 1217, and that Sir Hugh, a prior of Kinloss, was made the first Abbot. The note runs in these words:—

“Fundata est abbathia de Kilinros a domino Malcolmo comite de Fif, ad quam abbathiam missus est conventus vii kalendas Marcii [Feb. 23] de Kinlos cum dompno Hugone primo abbate de Kilinros quondam priore de Kinlos: venit ergo idem conventus apud

Kilinros xv kalendas Aprilis [March 18].”<sup>2</sup>

This note gives no information as to the nature of Earl Malcolm's gift, and the original charter seems to have been lost, for it is unknown to any of the books on Culross that I have consulted.

A transumpt of the charters of the early gifts to Culross Abbey has come into my hands, with other papers which at one time had been in the possession of the family of the Colvilles of Cleish, the hereditary bailies of the lordship of Culross, and in it appears the

<sup>1</sup> Malcolm was the sixth Earl of Fife, and grandson of Earl] Duncan, who founded the nunnery at North Berwick. He died in 1228, and was buried, according to the *Book of Pluscarden*, in St Servanus' church at Culross.

<sup>2</sup> *Chronica de Mailros* (Bannatyne Club), p. 129.

charter by Earl Malcolm to the monks of Culross for the foundation of their new Abbey.

The transumpt records that on the 17th of September 1450, Sir John Broune, monk of Culross, appeared in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, carrying with him seven original charters in favour of the Abbot and Convent of Culross, all in perfect condition, with their seals attached, granted by Duncan, Earl of Fife, Reginald de Waren, Alexander Wallace, King Robert the Bruce, and three by King Alexander II., and presented them to the Provost of Edinburgh, sitting in his chair of judgment, and asked him to give his authority to have them reduced in public form, because, owing to the dangers of the road, the Abbot and Convent might fail to prove their rights through the loss or decay of the writs. The Provost consented, and ordered the acting notary, Thomas Broune, a clerk of St Andrews diocese, to make the transumpt. This being done, the Provost, after ascertaining that the copy agreed with the originals, commanded the common seal of the burgh of Edinburgh to be appended, so that as much faith might adhere to the transumpt as to the original charters.

More than a hundred years later, on the 27th December 1556, one John Litill, in the name of William,<sup>1</sup> Commendator of Culross, presented this transumpt again to the Provost and Bailies of Edinburgh, "and because the samyn seill wes auld and habill to dekey haistely, swa that the samyn culd nocht be knawin, desyrit theme to hing thair commoun seill of new thairto agane, quhairto thei consentit." This second seal is still hanging to the transumpt, but the original one has been "able to decay," though the tag by which it was attached still remains.

Earl Malcolm's charter of 1217 is preserved to us in a charter of confirmation by Alexander II., which in turn is confirmed and quoted at length in the charter by Robert I. submitted for transumpt. It may be translated as follows:—

#### MALCOLM, EARL OF FIFE'S CHARTER.

[1217] To all the sons of holy mother church both clerics and laymen present and to come who this charter shall see or hear Malcolm Earl of Fife sends greeting in the Lord. Know ye all that I have given granted and by this my present charter have confirmed to God St Mary and St Servanus of Culenros and to the monks of the Cistercian order serving and who shall forever serve God there, for the foundation of their new Abbey, for the weal of the soul of my lord King William and the souls of all his

<sup>1</sup> William Colville, a natural son of Mr Robert Colville of Hiltown.

predecessors and for the weal of the soul and prosperity of my lord King Alexander King of Scotland and his parents and successors, and for the weal of the souls of myself, my father and my mother and the souls of all my predecessors and successors, the whole land of the schyre of Culenros<sup>1</sup> by its right marches with church and castle and all the just pertinents of the said schyre, and the land of Quyltys<sup>2</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and the land of Ennevert<sup>3</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and the land of Abercromby<sup>4</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and a toft within the town of Casteloune<sup>5</sup> with its right marches and liberties, and twenty pounds of sterlings from the monastery of Northberwic annually to be uplifted forever, and ten pounds of Earl's ferry<sup>6</sup> (*passagio comitis*) annually to be possessed forever and the church of Tulybothwyn<sup>7</sup> with all its just pertinents and the land of Goger<sup>8</sup> next the water of Bonane<sup>9</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, together with sixty shillings of sterlings from the fermes of Logynathrane<sup>10</sup> annually to be uplifted forever, for sixty acres of the said land of Goger taken away from the said monks by perambulation of the country made in the presence of me Malcolm Earl of Fife, and thirty three pounds of sterlings six shillings and eight pennies of annual rent in the Town of Couper and mills of the same Town<sup>11</sup> for the lands of Munchany and Rathulyth<sup>12</sup> which lands the said monks had

<sup>1</sup> It is impossible now to define the boundaries of "the whole land of the shire of Culross," but a fair idea of its extent can be obtained from the lands gifted to Lord Colville of Culross in 1589 (see p. 87).

<sup>2</sup> This is "Qhiteys" in Earl Duncan's charter, and "Cultis" in the gift to Lord Colville. The name survives in Cult-hill of the Salines, near Powmill.

<sup>3</sup> Inzievar.

<sup>4</sup> Crombie. The old unroofed church of Crombie lies near the orchard of Craigflower and its ivy-covered walls surround many graves of the Colville family. In the garden itself is a ruin called "the witch's tower," which may be the fortalice of Crombie referred to in old charters.

<sup>5</sup> Castletown was the old name for Dunimarle.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander Wod of Grange obtained on 21st May 1572 a royal charter of Earlsferry (*passagium comitis de Fyfe*), paying annually therefor one penny to the King in blanch farm, and to the Commendator of Culross, who consents to the gift, ten shillings annually. The charter tells that the ferry had been so rarely used that the sailors of the haven had been forced to leave, and in order that the ferry may be re-established the King makes this grant.—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1546-80, No. 2067.

<sup>7</sup> Tullibody. This was "Tullibotheny" in 1195 (see Johnston's *Place Names*). It does not appear in the 1587 List of Temporalities, nor in the gift to Lord Colville.

<sup>8</sup> Gogar, in the parish of Logie, next the river Devon. It appears under the name of Gogare, Jargrayis, Powis and Atheray, in the gift to Lord Colville.

<sup>9</sup> Devon, probably miscopied for Dovane.

<sup>10</sup> Logie-Airthrey.

<sup>11</sup> An annual rent from the mills of Cowper is in the gift to Lord Colville.

<sup>12</sup> Montquhany and Rathillet. Rathillet was granted with other lands to Duncan, Earl of Fife, in 1160, by Malcolm IV.—*Scots Peerage*, vol. iv. p. 7.

by gift from me and for the said sum of money conditionally resigned to me according as in my charter to the said monks is more at length contained. Wherefore I will that the said monks shall uplift annually the foresaid £33, 6s. 8d. without any hindrance or contradiction from anyone as is above said until I shall provide in a competent place to the said monks as much or a more ample annual rent to be granted by me or my successors. And all these donations lands possessions pensions and liberties, the said monks shall hold by this present charter in free forest in fee and heritage of me my heirs and successors whomsoever in wood and in plain in meadows and pastures in moors and in marshes in ponds and mills in waters, fishings and with all other easements and liberties as well not named as named as well under the earth as above the earth which to the same lands pertain or may pertain in anyway in future with sac and soc, thole and theme infangandthefe,<sup>1</sup> in free pure and perpetual alms as freely quietly fully and honourably as any alms by the order of the Cistercians in the kingdom of Scotland is freely quietly fully and honourably held or possessed, and knowing that I and my heirs and successors whosoever shall answer to the King for forinsec service for the said lands forever, so that no man for whatsoever cause or reason shall be able to ask exact or extort anything by reason of the foresaid lands rents and possessions from the said monks in my name or in that of my heirs or successors, except only the suffrage of their devout prayers. In witness whereof to this present charter my seal is appended. Witnesses, Laurence son of Osuey, Nesis of Ramsay, Big Peter his son, William de Wallonis, Hugh of Abernethy, with many others.

This charter is confirmed by King Alexander II. on 24th February 1225, at Dundee, before these witnesses: Thomas of Stirling, Archdeacon of Glasgow; Henry of Stirling, son of the Earl; John of Maxwell; John of Hay; and this confirmation is in its turn confirmed by King Robert the Bruce on 5th December 1318, at Scone, before these witnesses: Bernard Abbot of Aberbroth our chancellor, William of Lindesay our chamberlain, Duncan Earl of Fife, Malise Earl of Stratherne, Robert of Keth, Gilbert le Hay knights.

