

XIII. SIR ALEXANDER SETON, KNIGHT (4). He succeeded to his patrimonial estate, yet lived to enjoy it only a few years. He was the third, but eldest surviving son of the late Governor of Berwick. Maitland says that he was a wise and virtuous man; and after living honorably, died in peace and was buried in his family vault in the parish church of Seton. He married Margaret, sister to Sir William Murray, Captain of Edinburgh Castle, by whom he left an only child, a daughter, named, for her mother, Margaret; so that in him the direct male line of the family came, partially at least, to an end. Taylor says (*Great Historic Families of Scotland*, I., 128) that Sir Alexander "sought refuge from his sorrows and troubles in a hospital of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, and his daughter Margaret became the heiress of his extensive estates." It was, no doubt, in that age the most poignant domestic grief for a knight of large landed interest and of long descent to have no sons and to be left with one whom, however good and beautiful, he would love—

"As heiress and not heir regretfully."

XIV. MARGARET, HEIRESS OF SETON. Lady Margaret Seton was forcibly abducted in the year 1347 by a neighboring baron named Alan de Winton, a distant kinsman of her own and a cadet of the Seton family. Andrew Wyntoun relates the case in his *Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland*, saying: "Dat yhere Alene de Wyntoun tuk the yhoung Lady Setoun and weddit hyr than till hys wyf." This outrage caused a bloody contest in Lothian; on which occasion, says Fordun, a hundred ploughs were laid aside from labor. In a ballad entitled "Alan of Winton and the Heiress of Seton," we find some good verses, and in one of the stanzas an allusion to the family Crest:

"One hundred ploughs unharnessed lie,
The dusky collier leaves his mines.
A Seton ! is the gathering cry,
And far the fiery Dragon shines."

A romantic incident of this affair—the opposition springing, perhaps, from selfish motives on the part of her guardian—is that when Margaret was rescued and Alan confronted with the Seton family, she was handed a ring and a dagger, with permission to give him either Love or Death. She gave him the ring, and they were happy ever afterward.

The earliest notice of *Wrychtshouses*, near Edinburgh, which passed later to the famous Napiers, occurs in a charter dated June 25, 1383, where it is seen that it belonged up to that time to Henry de Wynton, who then resigned it. One of the oldest stones of this mansion bears the Seton arms, and it is supposed that Henry was a younger son of this marriage. He was one of the heroes of Otterburn, August 19, 1388. Froissart calls him "The Seigneur de Venton" (*Wintoun*, Francisque Michel).

Alan de Winton assumed his wife's name, and died in the Holy Land, leaving, besides a daughter Christian, who became Countess of Dunbar and March, two sons: Sir William Seton, his successor, and Henry, who retained his father's name and inherited *Wrychtshouses*. He married Amy Brown of Coalston, in whose ancient family, now merged into that of Ramsay, Earl of Dalhousie, was the "Coalston Pear," to which such a singular legend has been attached since about the year 1260:

"In an account of the Seton family compiled by Alexander Nisbet, the well-known writer on Heraldry, a fifth Sir Alexander Seton is set down, and it is stated that he 'married Jean, daughter to Sir Thomas Halyburton of Dirleton'; but he may have been only a collateral of certain but undetermined degree of kinship. Nisbet saw the Seton and Halyburton arms impaled as baron and femme on an 'old genealogical tree' in the possession of the Earl of Winton, at Seton House."

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1383-1585.

XV. SIR WILLIAM SETON OF SETON, FIRST LORD SETON. He was a famous knight in the middle of the fourteenth century, and visited Jerusalem. On his return he took part, in 1383, with the Borderers of Scotland, in that raid into England described so graphically by Froissart (who names him), "for they said there had been such damage done to their lands as was disagreeable to themselves and friends, which they would revenge the very first opportunity." They came back with a rich booty in prisoners and cattle. Froissart mentions in the same year a Sir John Seton, who took part with the English in the counter-raid into Scotland. He must have been one of the Yorkshire Setons. Those were days of murderous and almost constant fighting between the Scotch and English; and one of the battles is forever celebrated in poetry and romance. The battle of Otterburn, which furnished material for the ballad of *Chevy Chase*, was fought on the 19th of August, 1388, and Sir William Seton was there. Froissart's calling him "le seigneur de Seton" confirms the testimony of Maitland that he was created a Lord of Parliament, as we shall presently see. Johnes's translation and edition of the *Chronicles*, which is now most commonly used—that of Lord Berners, although the classical one, being too antiquated in language and style—has a gross error in the account of this affair. He says "the lord Saltoun," instead of "Seton," which shows his ignorance of Scotch names and history. There was no "Lord Saltoun" at this date. Lawrence Abernethy of Saltoun was created a peer by the title of

Lord Saltoun in 1445, nearly sixty years after the battle; and in 1669 the peerage devolved through female descent from the seventh lord, upon Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, who succeeded as heir of line and became tenth lord. There was, indeed, a knight of the great family of Fraser in this chivalrous encounter, and his name is properly given by Johnes as "Sir Alexander Frazer"; in the original *Chroniques* it is "messire Alexandre Fresiel." Froissart mentions "Sir John Assueton," * Sir John of Seton, as the name is given in the *Armorial de Gelre*, where it is attached to the arms, and is written "Luert a Seton." (See note to Johnes, Vol. I., p. 448.) He was one of the hundred Scots lances who, during the truce of nine years between the two kingdoms, went with Sir Robert Knolles to Picardy and Vermandois. "There was a Scots knight in the English army who performed a most gallant deed of arms. He quitted his troop with his lance in rest, and mounted on his courser, followed only by his page; when, sticking spurs into his horse, he was soon up the mountain and at the barriers. The name of this knight was Sir John Assueton, a very valiant and able man, perfectly master of his profession. When he was arrived at the barriers of Noyon, he dismounted, and giving his horse to his page, said, 'Quit not this place': then, grasping his spear, he advanced to the barriers, and leaped over them. There were on the inside some good knights of that country, such as Sir John de Roye, Sir Launcelot de Lorris, and ten or twelve others, who were astonished at this action, and wondered what he would do next; however, they received him well. The Scots knight, addressing them, said: 'Gentlemen, I am come to see you; for as you do not vouchsafe to come out beyond your barriers, I condescend to visit you. I wish to try my knight-

* This is a copyist's mistake for Sir John A Seton—the *de* being sometimes gallo-latinized into *A*. We shall see a case later on (p. 144) of Robert A Bruce instead of Robert de Bruce.

hood against yours, and you will conquer me if you can.' After this he gave many grand strokes with his lance, which they returned him. He continued in this situation alone against them all, skirmishing and fighting most gallantly upwards of an hour. He wounded one or two of their knights, and they had so much pleasure in this combat they frequently forgot themselves. The inhabitants looked from above the gates and top of the walls with wonder. They might have done him much hurt with their arrows if they had so willed; but no, the French knights had forbidden it. Whilst he was thus engaged, his page came close to the barriers, mounted on his courser, and said to him aloud, in his own language, 'My lord, you had better come away: it is time, for our army is on its march.' The knight, who had heard him, made ready to follow his advice, and after he had given two or three thrusts to clear the way, he seized his spear, and leaped again over the barrier without any hurt, and, armed as he was, jumped up behind the page on his courser. When he was thus mounted, he said to the French, 'Adieu, gentlemen. Many thanks to you!' and spurring his steed soon rejoined his companions. This gallant feat of Sir John Assueton was highly prized by all manner of persons." *

Froissart, during the fifteen days he spent at Dalkeith, the residence of Earl Douglas, rode around with him to visit the neighboring barons, Ramsay of Dalhousie, Sinclair of Rosslyn, and Seton of Seton, who all figure in the *Chronicles*.

Maitland informs us that Sir William Seton "was the first created and made lord in the parliament, and he and his posterity to have a vote therein, and be called Lords." Several of his ancestors sat in Parliament; and to understand Sir Richard one must remember that for two centuries after the introduction of Feudal Law into Scotland the only baronies

* Geoffrey de Seton took part in the famous tournament of Saint-Inglevert, in March, 1390. Froissart calls him "ung gentil chevalier et bien joustant."

known were incident to the tenure of land held immediately from the Crown, and every tenant in chief by knight's service was an honorary or parliamentary baron by reason of his tenure, but yet did not always receive a Writ of Summons to attend. With the gradual decay of Feudalism and the concentration of power in the Crown, certain rules of procedure became established by legislative enactment with the royal assent; and the higher order of the Nobility was distinguished from the lower one, by having conferred upon its members an hereditary right to be summoned and to sit and vote irrespective of feudal tenure or even of the possession of any land at all. They then formed a separate chamber in Parliament, which constituted the Peerage, or House of Lords. Thus certain baronial families became by favor of the sovereign or other accidental circumstance peerage families, while many others of an origin equally good never attained to the peerage, although their ancestors sat in what were then, as now, called parliaments; and their descendants are only Commons. Hence the absurdity of speaking of an ancient and feudal family as having been *ennobled*, when the proper expression would be "raised to the peerage." In a manuscript of the British Museum, Sir William Seton is styled "Wilhelmus primus Dns. Seton," and several other documents confirm the title to him. His descendant refused an earldom in the sixteenth century, because he preferred the distinction of being the Premier Baron of Scotland. The precise date of the creation is unknown, but it is reasonably presumed to have been some time before 1393. Lord Seton married Catharine, daughter of Sir William St. Clair of Herdmans-ton, a great house at that time. By her he had two sons and six daughters. The eldest son, John, succeeded his father, while the second son, Alexander, married, in 1408, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Adam Gordon by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Keith, and founded a fam-

ily of Seton blood which rose to fame and importance and the highest ranks of the peerage. The Gordons were originally from Normandy, and the founder of the Scottish branch came into Scotland in the twelfth century, during the reign of King David I., from whom he received a grant of the lands of Gordon in the Merse of Berwickshire. Two centuries later Sir John de Gordon got from King Robert II. a charter of the domain of Strathbogie in the North, and henceforth the Gordons were a great and soon became a typical Highland family. Gordon is a local or topographical name, and is said by Sims * to be derived from *Gour* and *Dun*, meaning a "round hill." In my opinion the name is more likely to come from the Anglo-Saxon *Gore* and *Dun*, and commemorates a bloody battle for possession of the hill on which a fort or camp probably stood at some time in the remote past. All hills are round in that part of Scotland; and combative man in the earlier stages of development generally preferred to give a battle-name rather than a merely descriptive one derived from a natural and not uncommon formation of land on which he dwelt and for which his forefathers had fought. Alexander Seton was created a Lord of Parliament as Lord Gordon about 1437. His son, Alexander Seton, Lord Gordon, assumed his mother's surname, and was created Earl of Huntly. While some of the descendants of this marriage took the name of Gordon, others retained that of Seton. The Marquess of Huntly (Premier Marquess of Scotland) is descended from him in the male, and the Duke of Richmond and Gordon in the female line. The daughters of William and Catharine all married well. Margaret—John, Lord Kennedy; Marion—Sir John Ogilvy of Lintrathen; Jean—John, Lord Lyle; Catharine—Bernard Haldane of Gleneagles; Anna—Hamilton of Preston; Lucy—Lauder of Poppill. All these were men of old family and of personal distinction.

* *Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames.*

Haldane is a rare name and now but seldom heard, yet the Haldanes were barons of considerable consequence in Perthshire as early as 1296. The Earl of Camperdown (Haldane-Duncan), a descendant in the female line, owns the old estate of Gleneagles; but the heir male and representative of the family is the Rt. Rev. James Robert Alexander Chinnery-Haldane, Protestant Bishop of Argyll and The Isles.

Lord Seton belonged to the third Order of Saint Francis, and dying in February, 1409, was buried in the Church of the Franciscan Friars in Haddington, to whom he left by will six loads of coal weekly, out of his coal-pit of Tranent, and forty shillings annually, to be charged on his estate of Barnes. His widow is described as a virtuous and energetic woman, who got husbands for four of her daughters, and built a chantry on the south side of the parish church of Seton, prepared a tomb for herself there, and made provision for a priest to say mass perpetually for the repose of her soul.

XVI. JOHN, SECOND LORD SETON. He was intended for the Heiress of Gordon, but secretly wedded Janet Dunbar, daughter to the Earl of March, much to his father's displeasure. He had one son by her, who predeceased him, and three daughters. Lord Seton was appointed Master of the Household by King James I., and was sent on a mission to France. He is described as a good fighter and a great hater of the English—*Miles acerrimus et Anglis semper infestus*—and was taken prisoner at the battle of Homildon Hill, in 1402. He had several safe conducts to England between 1409 and 1421, and died about 1441, when he was buried in his mother's chantry at Seton Church. His daughters were disposed of as follows: Christian married Norman Leslie of Rothes, by papal dispensation from the fourth degree of consanguinity, obtained in December, 1415; Janet married Sir Robert Keith, son of the Earl Marischal; Marian married Sir William Baillie of Laminton, in Lanarkshire, now represented

by Baillie of Dochfour, County Inverness, and in Ireland by Baillie of Ringdufferin, County Down.

XVII. WILLIAM, MASTER OF SETON. The term "Master," as applied to the oldest son of barons, is peculiar to Scotland, where it was used as early as the beginning of the fifteenth century. It was introduced from France, where the heir to the throne was styled *Monsieur*, and is always put before the family title, not the name, unless the title and the name are one.

He first appears in a charter which he witnessed in 1423, where he is described as "William Seton, son and heir of John, Lord Seton."

