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LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS.





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LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

DURING THE

REIGN OF KING JAMES THE SIXTH. ||

CHIEFLY FROM THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF
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PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE Papers contained in the present volume, with the exception of two interesting Letters communicated by Mr David Laing, Librarian to the Society of Writers to the Signet, are taken from the Collections of the Earl of Balcarres, and of Sir James Balfour of Denmiln, Bart., Lord Lyon King at Arms, both of which are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Balcarres Papers were collected by John Lindsay of Menmuir, Secretary of State to James VI.,* and gifted to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, in the year 1712, by his descendant, Colin, third Earl of Balcarres. They were little known till within these few years, having neither been sorted nor arranged in any manner of way; and it was not till some time after the appointment of the present learned Librarian that they were withdrawn from their obscure recesses, and

* He died at the age of forty-nine, on the 3d of September 1598.

made available to the public. The greater proportion of them refers to the reign of the Queen Regent, Mary of Lorraine, and includes an extensive correspondence with the Court of France, in which are to be found letters of Catherine de Medicis, Henry II., the celebrated Anne Constable de Montmorency, Diana of Poitiers (Duchess of Valentinois), and other equally distinguished persons. The letters during the reign of James VI. are comparatively few, and relate chiefly to his negotiations with foreign powers, to obtain their recognisal of his right of eventual succession to the Crown of England. They possess considerable interest, and have, with some few exceptions,* been included in the present volume.

The Balfour MSS. were purchased in 1698 by the Faculty for L.150 sterling, no inconsiderable sum in those days. Amongst these are several volumes of Memorials and Letters of State, during the reign of King James, chiefly after his accession to the Crown of England; and it is from them principally that a selection has been made, of such papers as it was thought would throw light upon the civil and political history of Scotland during that period.

A small portion of their contents had previously been made public by Lord Hailes, in a small volume, entitled "Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the Reign of

* These having been included in the *Annalecta Scotica* (2 vols. 8vo, Edin. 1836-1837), it was not deemed advisable to reprint them here.

James the First.* His Lordship, adverting in his preface to the Editors of Collections of the present description, remarks that they “are generally considered as dull tasteless men, who seek no farther merit in a paper than that of being old or scarcely legible: they have, however, their pretensions to literary fame; and, indeed, those pretensions are so moderate, that it is hard to reject them altogether.

“To invention, to accuracy of composition, or elegance of style, they can offer no claim; they are not historians, they only prepare materials for history; they chuse out blocks from the quarry, and having, with much patience and toil, brought them above ground, they leave them there to be polished and arranged by more able artists.”

From a claim so modestly preferred it would be unjust to dissent, and the Editor ventures to believe, that as he seeks no higher praise than what is asked by the estimable and learned Judge, his demands will not savour of pretension. He is hopeful that much curious and valuable information has been collected together as to the state of Scotland at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and he thinks that the Monarch who then swayed the sceptre, throughout the whole of the correspondence in this volume,† displays more talent and good sense than is usually ascribed to him. Indeed, we suspect that the character of the “sapient” Monarch has not been generally un-

* Glasgow. Foulis, 1766. Small 8vo.

† The Melros Papers, which have been wholly taken from the Balfour MSS., afford still stronger proofs of his Majesty's vigorous intellect and sound discretion.

derstood, or appreciated by the historians of his reign, and that, in place of exercising a sound judgment, they have, whilst emptying their vials of wrath upon him, too frequently been influenced by political predilections.

One very important fact seems to have been almost entirely overlooked, that when James first assumed the reins of government he found the kingdom in a semi-barbarous state, and that he left it in a state of comparative civilization. There is a remarkable letter, addressed by Lord Binning to his Majesty,* containing a report of the substance of a speech made by him in the Scotch Parliament, in which, after making every allowance for the usual courtly flattery, enough remains to show the inestimable benefits conferred by James upon his country. He says—"Omitting to particularize the generall benefites done to oure people in England and Ireland, I schew that the blessingis of justice and peace, and fruttis arysing thairof, did so obleis euerie one of ws, as no thing in oure power could equall it; desyring that it might be remembered, that whairas the Ilanders oppressed the Hielandmen, the Hielanders tyrannised ouer thair Lawland nighbours; the powerfull and violent in the in-cuntrie domineered ouer the lyues and goodes of thair weak nighbours; the Bordourars triumphed in the impunitie of thair violences to the portes of Edinburgh; that treasons, murthours, burningis, thiftis, reiffis, hearschippis, hochen of oxin, breaking of milnes, destroying

* 7th March 1617. Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 270.

of growand cornis, and barbarities of all sortes, wer exercised in all pairtes of the cuntrie, no place nor person being exemed or inviolable, Edinburgh being the ordinarie place of butcherlie reuenge, and daylie fightis; the paroche churches and churche-yairds being more frequented vpon the Sounday for aduantages of nighbourlie malice and mischeif nor for Godis seruice; nobilmen, barons, gentilmen, and people of all sortes, being slaughtered, as it wer, in publict and vncontrollable hostilities; merchandes robbed, and left for dead in daylight, going to thair mercats and faires of Montrois, Wigton, and Berwick; ministers being durked in Stirling, buried quick in Cliddisdail, and murthoured in Galloway; merchandis of Edinburgh being waited in thair passage to Leith to be maid prisoners and ransomed; and all vther abominations, which setled be inveterat custume and impunitie, appeired to be of desperat remeid, had bene so repressed, puneissed, and aboleissed be your maiesties wisdom, caire, power, and expensis, as no nation in earth could now compaire with our prosperities; whairby we wer bund to retribute to your maiestie, if it wer the verie half of our hairt bloud."

This is a fearful, but we believe a true picture of the state of Scotland at the commencement of the reign of James VI. In its most important essentials it is corroborated by contemporary writers; and surely a Monarch who, in the course of a few years, could, by his energy and perseverance, put down anarchy and restore order, deserves something better from pos-

terity than the appellations of a *roi-faincant*, an empty pedant, or arbitrary tyrant. James had acquired wisdom in the school of adversity, and early in life had learned the absolute necessity of curbing the power of an unprincipled nobility, in whose hands he was held merely as a puppet. This object he steadily pursued, and ultimately effected; for it is worthy of remembrance, that when he quitted the land of his birth for the sister kingdom, he left behind him no powerful family whose influence and intrigues might disturb the peace and prosperity of the commonwealth.* His adroitness, too, in the measures he adopted to ensure the support of foreign powers, in the event of the succession to the Crown of England opening to him, evinces great foresight and wisdom; indeed, so anxious was he to secure the co-operation of every one that by possibility might be able to assist him in the objects he had in view, that even the petty Italian Princes were conciliated, and trustworthy persons privately sent to propitiate them.† Nor is it the least remarkable feature in the matter, that these multifarious negotiations were carefully concealed from the knowledge of the vigilant and jealous Elizabeth.

James has been sneered at by his enemies for his theological acquirements, which are admitted at all hands to have been con-

* Whatever may have been the real truth of what is commonly denominated the Gowry Conspiracy, there can be little doubt that James was not sorry that an opportunity had occurred by which a family so powerful for wealth, influence, and talent, could be put down.

† It was these secret and mysterious negotiations with Catholic potentates, that gave rise to the notion of the King's inclination for Popery. The Editor has elsewhere observed, that James was too fond of power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope.

siderable; but his knowledge of the principles and practice of laws in general, and especially of those in Scotland, is not so generally known. There is, however, an existing memorial of his extraordinary legal ability in the award pronounced by him upon the mutual claims of the heir-male and the bastard son of the last Lord, to the Barony of Sanquhar.* In this case there was a diversity of opinion, and of four of the first lawyers in Scotland, two were on one side, and two on another. His Majesty, who liked nothing better than settling a disputed point, undertook the final arbitrement of the cause; and the result of his deliberations may be found in an argument which, for soundness, learning, and eloquence, will not easily be matched.

We trust our readers will forgive us for these hasty observations in favour of a Prince whom it has been very much the fashion to run down and ridicule; and we shall conclude them by observing, that although we do not pretend to justify all his measures, or to assert that his character was free from blemish, still it is our conscientious belief that justice has not been done to him in regard to his Scottish administration, which was generally wise, salutary, and efficient.†

The Melros Papers, presented to the Club by the President, and the present volume, contain by far the greater part of the

* See Abbotsford Miscellany, vol. i.

† D'Israeli, the author of the amusing "Curiosities of Literature," has vindicated the English government of his Majesty, and we think successfully, in "An Enquiry into the Literary and Political Character of James the First." London, 1816. Crown 8vo. As usually happens in vindications, the author is carried away by his subject; but still, in the main, he is evidently right.

more important portion of the Balfour MS. relative to the time of James the First. But there still remains in manuscript what must be considered a most valuable addition to our memorials of the time,—the correspondence of Archbishop Spottiswood, the Church Historian, and of other eminent churchmen ;—these documents, which relate much more to the civil than to the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, would supply many deficiencies, and form a most suitable sequel to the preceding Collections.

The reader will doubtlessly be struck by the sycophantish manner and abject style in which the Sovereign is uniformly addressed, nor will he overlook the profusion of idle protestation and laudatory expression in which most of the writers indulge in their correspondence ; but he must not infer from this any unusual or uncalled for subserviency. It was the custom of the time ; and if he has the curiosity to look into the “ Academy of Complements,”* the text-book of the courtiers of the seventeenth century, he will find most of the “ Superscriptions” and “ Subscriptions,” as they are termed, that occur in the present volume. Thus, the “ superscription” to the King is, “ To the most Sacred, most Gracious, most High, most Mighty, most Puissant, and Victorious Monarch, his Majesty of Great Britain.”—To a Pa-

* See “ The Academy of Complements, wherein ladies, gentlewomen, schollers, and strangers, may accomodate their courtly practice with gentile ceremonies, complementall amorous high expressions, and form of speaking or writing letters most in fashion. A worke perused, exactly perfected, every where corrected, and enriched by the author with additions of witty poems and pleasant songs.” 7th Edition. London, 1646. 12mo.

tron, "To the onely hope of his fortunes;" the "subscription" being, "the honour of your matchlesse perfections." When addressing "his beloved friend," he subscribes "your assured;"—"the lovingst of all my friends,"—"yours inseperably,"—"his highly esteemed friend,"—"yours as I have professed." It is unnecessary to multiply instances; but those above noticed demonstrate that there was nothing unusual in the manner in which the various letters contained in this volume were either "superscribed" or "subscribed."

The Editor regrets that two or three mistakes in the Notes, entirely of a clerical description, escaped notice while correcting the sheets for press.* A very interesting letter, relative to the suppression of the Clangregor, which was subsequently discovered, has, instead of being placed at the end of the book, been added as an Appendix to the present desultory observations.

J. M.

10, FORRES STREET,
1st May 1838.

* Subsequent for subsequently, p. 67, &c. &c.

THE Selection of Papers contained in this volume will, I trust, be considered a valuable addition to the Collections already published, relative to the same period of Scottish History. I cannot, however, present them to the Abbotsford Club without expressing the obligations which I owe to Mr Maidment, for his very able and ready assistance in the selection and arrangement of them. He has undertaken the whole editorial labour, and has furnished the Prefatory Notice, and the many curious and interesting notes relating to the individuals and events referred to in these Papers: and I feel assured that the Club will unite with me in appreciating his great zeal and research in the preparation of the present volume for publication.

ADAM ANDERSON.

EDINBURGH,
1st May 1838.

THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND THE LORD REGISTER
TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1612.

PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The Erle of Ergyle compeiring this day befor 3oure maief-
ties counfaill, he exhibite elleivin of that number of the Clangregour reft-
ing vpon him be his formair accompt, who hes changeit thair names,
and found caution, conforme to the ordoure. He hes a warrant grantit
to him for his repair towards 3our maieftie, according to 3oure maiefties
plefour and directioun, fygnefeit vnto ws by 3oure maiefties lettre of the
fecond of this infant, and he hes nominat the Laird of Lundy, his
bruther,* to haue a cair of the profequation of that feruice till his retourne,

* In a note of the Privy Council Proceedings in the same volume containing this letter, it is stated, "The Laird of Lundy, brother to the Earl of Argyle, being to repair to Court to confer with his brother anent the service of the Clangregour, as he pretendes, he hes nominat the Laird of Laweris to haue the charge of that seruice till his returo, and vpon Laweris acceptatioun of the charge, Lundy is to haue a license for his vp-cuming."

There is a Minute of the Council Meetings, dated 8th July 1613, from which it appears, that the Earl of Argyle appeared and freely offered to the King L.22, 10s. out of every hundred pounds of the fines exacted from those who had received any of the Clangregour which should come into his hands. It is also stated, "The laudislordis of the Clangregour who should haue taine the hairuis of the Clangregour off the Laird of Laweris hands," had "failzied in that poynt, and thairfore charges are directed againes thame for payment to Lawers of the somme of tueatie mark out of euerye merk land pertening to thame, and formerly possess by the Clangregour."

Latterly, (30th November 1613,) it was resolved, that the landlords should not be called upon to pay any contribution, provided they took the Clangregour hains. This proposal those present agreed to; and the conditions ultimately adjusted were, that the children should be distributed amongst them according "to the proportion of their lands,"—that they should be bound to keep them, and to make them forthcoming when called for, until they were eighteen years of age, when they should be exhibited to the Privy Council, and their subsequent fate decided upon. If any of these unfortunate creatures should escape from his

who hes vndertane the charge, with promiffis to do his indevoir to bring the fame to fome fetled perfectioun. We haif had findrie conferenceis anent the bairnis of the Clangregour, and hes consultit and advifit heirvpoun with the landiflordis, whose aduife and opinioun is, that that ftring fall not be tuitcheit, nor no motioun maid thereof, quhill the feruice in handis agais the men be firft fetled and brought to ane end; at whiche tyme the executioun of everie futche courfe as falbe then refolued vpoun agais the bairnis may with the leffe difficultie be effectuat. This is all that hes bene done with him at this meiting. So, with our hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending zoure maieftie to Godis devyne protectioun, we [rest]

Your Maiefties most humble and obedient
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLARIUS.
ALEX^r. HAY.

Edinburgh, 18 Sep. 1612.

To the King his most Sacred and
Excellent Maieftie.

keeper, the resetter to be bound to relieve the landlord of all "pane and danger" he might incur through his flight; and moreover, to be liable to such "arbitrall censure and punishment," as the Council should think fit to inflict. The child so escaping, if under fourteen, to be scourged and burnt on the cheek for the first escape, and hanged for the second:—if above fourteen, to be hanged at once without further ceremony.

The next day a roll was made up and sworn to by Glenurquhy and the other lairds. The landlords were enjoined to keep and present the children under the penalty of two hundred pounds Scots for the child of a chieftain; one hundred pounds for the child of an under chieftain; and forty pounds for children of meaner rank.

LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

THE REIGN OF JAMES VI.

I.—SIR NICHOLAS BACON, LORD-KEEPER, TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.*

MY MOSTE GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

I with all humblenes praye pardon of your maiestie, that I presume by letter to do that which bounden duety and fervice requireth to be done in perfon. O good madam, not wante of a willing harte and mynde, but a vnhabable and vnweldy body, is the onely caufe of this ; and yet the body, such as it is, every day and hower, is, and ever shalbe, redy at your maiesties commandement, and so shoulde they be, yf I had a thousand as good as any man hath, my allegeaunce and a number of benefitts hath so foundery tymes bounde me.

The causes that make me nowe to write to your maiestie be the dangerous and perilous tymes that hath continewed longe, and do nowe, in my judgement, daylie greatly encrease ; for as the two mightie and potent princes, your neighbours, and surely your inwarde enemyes, were the

* This letter, from the father of Lord Bacon to Queen Elizabeth, has been preserved by Sir James Balfour, and was probably written not long previous to the death of Sir Nicholas, perhaps in the September preceding. It is a singularly curious and valuable historical document.

leffe to be doubted as longe as they had their handis full at home, fo doubteles they prevaile againſte thoſe that kepte them occupied, which, as I vnderſtand, they greatly do, the perillis and dangers to your maieſties ſtate haſten and growe on as greatly. Their willis are redy, onely theis lettis differeth their oportunitie. Nowe, thoſe being taken away, with what coniunct force and fury they will execute their will, full of enmytie and revenge, is eaſy to be iudged: for ſeing your maieſtie hath had evident prouffe of their ill diſpoſiciouns towardis you by their practiſes, and that in waightie matters, in the mydeſt of their troubles, when they were not able to do you any hurte, what then is to be loked for when oportunitie and habilitie ſhall concurre? Agayne, it is to be doubted that when they ſhall begynne to ſtirre coles, that there be many, booth at home and abroade, that will put oyle to this fyer, and the rather becauſe of the gloriouſe and plauſible preteſte that they pretende to have, to ſerue their purpoſe.

Moſte gracious Soueraigne, I have been ſo vnquieted with thoſe thingis, when I entered into the conſideracion of them, whether of ouer muche fearefulnes by nature, or ouer greate ielofy of your highe eſtate, I knowe not, that I coulde not choſe but nowe at the laſte, to vtter to your maieſtie that which I have ofte intended, and yet neuer done, partely by feare, partely by hope, that thingis ſhoulde prove better, which I ſee daylie prove worſe and worſe; and yf remedy be not foreſeen in tyme, I doubt it will prove very harde to be holpen by any counſell: to myne vnderſtanding, and the beſte remedy that I can thinke of, be theis, neuertheles ſubmytting them with all humblenes to your maieſties moſte grave and wiſe conſideracioun.

The firſte remedy is to make Scotland as affured to your maieſtie as maye be, for ſo befydis the ayde you maye have by them, the greate perill of annoyaunce by Fraunce wilbe removed; and the better to vnderſtand what is beſte to be foreſeen and provided for both their and your ſuertie, me thinketh it beſt that ſome wiſe men were ſente to conferre with the Regent and his adherentis, by your maieſtie, and that ſuche counſell ſhalbe agreed vpon in that conference be ſente to your highnes to be conſidered of, and by you allowed or amended. Ther reſteth nothing

but to have it carefully executed ; and in the handling of this, greate care woulde be taken that the younge king, who groweth nowe to yeres, be not transported, but maye remayne in the governaunce of fuche, as shalbe moste assured to your maiestie ; and for the better bringing this to passe, I moste humblie beseeche your highnes, that fuche and so many pentions maye be graunted, as maye best bring it to good effecte. Surely I thinke that every thowfande poundis that shalbe thus bestowed will save you a hundred thowfand ; yet it maye be doubted, whether, yf this be vndone, any money wilbe able to beare of the danger.

As to the seconde remedy, because the annoyaunce from Spayne is like to growe by the Lowe Countries, I see no waye so fure for your maiestie as to kepe the Prince of Orenge in harte and life ; for methinketh his estate towardis Spayne, and the Regentis towardis Fraunce, stand both in one predycament, and therefore require booth one cowrse. The Statis of the Lowe Countries are so divided, that howe truste may be reposed in them where one trusteth not another, I see not. marry, yf it mighte be broughte to passe, by counsaile from hence, that the Duke of Arefcott and the States mighte governe the Countreis according to their liberties, and the Prince to have the rule of their martiall matters, this of alle others were the furest waye ; otherwise, whilest the States be in delyberacion, it maye be doubted that their overthrowe maye happen.

The thirde remedie is to have your musters kepte and contynewed, and their certificatis carefully perused and wantis supplied, so as your captaynes, men, municion, and armour, maye be in a redynes againste all fouldiouris and fo[reigners ?]

Thus, I have troubled your maiestie, I confesse, longer then perchance it nedeth, confidering cheefely your owne vnderstanding and wisedome, and therewith the grave, wife, and carefull counsaylouris daylie attendaunte aboute you. But, good madam, howe can theis thingis discharge me of my duetye, judging of theis tymes as I do ? And although I have before this tyme signified to some of my Lords, what I have thoughte in your matters of state, yet feing nowe the daunger encreasing, I coulde not satisfie my owne harte withoute an advertifment to your selfe, moste humbly prayeing pardon for the lengthe of my letter, my shaking hande being

fo ill; and the rather becaufe I meane not to trouble your maieftie ofte withoute your maiefties licence and good favour. Thus wishing to your highnes all felicitie both of mynde and body, I forbear any farther to trouble your maieftie at this tyme. From Gorehambury, the xvth of September.

Your Maiefties moſte humble ſubiecte
and ſervaunte,

NICHOLAS BACON.*

To the Queenis moſte excellent Maieſtie,
my moſte gracious Sovereigne.

II.—MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ESCOSSE.†

Oct. 6, 1588.

SIRE,

Dautant que voſtre maieſte fera affez informee, tant par ce porteur, comme par ce que meſſieurs les Eſtats de ces pays luy eſcriuent, de ce qui concerne le batteau appelle le Phenix et les priſonniers dedans icelluy, ie me remettray a la relation du dict porteur et du contenu des dictes lectres. Priant a voſtre maieſte treſhumblement de vouloir croire que non ſeulement en ce qui peult toucher ledict affaire, mais en toutes autres occurrences ou il plaira a voſtre maieſte m'honorer de ſes com-

* Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal. He was descended of an ancient family in Suffolk, and born about the year 1510. He was a zealous Protestant, and extremely jealous of the succession of the Queen of Scots. Suspected of being concerned in a tract, ostensibly written by Mr John Hales, Clerk of the Hanaper, in support of the title of the House of Suffolk to the English throne, he fell under the displeasure of Queen Elizabeth, who, in November 1564, restrained him from access to court, and intermeddling in any other business than that of chancery. He was preserved in his post of Lord-Keeper by the interest of Secretary Cecil, and retained that office till his demise, at his house near Charing-Cross, called York Place, on the 20th of February 1578-9. He was interred on the 9th day of March following, in the cathedral of St Paul's, where a monument was erected for him, which was destroyed by the fire of London in September 1666.

† Balcarras Papers.

mandemens, je ne faudray de m'employer, felon mon petit pouuoir et credit que je puis auoir en ces pays. Et fur ce, aprez auoir baife les mains trefhumblement a vostre maieſte je prieray Dieu le maintenir,

Sire, en fa fainte garde et proteſtion. De la Haye, ce vj Oſtobre 1588.

De vostre Maieſte tres humble feruiteur,

MAURICE DE NASSAU.*

Au Roy d'Eſcoffe.

Indorſed:

“ 6 Oſtob. 1588. Duik Moreis to
the King of Scotland.”

III.—JACQUES VI. A MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU.

SEPT. 19, 1592.

MONSIEUR MON COUSIN,

Ce gentilhomme porteur de cettcey, † eſtant des fa ieuneſſe nourry en ma compaignie, a maintenant reſolu voir le monde, et ſe rendre plus

* He was usually termed Count of Nassau, until, by the death of his elder brother, Philip William, he became Prince of Orange. He was one of the greatest men of his age, whether considered as a warrior or a statesman. The chief blot upon his character was his ungrateful and cruel treatment of John of Oldenbarnevelt, whose inflexible honesty, and love of his country, formed a formidable obstacle to the Prince's ambitious views. Barnevelt was a patriot in the proper sense of the word, and unlike many persons pretending to the appellation in modern times, was ready to sacrifice every private advantage for the public good. This illustrious man fell a victim to his virtues, and suffered death at an advanced age. He was condemned 12th May 1619, and executed in the court of the castle at the Hague, where the scaffold was raised opposite the window of the Prince, who “ beheld this execution from his window by the help of a prospective; upon which some people made their reflections.”—Lives of the Princes of Orange, translated from the French of Baron Maurier, by Mr Thomas Brown. London, 1693. 8vo. p. 170.

† This was probably “ Jacobus Balfourius a Pitcullo, liber Baro, Cubicularius noster intimus, et a prima adolescentia, apud nos educatus, nationes exterar inuisere constituens,” &c. and who is so described by James VI. in a Latin letter addressed to Philip II. (but apparently never delivered), dated at the palace of Dalkeith, in the month of September 1592. As the descriptions of Balfour,

capable a me faire seruire digne de son rang. Son intention donques honnestete et louable merite que ie le recommande a bon escient a mes plus affectionés amis, tant pour les vertus que ie cognois en luy, que pour son fidelle seruire qu'il ma fait, estant gentilhomme de ma chambre. Je vous prie partant le vouloir fauorir de vostre courtoisie, pour l'amour de moy, si dauanture il ait occasion de faire seiour es Prouinces Vnies, ou, bien fil ait a passer par vos quartiers. Vous asseurant que vous my faires plaisir, dont ie men reuencheray a lendroit de ceux quil vous plaira me recommander. Et en cest endroit ie prieray l'Eternel,

Monfieur mon cousin, quil vous ait tousiours en sa faincte et digne garde. De mon Chasteau de Dalketh, ce 19 de Septembre 1592.

Vostre bien affectionné Cousin,

· JAKES R.

A Monfieur mon Cousin, Monfieur
le Conte de Nassau, Grand Ad-
miral de Prouinces Unies.*

IV.—KING JAMES VI. TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

APRIL 13, 1594.

RIGHT HEIGH, RIGHT EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRINCESSE,

Or darrest sifter and couffin, In our maist heartie maner, we re-
comend vs vnto you, hauing so guid occasion offred of employment of

and the causes of his visiting foreign parts, so completely agree in both letters—as the period is the same, and as they are both dated from the same place, it is not improbable that the Baron of Pitcullo was the individual introduced to the notice of Prince Maurice. This person afterwards became an Irish Peer by the title of Lord Balfour of Clonawley in the county of Fermanagh, and if we may credit Spottiswood, Bishop of Clogher, in after life, sorely belied the character given him by his royal master. See "Briefe Memorial of the Lyfe and Death of Doctor James Spottiswood," from a MS. in the Auchinleck Library. Edinburgh, 1811. 4to.

* Balcarras Papers.

some from vs to deliuer unto you a defyre quhilk ue dout not fal be to your goude lyking and contentment, ue haue made choysfe of our trustie and veilbelouitis James Coluill of Easter Vymes,* and Mr Eduard Bruce, Commendator of Kinlosse,† amplie instructed lykuayes in all such maters, as ue haue thought conuenient be them to communicat to you, quhilk tuoching ws fo neir in our honor and vther wayes, ue looke assuredlie that deue respect and confideration being had, we fall at lenth receaue such full satisfactioun as in reffoun we may rest contented; hauing therewithall giuen them in charge, to assure you of the performance of such poynts as ues delt in be the Lord Zouche, your lait Embafadour with us, according to our ansuers returned be him; so the particulars remitted to ther faithfull deliuerie, quhome it may pleis you crydit firmlie as our selve. Efter our most earnest vifs of God for the continuance of your lang and prosperous range, we leaue you, right heicht, right excellent and mightie Princeſſe, to his blessed and holy protectioun. Edinbrugh, the xij of Aprile 1594.‡

JAMES R.

V.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE EARL OF ESSEX.

RIGHT TRUSTIE AND WELLBELOUIT COUSIN,

Allthoch I haue this long tyme forborne the vretting unto you, because of the wrong ye receauid their through, suppoise not in my default, but in the default of thaim that uaire employed betuixt us, yett nou, hauing directit thir tuo gentelmen,§ ambassadouris to the Quene youre fouueraine, vpon uechtie and urgent occafions, importing no lesse

* Sir James Colville of Easter Wemys was created Lord Colville of Culross, 25th April 1604.

† Afterwards created Lord Kinloss. He died in 1610, aged 62.

‡ Balfour MSS.

§ James Colville of Easter Wemys and Edward Bruce.

then the preferuation or breake of the amitie fo long and happilie conti-
neuid betuixt the tuo crounis, I uolde not omitt this ocaasion in fending
these few lynis unto you, heirby to praye you fauourable to heare, and
according to the freindshipp I looke for at youre hande, to further thame
als farr as in you lysis to a goode and speedie dispatche. I looke, milorde,
that a nobleman of the ranke ye are of, uill moue and affist the Quene
vith youre good aduyce, not to suffer herself to be fyled and abused
any longer with fuche as præferre thair particulaire and unhoneft affec-
tions to the Quenis princelie honoure and peax of both the realmes; but
I refer the particulars of all to the beararis report, quhome I haue
comandit to use youre aduyce in all thaire proceedinges: And thus, richt
trustie and uellbelouit coufin, I bidd you hairtelie fairuell. From Edin-
burgh the xij of Apryle 1594.

Yourie uerie louing freinde,

JAMES R.*

To our richt trustye and well belouit
Coufin, the Earle of Effex.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 4, 1596.

PLEASE YOUR MAIESTY,

I cam to this toun of Venice the xiii of Deffember, stillo novo,
quhar, aftir som few dayis, I had the neius of the hell hes bein on the

* From his Majesty's Autograph. Balfour MSS. In Birch's Memoirs of Queen Elizabeth, this letter has been printed "from a copy among the MS. Collections of Dr Patrick Forbes, in the possession of the Honourable Philip Yorke, Esq.;" and it is observed, "what answer the earl return'd to the king does not appear." It would rather seem never to have been delivered, but to have been brought back by the ambassadors, which may account for the original being found amongst the Balfour MSS. Sir James has written upon a copy which he had made of it, "This letter, befor it was deliuerit to the Earle of Essex he was execut, and so it was never deliuerit." A most absurd reason for its non-delivery, as Essex did not suffer till the 25th February 1601.

counfall of ten thir thri zeirs bygen, and cauft my brother be him felf fpeik tham all feverally, as having vord from ane Skots gentilman : Bot to be fchort in this, fir, thair vald nain of tham do fo meikill as fpeir his nem, and denyit the knowlage of any mairi [mair?]: he lernit that thair vas ane deid and ane other remaining imbastor at Roim, that had fom faffons vith frangers. Sva, finding that the Devk of Venice at that tyme* is nov deid; and as I trov the other fennatour gif any vas (za, albeit he var leifing, thay of ten ar fchengeitt everi fax monethe) fva I focht quher I micht quyatly be aquent vith the principall fecritter, quhilk vithe dificolti I obtained, in refpect thay remaine in office all thair lyf, and is not thair faffon to fpeik vith any bot poblikly; zit he did fo meikill, as I vas brocht in be ane quyat paffage, quhair the Dewk vas vithe the number of Saxtein, to vit the Ten and Sax is callid propirlic the heids of the reft; and becaus I vas to begin of nev, and had nothing to fheav, bot your maiefties inftrouctions quhilk I vald not, I thought gud to fill ane of the blanks your maieftie fent vith me, vithe fom generall vords of office to the Deuk and Sennat vithe credit be your hines onto my felf: I and my brother being cecritters, alway it pleift them verrie veill, and vald hav honorrit me for your maiefties faik as ane imbastour, bot I fheu tham I vas not, bot for fecrit handling of your maiefties affairs, vas com to maik my errand for lerning of the langage and other vertevs, as the faffon of fraingers vas: alway they left not of in gret revarranceing your maieftie; bot quhan I begane and tald them quhow that ane zong Skots gentilman called Balendin brocht fik a meffege onto your maieftie, and fva forthe as your hines direckit me, the Devk and all the counfall mifkenid it clein, and villit me to fpeik quhat els, bot I held me fva lang at this point as reffon and difereffion vald. At laft I faid in your maiefties nem, I vas to gif anfuair to thair firft propofficion, quhilk vas your hines thankitt tham of thair gudvill, and cowld be content to be in frainchap vith tham. The Devk anfvarrit and faid it vas verri veill, bot vald I fay any

* The Doge Pascal Cicogna. He died in 1595, and was fucceeded by Marino Grimani, who enjoyed the Ducal honours till his decease, 26th December 1605. His fucceffor was Leonardo Donato.

forder? The quhilk I thocht not gud to do till I had ansvare in that, and deffyrirt of the Deuk and Counfall to haw itt: Being convoyit veri quyatly away, I vas fend for againe vithin ten dayis, quhar, being com, the Devk faife, that for anfvair thay var meft villing to be in freinschap with your maiestie, and zit focht giff I vald fay any. mair? Nov, I had lerned befor that it vas not meifest to speik derekly of the Kyng of Spain, bot I faid inkece your maiestie var troblit in your avin contra, or after the Quein of Inglands dissece, be any domestik or forrene nacion in feiking of your richt, quhat vald be thair part, and quhow vald thay think of it? The Devks ansvar vas, that thay fovld advyffe and gif ane sik anfvair as God moift tham vithe all. Ovpon the morren I vas deffyrirt again, and cavft fit down amongs tham quhither I vald or not, and put on my hat. The Dewk begovd and faid, ve hav advyft to gif your King ane anfvair, quhilk ve beleife fall content him, and that ze may remember the bettir on it, ze fall heir it red, ains, tyys, or thryfe, quhilk vas doin. Aftir the Devk faid, ve ar veri veill content of your secritt form vith ovffe, and vill deffyr you fet down the fobftance of this vret onto his hines your maiftir, and quhat forder, he vill bid you fay in his maiesties nem, now or heir-aftir, it fall be meft luifingly harde and ansvarrit. Thir speichis var delyverrit vithe ane veri gracioufe countinace; zit, I thocht ains to hav faid that all vas veill genarral I hard; bot, fir, vith your maiesties pardoun, I fand it meiter to vret thir lynis to be advyfit vithall, and to fend the verrie vords, fo neir as I can, that vas red onto me, faue only ane thay fet doun to my advantage, quhilk I think schem to let be fein, fence all the praise, honour, and veifair, belongithe to your maiestie, quha never derekit me zit, I thank God and your hines, bot your graces errands zeid reffonable veill, as I houp this fall. Sua, fir, the tyme being propir in respect of the Kyng of Spains interpryfe apeirandli again Ingland, gif your maiestie pleife, ze may taik onto you sik feu number of your counfall as ze think gud, and resolffe quhat fardar your maiestie vill deill vith this meft vyffe and luifing Repoblik, for quhat your hines vill feik of tham vith reffon, I beleife to obtain it onto your maiestie, letting me be authorreift be your maiesties lettirs to the Devk and Sennat all in ane,

and fom blanks vith 3our maiesties gret signet and court signet, to cloffe them and fill tham as I find occasion.*

Now, sir, being quhar papistri is, I can not vant fom of the dreggis. 3our maiestie hes hard quhat the freirs dois, quhan thay hav pritcht all the day; bot in gud faithe, sir, I fould never maik this preitching for my self, gif I could othervaife do. I brocht not faife hundrithe kroons vith me, and my brother baithe, ovt of Londen, as nain knovs bettir nor 3our maiesties trew poir fervant, Thomas Fovles: and, sir, my staving still in Venice on this errand this tva monethe hes bein no small maittir onto my posse; bot, sir, I haiv caws to think it mair nor veill bestowit for many reffons, and I hoip in God to do 3our maiestie gud and secrit service heir; only the dispatche 3our hines sends, baithe for 3our serveice and my help, let it be foine and secritt; for I beleife, and can lerin heir nothing els, but that the Spainzairds falbe in England, or els ewill doung, be the tym I dow heir from 3our maiestie. But albeit, spair not to fend me vord, for I beleife to do 3our hines lytill var service gif thay var landit in England, nor quhar thay ar preffently. This stet luifs tham not, and sua pre-pairs be si, inkece thay mein for them, albeit in the mein tyme thay ar in fair terms. If it may pleise 3our hines to communicat of this onto Thomas Fovls, I, vith 3our majesties lyffance, vill anvair for his secreffi; and he is verie meit to delyver my lettirs onto 3our hines from tym to tym, and vith the ane vord of 3our hines (be him to James Hudson) my hell lettirs vill com and gang verie faife. Bifiking 3our hines to pardon my baldnes and roid form in vretting sva langfomly, quhilk I vas constanit to do, that 3our hines micht heire my hell procidings, as I vald to God 3our maiestie knew my hairt, and vith the quhat desfy I do 3our service, and

* These negotiations with the Venetians are amusing enough. James seems to have taken every opportunity of endeavouring to get his right of succession to the crown of England recognised abroad, and so far as promises went, he seems to have been not very scrupulous. It was this laxity of principle, and his dealing with Catholic princes, that gave rise to the belief of his inclination to Popery. James was too fond of exclusive power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope. Episcopacy suited him much better where he was head of the church himself. In viewing his political arrangements generally, it is almost impossible not to agree with Lord Hailes, that whatever may have been "his character as a man, or his conduct as a monarch," his "judgment was sound, and his apprehension clear," especially where his own interests were concerned.

feiks the inkrefment of 3our maiefties grettnes, that ane day I affur my felf to fi ; onto the quhilk and ever, I pray God to blife 3our hines and all 3our proceedings. From Venice, the fourt of Fabrowair, ftilo novo, 1596.

Your Maiefties faithfull, humble, and
moft obedient fervand,

St. W. KEITHE.*

The gret gudvill and fauorable intencion that the kyngs maieftie of Skotland hes participattit vithe ovffe be 3our mediacioun.

The anvair quharof. It falbe onto ovffe moft defsyrrous and villing all the gud lovks of his maieftie inkreffing in grettnes. And ve fall not fell in ovr pairts for to fchav all favorable correffondance, as his maieftie fall find in freindschap and amittie to his hines being fo veill lykitt of be ovffe, acording to the intitutioun and form of this our Repoblik.

Sir, this is the verri fobftance of that vas red onto me, albeit it vas amplifeit vithe many courtas vords in the Ittalliane, quhilk is not thair faffon to gif copis of, nather hav thay any vret of me.†

To his Maiefti of Skotland.

* Sir William Keith of Ludquhairn, son of Gilbert Keith, by Margaret, daughter of James Gordon of Lesmoir. He was knighted by James VI., and married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Keith, and sister of George fifth Earl Marischal, by whom he had a son, William, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., by patent to him and his heirs-male whatsoever, dated 28th July 1629.

† Balcarras Papers.

VII.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO THOMAS FOULIS.

15TH AUGUST [1596]?

MOST LUUFFING AND ASSURRED FREIND,

I can not bot marwall, ze haue newer wrettin bot ane lettir, fence I fende zow myn, to be preffentit till owr deirest freind, quha I am foir hes not bein the cawffe off fwa lang stay, the porposse importting fo meikill onto him, for tym is all in sik mairchandeis, and may affur zow within thir twa monethes, ze nicht haue had sik ane blok as nein of any nation cowld hav the lyk off, mairchands I mein, bot now the Inglife treid is fo thoct off, as thair is no other talk bot off that, zet mair nor the Spainis. I am adwarteift be Jams Hudfon to be war in my wairs bying, in respeçt thair is fo many Inglife schaipis at fe; bot he wretts fo obfkoirlic, that it may be taikin twa wayis, and that he or any leiffing, bot zour ffreind and zowr selff, can ken off my mairchandeis be my falt, it is nocht: zit wretts he mair that thair is fom lettir interseptit, wrettin be Scotts Jeffowitts, quharin my nem is mencionid, howping to work wonders at my poir hands, bot wretts not quhar the Jeffowitts ar, nor wha interseptts the lettir; bot, as I taik it, England, quha I am affurit has bein ewer bettir informit off me, nor that I will have cheng in my releigion, and any thinge els bot my prievat exerceiffes I mell not into, and for zowr bloks and freinds off yeir maittirs I howp not to be meikill invoyitt, and gif I wis any did, I fowld do mair nor I hawe doin, zit staying owpon zowr adwarteifment. Ze wret newer ane word news onto me, nor quhow our Sweithland maiftir is, zit I haue bein demandit heir quhat news I haid from Scotland, and quhan I heird from it? Consider ze thein giff I haw cawffe to find falt with zour flewthful onkyndnes. Farder, fom of my aquentance speirit giff his maieftie of Scotland heid fend any men and schaipis with this fleit off England agains Spaine? I faid I beleift nocht, nor wald nocht, onles the kyng off Spaine parfewid England, at quhilk tym thay heir nicht parfchance knaw, that owr maiftir's forfe was mair nor fom giffis owt. Thir ar ane wyfe peipill, and wil be leithe the kyng off Spaine

taiks thaim for enemies ; and thinks thaim fober freinds that diflyks thaim, fwa 3it quhat they ar and quhom thay luiff is knawin albeit nocht to many, and in fik fort as thay may deny it quhan thay will. Leiffing this porpofe, that I wat not quhow I begane it, faue in finding fat with 3owr onkyndnes, I man tell 3ow, that I am indet for 3owr wairs ane thowfand crowns, and hes newer firft nor laft had ane pennie from 3ow nor 3owr freinds, quhom I wreit not, feing I med the blok with 3ow : mend this falt with fpeid, for 3e know what it is for ane zung mairchand to tyn his credit at fourft. And 3it I haue doin for ane moneth in to com, and afurs my felf the forfaid fom is be the way, knawing the honeft mynd off 3owr freind, I will not fay 3owrfelf : bot this far, giff 3e twa do this 3our dewty to me, for all is wrettin onto me, or can be doin in my contrair, I fall put faire wairs in 3owr hands and 3owr freind's, with God's graic. I fay this, wind and wader ferwing that all be not loft be the way or flewthe of tyme. 3e haue doin me ane ewill torrin, hes haldin me fwa lang from feing the reft off this gairding off the wordle ; and langer nor the end of September I cannot ftay : and giff word possiblei coms not from 3ow or them, I fall tak fik ordor with 3our torns and my credit as I may, till my bak coming, quhilk, God willing, fall not be lang, gif the Pep maik me not cardinell, for my deep dewocion and feric. Parhapis the Jeffwitts howpis to moife me and him ; thus thinking this fowficiant for ane man of 3owr fpreit, I praye 3ow commend my feirveice to thaim I awcht, and to others as 3e think gud ; bot let als few weit off my wretting onto 3ow, as 3e can inteffipet. I am fweir to offir my fair hand wret to ewerrie ane, and my flowdis dyttment quhilk I recomend beithe ane and other as aratik. Gif it pleis God we meit, I fall gar 3ow trow of the quhilk, God I pray preferwe 3ow. From Padoua, the 15th of Agowft ftilo novo.

3owr meft conftand and afurid
freind to be employit,

S^a. W. KEITHE.*

* Balcarras Papers.

I pray 3ow, taik gud tent that this 3owr lettir be not openit be the way.

To my worthie luiffing freind Thomas
Fowlls, borgefs in Edinburghe, and
jewaller onto the King's Maieftie off
Scotland.

[There was enclosed in this letter, on a flip of paper, the following additional communication to Mr Thomas Fowlls.]

Thair coms ane lettir amongs my other onto 3owr brother, bot ken nothing to him new. Taik ane gud hairt quhat ewer cawfe 3e have, and I fall maik 3ow help heir, gif his maieftie fend me moyane to bye in tym, for that is all. And the King of Spains forces again England, I feir, and 3e heft nocht, foin falbe : bot I fall make his maieftie the gretter of it heir, for thay luif him not. I wald 3e fawe my letter wrettin onto his maieftie, and ye man fi it, for neift God and the king I thank 3ow. Pance nocht on geir to do 3ow ewill, for 3e knaw quhat cawfe I have, bot my cair is on God; caft 3ow thair, and 3owr honest form fall ewer confort 3ow. Hest word and my difcharge to me, bot I will not wret onto 3ow in this other gret pakket, becaufe thay ar beithe off ane dett, and this tikett I wrot that thir lettirs fall not beir bowk; 3e man be chamles at his maiefties hands for fikreife onto me; fence it is his weil mair nor myn in the end, and I may fay, I have doin his hines ferweifs, and my lying heir hes bein no small maittir onto me, and maiking moyan for this torrin. Fell not to fchew his maieftie that the Italliane he was fo gud onto, at my defsyrs, is heir, and werrie gret with the gret Dewk of Florence, and offers to cawfe the dewk fend for me. His majeftie kens he is the Kyng of Spanis onfriend quyatlle, and luifs our kyng. Gif his hines will, I fall fpeik him, and gif him fom words of offere on my awin heid, bot not from his hines, till he fend me word in this; for in my oppinion his maieftie fall have neid off freinds and money both, or he get England, and this dewk hes bethe, and is in lig with this repoblick, at left in gret amittie. I cloffe his maiefties lettir, fwa that gif he taik not ane knyff

and cott it owt, it will ryff; likewais I have cloiffit it roidlei, that it be not brokin owt or kend, fua exquisite my roidnes lowrd falt* in this, and rid this other fyd weil. I am affraid for James Hudfon, thairfor taik gud tent in the opining the lettirs.

VIII.—EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

IT MAY PLEASS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

That althocht it has pleast God fa to dispoifs of my effaris, as that since I professit the Catholik religioune, I haif remanit for the maist pairt in gryt trwbles, bot maist speciallie thir thrie or four 3eris last by-gane, in extrem and daylie danger of my lyf, besyd all my vther irrecowerable loiffis: 3it being assuredly persuadit in my self, that 3our maiestie hes sufficiently considerit (and that according to the treuth, as God is my vitnes), that thir my lait and gryttast extremeties haif procedit onlie vpon that ouer gryt feruor and onnecessar rigor of the ministrie (qua, disdainfullie reiecting all reasonable conditionis, will force mennis consciencis, nocht as 3it persuadit, till imbrace thair opiniouns in matteris of religioune), and nocht of any intentione in me till offend against 3our hienefs perfoune or estait. I am, thairfoir, the mair bauld heirby till regrait and lament my hard estait, as I haif euer doone be sic midfes as I mycht vntoe 3our maiestie, quhairin as it pleafours God till permit my fortune daylie till becum mair frauart, fa I hoip to find 3our hienefs the mair gratious and freindlie. My hardest hap and gryttest greif, as God knauis, hes euer bein that being debarrit of 3our maiesties prefence, till maik my awin pairt guid and knawin to 3our hienes, all my sincir and vprycht intentionis haif bein sinistrouflie exponit and forcit till actiouns for defence of my awin lyf and estait, in opin shame on my pairt, offensiu to 3our maiestie, God being my iudg, and my conscience bering me record, that it neuer enterit in my mynd, famekle as to be of thocht, willingtill till offend 3our hienefs; and I hop my behaiour in this, my hard

* Awkward or clumsy mistake. O. Fr. *lourde faute*.

banishment, quhairof your maieſte cannot be ignorant, hes giuin ſufficient teſtimonie of my deutifull and ſincer affectioun to your hienefs ſer-vice, as he, quha, as he hes the honor to be fa neir of your maieſties blood, fa his gryttest deſyr and contentment hes bein, and is, to ſpend his lyf for your hienefs, and the preferuatioun of his auin natiue cuntrie, without regaird of perfouns or perrell quhatſumeuer, my deutie to God in my conſcience onlie referuit ; vther nor quhilk, your maieſtie ſelf and all Scotland knawis, I neuer did craif. And albeit my preſent miſſortoune fall, I dout nocht, gif gryt contentment and mair pouar to my on-deſeruit enemies till feik my vtter rwin, zit my reſolutioun till returne in Scotland, being for the ernest deſyr I haid (and that nocht without guid grund) to doe your maieſtie ſer-vice, as the end fall pruiſ in effect, I hop my attempt in that ſalbe the leſs offenſue to your hienefs, althocht I haif nocht as zit that I knau of, obtenit your maieſties licence for my warrand ; and thairfor, that I mycht returne the mair quietlie, and with leſs ſuſpitioun, I interpryfit this way, of mynd till haif paſſit be Holland, bot befor I could cum thair, being trappit be mair diligent ſerce nor I luikit for, I wes brocht heir, and at laſt, being tryit quha I ues, am nou detenit till your maieſtie be aduertiffit and reſolue hou to diſpoſ of me : * Quhairin I befeik your hienefs to taik ſic order, as may beſt aggrie with your maieſties awin honor and my ſeurtie, vntil the tym I be brocht to quhat pairt of Scotland fall lyk your hienefs, quhair quhenſoever it may pleaſe God I arryue, I am nocht to plead with your maieſtie for my juſt defence (albeit I lak nocht guid argument), bot onlie till ſeu to your hienefs clemencie and fauor, for my ſaif-gaird againſt the violence and malice of my enemies, being maift aſſurit that bayth natur be blood, and princelie courag, fall taik mair place, and voork gryttar effectis in your hienefs hert, for my ſeurtie and preferuatioun, quhilk in end will zeild your maieſtie gryttar honor and contentment, nor the ſatiffactioun of my

* Lord Errol and the other Popiſh peers, Angus and Huntly, not finding themſelves comfortable in foreign parts, reſolved to return to Scotland, and used all means to reconcile themſelves to the King and the Church. Errol, while paſſing through the Low Countries, was intercepted and delivered into the hands of Mr Robert Danielſton, Conſervator at Campvere. This letter appears to have been written to the King in conſequence of this ſeizure. The Earl contrived, however, to eſcape, and ſhortly thereafter arrived ſafely in Scotland.

enemies, be my vrak (quha am alredie fa far vrakit). can breid zour hienefs commoditie or pleaseur, speciallie being to zour maiestie that I am.

Nather fall I euer craif at God or zour hienefs gryttar graice or fauor in this uarld, nor I carie and euer did a faythfull hert to zour maiesties feruice, and a feruent desyr to spend my lyf for the fame, quherfoeuer guid occasioun haid bein or may be offerit. And thairwith cessing to virie zour hienefs uth farthar purpofs heirin, bot committing my self and the cair of my hale estait to God and zour maiesties guid consideratioun, and langing till haif the honor to sie zour hienefs self, houfoeuer matteris fuceid thairefter, in maist humillie kissing zour maiesties handis, and befeking God till grant zour hienefs als guid succes in all zour guid and uerteoufs desyris, as I wishe, I taik leif. Middlebruche, the first day of Julij 1596.

