

which is at the bottom of this strange disease—which, during the most impressionable years of our life, begets in us the practice of assenting without inquiry, and believing without proof—which makes credulity a virtue, and doubt a crime—which encourages some men to be impostors, by preparing the majority of men to be dupes—and which, to the grievous detriment of progress, continues to perpetuate the division of society into the two main classes so pithily described by Montaigne:—"Those who impose upon the world that they believe that which they do not; others, more in number, who make themselves believe what they believe, not knowing what it is to believe."

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 ART. III.—MORAYSHIRE.

1. *The History of the Province of Moray.* By the Rev. L. Shaw. New Edition. Brought down to the year 1826. J. Grant. Elgin. 1827.
2. *Registrum Episcopatus Moraviensis e pluribus codicibus consorcinarum circa A.D. 1400. Cum continuatione diplomatum recentiorum usque ad A.D. 1623.* Edinburgh. 1839.

A NEW series of county histories is very much wanted. Many of those which we have are excellent in their way, but they do not meet the requirements of an age so busy as that in which we live. We heartily sympathize with one of our contemporaries in its efforts in this direction. Whether or not a really good history of any single county can be written till we possess general histories of England and of Scotland which shall be not all unworthy of their themes, is a matter of grave question. Many years may pass by before we can see the class of works which we wish for beginning to multiply upon our shelves, but there are persons in every county in Great Britain who can help on the good work by recording what has been already done for the illustration of their respective districts. A single review article, devoted to each county, would be sufficient for this purpose, although it would be wholly inadequate to give more than the merest outline of the information which ought to be contained in a good county history.

The district of which we propose to attempt a sketch is fortunate in possessing one of the best of Scotch local histories. This sort of literature, however, has been less cultivated North than

South of the Tweed, and the work of Mr. Lachlan Shaw will not bear comparison with some of English growth. It is ill-arranged. The chapter which is intended to interest the naturalist is exceedingly meagre, and the historical part is filled with matter which has often no more reference to Moray than to Lanarkshire. The whole work, indeed, admirable as it was in its day, requires to be rewritten.

Mr. Shaw, and several other local writers, have undertaken to give an account of the whole province of Moray. We propose to confine our remarks to a small portion of that extensive district—namely, to Morayshire properly so called. The superficial area of that county is variously stated, but perhaps 840 square miles may be about the mark. Its population in 1851 amounted to 38,959. It is bounded on the north by Moray Firth; on the east partly by the Spey, and partly by an imaginary line which divides it from the county of Banff; on the south by Inverness-shire, and on the west by Inverness-shire and Nairn. Its surface falls into three very well-marked divisions. The first is the strip of fertile land along the coast, very level towards the west, divided in the centre by several sandstone ridges, running parallel to the Firth, and broken into gentle undulations in the east. The second is a high moorland country, rising like a terrace to the south of the region just described. The third, still further inland, and nearer the central chains which form the nucleus of Scotland, has all the characteristics of a subalpine district. The only other geographical features which it is necessary to enumerate are the three rivers—the broad swift Spey on the east, the gentle Lossie in the centre, and the impetuous Findhorn on the west of the county—each fed by numerous tributaries, which partake to a considerable extent of the characters of the streams which they augment.

The beauty of Morayshire is not of that overpowering kind which seizes the attention and compels the praise of the least susceptible beholder. If its scenery remains, on this account, comparatively unknown, it escapes at least that Nemesis of beauty, the swarm of tourists who, with phrases of common-place laudation on their lips and utter weariness in their hearts, seem every autumn to rehearse the "Inferno" across the fairest scenes in Europe. Really to enjoy its many pleasant places we must wind along quiet river-sides, and traverse great breadths of unattractive moorland, and go down amongst dreary wastes of "bent," to the shores of the Northern Sea. Thus we shall come to know the terraced delta of the Spey, with its wide pebbly banks, its contorted channels, and the furze which does not fear to bloom midst the rush of its threatening waters; we shall wind up its open valley through rich cultivation and cheerful homesteads,

and rocks standing here and there among the trees, till a chiller air and its lessening waters tell us how far we have ascended, and Cairngorm, with the last snow of winter growing roseate in the July sunset, looks down on the gate of the Highlands. Or perhaps climbing up through the pine woods, or crossing the great peat mosses, which give an almost Irish character to the landscape, we shall reach the broad moor which spreads round Lochindorb, all purpled with the heather, and carpeted, as we see when we look close, with long twisted wreaths of the Alpine and the common deer's-grass, whose lighter greens contrast strongly with the dark leaves of the bearberry. Or else, in another and less cheerful mood, we may descend the dark gorge of the Findhorn. The fierce river, more terrible in its anger than any of the Scottish streams, is sweeping furiously past us through walls of contorted gneiss, whose grim blue masses seem peculiarly fitted to be the prison of its wild waters. But the Findhorn, beautiful at all times, is most beautiful perhaps in a calmer hour. It is a still, dank October day. The sun, which has been battling with the mists through all the early morning hours, has at last obtained a partial victory, and its beams glint warmly athwart the reddened oaks, through the showers of beech-leaves, which, nipped by last night's frost, are now the sport of every little breeze which trembles over the glimmering river. The yellow brake-fern, the first plant of the woodland to feel the approach of winter, is withering by our path, over which the gossamer has woven its countless threads, which breaking as we pass twist together and float through the air in long white filaments, the "fliegende jungfrau" of the Germans, the herald of the later autumn through Western and Central Europe. The salmon splashes lazily in the rock-pools, forgetful of the reign of terror which extends from February to September. The heron wings his heavy flight down to his home at Sluie; and the river, like a "harmless-natured serpent," glides quietly down to the level district, which sees the last ripple and hears the last fall of its mountain-born waters.

Many very striking views are also afforded by the long line of upland which runs parallel to the Firth. Perhaps none of these is superior to that from the old tower of Blervie, which extends over eight counties, from Benrinnes in Banffshire almost to the neighbourhood of Wick. At our feet are the plantations near the town of Forres, and the fertile lands which lie around the twice-ruined ruins of Kinloss. Beyond them the eye catches that tiny sixth-century Venice, the village of Findhorn, and the bar where the ship of Hugh Miller's father perished, in the manner so well described at the commencement of "My Schools and Schoolmasters." Thence it passes on to the Guillian Bank, the El Dorado of the herring-fisher, and that bold promontory

from whose heights the "diamond rock" of Cromarty used to shine through the night, as legends tell, a beacon to the mariner and a lure to the treasure-seeker. Or wandering over the woods of Cawdor, the glance falls on the inner reaches of the Firth, and follows its further side, along the ridge of Rosemarkie to Eathie, and the Southern Sutor, to the line of the Ross-shire coast and Tarbet Ness, to the wide opening of the Firth of Dornoch and the smaller one at the embouchure of the Fleet River, till the Highlands of Sutherland carry it on to the Pass of Caithness; and Fairweather Hill, that landmark of Northern sailors, stands up our last hold on reality, and abandons us to dreams of warriors and sea-kings who ruled of old upon our coasts, who sailed for sunny Vinland across the Western sea, who harried the churches of Yorkshire, who colonized the mouth of the Seine, and poured new blood into the languid veins of Anglo-Saxon England; who, realizing the dream of the Latin poet, made their homes by the Bay of Tarentum, whose hand fell so heavily upon the Mistress of the World; who reared their palaces by the Middle Sea, where hills, even more beautiful than those on which we look, keep watch and ward over the "shell of gold" and the green orange groves of Palermo.

The coast, too, has much to reward its explorer. The sands of Culbin are especially remarkable. A sudden irruption, as tradition says—a more gradual invasion, as many maintain—covered deep in sand a large extent of country which was once occupied by a valuable estate. Looking southward from the centre of this miniature desert, we survey both the lowland and the hills of Moray; looking northwest, we see the mighty mass of Wyvis uprearing its vastness over Ross and Cromarty; looking northward, we see the Firth darkling by contrast over the long sweeps of yellow sand, whose trifling elevations mimic to admiration the snow-fields which fall down towards Switzerland from the giddy heights of the Weissthor. The aspect which these sand-dunes present to one who stands in the centre of them, is unusually picturesque; but a more distant view appeals perhaps to a deeper feeling, when the sun is setting beyond the further coast-line, and they lie like a border of gold on the edge of the purple hills.

The geology of Moray has been examined with some care. The principal work on the subject is one by Mr. Patrick Duff, published in 1842; and an admirable *résumé* of the more interesting geognostic phenomena of the county is contained in a long note, by the late Mr. Robertson, of Inverugie, in the last edition of Anderson's "Guide to the Highlands," a book which is not to be mentioned without honour. Of the sand-hills of Culbin we have already spoken, and the peat-bogs call for little remark. There is, however, a submarine forest to the west of Burghead harbour.