In the wars of France there were Scotchmen on both sides. An Alexander Seton, who cannot now be identified, took forty lances and forty men-at-arms; Alexander Forbes took sixty lances; John St. Clair took thirty lances; Alexander and Fergus Kennedy took thirty lances—in all, two hundred fighting men—to the assistance of King Henry V. in 1421. The Master of Seton accompanied the Scotch Auxiliaries to the assistance of the French, and after sharing in the victory of Baugé was slain at the bloody battle of Verneuil, August 17, 1424. In this engagement nearly all the killed on the French side, about nine thousand, were Scotch, who, led by gentlemen, strove against odds with the usual courage and tenacity of their race. "A few years after, a Frenchman who had fought at Verneuil and subsequently became a hermit, paid a visit to the field of battle. He caused it to be blessed, erected a chapel, and, for the honour of the cause he had defended, piously collected the bones of the victims. In 1462 the States of Dauphiné founded a perpetual service in memory of the event in the celebrated Abbey of St. Antoine de Viennois. This daily service was called 'The Mass of Verneuil.'"

By his wife, whose name is unrecorded, William, Master of Seton, left a son George, who succeeded his grandfather,

and two daughters: Catharine, who married Alan Stuart of Darnley, and was mother of the first Earl of Lennox; and Janet, who married John, second Lord Halyburton.

My reverend friend, Father William Forbes-Leith, S. J., published in 1882, in two volumes, *The Scots Guards in France*, from which I have collected some matters of family interest not found elsewhere. As early as the first despatch of Scotch Auxiliaries to France two Setons, Thomas and his brother, are found each at the head of a company of men-at-arms and archers, and were "conspicuous amongst the most faithful followers of the Dauphin. Thomas was favoured with the estate of Langeais and appointed to accompany Charles wherever he went" (I., 13). In a joint communication from the Earls of Douglas and Buchan to Charles VII., announcing the victory of Baugé (22d March, 1421), they recommend him for special reward, saying: "Most high and mighty Prince, your well-beloved Charles le Bouteiller was also killed—God rest his soul!—who in his lifetime was Senechal of Berry; and we pray you heartily to bestow the said office as the said knight would have done had he been alive, on your servant and cousin THOMAS SETON, who has on this occasion done his duty well" (II., 203). Sir Thomas Seton was killed a few years later before the fortress of Cravant. In 1636 we find *Jean de Seton, Lieutenant de la 1^e compagnie appelée la compagnie Ecossaise et commandant les quatre compagnies en l'armée de Picardie*; * and in 1642 Sir James Seton, lieutenant in the Scots Guards, conveyed the famous conspirators Cinq-Mars and de Thou to Lyons, and kept them in the castle of Pierre-Encise until they were beheaded. At the funeral of Louis XIII. the Scots Guards accompanied the king's body from Saint Germain to the royal vault at Saint Denis; and Lieutenant Seton, in command, successfully resisted the claim of others to be pall-bearers, and

* *Scots Guards in France*, II., 192.

was sustained by the Master of Ceremonies. To conclude a short digression, Setons are found officers and gentlemen-privates* in this celebrated corps from 1419 to 1679, the last of our name on the list and muster-rolls being "David Seton, Brigadier."

XVIII. GEORGE, THIRD LORD SETON. He succeeded to the title and estates while still a minor, "being bot nyne yeirs of age," and was secured as a rich prize by Sir William Crichton, the powerful but unscrupulous Lord Chancellor, who then held possession of Edinburgh Castle. After a while he regained his liberty through the efforts of the Laird of Johnstone, who seems to have been connected by marriage with the Seton family, which accounts for his interest in the heir. He was well cared for by this noble and kind-hearted Borderer in his castle of Lochwood, in Annandale. When George grew up he accompanied Crichton, who, after all, could not well have meant him wrong, on an embassy to France and Burgundy, and had a safe conduct to pass through England, April 23, 1448.† He was very tall and handsome, a good scholar, and an accomplished courtier. He made a great match, marrying Lady Margaret Stewart, only daughter and heiress of the gallant John, Earl of Buchan, younger son of Robert, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, and grandson of King Robert II., of which branch of the royal Stuarts the Setons are the only Representatives. For his victory at Baugé, 22d March, 1421, the earl was made Constable of France. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas in Scotland, and Duke of Touraine in France. He was one of the foremost warriors of his

* Father Forbes-Leith, in an "Important Observation on the Muster Rolls" (II., 209), calls our attention to the fact that "all the men-at-arms and archers named in the Muster Rolls were, nevertheless, men of rank and birth."

† Elizabeth, the Chancellor's eldest daughter, was married to Alexander Seton, Earl of Huntly.

time. The chivalrous spirit and martial achievements of this family, in which illustrious ancestry, princely possessions, and historic renown have so long been united, are too well known to require even a passing mention:

“And Douglasses were heroes every age.”

By this marriage Lord Seton had a son called John, of whom hereafter, and a daughter Christian, who married Hugh Douglas of Corehead. He had also an illegitimate son, who was slain at Flodden, leaving a son called John, who was father to Thomas, who became a priest. This lord kept a great house, and was given to entertaining. He restored and embellished the parish church of Seton. “After he had lived a long and honorable life,” says Maitland, he died in the Convent of the Black Friars (Dominicans) at Edinburgh, and was buried in the choir of their church. He left them, by will, twenty marks to be paid annually out of his estate of Hartsyde, in Berwickshire.

XIX. JOHN, MASTER OF SETON. He died during the lifetime of his father, and was buried in the parish church of Seton. He married Christian, daughter of the first Lord Lindsay of the Byres, by whom he had three sons and a daughter, who married the second Lord Lyle. The eldest son, George, succeeded his grandfather; the next son was John, who had a son killed by robbers in Annandale while returning, with too small an escort, from a military expedition into England; the youngest son was Alexander, who had, besides a son called John, Baillie of Tranent, who married and had issue, a daughter named Christian, who was wedded to Preston of Whitehill.

XX. GEORGE, FOURTH LORD SETON. He succeeded his grandfather, and exemplified in his person the hereditary love of learning in his family. Maitland says: “He was much given to Letters, and was cunning in divers sciences, as in

astrology, music, and theology. He was so devoted to study that even after his marriage he went to the University of Saint Andrew's, and after a while to that of Paris to prosecute his researches." A nobleman in that age who made physical experiments and spent money in such things, who travelled only to become acquainted with learned people, and strove to increase his knowledge in spheres not affected, but rather disdained by men of rank, was generally suspected of dealing in the black art, and consequently we are not surprised or ashamed that, appended to the name of this Lord Seton in a curious pedigree of Scotch families compiled in 1604, we find the damning words, *Vocatus Necromanticus*. Shortly after his accession to the title he entered (July 3, 1480) into what was called a Band of Friendship, for mutual support, encouragement, and counsel with his neighbor, Sir Oliver St. Clair of Rosslyn. Between 1484 and 1503 he was engaged in the public affairs of the kingdom, while at the same time devoting considerable attention to his patrimonial estates, with a fine eye to architecture and to the dignity of Religion. In this line he built Winton House, and laid out the garden and park around it; but his more enduring memorial is the Collegiate Church of Seton. A Church of Seton, *Ecclesia de Seethrun*, is mentioned as early as 1242, and the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, S.J., discovered "a presentation of the church of Seyton, in the year 1296." It must have been a considerable church even before it was made collegiate by papal authority, because a Brief of Pope Paul II., in 1465, which is preserved among the treasures of the Society of Antiquaries at Edinburgh, mentions the "Provost of Seton"—*Prepositus de Seton*. Schools of elementary instruction were almost always attached to these old Scottish churches. The learned Belleheim, author of the *History of the Catholic Church of Scotland* (translated by Dom Oswald Hunter Blair, O.S.B.), gives a list of forty collegiate churches in the kingdom, and says:

“ During the second half of the fourteenth century we first find recorded the foundation of a collegiate church, a proof of the influence still exercised by religion on men’s hearts. These collegiate churches were establishments of secondary importance to the great cathedral and monastic institutions, and consisted generally of a dean and a certain number of canons, whose principal duty was the solemn performance of divine service ” (II., 29). There exists in the Advocates’ Library at Edinburgh a Brief of Pope Alexander VI., written on vellum, and dated 1492, *dans potestatem . . . ad procedendum in erectione ecclesie collegiatae de Seton*. In consequence Lord Seton, on June 20, 1493, had the provisions of the Brief carried out by the ecclesiastical authorities to whom it had been committed—viz., the Bishops of Candida Casa (Whithorn) and Dunblane, and the Abbot of Newbattle. It is one of the only two remaining churches in Scotland that are roofed with *stone*. My friend Mr. William Winter glances at this sacred monument of our name and family in the following passage from his exquisite *Gray Days and Gold*: “ On Preston battlefield the golden harvest stood in sheaves, and the meadows glimmered green in the soft sunshine, while over them the white clouds drifted and the peaceful rooks made wing in happy indolence and peace. Soon the ruined church of Seton came into view, with its singular stunted tower and its venerable gray walls couched in trees, and around it the cultivated, many-coloured fields, and the breezy, emerald pastures stretching away to the verge of the sea. A glimpse, and it is gone ” (p. 323). I here reproduce a short account I wrote some thirty years ago:

This little church, whose original pile was very ancient, is situated near the sea-coast of Scotland, about twelve miles below Edinburgh, and rears itself close to the mansion-house of the Setons. It enclosed for many centuries their family tomb, and received from them whatever decorations, endow-

ments, furniture of sacred vessels, and ornaments they imagined could add to its magnificence. The present structure was erected in the thirteenth century, and King Robert I. granted to the "town of Seton the liberty of having a weekly market every holiday after mass," when the traders would expose their goods in booths beside the church, where the presence of the clergy and the sanctity of the place, under the invocation of Our Lady and Saint Bennet (Benedict), patron of the family, tended to preserve order among the people and justice in their dealings. In the year 1493 it was made a collegiate establishment for a provost, six prebendaries, two singing-boys, and a clerk, to whose support George, Lord Seton, assigned the tithes of the church and various chaplainries which had been founded in it by his ancestors. At later dates other members of the family made additions to the edifice, multiplied its ornaments, increased its wealth, and raised within it some sumptuous monuments. In 1544 the English invaders, while destroying the neighboring castle, desecrated the church; and after removing the bells, organ, and other portable objects to their ships, burnt the beautiful timber-work within. The church was soon restored, and during the commotions of the Reformation had the good fortune to escape almost uninjured. It remained perfect until the Stuart troubles of 1715, when the Hanoverian troops quartered in the castle and vicinity defaced the interior of the building, broke the tombs, and tore up the pavement in search of hidden treasures and for the lead that encased the bodies.

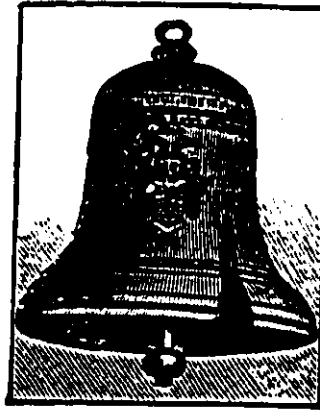
Seton Church while undamaged was a handsome cruciform Gothic structure with a central tower. Now it stands desolate amid ancestral oaks entwined by the ivy—the family Badge—retaining little of its former self, and showing only the impressive and death-like beauty of an architectural ruin. The Earl of Wemyss and March, a



SETON CHURCH,

descendant, but not the representative of the original owners, is the present proprietor, and has arrested the further progress of decay. It has long been a favorite subject with artists.

The illustration in this book is from Swan's engraving in the Maitland Club Edition of the *History of the House of Seton*. The other illustration, showing a portion of the choir, is from the pencil of that accomplished woman, Lady Stafford, Countess of Sutherland in her own right, descended paternally from the Setons and the Gordons. The curious old bell, now unfortunately broken, which formerly hung in the church tower was cast in Holland. It was long used in the parish kirk of Tranent, until removed to Gosford House near by, the seat of Lord Wemyss, by whom it has since been replaced in its original position. The following Dutch inscription is cut upon it: *Jacop eis mynen naem ghegoten van Adriaen Steylaert int iaer MCCCCCLXXVII*. It also bears the name and arms of Lord Seton, and other decorations. A curious feature of Seton Church is the hagioscope, vulgarly called "squint," which is an opening frequently found on one side, and sometimes on both sides, of a chancel arch, arranged obliquely and converging toward the altar, in order to enable worshippers in the side aisles of a church to witness the Elevation of the Host during mass. It is the only one now existing in Scotland. It may be an interesting item that the last burial in this old church (until within these later years, when the Wemyss family are beginning to be interred there) was that of Miss Matilda Seton, on December 8, 1750. I do not know who she was.



THE BELL OF SETON
CHURCH.

This is a season and a scene to hold
 Discourse and purifying monologue,
 Before the silent spirit of the Past !
 Power built this house of Prayer—'twas earthly power,
 And vanished—see its sad mementos round !
 The gillyflowers upon each fractured arch,
 And from the time-worn crevices, look down,
 Blooming where all is desolate. With tufts
 Clustering and dark, and light green trails between,
 The ivy hangs perennial ; yellow-flowered,
 The dandelion shoots its juicy stalks
 Over the thin transparent blades of grass,
 Which bend and flicker, even amid the calm ;
 And, O ! sad emblems of entire neglect,
 In rank luxuriance, the nettles spread
 Behind the massy tablatures of death,
 Hanging their pointed leaves and seedy stalks
 Above the graves, so lonesome and so low
 Of famous men, now utterly unknown,
 Yet whose heroic deeds were, in their day,
 The theme of loud acclaim,—when Seton's arm
 In power with Stuart and with Douglas vied.
 Clad in their robes of state, or graith of war,
 A proud procession, o'er the stage of time,
 As century on century wheeled away,
 They passed ; and, with the escutcheons mouldering o'er
 The little spot, where voicelessly they sleep,
 Their memories have decayed ; nay, even their bones
 Are crumbled down to undistinguished dust,
 Mocking the Herald, who, with pompous tones,
 Would set their proud array of quarterings forth,
 Down to the days of Chrystal and De Bruce.

