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A HISTORY  
OF THE  
BETHUNE FAMILY.

*Translated from the French of André du Chesne, with Additions  
from Family Records and other available sources.*

TOGETHER WITH A SKETCH OF THE

FANEUIL FAMILY,

WITH WHOM THE BETHUNES HAVE BECOME CONNECTED  
IN AMERICA.

BY  
MRS. JOHN A. WEISSE.



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## HISTORY OF THE BETHUNE FAMILY.

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THE family name of BETHUNE is taken from the city of that name in the ancient Province of Picardie, France. It was called by the Romans "Betunia in Gaul." It was the chief city of a barony belonging to a family descended from the Counts of Artois. Since the eleventh century they have been known in history as the Bethunes of Picardie; prior to that date family names were unknown.

In the year 1011, Robert, first of his name, Baron of Bethune and Lord of Richebourg, was chosen "*Defender or Protector of the Church.*" This was deemed a very great honor, only conferred on powerful princes; for it involved the duty of defending and protecting the church property and the interests of the church generally.

The ADVOUE D'ARRAS, as it is written in the old French histories, enjoyed the high honor of having the banner of the church borne before him in all warlike expeditions. Hence Robert 1st of Bethune is called "*Faisseus*" to indicate that he enjoyed this distinction, and the band or *fasse* in the shield of the Bethune arms was to commemorate the conferring of this honor on him and his posterity.

In return for the services the Barons of Bethune rendered the church, the church has preserved, in its archives, a minute and reliable history of the family; so that we have before us an uninterrupted genealogy from father to son from 1011 to the present day, together with all the

births, deaths, and marriages, and an account of everything worthy of note connected with their history. A very large volume is the result of all this accumulation of incidents during eight centuries. The difficulty is to select the interesting items and pass by that which is less noteworthy.

The most remarkable feature of their history is the number of churches they have built; the institutions for learning they have founded, supported, and patronized; the public charities they have started and kept alive by their bounty; and the costly bridges, buildings, and the like they have given to the public. I have not space to give even a list of them. The beautiful Church of Notre Dame, in Paris, built by Godefroy<sup>1</sup> of Bethune, in the beginning of the twelfth century, is a fine specimen of munificence.

The earliest traditions speak of the family, both men and women, as devoted to learning, and that even in the darkest of the dark ages.

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<sup>1</sup> Some writers call him Maurice of Bethune. But as the statue of Godefroy of Bethune was standing near the westerly entrance of the Hotel de Ville, Paris, and the Parisians stated that he was the donor of the Church of Notre Dame, I incline to think it was Godefroy. The statue I saw in 1848 had a small round hat and chain armor.—*J. L. Weiss.*

BAUDOIN OF BETHUNE AND RICHARD  
CEUR DE LEON.

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In the beginning of the twelfth century, when Philip Augustus of France and Richard of England went to the Holy Land, they were accompanied by Baudouin of Bethune, son of Robert 5th of Bethune. During the sojourn in the East, Baudouin appears to have attached himself particularly to King Richard, and they started on the return in company, and were taken prisoners together in Germany. Together they endured the detention, and together they escaped to England; on their arrival, or shortly after, Baudouin was married to an English lady, the Countess of Aumale, in Normandie, and of Holderness, in the Province of York, England. She was daughter of the Count of Aumale, who was son of William the Conqueror's half-sister, who had married a Count of Aumale; this would make her cousin to King Richard. She had first married William Mandeville, Count of Essex. He died, leaving her without children.

The French historian writes: "Their marriage was contracted by command of Richard, King of England, *who loved Baudouin of Bethune*, and had his arms emblazoned by the author of the catalogue of the arms of the Kings, Dukes, Marquises, and Counts of England." (See du Chesne's history, p. 152.)

The above events are related by Richard Camden, the English historian, and by Robert, Abbot du Mont, in his "Chronicles."

The name of BAUDOIN OF BETHUNE, COUNT OF AUMALE,

is found in many state papers in the reign of Richard and of his brother John. From his marriage there were two children, a son, who died young, and a daughter married to William Marechal, Count of Pembroke, in England; no issue.

Another and less agreeable story is told of a lady of Bethune, young and beautiful, who was accused of witchcraft, because she produced some important papers that had been entrusted to her keeping, after they had been forcibly taken from her and destroyed. *Probably she, seeing their importance, had made duplicates of them*, but that was past belief, and the King of France burned her for a witch. Her relatives were so incensed that they applied to Edward of England for assistance. The young and chivalric monarch sent an English army to aid the Flemings in avenging her wrongs, and a war between France and England of several years' duration was the consequence. *This account is from Andrew's "History of England."*

A very important fact in the history of the Bethunes is that twice the whole fortune of the family has rested with an heiress, there being no son to succeed his father, and the possession going to a nephew of the last possessor. The effect has been that all but the small part of the possessions entailed on the male heir went with the heiress to another family, into which she married. This occurred first in 1248, when Robert 7th of Bethune died, and his eldest daughter, Matilda, married the Count of Flanders; and again in 1405, when by the death of Robert Bethune, Viscount of Meaux and Lord of Vendenil, there were left two daughters, Jeanne and Jaqueline, the titles and a part of the estate went to the brother of Robert, namely, John of Bethune. But a great amount of property and many large estates passed with the two heiresses. The eldest, Jeanne, or Jeannette, married first Robert of Bar, Count of Marle, and after his death she married John of Luxembourg, Count of Lincy and of Guise, a very high connection.

Jaqueline of Bethune, the younger of these heiresses, married Raoul d'Ailly, Lord Varennes, who was son of Baudouin d'Ailly, Lord Pinqueny, Chamberlain to King Charles VI. She was married 1413.

These females' taking the wealth of the family into other houses was a cause of the diminished fortunes of the French or elder branch of the family. Further, the grandfather of the Duke of Sully, John of Bethune, fourth of the name, Baron of Rosny, is said to have squandered everything that it was in his power to alienate, and in consequence his children, although noble and rich, yet possessed not the princely wealth that had distinguished the family before his day; he was sometimes called John "LACK LAND." His son Francis of Bethune, Baron of Rosny, inherited from his mother, Anne de Melun of Rosny, and married Charlotte Dauvet, daughter of the Baron du Pin, "Counsellor of the King." She became the mother of seven children. The eldest son, Louis of Bethune, was Baron of Rosny; the second was Maximilian, who became Duke of Sully, Peer and Marechal of France, Sovereign Prince of Henriche-mont and of Boisbelle, and sixteen other titles, which all descended to his posterity.

We will relate an instance of the high alliances of the family:

Jaqueline of Luxembourg was sister to Thibaut, Lord of Fiennes; they were descended from Matilda Bethune, who, about the year 1250, married the Count of Flanders. Matilda was the daughter and heiress of Robert 6th of Bethune.

Jaqueline of Luxembourg must have been a singularly fascinating person. She was first married to John, son of Charles VI. of France; after his death she married, in 1430, the great Duke of Bedford; after his death she married Richard, Lord Woodville. By her last marriage she became

the mother of the beautiful Elizabeth Woodville, who when a widow won the affections of Edward IV. and became Queen of England. See "History of England."

In speaking of the early history of the family I must not omit the part they played at the time of the Crusades. In 1194 Robert 3d of Bethune went with Robert, Count of Flanders, to the Holy Land. So also did Adam of Bethune, the son of Robert 3d; he was with the Count of Flanders at the taking of Jerusalem, and after Godefroy of Bouillon was made King. When Godefroy was distributing lands and territories among the most worthy of the Christian nobles that were with him, he bestowed the Barony of Bessan on Adam of Bethune. His descendants held it for centuries. A brother of Robert 6th, named Conon of Bethune, was Lord of Adrianople, in Greece; some writers call him King of Adrianople. His son, Conon, is mentioned in Andrew's history as Regent of the Empire in Constantinople, as follows:

Page 260. "Yoland (widow of the Constantinopolitan Emperor Peter) dying, Conon of Bethune takes the Regency and settles a dangerous dispute between the Nobility and Clergy of the Imperial city." This event occurred about the year 1218.

#### GENEALOGICAL CHART OF THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE BETHUNE FAMILY FROM 1011 TO 1448.

Number of the Generations.	Year.
1st. ROBERT the first, Lord of Bethune and of Richebourg, who received the appointment of "ADVOUE D'ARRAS," or <i>Protector and Defender of the Church of Arras</i> , left two sons: the eldest succeeded him; the younger founded the family of the Lords of Carency.	1011 to 1036

Number of the Generations.	Year.
2d. ROBERT 2d, etc., etc., etc., "was one of the greatest nobles of that time." So writes Baldric, author of "Chronicles" of that date. His eldest son,	1038 to 1072
3d. ROBERT 3d, etc., went to the Holy Land with Godefroy de Bouillon; so did also his two younger sons, Adam and Conon of Be- thune. Adam founded the family of the Lords of Bessan in Galilee. Conon became King of Adrianople and was father to Conon, Regent of the Empire in Constan- tinople; the eldest son of the family was	1075 to 1101
4th. ROBERT 4th, etc., surnamed "Le Gros." He married Adeline, daughter of Robert of Peronne, Lord of Warneston. Count Charles of Flanders, in writing of him, says that "he is the most distinguished person of his court," etc. He was succeeded by his second son,	1106 to 1128
5th. WILLIAM 1st, etc., etc., Lord of Warneston, who married Clemence d'Oisy, eldest daughter of Simon, Lord of d'Oisy and Creveceur. The tomb of this William of Bethune is in the Church of St. Bartholemy of Bethune, on the right and left of the great altar. <sup>1</sup> (See illustrations.) His eldest son,	1129 to 1144

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<sup>1</sup> The monument stands half on one side and half on the other of the altar.