The following is an abstract of the other charters included in the transumpt:—

#### REGINALD DE WAREN'S CHARTER.

[1231?] Charter by Reginald de Waren,<sup>2</sup> granting in perpetual alms to

<sup>1</sup> Suits-at-law within the jurisdiction; the right to exact toll; and the right to punish a thief caught within the grantee's jurisdiction.—Cosmo Innes's *Legal Antiquities*, pp. 57-8.

<sup>2</sup> Reginald de Warenne grants a charter, before 1231, to Laurence Oliphant, of lands near Forgan-denny, and the above charter may possibly be of about the same date (*Scots Peerage*, vi. p. 530).

the monks of Culenros, for the weal of his soul, &c., 30 acres of land in feu, lying in the territory of Gilgerhistun,<sup>1</sup> viz., 21½ acres bounded, as described in these words, "que jacent a fonte ex orientali parte de Gosganlu sursum per Milneburne usque ad oppositum magni fontis de Kyntulane et inde ascendendo versus aquilonem usque ad nigram moram et sic inter moram et terram arabilem usque ad Farniflat," and within Ferniflat 8½ acres next to the land of Robert de Waren. Holding of me and my heirs with all the easements and liberties pertaining to Gilgerhistun as freely and quietly, fully and honourably as any other alms is held in the kingdom of Scotland; and the said monks and their assignees are free and immune from the charge of multure, and they shall have the right to grind their corn, immediately after harvest, at the mill of Gilgerhistun before anyone whomsoever. The clause of warranty runs in these words:—"Et ego et heredes mei warantizabimus predictis monachis et eorum assignatis predictam terram cum omnibus asiamentis et libertatibus predictis et acquietavimus ab omni exactione et terreno servicio et demanda seculari in perpetuum erga omnes mortales." Witnesses, Master John de Enerleya; Reginald younger of Waren, Malcolm his brother, Robert de Waren, David de Waren his brother, Philip de Ebb, Robert Raa, Osberto, masons.

#### ALEXANDER II.'S CHARTER.

Charter by Alexander II., granting and confirming Earl Malcolm's gift to the monks of Culross, of the pension of £43, 6s. 8d. from the rents and small customs of the town of Cupro in Fyffe, and from the mills of the same town, and also from the lordship, and from the rents of Earlsferry (*de redditibus passagii sui de Norberwic integraliter annuatim precipiendis*),<sup>2</sup> for the resignation of the lands of Bothulith and Amerham.<sup>3</sup> Holding of the said earl and his heirs in free pure and perpetual alms, as any money alms or pensions of the Cistercians in Scotland are held or possessed. Therefore let no man in any way deprive the said monks of the said £43, 6s. 8d. nor make any demands or extortions save of their entirely devout prayers.

At Cuprum. Witnesses: Robert and Randolph chaplains, Henry de Stirling son of Earl David: the 15th day of November and 16th year of our reign [1230].

<sup>1</sup> Gilgerhiston was the old name for Kilgraston near the Bridge of Earn, and Kintillo, close by, corresponds to Kyntulane; but Kilgraston does not appear in the gift to Lord Colville.

<sup>2</sup> From this it may be inferred that the boats plied between Earlsferry and North Berwick.

<sup>3</sup> Probably a mistranscription for Rathulyth and Munchay (see Earl Malcolm's charter, p. 70).

*ERRATA.*

- P. 73, line 9, *for* 1234 *read* 1231.
- P. 89, lines 10 and 12, *for* 1229 *read* 1232.
- P. 93, line 2 from foot, *for* 1586 *read* 1568.

## ALEXANDER II.'S CHARTER.

Charter of Alexander II., forbidding any to vex the monks of Culenros by demands for secular service:—"Mandamus vobis firmiter precipiendo quatenus monachos de Culenros non vexetis auxilium quod ad terras eorum pertinet exigentes Comes enim de Fyffe pro omnibus forinsecis serviciis earundem terris contingentibus sicut per cartam ipsorum perpendimus tenetur respondere Unde volumus ut a dicto Comite auxilium quod ad terras dictorum monachorum pertinet exigatis.

At Edinburgh, 12th November, the 17th year of his reign [1234].

## ALEXANDER II.'S CHARTER.

Charter of Alexander II., forbidding any to sow or hunt in the lands of the monks of Culross, within the shire (*schyra*) and lands of Abercrumby, Ennevert, Gogar, and of Quyltis, all held in free forest by the Abbot and Convent, without licence from the monks, under penalty of £10.

At Stirling (Striuelyn). Witnesses: William Earl of Marr, Nicholas of Foullys, John of Stirling: the 17th December and 21st year of his reign [1234].

## ALEXANDER WALLACE'S CHARTER.

Charter of Alexander Wallace son of Sir John Wallace resigning the feu of Pouerhuch and Duberney and in Gilestone<sup>1</sup> into the hands of the Abbot & Convent of Cullynros. He swears, touching the holy evangels, that he never for himself nor for his heirs shall claim in anyway any right in the said lands, and if anyone shall make any claim to his right in the said feu at any time he shall declair it by the tenor of this present writing to be wrongful and void.—At the Monastery of Culenros, Sunday, the feast of the Appostales Simon and Jude 1341.

## DUNCAN, EARL OF FIFE'S CHARTER.

[Before 1320] To all the sons of the holy mother church both clerics and laymen present and to come who shall see or hear this charter Duncan Earl of Fife, son of Earl Duncan, son of Earl Colban, sends greeting in the Lord. Wit ye all that I have given granted and by this my present charter have confirmed to God and

<sup>1</sup> "Pureheuch prope pontin de Irne" occurs in the charter to Lord Colville in 1589 (see p. 88). Dunberney is also near the Bridge of Earn, and Gilestone is, as before suggested, Kilgraston.



St Mary and St Servanus of Culenros and to the monks of the Cistercian order serving or who shall forever serve God there, all the donations rents pensions all the lands possessions and liberties which umquhile Malcolm Earl of Fife my ancestor, patron and founder of the foresaid Monastery of Culenros, freely gave to the said Monastery and monks thereof, and by his charter fully confirmed, towards a new foundation of the same, for the weal of the souls of King William and his predecessors and for the weal of the souls of Lord Alexander King of Scotland, and all his parents and successors, and for the weal of his own soul and of his father and mother, and the souls of all his predecessors and successors, the whole land of Culenross and the shire [*schryam*] thereof by all its right marches, with church and castle and with all the just pertinents of the said shire, and the land of Quhiteys<sup>1</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and the land of Enuerth<sup>2</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and the land of Abereromby<sup>3</sup> by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, and a certain croft within the town of Casteltone<sup>4</sup> with its right marches and liberties, and the church of Tulybothwyn<sup>5</sup> with all its just pertinents, and the land of Gogeris<sup>6</sup> next the water of Bonane by its right marches and with all its just pertinents, together with sixty shillings of sterlings of the rents of Logynthray<sup>7</sup> annually for ever to be taken, for sixty acres of the said land of Gogeris, taken away from the same monks by perambulation of the country made in the presence of lord Malcolm the Earl, and £33 of sterlings and 6s. 8d. of annual rent in the town of Couper and mills of the same town, according to the tenor of Earl Malcolm's charter concerning the said sum, and £20 of sterlings to be taken annually forever of the Monastery of Northberwic, and £10 of sterlings of the Earl's ferry (*passagio comitis*) to be taken annually for ever. All these donations lands possessions pensions and liberties, this my present charter confirms. To be held by the foresaid monks of me and my heirs in wood and plain in meadows and pastures in moors marshes in ponds and mills in waters and fishings and with all other easements and liberties which pertain to the said lands or may in anyway pertain, in free pure and perpetual alms as freely quietly fully and honourably, as any alms of the order of the Cistercians is in the

<sup>1</sup> Miscopied for Quhitlys; *i.e.* Cults.

<sup>2</sup> Innevert in Earl Malcolm's charter, *i.e.* Inzievar.

<sup>3</sup> Crombie.

<sup>4</sup> Now Dunimarle.

<sup>5</sup> Tullibody.

<sup>6</sup> Gogar lies in the parish of Logie, Bridge of Allan, and is near the Devon.

