

upon the city, or diverging into the suburbs; a noise, however, that does not still the chatter of squirrels or the song of swarming wood-birds. Overhead is a strip of tropical blue sky. Seen through breaks in the edging of shrubbery are high, almost barren, pastures, with great outcropping gray rocks seamed and lichened. Under foot is thin sod over rock, with here and there broad, bare, rocky stairs, down which in early spring flow cataracts of rain-water to join the brook.

"The wild flora of the whole region seems to be epitomized in Seton Lane. Bitter-sweet, Virginia creeper, several kinds of clematis, and other climbing and twining vines clothe the rocks. Wild grapevines make little bowers over long strips. Wild blackcap raspberries ripen abundantly for any wanderer to pick. A great field of salmon-colored lilies glows in the sunshine just south of the lane. Wild pinks and a dozen more familiar blossoms star the grass at the lane-side. Everything, from the red squirrel scampering along the worm-fence, to the snake that slips beneath the sheltering leaf, is full of rural suggestion, yet a twenty minutes' walk along Sahara, the dreariest square mile of urban territory, brings one to the White Plains Road, and another half hour lands one in the heart of the city.

"The longer arm of Seton Lane ends in front of what was recently the gate to the old Seton homestead, a great rambling house, in the colonial style, set amid a delightful wilderness. Starting from the same gateway, and leading out to the Boston Road at East Chester, half a mile from the point at which the longer arm of the lane leaves that road, is the shorter arm of Seton Lane. This grassy thoroughfare is edged by the brook, and hedged with unspoiled shrubbery. At its very mouth, a few yards from the Boston Road, a quaint little bridge carries the lane over the brook. Here is the greenest and most deliciously picturesque spot imaginable, with an odd little cottage\* deep in shade upon one side and upon the other a great open field, given over to grass and wild flowers.

"The explorer, if so minded, may walk northward from this point a few yards along the Boston Road and take the street-car to the New Haven Railway station at Mt. Vernon. If, however, he be of a truly adventurous spirit, he will do better by retracing his steps through the shorter arm of Seton Lane, entering the gateway of the Seton homestead, crossing the bridge that spans the brook just within the gateway, and taking the path to the left that skirts the brook.

"This path leads to the loveliest wild spot in the northern suburbs. Steadily ascending, the path takes one to a rocky ridge, densely shaded with hemlocks. This grove clothes the stream for 200 or 300 yards on either side, and so dense is the shade in parts that only a few flickering rays of sun-light visit the ground even at noonday. The stream flows deep between banks of jagged rocks, and there are densely shaded rocky seats overhanging

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\* This was our gardener's house which my father had built for him in 1840.



THE WOLF'S CAVE AT CRAGDON.

Winter.

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A WINTER SCENE AT CRAGDON.



the water. Near one of these seats is a great crystal spring securely shaded and protected from impurities by a broad flat stone. At one point in the heart of the hemlock grove the stream falls in two cascades. The banks are for ever russet with fallen leaves and the needles of the hemlocks. Curious dense-green shade-loving plants flourish here, and the whole place, with its gray rocks and deep shade, has druidical suggestions. In mid-winter, when snow covers the ground, the effect is as of an arctic fairy-land.

"The path, smooth and well defined, brings one finally to the open fields, beyond which lies the Kingsbridge road. The explorer may follow the latter southward to the White Plains road, or, better still, keeping resolutely across unforbidden fields to the Bathgate woods, may stroll for half a mile or more through the shade of that delightful bit of genuine forest land until, as in the case of the first alternative, he comes to the White Plains road, with Woodlawn station and the train to New York only ten minutes' walk distant."

## CHAPTER XX.

### LELIA SETON WILDER.

LELIA SETON WILDER is descended from James Seton, of Drogheda, in Ireland, one of whose sons, Samuel, went to America at the end of the last century and settled, as we have seen, in Western Pennsylvania. His only son, William Seton, born November 1, 1772, became a Presbyterian minister of great eloquence and learning. His Hebrew, Greek, and Latin books are still in the possession of the family. Rev. William Seton settled at Olivesburg, Richland County, Ohio, and married Sarah Henderson, of a good old Scotch family, in 1804. They had several children, of whom William Henderson Seton, born August 12, 1825, was the youngest son. After serving as an officer in the Mexican War, he served again as Captain in the Twenty-second Ohio Infantry in the Civil War. On September 6, 1859, he married Rachel Cantwell, who was a descendant of the celebrated Roger Williams, of Rhode Island. Lelia Seton, their only child, was born on her father's property at Olivesburg, near Mansfield, Ohio, in 1864, and in 1883 married Charles Rollin Wilder, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, who moved to Alabama and bought a plantation of sixteen hundred acres, which is now called "Wilder Place," near Decatur. Mr. Wilder died in 1885. His handsome widow began immediately with great energy and success to manage her large property in person, and is considered a remarkable character in the South and all over the United States for being able to do so. Mrs. Seton Wilder is highly educated, and was the Valedictorian of her class on graduating from the Memphis High School.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### HERALDRY OF THE SETONS.