Number of the Generations.		Year.
6th.	ROBERT 5th, called "Le-Roux," married Adeline, daughter to Hughes, Count of St. Pol. This Robert went to the Holy Land with Philip, Count of Flanders. He returned in 1177. He was father to Baudouin, Count of Annale, the favorite of Richard Cœur de Leon.	1145 to 1191
	{ ROBERT 6th died without children and was succeeded by his brother,	
7th.	{ WILLIAM 2d, etc., etc., who married Matilda, Lady of Tenremonde, only daughter of Daniel, Prince of Tenremonde; she was a great heiress. They had six children; the eldest,	1194 to 1214
	{ DANIEL of Bethune, married Eustacia, daughter of the Count of St. Pol. He possessed the estates from 1215 to 1225, but having no children was succeeded by his brother,	1215 to 1225
8th.	{ ROBERT 7th, etc., etc., who married Isabelle of Moreaume, daughter of Nicolas of Conde. She died on November 13, 1248, and has a magnificent monument in the Church of Saint Vaast. They left an only daughter, Matilda, <sup>1</sup> who married the Count of Flanders and carried to him many great possessions. The succession passed to a nephew,	1226 to 1242

<sup>1</sup> From this Matilda, who in the thirteenth century married the Count of Flanders, was descended the Duchess of Bedford, who by her last marriage with Richard, Lord Woodville, became the mother of a Queen of England, wife to Edward IV.



Number of the Generations.	Year.
9th. WILLIAM 3d, Lord of Molembeque. He married a noble and rich lady, Elizabeth of Pontrohart, heiress of the Lord Pontrohart. The writer, James Meier, in his "Annals and Chronicles," speaks of her as an " <i>illustrious and magnificent lady</i> ;" says she was " <i>the light and guide of all around her</i> ," of " <i>unbounded benevolence</i> ," etc.	1243 to 1255
10th. WILLIAM 4th, etc., etc., son of the above, married Beatrice, Lady of Hebuterne. Their son,	1255 to 1279
11th. WILLIAM, Lord of Loeres and of Hebuterne, contracted an alliance of the highest order. Jeanne, or Jeannette, Princess of France, great-granddaughter of Louis VII., married Ferdinand, King of Castille and Leon; by this marriage she became mother of Ferdinand of Castille and of Leonora of Castille, wife of Edward I. of England. After the death of King Ferdinand the widow married the Count of Ponthieu, by whom she had one daughter, Jeannette of Neelle, married to William of Bethune, which brought the children of the latter in close consanguinity with all the reigning houses of Europe. Their eldest son,	1294 to 1340
12th. WILLIAM BETHUNE, Lord of Loeres, married Marie of Roye, Lady of Vendeuil. Their eldest son, Mathieu, died young, and the second son,	1348

Number of the Generations.		Year.
13th.	JOHN BETHUNE of Loeres, Lord of Vendeuil and of Liefontaine, married Jeannette de Coucy, who was descended in the male line from the Counts of Guines, and in the female line from the Kings of France. Their eldest son, Robert, left no son, and the succession fell to the second son,	1373
14th.	JOHN BETHUNE of Loeres, Lord of Autresche and of Mareuil, and eight other titles or Lordships, many acquired by inheritance from his sister, Marie of Bethune, Lady of Voudenay and of Baye, widow of Eustache, Lord Voudenay. He, John, married Isabeau d'Estouteville, daughter to Robert, Lord d'Estouteville, and Margaret of Montmorency, descended from the royal family of France. They had three sons :	1380 to 1415
	ANTHONY, who died unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother,	1416 to 1470
15th.	ROBERT, Lord of Baye and Mareuil, etc., Counsellor and Chamberlain to King Charles VII. He married Michelle d'Estouteville, and from them is descended (five generations lower down) the Duke of Sully. Our interest now turns to the third son of John Bethune and Isabeau d'Estouteville, namely,  Sir JAMES BETHUNE, who becomes Baron of Balfour, in Scotland.	1438

The continuation of the genealogy will be found further on.

## SIR JAMES BETHUNE

IS CREATED EARL OF BALFOUR, SCOTLAND.

*Beginning of the Fifteenth Century.*

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Extract from the Funeral Oration delivered by M. Pierre Victor Cayer, Doctor of the Theological Faculty of Paris, in the Church of St. John, the last day of April, 1603, on the occasion of the death of the Lord James Bethune, Ambassador from King James of England, Scotland, and Ireland, near his Majesty, Henry IV. of France, etc. The facts related, he says, "are derived from the papers and records of the deceased."

"In the Kingdom of Scotland (1448), the question being agitated as to the marriage of the King, James II., Ambassadors Extraordinary were sent to the illustrious Duke of Gueldres and Julliers to ask in marriage, in the name of the King, the Very Illustrious Princess Marie, his daughter, who was niece to Philip, Duke of Bourgogne and of Brabant, a very powerful Prince in those times. The Ambassadors thus commissioned were the Very Hon. William, Chancellor of Scotland, the Right Rev. John, Bishop of Bonnel, and Sir Nicolas d'Antriburn, a very distinguished Knight. They went to Gueldres with a great retinue, and obtained, by the favor of the Very Christian King, Charles VII. of France, the Very Illustrious Princess Marie of Gueldres and of Julliers, and escorted her to the King, their master, to be married in Scotland, she being accompanied by the Very Rev. Bishop of Cambray and of Liege, together with the Very Illustrious Princes, the Prince of Vaire, the Prince of Bergue, and the Prince of Ranastain, and many great and valiant knights. Among them was one lord,

distinguished above all the others, of the ancient race and house of Bethune of Flandres."

The person here referred to was James of Bethune, third son of John of Bethune, Lord Mareuil, and Isabeau d'Estouteville, and brother to Robert of Bethune, Chamberlain to Charles VII. The orator further states :

" Having come into Scotland with this party, and being a gentleman of quality, he entered at once into the good graces of the King, who, wishing to retain him near his person, prayed him to remain in Scotland, and gave him in marriage the only daughter and heiress of the house of Balfour; this house of Balfour being one of the first in Scotland in favor and authority near the King. The title was Baron of Balfour. At that day, as in ancient times in France, it was the highest title. Since then their titles have been augmented to Comts, Marquises, and Dukes, and they have held offices and maintained their dignities, hereditary and successive, to the present day."

On the occasion of this marriage of James Bethune and the heiress of Balfour, the arms of Bethune were quartered with those of Balfour, producing the device shown in the illustration, which has since distinguished that branch of the family from all others of the same name. The crest of the original Bethune arms was a peacock's head and wings; that of the Bethunes, Barons of Balfour, an otter's head.

#### GENEALOGICAL CHART, CONTINUED FROM 1448 TO 1866.

Number of the  
Generations.

15th. JAMES BETHUNE, third son of John Bethune, Lord of Baye and Mareuil, married the heiress of Balfour. King James conferred on him the title of Baron of Balfour. Their eldest son,

Number of the  
Generations.

16th. JOHN BETHUNE, Baron of Balfour, married Katharine Sterling, daughter of Lord Keir. Their son,

17th. JOHN, married Margaret Boiswald. Their son,

18th. JOHN BETHUNE, married Elizabeth Moneypenny, daughter to the Lord Moneypenny of Kinkell; they had seven sons and five daughters. The eldest son,

19th. JOHN BETHUNE, married Christiana Stewart, daughter to Lord Rosyth. Their eldest son,

20th. JOHN BETHUNE, married Agnes Anstruther, daughter to Lord Anstruther. Their eldest son,

21st. { JOHN BETHUNE, married Elizabeth Pitcairn, daughter of Lord Forthor. They had no children, and the estate passed to his brother,  
ROBERT BETHUNE, who married Agnes Trail, daughter to Lord Blebo; they had four sons and five daughters. Their eldest son,

22d. DAVID BETHUNE, married Margaret Wardlaw, daughter to Lord Torrie; they had five sons, the second of whom was Robert. His great-grandson David comes into the estate (1719) at the death of the last male issue of the eldest son John, as will be seen

- | Number of the<br>Generations.  | Year. |
|--|-------|
| hereafter. They had also three daughters.<br>Their eldest son,   |       |
| 23d. JOHN BETHUNE, married Katharine Haliberton,<br>daughter to Lord Pitcur; they had six sons<br>and two daughters. The eldest son,   |       |
| 24th. JAMES BETHUNE, married Anna Monerieff,<br>daughter of Sir John Monerieff and the<br>eldest daughter of David Bethune, sixth<br>Lord of Criech. Their son,  |       |
| 25th. DAVID BETHUNE, married Rachel Hope, daugh-<br>ter of Sir James Hope of Hopetown; they<br>had two sons and five daughters; the sec-<br>ond, Anne, married David Bethune, who<br>succeeded to the estate in 1719. The eldest<br>son of Rachel Hope was   |       |
| 26th. JAMES BETHUNE. He married Anna Hamilton,<br>daughter of General George Hamilton;<br>they had no children. This James Be-<br>thune of Balfour died at Rheims, October<br>8, 1719. By his death the male issue of<br>John Bethune and Katharine Haliberton<br>was extinct, and the succession came to the<br>heirs of the second son of David Bethune<br>and Margaret Wardlaw, as follows: | 1719  |
| 22d. Robert Bethune, second son of David<br>Bethune and Margaret Wardlaw, married<br>Marion Inglis, daughter of Thomas Inglis<br>of Atherney. He had two sons only, who<br>were married, namely, David and William.  | 1630  |

Number of the Generations.		Year.
23d.	William, the younger brother, was an advocate in Craighfurdie. His son George Bethune came to Boston, Mass., and married	
24th.	Miss Carey; their son George married	
25th.	Mary Faneuil.	
23d.	David Bethune, the eldest son of Marion Inglis, married Anna Wardlaw; they had two sons only that lived to be men, namely, David and Henry.	
24th.	DAVID BETHUNE, son of Anna Wardlaw, succeeded to the estate at the death of James Bethune, who died at Rheims, 1719. He married Anna Bethune, daughter of David Bethune of Balfour and Rachel Hope; they had two daughters, but no son, and the succession came to his younger brother,	1719
24th.	HENRY BETHUNE, who married Isabel Maxwell; they had an only daughter, but no son; so that the succession came to George Bethune of Boston.	about 1730
24th.	Henry Bethune, unknown to his cousin and heir, George Bethune, petitioned the English Parliament to have the entail on the male heir set aside in favor of his daughter, her husband, Mr. Colgerton, taking the name of Colgerton Bethune. This	
25th.	petition was granted in favor of Mrs. Colgerton and her heirs male, but no further, so that her heirs failing, the heirs male of	1740

Number of the  
Generations.