<sup>7</sup> Logynathrane in Earl Malcolm's charter, *i.e.* Logie-Airthrey.

kingdom of Scotland, freely quietly fully and honourably held or possessed. And although among other goods that may be lost through war and violence of war, owing to the loss of the charters and confirmations of the foresaid lands, I will and concede to the said monks, for the weal of the soul and prosperity of my lord Robert King of Scotland and all his relations and successors, and for the weal of the souls of my father and my mother and of all my predecessors and successors, that the foresaid monks may fully enjoy and possess all their lands, donations and pensions and rents foresaid, with all their liberties, as in any time they were enjoyed and possessed before the foresaid war, notwithstanding the loss of their charters and their foresaid confirmations. And knowing that I and my heirs undertake to perform all secular service due to the lord the King for the foresaid lands (*sciendo quod ego et heredes mei manucapimus forinsecum servicium domini Regis de omnibus predictis terris facere*), shall warrant and defend the foresaid monks in all, as becomes all the foresaid lands donations pensions annual rents and liberties. Witnesses: William de Lambertoun Bishop of St Andrews, Robert Abbot of Dunfermline, Sir Michael of Wemyss, his son Sir David of Wemyss, knights, and many others.

The following additional gifts to the Abbey have been gleaned from the Register of the Great Seal.

#### ROBERT I.'S CHARTER.

[1327] King Robert I.<sup>1</sup> grants to the Abbot and Convent of Culross for the weal of his soul, and of the souls of all his predecessors and successors, the barony of Phillipston of Eu<sup>2</sup> in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh and Constabulary of Lithcu (Linlithgow), which the said monks had formerly held of him for forinsec service and with attendance at courts, to be held now in free pure and perpetual alms, without any forinsec service. Given at Scone, 16 Jan. in the 21st year of his reign [1327].—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1306-1424, App. I. No. 25.

<sup>1</sup> During Edward II.'s invasion of the Lothians (Aug. 1322), King Robert the Bruce retired to Fife, and camped with his army at Culross (*Annals of Scotland*, ii. p. 127). This grant may have been a reward for services then rendered by the monks.

<sup>2</sup> The barony thus gifted seems to have consisted of some half-dozen acres lying on the south shore of the Firth of Forth between Grangepans and Bridgeness, and within sight of Culross Abbey across the water. It is now partly built over, and the name survives in "Philpingston Terrace," not far from the stone which marks the east end of the Roman wall. In the 1587 *List of Temporalities* it is named "Grange of Philpewstoun," and in Lord Colville's gift "Grange of Carriden." In a sasine of 1602 to John Hamilton it is named "Philpeustone, otherwise called Culrois-grange."

## WALTER MURRAY OF TULLIEBARDINE'S CHARTER.

[1363?] Walter Murray of Tulliebardine grants to the Monastery and Monks of Culross for the weal of the souls of himself and Margaret his wife and of those of his parents, etc., his lands of Auldtone of Pethwere, the lands of Cuthildurane and the lands of Castelbege<sup>1</sup> lying in Stratherne. To be held of him as freely as any other lands are held by any Monastery of the order of Cistercians. And he warrants the monks free and quit of all service for the said lands except for the mass for the dead, a daily requiem, the help of their prayers, and for the service due to the King so far as attaches to the said lands. Confirmed by Robert III. in the first year of his reign [1390].—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1306-1424, No. 825.

## JAMES IV.'S CHARTER.

1490, 14 Ap.—James IV.'s charter to Sir John Hog, Abbot of Culross, grants that the town of Culross be made a free burgh of barony.—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, No. 1944.

## JOHN LISTOUN'S CHARTER.

1505, 7 May.—James IV. confirms a feu charter by the Provost (John Listoun) and Canons of St Salvator's to the Monastery of Culross of the lands of Balgonquhare<sup>2</sup> supporting two chaplaincies in that church.—*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, No. 2850.

## ALIENATION OF CHURCH LANDS.

The alienation of the church lands of Culross appears to have begun when the Commendators granted leases and feu-farms to provide money for various purposes such as, as is stated in a 1538 charter (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1513-46, No. 1923), for the repair of the Monastery and houses of the monks, for the relief from the hands of creditors, and especially for their part of the composition of the great tax imposed on the prelates of the Scottish Church by the Apostolic See. A number of the Commendators' charters are recorded in the *Reg. Mag. Sig.* from 1538 onwards, the first being granted to Lord Erskine of the lands of Gogar and Gargrais. There are others noted in Laing's *Charters*, the first being by Thomas Nudre in 1525, granting to John Fethy a 19 years'

<sup>1</sup> Pitfar and Castlebeg are named on the 1-inch O.S. map, lying 3 m. east of Dollar. Coldrain is given (*Scots Peerage*, i. p. 455) as the modern name of Cuthildurane. In Lord Colville's charter Pitwar appears.

<sup>2</sup> Balgonar lies 1 mile north of Saline.

tack of the Foddismill (No. 350). There are some in other collections, such as those belonging to the Register House and to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (vol. xli.). There are also some Culross charters in the possession of Lord Sands, one of which, of date 1543, grants the Chapeltown of Both to David May, and there are two of 1550 and 1553 in my own possession which grant the Fullermills of Crummy and the lands of Barhill to Andrew Wilson and Thomas Mason respectively.

These charters are signed by the Commendators and the monks, and it is interesting to observe that most of them are also signed by Robert [Reid], bishop of Moray and abbot of Kinloss, in token of his assent as father abbot of Culross, showing that the abbey was attached in some way to that of Kinloss.

POST-REFORMATION DOCUMENTS.

By Acts of Parliament 22nd December 1561 and 15th February 1561-2 one-third of the revenue of the Roman Catholic Church was constituted into a fund for, among other purposes, the sustentation of Protestant ministers, leaving the other two-thirds in the hands of "the auld possessouris," and the Bishops, Abbots, and other church dignitaries were ordered to make a return of their total rentals. One of these returns will be found in a MS. volume in the Advocates' Library (No. 31, 3, 12), and in it (on pp. 30-4 unnumbered) appears a detailed note of—

"The rentale of the hail benefice of the Abbaye of Culross in all thingis als weill of fermes as of mailles, annuellis, teinds and all uther deweteis quhilk the said Abbay and plaice hes bene in possessioun of in zeirs bigane. Made the xxiii. day of Januer in the zeir of God 1561."

This list contains many names of interest, both of persons and lands, but as most of these occur again in the 1587 list, it is not given here, further than to mention that the names of Lady Staynhous for the lands of Blair Poffillis and Wedderhill, David Waid for Wester Ingzewe, Lord Lindesay for Cassinduly, Richard Carmychaell for Atherny, Andrew Hoberne for Tuliboll, John Fewthe for Corn-mills of Crumy, Andrew Wilson for Walkmyln of Crumy, John Callander for Powys, and others seem to have dropped out from the fuller list of 1587. There is another MS. in the Advocates' Library (No. 31, 3, 13) giving "The Rent of the whole of Great Benefices within this Kingdome as they were given up att the Generall Assumption in the yeare 1561." That for the Abbacy of Culross is as follows:—

In Money	.	.	.	.	.	.	£768	16	0	
								<i>ch</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>f</i>
Wheat	.	.	.	.	.	.		3	3	0

	<i>ch</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>f</i>
Beare . . . . .	15	10	2
Aittis . . . . .	13	13	0
Capons . . . . .		7	doz.
Poultrie . . . . .		26	doz.
Salt . . . . .		22	b.
Straw . . . . .		8	truses
Cheese . . . . .		80	staine
Butter . . . . .		8	staine
Wedders . . . . .		7	
Lambs . . . . .		22	

payed out of the annuells Saltpans and Ackers about Culross, the Lands of Blair and Poffallis, the Granges, Balgonnie, Inzevers, Blairhall, Valleyfield, Pitferrin, the Quilts Atherny Couper Milne in Fyfe, Carriddin, Gogar, Jargrays, Crummie, the Lands of Lurg and Kincardin and the two pairs of the kirk of Tulliboll and the teynds of some of the Laird of Cleyhes lands and others.

Then followed the Act of Parliament of 26th July 1587 for the *Annexatioun of the Temporalities of the Benefices to the Crown*, when all the revenue of the Church was annexed to the Crown, on the ground that the Crown had been greatly hurt and impoverished in past times by the gift of the greatest part of its proper patrimony to the Abbeys, Monasteries and Clergy, and that the necessity for such disposition had ceased.

