

He married a well-dowered heiress, Isabel, daughter to David Balfour of Cariston, in the County of Fife. The Balfours of Cariston are stated to have sprung from a younger son of Balfour *of that Ilk*, before its heiress brought that ancient heritage to the Bethunes, afterward Betons. A Balfour of Cariston is found living in 1476, and is mentioned in the records of the Parliament of Scotland in 1495.

I. JOHN SETON OF CARISTON. By his lucky marriage he had two sons: George, his heir, and John.

Sir John Seton, Captain in the Scots Guards in France, married a daughter of the Count de Bourbon, and had, besides a daughter, who married Adinston *of that Ilk*, an ancient Baron in East Lothian, a son, also named John, and likewise an officer in the Scots Guards, who, marrying a French lady, settled in France in his manor house of Coulonniers, near Meaux, leaving children, of whom "Jean de Seton" and Henry de Seton; Catherine de Seton, wife of Claude de Bertin de Relincourt, Knight; Angélique de Seton, and four other daughters, "professed nuns." Mr. George Seton obtained from the records in the National Library at Paris a copy of his last will and testament, which is dated 15th May, 1661, and has reproduced it, in the original and with an English translation, in his *Family of Seton*, II., pp. 982-987.

II. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Was born about 1554, and succeeded his father before 20th July, 1573. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Ayton *of that Ilk*, County Fife, by whom he had, with other issue, George, his successor. Ayton of Ayton is an old family that goes back to the twelfth century.

III. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1585, or earlier; married Cecilia, eldest daughter of David Kynynmond *of that Ilk*, County Fife, by his wife, Marion Seton, of the family of Parbroath. He had, with other issue, George, his successor, and Isabella, who married her kinsman, Sir George

Seton of Parbroath. The family of Kynynmond is traced back beyond "Eliseus de Kynynmond, *Dominus ejusdem*" in 1395. A Matthew Kynynmond was Bishop of Aberdeen in 1172, and a John de Kynynmond, Bishop of Brechin in 1304.

IV. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. He succeeded his father before 28th June, 1637, and "was a man of large stature and fine accomplishments." He declined the honor of knighthood, and was on terms of special intimacy with his kinsman, the second Earl of Dunfermline. He was out against the Covenanters at the battle of Bothwell Bridge.

By his wife Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Seton of Olivestob, he had, besides other issue, Christopher, his heir, and Alexander, an officer in General Dalyell's troop of horse at the battle of Pentland Hills. Married a daughter of Lindsay of Pitscandly, County Forfar, and had one child, who died young. He is probably the Captain Seton at whose house, still standing in the village of Kennoway, Archbishop Sharpe passed the night on the day before he was murdered by religious fanatics on Magus Muir, near St. Andrew's. George Seton died in 1688, aged sixty-six.

V. CHRISTOPHER SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1645. Was Lieutenant in a troop of horse. Married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Patrick Lindsay of Woolmerston, County Fife (ancestor of the present Earl of Lindsay), by whom he had, besides one daughter, Catharine, married to John Lindsay of Kirkforthar, two sons:

George, his heir, and Christopher, who, marrying Elizabeth, daughter of John Adair, Geographer Royal for Scotland, left, with other issue, William-Carden, born 1775, Colonel in the Army and Companion of the Bath. Commanded the Eighty-eighth Regiment at Badajos and Salamanca in the Peninsular War. Died 24th March, 1842, leaving, with other issue, a son Miles-Charles, an officer in the Eighty-fifth Regiment. Married, in 1841, the Hon. Mary-Ursula,

eldest daughter of the second Viscount Sidmouth, by whom he had, with other children, Bertram, born 1845, married 1869, Isabella-Mary, granddaughter of Sir Lawrence Cotter, Bart., and has a son Malcolm, born 1872, who was educated at Oxford, and passed for the Indian Civil Service. I had the pleasure of meeting these Setons at Ilfracombe, in England, in 1896.

Christopher Seton of Cariston died in 1718, in his seventy-third year.

VI. *GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON.* Married, first, Margaret, eldest daughter of David Boswell of Balmuto, by whom he had one son: George, his heir. He married, secondly, in 1722, Margaret, daughter of James Law of Brunton, County Fife, by whom he had Christopher, "a rare genius" who loved travel and adventure, and died at sea off the coast of Guinea in 1744; and James, who, engaging in the rebellion of '45, was wounded at Culloden, taken prisoner, and came near having the honor of being hanged at Carlisle like a Jacobite and a gentleman, but was saved through the influence of the Earl of Crawford with a German prince who had brought 6,000 Hessians to Scotland in the interest of the House of Hanover.

James Seton subsequently went to Holland, and was present, as an officer in the Dutch service, at the memorable siege of Bergen-op-Zoom in 1747. He died—according to the usual longevity of the Setons—in his eighty-eighth year, on 2d February, 1817.

George Seton of Cariston died 9th June, 1760, in the seventy-second year of his age.

VII. *GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON.* Married his cousin, Jean Seton, and had, with other issue, George, his heir, and Christopher, born 1754, an officer in the Fifty-fourth Regiment in 1776, with which he served through the American War. He also served in Flanders. William Cobbett, the

malignant Radical, had been a Sergeant in the Fifty-fourth, and in 1792 spitefully accused Lieutenant Seton, Lieutenant Hall, and Captain Powell of certain regimental irregularities, for which they were tried by court-martial, and the charges declared to be totally unfounded.

George Seton died 2d November, 1762.

VIII. GEORGE SETON OF CARISTON. Born in 1752. He was a poor manager, and was finally forced to part with his paternal estate, and sold Cariston about 1774. He was a Lieutenant in the Fiftieth Regiment and a Captain in the Seventy-eighth Highlanders, with which he served for a time in the East Indies; but falling ill, was obliged to return to Scotland and sell his commission. He died unmarried in 1797, when the representation of the family devolved first on his brother, Major Christopher Seton, and after his death on their sister Margaret, who married her kinsman, Henry Seton, and had a son George.

IX. GEORGE SETON. Born at Leven, 6th August, 1769, Commander in the Honorable East India Company's sea service. He was well educated, a skilful navigator, and an elegant draughtsman, whose adventurous spirit brought him to Amsterdam, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, India, Sumatra, Batavia, and China. He settled for some years at Penang. Afterward returned to Scotland and married, 12th of January, 1819, Margaret, daughter to James Hunter, Esq., of Seaside, County Perth, and died 21st June, 1815.*

Captain Seton left one son and two daughters.

X. GEORGE SETON, ESQ., Present Representative of Cariston. Born June 25, 1822, studied at Oxford, and took his degree; is a valued member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a member of the Royal Archers (Her

* I look back with inexpressible joy to the hospitable entertainment received forty years ago from this family and from others of the Seton kin, living near beautiful Perth.

Majesty's bodyguard beyond the Tweed), and a writer on several matters, one work from his pen being the best on the subject ever published—viz., *The Law and Practice of Heraldry in Scotland*. It is called an "admirable work" by no less an authority than the late Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster, in his own interesting *Reminiscences*.* Mr. Seton has travelled extensively, and in his own venerable figure exemplifies the proverbial tallness, dignified bearing, and longevity of the family. He married, 26th of September, 1849, Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of James Hunter, Esq., of Thurston, County Haddington, and by her, who died in 1883, had one son and three daughters.

GEORGE, who, after a good education, travelled abroad and resided for some time at Calcutta in India. Married, 2d November, 1895, Amy Geraldine, only daughter of the late Charles Moore, Esq., of Boston, U. S. A.

SETON OF PARBROATH.

The Setons of Parbroath are the earliest offshoot from the main trunk of our family tree. They are, therefore, the Senior cadets of the House of Winton, and are not least among the genealogical Juniors, although I have left them to the last.

Maitland rather quaintly heads his chapter on them in this manner: "*Of Ye First Cuming of Parbroath To The Setouns, And of The Successioun Yairof, as Follouis.*"

Sir Alexander Seton, who so valiantly defended Berwick Town against the English in the first half of the fourteenth century, had four lawful sons, two of whom, Thomas and William, suffered death by order of Edward III.; the third, called Alexander, succeeded his father; the fourth was named

* I have the honor to have received a copy of these *Reminiscences* from Sir Bernard's hands with this autograph inscription: "To Monsignor Seton, with the author's esteem and regard. Dublin Castle, 21 Sept. 1889."

John. Among other rewards that the Governor of Berwick received from his grateful king (David II.) was the gift of an heiress, to be bestowed on one of his sons. This lady was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Nicholas Ramsay of Parbroath, Knight, whom Alexander "gave in marriage to his son called John." Such a transaction looks singular and even outrageous to us, but it was quite natural in the Middle Ages, and was not productive of any great abuse.*

I. SIR JOHN SETON, First Baron of Parbroath. Parbroath is usually pronounced in Scotland Petbroad, and on Ainslie's Map of Fife, published in 1774, it is given as *Pitbroad*, which would seem to mean Broadland (see note ahead under Pitcairn), a term well applied to this portion of land, which forms a wide swale. John, fourth and youngest, but second surviving son of Alexander Seton of Seton, married, as said, some time after 1333, Elizabeth Ramsay, Heiress of Parbroath. In the fourteenth century there were several cadets of the House of Dalhousie settled in Fifeshire. The Ramsays are a renowned Scotch family, and "the first person of distinction who bore the name in Scotland was the Sir William Ramsay whose noble and warlike character is eulogized by Fordun. He was the friend of Robert Bruce, by whose side he fought throughout the War of Independence, and was one of the nobles who subscribed the celebrated Memorial to the Pope, in 1320, vindicating the rights and liberties of their country." † The head of the family is the Earl of Dalhousie (creation 1633).

Sir John lived very happily with his wife, by whom, as a

* Among the casualties of superiority—as they were termed in the Scotch feudal law—was the right of disposing in marriage of the only daughter of a tenant *in capite*, who, at her father's death, became a ward of the king; hence an heiress was a positive prize to the feudal superior. He had the "casualty" of her marriage when he gave his consent to it, and to marry her without the royal assent was a much more serious thing than to elope, in this age, with a ward in Chancery.

† Taylor: *Great Historic Families*, I., 309.

woman could not perform a knight's service, he became, *jure uxoris*, one of the Lesser (sometimes called Minor) Barons of Scotland.

Baronies were held directly of the king, and their attendant rights and privileges included *sac* and *soc*, *tol* and *tehm*, *infang-thef*, and *pit* and *gallows*. I have explained the meaning of these words in an early note, but Warden's *Angus, or Forfarshire*, II., 283, does so, perhaps, more clearly, saying: "These feudal terms signify the right of holding courts, deciding pleas, imposing fines, taking tolls upon the sale of goods; and punishing equally the thief caught with the stolen property, or the homicide taken 'red hand' within the boundary of the manor."

II. ALEXANDER SETON, Second Baron of Parbroath. He succeeded his father, Sir John, and married Mary Vipont, who belonged to a very ancient and distinguished Anglo-Norman family—called in charters *de Veteri Ponte*—now extinct. They were brave and warlike. The Norman name was *Vieux-Pont*, a great baronial name, taken from Vieux Pont-en-Auge, near Caen. William fought at Hastings, and rose to importance in England, holding at an early period the extensive Barony of Westmoreland, which eventually passed to the Cliffords through the marriage of Roger de Clifford with Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of Robert de Vipont, lord and hereditary sheriff of that extensive county. A branch of the family was established in Scotland at an early date, the first of the family to hold lands beyond the Tweed being *William de Veteriponte*, who flourished in the middle of the twelfth century, and had the greatest part of the Manor of Langton, in Berwickshire.

About the period of this matrimonial alliance, Alan de Vipont, a Scottish patriot, held Lochleven Castle for King David Bruce.* Sir Walter Scott has made a member of the

* *History of Lochleven Castle*, p. 23, by Robert Burns-Begg.

family the hero of one of his matchless tales, and James Grant has made Roland Vipont the last of his noble race in the story of *Jane Seton*.

III. SIR GILBERT SETON, Third Baron of Parbroath. He succeeded to Sir Alexander, his father. Married Marion, daughter of Pitcairn *of that Ilk*.

Pitcairn is an old Fifeshire family; but it never rose to territorial importance. A *Johannes de Pitcairn* figures as early as 1250. The name is derived, perhaps, from those singular Druidical stones which are often the companions of the chambered Cairns, and of the underground edifices called Picts' Houses, for which, see Burton, *History of Scotland*, I., pp. 99 and 137. The old form of *Pit*, or *Pitten*, means a portion of land or a small holding, and is sometimes connected with Gaelic specific terms, so that Pitcairn might signify rather the Land of the Cairn than the Picts' Cairn.* There have been men of this name in science, literature, and civil employment. The "great man" of the family is Robert Pitcairn, Commendator of Dunfermline, son of David Pitcairn *of that Ilk*. He was born about 1530, bred to the Church, and preferred to the rich *commendam* of Dunfermline; but he remained a layman, and married. Appointed an ordinary Lord of Sessions on June 23, 1568, he frequently visited England on the affairs of his party. Died on October 18, 1584, and was buried at Dunfermline, where a monument bearing a Latin inscription was erected to his memory.