Ʒour Maiesties euer maist faythfull, luiffing,
and obedient subiect and feruitur, to his
last breath,

ERROLL.*

IX.—JACOBUS SEXTUS, MAGNIFICIS ET NOBILIBUS ZELANDIÆ ORDINIBUS.

1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Rex Scotorum magnificis et nobilibus
Zelandiæ ordinibus compatribus suis amicissimis, salu-
tem et perpetuum felicitatis incrementum.

Nobiles et magnifici domini, amici et compadres nobis sincere dilecti, cum ex vestris literis intellexerimus, Franciscum quondam Arrolia comitem, unum ex perduellium nostrorum numero, cum clandestinum in regnum nostrum reditum pararet, imperio vestro captum ac detentum esse, ac Roberto Danielstoun priuilegiorum nostrorum conferuatori in custodiam datum, donec de animi nostri voluntate certiora afferri pos-

* Balcarras Papers.

sent, in toto hoc negotio constantem vestræ erga nos (ut compadres amicissimos decet), benevolentiam tenorem manifestissime perspeximus, magnoque nostro et regni nostri commodo id consilii a vobis captum esse ingenue profitemur, illius enim ceterorumque proscriptorum inopinatus in patriam reditus, periculosum aliquem tumultum excitare potuisset. Quocirca maximas vestris magistris et meritis gratias habemus, relaturi cum amicissimæ nostræ erga vos voluntatis testandæ, par se occasio obtulerit, quod certissime a nobis expectetis, atque etiam ut pro vestro amicitiam jure cum opportunum fuerit, flagitetis, etiam atque etiam rogamus. Quid autem de Francisco illo proscripto consilii ceperimus, id vobis impartiri volumus, eum scilicet nostrarum rerum statum esse, ut quavis cautione adhibita, eum in patriam redire, nec religioni, nec nobis aut regno, nec vobis amicis nunc expediat. Idcirco eum in custodia detineri volumus, donec sponsoribus hic præstitis caueat (multos enim et potentes affines et consanguineos habet) se neque in regnum nostrum sine licentia et comitatu nostro, prius impetrato, rediturum, neque interea quicquam, quod vel religioni, vel communi nostro amicorumque et confederatorum nostrorum statui detrimento esse possit, moliturum, præsertim autem nulla cum Hispano consilia communicaturum, sub pœna magnæ summæ pecuniariæ, aliisque pœnis quæ legibus nostris consentaneæ sunt, qua fideiussione hic prius præstita, tum eum dimitti volumus, ut vbilibet priuata sua negotia procuret, eo jure quo ante captiuitatem proximam potuerat: hoc vobis ut viris amicissimis significandum duximus. Quæ porro ad hoc negotium pertinent ADRIANO DAMMAN magistris vestris per eum referenda exposuimus, qui singulari fide, diligentia et integritate hic versatus est, adeo ut non minus quam nostratum aliquis nobis acceptus sit, ei ut commissæ referenti fidem, aureque benignas præbeatis, rogamus. Interea Deum optimum maximum precamur, ut vos et diutissime incolumes et in florenti rerum statu conferuet.*

[*Indorfed.*]

Copie of the Kings letter to the estates
of Zeland, anent the taking of the
Erle of Arrol. 1596.

* Balcarras Papers.

X.—JACOBUS SEXTUS DILECTO FAMILIARI SUO GULIELMO KEITH.

Nov. 1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Scotorum Rex dilecto familiari suo Gulielmo Keyth hæc mandata, ferenissimo Venetiarum Duci ejusque potentissimæ ciuitatis fenatui prudentissimo exponenda, commisit.

Primum nemini mirum videri debere ostendes, quod nos consilia cum ea republica communicare, fœdusque et amicitiam instituere cupimus, a qua longissima terrarum et maris intercapedine diffiti, ne vel mercatorum quidem commercia habeamus: cum a formidabili Hispaniarum regis vicinitate et potentia metus vtrique nostrum communis sit, periculum vero eorum reipublicæ inde imminens eos quidem tanquam eius regis regis dominiisque vicinos, et olim bello ab eius maioribus vexatos, probe intelligere et summa prudentia præuenturos confidimus.

Nobis vero quantum a tam potentis Regis vicinitate periculi immineat manifestum est, cum Angliam hæreditario jure post mortem ferenissimæ Reginæ Elizabethæ nobis debitam, idem Rex vt a pontifice diris deuotam et prædæ expositam belli jure vindicare intendat: certum autem est, omnes Angliæ Reges armis et gloriæ deditos, Scotiæ quoque vt eiusdem insulæ partis exiguæ imperium affectauisse, quanto minus tam potens Rex qui simul femelque Galliam, Germaniam, Inferiorem Angliamque occupare nititur, nos vicinos patietur, ac non potius, vt Ferdinandus eius proauus Nauarrum regem iniuria maxima regna exturbauit, ita nos quoque pretextu aliquo (forte religionis, et a pontifice excommunicari et regno priuari procurabit) atque eo magis, quod ad Angliæ regnum indubitatum jus habeamus: cum certo sibi persuadere possit, saluis nobis nostraque stirpe, nunquam illi Angliæ possessionem quietam fore, quamuis eam vt spe jam pridem deuorauit, ita re ipsa armis vique femel occupauisset.

Hoc quoque tibi ostendendum est, dictum Hispaniarum Regem primum

regnum nostrum inuadere decreuisse vt aditu facilius et exponendis copiis magis commodum, et ad comparandos commeatus, reficiendos milites, conducenda precipue leuioris arma curæ equitum auxilia, propter subditorum nostrorum factiones et de religione controuerfias, denique ad totum bellum Anglicum propter vicinitatem valde opportunum.

Totamque huius belli feriem exulum nostrorum consilio compositam esse, idque ex literis ducis Sessæ, qui legatus Romæ residet, ad suum Regem missis, et in itinere per Massiliensium tiremes interceptis patere, quarum exemplum ad nos per Christianissimum Galliæ Regem transmissum, ad temissimus, dicto serenissimo duci et fenatui communicandum.

His accedit proscriptorum et exulum nostrorum comitum scilicet Huntlaæ et Errolia in regnum nostrum sine nostra licentia reditus, vnde tumultus orientes vix compescere possumus, quod ab Hispano illis pecuniam administrari et auxilia militum breui secutura et Angliæ Regna et omnes fere subditi nostri certo sibi persuadeant, nam et ob consilia cum Hispano de regni nostri inuafione communicata a nobis abhinc triennium proscripti et arcibus euersis bonisque confiscatis e regno pulsi fuerunt, vt eos et deno consilia cum Hispano communicasse et eius ope fretos in regnum nuper rediisse verissimile fit.

Cum igitur a tam potente aduersario periculum imminens habeamus, cum dicta potentissima republica fœdus et amicitiam inire, si ita serenissimo duci et prudentissimo fenatui visum fuerit, necessarium putamus, quod vt enixe petas, tibi specialiter mandamus, potestatemque nostram de ea re consultandi, tractandi, et concludendi commissimus, promittentes in verbo principis nos ratum gratumque habituros, quicquid ad dictum fœdus pertinens cum dicto serenissimo duce et prudentissimo fenatu concluderis. Ad milites vero conducendos, et bellum jam fere inceptum propulsandum [pecuniam mutuo accipere, et] amicorum præsidium implorare, et pecuniam mutuo accipere necessarium duximus, et quamuis dictam potentissimam rempublicam vicissim remunerari et eis necessario aliquo tempore præsidium aliquod afferre in potestate nostra situm non videatur, hoc tamen serenissimo duci et fenatui considerandum expones præsentem illis vtilitatem ex regni nostri totiusque Britanniaæ præseruatione fore,

quod futuræ alioqui tanti Regis potentiæ, qui proculdubio aliquando et illis quoque inimicus futurus est, impedimentum aliquod afferetur.

Reputent qua fama et totius Europæ terras Caletum in adspæctu Britanniaë situm hoc anno expugnauerit, et quanta moles eius magnitudini accederet, si regnum nostrum vt nouum ad Angliam expugnandam aditum vicinis Europeis omnibus dormitantibus et de suo periculo securis, occupare possit.

Si autem (quod indubitatum nostrum jus nostris amicorumque viribus propugnandum promittit) Angliæ imperio potiri nobis aliquando (post mortem scilicet reginaë) contigerit, tum non solum ex mercaturæ commerciis magna dictæ reipublicæ vtilitas ex regno nostro accedet: sed etiam quamcunque nobis hoc tam necessario tempore, pecuniæ summam mutuo dederint, summa fide persoluemus, et semper grato animo eius reipublicæ amorem et in nos benevolentiam profequemur.

Interea dictum ferenissimum ducem senatumque orabis, vt si quid in nobis est quod ad eorum reipublicæ decus honorem aut emolumentum facere potest, id totum a nobis expectent, gratissimumque nobis futurum iudicabis, si pro amicitiaë jure id nobis significant, certo sibi spondentes nos illis amicissimos et ad omne amoris officium paratissimos futuros.*

XI.—JACOBUS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORUM SERENISSIMO PRINCIPI
VENETIARIUM DUCI SALUTEM.*

MISIMUS ad ciuitatem vestram, generosum Gulielmum Keyth, unum ex familiaribus nostris, vt ciuitati vestraë quædam nostro nomine exponeret. Illi vero ciuitatem vestram aures benignas præbuisse intelleximus, quo nomine summas ciuitati vestraë gratias habemus. Plura autem eidem mandata ciuitati vestraë communicanda dedimus. Quocirca ciuitatem vestram oramus, vt pro solita vestra humanitate, illi aures attentas præbere et eam fidem habere oramus velit, quam nobis ipsis, si præsentem effemus, habitura esset. Non dubitamus autem quin quod nobis vile

* From the original drafts preserved amongst the Balcarras Papers.

est, id quoque inclitæ vestræ Reipublicæ honori et emolumento cedit. Vale, fereniffime princeps, Deusque ciuitatem vestrâ quam diutiffime rebus fecundis affluentem conferuet. Datæ e Regia noîtra Saneruciana, Novemb. 1596.

[*Indorsed.*]

Venice.

Instructions to Sir William Keith.

XII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELDT AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

iiij DECEMBRE 1596.*

SIRE,

Suiuant la permission de vostre maïeste, j'ay prins la hardieffe d'escrire cestes, mefmemment ayant icy entendu d'une grande armee, qui

* Adrian Damman de Bystervelt was born in the neighbourhood of Ghent, and afterwards taught Latin in that city. Amongst the Balcarras Papers (in which collection this letter and the succeeding one is preserved) there is a letter dated 3d January 1594, from the United States to James VI. appointing Damman Resident at the Scottish Court. The following is an extract from it:—

“ Nous ne doubtons aucunement que vostre maïeste ne soit fort bien assuree du bon zele et singulière deuotion, qu'auons tousiours porté a lendroit d'Icelle, et le respect qu'auons eu a la grandeur et autorité de vostre maïeste. Neanmoins pour en rendre plus ample tesmoignage et declaration, aussy pour auoir d'oreseuanant aulcune personne, par le moyen duquel les differens suruenans entre les subjects de vostre maïeste, et les habitans de ces pays sur le faict de leurs commerces mutuelles, et train de marchandise puissent estre tant mieulx moyenez et assopiz, et toute ancienne amitié et bien vueillance reciproqueuse entretenue, ce que par lettres ne se pourroit faire si commodement, auons trouue non moins expedient que necessaire d'employer deuers vostre maïeste le S^r Adrian Damman, luy ayant en premier lieu donné charge de baiser très humblement les mains de vostre maïeste de nostre part, l'assurer du grand desir qu'auons de continuer en la deuotion qu'auons tousiours porté a Icelle, et luy declarer sa dicte commission de resider avec la bonne grace, et plaisir de vostre maïeste en sa Court et Royaume, comme nostre Agent general. A l'occasion de quoy supplions très humblement vostre maïeste qu'il plaise a Icelle l'accepter pour tel, et le tenir en sa Royale protection, en luy donnant benigne audience et credence, toutes et quantefois besoing sera de remonstrer quelque chose a vostre maïeste de nostre part, nous assurant que sa presence sera agreable à vostre maïeste, et seruira pour continuer vostre Royale accoustumee beneuolence, bonne volonté et affection vers nous laquelle desirons sur toute aultre chose.”

Damman was a great favourite of the King's, and was for several years Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh. He was sent in the year 1596 to the Low Countries, to obtain deli-

fe fait en Espagne, comme par aduertiffemens continuels on cognoit pardeça; et est l'opinion des gens plus aduifez, que celle soit, ou pour estre enuoyee en Irlande, ou en vostre Royaulme, ou celuy d'Angleterre, chose qui de pres touche vostre maieste. Je n'ay fceu doncques moins faire, comme tres affectionné et tres obligé seruiteur, que de l'aduertir de ce que dessus, car j'ay la memoire toute fresche de ce que vostre maieste mauoit commande de prier messeigneurs mes maistres affin d'auoir par eux aduertances quand iuste occasion se presenteroit.

Et tistot que j'estoye arriue en Zelande, j'ay receu lettres de mesdicts seigneurs par lesquelles j'ay este commandé de rapporter a vostre maieste ce que je viens de dire.

Aussi mesdicts seigneurs m'ont aduertey de ce que leurs seigneuries ont traicté avec le Roy de France, et la Royne d'Angleterre, y estant invitez par lesdictes maiestes dont de brief ils donneront plaindre cognoissance de ledict part a vostre maieste. Or comme il a pleu a vostre Royale douceur de me dire sa benigne volonte, touchant ce que vostre maieste non seulement desire y se joindre, ains comme mesdicts seigneurs m'escriuent auoir tresbonne memoire de ce que vostre maieste leur a fait remonstrer, par ses ambassadeurs expres, auoir este le premier qui trouuoit vn tel traité, et expedient tres necessaire à la consideration de la Religion Chrestienne, et pour l'estat des princes et seigneurs, en faisans profession au rang desquels mesdicts seigneurs treuent vostre maieste pour des plus signalez et donnez en nostre temps pour nourisseurs à son Eglise, par la grace de Dieu.

very of the Earl of Errol, who, as before mentioned, had been arrested there. Besides the original MS. of the Bartasias corrected throughout in his own hand, there are the following printed works by him in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates:—

I. Schediasmata Hadriani Dammani, a Bisterveld Gandavensis. 1. De nuptiis serenissimi potentissimique Scotorum regis Jacobi VI. et serenissimæ virginis Annæ, Frederici II. Daniæ, Norvegiæ, etc. Regis, filiæ. 2. De tempestate quæ sponsam Regiam navigantem repulit. 3. In Atheos elegia. 4. In Regis navigationem Danicam emblema. 5. De Coronatione Reginæ Scotorum Annæ. 6. De introitu ejus in primariam Regni Urbem Edinburgum. Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, An. Dom. 1590. Cum privilegio Regali. 4to.

II. Hadriani Dammanis a Bysterveldt, D. N. de Fairhill, Bartasias; qui de mundi creatione libri septem; e Gulielmi Salvsti D. N. de Bartas septimana Poemate Francico liberius tralati et multis in locis aucti. Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, Typographus Regis, Anno Dom. 1600. Cum privilegio Regio.

Je ne failly de defclairer ladiçte vofre volonte, a meffeigneurs les eftats de Zelande avec les circonftances que vofre maiefte me dit alors, et (comme jugent leurs feigneuries) avec grande raifon, ains eux n'en peuvent; mais, voires, en font scandalizes, comme je remonftreray a vofre maiefte eftant de retour pardela.

Ne faudray cependant, de fere entendre ladiçte benigne volonte vofre de ce que deffus, à meffeigneurs les eftats generaux arriuant avecques la grace de Dieu en Hollande de brief, lequel je prie,

Sire,

Avoir vofre Maiefte en fa diuine proteçtion.

De Middlebourg en Zelande ce iij^e de Decembre 1596, Stilo veteri.

De vofre Maiefte le treshumble et trefaffectione feruiteur,

ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT.

XIII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT AU ROY D'ESCOSSÉ.

X DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Eftant jcy arriue en Hollande, n'ay rien eu plus cher que de faire les commandemens de vofre maiefte, et jceux entendus, Meffeigneurs les eftats generaux ont trefaffectueufement vous remercie, en baiffant les mains de vofre maiefte bien humblement, dont de brief j'efpere que le bon dieu, qui miraculeufement m'a preferue à deux diuerfes fois de naufrage, me donnera le moien de faire mon rapport tout à plain.

En ce pais tout est tranquille, graces a dieu, et florissant en bonnes loix, religion et trafique. Il est vrai qui depuis la derniere flotte et expedition en Espagne, la navigation n'est si frequente.

Jey lon dit que la flotte d'Espagne pour certain ayt esté en chemin, pour se jetter sur l'une des places dont j'ai escript a vostre maieste. Quand j'estoye en Zelande qui seroit forte de 160 galeons, hulques, nauires, patares et portant (comme l'autres de lan [15]88) feize mille hommes, entre lesquelles il auroit 2100 cheuaults, et que par tempeste du 25, 26, 27, et 28 d'Octobre elle seroit dissee, et auroit perdu jusques a 48 nauires avec cinq ou six milles Espaignolls.

En Alemaigne est grand trouble, car l'armee de l'Empereur, qui estoit de quatre vingts mille combatans est rompue par le Turcq, et en font sur la place demoures morts plus de dix mille, le canon et tresgrand nombre prins, et tout le bagage. On escript jey pour certain que deuant ladicte bataille deux cerfs se font venus ruer deuant le palais du dict Empereur, en la ville de Prage et quan apres long combat l'un y dult estre tombé roide mort et l'autre fort blessé, et au mesme instant le dict palais fust embraie de feu casuel.

Le Turcq auparauant auoit prins la ville d'Agria tresgrande et forte, et ce par trahison d'un Capitaine Hongrois nommé Bliarj, lequel depuis en est fait Bassa.

Ledit Sultan Mahomet l'ayant fait maistre de la Walachie, laquelle a eux soloit estre tributaire, deuant que ces deux ans passez ou enuiron, le Prince de la Transiluanie avoit prins le party de l'Empereur et a fait tuer tous les inhabitans et y a fait venir 800^m Tartares avec femmes et familles.

Le Bassa de Bude affige avec vne aultre armee la ville d'Altenbourg en lestat de Kamora.

Le grand Turcq est avec son armee en personne et y se iournera contre sa coustume. L'Empereur foubz pretexte d'une diet s'est retire de Prage en la ville de Noremburg.

De la mort du Roy d'Espagne nous auons jey auis sur auis mesmement que son filz seroit empoisonne quand de quand. Les Marchans de Genes et autres estant en arriere du dict Roy de huit millions d'or font

refuzez en Espagne, et ceux d'Anuers de cinq, chose qui cause en Flandres et Brabant grande alteration.

Le Cardinal d'Auftrie est on se fait malade cependant force matelos et mariniers s'assemblent vers Calais.

La paix faicte entre le Roy de France et le Duc de Sauoye est rompue a cause que le parlement n'a voulu permettre au dict Duc le Marquizat de Salluffe.

Les treues entre le Turq et les Polonnois sont renouvelles non obstant l'ambassade et felicitude du Pape au contraire, et ce, diton, a cause, que le chancelier de Poloigne est ennemy professe de la maison d'Auftrie. La dict Alemaigne est aussi miserablement mangee de la peste. La dict Cardinal prepare ses forces jusques a 18^m hommes de guere de ce coste et de France on se prepare aussi.

J'espere de brief auoir l'honneur et heur de dire d'auantage a vostre maieste.

A laquelle je baiffe tres humblement ses mains.

De la Haye ce 8 de Decembre 1596, Stilo nouo.

De vostre serenissime Maieste tres humble seruiteur,

ADR. DAMMAN.

XIV.—LES ESTATS GENERAUX DES PROVINCES VNIES AU SERENISSIME
ROY D'ESCOSE.

XXVIII DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Nous auons entendu par le rapport du Sr Damman nostre agent, ce quil a pleu a vostre maieste nous faire communiquer par luy de la constitution de l'estat d'Escosse,* au temps quil en est party, esperans

* In Thorpe's Catalogue of MSS. August 1835, occurs " Rapport de Monsieur Adrian Damman, agent des Etats des Provinces Unies en Escosse sur l'etat de ce Royaume d'Escosse (1600)."

que icelle vostre maieſte aura depuis tellement pourveu, et donne ordre a tout ce qui pourroit cauſer plus grands meſcontentements et aigreurs entre les ſubieſts des deux Royaulmes quil n'y arriuera par ſemblables accidens aucun dangier ou inconuenient, du quelle le Roy d'Eſpaigne noſtre ennemi commun ſe pourroit preualoir en ceſte coniuncture au preiudice non tant ſeulement de l'eſtat deſdictes Royaulmes en particulier, ains de celui de toute la Chreſtienté en general: Nous remerſions, Sire, votre maieſte bien humblement de ceſt honneur et correſpondence, principalement de la demonſtration de ſa bonne volonte et affection enuers ceſt eſtat, avecq aſſurance que nous vous en demeurerontouſiours fort obligez, comme auſſi trefapareilleza toutes occaſions pour correſpondre ceſte grande faueur par noz bien humbles ſeruices aultant que nos affaires le pourront aucunement permeétre. Ainſy qu'auons en chargé noſtreſdict agent de le declarer plus amplement ce votre dicte maieſte, ſuppliants bien humblement quil vous plaiſe luy donner en ce regard entiere foy, comme a nous meſmes, et au createur,

Sire,

Quil Oôtroÿ a votre maieſte en trefaparfaiçte ſante longue et trefheureuſe vie. De la Haye le 28^e Decembre 1596.

De votre Maieſte bien humble ſeruiteurs,

LES ESTATZ GENERAULX DES PROVINCES
VNIES DU PAYS BAS.

Par ordonnance deſdictes Eſtatz,

C. AERSENS.*

Au Sereniſſime Roy d'Eſcoſſe.

* Balcarras Papers.*

XV.—EARL OF HUNTLY TO JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Eftir the suffering of monie hard and uechtie troublis uithin this contrey, and at the laft, eftir the banifment of my felf, to gif your maieftie gretar proof of my obediens and affection, I am retournit of intention halie to put my felf in your maieftis uill, and to direct my hail actions heireftir as falbe maift agreeable therto, not onlie in amending in quhatfumeuir it fall pleis your maieftie think that I haue offendit towards your maieftie felf, bot alfueill to the kirk, contrey and partie, as it fall pleis your maieftie to fet down the uay; for, fra this furth, I haue dedicat my felf to follou your maieftie in all respects,* and this I esteim the gretest amendement I can offer, albeit my offens uar neuer fua great, and your maieftie knauis that the prins pairt to his fubiefts fuld be as the fathers to the childrin, not be rigour to feik thair utter ruin (albeit racleffie thay haue faillit), bot be humiliation to accept thair amendement, the ernift defyr I haue to do your maieftie humble feruis, and that I be not langer

* The Earl of Huntly was much favoured by James, and, according to popular rumour, his Lordship murdered the Earl of Murray at the instigation of his royal master, who had become jealous of the "Bonnie Earl" (as he is termed in the beautiful ballad on his death), from the praise bestowed on him by Queen Anne. Whatever the cause was, true it is, that Lord Murray was attacked by Huntly, at his seat of Dunybirisill—his house set on fire, and himself slain. Subsequently he became mixed up with Lords Angus and Errol in the matter of the Spanish Blanks. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 310. On the 3d of October 1594, he defeated, at the battle of Glenlivet, the Earl of Argyle, who had gone against him—a victory very beneficial to the country people, who otherwise would have been "miserably spoiled" by the Highlanders; Spottiswood's Church History, 1677, folio, p. 409. Huntly and the two other Popish Lords retired abroad, but finding they were little respected there, became anxious to return; and as Huntly was still secretly favoured by the King, this might have been accomplished but for the clergy, who were not easily propitiated. They were not indisposed to favour Angus and Errol, but Huntly was particularly obnoxious. When James hinted the thing to Mr Robert Bruce, he replied, "I see, sir, that your resolution is to take Huntly in favour, which if you do I will oppose, and you shall chuse whether you will lose Huntly or me, for us both you cannot get." The King never forgave the speaker.

debarrit therfra, is the occasion that I haue taine the hardiment to utter the mor plainlie, be this present, my intention, requesting your maieftie to grant me that fauour, as to be relaxit from the profes of excomunication ather be your maieftie and confell, or than be chargis direct to the ministrie of thir parts to that effect, or be oni uther uay your maieftie fall think maist expedient, that thaireftir I may haue that honour as to cum to your maieftis auin prefens, quhar I fall accomplis, Goduilling, all that I haue promesit be thir presentis ; hoping that your maistie will consider my gud intention and mening in this, and that your maieftie will not debar him from your maieftis prefens and feruis, quhais actions, affection, and obediens fall gif proof of his gud mening. And becaus the hichest point of my accusation bygaine hes bein vpon inbringing of straingeris, nou your maieftie fall haue proof of me in that point in the contrar, be being the first to uair my bluid aganis thaeme, quhan euer it fall pleis your maieftie to command me. Sua, expecting your maieftis fauorable anfuere, eftir the kissing maist humble of your maieftis hand, I uill end, uiffing at God to giue your maieftie grace to tak that cours quhilk is maist to your maieftis honour, weifair, and union of your contrey, and to grant your maieftie lang and prosperous rengue. Uretin this penult of December [1596].

Your Maieftis maist humble subiect and
affectionat feruiteur to my luyis end,

HUNTLYE.*

To the Kings Maieftie.

* Balcarras Papers.

XVI.—EARL OF ERROLL TO JAMES VI.

SIR,

As in all thir tymes past, quhairin I haif sufferit fa gryt trwbles and irrecowerable lossis, God bearis me witness of a sincer intentione and dewtifull affectioun to your maiesties seruice, howfoeuer my vprycht meaning hes bein exposit ewill be vtheris, and the effectis thairof convertit to my awin damag, fa now, as diuerse tymes affoir, I doe maist hwmillie craif your hienefs pardoune for my baldnes in offering my self be this present to your maiestie in all thingis, fa far as appertenis or may be thocht the dewtie of a maist hwmill and faythfull subiect and seruant to his foueraing and maister; quhairof I euer haif bein, am, and falbe, reddie to gif prui with the hazart of my lyf and losf of my blood.

In consideratioun quhairof, I doe maist hwmillie besaik, that, as heirtofoir, your hienefs hes nocht disdanit to refaue my letteris, and gif ear also to sic of my freindis as maid suit for me, fa now lykways it may pleas your maiestie patientlie to heir of this berar quhat, on my pairt, I haif directit him to shawe and hwmillie craif of your hienefs, and to instruct him of your maiesties will in all.

And thus cessing farther to impeshe your hienefs vith langar letter, in maist hwmillie kissing your maiesties handis, and praying God to bring all your hienefs verteoufs desingis to the wishit end, I taik leif. The 25 day of Januar 1596. [1597.]

Your Maiesties euer maist luifing, faythful,
and obedient subiect and seruant, to his
last breath,

ERROLL.*

* Balcarras Papers.

XVII.—LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

10 DE JANVIER 1597.*

SIRE,

Le Sieur Damman, a fon retour en ces pais bas, ma fait entendre que vostre maieste me fait ceste faueur de me continuer tousjours ses faveurs roiales, et de me tenir du nombre de ses plus affectionner ferviteurs, de quoy je me fens lui estre infiniment obligé. Je ne voy voulu laisser retourner sans qu'il portast de mes lettres a vostre maieste pour lui affurer de nouveau de l'affection, que je porte a son service et que je mestimeray tousjours tres heureux, quand les occasions sen offriront, et qu'il vous plaira, Sire, m'honorer de vos commandemens de vous faire cognoistre par les effects, que je suis,

Vostre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur,

MAURICE DE NAUSSAU.†

A la Haye, ce 10 de Janvier —97.

Au Roy d'Escoffe.

[Indorsed.]

“ 10 February 1597. Compte Maurice to his Maiestie.”

* Balcarras Papers.

† Prince Maurice died in the spring of the year 1625. “ The Prince,” says Baron de Maurier, “ was very strong and indefatigable in labor; he appeared lesser than he was by being full and fat; his face was plump and ruddy; his beard fair, which he wore very large and broad; he always made use of little pleated ruffs about his neck; he never clothed himself but after the same fashion, with the same stuff, and that always of a sort of brown or musk colour; his doublet was of silk with gold stripes; the rest of his cloathes were woollen, but his cloaks or long-coats were faced with velvet: I speak of his common habit, and not of those that were designed for great

XVIII.—PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN TO THE MINISTERS OF LOTHIAN.

BRETHER,

This is to aduertife how we of this ministrie in this countrey ar chargit be his maiefteis letteris, vnder pain of horning, to gif conference to the Erle of Huntley, and farder ar informit that he hes his maiefties letteris to charge ws to refais his offeris, and gif thai be agreabill with Godis word and weill of the countrey, to abfolue him fra the sentence of excommunicatioun, or than to compeir within fyftein dayis next after the charge before his maieftie and counfall, and to gif a reafon quhy we will not do the sam. Farder, we ar informit be fum of his freindis that he will offer to fubfcryue the Confessioun, and gif caution of his freindis for bygane offencis, as the kirk fhall inioyne, albeit we feie not as yit that he is refoluit in the articles of the Confessioun in particular: And therfor, we being heir a few number conuenit to haif gifin conference to him, nocht feing him fa instant in futing therof, as be petitionis gifin in to ws, and fubfcryuit be him, quherof ze fall refais with thir presentis a iust copie, crafing of ws that we wald abfolue him for the caufis therin contenit, defyred of him a day to conuen our bretheren of all our presbyteries, that, with common aduufe, we mycht gif anfwer. Also Pa[trick] Murray, his maiefties domestik, hes schawin ws fundrie instructiouns of his maieftie, crafing our anfwer to the sam, quha hes requyrit ws to affemble our felfis, and declaris that he hes a commiffioun to requyr our bretheren of Murray to conven with ws, and to refaue our anfweris to his instructiounis, quherbe we

feasts and public assemblies. He often wore on his hat a band of diamonds; he was never without a girdle, to which was fastened a sort of belt for his sword that was gilt. I never saw him in any other habit, and yet I have minded him a thousand times at the French church, in the castle at the Hague, which heretofore was a chappel for the Counts of Holland, and often at my father's, whither he used to come either to eat or play at chess, which was his chief diversion."—Memoirs of Princes of Orange, p. 148.

ar chargit to subferyue the band, to difalow the minifteris of Edinburgh as feditioufe and treasonable; alfo declaring the nulling of the commiffioun of the Generall Affembly be his maiefties counfell, and confequently of ony inhibitioun maid be tham to flay ws from refauing the erle of Huntley, and that na delay be langer wfit in his refauing be ws, than be the prefbiterie of St Androwis, wes vfit in his excommunication, and that the abfolutioun may be ratefeit heirafter in the Generall Affembly, as the excommunicatioun wes lang after the fentence pronoucit. Item, that we fuld not dout quhat form of fatiffactioun he fuld mak, feing the acte of Parliament, maid anno 1572, intituled anent difobedientis quhilk falbe refaut to our foueran lordis mercie and pardon, declares the fam, quhilk is nathing els, but to subferyue the Confefsioun of Fayth, and fweir accordingly. Item, we ar chargit to refolue the queftiounis prefented be his maieftie againft the laft of Februar in Perth, and fchewing ws that a number of all prefbiteries, thair with zow, moft difcreit, hes affirmit thair is litle queftioun but the hail miniftrie will agre to his maiefties intentioun in all thofe controuerfies. Quhairfore we haif writtin baith to our bretheren of the Merns and Murray to fend fum of thair number beft inftructed to keip heir with ws our prouinciall affembly vpon the aucht of Februar, with common aduufe to gif anfwer to his maiefties inftructiounis, and the erle of Huntley his petitiounis: And for the fam caufe hes writtin to zow and the bretheren thair, for zour counfall, and mainlie that ye will employ zour credit with sik bretheren as ar maift gratioufe to his maieftie, to obtain a continewatioun of all thir chargis and anfwers, till the Generall Affembly nexte at Perth; fpecially feing my lord Huntley is not refoluit in the doutis of religioun, and we ar redy to gif him daylie conference to that effecte. This day he wes at fermoun in our kirk, bath afor and efter none, and hard the doctrin, and remufit him felf at the prayer, and we hope if he be found willing afore the tym appointed to the nexte Generall Affembly to do mekle till it for his refolutioun. But if ze can not get ws continewatioun of his maieftie, we pray zow fend ws the counfall and [aduufe] of the bretheren maift difcreit thair with zow, with all diligence, that we may haif the fam befor the 8 of Februar. In the mein tym commendis our felfis to zour ernest prayeris to God for ws,

as we lykwyfe do pray for zow. From Aberden, the penult of Januar 1596. [1597].*

Indorsed:

Copie of the letter sent be the presbitery of Aberdein to the Minifers of Louthian anent the Erle of Huntlie, penult Januarij 1596.†

XIX.—ROBERT LORD CRICHTON OF SANQUHAR TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Finding na fair commoditie till now, I wes constraint till delay the sending zour maiesties letters, quhill I ranconterritt this gentilman, quha promiffit till delyuer thame out of his awin hand. At my arryual in France, I went immediatlle to the army befor Amiens,‡ quhair I delyueritt zour maiesties letters to the king and Monsieur de Rohan,§ and retiritt thair anfuers, quhilkis it will pleis your maiestie reffais fra this beirir. I rememberitt lykwayis zour maiesties commendatiouns to Monsieur du Mayene, quhometo zour maiestie in my fimpill opinioun fuld do verie weill to wryte, and gif it wer bot a letter of complimentis till entertenei his affectioun to zour feruice, for zour maiestie may mak zour count to draw mair feruice out of that prince alane, and ze haif ado with

* His Lordship was finally absolved and reconciled to the church. See Melros Papers, vol. ii, p. 613 to 618. Edinburgh, 1837. 4to. A very amusing account of the ceremonial upon the occasion of receiving his Lordship and the Earl of Errol to the King's peace, at Aberdeen, is given in a letter from Thomas Mollison to Mr Robert Paip, Advocate, 27th June 1597. *Analecta Scotica*, vol. i. p. 299.

† Balcarras Papers.

‡ This reference to the troops of Henry IV. being before Amiens fixes the date of the letter, as the Spaniards having in 1597 surprised that city, the King immediately besieged and retook it, in spite of the efforts of Archduke Albert. Upon learning the news of the surprisal, his majesty said, "Let us go; we have acted the King of France long enough; it is now time to act the King of Navarre."

§ The Viscount de Rohan, a distinguished Huguenot warrior. He was created a duke and peer in 1603, was mortally wounded at the battle of Rheinfield, and died on the 13th of April 1638, at the Abbey of Kunisfield, in the Canton of Bern. His corpse was interred in the Great Church of Geneva. He bequeathed his armour to the Republic of Venice, and it was received by the senators with extraordinary respect. Henry IV. having paid his addresses to his sister Catherine, she told him that she was too poor to be his wife, and of too good a family to be his mistress.

men, then a greit pairt of the rest of your forraine freindschips, as weil for his valour and experience, quhilk I can beir witness in this army he hes schawin at this tyme to surpafs all the captaines in France, as for the greit affectioun he caryis towards your maiestie, quhairof I may also beir record, as haiffing it out of his awin mouth. I mynd, God willing, to taik journey towards Italy within four or fyue dayis, quhilk culd be na foner; for being engadgit with the king be his command, I culd nocht with my credeit leif him till he was reteirit himself, and had put the army in garnifoun. I will ceifs to wryte your maiestie onie occurrents, for I am certaine ze haif thame frescher and frome a bettir place be Inghland; always I haif informit the berar of sic as wer currant in this court for the present, quha will informe your maiestie at length. As for my awin pairt (Sir), I wald onlie wifs at God, that I mycht be that happy anis in my lyfe to do your maiestie onie aggreable seruice, as ane quha finding him self fa far chargit in obligatioun, nocht onlie as a commoun and naturall subiect, bot be infinit particular fauours, that I am forie that I am wna-bill to gif your maiestie at this tyme onie small recognoffance of repentment, bot man intreit your maiestie to content your self to ressaif of him, quha man remaine rather in hairt then habilitie to answer thame, in place of thay humbill thankis, that I aw a deuotioun of mynd fa greit, that it dar compar evin with the greitnes of your maiesties fauour. Sua, humbly submitting my nakit good will and pore seruice to your maiesties gracious censure, quha can serue your self of the litile merit of wtheris to maik your fauours the greiter, I hoip to comporte my self, sua that your maiestie fall iudge me for a faithfull and affectionat seruand, quha feiking all meinis to inhabill himself to do zow seruice, fall neur ceifs, till fum happy occasioun present, quhairin your maiestie may fie that thair is nane liuing, quha caryis a mair honest and trew hairt to your seruice, then your maiesties maist humble and affectionat seruitour,

SANCHAR.*

Paris, 3 September [1597.]

To the Kingis Maiestie.

* Robert, sixth Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, had charters of the barony of Sanquhar, 27th July 1609, and of Gowrie House in Perth, 10th January 1611. In 1605, whilst on a visit to Lord

XX.—PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS BY KING JAMES VI. TO HIS AMBASSADORS.

A Priuate Inſtruction to the Erle of Marre and Abbot of Kinloffe, my Ambaffadouris touardis the Quene of Englande.

YE fall temper and frame all youre dealing uith the quene or counfall, by the aduife of my freindis thaire, quhoſe counfall ye fall direſtlye follou in all youre behaioure thaire, uith theſe referuations only, quiche by tounge I deliuered unto you, and if that actuallie thay performe thaire, promeiſis on thaire part, I giue you by theſe prefentis of my owin hande, ample powaire to giue thaim full affurance of my affitting thaim accordinglye.

JAMES R.*

Norreys, in fencing with a fencing-master called Turner, his Lordſhip accidentally got one of his eyes put out, and was for ſome time in danger of his life. Seven years afterwards he hired two aſſassins, one of them called Robert Carlyle, to murder the unfortunate Turner, which was effected by the laſt named perſon, who ſhot him with a piſtol, 11th May 1612, for which he and his accomplice were executed. Lord Sanquhar abſconded, but was apprehended, tried, and ſentenced to die. He was hanged on a gibbet with a ſilken halter, erected in Great Palace Yard, before the gate of Weſtminſter-hall, 29th June 1612. He died penitent, profeſſing the Roman Catholic religion. He married at St Anne's, Blackfriars, 16th April 1608, Anne, daughter of Sir George Farmer of Eaſton, in the county of Northampton, but had no iſſue by her. He left all his property to his natural ſon, but the heir-male, William, ſeventh Lord Sanquhar, diſputed the ſucceſſion, and matters were adjuſted upon a reference to James VI., who iſſued notes of an award, an extract from which was printed by Lord Hailes, *Memorials of the Reign of James VI.* p. 51. See alſo the *Melros Papers*, pages 127, 132, 133, 264, 265. The King ordered that the magiſtrates of Perth ſhould take an "exact count and inventorie of the haill gudis, gear, plenishing, hingings, ſiluer-work, and quhat elſe is within his houſe in Perth, or any other part of the burgh, and put them in ſure cuſtodie."—*Chronicle of Perth*, p. 13. Great intereſt was uſed to ſave his Lordſhip's life, but James was inexorable; leſs, it is ſaid, from an extraordinary love of juſtice, than becauſe his Lordſhip had not reſented an iſult offered to his Maſteſty in a company in Paris, where ſome one had obſerved that it was no wonder James was called Solomon, ſince he was the ſon of David—*i. e.* David Rizzio. His Lordſhip, if the ſtory be true, ſuffered not becauſe he had killed one man, but becauſe he had not killed two. This letter is amongſt the Balcarras MSS.

* Autograph of the King. Balfour MSS. This embaiſſy was ſent in February 1601, oſtenſibly for the purpoſe of congratulating Elizabeth upon her ſuppreſſion of the Earl of Eſſex's inſane

XXI.—FROM AN UNKNOWN PERSON* PERHAPS TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

ALBEIT that I haue not aunfwered your lordships letter, neuerthelefs I hoope that my filence shal receiue that fauorabl construction which my innocency may challenge of right; for I was resolued to commit no letter to the hands of fortune, seeing that the expectation of a litl tyme might secure the passage of thoose papers, which I decreed to consecrate only to your self. And if the debt I owe you might bee payed by woordes, I would frankly spende al my tyme in acknowledgement of your fauours, which beare fruits of such forte, that so soone as I haue receaued them, they begin to bud forth, and to produce new blossomes. Neuerthelefs, my hoope is, that al the world shal knowe, that power in requiting hath rather sayled mee, then will. Therfor, pardon mee, I beseech you, if, wanting meanes to discharge the debt I owe, I am constrained to runn on the old skoare, and to spende stil out of your lordship's stocke.

I haue at length fent his majesty an abstract of such gentlemen's names as are in greatest accompt in Englande, the greatest part wherof

attempt at rebellion. The letter written by James to the English Queen is printed in Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*, p. 403; the real object was to conciliate his friends in London, and settle with Cecil and the rest of them the line of procedure to be adopted in the event of Elizabeth's demise. It was on this occasion that the secret correspondence was arranged, which has been partially printed by Lord Hailes. Edin. 1766, 12mo. "The Queen received Lord Mar very graciously, and besides other things presented him with a very fyne bason and lawer of mother of pearle, with several rubies and pearles sett therein, which the family have this hour."—*History of the Family of Marr*, collected in the year 1705, by Mr George Erskin, Bailif of Alloa. MS. in possession of the Editor.

* This letter, which is written in a very legible and distinct hand, has the figure 7 substituted for the writer's name; who he may have been the Editor has been unable to ascertain. There is another letter from the same person to the King, in which the proper names are also indicated by figures; and, to increase the difficulty, the figure 7 is in it applied to some other individual. Both letters are amongst the Balfour MSS.

are knowne vnto my felf: the rest I haue had intelligence of by many way questions, and fundry relations of thoose that weer well assured of that which they informed. And concerning the apologetical preface, I haue deliuered my opinion, wherin I jumpe iust with your lordship's censure therof, hooping that his highnes will take your woord in my behalfe, that my difference from the forme of an apology, springeth not from any spirit of contradiction, but from the obedience I owe, to answer truly vnto eury demaunde his majesty shal propounde vnto mee. Also, I haue sent a discoursiue answer vnto certeyne questions, wherin I suppose, that though perhaps I may seeme to shoote at rouers, I haue not shott very wide from the marke. Our queene is troubled with a rhowme in her arme, which vexeth her verry much; besides the greefe shee hath conceiued for my lord of Effex his deathe:* shee sleepeeth not so much by day as shee used, nether taketh rest by night: her delight is to sit in the darke, and sometimes with shedding of tears to bewaile Effex. This is the reason that wee haue so many horse about London, the particularitis wherof I refer to Mr Foules. In any case, let mee intreate you to sollicite his majesty to fend often, and though the journey bee longe and peynefull, I doubt not, but that Mr Foules will gladly vndertake the charge, wherin so good seruice may bee performed: for it is expedient that the messenger bee skilful in our present estate, trusted by us, and knowne to bee confidente with the kinge. Concerning my felf, or the seruice which I may performe, ether in this place, or in any whatfoeuer, I protest that I remayne firme, and ready to bee employed whenfoeuer his majesty shal grace mee with his commandements. For I breathe no other contentment then that which may turne to the aduancement of so gracious a prince, and the ease of his distressed cuntry. In what state wee stande at this present, may better bee related by Mr Foules, Quæque ipse miserrima vidit, then by a short narration of perpetual woes.

Therfor I will aduertise your lordship of your owne affairs, wherin I haue traueyled to the vttermoast of my power, and gotten a particular

* Beheaded 25th February 1601.

information for al Caris proceedings touching Whorlton.* The common voice of the tennants is, that hee payed only a 1000 marks to the queen; but hauing conferred with himself, I founde him much difcontented, as hee pretended, for the great price he had payed, videlicet, 1800 lib. ; but I beleue him not therin, nether doth 3 or I think it fitt that any thirde perfon shoulde compoude with him for itt ; for it is certeyne that, feing it is already leaced, it wil not bee bought but at an vnreasonabl rate, and the tyme will come when he wilbe glad to take half the mony hee hath disbursed, for his interest therin. The queene hath fold a greate parte of the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancafter, which landes muft ether be recalled, as wee haue a president therof in Henry the Fourth's tyme, or boughte agayne to vnite them to the crowne. I haue sent your Lordship a draught of the furuay of Whorlton, which I gott cunningly out of the checker. Likewife, you shal receive a copy of a letters pattents, taken out of the R[ecords?] which is counted to conteyne the moaft general woordes that may bee used in a good and perfectt affurance. And albeit, that the name of a rectory agree not with your manners, it importeth not, feing that mutatis mutandis, for as much as concerneth the names, the whole procefs of the graunte is to be obserued. I feare that you can hardly reade itt, for it is written in badd Lattin and abbreviations, which is the manner of the clarks that copy anny recorde out of the chauncery. The graunte you sent mee, with the claufe of renewinge the letters pattents in die illo, is held to bee better then any other affurance that can nowe bee made by the kinge. I will deteyne your Lordship no longer: befeeching you to build upon

* Whorlton, in the district of Cleveland, Yorkshire, had been granted by Henry VIII. to Matthew Earl of Lennox, and Margaret his wife. From them it appears to have passed into the hands of Henry Earl of Northumberland, who shot himself in the Tower, 21st June 1585; as, by an inquisition *post mortem*, taken at Topcliffe (2d October), it is proved that he was seised of the castle and manor of Whorlton. Possession afterwards seems to have been resumed by the crown; and the Carey referred to in the letter may not unreasonably be conjectured to have been Sir Robert Carey, afterwards Earl of Monmouth, whose father, Lord Hunsdon, was maternally related to Elizabeth. The advice given relative to the treating with this person, materially supports the presumption that the party addressed was Lord Bruce of Kinloss, as he afterwards obtained a crown grant of the estate, which is now in possession of his descendant the Marquis of Ailesbury, one of whose titles is Earl Bruce of Whorlton.

that good foundation of my affection, which your merite hath firmly layd ; for my desir is to streyne my vttermoast ability to bee alwais of the formoast in

Your Lordships seruice,

.7.

XXII.—JACOBUS REX SCOTORUM, INVICTISSIMO PRINCIPI SHAUGH ABBAS.
1601.

JACOBUS, Dei Gratia, Rex Scotorum, Omnumque Infularum circumjacentium : ac Regnorum potentissimorum Angliæ et Hiberniæ summo ejusdem Jehonæ nutu Hæres proximus.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi Shaugh Abbas, Perfarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmanorum, Margianorum, populorum, cis et ultra Tigrim Fluvium et omnium intra mare Caspium et Perficum finum, nationum atque gentium Imperatori : Salutem et rerum prosperarum felicissimum incrementum.