—DAVID MACBETH MOIR : *The Ruins of Seton Chapel.*

The most notable affair in the life of this lord was his capture by Dunkirkers in the course of one of his voyages to France. After losing all his baggage he was obliged to ransom his life from these Flemish pirates or privateers, but with the firm resolve to bide his time and punish them severely. This he did soon after, although at great cost to himself in land and money. On the 22d of January, 1498-99, as



INTERIOR OF SETON CHURCH.



appears in the Register of the Privy Seal, he bought a ship from the King of Scotland called the *Eagle*, fitted her for war, and put to sea against his enemies, slew many of them, and took and destroyed several of their vessels. The streamers and flags, embroidered with the family arms, used on this occasion were preserved at Seton Castle, and were seen and described by Alexander Nisbet, the writer on Heraldry, over two hundred years later. Lord Seton married Lady Margaret Campbell,* eldest daughter of Colin, first Earl of Argyll, and had three sons and two daughters:

George, his successor;

John, who died without issue;

Robert, a man-at-arms in France, who died in the Castle of La Rocca, at Milan, during the Italian wars of Louis XII., leaving two sons: William, also a man-at-arms, in the Scots Guards in France, and Alexander, who married Janet Sinclair, Heiress of Northrig, and founded the line of the Setons of *Northrig*;

Martha, who married William Maitland of Lethington, of an ancient and distinguished family, and was ancestress of the Earls of Lauderdale. Catharine, refusing many good offers of marriage, entered the Convent of Saint Catharine of Siena, at Edinburgh, and died there a professed sister at the age of seventy-eight. The inmates of this convent were commonly called "nuns of the Sheens," a corruption of Sciennes, and are praised even by that bitter satirist, Sir David Lindsay, for their unsullied virtue.

* The origin of the Campbell family is lost in the mists of antiquity, and their remoter ancestry cannot be determined. The word Campbell itself is Gaelic, and signifies *crooked mouth*. It is an example of a purely personal and descriptive designation becoming an hereditary surname. The earliest figure to emerge out of comparative obscurity was a certain Gillespie Campbell in the twelfth century, who married the heiress of Lochaw, and was ancestor of the great and historical House of Argyll. The Campbells are probably of Norman descent, despite their barbarous patronymic.

“ This lord,” says Maitland, “ took great pleasure in the company of cunning * men: he was a great setter in music.” He lived during twenty years of King James IV.’s reign, and must have had much in common with his Majesty, who “ himself was skilled both in vocal and instrumental music.” As illustrating a family trait, the love of music, I shall anticipate, and mention the fact that this lord’s great-grandson, Chancellor Seton, persuaded King Charles I., who had been his Ward in minority, to endow a Music School in Musselburgh.

XXI. GEORGE, FIFTH LORD SETON. During his brief career he completed certain portions of the house at Seton, and repaired the great dungeon. He was also a generous benefactor to his Collegiate Church. By his wife, Lady Janet Hepburn, daughter of Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, † he had, besides a daughter Mariota (or Marion), who in 1530 married Hugh, second Earl of Eglinton, three sons, the first and third of whom died young, and the second succeeded to the title. This lord was very familiar with the chivalrous King James IV., and was among the valiant ones who died at

* *Cunning*, in the sense of knowing and skilful in some art or science.

† The Hepburns were an old and powerful race, but of uncertain origin and of an evil destiny. Their founder, Adam Hepburn, came into Scotland from England during the reign of David II., and obtained large grants of land from that complacent monarch. Sir Patrick Hepburn, third Lord Hales, was created Earl of Bothwell in 1488, and raised his family to the foremost rank of the great barons of the kingdom. He married Lady Janet Douglas, only daughter of the Earl of Morton. Their great-grandson and the fourth earl is that James Hepburn whose crimes, particularly against Queen Mary Stuart, caused the just disgrace and ruin of his family.

The name is said to be taken from Hepborne in Northumberland; and this, in my opinion, comes from two old words, *hope*, Anglo-Saxon (later *hepe*, Old English), meaning a bramble-bush, and *hourn* or *burn*, a small stream. The bush would probably be the wild rose, the English dog-rose, the fruit of which was called *hep* and *hip*. A *rose* figures in the Hepburn arms; and this seems to confirm my derivation of the name.

Flodden on September 19, 1513. His body was brought home and buried with great lamentation in the choir of Seton Church beside his father:

" Sleep in peace with kindred ashes
Of the noble and the true,
Hands that never failed their country,
Hearts that never baseness knew."

Lady Seton continued a widow until her death, forty-five years after, and was a wise mother to her children and grandchildren and a very pious woman. Sir Richard Maitland enumerates some of her many benefactions to Seton Church—a silver processional cross, sacred vessels, rich and complete sets of vestments, antependiums of fine woven arras, besides adding new furniture to the revestry, founding two more prebends, and enlarging the priest's chambers near the church, parts of which remain. When her son came of age she retired to the Convent of Saint Catharine of Siena, at Edinburgh, of which she was a large benefactress, as others of her family had been before. The Bull by which its foundation was confirmed is dated January 29, 1517. It was the last religious community brought together in Scotland before the disestablishment of the Catholic Church:

The Douglasses of Glenbervie and the Lauders of Bass joined with the Setons in obtaining the Bull of Pope Leo X.: and John Cant, a pious citizen with his wife Agnes Kerkettel, were also contributors.—WILSON: *Old Edinburgh*, II., 298.

Lady Seton died in this convent in 1558. Her body was honorably transported to Seton, and buried in the choir of the church beside her husband. Saint Catharine's Convent, commonly called "The Sciennes," was destroyed at the Reformation, and the inmates dispersed. Nothing now remains of it, and even the site is built over, the only memorial being the name "Saint Catharine's Place." Mr. George Seton, a Protestant, an accomplished scholar and antiquarian, erected

within his grounds at Morningside a small cairn with a brief inscription, consisting of stones saved while the ruins of the convent were being demolished. The cairn is now picturesquely overgrown with creeping ivy, and the mansion, appropriately called by him "Saint Bennet's," is the residence of the Catholic Archbishop of Saint Andrew's and Edinburgh, to whom the property has been sold. Near to the site of the former Sciennes, the only house of Dominicanesses in Scot-



THE SETON CAIRN AT EDINBURGH.

land, is the modern Convent of Saint Margaret, where I have said mass, and in which are two Sisters, daughters of my friend and kinswoman Mrs. Coventry, of Burgate House, Hants, whose name, before marriage,

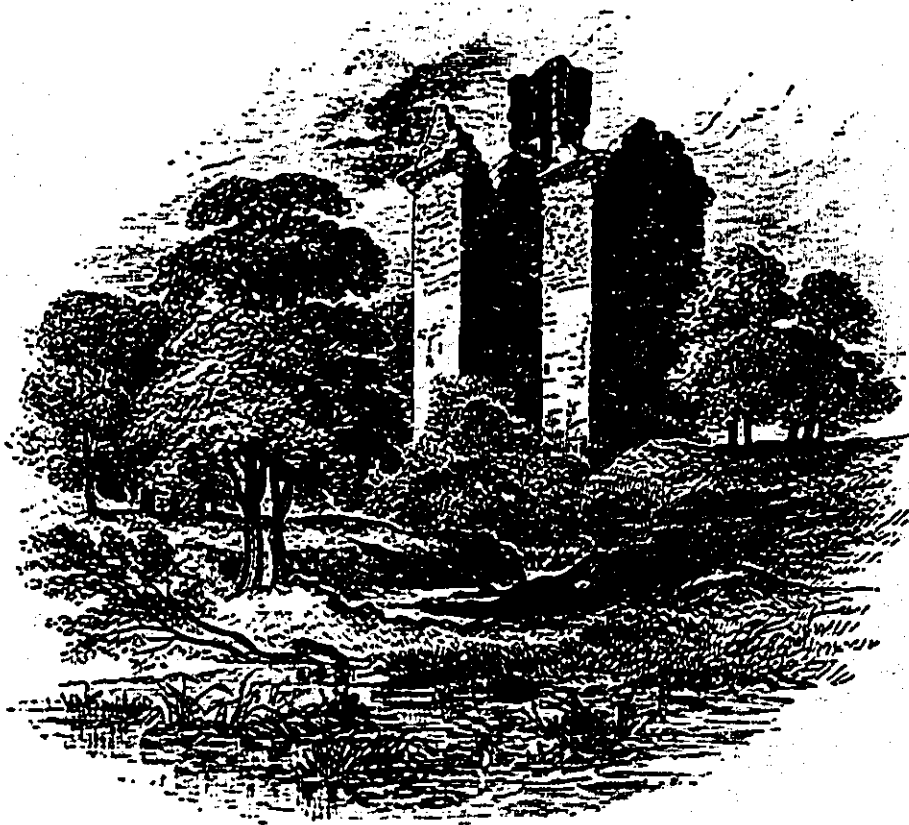
was Catharine Seton. Her father was the late Colonel Seton of Brookheath, Representative of the Earls of Dunfermline.

XXII. GEORGE, SIXTH LORD SETON. He succeeded his father in 1513, and was "a good, wise, and virtuous man." This lord repaired the older parts of Niddry Castle, in his Barony of Wynchburgh, and enlarged it. The top of the old square tower is distinctly seen among the trees as the train from Edinburgh speeds northward:

In former days the traveller to Stirling commonly went by the way of Linlithgow, which is the place where Mary Stuart was born, and he was all the more prompted to think of that enchanting woman because he usually caught a glimpse of the ruins of Niddry Castle—one of the houses of her faithful Lord Seton—at which she rested on the romantic and memorable occasion of her flight from Lochleven.—WILLIAM WINTER: *Gray Days and Gold*, p. 308.

When visited, either by driving out from Edinburgh or by walking from the Wynchburgh Station, it is found to be an

imposing ruin. It is built in a good position, on a slight eminence which rises more abruptly on the north side, where the narrow brook called Niddry Burn once wound around it. The stream has been slightly diverted from its original course by the making of the railroad some fifty years ago. It runs over a pebbly bottom, and keeps up a constant, melancholy



RUINS OF NIDDRY CASTLE.

purling. Before the railroad company built the little stone bridge, there was a ford there. Part of the castle rests on a mass of rocks forming a natural and craggy bulwark. There are still some fine trees, particularly a few old elms, about the place, which must once have been of considerable extent and very strong. A level piece of ground covering two acres, and formerly the castle garden, is surrounded by an old square

wall whose four gates are set each exactly opposite the other. Two of them are arched and ornamented. The farm buildings are also old, and on one of them I noticed the monogram G. H. S., for George Seton (the seventh lord) and (Isabel) Hamilton his wife. Niddry now belongs to the Earl of Hopetoun, whose principal residence is in the vicinity and whose family is wealthy, yet nothing is done to preserve such an interesting and historical monument of Queen Mary's time. When I last was there the entrance to the tower was coarsely boarded up, and a notice read that there was no admittance on account of the dangerous state of the ruin. Maitland describes this Lord Seton as much given to manly games and out-door sports, especially hawking, and says that he was reputed to be "the best falconer in his day." On November 17, 1533, he first appears in public life as an extraordinary Lord among the Senators of the College of Justice, an institution which had only been founded the preceding year.* In 1542 he was associated with Lords Huntly and Home in the command of a strong force organized to watch the operations of the English troops, while King James V. himself assembled a large army at Edinburgh. In March, 1543, he was intrusted with the keeping of Cardinal Beton, who was accused of a treasonable correspondence with France. In May, 1544, Seton Castle was burnt, and the church greatly injured by the English invaders, who carried away everything they could. This unfortunate nobleman died on July 17, 1549, at the Abbey of Culross, and was buried in the choir, because the English then garrisoned Haddington and harried the lands of the Barons round about. When they evacuated the country, his body was conveyed to Seton by his wife and a large company of kinsmen and friends to be entombed in his own church. He was twice married. His first wife—

* *Historical Account of the Senators of the College of Justice in Scotland*, by Sir David Dalrymple of Hailes, Bart.

1527—was Elizabeth Hay, eldest daughter of John, third Lord Yester, by whom he had two boys and five girls. The eldest son, George, succeeded as seventh Lord Seton. John, the second son, founded the Setons of *Cariston* by marrying Isabel, Heiress of David Balfour of Cariston, in the County of Fife, "of a very old-standing family," which is traced back to Sir Michael Balfour, who died in 1344. Of the five daughters, Beatrix married George, eldest son and heir of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugus. Their grandson was created a peer in 1642 as Baron Ogilvy of Banff, for his eminent services in the royal cause. The title is dormant since 1803.

Helen (Maitland says Eleanor) married Hugh, who succeeded as seventh Lord Somerville, a peerage created in 1430 and dormant since 1872.

Lord Seton married, secondly, a French woman of noble birth, Lady Mary Pyeris, who came to Scotland in the suite of Mary of Lorraine, daughter of the Duke of Guise and second wife of King James V., by whom she was the mother of the ill-fated Mary, Queen of Scots. By this foreign marriage, something most unusual at that time and in Scotland, Lord Seton had two sons, who left no descendants, and an only daughter, who was one of the Four Maries.

XXIII. GEORGE, SEVENTH LORD SETON. He was born in 1531, and succeeded his father in 1549. It was to this "noble and mighty lord" that Maitland dedicated his history of the Seton Family, begun at the request of his father. He was addicted to horse-racing and to hawking in his youth, and on May 10, 1552, won a silver bell which was run for at Haddington, the county town.