Others of the family were authors of works esteemed in their day, and Dr. Archibald Pitcairn, in 1700, was "one of the most conspicuous persons of his time in Scotland—one of the few, moreover, known out of his own country, or destined to be remembered in a future age." † Major (John) Pitcairn was the only British officer always accounted fair in his deal-

* Skene: *Four Ancient Books of Wales*, I., 157.

† Chambers: *Domestic Annals*, III., 223.

ings with the people of Boston in their altercations with the king's troops, yet he bore the stigma of Lexington, and was killed at Bunker Hill. The name is, perhaps, now best remembered in connection with that romantic island in the Pacific Ocean discovered by Carteret in 1767 and named for one of his officers, and since associated with the mutineers of the "Bounty."

Sir Gilbert Seton had five sons by his wife, Marion Pitcairn: 1. Sir Alexander, of whom hereafter. 2. William, whose son, also called William, married Catharine Butler, Heiress of Rungavie, and gave rise to the short-lived Setons of *Rungavie*, of whom William was killed at the battle of Pinkie in September, 1547, leaving by Catharine Auchmuty, his wife, a son and heir named David. 3. John, of whom also hereafter. 4. Gilbert, "a Master clerk," a priest and scholar, who died in Rome. 5. David, a priest. This last one, called "Master David," was a strong character. He was Rector of Fettercairn and Balhelny, an important and lucrative position in the Church at that time. He studied at the University of Paris, where he took his degree of Doctor of the Civil and Canon Law, which was an academic honor infinitely rarer then than now, and in Scotland particularly. His name turns up frequently in the public records; for instance, as a witness to an instrument of resignation, on April 14, 1497, and again to a charter of confirmation to the Abbey of Lindores given at Perth on November 9, 1500.* He was a frank, energetic man, very large and tall, and much esteemed by King James III. He lived to be over eighty. Sir Richard Maitland gives a graphic account of the old priest's wit, pugnacity, and devotion to his family chief, for whom he was one of the legal advisers, on a certain occasion when King James IV. came to the Council House at Edinburgh, to hear a case tried against the then Lord Seton, in which he was per-

* Laing: *Lindores Abbey and the Burgh of Newburgh*, p. 486.

sonally interested. The royal advocates—Richard Lawson, Justice Clerk, and his assistant, James Henryson (Henderson)—emboldened by the king's presence, assumed an insolent tone and laid down the law with unbearable presumption. Then the Reverend Doctor stood up and said in a loud voice, playing on his opponent's vulgar name: "Howbeit they call you *Law-s-son*, you are not *Law-s-father*, to make laws at your pleasure." Then turning to the King, he said: "Sir, when our ancestors got that land from your most noble predecessors for their true service—sometimes giving the blood of their body and sometimes their lives in defence of this realm; at that time there was neither Lawson nor Henryson who would find ways to disinherit the Barons of Scotland." The King's Grace then answered Master David saying: "How now, you forget yourself; you remember not where you are; you are more like a champion than an advocate; it looks as though you would fight for the matter." Then up spoke Master David and said: "Sir, and it might stand with your Grace's pleasure, I pray God if it come to that, to see if both Lawson and Henryson dare fight with me, in that quarrel, old as I am": (for he was then more than sixty). The King, who was a humane prince, considering the man's age and his great affection for his Chief, smiled and laughed a little and said no more. With all his bluffness, David was a whole-souled priest, and made himself a general favorite, as we can well imagine from what Sir Richard Maitland says of him: "He was a singularly honest man, and married all his eldest brother's daughters, after his decease, on landed men and paid their doweries, and got ladies of heritage for his brother's sons." * Bless his memory.

IV. SIR ALEXANDER SETON, Fourth Baron of Parbroath. Sir Alexander succeeded his father. He was troubled during several years—1496 to 1503—about a land dispute with

* *Historic*, p. 25.

Michael Balfour of Burleigh. Lord Glamys, Justiciar of Scotland, chose him for one of his seven counsellors in the controversy between the Abbey of Lindores and the Burgesses of Newburgh, which was decided and recorded in a document at Lindores, on January 15, 1493, of which David Seton, Rector of Fettercairn, was one of the witnesses.

He married Helen, daughter of a great Highland chief—Sir William Murray of Tullibardine—and had a son Alexander, who died before his father, and other sons and daughters, whose names are not recorded, but who were all well settled in life by their provident uncle, Master David Seton. The Parbroaths must have been people of superior substance and consideration at this time, to have contracted so great an alliance. Dame Helen's mother was Margaret, daughter to Sir John Stewart, son of the Black Knight of Lorn, who was created Earl of Athole in 1457. The Murrays were a very ancient and very eminent family. Their founder settled in Scotland in the reign of David I., and got extensive possessions in Moray, from which he took the name *De Moravia, Moray, Murray*. Sir William de Moravia acquired the lands of Tullibardine with his wife Adda, daughter to Malise, Seneschal of Strathern, as appears by charters of A.D. 1282 and 1284. His descendant is the Duke of Athole, who has more titles than any other nobleman in Great Britain, besides inheriting half a dozen co-heirships to old English baronies. His eldest son bears the courtesy title of Marquess of Tullibardine.

Younger branches of the family received the peerages of Dunmore, Mansfield, and Elibank, and the baronetcies of Blackbarony, Clermont, and Ochtertyre.

V. ALEXANDER SETON, Younger, of Parbroath. Not much is known of him except that he was alive on the 10th of March, 1512, but must have died soon after, and only a little before his father. He also made a powerful alliance,

marrying Catharine, daughter of Patrick, fourth Lord Lindsay of the Byres, and Isabella, daughter to Pitcairn *of that Ilk*, his wife, by whom he left three sons: John, Andrew, and David, and a daughter named Janet.

There were several considerable families of Lindsay in England in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the surname being first assumed by the proprietor of the lands or manor of Lindsay, County Essex, who was probably of Norman origin. One of the knights of this family, following so many other successful adventurers, migrated farther north, and founded the illustrious House of Lindsay in Scotland. The head of the family is Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, County Fife. The Lords Lindsay of the Byres (now represented by the Earl of Lindsay) spring from Sir William Lindsay, third son of Sir David Lindsay of Crawford, who obtained from King David II. the Barony of Byres in East Lothian.

VI. JOHN SETON, Fifth Baron of Parbroath. John succeeded his grandfather, and on July 28, 1512, obtained a very honorable and advantageous renewal charter of the lands and Barony of Parbroath from King James IV. He lived to enjoy his estate only a few months, dying unmarried, on Flodden Field, beside his chief, the fifth Lord Seton, on September 9, 1513. Tytler the historian says (V., 67) of this tremendous day:

“The names of the gentry who fell are too numerous for recapitulation, since there were few families of note in Scotland which did not lose one relative or another, whilst some houses had to weep the death of all.”

I spent a day about Flodden in August, 1889; and nothing can be conceived more affecting to an American of Scottish ancestry than to wander among the ruins of Norham Castle, walk over the Bridge of Twizel, drink of Sybil Grey's fountain, and view the Trysting Stone near which the king made a last stand with the remnants of his dismounted chivalry:

No one failed him ! He is keeping
 Royal State and semblance still ;
 Knight and Noble lie around him,
 Cold on Flodden's fatal hill.

—AYTOUN.

VII. ANDREW SETON, Sixth Baron of Parbroath. Andrew Seton succeeded his elder brother, killed at Flodden.

He figured with his brother David in the Privy Seal Register on 15th December, 1526, and again on 10th March, 1529–1530, and upward of twenty years later (25th February, 1552–1553) he appears in the Register of Acts and Decree's, always about some dispute of property or trouble between political parties.

Andrew Seton married a daughter, whose name, unfortunately, is not stated, of Balfour, Laird of Burleigh, now represented in the Peerage by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. The Barony of Balfour, in Fife, gave name to an ancient family long heritable proprietors of the place. The lands of Burleigh were acquired by Sir John Balfour of Balgarvie, Kt., and erected for him into a free barony, *temp.* James II., in 1445–1446. Sir Michael Balfour of Burleigh, an eminent diplomat, was created Lord Balfour of Burleigh on 7th August, 1606. His descendant, Robert, Master of Burleigh, was attainted for his part in the Rebellion of 1715, and died *s. p.* in 1757; but the attainder was reversed by act of Parliament in 1869, and the title awarded to the great-grandson of his sister Mary, who married General Alexander Bruce of Kennet.

By this marriage Andrew Seton had a son Gilbert, who succeeded him, and two daughters, Margaret and Christian. Margaret married Thomas Lumsden of Airdrie about January, 1549.

The estate of Airdrie was purchased in 1409 by John Lummysden of Glengyruoch (Gleghorn), who in 1450 assumed the designation of "Airdrie." It was alienated

from the family in 1607. The Lumsdens *of that Ilk* first settled in Berwickshire; and Thomas de Lumsden, a cadet of the family, moved into Fife previous to 1353, having received grants of land there from Earl Duncan.

Christian married David Pitcairn, son and heir of Pitcairn of Forthir, and was his widow before 1st February, 1553–1554, as established by an entry in the Register of Acts and Decrets.

Andrew Seton was engaged in the difficult and gallant capture of Broughty Castle from the English on the 23d June, 1549.

VIII. GILBERT SETON, Younger, of Parbroath. Gilbert Seton died before his father, being killed at the disastrous battle of Pinkie in 1547. He married Helen Leslie, daughter to the fourth Earl of Rothes, by whom he left a son David and two daughters, Marion and Janet.

The Leslies were a very ancient and noble family, which deduces its descent from Bartholomew De Leslyn, who settled in Aberdeenshire *temp.* William I. The sixth in succession from the Founder obtained the Barony of Rothes by marriage with Mary, daughter and co-heir of Sir Alexander Abernethy of Abernethy. His descendant, George Leslie, was created before March 20, 1457, Earl of Rothes. Gilbert Seton's daughter Marion married David Kynnynmond *of that Ilk* and Craighall, County Fife; and their oldest daughter, Cecilia, married, in 1620, George Seton, third of Cariston. Of his other daughter, Janet, it is known that there was a contract of marriage dated April 30, 1567, with James Hamilton of Samuelston, who was descended from James Hamilton, first Earl of Arran.

IX. SIR DAVID SETON, Seventh Baron of Parbroath. David was served heir to his grandfather, Andrew Seton, in 1563. He was at one period in danger of his life or liberty, and, for a time at least, his estate was escheated to the

crown; but he received a pardon, and was restored on April 2, 1573.

His offence consisted in assisting and participating with Châtellerauld, Huntly, Kirkealdy of Grange, and others in "fortifying and detaining the castle and burgh of Edinburgh against the King and his Regent."

At Holyrood House, on March 16, 1587-1588, a letter was granted, with consent of Sir John Seton of Barnes, Keeper of the Rolls, to David Seton of Parbroath, appointing him Ranger of the East and West Lomonds of Falkland. These are two beautiful conical hills, appertaining then to the royal domain in Fifeshire. They both rise but little less than two thousand feet, and are visible at a considerable distance. By what influence or for what service he received this profitable position is not known; but he must have been a man of parts and of great integrity, for he filled the important office of Comptroller of the Scottish Revenue from 1589 to 1595. In the Manuscript Department of the British Museum I was shown fifteen Seton headings in the index to letters and papers, and the originals were put in my hands.*

I have examined there a curious "Audit of Accounts of Sir John Maitland of Thirlestane, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, of moneys expended in 1589, 1590, on the visit of James VI. to Norway and Denmark, on the occasion of his marriage, dated in Mar. 1593 (4); with signatures." I saw the autograph "Parbrothe Controller" [*sic*] five times. In another document the Comptroller signs himself simply "Parbroth," because Lairds, as the lesser barons were denominated—the greater ones being Lords—belonging as they did to the higher gentry, and possessing a tract of land with tower, castle, or mansion on it, called a Lairdship and held *in capite* of the Crown, were frequently known not by their family

* The affability of British officials is proverbial, and they always seem to redouble their pains to oblige Americans.

names, but by that of their estates—a style, now at least, peculiar to Scotland and derived originally from France. Peers always sign by their titles. But all peerages are founded on a barony; hence, even in modern times no one is created a peer, no matter by what higher title, without an inferior one of baron being annexed to it—and all baronies were originally the estate of the peer.

Such things as abstract baronies—making a man baron of a place where he does not hold an acre of land—are modern inventions.