Cum non ita pridem, nobilissimus ille Eques Anglus, ANTONIVS SHERLEIVS* Legatione sibi a Majestate vestra commissa pulcherrimè functus apud

* Sir Anthony Shirley, knight, was the second son of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wistenston, Sussex, by Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe. He was protected by Robert Earl of Essex, under whose auspices he undertook several voyages.† Queen Elizabeth sent him in 1596 into America, and afterwards, in the winter of 1598, into Italy, to assist the Ferrarese, who had revolted from the Pope. He subsequently went with his brother Sir Robert to Persia, where he was favourably received, and in 1601 was employed by Shah Abbas to negotiate a general alliance with all the Christian powers against the Turks. His Majesty, however, detained Sir Robert, “being younger, and therefore the more to be tendered, and not every day exposed to new dangers.”—Purchas, his Pilgrims, Part II, p. 1407. The letter from the Balfour MSS. by James to the Persian Monarch refers to this embassy. After many vicissitudes of life and strange adventures, this remarkable person died in Spain, in the year 1636. The exploits of Sir Anthony and his two brothers form the subject of a very entertaining dramatic piece by Day, Rowley, and Wilkins, intitled “The Travels of the Three English Brothers, Sir Thomas, Sir Anthony, and Sir Robert Shirley, an Historical Play. 1607, 4to.”

multos Principes, in Aula etiam Cæsarea, sapienter fortiterque permulta de rebus Perficis perorasset: dici non potuit quantum splendoris nomini vestro accefferit, cum omnes publice testarentur, neque per vastas solitudines, aspera juga, vel insolita maria, ullam virtuti vestræ inviam esse viam: num cum plurima apud nos ab historicis commemorantur bella factaque egregia, ab Imperatoribus Perficis, terra marique gesta, in quibus fortuna maximam partem proprio quodam suo jure expetere videatur. In ista Legatione, qua sancta hospitalitatis jura, et dulcia communis humanitatis officia inter nos, nostra regna, nostrosque subditos constitui, coli et constanter conservari queant, non hoc fortunæ sed consilii, non casus sed virtutis, certissimum argumentum esse constat. Nec in re tam plana halucinari debemus, quin omnipotentis Dei summa providentia ratum esse fateamur; vt fortissimus ille miles Sherleyvs, nullis vel parentum illustrium præcibus, vel amplissimi patrimonii spe flecti potuit, quo minus dulcissima sua patria derelicta in sinum Majestatis vestræ seipsum fortunamque suam conjiceret; speramus itaque brævi affuturum tempus cum ex mutuo omnium Principum consensu, infesta gentis Turcicæ insignia lacera et sub pedibus contrita, ludibrio et risui exponentur. Veruntamen illud nos male habet, quod in re tam serua et tam necessaria de Anglorum auxiliis nihil promittere, nedum sperare ausi sumus. Herois etenim Comitæ Effexij, qui ad omnes bellicas expeditiones fulminis instar paratus esse solebat, violenta ac inopinata mors, Regni illius incolæ adeo obstupescit, vt interna potius timere, quam externa sperare, malint: maxima quippe pars eorum qui Anglorum habenas hodie moderantur priuatis odijs non solum inter se certant; veruntamen propter initam a mercatoribus suis cum Turcis amicitiam, strenue, huic nostræ legationi sese opponunt. Quod cum per confidentes nostros exploratum habemus illico Equitem Sherleyvm admonere et hortari, non dubitauimus, ne vana et Majestati vestræ non profutura sibi ipsi exitalia inciperet. Qui quidem authoritati ac consilio nostro acquiescens, exulem se fieri quodammodo passus est, vt posthac cum corona illius imperii ad nos deuoluta fuerit, vberiores fructus laborum suorum reportare possit. Nam cum Regnum Angliæ munitissima classe instructum, ac totius orbis circumnauigatione celeberrimum terrorem maximum genti Ottomanæ incutiat, dubium

non est, quin diuino spirante numine ex istis amicitiae foelicibus auspicijs, vobis et nostris eternam gloriam cum summa vtilitate conjunctam aliquando sumus consequuturi. Magnanimum itaque Equitem Sherleyvm Majestati vestrae ita commendatum esse velimus, vt pote hominem omnis generis armorum, et politicae rationis peritissimum, in quo minus valent verba quam fides, manus quam animus, vtrisque tamen insignibus praclarus. Etsi fortitudinem illam quae virtutis stirpe stipata mirum suae indolis specimen toties edidit, conseruatam et nutritam fore intellexerimus vniuerso mundo palam innotescere faciemus, plus virium habuisse beneuolentiam ad nos conjungendos, quam terram et mare ad nos longissime seferandos. Deus Optimus Maximus salutem omnem et perpetuam vestrae concedat Majestati. Datum in Scotia in inclito nostro Palatio Edinburgi, Anno Mundi 5680, Domini nostri Jesu Christi 1601, Regnorum vero nostrorum xxxiiii.

Amantissimus frater tuus,

JACOBUS R.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi, SHAVGH ABBAS, Perfarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmianorum, Margianorum populorum, cis et vltra Tigrim fluuium, et omnium intra mare Caspium et Persicum sinum, nationum atque gentium, Imperatori.

XXIII.—SIR JAMES COLVILLE TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

COUSING,

Efter my hartly commendation, I culd not omit thir feu lynis that ze may knau of my prosperus ariuel to this toun, defyring zou to hae my maist humble seruice recommendit to his hines. It greifis mekil in my passing throuche England, the los he hes for laik of sum resident honest man, in quhom baithe his maistie nicht confyd, and sik as interly

low him micht affur them selfis; for, to be plain, I dout vtheris for caufis I vill not vret. I pray the Lord grant him that grace that he may faueur them quha lovis him aboue al. I dout not bot or now ze haue refauit my letter from Londoun, defyryng ernesly to knau the succes of that maiter aganis his maieftie. I hoip vithe the grace of God to difcouer mair in that nor his maieftie hes zit hard; as also in fundry other practifes aganis him. At my first cumming I heir no bruit but of ver, quihilk I beleue not, albeit it be faid heir his maieftie is makand for Lion for the fecours of Geneua, quihilk I dout not ze haue hard hes falziit to be takin be the duik of Sauoy: fua is it vretin heir be the governouris nepho from curt. It shuld haue bein takin be ane pitard: they var anes fyve hundrethe vithin the toun, quherof at left remanit 300 vithe the principal quho commandit. Monsieur de Buillon cummis not, bot the king hes fend ane Commartyn to him: I knau not his meffage. The greteft thing is imput to him that he shud haid fum condition of filuer for agreing the Archiduk and Compte Mons.

It is not thocht that he haid ony deling vithe Marifhal de Biron,* in ony fort to haue bein ane Espainzol; alwayis vithe my nixt I shal do gud vil to aduertis zou. For the rest of Marifhal de Biron his conspiracy, the king hes, as I can lerne, pardonit al. For Monsieur Monbarro, gouverneur of Rems, his maieftie defyrit to knau, quhither he vald haue grace or iuftyce: his anfuver vas iustice, for he haid neuer failit to his maieftie,

* Charles Gontault, Duc de Biron, Peer and Marshal of France, was condemned to death, and his effects confiscated, the 31st of July 1602. Of the justice of his sentence there can be no question; but when his former services to Henry IV. are remembered, we cannot help thinking that it might have been commuted. "The executioner," says Pierre Mathieu, "struck him so high above the nape of the neck as hee glanced vpon his Iawe-bones, and left a great tuft of hair on his neck. Being dead, hec shewed chollier in his countenance, as they write of the souldiers which died at the battle of Cannas. Every one departed, commending the Kings justice, and lamenting the misery of so valiant a man, beleeving that of long time they should not see his equall." Grimeston's translation of the General Historie of France [Lon.] 1624. Folio, p. 1049. When Baron de Biron, he consulted a magician at Paris as to his future fortunes, who told him, "That only a back blow of the Bourguignon would keepe him from being a king." This prediction was remembered when in the Bastille, and having learned that the executioner of Paris was a Bourguignon, he exclaimed, "I am a dead man." That admirable old poet, Chapman, wrote a Tragedy in two parts, entitled "The Conspiracie, and Tragedy of Charles Duke of Byron, Marshall of France, acted lately in two playes at the Black-friars and other publique stages." London, 1625. 4to.

faif that he hed ingagit al he haid for his feruice: it is rather thocht Mairifhal de Bryfak his il vil nor ony other thing agains him, faue the takin doon of Fontineles* hed, quhilk vas fend to Rhems, quhilk he caufit tak doon, he being his kinfman.† I man zit ernestly request zou to remember my coufing, Captain Coluill, to his maieftie, quha hes lofit al his eferpance for his maiefties feruice, and hopis he fhall shortly git better prouf nor he hes zit doon. I vret to zou afor tuiching mester David Foulis;‡ lat him mak zou priue to the maiter; for the man is content, and defyris only the furtie of convoy. Al vther thingis to neu occation, and my hartly commendationis to your brother. Praying zou that this may ferue zou and fir Thomas Erkyne,§ I remain

Your maift loving Coufing,

JAMES COLUILL
of Weimes.

From Calys our firft of Januar [1603.¶]

To my Lord,
My Lord of Kinlos.

Ther vas neuer fo many paffageris heir away. I pray the Lord it be for gud; but his maieftie hes gret caus to luik to him felf.

* The Baron de Fontenelles was broken on the wheel for his participation in Biron's conspiracy.

† Monbaraut was committed to prison.

‡ Knighted 13th May 1603, and created a Baronet 6th February 1619. He was cofferer to Prince Henry, and afterwards to his brother. He died in the year 1642.

§ Viscount Fenton, 18th March 1606, and Earl of Kellie, 12th March 1619. He was one of the individuals who assisted to rescue the King from the Earl of Gowry and his brother, and for his services obtained a considerable share of the estates of that unfortunate family. He died at London, 12th June 1639, in the 73d year of his age.

¶ An extract from this letter has been published by Lord Hailes, who fixes the date to be 1603, from the notice of the manuscript of the Duke of Savoy's attempt on Geneva. Peace was concluded in July 1603 between the Duke and the Genevese.

XXIV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST HEIGH, MAIST EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRENCE,
MY ONLYE SOUERAINE AND GRACIOUS LORD,

The lang pruiff and experience I haue had off your gracious maiesties thochts and cair, eiuer greater for the weill and tranquillitie of your peipill and subiects, nor for your awin ease, has maed me to abstein frome wryting to your maiestie this lang quhyle, affuring me felf that this happie accresse off your maiesties dominions has increffit also greatumlie the occupations off your maist nobill minde, and that your hienefs be frequencie off lettirs frome all pairts has bein sa occupiet, that butt offence your maiestie could nocht be impafchit or diftractit frome sa greate affairs, till now, at last, I haue resolued to be my bound dewtie, to gif your maiestie suim coumpt off that precious jowell it pleasit your hienefs to crediēt to my keiping, your maiesties nobill issue and sone Duc Charles, quha is (praifit be God) for the present at bettir health far then he was, and, to mak your maiestie mair particular accoumpt, eats, drinks, and usis all naturall functions as we wald wifs in onye child off his graces age, except that his night's rest is nocht as zit sa found as we hoipe in God it fall be shortlie. The greate weaknesse off his bodie, after so lang and heuie feiknefs, is meikill supplet be the might and strenth off his sprit and minde: I will assure your maiestie he luiks als statlie, and bears als greate ane maiestie in his countenance, as could be requirit of onye prence, albeit four tymis aboue his age. I hoipe in God your maiestie fall haue pleafour and confort off his grace. This I can assure your majestie, be the grace of God, thair fall nathing be omittit may appartein to dew seruice or guid attendance on his grace, quhilk may lye in my fobir powar or habelitie quhatfomeuer. As to the affairs off this your majesties realme, fence your hienefs departour frome us (thanks to God), all is in reasonabill guid quietnefs, nor we haue hard off na breake as zit

off ony confequence, except in the far Hielands fuim treubill amangs thame felfs betuix Donald Gorme and MacClaude Hereis, quhilk trublis na thing the Lawland. Your majestie will onderstand be your counfalls lettirs the estait and proceedingis with Macgregors. Gif all the greate Hieland clannis war at the like point, I wald think it ane greate ease and weill to this commoun weill, and to your maiesties guid subiects heir. Sik nnumber of your maiesties counfall as is heir (quhilk your majestie may confider to be bot weake in respect off these that ar with your hienefs), has alwayis hithertill waitit on werie weill and diligentlie on the counfall, and all affairs baith concerning the publik gouvernement, and particulars belonging to all preparations for the queeins maiesties jorney. I fall, God willing, for my awin pairt, keip that bound dewtie quhilk I haue aduowit and promift to your maiestie, and quhilk the innumerable fauours and benefitts I haue refault off your hienefs onlye beneuolence and maift gracious fauour towards me, requiris off me, and binds me to. Sa, maift humblie taking my leue, and praying the king eternal off all kingdomes, as he has augmented your maiesties dominions to fa greate confort and contentment of all your hienefs subiects, fa to mantein your maiestie in lang and prosperous reigne and gouvernement aboute us. With the maift humble kisse off your gracious maiesties hand, I reſte

Your Maiesties maift humbill and loyall feruitour,

FYVIE.*

Edinburgh, 29th April 1603.

To the Kings Maiestie.

* Alexander Seton, third son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and brother of Robert, first Earl of Winton, was originally destined for the church, and went to Rome to perfect his ecclesiastical studies. The Reformation induced him to change his intentions, and to betake himself to the study of the law. Finding favour in the eyes of James, his promotion was rapid. He was made President of the College of Justice, 28th May 1593; a Peer of Parliament, by the title of Lord Fyvie,

XXV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Hir maiesties present estaite and conditioun I refer to the beiraris reporte. Of hir graices departour to Striveling,* I wes nawayes ane mover thairrof, nather fkairfe acquaynte thairwith; as this beirar cumming in haifte can sufficiently impairte to your maiestie hir graices present estaite and

4th March 1597-8. He was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1604, and created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. Spottiswoode observes that he exercised his place with great moderation, and to the contentment of all honest men. "He professed himself," says Scotstarvet, "a Protestant in outward show, but died an avowed Papist."—*Staggering State*. Edin. 1754, 12mo. p. 17. He left a large estate, which was made away with by his only son, a very dissipated person, who was so much addicted to gambling, that, if we may credit Scotstarvet, "when he was debarred by promise to play at no game, he devised a new way to elude his oath, by wagering with any who was in his company, who should draw the longest straw out of a stack with the most grains of corn thereon."

The Lord Chancellor died at his seat of Pinkie, on the 16th of June 1622, and was buried at Dalgetty in Fife, with great funeral solemnity, on the 19th of July following. Various interesting particulars relative to his death, and the estimation he was generally held in, occur in the *Melros Papers*, vol. ii, pp. 460, 477, 478. A poem of some merit, written by John Lyoun, on his demise, published at Edinburgh, 1622, was some years ago reprinted, as a contribution to the *Bannatyne Club*, by one of the original members.

* Her majesty's visit to Stirling, and subsequent illness, arose out of the following circumstances:—

John, Earl of Mar, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, was much esteemed by James VI. who appointed him governor of Prince Henry. He gave him "a warrant, all with his own hand, ordering him not to deliver up his son to any person, yea, not though he subscribed a warrant to that effect, only in case he ordered him by word of mouth to do so, and in such company as he knew he liked; and it bears, in case of his maiesties death, a command not to deliver him up neither for Queen nor Estates of Parliament, till the Prince came to be eighteen years of age, when he might command himself; which argued ane exuberant trust."—*Erskyn's MS. Memoirs of the Family of Mar*. Upon the accession of James to the crown of England, he left the Queen to follow him within about forty days afterwards; but the Prince was to remain at Stirling. Her majesty, however, who was probably jealous of the influence the Earl might acquire over the mind of her son, proceeded to Stirling, where his Lordship resided, and unsuccessfully attempted to carry off the Prince. Her failure threw her ill, and occasioned a miscarriage.

The King, alarmed for his wife, authorised the delivery of the Prince; but her majesty insisted that Lord Mar should make public reparation for his alleged misconduct. This being refused, she became very much enraged, and was with difficulty reconciled to his Lordship, who, by act of council, was declared to have done nothing that might affect her honour.—See *Birch's Life of Prince Henry*. 1760, 8vo. p. 30, 31. A letter from the Privy Council, on the subject, will be found in the *Melros Papers*, vol. i, p. 3. The King's letter, sanctioning Lord Mar's conduct, is, with relative papers, in the Appendix to Hailes' "Memorials" of the Reign of James.

cumpanye, sua it wer lost labour to me to wryte any thing, quherof I haif na forder warrand, bot of this beirar him self. Your maiestie fall be fullye acquainted at all occasiouns how materis fall out heir ; bot if hir hienes jorney wer anes vndertakin, your grace fuld fie ane amendment in bygane overfichts, that nicht be imputed to ws in the government, and ane honest and dispositioun in my self, at leif to postpone all the feir of hazaird, danger, or inconveniens to that quhilk may redound in any wayes to your maiesties honour, or ferve for the weill of the pure subiectis within this your hienes realme. And sa at the presert humble kissing your grace handis, I tak my leave, praying the Almightye God to preserve your maiestie in ane gude, happye, and prosperous estaite, be

Your Maiesties maift humbe and obedient
subiect and feruitour,

MONTROISS.*

Halyrudhous, 10th May [1603 ?]

XXVI.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Thir vnluked for mishappes falling furth heir in this cuntrey, thortureing that contentment quhilk your maiestie refaues in these pairtis, na doubt ar the bettir acceptit, and the mair patientlye borne with be your hienes, that in this lyife thair can be na full and compleitt happines. I will nawayes renew the remembrance of that laite accident,

* John, third Earl of Montrose. He died 9th November 1608. At the period this letter was written, he was Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Scotstarvet says, in his "time that line was written in the sederunt-house,

Et Bibulo memini consule nil fieri;

for he was altogether void of learning, which King James finding, and perceiving his error, got a fair means to shuffle him out by making him Vice-Roy at a Parliament, 1604, and then putting in Chancellor Seaton in his place. After which he retired home."—*Staggering State*, p. 14. All the letters that follow, excepting those otherwise marked, are from the Balfour Collections, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

sofar to be forrowed in the perſoun of the queins graice; albeit, prayſed be God, thair is ane full affurance of hir maieſties preferuatioun and full recovery of hir wounded health; bot being bound in dewtye, as ane of your maieſties ſubieſtis, and be the greit manifold graices and favors be tymes beſtowed upoun me; and laſt, in reſpeſt it hes pleaſed your maieſtie to appoynte me in place of bettir, to ſupplie the office of chancellor, I culd nawayes omitt to impaire the very trew eſtaite of materis as they ſtand heir, for the langer that fyre remains vndiscovered, the laiter cumis the remeide to quenche it; and that wounde and fore, quhilk at the beginning wes baith eaſie and facile to vndertak, be neglecting of it, the cure of it may trye difficill, if not impoſſible. Thair is ane contraverſie and jar enterit betuix ſum of the nobilitie, anent this laite queſtioun of the princes delyverie. Theſe that accompanied the queins maieſtie, ar accompted be the erle of Mar to haif bein the moveris and intyferis of hir hienes to that enterpryſe. Thay thame ſelfis be aithes proteſtis, that thay had na intention at all, bot hir graices convoye, being requyred be hir miſſiues thairto. Quhilk charge thay culd not guidlye diſobey. In ather of the contradiſtours, thair reſtis greter hatrent and malice, nor as zit be actioun hes buddit furth; bot if it be nocht preventit, na doubt it is able to mak ane greitar ſturre in this cuntrey, than any that hes bein thir mony zeiris ago. In this earand thair reſtis ſamony difficulties, that all men depend vpoun your maieſties will, and nane heir will preiſs to meddle with the ſame, for be your maieſties laite warrand, it is ordaineit, that the erle of Mar fall haif the princes convoy in the queins cumpanye. The queins maieſtie is not of mynd to depart, vnleſs the prince go with hir, and will nawayes reſt contented that the erle of Mar ſuld accompany hir. Quherin the counſell heir hes fund that neceſſitie vpoun thir concluſiouns, that ather mon thay paſs the boundis of the laſt warrand, quhilk thay can nocht guidlie do of thair dewtye, or than be authorizinge of it, to offend the quein at this toumeſt tyme of hir hienes diſeaſe. Only I thoct it nocht amifs to impaire the ſame to your maieſtie, maift humblie beſeiching your hienes to providy remeids, how the queins graice may reſt ſatiſfied and contentit, the erle of Mar exonerit of that greit charge, and band that lysis on him for keiping

of the said prince, and sum ordour to be takin how this eilest and contraverſie, licklye to aryife and increfs amangis theſe of the nobilitie, may be fetlit and pacifiet. Quheranent, I doubt nocht your maieſtie immediatlie will forſie ane means to help the fame, according to that wounted pruiſ of your maieſties wiſdome and foirſicht, kyithed heirtofoir in the lyke maters. Quhilk as we aduire and admire, ſua we reſt forye and diſcontent to be fa far removeit and ſeparatit from the preſence of it amangis ws. And ſa humblie taking oure leave, wiſcheing the almightye God to haif ane cairfull regairde over your maieſties perfoun and eſtaite, I reſt, attending quahatevir directiouns it fall pleis your maieſtie to injoyne, be your

Maieſties maiſt humble and obedient
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

MONTRUISS.

Halyrudhouſ, 13 May 1603.

To his Maieſtie.

XXVII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

According to that commiſſione quhilk was direct anent the taking ordour with the Clangregor, we haif refautit alreddie aucht pledgis, and the vther four ar expectit for within thrie or four dayis to remane heir in ward, vpon the perrell of thair awin lyfs, to anſuer for the dew performances of all efferis. Your hienes ſalbe aſſuirit that the qualitie of the pledgis thame ſelfis will procure ane neceſſitie of the forderance of that wark, the profequuting quherof is nocht to reſaue ony lang delay; ſeing be theiſ gentlemen quha ar commowneris thair is allenarlye aucht oulkis cawrit betuix and the iſchew quhairof it is vndertaken, that all that is promeſit ſalbe performit. We mentionat of beſoir to your maieſtie anent the

transport of sa many of that clan that are appointed for banishment, that ane schip might be send hither. We mon maist humble renew our swite, feing all theifs quha are to depart, in quhilk nomer the laird him self is ane, ar to be in redines heir, reddy to embark agane wifontyid, being vnable of thame selfis ather to defray thair chargis, furneis thame selfis of victualls, or pay thair fraucht. Siclyk it will pleis your maiestie to know that the submissione betuix the Lindfayis and Ogilvis was subferyvit be the lord Spynie and master of Ogilvy zesterday in our hail presence, thay being fullie agreeit of befoir, and thair ar nane that hes nocht comperit bot the laird of Kerfs Rynd, and his sone, quha for thair absence ar ordanit to be denouncit, and we haif stayit the lord of Spynie of ony taking jorney befor that that mater be fullie endit and put to ane point. In the vther directione, anent the erles of Orkney and Caithnes, we cold do na thing in that mater, be ressoun of the absence of the ane being now in the north partis, and the vther haueing cum toward your hienes, quha, without doubt, wilbe mowit sa meikle the rather to conforme him self to that directione, if it be mentionat thair befoir his returne. We, for our part, fall tak ordour, that the partie refuser to submitt falbe dischargit to accompanie the queins maiestie. Sa, humble intreating pardoun for impasheing your hienes, attending vpone your maieftis ordoure, we humble tak our leave, committing your graces sacred persone in the tuitioun and speciall protectione of the Almichtie God,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient
subiectis and feruitours,

JO. PRESTOUN.

R. COKBURNE.

FYVIE.

ELPHINSTOUN.

MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, xvij May [1603?*

* There is no date to this letter, but the allusion to the Queen's journey to England seems to place it in the year 1603. Balfour has put it up with the letters after October 1605, thus making its date 1606; but this arrangement is clearly wrong, as Lord Fyvie, one of the council, had been created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. The account of the depressed state of the Clan-gregor is very curious. The Highland Clans appear to have been regarded as intolerable pests by Lord Fyvie. See page 46.

XXVIII.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUVERAINE,

Esteeming na lefs by my dewtie to empesche your hienefs daylie with frequent letters, then to omitt that quhilk may be iustlie required off me, to mak your maiestie acquent at certane tymes with all speciall heads, ather concerning your grace's estait heir, or particularlie committit to my awin chairge, I hoipe, God willing, in that to keep, fa far as I may, ane midde course, lipning alwayis maist in the moderation off your hienefs gracious minde. First, concerning that it pleased your sacred maiestie recommend unto me be your letteris, to entreate with the queens maiestie your dairest bedfallow, to think and accompt na mis in all was done be my Lord off Mar, his sone, or bedfallow, in thir accidents fallin furth laitie at Stirling; in fa far as all that they did, had sufficient warrand frome your hienefs soueraine authoritie and directioun, quhilk be guid rason, nather they could in ony point omitt, nor onye other with faif dewtie controlle; albeit, I haue nocht before geiui your maiestie onye coumpt off my pairt in that, because, that being present with the haill counfall at the treatie off these maters at Stirling, the 24 off this instant, I thoct be the counfalls lettir, your grace nicht be sufficientlie resolut off our successe in that; I wald nocht the lefs farder, your hienefs war persuadit, I omitted na thing nicht lye in me, to haue these maters mair foundlie composit; and hir maiestie to think that all that was done, cariet werye guid rason with it. I past immediatlie after the refaitt off your hienefs letter to Stirling, quhair first I dealt particularlie with hir maiestie als ernestlie as I could, and with all the rasons my witt nicht furnis me to that entent; nixt at the meiting off the counfall, I laid doune sik grounds and arguments as I thoct meitest, to be proponit and infisit on be us all comounlie before hir maiestie to the same effect; quhilk the counfall thoct fa sufficient, that as they concludit best we fould goe all to gither to hir maiestie to propone and rason the same, sua thay burdeinit me to be the first proponer and rasonar thairoff: I entred indeid, and beganne that purpois to hir maiestie the best I could, before your hienefs haill counfall, and was bettir followed nor I could beginne. Our ansuir and successe

your grace has onderftand be your counfals lettir writtin immediatlie after. I doubt nocht bot hir maieftie confideris and onderftands fufficientlie the beft and the warft, and all the right and the wrang in that mater; bot the honour off the ending and finall compofing thairroff, as off monie greater difficulties, is referued to your hienefs wifdome, and exceeding greate dexteritie in all fuk caufis. At meiting with your maieftie, hir hienefs will think, efteme, and doe in all that, and all belangs thairto, as fall pleas your grace to direct, fignifie, or difpofe. This I onderftand to be hir maiefties minde and refolutioun. As to your maiefties aduocat's* pairt or mine in this, albeit wee haue had that honour and directioun be your maiefties, to be as hir hienefs counfalouris, in the hail courfs off this befines, I certifie your maieftie, wee haue bein mair fubiect to obey comandements and directions, nor weill hard or tane with in our counfals, quhilk wee wald neuer haue geiwin bot to your maiefties contentment in the firft place, and to the fulfilling off your hienefs full will; and nixt to all quietnefs and tranquillitie, quhilk your maieftie has eiuver knawin our hail courfes to be maift addicte to, and as I am certane your facred maieftie will onderftand partilie at meiting with hir maieftie, quho knawis our pairts. I was at Dunfermiling quhen this fturre fell furth, and came nocht to Stirling till I was fend for be hir maieftie, being in extremitie off feiknefs and difeafe, quhilk eftait wald nocht admitt all that guid rafon might haue furnift to onye off us, to be faid to hir maieftie. Your hienefs aduocat chanced to be with hir maieftie prefent at the werie warft; be the cariage of fuim lettirs off your maiefties thair the night before your hienefs has had fufficient pruiif baith off his witt and guid behaiour of before; at fuk ane tyme, in fuk ane accident, to fuk ane perfon, quhat could he doe or fay? His dew refpect to your maieftie, and to your obedience, behouit eiuver to haue the firft place in his minde, he was not ignorant off the great cair, and tender loue your maieftie has to hir hienefs royall perfon: to difpute or contefte quhat rafon and wifdome wald urge off hir hienefs proceedinges, was bot the way to incenfe her maieftie farder againft all, and to augment hir paffion to greater parell, quhilk he was certane wald haue anoyed your

* Sir Thomas Hamilton, afterwards Earl of Melros, which title he fubfequently exchanged for that of Haddington.

maiestie aboue all, and might haue been iustlie imputt to lake of discretion on his part. All being weyt, the best expedient was to comfort and encourage hir maiestie, to gif hir guid hairt; in summe, phisick and medicine requireth then greater place, nor economic or politic. Hir maiesties passions could not be fa weill moderat and mitigat, as be fecending, following, and obeying all hir directions, quhilk alwayis was subiect and dependit haillie upon your sacred maiesties ansuirs and resolutions as oracles, to gif baith health and full resolution off all doubts and difficulties. This was his estait, this was his part in the perplexitie off this befiness, quhilk weill examinat be your hienefs oncomparabill wisdome, I am certane will neuer engender onye preiudice to his former deferuings, and extreeme guid will to your maiesties seruice. I can nocht wyte my Lord off Mar being so hardlie tane with, finding hir maiestie fa incenfit againt him, by ony deferuing off his, or onye that aparteinitt to him, to wyte others rather nor hir royall maiestie off all proceedings. Bot the decrees of your maiesties souerane minde will passe (I am persuadit), and go by all our pretenfis, and platts to the werye points off equetie and rason, and to the iust interpretation off all our actions. I haue forgiest meself insifiting fa meikil in this purpois with your maiestie, quhilk I protest has greued me fa, that to haue all memorie off the same extinguisht and abolist, I wald be content almost to be buried thairwith meself.

Your sacred maiesties maist nobill sone, Duke Chairles, continewis (praifit be God) in guid health, guid courage, and loftie minde, althocht zit weake in bodie, is beginnand to speik suim words, far bettir as zit off his minde and tongue, nor off his bodie and feite;* bot I hoipe in God he fall be all weill and prencelie, wordie off your maiestie, as his grace is iugit be all werye like in lineaments to your royall perfon. Thair is ane laitt attempt fallin furth in Carrik, quhairoff I haue writtin at mair length to my L. Secretair, not willing to trubill your hienefs with tedious discours of fik onpleasent purpois.

* Charles "was exceedingly feeble in his lower parts, his legs growing not erect, but repandous and embowed, whereby he was unapt for exercises of activity. Again, he was none of the gracefulest orators, for his words came difficultly from him, which rendred him indisposed to speak much. But, in the flux of time, and when he began to look man in the face, those tender limbs began so to consolidate and knit together, as the most eminently famed for exercises of honour were forced to yield him up the garland."—Reign of King Charles. London, 1655. Folio, p. 1.

Ane thing restis to me, quhilk I man tak the baldnes to recommend unto your maiestie, as I haue oft done off before, that is, your hienefs Session and College off Iustice, the special sponk off light, and fundament off your maiesties estait, and now the only ornament off this land. I man requiest your gracious maiestie to be cairfull off the honorabill maintenance and preferuation thairoff, for gif it decay in onye forte, I will assure your hienefs, your royall autoritie and obedience in this realme will participat off all the accidents may onye wayis befall to that faitt off iustice: and because it is now presuppunit be monye, your maiestie is to retein thair, fuim off our numbir, in case sa be, and that your grace be to supplie thair places with others, I wald your maiestie remembrit off that guid and nobill act, deuist and fett doun off your hienefs awin deuyfs, for preferuation off the integritie off that houfs, that na dimissionould be refaut in fauorem, bot pure and simpill, and quhen euer onye placeould vake in onye maner, your maiestieould present at leist three off the best qualified persons to be tryit be the Lords, and the wordiest refaut. As this act was maist wyllie, and worthelie deuist be your maiestie, sa doe I wifs it to be constantlie keipit; and as thair is na thing in that houfs obscure or onknawin to your maiestie, the greatest eilest amangs us, I doubt nocht bot your maiestie remembris, is lake off knowledge and learning requisit to that place, quhilk I pray your maiestie, supplie be the guid qualities off all your maiestie fall present in tymes to cuim. This is ane werye essential point off your maiesties croun and estait in this realme, the integritie and worthinefs off the subiects off that houfs and counfall, quhilk maks me the mair instant, and, parchance, importune to recommend the same sa liberallie to your maiestie. I am past all dew bounds in langfumnes off my lettir to your maiestie, sa occupiet in wechtie affairs. My maist humbill and dew seruice remembrit, I will conclude this langfumnes with earnest prayer for lang and prosperous reigne to your maiestie aboue us, and to the warldis end, and to your posteritie. Sua restis

Your Royall Maiesties maist humbill and
obedient subiect and seruitour,

FYVIE.

Edinburgh, 30 Maij 1603.

To the Kings maist excellent Maiestie.

XXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Quhen, as I entir in consideratioun of this laite broyll fallin furth heir, quhairby nocht onlye zoure maiesties contentment thair is impaireit, and thairwith zour hienes sorrow gretumelye procureit, bot also greit mater of greif is gevin to all zour liegis, that any sick accident fuld haif interruptit the full effence of our joye, zit all humane thingis being subiect to viciffitude, and mischances being often and commounlie with guide and happie successe intermixed, I wald rest fameikle the mair agreivit heirat, if I had nocht ane full assurance, that zour maiesties patience dois alweill in this particuler, as evir it hes done heirtofoir, overweill and obscure any suppoftit passions; and thairwith being fully persuaded that zour hienes acceptis this visitatioun as Goddis gentle correctioun. And now hir maiestie, praifeit be God, haveing returneit to Edinburgh, the prince and princess being with hir in cumpanye, intending the morne to tak jorney towardis Berwick, restis as zit vnreconceilit with the erle of Mar, quha hes maid his depairture towardis zour hines; quhais wraithe, if it be nocht appeasit, be all licklyehood is able to produce ane necessitie of ane of these consequentis, for if hir hienes will be satisfied, it is thocht that the conditioun of that nobleman, quha be his service hes sa worthelye demeinitt, fall not answer to his expectatioun: And if hir hienes be refusit of amendis, complayneing of hir conceavit offence, na doubt the vtering of hir discontentments will breid small pleasure to zour maiestie. Bot leiff hir hienes wraithe continewing, fuld heirefter produce unexpected thortures, I wald maiff humblie entreat zour maiestie to prevent the same, according to that prudent foirsicht that hes evir heirtofoir kytheit in zoure former proceedingis, and suffer not this canker or corruptioun to haif any forder progress. Thair is ane laite mater fallin furthe in Carrick, the particulars quhairof remitting to the secretaris informatioun, quha, at tyme convenient, will acquaynte zour maiestie thair-

with; the counsell heir hes proceedit be charge and proclamatioun of the accustimat forme, zit if thair be nocht force adjoynd to your directiouns, thair may small obedience be luiked for, at the handis of these quha hes bein heirtofoir, and as zit remaynis outlawis. In this and fin-drie vther thingis, for feir of impatching your maiestie, I haif written at lenth to the secretaire, quha will impair the fame as oportunitie fall serve. And sa, humblie taking my leave, I pray the almightie God to accompt your maiestie the apple of his awin eie.

Your Maiesties maift humble and obedient
subiect and seruitour,

MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, 1 Junij 1603.

To his Maiestie.

XXX.—EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

20 NOVEMBER 1604.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

Being informed that your maiestie is offendit with sik of the nobilitie as mett in the Inche of St Johnnestoun, at the last parliament, to adwyse by quhat meanes the chaarges of sik as was chofen commiffioners mycht be defrayit, I most humblie craue your maiestie pardoun to purge my part of any misbehaviour vsit att that tyme, ather agains this happie vnion, or ony vther your maiesties intentioun: for in credite I perfaui na difference amangis all your maiesties subiectis thair conuenit, bot ane ernist intentioun in ewery way, vtering their weil affected hairtes to your maiesties seruice in the vnion: controuerfie standing onlie concerning the taxatioun, quhairn the grittest number of the nobilitie feiring that the

brunt thairof should breid ane mislyking of the vnion amanges the commouns, quha, at na tyme, without regrait, ar inducit to any taxa-tioun, choifit rather to ferwe your maieftie vpoun thair awin chairges than call in dowbt your maiefties diffein, be imponing vpoun the commouns ane grit taxatioun, without the quhilk the commiffioners could nocht haue beine honourable outred: and if any man do vtherwyfe in-forme your maieftie, thay do finiftroufly traduce your maiefties beft af-fectiounatt fubiectes. Your maieftie hes to vey in this our affectiouns vnto your maiefties ferwice, nochte crediting calumnies of vnfriens, the fim-ple treuth being (in confcience) this quhilk I wryt to your maieftie fo far as come to my knawlege. Quharefore, I befeik your maieftie nocht to condeme me, indicta caufa, nor to think any vtherwyfe of me, bot as of ane of your maiefties moft loyallie affected fubiectes, quha, by my gen-eral allegiance, doth acknowledge myfelf, in particular, manywyfs dett-bound to your maiefties fauorable clemencye in fik fort, that there is, nor can be, nothing more grevous to me than to vnderftand myfelf to be anywayfe ecarted fra your maiefties favor, efpecially it being my gritteft content-ment on earth to be thoct of your facred maieftie as I am, and fall al-ways continew,

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient
fubiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.*

Tomthalloun, 20 November 1604.

* William tenth Earl of Angus. His adherence to Popery induced him to join with the Earls of Huntly and Errol for the purpose of obtaining the assistance of the Spanish King to re-establish the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. He was seized and committed to the Castle of Edin-burgh, 1st January 1593, but made his escape on 15th February to the north, where he joined the other two noblemen. Latterly he made up matters at court, but finding his religious opinions peculiarly obnoxious to the clergy, he left Scotland and retired to France. He died at Paris on the 3d of March 1611, in the 57th year of his age, and was buried in the Church of St Germain de Prez, where there is a magnificent monument to his memory. In the inscription on his tomb he is made to say—"Vixi cum virtute et in spatiis me exercui maximarum laudum:

XXXI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY* TO KING JAMES VI

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND
IMPERIAL MAIESTIE,

To excus my baldnes in taking this occasion to giue your most excellent maieftie maist humbill thankis, for the lettres quihilk it hes plefit your michtie maieftie to wreit in my fauours to the confell heir, and ministrie, to keip me from excommunication, quharby I rest euer mair and mair det-bound in all humilitie and affectioun to ferue your most excellent maieftie; zit I find the ministrie heir the mair malicious againis me, the mair your most michtie maieftie wreit in my fauours, for they haue presentlie summonit me to Abirdein to the second day of Januar, mening that day to proceid againis me and my yf, not regarding your most excellent maieftis will, and thay ar plainlie both fasting and preiching malicioufle againis the union of the kingdomes, quairby your most michtie maieftie may judge thair mening, quhill of affectioun and deuetie I am bound not to confeill the famin from your most excellent maieftie, and gif I haid that honour as to kis your most michtie maieftis hand, I culd inform mair amplie of thair euill and feditious mening: aluayis for my auin pairt, I haue my onlie refuge to befeik your most excellent maieftie to exime me, my wyf and familie, from thaeme altogidder, for ane zeir,

ut in sanctissima atavorum religione in Deum: Obsequio in Regem: Amore in Patriam: Charitate erga meos: Bonitate in omnes, nemini cederem. Ne qui primus eram regni Scotorum Comes, et in bellis primæ Dux aciei, uspiam forem in secundis. Hinc omnia tam pro voto fauste, ut in sacris et civilibus morem majorum retinuerim: et jussus religionis causa, patria excedere aut in custodiam pergere, vitæ quietiori turbinibus averruncandis delegerim Galliam, caram alteram Scotis patriam: mihi vero carissimam, quod in ea, pro ea, meos meminere majores, bellica claros gloria, res gessisse maximas: et pro meritis factisque fortibus sic iis relatam gratiam, ut Ducatu ornarentur Turonensi." A copy of this inscription is given in the Scots Magazine for March 1767, p. 118.

* George sixth Earl, and first Marquis of Huntly.

till your most michtie maiestie fattill the Union, and sum richt reull unto thae me, or than I wilbe forfit to us my licens, and my self, uyf and familie to leue the contrey, quhilk I will do, befor I be offensue unto your most michtie maiestie in onie point; befeiking your most excellent maiestie to put me to sum solid stand, that I may be quit of thair cummer; for gif your most michtie maiestie friis me not from thair iurisdiction, I man quit the contrey, rather nor be daylie trublit as I am presentlie.

I onderstand alswa, be ane lettre quhilk I haue resauit from my lord of Bamirrinou, that your most excellent maiestie was zit sumquhat commuinit againis me for my procedings in Perth, the tyme of the Parlement.* I uill protest befor God, that I did nathing thair, that I thocht suld haue beine offensue unto your most michtie maiestie, aluayis gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue offendit in onie fort, I will maist humble amend the same, swa far as my simple pouar may extend; for sen I haue euer esteimit my gretest uordlie felicitie, to depend upon your most michtie maiestis fauour and gud continains, God forbid that I suld los it be my auin doing, quhilk neuer salbe uillinglie; and gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue racleflie failit, I will maist humble and uillinglie mend. Heirfor, I uill befeik your most michtie maiestie to us me as ane, quha, in all humilitie, is halelie disposit neuer to be ane contradictour, bot altogidder ane follouar of your most excellent maiestis uill, as I haue euer beine heirtofor, and remits me halelie to your most michtie maiestis auin uisdom and memorie, to judge me quhat I haue beine. And gif it will pleis your most excellent maiestie to grant me that fauour, as I may haue the honour to kis your most michtie maiestis hand, I uill think myself the mair happie, not for onie sutt I haue to impech your most excellent maiestie uth, bot onlie to haue it seine, that I haue not lost your most michtie maiestis fauour and good continans, quhilk I will euer prefer to all uthir benefit: Sua, crauing humbill pardon for my lang lettre, and expecting your most excellent maiestis uill and answer, efter the kissing maist humble of your most michtie maiestis hand, I uill tak my leue, praying the eternall God to preferue your most

* See preceding letter from the Earl of Angus to the King.

excellent, moft michtie, and imperiall maieftie, in lang lyfe and maift prosperous reнге.

Your moft excellent and michtie Maieftis
humble fubiect, and moft affectionat
feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

Huntlye, this 20 of Nouember.

To his moft excellent, moft michtie, and
imperiall Maieftie, King of Great Brit-
taine, France, and Irlande.

[*Indorfed.*]

Erle Huntley. 10 December 1604.

XXXII.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

MOIST GRATIOUS AND EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Althocht the parting frome my natiue foyll, frome my estait, hous, and familie, bot moir than all of thame, the want of your maiefteis gracious prefence, be unto me ane juft caus of exceiding greiff and forrow, zit the testimonie of ane guid conscience in all dewtie towards your maieftie, and my innocencie of ony capitall cryme, ar confortis to me, that this your maiefteis commandiment is nocht fo muche of ony juft conceiuit malice at my perfone, as of intendit chasteifment for my conuerfioun to the religioun presentlie estableifit, quhair of your maieftie may be easilie perfuadit, I wald moft glaidlie condiscend unto for findrie respectis lang to wryte, gif I culd have thairto ony warrant of conscience. Bot this being improper to this present fubiect I omit the fame, and haue resoluit nocht only in this poynt, bot in quhatfumeuer ells your maieftie will com-

mand with the hazard of lyffe (my confcience being exceptit) to undergo all perell may geue your maiestie contentment and just tryal of my obedience. And quhairas I vnderstand of your maiesties plesour for staying of my secund sone,* now in Spaine, with me, the boy being subiect to ane uniuersall gute, and I being counsellit be phifitions to send him to the baicthis in Loren, I will humlie entreate your maiesteis gracious fauor that he may go with me for recouerie of his health, and I will heirby promise, upone the leif signifiatioun of your maiesteis guid plesour, to returne him bak to be disposit pouone as your maiestie thiukis moifit fitte. Sir, howfoever my religioun be the caus of my exyle frome your maiesteis presence, zit so far haue I bene heirtofoir, and ever wilbe, frome geving any pairt of your maiesteis foueraintie to the pope, as I hald my self iustlie bound in confcience to mantene the authoritie thairof agains quhatsum-ever commandimentis he can or may give out in the contrair; and in testimonie heirof, I have gevin my aith of allegiance, quhilk I vnderstand to be scairlie allowit of sum of the preceifer fort and vrgeris of this hard cours agains me, and it will try that, gif thai war burdenit thairof, that thai wald ather maik ane direct denyell, or than maik sic constructions thairof as will nocht stand with your maiesteis lyking. So, rewifing I have atteint the fauor that this letter may twich that princelie hand I wes so desyrous to kifs, I moifit humlie taik my leiff, praying God to give your maiestie lang and prosperous reigne, intending to leiff and die

Your Maisteis moifit humill and faithfull
subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.

To his sacride and moifit gracious Maiestie.†

* According to Wood's edition of Douglas's Peerage, this second son was James afterwards Lord Mordington. The same writer calls the Earl's second daughter Margaret; but in the monumental inscription, alluded to in the note, p. 60, she is called Elizabeth.

† There is no date to this letter. From the want of internal evidence to fix the period when it was written, it was not deemed expedient to alter Sir James Balfour's arrangement, farther than to place it at the end of the letters for 1604.

XXXIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE IT YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

At a meeting of the counfall vpon the last of Januar, we had befor ws the Marques of Huntley, and the ministers of the presbiterie of Aberdene, anent the proces of excommunicatioun, intendit be thame againis him, quhairin, efter a litle contestatioun, thay ar be mutuall consent drawin to some conformitie for the presentt: It becaus at this presentt dyett, that mattir could not ressaue a finall determinatioun, we haue continewit the same to the first of May nixtocome, to the effect, that in this meanetyme, your maiestie may be acquentit, alsueill be the marques himself as be the said presbiterie, of every particular circumstance in that turne. And feing the said marques is myndet schortlie to repair to your maiestie, quha, we doubt not, will mak a relatioun to your maiestie of all that hes procedit in this mater, we will lykwayis in all reuerence, submissioun, and humilitie, requeist your sacred maiestie to grant access and audience to sic of the said presbiterie, as salbe sufficientlie instructed and authorifed from thair brethrene, quhairthrow, estir hering of baith pairteis, your maiestie may be the better resolued thairin, and accordinglie gif your directioun to ws, quhilk falbe prosequeted and followed oute. And sua, in all reuerence, submissioun, and humilitie, kissing your sacred handis, we pray God to grant vnto your sacred maiestie a long, happy, and prosperous regne. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the first of Februar 1605.

Your Maiesteis maist humble and obedient
subiects and seruitours,

NEUBOTTLE.
HALYRUIDHOUS.
TRAKQUAIR.

QUHITTINGHAME.
R. COKBURNE.
JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

XXXIV.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The estats of this your maiesteis realme, assembled the 6 of Junij, with great frequencie of nobilmen, prelats, commissiounars of small barrones and burrowis, in sik nombre as the danger of the plague, quhilk was in all the cuntrey about, was no impediment, but th' assemblie was more frequent, nor your maiestie has seen many parliaments, of quhome althocht many had thair awin particuler discontentements, zit thair reuerence to your maiesteis auctoritie was sik, as no apperance of any disturbance was utterit in all thair metingis. Your maiesteis lettre was first red, conteinng both the commandement of the meting, and directioun of the materis to be entreated, wherewith all men was so weill pleased, as after they had caused reid the same over and over agane, the maist of tham behoved to haif doubillis of it for thair bettir satisfiactioun, remembering with no litill ernstnes thair most humble thankis to your sacred maiestie, and most hartly wishes for your maiesteis long and prosperous raigne.

Relatioun was thairefter very gravelie and eloquently made by the chancellor of all the commissiounars proceedingis during the treatie, and satisfiactioun gevin to every man quho had any scrupule. Sum litel instance was made by sum of the most curious for publicatioun, and copeis of the principall, quhilk was refused. In all the report, the chancellor omitted not your maiesteis most loving and princelie cair of this your poore cuntrey, quhilk gave no litil confort to all the assistants, in sik fort as many quho came thair exasperated upon calumneis and misreports befor, departed in end weill satisfied.

Divers thinges war motioned concerning the estate of the cuntrey, but generallie this ground was held by the maist part, that a conventioun might not medle with any thing that appearit to derogat, till ane act of parliament, or wherof, the establissing requyred the autoritie of a parliament: sua all materis of moment was remitted to the next sessioun of the parliament, to begin the 26 of November approaching.

The names of sik as war present, with the materis that war agreit unto, ar heirwith sent to be confidderit of by your maiestie.

Thefe of the counfall, bifhoppis, and commiffionaris, as your maieftie hes committed the bifhoppis erands unto, ar to meitt' the morne to re-folve anent the nixt conventioun, and the names of thame that falbe wretin for.

Tuyfday the ii. of this instant is appoynted for voyding this proces betuix the Marquis of Huntly and Mr Johne Forbes, and ending the agreance betuix the Lord Maxwell and Johnftoun.

If it pleas God in his mercy, that we may be frie of the plague, we hoop that nather in the adminiftration, nor executioun of justice, nor in the hole cours of the policie of the cuntrey, your maieftie fall heir any thing, but that wherwith your maieftie falbe weil pleafed; and if it fall pleas your maieftie to performe that royall promeis, quhilk your maiefteis loving fubieets heir of all rankis erniftly wifhes, and affuredlie lookis for, to honour and felicitate this your native kingdome with your princelie prefens, that your maieftie fall find the Bordouris, Hilands and Yles, in fik a frame of peax and policie, the rest of the cuntrey in that wealth and stedfast obedience, that in mannis opinioun evir could have beene expected. Thefe ar the fruits of your maiefteis herouique labouris, quhill your maieftie was amangis us, daily encreffing by your maiefteis grave and wyis commandements; wherin our greiteft reioyng is, that we hoop affuredlie your maieftie will not difdane to fie with your facred eyis this new face of your ancienne kingdome, ftryng in vertuous emulatioun with any natioun quhatfoevir.

Thus humble craving your maiefteis pardon for my prefumptioun, I end with my continuell prayeris for your facred maiefteis eternell felicitie. From your maiefteis Pallice of Halyruidhous, in fum mefour renewit as the rest of the cuntrey, this 9 of Junij 1605.