A very large portion of Moray is covered by sand and gravel, and the northern drift is extensively developed. Mr. Martin, of Anderson's Institution, published, in 1856, a most interesting paper upon that mysterious deposit. Nowhere, except perhaps in that wonderful valley which slopes amongst the hypersthene rocks of Skye to the dark waters of Coruisk, have we seen more unequivocal traces of glacial action than on the surface of Carden Muir, about four miles from Elgin. Those who devote themselves to the comparatively recent changes which have given to the surface of our country its present aspect, will find matter for much musing in the terraces along the course of the Spey, more especially between Fochabers and the sea, and in the mighty masses of stones, sand, and gravel borne from the bosom of the high central ranges, through which the Dorbach and other tributaries of the Findhorn have forced their headlong way. The whole coast affords admirable studies of raised beaches; but those which are cut through by the railway between Elgin and Lossiemouth are of unusual interest. They are made doubly instructive by the contemplation of the process which is going on, at the moment at which we write, on the present coast-line to the west of the harbour at Lossiemouth. A vast accumulation of fragments of rock has been there cast into the sea, and piled up by the action of the waves precisely in the same manner as the old-world storm-beaches, which are now far inland. No one, not accustomed to examine very carefully into what he sees, would believe at first that the natural breakwater which runs west from the harbour of Lossiemouth was the work of other than human agency.

At Linksfield, near Elgin, wealden beds occur; but a mass of boulder clay is intercalated between them and the subjacent cornstone, and an atmosphere of doubt seems still to surround all their relations. A very ingenious explanation of this most remarkable geological phenomenon, an explanation which has obtained the sanction of Agassiz, is given by Mr. Robertson in the note already alluded to. The better opinion, however, seems now to be that these beds were deposited in their present position by a mass of floating ice. They form a hill of moderate size; and admirable sections of them are presented by a cutting which has been made to enable the quarrymen to reach the subjacent cornstone, the surface of which is rounded and striated as if by the grinding of an iceberg. If these were indeed borne to Moray by one of these wanderers of the deep, it is easy to understand how the much smaller masses of inferior oolite on the burn of Lhanbryde and at Inverugie were brought to their present sites. A startling inquiry is suggested by the reptilian remains which are found in the sandstones of Moray. Are the coal-measures

really the witnesses to a state of things which once existed over all the earth, or are they merely local and exceptional? Did the great sandstone formation pass slowly from the old into the new red, while the plants of the coal period were flourishing on dank green islands and amongst steaming estuaries? However this may be, the best geological authorities seem for the present inclined to identify the rock in which the wonderful little creature called by Dr. Mantell the *Telerpeton Elginense*, and by Professor Owen the *Leptopleuron lacertium*, was discovered by Mr. Patrick Duff, with the quartzite which is so well developed on the western coast of Ross-shire, and on which Professor Nicol of Aberdeen published an elaborate paper in the *Geological Journal* for February, 1857. He believes the quartzite to belong to the lower carboniferous age. Hugh Miller, on the other hand, claimed it as a part of his acknowledged domain, answering to the "upper red sandstones of Dunnet Head." The geological traveller in Moray should not omit to visit the quarry at Cummingston, not far from Burghead, where some of the more intelligent workmen will no doubt be able to point out to him slabs which bear the impress of reptilian feet. The yellowish sandstone which underlies the quartzite is extensively used for building in the neighbourhood of Elgin and elsewhere. In many parts of the cathedral it looks as fresh as if it could tell only of the disruption of 1843, not of the reformation of three hundred years before. The English tourist is astonished to hear the comparatively moderate price at which noble piles like Milne's Institution at Fochabers have been erected. On the *vexata quæstio* of the position of the cornstone of Moray we shall not enter, further than to say that Mr. Duff still adheres to the opinion expressed in his work, but that the majority of his fellow-labourers disagree with him. Elgin stands upon a mass of this rock. Passing by the grey sandstone of the Newton quarry, we descend upon the beds of Scat Craig, economically worthless, scientifically of deep interest. Those who do not mind a rough and rather wet walk should leave the Elgin and Rothes road at a smithy about five miles from the former place, and follow the course of a little stream towards the piece of exposed rock which is called more especially the Scat Craig. They will be unlucky if they are not rewarded by many scales, teeth, and bones of fishes exposed on the surface of the waterworn and crumbling sandstone. A chisel or a very sharp-pointed hammer is an indispensable companion in a ramble to this point. The lowest or dark red division of the Morayshire sandstone plays an important part in its geology. The larger part of it consists of the great conglomerate, a rock which often breaks into singularly picturesque masses. The fishbed appears at Dipple on the Spey, but the famous sections of it at the burn of Iagnet and at Le-

thenbar lie beyond the limits of the county on the east and west respectively. In the upland districts of Morayshire, gneiss and other metamorphic rocks prevail; but so far as they have been yet examined they offer little to interest. Mr. Duff directs attention to a quarry of gneiss in Califer Hill, near Forres, where the beds are disposed in a circular form. The only peculiarity furnished by the granite of Morayshire is, according to the same authority, its containing, in a section near Rothes, large plates of mica, of sufficient dimensions to be used as small window panes. Those who are anxious to inform themselves on the geology of this district may consult, in addition to Mr. Duff's work, which contains many pictures of the characteristic fossils, Miller's "Old Red Sandstone," and his "Schools and Schoolmasters," in which last there is a remarkable description of the sands of Culbin. The late Dr. Malcolmson wrote, but did not we believe print, a very important paper on the sandstones of Moray. The best collection of Morayshire fossils is Mr. Duff's cabinet at Elgin, which is ever open to his many friends; and the geological department of the Elgin Museum is rapidly improving.* Ere long we may hope it will become as perfect a local collection as any in the kingdom. Great things in geology, as in other branches of science, are hoped for in the county from an invasion of savans after the meeting of the British Association at Aberdeen in 1859.

The mineralogy of Moray, as distinguished from its geology, calls for little remark. Lead has been sought with more industry than success in several places. Deep shafts, still partially open on the shore near Stotfield, witness to one of the most energetic of the attempts to find it. Coal was supposed, in less scientific times, to lie hid beneath the *laigh* of Moray; but the gnomes have hitherto kept their own secret, and a search for the anthracite of Brora, on the southern side of the Firth, resulted in, to say the least, no pecuniary advantage to those who directed it. Iron, whence procured it is difficult to say, seems to have been smelted on the hill grounds of the county at a remote period, and this metal appears as one of the valuable products of lands not far from Forres in a very ancient charter which has been lately published.

The climate of Morayshire has been celebrated for many ages. The strong language of Hector Bocce may not indeed be esteemed of much importance, but his praises are echoed by Buchanan, and even surpassed by the enthusiastic Bishop of Ross. There is something of exaggeration in all this; at the

* The directors of this Institution have reserved a portion of the space at their command for the productions and antiquities of the district; and keep a book, in which they enter, from time to time, extracts from newspapers and manuscripts illustrative of local matters.

same time the climate is, considering the latitude, an unusually mild one. The wind for about 260 days of the year "sets from some point of the west;" and the boles of the trees are observed, in exposed situations, to be flattened on the side which looks towards that quarter. In November and December there is frequently mild and agreeable weather, but the rest of the winter is, although not severe, broken by frequent and violent storms. Perhaps the least pleasant season is the end of spring, when a "dry parching easterly wind blows from the melting snows in Norway and Russia, blighting the first efforts of vegetation," and producing very disagreeable effects on all except the most robust. Mr. Leslie, in his "General View of the Agriculture of Moray," published in 1811, says that at the beginning of last century the heat is represented to have been excessive "throughout the whole summer." This is certainly not now the case. Several very careful meteorological registers are kept by gentlemen residing in Elgin. From extracts which have been kindly furnished to us we observe that the highest temperature registered between the years 1852-56 inclusive was 80°. This limit was reached both in 1852 and 1855. In the latter year the thermometer sank as low as 3°. In 1852 its lowest limit was 23°. The average rainfall may be about 24.39. The mean temperature for the year may be about 46°.