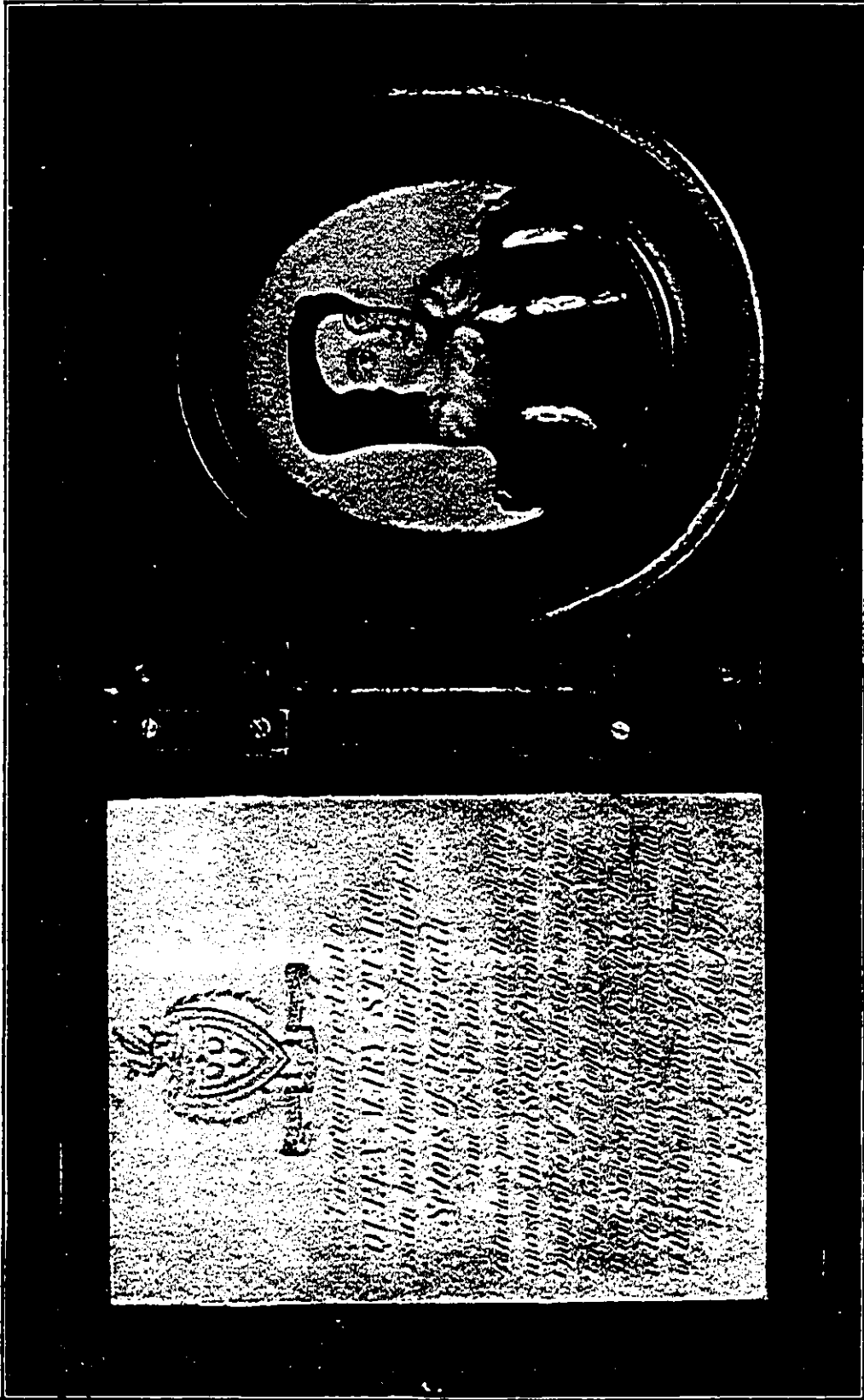
Sir David is mentioned for the last time (Register of Acts and Decrees) on 7th February, 1592–1593. He died on the 24th November, 1601. His son Robert was “Executor-dative Surrogate” of his will. He was the most distinguished man of the Setons of Parbroath, and raised his family to a high degree of prosperity, from which it almost immediately and unaccountably fell.

Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet* says of him: “David Seton of Parbroath, was comptroller in Queen Mary’s time, but his son disposed the whole lands, and they are now in the possession of the Earl of Crawford; so that the memory of that family is extinguished, albeit, it was very numerous, and brave men descended thereof.”

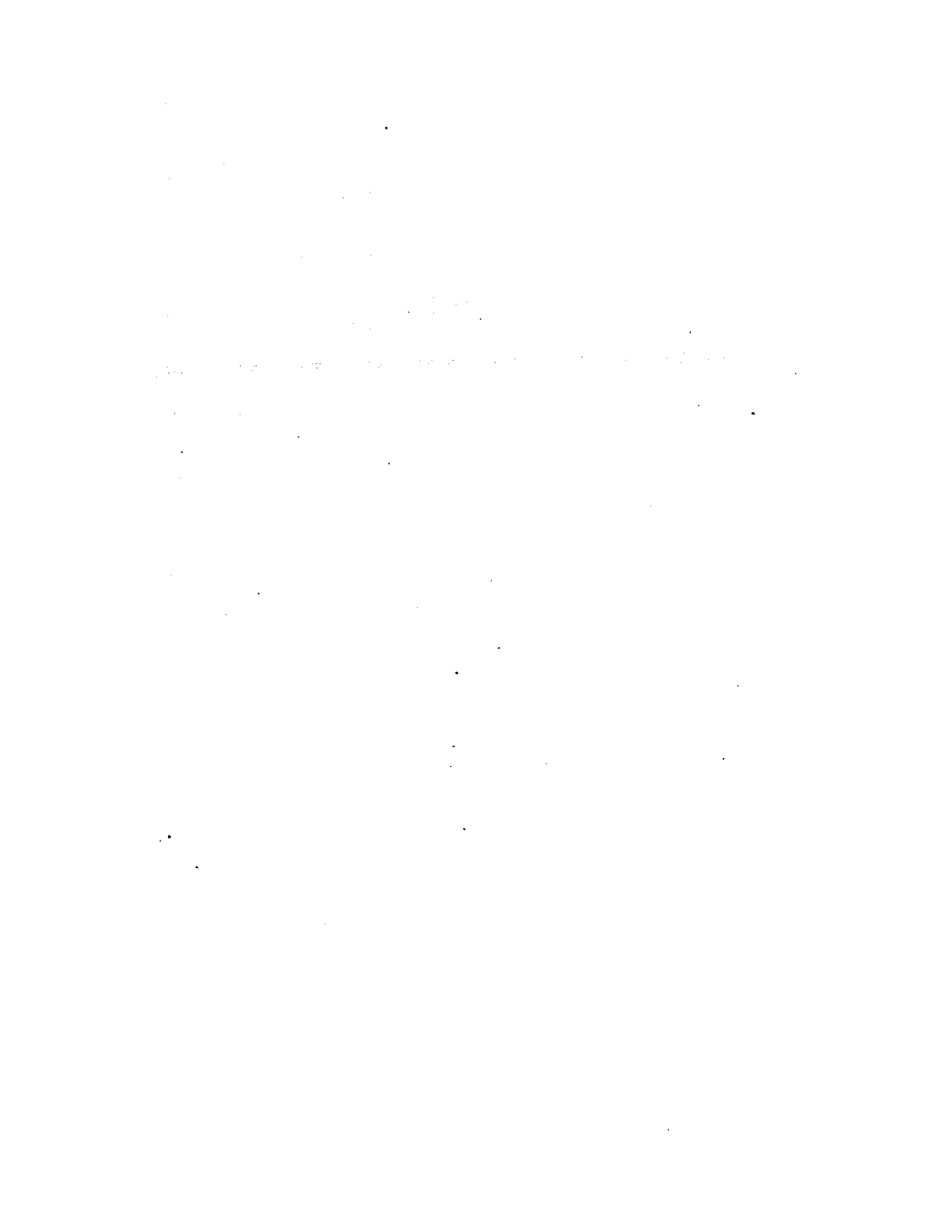
He was Comptroller in King James’s time, but seems to have been a faithful servant of that monarch’s mother. The most precious heirloom in the family which represents Parbroath is a small portrait of Mary Stuart, of which my friend Mr. Laurence Hutton writes:

“An interesting miniature of the Scottish Queen is now in America. As it has never been engraved or publicly exhibited it is little known to collectors. It represents her at half length. The dress is black, trimmed around the neck, arms and upon the bosom with eider-down. Between the large ruff of the down about her neck and the neck itself, is a fine, upright collar of stiff lace. On the head and falling back over the neck is a black

* *Staggering State of Scottish Statesmen*: Comptrollers, †



THE SETON MINIATURE OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.



SETON MINIATURE OF QUEEN OF SCOTS. 195

velvet coif. The hair is what is called 'Titian gold.' The background of the picture is dark blue, and contains the legend 'Maria . Regina . Scotorum.' In the case of polished wood which holds it is a gold plate with the following inscription : ' This original portrait of Queen Mary Stuart is an heirloom in the family of the Setons of Parbroath—now of New York—into whose possession it came through their ancestor, David Seton of Parbroath, who was Comptroller of the Scottish Revenue from 1589 to 1595, and a loyal adherent of his unfortunate Sovereign. It was brought to America in 1763 by William Seton, Esquire, representative of the Parbroath branch of the ancient and illustrious family of the forfeited Earls of Winton.' There is a tradition that this picture was the gift of the Queen to her faithful servant, David Seton, who, although a member of the Kirk of Scotland, was never counted among her personal foes. A copy of it was presented by the late William Seton in 1855 to Prince Labanoff,* who believed it to be from life, and surmised that it was taken during her captivity. The face is beautiful but no longer young." †

Sir David Seton of Parbroath married Mary, daughter of Patrick, sixth Lord Gray of Broxmouth, by his wife Mary, daughter to Robert Stewart, Earl of Orkney. The family of Gray was ancient, and has played a part at different periods of Scottish history. The first to settle in Scotland, in the time of William the Lion, was a younger son of Gray of Chillingham, a Norman family established in the North of England. A priest of the name, (Sir) Thomas Gray, is intimately connected with the patriot Wallace as companion, friend, and biographer. Sir Andrew Gray had charters of Broxmouth from King Robert Bruce, early in the fourteenth century. His descendant, Andrew Gray, was raised to the peerage in 1444. The title became merged in 1878 in that of Moray, by the marriage in 1763 of Jane, daughter of the eleventh Lord Gray, with Francis, ninth Earl of Moray. By this marriage Sir David Seton had six sons and three daughters:

1. George, his successor.

* Prince Alexander Labanoff de Rostoff was devoted to the memory of Queen Mary Stuart. He published in 1844 a very valuable work in eight volumes: *Lettres, Instructions et Mémoires de Marie Stuart Reine d'Écosse*, a copy of which he gave to my father.

† Essay on " The Portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots."

2. Andrew, witness to a royal charter dated at Edinburgh, 1598.

3. Robert, witness to a charter granted by his father, and "dated at Parbroithe, 9th May 1601."

4. William, mentioned in a charter "confirmed at Holyrood house, 2d December 1602."

5. David, mentioned in the Privy Seal Register in 1581. He possessed the lands of Kinglass in November, 1633; married Jane Kinninmonth, and had two children, David and Jean. He was called Captain David Seton, and is last heard of in 1646.

6. John, went from London to Virginia on August 7, 1635. Probably died without issue or moved to some other part of the world, for he cannot be traced in the Colonies.

1. Margaret, married Sir John Scrymgeour of Dudhope, who was created a Viscount in 1641. Their grandson became Earl of Dundee. Sir John Scrymgeour was made Hereditary Standard Bearer of Scotland by Charles I., an honor now held by the descendant of this marriage, Scrymgeour-Wedderburn of Wedderburn and Birkhill. Of the three daughters of Sir John Scrymgeour and Margaret Seton of Parbroath—

A. Magdalen, the eldest, married Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum. Their son refused the Earldom of Aberdeen, offered by King Charles II.

B. Jean, married Sir Thomas Thompson of *Duddingston*, who received a baronetcy (now extinct) in 1636.

C. Mary, married Sir James Haliburton.

2. Mary, married David Skene of Potterton, now represented by Skene of *Rubislaw*. The family of Skene is one of antiquity in Aberdeenshire, where it always maintained the rank of free barons, and takes its name from the castle of Skene, which they owned in the thirteenth century. The

name itself of *Skene* means a kind of short dagger, in use among the Highlanders of Scotland.

3. Elizabeth, mentioned in a charter by which her father provides for her support.

X. SIR GEORGE SETON, Eighth and Last Baron of Parbroath. His seal, from the Glammis Charters of the year 1601, is given by Mr. Laing in his *Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals*, and will be referred to in the chapter on the Heraldry of the Setons. Seven years later he occupied premises in the Rectory of Dysart, a parish in Fifeshire, on the Firth of Forth, whence it may be inferred, not that he had already sold Parbroath, but that he could not keep it up. Yet by what disaster or on what occasion he fell from his comparatively high estate is absolutely unknown. The property was extensive, and some idea of its value can be got from a charter dated at Parbroath, the 9th of May, 1601, and confirmed by the king at Edinburgh on 26th day of June, same year, in which "the lands and Barony of Parbroath" are described as consisting of the "manor and mains of Parbroath, lands of Landisfern, with the mill, annualment of £6 from the lands of Ramsay-Forthir; lands of Urquharts, namely Easter, Middle and Loppie Urquharts; lands of Kingask, with the manor; lands of Lillok, in the shire of Fife; lands of Haystoun and Scroggarfield, in the shire of Forfar; with castles, manors, parks, forests, fishing, etc., the teinds and advocacy of the rectorage and vicarage of the parish church of Creich, in Fife, united to the said barony."

George Seton married twice. His first wife was Jean Sinclair, daughter of Henry, third Lord Sinclair, by whom he had issue; but nothing special is known of the children, who were living with their mother at Dysart in 1609. They must have died young. His second wife was Isabella, daughter of George Seton of Cariston, great-grandson of the sixth Lord Seton, by whom he had two sons: James, who died in

Spain, unmarried, and Robert, who is last heard of near Hawick in Roxburghshire, where he married the daughter of a gentleman of the neighborhood—her name unknown—and had a son called James, of whom hereafter.