Your Maiefteis moft humble and
obedient fervant,

J. BALMERINOCII.*

* Sir James Elphinstone, third son of Robert Lord Elphinstone, was created by James Lord Balmerinoch. He was particularly favoured by his majesty, from whom, according to Scotstarvet, "he craved the reversion of Secretary Cecil's place, at the King's coming to the crown of Eng-

XXXV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAINE,

Being arrivit heir within this twa dayis, I could nocht bot think it requisit, and always my dewtie, to gif your sacred maieftie fuim accoumpt off the estait off this your ancient kingdome, and zit becaufe I onderstand and knawis the fame, is maift parfytlie and exactlie writtin unto your hienefs be my Lord Balmerinoch your secretair, like as I haue also writtin all the speciall particulars to my Lord Barwike,* to be declarit unto your sacred maieftie : Fearing I fould trubill your hienefs with doubill repetitioun off fashious and tedious purpoifs, I will tak the bauldnefs for the maift pairt, to raport me to my Lord off Balmerinochis lettirs, and to my Lord of Barwikis informatioun to your gracious hienefs, off sik as I haue writtin to him. I haue found the counfall and fessioun fittand in this toun, and the estait off the toun (thanks to God) rafonabill, guid, and free off siknefs or contagion; albeit nocht without fuim remainis off suspicioun, and fuim leitill new infections spreiding about, quhilk be Godis grace and magiftratis diligence I hoipe fall be helpit. The morne is the day apointit for creatioun off the earlis be your maiefties

land, which was the beginning of his overthrow; for the said Secretary Cecil wrought so, that having procured a letter which had come from King James, wherein he promised all kindness to the Roman See and Pope if his holiness would assist him to attain to the crown of England.—This letter the said Secretary Cecil showed in the King's presence, in the Council of England; whereupon King James, fearing to displease the English nation, behoved to disclaim the penning of this letter, and lay the blame thereof on his Secretary, whom, a little before that, he had made Lord Balmerino." p. 59. His Lordship confessed that he had transmitted the letter without his majesty's knowledge. He was sent to Scotland, brought to trial, and condemned to lose his head. The sentence was, however, not carried into execution; for, as the scandalous chronicler before quoted informs us, "he got liberty to go to his own house of Balmerino, where, being a widower, he got an amatorious potion of cantharides from a maid in his house called Young (thereafter wife to Dr Honeyman), of which he died," in anno 1612.—Staggering State, p. 61.

* George Home (subsequent Earl of Dunbar), created by James VI. Lord Home of Berwick, 7th July 1604.

ordonance, thair is rasonabill noumbir off nobill men conueinit to the same effect. We ar to aduys with thame that ar heir, quhat tyme fall be meitest to be apointed for the conuentioun. My Lord Maxuell is also to be this oulk before the counfall with his freindis, for to onderlye the lordis ordonance, and your sacred hienefs commandement in this languime feade betuix him and the Jhonstons. The greatest pleyars now in the Towbuith off this toun ar Jhonstons and Maxuellis, ane werye great and guid noueltie. The kirk materis gois rasonable weill, according to the directions off your sacred maiesties wisdom, as I haue wrettin mair at lenth to my Lord Barwike. The Laird off Lawreston attendis diligencie, and obeyis resolutlie your hienefs commandements in these materis. Thus maist humbly taking my leive for the present, praying the eternall God lang to keip and preferue to us your sacred maiestie, and your other half, with all your royall progenie, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and
affectionat subiect and feruitour,

FYVIE.

Edinbrough, 3 Marche 1605.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I haue noe farder occasioun to vryte vnto your maiestie at this tyme, bot to acquent your hienes with ane lytill accident fell furthe of laite befor the Secreit Counfall, the lyke whereoff hes nocht bene oft feyne in that saite of judgement.

Ane called Alexander Cheyne was perfewed be a poore man dwelling vnder my Lord Glames in Angoufs, that he had cum violentlie in the night vppon him in his hous, brocken ane battoun vppon him and his wyfe in thair bedd, and belted the poore man him selff with ane sword belt, efter he had pulled him out of his bedd: The pairteis compered,— the defendar denyed maift constantlie the deid; the witnesfes was nayne other bot twa of the faidis defendars awin ferwands, and some of my Lord Glames men, who could nocht be refaued witnesfis, nocht only becaus thai war all as pairteis thame selffis (in respect thai war all night-bours of the toun, and affistid the poore man to the peruite), bot also in respect of fead and blood standand betuix the said Alexander Cheyne and the Lord Glames, albeit the Lord Glames affistid nawayes the perfewte, nor came nocht to this toun, nor nayne for his lordship. This made the offendar foe bauld, that he feared nocht to faice the counfall, thinking the mater could nocht be provin againes him, being noe witnesfis, bot his awin ferwands, whoe war actours with him in the wrong. Alwayes the counfall examined his two ferwandis severallie; and albeit at the begynning thay manfweir the deid; and warieteis in thair depositions, at last the weritie was exprest out of thame. Whilk being gottin, and the hail maner of the fact discovered to the lordis, we called in the said Alexander Cheyne, principall doar, and efter he was sworne wppon his knees (lykas we made him to sitt on his knees the hail tyme of his deposition, to remember him the bettir of his dewtie), being admonished of the greivousnes off perjurie, whilk was far abowe the offence he was challenged wpon, nochtwithstanding he aboade stiff and stubborne at his denyall, and condampned himselffe to all moste rigoros deathe and executioun, giff anye sic thing war; lipining certanlye in his suborned servands and pertakers, and in the platts layd amonges thame, concerning the denyall,

O cœca nocentium
Confilia.

Till at last, be confronting of him personallie with the faidis witnesfis, his ferwands, and pertakers, he was confrayned to acknowledge and grant

the haill weritie, with great repentance (albeit too laite); and declaired the haill circumftances of the deid, fubornation of the witneffis, and plat layde amongs thame, what ewirie ane of thame fould faye. The counfall committed thame all instantlie in the iuftice hands, and ordanyed thame to be put the morne eftir to ane tryall upon thair depositions; and being conwiçt, the faid Alexander Cheyne, principall açtor, for his perjurie and fubornatioun of the witneffes, in foe fowl ane façt and oppreffion, to be headed. The ane of his witneffes and ferwands, whoe wilfullie and stubbornelie aboade be his falshoode, till he was confrayned be the difcoverie of his marrow to grant the weritie, to be handged, and the other wha firft granted the weritie, and gaife greit light to the tryall of the haill açtioun, to be fcurdged allanerlye, and his lyfe faiffe. I hope your maieftie fhall werye weele allow of our proceedings in this, for foe does all good men, and thinks that this fhall be ane great terrour to all malefaçtours. I affure your maieftie, the counfall tuke great paynes in tryall of this mater, and your hienes aduocat was als frait and quicke as onye man could be. Of all riotts or wrongs that hes cum befoir the counfell fince my haymecumming, thair hes bene fummar and preſent cognitioun tayne, and instant pwniſhement be warding and fines. Thair is ane laite accident fallin furthe betuix the Maxuells and Jhonftouns, about the hous of Newbie, and ane Jhonftoun ſlayne, or at least deadlye hurt. With all diligence we haif directed thair ane companye of the gaird, with ane herald, to tak the hous, to chardge baithe the parteis befoir the counfall, and to prevene anye farder inconvenient. Swa, maift humblie taking my leife, praying the eternall God to continew your hienes in all healthe and happines, long to raigne over ws, I reſt

Your ſacred Maieſteis moſt humbill and
loyall ſubjeçt and fervitor,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 23 Martij 1605.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

XXXVII.—EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I reffaued your gracious maiefteis letters from the Marqueis of Huntlie the 4 day of this instant monethe, the whilk daye the said mar-queis arrywed first to this town, presented himfelfe to your maiefties counfall, offered and promefed thair all dew obedience, as ewer he should be chardged or fend for. All the wyfest of this land, be great trawell and lang adwyfement, could nocht haif dewyfed anye thing fwa proffit-able for the establiſhement of your honor, obedience, peace, and good governement off this countrie, as your hienes graive, wyfe, and circum-ſpect behaviour and vſage towards the said Lord Marqueis, at his laſt woyadge thair hes done; your maiefteis wiſdome, alwayes great, in this hes bene admirable, with the gentle correſtioun of ane, your hienes hes teatched to all the reſt thair dewtie, and that foe fenſible, as I believe, for this lang whylle, thair ſhall nayne fall in ſic ourſight, and he and all the reſt ſhall beir the greater reverence and reſpect vnto your maiefteis authoritie, and to ſic as your hienes committes the adminiſtratioun off your affaires in this kingdome. I have alſo ſenſyne reffaued ane other letter of your maiefteis from Mr Jhone Forbes, miniſter, according to the directioun whereoff, thair ſhall be lettirs ſchortlye directed from the counfall, for my Lord the Marqueis of Huntlye, and ſome commiſſioners of the miniſterie of that countrie, to trye the veritie of thais ſpeitches. At thair comperance, your ſacred maieſtie maift raſonabil and wyfe comandements, contened in the ſaid letter, ſhall be followed in all, and your hienes immediatlie eſter adwertefed of the ſucces of that proceſs. The counfall hes nocht thocht meit to call the Marqueis of Huntlye befor the tyme of the conuentioun, whilk will be in the begynning of June nixt, becauſe it wald haif bene verye troubleſome to him, within ſwa ſchort ſpace, to mak twyfe that woyadge, being bot laitlie returned from your maieſtie. The hail eſtaite of your maiefties affaires in this cuntrie goes

(thanks to God) werye weell, and all is in great quyetnes and obedience. Your sacred maiestie may be assured, giff thair war onye smallest aperance off anye stur, malcontentment, or anye maner of noveltie, we wald nocht spair to caus the poaftes ryde thithar, and I wald offer take the bauldnes to truble your maiestie with my letters, whilk I am otherwyfe laithe to doe, without some relewant and good occasioun. Onye other particulars requisite to be remembered vnto your gracious hienes in your affaires heir, I wryte mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwicke, to be communicate wnto your hienes, as your lasur may best serve: for we haiff thir twa dayes kept counfall in this toun, where befyde all other particulars, we haiff putt my Lord Maxwell to some point in his feade, and hes tayne some resolutions with my Lord Ergylle, concerning the persute of the McGregoures, whilkes hail procedingis I haiff written mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwick, to be impairted to your sacred maiestie. The dewyfe, whilk procedit from your maiesteis onlye wifdome of the mutuall commissiouns and commissiouners vpon the Borders proceeds (thanks to God) werye weell, and takis ane werye good successe, to the great quyetnes and contentment of the hail countrie. I pray your maiestie excuse me, that I dare be swa bauld, as to recommend vnto your gracious hienes good favour and countenance, your awin creature the Erle of Home; as I did personallie, when I had last honour to kifs your hienes hand; for I heir, that he and all his kythes als great obedience and willingnes in seruice as ony in that countrie. Swa, praying the eternall God long to continew your hienes in all prosperitie, and daylie to augment your grandeur, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maift humbill and
obedient subiect and seruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburgh, 20 Aprilis 1605.

To the King his moste excellent Maiestie.

XXXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 22, 1605.

MOST SACRED SOUVERAYNE,

As it is the cheif and principall point off his dewtie, wha hes the honour to beare charge in the Cowmounwealthe, to be ewer vigilant and cairfull in paines taking for dew administratioun thairoff, fo the profitable actiounes of ane magiftrat did ewer merit and rappid ane heichar commendatioun, than ather good speitches, or tymous wrytts, howbeit, that baithe the ane and the other ar na lefs profittable than necessar, and caryes with thame eche one thair awin prayfe. The confideratioun wheroff (most sacred souerayne), as it hes ewer mowed me to preifs and indevoir myselfe, rather to do than to say weelle, and to be mair earnest in doing than busie in writting; fa now, lykwayes, it furneiffes me baldnefs and reason to excuse myselfe at your maiestie handis, gif, perhaps I hawe ather feymit, or heirefter may apper to your maiestie, to be to slaw in writting, or sending adwertementis off all particulars; albeit in this fame, I hope nawayes to be fa sleuthfull as to negleēt that dewtie, whilk tyme and occasioun may require. As now at this present, nochtwithstanding I have thocht it neidfull to adwerteis and acquaint your sacred maiestie with this lait uproir and tumult, whilk hes fallin out betuix the Lairdes of Edzell and Pittarro;* newirtheles, the mair ample and particulier recit off all particulier circumstances thairoff, I will remitt to my Lord Secretaryes declaration, wha hes, I am certaine, writtin the fame, at great lenth, to your sacred maiestie. Swa I hawe this onely to schaw your maiestie, that, in generall, the estait of this land is futche (prayed be God), to your maiesties great gloir and immortal fame, and to the assured weill and joy off your maiesties subiects, that almaid we may rather wische and desyre the conservation and standing thairoff, than any heichar perfection, or farder increafs of the famyne. Seing that, in plaice of the heiche contempt of your maiesties lawes, of the proud

* In the High Street of Edinburgh. The fight lasted from nine at night till almost two in the morning. Several of the combatants were hurt, but only one man killed.

rebellioun, and maisterfull opprefioun, whilk was wount to regne in thir partes, thair is nathing now (at leift generalie) bot a fatled and quyett forme of doing, eche one peciable in his awin estait, awaiting for justice, and redie to obey your maieftis lawes, and all praying and admiring, in thair awin felicitie, your maieftis good and happie government; for the continewance and furdurance whereoff, I fall labour, God willing, for my part, to doe all that ather the honour of my charge requyres, or my dewtie bindes me, or my awin maift bent and willing affectioun to your maieftis service preiffes me to, or in end, whatfumever your sacred maieftis preconceived favorable opinion, may expect of me. Sua, praying the eternall God lang to manteyne and preferue your sacred maieftie in all prosperitie, maift humblie taking my leive, I rest

Your sacred Maiefties maift humbill and
obedient subiect and feruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 22 Junij 1605.

To the King his excellent Maieftie.

XXXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 29, 1605.

MY MOST GRATIOUS, SUEIT, SACRED SOUERANGNE,

However I am fumquhat to laite in congratulating of your maieftis laite happie delyuerie,* zit I hoip the place of my abode being remote fra the ordinary arruell of aduerteifments, and the inhabilitie of my bodie being the onlie stay of my nocht prefence at that last confell day, will procure your maieftis most gracious pardoun for my absence at that tyme, haueing since the first report of this mater euer wifched myfelfe (if so, as prafed be God of the contrare, that deuilifche intionioun had takin effect), to haue bein thair also, to haue maid ane periode

* From the conspiracy commonly called the Gun Powder Plot.

of my dayis, thair being nothing that culd haue bene expectit be my surueuing, bot worfe than a thoufand deathis. And thairfoir, vpon confideration of this hynous intendit treason (quberof the interpryfers, no doubt, ar verie deuillis incarnate by concepioun), far furpaffing not onlie all former actis or intentiones ever fince the creatioun, and fkairfe cumming within the compas to be credited or beleived, that fuche a thing fo voyde of all humanetic culd haue takin place, in any perfon poffeffit with reafoun, and feing thir aduancers (not of any relligioun, as they furmyfe, bot of the deuillis awin kingdome) hes cleirlye difcouered thair correffpondence with Belzebub, the head of thair churche, I am thairfoir moft humblie to entraite your maieftie, to haue a more warye circumfpectioun over fuche lyk pepile, who, vpon pretence of thair zeale to aduance thair relligioun, gois about fuche diabolicall praćtifes, that, by your maieftis fuorde of iuftice, they may be difpatched for Goddis eternall iugement, to thair proper hie temple, the bottomles pit of hell, the atteining quberof they haue fo greidalie and haferdouflie focht. And as it is no fmall confort and mater of ioye vntoo all your good fubiectis heir, that your hienes hes the happie benefeite of fo good, wyfe, and weill effectit confellors thair, quhoife cairfull diligence in the tryell of this actioun hes gevin fo good a prooffe of thair deutefull affectioun, fo euerey one of ws wald humblie befeik your maieftie, by thair adwyfe and confell, to foirfie al poffibill meanes for preventioun of fik lyk heir-eftir, and to tak fik ordour, that fuche malignant fpreittis, in humane fchape, may not haue the benefeite of braithing within your dominiounes, bot may be fecludit fra all poffibiletie to go about any fuche erand heir-eftir. And with randerig thanks to God for his many former, and this laite mercie extendit towardis your maiefties, with prayer alfo for contenance of his protectioun over your heignefs, I humblie kifs your facred hand, refing

Your Maieftis humble and obedient
fubiect and feruitour to death,

MONTROISS.

Halyrudhous, the 29 of November 1605.

To his moft facred Maieftie.

XL.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

SIR,

It may pleis your maist excellent maiestie, according to the command of your hienes letters, quibilks come to my hands zifterday, I falbe cairfull to prowyd ane terfel to the halk of Fowlisheuch,* and falbe anfuerable to your maiestie for the same, in cais the auld terfel be dead: your maiesties Mangrell falcone, quhilk I haif, fowld haif bein at your hienes lang or now, bot that as my falconer was reddie to tak his jorney, shie contractit ane diseafs, quhairwith he durst not adwentewr to trawell hir, in respect of the great frosts and stormes. I wilbe anfuerable to your maiestie, that shie has bein nawayes strefsit, bot als weill treatit as any halk could be: Nather fall your maiestie suspect that I haif retenit hir for my awn pleffour, quhilk I fall newir compair in the greatest thing quhatfoewer with your maiesties meanest contentment, or am I able as zit, ewin at this present, to trawell wpoun the feilds for any game. Always how soin it falbe possibill that the halk may in any fort be trawellit, shie falbe at your maiestie with all diligence. She haid the same feiknes the last zeir, in this same seafone, and was not frie of it quhill neir Mairche.

And thus not preswming to be farther fashions to your hienes, bot in

* Foulshuch is a steep rock on the eastern coast of Scotland, about three or four miles to the westward of Stonehaven. It is nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and the height from the sea, which washes the base of it, is upwards of two hundred feet. A writer in the Scots Magazine (July 1808) says, "The rock, and the birds which lodge on it, are considered the property of the proprietor of the neighbouring estate, who lets them for a considerable sum of yearly rent to a tenant, who is called the heughman, and who is obliged annually to give the landlord a young hawk, from a nest of these birds, of an uncommonly large size, which builds in the rock regularly every year." From this extract it would appear that the particular breed of hawks so much esteemed by James VI. exists, or at least recently existed, at Foulshuch.

all hwmilitie attending 3owr maiefties farther commandements, in kifing
3owr royall hands I tak leif, and reftis ewer

3owr Maiefties maift luifing and faithfull
fubie&ct, and howmill ferwand,

ERROL.

Perth, this 21 Januar 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

XLI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

MAY IT PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

According to 3our dire&tion anentt the terfall * of Foullsheuch,
I fhall obey 3our commandimtt fullie and in all points. I can nott, as
3itt, certefy 3our maieftie quhither he be alyue or nott, bott with in few
days, I think, I fhall go neir to gett the certintie may be had of fo on-
certan a mater. I haiue fpokkon my Lord Marfchall, quha fays to me,
he thinks he be alyf, 3itt vpon this I dar not affeure 3our maieftie, bott

* Tercel or tiercel, "a male hawk, so called because it is a third part less than the female in bigness and strength." Phillips' *Moderne World of Words*. 1696. Folio. Gervase Markham terms hawking "a most princely and serious delight;" and in enumerating the different kinds of hawks, he divides them into long-winged and short-winged. Among the latter he includes the goshawk, and the *tercel* of the goshawk; and subsequently mentions, that the goshawk and tercel were used for flying at the partridge, pheasant, or hare. *Countrey Contentments*. London, 1615, p. 87. Lord Binning, whose premature death deprived the world of a most worthy and accomplished man, wrote a very humorous and clever ballad, entitled "The Jolly Hawk and the Tearsal," on the temporary loss of a favourite tercel belonging to his father, the Earl of Haddington, which had flown away to the Bass, but was afterwards discovered.

vill fend ain of my auin,* and fhall leive naithing ondoun in that or any other thing your maieftie plesis to command me; fua, maift humbly kiffing your faced hands, I euer rest

Your Maieftis houbill feruantt,

A. MAR.†

Edinburgh, the xxi of Januar 1606.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

* The passion of James for hawking is well known; and that he was somewhat anxious to appropriate the best hawks of his subjects, is evinced by the following letter from him to Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, reprinted from the *Literary Register* for March 1823, 4to, a periodical work that has long since ceased to exist, and the numbers of which are somewhat rare:—

“ RIGHT traist friend, we greit you hartlie well. Hearing that ye have ane gyir falcon, quhilk is esteemit the best halk in all that cuntrie, and meetest for us that haue sa gude lykng of that pastyme, we have, thairfoir, taiken occasion effectuouslie to requeist and desyre you, seing halkis are but giftng geir, and na otherwise to be accompted betuix us and you, being sa well acquainted, that of courtesie ye will bestow on us that gois halk, and send her heir to us with this bearer our servand, quhom we have on this earand directed to bring and carry her tenderlie: Quherin, as he shall report our hartie and speciall thankis, sa sall ye find us redy to requite your courtesie and good will with na lesse pleasure in any the like gates as occasion sall present. Thus, resting persuadit of your presenting us heiranent, we commit you in Goddis protectionn.

“ JAMES R.

“ From Perth, the first of March 1596[7.]

“ To our traist friend, the Laird of Philorth.”

Sir Alexander Fraser was the ancestor of the Lords Salton. He was knighted at the baptism of Prince Henry, and died at Fraserburgh, 12th April 1623. There is a portrait of him in Pinkerton's Scottish Gallery.

† Lord Mar “ was called to a by-name John Slaits, the reason whereof some give to have been called so by the King while young when they were playing at game. The King alledged he had slaited him, which is an old Scottish word, signifeing that he had outwitted him; and the King oftimes, when he writt with his own hand to him, designed him John Slaits, as his compellation in the beginning of his letters.” *Erskyn's MS. Memoirs*. He died 1634, in the 72d year of his age.

XLII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND LORD BALMERINO TO
KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair is sick bruttis past thought all this land, off some, indeid horribill, accusatiounes against ws (ffor we think thame naa otherwayes our selffis), as the mater is now past concealling, wee haiff hard greate word that wee war to be challengitt heirwpon be your sacred maiestie, and called to ane accompt anent the veritie off fik imputatiounes as is alledgit on ws. We haiff this lang whylle attendit wpon some fig-nification heiroff from your maift gracious hienes, whose wifdome and justice, we are affured, will neiwer condemne ws onharde. Albeitt it be wydelie aneucht spoken, that the allegatiounes in our contrair, and calumnieis gevin furthe aganist ws, hes maid great impressiounes in your hienes mynde, we will naways beleiwe onye fik thing. This only we haiff thought ws bund to, off dewtie, feing thair is fua mekle talke off this all whair, as we can naa langer miskenne itt; we protest befor God, thay ar als great calumneis and ontreuthis, as ewer was dewyfit againes onye men; and faa fals, as the dewyfars and forgears thairoff shall neiwer be hable to schaw faa mekle as onye apperance or lyklicheade off the fame. What is farder requifeit to be done thairanent, we remitt to your maift gracious hienes wifdome and confideration. The thing we regraite maift is, that the worde off sick impressiounes in your hienes mynde, or geving eare to fik onlykliche calumneis, is naa small hinder vnto your sacred maiesteis ferwice in thir pairtes, wee haiffing fic chairdge and burding in the fame as we haiff. The halding off this countrie in obedience, will neiwer want eiwill will and inwye off manye off the greateft, and this turne whairon we ar faa calumniat, broght ws mekill ewill will off the coumoun forte off the countrie also, fua that, gif it may be

thought that wee be nocht certane off your maieſteis conſtant favour, bot may be ſua eaſilie detracted and traduced butt farder, it can nocht fail to mak our authoritie and ſtrenthe the leſs in your hienes ſervice, whilk wee regaird maift off anye wardlie thing; and what grudge wee beare for doing the ſame preceiſlye according to your ſacred maieſteis directiounis in all pointes, as we haiff done, wee doubt not bot your hienes knowes and onderſtandis ſufficientlye. Sua, maift humblye taking our leiwe, and praying the Eternall lang to preferue and augment your royall maieſteis eſtaite and grandeur in all proſperitie, reſtis

Your ſacred Maieſties maift humbill and obedient
ſubjects and ſeruiteurs,

DUNFERMELYNE.
J. BALMERINO.

Edenburgh, 18 April 1606.

To the King his moſt excellent
Maieſtie.

XLIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 16, 1606.

IT MAY PLEAS YOUR MAIST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

That as next wntoe God, the eſtaite of my howſs hath ewir bein protectit and preferwit be your hienes, againſt the ſuttill practiffis of my fatheris laſt wyff, and my ſtepmother,* quhilks many zeires befor this tyme, hath bein cleirlye diſcowerit, and maid weil knawin to your royall

* Lady Agnes Sinclair, daughter of George fourth Earl of Caithness. She had one ſon, George Hay of Killour, from whom the preſent Earl of Errol is deſcended.

maiestie. Sa, gif the fame fall not zit be wphalden be your hienes princelie fawour, against the onquencheable malice of that fame woman, and put in fewrtie be your royall power in this fame enfewing parliament, I can haif na assurance, bot that both my houfs and my posteritie may perishe in hir falshood. In consideratioune of quhilk great extremitie, I doe maist howmly craif your maiesties pardoune, that I am forcit to be fa bawld, as be thees lynes to beseik your hienes to assist me in that quhilk wilbe agreable both to your hienes honour, and the fewrtie of that howfs: Quhilk, and my awin lyf also, fall ewir be maist reddelie bestowit for your maiesties service, at all occasiounes. And as I am not of purpous to offend your hienes with any tedious discours, sa I doe maist hwmillie desyr, that it may pleas your maiestie, to heir the fame fra Mr Alexander Hay, as lykwayes my hwmill petitione to your hienes, togidder with the forme of the fewrtie quhilk I desyr to be grantit be your maiestie, and accordinglie directit to the parliament. And thus, in all dewtiful regards, expecting your hienes gratious anfuer, I doe maist hwmillie kifs your princelie hands, and maist earnestlie pray the Almychtie to haif your maist royall personne and princelie childrein, with all your maiesties maist werteous defeynes, in his blessed protectiounes.

Your Maiesties maist lwifing and faithfull
subiect, and hwmill serwand,

ERROL.

Logealmond, the 16 of Marche 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XLIV.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1606.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Quhereas the privilege of Constabularie in the realme of Scotland, grantit be your maiesties most nobill progenitouris, of gude memorie,

L

to my prediceffouris, be law and daylie practique, hes bene to judge vpon bluide and bluidweit, committit within sic boundis neir to your maiesties royall chalmer, and in tyme of parliament: Notwithstanding, it hes plefit your maiesties most honorabill and Privie Counsell, to designe and delegat judges be commissioun, for ordour taking with this lait accident, fallin out betuix the Erle of Glencairne and Maister of Wentoun at Perth, vpon the different allegiance and claime maid betuix the Chiefe Justice and me, anent the libertie of jurisdicthioun, and affixing of court to that effect: Quherebe, the immunitie and friedome of my office is not onlye imparit, bot lykwayis the most sufficient argument of manifesting my zeale to your maiesties service, the abundance quhereof, at all tymes, bot chieslie in this parliament, God and honest men can beare record vnto your hienes. And theirfore, Sir, I am bold in all humilitie to beg your maiesties most gracious favour, be returning ordinance to the counsell, discharginge the creatioun of the judges delegat; or, els that I may have the benefite of replegiatioun from the commissioneris as accordis of the law, and the autoritie and assistance of the counsell interponit, to cleide with the ancient liberties of my office, anent the citatioun of the malefactouris to compeir befor me in my Court of Justiciarie: in the administratioun quhereof, I fall have sik due consideratioun as my tendir care, and trew regarde to the furthsetting of your maiesties honour and princelye estate, fall be cleirlye publisched vnto the world. And thus craveing your maiestie most humble mercie for my boldnes, with my hart perpetuallie consecrate in love to your maiesties sacred person and estate, I tak my leave, remaneing to death

Your Maiesties most loving and faithfull
subiect and humble servant,

ERROL.

Logealmond, 13 of July 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XLV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

JULY 24, 1606.

OWR dewtie rememberit, we have thocht ve cwild do no les nor acquent your lordship of this twmwlt fallin owt in this townn of Glasgow, betwix the Laird of Minto zownger,* and Sir George Elphinstoun,† prowett, wherpone the hail town almaift reifs in armes, and the gretteft pairt accompaneit the Laird of Minto and his fone, quhome (eftir ve haid puit the prowett in my Lordis of Wigtoun howfs for his swirtie, and haid commandit the bailzeis, in his maiefties name, to charge the Lairds of Minto and thair compliffs to thair lwdging, and had extendit all owr athoritie in his maiefties name), zit cwild nocht fwa meikle preveill, that thei wald contein thame felfis in thair lwdginis, bot with greit difficultie cwild refist thame, on forning the pairt quhair we ftwid to hawld of thair fiorce. We

* The Stewarts of Minto were for a long series of years provosts of Glasgow. The family is now, it is understood, extinct. Paton, in a MS. Memorandum-book, in possession of the Editor, has noted down—"There was an old family, Stewart of Minto, near Glasgow, as in the High Church of Glasgow appears from a funeral monument, on the left in the entry into the church, engraved on a copper or brass plate, where six or eight more generations, enumerated as knights created under the banner."—"Query, if true, the last of the family was a poor boy, who was sent into Edinburgh barefooted, with a letter to Stewart of Coltness, who [being] promising, was recommended to the Duke of Hamilton, who took him under his Grace's protection, got some education, and afterwards went abroad to Darien, where he died. The mother was of the Whitfoord family, and so poor, that she retired to a town or place near to Dalsersf, called Miltoun, where she procured subsistence for herself and son by spinning."

† Sir George Elphinstoun of Blythswood "was a burges and provost of this town, he rose by the favour of King James VI. to be a great man; he was knighted, and made a Lord of the Session, and Gentleman of the Bedchamber. King Charles I. raised him to be Lord Justice Clerk, and he held the office till his death, which was in the year 1634. He got the Gorbals erected into a burgh of barony and regality; but behold the instability of human greatness: for he was the only burges in all Scotland that I ever observed came to the highest office, and made the greatest figure, and yet died so poor, that his corps was arrested by his creditors, and his friends buried him privately, in his own chappel adjoining to his house." M'Ure's Glasgow. 1736, 8vo. p. 63. According to Scotstarvet, he "was in his youth in great credit with King James VI., and lay in bed with him many years, but was discouraged by Sir George Home (afterwards Earl of Dunbar) before the King's going to England." Page 132. He married Agnes, third daughter of Thomas fifth Lord Boyd, by whom he had a son and a daughter. The former died without issue; and the latter married Colonel John Maxwell, son of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood.

will wreitt sparenlie of thair insolent behaveowr, aganis commandementis gevin in his hienes avthoritie, and misregaird of ws quha hes the honour to be his maiesties confellors, will remit the tryell thairof to the avin tyme, quhan we fall declair the veritie of all theis proceedingis; and in the meine tyme to eschew forder inconvenient, estir we haid causit mak proclamatioun in his maiesties name, that all men swild repair to thair lwidginis, and the brwnzie wes sum quhat pecefeit, als weill for the misbehaviour and misregaird of the commandementis in his hienes name, and of ws excecweris thairof, as also for prewenting of forder twmult, quhille his maiestie or his hienes Privie Confell might deliberat, quhat cwirs falbe takin for pwnifching and fatteling the samyn, quhilk no dowt gif it had nocht chainfit ws to be heir at ane particular tryist, wald have twirnit to greit inconvenient, and can noicht weill eschew zit, gif the samyn be nocht preventit. In respect quhairof, we thoicht meitest to charge the Lairdis of Minto, elder and zownger, to entir thame selffis within the castell of Dumbartan, withe all diligens, to [till?] his maiestie, and lordes of his hienes Privie Counfell, forder plefour wer knawin; and in lyk maner, Sir George Elphinstoun to entir in waird within the castell of Glasgou: As also, to command the bailzeis to mak proclamatiounis, that naine indwellaris within thair burgh, offir inwrie be onay maner of way to utheris, bot that thai swild keip the kingis pace wnder the paine of deithe; and that naine of thame swild weir wapinis invaseiff within the brwch, bot behave thame selffis in quyeitt maner, as thei wald be anwerable on thair perellis: And forder, to charge thrie of the speciallis on ather partie to entir thame selffis, the ane partie within the castell, and the wther within the Tolbwith of Glasgou, till forder ordour wes takin be the counfell. The skyth is noicht greitt, onlye ane man callit Thomas Cloggye deid, without onye woind, and fondrie hwirt withe flauis, quhilk wes to ws gretest impediment to stay thame. The Lairdis of Minto, as we are informit, ar passit to Dumbartane, and Sir George hes enterit in this castell, withe sick of his partie as wee commandit. Swa, haiving doine quhat ley in ws, to procwir his maiesties obedience and paice of this townn, quhair we chainfit to be for the tyme, remittis to zour lordschip, to deliberat quhat forder ordour falbe takin heirin, baith for tryell and pwnifching of this

ryett, and faitling thairrof, will tak owr leif, committing your lordship to God. Restis

Your Lordship affwred to power,

WIGTOUN.
MONTROIS.
KILSAYTH.

We have also acquaintit my Lord Chainfeller thairwithe.

Glasgow, the xxiiij Julij 1606.

To my varie gwid Lord, my Lord
Erle off Dunbar.

XLVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

August 27, 1606.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

According to your hienes directioun signefeit vnto vs be your maiesteis faithfull counfallor the Erle of Dumbar, we did call and conuene befor the counfall the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencarne, and Glencarne and the Lord Semple, with a nomber of thair freindis, quhome we knew to haue cheifest interestt in the present feid standing betuix thame, and efter that we had declarit vnto thame the great panes and travellis quhilk your sacred maieftie tuke in your hienes awin persone, for

extinguisheing of the name and memorie of deidlie feidis, what goode futtes had followit vpoun your maiesteis travellis in some of the grittest feidis of this kingdome, and how that your maiestie had now recommended to the counfall the removing of this feud, whilk hes bene of sua lang continewance, and be resson of the minoritie of the Erle of Eglintoun, could not quhill now tak effect, we burdynit thame with a submissioun conforme to the act of parliament. The Erle of Glencarne pretendit that thair wes no quarrell betuix him and Eglintoun, and that a submissioun wes vnnecessar, and in end he directlie refuist to submitt, becaus the submissioun importat agains him a guiltynes of the slaughter of the umquhile Erle of Eglintoun, whilk he will never tak vpoun him, bot offeris him reddy to the tryall of the lawis for that slaughter, whilk tryall on his pairt aucht to proced the submissioun. We rememberit him of ane submissioun subferyuit be him self in this same matter, agreable in euery worde to that whilk wes now defyrit, when this matter wes last in handis afor the counfall in Februar 1604, bot he, standing vpoun his innocency of that slaughter, refuist to submitt. Eglintoun maid no refusall, bot pretending some excuse vpoun the shortnes of the warning, he only craued a continewation to be aduyfit with his freyndis, becaus this wes the first tyme that euer he wes chairgit in this matter sen his minoritie. And the Lord Semple very frelie, for your maiesteis satisfactioun and obedience, without ony ceremony offerit to submitt. We haue grantit vnto Eglintoun, with his awin consent, the twenty day of November nixt, to be aduyfit with his freindis, and to come prouydit in that mater. We haue no assurance of the Erle of Glencarnis obedience, bot the hoip that he will conforme himself to your maiesteis pleasour, and the Lord Semple wilbe obeyent. We had lykwayes in handis this proces of Glasgow, quhairin we haue fund a very great insolence and ryott committit be Mynto and a nowmer of the commouns of the toun, and hes committit the persons guilty to warde within the burgh of Linlythgow, quhill your maiesteis pleasour be knowne. This is all that we haue done at this mcitting, wherwith we haue thocht meit to mak your maiestie acquainted, to the effect your hienes may gif directioun thairin, as your maiestie fall think goode, whilk we

fal prosequute and follow oute. And sua, praying God to blyffe your
sacred maieftie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reigne, we rest

Your Maiefties most humble subiectis
and feruitours,

MONTROISS.
AL. CANCELL^s.
LINLITHGOW.
WIGTOUN.
ELPHINSTOUN.
J. SECRETAR.

Lynlythqw, the 27 of August [1606?]

To the Kinges moift excellent Maieftie.

XLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE* TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

It pleased your maieftie to recommend vnto your estaittes, at
the last sessioun of the parliament, in this kingdome, the inhabitants of
Dounbartane, that some help might be granted to thame of the haill
countrie, to mak some defence to thair toun, agains the furgefs and in-
undatiounes of the seas, whilk is lykelye to destroye and tak away that
haill toun, and can not be defendit nor repulfitt be naa moyane, thair
poore habilitie and fortunes are hable to furneifche. Theese whoe had

* Upon the 6th of August, the Lord Chancellor addressed a few lines to the King, in which he
says, "Yesterday, in great zealle and affectioun, we haiff all celebrat the blessed memoire off your
sacred Maiesties happie delyverie from the traitour Gowreis treacherous and devilsche conspiracie,
acknowledgeing all thairin the saiftie, preservatioun, and greatest evidents of Goddis providence,
and favorable eyes vpon this Iland, Empire, and Cowmounwealthe, that eiver hes been schawin."

the commiffioun to vifeitt that mater maid thair rapport, that be good confideratioun and calculatioun, naa lefs nor threttie thowfand pounds Scottes was hable to furnifche the charges to fic a wark. The Lordes of Articles, and others of the eftaitts than conuenit, thocht not meit nor expedient, at that tyme, to lay twa taxatiounes vppon the countrie, onder tua feuerall naymes, bot with good will granted the taxatioun or fubfidie, the greater vnto your facred maieftie, in hope that your hienes, wpon good confideratiounes, in your wifdome and wouted clemencie towards your poore fubjects, wald beftow fome portioun thairof, for the faiftie and prefervatioun of that poore toun. Whilk, at that tyme, the hail eftaitts willed me to recommend vnto your facred maieftie, lyk as, I doubt not bot my Lord Erle of Dunbar will fchawe your maieftie at greater lenthe. And I hope your maift gracious hienefs will direct fome good prouiffioun to be maid thairfoir, to the confort and contentment of your maiefties poore fubjects of the faid toun, wha will ewer remayne your hienes maift bund and deuote oratours; lyk as, I, praying the Eternall lang to continew your facred maieftie in all prosperitie and contentment, reftis

Your facred Maiefties maift humbill and
obedient fubieft and feruitour,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Nedrie, 4 September 1606.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

XLVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[OCTOBER 1606.]

MAIST SACRED SOUVERAINE,

They haue bene great maters, and heiche defeyngs, your maieftie hes had this fommer in this kingdome: And albeit your hienes princelie

intentiounes hes not laiked thair impediments and difficulteis, whilk all alteratiounes and nouelteis caryes, your dewyfe newertheles hes bene swa wyfe, and weill grundit, and your instruments faa fit, that all (thankes to God) is succceidit at wiffes to your hienes contentment, and to the contentment off all good and peceabill subiects. This I can not of my deutie omitt to testifie, that the Erle of Dunbar, be his industrie, trawell, diligence, and extraordinair moyane, and credeit with the nobilitie and hail estaittes, hes maruelouflic aduanced the good succcess off all hes bene done: as he hes bene trayned wp from his youthie at your sacred maieftis feett, hes eiver bene a great obserwer off all your maieftis vertieus, swa I think nayne can ather swa weill tak wp the drift of your maieftis plattis, nor zit with sic dexteritie follow furthe the fame, eiuen to the utter poynt of your maieftis blank, as he can doe, and hes gevin sufficient prooffe at this tyme, baith in the Borders, whilk he has fatled, far by onye thing that eiver hes bene done thair befor, or zit might be thoght habill to be done in sa schort spaiice, and in sic multitude off other great interpreifes, and also in the parliament, whair his behaviour with the diversitie off humours off our nobillmen and others, schew weell he had narrowlic remarked manye lessons and documents off your sacred maieftis proceedings in sic affaires. Bot this I am certane, will be declaired all to yiour hienes at greater lenthe, and better nor I can vryte, be divers off your speciall ferwands, and officears wha ar thair presentlie, besides that deid, and the event doeis furneis sufficient testimonie of his fidelitie, care, sinceritie, and wifdome, in the government off all thir affaires.

The present estaite of the countrie is maruelous quyett in all other nor this truble of the peste, whilk is spred, and does great harme in diuers pairts, a mater to be recommendit specialie to Goddis mercie, in sua far as men can mak lytle support to the fame. Some domestic affliction is fallin on my selfe, whilk I can nather dissemble, nor will denye, bot greives me mightelie, giff it war otherwayes I war onnatural, fenfeles, and owir stoic. I hope alwayes it shall diuert me from naa poynt of my deutie in your sacred maieftis service. All shall be waited on, in sic affectioun, cair, and foirsicht as I can furneife, the mair diligentlie now, that I have few heir at this tyme to help or supplie me. The counfall

shall be convenient at sic tymes and plaices as may be maist convenient, and your sacred maiestie shall be aduerteist off all proceedinges in onye extraordinair accident. This, most humble taking my leiwe, and praying the Eternall to preferue eternallie your hienes, and all your royall posteritie, in all blifs and felicitie, restis

Your sacred Maiesteis maist humbill and
obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

[October 1606?]*

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

XLIX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

The suffiance of this berar is sik, and swa weell known vnto your sacred maiestie, that I war in the vrong to importune your hienes with langer letter or discourfe, in the proceedinges heir in all affaires, or directiounes fend hither be your maiestie with my Lord Secretair, or with the berar. He saw and hard what was done in all, and can declair the same to your maiestie at lenthe, better nor I can vryte. I hope your hienes shall think thair is als mekle done as can be in sic a tyme, for in all the corners off this kingdome this contagious siknes is swa spreadde, that nather broughe nor land in onye pairt is free.

* No date, but from the reference to the plague, probably written in October 1606.

Mista fenum et juuenum denfantur funera.

The tounes off Air and Striveling ar almoste defolat.* This estait and calamitie hinders all meitingis off counfall, and all publiēt functiounes for mjinistrat[i]on of justice, and maintenance of good reulle and government, except sik as we tak at starts, with some few at Edenburgh, or in sik other place for a day, to keip some countenance of ordour and cair off your maiesteis peace and obedience, whilk does mekle good for als synderlie as we meitt, and shall be sua continewed, till it pleis God to releive the land of this affliction. I haiff likewayes desired this berar to fatiffie your sacred maiestie in some crediēt deliwered to me, be my Lord Secretair in your hienes nayme, whairvnto he was also witnes; I find my selfe alwayes infinitlie addebtet to your maiesteis favour and clemencie; but I hope your hienes shall onderstand that these reportes has na grounds other nor malice, or inwye, whilk I know nocht how I can haif deserwed of onye man, except in a sincere, upricht, and direct obeying and following all your maift gracious maiesteis maift princelie and juste commandements. Whairin I intend newertheles to continew still even to my lifes end. Swa, praying the Eternall lang to preferue your sacred maiestie in all prosperitie and good succes, I reffe

Your sacred Maiesties maift humbill and
obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Dunfermylne, 30 Octobris 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

* In the Chronicle of Perth, p. 9, it is said that the plague raged in the south of Scotland from June to February 1603. In 1605, we are told that there was "great pestilence in Leith, Edinburgh, and sundry places." It came to Perth, August 29, 1608, "and continewit till May thereafter, 1609, quberin deit young and auld, 500 persons." P. 12. The plague thus appears to have been almost stationary in Scotland for upwards of six years.

L.—COMMISSIONERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 16, 1606.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having for obedience of your hienes letter bene present at the Affemblie of Lithgow as your maiesties commiffionars, and thairin done oure most humbill and faithfull indeuors to sie all thinges grauelie and wyfelie procedit vnto for the weill and peace of the kirk, quyetnes of the cuntrey, and dew obedience of your maiesties autoritie, according to the most wyfe and prouident direCTIONS and instructions fend to ws be your maiestie thairanent. Albeit, the great distraCTIONS standing this whyle bygane amangis the ministrie, and hard opinions alswell preconfaubed be findrie of thame, as by ane great number of your hienes vther subiectis of dyuers pourpofes hardlie intended agais the libertie of the discipline and policie of the kirk to be wrocht at this tyme, maid the beginning of oure trauellis full of doubt and difficulties, yet that blifing of God, whilk ordinarlie accompanies the iustice of your maiesties most holie and wyfe disseigns, efter many appearances of great opposition to haue bene maid to all that we could haue proponed, kythed so forcibill at this tyme, that efter oure declaration of your hienes constant fauour to the kirk and all godlie and dewtifull ministers, and thair consideration of the acceptabill contentis of your most gracious letter directed to the affemblie, thair myndis wer thairby so far chainged, that first thay ordanit your maiesties letter to be inbuket in thair register, and persauing be the progres of oure actions, how great your maiesties caire wes to repres and puneis the papistis, and to menteane the kirk in thair liberties, and strenthen thame with the power of your maiesties autoritie, the sight of thair former error, and of the vnexpected weill offered to thame in your maiesties name, maid the hail affemblie, and evin these, wha came of set powrpose to haue opposed to the power and lafulnes thairof, and to oure hail procedingis thairin, to consent to all that wes concluded with greater moderation and vniformitie, nor euer wes fene in any former affemblie. Whairof your maiestie will vnderstand the particulars be the

aētis thair of ordanit to be extractēd and fend to your maieſtie. Swa that in end, all that wer preſent, alſweill of the nobilitie, counſall, baronis, and miniſtrie having vote, as the reſt wha came to haue opponed to oure power and proceedingis, in ane voce gaue moſt hairtlie thankis to God for your maieſties contineuance of your loue to this your natiue cuntrey, and caire of the weill of your faithfull ſubieētis, and libertie of the kirk thair of, and moſt affectionouſly requieſted ws, in all thair names, to giue to your maieſtie moſt humbill, hairtlie, and vnfeyned thankis for the exceiding confort whilk they haue reſſaued be the gracious effectis vttered at this tyme, of your maieſties conſtant affection to this kirk and cuntrey, for the whilk, albeit they can not offer or performe any farder nor thair former dewtie band thame to do, yit, we ar affured, that they will neuer ceaſe to wiſh to thame ſelfis the happines to haue occaſion to manifeſte to the worlde how earniſtly they deſyre to mak it knawin be thair aētions, and all that the frie and readie beſtowing of thair trauellis, moyens, bloude, or lyues can effectuat, how far they think thame ſelfis bund beyond the ordinar dewtie of common ſubieētis to thair prince, to expreſſe thair infinit loue, and humbill and faithfull affection to your maieſtie for your innumerabill and daylie increſſing benefites and fauouris to thame. And becauſe we haue moſt evidentlie ſene this thair requieſt to proceid of the ſincere affection of thair faithfull hairtis, we haue tane this bauldenes trewlie to recorde the ſamin to your maieſtie at thair earniſt deſyre, hoping that your maieſtie wald graciouſlie accept it in gude pairt. Whairin humblie crauing your maieſties pardoun for oure preſumption, we beſeik God long to preferue your maieſties lyfe and health, and to increſ your hienes proſperitie, honour, and contentment. At Edenburgh, the 16 of December 1606.

Your Maieſties moſt humbill and faithfull
ſeruands,

MONTROISS.

S^r. JOHNE SKENE.

J. LINDESAY.

JO. PRESTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

LI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

As it micht be condemned for prefumptuous importunitie, giff I fould jornalie with idle letters, truble your sacred ees, or divert your princelie thochtes from weghtiar affaires, zit doe I fear the censure and blame of fleuthe and fluggifchenes, giff, in the estaite and rank it hes pleafed your royall maieftie, abowe all merite or valour in me, off your onlie favour and benignitie, to place me, I fould nocht at tymes geive your sacred hienes some accompt of the generall estaite off this your maiefteis auncient kingdome; for, as to the daylie particulars, I doubt not bot be my Lord Secretairs* diligence, and other officears, your maieftie hes speciall informatiounes, aduerteifments, and intelligence, with full satisfactioun. The courfe of justice, thanks to God, is werie weele fatled; and trewlie, I think, nather thair be, or can juftlie be, ony complaint of wrang done, or zit for laike of dew and tymous ministratioun of justice.

In the Hielands, the McGregours affaires lysis owir, partlie be the feafoun of the year, and partlie be my Lord of Ergyles abfence, whome we looke daylie for.

The countrie of Atholl, and adjacentis about it, throw the imbecillitie and weaknes of this Earle, and intricat estaite of that houfe, is now in warft rewill and ordour of anye pairt of theefe countries, whilk was wount to be maift obedient of thame all; but your maiefteis Secreit Counfall heir is presentlie on the adwyfement how to reforme and putt ordour to that pairt, whilk I hope fhall be done fchortlie, to your hienes contentment. All the rest of the Hielands ar in sic ordour and obedience, as we heir na complaint off thame, nor of naa infolence in thame.

As the first terme of the taxatioun, or fubfidie, accorded vnto your maieftie be the last feffioun of parliament, is approtcheing, to wit, Can-

* James Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino.

dlemefs, fwa is the charges for the fame going furthe and about, with all diligence may be required, in theefe officears. As it was maift willingie and plefandlie granted, for maift juft and plaufible cauffes, I hope will be maift willingie, thankfullie, and but onye grudge, payed be all good fubjectis.

Thair is not fwamekle as anye talke at this tyme, in this countrie, off anye mater of eftaite, except it be fome lytle of thir churche maters, and of thair differences, whilks ar alfo marveloufliie fated and quieted, and, be all aperance, will fchortlie wear to a full conformitie to your facred maiefteis godlie and princelie diffeynge.