One of the lists of rentals relative to the annexation in 1587 is in the Register House under the title *Charge of Temporality of Kirklands*. The MS. is bound in two volumes, and contains a long detailed list of the Culross Abbey possessions. As this does not appear to have been printed before, and as it continues the story of the lands gifted to the Abbey, it is printed here in full.

CHARGE OF THE TEMPORALITY OF KIRKLANDS, NORTH SIDE  
OF THE FORTH

(relative to Annexation of Benefices to the Crown in the year 1587).

PERTSHIRE.

ABBAY OF CULROSS.

1. Feu-maills of the Lands of Lurg and Kincardin in the Lordship of Culross, and 17 acres on east and west sides of town of Culross, set in feu to John Colville, eldest lawful son of Alexander, Commendator of Culross

Lurg and Kincardin . . . . .	£85	16	0
17 acres . . . . .		17	13 4
augmentation of both . . . . .		3	6 8

2. Feu-farm of half lands of Sandis and Kellewod, set in feu to George Bruce in Culros . . . . . £5 0 0
  - 8 poultry . . . . . 0 8 0
  - augmentation . . . . . 0 5 0
  
3. Feu-farm of lands of Bargadie, Corstoun, Brigton, Curreishoill, part of mill called Schyrismilne, with the new mill, all set in feu to Robert Bruce of Blairhall . . . . . £19 3 4
  - poultry fowls 52, 32 thereof sold for one "eik wedder" for arriage, &c. . . . . 0 16 0
  - grassum . . . . . 0 14 0
  - augmentation . . . . . 5 16 0
  
4. Feu-farm of lands of Blairhall (with teinds). . . . . £5 5 0
  - poultry 6
  - (teinds) 6 bolls of bere
  - also 3 tenements lying contiguous, 2 acres in Over Gagie, 2 pieces of land in Pettie-commoun . . . . . £4 6 8
  - a saltpan and 5 roods of land whereon it is built . . . . . 4 0 0
  - a piece wasteland within the sea, called Oxeraig . . . . . 0 0 6
  - another saltpan beside the kirk of St Mungo . . . . . 2 0 0
  - all set in feu to Robert Bruce of Blairhall.
  
5. Feu-farm of lands of Valafeild set in feu to John Prestoun . . . £13 17 4
  - augmentation . . . . . 0 12 8
  - capons 24
  - 1 eik wedder
  
6. Feu-farm of lands of Wester Cumray, with tower, &c., set in feu to Alexander, Commendator of Culross, and Nicolas Dundas his spouse £4 12 0
  - poultry 11
  - 1 wedder
  
7. Feu-duty of West quarter of the lands of Kincardin (and teind sheaves) in barony of Culross, set in feu to Henry Prymrois, son and apparent heir of Peter P. of Kincardin :
  - wheat 6 bolls ; bere 6 bolls ; oats 26 bolls ; capons 3 ; "wodder scheip, a half and a quarter" ; straw 1 turse :
  - augmentation, wheat 6 pecks ; bere 6 pecks ; oats 26 pecks.
  - (entry deleted)
  
8. Feu-farm of half lands of Ovirton of Pitfar . . . . . £2 8 4
  - augmentation . . . . . 0 12 0
  - 4 poultry fowls
  - also the quarter town and lands of O. of P. . . . . 1 4 2
  - augmentation . . . . . 0 6 0
  - 2 poultry fowls
  - set in feu to William Tempilman in Pitfar.
  
9. Feu-farm of lands of Castelbeg and quarter of Over Petfar, set in feu to Helen Rowane in liferent and David Crystie her son heritably £3 3 6
  - augmentation . . . . . 0 0 6

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10. Feu-farm of lands of Heuchfeild, set in feu to John Oliphant, third lawful son of dec. Peter O. of Turingis . . . . . £1 12 0  
     augmentation . . . . . 0 3 4
11. Feu-farm of lands of Wester Both Kirkton called Wallis and Eschis, 1 acre in Nether Gagie, 3 acres of land called Barcroft, and 4 acres beside the chapel called Barchapell: set in feu to Alexander Gaw of Maw . . . . . £16 0 0  
     poultry 21
12. Feu-duty of lands called Woudmylnis croft (and teindsheaves), set in feu to Robert Norwell in Wodheid:  
     bere 2 bolls
13. Feu-farm of part of the arable land lying on east side of Culros in Petty Commonis, set in feu to Robert Bruce of Blairhall . . . . . £1 11 4
14. Feu-farm of 4 tenements of land in town of Culros, and 2 acres in Over Gagie, set in feu to Mr Edward Bruce of Easter Kennet . . . . . £1 14 0
15. Feu-farm of 2 meadows called Brydeis medow and Bruces medow, set in feu to Robert Bruce of Easter Kennat (*sic*) . . . . . £0 13 4  
     (entry deleted)
16. Feu-farm of lands of Westcropt of Barhill, set in feu to John Broun . . . . . £2 5 4
17. Feu-farm of lands of Burwen and half lands of Quhitehilis, set in feu to William Aitkin . . . . . £4 3 8  
     wedders 1  
     cane fowls 10
18. Feu-farm of lands of Lambhill, set in feu to Henry Bairner . . . . . £6 3 8  
     (entry deleted)
19. Feu-duty of fourth part of Barnhill of Pitfer, set in feu to John Thomesoun . . . . . £1 9 0  
     (entry deleted)
20. Feu-farm of a tenement and yard in Culros and 3 acres in Saltoun croft, set in feu to Andrew Gibsoun . . . . . £1 3 0
21. Feu-farm of 6 acres in Over Gagie, set in feu to William Broun . . . . . £0 18 0
22. Feu-farm of lands of Castelhill, 2 tenements and 2 acres, set in feu to James Bla . . . . . £4 10 8  
     poultry 8
23. Feu-farm of half Sandis and Kelliwod, mansion, &c., set in feu to Robert Sandis . . . . . £5 10 10  
     capons 8  
     eik wedders 1
24. Feu-farm of 3 acres in barony of Culross, set in feu to Thomas M'Brek . . . . . £0 9 0
25. Feu-farm of lands of Wester Grange, Badfische and Catterflatis, set in feu to Andrew Stewart . . . . . £7 10 4  
     poultry 12  
     lambs 1

26. Feu-farm of lands of Fernyhirst, set in feu to Robert Hutoun . . . . . £1 5 0
27. Feu-farm of lands of Coklairis, set in feu to Mr John Hutoun of Easter Ballelisk . . . . . £1 5 0
28. Feu-farm of lands of Chapelton of Both, and pasturage to 1 bull, 12 soumes, and 2 horses in Souterrig, set in feu to David May . . . . . £1 13 4  
     poultry 4 } or in money . . . . . 0 3 4  
     lambs 1 }
29. Feu-farm of lands of Easter Grange and pendicles thereof called Devoly, set in feu to Adam Maistertoun . . . . . £11 0 0  
     capons 16  
     wedder sheep 1
30. Feu-farm of lands of Ovirtoun and half part of the Hedis, set in feu to Robert Sandis . . . . . £5 16 8  
     poultry 12  
     wedder sheep 1
31. Feu-farm of 1 tenement and yard in Culros, 5s. ; west half of 5 acres in Gutterflat, 19s. ; and 1 acre in Nether Gagie, 6s. 8d., all set in feu to William Henrie in Culros . . . . . £1 10 8
32. Feu-farm of lands of Bordy, mansion &c., set in feu to Walter Callender . . . . . £6 1 8  
     poultry 14  
     eik wedders 1
33. Feu-farm of 1 piece land called Cristinis Welpark, a house, green and 2 tenements with yards in town of Culross, and 2 salt pans, all set in feu to Alexander Gaw of Maw . . . . . £8 12 0
34. Feu-farm of lands of Lambhill, set in feu to Henrie Bairner now of Lambhill . . . . . £6 0 4  
     augmentation . . . . . 0 3 4  
     poultry 8
35. Feu-farm of lands of Crummy and anchorages of mussels thereof (and teinds), set in feu to James Colvile, for 6 ch. wheat, 7 ch. 1 f.  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck bere, 15 ch. oatmeal, 16 bolls horse-corn, 8 bolls oats, 4 doz. capons, 16 truss of straw : sold yearly for . . . . . £186 17 5  
     (entry deleted) "Fife."
36. Feu-farm of certain pieces of land with a tenement and certain meadows in and about Culross, set to said James Colvile . . . . . £5 3 4
37. Feu-farm of lands of Easter Cumrie and Easter Inzevar, set in feu to John Blacader . . . . . £15 0 0  
     poultry 10
38. Feu-farm of the fourth part lands of Barnhill of Pitfar, set in feu to John Thomsoun . . . . . £1 9 0
39. Feu-farm of lands of Keir, set in feu to Halbert Broun . . . . . £2 13 4  
     Poultry 6