The Barony of Parbroath had been in the family for three hundred years, but the estate was sold to the Lindsays before 1633, because in that year one of them was created Earl of Lindsay and Lord Parbroath. It now belongs to the Hopes. It was situated on the north side of the County of Fife, and in the Parish of Creich. Sir Robert Sibbald refers, in his *History of Fife and Kinross*, published in 1710, to the "ruins of the house of Parbroath, the dwelling of a gentleman of the name of Seton, descended from the brave governor of Berwick"; and the following reference to the ancient mansion is found in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland* (IX., 645):

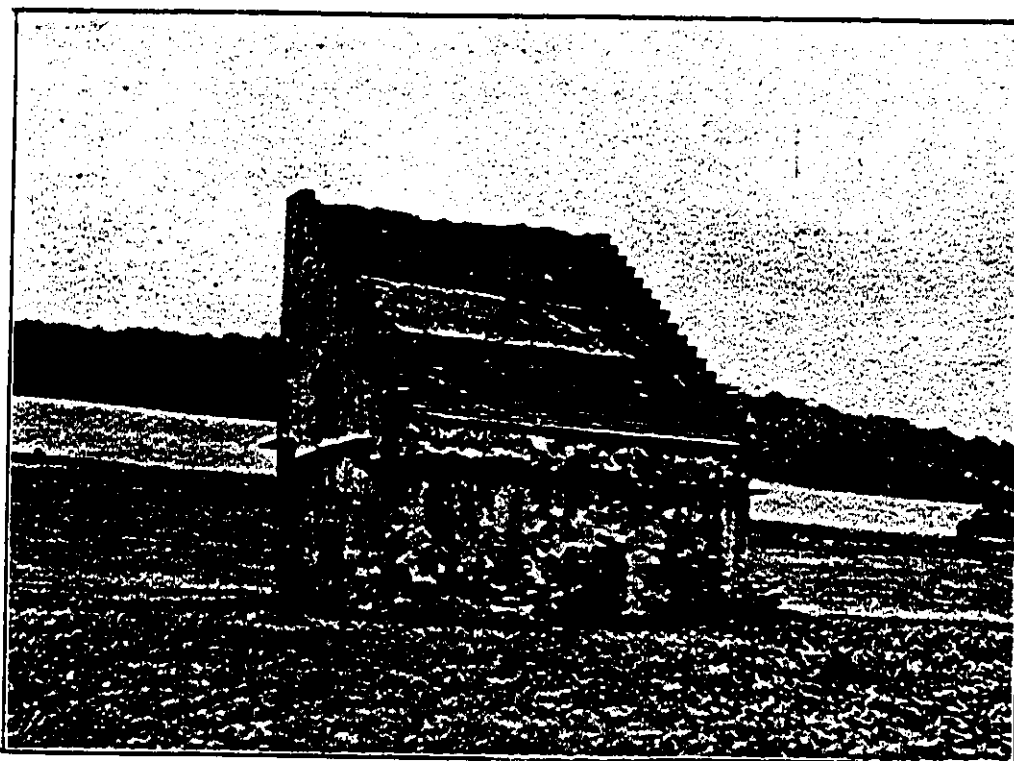
"Of this house or castle, which belonged to the family of Seton, nothing now remains to mark the site save part of an arch, surrounded by a few old trees, which has been carefully preserved by desire of the late Earl of Hopetoun. It stands near to the place where the road between the Forth and Tay ferries crosses the road from Cupar to Newburgh. The house is said to have been surrounded by a moat, over which there was a drawbridge, and the park in which they were situated is still called the Castlefield. There is a tradition that one of the late farm-buildings at Parbroath, which was long used as a barn, had at one time been a chapel, and that at it, and the Church of Creich, divine service was performed on alternate Sabbaths. In confirmation of a chapel having been here, it may be stated that, a few years ago, when the foundation of a wall was dug up close by the site of the old barn, some graves were discovered, which probably formed part of the burying-ground connected with the chapel."

The situation of Parbroath, four miles and a half from Cupar, is in a tract of valley land enclosed by high and beautifully rounded hills. The present road runs right through this valley and the Parbroath farm of four hundred and twenty acres, but the old one ran across the hills behind it. The fragment of an arch now stands in a large cultivated field, a square of about fourteen acres. A short distance beyond it is



CLUMP OF TREES AND BROKEN ARCH AT PARBROATHIL.

a deserted dovecote, and a little farther on is a picturesque knoll surrounded by a clump of trees. These large, square, and towerlike Dovecotes, or *Dookits*, as they are locally called, with their slanting roofs and crow-step gables, are a peculiarity of Scottish Lairdships, and particularly common in Fifeshire. I imagine that they are an importation from France originally, where the *Droit du Colombier*, especially that kind, as at



OLD ABANDONED "DOOKIT" AT PARBROATH.

Parbroath, which Taine (*Ancien Régime*) calls "grand Colombier à pied," was a feudal right of the baron. No one, however, could raise a dookit by Scotch law, unless he cultivated a considerable amount of land around it. Perhaps it was one of these trees still remaining that furnished the plain round snuffbox, lead-lined, and having a slender silver rim running around the lower edge of the cover, which belonged to John Seton, father of William Seton of New York, and which has

an inscription on the inside, saying that it "is made out of a piece of wood cut from a favorite tree that stood near the ancient castellated mansion of the Setons of Parbroath." On my visit to this place I saw some bits of old wall and a stone-faced dyke; and behind the farm-house, built in 1806, some parts of an old building once a chapel, but now used as a barn. A sun-dial and a mitred figure—the bust only—are set on the gable end near a chimney. They were dug up here some years ago. An eminence on the other side of the lane leading from the public road to the farm-house is still called Hawk Hill, reminding the visitor that the sport of hawking or falconry was one of the most fascinating of feudal pastimes among the higher classes. Many agates which take a fine polish strew the ground, one of which—larger than the rest—the obliging tenant-farmer, Mr. Russell, picked up and gave me. I had it polished, mounted, and inscribed on my return to New York. At different times (besides the graves near the chapel mentioned in the extract from the *New Statistical Account*), cists, urns, and calcined bones—some of them having been enclosed in thin cairns or tumuli—have been dug up at Parbroath, and would seem to indicate that there was an early Pictish settlement there. The word "Creich," which gave its name to the parish, comes from the Gaelic *Craigich*, meaning rocky or craggy ground, a description applicable to some parts of Parbroath. The present farm is only a small portion of the original estate.

SETON OF LATHRISK.

This was an offshoot of Parbroath. JOHN, third son of Sir Gilbert Seton, third Baron of Parbroath, and of Marion Pitcairn, his wife, married Janet, daughter and heiress to Lathrisk of *that Ilk*, in the County of Fife, and was ancestor of the Setons of Lathrisk and Balbirnie. About the year 1180

there is mention "of the church of Losresch in Fife," which appears to be the modern Lathrisk. This is the earliest notice of the *place*. As a family name—taken by some adventurous knight who received land there—it first appears in Ragman Rolls, where we find William of Latheresk (Lathrisk) swearing fealty to Edward I. in the Parliament held by him at Berwick in 1296. Sir Robert Sibbald, the historian of Fife, writes of "Lathrisk, an old house with gardens and enclosures, the seat of Mr. Patrick Seton, a cadet of the Earls of Winton: a predecessor of his got these lands by marrying the heiress of the same name with the lands." *Lathrisk* was pronounced *Larisse*.

John Seton of Lathrisk first appears in a charter given to him on 10th of August, 1511, of certain lands in the Barony of Lathrisk and Sheriffdom of Fife.

II. JOHN SETON OF LATHRISK. In the lifetime of his parents (John Seton and Janet Lathrisk) he had a charter from King James IV., dated at Edinburgh, 11th April, 1495, of the lands of Wester Lathrisk. He married Janet Auchmuty. She belonged to an old Fifeshire family, Auchmuties of *that Ilk* being traced back to "Florentine Auchmuty *de eodem*, who flourished in 1334." By her he had John, his successor. Christopher, a priest and vicar of Strathmiglo in 1551. Elizabeth, married before 1564 to James Spens of Lathallan, of an ancient family immortalized in the grand old ballad of "Sir Patrick Spens" and a terrible shipwreck, which ends with the lines:

"Half over, half over to Aberdour,
"Tis fifty fathoms deep.
And there lies good Sir Patrick Spens;
With the Scots Lords at his feet!"

William Spens of Lathallan married, before 1385, Isabel, daughter and heiress of Duncan Campbell of Glendouglas. Several of the family served in the Scots Guards in France.

I believe that the last of the family was a gallant young officer killed a few years ago at Cabul during the campaign of Lord Roberts in Afghanistan.

Janet, married to Bernard Oliphant of the family of Sir William Oliphant of Aberdalgie, who so gallantly defended Stirling Castle against King Edward I. in 1304. His grandson was created Lord Oliphant before 1456. The peerage is dormant or extinct since 1751. The family is now represented by Oliphant of Gask.

Margaret, married to Robert Hunter of Newton Rires, son of Patrick Hunter of Newton Rires, and of Dorothy Forbes, whose father, John Forbes, married Barbara Sandiland of St. Monans.

III. JOHN SETON OF LATHRISK. We know little of him, except that he married Alice Bonar. The Bonars of *Rossie*, in Fife, are mentioned as landowners in the middle of the fifteenth century. He had several sons, and among them George, James, and Patrick. Jane, the daughter of James Seton, married Robert Echlin, of the Echlins of Pitaddro, who in 1601 was Minister of Inverkeithing in Fife, but in 1613 became Bishop of Down and Connor in Ireland. Their great-grandson, Sir Henry Echlin, was created a baronet in 1721.

Captain Patrick Seton, the fifth and youngest son, is a picturesque figure. He had served in the famous corps of Scots men-at-arms, or "Mounted Scots Guard," which became later (under Louis XIV.) the *Gens d'Armes Écossais* and the first cavalry regiment in France after that of the Royal Household, called *Maison du Roi*. Patrick remained all his life a bachelor, but not because he was too poor to marry, judging from his will. He had probably been crossed in love early in life. He died at Elgin, in the house of his distant kinsman, Alexander Seton, Lord Fyvie, on 16th February, 1600, leaving by will, dated two days previously, 900 merks

and his saddle-horse to John Seton, his nephew and heir-of-line; and 200 merks, "together with his bracelets of gold," a silver salt-cellar, two spoons, and a cup to his niece, Janet Duddingstoun, Lady Lathallan; to Isabel Swinton, his god-child, lawful daughter to Mark Swinton, 300 merks; to David Seton, his nephew in France, 500 merks; to Thomas and Henry Oliphant his nephews, to George Seton his nephew, to Janet Seton his niece, sister to Margaret Seton, spouse to Mark Swinton, various legacies; to Patrick Spens, his godson, his draught-horse, with 100 merks of silver. The original is a study in English, showing us how, in our language, things left in a rude or uncultivated state were called by Saxon terms, but when made fit for the use of gentle-folks were called by Norman-French names; thus, in the original:

"I leif to Patrick Spens, my God sone, my *hors*. . . .

"ITEM, I lief my *montur* . . . to John Seytoun my nevoy and air." etc. In both cases a *horse* is meant; only Patrick Spens got a common horse and John Seton a trained horse: called a "Monture" because it can be mounted.—FRANCISQUE MICHEL: *Civiliz. in Scot*—"The Horse."

Scott draws attention to this curiosity of the language—these studies in English—in the first chapter of *Ivanhoe*.

IV. GEORGE SETON, Younger, OF LATHRISK. He was alive in 1575, but died before his father. It is not known whom he married. He had a son John, who succeeded his grandfather.

After this, notices of the Lathrisk family become fewer and fainter.

Alexander Seton of Lathrisk assisted at the public funeral of the Earl of Dunfermline in 1622, and was soon afterward captain of a body of 500 soldiers raised by him for the German wars—then raging—in which he was killed.

On the 19th August, 1642, John Seton of Lathrisk is mentioned in a charter of Charles I.

John Seton of Balfour and Catharine Halyburton of Pitcur, his spouse, had a daughter "Agnes, who married, in 1657, Seton of Lathrisk."

The last Laird of Lathrisk was John Seton, and about 1720 the property passed away from the family, which then sank into obscurity.

THE SETONS OF CLATTO.

There was a disreputable family of Setons who lived some four hundred years ago on Clatto Hill in Fifeshire. Their crimes brought them finally to a tragic and sudden end. It is only too probable that they were a branch of Parbroath. It was a lawless age, and it is a long time ago. The story is told by the Rev. Peter Barclay in the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, I., 381, as follows:

"The lands of Clatto, which constitute the east end of the parish of Kettle, and through which lay the old road from Cupar to Kinghorn, belonged to a family of Setons who are celebrated in tradition for the most cruel robberies and murders. The grounds about Clatto Den are still desert. In the face of the brae, which forms one side of the den, is a cave that is said to communicate with the old castle or tower of Clatto, a furlong distant, the remains of which are still visible. The same cave is said to have had another opening to the road, at which the assailant rushed out on the heedless passengers, and dragged them into the cavern, whence there was no return. All appearance of a cave is now obliterated by the breaking down of the banks. A similar cavern was found not many years ago at Craighall in Ceres parish. Of these Setons many stories, replete with the superstitions of preceding ages, are still current among the country people. One may suffice. One of the Scottish kings, said to be James IV., passing that way alone, as was common in those days, was attacked by a son of Seton's. The king having a hanger concealed under his garment, drew it, and with a blow cut off the right hand that seized his horse's bridle. This hand he took up, and rode off. Next day, attended by a proper retinue, he visited the Castle of Clatto, wishing to see Seton and his sons, who were noted as hardy, enterprising men, fitted to shine in a more public station. The old man conducted his family into the king's presence. One son alone was absent. It was said that he had been hurt by an accident, and was confined to bed. The king insisted on seeing him, and desired to feel his pulse. The young man held out his left hand. The king would feel the

other also. After many ineffectual excuses, he was obliged to confess that he had lost his right hand. The king told him that he had a hand in his pocket, which was at his service if it would fit him. Upon this they were all seized and executed."