It is surprising how little is known in America of heraldry, a subject whose practical uses almost every family aspiring to social position desires to take advantage of. Most assuredly a science which has engaged the attention of many learned men, and the writers on which, in all ages and in every country, have been largely drawn from the ranks of the clergy, cannot be altogether devoid of interest and instruction.

Dante constantly describes persons by their armorial bearings in his *Divine Comedy*, and so does Tasso in *Jerusalem Delivered*, and the very name of the inn or hostelry immortalized in the prologue to the *Canterbury Tales* has an heraldic odor clinging to it:

“In Southwark at *The Tabard* as I lay.”

Armorial ensigns, handed down from generation to generation, are symbols of which the descendants of the first possessors may feel justly proud, and to whom not unfrequently, in these days, the ancestral shield and surname alone remain, long after the old homestead has fallen to decay and the broad acres that surrounded it have become the inheritance of strangers. Heraldry has been called a science of fools; but I suspect it is a case of what Gibbon says of beauty, “seldom despised, except by those to whom it has been refused.”

There is, perhaps, no family in Scotland—there is certainly not one in America—the heraldry of which is so ancient, so



honorable, and so abundant as that of Seton. The arms of Avenel were *gules six annulets argent*. The oldest heraldic memorial of this ancient family is the seal of Sir Robert Avenel, a Norman benefactor of Melrose, which is appended to one of the Abbey charters, as on page 9.



SEAL OF SIR ALEX.  
SETON, 1216.

The Seton arms are conspicuous in the two oldest and most celebrated collections in Europe, the *Armorial de Gelre* and the *Armorial de Berry*, and the number of colored shields in George Seton's *History* is over three hundred and three. The American Setons can add a dozen more, for no one of our line has ever married unless into an armigerous family.

The arms of the de SAYS were very simple, as in the case of all the more ancient families, being quarterly *or* and *gules*. The arms of the illustrious ducal family of de Gontaut, in France, are the same. The noblest metals, in heraldry, are *or* and *argent*, gold and silver; and the fairest tinctures are *gules* and *azure*, red and blue. These were generally adopted by royal houses and by the *haute noblesse*; and indicate, when ancient, a more illustrious origin. The arms of the great Norman family of the Mandevilles (de Magnavil), Earls of Essex, being also quarterly *or* and *gules*, has led some writers to suggest either a common origin of the Mandevilles and SAYS, or even that these derived their arms from those. I assert just the contrary: those got their arms from these. In fact, William de Say married in the twelfth century Beatrix de Mandeville, eventually Heiress of her name and family. The eldest son of this union, William de Say, dying in the lifetime of his father, left two daughters, the elder of whom, Beatrix, married Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, who became Earl of Essex, and whose sons and successors assumed the name of Mandeville with the paternal arms of Say, a common custom

in that age. The original arms of the Mandevilles remain unknown.

The earliest recorded arms of the Setons of Scotland are given by Nisbet, the famous writer on Heraldry, who says: "Dougal de Setoun. His armorial bearing was *or*, three crescents *gules*; and it may be reasonably supposed that the lands of Setoun being formed by the sea in the fashion of a half-moon, the crescents were assumed by the said Dougal."

The arms ascribed to Dougal were to be seen amid the splendid blazonry of Seton castle. William Playfair\* agrees with Nisbet, and writes that "the ancient and honorable family of Seton may be said to have assumed crescents for armorial figures, upon the account that their ancient territories and lands in East Lothian are formed by the river Forth, into three great bays, like three half-moons."

The tinctures *or* and *gules* of the SAYS were tenaciously adhered to by the Say-touns, although, as was a common practice in earlier ages, they made some distinction on founding a new and henceforth separate family in another kingdom, by assuming certain figures (crescents) which were to have one of the two colors of the original family. As regards the reason for assuming these figures, while Nisbet and Playfair are considerable authority, I prefer the opinion of other writers



SILVER-MOUNTED SHELL SNUFFBOX  
GIVEN BY THE EARL OF WINTON  
TO SIR GEORGE SETON OF PAR-  
BROATHIL.