Year.

George Bethune will come into the estate.  
It is worth more than \$100,000 per annum.

26th. COLGERTON BETHUNE of Balfour, *by special* 1754  
*act of the British Parliament*, and to the  
exclusion of the heir male, George Be-  
thune of Boston, Mass.

Further of the family of Colgerton Bethune is not known.

For the descendants of George Bethune of Boston, see "Bethunes in America."

We have now given twenty-six generations of Bethunes, from Robert, first of the name (1011), to that George Bethune of Boston, Mass., who married Mary Amory. The record extends over more than eight hundred and forty years, which gives about thirty-two years to a generation. If we count back from Robert 1st, with whom we began, all is clear: he was great-grandson to Edward, Count of Artois, who (A.D. 870) married Gisela,<sup>1</sup> Princess of France, sister of Charles the Bald and granddaughter of Charlemagne. From the Counts of Artois and the Kings of France we can go back into the mists of tradition. Not one link is wanting to the present day, and their history is intertwined everywhere with the ruling families of the civilized world.

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<sup>1</sup> About 1135 the King of France confirmed to William of Bethune the right to wear in his coat-of-arms the fleurs-de-lis of France, on account of his descent from Gisela, sister to Charles the Bald. See a full account of the ceremony of conferring this honor in Du Chesne's history.



In 1754 Henry Bethune (who had married a Maxwell) sent to his cousin, George Bethune of Boston (married to Mary Faneuil), a manuscript purporting to contain a genealogy and historic sketch of the Bethunes in Scotland. From that paper the following chapter is mainly composed. It has been compared with the French account, from which it has received considerable addition. The two accounts confirm each other.

## BETHUNES OF BALFOUR, SCOTLAND.

Distinguished Individuals of the Family from 1448 to the present time.

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The first in order, as a man of note, is David Bethune, second son of John Bethune and Margaret Boiswald. He was the first Lord of Cricch. He was Controller of the Household, and afterward Treasurer of the Kingdom, to James IV. See Crawford's history of his life as LORD TREASURER. He was the founder of the family of Cricch, which was very distinguished for two centuries; an account of them will be given in another place.

The third son of John Bethune and Margaret Boiswald was Robert, first Abbot of Cupar in Angus, and after of Melross. The fourth son of the same family was Andrew, Prior of St. Andrew's. The fifth was Archibald, who purchased the lands of Pitlochrie and Cape Dree, and one of whose sons settled in the Isle of Sky, where his descendants are still very numerous. *From this branch of the family was probably descended the late Rev. Dr. Bethune,<sup>1</sup> of New York.* The sixth son of John Bethune and Margaret Boiswald was James Bethune, Bishop of Glasgow and of St. Andrew's. He was Chancellor of the Kingdom under

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<sup>1</sup> This was the conclusion that Dr. Bethune himself came to when discussing the subject with Mr. George Bethune in that gentleman's house, Tremont Street, Boston. He only knew that his family came from the *Isle of Sky*. Mr. George Bethune pointed out to him the branch of the family that settled there. They have always maintained themselves in affluence, and many of them have been, and still are, high in the church, but seem to have become disconnected with the rest of the family in Scotland, of which they are undoubtedly a highly respectable branch, and possess the quality of survival.—*J. L. W.*

James the Fourth, and after the death of his master was continued in office during the minority of James V. He was finally Primate of all Scotland. He died 1522. John Lesley, Esq., of Rosse, says of him that when he died he was as loaded with glory and honors as with years.

In the next generation we have an equally large and distinguished family, as follows: John Bethune, Baron of Balfour, married to Elizabeth Money penny, daughter of Lord Money penny; had seven sons and five daughters. The eldest son, John, succeeded to the estate and title of Balfour; the second son, James, was Lord Balfarge and father to James, Archbishop of Glasgow, as will be related in speaking of the next generation. The third son was

DAVID BETHUNE, Cardinal of St. Andrew's. His life forms an important part of the history of his country and of his church. He governed Scotland for eighteen years. He was a great and good man. See his "Life."

The parents of Cardinal Bethune, namely, John Bethune of Balfour and Elizabeth Money penny, lie interred in Morkeuch Church, and their pictures are yet to be seen. The following inscription is on their tomb:

*Hic jacet honorabilis vir Joannes Bethune of Balfour, cum Elizabeth Money penny, quondam sponsa diti Joannes qui obiit ann. Dom. 1514.*

JAMES BETHUNE, Bishop of Glasgow, we find in the next generation after the Cardinal, who was his uncle. James was son of James Bethune, Lord Balfarge, and Die Melling, and grandson of John Bethune and the daughter of Lord Money penny. While yet a youth he was sent to France by his uncle, the Cardinal, to study in Paris. Before he was twenty the King, Francis I., sent him back to Scotland in charge of troops, to assist Marie of Lorraine, Queen Dowager and Regent of Scotland. By the Queen's favor he was made Counsellor of State; she also gave him the Archbishopric of Glasgow. Afterward she sent him

Ambassador to France, with Robert Reid, Esq., of Orehades; George Lesley, Count of Rothes; Gilbert Kenned, Count of Casselles, and other Lords, to treat of the marriage of the Princess Mary Stuart, her daughter—the Queen of Scots—and the Dauphin, Francis of France, son of King Henry II.; which legation he acquitted so prudently that the nuptials were celebrated in Paris, 1558, with the entire approbation of the great men of both kingdoms.

Among the ladies who accompanied the Queen of Scots was Mary Bethune, niece to the Bishop of Glasgow.

James Bethune remained in Paris as Ambassador for the affairs of Scotland, near the Kings of France, during the reigns of Francis I., Charles IX., Henry III., and Henry IV., and that of Mary Queen of Scots, and of her son James, King of Scotland, England, and Ireland. “He conducted the affairs of his embassy with such singular discretion and ability as to secure praises from both governments, which is very rare with those employed in affairs of State.” So says the French historian, Andrew du Chesne.

When he had attained his eighty-sixth year he died at Paris, in the Commanderie de Saint Jean de Latran, April 25, 1603. He was buried in the church of the same name, and the following epitaph is on his tomb:

*“Cy gist Reverend Pere en Dieu Messire Jacques de Bethune, Archevesque de Glasgo en Escosse; Abbé de Nostre Dame de l’Absie en Gastine pays de Poictou, Thresorier de Saint Hilaire le Grande de Poictiers, Prierr du Priece de Saint Pierre de Pontoise, Conseiller au Conseil d’Estat et Privé du Roy d’Escosse, et son Ambassadeur Ordinaire en France vers sa Maïeste Tres-Chrestienne. Lequel estant natif dudit pays d’Escosse, deceda a Paris en la Commanderie de Saint Jean de Latran le 25th jour d’Apreil l’an de grace 1603, agé de 86 ans.”*

## DAVID BETHUNE OF CRIECH

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

DAVID BETHUNE, second son of John Bethune and Margaret Boiswald, was Treasurer to King James IV. He married Janet Dudiston, daughter to the Laird of St. Ford, and purchased the lands of Criech from the Lindells. He had three children—a son, John, who succeeded him, and two daughters.

His eldest daughter, Janet, was first married to Lewiston of Easter Weems, by whom she had two daughters, who were heiresses of Easter Weems. The eldest of these was married to Sir James Hamilton of Finnard. The second, Elizabeth, married to Ramsey of Balmain, and afterward to Ramsay of Dalhousie, and gave an heir to both families.

Janet Bethune, Lady Easter Weems, afterward married the Earl of Arran and bore him several children, the eldest of whom was Earl of Arran, Duke of Chatelherault, and Governor of Scotland; the second was Lord Claud. She had also three daughters, married.

David Bethune, first Laird of Criech, lies in the Church of Morkench, under a large marble covered with a copper-plate, whereon is engraved:

*“Hic jacit David Bethune de Criech filius Joannis Bethune de Balfour, obiit anno 1500.”*

His son John, second Laird of Criech, married Janet Hay, daughter to the Provost of Dundee. It is said this Janet was exceedingly beautiful, and that young Criech having fallen in love with her, under promise of marriage conveyed her away privately to St. Andrew's. He lodged her

in a house of that city, and went himself immediately to the Castle to the Archbishop, who was his uncle, told him what he had done, and desired that he might be married to the lady. The Bishop at first refused to marry them, because neither of them had their parents' consent; but being told that she desired to be married, he sent for her to the Castle, and seeing her extremely handsome, and they both being very urgent with him, he made no further scruple to marry them.