In common with many other parts of Scotland, Morayshire is not unfrequently deluged by prolonged and violent rains in the earlier part of August. The most remarkable of these Lammas Floods, as they are called, of which any record has been preserved, was that which occurred in the year 1829. Unusual heat and drought in the months of May and June had been followed throughout the north of Scotland by "windy and unsteady weather." On the 3rd of August, the rain began to descend on the Mona Lia mountains, on the Grampians, and upon all the districts which stretch from them to the sea. It fell not in large drops, but in minute particles, which "filled the whole air, and penetrated even the most carefully finished windows." All the streams of north-eastern Scotland were soon in flood. The Dee rushed in a current five-and-a-half feet deep over the lawn of Mar Lodge, drove the visitors at Ballater to make a moonlight flitting, and poured past Aberdeen in a torrent nearly a mile in breadth. The Don, which was less affected than most of its brother streams, nevertheless spread far and wide through all its fertile valley, and rose as high or higher than it did in the memorable flood of 1768. The Deveron swelled "over bank and brae," and the rush through the narrow passage at the Bridge of Alvah was so great, that "several aquatic birds were actually dashed in pieces by it," while boats sailed from Palmer's Cove, near Mac-

duff, into the heart of the town of Banff. But all the mischief worked by these three rivers was trifling, indeed, when compared with that occasioned by the angry Spey, and the still more savage Findhorn. The damage done by the former river and its tributaries on the Orton and Ballindalloch properties was very great; and the loss of the Earl of Seafield was estimated at 28,000*l.* The bridge near Fochabers failed to resist the current, which rose more than seventeen feet above its usual level, although the water-way was three hundred and forty feet. The seashore near Garmouth was strewn with dead hares and rabbits; sheep, cattle, and horses were swept away; numerous mills were destroyed, and hundreds of acres of land carried off. The Findhorn ruined the exquisite grounds of Relugas, and all but undermined the new house of Dumphail. Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the historian of the Moray floods, saw a fine salmon caught fifty feet above the usual level of the river; and rabbits, strange to say, took refuge in the boughs of the larches. A space of twenty square miles was covered in the plain of Forres, and nearly the whole of the crop was washed down to the sea, or left in an utterly unserviceable state. The loss of property in that neighbourhood was calculated at about 20,000*l.*, and the amount of misery caused throughout the whole country has given a sad prominence to the year 1829 in the annals of the labouring population.

The botany of the county of Moray need not detain us long. In the year 1839, Mr. Gordon, of Birnie, drew up and circulated a "list of the phænogamous plants and ferns in the *province* of Moray." Under the name of province of Moray, he included the whole of the country which is bounded on the north by the Moray Firth, and on the south by a line running from Loch Spey to Loch Monar, drained on the east by the Spey and its tributaries, and on the west by the Beaully.

The region to which his catalogue bears reference comprehends, therefore, a very large district, which lies without the limits of the country with which we are concerned. In the county of Moray we have no mountains which rise into the Alpine zone, and far the largest portion belongs to the "region of the plains," and the "upland region." A great number, therefore, of those plants for which the southern botanist repairs to Scotland will not reward his search in this district. Among the rarer species which are sufficiently common to be characteristic, it will perhaps be enough to mention the *Trientalis Europæa*, the favourite plant of Linnæus; the *Goodyera repens*, which, it has been observed, appears in the fir-woods in vast abundance, as soon as they have reached a certain age; the exquisite family of the *Pyrolæ* is represented by several species; and even the rare *Pyrola uniflora* is mentioned by Mr. Gordon as having been discovered

as well in fir-woods in the neighbourhood of Brodie House, as at the oak-wood near Aldroughtie. The crowning glory of the Morayshire Flora is, however, that little northern plant—"long overlooked, abject, flowering early"—which bears the name of the great Swedish naturalist. Nowhere, we believe, in our island does it spread its fairy wreaths and hang its delicate bells in such extraordinary luxuriance as in the great woods which stretch far and wide around Gordon Castle.

Dr. Innes, of Forres, has given a good deal of attention to the mosses of his neighbourhood, and may, perhaps, if professional engagements will permit, some day compile a list of them. The curious *Diatomaceæ* have recently shared his labours; and of them, as well as of their more dignified relatives, there seems to be no lack in the county.*

The agriculture of the lowland of Moray is in a very forward state, and more wheat is grown than home-keeping Englishmen would believe to be possible amongst "the outer barbarians." We are indebted to the courtesy of an eminent corn merchant in Morayshire for the following remarks:—

"I do not think that the London people properly appreciate our best Scotch wheats. With many of them it seems sufficient to know that wheat comes from Scotland to alter their opinion of its value many shillings a quarter. The great bulk of Morayshire wheat is now exported in the shape of flour. Our wheat exports go principally to Newcastle and the interior of Yorkshire, where the quality is much esteemed, and generally brings a price second to none of British growth."

The mild climate and good soil of Moray seem to have called forth a taste for gardening at an early period. The gardens of which we read in the "Registrum Moraviense," as early as 1398, seem to have been merely kitchen-gardens; but Abbot Reid, of Kinloss, brought over a French gardener, who seems to have been by no means unskilled in his delightful art. We hear of a gardener, apparently of some note, at Kilravock, in Nairnshire, as early as 1536, and of another at Altyre in 1672. The mantle of these worthies and their patrons has, with a double portion of their spirit, descended on the proprietor of the beautiful gardens of Dalvey. It is, however, a remarkable fact, that the modern inhabitants of Moray-land do not take half so kindly to horticulture as their countrymen of Aberdeenshire. It has been said that in that county "gardeners grow from cuttings."

In 1844, Mr. Gordon, of Birnie, who is fairly entitled to be

* Mr. Gordon, of Birnie, possesses a collection of the plants of Moray. The Brodie herbarium was not rich in illustration of the local Flora, and is not now in Morayshire:

called the northern White, of Selborne, commenced in the pages of the *Zoologist* a series of papers upon the Fauna of Morayshire. His first contribution was a catalogue *raisonnée* of the mammalia, and of the birds of the county. The list of the first of these is, of course, not numerous. It comprehends, amongst other commoner species, the Alpine hare, the red deer, the roe, and the cat-o'-mountain. The list of birds comprises about a hundred and fifty species. We are indebted to Mr. Gordon's paper on the ornithology of the county for the correct version and explanation of a rhyme very common in the north of Scotland—

“The Gordon, the guil, and the water craw,
Were the worst three things that Moray ere saw.”

The guil means the yellow corn-marigold, a very mischievous weed; and the water craw is the water ouzel, which does much harm by destroying the spawn of the sea-trout and the salmon. The hooded crow, which is often promoted to the place which is rightfully occupied by the water ouzel, is said to be a “comparatively late importation from the western shores of Scotland, which has only increased in consequence of the extended plantations of fir which afford it shelter.” The Gordon refers to Lord Lewis Gordon, whose evil repute is handed down in the distich—

“Gin ye wi' Montrose gae, y'ell' get wear and wae eneuch;
Gin ye wi' Lord Lewis gae, y'ell' get rob and rave eneuch.”

The reptiles of Moray are only six in number—the blind worm, the common viper, the common lizard, the frog, the toad, and the common eft.

The strong current which runs from the Pentland Firth towards the coast of Moray, is believed by Mr. Gordon to have been the chief agent in transporting to the waters of this portion of the German Ocean some of the rarer of their finny visitants. He enumerates, in the *Zoologist* for May and June, 1852, ninety-seven species of fish as having been found in the fresh and salt waters of the province of Moray. Of these, “about seventy have been observed in the Orkney and Shetland seas; seventy-six of the Morayshire fishes are also included in Parnell's ‘Fishes of the Forth.’” About eight additional species have been found in the Moray Firth since Mr. Gordon's list was published.

The cod and haddock-fisheries, which are chiefly pursued the one in summer and the other in autumn, occupy a large portion of the time of the dwellers on the Morayshire seaboard. The smoked haddocks of Stotfield do not yield the palm even to those of Finnan, which have enjoyed a high reputation for at least two hundred years. But the months of July and August, the period of the herring-fishery, bring the busiest hours to the fisherman of the

Moray Firth. Every evening the spectator who takes his stand upon one of the headlands of the coast may see the sails of many tiny fleets reddened by the setting sun. Findhorn, Burghead, Hopeman, and Lossiemouth, are the principal fishing stations within the county; but there are many commanding points from which the eye and attention of the stranger will be attracted to the boats as well of Banffshire as of Moray. Buckie, in the former county, may be called the metropolis of the herring-fishery in this part of the Firth, more especially if we consider it in connexion with Port Essy, Findochtie, and some other neighbouring villages. The fishermen of Scotland in general, and of the Moray Firth in particular, are a very remarkable body of men. They have little communication with the inland districts, and are often as unwilling to intermarry with strangers as were ever the patricians of ancient Rome or mediæval Germany. Hence we often observe a singular uniformity of feature running through one of their little communities. They hand down from age to age superstitions which have no hold upon the least enlightened of their neighbours—looking upon a hare's foot as the omen of disaster, declining to mention the word salmon, disliking to be asked whither they are going, and in some places keeping up old observances, such as burning tar-barrels on the last night of the year to keep away the witches—a custom which still exists at Burghead. It is much to be regretted that some person competent to the task does not put on record, before they pass away, some of the peculiarities of the fishermen of the Moray Firth. Hugh Miller's letters on the herring fishery, which appeared nearly thirty years ago in one of the Inverness papers, were indeed republished in the shape of a pamphlet, but it is so exceedingly difficult to procure, that it may be considered for most purposes as non-existent. What other information is to be found in print upon the subject, is to be sought chiefly in publications more or less fugitive in character, and not particularly well suited for general reading. A series of "Questions to Solve the Natural History of the Herring," has lately been sent by the Board of Trade, through the Fishery Board, to a large number of points along the coast. It will be a pity if some one does not take advantage of the interest which has been excited by these, and by the locally very important question of the "brand," to write some small substantive work upon herrings and herring-fishers. Those who know the fishermen best are most energetic in asserting that in their minute observations of nature, in their strange ideas and practices, there is a whole fund of interest, which has not as yet been made to contribute to the instruction and amusement of their countrymen.