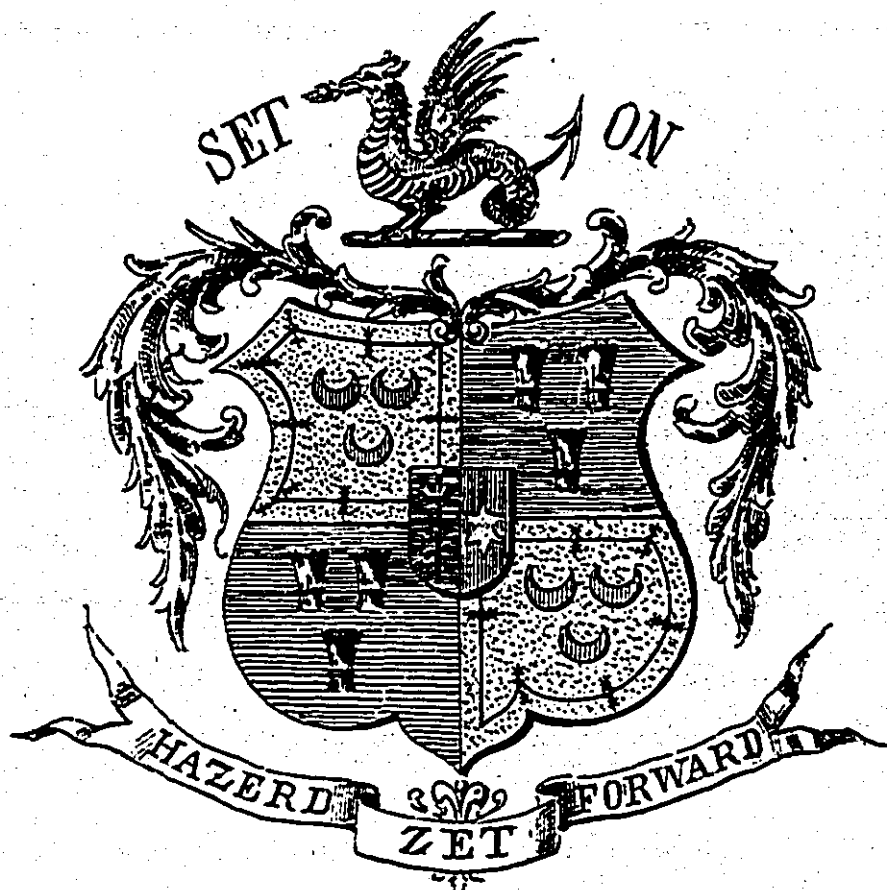
\* *British Family Antiquity*, Vol. VIII.

who ascribe them to a Crusading origin and to some victory over the Saracens. The same arms exactly are emblazoned in the *Salle des Croisades*, at Versailles, as borne by one of the great barons in the Fourth Crusade: Eudes du Vermandois, A.D. 1205, and again the same arms were used by the ancient Barons de Wahull—by Writ of Summons, 1297—in England.

Setons are frequently mentioned in the illustrated *Catalogue of the Heraldic Exhibition*, held at Edinburgh in 1891. One of the most curious and beautiful exhibits there was the "Seton Family Tree," lent by Sir Alan Henry Seton-Steuart, Bart. It is executed on parchment, the background being black and the leafage green. Over seventy shields, generally disposed as baron and femme, appear illuminated in gold and their proper tinctures. Interspersed amid the foliage of this stately and wide-spreading genealogical tree are various kinds of birds in gaudy plumage. At the foot of the tree are painted different sorts of flowers and two standing figures, one being King Malcolm Canmore and the other Dougal de Say-toune. At the top of the tree are four miniature heads of members of the Seton family. The date is 1585.