The Bishop then wrote letters both to his father and to her father, acquainting them with what he had done, and his motives for doing it. This lady's portion was six thousand marks, at that time a prodigious sum.

Janet Hay had two sons and four daughters; she was herself one of the greatest beauties of her time, and her daughters were no less handsome. The eldest, Janet, was first married to the Laird of Craigmiller, and after to the Laird of Buccleuch—to whom she bore two daughters, namely, Janet, Lady Borthwick, and Dorothy, Lady Cranston.

The second daughter of Janet Hay, Grissell, was married to Sir Walter Scott, younger, of Buccleuch, to whom she bore a son, Walter Scott of Buccleuch, and daughters. After the death of Sir Walter Grissell married the Laird of Blackbaronie, and had by him three sons and one daughter, Elizabeth, who married James Bothwick and bore to him a daughter, who married the Earl of Haddington, by whom she had three daughters, the Lady Lindsay, the Lady Carnegie, and the Lady Ogilvie.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> When Cardinal Bethune was made an Abbot, he had been married to Marion Ogilvie more than ten years, and they had a large family. A daughter of theirs afterward married the son and heir of the Earl of Crawford. *The Pope granted him a dispensation*, and he never separated from his family. Descendants of his are now to be found in Scotland, and claim descent from the Bethune and Ogilvie marriage.

It was by the interest of Grissell Bethune with her cousin, the Cardinal, that Buccleuch was made one of the executors of King James V. It was soon after that the family of Buccleuch attained their great riches, and laid the foundation of their present grandeur.

To return to the sons of John Bethune and Janet Hay. The second son, David, succeeded to the estate, and went with Queen Mary to France when she married the Dauphin, and returned with that Princess. He was Master of the Household to the Queen, and Keeper of the Palace of Falkland.

He married a French lady, Eugenia Ranvile, and had two sons and six beautiful daughters; the first, Mary, so much celebrated by the famous Buchanan, who wrote anagrams in her praise. The others all married.

The eldest son of Eugenia Ranvile married the Lady Euphemia Leslie, daughter to the Earl of Rothes.

David Bethune, sixth Laird of Cricch, married Euphemia Forbes. The eldest daughter of this marriage married Sir John Moncrieff, whose daughter, Anna Moncrieff, married James Bethune of Balfour.

The second son of Euphemia Forbes, David, who succeeded to the estate, married, first, Euphemia Graham, and afterward Margaret Cunningham, daughter to the Earl of Glencairn, but left no children, and disposed of his estate by will to James Bethune of Balfour, who had married his niece, Anna Moncrieff. Their further history has been given with that of the Bethunes of Balfour.

#### PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE BETHUNES.

It has been remarked that all families who for many generations have enjoyed the advantages of education and refinement acquire a strong family likeness. This has been particularly noticed among the English nobility, where they

have old family portraits that exactly resemble the present generation. Certain it is that the Bethunes have all looked astonishingly alike. The name is now almost extinct, and we may relate what they have been :

They were of medium height ; the men about five feet ten inches, and the women about five feet three or three and a half inches ; never more. Clear, florid complexion ; many of the women wonderfully fair, a certain fineness of texture in the skin very remarkable. They had dark brown, almost black hair, inclined to curl, rich and abundant ; clear, large, but not prominent hazel eyes ; profile delicately Roman, never aquiline ; some of the females have had the Grecian profile. Their limbs, feet, and hands might have been fine models for the sculptor ; their persons round, well developed, and beautifully proportioned ; all of them handsome, and scarce a generation passing without producing some individual wonderfully beautiful ; and that has been the case for a thousand years, as has been gathered from going through the copious history of the family, of which the foregoing pages form but a short compendium.

See André du Chesne's "History of the House of Bethune." It is a quarto volume of 400 pages, published in Paris, 1639, and dedicated to the Duke of Sully. The author writes himself "Historian to the King," and gives reference to public documents and church archives for the facts recorded.



## LIFE OF CARDINAL BETHUNE.

COMPILED FROM LODGE, THE ENGLISH BIOGRAPHER, FROM  
ANDRÉ DU CHESNE, THE FRENCH HISTORIAN, AND FROM  
FAMILY RECORDS.

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### INTRODUCTION.

THERE never was an historical character more unjustly treated than Cardinal Bethune has been. The biographers everywhere pass over his life with a few lines containing some of those coarse accusations that were hurled at him by his enemies more than three centuries ago. *There never was any truth in them*, yet they are repeated over and over again. It was a cruel age of the world, but Bethune was not responsible for its cruelty. That this injustice still follows his name seems the more surprising because Edmond Lodge, F.S.A., published in London, 1821, a "Life of Cardinal Bethune,"<sup>1</sup> that was clear and explicit, and showed a

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<sup>1</sup> The following is the opening of Lodge's "Life of Bethune": "David Bethune, for his talents, for the loftiness of his spirit, for his complete monopoly of royal favor, and his unbounded power in the government both of Church and State, may be not unaptly called the Wolsey of Scotland; but he was not, like that great man, the child of obscurity, nor the builder, from the foundation, of his own fortunes. His family was even illustrious, for he was descended from the old French house of Bethune, connected by more than one marriage with the ancient Earls of Flanders, and celebrated for having produced, among other branches dignified with the same high rank, that of the ever memorable Maximilian, Duke of Sully."

great and good man doing his best to give peace to a country torn by two exasperated and contending parties. LODGE'S BIOGRAPHIES *are considered reliable works*. Yet the light he throws on Bethune's career has not penetrated to a single biographical dictionary!

Bethune was placed between two fanatical and highly excited factions, and suffered from both. The Church party pushed him forward to put down the disturbers of the peace, who were avowedly attempting revolution; but *he positively refused to act alone*. He convened a council of the entire government of Church and State, and before this august court all trials took place. He saw that "*no one was persecuted for his religious belief*." Only those who had instigated the masses to crime and bloodshed were put on trial. There existed a very remarkable state of affairs: the so-called Reformers in Scotland in the fifteenth century were excited to violence by a few men, perfectly insane in their vehemence of exhortation, urging their hearers to a bloody revolution. Until these men were silenced the people, who at that time were very ignorant, could not be held sufficiently within bounds to secure the safety of the reigning family, and prevent the Catholics, who were the wealthy and educated, from being driven out of the country. On Bethune devolved the duty of keeping the peace. He did not seize the ignorant rustic taken red-handed for murder (had he done so the executions would have been innumerable), nor did he arrest the leaders of a mob burning a church; but he sought out the individual who had exhorted them to do those things, and had him tried first, *making him answer* for the ignorant crowd he had set on to crime. By this means four executions in eighteen years restored tranquillity to the country.

As to the charge of cruelty brought against him, he virtually abolished the death penalty from the laws of Scotland. Lodge, the historian, says that during the eighteen

years that he was in power there were but six executions (four were for exhorting to bloodshed and two for other crimes); during the same time in England there were more than six thousand. A man had to be ingenious in crime to get himself condemned to death under his administration. To kill in anger or to plot treason would not make sure of it—it must be proved before the highest court in the land that the individual had exhorted crowded audiences to violence and bloodshed. Even then a chance was given him for life; he was told if he would give assurance that he would cease to be a preacher, *for which he had shown himself unfit*, his sentence should be commuted to a short imprisonment. But the insane fanatics *wanted to be martyrs*, and in a few instances they succeeded. It was a cruel age of the world; the laws applied savage punishments; but those laws were made before Bethune was born. That he refused to act alone, and convened an august court to try, judge, and sentence, did not prevent the whole weight of abuse being thrown on him; he was murdered before the world had found out that he could not have done more than he did when he threw the whole responsibility on the united wisdom of the nation.<sup>1</sup>

In this "Life of the Cardinal" I have first shown who he was, and then tried to explain how it was that his brilliant intellect and commanding character caused him to be selected by Catholic Europe to counteract the growing power

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<sup>1</sup> See Lodge's "Life of Cardinal Bethune," which I have followed closely except where it differed from "*family traditions*." Where our accounts vary is in regard to the *time when Bethune entered the Church*. Lodge says "he was educated for the Church." The fact is he was educated for a diplomat, and was resident minister near the Court of France, and had for ten years been living in Paris with his family, when the Pope made him an Abbot. Lodge himself confirms my account when he says that the Pope, when he made him an Abbot in 1525, granted him dispensation for his past unclerical life. No dispensation would have been required if he had been "*educated for the Church*."

of Henry VIII. and stand between the infant Mary Queen of Scots and her blood-stained uncle, who wished to marry her (while yet in her cradle) to his own son Edward. Her fate would have been very doubtful if once in Henry's hands, for she was all that stood between him and the throne of Scotland.

The following "*life*" is virtually only an abridgment of that by Lodge, and for the most part the appropriations are acknowledged by quotation signs. It is interwoven with family history, of which Lodge appears to know very little. The rest is translated from the French of André du Chesne. All I have done is to make one clear narrative from facts derived from these three different sources.

LIFE OF CARDINAL BETHUNE.