Mr. Gordon, of Birnie, has also published a paper on the

molluscous animals as well of the land as of the seas of Moray, and another upon its crustaceans and echinodermata. These will be found in the *Zoologist* for 1854 and 1852 respectively. The "Synopsis of the Sessile-eyed Crustaceans," lately put forth by Mr. Spence Bate, has also been enriched by many contributions from the Moray Firth. A gentleman resident in Elgin is understood to be preparing a list of the zoophytes which he has discovered along the coast; and Mr. Gordon may, we hope, ere long find leisure to draw up an account of the insects of the district. But if much has still to be done towards cataloguing, for the use of the naturalist, the Fauna of the land and water of Moray, there is no lack of works which may pleasantly beguile the idle hours of the sportsman, or stimulate the interest in our *feræ naturæ*, which is so much to be encouraged in the young. Mr. St. John's "Field Notes," published along with his "Tour in Sutherlandshire," contain a sort of calendar of the sportsman's life in Moray, one section being devoted to each month in the year. That work, good as it is, was, however, only an after-thought, and the reputation of its lamented author will rest on his delightful "Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands," a very large portion of which is devoted to Morayshire. Mr. St. John lived long both in the neighbourhood of Forres and Elgin. He did not belong to that order of sportsmen which delight in simple slaughter, nor did he look upon shooting merely as a method of taking exercise. If it cannot exactly be said that he was "in league with the stones of the field," and that "the beasts of the field were at peace with him," we are strongly of opinion that a jury of wild cats and martens could not find it in their hearts to return a verdict of "guilty" against one who, if he slew, so pleasantly described the works and ways of their kindred. "The muckle Hart of Benmore" would plead for him; the Highland fox would, if necessary, bear false witness; and the wild swans would scream a malison upon the soul of the prosecutor. We are glad to hear that some papers by this most agreeable writer are in the possession of his widow, and may perhaps be given to the public.

Mr. Stoddart's "Angler's Companion to the Rivers and Lakes of Scotland," contains useful notices of the waters of Moray. Another work which is largely concerned with the sporting of the county, and which has much in it to charm all educated readers, is the production of two gentlemen calling themselves John Sobieski and Charles Edward Stuart. Some particulars of their singular and rather painful history will be found in the *Quarterly Review*, No. 161. The work of which we speak is in two volumes, and is called "Lays of the Deer Forest." Of the first or poetical volume the less said the better. The second, which is in prose,

after all deductions have been made for affectation and other faults, must be pronounced a very charming book, redolent of all those qualities of mind and heart which enabled its authors to carry out what can only, we fear, be characterized as a long and discreditable imposture amidst general toleration and goodwill.

It would be a profitable and not a very difficult task to collect and classify the surnames of the county of Moray. German industry has done this for Hanover and Carlsruhe, and probably for many other cities. A list of the names of places in the county, with their derivations, would be a most desirable addition to such a work. There exists, so far as we know, no really reliable etymological catalogue of the names of places in Scotland. The lists in "Chalmers's Caledonia" are not, we believe, to be trusted; and nothing is more tantalizing than to know the meaning of a name here and there throughout a district, and to feel certain that whole chapters of forgotten history and accurate observation of nature are locked up in the familiar names of rivers, hills, or farms which lie around our own homes. In the "Survey of the Province of Moray," published in 1798, a list is given of the names which chiefly prevailed in the district which it describes from 1200 to 1400, and from 1400 to 1529. We can afford to wait for a work on the names of places in Moray, but not for such a classified list of surnames as we propose. Those who are acquainted with the north of Scotland know well how curiously the names now common in particular districts recall the local history of five centuries ago. The railway and emigration will in a few years make such a list far less interesting than it would be now. Of course these two works, or rather papers—for their length need not be great—are only preliminary to what we hope one day to see, a reliable treatise on the ethnology of this interesting district. Before that can be prepared, however, much must be done. The great doctors of the science must have finished all their disputes, so far as our island is concerned. The cairns which stud the hills of Moray must be systematically and judiciously examined, and the results must be carefully recorded, while such of the charter chests and burgh records of the county as have not yet been searched, must also contribute their share to our knowledge of past days.

We have already explained our views of the functions of an article like the present. It would be inconsistent with these to attempt to enter into any of the questions of primeval Scottish history. We must not even stop to inquire who were the earliest inhabitants of Moray who have left their bones in the *tumuli* along its hills. Suffice it to say that they belonged in all probability either to the Celtic stock, or else to one of those for the most part long vanished tribes, who dwelt in many parts of Europe

before the Celtic invasion. When the first uncertain light of what we can hardly venture to call authentic history falls on the shores of northern Scotland, we find Morayshire a part of the country of the Vacomage. While the Hill of Mormoud in Buchan disputes with the Knock in Banffshire the right to be considered the Mons Grampius of Richard of Cuencestes, and the Deveron and the Burn of Cullen are equally positive in asserting their claims to be the Celnius of ancient geography, the Morayshire stations of the great people appear to be pretty well ascertained. Tuessis lay near Fochabers, and took its name from or gave it to the river which we now call the Spey. Varis survives in the modern Forres, and the "Winged Camp" was undoubtedly Burghead.

The "darkness which may be felt," which succeeds to the "thick darkness" of the Roman period in northern Scotland, begins gradually to clear away as we approach the eleventh century, and we see in the grey of the morning men like trees walking. Moray is ruled by a race of princes connected in some way with the Royal House of Scotland. Christianity has been long established. St. Columba does not appear to have approached nearer than Inverness; but St. Gernadius, if tradition may be believed, was established in the heart of the lower district of the county; and St. Marnan has left the shadow of a great name beyond its eastern limits upon the banks of the Deveron. The inhabitants are a turbulent race. The land is clothed with dense oak-woods.* Even as late as the days of the English wars, we hear of the forests of Spey, of Elgin, of Lochindorb, of Forres, and of Langmorgan. The wood of Awne also lay on the border of the county; and Tarnaway could then, as now, rejoice in its myriad trees. The clearing of the forests, which formed so important an epoch in the history of Central Europe, seems to have taken place very much later in Scotland than upon the Continent. A large part of the lowland of Moray was under water. A considerable portion of the population was in a state of serfdom. Gaelic was in all probability still the prevailing speech, though soon about to yield to the North-Saxon and the Norman French. The ordinary houses were built of wood; nay, even the castles, and perhaps the churches, were of the same frail material. Amongst the first historical personages who presents himself to our view in connexion with Moray is the much-wronged Macbeth. There seems to be little doubt that the scene of the murder of the "gracious Duncan" was a place called Bothgowan, that is the smith's house, in the neighbourhood of Elgin, and that the guilt

* The huge planks used in the construction of the pit, or saltern, at Satler Hill, show how noble were the oaks of Moray.

of his successor in power was by no means of so deep a dye as Shakspeare has represented it. We gladly, however, make one step forward into a region where we enjoy a brighter light. Yet, faint after all is the light which is shed by Lord Hailes, to say nothing of more copious but less truth-loving historians, upon the years which intervened between the accession of Malcolm Canmore and that of Alexander III. from 1057 to 1249. It was a period of great importance for Moray. It saw the Saxonizing of the country, the substitution of a system of ecclesiastical polity closely resembling that which prevailed in the land of Lanfranc and Anselm for the effete and sadly corrupted religion which could trace its pedigree from the great Columba. It saw the establishment of Norman barons beyond the Grampians, the building of castles which were garrisoned for the King, the foundation of great monastic houses, and the beginnings of those early centres of civilization—the royal burghs. It saw the settlement of the Northmen at Burghead, and the many battles by which these fierce adventurers were driven from the shores of Scotland, the introduction of the art of draining by Berowald the Flandrian, of woollen manufactures by his countrymen, and the construction of the first roads and bridges. So vigorous was the spirit of improvement which was introduced by our Scottish Bertha, the sainted Margaret, and that grand line of kings who sprang from the union of the fierce Malcolm with the gentler daughter of the line of Alfred, that it has been said that Scotland was further advanced at the commencement of the English wars than at any period previous to the beginning of the eighteenth century. Of all these princes, William the Lion is the one who best deserves to be remembered in Moray. Several of his charters dated at places within its bounds are still extant, and he would appear very frequently to have resided in Elgin, engaged in securing and civilizing the territory which had, if we may believe the strange story of our ordinary historians, been filled by an almost entirely new population during the reign of his predecessor.