After the ruin and extirpation of these unworthy Setons, their property, which was confiscated, passed by purchase to the family of Learmonth. David, father of Sir James Learmonth, was Laird of Clatto in 1520.

SETON-KARR OF KIPPILAW.

These Setons are sprung paternally from Daniel Seton of Powderhall, near Edinburgh, whose great-grandfather, David Seton, was admitted a burghess of Burntisland, Fifeshire, on February 17, 1647, and who might be conjectured from certain heraldic coincidences to have belonged to the Parbroath branch. They are likewise descended from the ancient family of Kerr—pronounced (as now written by this branch) Karr—and of that particular line called Kerr of Zair, or Yair. They bury in Melrose Abbey, and on the north wall of the nave, just beyond the carved doorway that leads from the cloisters, I saw an heroic inscription referring to them, which Washington Irving so justly admired:

"Heir lysis the race of ye hous of Zair."

On one of the tombs we read this inscription:

"Here lyes lieutenant collonel Andrew Ker of Kiplaw, who was born at melros the 23 february 1620 years and died at Kippelaw, upon the 3 february 1697. in the 77 year of his age."

This colonel's grandson, John Karr of Kippilaw, died unmarried in 1746, after executing a will by which his estate came, in 1799, to his great-nephew John Seton, eldest son of Daniel Seton of Powderhall, who assumed the surname of Karr in addition to his own. Several of the descendants of Daniel Seton of Powderhall distinguished themselves in India

and elsewhere in the civil or military service of the Government, and his great-great-grandson is the present—

HENRY SETON-KARR OF KIPPILAW, M.P. Mr. Seton is married and has issue. His brother, Heywood Walter Seton-Karr, is a great traveller and a noted sportsman, and has written some interesting books, while his uncle, Walter Scott Seton-Karr (born 23d January, 1822), passed through the Sepoy Mutiny with credit, and has published a volume on *Lord Cornwallis* in the “Rulers of India” series.

CHAPTER XVII.

MISCELLANY.

Tranent.

TRANENT is a small town situated in Haddingtonshire, on the highroad between Edinburgh and London, in the midst of a rich agricultural country with an extended landscape reaching off to Seton Bay and the sea.* Its history for many centuries was intimately connected with that of the Seton family. It stands along the brow of rising ground on the south side of a narrow vale, at the bottom of which is a brook; and has its ancient name of *Travernent*, since abbreviated into Tranent, from three British words, which signify the habitation or village at the ravine. In the oldest writs pertaining to the Barony of Tranent, Swan or Sweyn, as Lord of the Manor, claims preëminence. Whence he came, or from whom descended, or how he obtained the lands is not recorded. From the Charter of Holyrood House we know that shortly after 1124 a grant was made to *Thor filius Swani de Trannent*.

This Thor or Thorald, son of Swan, died in 1154. It would appear that with him the family ended, and that, in accordance with feudal usage, the property reverted to the Crown, and consequently came into the possession of Malcolm IV., called the Maiden.

The next proprietor of these lands was Robert de Quincy, a Northamptonshire baron, who acquired them from William the Lion in 1165. To him succeeded, first, Saher, Secher,

* It is now (1899) a place of 2,389 inhabitants.

or Seyer, his elder son, and afterward his younger son Roger. Roger de Quincy was Earl of Winchester in England as well as Lord of Tranent in Scotland, of which he was Constable in right of his wife Helen, the eldest daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway. Roger died, leaving three daughters co-heiresses. The eldest daughter, Margaret, married William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, who got by her the Barony of Tranent; the second, Elizabeth, married Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan in Scotland, and brought him the Constableness, besides Elphinstone, Myles, and some other part of Tranent; Ela, the youngest, married Sir Allan la Zouche of Ashby, and brought as her share the lands of Fawside and the mines and miners of Tranent. These ladies were first-cousins of John Balliol, and their husbands naturally sided with him in the contest for the crown against the Bruces. When the latter won, King Robert "gave their estate to his kinsman and companion-in-arms, Alexander de Seton, whose family had for several generations possessed the neighboring lands of Seton and Winton."

It was customary for the Earls of Winton, one of whose titles was Lord Tranent, to ride the marches once a year—that is to say, to ride in state around the boundaries of their compact possession—Seton, Winton, and Tranent—the extent of which may be inferred from the fact of its taking a whole day, from sunrise to sunset, to do it. On these occasions the earl was always accompanied by a very large retinue of friends and retainers, mounted on gayly caparisoned horses, that of the chief being arrayed in a cloth of silk with gold tassels hanging to the ground. The earl kept "open house," and the festivities lasted over several days.*

* In the thirteenth century the value of this great estate was, we find, £15 annually. In the seventeenth century (1653), according to the cess-roll of the County of Haddington, including casualties arising from coal, salt, etc., it was estimated at £14,925. Throughout a long term of years, in all civil affairs, the house of Seton or Winton is ever found either leading the van or pressing determinedly forward. But in religious matters

No sooner had the Setons acquired the Barony of Tranent, than the excavation of coal on that estate was prosecuted with new and enlightened vigor. The earliest mention of the working of coal in Scotland is in connection with Tranent and the country immediately around it, and is found in a charter of Seyer de Quincy to the monks of Newbattle, which must have been granted, says Chalmers, between 1202 and 1218. When Æneas Sylvius—afterward Pope Pius II.—visited Scotland under James I. (1424–1437), coal and its use as a combustible was something so wonderful as to be next thing to a miracle.*

The ancient church of Tranent, so barbarously destroyed in 1797, was constructed about the middle of the eleventh century; but most of its earlier history is lost. The oldest record relating to the subject is of about the year 1145, when Thor or Thorald, the son of Swan, confirmed to the canons-regular of St. Augustine of the Abbey of Holyrood House, founded by King David in 1128, the church of Tranent, reserving the rights of Walleran, the chaplain, during his life. The canons enjoyed the church, with its rights and revenues, which were very considerable, until the Reformation. The parish was served by a vicar, who had the "small" tithes for his support. In 1222 we find one John exercising the office,

their progressive part seems to have been played prior to the days of Wishart, Knox, and Melville. All through, that family are said to have been bitterly and resolutely opposed to the Reformation. But the glories of the House of Winton have departed forever; and sad it is to think that this ancient and once powerful family, after possessing these lands for about six hundred years, should, at last, in 1715, be deprived of all, through their devoted attachment to the unfortunate House of Stuart.—MCNEILL: *Tranent and its Surroundings*, 1884.

* *Europæ Descriptio*, II., Cap. xlvi. Visitors to Siena will remember the beautiful series of mural paintings by Pinturicchio in the Piccolomini Hall or Library of the cathedral, illustrating events in the life of Æneas Sylvius, one of which shows his presentation to the Scotch king. "It is a purely conventional production, and has no suggestion of reality" (Brown: *Early Travellers in Scotland*, p. 29).

and in 1320 the place is filled by Andrew. After that we hear no more of the vicar until 1562, when Thomas Cranston, who had been inducted by the canons at some earlier date unknown, is found installed as minister, a member of the Assembly, and married. The conclusion is, that he conformed to the Protestant religion.

The churchyard of Tranent contains some old tombstones. The finest one is that of—

BAILIE SETON.

“ The following tombstones, that of Seton to the right and that of Vallance to the left of the entrance from the new to the old churchyard, seem to have been the most beautiful ever erected within these grounds. The fact of the Seton shield, &c., being elaborately carved on the former, indicates that he to whose memory the stone was raised must have been a scion of the House of Winton. Inscription as follows :—

Bailie

George Seton,
Farmer at Seton,

Died the 10th day of May 1760, aged 82.

You err, O reader, if you should expect
Big swelling words, immodesty, respect
How short man's life, 'las, while we live we
die :

To know man's life, keep death still in your
eye.—

To the memory
Of Katherine Turnbull, relict
of George Seton, Farmer in Seton,
who died Oct. 5th, 1766,
Aged 73 years.*

Another old stone, supported by four stout pillars with sculptural adornments, is that of Hutchison, but originally erected by an Earl of Winton to some one of his family, as seen by the earliest inscription, which is to a “ William Seton, Tenant in Seton,” who died in 1706, and to Agnes, his spouse.

* McNeill : *Tranent*.

The Hutchisons, to whom the place of sepulture now belongs, claim descent from the House of Seton. Captain William Hutchison, who was Governor of Cape Coast Castle in Africa, and died when at home on a visit in 1832, is buried here, as also Captain George Hutchison, R.N., whose book-plate I possess. He was uncle to the Misses Hutchison, living at Seton Lodge, Tranent, upon whom I called, to my great pleasure and satisfaction, in 1889. The Seton arms are cut in stone over the entrance to the Lodge.

Another tombstone, of 1700, recalls "Adam Persone, Shoemaker and Tanner in Seton," reminding us of the bright little village of that name which so long existed beside the castle. It was ruthlessly destroyed, after a cruel eviction of the poor tenants at the end of the last century, by the same monster of bad taste who pulled down Seton House.

Sir Walter Scott says of this little village in his *Provincial Antiquities* (II., 144): "Close by the palace of Seton there formerly subsisted a village, inhabited by a class of persons termed Rentallers, or *kindly tenants*; cottagers that is, who had no proof to show of their possession excepting their being entered in the Lord's rental book as possessors of the various petty tenements, which they enjoyed for trifling re-



BAILIE SETON'S TOMB, IN TRANENT
CHURCHYARD.

turns, the principal advantage derived by the Baron being, doubtless, his having the benefit of their military service in case of his having in the expressive, though oblique, phrase of those old times, 'ought to do.' "

In a short account of the Mission of Tranent and of the laying of the corner-stone of a Catholic church in 1891, which was kindly sent me by Rev. Father Roche, there is an illustration of Seton Chapel. Among the contributors to the building of the church are the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquess of Bute, the Duchess Dowager of Buccleugh, Major-General Lord Ralph Kerr, C.B., and other distinguished people. There is only one of the name of Seton among the contributors, and he is an American.

Witchcraft in Tranent.

Tranent of all places in Scotland was the most notorious for its witcheries, sorceries, and necromancies. David Seton has been held up to just execration, says one writer, as the man who "struck the spark that caused this appalling explosion of national insanity." The celebrated case in which the "Scottish Solomon," as King James I. (of England) was called, took such a personal interest, and to which Burton alludes in the seventh volume of his *History* (p. 115), was that of a young, comely, and intelligent maid-servant in Seton's family named Gillis Duncan. By use of the *pillwinkis*, or thumb-screws, a confession of witchcraft was forced from her by this grim official, in the presence of five witnesses, after she was discovered one moonlight night (for she used to disappear out of the house mysteriously) walking alone in the haunted churchyard of Tranent. She was then summoned to Holyrood by the king, and was required, while playing a Jew's harp, to dance before the court "the reel she had performed for the devil and the witches in the kirk of North Berwick,"

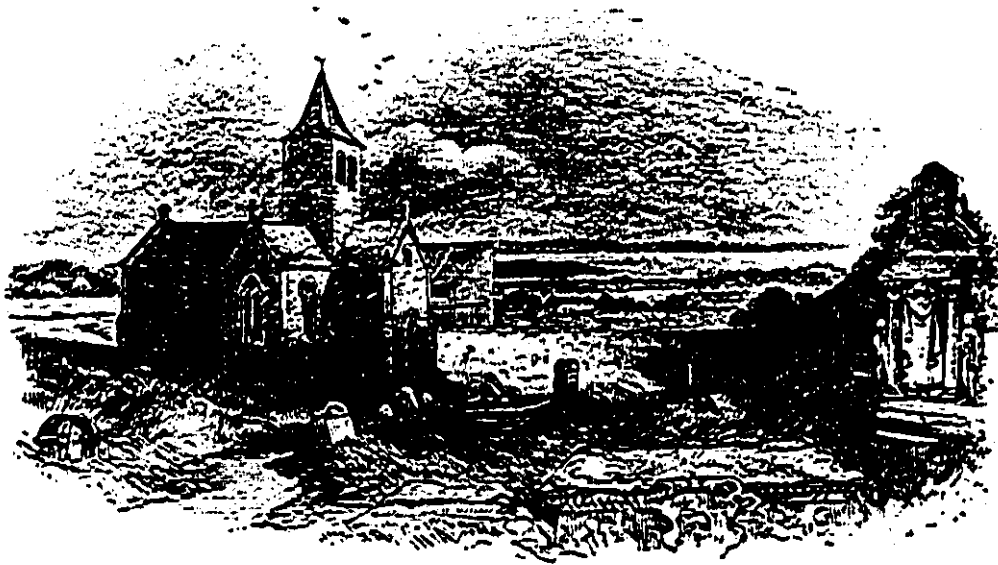
a saltatory exercise with which, says the chronicle, his Majesty was wonderfully pleased—which reminds one of Tam-o'-Shanter's "Weel done, Cutty-Sark!" at the midnight revels of Kirk-Alloway.