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DAVID BETHUNE,<sup>1</sup> born 1494, was son of John Bethune of Balfour and Elizabeth Moneypenny, daughter of David Moneypenny of Pitmilly, in the County of Fife. He had an uncle, James Bethune, who was Archbishop of St. Andrew's and Primate of all Scotland. This uncle was very wealthy, and David was his adopted son and heir. He received an admirable education in the University of St. Andrew's, under the eye of his uncle, who afterward sent him to Paris, with the double view of completely qualifying him for the duties of a statesman and to introduce him advantageously to the Duke of Albany, who resided in Paris and was about to accept the office of Regent of Scotland during the minority of his great-nephew, James IV. The Duke received him graciously and at once employed him in several affairs at the Court of France, in which the interests of Scotland were involved; and upon the death of the resident minister in Paris, appointed him to that office. Some writers have fallen into the error of supposing that Bethune was educated for the cloister. Such a supposition was highly improbable; he was heir to his wealthy uncle, the Archbishop, and surrounded by powerful friends. The honors of the Church were conferred upon him in middle life, to give him power in Church and State to control completely

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<sup>1</sup> The Bethunes, when in Scotland, were in the habit of writing their name Beatoun, in order that it might be pronounced with the French accent, while out of Scotland the same individuals wrote it Bethune. This usage has long since been dropped, and with it the fashion of pronouncing with the French accent.

the Government of Scotland. Any supposition that he was educated for the Church is entirely done away with by the fact that early in life he married a lady of noble family, Marion Ogilvie,<sup>1</sup> and one of the last acts of his life was to give a princely entertainment on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter to the son and heir of the Earl of Crawford. It was a period of great and pressing exigency; the Church had need of the best talent the world could afford to head the French party, which was also the Church party in Scotland. Bethune was exactly the man for the position, and the circumstance that he was married was not allowed to interfere with his usefulness. The Pope could grant dispensation for his being married, as the historian relates that he certainly did in respect to his appointment to the rich and mitred Abbey of Aberbrothock, in Scotland. "*The Pope granted him dispensation, waiving the forms of acceptance required by the Church.*"<sup>2</sup>

In 1525 Bethune, after a residence of ten years in Paris, returned to Scotland and took his seat in Parliament. He had not been many weeks in the country when he was appointed one of the six members of that body to whom the charge of the King's person and education was committed. Younger, more polished and cultivated than his colleagues, it is not strange that James should have selected him from them as his companion and confidant. As the mind of the King advanced to maturity, to these lighter impressions was added the weight of Bethune's splendid abilities, and

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<sup>1</sup> Descendants of the Cardinal are still living in Scotland and are very proud of their ancestry, both Bethunes and Ogilvies, and know perfectly well the circumstances that Bethune was a married man, past thirty-two years of age, when the Pope made him first an Abbot and then a Cardinal, to give him power, both in Church and State, to govern Scotland. "The Pope granted him dispensation for his unclerical life." He was married before he left Scotland. His children were all born in Paris, where he was resident minister from Scotland.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted from Lodge.

motives of policy soon after intervened on either side to consummate the ascendancy which he at length gained. In the meantime Angus, who had governed not only the realm, but the King, with a control too sharp and haughty to be lasting, was overthrown. Ultimately Bethune was placed in the office of "LORD PRIVY SEAL," that appointment which, under the Scottish monarchy, actually invested him with unlimited power. From that date (1528) he undoubtedly was the King's chief minister and favorite. He now pressed for a special legatine commission, but the Pope answered that the primacy annexed to his see constituted him what, in the language of the Church, was termed "Legatus natus" and invested him with sufficient authority. James, who had at first seconded his suit for that distinction, seems to have desisted at the request of Henry VIII., who now considered Bethune a formidable adversary and had dispatched to Scotland Sir Ralph Sadlier, a minister of great acuteness, for the sole purpose of effecting his ruin; and James, though he refused with a laudable firmness to listen to insinuations against a favorite servant, which were not only malicious, but unfounded, perhaps yet deemed it prudent to concede in this single instance to the angry feelings of his uncle. A most exact and very curious recital of Sadlier's conversations with James on the subject of his mission, highly creditable as well to the heart as to the understanding of the Prince, may be found in a letter of great length from the ambassador to his master, in the publication of "Sadlier's State Papers."

As regards the disturbances in Scotland at that time, where the Reformers had become violent, Bethune seems to have determined to prove the degree of that power to repress them which the Pope had decided to be sufficient. But instead of acting alone on any authority that the Pope had conferred upon him, he threw the whole responsibility on the assembled magnates of the country.

In the spring of 1540 he went to St. Andrew's with a pomp and splendor which had never before been used by any Primate of Scotland, attended by a numerous train of the first nobility and gentry, by the Archbishop of Glasgow, Lord Chancellor, many other prelates, and nearly the whole body of the clergy; evidently intending that the responsibility of what was there done should be shared by all. Having arrived, he convened them in a sort of general ecclesiastical council in the Cathedral. He then represented to them the imminent perils which threatened the Church and the great danger that menaced the Government: churches were being demolished and armed mobs were spreading ruin broadcast. He laid before them the measures he had devised, and his suggestions were received with unanimous approbation. Thus supported, the Cardinal proceeded to arrest those who had been active in urging on the populace to violence and bloodshed, and very naturally drew upon himself, from the so-called Reformers, the odium of a persecutor. "But those who will take the trouble to disentangle the truth from the jarring and obscure historical accounts of that time, will find it to have been unjustly cast upon him." I am quoting from Lodge's "Life of Bethune." He further says: "The most romantic tales have been told of his furious severity. Buchanan, who was himself imprisoned for alleged treason, tells absurd stories to show the enormous cruelty of his natural disposition; but the stories are in no way supported by any other writer of that time." "The best apology for Bethune's memory with respect to such charges is in the historical fact, that only four persons suffered death during his long government of the Church of Scotland; *he never persecuted for opinion's sake.*"

A glance at English history at the time Bethune was at the head of the Government in Scotland will show a contrast very much to his credit. During those eighteen years in England executions occurred by the thousands; one day



it was a Catholic, the next it was a Protestant, who was burned at the stake; and the number of nobles beheaded yearly forms a roll that it is sickening to contemplate. At the same time, under Bethune's rule in Scotland, no crime was severely punished except exhorting a mob to commit arson and murder.

*There was positively no persecution for opinion's sake.* All that was required was to keep the peace and not stir up the people to revolution. It is only after realizing the existing state of society at that day that we can justly estimate the character that upheld the dynasty and protected the established Church without unnecessary severity. Reformation at that time only meant *pulling down* and *destroying*: it was before the era of a reasonable reformed Church; it was twenty-three years before the reign of Elizabeth. *There was no reformed Church to persecute.* It certainly is a misnomer to call men reformers who were trying to raise mobs armed with knife and firebrand to drive quiet Catholic gentlemen out of the country. Were the same sort of men to appear now *we should not call them "reformers."* Three hundred years ago Bethune (in the emergency) convened a high court and had the offenders brought to trial; when they were condemned he saw that they were executed. Four men only suffered the death penalty in the eighteen years he was in power. All disorders were arrested; none but the instigators to violence were punished. It does not seem as though he could have done any better than he did.

As far as we may judge from his public speeches yet extant, his own religious ideas were very liberal; his theme was usually the paramount duty of preserving a strict morality; no religious observances would dispense with strict moral deportment; God and man demanded thus much from every human being; after that each was at liberty to entertain such opinions as his conscience dictated. This and the like were the sentiments that ran through all he said. His

denunciations were against those who, under the guise of *preachers of religion*, exhorted crowds to commit atrocious crimes. He had such persons sought out, arrested, and tried by an august court, and when convicted and sentenced, he saw to it that they were executed; four such executions restored peace to the country. He constantly reiterated that every man might entertain such religious opinions as he preferred: *no man should be persecuted for his belief*. More liberality could not be asked in any age of the world!

In the meantime the influence of Bethune over the mind of the King his master was unbounded; in all political as well as religious matters James obeyed him with the subserviency of a pupil. This influence subsisted to the last day of the Prince's life. A few hours before his death, Bethune induced him to sign a will nominating himself and the Earls of Argyll, Huntly, and Arran a council of regency to govern the country in the name of the infant Mary.

For the short remainder of Bethune's life he swayed the will of the regent with a power even more unlimited than that to which the late King had yielded. He demanded from the regent to solicit for him at Rome the appointment of *Legate à Latere*. The request was made, and seems to have been granted without hesitation, and he was raised to that superb ecclesiastical station on January 13, 1543. He commenced without delay the exercise of the extensive faculties with which it invested him, and held a solemn visitation to his own diocese, attended by the regent and others of the highest public functionaries in the realm, to inquire into the state of affairs. He endeavored to reclaim

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<sup>1</sup> The validity of this instrument, which had been solemnly proclaimed in Edinburgh, was presently questioned by the English faction, and soon after annulled, on the coarse and ready pretence that it had been forged by the Cardinal. No steps were taken to prove this charge, and indeed it seems to have been a mere invention to apologize for depriving him of power

the moderate by arguments and proceeded with severity against a few self-devoted zealots, whose furious demeanor had left him no choice but to abandon them or his Church to inevitable destruction. "*He punished not for espousing the doctrines of the Reformation, but for having insulted by the grossest indecencies the established worship of the land*" (Quoted from Lodge). On his return he convened an assembly of the clergy at Edinburgh, which he opened with a speech of distinguished impartiality.

"Christianity," he said, "labored under the greatest peril, for which he knew of but two remedies, each of which he had resolved to administer: the one a vigorous prosecution of all who would destroy the established order of things, and the other a reformation of the scandalous and immoral lives of the Catholic clergy, which had furnished an ample pretext for separation."<sup>1</sup>

Bethune was universally envied for his greatness, constantly opposed by a powerful party in the State and by another not less formidable in the Church. The great man was destined to fall by the hands of assassins actuated by motives of anger for private causes.