The earliest existing seal of the family is that of Sir Alexander de Seton, 1216, which also shows a very early example of Differencing, as besides the paternal ensigns it has a Label of three, or more probably five points, the end ones being broken off. This would seem to indicate that Sir Alexander used this seal during his father's lifetime. A later seal, used by another Sir Alexander Seton, in 1320, which is attached to the famous Letter to the Pope asserting the Independence of Scotland, shows a departure from the ordinary arms of the family, the three crescents being placed upon a Bend. They have been given in Henry Laing's *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals*, Nos. 736, 737. I was made acquainted with the author by Mr. George Seton some thirty-seven years

ago, at Edinburgh, and brought away with me casts of all the Seton seals in his extensive collection, but unfortunately I left them at the *Accademia* in Rome when I returned to America. The next change in the Seton arms—it is rather an addition or augmentation than a change—occurs in the



ARMS ON THE EARL OF WINTON'S SNUFFBOX.

fourteenth century, when the Double Tressure *fleurs-de-llys*, called by heralds the Royal Tressure, was granted to them in virtue of their matrimonial alliance with and descent from the reigning family. It is one of the earliest instances of such recognition in Scottish heraldry. It is thus found on the shield of Sir Alexander Seton in 1337,\* and on that of

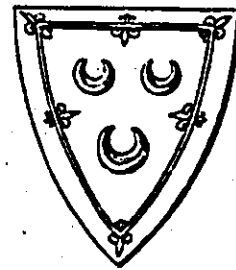
\* Woodward and Burnett: *Heraldry, British and Foreign*, I., 178, and *Laing's Catalogue*, No. 891.

William, first Lord Seton, in 1384.\* The arms were enlarged in the early part of the fourteenth century by the addition to the paternal coat of *azure*, three garbs or sheaves of wheat *or*, which are the feudal arms of the ancient Earldom of Buchan, claimed by George, third Lord Seton, in right of his wife, Lady Margaret Stewart, only child and heiress of John, Earl of Buchan, grandson of King Robert II.



SETON CREST.  
A Wyvern issuing out of a Ducal coronet.

When Robert Seton was created Earl in 1600, he was granted an augmentation to his arms to consist of *azure*, a star *argent* for the title of Winton to be carried on an escutcheon surtout. It afterward occupied the sinister side of the escutcheon, parted per pale. There also appeared somewhat later, in the full achievement of the Earls of Winton, another coat of augmentation carried on the dexter side; viz., *gules*, a sword erect proper, hilted *or* supporting an imperial crown, within a double tressure of the last, which was given to the son and successor of Sir Christopher Seton, who married the Lady Christian Bruce, sister of King Robert I.—to perpetuate the services rendered to his country by himself and his progenitors, and to recognize their support of the Crown of Scotland for the lawful claimants. Woodward and Burnett (II., 534) mention this as probably the first example in Scottish heraldry of an augmentation to family arms after that of the Royal Tressure, in which, as already said, the Setons shared at an early date. It was originally granted in connection with the Barony of Barnes, and was long borne by the Setons of Barnes. Andrew Seton, of New York and Florida, bore these arms in right



LATER ARMS OF SETON.

\* George Seton: *Law and Practice of Heraldry in Scotland*, p 448.

of a Matriculation in the Lyon-Register at Edinburgh, in 1766.

The illustration gives these arms, somewhat enlarged, as they are engraved on the inside of the lid of the shell snuffbox (a *Turbo Pica*, from the island of Trinidad, cut and silver-mounted by the famous jeweller George Heriot) given by the Earl of Winton to his kinsman, Sir George Seton of Parbroath, Knight, and now preserved among our most valued heirlooms. Observe, however, that the Double Tressure is omitted on the inescutcheon, probably to avoid confusion in so small a space.\*



ARMS OF DUKE OF RICHMOND AND GORDON.

The CREST is an important part of the arms. It was originally a figure—often symbolical—worn on the helmet, and is now represented above the shield. It was, at first, an ensign of high honor, and its use was restricted to persons of greater distinction than was required for the mere use of arms:

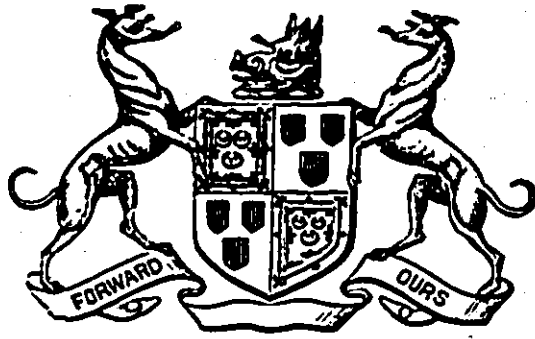
And on his head there stood upright  
A crest, in token of a knight.

—GOWER.