40. Feu-farm of lands of Middle Grange and half of the "Heidis," set in feu to James Fentoun . . . . . £6 6 8  
 Poultry 12  
 "Gude wedderis" 1
41. Feu-farm of an acre of land lying beside Culross, set in feu to Gilbert Prymrois, chirurgian : . . . . . £0 6 8
42. Feu-farm of a tenement and 7½ acres of arable land of Merisden, set in feu to Gilbert Prymrois, son of Duncan P. in Culross : . . . . . £1 12 7
43. Feu-farm of two tenements in town of Culross, set in feu to Gilbert Prymrois, chirurgian : . . . . . £0 6 8  
 one acre in Nether Gagie, and two acres called "Burrellis aikeris" . . . . . 1 0 0  
 a waste place and saltpan, paying for the pan . . . . . 4 0 0  
 salt, 2 bolls  
 and for each saltpan to be built on the said waste, "alsmekle"—  
 4 acres of land in Byrefield, with two yards, barn, and wasteland=6 bolls  
 3 f. bere :  
 all set in feu to the said Gilbert.
44. Feu-farm of an acre of arable land in Over Gagie, set in feu to Mr Edward Bruce, Commissary of Edinburgh : . . . . . £0 3 0
45. Feu-duty of tenement of houses and yards in Culross, set in feu to said Mr Edward : . . . . . £0 3 0
46. Feu-duty of two-part lands of Kincairdin with yard adjacent called the Greneyaird (teinds included), set in feu to John Younger . . . . . £1 0 8  
 wheat, 8 bolls ; bere, 8 bolls ; oats, 32 b. 3 f. ; capons, 6 ; wedders, 1 ;  
 trusses of straw, 2 :  
*augmentation*, wheat, 8 pecks ; bere, 8 pecks ; oats, 2 b. 3 pecks ;  
 and money 6s. 8d.  
 To the convent :—wheat, 8 pecks ; and money, 6s. 8d.  
 (Deleted) "registrat befor and convertit."
47. Feu-duty of half of the quarterlands of Lurg (teinds included), set in feu to Henry M'Brek in Kirktoun :  
 wheat, 3 bolls ; bere, 3 bolls ; oats, 13 bolls ; capons, 2 ; a half  
 wedder :  
*augmentation*, wheat, 3 pecks ; bere, 3 pecks ; oats, 13 pecks.  
 (Deleted). "registrat befor and convertit."
48. Feu-duty of a quarter of Lurg (with teinds), set in feu to David Mitchell :  
 wheat, 6 bolls ; bere, 6 bolls ; oats, 26 bolls ; capons, 3 ; wedders,  
 half and quarter :  
 [*augmentation*], wheat, 6 pecks ; bere, 6 pecks ; oats, 1½ bolls, 2 pecks.  
 (Deleted) "registrat and convertit."
49. Feu-duty of lands of Valeyfeild, with mansion, orchards, &c., set in feu to James Prestoun : . . . . . £13 6 8  
 capons, 24  
 eik wedders, 1  
 (Deleted) "registrat befor."

50. Feu-duty of lands of Bad, set in feu to Alexander Maistertoun : £5 6 8  
 poultry, 16  
 kids, 2 (or 6/8 apiece)  
*augmentation* . . . . . £1 6 8
51. Feu-duty of great and small coal in the bounds of lands of Bad, set in feu to Ronald Maistertoun, fiar of Bad : £6 13 4
52. Feu-duty of two yards within the "dykis of the monastrie of Culros with the hous mansioun and cloise thairof on the south syde of the same," set in feu to John Colvill : £1 2 5
53. Feu-farm "of the fewferme and victuellis" of the lands of Lurg and Kincardine, "estimat to xxxij caponis and viij turrs of stray," set in feu to said John Colvill : £2 2 0
54. Feu-farm of lands of Wester Cumrie, set in feu to Nicholas Dundas, spouse to the Abbot of Culros . . . . . £4 12 0  
 poultry 11  
 wedders 1  
 (deleted)
55. Feu-duty of a particle of land called the Coilfauld, a tenement and houses with a little yard "lyand fra the said abbay at the west," and a particle of waste ground "on the west and north partis of the port of the said abbay," and a tenement with close and yard occupied by Alexander Hunter, set in feu to John Colvill . . . . . £0 13 4
56. Feu-duty of the "half pairt" of the lands of Barhill, lands of Barcruik and tenement of land called the Innis, and yard adjacent, and two waste lands in Culross, and a saltpan and pertinents, set in feu to Mr James Prymrois, viz.  
 Barhill . . . . . £3 6 8  
 poultry 8; areage and carriage . . . . . 0 0 12  
 Barcruik . . . . . 2 0 0  
 tenement and yard . . . . . 0 5 0  
 first waste land, and saltpan built thereon . . . . . 4 0 0  
 second, "yeirlic quhill it be biggit theron" . . . . . 0 0 6  
 'and quhen it is biggit' . . . . . 4 0 0  
 teind of the first saltpan 2 bolls of salt  
 teind of the other when built, Do
57. Feu-duty of a yard occupied by Archibald Prymrois in Culros, lying within the walls of the monastery, set in feu to Alison Pett, spouse to the said Archibald, and to Mr James Prymrois their son . . . . . £0 5 0
58. Feu-duty of quarter lands of Lurg (with teindsheaves) and "Coilheugh" thereof, and a saltpan in the lands of Sandis (with power to win coal in said lands and Kellywod and quarter lands of Lurg at their own expense), set in feu to Thomas Sandis of that ilk  
 wheat, 6 b. 1 f. 2 p. ; bere, the same ;  
 oats, 1 ch. 11 b. 2 f. 2 p.  
 capons, 4½ ; wedders, ½ and ¼ ;  
*augmentation*, ½ and ¼ wedder ; 1 capon.  
 the said saltpan . . . . . £2 0 0  
 salt, 2 bolls  
 (deleted) "registrat befor and convertit."

## 59. Feu-duty of quarter lands of Lurg (with teindsheaves), set in feu to William Cumyng—

wheat and bere as above; and the rest as above, including augmentation.

(deleted)

## 60. Feu-duty of following lands, set in feu to George Bruce in Culros:—

a piece of land of Wodheid . . . . .	£1 0 0
bere 6 firlots	
the 'conventis yaird' in Culros . . . . .	1 0 0
tenement and yard in Culros . . . . .	0 2 6
a saltpan with 'craigleif' in bounds of Culros (and teinds) salt, 2 bolls	4 0 0
particle of land to build pan on, lying be-east Henry Coweis saltpan (and teinds) . . . . .	£2 0 0
salt, 2 bolls	
another piece land with saltgirnell and stable thereupon, and 'craigleif' within the bounds of Kincardin . . . . .	£0 4 6

## 61. Feu-duty of manse and house adjacent to the 'eist part' of the tolbooth, with the green lying 'at the north and south partis thereof,' with a tenement lying 'on the north part of the Hill,' and 2 pieces of land beside the Abbey, extending to 8 acres or thereby, with the meadows called 'Stewartis waird,' 'Kellie medow,' 'Bruce medow,' and 'Braideis medow,' all feued to James Colvill

the mansions and tenements . . . . .	£2 10 0
the meadows . . . . .	2 13 4

## 62. Feu-duty of a saltpan and 'bray' whereupon the same is built, with lands adjacent extending to 5 particles, set in feu to Mr Edward Bruce, with liberty of 'craigleif' to win panwood in bounds of Sands, Lurg and Kincardin . . . . .

£4 0 0

## 63. Feu-duty of 2 saltpans lying together beside the town of Culross, with "houssis, biggingis, girnellis, stabillis, and libertie to wyn coillis for sustentatioun therof," lying beside the town, set in feu to George Bruce . . . . .

£8 0 0

"for the teind in salt . . ."

"Nota, not exprest in the rental."

## 64. Feu-duty of the great and small coal in the common mure of Culross, "territorie of the same" and acres lying about the town, "and samekill coil as restis undisponit to utheris be the said abbot," set in feu to James Colvill, son and apparent heir of James Colvill of Easter Weymis, Mr Edward Bruce, Commissary of Edinburgh, John Colvill, son to the abbot, and George Bruce in Culros . . . . .