Before he was twenty he married Isabel, daughter and heiress of Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar, at the time one of the Senators of the College of Justice and Captain of Edinburgh Castle, a singular combination of Peace and War. She

brought him the Manor of Sorn and other lands in Kyle. A number of gold medals were struck to commemorate this union, on account, especially, of the bride's relationship to the Earl of Arran, Regent of Scotland and Duke of Châtellerault in France. The medal is now very rare. It is described by Francisque Michel in his *Civilization in Scotland* (p. 125), and I have examined one of these medals, at my leisure, in the private office of my friend the late Mr. Reginald Stuart Poole, Curator of the Department of Coins in the British Museum. The Hamiltons have ranked for upward of four hundred years among the most prominent and powerful of the Scottish nobility. Some genealogical writers affirm that they derive their origin from the magnificent Norman race of the de Bellomonts, Earls of Leicester. The Duke of Abercorn is "Heir Male of the House of Hamilton," but the headship, name, and historical traditions of the family are always associated in the popular mind with the Douglas-Hamiltons, Dukes of Hamilton and Brandon, who are Premier Peers of Scotland, and have a reversionary interest in the Crown.

Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar was also Lord-Treasurer to James V., and invited his Majesty to Sorn Castle, in Ayrshire, to be present at the marriage of his daughter to Lord Seton. On the eve of the appointed day the king set out on the journey; "but he had to traverse a long and dreary tract of moor, moss, and miry clay, where there was neither road nor bridge; and when about half-way from Glasgow, he rode his horse into a quagmire, and was with difficulty extricated from his perilous seat on the saddle. Far from a house, exposed to the bleak wind of a cold day, and environed on all sides by a cheerless moor, he was compelled to take a cold refreshment in no better a position than by the side of a very prosaic well; and he at length declared, with more pettishness than wit, that 'if he were to play a trick on the devil, he would send him to a bridal at Sorn in the middle of

winter.' " * The well at which he sat and swore is still there, and is called the King's Well ; and the quagmire in which his horse floundered is ironically called the King's Stable. There is now an old inn at the place, on the highroad between Glasgow and Kilmarnock. Soon after coming of age, Lord Seton was elected Provost of Edinburgh, and governed the capital for several tumultuous years with firmness and discretion. On one occasion there was an uproar in the city, whereupon two of the municipal officers hurried out to the Provost at Seton ; but he, finding that they were to blame, promptly confined them in his castle dungeon, while he rode into Edinburgh, summoned the guard, and suppressed the riot. † Toward the end of 1557 he was one of the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to be present at the marriage of Queen Mary Stuart with the Dauphin of France, afterward Francis II., on which occasion a magnificent present of silver plate exquisitely wrought by Benvenuto Cellini was made him by the king. This work of art, superior to anything yet seen in Scotland, after serving at banquets prepared for royalty at Winton House and Seton Castle, was finally stolen and beaten to pieces or melted down, in the plunder of the family mansions in 1715. The Setons were always in the forefront of culture, refinement, and progress. As an illustration, it is stated, among other things, in the *Memorie of the Somervilles*, that "the first coach brought to Scotland was by this Lord Seton when Queen Mary came from France." After the marriage of Mary and Francis, he was sent to England to present Queen Mary's portrait to her cousin Queen Elizabeth, and was worthily entertained at the English Court. He returned to France to accompany Queen Mary, now a widow, back to Scotland ; and having enjoyed her favor in the hour of prosperity, he was a devoted friend in the days of her adversity.

* *Historical Gazetteer of Scotland*, II., 681.

† Fountainhall : *MS. in the Advocates' Library*.

He was sworn by the young Queen one of her Privy Council, and appointed Master of the Household. He was also a knight of the most noble Order of the Thistle. Nisbet describes a life-size portrait of him at Seton, in which he grasps his official baton, and underneath which were painted in letters of gold the lines:

“ In Adversitate Patiens—
In Prosperitate Benevolus—
Hazard Yet Forward ! ”

a motto which denotes his characteristics of patience, courtesy, and courage. Mottoes were all the vogue among distinguished people in this and the following reign. Under the arms of the celebrated Lord Chancellor Seton, moulded in stucco at Pinkie House, is this one:

“ Nec Cede Adversis Rebus :
Nec Crede Secundis.”

It lacks the chivalrous sentiment of his grandfather's, and smacks too much of the Jesuit Balthasar Gracian's *Art of Worldly Wisdom*.

During the few years of comparative peace and happiness following the Queen's home-coming she was a frequent visitor to Seton, where she would practise archery and play at golf, two games for which the Seton Butts and Seton Links were famous. Chambers, in his *Stories of Old Families*, describes the joyous times at Seton; and the beautiful “Seton Necklace,” sold with other Eglinton heirlooms a few years ago, was a prize won by Mary Seton at golf in a game against the Queen. Maitland mentions some of the architectural improvements and additions of this lord to his principal residence, which had suffered severely from English depredations, being on the direct road from Edinburgh to Berwick. Maitland also tells us how on the 16th of February, 1561, at two o'clock in the morning “the great dungeon of the old tower

of Seton fell to the ground, but as God would have it, it did nobody harm."

The following is a short account of Seton House I wrote about thirty years ago:

"The nucleus of this baronial ruin, formerly the residence

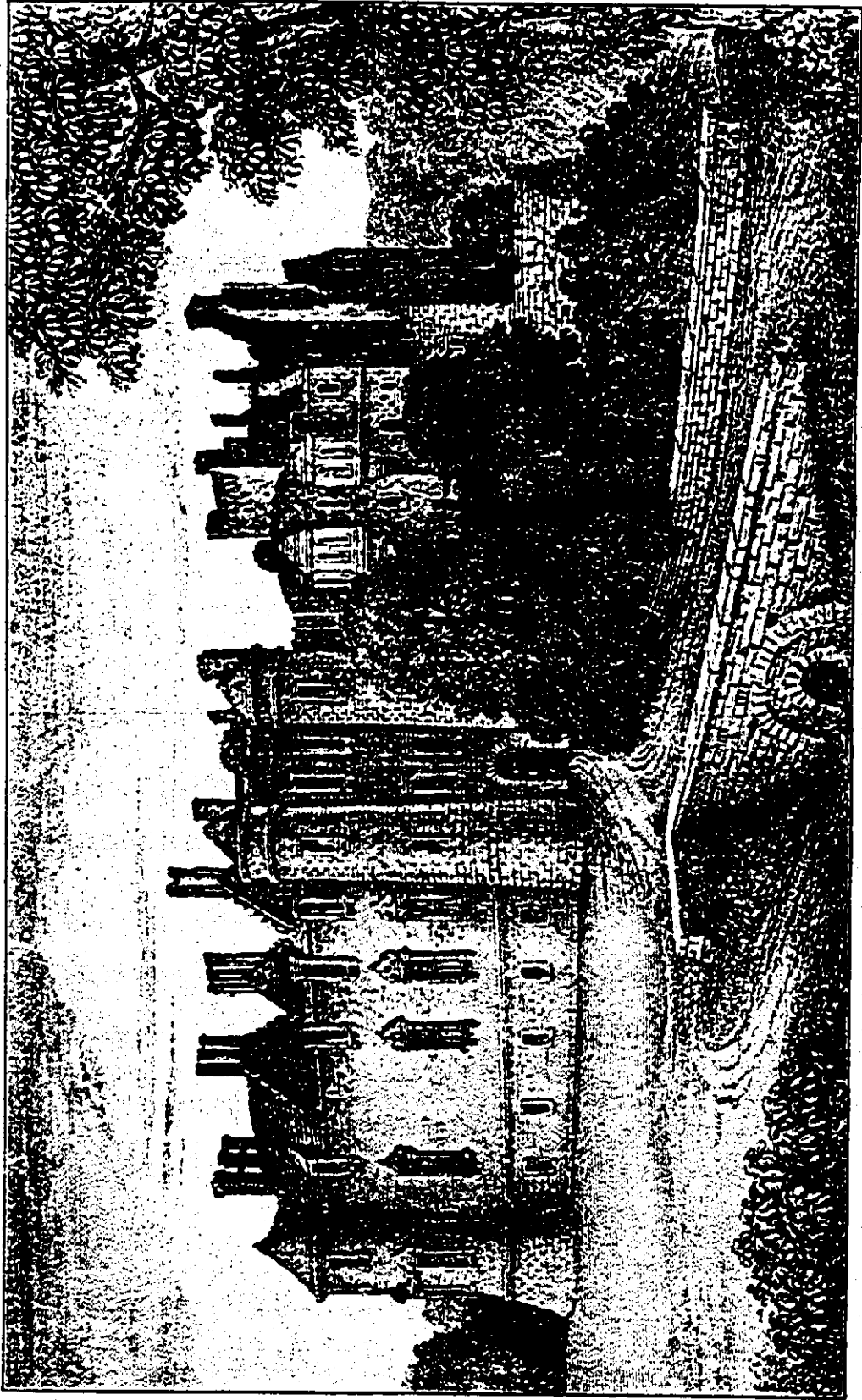


MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, AT SETON.

A game of archery.

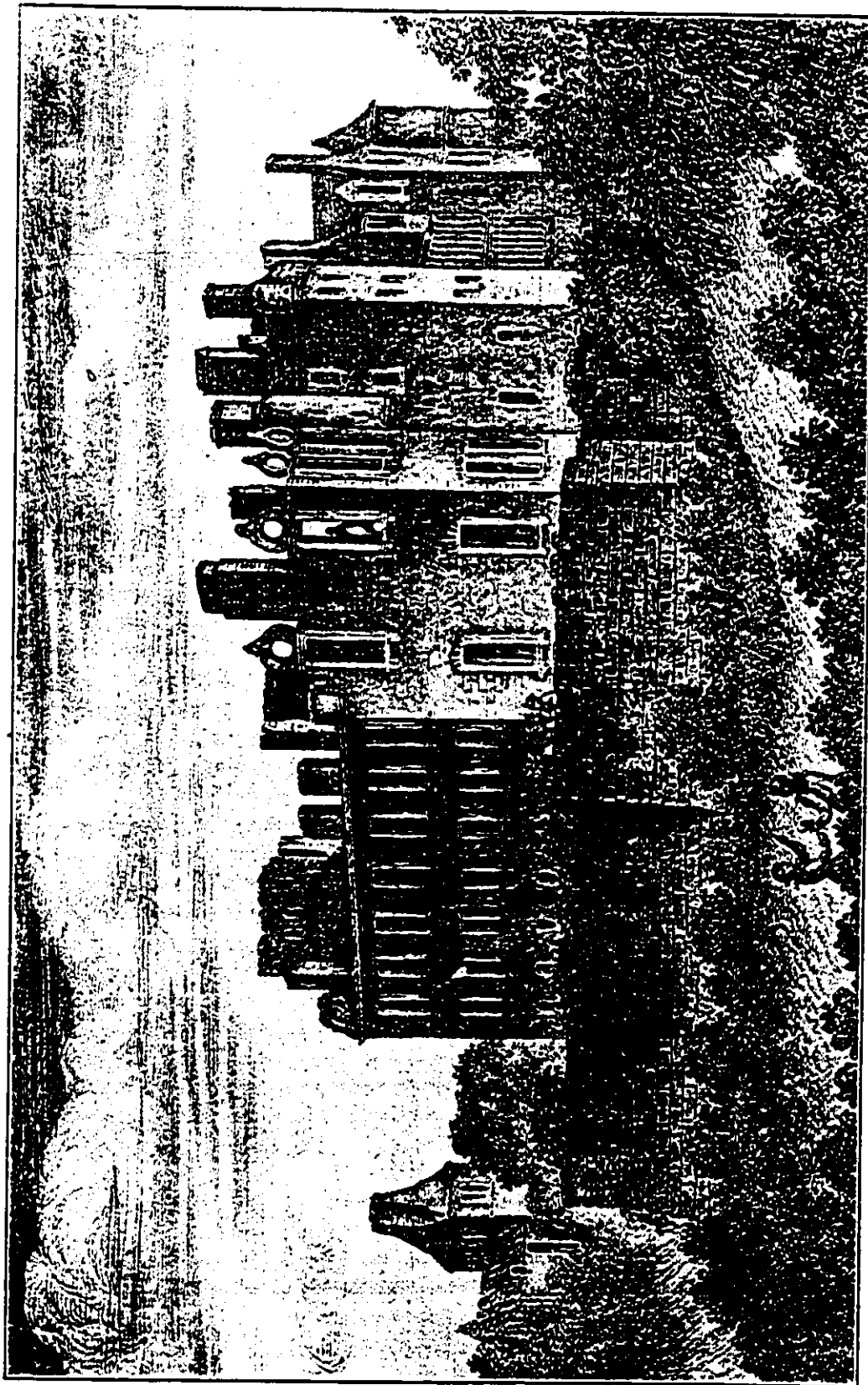
of the Earls of Winton, is very ancient, some portions of the tower and its surrounding wall still remaining, all ivy-clad, after the lapse of seven hundred years; but the first castle having been in great part destroyed during the long wars with England, a new building was erected about the middle of the sixteenth century, which was esteemed at the period and for many years afterward, much the most magnificently con-

structed and furnished house in Scotland. It was often called, in accordance with the Scotch fashion introduced under the influence of French ideas, the Palace of Seton, because it was so frequently the abode of royalty. This vast and handsome structure occupied a pleasant position in the midst of a well-wooded demesne in East Lothian, on the coast of the Firth of Forth, and took its name from one of the oldest, wealthiest, and most influential families in the kingdom. There is no end of traditions regarding the princely style maintained at Seton. It had been visited in royal progresses by Queen Mary, by her son King James VI., by the unfortunate Charles I., and by the merry monarch Charles II.; and an account of the masques and ceremonies on these occasions would fill a volume. At the Reformation and for almost a century afterward, Seton House was the stronghold of the Catholic party in the South, one of the refuges and hiding-places for the priests, and the first mansion at which the clergy coming from the Continent were received and entertained, after landing in disguise in that part of Scotland. The fourth Earl of Winton, succeeding his grandfather while yet a minor, was brought up a Protestant by a time-serving kinsman who had obtained possession of his person. The last earl lost his titles and estates for participating in the Rebellion of 1715, and was condemned to death, but managed with great ingenuity to escape from the Tower of London, and lived the rest of his life in extreme poverty at Rome, where he died on December 19, 1749. The gardens and orchards around Seton House, which now belong to the Earl of Weinyss and March, a remote descendant of the family which so long flourished there, are still celebrated for the finest and earliest fruits of the season, and the stately oaks and elm-trees in the park remind one even now that the works of nature outlive the greatest efforts of genius; while the solemn and deserted grandeur of Seton Chapel, situated in the



FRONT VIEW OF SETON HOUSE IN RUINS, 1790.