Our best guide for all the minuter history of the county, from the accession of William the Lion to the Reformation, is the vast collection of documents which are massed together in the volume which was edited by Mr. Cosmo Innes for the Bannatyne Club, under the title of "*Registrum Episcopatus Moraviensis.*" The bishopric of Moray was of great extent, and the bishop was very powerful. There is hardly a family or an estate within the county whose history is not illustrated by the records of the see. Incidentally, also, a vast amount of information may be gained from the "*Registrum*" about the manners and customs of the people. We learn, for example, with how much difficulty the early bene-

factors of the Church compelled the payment of tithes, and how hard the bishops found it to enforce the censures of the Church even in the days of Innocent III. We see how parishes were erected, how the various religious houses were maintained, and what legal questions arose about the right of this or that church dignitary to the produce of the soil. We are carried back to an age when the erection of a mill was a prodigious undertaking worthy of all encouragement. We observe the old reverence for "standing stones" lingering on amidst a population which had forgotten why they were raised. We see the Church "keeping its villeins still," after they had been generally enfranchised. We listen to the high debates about homage which are carried on between the bishop and his most powerful neighbours. We see the Church binding the fierce chieftains of the north to protect her, then falling before their sudden transports of passion, but rising again and prevailing in the end. Much more space, however, than we have at our command would be necessary to make a proper use of this most important volume. We must pursue the thread of the history of Moray, chronicling only its more striking, if not more important events.

The great armament of Haco the Norwegian, the armada of the thirteenth century, spent its fury on the western coast of Scotland; but we can well believe that the eclipse which enables us so accurately to determine the precise date of that expedition, filled the hearts of the men of Moray, already troubled by the news which was wafted over from Caithness, with no little sorrow and alarm. Not many years elapsed before they had experience of the evils of foreign rule. We find that an Englishman, Henry de Rye, was governor of the castles of Elgin and Forres when Edward I. gave his judgment in favour of Baliol. In 1296, the great oppressor was himself at Elgin. He marched, as appears from a curious diary printed in the appendix to Tytler's first volume, in one day from Fyvie to Banff, in another from Banff to Cullen, whence he crossed the Enzie to the Spey. In the summer of 1303 he returned to the north, stayed some time at Kinloss, and then marched to Lochindorb, where *partes boreales ad pacem cepit*. In 1336 this island stronghold was visited by the third Edward, who hurried thither to rescue his adherent, the widowed Countess of Athole, who was besieged by the Regent Moray. In 1360, when the terrible pestilence which then ravaged Scotland was at its height, the Court retreated northwards, and establishing itself at Kinloss, sought from the pure air of Moray that safety which the saints of the south were unwilling or unable to afford. The year 1390 is memorable, in the annals of Northern Scotland, for the sacrilegious attack on the Cathedral of Elgin by the Earl of Buchan, whose power had been allowed

by the negligence of the sovereign to become far greater than befitted a subject. A similar tragedy, as we have already seen, took place a few years later; and these two atrocious crimes were unfortunately by no means unparalleled in that most hideous period of Scottish history. Some acts of the Scottish Parliament in the reign of James I., which immediately followed on those days of misrule, "when a deputy was king," were of no small importance in succeeding times in the county of Moray. We allude to those which regulated the salmon and herring fisheries; and few districts of Scotland, we may fairly assume, received more benefits from the wise measures by which James I. curbed the insolence of the northern chiefs, than the narrow strip of fertile land between the central Highlands and the sea, that "laigh of Moray," in which it was said, in long after days, that "all men took their prey." During the reigns of James II. and James III., Morayshire appears to have been the scene of few very remarkable events. Its inhabitants tilled their soil and slew their wolves and caught their salmon in an obscurity which, if not happy, was at least not disastrous. Their repose, however, was the repose of a barbarous age. Feuds were common everywhere. In the year 1452, a part of the town of Elgin was burnt in a conflict between the Earls of Moray and Huntly. The foundation of King's College, in Aberdeen, in the reign of James IV., was of infinite service in extending into remote districts the rudiments of reviving learning. Florence Wilson was, perhaps, the first distinguished student who repaired thither from the banks of the Lossie. One of the strangest incidents in the life of Mary Queen of Scots was her warlike progress through Moray to Inverness, and her return to the Spey in the face of her rebellious vassal the great northern Earl of Huntly. The woods which then shrouded the most rapid of Scottish rivers narrowly missed being the scene of a conflict of an unusually chivalrous character. "What desperate blows," says the English envoy who accompanied the expedition, in a letter to Cecil, "would this day have been given when every man fought in sight of so noble a queen and so many fair ladies!"

The peace of Moray was sadly disturbed about the middle of the sixteenth century by the perpetual feuds of the Dunbars and the Inneses. Neither party regarded even the reverence due to sacred edifices in the prosecution of their murderous designs. The burghers of Elgin were grievously troubled by the endless inquests which were held about these matters. They found their duties of jurymen or commissioners very inconsistent with their trade, and we find several of them complaining that they were obliged to occupy themselves with a quarrel about which they knew no more than those "who dwelt in Jerusalem." A gene-

ration later the feuds of Huntly and the Earl of Moray threw the whole country into confusion. Accounts of the siege of Ballindalloch, the raid of Tarnaway, and other incidents of this disgraceful contest, may be read in Sir Robert Gordon's "History of the Earldom of Sutherland." Only a few years later the Dunbars quarrelled amongst themselves, the lairds of Burgie and Blervie being at the head of the two contending parties. After some fighting their differences were accommodated for the time, but twenty-seven years later we find a new quarrel springing up amongst several of those who were concerned in the former one; a circumstance which, as we learn from Sir R. Gordon, was considered a providential retribution for the blood that had been shed in the course of the original dispute.

From the pages of Spalding and other contemporary historians we glean many curious particulars about the state of Moray during the civil wars and the period which immediately preceded them. Amongst the many calamities under which the country then suffered, not the least distressing were the lawless proceedings of the bands of robbers who infested the districts lying between the low country and the Highlands proper. Several of the most daring of these were led by chiefs who belonged to the proscribed clan Gregor, such as John Dugar and Gilderoy, the hero of a well-known but vulgar and tasteless ballad. These two personages were most at home in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire. Moray was the chosen seat of a still more redoubtable freebooter. This was James Grant of Carron, a man of good birth, who seems to have been driven to his desperate trade rather by the consequence of a blood-feud than by a mere love of plunder. However that may be, he soon became a brigand of the worst kind, and passed a life full of violent deeds and hairbreadth escapes. Thus, in 1630, we find him ravaging Ballindalloch's property, and causing so much alarm, that a band of wild Highlanders had to be called in to capture him. After some detention in the castle of Edinburgh he contrived to break prison, coming "down over the castell wall upon towis brocht to him secretlie, to the gryt grief of the lordis of counsall." In 1633 a desperate attempt was made by some of the clan Gregor, who were in the pay of Ballindalloch, to seize James Grant, who was concealed, with only two companions, in a small house on Speyside. The assailants were about fourteen in number, in company with "ane cruell bloodie tyrant to their capitaine called Patrick Ger." We give the sequel in the quaint language of Spalding:—

"James Grant heiring the noyss and seeing himself so beset that he wes nather abill to keip that litle hous nor yit to wyn away, resolut to keip the dur with the uther twa als long as they nicht, and shot

out arrowis at tua wyndois that few did venter to cum neir the dur except their capitane, who cam feirslie forduard to persew the dur, quhilk the said James Grant perceiving and knowing him weill, quiklie bendis ane hagbut and schootis him throw both thies and to ground fallis he. His men leavis the persute and loopis about to lift him up agane. Bot as thay ar at this wark the said James Grant, with the uther tua loopis fra the houss and fleis, leaving his wyf behind him. Bot he is scharplie followit, and many arrowis wes shot at him, but he wan away saillie to ane Bog neir hand by with his tua men."

But none of this worthy's recorded proceedings give a more melancholy picture of the insecurity of the country than one which is related by Spalding under the year 1634. On the 7th of December James Grant contrived to entice Ballindalloch into an ambush and carried him off:—

"Alwaies they travellit upon the night in obscure wayis, crossing and recrossing burnes and wateris that Ballindalloch could not suspect the wayis. And thairwith he is changzeit be the arme to the arme of another strong lymmar, and lokket fast togidder with his face musled that he nicht not sie."