The Seton-thorn, an historical landmark near the family castle, appears to have been a famous trysting-place for witches, and is frequently mentioned in Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials* and works of special information on these phenomena in Scotland.

Old Buildings of Tranent.

There are few old houses still standing in Tranent, and these are doomed to give way to sanitary and domestic improvements. The oldest and most interesting of them is Tranent Tower. It is magnificent, and very solidly built. It was probably constructed by Swan, in the eleventh century. Here his son Thor dwelt; and its thick walls have guarded the Quincys, the Ferrers, and the Setons.

Another building is called The Old Dookit. It is seen



OLD TRANENT CHURCH AND, BEYOND IT, DAVID SETON'S DOOKIT.

just beyond the church in the illustration of Tranent. It stands—or perhaps *stood*, for I heard recently that it was to be taken down—on a prominent position in a field opposite the churchyard, commonly called the Dookit Brae. It was built in the latter part of the sixteenth century by David Seton, who was Chamberlain to his relative Lord Seton and Deputy Bailiff of Tranent town. It had been constructed, as the pigeon holes show, to accommodate 1,090 pair of pigeons, and bears the following inscription: *David Sitoun—1587*.

Falside.

Falside Castle, now in ruins, has a remarkable history. It lies about eight miles to the east of Edinburgh, and nearly two miles to the west of the village of Tranent. It is a strong and ancient fortalice, and a picturesque object in that land of mediæval towers, and is supposed to have been begun in the latter part of the eleventh century, and probably by Saher de Say himself, who there found his first secure resting-place in Scotland. Its earliest history connects it with the Seton family, to a younger branch of which it once belonged and gave a name, “who styled themselves *Seton of Falside*,” and afterward “*de Falside*” only, a not uncommon process in far-back times in Scotland, when juniors succeeding to or in any way acquiring an independent estate often dropped the patronymic and assumed a totally new name—either that of the heiress-wife or of the mother from whom they got the property, or that of the land itself. Thus, the Edmonstones of Edmonstone were originally Setons, as is now recognized even by themselves.* The Gordons and the Montgomeries also are examples of change of name on succeeding to great inheritances.

* *Genealogical Account of the Family of Edmonstone of Duntreath.*



RUINS OF FALSIDE CASTLE.

During the twelfth century the castle was inhabited by William de Ffauside, who sat in the Parliament of King David I. In the same century, Edmund de Ffauside witnessed the charter by which that king granted lands to Thor of Tranent; and during the reign of William the Lion, Gilbert de Fauside witnessed a charter to the neighboring monastery of Saint Mary of Newbattle. "The oldest part of the structure is of high but unknown antiquity, and contains in its stair a curious hiding-place; and even the newer parts are comparatively very old, but are less massive. The castle gave Protector Somerset some trouble on the morning of the Battle of Pinkie, and was then burnt, but not very materially damaged."* A large additional tower, after a more convenient style, was built about 1618, which date is seen, along with the initials J. F. and J. L., cut into the stone above one of the windows. The dovecote of the castle still stands, and

* *Topographical and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland*, II., 766.

within it is a place of concealment or of confinement, secured by an antique grated door. Many of the inmates of the castle were burned alive or smothered by the smoke during the cruel English invasion of 1547; but although rendered uninhabitable for a time, it was not then altogether destroyed, on account of the massive structure of its walls, ranging from four and a half to six feet thick, and its first floor and roof being arched over with stone. The gable end to the south, both corners of which are turreted, rises to fifty feet in height. This part must have been among the repairs made after the burning. The family is brought down, in an almost unbroken line, by charters at different times, although these furnish but a rather dry list of names and dates to tell its history. Thus, in 1296 Robert de Fauside signed the Ragman's Roll.* Four years later, Roger and William swore allegiance to Edward I. of England; but Roger, later on, obtained a regrant of the lands from good King Robert Bruce, who knew under what duress he must have acted. Sir Thomas de Fauside witnessed a charter of Duncan, Earl of Fife, to the Monastery of Lindores in 1350; Malcolm de Fauside gave a charter in 1366, which was witnessed by the Sheriff of Edinburgh; in 1371 William de Seton as overlord conveyed to his kinsman John de Fawside, for "true and faithful service," the lands of Wester Fawside, in the Barony of Tranent; in 1425 William de Fawside and Marjorie Fleming, his spouse, obtained the lands of Tolygart. In 1472 John Fawside *of that Ilk* married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Swinton of Swinton; and on his death, in 1503, she took the veil and died Prioress of the Cistercian Convent at Elcho.

* No acceptable etymology or meaning has yet been found for this peculiar term *Ragman*. The Rolls, so called, contain the names of those who did homage to King Edward I. in his triumphal progress through Scotland, when he was prepared to punish all who should maintain their independence.

About 1540 a battle was fought, the occasion of which was a quarrel about their cattle which watered in a stream common to both estates, between Hamilton of Preston and Fawside *of that Ilk* and their fierce retainers. The former were finally defeated, but not until the aged Chief of Falside had been dragged from his horse and killed in the *mêlée*. Between 1555 and 1583 "Thomas Fawside *de eodem*" entered into a transaction with the Abbot of Dunfermline. In 1616 James Fawside *of that Ilk* became pledge and security for Sir Patrick Chirnside of East Nisbet, who was accused of abducting a girl of thirteen from Haddington; and in the same year—on November 10th—John Fawside, the Laird's brother, was assassinated by his servant, who suffered death for the crime at Edinburgh. "James Seton of Fallsyde" was one of the mourners at the magnificent public funeral of Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline and Lord Chancellor of Scotland in 1622. He can be no other than the "James Fawside of that Ilk" who avenged his brother's death, as above; and it is something very singular, indicating a species of reversion in this family toward its original patronymic on so great a ceremonial occasion in which they would claim a right to take part. In 1631 Robert Fawside *of that Ilk* is mentioned; and in 1666 James, his oldest son, witnessed a charter to George, Earl of Haddington. James seems to have been the last of the male line of the Fawsides of Fawside, originally Setons of Fawside, Fauside, or Falside. His daughter and heiress, Agnes, married Sir William Douglass of Kelhead, Knight, second son of the first Earl of Queensberry. He was an officer in the army, and died Governor of Carlisle, in 1673. Their eldest son was made a Baronet *of Nova Scotia* on February 20, 1688, and in 1810 the fifth baronet succeeded to the title of Marquess of Queensberry. His grand-nephew, the present marquess, is the lineal descendant in the female line and Representative in blood of the House of Fawside; but the heritage

of this ancient family has passed to Sir George Grant-Suttie, Bart., and all that now remains of a race that flourished there for over four hundred years are the ruins of the old weather-beaten castle bearing their name, and a quaint though much-defaced tablet, formerly in the inside, but now on the outside north wall of Tranent Church, inscribed "John Fawside of that ilk."

The arms were *gules*, a fess *or* between three bezants of the same. The tinctures are those of Seton, only reversed. The fess, in heraldry, is a bar drawn across the middle of the shield, and is emblematical, perhaps, of the military belt or girdle worn by knights around the emblazoned surcoat or outer garment, which was thrown over the armor to keep it from rust and dirt. The bezants, or golden roundels, representing a Byzantine coin or money of Constantinople, would seem to indicate some Crusading ancestor who was made prisoner, and had to ransom himself from the Infidel.

Elphinstone Castle.

This grand ruin is situated on rising ground in the southern extremity of the Parish of Tranent. It is built on solid rock. Nothing but the great tower now remains, but it is one of the most remarkable and best preserved of the old Scottish keeps. It is an oblong square more than sixty-five feet high, constructed of large blocks of hewn stone, laid in courses. The walls at the base are over twelve feet thick. The building is entered through a Norman-shaped archway. A narrow stone staircase leads up to the second story, which forms a single apartment—the feudal banqueting hall—thirty feet long, eighteen feet wide, and nearly twenty-five feet high. It is lighted by two windows, from which there are beautiful views over the surrounding country. This apartment con-

tains a monument of heraldic interest to several families, for over the enormous open fireplace is a line of eight armorial shields finely carved in stone. The Seton arms—once with and once without the Double Tressure—occur twice, because



ELPHINSTONE TOWER.

that family was twice connected with the noble house of Elphinstone. They are the first and second in the row. The lands of Elphinstone, like those of Falside, were at one time a part of the great Manor of Tranent. John de Elphinstone witnessed a charter in 1250, and died in 1260. He is said to have erected the tower. The baronial family of Elphinstone took its surname from the lands so called in Lothian, which they held in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries from the Setons. The Elphinstones swore allegiance to King

Edward I. of England in 1296. On the triumph of Bruce and the National party they had to suffer the consequences, and their property was bestowed by the king on his nephew, Sir Alexander de Seton. Ere long, however, the estate returned to its original possessors through the heir of the attainted house marrying Margaret, daughter of Sir Christopher Seton, and sister of the fortunate and generous Sir Alexander. In 1338 John de Elphinstone, a descendant of Margaret Seton, was witness to a charter.

This ancient and distinguished family is now represented in the Peerage by Lord Elphinstone. Creation, 1509.

“*Seyton, an Officer Attending on Macbeth.*”

Macky, in his *Journey Through Scotland*, published in 1723, after describing the “Palace of Seton,” goes on to speak of the family, and says: “They are also very ancient. Shakespeare in his tragedy of Macbeth brings in the Lord Seton.” It seems, at first sight, a stain on the escutcheon of the Setons to be thus associated with Macbeth.*

The truth is, however, that Duncan was a usurper, Macbeth’s claim to the crown being the better; and he was slain in a sudden encounter within the territory ruled by Macbeda (or Macbeth), the Maormor of Ross, while there with aggressive designs. The place where he was killed was called *Bothgowan*, which means in Gaelic the smith’s hut, or the smithy. Duncan’s taking off was a Nemesis, for Macbeth’s wife, Gruach, was the daughter of that prince named Bode, whose son or grandson had been put to death by Malcolm with the object of securing the succession to his own grandson Duncan,

* This was once thrown up to me by a rich New Yorker—type of an envious class of moneyed people:

Non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa.—DANTE.



"SEYTON, AN OFFICER ATTENDING ON MACHEITH."
On this nobleman's shield is seen the famous Wyvern, or Dragon-crest, of the Setons.
(From a painting done at Rome in 1836 and now at Innsbruck.)

and Lady Macbeth was dowered with an inheritance of revenge in keeping with the laws and customs of that rude Northern people eight hundred and fifty years ago. The learned Chalmers in his *Caledonia* completely vindicates Macbeth, and Burton says: "It is among the most curious of the antagonisms that sometimes separate the popular opinion of people of mark from anything positively known about them, that this man, in a manner sacred to splendid infamy, is the first whose name appears in the ecclesiastical records, both as a King of Scotland and a benefactor of the Church." *

Macbeth made a pilgrimage to Rome, and was munificent in his alms to the poor of that city.

Shakespeare's intention in the play was to flatter King James I., supposed to be descended from Banquo, who in that uncritical age was called ancestor of the Royal House of Stuart; but being an Englishman of the day, he hated Scotchmen, and while openly flattering the king, was quite capable of covertly insulting his minister. We have seen how Sir Henry Yelverton behaved. Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, practically governed Scotland at that time, and was the most influential man in the kingdom, and the one whose frequent appearances in London would make Englishmen acquainted with his name and the fact that he belonged to a family of great antiquity. The name was then almost always written SEYTON, just as Shakespeare has it, and I believe it was made to figure in such a compromising manner, as that of an adherent of the malevolent Macbeth, in order to cast odium on the Lord Chancellor.

* *Hist. of Scot.*, I., 345.

Confessors of the Faith.

John Seton, D.D., was a celebrated divine of the sixteenth century, who belonged to the English branch of the family. He may have sprung from the Setons of County Rutland, to whom belonged Roger de Seyton, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1274.* Henry de Seton was Principal or Warden of Balliol College, Oxford, in 1323, and Thomas de Setone was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1357.

These Setons are said by the author of *The Sinclairs of England* (London, 1887) to derive originally from the great Norman family of *de Sancto Claro* = de Saint Clair, but their more certain derivation is from Simon de St. Liz, whose descendants assumed the surname of Seton. Agnes de Seton, "the heir female of this family, married in the reign of Henry VI. Sir William Fielding, ancestor of the Fieldings, Earls of Denbigh." † Basil, second Earl of Denbigh, was created 2d February, 1663-64, Lord *St. Liz*, to commemorate this ancestral alliance.

Dr. Seton is mentioned, along with others, in a note to Hallam's *Literary History*, I., 348, among the learned men of Cambridge about 1530, most of whom afterward became distinguished on one side or the other in the controversies of the Reformation. He is also praised as a man of constancy and patient endurance in Sander's *Rise and Growth of the Anglican Schism*.

Dr. Seton was connected with Saint John's College, at that time the most renowned of Cambridge University. He was one of the chaplains of Gardiner, and was made a Prebendary of Winchester in 1553, and afterward a Canon of York. He died at Rome, where the following inscription was set up to his memory, in 1567, in the Church of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, attached to the English College.