By gradual abuse, crests have become so common that everyone who bears arms imagines that he is entitled to have a crest also. Every old crest was such a figure or device as might be actually worn upon his helmet by a mediæval warrior with dignity and a happy effect. An ancient crest, one belonging *de jure* to an old and baronial family, may be represented issuing out of a Ducal coronet

\* By my own inattention there is, in this engraving of the arms, *gules* a star or instead of *azure* a star *argent*; and *azure* instead of *gules* a sword erect.

or standing on a Cap of estate, called also of maintenance, or, briefly, a *Chapeau*. There are only three or four families in the United States which have a strict and inherited right to a



ARMS OF SETON OF ABERCORN, BART.

crest-coronet ; but we generally have the good taste not to use it, conforming rather to the more modest practice of representing our crest upon a Wreath or Orle, which, if colored, should be of the alternate tinctures of the arms. I

will here remark that the words *ancient* and *old*, as applied to family matters, have a somewhat different meaning in different countries and at different times. There are no ancient American families, although there are a few ancient families in America. There are old American families—to constitute which, some hereditary distinction and a residence in this country of at least a century are required. No family in Europe is called old which has not endured twice as long, and none is considered ancient which does not go back five hundred years, so that we may say that ancient and mediæval are there synonymous.

The English Dragon, and its Scotch equivalent the Wyvern, issuing out of a ducal coronet, are among the very earliest figures borne as crests in those two countries. Both were connected with the Arthurian legend, and symbolically with the overthrow of paganism.\* A dragon was carried by

\* . . . and on again.

Till yet once more ere set of sun they saw  
The Dragon of the great Pendragonship,  
That crown'd the state pavilion of the King,  
Blaze by the rushing brook or silent well.

—TENNYSON: *Idylls*, "Guinevere."

Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester in England and Constable of Scotland, in 1250, and it passed with the lands of Winton\* and Tranent to his kinsmen the Setons, but does not appear to have been used as their permanent crest before the sixteenth century, although it is alluded to in the old ballad about Lady Margaret's abduction, from which I have quoted. Over the first Lord Seton's shield in the curious *Armorial de Gelre* is an antelope's head. This interesting compilation, the work of the herald of the Duke of Gueldres mentioned by Froissart, is now preserved in the *Bibliothèque Royale* at Brussels, and contains many hundred shields of the nobility of different kingdoms, executed about 1369. Forty-two of these are Scotch, and are believed to be the oldest roll of Scottish arms in existence.



ARMS OF SETON OF PITMEDDEN,  
BART.

The Hutchisons of *Seton Lodge*, Tranent, who claimed relationship with the House of Winton, used for crest a Double-headed Wyvern, on a Ducal coronet Statant, with "Hazard Zit Forward" on an escroll above it, as shown on the book-plate of Captain George Hutchison, R.N., which was kindly given me by one of his daughters.

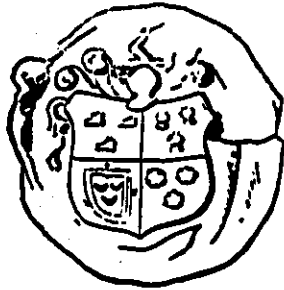
A MORTO usually accompanies an old and legitimate coat-of-arms. It is a word or short sentence which is inscribed under or around the shield. It is often confounded with the

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\* Winton is the Scotch equivalent for *Winchester*, and approaches nearer to the Latin *Venta Belgarum*—the *v* pronounced like a *u*, becoming our *w*. In an early thirteenth century charter "Seyr de Quency, Comes Wintonie"—Earl of Winton—is mentioned.



War Cry or Slogan, from which, however, it is distinct. The motto was a general and perhaps time-honored sentiment characteristic of a family through generations, and would be engraved over the castle gate or worked into the interior decorations of a dwelling-house; whereas the war cry was more military, as its name indicates, and was used only in battle and private combat, when it would be shouted defiantly, each his own, by the opposing champions. It should in correct heraldry



ARMS OF GOVERNOR  
GORDON OF PENN-  
SYLVANIA.

be placed above the shield of arms and be connected with the crest. The Slogan came into use earlier than the Motto, and is more highly considered. No one under the rank of a banneret, a chief of clan, or a military commander was entitled to it. Almost everyone who has a coat-of-arms has also a motto; but not many, and those only of once powerful and feudal families, have also a right to the war cry or slogan, which is, like the crest-coronet, an heraldic proof of mediæval origin. The war cry, called in Scotland the *slogan*, was often taken from the family name, as "A Seton! a Seton! Set-on!" or from the gathering place of the clan, as "Bellandaine!" (a place at the head of Borthwick Water, Roxburghshire), of the Scotts of Buccleugh.