After three weeks' detention and the greatest hardships he made his escape. James Grant and some others of the band being out of the way—

"Ballindalloch perceaving quyetness, he speikis vpone latein to Leonard Leslie, lamenting his miserie, craveing his help and assistance to wyn away, and promesit him ritche rewardis for his panes. Now albeit this Leonard Leslie wes sone in law to Robert Grant, vnclie to the killit Carroun, whose death this James Grant wes now seiking to revenge, and that Ballindallache wes speciallie intrusted into his keeping; nevertheless, hoping for reward, he tellis him in latein where he was, quhilk Ballindallache understood weill aneuch to be within thrie myll to Elgyn, thrie myllis to Spey side, and three myllis to the place of Inness. Then he schowis him that the morne being Sunday, and 28th of December, he sould seim to rax him self and schak himself looss of his arme, quhilk Leonard keipit, syne with all his strength to get his vther arme out of McGrymmonis gripis, then haistellie to get wp and to the dur of the killogie, quhilk he sould behald. Ballindallache followit his counsel, schuke him self looss and wyns the killogie dur. Leonard first followit and of set purpoiss fell efter him in the dur to stay McGrymmon to follow efter. Ballindallache to the get with all the speed he could rin. Leonard follouis and still is narrest to him. McGrymmon gives the cry and follouis. Robert Grant and the rest gettis up and follouis, bot Ballindallache wyns be speid of foot to the town of Urquhart, and Leonard with him, for he quyts his company. The rest durst not follow to Urquhart, bot went their wayis sad and sorrowfull for thair awin saiftie."

The case of James Grant was no uncommon one. Blood feuds appear to have very frequently been complicated with mere

turbulence and love of rapine. Thus the terrible tragedy of the "burning of Fren draught," which belongs to the history of Banffshire, seems to have drawn after it a whole train of woful consequences, which affected the neighbouring counties. Justice was still most easily obtained by the strong hand. Everywhere life and property were held on a very uncertain tenure. Even in the civilized "How of Moray," the "broken men," or "light horsemen," who owned a sort of allegiance to the head of the house of Gordon, were almost as much feared as the barbarous "Hieland lounis," or the "infamous byke of lawless lymmars" who followed James Grant. The state of things in Moray was not unlike that of some of the more disturbed parts of Italy or Hungary after the late wars. The attack on Keith by Gilderoy was a rehearsal, on a small scale, of the taking of Forlimpopoli, in 1851, by "Il-Passatore," and Rosa Sandor's proceedings, during the campaign of 1848-49, were curiously like some of those of Grant and Dugar.

Moray suffered less than many other districts in the great civil wars. Like almost every other province of Great Britain, however, it had its share of troubles. In 1637, the Provincial Assembly met at Elgin; and the bishop, Dr. John Guthrie, counselled his clergy to buy and use the new service-book; but "some coft" (*i.e.*, bought) says Spalding, "some took to be advysit, and some refusit." Shortly afterwards the Covenant was subscribed at Elgin. Many Morayshire gentlemen attended the great meeting held at Turriff, in 1639, by the party opposed to the Government, and some delegates from the county went about the same time to salute the army of the Covenant in Aberdeen. In 1640, the Royalist leaders in Banffshire and Aberdeenshire, fearing to be placed between the Northern Covenanters, who were assembling at Elgin, and the forces belonging to the same party which were making ready to march from Forfarshire, dashed across the Spey, and advanced to Lhanbryde, with a view of being beforehand with their enemies. They succeeded in surprising them, and in forcing them to an accommodation. Sir Robert Innes of Innes, says the Parson of Rothiemay, "who was esteemed as wyse and gallant a gentleman as any in Moray, was designed commissioner." He "gave them fair langwaidge, and showed them that the only reason why they armed was to gwarde ther owne countrey; but meand for to molest none that belonged to the Marquess of Huntley, ther neighbour." Matters remained, however, in a very uneasy state till the rising of the Gordons in 1644, which was immediately followed by meetings of their opponents at Elgin, and ere long by the flight of Huntly, who "rydis the water of Spey, he being cled in cot and trewis, with ane black bonnet on his heid;" and at last, after

some difficulty, gets a boat at Cowsea, and sails for Sutherland. Soon after this, Argyle advanced from Turriff to Cullen, and from Cullen to Elgin, where he lodged in the Laird of Innes's house for the space of three days. Ere long, danger threatened from another side. Alaster Macdonald sent the fiery cross into Moray, summoning all to arm for the King. In the campaign which immediately followed, the men of Moray did their best to keep both Argyle and Montrose as far from their border as possible—a course of conduct for which Spalding very much commends them. They succeeded only very partially, however; and after the battle of Inverlochy, the full stream of war swept through their territory. When Montrose came to Elgin, many of the inhabitants took refuge at Spynie. The victorious general left the town unburnt, on receiving 4000 merks; but the soldiers, more especially those in the service of the Laird of Grant, “plunderit the town pitifullie, and brak down bedis, burdis, insicht and plenishing.” No sooner had this calamity passed by, than a regiment in the opposite interest advanced from Inverness, harrying the lands of Coxtou and taking away from Elgin some of those who had given in their adherence to the Royalists. After the battle of Auldearn, Montrose returned, and treated the town in a still more hostile manner. Many houses were burnt, and a party was sent to destroy the town of Garmouth. Other particulars about the operations in the neighbourhood of Lethen will be found in “Britane's Distemper.”

Spalding, who was an arrant gossip, seems to have taken great interest in the adventures of the Bishop of Moray during these troublesome times. He tells us how great was the indignation caused by his preaching in his robes of office before the King, at St. Giles's Church, Edinburgh, in 1633; how he was deposed by the General Assembly some years afterwards; how he retired to Spynie, but afterwards surrendered his castle to Monro, without making any defence; how he was carried to Aberdeen, and at last lodged in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh; nay, the historian even informs us that “his wife all this tym remanit in Spynny, and never went to see her husband, in waird or out of waird.” At length the poor man was liberated, and went to live in Forfarshire.

Many little incidents which are scattered through the pages of the “Memorialls of the Trubles,” are interesting to those who take pleasure in calling up the picture of Morayshire in the seventeenth century. Such are the murder of Robert Tulloch, at Pans Port, in Elgin, in 1630; the arrangement made for the protection of the county against the Clan Gregor, in 1642; the death of Montrose's son, a youth of great promise, at the Bog of Gight, now Gordon Castle; and the changes which took place

in the city churches, according to the variations of ecclesiastical opinion. The description of the devastation of the Cathedral at Elgin cannot even now be read without pain.

“Monunday, 28th December, Mr. Gilbert Ross, minister at Elgyne, accompaneit with the young Laird Innes, the Laird Broddy, and sum utheris, and but auchthoritie, brak down the tymber partition wall divyding the Kirk of Elgin fra the queir quhilk had stand sen the Reformation nar sevin scoir yeirs or above. On the wast syde was painted in excellent cullouris, illuminat with starris of bright gold, the crucifixing of our blessed Saueour Jesus Christ. This peice was so excellentlie done, that the cullouris nor starris never fadit nor evanishit, bot keipit haill and sound as thay were at the begining, notwithstanding this colledge or chauswurie kirk wantit the roof sen the Reformation, and no haill window thereuntill to saif the same from storme, snaw, sleit, or weit, quhilk myself saw, and mervallous to conseder.”

The curious book of Richard Francks, who made a fishery expedition into Scotland after the civil wars, contains very little information about the state of Moray, but is still worth turning to. He speaks highly of the beauty of Elgin, but is very uncivil to Forres.

Morayshire enjoyed the very questionable honour of welcoming Charles II. to that short-lived elevation which came to a disastrous close upon Worcester field. The vessel which brought the King from Holland was unable to enter the Spey, and a boat was sent ashore with him. He was carried through the surf by a ferryman named Milne, whose descendants retained to our own times the appellation of King Milne, and the small property of their ancestors. In a house, only recently destroyed, the clergy of Moray presented to Charles the Solemn League and Covenant, which he took and subscribed. During that dark age of Scottish history which followed the Restoration, Morayshire, although it did not enjoy the proverbial blessedness of states whose annals are silent, was at least less unhappy than most parts of the kingdom. The thunder-cloud of persecution burst much further south, and only the skirts of the storm affected Moray. In 1684, however, a commission was granted to the Earl of Errol and others over all the country between the Spey and the Ord of Caithness. The clergy were commanded to attend these officers, and to bring with them lists of suspected Presbyterians. Most of the proprietors throughout the country complied with the requirements of the government. Some were refractory. The great family of Brodie was severely punished—the Laird of Lethen, Brodie of Brodie, Brodie of Windyhills, and Brodie of Miltown being all heavily fined. Immediately after the Restoration there was a terrible outbreak of the witch-finding mania at

Auldearn in Nairnshire, which, as might have been expected, affected the neighbouring county.