* Edward Foss: *Judges of England*, pp. 607-608.

† Burke: *Extinct and Dormant Peerages*, p. 468.

D. O. M.

R. D. Jo. Setono P.R.^o Anglo
Theologiae Professori Candidiss
Qui Post Duriss^a Vincula Et
Multa Adversa Pro Sacror
Dogmatum Assertionem Ppessa
Romam Ex Patria Exul Venit
Ubi An^o Aetatis Suae LXX^o
Animam Deo Dicavit
XIII Kl. Aug. MDLXVII
R. S. Anglus Ex Test Her
Opt. Mer P C

This can be translated as follows:

TO GOD MOST GOOD MOST GREAT.
In Memory of the Reverend John Seton
An English Priest
And a very distinguished Professor of Theology
who after suffering Chains and many Persecutions in Defence
of the Holy Faith
Came to Rome an Exile from his
Native Land
And died there in the Seventieth year of his Age
On the 19th of August 1567.
R. S. an Englishman and his heir by Will
Has set this up to a very worthy Man.

The *R. S.* here may stand for Robert or Richard or Roger Seton. This Very Rev. Dr. Seton was a fellow-exile, friend, and companion of Thomas Godwell, last Catholic Bishop of Saint Asaph. Together they signed an Attestation at Rome on January 29, 1561, concerning the noble family of Sackville.*

David Seton.

Several establishments in Scotland, belonging to the Military Orders, owed their foundation to the piety and liberality of King David I. in the twelfth century. One of the most

* Brady: *Episcopal Succession*, I., 87.

important was Torphichen, a church and preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem, situated a few miles from Linlithgow. In 1345 Alexander de Seton is mentioned in a charter as a Knight of the Order in that house. The last Preceptor or Grand Master of the Order in Scotland was Sir James Sandilands, who, having joined the Reformers in 1560, was guilty of a breach of trust in receiving the large estates of his Order as a temporal barony. He was raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Torphichen, and given an heraldic augmentation which was no less than the arms of the Order in Scotland, thus formally perpetuating the memory of his sacrilege. The peerage is still extant. Some remains of the Hospital or Preceptory are yet standing, with parts of the choir and transepts of the church. When the Knights Hospitallers were deprived of their patrimonial interest in this property by Sir James Sandilands, they made an official protest, and drew off in a body, bearing their processional cross, with David Seton, Grand Prior of Scotland, at their head. The transaction is alluded to in a curious satirical poem of that period, entitled *Holy Church and Her Thieves*, in which Seton is named with high praise. He went abroad and died broken-hearted in 1581, and is buried in the church of the Scotch Convent at Ratisbon, in Germany.

Jesuits at Seton.

One of the most powerful factors in maintaining alive even a spark of the ancient faith in Scotland was the missionary ardor of the newly founded Society of Jesus. The celebrated Father William Holt, of Lancashire, England, studied at Oriel College, Oxford; was ordained priest at Douay, and proceeding to Rome, joined the Jesuits, May 8, 1578. In 1581 he was sent to Scotland, where he resided two years. He said

mass and preached in Lord Seton's house at Christmas, 1581-82. He recommended that all priests coming into Scotland should disembark at Leith, because it was only six miles from Seton.

The next Jesuit whom we find there is Father William Crichton. He went to Scotland in 1582. "At the time of his arrival only one of the members of the Royal Council, Lord Seton, remained constant to his religion. This nobleman willingly received Fr. Crichton into his house, and treated him with kindness and respect." *

Father James Gordon labored hard on the mission in Scotland. In a letter to the Father General from Altona, near Hamburg, July 13, 1597, he tells of his residence at Seton, "which is very splendid and very agreeable, and not more than eight miles from Edinburgh. My removal to this place irritated the Ministers to the last degree. I had shown myself the principal opponent of their faith or rather want of faith, and here I was lodged in the best quarters in all Scotland, treated as a friend, and living among my kinsmen and connections." This zealous missionary died at Paris in 1620.

Another Jesuit living with Lord Seton was Father John Ogilvie, who, after much suffering and long imprisonment both in England and Scotland, died at Winton House in 1673.

Father James Mambrecht arrived on the Scotch Mission in 1627. "He was placed as Chaplain with George Seton, third Earl of Winton. After residing in this capacity for nearly twelve years, and endearing himself to all, his noble patron was accused of harbouring a Popish priest." Father Mambrecht was then secretly conveyed to another country.

* *Narratives of Scottish Catholics*, p. 181.

Seton Jesuits.

The first we meet with began his missionary life as a secular priest, and is thus mentioned by Father Gordon, Superior of the Scotch Mission, in a letter to the Father General, dated September 1, 1597: "I met another pious Priest, Father James Seton, who joined us from the Seminary at Pont-à-Mousson, ten years ago, and was labouring earnestly with us in our Lord's vineyard, as if he were one of us. He is desirous of being admitted to the Society, but, as he is advanced in years and somewhat infirm, we thought it best he should remain in his present condition." Notwithstanding a first repulse, Father Seton persevered in his petition to be received into the Society, and was admitted. There is a letter from him to Father Aquaviva, General of the Society, dated September 30, 1605, in which he gives an account of things in Scotland. In 1628 he was profitably employed in the Highlands. He had then in hand the conversion of Lord Ogilvie, "the head of his clan." After some time he was ordered to Germany; but hearing of the disconsolate state of his aged mother, who wished to see him before she died, he applied for permission to return to Scotland. He is met with there for several years after, until "the intense heat of the persecution and the virulence of the Kirk Ministers compelled him to sail for Norway." It is not recorded when or where he died, but he must have been of great age.

Father Alexander Seton (1) was in Germany, March 11, 1612, when Fr. Gordon recommended his recall to Scotland, "appearing the most suitable subject of all for that mission."

Father Alexander Seton (2) went by the *alias* of Ross. Was born in Scotland, November 4, 1665. After studying his Humanities, he went for two years to the Scotch College

at Douay for his Philosophy. Entered the Society at Tournay, October 3, 1687, and was sent to Scotland in 1700. Professed of the four vows in 1703. On the mission in Aberdeenshire in 1710. He was relieved of the mission for ill-health, and retired to Douay, where he died in 1729. "He was highly eulogized for his many virtues."

Father Alexander Seton (3), *alias* or *vere* Scringer. Henry Foley, S.J., tell us in his *Collectanea* (VII., p. 938) that the real name of this "very good and humble man, ready for every duty of charity, as far as his infirm health would allow," was Seton.

Father John Seton (1). He is mentioned in a letter of Father John Lesley to the General, 30th September, 1633, in which he relates the distress of the Scotch Mission by the death of its benefactor, Colonel Semple, in Spain. It does not appear that this Father was ever on the Mission in Scotland. He was either Rector of the College of Scotch Jesuits, in Madrid, at the date of this letter, or was sent there very soon afterward, and in consequence of it, for the letter says:

"Res Hispaniensis summa diligentia P. Joanni Seton, commendanda ut omni labore et studio soliti auxilii prorogatio impetretur."

Father John Seton (2) was formed in the Toulouse Province of the Society, "and became a very superior missionary." He worked for more than twenty years in Galloway, and in December, 1686, was in Perthshire. He was one of the earliest victims of the persecution arising from the Orange Revolution of 1688, and was arrested and imprisoned in Blackness Castle. In the spring of 1693, when seventy years of age, he and other priests were promised their liberty if they would leave the country; but they refused the terms, and were at length discharged by proclamation. "By his engaging

sweetness and patient zeal, he brought back more than five hundred strayed souls to the Church, and trained them in the way of piety and devotion. But what could not this man of God effect, whose life was a perpetual prayer?" * He died at Edinburgh in 1694.

Father John Seton (3). He was great-grandson of George, third Earl of Winton, and grandson of Sir John Seton of Garleton, Bart. Born November 9, 1695. Entered the Society at Madrid, September 20, 1716. Was Rector of the Scotch College there. He was sent to the Scotch Mission in 1725, and was professed of the four vows ten years later at Aberdeen. While residing at Edinburgh he admitted young Mr. George Hay, afterward the celebrated Bishop and writer, to a regular course of instruction and preparation, and finally received him into the Catholic Church, of which he was to become so great an ornament, on the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, December 21, 1748. Father John Seton died at Edinburgh, July 16, 1757.

Father Robert Seton. He was third son of Sir John Seton of Garleton, first Baronet, and died February 6, 1732, *aet.* 61. A letter of Father Thomas Fife, dated Paris, June, 1732, to the Father General, which was long preserved in the archives of the Society at Rome, gives some particulars of his life:

"Seton, Robert, Father (Scotch), was born in Scotland, 1671; entered the Society at Toulouse, 1688, was ordained Priest 1698, and made a Spiritual Coadjutor, October 27, 1701. He died February 6, 1732, *aet.* 61. We learn his history from a letter of Father Thomas Fife or Fyffe, dated Paris, June, 1732, to Rev. Father General in the Archives at Rome (a copy is given in a volume *Eulogia*, &c., in the Stonyhurst MSS. pp. 357, seq.) He says: 'Our beloved Father in Christ, Robert Seton, was carried off by violent fever, February 6th (N. S.), fortified by the sacraments of the Church. He was of the noble family of the Earl of Winton; born in Scotland, 1671; educated at Douay; entered the Society after completing his humanities in 1688, at Toulouse. After his noviceship he taught humani-

* Oliver: *Collections*.

ties and philosophy at the same place, and his health becoming seriously affected, was put to his theology, making one year at Toulouse and another at Douay. He was likewise urged on by an ardent zeal for souls and for the mission in his native land. Ordained Priest, he acted as Prefect of the scholars for a year at Douay, preparing himself in the interval for the mission. He was then sent to labour in the Lord's vineyard in Scotland, where he was professed of the three vows, October 27, 1701. Avoiding his noble and wealthy relatives, he proceeded to the rough Highland districts, where he assiduously and zealously worked for nearly thirty-three years. An indefatigable missionary, as those who were witnesses of many of his doings bear testimony.

“ Beloved of God and man, and practised in every virtue becoming a genuine son of the Society. Of great piety, and most devout to the Blessed Virgin, in whose honour he thrice daily recited the Litanies and Rosary, and this he often did with his guides on his circuits, and with the ignorant and rough villagers and boys to inspire them with devotion and love to our Lady.

“ He was specially devout to St. Francis Xavier, to whom he attributed his recovery from a dangerous illness in former years; daily recited his litanies and carried his picture about him. He was also a diligent emulator of the Blessed John Francis Regis, whom he had chosen from his noviceship as his patron and model. It was his constant practice to collect the children of the villages and give them familiar catechetical instruction for many hours in the evening. Before lying down at night he spent about half an hour on his knees in prayer with arms *alla croce*; rose early in the morning to his prayers, even during the severest winter cold, and often in houses where he rested, exposed to wind and rain and the inclemency of the weather, and frequently without fire or candle. He was such a lover of work that, except by necessity, he seldom stayed three days in the same place. The fruit of his labours was due to his assiduous practice of meditating upon heavenly things and was doubtless rendered more successful by Divine illuminations with which he was favoured, at times foretelling future events; for instance, a certain heretical parish minister having warned him to leave, lest some evil might befall him, he told him in the presence of some local authorities that he should not depart; that he, the minister himself, would be driven out first.

“ Time proved the truth of the prediction, for a few years after, upon occasion of a riot, the minister was expelled from the town.

“ Two or three striking cases are mentioned in proof of his ardent zeal for the salvation of souls, his exposing his life to eminent [*sic*] risk in nocturnal expeditions, over frightful roads, amidst storms and tempest, to perform the duties of his ministry. In the Scotch Catalogue for 1729 he is entered as in the College of Aboyne.”*

* Foley: *Records*, VII., Part II., p. 700.

At Terregles House, Dumfriesshire, the former residence of the Earls of Nithsdale, I was shown in the sacristy of the domestic chapel a small silver chalice with this inscription: *Elizabeth Maxwell Wintoniae Comitissa Me Fecit Deoque Dicit, Anno. 1677.* The lady here mentioned was daughter to John, Lord Herries, and, at this date, widow of George, third Earl of Winton, who died in 1650. This is a precious relic of the old missionary days in Scotland.

Setons in Prison for the '45.

Two young men—Setons—were confined in the Tolbooth, at Edinburgh, for some part they took in the rising of 1745 in favor of the Stuarts. They were kept there six months, without being allowed to pare their nails or to have their hair cut. It is a tradition that they emigrated to America. They would not be well affected toward the British Government. They cannot be traced in this country. Their sons, however—hardly they themselves—may have been the Lieutenant Seton of Colonel Clinton's "American" regiment and the Lieutenant John Seton of Colonel Graham's "American" regiment in 1776. There was an Ensign Seton in one of the patriot regiments, commanded in the Revolution by Kilian Van Rensselaer.

An officer of the Revenue Service at Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire, in 1747, named William Seton, "was discharged for being concerned in the last rebellion." He went to America and engaged in business there. He cannot be further traced, but is probably the person mentioned below. In Liber 34, p. 486, in the Hall of Records, New York City Hall, is a Power of Attorney dated January 11, 1758, given by Harry Roe to his "trusty and loving friend Mr. William Seton, of the City of New York, merchant." Sealed and delivered in presence

of John Learson and James Seton, of the city of New York. These Setons do not belong to our branch, nor is anything more known about them.