"On May 29, 1546, five gentlemen, Norman Lesley, eldest son, and John Lesley, brother to the Earl of Rothes; Wm. Kirkaldy of Grange, Peter Carmichael of Fife, and James Melville, having previously concerted their plan with great circumspection, entered the Castle of St. Andrew's early in the morning, with very few followers. Having secured the porter, by whom, as he knew all of them, they had been readily admitted within the walls, they appointed four of their company to watch the chamber where the Cardinal lay, that no advertisement should go unto him, and then went to the several chambers where the servants lay asleep, and calling them by their names, for they were all known

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Lodge.

unto them, put fifty of his ordinary servants besides the workmen, masons, and wrights, who were reckoned above an hundred (for he was fortifying the Castle), to the gate, permitting none to stay within but the Governor's eldest son, whom they thought best to detain upon all adventures. This was performed with so little noise as the Cardinal did not hear till they knocked at his chamber. Then he asked who was there? John Lesley answered, My name is Lesley. Which Lesley? said the Cardinal; is that Norman? It was answered that he must open to those that were there. The answer gave him notice that they were no friends; therefore, making the door fast, he refused to open. They called to bring fire; whilst it was in fetching he began to commune with them, and after some speeches, upon their promise to use no violence, he opened the door, but they rushing in with swords drawn did most inhumanly kill him, he not making any resistance."<sup>1</sup>

“Thus fell perhaps the greatest man in every point of consideration that his country ever produced. In the story of one of whom so much had been told, and that too by his enemies, it is at all events unlikely that any just dispraise should have been omitted.”<sup>2</sup>

Mary, Queen of Scots, is said to have been so fond of the Cardinal that after her own father's death she called him her adopted father. She had a likeness of him painted and hung in her private apartment in the palace of Holy Rood, and there it hangs at the present day, yet four centuries have rolled past since the violent deaths of both Cardinal and Queen. It seems time that calumnies and false accusations should be put aside, and we should be allowed to look back on them as they were in real life; the beautiful child Queen and her faithful guide and protector.

At the time when the Pope, the King of France, and the

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Spotswood.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted from Lodge.

Emperor of Germany saw the necessity of placing Bethune at the head of the Government in Scotland, he had been ten years in Paris and was resident minister from Scotland near the Court of France; certainly more pleasantly situated than he could be at the turbulent Scottish court, trying to prevent revolution and making strenuous efforts to reform the lives of the clergy of that day. The honors the Pope conferred on him at that time were to strengthen his hands to act as a reformer and give him unlimited power in Church and State. In his address to the clergy at Edinburgh he says he has two objects, the "one to punish all who would overthrow the established order of things; the other to reform the abuses in the Church and correct the scandalous lives of the clergy."

Bethune was enlightened and refined, the worthy son of noble philanthropic ancestors who had for centuries been heaping benefits on their fellow-men. Let us deal justly with his character: he governed Scotland for nearly eighteen years; it was a time unsurpassed for dangerous complications; every element of society was in a ferment, yet so admirable were the foreign relations, and with so firm a hand was every department of the home Government sustained, that had he not been murdered successful disorders could not have gained headway. The most blinded by prejudice could see that the object of his life was to uphold the dynasty to which he was pledged, and rule justly the country over which he was placed. Scotland was misgoverned and impoverished from the time of his death till the final union with England, under the son of Mary Queen of Scots, James VI. of Scotland and I. of England.



## BETHUNES IN AMERICA.

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ABOUT the year 1724, George Bethune, son of William Bethune of Creigfurdie, Scotland, and grandson of Robert Bethune of Balfour, came to Boston, Mass., and established himself in business as a banker. He married Miss Carey; they had two sons, Nathaniel and George, and one daughter, Jane. Nathaniel died unmarried; George (1754) married Mary Faneuil, daughter of Benjamin Faneuil and niece to Peter Faneuil.

JANE BETHUNE, the daughter of George Bethune and Miss Carey, married a Mr. Prince.

DESCENDANTS OF  
GEORGE BETHUNE (*who married Mary Faneuil*),  
and of his sister,  
JANE BETHUNE (*Mrs. Prince*).

The four daughters of George Bethune and Mary Faneuil who left descendants were Mary (Mrs. Mitchell), Susan (Mrs. Dunkin), Penelope (Mrs. English), and Jane (Mrs. Hunt). Only one son, George, left descendants.

From these four daughters of George Bethune and Mary Faneuil, and from Jane Bethune (Mrs. Prince), whose daughter married Rev. Chandler Robbins, there are now all through the country descendants of the Bethunes under such names as Adams, English, Jones, and Willard, in Boston; Gilman, Robbins, Stein, and Weisse, in New York; Makepeace, in Baltimore; and Alston, Dunkin, Huger, and

Hunt, in Charleston, S. C. George Amory Bethune, M.D., of Boston, son of George Bethune and Mary Amory, and grandson of George Bethune and Mary Faneuil, is the only one left of this branch of the family who bears the name of Bethune (1883); he is of the twenty-seventh generation from Robert 1st of Bethune.<sup>1</sup>

It is not possible for me to give all the names borne by those who are descendants of the Bethunes, and their number is fast increasing. It is often given as a first name, as *Bethune* Dunkin, *Bethune* Stein, *Bethune* Jones, etc. To girls it is given as a middle name, as Ann *Bethune* Dunkin, Elizabeth *Bethune* Gilman, Eugenia *Bethune* Weisse, etc.

It is a name any one may be pleased to claim consanguinity with by giving it to a child.

#### RÉSUMÉ.

The history of the Bethunes has been thus carefully preserved because of the many illustrious persons the race has produced. There is probably no other name or family from whom has sprung so many distinguished men and brilliant and beautiful women as from the Bethunes.

Further, they have given so liberally to the Church that André du Chesne (the French historian) found in the Church

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<sup>1</sup> About the year 1830 Mr. John Lowell, of Boston, induced George Bethune, son of George Bethune and Mary Faneuil, to collect all the necessary evidences of his birth and of the marriage of his parents. These evidences consisted of the family Bibles, extracts from church registers, and a letter from Henry Bethune to his cousin George, on the occasion of the marriage of George Bethune with Mary Faneuil. This letter was dated 1754. In it Henry Bethune of Balfour tells his cousin that he "must remember that after the children of Mrs. Colgerton Bethune, he, George, is his heir." All these papers must be now in the hands of the executors of Jeffries, the Scottish lawyer, to whom they were sent. The answer from Edinburgh was that "George Bethune would be entitled to the estate at the death of the male heirs of Mrs. Colgerton Bethune," and that "the estate was worth \$100,000 per annum."



archives a minute account of every event of importance that had occurred in the Bethune family for a *thousand years!* Every birth, marriage, and death was recorded, together with every other incident of note connected with their history. The result is that the accuracy of the narrative is unexampled; no other family can show anything like it.

Maximilian Bethune, Duke of Sully,<sup>1</sup> ruled France with consummate wisdom through an entire reign.

David Bethune, the Cardinal, was head of the Government in Scotland for eighteen years, virtually elected to that office by the voice of united Europe. A Bethune was resident minister in Paris from Scotland during the reigns of three kings. Another of the family headed the escort of Mary, Queen of Scots, when she went to France to wed the King's son, staid with her while she remained in France, and when she returned a widow to Scotland, continued the head of her establishment as "*master of the household.*" His uncle, James Bethune, was (A.D. 1500) Primate of all Scotland.

The French historian, André du Chesne, states that at one time "there was not a reigning family in Europe who had not the blood of the Bethunes in their veins." The beautiful Duchess of Bedford was a Bethune, and a daughter of hers by her last marriage with Richard, Lord Woodville, became Queen of England as wife to Edward IV.

Wherever they were prominent in history it was their wonderful beauty that was remarked upon, joined to brilliant mental powers.

In Europe the race is fast becoming extinct; in France there are still individuals of the name—men of fine character clinging to the remnants of their large estates and educating their sons for professions. Faneuil D. Weisse,

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<sup>1</sup> We do not give a life of the Duke of Sully, because it is to be found elsewhere. We merely name him and state his place in the family.

M.D. (himself a Bethune by descent through his mother), met one of them in Paris (in 1873), a medical student, and had with him a very interesting conversation on the fortunes of the family. The young French M.D. expressed much interest in the American branch, and had the whole of their family history read to him in French. He said that where it touched the French record he could verify its correctness. He seemed particularly struck with the resemblance between family likenesses Dr. Weisse had with him, and some that were then hanging on the walls of his father's house in the country; he said they were so alike they might have been taken for the same person. The portraits to which he referred were a miniature of the late George Bethune, and one of his sister, Mrs. Jane Bethune Hunt.

In Scotland the name has either gone out, or it is held by persons who do not know exactly how they came by it. Bethunes are often met with in this country and in Canada. They are from the western isles of Scotland, undoubtedly descended from Archibald Bethune,<sup>1</sup> who settled in that

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<sup>1</sup> Archibald Bethune was son of John Bethune and Margaret Boiswald, and uncle to Cardinal Bethune. About A.D. 1450 a son of his went to the western isles of Scotland, where he greatly prospered. Their descendants are now of the Episcopal Church, and are scholars and gentlemen. *They continue the name*, which has gone out in the American branch, whose ancestor settled in Boston in 1724. The latter are from the elder brother of Archibald Bethune, as is set forth in the foregoing history. Unfortunately the name has become extinct with them, the race being continued only through females, yet they are very numerous and connected everywhere with the best families. They do not forget that they are Bethunes in blood, though under other names. The characteristics of the race are distinctly seen among them; the children now growing up look like some old pictures still in the family, and are very bright. They certainly are from a race whose history is phenomenal. Their future will be a subject of interest.