After your facred maiefteis dewyfe, and be your exprefs direçtioun, this paffed yeare the counfall hes compofed and quieted findrie of the greateft deadlie feads was in this kingdome. At the enterie of this yeare, we ar to beginne with the auldeft fead hes bene of thame all, betuix the Earles of Eglintoun* and Glencairne,† thair houffes and hail confequentis, whilk hes ewer bene haddin aff all tymes bigane, wpon the Earle of Eglintounes minoritie and lefs age. The 15 day off this monethe is appoynted thairfoir, and all pairteis on ather fydes fummoned to that effect, and ordour tane for affurances betuix thame all, in the middle tyme, als convenientlie as might be. God fend the fucces, according to your maiefteis ferwandis and counfalloures defire and affection, and it will be weell aneuche. I affure your maieftie, I fhall omitt naa thing may ly in my powar, ather be autoritie I hawe of your hienes, or be moyane credit or freindschipt I hawe with anye of the pairteis, to worke that purpofe, to your majesties worthie and good intentioun.

What ewer anye may fpeik of me, ather in this or onye other your

* Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglintoun. His Lordship married his cousin-german, Margaret, daughter of Robert Montgomery of Giffen, but having no issue, he settled his earldom on Sir Alexander Seton, son of Margaret, Countess of Winton, his aunt, and his heirs-male, whom failing, Thomas and John Seton, fourth and fifth sons of the Countess, and the heirs-male of their bodies; whom all failing, to his owne nearest and lawful heirs-male whatsoever, bearing the name and arms of Montgomery. He died in the year 1612, and after his demise the honours were assumed by Sir Alexander Seton, and the reader is referred to the interesting documents in the Melros Papers relative to the ultimate recognizance of his right.

† James, seventh Earl of Glencairn.

facred majesties directiounes, in dew tryall, my pairt shall ewer be found according to my dewtie, fwa far as my judgement and .possibilitie may extend, to follow and fett forward all may proceed from the ordonances and commandements of your hienes great wifdome, whilk I think newer to difpute off, or bring in contrauerfie, as I confide affuredlie in your accuftomat princelie iuftice and clemencie, that naa reporte shall ather prewail, or have anye plaice, credeit, or accets aganis my lawfull and vpright meaning and doing to the meafour of my ftrenthe. This being all I can vrite to your majestie for the present, in all humilitie, taking my leive, and praying the Eternall lang to continew your royall perfoun and your princelie pofteritie to this warlds end, in all prosperitie, grandeur, and contentment abowe ws, reftis

Your facred Maiesties maift humbill and obedient
 subje&t and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 7 January 1607.

To the King his moft excellent Maiestie.

LII.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fyftenc of this instant being appoynted for the dealing betuix the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencairne, the counfell, in very frequent nomber, hes been in no lytill bufynes to gett the pairtyis broght till ony conformitie; and, albeit the panes hes been very great, yitt the fucefs of our labouris hes takin away the memorie of our travell, for both the principallis for thame felffis, and thair freyndis, and all the particularis that wer pairttakaris of that feid, ilkane for thame felffis, hes

subfcrvcd a fubmiffioun to fax on ather fyde, or ony three of thame, viz. Eglintoun to the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, Garleis, Caruell, Kilfyth, Sir Johnne Bruce of Kincavill, and Andro Ker, bruther to the Erll of Lotheane; and Glencairne to the Lord Cathcart, the Lairdis of Glenvrquhy, Blair, Pollok Maxwell, Reidhall and Barrochane, with pouer to thame to chufe ane ourifman, who fall convene and accept the faid mater vpoun thame, the xxiiij of Februaire nixt, and decerne thairin, within the fpace of thretty dayis efter thair acceptatioun; wherin yff thay fail, boith pairteis hes moift humblie remitted the compofing of the hoill feid to your facred maieftie, to be fettled be fuche as your maieftie fall employ as moift fitt for that purpois: vnder the compafe wherof not only is compryfed the Erll of Eglintoun, Abbot of Kilwynning, and diuers other flaughteris accefforie to that feid, bot mony bloodis of great antiquitie betuix thefe houffis, thair freindis and dependaris, the not quencheing wherof did ftill fofter that peftiferous humour, whilk, in end, did burft oute in that cruell flaughter of the Erll of Eglintoun,* revengeit with no les rigour on the other pairt fenfyne, wherin the pairty being fo great and mony, and the rancour fo inveterat, thair wes almoift no hoop of ony end of it, yff the Erll of Dunbarris particulair dealing with ather pairty, and wyifs vfiing of your maiefties authoritie with great cair and dexteritie, had not terrefeit thame, fo as in end, efter mony nycht and dayis werk, it is broght to a happy begynning, wherof we hoop the end falbe to the great peace of the cuntrey, and your maiefties contentment.

Thair wes lykwayes fome dangerous heit and vnkyndlie diflykeing betuixt the Erll of Wigtoun and Maifter of Montrois on the ane parte, and the Lord of Blantyre and Mynto† on the other; whilk, with the lyke cair and dexteritie vntroubling the counfell, the Erll of Dunbar hes reconciled. And now, laft, whilk is the end of thefe Glasgw broyllis, the

* Hugh, fourth Earl of Eglintoun, fucceeded his father in June 1585, but did not enjoy his title a full year, as, on the 18th of April 1586, when riding from his houfe of Polnoon to Stirling, he was attacked and murdered by the Lairds of Robertland and Corsehill, and others of the name of Cunningham, between whom and the Montgomeries a feud had fubfifted for a long courfe of years.

† Stewart of Minto. The Elliots of Minto are a modern family, and the eftate from which they take their title is in the county of Roxburgh.

particular betuix Mynto eldair and youngair, and thair freyndis, my cofine Sir George and his followaris, is fubmitted to the Erll of Dunbar, wherin we expect no wer fuceefs nor God hes gevin to the rest of his labouris.

In counfell wer lykwayes red your maiefteis letters, prefented by the Bifchop of Orknay, wherin, as the moift judicious of that number did acknowledge your maiefteis aune werk, fo iuft and cheritable to fik as by lenitie may be recalled, not omitting, in end, the remedyis of disperat cures, exacting penalteis dew for thair diffobedyence, and irrogating panes for contempt; fo, by the hole number the letter wes imbraced with that applaufe and defyir, that the copyis of it fould be difperfed to come in the handis of all honneft fubiectis, and the commandimentis contenit thairin fould be moift exactlie putt to dew executioun.

The lyk acceptance wes of the other, anent the moderatoris appointed by the lait afsembly of Lynlythgow, and that all fuche as willinglie wald not conforme thame selfis thairvnto, fould be chargeit be the counfell in maner contenit in your maiefteis directioun.

Twifday nixt, we haif the gentilmen of Athoill, and other cuntreyis bordouring thairto, for fetling thefe boundis, alfweill anent the brokin men of that cuntrey, as the Clangregour, who, howfoeur thay ar become your maiefteis cofines, ar litill better manert nor befoir.

This is the foume of the laft counfellis labour, wherin your maieftie may confidder what hinderance is to your maiefteis feruice, when, by the plague, the ordinar cours of fitting vpoun your maiefteis affearis is interrupted, and what furtherance it is to your maiefteis feruice fometymes to fpair the Erll of Dunbar to be with ws, whose difpofitioun in your maiefteis feruice, as being fufficientlie knowne to your maiefteis felff, neidis not my recommendatioun:—and what terrour to malefactouris, and fteidfaft hoop of peace and iuftice to all goode men that duellis ather within the boundis of the late marcheis or cuntreyis nixt adiacent vnto thame, this ouerfight and begynning of employment your maieftie hes layed vpoun him, over thefe officiaris, your maieftie will heir of othis; fo that, yff his body wer als able to fustene the panes of your maiefteis feruice, as his mynd is willing, and dexteritie rair to accomplifhe the fame, no employment could be to him impossible.

In the fatling of thir materis of Glasgw betuix the Lord of Blantyr, Mynto, and Sir George Elphinstoun, the principall poynt is the repofitioun of the gentilmen who wer brokin of thair placeis by my Lord Duke of Lennox, whilk your maieftie wilbe gratiouflic pleafed to see performed; for all other thingis amang thame ar compofed vpoun the foirfaid conditioun.

The Erl of Dunbar hes putt Maifter James Nicolfoun* and Maifter Andro Lamb† to ane poynt, fo I hoope your maieftie falbe als wele pleafed with thofe twa bifchopis as ony of the rest, and that thair labouris in that work fall not be improffitabile. Sua, moift humelie craving your maiefteis pardoun for my lang letter, I pray God to grant vnto your maieftie a lang and happy regnn, and eternal felicitie. Frome your maiefteis palice of Halyruidhous, the xxi day of Januair 1607.

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedynt
fubiect and feruitour,

J. BALMERINOCHE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

LIII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND
IMPERIAL MAIESTIE,

Being honorit be the reception of your moft mightie maiefties lettre, and hauing hard at lenth the Erlle of Dumbar's credit, I haue taine the boldnes be this present, to utter fum pairt of my mening befor the tym cum, nou that I haue to gif proof of fik simple feruis as I may do. I haue langit to be honorit with your moft excellent maiefties com-

* Parson of Meigle, preferred to the Bishoprick of Dunkeld in 1606. He died on the 17th August the succeeding year.

† Minister at Burntisland. He obtained the Bishoprick of Brechin in 1606, was translated to Galloway in 1619, where he sat till his death in 1634.

mandement, not for onie good that I can do in your most michtie maiefties feruis, bot onlie to haue occafoun to utter that more than addettit affection quhilk I carie, and euer fall giff proof of, not onlie nou at this parlement, quhar my uot, and all that I may mou, fall euer be to follou your most michtie maieftis will, bot uith maift uilling hairt, falbe euer readie to uar my blood and all that will follou me, quhanfoeuer the occafoun presentis, that it may gif proof of my loyall affectioun to your most michtie maiefties feruis; for I acknaledge my felf far more detbound to your most excellent maiefties admirable constancie, by onie of my deferts, than euer uill ly in ane thoufand of me till acquit. Bot forder, I can not gif nor that I haue, quhilk is to gif proof that your most michtie maiefties thocht, gif I can knau it, fall euer ferue me for performans of your most excellent maieftis plesour and uill, and I am forie that my lot hes cassin me fua far from my greteft contentment, quhilk is your most michtie maiefties prefens; bot in affectioun I fall not be diftant, till I haue that honour as to kis your most excellent maiefties hand, quhilk I lang for. The Erlle of Dumbar, I beleieue, will ureit mair ampie of my mening to your most michtie maiefties feruis. Sua, craiuing humble pardon for this my tedioufnes, eftir the kissing maift humble of your most michtie maiefties hand, I will pray God to gif me grace to do your most michtie maieftie fum acceptable feruis or I die, for the monie fauours I haue refaiuit, and to preferue your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall maieftie, in lang and happie lyf, and maift prosperous rengen.

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall
Maiefties humble fubiect, and most affectionat
feruiteur to my last braith,

HUNTLYE.

To his most excellent, most michtie, and
imperiall Maieftie, King of Greit
Britaine, France, and Yrland.

LIV.—THE EARL OF ARGYLE TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 28, 1607.

SIRE,—PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

According to your hienes command, the Marques of Huntly and I hes mett, and hes appointed the xxiv day of Junj nyxt, for concluding the mariage your majestie ordeined betuix his Lordschips fone and my dochter, vliche hes maide me fo bold as to entrait your hienes most humble to gif his Lordschip soone leif to cum to this cuntrie, for the accomplishing the fame; and thaireftir quhateuir pleifis your maiestie to direct concerning that mater falbe obeyed be me, sua far as I am hable to accomplissh. Sua, praying God to grant your maiestie ane long and prosperous reinge, I rest

Your Majesties most obedient subjeēt,

ARGYLL.*

Edgell, the 28 of Februer [1607.]

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

* This letter has no date. But according to Wood's Douglas, Lady Anne Campbell was "married, in 1607, to George, second Marquis of Huntly, and had issue, and died at Aberdeen, 14th June 1638."

LV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

MOIST GRATIOUS SOUERAYNE,

Afor the reffett of your maiefteis letter, concerning the Erll of Athoill, he had meant him felff to your maiefteis counfell, fhowing how mony great and weghtie adois he had in handis, tuicheing the eftate of his houfe, wherin he could tak no folide ordour during the tyme of his warde. The counfaill knowing a parte thair of, and mony of the extremeis whervnto he is redaēt, thay tranfportit his warde fra the caftell to the burgh of Edinburgh, vpoun goode caution of xxx^m merkis for his remaning and keiping warde thairin whill he be fred.* This band fall ly aboue his head whill the difordourit eftate of Athoill be fetled. Thair hes bene a preuey dealing be fome of your maiefteis counfell, anent the apprehenfion of Johnne Dow M'Gillichallum, and Allafter, his bruther; and your maiefteis chancellor delt particularlie heirin with James Gordoun of Lefnoir. This gentilman, in regard of your maiefteis obedyence and feruice, by the earnest entreatie and foliftatioun of your maiefteis chancellor, tuke the feruice in hand, and haueing maid mony purpoiffis for effeētuating thair of, whilkis misgaif him: in end, he lichted vpoun the lymmaris, vpoun the† day of Februar laft, and efter a lang and hett combatt, and slaughter of fome fyve or foure of the principallis of thame, the faid Allafter wes apprehendit, and Johnne, being very evill hurte, by mirknes of the night efcaped. This Allafter wes the perfonall executour of all the murthouris contryed be himfelff and his bruther, and hes bene one of the moift notable and maifterfull lymmaris that hes bene in the Heylandis thir mony yearis. Thair wes great entreaty, and mony fair promiffis maid be his freyndis for his releiff, bot the gentilman, his taikair, preferring your maiefteis feruice, and his awne honour, to thair offeris,

* See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 30.

† This blank occurs in the MS.

and to ony futur event, hafaird, or inconvenient, whilk doubtles he will vndirly, he hes presentit him heir, within the Tolbuith of Edinburgh, wher he is maid fast in the irnis, and falbe tane ordour with accordingle: we hoip that his bruther fall not lang efchaip, and no goode meanis falbe omittit whilkis may entrap him.* And feing this gentilman hes so far advanceit him selff in your maiesteis seruice, and hes red the cuntrey of fuche a maisterfull theif and lymmar, we wilbe bauld to recommend him vnto your maiesteis faourable confideratioun and remembrance, wherby he and otheris may be encourageit to vndirtak the lyke seruice heirefter. The tyme of our parliament being now approcheing, at the 18 of this instant, we humelie requeist your maiestie to latt ws knaw your heynes pleafour anent the continuatioun of the fame. And sua, we pray God to grant vnto your maiestie a lang and happy reiggn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.

Your Maiesteis moift humble and
obedyent feruitouris,

MONTROISS.
AL. CANCELL^s.
LOTHIANE.
JO. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.
J. COKBURNE.
R. COKBURNE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

* This same month [February], Alexander Dow Mackgilleycallum, a notorious theiffe and murderer, was taken by the Laird of Lesse-more, Gordon; his brother Jhone was hurt, and five of his men killed. He was presented to the Lords of Counsaill, and thereafter arraigned and execute." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21. Edinburgh, 1824, 8vo.

LVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

We, your moist humble and loyallie affected seruandis, haueing hard of some reprochefulle speicheis vttered in the lower houfe, by some euill disposed spirittis, to the dishonour of this your maieftis antient kingdome, and that only your maieftie had stand to oure defence, we haif in all humilitie, by these presentis, prefumed to tak notice of the same, and to yeald your maieftie moist humble and hairtie thankis, not haueing committed ony thing againis that state deseruing fuche iniureyis, and far les worthy of so great fauour, as it hes pleased your gracious maieftie to vouchaif by vindicating ws frome their opprobrious calumneis. It is no litill greif to ws till heir what just causes of discontentment ar ministrat to your maieftie at all those meitingis, for enforcing that vnioun so greatlie heated by thame, and so litell affected by ws, except in that religious obedience we aught to your maieftie, not to deslyke ony thing that lykis your heynes. And yff it may pleas your sacred maieftie, without offence, to heir oure apologyis, in defence of the honnour of oure cuntry, we doubt not to mak it knowne, be the trew recordis of bygane tymes, fence this lland hes bene first inhabitit, that in no poynt of finceir christianitie to God, loyall obedience till oure princes, inuolat freindschip with oure confederatis, and vnconquered libertie of our estate, we haif nevir bene inferiour to thame. And in the very subiect of the vnioun, whairat thay pretend so mony friuolous exceptionis, that thair advantage falbe euerie way greitar nor ouris, we wald be fory to be authoures of diftracting that, whiche your princelie wisdome and faderlie cair hes happelic contracted, haueing so deeply takin in hairt, so to vnite these two kingdomes joyned by nature, but by affectioun atogidder distant, as no markis of diversitie betuix thame, till the efter coming ageis fould ap-

peir ; yitt we ar persuadit, that oure iust defence aganis these fals impu-
tationis layed vpoun all the natioun, not spairing your sacred maiestie, nor
your moift royall progeny, nor your moift worthy ancestoris, of a hundreth
and sex kingis lineallie discending of one stok, can not, bot in your ma-
iesteis accustomed iustice, refave at your handis a fauourable censure;
and yff in ony meitting, ather privat or publict, wherof we had mony,
about that subiect, siche audience wes euir gevin till ony speeche, ather
derogating to the honnour of that state, or dissuading the vnioun (how-
euir thair be amangis ws not a few of the best fort, who ar als aliene
frome it as ony of the lower houfe, and hes moir iust caus to be discon-
tented, with so easie obliterating of bigane wrongis), latt it be till ws a
disloyall pairt aganis your maiestie, and vnworthie of treu freindship
aganis youre nyghtbouris; bot contrarie wayes, sick hes bene the dili-
gent cair of your ministeris heir, vpon whome your maiestie is pleased to
repose the waight of your affairis, that knowing your maiesteis eirnift
dispositioun to perfyte that vnioun, in all thair conferencis thay haif
labourit to extoll all the apparent benefeitis we myght ressave thairby,
and to conceale and suppres the trew illis. In doing wherof, althocht
we haif reportit small thankis of these, who so liberallie hes talked of
ws, or those who, in so patient hearing, did cleirly manifest thair allow-
ance of all wes spokin, yitt, your maiesteis princelie resenting our wrong,
and vrgeing the tryall and pvnisheing thair of, is moir nor sufficient re-
compence, yff oure lyveis, and all oure fortuneis sould be endangerit in
ony thing, myght yeald your maiestie satisfactioun : and yff (vnder your
maiesteis correctioun, to the whiche we alwayes submitt our selffis) your
maiestie wald be pleased to desist frome ony forder moving of this vnioun,
and mak knowne to that estate, that the whole inhabitantis of the ile ar
your maiesteis subiectis, and that in all your seruceis and imploymentis,
yee will indifferentlie prefer those, whome your maiestie, in your wisdome,
fall find moift capable; that your maiestie will vouchaif to grace ws with
your residence amangs ws some tymes, and seclude ws frome no fauour
your maiestie, in your royall prerogative, may gif ws, and wherof we fall
rander our selffis, by oure cairfull and loyall deserving to prove worthy,
we doubt not bot thay fall require at your maiesteis handis, that whiche

by this enforceit dealing thay wald appeir to refuse. Bot this and all other thingis, tending to the libertie and honnour of this your maieftis antient kingdome, we remitt to your maieftis moift rare and princelie wifdome, humelie requesiting your maieftie to tak in goode parte this our moift humble thankis, haueing nothing els to offer your maieftie for all your vndefervit fauouris, bot our moift loyall hairtis, whilkis fall nevir deborde frome the smallest of your maieftis thoghtis. Thus humelie craving pardoun of oure presumptioun, we pray God to grant your maieftie, after a lang and happy reiggn, eternall felicitie. Frome your maieftis burgh of Edenburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.*

Your Maieftis moift humble and obedyent
feruitouris,

MONTRISS.

LOTHIANE.

DUNFERMELYNE, CANCELL^s.

J. BALMERINCH.

A. L[ORD] WCHILTRIE.

ROXBURGHE.

ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

R. COKBURNE.

SIR R. MELUILL.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

LVII.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 4, 1607.

PLEISE 3OWR MOIST SACREID MAIESTIE,

According to 3owr maieftis command, I submittitt the particular bluidis and contrawerfeis standing betwix the name of Mongowm-erej, me, and my name,† to feike freindis, as was fchofin befoir 3owr

* See Laing's History of Scotland, vol. iii. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, as to the proposed union between England and Scotland.

† Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 16.

maiefteis confail, and the day appoyntitt be the confail to conwene befor thame to exceptt the famen, quhilke day we haif all keipitt, and the jugis exceptitt, and ower clames on ather fyid was gifin in. Then refitt the commoneris to agre on the owerifman, quhilke thay wald nocht do, and fwa it is cummen in 3owr maiefteis handis, quhairof I am maift glayd, ewer expecting 3owr maiefteis moift gratiowfe fawour to me and myne, quha hes, and fall ewer carie maift ferwyabill hartis as we falbe commanditt. Gif thair fall cumme any reportis of me to 3owr majestie, I am fertane, according to 3owr maiefteis wuntitt and moift gratioufe custowme, I wilbe callitt to my awin accont;—I dowt nocht bott 3owr moift sacreid maieftie will fwa fettill thatt turne, as heirefter thay be na cawiffe of gruge on ather fyid, and that ewerilke ane of ws may joiffe ower awin kyndlye rowmes and pofeffiounis in all tymes cummeing. This erectiowne of the Abbeſej of Kilwyneing, quhilke my Lord of Eglingtonne menis to fuite att 3owr maieftie, will nocht fail to intertenej the feid of trubill amangis ws, for we wilbe all entereft thairby; and I proteft befor 3owr maieftie, I haid rather loiffe my lyf, or ony occatiowne war gifin be me to breke that whitej quhilke 3owr maieftej will command. I man crawe 3owr maiefteis humbill pardowne for this my fafcheowfe lettir, and ewill wrytt. My moift humbill feruice presentitt to 3owr moift sacreid maieftie, I pray the Lord to gif 3owr maieftie gud hailthe, lang lyf, with ane proffeperowfe ryng, in the feir of the Lord; fwa I reft

3owr Maiefteis maift humbill and obedyent fubiectt,
 ewer redej to be commanditt with all humbill
 feruice,

GLENCAIRNE.*

Edinburgh, the fourtt of Merche 1607.

To his maift Sacreid Majestiej.

* James, first Earl of Glencairn, a privy councillor, and one of the commissioners for a treaty of union between England and Scotland.

LVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.
APRIL 7, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTYE,

This present is to giue your maiestye most hartlye thankis for all your maiestyes fauours towards me, speaciallye for the constant continuance of your maiestyes loue with me, as it vas vount, assuring your maiestye, you haue the man who neuer vas nor shall, God willing, be found alterable in his duetifull affection to serue your maiestye, as becomes him. If it fall out that I suspend my judgment in somethings proponed to me aff hand, till I got fuller resolution both to speake and to stand honestlye to that whiche I speake, assuredlye it arryfes of no vnfound and altered affection toward your maiestyes seruice, bot onlye off laik of foreinforming, whiche geues light and curage to men to doe; and vherewith euer since I serued your maiestye I haue bene made pertaker als soone as others: and for the clearing of this point, I referre myself to my Lord of Dunbars testification, who can and will giue iust information to your maiestye of it. I heare that your maiestye is resolued to haue the ministree of Edinburghe plainted, the estate whereof is more miserable and defolat nor ony toune or kirk in Scotland, and whiche is vorse, the pulpittis ar sometymes possessed with yong people, and perfones vnmeete for that place, whiche bringis the gosple and ministree into a contempt, and will ouerturne all in end if it be not remeadit. The planting of it will doe great good to all the cuntry, and help to amend many thinges amisse, and procure great forderance of your maiestyes seruice and quyat of this kirk, provyding the perfones be good teachers, peaceably disposed, and weyll affected. I heare also that your maiestye is some quhat moued to haue me placed there; bot, Ser, beleefe me, in truth I am not for it, in respect of many thinges in thame, and more in me, whiche can not concurre weyll to make vp a good mariage

betuix vs. I need not to vse many vordes with your maieftye, who knoues vs both alfueyll as our felhis doe. I mynd, God willing, to teache euery Sabbath, where euer I be, so long as I may, and to be readye in most duetifull maner to concurre in your maieftyes seruice, as I falbe employed; bot to take on the charge of a particular flock, and such ane flock, my heart cannot yeeld, and I hope your maieftye fall not burdin me with it. The bearer hereoff, Mr Peter Heuat,* is ane honest man, and your maieftye may reioice in the planting of him, being ane of your maieftyes owne plantation there, and anfuring to your maieftyes expectation of him in all pointis, and can truely and sufficiently informe your maieftye of all particulars here; bot he is not, as he deferues, and as your maieftye appointed for his encouragement, anfured of his small pension assigned to him, whiche is pitie, and wald be helped to put difference betuix those that ar your maiefties owne men and others. If Mr Jhone Hall,† ane honest man, and ane of your maieftyes owne planting also, and he war remoued, I wat not vhat fuld become of Edinburgh, your maieftyes cheefe toun her. Bot leafig those particulars, appardone me, Ser, to speak one word of the common cause. Ser, at Lightquo, my Lord of Dunbar did good seruice to your maieftye, and by God bliffing his vyfe and canny forme of doing, he prevailed so as I neuer sawe ane more peaceable and ordourlye assemblie in my tyme, bothe in the progresse and end, as it vas, and therefor vas admired and praifed of all in publike

* Author of a treatise entitled "Three excellent Points of Christian Doctrine. Edinburgh, 1621." He demitted the ministry about the year 1615.

† Mr John Hall continued in the ministry until 1619, when he craved to be "dismissed with the King's favour, in respect of his age and infirmities of bodie, which he granted; yet he was not infirm, but he might have continued teaching, for there was no sensible decay found in his gifts. The truth is, he would not offend the King by not conforming, for fear of losing his pension; and on the other side, would have the godly belieav that he was averse from the latest novation. But they interpreted this forsaking of his station, after he had helped to set the house on fire, to proceed only from love of ease, leasiness, and fear to lose some part of his reputation, when his gifts should begin to fail. So he left his ministry of Edinburgh without the people's consent, resting only upon the King's demission." Calderwood, 1678, folio, p. 723. These censures, coming from an opponent, are not entitled to much weight. The plea of age is overlooked, and infirmity partially admitted,—causes quite sufficient to account for Mr Hall's retirement.

fermones and priuat speaches. The hope of taking order with Papiftis, and quyating of diftractions amongft our felis be conftant moderators, led all menn ioyfullye your maieftyes vay, and if that courfe fetled there be profequute, your maieftye may affure your felf of pace here during our dayes, that is, if Papiftis can be kept vnder be your maieftyes authoritie foundlye vfed here, and the kirk cenfures be fuffered to haue the awne place againft thame, our pace will grow, ill tongues wilbe filenced, and all thinges will go calmely, to your maieftyes contentment. Your maieftyes glory hath bene, and is the profefling and manteaning of the gofple of Jefus Chrift, and all the world fees your maieftyes multiplied præfermentis and præferuationes to arryfe of the præfence of Jefus, the Lord of this gofple, with you, and to tend to the præferuation and aduancement of it by your maieftyes præferuation and aduancement, tuo thinges insepably vnited, fence your maieftye hade being. Lat thame, therefor, be compted your enimyces that will not conforme thame felis to it, and God fall continuee his bliffing with your maieftye, and croune you with that incorruptible croune of glory in the end. So, moft humblye taking my leefe, I commend your maiefties perfone, familie, kingdome, and affairis, to the bliffing of God. From Edinburgh, this 7 of Apryle 1607.

Your Maiefties awin moft humble and
affectionat feruitour,

MR P. GALLOUAY.*

To his Maieftie.

* Patrick Galloway was originally minister of Perth, but was translated from thence to Edinburgh, where he exercised his ministerial functions till his death in 1624. He married Mary, daughter of the Rev. James Lawson, also minister at Edinburgh. His son, Sir James Galloway, was created Lord Dunkeld, 15th May 1645. In a letter from Bishop Sage to Mr John Guilan (Catalogues of Scottish Writers. Edin. 1833, 8vo) he says, "While at Aberdeen, 4 years agoe, I learned that Dr Urquhart there has some volumes of a MS. history of what passed in his time, by Mr Patrick Galloway, who was famous in King James the VI. minority and afterwards." P. 130.

LIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 9, 1607.

MOIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

Your maieſteis letter of the thrid of this infant, anent the comptrollaris intentioun to exactt cuſtome of the outwarde and inwarde commoditeis exchangeit betuix this, your maieſteis kingdome, wes preſentit to your heyneſ counſaill, and, conforme thairto, ane actt paſt, diſchargeing the comptrollair and cuſtomaris of all forder melling in that mater. Your maieſteis vther letter, anent the miſbehaviour of the Maifter of Gray towardis his fader, wes lykewayes preſented and red in counſaill, and ane comiſſioun exped accordinglie to the Lord Haliruidhouſ; bot, in the meantyme, the Lord Gray, heiring quhat wes concludit be your maieſteis counſaill in that mater, he directit his ſone Robert with a letter to the counſaill, ſubſcryved be himſelff, a number of his freyndis, and two miniſteris, ſhowing, that his petition, exhibited vnto your maieſtie, procedit vpoun euill informatioun, and perwaſioun of ſome perſonis, who lyked not of concord and peace betuix him and his ſone, and, that all thair differences wald be ſetled and drefſit with their awin freyndis, and, that your maieſtie nor your counſell ſould not be troubled thairwith, as be his letter, whiche your maieſtie ſhall heirwith reſſaue, may appeir; wher-poun the counſaill thocht meit to forbeir all forder melling betuix thame.

Thair hes bene ſindrie dyettis betuix Mr James Home and the freyndis of the Laird of Melleſtan, anent the fatling of that ſeid. Mr James ſeamis to be very penitent, and wald glaidlie imbrace freyndſhip, and mak ſatiſſaſtioun and affyithement, bot the Haitleyis pretendis mony excuiffis vpoun the abſence and minoritie of thair cheif, and, that diuers of thame being removeable tennentis to him, can not enter into that treaty by his adviſe. Efter diuers continuationis granted vnto thame, in end, this preſent day, a number of thame compeirit and produceit a letter, writtin to thame frome thair cheiff, propoſing, that he will only ſubmitt that mater

to your sacred maiestie, and nane vtheris; and thay, as alſua his curatouris, who compeirit with thame, following his opinioun, maid the lyke anſuer, and, for thair pairtis, hes ſubmittit to your maieſtie, wherupoun ane act of counſell is paſt, and nothing reſtis now bot Melleſtanis awne pairte to be perſyted, whilk wald be done thair be your maieſteis direction, and returnit bak heir to ſuche of your maieſteis counſell, whome your maieſtie will mak choiſe of in that mater, wherin thay fall haif the concurrence of the whole counſell.* The ſubmiſſioun betuix Eglintoun and Glencarne is caſſin in your maieſteis handis, as, by the proces of the counſallis dealing with thame, whiche the Erl of Dunbar will ſhaw vnto your maieſtie, may appeir.

The Eſteatis of Flanderis being debtfull in diuers great fowmes to vmquihile Capitayne Achiefoun, for his ſervice in the wearis amang thame, and his bairnis finding a warr ſchip, pertening to the Eſteatis, lyand in the harbory of Leyth, awaiting vpoun the tranſporte of the Lord of Buchcleugh, and ſome companyis liſted by him, thay cauſit arreift the ſaid ſhip. This mater ſeamit grevous to the whole eſtate of maircheandis, who hes fa frequent a handling in theſe pairtis; and your maieſteis counſell haueing at lenth aduysit heirupoun, thay reſoluit, that, in reſpeect this wes a mater of eſtate, wherin your maieſtie hes intereſſe, the arreiftment ſould be lowſit; and thay humble crave your maieſteis reſoluitioun, incaife the lyke mater fall oute heirefter. And ſua, humelie craving pardoun of your ſacred maieſtie for my lang letter, I pray God to bliſſe your maieſtie with a lang and happy reigenn, and eternal felicitie. Frome your maieſteis burgh of Edinburgh, the nynt of Aprile 1607.

Your Maieſteis moift humble and obedyent
ſubiect and ſeruitour,

AL. CANCELL^s.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieſtie.

* "In May this yeere (1607), the deadly feid and inimitey betuix Haitley of Mellerſtanis and Home of Eccles, by his maieſties eſpecial command, was reconcilled by a comitee from the counſaill table." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21.

LX.—LORD GRAY TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

APRIL 8, 1607.

MY LORDS,

Heiring that his maieftie hes fend ane letter to your lordships of his honorable pryuy confell quhilk I vret to his maieftie, with command to tak tryell of materis betuine me and my eldeft fone, I thocht gude, fo fchone as I hard of it, to derect my fone, Robert, in prefence of fic our frinds as war heir for the tyme, quhais fubfcriptiounis ar with myne, to lett your lordships knaw that I vrett that letter to his maieftie at that tyme being euill informit, be perfuafion of fum euill difpofit perfounis quha lykit nocht our agreement, and on thair informatioun, being tranfportit with coloir, the ordinar difefe of eage, thinking that my eldeft fone wald haiff vfit himfelf vtherwayis to me and my feruands nor he hes done: bot fen that letter was vrettin, we haiff fatlit all our awin townnis amangis ourfelfis, and both I and hee ar content that giff ony queftioun fall arifs amangis ws heireftir, that our awin neareft friends fall judge it, without troubling his maieftie or your lordships of his honourable pryuy confell, as att lenth the berar will inform your lordships, fo it fall nocht be neidfull ony be directit in commiffioun from your lordships heir for that effect to me.

Your moft lowing frend to command,

P. L[ORD] GRAY.*

At Fowlis, the 8 of Apryle 1607.

JAMES OGILUY of Balfour.

WM. GRAY off Bandirren.

DAVID MAXUELL of Cullerny.

JAMES MONORGOUND of that Ilk.

P. GRAY of Balgarno.

R. GRAY.

Mr ROBERT RYND, minifter at
Langforgund, witnefs.

Mr H. MORTOUN, minifter at
Foulis, witnes.

* Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, succeeded his father in 1582, and died in 1609. His eldest son was the celebrated Master of Gray.

LXI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

August 21, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Schortlie befor the entrie of our parliament, I reffaued fra my Lord of Scoone, your sacred majesteis gracious letter, in a pairt testifeing baith your hienes good remembrance off my foirbears good service, and your fauorable and benigne acceptatioun of my awin goodwill and endewore to employe sic qualitie and giftes as God hes bestowed on me, at your hienes devotioun and command, with greater accompt thair off, nor ewer I can be hable to deferwe; and in a pairt remembering me off my dewtie in all respects and degreis.

As the first binds me in all dewtie to thankfull and cairfull service to fa thankfull, gracious, and fa kyndlie a soverane, swa does the secund remember me, the weyght and importance of the burding I vnderly in fa honorable a charge, to ane fa wyfe, grave, and weel feand prence, wha examinis and weyis all his subjefts, and specialie his officiars actiounes, baith in favour, wifdome, equitie, and justice.

I protest befor God, that, nixt to that dewtie I aught to God for my faule, and hail being, your sacred majesteis honour, will and weell, is, and shall ewer be, my first intentioun, and principall butt off all my actiounes, whairto my hail industrie and studie shall be directed in all finceritie and ernesnes.

I will not be curious to purge me of all imputatiounes, whilk naa man, in sic charges and sic distance of plaices fra thair maisters fight, can efchew. I repose haillie on your hienes cleir perspicacitie, heiche judgement, and constant zeal to justice, whilk I am certane will newer condemne me, in the smallest enlein of your mynd, onhard and tryed, and in good tryall, I am ewer certane to preiwe my actiounes conforme to

your maist gracious hienes directiounes, to your will, plesour, and devotion; for that hes ewer bene, and fwa, Godwilling, fall continew, my cynofura and leidar flarre, to follow and obey, in all humilitie, your prencelie wifdome in all deliberatiounes and conclusiounes.

I doubt not, bot the progres and succes of all affairis in the parliament was signifeyed vnto your sacred maiestie, at all tymes and occasiounes, be my Lord of Balmerinoche, secretair.

In the middest of the parliament, we celebrat verie solemlie the 5 day off August, the day of your hienes blifed deliverie from Gowreis treasonable conspiracie, in the quhilk Mr Patrik Galloway* maid the fermone, in the heiche kirk, werie weell to the purpose, and discharged his dewtie to your majestie werie honestlie, geving to the haill auditorie cleir evidendis off the cair God had off your hienes preferwatioun, for the speciall weell of his haill natioun; off your majestis innocencie and good meaning; off the treatcherous intentiouns and behaviour of the conspiraturis, whilk God turned all miraculouflik to thair confusioun, and to your majestis (as his chofen ferwants) weill, honour, and advancement; for his text was the 121 Pfalme, whilk he applyed werie purpoiflie to this intent. This maist humblie taking my lewe, with ernest prayer to the Almichtie for your hienes lang and happie regne, restis

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbil and
obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Dunfermelyne, 21 August 1607.

* See a letter from him to King James, p. 108. He was father of Sir James Galloway, the first Lord Dunkeld, whose elevation to the peerage gave considerable offence from the obscurity of his family; and it was remarked, "That though the King could make him a lord, he could not make him a gentleman." His Lordship, if we may credit Wodrow, had the gift of prophecy, for that reverend gentleman has preserved in his collections some very unintelligible lines, which he designates as the predictions of Lord Dunkeld; adding, however, that "others ascribed them to Napier of Merchistoun." These wretched verses were some time ago privately printed in a volume termed "Nugæ Derelictæ."

LXII.—LORD HOLYROODHOUSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 25, 1607.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAIN,

As al 3our maiesties subiects in general has mor nor caus to prais and magnifie the bleffit nam of thair God, who, in al the tym of 3our maiesties most happie gouvernement, has had so many proofs of the innumerabl bliffings and comforts vchich has accompaniit 3our maiesties sacred reign ; so I, who, beyds the deutie and aleagans of an comon subiect, stands so far debtour to 3our maiesties fauours, can not, without the imputation of the highest point of ingratitude, bot vith al reuerens, and in most submissiu affection towards 3our sacred maiestie, akknauledg the fontain and origin of my vhol fortions to hau sprung from the ocean of 3our maiesties liberalitie : and as from my infancie 3ou hau ben my vphalder, so nou, in the lait preferment wherwith I am honourit, although vnworthie of such fauour, 3our maiestie has giuin as it var an neu creation, for the vchilk, fens natur has denyit means to prou vorthy of so many benefits, 3et to suppli al thos defects of judgment, knowledg, and experiens, and fens I can not do vhat I vold, I shal euer be affectionat to do vhat I may, and to facrific my lyf, and al my fortions, in 3our maiesties feruic, and shal neuer ceas to pray for the continuans of an prosperus regn to 3our maiestie, and for euer to 3our royal progenie, and so shal rest

3our Maiesties humbl seruand,

HALYRUDHOUS.*

The 25 of August 1607.

To the Kings most excellen Maiestie.

* John Bothwell, first Lord Holyroodhouse, was the eldest son of Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Upon the 2d July 1593, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Council and Session, on the resignation of his father. He was subsequently made a peer of Parliament ; and this letter is one of thanks to James for the honour conferred on him. He died in November 1609.

LXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO KING JAMES VI.

August 26, 1607.

IT MAY PLEIS 3OUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Haueing reffavit 3our hienes lettre about the 24 of Julij, commanding me to attend the fynode of Clyddidail, the fourt of Auguft, quhilk, being continewit to the 18 be reafſone of the parliament, I did direct my particular lettres to everie prefbyterie, willing thame folemplic to keip the fyft of Auguft with thair flokis, gifing thankis to God (as moift iuftlie we haid all reafſone, in memorie of ſua greit ane bliſſing, as God, in his mercie, did grant wnto ws all 3our maiefties ſubiectis), by 3our hienes happie prefervatioun frome that abhominable and moift treasonabill conſpiracie at Perth; quhilk thay moift willinglie obeyit. Alfo I cauſtit this hail countrey (ſpeciallie theſe quhome off I haid commandement off all eſtattis) mak fyreis of joy, with all wther lauchfull takynnys off glaidnes. The 18 day, accoirding to 3our maiefties directioun, I did keip the fynode convenit at Glaſgw, and requyreit thame, accoirding to the act at Linlythgw* (quhilk I produceit and cauſtit reid wnto thame), that thay wald admit the archebiſchope of Glaſgw thair moderator, quhairinto, in the beginning, thay maid greit oppoſitioun, allegeing the act nocht to haue bene concludit in forme, as was thair gifin out, and that the moderatouris of prefbytereis wer aggreit vpoun, to continew for a tyme in the perfounes of thame that wer thair nominat, bot that of the moderatioun of fynoddis nothing haid bene fpokin. Quhairunto I repleit, that to be ane accuſatioun of honeſt men, namelie, the moderator and clerk of the aſſemblic, under quhais handis the fame wes extractit, quhilk being verefeit, wald mak thame infamous, and put thair lyffis in 3our maiefteis handis. Thairfoir, giff onie wald directlie allege it to be fals, and tak

* See Spottiswoode's History of the Church of Scotland. London, 1677. Folio, pp. 500, 501, 502.

upone him the improbatiou of the fame, I wald, according to my place and power grantit to me be your maiestie, mak thame fast, untill thay maid guide thair perfute and allegeance; quhairupoun thay fell frome the said challenge, and defyreit a continewatioune of materis to sum schort dyet, that thaj myght be advyffit quhat to do: bot I denyit onie sic pouer to be gevin me be your maiestie; and that I wald nocht go ane poynt beyond my directiounes. So as, in end, fynding thame selfis fraittit with a present aunfuer, and haveing signifeit to thame quhat command I haid for denouncing thame rebellis, and dissolving the fynode incais of difobediencie, thay put foure of thair number vpoune the lyttis, and the archebyschope being removit by him self, the questioun was movit quhider thaj wald accept him according to your maiesteis desyre, or proceed to the electioun of ane of thair awin lyttis, as thaj haid bene accustomeit? The hail fynode (tua onelie exceptit) voittit to his acceptatioun. The tua wer Maister William Simfoun, minister at Dumbarton, and Maister Edward Bryce, minister at Drymmen. Maister William Simfoun departit frome the assemblie quhen he saw the admissioun to proceed, with thir wordis, "That he wald nocht remaine in assemblie that wes moderatit be ane bischop," and went away without returning. This endit, and the archebyschope haucing acceptit the moderatioun of the fynode, chois was maid of tua of thair number to keipe the colloque at Halyruidhous, the first of September, namelie, Maister Johnne Hay, and Maister William Birney.* Inquire was also maid of the diligence of the presbyteries in

* Mr William Birnie was born at Edinburgh, 1563. He was of the ancient family of Birnie of that ilk, and was originally brought up as a merchant; but, having suffered considerable losses at sea, he resolved to turn his thoughts to the ministry, "and for that end went to Leiden, where he continued thrie years, applyeing himself to the studie of divinity, and, from thence returning to his native country, was admitted minister at Lanark by a letter of presentation from King James VI., dated at Edinburgh, the 28th December 1597." *Memoirs of Family of Birnie, MS.* in possession of Editor. He died 1619, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. His biographer gives the following curious notice of him:—"Att his comeing here, there were seuerall feids among his parishioners, as in other places at that tyme, and frequentlie the quarrels began soon after sermons on the Sunday; but as he was a great peace-maker, so he was a stout man, and upon his appearance with sword in hand, he had the happiness, by his authority, to dissipate the contending parties without manslaughter, and, for the most part, without blood." He was the author of a singular work, called "The Blame of Kirk Burial." Edin. 1606, 4to, of which a beautiful reprint, with preface by W.B.D.D. Turnbull, Esq., Advocate, appeared in 1833, 4to. He also wrote "A Tractat of

the persewing of Papists, according to your hienes ordinance; and quhat remainnit in their censureis amangis thame selfis, and wtheris thair affairis, wes, with greit calmenes, and ane wniversall lykeing of all that number, so handillit, that the moift scrupulous amangest thame wer verie weill fastifeit, and na assemblie this lang tyme keippit in better ordour, to all thair contentmentis, and that specialie be the archebyfchop, then moderator, his prudent and grave governement; swa that, heirefter, I hoipe, quhair thair falbe fuche establisched to rewll and moderat under your maiestie, your hienes in all tymes heirefter fall nocht haue necessitie of commissionaris, bot raipe the fruite of your maiesteis langsum travellis. I pray God furnishe to your maiestie monylyke to him, haveing equall knowlege, with no les affectioun. As for my self, it hes sua pleiffit God (nocht-withstanding of my waiknes) to blis your maiesteis litle services at all tymes committed by your hienes to my charge, that it hes emboldnit me to offer myself of new with no les affectioun nor onie your maiesteis subiect, to quhatfumever service I falbe habil to discharge, beleifing thair falbe found verie few or nane to withstand your maiesteis commandementis, that ar euer feine to be godlie and moift reasonabill. It may pleis your maiestie to pardone me, iff I do seme over prolix to your hienes in this lettre, the desyre I haue to giff compt of all, conforme to the trewth, is my best excuis. I haue also heirwith sent to your hienes the extract of the act. Thus, beging at God to your maiestie lang dayeis, with increas of all hapines, and full accomplischement to your hienes greatest contentment of all your graces moft princelie designes, I remaine for ever

Your Maiesteis moift humbill, obedient, and
affectiounat subiect and servitoure,

ABERCORNE.*

Blakiftoun, the 26 of August 1607.

To his moift Sacred Maiestie.

Chronologie," which he dedicated and presented to King James VI. This work, which does not seem to have been printed, was preserved in MS. in the Broomhill Library.

* James, first Earl of Abercorn. He died March 16, 1617.

LXIV.—THE FARMERS GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

Our dewtye as subiectis, our defyr to be 3our fervantis, and our intentioun to augement the revenew of the twun, the fmalnes quhair- of is a reprooiche to the kingdome, mouit ws not out off necessitie, since none bott thofe who ar of abilitye and credeit could vndertak sik a worke, wpone a motioun maid wnto ws by the ryght reuerend father in God, our very guid Lord, the Airchebifchope of Glasgou, to mak this offer off greater payement, to the valew off xxxviiioo merkis a 3eir, then was formerlie payet wnto 3our maieftie; none could in schaw diflyk our guid meanning, muche applauding was maid to it, and maney offers of guid affiftance; wherupone we did vndertak, and hes fund fuirties, and aduancid fome of our payement beiffoir hand, being villing till continew giff we could find that patrociney in this actioun, quhilk 3our maiefteis awin affaires off reafone fould haue, quhairof we wer fully affured, fo long as we had that moft honorabill noble man, the Earle of Dumbar, 3our maiefteis moift worthie trew fervant, in the cuntrey. Bot otheris being now difapoyntid of that 3eirleie gaine quhilk thaj haue off maney 3eirris inioyed, wifhing itt fould rather haue fallin fill in thair owen purfes than come to 3our maiefteis cofferis, dois omitt no maner of way, whereby thay may veirrye ws off the chairdge, that fo by this affront quhilk falbe gevin wnto ws, all vtheris may be affrayed to ferve 3our maieftie heirefter, or advance 3our profreit in any foirt: our onlye defyr is, to haue the covenantis and articles of the contrake maid betuix 3our maieftie and ws to be kept, and the impedimentis removed; quhairin, firft, we do humblie intreat, that all contraverfies concernyng our customes may be referred to the Judicatorye of the Exchecher, quhilk was the only competent judgment for fuche maters untill the lait bred confufioun betuix the fessioun,

and it did suppress the Exchequer altogether. It is conditioned by the contract, that no new exactioun nor imposition upon the subjects to the prejudice or hinder to the trade of merchandise, and now, by this late grant of four pounds off every tun, within Edinburgh and jurisdiction thereof, there is an direct breach of that article; and within few years your majesty will find the great harme that fall in few thereof. By one contract, we have the grant to be only searchers during our tack; we desire that condition to be performed; and in so far as Barnard Lyndsay would now acclaim an auld lyferent gift of searchery it is so frivolous and pretent, when he himself sees, since the date of it, exceptit voluntarily tua temporary taks of the same, on after another, as it does manifestly shew what be the intentions off sum men who would countenance such an unreasonable demand, which we do not respect so much for any benefit that he can acquire by retaining off it, which we do not envy, as we do justly fear off the hinderance he may give to the trade, for the evil will of us who see taking the customs over his head, he formerly being fermour: And this office of searchery being instituted only for the behoove off the customer, and no wayes to be a croice unto him and the hinderance of your majesties benefit, as in this case it will no doubt procure, should be healthily referred unto vs, or otherways this will be the last year that any will take it in ferme. Sum branches off regalitie, pretending their exemption from paying of any custom, such as Dumfermeling, Churchaldye, and Mussilbruche, fall shortly become the staple of all wares in your kingdom, and your majesty shall lose the profit of your haill customs, being an great part of your hienes revenue, the beginning of which canker we do already feel, and in our duty to your majesty, can not omit till certify your hienes thereof, that they may be in tyme discharged. Entreating, therefore, humbly, your majesty to advert to these things, which, however they may at the present harme vs in sum sort for our forwardnes in your service, and willingness till augment your profit, yett will it be choirt of that prejudice, which your majesty shall receive thereby hereafter; and, having send these tua off our number, to explain at more length to your majesty, the hard crosses, and manifold impediments we receive in

your seruice, we, in all humilitie, according to our bounden deuty, do pray for all happines to your hienes, and restis

Your Maiesties moift humbill fervantis and subiectis,

THE FERMOURIS OF YOUR MAIESTIES
CUSTOMES OF SCOTLAND.