Most mottoes are in Latin, but these generally date only from the period of the Revival of Letters. The oldest mottoes are, almost without exception, in Norman-French or in quaint English. The Seton motto is HAZARD ZET FORWARD.

Sometimes it will be found written *Hazard zit Fordward*, sometimes *Hazard Zet Forward*, and sometimes again even *Hazard Yet Forward*. This makes no material difference. In the manuscripts of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a curious *g* is found, which in early English print was made to

resemble a z, as when we find "neighbor" spelt "neizbor" in Chaucer. This *g* was meant for the soft *g* of the Anglo-Saxon in its transition to *y* or *i*, as in "gif," "gef," for If. The meaning, then, of our elliptical motto is:

At whatever risk yet go forward.

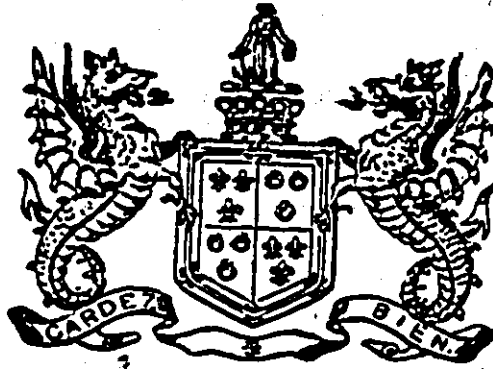
The SUPPORTERS of the Winton arms were two wildcats collared and chained. These fierce little animals were of that now almost extinct species in Scotland called the Martrick or Mertrick, which is mentioned by Hector Boece and by Bishop Leslie in the sixteenth century, and described by Martin in his *Western Islands*, printed at London in 1703, who says that the "Mertrick, a four-footed creature about the size of a big cat," is pretty numerous in Harris. It has a fine skin, smooth as any fur, and of a brown color. There was, a few years ago, one of these rare animals in the Cat House of the Zoological Gardens in London, which is said to have been "not only untamed but untamable, and would be extremely dangerous if he were brought in too close quarters with a friend or an enemy. This specimen came from Sutherland."



ARMS OF BARON HALKETT.

After the marriage of Lady Elizabeth Gordon, Heiress of that name, with Alexander Seton, created Lord Gordon in 1437, their descendants, Setons and Gordons, all retained the paternal coat or, three crescents *gules*, within the Royal Tressure. It is found in the arms of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, of the Marquess of Huntly, of the Baronets of Abercorn and of Pitmedden, of the Lairds of Mounie, and of others. The Setons of Abercorn quarter, also, *argent* three

shields *gules*, by descent from the Setons of Touch and Tullibody, who succeeded to the great estate of Egidia, daughter and heiress of John Hay of Tullibody and second wife of Alexander Seton, first Earl of Huntly. The crest, seen on



ARMS OF THE EARL OF EGLINTON.

the letters of Mrs. George Seton to her brother in New York in the last century, is a boar's head *couped*, to show their descent from the Gordons also, whose paternal coat is *azure*, three boars' heads *couped or*. The Setons of Pitmedden quarter the Meldrum arms,

with their paternal coat, being *argent* a demi-otter *sable* crowned *or*, issuing out of a bar wavy of the second, to show their descent from Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William de Meldrum of *that Ilk*. The crest is a demi-man in military habit, holding the Banner of Scotland, with above it the glorious motto *Sustento Sanguine Signa*. This crest was given by royal command in order to commemorate the gallantry of John Seton of Pitmedden, who was shot through the heart at the Bridge of Dee (June 18, 1639) while holding the banner aloft and calling on his followers to charge the rebels. A somewhat similar motto, and for a somewhat similar reason, is used by the very ancient French family of Châteaubriand: *Mon Sang Teint Les Bannières De France*.

I have seen in one of the halls of the University of Bologna the arms, painted in fresco, of John Seton of Meldrum, who was a student of law there in 1603. Underneath them is the inscription, *D. Ioannes Sitonius Scotus Meldroni Dominus—i. e.*, Sir John Seton, a Scot, Laird of Meldrum.