The details of the investigations which were there carried on, a strange medley of silliness and horror, may be read in Burton's "Criminal Trials." A certain interest attaches to this hideous story, from the fact that the scene of the supposed devilries of the unhappy victims was the same district which tradition has connected with the meeting of Macbeth and the weird sisters. A high knot of trees, to the right of the road between Forres and Nairn, and close to the Hardmuir tollbar, marks the spot which was pitched upon by the imagination of long bygone readers of Shakspeare, as the precise place where the unearthly visitants stopped the doomed warriors on their way. It has been supposed by some that Shakspeare accompanied the English players to Aberdeen in the end of the sixteenth century. If so, it is just possible that some trials, which were then exciting attention in the north, and which were not unlike the Auldearn atrocities of a hundred years later, may have worked to some extent on the imagination of the poet.

Morayshire was destined to see the last struggle for James II.—if indeed it deserved the name—which was made on Scottish ground. The battle of Cromdale was fought, or rather lost without fighting, on May 1st, 1690. The belligerent parties were a body of Highlanders returning from a Lowland foray, and the king's troops, under Sir T. Livingstone. It resulted in the total defeat of the former. Few ballads, we may remark in passing, are more wild in their anachronisms and misstatements than the well-known one which celebrates this event.

The constant insecurity which was occasioned by the violent contests between opinion and power produced a very bad effect on agriculture towards the end of the seventeenth century. Many fields went out of tillage, and a succession of unfavourable seasons brought the horrors of famine. The magistracy of Elgin had to organize a police to bury those unfortunates who died during the night under the long and gloomy piazzas, which gave to the old cathedral city, until a few years ago, a look of Berne or Bologna.

One of the very last scenes of the tragedy of 1715, was also played out within the limits of the county. When the Chevalier de St. George had fled, when the army had broken up, and when all was lost except honour, a body of Jacobites, about one hundred and sixty strong, rode down from the hills into the level country, then in full possession of the Hanoverians, seized some boats at Burghead, and escaped to the opposite coast. There they obtained two larger vessels and sailed into the stormy Pentland to meet two French ships which were waiting for them. Some

were lost at sea, the rest got on board the French ships, and were conveyed to the Swedish coast.

About the year 1730, the York Building Company bought a large extent of forest in the upper district of the county. They carried on their operations on a very large scale, and did much to civilize the rude natives of Abernethy and the neighbouring parishes. It is said that Aaron Hill, the poet, who was employed in the service of the company, first taught the dwellers on the Upper Spey to construct rafts of timber. Another important step in civilization was made about the year 1740, when the potato was introduced.

In the sketches of Moray by Mr. Rhind there is a very interesting account of the state of the county about the period of the Rebellion of 1745. The land was divided into crofts and small farms, whose possessors had neither capital nor enterprise. The insecurity of the country obliged them to congregate together in villages, whence they went forth in the morning to till their fields. The flocks and herds pastured on open commons. Turnips and artificial grasses were unknown, and the cattle were supported throughout the winter with the utmost difficulty. Agricultural implements were bad, and manuring was ill understood. The farm labourers indulged during the heat of the day in a sort of *siesta*, and went about all their duties with the listlessness of men who had no hope. In 1743, "the dear year," thousands of people wandered about "devouring sorrel and other plants." Many familiar vegetables were as yet unknown in Moray. The nettle and the mugwort were still used in cookery. Milk was a rarity during many months of the year. Little attention was paid to fishing, and vast shoals of herrings appeared and disappeared every summer without bringing any benefit to the wretched population on the coast. Peat and heather were the most important articles of fuel. The linen was made from home-grown flax, and the light-blue or "hodden gray" cloth, which was the usual clothing material of the district, was also of domestic manufacture.

It was in the spring of 1746, that the army of the Duke of Cumberland, taking advantage of the dry weather in the spring of 1746, crossed the Spey without difficulty in three divisions. The rebels, who really seem to have been too weak to dispute the passage of the river, retreated as it advanced. The Duke marched through Elgin, and encamped on the moor of Alves. The suppression of the rebellion of 1745-46, and the consequent pacification of the country, inaugurated a new period. In 1775, Mr. Shaw's book appeared. We quote from him some passages which illustrate what we may be permitted to call the period of transition.

"I well remember when from Speymouth (through Strathspey, Badenoch, and Lochaber) to Lorn there was but one school—viz., at Ruthven, in Badenoch; and it was much to find in a parish three persons that could read or write.

"Such prevailing ignorance," he continues, "was attended with much superstition and credulity. Pilgrimages to wells and chapels were frequent. Apparitions were everywhere talked of and believed. Particular families were said to be haunted by certain demons. I find in the Synod records of Moray frequent orders to the Presbyteries of Aberloure and Abernethie, to inquire into the truth of Maag Moulach's appearing; but they could make no discovery, only that one or two men declared they once saw in the evening a young girl whose left hand was all hairy, and who instantly disappeared. Almost every large common was said to have a circle of fairies belonging to it. Separate hillocks upon plains were salled Sighan, *i. e.*, Fairy hills. Scarce a shepherd but had seen apparitions and ghosts. Charms, casting natiivities, curing diseases by enchantments, fortune-telling, were commonly practised and firmly believed. These effects of ignorance were so frequent within my memory, that I have often seen all persons above twelve years of age solemnly sworn four times in the year that they would practice no witchcraft, charms, spells, &c. It was likewise believed that ghosts or departed souls often returned to this world, to warn their friends of approaching danger, to discover murders, to find lost goods, &c. That children dying unbaptized (called Tarans) wandered in the woods and solitudes, lamenting their hard fate, and were often seen."

The history of Moray since 1775 has been, like that of most Scottish counties, the record of a constantly increasing prosperity. Old Pennant, if he travelled again between Fochabers and Elgin, would have to rewrite the passage in which he describes the cottages of Moray. Johnson would pronounce the inns improved, and the trees multiplied. Cordiner would find the antiquities to which he drew attention better cared for and better understood; and Sir John Sinclair would abundantly rejoice in the still increasing breadths of corn-land. The change which a single century has wrought in Northern Scotland can hardly be exaggerated. We shall not enter upon a subject which, to be treated usefully, must be treated in considerable detail. It remains to notice some of the historical monuments of Moray, and its more remarkable men.

Those mysterious sculptured stones about which so many conjectures have been hazarded, and which have been lately brought into increased notice by a magnificent work which was published in 1856 by the Spalding Club, are of frequent occurrence in the county of Moray. Far the most remarkable monument of this description which falls within its limits is the tall pillar near Forres, commonly called "Sueno's stone," from the very improbable tradition that it was erected to commemorate a defeat of the Danes under a general of that name. Inferior to it

in importance is the stone which is preserved in the Cathedral of Elgin, as well as others at Birnie and Upper Manbean, at Altyre and at Brodie. In the parish of Drainey there seems to have been a wonderful accumulation of stones of this description. Numerous fragments of these have been discovered and placed in the Elgin Museum. "Nothing," says Mr. Stuart, "is known of its early history which suggests any explanation of the great accumulation of sculptural stones on the spot. St. Gernadius, at the dawn of our ecclesiastical history, had an oratory or penance-cell in this neighbourhood." What these stones were remains still a mystery. Mr. Stuart shrinks from offering any opinion as to the source whence they were derived by the primitive inhabitants of the north-eastern districts of Scotland, although he seems convinced that they were peculiar to those inhabitants, and that they were used by them partly as sepulchral monuments. There appears to be little doubt that the early Christian missionaries, finding them the objects of reverence to the tribes amongst whom they laboured, endeavoured to connect them with Christian associations. Thus we are told that St. Patrick inscribed upon three pillar stones in Ireland the words—Jesus, Soter, and Salvator—respectively, a proceeding by the way which must, to say the least, have created some confusion in the minds of his converts. The record of the Christianization of Europe is, however, the record of such accommodations. The late Mr. Chalmers, in a letter to Mr. Stuart, has with great plausibility suggested that the intermingling of Christian and heathen emblems upon these monuments is analogous to that which is observed upon Gnostic gems. "What," he adds, "was Gnosticism, at least as connected with Christianity? Was it anything more, speaking generally, and not of the particular school whence it took its name, than a mixture of paganism, and especially of its emblems, with Christianity?" It is perhaps worth observing that one of the few sane inquirers into the strange and melancholy follies of spirit-rapping and its accompaniments, lately pointed out to us that some of the figures which present themselves to the sight or imagination of "seeing mediums," and which are figured by Mrs. Newton Crossland in one of her works, correspond pretty closely with the spectacle and zigzag ornaments which so frequently occur upon these stones.