£20 0 0

reserving 'craigleif' to the Abbot: and providing that if there be "na coil gangand" in the said bounds they shall pay only 40/.

## 65. Feu-duty of lands of Casteltoun, with pasturage in commonty thereof "to the burne of Glencoyis," lying in barony of Muckart, set in feu to David Broun . . . . .

£6 13 4

augmentation . . . . . £0 8 8

and 26/8 for the herezeld when it shall happen.

66. Feu-duty of a tenement of houses, with 2 yards, in town of Culross, set in feu to Matthew Tailzeour there . . . . . £0 8 0
67. Feu-duty of lands of Middilgrange and half of the Heydis, in lordship of Culros, set in feu to Patrick Fentoun . . . . . £6 6 8  
 poultry 12  
 wedders 1  
 (deleted) "antea"
68. Feu-duty of a saltpan at the east part of the town of Culros, houses thereof, and waste land adjacent on west and east, set in feu to George Bruce in Culros . . . . . £4 0 0  
 salt, 2 bolls
69. Feu-duty of lands of Byregrange ( $\frac{53}{4}$ , 4 poultry,  $\frac{13}{4}$  augmentation); an acre of arable land in Nether Gagie ( $\frac{6}{8}$ ); half tenement and yard sometime pertaining to Eupham Patersone in town of Culross (5s.) and all set in feu to Robert Aitkin : . . . . . £3 18 4
70. Feu-duty of west quarter of lands of Kincairdin, set in feu to Henry Cowhie : wheat and bere, each 6 b. 6 pecks : oats, 26 bolls : capons 4 : wedders  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  : straw, 1 truss : (augmentation) oats 26 pecks, wedders  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 (deleted)
71. Feu-duty of a saltpan and 5 particles of land around, in town of Culros, with power to build girnells and stables, and liberty of 'craigleif,' set in feu to Robert Colvill . . . . . £4 0 0
72. Feu-duty of saltpan, houses &c. and "liberteis as said is," set in feu to George Bruce in Culros . . . . . £4 0 0  
 salt, 2 bolls.
73. Feu-duty of a tenement and yard in Culros feued to said George . . . . . 2 0 0
74. Feu-duty of the erection of the town of Culros in a free burgh . . . . . 10 0 0  
 (blanch)
75. Feu-duty of third part lands of Chapelton in lordship of Couper, set in feu to Andrew Campbell in Chapelton . . . . . £6 10 0  
 oats, 2 bolls  
 poultry, 12  
 (deleted) "Vide Perth, Couper."
76. Feu-duty of lands of Westkirk, Horswaird, and an acre on west part of Nether Gagie, lands of the Heugh with 3 tenements of land, houses and yards adjacent, and 2 houses with pertinents, all in lordship of Culros, set in feu to Alexander Blaw . . . . . £4 4 4
77. Feu-duty of lands of Lambhill in lordship of Culros, set in feu to Henry Bairdner of Lambhill . . . . . £6 3 8  
 poultry, 8  
 (deleted) "antea"

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78. Feu-duty of 2 acres arable in Nether Gagie, set in feu to Walter Sandis  
the one acre, in money . . . . . £0 6 8  
the other, in bere, 1 boll  $\frac{1}{2}$  boll
79. Feu-duty of lands of Birkinheid, set in feu to David Sandis . . . . . 1 13 4  
poultry, 4
80. Feu-duty of a barn and yard, with transe and passage to east of barn, called  
Byrefeildbarne and yard, and 2 acres arable (teinds included) in Byre-  
feild, set in feu to William Chatto  
the barn and yard . . . . . £0 4 0  
acres and teinds, in bere, 3 bolls
81. Feu-duty of an acre arable in Byrefeild, set in feu to William Chatto  
bere,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bolls
82. Feu-duty of two saltpans, with lands, houses, &c., and privileges, set in feu  
to John Porterfeild, burgess of Edinburgh . . . . . £8 0 0  
salt, 4 bolls
83. Feu-duty of third part of the half land of Kincarne "rinrig with the rest of  
the tennentis thairof" (teinds included), set in feu to David Sandis  
wheat and bere, 4 bolls each ; oats, 17 b. 6 pecks ; capons 3, wedders  
2, straw 1 truss :  
*augmentation*, wheat and bere 4 pecks each ; oats, 18 pecks.  
(deleted)
84. Feu-duty of a saltpan lately built "lyand besyde the sey schore in ane  
certane yle ther," with craigleave, &c., set in feu to David Sandis . . . . . £4 0 0  
salt, 2 bolls
85. Feu-duty of lands of Wester Comrie with pendicles and pertinents, set in  
feu to Nicolas Dundas, wife of Alexander, Commendator of Culros, and  
their heirs . . . . . £4 12 0  
poultry 11  
wedders 1  
(deleted) "antea"
86. Feu-duty of 4 tenements and yards in Culros, 2 acres arable in Over Gagie  
with free entry in the mire of Baid to cast turf, heather, &c. in the  
common pasturage and myre of Gagie, and of the "wester peice land" of  
Pittiecommoun, and another piece arable land there, and meadows called  
Braideis meadow and Bruce meadow, set in feu to Robert Bruce of  
Blairhall . . . . . £4 12 4
87. Feu-duty of lands of Blawkery and half lands of Quhythillis, with meadows  
and mures adjacent, set in feu to Edward Sandis . . . . . £5 16 0  
wedders 1
88. Feu-duty of  $\frac{1}{3}$  part lands of Ovirtoun of Pitfer, set in feu to William  
Rowane, portioner of Pitfer . . . . . 13s. 10d., ob.  
poultry 1  
(deleted) "upone Thomsones resignatioun"

89. Feu-duty of lands of Castelbeg and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Ovirtoun of Pitfer, set in feu to David Christie . . . . . £3 2 6  
 poultry, 2 . . . . .  
 (deleted)
90. Feu-duty of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lands of Barnhill and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Ovirtoun of Pitfer, set in feu to Andrew Rowane . . . . . £5 9 0  
 poultry, 7 . . . . .
91. Feu-duty of lands of Gogar and Jargrayis Easter and Wester, set in feu to John, Lord Erskine . . . . . £50 0 0  
 lands of Gogar, in wheat, 1 chalder. . . . .
92. Feu-duty of lands of Blair, with tower, fortalice, &c., set in feu to John Hamiltoun younger of Blair and Jean Fairny his spouse . . . . . £2 7 0  
 poultry, 5 . . . . .  
 lamb, 1 . . . . .
93. Feu-duty of lands of Patispollis, set in feu as above . . . . . 3 6 8  
 poultry, 7 . . . . .  
 lamb, 1 . . . . .
94. Feu-duty of a saltpan in Culros "with the craig quherupon the same is biggit," and 5 particates of land adjacent, and houses &c., set in feu as above . . . . . £4 0 0

SOUTH SIDE OF THE FORTH

LINLITHGOWSHIRE

"ABBACIE OF CULROS"

95. Feu-duty of lands of Grange of Philpewstoun, with tofts, crofts, mills and multure, saltpans, coals, coalheughs, and teinds in barony of Carribdin, set in feu to John Hammiltoun . . . . . £13 6 8  
 augmentation . . . . . 3 13 4

On the 20th June 1589 the whole property of the Abbacy of Culross was erected into a temporal lordship and given by King James VI. to Sir James Colville of East Wemyss in consideration of his services at home during the King's infancy and afterwards abroad. Sir James was created Lord Colville of Culross in 1604. The lands thus gifted are detailed in the following charter (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1580-93, No. 1675).

James VI.'s charter to Lord Colville grants the lands, teinds, canes, customs, coal-fields as specified below, with all liberties and jurisdictions pertaining to the Monastery of Culross, viz. :—

The manor of Culross called of old "the abbay of Culros," with fortalices, manors, gardens, and all within the closes and precincts of the place of Culross.

The lands of Newmyle and Schyrismylne with their multure and sequels.

The lands of Valayfeild, Coustoun, Blairhall and Bargattie, Easter and Wester Inzewaris, Easter Wester and Middle Grangeis, Easter and Wester Cunryis, Ovirtoun, Bothe and Bothebog Balgony, Burvane and Blairkenny, Dawellie, Bad and Keir, Castelhill, Blair and Poffillis, Langsyid, Bourdy and Birkinhead, Sandis and Fardill with the salts pans thereof, Greneyaird, Lurge and Kingcarne with salt pans and Byregrange, all lying within the lordship of Culross and sheriffdom of Perth.<sup>1</sup>

The lands of Crumby with fortalice and manor, the lands of . . . . with the corn and fuller mills and their multures.<sup>2</sup>

The lands of Pitwar Cultis and Quhytmyle with multures<sup>3</sup> the lands of Bussis and Vedderhill in the sheriffdom of . . . .