To his moift excellent Maieftie.

LXV.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 6, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND
IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

Being this far on my journey, of intention to haue presentit my sone* unto your most mightie maieftie, and onderstanding be the Erle of Dunbar, that it is your most excellent maiefties pleafour, that I fuld stay myself till efter the parlement, I mynd euer till conforme myself to your most mightie maieftis will and direction, althocht my greateft defyr be to haue that honour, as to kis your most mightie maieftis hand; and feing that it is your most excellent maieftis pleafour that I fuld stay heir for ane tyme, the Erle of Dunbar hes schauin me that fauour, as to be his presenter in my absens, and I uis at God, that his seruice may oe agreeable unto your most mightie maieftie, as I dout not of his affectioun,

* George, the second Marquis, who, for his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles, of whose cause he had been an uncompromising supporter, was, on the 16th March 1649, tried, condemned, and on the 22d beheaded.

hauing more honour than he meritis, to be sua neir of bluid unto your most excellent maieftie; and for my auin part, I haid that honour as to be presentit be his guidcher unto your most michtie maieftie, being ane youth as he is nou, and God forbid that my affectioun or loyaltie fuld fail nou in my auld dayis, to your most excellent maieftie, of quhois constant affection I haue fund sua monie fauours, that all the blood within me being uairit in your most michtie maieftis feruis, can not correspond.* The Erle of Dunbar, I hoip, will informe your most excellent maieftie mair ample of my part and meining, quhomwith I haue conferrit at lenth this day, and fering to be tedious, eftir the kissing maift humble of your most michtie maieftis hand, I will ever rest

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall
Maieftis humble subiect, and maift affectionat
feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Edinbruch, this faxt of Februar [1608?]†

To the Kingis most sacred Maieftie.

* "After the King was settled on the throne of Great Britain, he governed his kingdom so prudently, that he kept them peaceable so long as he liued. The Marquis of Huntly was several times called by him to London to consult about Scottish affairs; and the last time he was called, being come to his presence, he desired his son, Charles Prince of Wales, to take Huntly by the hand as the most faithful subject (said he) that ever served a Prince, assuring him that so long as he should cherish and keep Huntly on his side, he needed not be very apprehensive of great danger from seditious and turbulent heads in Scotland."—The Pourtrait of True Loyalty, exposed in the Family of Gordon. MS. Advocates' Library, p. 417.

† This letter has no date; as it mentions, however, the Earl of Dunbar, it must have been written subsequent to the 3d of July 1605 (though placed by Balfour amongst the letters of that year), when George Home, Lord Home of Berwick in England, was elevated to a Scottish Earldom. The Earl of Dunbar died 29th January 1611. In Balfour's Annals the Marquis is said to have sent his son to court, as commanded by the King's letters of the 15th February.

LXVI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 26, [1608?]

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Onderstanding be my good-brother, the Duk of Lennox, that it is 3our facred maieftis plefour and uill, that I fuld fend my fone* unto 3our facred maieftie, and albeit he be the greteft part of the confort quhilk I haue nou during my uarding, 'zit I will euer prefer 3our facred maieftis plefour and uill, till onie of my auin contentments, hoping that 3our facred maieftie will not be forgetfull of my auld affectionat feruice, nor zit will lat me be ufit with fik rigour as the Puritins of this contrey intendis; for I proteft befor the liuing God, that I carie that affection unto 3our facred maieftie, that I will hazard my lyfe and my blood in 3our facred maiefties feruis, athaer within 3our facred maieftis dominiouns, or againis onie foraner whatfumeuir. And feing in this I proofo ane deutiful and affectionat fubieft, I hoip 3our facred maieftie will not condifcend to my uraik, quhom it hes plefit of 3our facred maiefteis fauour to mak up, onlie for refufing to fueir that all is true that it plefis the Puritins of this contrey to affirme. Bot feiring to be tedious, I haue impairtid the hail particulars of my affairis to this berar, be him to be declarit unto 3our facred maieftie at greter lenth. Sua, humblie taking my leive, eftir the kifing of 3our facred maieftis hand, I will pray the eternall God euer to preferue 3our moft facred maieftie in lang lyf and moft prosperous rengo.

3our moft facred Maieftis humbill fubieft,
and moft affectionat feruitour to the
deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Caftell, this 26 of Februar [1608 ?]

To the Kings moft facred Maieftie.

* See Gordon's History of the Family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 109. Edin. 1727. Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 20. Edin. 1824. 8vo.

LXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON* TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 1, 1608.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Your maiestie hauing, without ony merit upone my pairt, bot upone your maiesties gracious remembrance of the faithfulle devtie and feruice of my fathir and grandfathir, don to your maiestie, and the queen your maiesties mother, with the graet los, not onlie of thair freinis lyuis, bot thair auin blud, banefment from thair cuntrie, ouerthrau of thair houfis, and hail fortunis, bontfullie grantit to me the erectioun of Arbroith, according to the infestment of the fame giuen of befor be your hienes to my fathir vnder the Great Seill, and be your maiesties letter writtin with your royall hand, I thocht, and euer fall think, myself bund to your maiestie, beyond al thie subiectis of this kingdome, amoinst quhom, nane hes reffeuit so great fauor without any defert of thair auin; and as this benefeit flouis frome your maiesties only guidnes, so uil I euer affuir my self, that your maiesties fauor will be unchangabill, sa lang as maist humil deutie and feruice fall not fail in me; vhairof being giltles in my hairt, quhilk hes constantly auouit rather to die, nor to giue entrie to any undeutifull thocht, I hop your maiestie vil graciousslie be plesd, without offence, to permit me to regraet, that it is heir gifun out, that your maiestie fould haue comandit my infestment to be stayit unexped, till the Laird of Pamuir† and sum otheris obtain satisfactioun, in sik futtis as thay

* James, second Marquis of Hamilton. Created Earl of Cambridge in England, 16th June 1619; installed a Knight of the Garter, 7th July 1623; and died at Whitehall, 2d March 1625, in the 36th year of his age.

† Patrick Maule of Panmure. Created by Charles I. Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule of Brechin and Navar, 3d August 1646.

mak to my disgrace and prejudice, becaus thay informit your maiestie, that I respect not as becumis me your maiesties benefite, quhan I refus to giue tham ane fether of the guise whilk your maiestie hes so graciouſlie giuin me: vheras, if that quhilk is crauit ver bot ane fether, it ver great madnes in me to mak any ceremonie in granting, bote your maiestie hauing ordanit the ministeris to haue thair local stipendis, and ane blanche deutie to be modifiet to be pyed to your maiestie, that liuing uald thairby be reducit to such estate, as uil hardly furnice me mentinance in the rank vhairuith your maiestie hes bein plesit to honour the hous, quhilk for the present, I unuorthelie posses; and gif that respect maid me, not sumquhat careful of meanis to liue in that rank, I sould rather trail ane pik in the fardest pairt in the vordil, nor contend vith the meanest that could be habil to purchas your maiesties recommendatioun; bot nou hauing meikil ado, and my estait being graetlier burdenit nor it may veil bear, I houp and humlie defyre, that your maiestie, at this tyme, vald continou your most gracious fauour towardis me, and suffer that benefiet to be affectual, the grant quhairof proceids of your maiesties royal bounti, and gracious opinioun of the merit and seruice of my predecessors befor I vas borne, quhom I fall stryue to equal, and, gif it ver possible, to exceid in al faithful, humil, constant, euerieuey deuotifful seruice to your maiestie. And at Sanionistoun, I satisfiet the Laird of Pamuir in securiti of his auin teindis, according to the command of your maiesties letter, than send for that effect; sua, quhan tyme and your maiesties gracious fauour fall mend my means and estait, your maiestie fall dispois upon quhat farder your maiestie sal than find that I can possible do, uthout my utir ruynd, quhilk I knau assuritly your maiestie vil preuent in your infinit gudnes, the gracious effectis vhairof alreddie resseuit, geuis me assurance that your maiestie vil accept in guid pairt, ane treu declaratioun of the verie estait of that hail mater be my brother Sir Johne Hamiltoun, vhom I haue exprefflie directit for that purpos. Hoping your maiestie vil graciouſlie heir and credit him, and be hime returne that significatioun of your maiesties gracious and princelie vil, quhilk may mak your maiesties former benefite effectual to me, and me abil to serue your maiestie in the rank of my predecessuris, as I fall be villing, vith

maist faithful and reddie affectioun to biftou that, and al the rest that God hes giuen me vith my blude, lyf, and freins in your maiesties seruice, according to thair commendabil exempilis, vhairof I fal be moir glad to giue prouif nor promeis, and fal daylie defyr the occasioun to perform the fame, vith als guid hait as erniftly I befeik God to grant your facred maiestie long lyfe, perfyt helth, hapie regne, and most bliffit contentment.

Your Maiesties most humbill and
faithful seruant,

HAMILTON.

Hamiltoun, first Marche [1608?]*

The King his most facred Maiestie.

LXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 5, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I tak the occasioun and bauldnes to writte this vnto your hienes, in anfuere off that it pleafed your facred maiestie writte to me the secund of Februar, directing me to deall with my nepvieu, the Erle of Abercorne, that he fould desift from onye farder infisting in fuitte of the

* The year is not given, and Balfour has placed the letter amongst those of 1606; but as it appears that the Marquis obtained a charter of the lands, patronage, and titles belonging to the Abbey of Aberbrothock, 5th May 1608, it was probably written in the month of March of that year.

Laird of Achindraynis* forfaulteur, and renunce all benefite and promeis he had of your maiestie for the same, I could naa better trawell with him in that nor be communicatting your gracious mynd to him, be the ficht off your hienes awin letter, whairtoe I hope he hes fend your maiestie ane anfuere, whilk will sufficientlie satisfie your princelie intentioun in this purpose. This I can testifie vnto your maiestie of certantie, that whafoewir hes informed your hienes, that the said Erle off Abercorne delt, or wald onye wayes be perswadit to deall, for onye favour or owirficht to the said Laird of Auchindrayne, hes sayde far bye the treuthe, or onye thing hes ewir bene in his mynde. He hes indeed some freindschipt with the hous of Bargenie, whomtoe Achindrayne hes bene this lang tyme a dependar; bott as the hous off Bargenie findis that the said Achindraynis practises was the wrack of the last Laird off Barganye, swa haiff thay be experience off laitt tryed, that he was be all possible meanes working to ondoe that hous, and, thairfoir, hes haillie cassin him off. And this, I assure your maiestie, that it was be thair special moyane, diligence, and industrie, with the assistance of the Erle off Abercorne, that baithe this last treasonable murthour of his, is brocht to the light it is cummed to, and also his foirknowledge, privitie, and persuaision to the young man, Thomas of Bargenie, for the foull murthour of the tutour of Cassills: and without thair doing and infisting, the same will be hardlie yitt brocht to perfectioun and dew outredde in tryall and punifchement.

I knaw Achindrayne hes be manye meanes socht to purchefs my Lord Abercornes goodwill, or at least to lay him bye his perfwitt, and for that hes cauffed offer him mair nor he can ewer haiff of the benefite off his parsuutte. Bot he hes newir gevin anye ear to sic propositioun, regarding ewer mair your hienes prencelie intentioun in the prosecutioun of justice and pwnifchement off sua wyld a fact, and the dewtie off his plaice and estaitt, nor anye commoditie: And this I hope your maiestie shall find be prooffe to be the verityte and be his actioun, in regard whereoff he is perswadit certainlie, that for naa vrang nor ontrew rapport off anye sic subjects, your hienes will alter or chaynege your formar prencelie word,

* See note to Letter from Lord Balmerino, page 132.

grant and benefite, whereoff yieur hienes than thocht him worthie, for he esteyms that war a greater difgrace to him, nor all the mater is awaill. This I remitt alwayes to yieur majesties heiche wifdome and good resolution, for it may be that schortlie the event may prove the Erle of Abercorne to be the Laird off Achindraynis speciall parfewar, and onlie owirthrow onder yieur maiesties autoritie and lawis, whilk will manifest the ontreuthe off that yieur hienes hes bene informed off. Swa, taking my leive, with the maift humbill kiffe off yieur royall hand, restis for ewir

Yiour sacred Maiesties maift humbill and
affectionat subject and feruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 5 Marche 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Majestie.

LXIX.—THE LAIRD OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 23, 1608.

PLEAS 30WR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I have beine wrgit be the counfell to submitt with the McFarlanes my brothers slauchter, and all wther slauchteris, muirtheris, hairschippis, theftis, reiffis, and oppressiounis, raising of fyre, demolifching of howfis, cwitting and destroying of woods and plainting, committit be thame against me; quhilk submissioun is now become in 30WR ma-

R

iesteis hands.* And being informit that my Lord of Mar is to infitt with your maiestie to pronounce ane decreit not onlie upon criminall actiounis, bot also wpon the ciuill actiounis, quhairof I haue obtieit decreitis alreadie befor the Lordis of Sessioun, extending to the fowme of lxxij thousand poidis money of Northe Britane, I will maift humbillie befeik your maiestie to referwe my decreitis alreadie obtieit; and quhat satisfactioun your maiestie pleases to decerne to me for the criminall actiounis, I mane hald me content thairwith, gife it be your maiestiejs will, that rebelles to your maiestie resawe that benefit, for they ar oft and diuers tymis at the horne for all the crymis abowewrytine, and findrie vther crymis not mentionat, wrelaxit as yet. Requeisting your maiestie to tak in gwid part this my humbill swit, hawing nothing els to offer your heyne, for all your wnderferwit fawouris, bot my most loyall hart, quhilk fall neuer deword from the smallest of your maiestiejs thochtis. This, humbillie craifeing pardoune of this my prefumptioun, I pray God grant your maiestie, efter ane lang and happie regne, eternall felicitie.

Your Maiestiejs most humbille and loyallie
affectit subiect and ferwand,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN
off Lufs.

Rofdo, the xxijj day of Apryll 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

* "The olde feids of blood and slaughter, betuix the Laird of Lusse and the Macfarlanes, was in this month (April), by the counsaills mediacione, absolutely submitted to the Kings maiesties determinatione. The Macfarlanes had killed the Laird of Lusses brother, with maney of his friends and followers; casten doune some of his housses, cuttit his woodes, spoyled his landes and tenants, for which he had obtained decreitts against them for grate soumes of money, and had declared them rebels by law." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 25.

LXX.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 1608.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I refaived your maiestes lettre of the 12 of May the 17, at eight a clok at night. The same morning, Sir Alexander Drummond's presentation was given in to the session, who, with the other tuay competitors, being called in, and they refusing to go to tryell, but willingly yielding to his preferment, his tryell was appointed him, conforme to your maiesteis act. And for your maiesteis resolution anent his religion, I haif fend heirwith, the testimoniall of his ordinar pastour, whair he hes made his residence thir thre yearis, and of the minister of Abercorne, whair he remainit befor, evir sen he had any duelling. So, I lave to your maiestes most princely consideration, out of what malice, ather aganes me or him, this invention hes growin: always his admiffioun fall stay, whill it pleis your maiesty to certify your gracious plefur, protesting befor the greit God of heavin, that nather blood nor acquaintance, but knowlege of his ability and inclination to serve, and what neid your maiesty standis in heir of worthy ministeris, did move me both to trayne him up for your service, and finding him capable, to sute his preferments. So, hooping in your maiestes accustomed favour, that my affection to your service fall not be turned to my disgrace, and craving pardone of this boldnes, I wish your most sacred maiesty, after a lang and prosperous raygne, eternell felicity.

Your Maiestes most humble and most
obedient servand,

J. BALMERINOC. *

* This letter has no date, but the reference to Sir Alexander Drummond, who was appointed a Judge of the Court of Session, and took the title of Medhope, proves it to have been written in May 1608. Lord Medhope died in July 1619. See Melros Papers, p. 335.

The Erl of Abercorne hes taken Achindrane,* a most vyill murtherar, partly to kyith his affectioun to your maiesteis service, and to stop thair mouthes who calumniat him; and he wald be encouraged by renewing your gracious favour, promefit to him befor, and he will not fail to do bettir service.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie.

LXXI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 25, 1608.

SIR,—PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

It is nocht possiblie, be lettre, to expres the greiff of mynd quhilk iustlie I haue conceawed, quhan be the counfall I wes laitlie informit of 3our maiefties discontentment aganis me, proceding, I dout, no thing of 3our maieftes princlie and courtes inclinatioun, quhairof I haue had fo mony and dyweris experiences, bot of sum finister informatioun of vnfreindis, as giff vndewtefullie I had behait my selff, ather towardis 3our maieftie, the ministrie, or in contempt of 3our hienes lawes or commandementis, quhilk I haue ewer reuerencit, and falbe to me in heichest recommendatioun. For, Sir, it is ane greit regrait to me, that I may nocht pleid my innocencie in 3our maieftes prefens, becaus than I wald nocht feir, but it fould cleirly appeir, and my reuerend respect and obe-

* The atrocious murders to which this person was accessory form the subject of a Drama by Sir Walter Scott, entitled "Auchindrane, or the Ayrshire Tragedy," and the reader will find in the preface a most interesting abridgment of the chief particulars, Poetical Works, vol. xii. (last edition), 12mo, p. 243. The trial that followed (with various illustrative papers) is given by Mr Pitcairn in his valuable Criminal Trials, vol. iii. 124. Some additional and hitherto unpublished particulars occur subsequently in this volume.

dience to your maiestes last commandementis be manifestit, quhilk, faueing your maiesties plesour, wes sumquhat hard (all thingis being reichthlie confidderit). Zitt, giff ather bischop or minister can iustlie accuse me of the brek of any poynt of dewetie to thame, I am content to be tryit and puniffit accordingle; bot be the contrar, giff I haue, with all obedience, obeyit and satisfieit the preceifest of thame, I think thay fould nocht haue sa maliceouslie traducit me to your maiestie, in complening quhair thay haue na caus of complaint. Bot fence no thing I can do can content sum of thame, I most, with all humilitie and reuerence, intreit your hienes nocht to credeitt all thair reportis of me, without ane mair particular tryall. And in this laitt charge, quhairby your maiestie hes ordanit me to be wairdit in Glasgow, I am most humblie to requyre your maiestie, in respect of the greit indispositioun of my bodie, tending to deathe, as the principall doctouris of medeceane in this cuntrie, be thair testimoniall vnder thair handis, testefeit to your maiestie, as thai haue alreddie done to the counfall, to be that gracious to me, that, giff I falbe wairdit, it may ather be in Thomptalloun, Edinburgh, or Leithe, quhair I may haue the help and assistance of phisitianis for my seiknes, than in Glasgow, quhilk is ane place verie vnmeit for me, for fondrie respectis, but speciallie for recowerie of my helthe: or giff it fall pleis your maieste, that I may haue your hienes fauour to pairt frome this cuntrie for ane quheill, for the better preseruatioun of my helthe, I will accept of the same as ane singular benefeit, for sic services as I haue done to your maiestie in tymes bypast. And this, in all humilitie and reuerence, kifs your maiestes princlie hand, I humble tak my leiff.

Your Maiestes most humble and
faithfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.

Cannogait, the 25 May 1608.

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

LXXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.
JULY 8, 1608.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

We refeauet your maiesties lettre direct unto us, with your maiesties counfallour, Sir Robert Danielstoun, knicht, conferuatur of your maiesties subiects of Scotland in the Law Countries, daitt at Greinwiche, the xv of Junij last; be the quhilk, we wnderstand that your maiestie is informet of sum preposterous cheritabill supplie, gevin be sum merchantis trading in the Law Cuntries to the baneist ministers, with the quhilk your maiestie is discontent, and thairfor willing us to refraine that wnderwittfull impertinent supplie. Your maiestie hes also willit us to mak na choise of ane minister, to serue the natioun at the Campher, without your maiesties knowlege and approbatioun, and siclyk that we fould ratifie the former actis, for establisching the stapill of the natioun at the Campheir. And last, that we fould respect the bearer, quhome your maiestie hes fund trustie in your seruice. Plais your maiestie as to the first, everie ane of us heir present hes gevin his declaratioun, that he knaws of na kynd of supplie gevin to thais baneist ministers, and we haue ordanit, that all the magistratis within your maiesties burghes fould, be your maiesties authoritie, inhibit and dischaarge all sic supplies in tyme cumming, and that ilk commissioner fould intymy the samyn to his magistratis, and caus thame tak heid thairto, and puneisch the offenders sua oft as thay can be knawin. And as to the minister at the Campheir, we haue determinat and agriet, that nane falbe plaicet thair bot be your maiesties consent and approbatioun; and as to the stapill at the Campheir and conferuatur, we haue tane sic ordour thairwith, as your maiestie hes defyrit. Forder, my Lord Conferuatur hes schawin that your maiestie hes declairit wnto him the caldnes of the burrowis, in not complaining to your maiestie vpoun the frequent reforting of Papistis and

Jesuittis within this realme. We ar greatlie bund to thank your maiestie, that hes sic remembrance and zeall of religioun, as to fteir and waikin ws vp to the doing of our dewties; and thairfoir, be the graice of God, expecting your maiesties help and concurrence, we falbe mair cairfull to effectuāt that pairt of our dewties to our power. And we ar this bauld to requyr your maiesties authoritie, with the mair fchairp and speidie executioun; and thairfoir, we pray your maiestie maift humblie to hald hand thairto, and to vrge the remanent magiftrattis of the realme to ane mair vigilant cair in dischairging the dewties of thair offices in that behalf, quhilk we dout not but ze will do. We also ar this humelie to pray you, that ane warrand may be direct to the post maisters betuix Londoun and Edinburcht, to tak the merchant pakkat, to be faiflie delyuerit, as your maiestie hes grantit to the Flemyngis, quhilk wilbe ane great farderance to the negotiatioun of your maiesties subieētis of Scotland: to the quhilk office of refait and delyuerie of pakattis, we think your maiesties subieēt, James Bannatyne, resident at Londoun, maift apt and qualifiet. And sua, praying the Lord to multiple your maiesties dayis with ws, in ane happie government, we committ your maiestie to his mercifull proteētioun. Frome Selkirk, this aucht day of Julij 1608.

Your maift humble and obedient subieētis, the
 Commiffioners of your Maiesties burghes of
 Scotland, laitlie convenit at Selkirk, sub-
 feryvand be our commoun clerk of conven-
 tioun at our command.

[*Indorsed.*]

The copy of the lettre sent be the
 burrowes to the Kings Maiestie,
 with Sir Alexander Hay. .

LXXIII.—SIR ANDREW MURRAY OF BALVAIRD TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1608.

MAY IT PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein, be vertew of your heichnes commandement, accusit be the Erl of Dumbar, as gif I haid bein ane most ondwetifull subiect vnto your maiestie, kything the malice of my hart by the vttering of onreverent speiches. Your maiesties informer is Androw Henderfoun, of quhom I will forbear to speak any thing, leaft I fould feim to haue no better defence nor the accusing of my accuser. The first point of my accusation is, that I haue callit your maiesties promiss bot diffimulatiounis, and quhatfoeuer may, by consequence, be inferrit vpon this point, for verificatioun quherof he hes productit vnto the Erl of Dumbar ane letter wrettin by me from Roistoun, the last of March 1604, directit vnto my vnclie my Lord of Scone. The woordes ar theis:—My Lord, efter I had wrettin at lenth vnto your Lordship with Maister David Moray, I haue tryit sum thinges, quherof my dewtie bindes me to aduertise your Lordship. Notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret to you in my last letter, that his maiestie had said vnto my self concerning you, I fear it be al bot diffimulatioun; quhilk woordes, how far they man be wresit befor they can proue the thing alledgit, I am perswadit that your maiesties self, without any apologie of myn, will most gratioussie consider. Neuertheles, to the end your maiestie may the moir cleirlye onderstand how far this malicious imputatioun dislagreis from my trew meaning, I will bot fchortlye fay this mekill. That former letter, quherof I maik mentioun, sent be Maister David Moray, had in it tua pairts. The first was ane declaratioun how your maiestie had not only most gratioussie admittit me to your presence, bot also gracit me with most fauorabill countenance; and, mairouer, most bountifullie had givin commandement to gif me tua hunderith

pund. The vther part was, that I had rememberit my vncke vnto fundrie of your maiesties counsell and sum of your fauorites, from quhom I had refault great protestatiounis of affectioun vnto him, and as great promissis of freindship in his adoes. Bot befor the wretting of this last letter (quherof I am now accusit), I was certanlie informit be sum of my vnckes spicial freindes, that they from quhom I had refault fairest woordes wer his greatest enemies; quhilk mouit me to call their promissis diffimulat, sa that the fence of my woordes ar very cleir after this maner, notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret in my last letter that your maiestie had said and done vnto my self; yet that quhilk I wret concerning my vncke, I tuik it al to be bot diffimulatioun. Gif my former letter wer as weill to the foir to be product vnto your maiestie as this last is, it wald maik al this matter most cleir. Bot as God schal be my iust iudge, I haue set down vnto your maiestie most trewlie beath the contents of the one, and my meaning in the vther. Their fallowes in my letter [I know his maiestie to be as they ar that be about him, and I asfuir you, ye haue no fauour of them that ar in greatest credit heir]. To this I answer, that I was neuer sic a fott to think that your maiestie was so simpill to be gudyit be them that ar about you. I haue both hard and fein to muche of your maiesties wifdom and resolutioun to think sa vyld a thocht. Bot my meaning was, feing my vncke had no fauour of them that wer in greatest credit about your maiestie, the quhilk I was most certanlie mead to beleiue, therfoir, I greatlie fearit that their hard informatioun might muif your maiestie agenst him, he not being present to answer for him self, and hauing about your maiestie so many enemies. Their rests yet moir in my letter. [I heir say that their is ane turn past heir in faoures of Androw Henderfoun, into the quhilk your lordship hes great neid to tak head to your proceeding; for, albeit his maiestie hes past it vnto him, I fear it be rather to try how ye behaue your self, nor for any good mynd they had to pleafour Androw Henderfoun]. Theis woordes, I houp, neid no apologie. Befoir God, I had mynd of nothing concerning your maiestie. I know, and that be experience, that all your maiesties grants ar, and haue bein, euer frie and absolut. My only meaning was, of the advantage they that wer about your maiestie might maik of my vnckes behaiour in this

matter; for it was directlie said be sum of them, that he wald content Androw Henderfoun with a smal pairt, and tak the rest to himself. From this point, it will please your maiestie to consider that the grund of my accusatioun proceeds, and not from that zeal and affectioun my accuser professis to bear vnto your maiestie, or els he had communicat this to your heichnes at the first, and not keipit the sam befyds him thir four zeires and moir, and now at lenth reveilit it be the instigatioun of vther men, as himself pairtly confessis. Their is no man could moir iustlie accuse me vpon this matter nor the Erl of Dumbar, gif his lordschip had knawen my trew meaning, for it was his lordschip of quhom I cheiflie meanit in my letter, and I haue crauit his lordschip most humblie pardoun for that I was fa folische vpon any informatioun to beleieue that his lordschip thocht vtherwayes nor he had said vnto my selff. Gif I durst haue presumit without your maiesties leieue, I wald, with prostrating myselff at your maiesties feet, be woord and not be letter, haue mead this my most trew declaratioun, and vnto the tym your maiestie grant me that libertie (quhilk, be thir presents, I most humblie beg at your gracious handes), my hart schal neuer be pertaker of any contentment. Albeit my conscience bears me witnes that I neuer fa meikill as thocht onreverentlie of your maiestie, zet am I grevid aboue meafour to think that any thing sould haue escapit my hand, quhilk, in the hardest constructioun, can be accomptit for ondwetfulnes agenst your heichnes. Their is na thing in this world can discontent me moir then to want your maiesties fauour; bot to want it throch my awen iust deseruing, wer to me insupportabill. I wer to be accomptit the most ingrat wrech that euer had lyf, gif euer I had sufferit any such thocht to haue had place within my mynd, considering the manifold fauoures your maiestie hes schawen boith to my self, and all my kynred. Their remaines zet the last point of my letter, into the quhilk I maik sum mentioun of my Lord Secretar. My simpill meaning was, that his lordschip at that tym had not sa great fauour as he desyrit to haue had of theis that wer in credit about your maiestie. I will cease to trubill your maiestie any moir with my idill woordes, not dowting bot your maiestie will, according to your accusomit goodnes, consider that the affectioun I careit vnto my vnclis weill, mead me the moir earnest in my letter; and

gif their be any woordes in it onadyffit or not weill chofin (as I do confes their is many), your maiestie will imput them to want of witt and laik of difcretioun, quhilk euer accompanies youth, and not to malice, quhilk, I protest in the prefence of God, is as far remouit from my hart, as it fliks neir to their hart that does accuife me. Praying vnto the Eternall to grant vnto your maiestie ane moift happie and prosperous regne, and bliffit and lang lyff, I rest

Your Maiesties most humbill and most
obedient subiect,

ANDRO MORAY
of Baluaird.*

Edinbrughe, the 13 of July 1608.

LXXIV.—LORD SCONE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I wes conveynit heir befor my Lord of Dunbar, and confronted with Andro Henryfoine, wpoun fume wnreuerend speicheis fpokin be me of your maiestie, quhilkis wer all utterly denyit, in the prefence of Sir Alexander Hay, your maiesties secretar, that euer he haid fpokin or wrettin any thing in my preiudice, ather to your maiestie or ony vther man leiveand, quhilk if I haid euer hard fpokin be ony vther man in the world wncallengit, I micht bein thocht the onlie wngrate and unworthie man in the world. Bot I leave this to your maiesteis gracious confideratioune, what all my actiounes hes bein in your maiesteis service, bothe in word and deid, quhairof I will be glaid content to be censuret be my grittest enemeyis. Now, Sir, to qualifie this informatioun of Andro

* Nephew of Lord Scone, afterwards first Viscount Stormont. He died without issue, Dec. 14, 1624, and was succeeded by his uncle.

Henrysonis, he hes productit ane lettre of my brother foneis, direct fra England to me, about the space of four zeiris and ane half fence, at quhilk tyme, your maiestie will be remembrit, I maid eirnist fute to haue haid the fauour to haue remayneit with your maiestie, and to haue haid some place of credit thair, wherannent it pleisit your maiestie to fay to me, that your maiestie wold advyfe with some of your Inglis counfall, to gett fume place to me; and at my waycomeing fra your maiestie, I delt with sik of your maiesteis counfall as came vp with your maiestie, to be my freind in absence, feing all the rest of the Scottis counfall that came with your maiestie wer preferrit to placeis of credit (bot I), of quhome I ressaueit verrie fair promiseis, nocht only to remember your maiestie, bot to be my particular freind, and my brotheris sone beand thair vpon some vther bissinesse of his awin with your maiestie, I defyreit him to hald sic of the counfall as haid promesit to be my freind in remembrance; quhilk he did, according to my directioun, and wrett heir to me to Scotland, with Mr David Murray, that he haid kistit your maiesties hand, and ressaueit ane verrie gracious anfuere of your maiestie in some of his awin particularis, and haid also remembrit sic of the counfall as I haid defyreit him to speik with in my fauoris, of whome he ressaueit verrie guid wordis and fair promiseis, that thei wold nocht onlie remember your maiestie, and adwyfe with thame in the meynis, how some place might be gottin to me, quhilk letter pat me in hop to beine fend for schortlie thairefter; and within fyf or sex dayis efter the receitt of this letter, my brotheris sone wrett to me ane vther letter, produceit now be Andro Henderfone, wheirin he assuiris me, he is certefeit be sum speciall freindis of myne, that the fair promiseis that wer maid be sum of the counfall wes nothing bot diffemulatioune, and speciallie of thame that I trustit maist into, forbe some speicheis that he haid hard, he feirit that thei sould rather kyth my vnfreindis, and that your maiestie wes informeit be sic as wer about you, that I haid sent Andro Henderfone to beg sumthing fra your maiestie, that I could nocht mak fute for myself, and quhateuer your maiestie haid grantit to gif him, your maiestie wes informeit, he haid transactit with me for the fame, and I wald gett the fame to myself. Thir specheis beand reportit be sum freind to my brotheris sone, and he feiring I might be moveit fra the loue

I buire to Andro Henderfone, to pas his gift quhilk 3our maieftie haid grantit to him, and that the fame might be layd to my charge fum vther day, and out of the love my brotheris fone buire to me, he gave me this aduertement. And alfefone as this letter came to my handis, I fent it to Andro Henderfone, to the effeēt that he fould tak na exceptiones of my guidwill, albeit, I haid refufeit to pas his gift in refpeēt of the premissis, bot I gaue him furetie, that I wald deill with 3our maieftie for ane benefit to him, quhilk I did, and obtenit of 3our maieftie bettir nor fevin hundrethe merkis be 3eir, quhilk he poſſeffis prefently, quhilk wes thocht be mancy of the cuntrie mair nor he meretit: zit, in refpeēt he did 3our maieftie no evill, being quhair he nicht haue done it (if God haid nocht beine 3our maiefteis better freind), and euer fence that tyme I haue reteynit him in my fervice, and hes proteēt it him, and euer fall, and he hes haid the commandement of all that I haue in theis partis. Bot 3our maieftie will knaw in the awin tyme, that this is nocht come fra Andro Henryfone, for he wes neuer very wyfe, and he hes loft ane guid part of the witt quhilk he haid, for it appeiris he is nocht his awin man, for the quhilk I ame maift forey, and I will neuer tak me to him for ony thing that can be reportit of me to 3our maieftie, and in the awin tyme, 3our maieftie will knaw how this comeis, fra quhome, and how this pure man hes beine abufeit. Always, I man leave this and all my vther aētionis, bothe in word and deid, to 3our maiefteis gracious confideratioune, fra the firft tyme I haid the honour to ferve 3our maieftie, quhilk is threttie tua 3eiris fence, and I neuer haid caus to weyrie, for 3our maieftie hes nocht onlie honorit me, bot gevin me all I haue in the world, and brocht me vp fra nothing, and if I fould prove vngratte and wnthankfull to fa gracious a maifter, I mereit punefment aboue all tratouris in the world. Sa, wiffing 3our maieftie all happines, with the contenance of 3our maiefteis guid helthe,

I reft 3our Maiefteis humill and obedient
fervitour,

SCONE.*

* This letter has no date, but this is in a manner fixed by the preceding one from his Lordship's nephew. Both these documents refer particularly to Andrew Henderson, who was said to be the

LXXV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Be your heighnefs directioun, your truftie and faithfull feruitour, and my awin auld freind, my Lord Earle off Dumbar, communicat unto me yifterday your majesteis lettir, concerning fuim opinioun that your maiefte fould haue confaued, that I entertenie fuim purpoifs and communicatioun, ather direclie or indireclie, be interchange off lettirs with your facred maiefteis worthie, maift nobill, and darrest bedfallow, in maters tuiching your heighnefs eftait heir, and your maift speciall and maift confident feruantis.* I thocht the faid lettir (for I had bot a fhirt wieu off it) baith lang, pitthie, and paffionat, as I nather will nor can denie bot thair war maift iuft caufe to your heighnefs, to be offendit at me in all heighest degree, gif euier it had entred in my minde, to attempt to medill in ony fic thing, or to haue ony fik trafik in your heighnefs affaires. I am forced, in all humilitie, to entreat your heighnefs excufe me, that I can nocht mak fik purgatioun off this crime be my lettir, as it wald require, gif I war onye wayes giltie off the fame; for I proteft unto your facred maiefte, ondir quhais prencelie fauour, clemencie, and pro-

person that detained the King in custody at Gowrie House. Some writers assert that he was, although absent, examined to corroborate the King's statement, the truth of which was questioned, in the belief that the circumstance of his having been Lord Gowrie's Chamberlain would add weight to his testimony. Others contend that he was really present on the occasion. There certainly are some slight differences in the King's narrative and Henderson's deposition; but we really think that too much stress has been attached to them. Indeed, unimportant discrepancies in evidence, where the main facts agree, frequently tend rather to remove than create suspicion of collusion. However the fact may have been, Henderson was the gainer, as, besides other gifts, according to this letter he had an annual allowance of 700 merks—a very handsome income in those times.

* These real or supposed intrigues are not noticed, so far as the Editor has been able to ascertain, by any of the contemporary writers.

teſtioun, and be quhais onlye aduancement and inſtrūctioun I haue attained to all the knowledge and experience I haue in the affaires of this eſtatt, and am rafin in this fortown I am in, far aboue my merite, vpon that faith and treuth I aught baith unto God and to your maieſtie, albeit I be euin at this preſent in als greate a paſſioun as eiuer I haue bein in, for the maift manifeſt and greate wrangs of calomneis I haue fuſteined in this Generall Affemble, as I doubt nocht bot your heighnefs, in your heigh wiſdome and iuſtice, will off your ſelf wye and conſidder: yit came thair neuier to me ſik a greiff in hairt and minde, as I refaued be your heighnefs foreſaid lettir, be the aprehenſioun I tak your heighnefs ſould ſuſpect ony ſik thing off me. It has wounded me ſua, that it has putt me fra all other thocht or cair; for as I wald think myſelf onwordie to be leiuand, gif I haid committed ſa filthe an errour, ſua man I diſdane baith my lyff and haill eſtatt, ſa lang as I am in feare my maift gracious fouerane has onye ſuſpicion, I be onye wayis giltie of ſa abominabill crime. This aprehenſioun troublis ſua eiui in my witt, that it can nocht furniſh me purgations anſurabill in onye meaſure to my deſire; and gif I wald fett down to your maieſtie, all the purgations that my iuſt dolour and greiff preſentis unto me, I could nocht miſs to be importune, tedious, and troubilluim. I hoipe I haue be tounge fatiſſeit my Lord Earle of Dumbar, and he has ſhiawin me, he hoiped in this point to fatiſſie your ſacred maieſtie.

This onlye I will craue your heighnefs pardon to wryte planelie as I meane, as I ſould anſuer unto God, nixt to that deutie I aught to God, according to my knowledge, I eiuened nor equaled neuier na thing in this warld to your maieſties fauour, and I preferred nor wyed neuier in paragon onye thing with your heighnefs pleſour, contentment, or honour, nor thinks neuier to doe. The werye calomneis, and malicious delations, geuin fwrth at onye tyme againſt me ſelf, greiuis me nocht ſa meikill for onye entrefs off my awin, as for the conſequence thairoff, may redound on your ſacred maieſtie, that it ſould be thocht your heighnefs greate wiſdome, may haue bein ſua filed and abuſed in the preferrement off ſik a man, and on yuſt occaſioun, had bein or war miniſtrat be me thair-off, I wiſs rather I war diſſolued in duſt, and had neuier bein.

This I maist humblie, hairtlie, and sincerlie craue of yioir heighnes prencelie dispositioun to think off me, till in yioir græte wifdome and iustice yie trye ony contrair. Sua, maist humblie taking my leiuë, with the kifs of yioir sacred hand, and praying fra my hairt the Eternall lang to preferue yioir heighnes in all blifs and prosperitie, I reſte eiuër

Your ſacred Maieſties maist humbill and obedient
ſubject and ſeruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 3^o Augtⁱ 1608.

To the Kingis maist excellent Maieſtie.

LXXVL.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 10, 1608.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein this langtyme confyned in Glasco, ane part far frome my leifing and freindschip, quhair be the daylie resort of some of my enimies and euill willaris ſome vnhappie truibill may fall furthe, by my will, and without my knowlege; and now the Generall Affembillie hes giffin furthe ane act to excommunicat me, befor the xvij day of September. Quhat greif and forrow this bringis to my hart, God knowis; becaus my graitteſt cair hes ewir bein, and ſalbe, that I myght end my dayes (quhilk, I am perſuadit, ſhall not be many) at peace with God, and in your maieſties obedience. My dewtifull affectioun to your hienes commandementis I remitt to your maieſties memorie, and my queat behaiour in religioun, the preſbiteries quhair I remannit can beir record; for I beleif your maieſtie hes not hard ony complainttis of me, in particular, ſens your maieſties perting frome Scotland. Newir the leſs, as I am informit the kirk intendis to wfe ane ſommer proceſs againſt me, except that your

gratius maiestie find out, and grant me some remeid. The permission quhill of grace only I craue (gif it pleis not your hienes to ease me with ane better) is, ether to depert this cuntrie, conforme to your hienes licence all redie grantid, with furtie not to returne; or els, that it wald pleis your maiestie to confyne me within ane of my awin houffis, and so many myllis about the fame, quhair I am glaid to leif as ane priuat subiect, and newir to medill me with publiēt affairis, bot be your maiesties direction. The experience of your maiesties accustumat clemencie towardis me imbauldis me to this heumbill petition, and gif it war not the estait and a matter of conscience, I protest befor God, I wald haue bein laith to haue trublitt your maiestie with sic fuittis; and yet ane thing I moit humble intrait your maiestie to mak deference of men, conforme to thair deferuing: and thus, in kissing your maiesties princle hand, I pray God to fend your maiestie lang lyf, and prosperus reign.

Your Maiesties moit heumbill and
obedient subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Glasco, the 10 of August 1608.

To the King his moit excellent and gracious Maiestie.

LXXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

August 12, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Hauing haid from my zongest zeiris that good hap and honour, as to be acceptit in your most sacred maiestis feruis to be the mediatioun of the last Duk of Lenox, your maiestis most fauorit coufing and seruiteur, and fins that tyme I leue it to your sacred maiestis auin super naturall wisdom and memorie, to remember gif I haue not at all tymis giuin proof of my affectioun, loyaltie, and obediens, quhanfoeuir

it hes pleit 3our facred maieftie till honour me uith 3our commandements ; and nou, finding my eftait endangerit, and my urak focht, be more rigorous deling than I was informid 3our facred maieftie did requier of me, I am forfit to feik quhar I haue euer lenit to the anker of my refuge, quhilk is 3our facred maieftis fauorable clemencie, befeiking 3our facred maieftie not to condiscend to the ruine of him quha hes nathaer lyf, land, nor blood bot it that falbe uairit but exceptioun, quhanfoeuer 3our facred maieftis feruis fall requer the fame, hoping that 3our facred maieftis conftancie and fauour, quhilk is the ftoup of my repos, fall beir me throch this trubill, as it hes borne me throch greater heirtofor. And albeit I knau I haue monie craftie euilluillars to deill in my contrar, and my felf far diftant from 3our facred maieftis comfortable prefens, 3it I defyd not of 3our facred maieftis fauorable conftanfcie towards me, feing my affection and obediens falbe continuall. Therfor, Sire, difpos of me as fall beft pleis 3our facred maieftie, for I fall haue no uill of myn bot till abey 3ouris; nathaer defyr I to leiuie langer gif it be not to ferue and content 3our facred maieftie: fo I will befeik 3our moft facred maieftie till put me till fum constant ftand out of this continuall trubill, for one uord of 3our facred maieftis uill uirk my peace, quhilk is the onlie reuard I craiue for my long feruis bygaine. I haue directit ane kinfman of myne, berar heirof, till declare unto 3our facret maieftie mair particularlie my eftait, gif it fall pleis 3our facred maieftie till honour him uith 3our prefens. Sua, craiuing pardoun for my baldnes, efter the kifing maift humblie of 3our facred maieftis hand, I uill pray the Eternall God to preferue euer 3our moft facred maieftie in lang lyfe, and moft prosperous reнге, uith all contentment.

3our moft facred Maieftis humble fubiect and
moft affectionat feruiteur to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Aberdein, this tuelt of Auguft.

To the Kings moft facred Maieftie.

LXXVIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 18, 1608.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

We reffaued your maiefteis lettre, concerning your heynes direction to call befor ws fuche lawyeris as fett thair handes to that forme of Hairtfydis caife* sent vp to your heynes, and to proceede aganis thame accordinglie; wherin, we wer most cairfull to haif gevin vnto your maieftie fatiffactioun; bot becaus we wantit the principall lettre whiche wes subfryved be the lawyeris, † wherby we myght haif led a formall proces aganis thame, we haif sufferit that mater to rest, quhill it fall pleis your maieftie to caus the principall be fend doune, at whiche tyme we fall so proceede in that mater, as we fall gif vnto your maieftie fatiffactioun. We haif conferrit with some three or foure of the principallis of the aduocatis, who seameth to misknow the tennour of the lettre and wryte fend vp, so that we could find no mater nor purpois wherupoun to challenge thame. Thair hes bene a petitioun gevin in to your maiefteis counfaill be the

* Margaret Hartsyde or Hertsyde, spouse of John, afterwards Sir John Buchannan, was, 10th August 1608, convicted of stealing some of the jewels of Queen Anne, declared infamous, and banished to Orkney. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. ii. p. 544. In December 1619, the King by his warrant ordered the declaration of infamy to be expunged from the record; at same time stating that she had been, "by the sinisterous information of certain of her vnfriends for the tyme, persewit criminalle." Balfour, in his Annals, says that the "courtiers talked" she was punished "for reuelling some of the Queen's secrets to the King, wich a wysse chalmbermaide wold not haue done." Annals, vol. ii. p. 26.

† This letter has not been recovered. The "prelocoutoures for the pannell" were Mr William Oliphant, afterwards Lord Advocate; Mr, afterwards Sir Thomas Hope; Mr Alexander King, an eminent advocate, who, however, according to Robert Johnstoun's account, Hist. Rerum Britt., folio, p. 231, usually bribed the judges with a portion of the fees he received from his clients; and Mr John Russell; Mr Robert Buchannane, minister at the Kirk of Ceres; Mr William Buchannan, minister at Methven. The two latter were probably relatives.

burrowis, craving a restrent to be maid of the tranfporting of burnecoill; bot becaus findrie of your maieftis liegeis hes gottin.licenceis for tranfporting of coillis, in confideratioun of the great chargeis and expenffis whiche thay haif fuftenit, and daylie vndirlyis in wyning and vpholding of thair coilheuchis, we haif differred the anfuering of thair petitioun till the knowlege of your maieftis pleafour, we being loath to quarrell your maieftis licenceis without your maieftis allowance. And fua, moft humelie recommending your facred maieftie, and all your royall progenye, to Godis divyne protectioun, we rest

Your Maieftis moift humble and obeyent
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s.
LOTHIANE.
SANCHAR.
ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.
J. BALMERINOKH.
ROSS.
JAMES HAY.

18 Auguft 1608.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

LXXIX.—THE REVEREND ROBERT DURIE TO KING JAMES VI.
OCTOBER 21, 1608.

PLEAS 3OUR MAIESTIE,—MOST DREAD SOVERANE,

I have hard of lait that 3our maieftie hes conceaued a new offence againft me, be occaffone of a fpeech which (as is reported) the Conferuatour hes fpoken to 3our hienes of me, namelie, that I fuld hav faid to him, be way of traducing 3our hienes, that 3our maieftie gave way to the rebellione in Irlande, to the end 3our hienes mycht feem con-

ſtraingned to grant toleration to the Papiſtes; wherein, if he or any vther hes fo reported of me, both your maieſtie and I ſuffer great wrong. If ther had been ſuch curſed intentione in me as to traduce your maieſtie (which the ſearcher of all heartes knawes weſ and is fare fra my heart), it is not probable that I wald hav done it to ſuch a perſone, who I knaw fo reverences and affectes your maieſtie, according to his bound dewtie. It is trew that, becauſe I wes in conference with me Lord Conferuitore, and having occaſione to be among ſtrangeres who wer talking of the overſight and places that Papiſtes hes vnder your hienes, and remembering how it wes ſpokin of, that Papiſtes had great credit, materes of Yrland wer not much regarded, and that the number of Romiſhe Catholickes did greatlie growe, this, ſaid thay, apparentlie myght bring in libertie of Poprie, ather be neceſſitie or be ſome courſe of policie. Now, becauſe the Conferuator is one of your hienes councele, and myght ſom tyme have occaſione to ſpeak a word in ſeaſone to your hienes, how ſtrangeres ſcanſes of thinges that thay heir, and ſo myght giv councele for remeading ſuch thinges as any way myght ſeem to hinder the growth of your maieſties honorable and gloriouſe eſtimation among the godlie; theirfore, be way of information and report of the ſpeech of vtheris, I did report ſecretlie, none being witnes betwix him and me bot God, what wes ſpokin be vtheres, lyk as, if I had been in credit myſelf, and cowlde have found convenient opportunitie at that tyme, I wald have thought it my dewtie to have craved pardone of your hienes, to have ſpokin to your maieſtie all that I ſpak to the Conferuatour, lyk as fra my heart, I deſire the increſe of your hienes good eſtimation, and wald have everie thing removed that may hinder the growth of the ſamyne. In end, it wes ſubjoynd, that I truſted the rebellione in Yrland fuld move your maieſtie to tak ſuch ordour, that all theſe doubtbes fuld be takin out of menes myndis. This, Sir, is the ſimple trewth of that mater, and if ather the Conferuatour or any vther (yet, to my remembrance, I had na ſpeech of ſuch mater bot with him) hes ſpokin vther wayſe, the thing I ſaid is far miſtakin, and that which I reported as the ſpeech of another, be way of information, is given out to your maieſtie in my nam, be way of aſſertione. Heerof it procedes, that the thing done be me with a dewtifull and reverent affec-

tion of heart toward your hienes, is imput to me as if I had traduced my lord the king, which God and men knowes my heart hes ever abhored to do to any, bot much mor to my foverane lord. Alwayfe, Sir, it will please your maiestie to tak notice of the purpose of my heart in this mater, as also of the circumstances in vttering my dewtifull affection to your hienes estimation, and what your maiestie judges that I haue offendit in any circumstance in this mater, as I shall wnderstand thairof, I will in all humilitie of heart acknowleg and crave pardone for the fame, perfwaded that the trewth of that mater being knawin as it wes, your maiestie will never imput it as any giltines to me, bot (according to my earnest defyre) freele forgive whatsoever oversight that, throw my simplicitie and good intentione, may accidentlie have eschaped me heirin. Now, I befech the Lord to blife your maiesties royale persone and government, with your queen and princlie posteritie, with all good blif-finges for this lyf, and that which is to come, and establisth your throne vnto the coming of our Lord in the cloudes, to fet all thinges in ordour, Amen.