Of the great Cistercian Abbey of Kinloss, described in glowing and no doubt exaggerated terms by Hector Boece, only mere shapeless ruins remain. The Chapter House was used as a Protestant Church up to 1652; but in that year Brodie of Lethen, the proprietor, sold it and nearly all the rest of the building (some say unwillingly) for the erection of Cromwell's Fort at Inverness. Fuller particulars have been published about this religious house

than about any other in Moray. In the year 1528, Robert Reid, then Abbot elect of Kinloss, but afterwards better known as Bishop of Orkney, engaged at Paris one Ferrerius, an Italian born at Riva-di-Chieri, near Turin, to come over to Scotland and to teach the elements of polite learning to his rude brethren on the Bay of Findhorn. After some stay in the south, Ferrerius went to Kinloss, and worked there most diligently for some years, lecturing on "Cicero," on Latin translations of Aristotle's "Politics" and "Ethics," with much else. He composed also a history of the Abbots of Kinloss, which was printed some years ago for the Bannatyne Club. The earlier part of it is of no great value. The latter, which describes the abbey as it was just before the Reformation, is more important. Kinloss was founded by David I. in 1150, and planted with monks from Melrose.

There were two priories in Moray. The first, that of Urquhart, was founded by David I. in 1125. It was dependent on the monastery of Dunfermline, and belonged to the Benedictines. Of the building scarcely a vestige remained even in the days of Shaw. The Priory of Pluscarden, which dates from about 1230, is, with the exception of the Cathedral, the most beautiful ruin in the whole county. It belonged to a branch of the Cistercians. Very valuable documents illustrative of its history exist, and will probably ere long be published. The "Redbook of Pluscarden," of which some local writers speak, seems to be purely mythical, or at most merely a copy of Fordun. A pleasant villa marks the site of the house of the Black Friars at Elgin, and the ruins of that of the Franciscans are still sufficiently conspicuous. They are enclosed in the grounds of a private house. St. Catherine's Crofts, a piece of land on the south side of the city, still recall to us that rapt Italian girl who in the streets of her native Sienna dreamt that she saw heaven opened and Christ sitting upon his throne. As we enter Elgin from the east, we pass on the left the site of the Maison-Dieu, an institution something between a poorhouse and an hospital, which was possessed of considerable property. An iron cross still marks a house of some antiquity which stands close to the church of St. Giles, and is said to have belonged to the Templars. An establishment similar to the Maison-Dieu of Elgin existed at Boat-of-Bridge on the eastern bank of the Spey. Wells, to which a certain sanctity was, perhaps in one instance still is, attached, exist at several points. Such are the abbey well in Urquhart, and the well of the Chapel of Grace at Orton.

But the crowning glory of Moray was, and is, her noble Cathedral. It was commenced in 1224, by Bishop Andrew de Moravia, a relation of the architectural St. Gilbert, the founder of Dornoch; but much of the building as it now stands, though not so much

as is generally believed, is subsequent to the days of the Wolf of Badenoch. Bishop Bur, in the letter he wrote to the King, speaks of it as "Ecclesia mea quæ fuit speciale patriæ decus, regni gloria, et delectatio extraneorum, et supervenientium hospitum laus, et exaltatio laudis, in regnis extraneis, in multitudine servientum et ornatu pulcherrimo, et in quâ ut creditur Deus recte colebatur." A series of eight large, and two smaller views, in Billings's "Antiquities of Scotland," will give a good idea of the Cathedral of Elgin to those who have not seen it. Like most of the celebrated ruins of Scotland, it did not owe its demolition to the preaching of John Knox. The avarice of some of the contemporaries of the great Scottish Reformer, and the violence of the succeeding generation, co-operated with the neglect and parsimony of a still later age, in destroying this noble edifice. A better spirit now animates its guardians, and its walls, robed in the beauty of a "calm decay," hardly need the colouring of the imagination, or the glow of the evening sky, to seem as lovely as that temple, the "Tranquillitatis ædes," which, girt with myrtle and with terebinth, rose up near the very spot before the dreaming eyes of Florence Wilson.

The other antiquities of Moray are—with the exception, perhaps, of the well-preserved little Norman church of Birnie, and its "Ronald bell"—not of any very extraordinary interest. We may mention the old, but not architecturally important, stronghold of Duffus; its more modern neighbour of Spynie; Lochindorb, which, belonging to the Edwardian period, more nearly resembles the great English castles than most of the fortalices of northern Scotland; Rothes on the Spey, once the seat of the Leslies, but now represented by a mere fragment of wall; Coxton, to which Mr. Billings appears to attach a higher antiquity and importance than it deserves; and the great hall of Darnaway, with its memories of Randolph.

If we leave unreckoned those members of noble houses, more or less connected with Moray, who have from time to time made themselves conspicuous in public affairs, it will be found, we think, that the county has contributed rather less than her legitimate quota to the list of eminent Scotsmen.

Florence Wilson, whose scholarship seems to have been combined with a singular amiability of disposition, was born at or near the town of Elgin, about the year 1500. After studying for some time in his own country, he went to England, where he became known to Cardinal Wolsey, who sent him to France, as tutor to his nephew. The death of his patron left him to battle with the world, without friends, and in a strange country. He was fortunate enough, however, to attract the notice of Sadolet,

who obtained for him the situation of classical teacher at Carpentras. His dialogue, "De Animi Tranquillitate," was published at Lyons, in 1543. One passage in this work has no ordinary interest for northern readers. It is that in which the author describes the native county which he was fated never to see again, "et est sane ille extremæ Britannæ angulus aspectu atque fructu multo jucundissimus, propter frondosos colles vicinos et lacum oloribus habitatum, haud procul ab Elgino oppido ubi templum est magnifice exstructum." Florence Wilson died at Vienne, as he was returning to Scotland, and Buchanan wrote his epitaph:—

Hic Musis Volusene jaces carissime, ripam
Ad Rhodani, terrâ quam procul a patriâ!
Hoc meruit virtus tua, tellus quæ foret altrix
Virtutum ut cineres conderet illa tuos.

Sir Robert Gordon, the historian of the Earldom of Sutherland, was a second son of the fifteenth earl of that name. He bought, in 1636, the lands of Drainie, in Moray, and changed their name to Gordonston. He was a prominent and dignified actor in the events of his day, although he is now best remembered as the author of a very useful if not a brilliant work. One of his descendants, Sir Robert the Warlock, took much interest in chemistry, or perhaps we should say in alchemy, and was locally believed to be a student of the black art. He brought a most curious library from the Continent to Gordonston, which was unfortunately sold some years ago far beneath its value, and has since been broken up. There is now no library of much importance in the county, but at Kilravock, not far from its borders, there is said to be a good collection of early editions of the classics.

Two Lairds of Brodie deserve mention—Alexander, who was one of the commissioners sent to treat with Charles II., at Breda, and James, who lived in our own times, and was well known as an indefatigable collector in various branches of natural history. Sir F. Grant, Lord Cullen, was, if not born in Morayshire, at least closely connected with it. Mr. Forsyth, whose excellent book on Italy still keeps its place on our shelves, between "Corinne" and "Ein Jahr in Italien," was born in Elgin; and Sir William Grant, who may fairly be called one of the greatest of English equity judges, was the son of parents who lived in humble circumstances on the estate of Elchies. Dr. Adam, the well-known rector of the High-school of Edinburgh, and the author of several works, which have only been superseded during the last ten years, was born in the parish of Rafford, and on the estate of Burgie. His early struggles were severe, even when

judged by the standard of a country which has for nearly two hundred years been a stepmother to her scholars. The story of General Anderson, the founder of the institution at Elgin which bears his name, has a certain romantic interest, from the fact, which seems well established, that he was brought up in extreme poverty amongst the ruins of the Cathedral.

The name of Mr. James Dick of Forres must not be omitted in any numeration of the worthies of Moray. He it was who founded that munificent bequest, which is steadily and not slowly raising the standard of education throughout the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray. The fund set apart by him to augment the salaries of the parochial schoolmasters in these counties now amounts to very nearly £120,000. The free annual revenue which is derived from this large sum fluctuates, according to the rise and fall of the interest upon land securities in Scotland. Between 1835 and 1854 it was as high as £5489 6s. 10*d.*, and as low as £3326 17s. 3*d.* It is managed by a board of trustees, who distribute Mr. Dick's bounty amongst the parochial schoolmasters—not indiscriminately, but according to merit, obliging all those who desire to participate in the funds at their command, to pass an examination, and to maintain their schools in a state of efficiency. Those who are unacquainted with this admirable local charity, will find ample details as to its management and effects in the elaborate and most interesting report, presented to the trustees in 1854, by Mr. Allan Menzies, who was then their principal officer. Few who read it will hesitate to agree with us, that the name of Mr. Dick deserves to be remembered, not by Northerners only, but by all Scotchmen, with those of Bishop Elphinstone, and Pope Nicholas V., with "John Baliol and Devorguilla his wife."