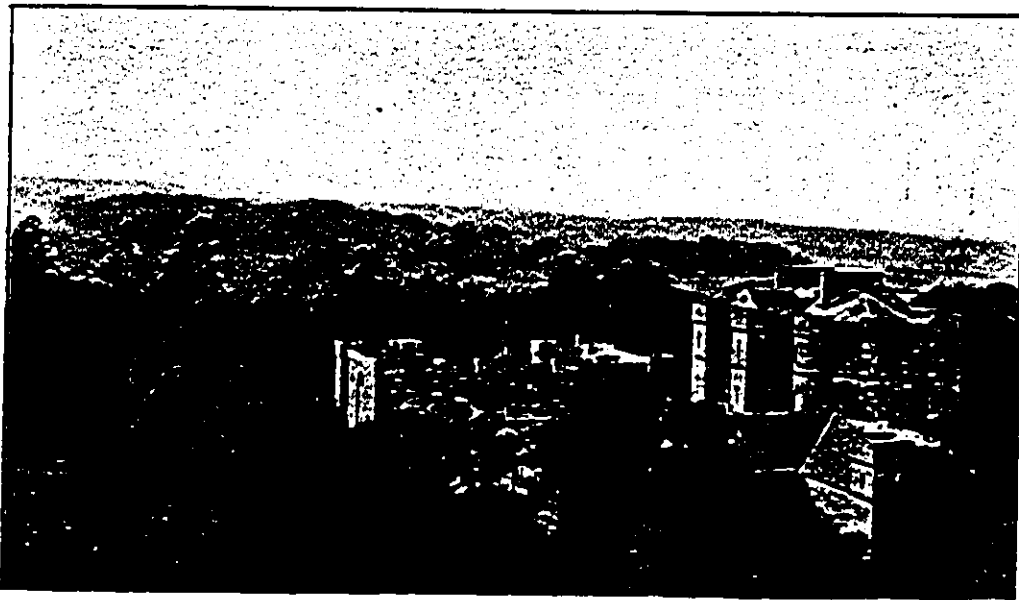




REAR VIEW OF SETON HOUSE IN RUINS, 1790.

immediate neighborhood, and the melancholy ruins of the castle, make one regret that so much should have been needlessly and thanklessly sacrificed in the cause of the most ungrateful and (latterly) most worthless of dynasties."

Scarcely a fragment remains of this old castle-palace of the Setons. The estates of the forfeited earl having been purchased from the British Government by the York Building



THE SETON CASTLE RAISED BY MACKENZIE ON THE SITE OF THE OLDER ONE, 1798.

(From a photograph taken from the tower of the church in 1889, by my friend William Dunlop, Esq.)

Company, Seton House was fraudulently bought in at a public sale in 1790 by one of their agents, who, inspired by ignorance and hate, tore down the whole structure—the most perfect specimen in existence of Gallo-Scottish Renaissance—and erected in its place a modern mansion from the designs of John Adam, one of the four sons of the celebrated architect of that name. It has always been a subject of regret to the Earls of Wemyss (Charteris-Douglas) that they were then deprived of the opportunity of becoming, until too late, the proprietors of Seton House, as in that case, they say, they would

have restored it and made it their principal residence instead of Gosford House, on which they have since spent such immense sums. The Setons had also a large and magnificent town house in Edinburgh. Lord Darnley sojourned there in 1565, and about eighteen years later the French ambassador Manzeville. It is referred to in the *Diurnal of Occurrents in Scotland*. "Time has long since dealt with the Canongate Mansion of the Seytons. In Edgar's map of 1742 the ruins still constituted a prominent feature there; but before the century closed they had been displaced by Whitefoord House."* When Gordon of Rothiemay executed his famous Bird's-eye View of Edinburgh in 1647, the Seton lodging stood entire, with its open pleasure-grounds to the north, its close, and its outer and inner courts. The inner court is there shown as a large quadrangle, on a scale only equalled by one or two others among the civic mansions of the time. Readers of Scott are familiar with his description of this place in *The Abbot*, although, after all, Roland Graeme takes us no farther than the vaulted archway and outer court, and a hall dimly lighted by latticed casements of colored glass, and on the walls of which were sculptured religious devices and heraldic shields between hanging arms and suits of mail disposed for ornament as well as use. During some recent excavations, several underground arches which supported the massive structure and served as a domestic prison were brought to light.†

For many years Whitefoord House has been occupied by the Maar Typefounding Company, and has an ill-kept, dirty look about it. On the same side of the street, but higher up, is "Seton's Close," at present numbered 267; and "Seton's Land" is mentioned in a popular song found in a

* Wilson: *Old Edinburgh*, I., 167.

† At an early period in the history of the Popes, the Vice-dominus had jurisdiction over the domestics of the palace, and "the grated prison for such offenders was a chamber deep down among the vaults of the Cellarium Majus of the Lateran."—SETON: *Essays*, p. 204.

manuscript collection formed about 1760, and first printed in Chambers's *Traditions of Edinburgh*, p. 222. While I am on the subject, I may as well quote here what such an authority as Billings says in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland* (Vol. IV.): "Scotland owes many of her architectural ornaments to the munificent taste of the family of Seton. They built Seton Church and the palace adjoining, which has now disappeared. They built, according to their family historian, the old bridge of Musselburgh, which tradition makes a Roman work. That peculiar and beautiful structure, Winton House, was erected as a mansion for the head of the family. Lastly, Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, who added the ornamental parts to Pinkie, was the same who got built for himself the even more stately and beautiful Castle of Fyvie."

The present Seton Castle was long leased by William Dunlop, Esq., who is connected with the family through the marriage of Elizabeth Seton (who died 18th of May, 1612) with Alexander Dunlop. Pinkie was the seat, when I was there, of Sir John Hope, Bart., and Fyvie of A. J. Forbes-Leith, Esq. (whose wife is an American). By these I have been hospitably entertained in places filled with or surrounded by memorials of my family.

Let us return to Lord Seton. When Queen Mary, then at his house, was about to create her half-brother, Lord James Stuart, Earl of Moray, in January, 1561, she proposed to advance her faithful friend also; but he asked—with a pride, perhaps, that apes humility—to be allowed to retain his lower rank, because, as it has been alleged, he preferred to be the premier baron rather than the junior earl. I suspect that there was an *arrière pensée* which he was too perfect a courtier to express, and that the real reason of his refusal was that, Stuart being a bastard and a bad man—

"False to his vows, a wedded priest"—

a gentleman of Lord Seton's high sense of honor—no king

had ever found a mistress of his name and blood—would not share the glory of an earldom in his company. It was on this occasion that the Queen wrote with a diamond ring upon a window of the great hall—called Sampson's Hall—at Seton these Latin verses:

“Sunt comites, ducesque alii, sunt denique reges;
Setoni dominum sit satis esse mihi.”

Sir Walter Scott has rendered them into English:

“Earl, Duke, or King, be thou that list to be:
Seton, thy lordship is enough for me.”

To indicate the unshaken loyalty of himself and family, and express in a single line his religious and political principles, he caused to be carved in stone and filled in with large gilt letters, and then set up over the main entrance to the house which he rebuilt, the following French inscription:

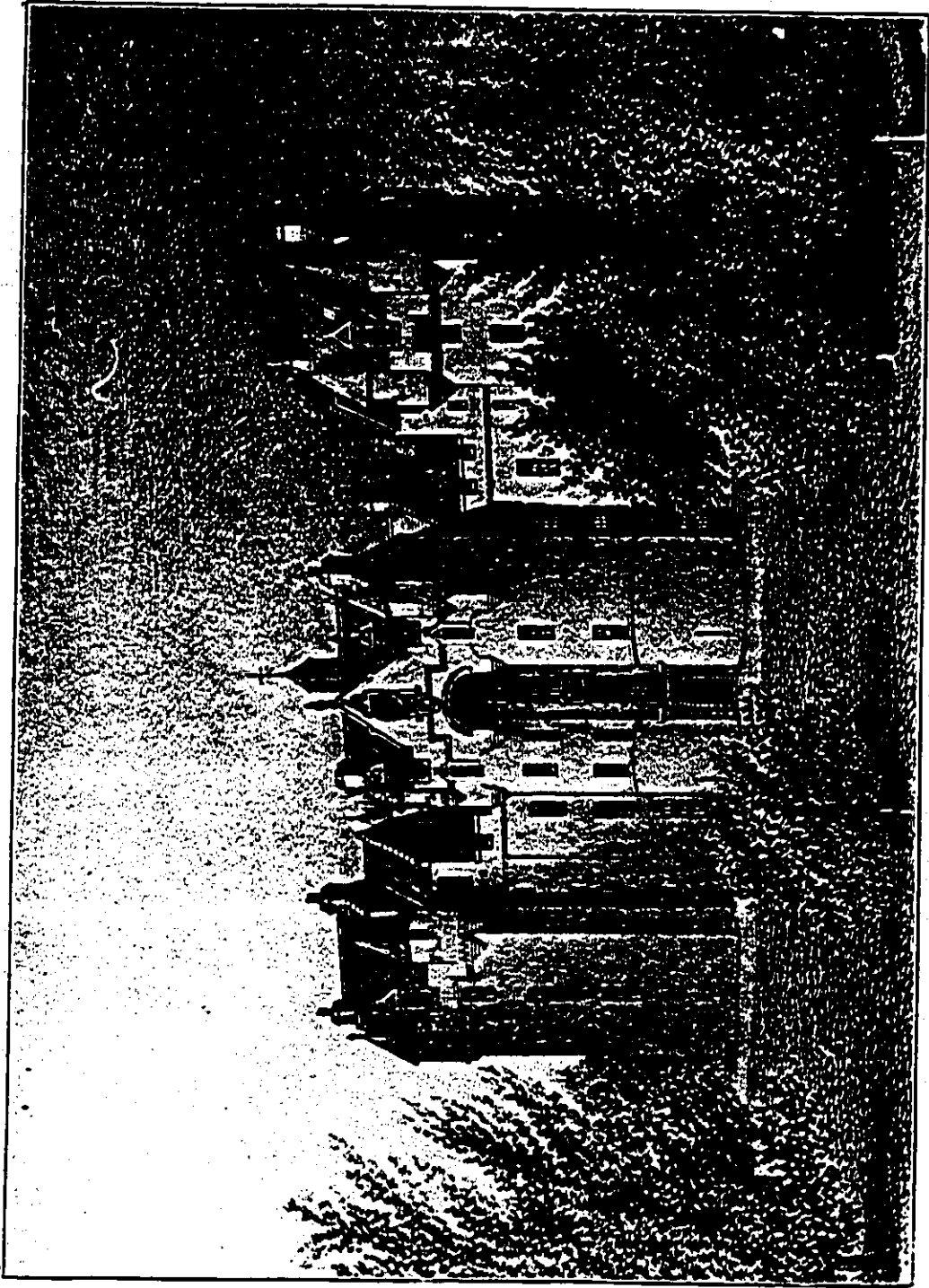
“Un Dieu, Une Foy, Un Roy, Une Loy.”