Your Maiesties loyall and faythfull subjeet, humble
supplican, and daylie oratoure,

MR ROBERT DURIE.*

Middelbrughe, the 21 of October 1608.

* Formerly Minister of Anstruther. He was one of the Ministers indicted for high treason in 1606, and convicted by the management of the Earl of Dunbar. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 10, and M'Crìe's Life of Melville, Edin. 1824, 8vo. vol. i. p. 119. After being imprisoned fourteen months in Blackness Castle, he was banished to France. Subsequently he became Minister at Leyden, and died there in the year 1616.

LXXX.—THE REV. PATRICK SYMSONE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 10, 1608.

DREADE SOUERANE,

The returning of sum of the commissionares of the Generall Affemblic laitlie frome zoure maiestie, togidder with thair reporte of zour hienes gracious acceptatioun bothe of thame felfis and of thair commiffion also, hes nocht onlie wrocht grite ioy in our hairtes, bot also hes incuragit ws to present vnto zour maiestie most humbill and hairtie thankis for zour hienes most fauorable countenance, and gracious acceptatioun foirfaid. Becaus the grittest bliffing that our hairtes could haif wiffchit, wes to fie in our tyme one God trewlie worschippit, one king dewtifullie feruit, one law reuerentlie obeyit, one faithe and religioun allanerlie, vnfenzetlie professit within this realme, this bliffing (we fay), quhilk our hairtes so earneftlie wishit to fie throuche zour maiesties gude inclinatioun to advance the trewthe of God, is liklie to attene to ane grittare mesfour of perfectioun then euer we could haif expected in our dayes. Oure pairte falbe (Godwilling), by all humbill feruice, dewtifull obedience, and reuerent subiectioun, to glaid the harte of our Souerane Lord, to the end zour maiestie do nocht this worke with greif, bot with ioy and full contentment of mynd, and lykewyis with our eirneft supplications to strenthen zour maiesties handis, that poware may cum frome above to mak zour hienes authoritie feirfull to all the professit enemies of Christis gospell, bothe within and without the cuntrie. And albeit we could neuer as yit attene to the perfectioun of the best forte of wyfe cheldrene, quha haif careit thame felfis so dewtifullie toward thair father, that in all thair lyftyme thay haif nocht procured ane angrie looke of thair fatheris countenance, nor yet ane scharpe strype frome thair fatheris handis, yit we fall indeuoir (God willing) to be in the secund rank of wyfe cheldrene, quha walkis circumspectlie and warlie, fering, frome thair hairtis, to gif iust caus of offence to thair gracious and loving father. Zour maiestie, according to zour wounted clemencie, will pitie infirmitie in zour humbill feruandis, and punishe proude malice in zour enemies, quha have pre-

fumit (as we heare) to cast furthe, to the vew of the worlde, railing writingis against my Lord the King; bot the foule of my Lorde the King fall be bounde in the boundell of lyf withe the Lorde thy God, and the foule of thy enemeis fall God cast out of the midle of ane sling, 1 Sam. 25; quha dispyfes gouernament and ar presumptuous, and stand in thair awin conceate, and feare nocht to speake evill of thame that ar in authoritie, 2 Pet.; quhais custome also it is to stand far af, to barke lyke doggis against godlie princes, fearing to be beatine with the staff of lauchfull authoritie, gif they approche neare. Thairfoir, most gracious fouerane, we humbly intreate your maiestie to count this to be ane peece of the rebuke of Christe, quhilk fall purches to your hienes in this worlde ane fure and steadfast hous, and, in the worlde to cum, ane wecht of vn-speakable glorie, and so muche the rather, nocht to tak fuche railing speches greuoufflie, becaus the Lord hes maid your maiestie wyfe, lyke ane angell of God, to knowe good and euill; and with the pithe of your maiesties royall pen, to be als feirfull to all learned for ane aduer-fareis, as, by the strengthe of ane lauchfull and fattled authoritie, to dantoun all intefene and domestike rebellis. Finallie, we humbly entreate your maiestie to beare with our boldnes and rudenes as ane father dois with his awne babes, quha lykys better of the blobering speches of his awine cheldrene proceding frome love, then of all the painted eloquence of his haifull enemeis. This, in all humbill maner wishing to your maiestie long lyfe and ane prosperous ringne, we cease to impeshe your maiesties cares with farder wordes.

Your Maiesties humbill seruandis, the Brethren
of the Presbiterie of Striuling, subscriuand
be ane of thair number, at thair command.

PATRIK SYMSONE.*

Striuling, the tent day of Nouember 1608.

To his Maiestie.

* Minister of Strirling. He wrote a History of the Christian Church, originally published at Edinburgh in 4to, by Andro Hart, and afterwards at London, 1624, folio.

LXXXI.—THE REV. JOHN HALL AND THE REV. PETER HEWATT
TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 15, 1608.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

After our former letters, our supplication written in the favours of the town here, some thing was done be them for your majesties contentment, wherewith we thought good to acquaint your highnes. They, perceiving your majesties displeasure to arise upon their former election of a provest, did hasten to some speedie remedie that their offer of amendment shuld not be compted verball only, and have this day, the fifttenth of this instant November, made election of Sir John Arnot to be their provest for the yeir to come. Whilk doing of theirs dois furnish to us greater boldnes with your majestie, and makis us with the greater earnestnes to renew our former humble sute, that it may please your majestie accept of this amends, with our promise, in their name, of greater warinesse in all tyme cumming. It hes ever bene your majesties custome to gaine by clemencie, and recall offenders, gif their pertinacie did not thraw from your majesties hand rigour and extremitie. Upon this your majesties clemencie, wee rest in this particular, that, having to doe with them who are feared in any fort to incurre your majesties displeasure, and whose only frowning keepis them in sufficient aw, there may be, in steid of your majesties hatred or anger toward them (where at their unfriends wald rejoice), a continuance of your majesties woonted love and favour. Thus, craving pardon for our boldnes, we humbly tak our leave.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

MR P. HEWATT.

Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

LXXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 2, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUVERAINE,

Following to my powar your maiefteis princelie intentioun, and the good exemple we had of your hienes, when the licht of your prefence and wifdome was heir fchyning amongs ws, for tryall off thir wild mourthouris of the Laird of Cuilzeane, Tutour of Caffills, and Williame Dar-rumple, parfewit be the Erle off Caffills aganis the Lairdis off Achin-draine, eldar and youngar, I have bene cairfull to vfe all the moyanes our lawis and praëctique wald permitt me, at the pairteis desire. This laft onlke, with my Lord Archebifchope off St Androis, the Justice Clerk, Priuie Seall, Lord Whittinghame, Sir Jhone Arnote, and your maiefteis aduocat, I examinat diuers dayes baithe the lairdes, and fome other witneffis, wpon interrogatouris werie pertinent to the trial of the purpois, whilk war alwayes impertinent to truble your maieftie withall. We find thame obftinatlie refolved to denye all nicht ather concerne the faët, or ony thing nicht giff licht to mak thame guiltie thairoff. Bot thair anfuers ar fic, and the young laird in fic contrarietie with his formar depolitiounes in principall poynts, and fic contrarieties betuix the father and the fone in werie materiall poynts, as the faids answers in our examinatioun weyed with thair going to the horne, when thai war firft challenged for the crime, thair daylie intercoumoning with thair man Ballentyne, who hes tayne the cryme on him, and is fugitive thairfoir, and with innumerable other circumftances, maid ws all to think in our con-fciences thaj war baithe guiltie. Notwithftanding whereof, knowing par-tytelie giff thaj had prefentlie bene putt to ane affife, wpon thair awin denyall thaj wald haif bene elenged, be aduufe off fecret counfall, I hawe continowed the day off law to Februar nixt, to tak farder inquiftioun in this mid tyme, and to have farder aduerteifment from your facred

maiestie whow to proceed in that mater, or gif it be your hienes will the justice be ordoned to proceed to onye extraordinar forme in triall of theefe factis, feing thaj carie sic extraordinar and barbarous example, the last being the murthour off ane pure boy, onlye to cover the guiltines of the first murthour of the tutour of Cassills, sic a blood as may continowallie crye to heaven aganis the hail land, till it be purged. The criminalls ar still keped in waird. The crime off the awin nature is be act of Parliament trafoun, murthour onder trust.

Heirin attending your maift gracious maieftes prencelie ordonance and commandements, praying for all felicitie to your highnes in a long and prosperous regnne, fwa restis

Your sacred Maiefties maift humbill and obedient
subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 2d December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maiestie.

LXXXIII.—THE EARL OF CASSILLIS TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 3, 1608.

MAIST SACREED SOUERANE,

It may pleis your gracious maiestie, I haue taikin this bauldnes, vpon the farder tryall of the trechrous murthouris of my vncl, the Laird of Culzeaine, and of the boy quha careit the lettir of his dyett, committit be the Laird of Auchindraine and his sonne, and now farder cleirit be the greit paine and cayr of my Lord Chancelare, quha hes broicht thame to fik contrarietie in thair depofitionis, that all indifferent

men may be perfwadit off thair guyltines of baith thais murthouris, notwithstanding quhairof thaj still continew in ane denyall. I wald maift humelie befeik your maieftie, that it may be your maiefteis gracious plefoure to graunt ane warrand to the chancelar and counfall of Scotland to putt thame to the buittis, quhairthrow thaj may be broicht to the mair evident confeffioun. So, maift hartlie vyffing your maiefteis lang prosperitie and happines for euer, I remane

Your Maiefteis maift humbill feruant
and fuiect,

CASSILLIS.

Edinburgh, the thrid of December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

LXXXIV.—LORD BLANTYRE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 17, 1608.

MAY IT PLEIS 3OUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

To lett my feiknes thir tuentie dayis excuife maift humlie to 3our hienes my lang delay in acquenting 3our maieftie with that, quhilk, I perfwade me, is cum or now to 3our most facred earis, how haifing be 3our maiefteis most loving and gracious aduife, endit with 3our maiefteis coufing the Erle of Athole anent his erldome, in prefence of his neareft and best affected freindis to the standing of that houle, and with thair approbatioun and allowance, as the minut of our appointment sent to 3our hienes trustie counfalour and fecretar, Sir Alex^r Hay, will mair at lenth informe 3our maieftie, he notwithstanding, vpon the xxvij day of November laft, retired him fra my companie to the Maifter of Tullibardin,

the Laird of Graunt, and Mr James Stewart, commiffar of Dunkeld, all tryfted togidder to meit him quietlie at Sterling, and to transport him, as thay haif done, to the boundis of Athole, thair to difturbe the peciabil and quiett eftait, quhilk be your maieftis commiffioun we haid fattled in thais pairtis, and to vndoo, gif it culd ly in him, quhat is perfytted and concludit betuix him and me with his faid freindis aduife, leaving me in the mean tyme ingadgit for him in mair nor fourtie thowfand markis vpone the foirend of our bargane. In this defeing, quhat wrang is done to your maieftie your hienes will eaffelie confidder, gif it may pleis you to be rememberit, how, quhen it pleased your maieftie, out of your gracious cair to that your coufingis weill, to frie him of his ftraiteft waird, and to fend for him, and honour him with your gracious prefence at Quhythall, your maieftis pleafour at that tyme was to deliuer him to me befor your hienes darrest and moft faithfull coufingis, the Duke of Lennox and the Erle of Dumbar, and to confyne him in my company till your maieftie fould quiett his eftait, commanding him in the mean tyme to gif me his hand in pledge, that he fould not efcape till he wer fred be expres warrand from your maieftie; and how I, at that time conceating that quhilk is fallin out, maift humlie prayed your maieftie to tak his hand your felff to that effect, for he mycht brek to me, bot he wald be advyfit or he did fo to your maieftie, quhilk your hienes was pleased to do accordinglie, with ane affurance to him, that as your maieftie had bene moft gracious and fauorabil to him heirtofor, and fo was myndit to continew, gif he wald follow and relie to your aduife and counfale in his turnis, and keip him quiett in my companie, fa gif he meant to efcape at ony tyme without your hienes preuitie and warrand, your maieftie wald leave him to him felff, and lett your lawis haif courfe and executioun aganis him, quhilk, be a folempne aith, he fwore befor your maieftie neuer to incur be that occafion. This I beleving to be fo fuire a band as neidit no attendance on him for his keeping, was content to lett him ryde or go vpone his word quhair he thocht meit; lyk as vpone the foir-faid day, requiring leave of me to ga to Glasgou for his pafstyme, imbraiceit that occafion to keip his tryft at Sterling, and to accompanie his tryfteris thairfra toward Athole, pretending to the waird for his excuife

your maieftis warrand and allowance for that courfe, cairles in the meantyme baith of his honour, ingadgit be his aith and hand to your maieftie to the contrair, and of his dewtie to myfelff, quhome for his honorabill and freindlie vfrage thir twa zeiris bigane in my cumpanie, he myndis to requyte with ane vndouted wrak to me and myne, except your hienes interpone your prefent help for our releiff. Maift humlie thairfore befeiking your moft gracious maieftie to lett this dowbill wrang done to your hienes be that man and his intyferis to this courfe be recommendit in a fpeciall maner to your maieftis counfall heir, defyring thame to tak fick fcharpe and fpedie ordour for the repairing thairof, as your maieftie may find thame to refpect it according to your intereft, and as your maieftis awin caufe; and, in the meintyme, to direct thair charges to his convoy for his representing befor thame, and, failzeing thairof, to enter thair awin perfonis in feuerall wairdis till he be represented; quhairin your maieftie fall baith mak thair attempt in this a terrou to all vtheris to abufe your facred prefence to fic turnis in tyme cuming, and mak the commoun benefite of your hienes lawis effectuell for my releif of the great debt and troubill quhairin I haif involuit me for his occafoun. Hoiping for your maieftis maift gracious and fpedie anfwer, maift humlie I tak my leiff, befeiking God to fend your maieftie moft prosperous and mony dayis, and ane happie regne,

Your Maieftis maift humbill fubject
and fervitour,

BLANTYRE.*

Edinburgh, the xvij of December 1608.

To the King his moft facred Maieftie.

* Walter Stewart, the only son of the second marriage between Sir John Stewart of Minto and Margaret Stewart, daughter of James Stewart of Cardonald. He was bred up along with James VI. under Buchanan, and was much favoured by that monarch, from whom he obtained the priory of Blantyre. He held various high appointments, and on 10th June 1606 was created Lord Blantyre. Carmichael's Tracts on the Peerage, p. 28. He died 8th March 1617.

LXXXV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We haif reassaied, to oure exceiding grite conforte, that decreit and fentence gevin in fauouris of the Lord Coluillis oy,* in the queftioun and subiect of Post Nati, agitat thair befor the reuerend and learned iudgeis of that land, wherin, with all dew reuerence and most humble thankis, we acknowlege oure fellis infinitelie bundin to your sacred maiestie for that gratious, refpectiue, and comfortable confideratioun and remembrance whilk your maiestie hes of ws, and of euerie thing whilk may importe the honnour, credite, and publiēt goode of this your maiesteis antient kingdome; wherof, as we haif daylie innumerable proofis, and most lyvelie experienceis, fo this lait fentence, whilk no doubt hes had the concurrence of your maiesteis most rair and excellent iudgement, is moir nor sufficient to assure ws, with what tender cair and faderlie confideratioun your maiestie doeth affect ws. We haif delyuerit that fentence and decreit to the Clerk of Register, to be putt be him in your heyneis register, thair to remane as a recoird and memorie to the posteriteis of

* James, second Lord Colvill of Culross, who succeeded his grandfather, the first Lord, in 1620. He was born probably after the accession of James to the throne of England, by which means, according to the decision of the judges, as one of the *Postnati*, he became entitled to the privileges of a natural-born Englishman. His Lordship having died without issue, in the year 1620, the title, in consequence of a remainder to the heirs-male whatsoever of the patentee, devolved on John Colvill, nephew to the first Lord, but who never assumed it, and it remained dormant until, by a resolution of the House of Peers, it was resolved, 27th May 1723, that "John, Lord Colvill of Culross, is entitled to the honour and dignity of Lord Colvill of Culross, and ought to be placed in the list or roll of peers, according to the date of the patent creating Sir James Colvill a peer, 20th January 1609." Robertson's Proceedings, p. 115.

your maieftis benignitie, and vnſpeakable affectioun borne to this eftate. And ſua, moſt humelie praying God ſtill to manteyne and preferve your maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, in all happynes and felicitie, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent
ſubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s.
LOTHIANE.
P. ROLLOK.
CRAFORD.

A. MAR.
A. L. WCHILTRIE.
HALYRUDHOUS.

Edenburgh, 16 February 1609.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

LXXXVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.
FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

PLEIS 3OUR SACRIDE MAIESTIE,

Efter I had kiſſit the Frenche king his hand, at the deſyre of ſum Catholicques heir, I went to ſie the Poipis Nunce, and becaus 3our hienes ambaffadour (quha diſcharges ane faithfull and honorable dewtie to 3our maieſtie) had gottin intelligence by my knowledge, of ſum ſpeicheis that paſt betuix the Nunce and me concerning 3our maieſtie, he thoct it expedient to ſet down the ſame be letter. Bot becaus it war langſum to trobill 3our princlie caires with ſo prolix and frivolous purpois, I have writtin the ſame in ane letter to Sir Alexander Hay, 3our

maiesteis secretair, to the effect that, gif your maiestie pleiffis, ze may at ony iydill hour reid the fame; for besyd that I am your maiesteis subiect, the greit clemencie and favour I have refaut by vtheris at your hienes handis, hes mair nor oblefit me to manteane your maiesteis honour and reputatioun, at all tymes quhen occasioun presentis, quhairof, Godwill- ing, I fall never be forgetfull. So, praying God to grant your maiestie aboiff ws ane lang and prosperous regne, I humelie kifs your hienes hand. I rest for ever

Your Maiesties heumbill and faythfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUSS.*

Pareis, this xvi. of Februarij 1609.

LXXXVII.—THE LAIRD OF EDZELL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 30, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleife your maiestie, being advertesit that the Erlle of Crawford† hes sent copyis to your hienes of certane lettres wrettin be me to my sone, and recoverit be him within the howfe of Auchmwill, quhair my sone was wont to dwell, quhilkis informis, it was my will and command to slaye

* His Lordship was, in July 1608, ordained to be excommunicated by the General Assembly. He had remained a prisoner in Glasgow for some time previously. Finding he could get no peace in his native country, he obtained leave from the King to retire to France.

† David, eleventh Earl, served heir to his father, 28th June 1608. His improvident conduct and dissolute courses are noticed by Sir Thomas Hamilton (afterwards Earl of Melros and Haddington), in a letter to the King. Melros Papers, p. 97.

the wmqhile Lord of Spynie,* and fa platter and contriver of that onhappye and wylld flachter, thinking thairbye to awert your maiesteis woontit fawor from me, and to disgrace me at the handis of all honest men, I have chofine and presumit to tak the hardiment, humblye to pray your hienefs nocht to giwe credit to any cople of anye lettre coming from the handis of my enemyis, wnto the tyme the principall be tryit to be wrettin, fubscriwit, or directit be my self; for I proteft in prefence [of] God, I newer had anye sick innaturall and ongodlye interpryfe in my heart, mekle les directit the doing thairof. And to mak this mair manifest to all the world, I have intentit improbatioune, that all liwing may know howe injustlye I am vsit be the Erlle of Crawford, and howe he quha was the beginner of all thir trowblis, be the murder of my wmqhill brother, Sir Walter, onder traift, wald nowe eik craft to his crueltes, and in place of repentance, be fals calumnyes wald also bereawe me of my fame and lyiff; albeit, I have ewer beine, and yit am, maist willing to abyd all ordinar tryell of lawe. Farther, I most also regrait that the said Erlle being laitye at cowrt, hes privelye obtinit ane commiffione wnto ane numer of his rioteris and dependeris for ferching of my sone, and onder colour thairof, hes intentit nocht onlye to fureprife my house of Edzell, quhair my haill ewidentis, and of vther freindis, yit remanis, bot also to berawe me of my lyiff within my awin lwdging in Edinburgh, and to the effect foirfaid, wearifs daylie pistolettis and hagbwttis, prohibitit be your maiesteis actis, alledging ewer they ar seeking rebellis. For remaind quhairof, and my awin securitie, in respect of the reafonis foirfaidis, specialye because your maiesteis honorabill Priuwe Counfell hes alreadye grantit ane verie ample commiffion, excepting onlye my howse of Edzell, within the quhilk

* The first Lord Spynie was, in July 1607, slain by Sir David Lindsay on the streets of Edinburgh, in attempting to interfere between the Earl of Crawford and Sir David, the latter of whom was desirous of avenging the murder of his kinsman, Sir Walter Lindsay, who had been assassinated by the Earl. Lord Spynie's death was generally supposed accidental, and is so stated by the writers of the time; but if Lord Crawford's accusation is to be believed, it was the result of design. Considering the character of Crawford, however, it is much more likely that the alleged letters were fabrications of his own, the forgery and falsification of writings being then by no means uncommon. Indeed, it is with reluctance we are compelled to admit, that the Scottish noblemen of that period, with some few exceptions, were utterly devoid of moral principle, and provided they attained their object, cared little as to the means employed.

I have fwnd cautione nocht to recept my fone, nor anye of theife rebellis, onder the paine of ten thowfant merkis toties quoties, I will maift humilye praye your maieftie to direct ane warrant to your hienefs Priuwe Counfell of this cowntrie, to fufpend the laft priwatlye obtinit commiffione, as your maieftie wilhawe me free of that fchaddowe, be the quhilk, my ondeferuit enemye crawis my lyiff and land; for vtherwayis the counfell, for the reverence they carye to that commiffione feynged by your hienefs, will nocht mell thairwith. Hoping for your maiefties woontit proteccione, nowe fa mekle the rather that I am fo onkyndlie, onnaturalye, and without deferwing, trwblit be that howfe, of the quhilk ewer of ald, nocht onknawin to your maieftie, in thair trowblis I hawe fa weill meritit, vtherwayis, yf I fand nocht securitie hier, I wilbe forcit, altho be fea, inrefpect of my aidge and inhabilitie, vpon my knees to beg the faming at your heichnefs felf. Thws maift humblye kissing your hienefs handis, and praying the Eternall lang to preferwe your maieftie and royall progenie, I reft ewer

Your facred Maiefteis maift humble and obedient
fubiect and fervitour,

ED³JELL.

Edinburgh, 1609, penult Martij.

To the King his Maieftie.

LXXXVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK SYMSONE TO THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

APRIL 3, 1609.

RYCHT REVEREND BRETHRING IN CHRIST JESUS,

I dowbt nocht bot ze will haiwe my abfence from this present meitting excuifit, in regard of my infirmetie, zitt I thocht meitt in this few lynis by wrett, to acquent zour w[or]schippis with the behaviour of my Lord Marques of Huntlie fence the counfall day, hauldin at Sterling the xxij. of Marche laft bypaf, viz.; my Lord Marques fend for me, and confarrit in modeft and quyat maner with me anent the heidis of

religioun, contravertit betuix ws and the Romane kirk. Quhat I haiwe obtenit be conference, it is to fchort a tyme to mak ane perfyte rekening to 3our worfchippis. Always, the first fruttis 3e fall pleife to reffaiwe, fufcryvit be his lordfchippis handwrett, anent the heid of justification, and tak fuitche wyfe confideratioun thairanent, as 3our worfchippis fall think expedient, and inſtruēt me by 3our returnit anfuer with 3our beſt advyfe. Forder, his lordſchip hes beine content to heare the word preachtit be me in the caſtell of Sterling, his lady, childring, and ferwandis, alfo being prefent, except ane lady quhome infirmetie with wery neir approching hir birth did excuife. Alfo, his lordſchip is content (alway licience being purcheffit from his maieſteis honorable counſale by 3our interceſſioun) to cum downe to the towne of Sterling, and to heare the word preachtit thair, quhilk appeirandlie falbe greater proffeit to his lordſchip, les panis till ws, and greitter contentment to the pepill. His lordſchip alfo is in guid eſperance, and hoip to haiwe the greittar mitigation of the feveretie and rigour to be vſit aganis his lordſchip, the neirar that he approitchis to imbraice that weretie of Chriſt, quhilk is proffeffit in this land, and preachtit and allowit be the lawis of oure cuntrey; and in this poynte, I will intreate 3our worfchippis that thair may be fum lytill prorogatioun of tyme, until 3our worfchippis ſie quhat farder fruttis may be reapit of this begun conference, and heiring of the word foirſaid. Nocht willing to truble 3our worfchippis with forder, committis 3ow and 3owre trawellis to the bliſſing of the Almichtie. From Sterling, the thrid day of Apryle 1609.

3our brother to command in Chriſt,

P. SYMSONE.

The articles ſubſcribed by my Lord Marques war penned be me, and ſubſcriued be his lordſchip efter deliberatione.

To the rycht reverend in Chriſt Jeſus,
the Commiſſionaris of the Generall
Aſſemblye convenit at Edinburghe,
&c. &c.

LXXXIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

The continuall and importune complayntis, fra tyme to tyme exhibited vnto ws by your maiesteis poore distresst subiect, Thomas Hendirfoun, and the consideratioun of the grite iniquitie committit vpoun him, vnder the name and authoritie of the King of Spayne (with whome your sacred maiestie at that tyme, and as yitt, holdeth firme amitie and freindschip), doeth not a litle greve ws; for he being in his lauchfull trade of mercheandice, within the dominionis of the said king, in the * yeare of God, whair he expected not onlie a peceable commerce, trafficque, and intercoure of his goodis, bot fuche other officious dewyities of kyndnes and freindschip as ar vsuall to lauchfull trafficquaris: nocht-withstanding, his schip and goodis wer feaft vpoun be force, and him selff committed to the gallayes, quhill he wes constrained to ferve, and after foure yearis seruice vnder the said king, his schip and most pairt of his equippage wer caffin away and perished, to his vther miserie and vndoing: wherin, althocht some determinatioun hes bene tane be the said kingis officiaris, the value of his schip and goodis proportioned and fett down, the tymes of his seruice accompted and rated, and his whole caus promised to be putt to ane end, and dew redres and satisfactioun accordingly to be maid, yitt litle or no redres is maid at all, bot fuche schifting delay is vsed in this bufynes, by those who hes the charge thair of, as is not agreable with conscience, equitie, nor justice, nor with the honnour, credite, and reputatioun of thair placeis, whairthrow your maiesteis poore subiect, after lang attendance, without hoip or appeirance of redres, is returnit, having spent and consumed vpoun the perfute of this bufynes, almuche, and moir nor the valu of his schip and goodis extendit to, and

* Sic.

is now reduceit to extreame miserye, having the charge and burdyne of a wyffe and a nvmberous familie, and houfhold of young childrene, whose caise is to be pityed, that being sometymes in goode rank, and amangs the cheif and best of this towne, and one of the first marcheant venturaris in this your maiesteis kingdome, is now deieçtit and vndone, not having sufficient maintenance for his poore houfholde and familie. Vpoun consideratioun whairof, we haif tane the bouldnes, in all reuerence to commend him vnto your sacred maieftie, and humelie to intreate your heynees to caus propone this mater to the Spanishe ambaffadour thair resident, laying befor him the grite iniquitie committed vpoun your maiesteis said subieçt within the tyme of peace, the difdanefull schifting of him fra hand to hand with continuall delayis, importing in effect, ane plane refusall and denyall of justice, and that thairfoir the said ambaffadour may be moved to tak some course, how your maiesteis distresfit subieçt may be redressit, alfweele of his lossis, as of the chargeis and expenssis sustenit be him, in perfute thairof. Bot heirin submitting oure simple and waik opinioun, and what order your maieftie thinkis meete to be done in this mater, vnto your heynees most rair and excellent iudgement, and humelie craving your maiesteis pardoun for our presumptioun, we end with oure humble and hairy prayeris to God, to preferue your heynees and your royall progenye in helth and felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the xvi. day of May 1609.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obeydent
subieçtis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s.
ROSS.
DOUMBAR.
JO. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.
J. TORPHECHIN.
WINTOUN.
PERTHE.

To the King his most sacred and excellent
Maieftie, &c. &c.

XC.—WILLIAM FULLARTOUN OF THAT ILK TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUBRAYNE,

The confortable remembrance and experience of your maiesteis most gracious fauour at all tymes towardis me, and the consideratioun of your sacred maiesteis naturall inclinatioun and religious dispositioun to abhor and detest iniquitie and wrong, in all degreis and rankes of persones, hes maid me your hwmbles and distrest subiect, bauld in this my calamitie, to have my recourse vnto your sacred maiestie, and in all submissioun and humilitie to crave your maiesteis protectioun aganis the malice and iniurie of my Lord Erle of Craufurde, who, being vnmyndfull of the mony guid offices done be me to his vnquihle father, in whose service I spent about fourtie zeiris of my aige, beynd mony guid offices and service done be me to him selff, baith befoir his fateris deceife and fenfyne,* lyk as I instantlie stand ingadged for grypt fowmes of money as cautioner for him, and fowmes of money of my awin particularlie lent to him, zitt he hes, without ony cause or occasioun, confaved so heigh a displeasour aganis me, as no thing can content him bot my lyfe, whiche he hes focht at the vttermoost of his possibilitie; lyke as now laitlie in this last moneth of October, I being ryding out of your maiesteis toun of Dundie, in peceable and quyete maner, luyking for no harme, he, accompanied with the number of twenty horse with hagbuittis, pistollettis, and swordis, sett on me, chaiffit and persewit me to the said toun, and throch the toun to the mercat crosse, schott and dischairgit pistollettis at me, and missing me, hes schott ane gentill man callit Gedeon Guthrie, in the body, and the bullet stikking in his bodie, and can not be gottin out as zit, to the grypt parrell of his lyfe, swa that thair is no residence for me

* David, tenth Earl of Crawford, died 22d November 1607, and was succeeded by his son, David, the eleventh Earl, one of the most unprincipled noblemen of his time (see pages 161, 162), who dying in 1621, the earldom devolved on Henry, the next heir-male.

at my awin home, nor in na pairt of the cuntrie, bot with the extreame hazerd and perrell of my lyfe. In confideratioun whairof, I moft humble befeik your facred maieftie to recommend my diftreff eftait and conditioun to the lordis of your maiefties Previe Counfaie, and fpecialie to my Lord Chancellor, willing thame to tak fuche ordour thairin as in furetie I may inioy the benefeit of our maiefties peax, and be fecured from the malice and iniurie of the faid Erle of Craufurde, and incaife I can not find fufficient furetie heir, I will be compellit now, in my auld aige, to repair toward your facred maieftie for my releif. And fua, humelie craving pardoun of your facred maieftie for this my prefumptioun, and with my humble prayeris vnto God, recommending your facred maieftie, with all your royall progenie, vnto his devyne and fatherlie proteftioun, I refte for euer

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient
fubieft and fervitour,

WM. FULLARTOUN
Of that Ilk.

[No date.]

To the King his moft facred and
excellent Maieftie.

XCI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 5, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I have noe forder for the prefent to aduerteis your highnes concerning the eftait of this your majefties kingdome, bot that this laft

counfall daye, the 6 of this monethe, the Erle of Ergylle cauffed present the heades of twa notable malefactours in the Hielands, whoe had done manye ewill turnes and wrangis thir yeares bygayne. I spair to truble your highnes with thair onpleafand, onworthie, and ongodlie naymes, bot I have written the fame to Sir Alexander Haye. I think my felfe also bound in dewtie to testifie to your majestie the great contentment and fatiffactioun your highnes twa chaplaynes, Doctour Goodwin and Doctour Milwaird, hes gevin to all this cuntrie in thair doctrine, boithe in learning, eloquence, and godlines. Wee may weill all commend and admire thame, bot wee have ower few to follow or imitate thame. Alwayes we have all obligatioun of thankes vnto your sacred majestie, for directing at tymes sic of your serwands heir to latt your highnes subjects in this kingdome (who leiwes and profesfis that fame estaitt and lyiff) haiff some taifte and effaye what courfe thaj fould follow, what ground thaj fould kepe, and how thaj fould difcharge thair dewtie best in thair vocatioun; for I feir indeid thair be toe manye off ours heir that braggs toe mutche of thair vocatioun, and knowes toe lytle what belongs thairtoe. It may be feyne your maift gracious majestie omittis naa convenient moyen to draw and allure thame to the richt waye.

I have red owir, and pervfed your sacred majesties booke laitle come to licht,* and worthie of ewirlafting licht, all wifdome, all doctrine, all courtesie, all godlines, policie, and ciuilitie, fchynes in the fame.

I remember it is abowe 25 yeares fince I concludit ane epigrame vnto your sacred majestie, with this distitche, when your highnes was than begynning with your poesies,

*Maçte animo, Rex, ista tuum genus, ista decebat
Laus, famam gestis quærere, et ingenijs.*

I entered than, being young my felfe, in that opinioun off your maiefties valour be theese premices of your tender spreit, whereoff I have parfawed fenfyne sic strenthe and vigour aryse, boithe in actioun and speculation,

* Could this book be "Triplici nodo, triplex cunus: Or an Apologie for the Oath of Allegiance," &c. of which the first edition appeared in 1607, and the second in 1609?

as I am to my great contentment confermed in my awin poetically diuinitoun, and hopes in my auld dayes to onderstand the hail world shall admire and reverence the fame. Sua, praying the Eternal God lang to preferwe your maiestie in all healthe and prosperitie, I end this present with the maist humbill kifs of your sacred hand, continowing still to my lyfes end

Your maist sacred Maiesties maist humbill
and obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Edinburcht, 8th Julij 1609.

XCII.—JANE STEWART TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1609.

SIR,

I humbly crawes your maiestie gracious fauour and pardoun, that I haif tane the bauldnes to lament my hard estait, having my loving husband tane frome me, and left with tuelf bairnes, lytill rent to leiwe vpone, and burdenit with gret debt, that it may pleis your maiestie to remember of my umquhile husbandis faithfull seruice wnto your maiestie, and of your gracious countenance toward me at all tymes. It pleasit your maiestie to be euer fauorabill wnto my husband, and to releyue him of the debt contractit for my brother, quhilk releyuit no debt of his awin, bot left him in debt both in England and Scotland. Sir, I haif young weimen redde to marie, and your maiesteis seruant my douchter, Margratt, is marreit not without ane burden to me and my sone. Humbly recommending my estait wnto your maiesteis gracious fauour and helpe, and your guid anfueir, quhairin my onely confort restis vnder God: maist

humble kyffing your maiesteis hand, I tak my leiff, praying the Eternall to grant your maieftie monye happie and long dayis,

Be your Maiesteis maist humble and obedient
fervand,

JAIN STEWART.

Pitcarlye, the 3d of August 1609.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie
of Gret Brytane.

XCIIL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

It pleased your majestie, be your prencelie and fauorable letter, to recommend vnto me to concurre with the Erle of Doumbar in setting furthe off your highnes service in this kingdome in all sic directiouns as your maieftie had gevin to the said Erle, quhilk gevis me the occasioun to tak the bauldnes to writte thir few lynes vnto your maist gracious maieftie at this tyme. Your highnes directiounes first to the conventioun haldin in Januar last, next to our last sessioun of parliament, and dyvers tymes to your secreit counfall, war swa wyfe, swa worthie, and swa euidentlie sett down for the weill and wealthe of this estaitt, as nather myne nor naa particular mannis concurse could be requisite to aduance or procure the same to be imbraiced. Naa good subiect, nor weill affected to his cuntrie, could vtherwyfe doe, nor acknowledge himselfe in hiecheft degrie oblisched vnto your maieftie for your prencelie cair, in satling swa good ordours and policie amongs ws. To this joyned the said Earle of Doumbar, his dexteritie in vsing the saidis directiounes, in gewing all honest men dew satisfactioun in all sic doubtis as nicht aryse concerning the saidis directiounes, and alwayes making all men cleirlye resolued of your sacred maiesteis constant, continowall, intere, and zealous affectioun

to the weele of this kingdome, and to ewirie man in particular, according to his rank, merites, and plaice, maide me werie lytle adoe, and my burding werie licht in your maiesteis service at this tyme, and far inferiour to sic notice and acknowledgement as hes pleased your maiestie geive me be your letter for my goodwill, in studeing to bring your prencelie and royall desseyngs to dew successe and accompliechment.

Besides all other notable good service, whilk this noble man, the Erle of Doumbar, hes done vnto your maiestie, my dewtie in my plaice vnder your highnes heir bindes me to signifie this vnto yiow, that he hes had special cair to reprefs, baithe in the incountrie and on the Bordours, the infolence of all the proud bangifters, oppreffours, and nembroithis,* but regaird or respect to ony of thame, hes purged the Bordours of all the cheiffest malefactouris, rubbars, and brigantis as war wount to regnne and triumpe thair, als clein, and be als great wisdome and policie as Hercules fometymes is written to hawe purged Augeas, the king of Elide his escuries, and be the cutting aff be the sword of justice, and be your maiesteis autoritie and lawis, the Laird of Tynwell, Maxwell, findrie Douglaffis, Jhonefounes, Jardanis, Armestrangis, Betifounes, and sic others magni nominis luces in that brokin partis, hes randered all theese wayes and passages betuix your maiesties kingdomes of Scotland and Ingland als free and peciable, as is recorded Phoebus in auld tymes maide frie and oppen the wayes to his awin oracle in Delphos, and to his pythicque playes and ceremonies be the destruccion of Phorbas and his Phlegiens, all theiwis, voleurs, bandstiers, and throat cutters. These partis ar now, I may assure your majestie, als lawfull, als peciable, and als quyett, as anye part in any ciuill kingdome of Christianitie.

All this is done quyettlie, fuddanlie, and in fhort spaice, but anye harme, truble, hazaird, or greiff to onye good subjeet. All is done in your faced maiesteis nayme and autoritie: all be your prencelie commandement and instruccion. Baithe he and the hail kingdome yeildis vnto your maiestie continowallie, infinit thankis and praise thairfoir. As he is, and continowallie professis to be, your majesties serwand, and your

* Nimrods? probably meant to designate moss-troopers.

creature, his a^ctiounes ar all yⁱouris : the effects, the praife, the consequence thair^of, ar to redound to your sacred majestie, as all the waters, baith the great and sm^all, returnis to the great ocean sea.

In the incountrie, where occasioun hes bene presented of riotts or offences in ony persounes esteymed of the misfrewlie or bangister kynd of peple, as we call thame ; as Threafaurer, he has swa pwneist and w^osed the maist pairt of thame, as I hope shall breid ws all heir great ease for a lang whylle ; for I think sic Centaures, sic Gerionis, sic Bufyris of Egypte, and sic Arithes, shall eschiew to come in sic a Hercules waye or daunger, wha, be yⁱour majesteis strenthe and wise directioun, can decyfre and goe beyond all thair craft and subtiliteis, and can contemne and owirthrow all thair wayne boast and pride.

All this I doubt not bot your maist gracious majestie hes bene informed of mair particulierlie at feuerall tymes be yⁱour ordinair secretarie, Sir Alexander Hays, whometo all is ewir vrittin particularlie, in all our proceedings in counfall, and in all others affairis of importance in this kingdome.

This I have thocht necessair to writte, onlie to testifie vnto your maiestie what praife and honour it is to yⁱow, and what euident demonstratioun of your royall wisdome the choyse and imployment of sic ane officear and instrument, in sic royall charges ; wha hes the witt to confawe, the cair, ingyne, and moderatioun to conwoye, joyned with the curage, moyen, and valour to execute and performe the fame. This, in all humilitie taking my leive, with a kifs of your royall and sacred hand, and praying the Eternall for youer majesteis continowance and daylie increfs in all prosperitie, rests for ewir

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and
affectionat subje^ct and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.*

Edenburgh, 12th Augustj 1609.

* This letter is inimitable, and must have suited the fancy of the King exactly. The gross flattery and superabundance of classical allusion would be equally palatable. No wonder that Lord Dunfermline was a favourite.

XCIV.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, [1609?]

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTY,

At my laft parting from Scotland, the tyme conteinit in the charge was onlie xx dayes, viz. from the 18 of October to the 10 of No- uember exclufiue, to paffe out of your maiefties dominions in Scotland, fo that I could not haue fufficient tyme to eftablifh fick folide ordour with my affaires as was requifite for ſo lang abſence. Nou, feing it hes pleaſet your hienes to grant me the benefite of my leauing during the reſt of my dayes, I will moſt humbly entreate your maieſty vpon my kneis, be this preſent, that I may haue licence to returne to Scotland for ſome fyue or ſax monethes only, vpon ſick conditions as your maieſty pleaſes till enioyne, that I may put ordour to the diforderet eſtate of my leauing, whilk can not be done without my awen preſence to my great loſſe, and is now all out of forme and ordour, and that I may giue my laſt gudnicht to my contrey, familie, and friendes, for I am become now auld and feakly, and within ſchort tyme will be vnable to trauell. Gif it fall pleaſe your maieſtie to grant me this grace, of your princely clemency, the caution for my returne ſhall ſtand, as they ar alreddy obliged, and I will think my ſelſe bound in conſcience to pray daylie for your maieſties proſperous regne and royall poſterity. Thus, kiſſing, with all humility, your princely hand, I reſt now and ever

Your Maieſties moſt humble and faithfull
ſubiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Paris, the penult of October [1609?]

XCV.—OATH TENDERED TO THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY AND THE
EARL OF ERROL.

NOVEMBER 13 AND 17, 1609.

THE Oathe vnderwritten being offered to the Marques of Huntley and Erle of Erroll, the one vpoun the xiiijth of November, the other vpoun the xvijth of the same moneth in this instant yeir of God, j^m vi^c and nyne yeiris ; and they haueing fullye refolued in there confciencis with every poynte of the fame, with all dew folemmitie (the holye Ewangell tuiched) humblye vpoun there kneis, in prefence of many noblemen, bishoppis, and vtheris of goode forte, did tak this oathe efterspecifiet:—

1. As I acknowledge my self to be his maiesties naturallye borne subiect, beydes my innumerable obligationes to his persoun, so do I, in the faith of a trew Christiane, protest and awowe to be evir trew and afauld to his maiestie and his posteritye, nevir to conceale the hairme of him and his estaite, and nevir to spaire the hazairdeing of lyife and estaite in assisting his maiestie and his posteritye, so far as fall lye in my power, agains whatfoevir enemye, invaider or invasioun, ather domestically or forrayne, vpoun whatfoevir quarrell or pretext of the invaider, or of the pretext or caus of invasioun, yea, though it wer for caus of religioun.

2. And therefor, I do in speciall confes and protest, that if any warre fuld happin to fall outt betuix his maiestie and his successeuris and the Pope, or if any publick invasioun or privatt attempt fuld be executed agains his maiestie or his staite, aither by the Pope's directioun, advyise, assistance, or oversight, I am, in that caice, bounde, bothe in conscience and dewtye, to assiste his maiestie to the vtermoste of my power : Lyikeas, heirby I sweare and promife, in the faith of a trew Catholicke Chris-

tiane, so to do, notwithstanding whatsoever allwerementis, threatningis, or prohibitiuous of the Pope to the contrarye.

3. And in caise it fuld happin that the Pope fuld excommunicat his maiestie or his succesfouris, and louse his subiectis from there fidelitie ; nevertheles I do not hold it anyways laugfull, ather for me, or any other of his maiesties subiectis, to give the Pope any obedience therein, or to fwarue in the leaste jotte of our naturall dewtye and subiectioun vnto him.

4. For nather do I holde it laugfull for the Pope, or any perfoun whatsoever that lives vpoun the earth, to dethrone or depoise kingis, or to louse there subiectis from there fidelitie, or anyways to meddle with temporall authoritye of princes, notwithstanding any respect of religioun or whatsoever other spirituall respect.

5. For I am persuaded in my conscience, that kinges ar the immediats lieutenantis of God vpoun earthe, and that there calling is directlye from God, and therefoir ar subiect to nane vnder God himself, nor bounde to give accompt of any poynte of there government to any vnder God.

Renunceing and disclaimeing with my hearte all that ambitious vsurpation of popes abowe the temporall authoritye of emperours and kinges ; vterlye condemning alweill the doctrine as practise thereof. And of all these poyntes I am in my conscience persuaded, without any sorte of æquivocation, whiche doctrine I abhorre as the doctrine of lies : nather do I think that any pope can hawe power to dispense with any manis conscience, in any of these former poyntes.

HUNTLYE.

ERROLL.

* Balfour observes in his Annals, pp. 33, 34, that in February 1610, these two Lords still remained in confinement ; “ for the King (as the treuth was) thought that he could not preserve the publick peace better, then be keeping these birdes of prey so caidget wpe.”

XCVL.—GEORGE LORD GORDON TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST DREAD SOUERAINE,

Since it did please your maiestie, out of your gracious fauor, to call me to the attendance heir on the princes seruice, which I hold on of the greatest pointes of all wordlie happines, in regarde of your maiesties good mynd towards me your maiesties vnworthie subiect and seruant: and finding some thortours in my stay, quhairat your maiestie no doubt will admire and few will creedit, I am in this, my forced necessitie, compelled to haue recours to that fontaine of your maiesties gracious fauor and protectione whiche I haue euer found, and still does expect at your maiesties hand. My father by all licklyhood feemes cairles of me, I dar fay no farther, perhapes accompting me vnworthie of his regaird as beeng ane haeretic in his conceit; and zit no strait, nather aduerfitie, fall diuert me from that impressiōe of Godes trew feare, the professiō whairof, I hope, according to my promise made to your maiestie, to giue ane constant prooue to my verie last breath. Prouisiō I haue none els, and my remaining heir in this fort without money or means to defray creditours, besydes euedent harme to myself, must neids in respect of my birth, be some impeachement to the honour of my natie countrie. I haue communicat my iust greifs to my Lord Duc of Lennox, my unckle, and to your maiesties most worthie subiect the Erle of Dumbar, I am most defyrōus to know your maiesties plesoure, whairunto without regaird of perrell or inconuenient I will euer conforme myself, only wreiting these lynes (crauing pardoun of your maiestie for this my presomption), to testifie your maiestie of my present caice, quhiche, by the Duc of Lennox and the berar, may be fegnified at more lenth. And wishing at God that I might

haue occasione to testifie my deutifull affection with the pryce of my lyf, I humbly pray the Almichtie God euer to blifs your maiestie with all happines, and I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect and
feruitour,

GEORGE GORDOUNE.

[No date.]

XCVII.—ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI

NOVEMBER 13, 1609.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

May it pleas your most sacred maiestie, I haue of tymes complained of the infolence and heauey oppreffioune committed wpon my tennents and lands be the Clangregour, and haue becine forced to be silent this tyme bygaine, hoping that sometyme thair fould beine ane end thair of: Bot now finding myself difappointed, and thame entered to there former courfes, haue taine occasione to acquent your sacred maiestie thairwith, beseeking your maiestie to haue pitie and compassioune wpon ws your maiesties obedient subiectes, and remanent poire pepill quha sufferes, and to provyd tymous remeid thairin; and that your maiestie may be the better informed in the particular, I haue acquent your maiesties secretare thairin, to quhois sufficiency referring the rest, and craueing pardoune for importuning your maiestie, I leive in all humanitie in your maiesties most sacred hands.

Your sacred Maiesties most humble and
obedient subiect,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN
off Lufs.

Rosdo, the 13 of November 1609.