It has been remarked that where a descendant of some old historic family intermarries with an individual of a less distinguished race, the superior traits that have elevated the older family usually predominate in the children of the intermarriage.

part of Scotland, and whose descendants became numerous and prosperous; wherever they are met with they are people of good standing. The late Rev. Dr. Bethune of New York was from that branch of the family.

The Bethunes seem always to have possessed the unique power of holding themselves up to the highest grade of society.

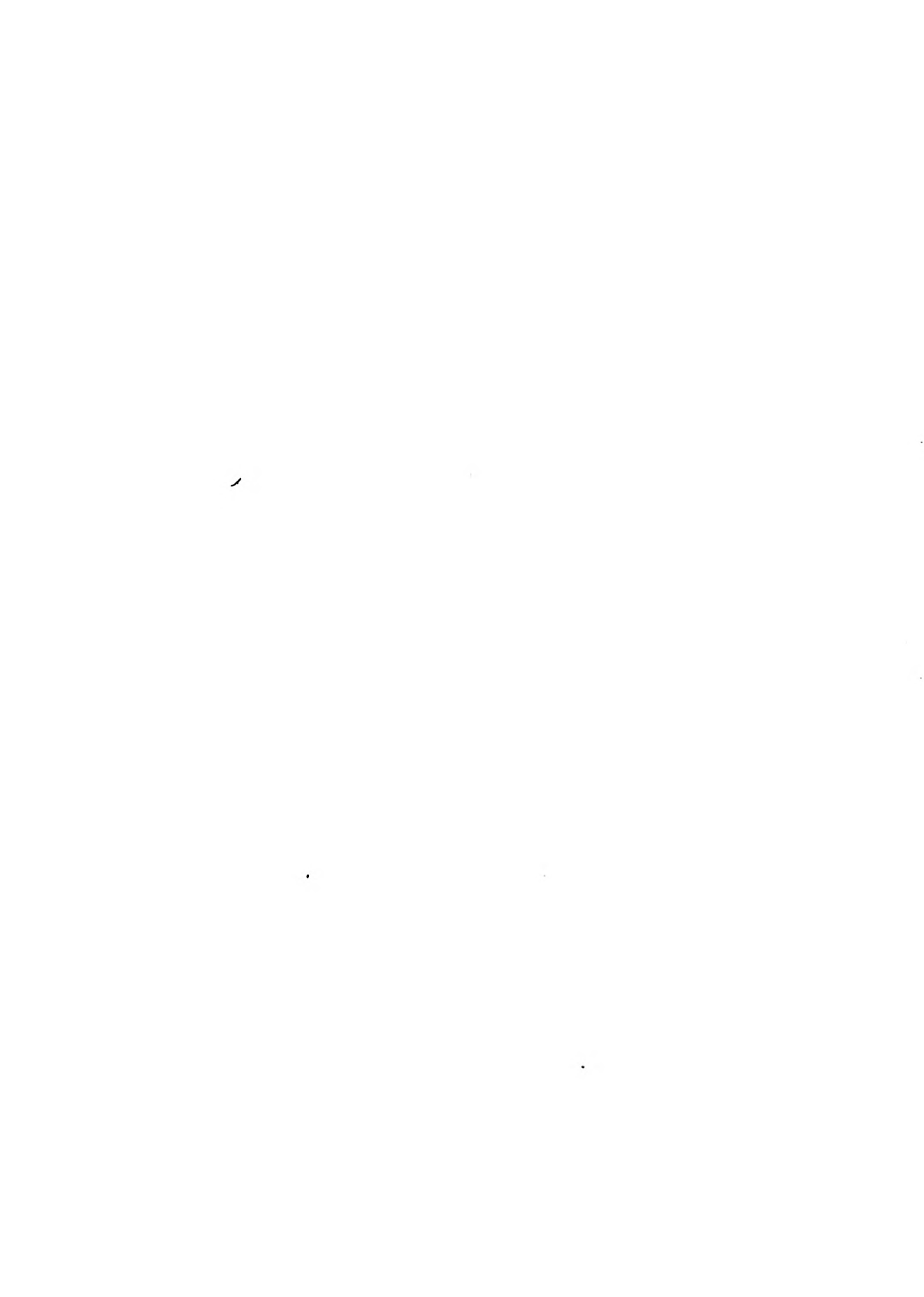
Their inheritance of strong intellect joined to fine physical development has hitherto enabled them to surmount the common misfortunes of life.<sup>1</sup> They have done a world of good all down the ages; always wise and acting for the best interests of mankind.

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<sup>1</sup> There are occasionally found persons from Scotland calling themselves Bethune *who are not Bethunes in blood*, but come from the peasantry on the estates of the family in the old country, where it is the custom for such persons to take the name of the family they live under. Their appearance and characteristics show them to be Scotch peasantry; they look and are very different from the true Bethunes, who have always been, and still continue to be, educated people.



BETHUNE OF BALFOUR.



## THE FANEUIL FAMILY.

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THE Faneuils were Huguenot refugees from La Rochelle, France. They brought with them to America considerable wealth in money and jewels.

The tradition is that in France they were what the French call "*rentier*;" that is, they lived on the income of their estates. From their coat of arms we should judge they dated back to the Crusades. The crossed palm branches can have no other meaning.

There is a paper extant in the French language and written by Benjamin Faneuil, Sr. It is a family record, in which he states that in 1699 he married Ann Bureau; then follows in 1701 the birth of Peter Faneuil; in 1702 the birth of Benjamin Faneuil, Jr.; afterward the births of three daughters.<sup>1</sup>

They first settled at New Rochelle, near New York. In 1699 Benjamin Faneuil was given the freedom of the city of New York. In Valentine's "History of New York," p. 219, we read in a list of the principal merchants of the city the name of Benjamin Faneuil, the third in the list. In the same work, among the inhabitants in 1703 we find Mr. Faneuil, wife and three children. This must have been the same Benjamin. The brother of Benjamin (Andrew Faneuil) settled in Boston and made a colossal fortune as a merchant. He visited Holland, and there married a very

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<sup>1</sup> This paper was left by Benjamin Faneuil, Jr., and is now in possession of his great-grandson, George A. Bethune, M.D., Boston.

beautiful lady ; their portraits, by Sir Peter Lely, were owned by their descendant, Mrs. Jane Bethune Hunt, and for nearly half a century they hung in the hall of her house in Watertown, Mass. They were burned in 1882 while stored in New York. Andrew Faneuil had no children that lived to maturity. He adopted the two sons of his brother Benjamin of New York—Peter, born 1700, and Benjamin, born 1701. Benjamin Faneuil, Jr., of Boston married the daughter of Rev. Timothy Cutler, rector of Trinity Church, Boston ; Mr. Cutler was a man very distinguished for learning. His daughter was highly educated by an English tutor ; her portrait, painted by Blackburn, showed her very beautiful—high Roman nose, perfectly regular features, and fine dark eyes ; this picture was also burned while stored in New York, 1882. Andrew Faneuil was offended that his nephew married at all, and left the greater part of his fortune to Peter Faneuil.<sup>1</sup> To his nieces, daughters of Benjamin Faneuil, Sr., of New York, he left \$200,000 each, on condition that they should never ask anything further from his estate. So that when Peter Faneuil died without a will, five years after his uncle Andrew, his brother Benjamin was declared his sole heir, on account of this clause in Andrew's will prohibiting the sisters from demanding anything beyond their first legacy.

Benjamin Faneuil, Sr., lies on the north side of Trinity Church, in the lower part of Broadway, New York City ; the grave-stone is in good preservation. The record of the christening of his children can be seen in the archives of the old French church of New York. His brother Andrew lived in a splendid house in Boston, at the corner of Somer-

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<sup>1</sup> From the fact that Andrew Faneuil was opposed to his nephew's marrying *at all*, it would seem that he contemplated making large bestowments on the city where he had made his large fortune. The marriage of Benjamin with Mary Cutler was certainly a very suitable alliance ; yet Andrew Faneuil opposed it unaccountably.

set and Beacon Streets; the house was after his death owned and occupied by Mr. Gardener Green. From that house in Boston he was buried, having a most imposing funeral. See an account of the same in "The Memorial History of Boston," recently published. His tomb is in the graveyard at the south side of the Common. The Faneuil arms is engraved on the face of the structure, but some one (unknown to the family) has engraved under it, "*Peter Funnel.*" The Americans could not give the name the true French accent, and habitually called it "*Funnel,*" which the family struggled against in vain until quite recently.

Benjamin Faneuil and Mary Cutler had three children, two sons (neither of whom left descendants) and one daughter. He lived at one time at the corner of Washington and Summer Streets, Boston, and later in Brighton, a few miles west of the city. He was eighty-four years old when he died. For twenty years before his death he was stone blind, from cataract over the eyes. He was an admirable character, greatly beloved by his numerous grandchildren, who did their best to amuse him by reading to him and telling him the news. The street where he lived in Brighton has been named Faneuil Street out of respect to his memory.

Peter Faneuil possessed the estate only about five years; during that time he lived in sumptuous style at the corner of Somerset and Beacon Streets, in the house that Andrew Faneuil built. He gave in charity in the most lavish abundance. Faneuil Hall was but one of his gifts to the city. Every charity of that day has his name down for a large sum. To Trinity Church he gave a handsome amount to support the families of the deceased clergy of that church. It became so large a sum that it has been divided between Trinity Church and what is called King's or Stone Chapel, and has done a great deal of good.