In June, 1567, Queen Mary and Bothwell, with several lords who had answered their unhappy sovereign's appeal, and a considerable force assembled for battle on Carberry Hill. In Aytoun's poem of *Bothwell* Lord Seton is described at the moment:

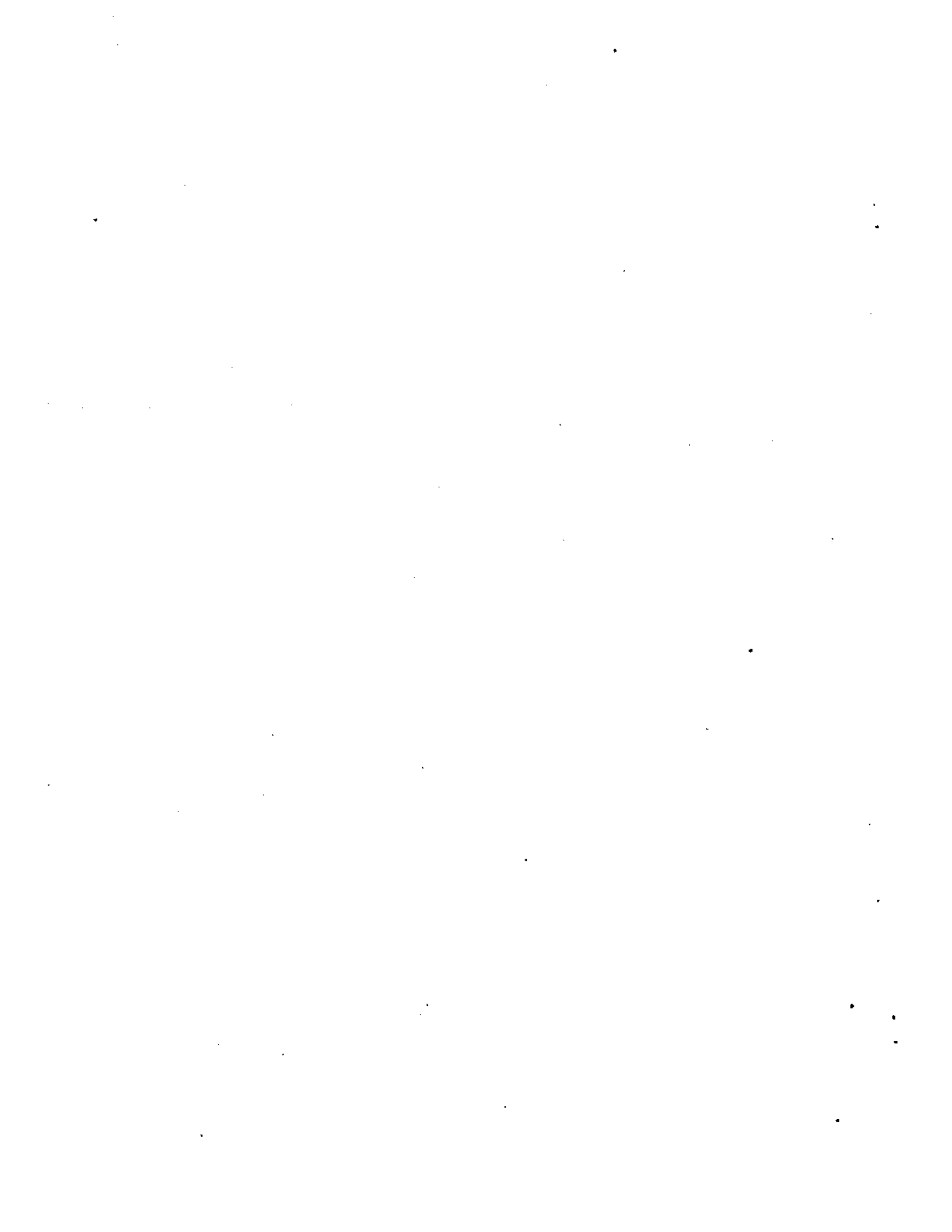
He was a noble of a stamp
Whereof this age hath witnessed few;
Men who came duly to the camp,
Whene'er the Royal trumpet blew.
Blunt tenure lords, who deemed the Crown
As sacred as the Holy Tree,
And laid their lives and fortunes down
Not caring what the cause might be.

—VI., 15.

Lord Seton's gallant rescue of Queen Mary from her captivity in Lochleven Castle in May, 1568, is the most romantic episode in her life and in his own career. After her escape she rested for several days at his castle of Niddry; and it is of her stay there, to give time for her adherents to assemble under the Hamiltons, that Miss Strickland says: “She



FYVIE CASTLE, ABERDEENSHIRE.



stood a Queen once more, among the only true nobles of her realm, those whom English gold had not corrupted, nor successful traitors daunted." A brief inscription on an oblong stone tablet—*George Lord Seton of His Age 36, 1567*—long commemorated this nobleman over one of the windows of the castle. It has recently disappeared, but by great good fortune a sketch of it was made in 1852, and is engraved in Ballingall's *Edinburgh Past and Present*, p. 78. As is well known, the disastrous battle of Langside destroyed Queen Mary's party. Lord Seton here displayed the hereditary valor of his race, repeatedly charging the rebel heights with the cry, "God and the Queen! Set on! Set on!" He was wounded and taken prisoner, and came near being put to death. "When he was brought into the presence of Moray, he was bitterly rebuked by him as having been the prime author and the chief performer in this tragedy; whereas according to Moray, it was his duty to have been one of the first to protect the infant king. Seton answered that he had given his fidelity to one prince, and that he would keep it as long as he lived, or until the Queen should have laid down her right of government of her own free will. Irritated by the reply, Moray asked him to say what he himself thought his own punishment ought to be, and threatened that he should undergo the extreme severity of the law. 'Let others decide,' said Seton, 'what I deserve. On that point my conscience gives me no trouble, and I am well aware that I have been brought within your power, and am subject to your will. But I would have you know that even if you cut off my head, as soon as I die there will be another Lord Seton.' " *

As it was, he got imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but after a year's confinement went into exile. He lived thus two years in great poverty and distress in Flanders and

* *Memoirs of Mary, Queen of Scots* (Claude Nau). Edited by Rev. Joseph Stevenson, S.J., p 173.

Holland, where he came into relations with Alva, and brought himself into serious trouble, which might have ended fatally, by trying to bring the Scots regiments then in the service of the rebellious States over to the Spanish side.* Lord Seton returned to Scotland in January, 1571, and is then constantly mentioned in letters and state papers, and always as an incorruptible and untiring agent of the imprisoned Queen and of the Catholic cause. In Bellesheim's *History of the Catholic Church in Scotland*, III., p. 241, he says:

"An interesting glimpse of the condition of Scottish Catholics at this time is given us by the letter sent to Pope Gregory on February 15, 1574, by John Irving, a Knight of Malta, from his prison in Edinburgh.

"Irving, who attributes his present situation to the action of informers, affirms his adherence to the Catholic faith, for which he is ready by God's grace to endure every extremity. He mentions, as one of the most faithful of the Scottish nobles, Lord Seton, who had made great sacrifices in the cause of religion and who, together with his three sons, had been excommunicated by the Established Church.

"The writer adds that Lord Seton has under consideration various plans for the restoration of the Catholic faith in Scotland, which he doubts not will meet with the approbation of his Holiness."

In November, 1583, Lord Seton was sent ambassador to the King of France (Henry III.), and letters were subsequently written to King James VI. by the Duke of Lorraine, the Cardinals of Guise and Bourbon, and others relative to his embassy and commending his diligence, zeal, judgment, and unswerving loyalty.

An interesting letter from this Lord Seton to Pope Gregory XIII. is published in Theiner's *Annals*, and the following is a translation from Father Forbes-Leith's *Narratives of Scottish Catholics under Mary Stuart and James VI.*:

LORD SETON TO POPE GREGORY XIII.

"TO OUR MOST HOLY LORD.—I need not explain to your Holiness the part which I have taken in defending the Catholic religion, and the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, for I would rather leave this to others.

* Burton: *The Scot Abroad*, p. 320.

" Having been sent hither by my most serene master, the King of Scots, to implore the aid of the most Christian King, in our dreadful emergencies, I could not do otherwise than write to your Holiness some account of the state of our affairs. Briefly, after the ministers had succeeded in sending the Duke of Lennox away from Scotland, the King was so offended that he would hold no communication with them, though previously he had always acted in accordance with their advice. They took offence in turn, and set on foot a violent insurrectionary movement against his authority, partly by means of the agents of the Queen of England, and partly through their own rebel leaders.

" Being reduced to extremity, he has implored the aid of the most Christian King, and more particularly that of his relative, the Duke of Guise; a proceeding which has raised the hopes of Catholics to the highest point.

" So favourable an opportunity never occurred before, and could not have been expected or looked for; and it is doubly important that it should not be lost. The King has so high an opinion of the Duke of Guise, that we are in hopes he will be guided in everything by his advice; indeed, he has not only written as much to the Duke, but has charged me with a message to the same effect.

" Our hope is that your Holiness will both animate and encourage the Duke to make some effort in the cause of religion, and also give him substantial assistance.

" God himself, beyond all our hopes, seems to have provided your Holiness with this opportunity of extending religion and obtaining never-ending glory. The King's age, his perilous and critical position, the unbridled insolence of the ministers, are all circumstances in our favour. But it is of the utmost importance to lose no time, or the chance will pass away.

" The Queen of England is straining every nerve to crush the King of Scots by a rebellion in his own country, and if successful, she will suppress the Catholic religion altogether. The Duke of Guise, to whom I have transmitted the King of Scotland's letter for your Holiness, will doubtless explain matters in detail. But I would implore your Holiness not to let the existence of these communications be known to anyone, for this would, at the present juncture, place the King in the most extreme difficulty.

" At a later period we hope, by the aid of your Holiness, that he will be free to declare himself openly a son of your Beatitude. At present he is so situated and so completely in the power of his enemies, that he is scarcely at liberty to do anything whatever; from this condition it is for your Beatitude to rescue him. God preserve you long to his Church.

" Your Holiness's most humble servant,

" SETON."

" PARIS, *March 14, 1584.*"

A portrait of this nobleman by Holbein was long in the possession of the Somervilles; but by far the most interesting

one is the group by Sir Antonio More, which has been engraved by Pinkerton in his Scottish *Iconographia*, and is also in the possession of the representative of the last Lord Somerville. This famous composition consists of Lord Seton in his thirty-ninth year, his daughter and four sons. It has been enthusiastically described by Sir Walter Scott in the *Provincial Antiquities* (II., 139), who there calls attention to "the grave, haughty, and even grim cast of countenance" which distinguishes them all. In July, 1882, at the disposal of the Hamilton Palace collection, a beautiful miniature of "George, Lord Setone, aetatis suae 27," by H. Bone, R.A., after an original in the Somerville family, was sold to Mr. Denison for £131, equal to \$655.

There are also exquisite *vis-à-vis* miniature portraits of Lord and Lady Seton at the top of the Armorial Pedigree of Touch in the possession of the Seton-Steuarts, Baronets.

After a life of trying vicissitudes, during which he had seen the subversion of the Ancient Faith, the captivity of his sovereign Mistress, and the establishment of the Protestant Religion in Scotland, Lord Seton died on the 8th of January, 1585, and was buried in his family church, where, on a slab of black marble embedded in the wall, there is a lengthy epitaph from the pen of his son Alexander, who was an elegant Latin scholar. It is now in parts defaced and indistinct.

EPITAPH OF GEORGE, SEVENTH LORD SETON, AND ISABELLA HAMILTON HIS WIFE, IN SETON CHURCH.

(From a copy made in 1767 for the Marquess of Abercorn, and now in the possession of the Rev. Father Forbes-Leith, S.J., of Selkirk.)

"D. O. M.

"Ad Australe Sacelli hujus latus condita sunt Corpora Georgii Setonii & Isabellæ Hamiltoniæ nobilissimarum et æterna memoria dignissimarum Animarum Domicilia.

"Georgius hoc nomine Quintus, Setonii Dominus et Familiæ Princeps, Latifundia et Rem a majoribus tradita, difficillimis Reipub: temporibus honorifice tenuit et ampliavit. Jacobo Quinto regnante natus, Adolescens,



THE SETON PORTRAIT GROUP.
(By Sir Antonio More.)

cum in Galliis ageret, Patre optimo orbatus. Ad suos reversus, brevi post Regni Ordinum Decreto eodem remittitur, ibique unus Legatorum Mariæ Reginae et Francisci Franciæ Delphini nuptias et antiqua Gallorum Scotorumque Fœdera sancivit firmavitque. Domum regressus, Religionis et Sacrorum Innovatione, bellis tum externis tum civilibus flagrantem Patriam invenit, cum in Scotia Anglus Gallusque Germanus et Hispanus, Scoti etiam inter se dimicarent. Ædes suas bis terque ab Anglis incensas et funditus deletas, devastatis etiam Prædiis omnibus, in ampliorem denuo splendidioremque formam restituit. In omnem Fortunam liber semper et intrepidus, trucidato a perditissimis hominibus Rege, acta in Exilium Regina a Principum Patribus, Majorum more semper constans stetit. Hac firmitate sæpe carcere et custodia afflictus, sæpe in exilium actus, et bonis omnibus exutus, ejusmodi calamitates innumeras, Fidei in Patriam et veros Principes Testes, forti animo non modo tulit sed sprevit & superavit. Tandem ab Jacobo Sexto, cujus auspiciis, Prudentia et Consiliis, Scotia procellis omnibus et difficultatibus liberata, splendori suo restituta est, Ipse etiam honorifice promeritis acceptus et habitus, majorum suorum Locum et Dignitatem tenuit, primusque ab eo ad Hen. III. Galliarum Regem Legatus, cum amplissimis ad firmandam Amicitiam mandatis mittitur. Quo in munere cum gratam acceptamque utrique Principum operam navaret, lethalem ipsi morbum antea vitæ labores adferunt, in Patriam redit, intra mensem ad Superos migrat, VI. Id. Jan. An. Domini CIOIOLXXXV. Ætat. circiter LV.

“ Domina Isabella Hamiltonia nobilissimis Parentibus nata, Patre nimirum D. Willielmo de Sanquhar Equite et Matre Katherina Kennedie Cassilissae Comitissae Filia, Ipsa Forma, Moribus, omnibusque tum Animi tum Corporis dotibus insignis, et inter æquales præstans : Georgium hunc Setonii Dominum maritum nactam in adversis illi omnibus Adjumento et Solatio, in prosperis Ornamento fuit.

“ Conjugi charissimo duodeviginti annos superstes cum communibus Liberis liberaliter et conjunctissime vixit : Quidquid a marito Fortunarum acceperat, cum Natis amanter communicavit, eorumque conatus omnes et honesta studia Bonis suis fovit et promovit, nec exiguos Pietatis hujus et maternæ Charitatis fructus vivens percepit. Liberorum muneribus, Dignitatibus et ornamentis, Ipsa quoque clarior et illustrior, donec senio et articulorum Doloribus morbisque afflicta, Deo animam reddidit II. Id. Novemb. Anno Domini CIOIICVI, Annum agens circiter LXXV.

“ Tam claris Parentibus orta est hæc Soboles.

“ Robertus Setonus primogenitus et primus Wentoniæ Comes hoc Titulo ob propria et majorum merita ab Jacobo Sexto ornatus.

“ Joannes Eques eidem Regi imprimis charus, ab intimis consiliis, Questura et pluribus muneribus auctus, in flore ætatis e vivis sublatus, Liberis tamen relictis.

“ Alexander multis annis Senator, et ab intimis Consiliis tum Princeps Senatus ab ipso ordine electus, demum a Rege prudentissimo qui primus.