Seton of Newark.

Alexander Abercromby of Fetternear, younger brother of James Abercromby of Birkenbog, in Banffshire, father of the first Baronet of the family, married *Jean*, daughter of John Seton of Newark, and had three sons, of whom Patrick Abercromby, M.D., the youngest, was a writer of repute and author of *The Martial Achievements of the Scottish Nation*; and Francis Abercromby, the eldest, having married Anne, Baroness Sempill in her own right, was created a Peer of Scotland, for life only, as Lord Glassford, in July, 1685.

Seton Tartan.

Is chiefly red, with small lines of green, black, purple, and white. Although the Setons were a Lowland family, they had adopted a clan cognizance before the reign of James VI. (I. of England). It is mentioned by the author of *Vestiarium Scoticum*, a treatise on Scottish costume.

Seton Names.

All old families have certain Christian or fore-names which, in course of time, have become characteristic of them. The knowledge that certain Christian names, to the almost absolute exclusion of others, are found in particular families, is often an aid in genealogical researches. Before the middle of the fifteenth century the most common Christian names of men in the Seton family appear to have been *Christopher*

and *Alexander*, both of which occur pretty often even after that date. The marriage of John, Lord Seton, with Lady Janet Dunbar, daughter of George, Earl of March, "one of the most powerful nobles of his time," introduced the name of *George* into the family. It has been a favorite ever since. *Charles, James, William, Henry, and Robert* are also frequently met with in the family records. The more common female Christian names have been *Margaret, Mary, Catharine, Jean,* and *Elizabeth*. I regret to say that it is only in our American branch that a number of odiously un-Setonlike names are to be found.

Setons in Sweden.

The name of Seton has been known in Sweden since the early part of the seventeenth century. A Colonel Seton served with credit under Gustavus Adolphus. The present Setons of *Preston and Ekolsund* descend from Alexander, second son of Sir Walter Seton, first Baronet of Abercorn.

Setons in Italy.

There was a noble family, extinct at the beginning of this century, which had been settled in the Duchy of Milan for over three centuries, and claimed to descend from a certain *Dominus Franciscus de Sitonis, ex Antiquis Nobilibus Regni Scotiae*, who flourished before 1485, as in the proofs of nobility submitted in 1703 by *Dominus Johannes de Sitonis*.

It is stated that this branch of the family settled in Italy in 1450, in the persons of three soldiers and gentlemen, bearing the Christian names of John, James, and Adam. The arms that were borne by these "Sitoni di Scotia" are *not* the Seton arms; and the learned Italian genealogist, my friend Crollanza, editor of the *Annuario della Nobiltà*, is disinclined to

accept them as a branch of the "illustrious family from which they claimed descent." I am of the opinion, however, that they were genuine Setons, serving in the Scots Guard in Italy, wounded and left to die or recover, and who recovering may have married and settled there.

These "Sitoni di Scozia," as they were always called, were enrolled among the Patricians of Milan, an important and capital city which did not easily open its *Libro d'oro* to strangers. They also manifested some peculiarly Seton traits, and furnished a succession of scholars and distinguished literati in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Heraldic laws and customs have never been well established or observed in Italy, and a complete change of arms, made for sufficient reason, would not be extraordinary. The arms borne by the "Milanese Setons"—a river, a bridge, a castle defending it, and a black eagle on one of its towers—would seem to perpetuate heraldically some martial achievement performed by the brothers, as forcing the passage of a river and storming a *tête-de-pont* at the head of their command. The spelling of the name is precisely as my own name of Seton has been written by Italians who have only *heard* and not seen it.

Setons in Ireland.

"Alexander Seton, eldest son of James Seton of Perry-mount, Co. Tyrone, Esquire," was admitted to Gray's Inn, London, on November 23, 1792. He was son of James Seton, engaged in the linen manufacture at Drogheda, who wrote a letter from there to one of our family in New York, in 1797, asking for information about a son named Samuel, who had emigrated to America, and was last heard of as settled on "Presque Island" in Lake Erie. The writer also

mentions that two other sons of his had gone to America a few years before.

The only one of our name in the Dublin Directory in 1889 was "Charles Seton, Esq., 142 Tritonville Road, Sandymount." These Setons doubtless came originally from Scotland.

Last Man in England killed in a Duel.

The last fatal duel in England was fought with pistols, in the garden of a country house called Wormwood Scrubbs, a few miles out of London, between two officers of the Marine Corps—Lieutenants Hawkeye and Seton. The latter was killed, May 20, 1845.

"Seton Lake Mission."

It is in British Columbia, Diocese of New Westminster. Nearly two hundred Catholic Indians are attached to it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SETONS OF NEW YORK.

I NOW go back to the Parbroath line, which is continued by us.

I. JAMES SETON, ESQ. He succeeded his father Robert in the Representation of the Parbroath branch of the family, and settled in London, where he married Margaret Newton. There had been a baronetcy in the family given to Sir Robert Newton, citizen of London in 1660, which became extinct ten years later for want of male issue. He had one son and three daughters.

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Mary, married to "Dr. William Robertson, co. Surrey, of an ancient Scotch family." * Their eldest son was Captain George Robertson, R.N., who created a sensation during the American Revolution by marrying Ann Lewis, a Philadel-

* Robertson—the son of Robert—is a very old and distinguished Scotch name. It is one of the rare exceptions to the rule that patronymics formed from a Christian name followed by the filiation are of plebeian origin. They derive remotely from the Macdonalds, Lords of the Isles, through the marriage of Malcolm *de Insulis* with Lora, "Comitissa de Atholia," in the middle of the 13th century, and first appear as a clan in 1391. They are called by the Highlanders Clan Donnachie, *i.e.*, descendants of Duncan de Atholia (Earl of Atholl), who married a daughter of the Earl of Lennox and had a son Robert, whence the family name. The chief of this noble clan is Robertson of Struan, County Perth, one of whose ancestors arrested the desperate murderers of King James I., and received for his brave services a crown charter erecting his lands into a free barony in 1451, and an honorable augmentation to his arms.—*The Scottish Clans and Their Tartans*, p. 83. Edinburgh and New York, 1892.

phia beauty, whose mother was a New York Livingston, and therefore bitterly opposed to the British interest. Captain Robertson was maternal grandfather of the first Lord Moncrieff. Mr. William Seton of New York has a very beautiful silver-mounted shell snuff-box—a *Cypræa Mauritiana*, whose habitat is the Indian Ocean—with an inscription and the date 1769 engraved on the lid, which was given to his great-grandfather by his cousin, George Robertson. General Robertson, who at one time commanded the British forces in New York, was nearly related to these Setons. His only daughter became Lady Henderson in 1782.

3. Margaret, married a Dundas of Manour. She was mother of Captain Ralph Dundas, R.N., who served with the British fleet on the American coast during the Revolution, and was often in New York City. The Dundasses of Manour or Manor, County Perth, were a branch of Dundas of Duddingston, which itself was a branch of Dundas of Dundas. The titular head of this distinguished family is the Marquess of Zetland, but the Chief is plain Mr. Dundas (of Dundas). Mary, sister of the Captain, and “daughter of Ralph Dundas, Esq., of Manour,” married George Abercromby, Esq., of Tullibody, whose son was the gallant general killed in Egypt, and whose grandson was Lord Abercromby of Aboukir.

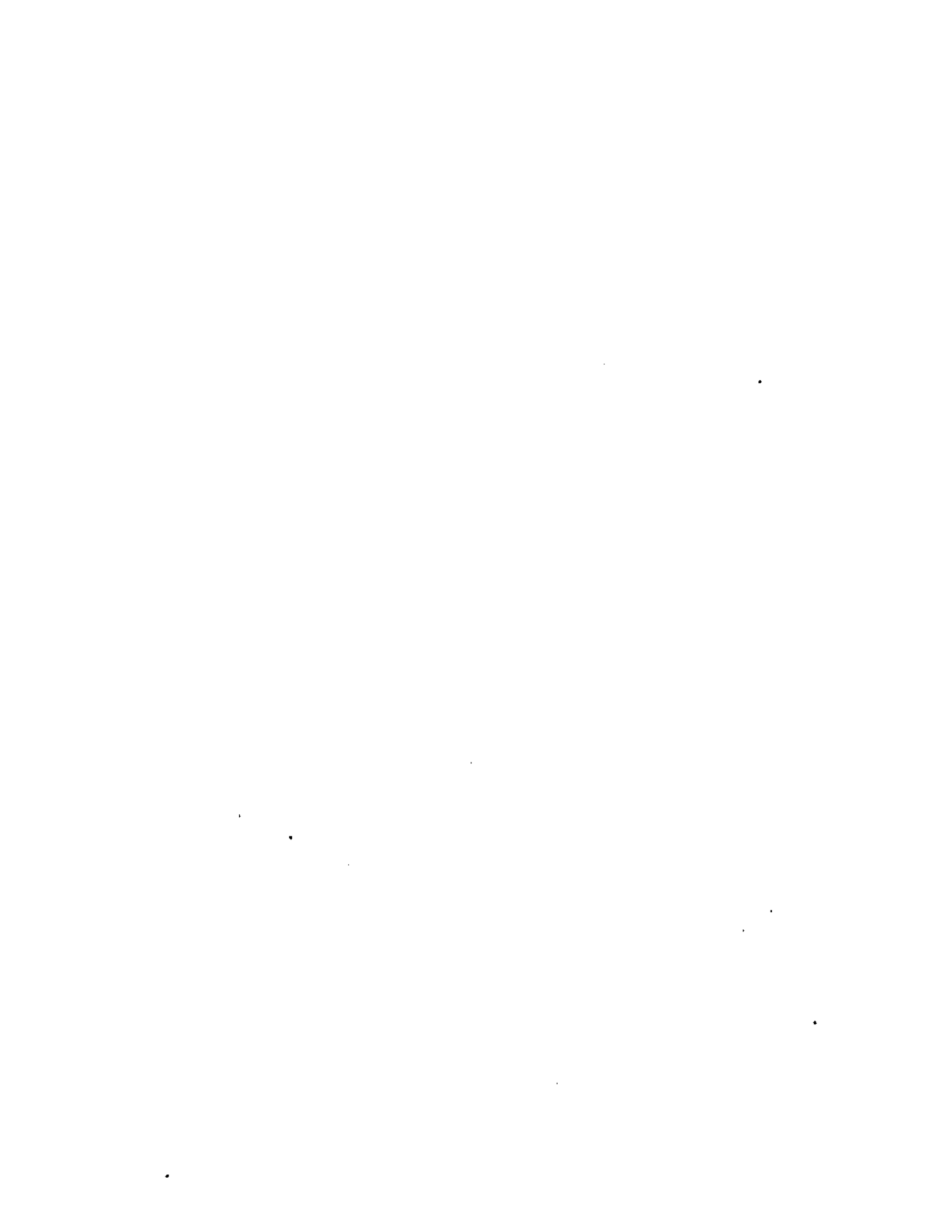
James Seton was murdered in a rising of the slaves at Cape Français, in San Domingo, while on a voyage to the West Indies with the intention of settling there and sending for his family.

II. JOHN SETON, ESQ., Representative of Parbroath. He was born in 1712, and succeeded his father in the barren honor and some cherished heirlooms. He lived, at one time, in Camberwell, County Surrey, and was engaged in business in London. Andrew Elliot, third son of Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart., and uncle of the first Earl of Minto, who afterward



*You ever affectionate Mother, God Bless you all
Elizabeth Seton. 23 March
1785*

(From original by Lady Synnot, now at Ballymoyer House.)



filled several government offices in New York at the period of the Revolution, came from Scotland in 1746, recommended to our John Seton, in whose hands was placed a sum of £700, which was the young man's capital to begin business on in America.

John Seton married his cousin, Elizabeth Seton, who was (as she says in a letter) "born on the family estate of Belsies, on the 17th of February 1719." She was daughter of James, son of John Seton, who held the office of Town Clerk of Burntisland in the early years of the eighteenth century. James Seton acquired the property of Belshes or Belsislands, in the County of Haddington, between 1715 and 1721. His son was James Seton of Hillside, Edinburgh, who sold the estate. His sister received, as her share, the sum of £1,600, and had besides a small annuity settled upon her. He was for many years a Director of the Bank of Scotland. He and his affairs and his children are often mentioned in our old family letters. Elizabeth Seton died in 1797, and is buried in the Cayley vault at Brompton in Yorkshire, England. John and Elizabeth Seton had two sons and five daughters:

1. John, the eldest, emigrated to the British West Indies, and, dying unmarried, was buried "within the parish of St. James' (Barbadoes) on December 22nd, 1768."

2. William, of whom hereafter.

3. Isabella Seton, married, in 1763, Thomas, afterward Sir Thomas Cayley, a Yorkshire baronet, whose ancient family came from Normandy with the Conqueror, and is mentioned in Domesday Book as tenant-in-chief of several manors in Berkshire. The baronetcy was created in 1661, but there was a barony in the family as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century, which expired when Thomas Lord Cayley of Buckenham died, *s. p.*, about 1315, leaving an only sister and heiress, Margerie Cayley or *de Cailli*, who married Roger