An assistant minister in Trinity Church, Rev. Mr. Cutler (brother to Mrs. B. Faneuil, and son of Rev. Timothy Cut-

ler) died young and left a widow and infant daughter unprovided for. Andrew Faneuil gave the widow an income while she lived, and at her death attended her funeral, and after it was over called at the house and took the child and its nurse to his own house, taught her to call him father, and his nephews (Peter and Benjamin) she called brothers. She was tenderly cared for by all of them, and married (while quite young) Captain Cochran, who commanded a ship owned by Andrew Faneuil. Her descendants are yet numerous and have always been regarded as kindred by the Faneuils. Probably this case (of a clergyman of the Church wanting a provision for his family) caused Peter Faneuil to provide against a similar case again occurring.

There is a fine portrait still extant of Peter Faneuil (it was given to the Antiquarian Society of Boston by his niece, Miss Jones, daughter of his sister, Mary Ann Faneuil); it is a better picture than the one in Faneuil Hall. There is also a good likeness extant of Rev. Timothy Cutler. Dr. Bethune has a fine picture of his grandmother, Mary Faneuil (Mrs. George Bethune), by Blackburn, and one of his father, George Bethune, painted by Stuart. There is a good likeness of Mrs. Jane Bethune Hunt, copied from an original by Stuart; Mrs. E. B. Stein has the copy; the Stuart picture<sup>1</sup> is still in the family.

The eldest of these young men, Peter, went to Canada; the youngest, Benjamin, was engaged to be married to Miss Lloyd, eldest daughter of Dr. Lloyd, and sister to Hon.

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<sup>1</sup> The site where the original Faneuil mansion once stood at New Rochelle is now a corner lot where a grocery store is kept. A ring was found some twenty years ago by a butcher whose grandfather removed the dust from the Faneuil house to his own waste-pile; the ring was found in a cornfield; it had engraved on the inside the name of Andrew Faneuil. It was purchased from the butcher by Mrs. Gen. Hawkins, a descendant of the Faneuils and Bethunes through her mother, Maria Bethune Hunt.



James Lloyd. They were very privately married, and when a vessel had just sailed for England they dropped down the harbor in a row-boat, under eloud of night, and quietly got on board the vessel (*that had been induced to lay to for them*) and went to England.<sup>1</sup> Faneuil's father gave his married son one-third of his estate in English funds. Miss Lloyd had no children. The couple lived in affluence in London, and were very friendly to all American refugees, of whom there were many at that time in England. They are spoken of by travellers who saw them in London. They are said to have been liberal in supplying the wants of those who were in need among the refugees. When they died they left back to the family the property they had received when they went to England. They were never after spoken of in Boston either by the Lloyds or Faneuils, and their memory died out entirely. The family often wondered why the Lloyds and Faneuils considered themselves related, but those few who knew *all about it* never spoke. Peter, who went to Cauada, ultimately died at his sister's in Brighton; he did not marry—was an invalid all his life.

Benjamin Faneuil (the younger) lived a very happy life in London with Miss Lloyd. They were entirely apart from politics, and had around them a circle of refugees from the colonies, to whom they had the means of being very useful.

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<sup>1</sup> See Boston papers of that date as to how and why they went. Those papers are full of conjectures and details.



## THE FANEUILS.

SOME INCIDENTS IN THEIR HISTORY.

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DURING the war of the revolution, or rather just before the outbreak of hostilities, when the people were greatly excited, the two sons of Benjamin Faneuil of Boston (nephews of Peter Faneuil) found that their safety obliged them to leave the country.

The opinions the young Faneuils held should not have excited the populace to violence. They were perfectly agreed that the colonies must soon have an independent government, but they counselled prudence till the country was *prepared for action* and *strong enough for successful resistance*; all this gave an impression that they were unpatriotic, and the angry people called them *Tories*.

Society just at that time was in a ferment. When it was found that the young Faneuils had left the country, a mob went to Faneuil Hall and *destroyed Peter Faneuil's picture!* He at least was one of the best friends they ever had! but it was *unreasonable violence* that moved the masses who called themselves patriots.

The father of these young men had recently received from his brother's (Peter Faneuil's) estate something like \$300,000 in English funds. It was expedient that one of the family should go to London and settle there permanently to hold that large property. There was *no want of patriotism in any of them*, but they did not want to see the colonies involved in misery by *premature* outbreaks; they thought

there was no hurry for war, and were all of them entirely against mob violence and *tearing up Peter Faneuil's picture!* Their patriotism took a reasonable, practical form, looking to the best interests of all. Further, they had no angry feelings against the English; they had too recently been received and protected by them when their own country turned them out. They always spoke of the English as a *great nation*. They admired their liberality as to religious opinions, in which France was wanting.

When the English had possession of Boston, and Washington's headquarters were in Cambridge, Benj. Faneuil, Jr., the brother of Peter Faneuil, was living in Brighton. He was then more than eighty years old, and had been blind for many, many years; he never left his room except for an occasional drive in fine weather. His daughter Mary (Mrs. George Bethune), then a widow, kept his house.

One afternoon Washington and some of his officers were riding by. The cherry-trees in the garden, loaded with fruit, spread their branches over the road, and some of the gentlemen reached up and gathered of the tempting fruit. Mrs. Bethune saw them. She sent out her man-servant with "Mrs. Bethune's compliments to Gen. Washington and his friends; would they do her the favor to come in and eat some of the fruit!" They at once rode up to the door, dismounted, and came in. She received them as graciously as possible, and regretted she had no son to call upon them. She entertained them with fruit, wine, and cakes as she had at hand. When they left she invited them to dine with her on a day she named, expressing at the same time her political sentiments, which were very patriotic. Her invitation was accepted; every one knew Mrs. BETHUNE—her good dinners were proverbial.

When the day came the guests arrived; she had invited a few others to meet them, and all went charmingly. The dinner was over, the dessert on the table, when the door was

flung wide and old Mr. Faneuil, leaning on the arm of his attendant, entered the apartment. All made room for him. He took his seat at the foot of the table, and told the guests he was very happy to find that they had visited his house. Would they fill their glasses and allow him to drink their health? After a time, when he had by listening found where Washington and Lee sat (the others he did not much regard), he turned toward Washington and said, "General Washington, I respect your character greatly; you act from patriotic motives; I have not a word to object to your course." But turning short on where Lee sat, "You, General Lee, are fighting with a rope round your neck," etc., etc., expressing very plainly that he looked on him as a traitor to king and country! The whole company arose from the table, and when they were taking leave General Washington said, "*What does this mean, Mrs. Bethune?*" "*Can you not see what it means?*" she asked; "my father has been blind and out of the world for twenty years, and he is now giving you the ideas in which he was educated. It is an accident that he found out there was company here; he never leaves his room. It was *I who invited you*, and my sentiments and those of my friends whom you see are very different from my father's. I beg your pardon for what has happened, and regret very much that this thing has occurred. I hope you and your friends *will forget it!*" Mrs. Bethune was a very intelligent and sensible person and was a patriotic American in her sentiments, and so taught her children as far as her influence went.

This General Lee so denounced was the one who had deserted from the English army, and the old man Faneuil could not refrain from telling him his opinion of such action *under any circumstances!*

NOTE.—There is a good deal of silver still in the family that has the Faneuil coat of arms on it. Dr. Bethune has the castors once used by Peter Faneuil. Another of the family has his coffee-pot. His punch-

bowl is in the Lovell family, given to them by Mrs. Ann Bethune Lovell, who married James Lovell, their father. A quantity of silver so engraved was stolen from Mrs. Bethune's house in Brighton, where a robbery was committed. The coffee-pot was found a week afterward in a field leading to the river, where the thieves dropped it in getting over a fence. It was estimated that \$3,000 worth was taken at that time. A man was afterward hanged for murder who confessed the robbery of the Brighton house. The thieves came up the river in a boat and took the silver to a vessel in the harbor. They were never detected.

#### DESCENDANTS OF THE FANEUILS.

The descendants of the Faneuils are very numerous. The name became extinct in this country when Benjamin Faneuil, Jr., son of Benjamin Faneuil of Rochelle, France, died, 1786. No son survived him; he had one daughter, Mary. This MARY FANEUIL married, 1754, George Bethune and had a very large family. For her children who had families, see "DESCENDANTS OF THE BETHUNES."

There are also descendants from Mary Ann Faneuil, a daughter of Benjamin Faneuil, Sr. She married Edward Jones. Her grandson, Edward I. Davenport, M.D., of Boston, was much respected.

As Faneuil has become extinct as a proper name the custom prevails of giving it as a first name. Judge Dunkin of South Carolina was called *Faneuil* Dunkin. *Faneuil* Hunt was the distinguished lawyer in Charleston, S. C. *Faneuil* Adams, M.D., is favorably known in Massachusetts. There is *Faneuil* Alston in Carolina, and there was a *Faneuil* Huger (he died young). Further, there are in New York *Faneuil* D. Weisse, M.D., his son, *Faneuil* Snyder Weisse, and his nephew, *Faneuil* Dunkin Stein.

It seems to be a fortunate name; it certainly rose to distinction when the two leading lawyers in Charleston, S. C., were *Faneuil* Hunt and *Faneuil* Dunkin. Some much-loved individuals of the name have passed away and left a very tender memory behind them. It will be a favorite name as long as the family exists.

















































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