Scotiam Angliamque in unum contulit Dominatum, utriusque Regni Consiliorum Particeps, Fermelinoduni comes, et Regni Scotiæ factus est Cancellarius.

“ Willielmus Eques, Louthianæ Vicecomes et unus tum Scotiæ tum Angliæ limitum e Præfectis et Procuratoribus.

“ Margareta Filia, Claudio Hamiltonio Pasleto Domino nupto, Jacobi primi Abercorniæ Comitis Mater, totiusque illius prosapiæ Fratrum Sororumque dicti Comitis Fæcunda Parens.

“ Hæc Posteriores norint, et tanti Viri spectatæque adeo Fœminæ memoriam colant. Virtutes æmulentur, bonisque Moribus bona verba.

“ Magnorum Virorum Memoria non minus utilis est quam Præsentia.

“A. S.* CIOIOCX

“A. S. F. C. F. F.” †

THE EPITAPH OF LORD SETON AND HIS LADY, TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN ON A MARBLE SLAB IN SETON CHAPEL.

(From a MS. in the possession of the Earl of Wemyss.)

“ Near the south side of this chapel are deposited the bodies, once the habitations of the souls, of GEORGE SETON and ISABEL HAMILTON; souls truly noble, and worthy of everlasting remembrance. George, of this name the 5th, honourably possessed and enlarged the ample estates and fortune transmitted to him by his ancestors in times of great disturbance in the country. He was born in the reign of James the Fifth. Being deprived of his most worthy father, when he was a young man, living in France, he returned home, and in short time afterwards, by a decree of the Estates of the Kingdom, he is sent back to France, and there, as one of the Ambassadors, he negotiated and ratified the marriage between Queen Mary and Francis, Dauphin of France, and the ancient treaties between the French and Scots. Upon his return home, he found his country involved in the flames, both of foreign and civil wars, upon the change of religion and the forms of worship: when within Scotland, the English and French, the Germans and Spaniards, were engaged in war, and the Scots also fighting among themselves, his house having been more than once burnt to the ground, and entirely demolished, and all his estates ravished by the English, he restored the whole anew upon a scale more extensive, and in a style more magnificent. In every change of fortune always independant and undaunted, when his King was murdered by the most abandoned of men, and the Queen being driven into exile by the faction of the nobles, he, like his brave ancestors, always stood unmoved. For this steady loyalty being often imprisoned and kept in close confinement, often banished his country, and

* Anno Salutis.

† Alexander Setonus Fermelinoduni Comes Fieri Fecit.

stripped of all his fortune, he not only sustained with fortitude, but even despised and surmounted innumerable distresses of that kind, which bore witness of his faithful attachment to his country, and his loyalty to its rightful Sovereigns. At length, upon the accession of James the Sixth, by whose auspicious government, prudence, and counsels, Scotland was delivered from all its tempests and distresses, and restored to its antient splendor, he too was honourably received, and treated according to his merit, recovered his rank and dignity of his ancestors, and was sent by the King as his chief ambassador to Henry the Third King of France, with the most ample powers to confirm the alliance between them. In this high office, when he was performing services to the satisfaction, and with the favour of both Princes, the labours of his past life bring upon him a fatal disease. He returned to his own country, and within a month after he went hence to a better state, on the 5th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1585, about the 55th year of his age.

“ Dame Isabell Hamilton sprung from parents of noble birth ; her father being Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar, and her mother Catherine Kennedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassils, was herself distinguished for beauty, moral excellence, and all accomplishments both of mind and body : standing high in these respects among the ladies of her age. Having got this George Lord Seton for her husband, she was his support and comfort in all his adversities, and his ornament in prosperity.

“ Surviving her dearest husband 18 years, she lived in a liberal and most affectionate manner with their common children.

“ All the jointure she had received from her husband she chearfully shared with them in common, and with her substance cherished and promoted all their honourable endeavours and studies ; nor did she reap in her own life time scanty fruits of this pious attention and maternal love, being herself rendered more respectable and illustrious, by the high offices, dignities, and honours of her children, until worn out with age, and afflicted with the gout, and other diseases, she resigned her soul to God, on the 13th. of Nov. 1604, being about 75 years of age.

“ Off these so illustrious parents this was the issue :—

“ 1st, Robert Seton, their eldest son, the first Earl of Winton, honoured with this title by James the Sixth for his own merits and those of his ancestors.

“ 2nd, Sir John, very high in favour with the same King : made a privy counsellor, and raised to be lord high treasurer, and other great offices.

“ He was carried off in the flower of his age ; yet leaving children behind him.

“ 3d, Alexander, many years a judge of the Supreme Court, and a privy counsellor ; then chosen president of the Court of Session, by the Court itself. was at length made a privy counsellor of both kingdoms, by that wise being who first connected Scotland and England by the tie of a common

Sovereign, and was created Earl of Dunfermline and counsellor* of the kingdom of Scotland.

"4th, William, sheriff of Lothian; and one of the lords wardens and administrators of the marches of Scotland and England.

"5th, a daughter, Margaret, married to Claud Hamilton, Lord of Paisley, mother of James, the first Earl of Abercorn, and the fruitful parent of all that flourishing family of brothers and sisters.

"Let posterity know these things, and honour the memory of so great a man, and so distinguished a woman; let them imitate their virtues, and wish sweet repose to their pious souls.

"The memory of great men is no less useful than their presence."

By his marriage with Isabel Hamilton, Lord Seton left four sons and a daughter:

1. Robert, first Earl of Winton.
2. Sir John Seton of Barnes.
3. Alexander, first Earl of Dunfermline.
4. Sir William Seton of Kyllismuir.

5. Margaret, who married Claude Hamilton, created Lord Paisley. Their son was the first Earl of Abercorn, ancestor of the present duke. This marriage took place "with great triumph" at Niddry Castle on the 1st of August, 1574.

* A mistake for chancellor.

CHAPTER IV.

A.D. 1548—1615.

MARY SETON. Mary Seton was the only daughter of the sixth lord by his second wife, and consequently she was half-sister to the seventh lord, of whom I have written. She was one of the "Four Maries" celebrated in song and tradition, daughters of Scottish noblemen, all of the same age and Christian name as Mary Stuart. They were brought up as her playmates at the Priory of Inchmahome, on an islet in the lake of Monteith under the shadow of the Highlands, and afterward accompanied her as little maids of honor when she was taken to France in childhood. Mary Seton was the fairest, most devoted, and best beloved of them all. The words of the old ballad founded on the dying lament of one of the four are remembered even now:

"Yestreen the Queen had four Maries,
This night she'll have but three;
There was Mary Seton, and Mary Beton,
And Mary Carmichael, and Me."*

They remained in France from 1548 to 1561, receiving there a finished education.† Mary Seton was the only one who never married, although not for want of noble suitors, among whom the most ardent and persistent was Andrew Beton, nephew of the murdered Cardinal and brother of the

* The ballad of "The Queen's Marie" is preserved in the *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, and was communicated by the accomplished antiquary Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe.

† *La Première Jeunesse de Marie Stuart*, Paris, 1891.

then Archbishop of Glasgow. He was a faithful friend and servant of the Queen; but Mary Seton had cherished from her earliest years, amid the monastic cloisters of Inchmahome, a pious inclination to retire from the world, when she could do so without seeming to desert her unfortunate sovereign, whose captivity she shared both in Scotland and in England.* Once on being pressed by her kind-hearted mistress to marry, she declared the secret of her life—that she was not free to do so, having made a vow of virginity. She would never admit an earthly bridegroom.

Finally, in September, 1583, she obtained the Queen's permission to retire from her service and fulfil her desire of entering a convent. She became a nun at Saint Pierre-aux-Dames in Rheims, of which house the Queen's aged aunt, Rénée de Lorraine, was abbess; and died there some time after 1615. I have had in my hands a letter, preserved in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, from Mary Seton to the Countess of Roxburgh, dated from Rheims, September, 1614. The most curious of the several existing memorials of Mary Seton is a Memento Mori Watch, now in the possession of the Dick-Lauder family. Their baronetcy goes back to 1670. Sir John Lauder, Bart., married Margaret, daughter of Sir Alexander Seton of Pitmedden, Bart., a Senator of the College of Justice by the title of Lord Pitmedden. James W. Benson, in his interesting little book on *Time and Time Tellers*, London, 1875, gives a picture of it and a description, part of which is as follows:

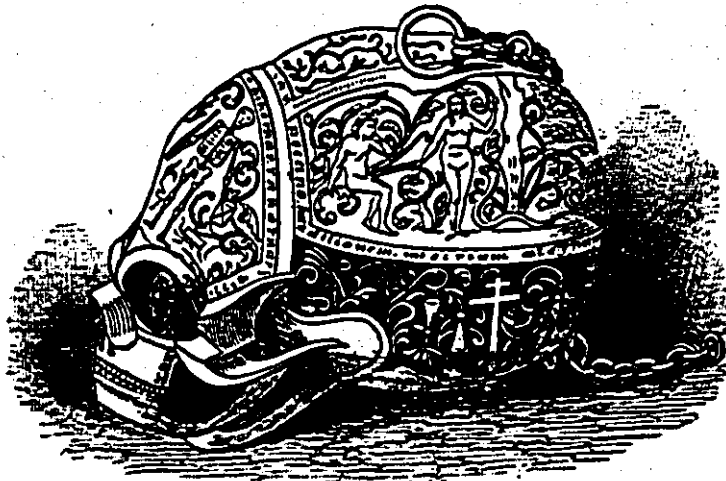
“ It was not an unusual thing for religious persons who used rosaries at their devotions, to add to their beads a miniature skull, with a view it may be to remind themselves of the frailty of life by way of stimulus to the preparation for the future state.

“ When watches were invented the Memento Mori death's head was made into a watch-case, as in the illustration. The Lauder family, of Grange and

* *In Ladies' Company: Six Interesting Women*, by Mrs. Fenwick Miller.

Fountain Hall, possess the Memento Mori Watch there engraved, they having inherited it from their ancestors, the Setoun family.

“ It was given by Queen Mary to Mary Setoun, of the House of Wintoun, one of the four Marys, maids of honour to the Scottish Queen. This very curious relic must have been intended to be placed on a prie-dieu, or small altar, in a private oratory ; for it is too heavy to have been carried in any way attached to the person. The watch is of the form of a skull ; on the forehead is the figure of Death, standing between a palace and a cottage ; around is this legend from Horace : ‘ Pallida mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas Regumque turres.’ On the hind part of the skull is a figure of Time, with another legend from Horace : ‘ Tempus edax rerum tuque invidiosa vetustas.’ The upper part of the skull bears representations of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and of the crucifixion, each with Latin legends ; and between these scenes is open-work, to let out the sound when the watch strikes the hours upon a small silver bell, which fills the hollow of the skull and receives the works within it when the watch is shut.”



MARY SETON'S WATCH.

marie de seton

AUTOGRAPH FROM HER WILL.

CHAPTER V.

A.D. 1585-1716.

ROBERT SETON, FIRST EARL OF WINTON. On the death of George, seventh Lord Seton, in 1585, he was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Robert, as eighth lord. Although his father left the estates heavily encumbered by reason of the great expense of several embassies and of his losses suffered by adhering to the Queen's party, yet by prudence and ability he was soon able to put his affairs in good condition and provide both sons and daughters with respectable fortunes. "He was very hospitable, and kept a noble house, the king and queen being frequently there, and all French and other ambassadors and strangers of quality were nobly entertained." * He was a favorite with the king, and was created Earl of Winton with solemnity and pomp of banners, standards, and pennons inscribed with loyal mottoes and quaint devices at Holyrood House, on the 16th of November, 1600. He was a great builder and a wise improver of his property, especially by working on the old harbor of Cockenzie, along the most rugged part of the Firth of Forth, a curious fishing village of great antiquity whose history is little known. It originally sheltered only small boats, but when improved by art accommodated vessels of a larger size. In January, 1599, the king granted him a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland concerning Cockenzie, which had pre-

* Lord Kingston's *Continuation of Maitland's History*, p. 59.

viously been erected into a "free port and burgh of barony." Adhering to the Catholic religion, the earl and his family suffered indignities from the Presbytery of Haddington, as may be seen by the Records. One entry reads thus:

"1597. Setoun Kirk. The Presbytery asked Lord Setoun if he will suffer them to sit in the Kirk of Setoun for the space of two or three days, because they are to 'gang about' all the churches within their bounds; but this his Lordship altogether refused."

I believe that Protestant worship has never been held in Seton Church, as after the family conformed they attended Tranent parish church, leaving their own church deserted, as it has remained ever since.*

In 1582 Lord Seton, as he then was, married Lady Margaret Montgomerie, oldest daughter of Hugh, third Earl of Eglinton, by whom he had five sons and a daughter:

1. Robert, second Earl of Winton.
2. George, third Earl of Winton.
3. Sir Alexander Seton of Foulstruther, who succeeded as sixth Earl of Eglinton, and in descent from whom is the present Earl of Eglinton and Winton, Lord Montgomerie, Ardrossan, Baron Seton and Tranent, etc.
4. Sir Thomas Seton of Olivestob.
5. Sir John Seton of St. Germain's.
6. Lady Isabel Seton.