The Seton and Gordon arms of the Earl of Huntly are beautifully emblazoned on the heraldic ceiling of St. Machar's

Cathedral at Old Aberdeen, dating from 1520. This interesting *armorial* consists of a series of shields carved in low relief, and brilliantly colored to the number of forty-eight, arranged in three rows of sixteen each, in parallel lines.

The Seton arms are seen on old documents in the State House at Harrisburg, on the seal of Major-General Patrick Gordon, Governor of Pennsylvania (1726-1736), who was great-grandson of John Gordon, Laird of Britmore, younger son of John Gordon of Cluny, second son of Alexander Gordon, Laird of Strathaven, third son of Alexander, Earl of Huntly, grandson of Alexander Seton, Lord of Gordon and Earl of Huntly in 1450. There is a portrait of General Gordon in the Governor's Room in the State House at Harrisburg.



ARMS OF ALEXANDER SETON, COMMENDATORY PRIOR OF PLUSCARDIN.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A. Seton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

SIGNATURE OF ALEXANDER SETON, PRIOR OF PLUSCARDIN, 1586.

There was formerly (1776), and perhaps there still is, a family in South Carolina of the name of Gordon, which was said to be of *Baldornie*, and which quartered the Seton arms with their own.

Hay of Dunse Castle, Urquhart of Meldrum and Byth, and Gordon of Abergeldie do the same. The Earls of Sutherland also quartered the Seton-Gordon arms, at one time, as in

the set of Scottish heraldic playing cards, fifty-four in number, of the year 1691. Another family quartering the Seton arms with their own is that of Baron Halkett, of an old Fifeshire family, by descent from Georgina-Robina Seton, daughter and heiress of George Robert Seton, Esq., by Margaret Abercromby, his wife, who in 1771 married Major-General Frederick Halkett. Their great-grandson is the present Hugh Colin Gustave George Halkett, Baron Halkett of the Kingdom of Hanover, who married an American.

The Earls of Eglinton continue to use the old Montgomerie arms; only, on account of the succession of Sir Alexander Seton as sixth Earl of Eglinton in 1612, they have assumed the Double Tressure around them, and have changed their Supporters, substituting Wyverns—the Seton crest—for their former ones, which were Angels in dalmatics, “ever since they came from the House of Seton.”

I give two illustrations of the arms of Alexander Seton, afterward Lord Chancellor of Scotland. The first is his seal, when made an extraordinary Lord of Session in 1585, with the style of Prior of Pluscardin. The Priory was dedicated to the Apostle of Scotland, whose name was also given to the valley in which it was situated, which in ecclesiastical documents is always called “the Vale of Saint Andrew.” In this seal Saint Andrew, holding his cross, stands in the centre, supported on either side by a crowned figure, all three being in niches or under canopies. Below these figures is the shield bearing the paternal arms of his family, with a crozier (properly turned inward) behind and rising above it. On either side are his initials A. S. The legend around the seal reads: *S. Rotundum Alexandri . Prioris . De . Pluscardin.*

The next seal is the Chancellor's as Earl of Dunfermline, in 1618. It is quarterly, first and fourth, the Seton arms; second and third *argent*, on a fess *gules*, three cinquefoils of the first. The crest is a half-moon *gules*, and the motto the

Latin word *Semper*. Supporters: two horses at liberty, *argent*, maned and tailed *or*. The inscription around the seal is: *Sigillum Alexandri . Setonii . Fermelinoduni . Comitis &c.* The Cinquefoils were assumed to commemorate his Hamilton descent.



ARMS OF ALEXANDER SETON, FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE.

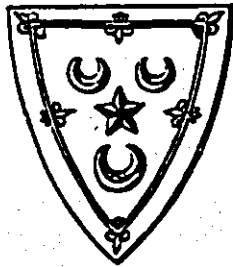
*Dunfermelyn*

SIGNATURE OF THE FIRST EARL OF DUNFERMLINE, 1618.

The Viscounts Kingston carried quarterly, first and fourth, Seton; second and third *argent* a Dragon (Wyvern—the family crest) with wings expanded, tail nowed *vert*. Crest, a crescent flaming. Supporters, two negroes wreathed about the head and middle with laurel. Motto: *Habet et Suam*.