The lands of Gogare, Jargrayis Powis and Atheray in the sheriffdom of . . . .<sup>4</sup>

The lands of Grange of Carridein in the sheriffdom of Linlithgow.<sup>5</sup>

The lands of Craighour in the lordship of Culross; and the annual rents.

£5	2	8	from the lands of Carnok.
17	6	8	„ „ mills of Cowper in Fife. <sup>6</sup>
1	2	0	„ tenement of Richard Bell in Perth.
12	0	„	„ of Henry Davidson in Inverkething.
8	0	„	„ of W. Blaikburne in the burgh of Inverkething.
1	0	0	„ the lands of Coutra in Fife.
1	6	8	„ „ mill of Murecammis in Fife.
4	0	„	„ „ of Balgony in Fife.
16	0	„	„ tenement of Mr Alex <sup>r</sup> Wod in Ersilferrie.
2	0	„	„ „ of Haldanis in the burgh of Stirling.
1	2	0	„ „ lands of Pureheugh near the Bridge of Irne. <sup>7</sup>

#### THE ABBOTS OF CULROSS.

The line of Abbots of this Monastery can only be very imperfectly traced, and the following list leaves many blanks which I have been

<sup>1</sup> All these places lie near the Abbey, and can be readily identified with the aid of the list of localities on pp. 367-85 (vol. ii.) of David Beveridge's *Culross and Tulliallan*. No doubt all these places were given to the Abbey by Earl Malcolm under the name of the "whole land of the schyre of Culenros."

<sup>2</sup> Also Earl Malcolm's gift.

<sup>3</sup> Murray of Tulliebardine's donation.

<sup>4</sup> Earl Malcolm's gift. The present forms of these names are Gogar, Jerah, Powis and Airthrey in the parish of Logie, Bridge of Allan.

<sup>5</sup> King Robert I.'s gift: Philipston of Eu.

<sup>6</sup> Earl Malcolm's gift.

<sup>7</sup> Alexander Wallace's gift.

unable to fill. The seal of the Monastery is described by Henry Laing (*Scottish Seals*, p. 177) from the original brass matrix, which was then in the Advocates' Library, as "within a Gothic niche a full-length figure of the Virgin, crowned with a royal crown, holding the infant Jesus in her arms." Legend: "Sigillum Communi Monasterii de Culross."

1217. HUGH, a prior of Kinloss, became the first Abbot of Culross (*Chron. de Mailros*, p. 129). In 1218 he visited the Papal Legate at York, and got from him the absolution he had asked for (*Ibid.*, p. 133). In 1221 he was a witness to two charters (*Charters of Inchaffray*, p. 277).

1229. WILLIAM of Ramsay, the second Abbot of St Serf, died before August 25th (*Chron. de Mailros*, p. 142).

1229. HUGH, "magister conversorum de Melros,"—that is, master of the lay-brothers, called converts (*conversi*)—was elected Abbot August 25th (*Chron. de Mailros*, p. 142). In 1235 he subscribes a charter of confirmation by the Bishop of Dunblane (*Chartulary of Lindores*, p. 55).

1290. The ABBOT of Culross (unnamed) counsels marriage between the Prince of England and the Maiden of Norway (*Nat. MSS. of Scotland*, vol. iii. p. 1).

1327. The ABBOT in King Robert the Bruce's charter is not named (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i. App. 1, No. 25).

1333. Letters of Pope JOHN XXII. to the Abbot of Culross give authority to him to prevent church-lands in Scotland from being wrongfully used (*Ayr and Wigton Collection*, i. p. 150).

1391. The ABBOT in Murray of Tullibardine's charter is not named (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i., No. 825).

1415. JOHN, Abbot of Culross, is present in general council held at Perth (*Acts of Parl. of Scot.*, i. p. 588).

1436. Laurence, a monk of Balmerino, is provided by the Pope to the Abbey of Culross on the death of John (*Papal Letters*, viii. p. 613).

1436. ROBERT was "elected abbot by the Convent at the death, without the Roman Court, of Abbot John, and duly confirmed by the father abbot" (*Papal Letters*, ix. p. 349). In 1442 he is one of the witnesses to a charter of James II. (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1425-1513, p. 159). In 1443 he petitions Rome "that Laurence de Lundoris, falsely alleging that the monastery of Culross belonged to him, with the aid of lay power caused Robert to be dragged out (*extrahi*) by force and imprisoned in a certain tower, took possession of the monastery and despoiled it of goods to a value of about 300 marks." He adds that he has now recovered possession, but prays for a commission to hear the case, and if they find the said dragging out and imprisonment true to proclaim Laurence excommunicate (*Papal Letters*, ix. pp. 349-50).

1467-1470. RICHARD MARSCHELL, Abbot of Culross, was compelled to



resign by James Guthry, Abbot of Kinloss (*Records of Kinloss*, p. xli). He died in 1470 (Walcott, p. 271). "Richard Merchel late abbot of Culincross" was the writer of "Kalendar of Culross" printed in Forbes' *Kalendar of Scottish Saints* (pp. 51-64), the original MS. of which forms part of the volume in the Advocates' Library under the title of *The Culcross Psalter*, and is the subject of an interesting paper by Dr Kirk Dickson in vol. li. of our *Proceedings*. In this paper it is mentioned that even after the invention of printing the Abbey was a great school of ecclesiastical caligraphy.

1481. JAMES "by the tholyng off God Abbot of Culross." So he is designated in a Letter of Sasine which I have, and as this is the only place in which his name occurs I give it in full:—

Till all and syndry to quhais knowlage thir present lettres sall to cum greting in god aylestand. For quhy it is neidfull and merytable to beir witnessing to the suth fastnes and specialy quhair occultatioun thiroff ma gender prejudice skaith or hurt to the Innocent. Heirfor is that I David Stevart balzhe till a Wenerable fadyr in cryist James be the tholyng off god Abbot off Culros and to the convent off the samyn be the command off the said Venerable fadyr gaff stait and heretable possessioun as off the fe off a portioun off land lyand in the barony off Abircrummy and within the sheref-dome off Fyff that is to say of all the landis fra the south est nwk of Cragflowr ewyn up the stane dyik and as the stane dyik lysis furth ewyn to the kyngis gate to the est syid off that ilk with all the telyt land ennrowtht the dykis stretand to the town of Torry to the west nok off the zhard off Stevyn Richardsoun north to the Wattir and as the Wattir rynniss by the kyrkland of Torry sowth to the See in lenth and in breid till a dyscreit woman Elenne Hawyk the spowss of a worthy man Robert off Glen the quhilk land wes resignyt and upgein be a worthy man Jhon off Hawyk the fader of the said Elenne in the handis of the said Wenerable fadyr. The franktenement of the said landis beand reservyt to the said Jhon off Hawyk and Emme his spows and to the langast lifand of thai eftir the tenor off the charter maid thirupon And this till all and syndry to quhom it sall pertene I mak knawyn be thir present lettres. In witnessing off the quhilk thing I the said David balzhe has hungyn to my seill procuryt with instance be the said Elenne the sewytend day off the moneth of May the zheir off god a thowsand four hundreth achty and ane zheirs before thir witnes Den. Mathew Takkat, monk of the said Abbey. Wilzhame Echlyn of Pettachro Henry Sandis Robert Ruch Nycoll Henrysoun George Multray Jhon Gray Robert Ramsay Robt. Pattosoun Gilbert off Berudy Adam Scharp Jhon Webstar Jhon Neillsoun with others dyveris.

1490. JOHN HOG, Abbot of Culross, was one of the Lords of Council (*Acta Dom. Con.*, i. p. 151). King James IV. grants to him the erection of the town of Culross into a free burgh of barony (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, No. 1944). He witnesses a charter in 1492 (*Ibid.*, No. 2141). The "Abot of Culroyse" sends a hawk to the King in 1491 (*Lord High Treas.' Acc.*, i. p. 184).