The Earls of Eglinton derive their family name from a hill-fortress, called *Montgomerie*,† in the Diocese of Lisieux. Its lord ranked high among the nobles of Normandy. The first

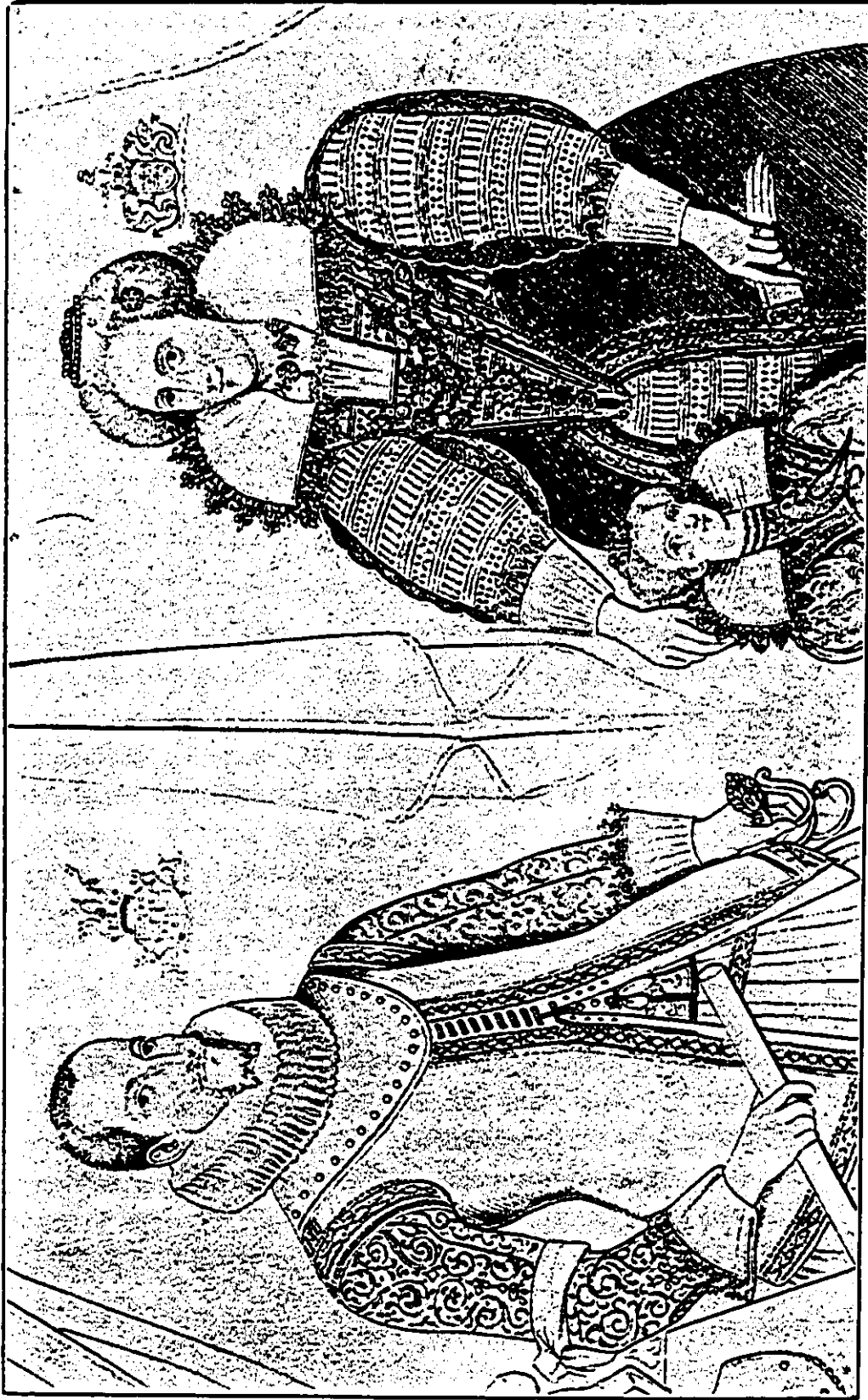
*The old parish of Seton, which remained intact until the Reformation, was thereafter annexed to the parish of Tranent.—MCNEILL: *Hist. of Tranent*, p. 15.

† Freeman says: "The name of this castle enjoys a peculiar privilege above all others in Norman geography. Other spots in Normandy have given their names to Norman houses, and these Norman houses have transferred those names to English castles and English towns and villages. But there is only one shire in Great Britain which has had the name of a Norman lordship impressed upon it forever."

who came to England was Roger de Montgomerie. He commanded the van of the army at the decisive battle of Hastings, and proudly styled himself "Northmannus Northmannorum." After the conquest he was made Earl of Shrewsbury, and given no fewer than fifty-seven lordships. His descendants have disappeared in England; but one of them, Robert de Montgomerie, during the movement of Normans into Scotland, in the twelfth century, obtained the Manor of Eaglesham, in Renfrewshire. It remained for two centuries the seat of the family, until John, the seventh Laird of Eaglesham, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh de Eglinton of that Ilk, and obtained through her, who was niece to King Robert II., the important Baronies of Eglinton and Ardrossan. These still abide in the family, and the former gave the title of Earl to the descendant of Sir Robert de Montgomerie in 1508. The male line of this family failed in 1611, when the honors and estates went to the last earl's nephew, third son of the first Earl of Winton. Sir Alexander Seton, who thus succeeded, was surnamed "Grey Steel," from his intrepid character and quickness to draw his sword. His succession to the great Earldom of Eglinton was hotly contested for a time; but it can be said of him, as of another and later Scotchman: "His spirit was so high that those who wished his death knew that his courage was like his charity, and never turned any man away." Sir Alexander Seton married Lady Ann Livingston, daughter of the first Earl of Linlithgow. Their fourth son, James, a colonel in the army, was founder of the Montgomeries of Coylsfield, one of whom succeeded as twelfth Earl of Eglinton. It is to them that Burns alludes in his beautiful poem, *The Vision*:

" There, where a sceptred *Pictish shade* *
Stalk'd round his ashes lowly laid,

* Coilus, or Coil, King of the Picts, lies buried—so tradition says—near the family seat of the Montgomeries of Coylsfield. Hence the name of their estate.



ROBERT SETON, FIRST EARL OF WINTON, LADY MARGARET MONTGOMERIE HIS WIFE, AND THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER, LADY ISABELLA SETON, COUNTESS SUCCESSIVELY OF PERTH AND OF BOTHWELL.

10. The following table shows the results of a survey of 100 people.

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	15	20	35
25-34	25	30	55
35-44	30	25	55
45-54	20	15	35
55-64	10	10	20
65+	5	5	10
Total	85	100	185

11. A company has 100 employees. The following table shows the distribution of employees by department and gender.

Department	Male	Female	Total
Marketing	15	20	35
Sales	25	30	55
Finance	30	25	55
Operations	20	15	35
Human Resources	10	10	20
IT	5	5	10
Total	85	100	185

12. A survey of 100 people found the following results:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	15	20	35
25-34	25	30	55
35-44	30	25	55
45-54	20	15	35
55-64	10	10	20
65+	5	5	10
Total	85	100	185

13. A survey of 100 people found the following results:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	15	20	35
25-34	25	30	55
35-44	30	25	55
45-54	20	15	35
55-64	10	10	20
65+	5	5	10
Total	85	100	185

14. A survey of 100 people found the following results:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	15	20	35
25-34	25	30	55
35-44	30	25	55
45-54	20	15	35
55-64	10	10	20
65+	5	5	10
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15. A survey of 100 people found the following results:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
18-24	15	20	35
25-34	25	30	55
35-44	30	25	55
45-54	20	15	35
55-64	10	10	20
65+	5	5	10
Total	85	100	185

I mark'd a martial race portray'd
 In colours strong ;
 Bold, soldier-featur'd, undismay'd
 They strode along."

Lady Isabel Seton was born 30th November, 1593, and married first, 19th April, 1608, James Drummond, first Earl of Perth, by whom she had one child, a daughter, who married the thirteenth Earl of Sutherland; secondly, 2d August, 1614, Francis Stewart, eldest son of the attainted Earl of Bothwell, by whom she had a daughter, Margarer, and a son, Charles Stewart, born in 1618, the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the dashing Cavalier in *Old Mortality*. Scot of Scotstarvet, always gloating over the ruin of a noble house, says that he was "a trooper in the Civil Wars." Only a private—but Sir Walter Scott, in a note on Sergeant Bothwell in his tale, says that "Captain Crichton, the friend of Dean Swift, who published his *Memoirs*, found him a private gentleman in the king's Life-Guards. At the same time, this was no degrading condition; for Fountainhall records a duel fought between a Life Guardsman and an officer in the Militia, because the latter had taken upon him to assume superior rank as an officer, to a gentleman-private in the Life-Guards." Francis Stewart was, in fact, third cousin to Charles II., whom he was serving. The first earl of the Stewart line received this title from James in 1587, "in consideration of his descent from the Hepburns, Earls of Bothwell." His mother, Lady Jane Hepburn, was the only daughter of Patrick, third earl.

Lady Perth was a woman of superior education and strength of character. She captivated the literary attention of the celebrated poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden, her husband's kinsman, and a friend of Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. He corresponded with her, and wrote an epitaph in verse for

the tomb of her first husband, who died at Seton, in his twentieth year, on December 18, 1611.

There are fortunately preserved at Dunse Castle, County Berwick, seat of a branch of the noble family of Hay, which represents, through female descent, the Setons, Viscounts Kingston, portraits of the first Earl of Winton, his Countess, and Lady Isabel or Isabella Seton, their only daughter. It was to this young girl that the Scottish poet, Alexander Montgomerie, addressed a laudatory sonnet in 1607. These portraits are supposed to be copies by Jameson, who has joined husband and wife, says Mr. Sharpe, from separate representations, very awkwardly, on one canvas. This is his opinion, but it is not certain.*

The bird on Lady Isabella's hand is a "Love-parrot," the *Psittacus Amazonicus* of authors, at that time a rare and expensive bird in Europe, and a favorite one with the children of nobles. It was highly prized for its mimic propensities; and I have no doubt that it was brought from South America by the same fellow—retiring to Port Seton after buccaneering on the Spanish Main—who gave the beautiful shell subsequently made into a silver-mounted snuffbox. The Earl of Winton died on the 22d of March, 1603, and by his Latter Will, dated 28th February, 1603, he ordains "My body to be buried whole in most humble, quiet, modest, and Christian manner without all extraordinary pomp or unlawful ceremony, within my College Church of Seton among my progenitors of worthy memory." I suspect that by the words *unlawful ceremony*, the staunch old Catholic nobleman wished to say that he didn't want any Protestant interference or Kirk rites about him after death, as he hadn't brooked them in life. He was buried on Tuesday, April 5th, on the same day that

* George Jameson, called by Walpole (*Anecdotes of Painting*) the Vandyck of Scotland, was born in 1586, and studied under Rubens at Antwerp in 1616.

King James the Sixth of Scotland set out from Edinburgh for London to become James First of England. And now a singular thing happened, the more so that the simple tastes of the late earl and his abhorrence of display at his funeral were suddenly upset. Patrick Frazer Tytler thus moralizes on the inauspicious occurrence in concluding his *History of Scotland*:

“ Yet, however pleased at this pacific termination of their long struggles, the feelings with which his ancient people beheld the departure of their prince, were of a melancholy nature ; and an event occurred on the same day on which he set out, that made a deep impression upon a nation naturally thoughtful and superstitious.

“ As the monarch passed the house of Seton, near Musselburgh, he was met by the funeral of Lord Seton, a nobleman of high rank ; which, with its solemn movement and sable trappings, occupied the road, and contrasted strangely and gloomily with the brilliant pageantry of the royal cavalcade. The Setons were one of the oldest and proudest families of Scotland ; and that lord, whose mortal remains now passed by, had been a faithful adherent of the king's mother : whose banner he had never deserted, and in whose cause he had suffered exile and proscription. The meeting was thought ominous by the people. It appeared, to their excited imaginations, as if the moment had arrived when the aristocracy of Scotland was about to merge in that of Great Britain ; as if the Scottish nobles had finished their career of national glory, and this last representative of their race had been arrested on his road to the grave, to bid farewell to the last of Scotland's kings. As the mourners moved slowly onward, the monarch himself, participating in these melancholy feelings, sat down by the way-side, on a stone still pointed out to the historical pilgrim ; nor did he resume his progress till the gloomy procession had completely disappeared.”

The “ Roundle ” (as it is called) at the foot of which the king sat down—the word is a term of military engineering, meaning a bastion of circular form—still exists ; although, unfortunately, it and the adjoining road were somewhat encroached upon when the North British Railway was constructed in 1845.

XXV. ROBERT, SECOND EARL OF WINTON. He was born in 1583, and married Ann Maitland, only daughter of John, Lord Thirlstane, Chancellor of Scotland, but by whom

he had no issue. In this disappointment he resigned his titles and estates to his younger brother George, and died, in a private station of life, in January, 1634.

XXVI. GEORGE, THIRD EARL OF WINTON. In 1620 he built the house of Winton from the foundation, which had been burned by the English of old, and restored the park, orchard, and gardens around it. It is supposed by some to have been designed and built by Wallace, who was appointed



THE ROUNDLE AT SETON.

King's Master-Mason for Scotland in 1617; but others ascribe it to the celebrated Inigo Jones. This "peculiar and beautiful structure," as Burton calls it, is but a few miles from Seton, and situated on a steep embankment sloping down to the valley of

the Tyne. Hunnewell (*Lands of Scott*) says that this "Jacobinian mansion" was the original of Ravenwood in the *Bride of Lammermoor*. There is, of course, a Ghost-room in the upper part of the house; but I saw nothing uncanny about it, twice that I was there. Another room, called the "King's Chamber," was occupied by Charles I. when he came to Scotland to be crowned in 1633. In 1630 Lord Winton built two quarters of the house of Seton, beginning at Wallace's tower, which was all burned by the English, and continued the building as far as Jacob's tower. Because the house had been burned three times by the English during the wars, and better times (as he thought) were now at hand, he caused to be carved on a fine stone tablet "upon the frontispiece of his new building" a crown supported by a thistle between two roses, being the cognizance of the two



WINTON HOUSE, HADDINGTONSHIRE.