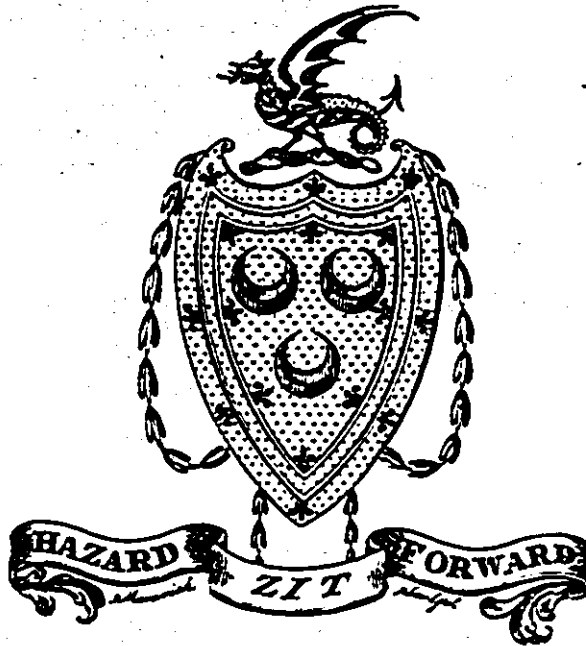
## CHAPTER XXII.

### ARMS OF THE SETONS OF PARBROATH.



LATER ARMS OF  
SETON OF PAR-  
BROATHIL

IN former times, when younger sons, who were then called Cadets, were fortunate enough to "erect and establish new houses," and retained (which was not always the case) their paternal arms, they used them only with some additional figure or with some other change, called, in the language of heraldry, *a mark of cadency*. The Setons of Parbroath in consequence first used the shield *or*, three crescents within a double tressure *gules*, with a small crescent in the centre for difference. Nisbet informs us\* that he saw these arms painted in Seton Castle. Thus, also, it appears on the dainty old mother-of-pearl Card Counter which is one of our heirlooms. In Sir David Lindsay's Register and also on one of the heraldic ceilings of Collairnie Castle, in Fifeshire, the



BOOK-PLATE OF WILLIAM SETON.

\* *System of Heraldry*, I., 236.

ancient house of the Barclays, the Parbroath arms are painted with a Mullet *azure* in the centre instead of the crescent. It may have been assumed to commemorate an alliance with the powerful house of Lindsay, when Alexander Seton, of this family, married a daughter of Lord Lindsay of the Byres. In 1601 we find appended to a Glamis charter the seal of Sir George Seton of Parbroath, which is unique, and exhibits a wide divergence from the



ARMS OF SIR GEORGE SETON OF PARBROATH.

customary arms of the family. It shows the shield with three crescents within a *bordure engrailed*, and three fleurs-de-lys—one at top and one on either side—instead of the Royal Tressure. Around it is the legend *S. Georgii . Seytone . M.*, meaning *Sigillum Georgii Setonii Militis*. For much more than a century the Setons, late of Parbroath and now of New York, have used the paternal arms of Seton only; and it was the opinion of the learned John Riddell, “the first genealogical antiquary of Europe,” that the Setons of

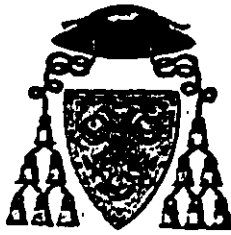


EARLIER ARMS OF SETON OF PARBROATH.  
(From an old mother-of-pearl card-counter.)

Parbroath, as being now the only Setons of original stock through unbroken male descent, are better entitled than any one to bear the family arms without a difference. They thus appear on William Seton’s notarial seal of 1779, with the legend around it: *Will<sup>m</sup>. Seton . Not. Pub. New York . In . America*; and on his elegant ribbon and wreath armorial bookplate, mentioned by Charles Dexter Allen in his *Early Ameri-*



*can Book-Plates.* My own book-plate shows the paternal arms, surmounted by the hat of a Prothonotary Apostolic. Clergymen should perhaps not use a Crest or Slogan, because these are parts of the blazon suggestive of war; nor Supporters, because they originated in the strife of Tournaments.



### CONCLUSION.

This Record of an ancient and once illustrious family is now closed. The vicissitudes of Time make an end of such things—*finis rerum*—in the common doom that overtakes

“The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power.”

Of the Setons it may be said, in the very words almost of that famous inscription in Westminster Abbey, that they came of a noble race, for all the sons were valiant and all the daughters virtuous. This is something to be proud of. The love of ancestry and the hope that an honored name will be passed down unsullied to posterity is no unworthy sentiment, but rather an aspiration after higher things; for, in the words of him who has left us the impressions that filled his breast as he stood amid the broken tombs of kings and the ruins of monastic houses at Iona:

“*Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses, whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings.*”

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