1498. ANDREW MASOUN. Four persons are granted remission by the

Privy Council for "forthocht felony" done to Sir Andrew and Robert Rede at the Abbey (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, i. No. 182). In 1505 he gets a charter as Abbot of the lands of Balgonquhare, which in the following year he sets in feu to the Earl of Argyll (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, Nos. 2850 and 2971). ANDRO, Abbot of Culross, is mentioned in letters of protection granted by King James IV. to the Archbishop of Glasgow (Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, i. p. 42\*).

1513. JAMES witnesses a charter by King James IV. (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1424-1513, p. 850).

[About 1520 Culross had become remiss in its rule, and Thomas Crystall of Kinloss was vigilant in paying it a visit (*Records of Kinloss*, p. xlvii).]

1516-26. THOMAS NUDRE is mentioned in a charter of 1516 (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 1513-46, No. 113). He is one of the Lords of Council in 1523 (*Chartulary of Cambuskenneth*, p. 181). He grants in 1526 a nineteen years' tack of the Foddismills, Crummy, to John Fethy (Laing's *Charters*, Nos. 350 and 356). In 1512 Pope Julius II. assigns a yearly pension of £100 Scots from the church lands of Culross to Mr Thomas Nudre, arch-deacon of the church of Moray (*His. MSS. Com. Mar and Kellie*, p. 8).

1527. JAMES INGLIS was appointed Abbot of Culross about 1527, and on 1st March 1531, for a reason unknown, he was murdered by his neighbour John Blacater, baron of Tulliallan, and William Louthian, who were tried, found guilty, and beheaded (Pitcairn, i. p. 151\*). He had been Secretary to Queen Margaret and chaplain to the Prince (afterwards James V.), and was also the author of many ballads, farces, and pleasant plays (see *Dic. Nat. Bio.*).

#### THE COMMENDATORS OF CULROSS.

I. 1531-67. WILLIAM COLVILLE, natural son of Robert Colville of Hiltown, was provided to the Abbacy of Culross 20th October 1531, and bore the title of Commendator of Culross. In 1544 he was appointed a Lord of Session, and also filled the office of Comptroller from 1546 to 1550. He died in 1567 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 545). I have a Precept of Sasine dated 27th April 1555, granted by William, Commendator of the Monastery of Culross, for the infetment of Andrew Wilson and his spouse in the feu of Fullermills of Abircrummy. It is signed by Willelmus Commendatarius de Culrois Frater Robertus Holkat, Archibaldi Prymross, and eight others.

II. 1534-52. JOHN COLVILLE, the second natural son of Robert Colville of Hiltown, was also provided to the Abbacy on 28th Feb. 1534, reserv-

ing William's life-rent. He styled himself Abbot. He died in 1552 (*Scots Peerage*, vol. ii. p. 546).

[1566. FRANCIS STEWART, Earl of Bothwell; "when in 1566 the lordship of Badenoch was restored to the Earl of Huntly, Queen Mary granted to Francis Stewart the Commendatorship of Culross and a portion of the Earl of Morton's forfeited rents of Aberdour and Dalkeith" (*Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 170).]

III. 1567-87. Mr ALEXANDER COLVILLE, second son of Sir James Colville of Ochiltree, and afterwards of East Wemyss, was on 4th Feb. 1566-7 provided to the Abbacy of Culross by a royal grant as successor to his uncle William. He was one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and became a Privy Councillor. In Sept. 1587 he gave up his rights over the property of the Abbacy, which King James afterwards conveyed to his nephew, the first Lord Colville of Culross. He died in 1597 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 549). I have a Precept of Sasine, dated 10th June 1568, by Alexander, Commendator of the Monastery of Culross, for the infetment of Thomas Wilson, son of Andrew Wilson, in the Fullermills of Abircrummie, reserving the life-rent to Andrew. It is signed Alex<sup>r</sup>, Commendatarius de Culros, Robertus Cristesoun and eight others.

IV. 1597. JOHN COLVILLE, the eldest son of Mr Alexander, succeeded his father as titular Commendator of Culross in May 1597. In 1580 he had a grant from his father of two gardens and a house within the walls of the Abbey (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, xlvi. f. 133). In 1587 he had a special grant from King James of the lands of Lurg and Kincardine as a reward for resigning the Abbacy (*Ibid.*, lvi. f. 33). He died before 1650 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. p. 550).

Mr D. Hay Fleming, in his *The Reformation in Scotland* (pp. 515-6), says:—

"That there was a pre-Reformation grammar-school in Culross Abbey is implied in the statement, made in 1589, that there had been 'in all tyme bygane' a grammar-school within the abbey of Culross, 'in the quhilk the youth of the burgh and land of Culross wer instructit in grammer and traint up in vertew and letters, to the commonweill of the hail cuntrey, and that Mr Williame Home is now present master of the grammer scole within the abbey foirsaid' (*Reg. of the Privy Seal*, lix. 116, 7)."

#### THE MONKS OF CULROSS FROM 1525 TO 1587.

In thirteen charters<sup>1</sup> dating from 1525 to 1587, and signed by the Commendators, twenty-three monks also sign. The earliest charter

<sup>1</sup> Nine are in Laing's *Charters*, two in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xli., and two in my collection.

contains the names of fifteen, but the number becomes less as time goes on. It is interesting to note that even after the Reformation so many as ten remained to sign a charter in 1568. After that date the number becomes less, and only two, Archibald Prymrose and Walter Miller, are appended. In 1561, according to a note by the Abbot, there were nine monks in the convent, "five whereof had recanted, but the other four would not by any perswasion." He made a certain allowance to those who had recanted, but gave nothing to the others.<sup>1</sup>

Armstrang, Henry.	Kynpont, John.
Bavirige, Alexander.	Millar, Walter.
Conray (or Gray), James.	Patersoun, George.
Cristesoun, John.	Pringill, Andrew.
Cristesoun, Robert.	Prymross, Archibald.
Cristall, Andrew.	Rait, Alexander.
Dewquhir, Robert.	Trumbull, Andrew.
Donaldson, Mechael.	Trumbull, David.
Ewynsoun, John.	Wastwater, John.
Halkerston, Alexander.	Wynter, Robert.
Holkat, Robert.	Zowng (or Yowng), John.
Hudson (or Huchoun), John.	

In 1563 four of these monks, viz. Robert Dewquhir, Robert Holkat, John Wastwater, and Andro Trumbull, complain, "be ressoun of their said possessioun wer providit to ane monks portion of the said abbacie induring their lifytyme," that William, the Commendator, has applied their portions to his own use. The Lords of Council ordain that the said Commendator shall pay them twenty pounds Scots, "modifeit be the said Lords to them in part of payment of their portions" (*Acts and Decreets*, vol. 26, p. 382).

#### THE HEREDITARY BAILIE.

The Abbots of Culross were temporal as well as spiritual lords, and they had, prior to 1567, made over to the Argylls the office of hereditary bailie of the lordship lands. On the 19th of March 1567 this office was resigned by the Earl of Argyll into the hands of Alexander, Commendator, as lord superior in favour of Robert Colvill of Cleish, an ancestor of the Lords Colvill of Ochiltree, for the sum of 300 merks. This resignation and the following discharge for the money, signed by the Earl of Argyll at Dunoon on the 2nd Jan. 1586, are both in my possession, as well as a Charter of 15th Jan. 1617 by Lord Colville of

<sup>1</sup> Keith's *History of the Affairs of the Church*, 1844 ed., vol. iii. p. 377.

Culross, in which he grants to Robert Colvill of Cleish a house within the precincts of the Abbey in which to hold the bailie's court. The house is thus described: "that laigh house (*domum inferiorem*) which lies within the precincts of the said Abbey of Culrois on the west part of the same below that house now occupied and inhabited by Mr Robert Colvill minister of the word of God at the church of Culrois, having the common kings high way leading from the burgh of Culrois to the church of the same on the west part, a piece of waste land lying below the said house and garden which was formerly occupied by Andrew Forratt on the south part, that part of the said Abbey of Culrois which is called the west part on the east. And that hill which is called the Parlor hill on the north part and with its parts and pertinents and all other commoditatis and easements which to the said lower house pertains."

In the compilation of the foregoing notes I have had much help from numerous friends, and particularly from Mr William Angus of the Register House. I have also to specially thank Professor Hannay, who first recognised the importance of the transumpt, for his kind encouragement and practical help, without which this paper would never have been completed.

The original transumpt has now been lodged in the Historical Department of the Scottish Record Office, and will thus be available to anyone who may wish to compare it with the translations here given.