XCVIII.—THE INHABITANTS OF THE LATE BORDOURS OF SCOTLAND
TO KING JAMES VI.*

Thay that wrytts of the qualetis of ane guid kyng compairs him to the fon, *qui non est alius pauperi, quam diuiti, fed omnibus communis*. Rycht fo, most gracious fouerane, ze ar our fon, the beames of quhois fauour and luif heathe equallie ouerschaddouit zour hienes haill realmes. Erasmus, *De Institutione Principis*, fayis, *Quid est aliud regnum, nisi magna familia? Quid rex, nisi plurimorum pater?* And, indeid, zour maiestie, withe the evis of zour prudence, iustice, and benignetie, as ane cairfull maister of ane famelie, or rather as ane loowyng father, hes lookit narrowlie into the behaiour of those that inhabit euery part of zour hienes realmes, bot especiallie to the behaiour of those that inhabits that part of zour maiesteis realm of Northbritane, sumtym callit the Bordors, quhom zour hienes hes bene thir dyuers zeirs bygane sumtym threatnyng by iustice, sumtym alluryng by lenitie, to that dew obedience quhilk becomes trew and faithfull subiects: And to this effect, it pleased zour hienes to gif command to your officiers in those parts, to play the part of expert husband men, *qui noxas frugibus plantas herbasque conuellere atque in totum extirpare solent*. Neuirtheles thay ar fo far frome doing of thair deutie to God and zour hienes, that all reuerence and feare of punishment set asyd, thay ar returnit (*vt canis ad vomitum*) to thair auld accostomet infolences and vicket lyf: quhairthrow wee, that ar of the most peacebill and obedient fort of subiects within those parts, leifs at this hour in als greit feare of our lyfs and goods, as ewer we did at ony tyme heertofoir, quhen grittest difobedience rang amangs ws. Quhairfoir we haue fend up thir our greifs to zour most sacred maiestie, at this tyme, in all humilitie, beseikand zour hienes to play the part of ane hol-some physycian to ws, *qui membrum putrefactum incidi atque in totum*

* There is no date—it has consequently been placed at the end of the year 1609.

eradicari iubet, ne aliam corporis partem labefactare aut corrumpere possit. It heathe pleased your hienes to appoint the Erle of Dumbar to be grit commissioner for repressing of the enormeteis of those people, quho, indeid, heathe bene ane faithfull executor of your hienes pleafour and will. Bot, as Cicero sayis, in Oratione pro Cluentio, thay ar lyk to the beafts of the feild, quæ fame dominante ad eum locum vbi aliquando pastæ sunt reuertuntur. For the lytill intermission of Justice Courts quhilk heathe bene fynce his lordships departur and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham so insolent, that thair is nothing quhilk thay dar not attempt. The deshonour of God, his word and ministrie baithe practizet; disobediens to your hienes lawis no falt; for the Erle of Dumbar (say thay) and his deput commissioners will not intermedle with ony maters, bot only withe new thifts. He that can rais fyr secretlie and wknawin, fall not leif it wndon. Wyld incefts, adultereis, conuocations of the lieges, schutting and wearing of hagbuts, pistolets, and lances, dayly bludfcheds, oppression, and disobedience in ciuill maters, nather ar nor hes bene punischt. Gif ony peacebill man feu ony of the clannes to the law for thair lands or goods, he is incontinent threatnit of his lyf, and gif he obtene decreit befor the ordinar judge, quho dar put the samyn to executione? for he dar not poynd for feir of gritter inconuenients: And as for hornyng, thair is no moir accompt maid of the going to the horne than to the aillhou; for quhen commiffion is obtenit to the gaird to tak the rebels (quhilk is our last refuge), Sir William Cranfton refusis to execute the samyn, becaus it belangis not to his commiffion, and my Lord of Scone comes feildome to counfell with his gaird, for ather thay ar disperst throw the contrie, and said to be employet in vther commiffions, or ellis the hail foume contenit in the commiffion will not content my lord for his guidwill, and the gaird for thair expens, or wtherways thay ar attending vpon his lordship and his priuat effeares; and gif at ony tyme ane commiffion be presentit to ony of the gaird, thay will not execute the samyn quhill his lordship be foirfene and gif tham his warrand, quhilk is moir accountet of and moir difficill to obtene than the counfells; and be this meanes, gif the rebell be his freind, or ane man quhome he fauours, his lordship is accustomet to mak him aduerteifment

be his letter, that the gaird is to be directit aganes him. The brenches of clannes ar begun agane to renew liggess and bands amangs themselves, and to conuene in vnlauthfull maner in euery on of thair particulers. Gif diligent searche war maid throwche euery paroch, thair fuld be ane grit number fund of ydle people without ony calling, industrie, or lauthfull meanes to leif by, except it be vpon the blude of the poorest and most obedient fort. Wthers, agane, that seames to be of the better fort, ar so full of pryde, inuie, and malice, that, as Plutarche sayis, quod inter Agathallos et Acanthylides tantum est odium, vt si fanguis eorum immisceatur, continuo separent se rursus et diffiliant hinc inde. Thir men, etiam si aliquando pro rerum vsu coniungantur, durat tamen odium naturale, in sik fort that gif four or fyue of thame conuene thame sels in ane aillhouse, as thair custome is, thay fall not part without contention and bludschede. Sir, lat no man disflaue your maiestie, and say that the cuntrie is brocht to quyetnes and good ordour; for, as the Lorde leiuess, thair was not sik apperance of wnquyetnes, sik blud[schedes], nor sik stealling, synce your hienes happie going in England, as is [at this] present. It is not the execution of a few fymple and poore men, sik as wa[s done] laitlie baithe be the barrones of Nyddisdail and Galloway, quhen gritter . . . war ouersene, that will bring the contre to that conformetie your h[ienes] desyres: Aranearum telas corui perrumpunt muscæ vero implicantur. Thay [war verie] blodie mouthet hands all thair tyme, and leiders of companeis of th . . . broken men, and as zet dreimes of nothyng bot of blude; thift and oppression gois frie, sum of thame clemand to remissions, and never a partie satisfiyit. Vthers alledgis thay haue gottin ane ouersyght at the ernesst sute of sum men thair freinds, and vthers agane ar seruants and dependers vpon [sum] of the deput commissioners, quhome thay employ in sum seruice, as the physician vsis fel hienæ et phocæ coagulum aliasque pessimarum ferarum partes of grit diseases. Thir fort of peopill ar not meit to leif in ane ciuil [common] wealthe, sed rostro ferreo, vt herbæ radicitus euelluntur a vinea . . . thair posteretie eradicandi sunt: for, coccitis pullus, as Plinius . . . leuerit cum sit nothus, tamen legitimus deuorat, vnaque matrem skilfull musycian thinks it not sufficient, in cithara in vno ta con-

centum efficere, sed vniuersi percutiendi sunt numeroſe et Euen ſo we ar perſuadet, that it is not 3our hienes pleaſour to pu[*t* ane or] tua of the clannes of thoſe parts to ane tryall, bot that euery one of tham, the hieft to the laweft, ſould be layed to the tuichſtane of juſtice. Agap[*itus Dia-*] conus, in ane treatiſe de Officio Regis, fayis, vt folis partes, ſunt illuſtrare orbem, ſic principis virtus eſt egenorum miſereri; and the experience we haue had of 3our hienes luiſ and pitie toward 3our diſtreſſit ſubieçts, hes geuen full aſſurance to ws, that 3our hienes will caus all the enormeteis of thoſe parts be repreſſit; and that freqent courtes be kept amangs ws, ager enim diu non proſciſſus fylueſcit, ac paſſim innumeras vepes producit. The intermiſſion of juſtice courts, and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham to put on thair old habits; for thay may be comparat to the adamant ſton, qui ſolo ſanguine maceratus frangitur, and man be vſit as the phyſician dois thois, qui crudo et indigeſto ſunt ſtomacho, quibus amarum prodeſt abyſynthium. Quhairfoir, we maiſt humblie entreat 3our moſt ſacred maieſtie, that command be gewen to 3our hienes officers, to aſſiſt 3our poore and diſtreſſit ſubieçts in thoſe parts, alſweill in thair ciuill as criminall açtiones; and that thay play not the part of euill craftiſmen, qui ſemper relinquunt locum caſtigacioni, vt legulet occaſionem liti. And ſo, in all humeletie, we tak our leiſ, beſeikand the Allmyghtie God to grant 3our maieſtie ane long, happie, and prosperous reingne ouer ws,

3our Maieſteis moſt humble and obedient ſubieçts,

THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAIT
BORDERS OF SCOTLAND.*

To the Kyngs moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

* From the ſtyle of this interesting document, and the numerous Latin quotations, one might conjecture that it came from the pen of Lord Dunfermline.

XCIX.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 15, 1610.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Sins my 3oungeft 3eiris, neuer hauing beine in us to difobey 3our facred maieftis uill and directioun, in no temporall thing quhat-fumeuir, I haue nou transgrefsit thos limits for greater testimonie of my humble affectioun and obediens. Yea, I uill go uerray neir the hazart of my faull, befor I gif 3our facred maieftie any iust occasioun athaer of grudge or mistrust againis me: and gif I did utheruayis, I uar the most ingrait in the earth, confidering be quhou monie obligatiouns I am det-bound to 3our facred maieftis fauour towards me heirtofor, quhilk lysis neuer in my simple pouar till acquit, albeit I fuld uair the laft drop of my blood in 3our facred maieftis feruis in recompans. And feing my conformitie nou procedis most of my affectioun, I hoip for the forder fauour at 3our facred maieftis hands, remitting me aluayis to 3our facred maieftis wontit fauour and clemencie towards me, quhilk I fall euer pres to conferue by all humble deuetic of feruis, quhilk may ly in ane simple subiects pouar to performe, as I haue informit this berar, Sir Thomas Ker, my feruitour, to delait unto 3our facred maieftie at greater lenth, gif it uill pleis 3our facred maieftie till do him that honour as to heir him. Sua, eftir the kissing most humble of 3our facred maieftis hand, I uill rest

3our most facred maieftis euer humble
subiect and most affectionat feruitour
to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this 15 of Februar 1610.

To the Kings most facred Maieftie.

C.—THE COUNTESS OF CRAWFURD TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

It will pleis your hienes, the gryt confort quhilks wtlers dif-tressit subiects haue fundin, hes now as on of thois embaldonit me to putt furth thois lynis of regraitts to your hienes wew, complening of the vniust difdanis and vnkyndlie actionis of my housband towards me, quha, since the tym of my vnquhill fathers deceis, following his will and leud affectionis, hes now repudeatt me, without all feir of God, your hienes and lauis; detenit me as ane captiue, in dander of my lyf, quhill at last is delyuerit be moyane of my freinds, and so now leuis without ayd of him, spoillid and defradit of both fuid and rayments: in the quhilk creueltie he zit contenuis, without your maiestie prouyd remeid, the quhilk I in all humilitie befeiks your hienes giue eir wnto in tym, that he in his vikitnes being restranit, may in end tend to my confort, quhairon I rest, taking my liue in all humilitie, praying to blis your hienes with ane long lyf and ane prosperus regne,

Your Hienes most humbill feruitrice
now and euer at all pouer,

JAENE COUNTES OF CRAWFURD.*

Edinburcht, the xvii Februar 1610.

* According to Stewart's (Lord Ochiltree) MS. Genealogical Collections, this lady was "Jean Kerr, daughter to Mark Lord Newbattle, and sister to Robert Earl of Lothian, and widow of John Lord Boyd." Of this marriage, Lord Ochiltree states there was one daughter, although, in Wood's Edition of Douglas, vol. i. p. 380, it is said that the Earl died without issue. The Countess, continues his Lordship, "he divorced, and she married Mr Thomas Hamilton, son to the Lord Annandale[?] This Earl David died in the Castle of Edinburgh in prison, and was interred in the Abbey Church of Holyrood."—"He was confined for killing Walter Lindsay of Belgayes." Nisbet's Genealogical Collections, MS. Fac. Lib. page 51.

CL.—THE REVEREND JOHN HALL AND REVEREND PETER HEWAT
TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

We, having tane notice by your majesties secretaire, of some hard information given forth against us, and com'd to your maiesties cares, as thought our speaches in pulpit had tended in any sort to the impugning of any of your maiesties lawfull directions, whilk course, as we haue ever bene loath and unwilling to follow, so, least we shuld ly under the burthing of this so untrue an report, we ar bold to present to your highnes, by this our humble letter, the trueth of this fame, having at greater leight imparted to my lord secretaire all the circumstances of that mater. When signification was given of your majesties will and pleasure, anent a new cessation and time of vacancie in the winter session, it was so mistaken universally, that the commoun sort thinking it to proclame to them libertie and lowfenes, to the whilk they ar so prone, and the Papists and enemies of Gods trueth taking heirof occasion of insolent speaches, as thought encouraged to looke for the returne of their former superstitious doing, we was forced in our sermons as to sett ourselves against the vanitie of the people, and labour to tak from the enemies this mater of their joy: so to cleir your maiesties honest and godly intention, being certified by my Lord Chancellor directing to us the baillies of this toun to that effect, that there was none other thing meant be your highnes, but to give relaxation to the lords of your maiesties session, at that season of the yeir; so that in meddling with this earand, we trust we have so caried ourselues with respect to your maiesties honor, that we haue ministrat no just occasion of offence. And gif the contrair shalbe alledged or qualified be any in quhatsoever particular speache, we dout not bot our answer shall render contentment: and we know that your maiestie has never bene in

ufe to condemne unheard. Whereas your maieftie hes likewife bene advertised of fum unreverent and impertinent ſpeeches ufed in publick prayer concerning your maieftie by certane of the brethren of this preſbyterie, we can affuir your maieftie that, to our knowledge and hearing, there is no fuch difordour, whereof, gif any ſhalbe found culpable, your maieftie may perſuade yourſelf he ſhall not eſcape convenient cenſure, as we willbe anſwerable to your hienes, under whoſe wings we enjoy this liberty. The prooffe your maieftie hes had of our former proceeding, and knowledge your maieftie may tak of our hail cariage in our vocation by perſons indifferent, and fuch as dois not hate us and our miniſtery both, we doubt not will move your maieftie to fofter none evill conceit of us, but, in all accuſations fallbe caried, leaue place to us to anſwer for ourſelves. Thus, referring to my lord ſecretary a moir ſpeciall report, with whome we haue bene plane in every thing, we humblie tak our leave, and commends your maieſties ſacred perſon and eſtait to the bleſſing and protection of the Almighty.

Your Maieſties loving and obedient ſubjects,

Edinburgh, 17 Februar 1610.

JO. HALL.
MR P. HEWATT.

To the King his maiſt excellent Maieſtie.

CIL.—WARRANT APPOINTING PETER ROLLOK OF PILTOUN ONE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LORDS OF SESSION.

MAY 16, 1610.

AT Edinburgh, the fextene day of Maij, the yeir of God 1⁶¹⁰ vj^o and ten yeiris, in preſens of the lordis of counſale, compeirit perſonallie Mr Petir Rollok of Piltoun, and preſentit to the lordis this warrant directit from his maieſtie to the chancellour, preſident and remanent

fenatouris of the College of Justice; off the quhilk the tenour followis.* Richt trustie and weilbelouit coufing and counfalouris, we greit yow weill. Quhairas vsuallic in all tymes past since the institutioun of the College of Justice, the extraordinaris nevir exceidit the number of foure, quhill of lait yeiris, that vpoun ane speciale vrgent occasioun the fyft was addit, and now, efter the death of Mark Erle of Lowthiane, quha was ane extraordinare both by place and voit of the sprituale fyde, we haveing nominat the rycht reuerend father in God the Archbifchop of Glasgow for possessioun thairof, and heirwith haifing sent down oure warrand vnto yow for reducing thame to the number of four, and certifeing oure pleafour concerning the other thrie, we do now vnderstand that by this ordour Mr Peter Rollok of Piltoun, ane of thame, quho of ane lang tyme had bene ane extraordinare, was now disposselt, and knowing him to haif bene ane evir bent to oure seruice, and vtherwayes fit and apt for adminiftratioun of justice, and being by ane lettre from all of yow speciallic recommendit vnto ws, and by yow intrettie maid to ws on his behalf, we haifing bene evir vnwilling that an old fervant, aganes quhome no exceptioun of ony offence could be takin, sould in his eagit yeiris carie ony note of the lose of oure faour, as mycht both breid greif to himself and heaftin his gray hairis to the graif, and imprint in the opinioun of vtheris sum apprehensioun of his difgrace: Thaise ar thairfoir to will and requyre yow to receave and admit him agane to be ane of your extraordinaris, to haif place and voit in lyk maner as ony of the vther four hes. And, howevir, vpoun the respectis foirfaidis we ar forcit to vrge the number of fyve extraordinaris to fit with yow, yit it is not oure mynd that this fall be ony preparative heirefter for the continowing of the lyk number. But oure plefour is, that yow, by ane speciale act and statute, to be re-

* See Melros Papers, vol. i. pp. 76, 279. Peter Rollok, who originally was brought up to the profession of the law, and who passed advocate previous to the year 1575, subsequently directed his views towards the church, and succeeded James Paton, Bishop of Dunkeld, in December 1585. He was admitted, on the 19th May 1596, an extraordinary Lord of Session, on the resignation of the Earl of Montrose. Of this office he was afterwards deprived, but restored by this warrant from the King. He retained his seat for about ten years, when he resigned it, and was succeeded, 1st February 1620, by Lord Erskine.

credit in your buikis, declair that this admissioun of ane fyft extraordinare is onlie hac vice tantum ; and that sua sone as ony of theſe places fall vaik in ony fort, that than none fall be put in the roume of that voide place, and in no tyme thairefter the number to be encreafed : for doing quhair of theſe presentis fall be vnto yow warrant : and in ſo far as it is requyrit that euerie extraordinare be one of oure counſale, and the ſaid Mr Petir being none of that number, we haif, tharfor, out of our prerogative royall, difpenſit thairwith, inhabling him in all reſpectis to injoy his place, as gif he war ane of our counſale ; and ſo we bid yow fairweill. From our court of Quhythall, the fyft of Apryle 1610 ; as the ſaid lettre, ſignet with his maieſteis hand and ſuperſcriptioun, proportis. Quhilk being conſideret be the ſaidis lordis, they fand his maieſteis deſyr thairin contentit verie reaſonable, and according thairto hes admittit and reſſaut the ſaid Mr Peter Rollok in ane of the extraordinare Lordis of Seſſioun, and gevis and grantis to him all the priuilegis, immunitis, and digniteis, pertaining to the ſaid extraordinare place, and quhilk hes bene bruikit be ony vther extraordinare Lord of Seſſioun at ony tyme of befoir : and the ſaid Mr Peter Rollok being perſonallie preſent, maid faith that he ſould leillalie and trewlie exerce the ſaid office, and miniſter iuſtice thairin to all oure ſouerane lordis liegis, and to obſerue the actis and ſtatutis of the ſeſſioun, and thairvpoun aſkit instrumentis. *Extractum de libro actorum per me dominum Georgium Hay de Nethirliff, militem, clericum rotulorum regiſtri ac conſilii ſancti domini noſtri regis, ſub meis ſigno et ſubſcriptione manualibus,*

GEORGIUS HAY, *Clericus Regiſtri.*

CIII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 18, [1610?]

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Hauing euer, in all my greateft trubils, miferis, and aduerfitis paff, fund 3our facred maieftie my onlie gracious proteéteur, faugard, and refuge, now I am forcit moft humblie to regrait my prefent hard eftait, fins nou, far aganis my expectatioun, all 3our facred maieftis lettres uretin fauorable for my delyuerans, I find thaeme throwin to contrar effect, be the malice of thaes quha ondeferuidlie haitis me, and thair greter yre apperis that onie fpoung of 3our facred maieftis gracious fauour fuld zit feime to remaine towards me : for I hauing, according to 3our facred maieftis directioun, in prefens of the Chancellor and the Erlle of Dumbar, and fum of the bifchops and ministrie, not onlie ratifiit my fubfcriptioun of the heidis it plefit 3our facred maieftie to direct unto me, bot alfweill in euerie point, particularlie in thair prefens, approuit the fame, zit nothing uald fatiffie, except I uald both fuer and communicat : fua nou, Sir, I haue my onlie refuge, fen reafon will not be hard be thaem, unto 3our facred maieftis fauorable clemencie, quhilk I haue euer fund more towards me than ane thousand of my lyuis can repay. Pleis 3our facred maieftie to call to memorie, that this zeir paff, I was informit that my going to fermons wald gife 3our facred maieftie fatiffactioun, quhilk I obeyit : Secondlie, the bifchop of Orkney presentit unto me the oth of alledgens from 3our facred maieftie, quhilk I willinglie performit with all affection, as himfelf testifiit thereftir. Zit this not fuffifing, I haue at laft, for 3our facred maieftis forther fatiffactioun, fubfcryuit the heids of religioun that it plefit 3our facred maieftie to direct unto me. Giff all this cannot fuffis to procur me libertie to fum of my houfis, I knau not quhat reftis till me to do, bot onlie, as I haue euer done heirtofor, to fubmitt my felf in all humilitie to 3our facred maieftis good plefour and will : and I will humblie befeik 3our facred maieftie to grant one of thir three

petitiouns : Athaer libertie, as was condiscended be your sacred maieftis former lettre, to go till fume of my houfis, or than that fauour as to remaine in my auin chargis beyd your sacred maieftie, that I micht haue that contentment as to fe your sacred maieftis perfoun ainis in the half zeir at left, quhar I fall conform my self to your sacred maieftis will and directioun, in all points. Gif non of thir fatiffis, that it will pleis your sacred maieftie to grant me licens, as the Erle of Angus hes alredie gottin, to pas out of the contrey, and my wyff with me, with securitie of our liuingis, quhar ue fall euer attend your sacred maieftis fauorable recalling quhanfoeuer it fall pleis your sacred maieftie to think the tyme proper. Sua, in thir and in all uthir thingis, as it fall pleis your sacred maieftie to inioine to me, euer offering my humble obediens, efter the kissing most humblie of your most sacred maieftis hand, I uill rest

Your most sacred Maieftis humble subiect
and most affectionat feruiteur, to my
lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this xvij. of
Junj [1610 ?]*

To the Kyns most sacred Maieftie.

* This letter has no date. Assuming the oath to be that taken on the 13th and 17th of November 1609, it may probably be assigned to the following year. The Marquis appears subsequently to have been less molested by the clergy, and latterly was sworn in a Privy Councillor. Balfour says, vol. ii. p. 64. "This 27 of February [1617] George Marquis of Huntley was admitted and sworne a priuey counsellor, conforme to the order."

CIV.—WARRANT BY JAMES VI. IN FAVOUR OF THE EARL OF ANGUS.

[1610?]

WHEREAS the French Ambassadour, in the name of his maiestie the young king,* and the quein his mother, hath made most earnest suite vnto vs on the behalfe of the Earle of Angus, to graunt vnto him such affurance of his estate as the lawes of that our kingdome could affoorde : And seeing it was neuer our intention that hee should be more hardly dealte withall then the Marquis of Huntley, or the Earle of Errole (whose obstinacy in their religioun is no lesse than his), and seeing that their liuings are putte to a pointe for their owne benefite, and his only of the thrie remayneth yet vnfettled : We haue thought good, by these presentes, to require you not only to take like order with his estate as hath been taken with those of the other two, and to cause a signatour for that effect be sent vnto vs ; but likewise, if any difficulty do occurre which may any way hinder the same, that you eyther by your felues take it away, or then adwertise vs, that wee may determine therein according as wee shall see cause ; and willing this to be done with all conuenient expeditioun, we, &c.†

CV.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JULY 6, 1610.

THE bearer heirof, Sufanna Declony, the wyife of Adrian Vanfon, sumtyme our painter, hath diuers tymes importuned ws with

* Louis XIII.

† This and the following document are merely original drafts.

petitionis, desyring payment of debtes dew to hir said late husband, alfeuell for wages as work done at our commandement: and becaus we ar willing to give hir all dew satisfactioun (and yett are ignorant what fomme and vpoun what ground shee craveth), we haue by these presentis thought good to will and requyre you particularly to enquiry what is dew vnto her, and with all convenient expeditioun to certifie ws, vnder your hands, how muche we do justlie ow hir, to the intent that we, so certified, may tak suche farder course for her satisfactioun as falbe most agreable to reafone; and not doubting of your care heirin, we bid you fairweill. From our Court at Whitehall, the 6 of July 1610.

To the Counsell.

CVL.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE YOUR MOIST SACREID MAIESTEY,

I am forej fra my hart, that I am constryaynt to fache your maiestey, now in my awild age, with my wnwordey partecularis heir aganis my awin, cumen of my loynis, zett, remembering ewer your maiesteis moist gratiowse contenance to me, I haif tane the bawildnes to perfume the famen. It is trew that my eldest sonne,* being that thing erthely I moist respectt and confiditt into, and thought he fould haif bene my greatest helpe, to the weill of the rest of my scheeldering (by my expectatiowne and gud will), he mareitt him self, to my greitt grewe and his motheris, and to the losse and hurtt of my howse; and yet, mowitt be my frendis, and the cair I haid to the standing of my houffe, I remititt that owirfycht in him wpon hoipe in tymes to cumme he fould haif kythitt mair obedyence, bot all in waine. Bot now he rynis feike ane malytiowse cowrse aganis me, that he perallis my credeitt and honour in feike forme, that I am laythe to expresse the famen be wrytt, leiff I fould ower

* William Lord Kilmaurs "married Katharine, daughter to Mark Ker, Lord Newbottle." Stewart's MS. Collections, Advocates' Library.

mosche fache 3owr maiestie; and therfoir I haif defyritt 3owr maiesteis secretar heir to delayte the hail circumestancis betuix him and me att lenthe to 3owr maiestie, moift humblie crawling 3owr maiesteis gratiowfe fawour and contenance to me now in my awild age, nocht to be croffitt with my awin bowellis, bot to haif commandymnt of my awin, swa longe as I am to lewe in this pilgrymage, and that I may lewe behynd me the memorej of ane howffe to ferwe 3owr maiestej and 3owris. I can do no more, bott I fall ewer remane 3owr moift sacreid maiesteis ewer to ferwe, to the last brethe, with als willing and trew ane hartt, as falbe in all 3owr maiesteis domynownis. And swa, humblie crawling 3owr maiesteis pardowne for this my ewill wrytt and facheowffe lettir, humbill ferwice rememberitt to 3owr moift sacreid maiestej, I pray the Lord ewer to remane with 3owr maiestie, and to gif 3owr maiestie longe lyf and gud hailthe, with profeperowffe sukefesse, I rest

3owris moift sacreid Maiesteis moift humbill and
obedyentt subiectt, ewer redie, in all humillitie,
to ferwe,

GLENCAIRNE.

[No date.]

To his moift sacreid Maiestie.

CVII.—THE EARLS OF DUNFERMLINE AND DUNBAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 27, 1610.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

Vpoun aduertifment gevin to ws that some pirott schippis
had bene fene in the mouthe of this firth, and the same secundit by the

complaintis of a grite many of your maieſteis ſubieſtis, bothe in the weſt coaſt and heir on the eaſt, of the vnquietnes and haſaird of paſſage by reafoun of the frequencie of Ingliſhe pirottis on the ſea, and ſpeciallie of one of Caithnes, who, in his paſſing home, wes robde of all that he had, and bothe by him and by the repoir of otheris who had mett ſome of thoſe pirottis on the ſea, being certified that thay wer gone towardis the Orknay Ylandis, we being moved and grevit with the complaint of your maieſteis poore people, and being loathe to impeſhe your maieſteis vtheris weyghtie affairis with the aduertifment thairof, whill we had done ſome thing thairin oure ſelfis, and wiſheing that in a mater of this qualitie (admitting hardlie ony delay, wherin the omitting of the preſent occaſion nicht doe muche harme), your maieſtie ſould rather find ws cairfull of our dewytie then otherwayes remiſe or negligent, we did heirupoun preſentlie direct three of the beſt ſchippis at that tyme within the harbour of Leyth, weele mannit, and furniſſit with all weirlyke prouifioun (your maieſteis awne ſchip at that tyme not being arryved heir), and having gevin vnto thame expres directioun and charge to mak ſearche and to follow quhidder foeuir thay could apprehend thoſe pirottis; and our ſchippis having mett with thame vpoun the coaſt of the mayne land of Orknay, thay having twa failis, the one a ſchip aboue 200, the other a choiſe pinnace of 100, eſter a bloodie conflict, in whiche twa of oure men wer killed and ſindrie hurte, the pinnace being excellent in failleing, maid choiſe rather by flight to faife hirſelf then by ony langer ſtay to abyde the haſaird of taking; and albeit ſcho wes followed for a ſpace, yitt did ſcho ſtill gayne ground, wherupoun hir perfute being left of, the other grite ſchip in the meane quhyle being boordit, wes brought away by oure ſchippis, and in hir wer takin to the number of threttie able men, beſydis ſome few priſonnaris whome theſe pirottis did keepe aboorde, who, after they had bene dewlie and feuerall tymes examined, at laſt all theſe threttie wer putt to thair tryall and found guiltye; of whiche number xxvij ar execute and putt to death, of whome there wer twa captaines, by name Captaine Perkynis and Captaine Randall. The other three ar repryvit and continewit vntill ſuche tyme as your maieſteis pleaſour be knowne, in regairde that thair is hoip by thair farder examinatioun, to

learne oute some thingis tuitcheing the estate. We haif alreddy discouerit some mater of abuse, hoiping to finde more oute, wherby this grite increfse of piracye hathe bene by some, far aganis thair dewyteis to your maiestie, too muche fosterit and mantenit : bot of the particularis of the same, as vnwilling to committ thame to wryte, your maiestie falbe certified at lenth by your maiesteis secretarye of this kingdome, who is shorthlie to mak his repair thither. In the mean quhyle, the personis of those men whose lyves ar spaired, falbe failie kept and maid furthecomeand ather forder examinatioun heir, or vpoun knowlege of your maiesteis pleasour falbe broght thither to be tryed. Ther wer also mony pregnant presumptionis, that however these men now spairit wer deprehendit in the societie of the rest, that the same was more by enforcement then by consent, whiche was affirmed by the most parte of thame who wer executed. This company of pirottis did interteyne one whome they did call thair persoun, for sayng of prayeris to thame twyfe a day, who, be-lyke ather wearyed of his cure, or fearing the enfewing distructioun of his flocke, had foirfaken thame in Orknay, and priuelie conveying him selff over land, wes at lenth defcryed and deprehendit in the burgh of Dundee, and being broght hither, did so cleirlye confes and gif evidence aganis the rest, and, being confronted, broght mony of thame to confessioun. Thair being heirwith some likliehoode that his stay with thame had bene by constraint, we haif heirupoun, in lyke foirt, continewit him frome being putt to tryale, vtill your maiesteis pleasour be knowne. We do vndirstand, by aduertisment from Orknay, that thair be some fyve or sax pirottis mo deprehendit, bot quhidder thay be of this company or not, it is vncertane. Alwayes we do expect thame by the first occasioun of ony schipping that dothe come frome thense ; and since none of ws ar ignorant that by reafoun of aduertismentis not onlie frome all the cornaris of your maiesteis owne dominionis, bot alswa frome foreyne partis, your maiestie hes nevir almost ony intermissioun or respitt (your maiestie, by Godis prouidence, and to your subiectis vnspeakable happynes, being that grite oceane vnto whiche all revaris and brookis do rinne), as in dewytie we could not omitt to acquent your maiestie heirwith, so the feir of troubling your maiestie with too long a lettre, hathe

moved vs to refer the particular relatioun of all the incidentis in this bufynes to a more proper occaffioun. And concerning all fuche other directiounis as it pleased your maieftie, ather by commiffioun sent be the Lord Burley, or by lettre writtin vnto ony of ws concerning the Marques Huntley, the Erll of Errole, or ony other mater worthie of the aduertifing, your maieftie falbe certified of all thefe oure proceedingis by the secretarie at his repair to your maieftie. And fo, praying God to bliffe your maieftie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reiggn, we rest for ever

Your Maiefteis most humble and obedient subiectis
and feruitouris,

DUNFERMELINE.
DOUMBAR.*

Edinburgh, 27 July 1610.

To the King his most sacred and
excellent Maieftie.

CVIII.—SIR ROBERT MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Accept, in guid pairt, the willing affectioun of one of the eldest, althocht not the most abill, of 3our maiefteis fervandis and creatouris,

* Lord Dunbar died a few months afterwards, and was succeeded in the management of the Scots business by John Murray, subsequently Viscount Annand and Earl of Annandale. The Earl's death is thus noticed by Calderwood:—"In the moneth of January (1611), the Earle of Dunbar departed this life at court, not without suspicioun of poisons, because my Lord of Kinlosse, Lord of the Rolls, a Scottishman, placed in that office be the King at his going to England, had died a little before. Howsoever it was, the Earle was by death pulled down from the height of

quho for acyutin of the trust it hes euer pleafit your maieftie to repos in me, I can nocht be silent at this tyme to congratulat to your maieftie that poynt of your maiefteis felicitie, quhairwith God hes bliffit you in the quyet, happie, and weill gouerned estait of this your maiefteis native and ancient kyngdome. The cauffis quhairoff, nixt your maiefteis most rair and princelie wofdome in directing fo wyfelie euerie thing tending to the wniuerfall weill of ws all, I can not in my simpill judgment bot ascrywe the fame to the fidelitie and cair of your maiefteis principall officiaris and fervandis, in quhome fo vorthely ye haif fatlit the burdeine of the affairis. For as to the Erle of Dumbar, quhois fidelitie and cair to the guid fortoun in the succes of thingis committit to him I knaw not quhilk to commend most, all that is in him being your maiefteis awin: his behaiour dois fo raweis all men, that his actiounes ar interpret to be your inspiratiounes, and the circumstancis of thame flowing from the fame fontane: in my tyme, quhilk hes not beine schort in this stait, I haif not feine the lyke. The Chancellor, quhois vpbriuing and painfull trauell hes maid him ane gret staitis man, being lykwayis directit by your maiefteis commandement, hes applyit his knowlege and lerning to fo profitable endis, to the honour, aduancement, and quyetnes of this estait, hes, nixt your maiefteis awin pairt, the prais of the bliffit and bap-pie conditioun quhairin the cuntrye standis, quhilk, by your maiefteis absence, was thocht to haif beine hard to pacifie. And, feing it fallis out fo happily in your maiefteis gret wofdome, that thay ar boith present with your maieftie, and willing to ressaiff frome your awin mouth the guid acceptatioun of thair service, quhilk is the gretest honour and contentment they can haiff, and maiff willing to obey your maiefteis directiounes in all tyme cuming, I haiff takin the bauldnes, maiff humlie, to intrett

his honour, even when he was about to solemnize magnificently his daughter's marriage with the Lord Waldane: he purposed to celebrat St George's Day following at Berwick, where he had almost finished a sumptuous and glorious palace. But the curse was executed upon him that was pronounced upon the building of Jericho; he was too busie, and left nothing undone to overthrow the discipline of our church, and speciallie at the Assemblie holden the last summer at Glasgow; but none of his posteritie enjoyeth a foot broad of land this day of his conquest in Scotland. He ended his days in Whitehall, upon Wednesday, the penult of January." Calderwood MS. vol. xiv. p. 465. Advocates' Library.

3our maieftie, that feing thair guid concurrence in accomplifhing 3our royall vill, hes bred 3our maieftie the honour of this our happines and confort to all 3our fubieētis; that 3our maieftie, according to 3our accustomed clemencie, will tak that notice of thair labouris that may incurage thame to continow, and to knyt thame togidder in thair affectioun to 3our maiefteis feruice, and to the weill of our natiue cuntry, as fo monie guid courfis bye 3our maiefteis princely derectioun fo happelye and wyflie folloued furthe to the guid lyking of all men, quhilk being effectuallie done, 3our maieftie may be richt affured that all thingis in thir partis will fucced to 3our maiefteis contentment. For my felf, fo far as my age and abilitie may ferue, all falbe fpend in 3our maiefteis feruice; and quhair I find any thing amifs, I fall euer mak 3our maieftie foirfeine; not doutting bot as 3our maieftie hes euer accepted moir gratiouflye of my waik endeuoirs nor they war worthie, fo 3our maieftie will tak this my prefumptioun in guid pairt.

Humble taking my leif, kyffing 3our maiefteis hand, I praye God grant 3our maieftie ane happie and prosperous reing, in quhois gracious protectioun I commit 3our maieftie.*

3our Maiefteis maift humble and obedient fubieēt
and feruitour,

ROBERT MELUILL.

To the Kingis facred Maieftie.

* This letter is undated; but as Lord Dunbar is represented in life, and as he died in January 1611, it must have been written anterior to that period. Sir Robert Melville was frequently ambassador to England. In January 1587, he was sent to remonstrate against the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. He was constituted, on 11th June 1594, an extraordinary Lord of Session, by the title of Murdocairnie, which office he resigned in favour of his son Robert in 1601. Upon the 30th April 1616 he was created a peer by the title of Lord Melville of Monymail, by patent to him and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to the heirs-male of his elder brother John. His Lordship died in 1621, having attained the age of 94. He was the immediate elder brother of Sir James Melville of Halhill, author of those valuable Memoirs, of which the first complete edition was some years since printed by the Bannatyne Club.

CIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 3, 1611.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

According to your maieſteis directioun, fend vnto ws, for trying of the diſpoſitioun and formar maner of leving of James Johnneſtoun, priſonair in the tolbuthe of Edinburgh, who wes condemned to loſe his hand for ſchoiting of piſtollettis, we haif tane als exact ane tryall and examinatioun in that mater as poſſibillie we could, and (faulffing that particular of piſtollettis) we do find no thing in his bipaſt behaviour and carriage, whilk may onywayes bring him within the compas or censure of law, he being acquate and clenget of all vtheris crymis at that tyme when he was pannellit befor the Erl of Dunbar, and ſen his committing to the tolbuthe we haif not hard ſo mutche as one complaynte aganis him, bot very grite ſoliſtatioun maid for his libertie and releif. And ſo, remitting him to your maieſteis gratious and princelie confideratioun, and praying God to bliſſe your maieſtie with all happines and contentment, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL^s.
JO. PRESTOUN.
SIR J. ARNOTE.

PERTH.
CLERICUS REGISTR.

Edinburgh, the thrid of May 1611.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent
Maieſtie.

CX.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES VI

MAY 4, 1611.

SACRED SOUERANE,

May it please your most excellent majestie. The most reuerend father in God, your majesties most trustie counsellour the Archbishop of Sanctandroufs, our werie prudent chancellor, hauing informit vs, the Rector, Deanes of Faculties, and remanent Maisteris of your majesties Vniuersitie of Sanctandroufs, hou cairful your maiestie is of the flourishing estait thairof, particularlie of the dedicatioune of ane commoune Bibliotheque thairto, quhairby learning (throche bypast penurie of buikis fumquhat decaying) may be, to the benefit of the kirk and commoune-veil, refuscitat, and vee vithin this your majesties Vniuersitie, moir inhablit to your majesties seruice, ve can nocht without the blot of detestable ingratitude and inexcuisable vndeutifulnes to your majestie, as our most gracious and beneficent prince, bot vithe all humilitie of mynd and bodie, most hartlie thanke your majestie thairfoir; and, vith the lyk humilitie in houp to be hard, most earnistlie intreat your majestie to perfytylly profecute that particulare purpose of liberalitie touardis vs; and, generallie, according to the laudable dispositioun of your majesties royal progenitoris of blifed memorie, to continoue to the immortalitee of your majesties name, in aduancing be moiens and priueledges this your majesties principal and most renommed Vniuersitee vithin this realme. Thus, vithe permissioun, presuming to assure your majestie of our most deutiful affection to your majesties seruice and furtherance thairof, ather in kirk or commoune-veil, according to our pouer and vocatione, vee, frome the bottome of our hartis, vniformlie recommend your majesties royal persoune and estait to the Almichtie God, quho may blefs your majestie in this lyf vith a long



Your ^{most} ^{humble}
And obedient ^{servants} and
Subjects

Master John vems Lector.

M^r James martin

M^r David monypenny

~~M^r~~ Robert Millie

M^r George martine

Mr John Johnston,

Master John Shung.

M^r Patrick Melvill

M^r W^m madocosee

Mr Peter Bruce.

M^r alex^r benderfy

M^r J^r Vemy se

M^r der willia Lambie

M Robert Hoyle

Master James Shaw

Master James Steth

M^r handrie Dant/Berij

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

1881

IN SENATE,

January 11, 1881.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE

LAND OFFICE,

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING

DECEMBER 31,

1880.

BY

W. W. WALKER,

COMMISSIONER.

RECEIVED

1881

1881

W. W. WALKER,
COMMISSIONER OF THE
LAND OFFICE,
DALLAS, TEXAS.



and prosperous raigne; and vith ane eternal and glorious in the lyf
to cum.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient
feruitoris and subiectis,

Maister JHONE WEMIS, Rector.

Mr JAMES MARTINE.

Mr DAVID MONYPENNIE.

Mr ROBERT WILKIE.

Mr JHONE JONSTON.

Mr PATRIK MALVILL.

PETER BRUCE.

Mr JA. WEMYSE.

Mr GEORGE MARTINE.

Maister JHONE STRANG.

Mr WM. MACDOWELL.

Mr ALEX^r. HENDERSON.

Maister WILLIAM LAMBIE.

Mr ROBERT HOVYE.

Maister JAMES BLAIR.

Maister JAMES SCHEVEZ.

Mr HENDRIE DANSKEIN.

Sanctandrous, 4 Maj 1611.

CXL.—KING JAMES VI. TO SIR ARTHUR CHICHESTER.*

SEPTEMBER 14, 1611.

JAMES R.

Right trustie and welbeloued, wee greette yow well. The Lord
Ochiltree,† a noble man of Scotland, of good defert toward vs, being an

* Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, who obtained considerable grants of land in the province of Ulster, and was created a peer of Ireland by the title of Lord Chichester of Belfast, 23d February 1612. He died without lawful issue, at London, 19th February 1624, when his estates, almost entirely derived from the old Irish families, passed to his brother, Sir Edward Chichester, who was created Viscount Chichester, 1st April 1625. From him the present Marquis of Donegal is lineally descended. The old barony of Chichester is extinct.

† Andrew, third Baron of Ochiltree. From a letter without date, addressed by him to James, he appears to have been involved in pecuniary difficulties in consequence of his employment in the Isles under his Majesty's order. He supplicates the King to order the council to audit and pass his accounts, so that he might be enabled to settle with his creditors. In conclusion, he entreats "your highnes for eschewing the present wraik and rwyne of my old house, who hath bene so long

vndertaker of a portion of the efcheated landes in Vlfter, and now going thether to fetle himfelfe and his company on the landes of Montioy, for the eftimatioun we mak of him, wee haue thought fitte to accompany him with our lettres, whereby to let yow know that whatfoeuer fauour yow fhall do him, in furtherance of his well fetling in that place which he hath vndertaken, wee fhall take in kinde parte, as beftowed on a nobleman vnto whome wee wifh all goode fucceffe. Giuen at our mannour of Hauering, the xiiijth of September, in the eight yeare of our reigne of Greate Britayne, Fraunce, and Irland, and of Scotland the xlvth.

To our right truftie and welbeloued Sir
Arthur Chichefter, Knight, our De-
puty of our kingdome of Irland.

CXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

TO HIS SACRED MAIESTIE,

The humbill Petitioune of the Commiffioneris for the Burrowghes
of 3owr Maiefties Kingdome of Scotland, in the behalf of the
faid Burrowghes,

MAIST humblie befeeching 3owr sacred maieftie as the onlie fontane,
vnder God, of iuftice, and nixt vnto him, the velfpring of our happines,

loyall fubjects and true fervands," to order a payment to account. It is probable, as the King's Exchequer was not usually overflowing with cash, that Lord Ochiltree got the Irish grants in payment of his claim. He was created an Irish peer by the title of Lord Steuart, Baron of Castlesteuart, in the county of Tyrone, 7th November 1619. He died in 1632. His descendant and heir-male, Andrew Thomas Steuart, the sixth Baron, was created, 20th December 1793, Viscount, and 29th December 1800, Earl of Castlesteuart. Andrew Lord Ochiltree is said to have resigned his Scotch honours in 1615, which were then conferred on Sir James Stewart of Killeith, in whose family the Barony became extinct. The Earl of Castlesteuart claimed, however, the Scotch Barony; but the House of Peers, 16th April 1793, decided that his vote, given as Lord Ochiltree, at the election of Scots peers, was a bad one.

feing we haif had acceffe vnto 3owr facred prefence, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie, off 3owr accuftomid fauour and clemensie, to pardoune and forgiff owir owirfichtt (and many mo 3owr maiefties faithfull and loyall fubiectis, quho ar wnder the fame fenfour with ws) in taking abuiff ten for the hundreith, contrar to 3owr maiefties aēt: the occatioune quhairof was, that the fame tuik newer plaice by executioun, it being now paff fourteine or fyfteine 3eiris fence the inaētng of the fame, fwa, that all perfounis of quhatfumewer rank, eftait, or conditione thay be of, hes takin tuelf for the hundreith, quhilk was authorifed be decreitis of the Lordis of Seffioun, allowitt be the Loirdis of 3owr maiefties Exchaker to the thefawrer, controller, and wtheris: quhilkis warrandis our owirficht heth imbaldnit ws of the mener fort (ignorant of the lawis and mening thairof), to commit the lyk by imitatioune, and not of contempt: alfo, the neceffitie and fkairnes of mony,* owir countrie not yeilding the lyk ftoir as wtheris, and the neceffitie of the adois of the countrie amangis owirfelwis and elifquhair, maid the fame moir tollerabill, fupposng tollerance to be law. And feing this is the firft fute of 3owr maiefties burrowis fence the vnfpicabill lois of 3owr maiefteis happie prefence and aboid amangis ws, quhairby we haif loift all strenth and vigour, and ar becum as deid and rotin ftokis, 3owr maiefteis prefence being the fontane thatt did watter and refreche ws, we humblie befeik 3owr maieftie to pardoune owir bygain ignorance and owirfichtt anentt tuelf of the hundreth, and to none wtheris, promiffing all lawfull obedience in tymis cuming.

Nixt, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie to difcharge the exaētng or heichtng of the cuftomes of hering, cloth, hydys, fkinis, and fuch wther ftapill waris of that kingdome, being the onlie waris quhich bringeth home gould, filwer, wyne, faltt, irne, and fuch wther neceffaris, by importing quhairof, 3owr maiefteis cuftomes ar inlairgid.

Thridlie, that it wald pleis 3owr facreitt maieftie the exaētng of cu-

* Some interesting notices relative to the scarcity of coin in Scotland will be found in the Melros Papers.

tomcs for transporting of gudis in tyme bygaine, frome Ingland to Scotland.

Last, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie to dischaarge the exacting of bulyen for ony tred wfed within 3owr heichnes dominiounis, seing that 3owr maiefteis awin coyne can not be conwertid into bulyon; and as we ewer heirtofoir hes beine moift willing and redy to sacrifice owr lywis, and quhatfumewer we had befydis for 3owr maiefteis honour and fastie, so fall we ewer continow, with our moift dewot and hertlie prayeris to God, for 3owr maiefteis prosperus and hapie regne.

CXIII.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 16, 1612.

RICHT HONORABILL,

I trust your honour hes reffaued my letter, whairin I did answer your last thatt cam to me in the ende of Marche, and sehew yow your biffines could nott be enditt with Mr Ro^t. Henderfone, till Mr Thomas Hope* his returne to the toun, who was then gone to Londwait. Yow salbe fure in grace of God, att his returne, thatt biffines salbe done as Mr Thomas fall direct, as Mr Robert is moft willing, wpon the sicht of your last letter which I sehew him, and expectes yow will tak say euir with Mathow Wilfone being thair now with yow, that he fall quitt his possessioun of your myll and maynes, which is moft fitting yow sould do, Sir (savand your awin pleafour and better judgment), for since he herd yow wer to bestow itt wpon Mr Robert, he hes vttered a fort of contrie clayme to itt, and grudged with Mr Robert for taking his kyndlie rowme, and soe far as I can learne, howsoewer yow may, Sir, mak vse of him in wther services, he is nott a fitt man thair to menage your rent, for he hes

* Afterwards Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.

principall entries in thaes landes, be clayme of his kyndlie poffeffioun,* as thaes peopill do esteam itt, and most credite with the rest of thatt fort, thatt he doeth no wther, bott be all menis stryue to keip thaes landes att the meifest rate he can, thocht he do itt cunninglie and covertlie. Befyd, I haue learned thatt he suffers thair of his nychtbouris to incroache in the poffeffioun of some off your rowmes, who feik to keip thame be wther titillis then of your landes, and be tyme will bruik thame fo; as, namelie, Rammerkaillis thrie darkis of meidow, and John Maxwell in Lochmaben, ane clofe of land. Itt may be thair be wtheris, I haue nott lerned, for I am a mere stranger thair, and that thir be bott mein thinges. Do, Sir, as yow please. I thocht it my dewtie fo foone as I learned this muche, not to conceill itt. Yow may lykwayes, Sir, try how the fyfcheing of your loche is vsed; and when Robert Philip and Mathow is both thair with yow, yow may try, Sir, gif yow can fynd out of thame, examining ather of thame apairt from the wther, who wer the instigatouris of thaes tenentis of youris, to present to his maiestie a complaynt of yow, and gif Mathow wes accessorie to itt.

The commissiouners of the Middle Schyres ar verie cairfull in discharge of thair commissioun, hath apprehenditt a gritt many kept prifoners to this ensewing court, that doeth muche good for the quyetnes of the contrie, which in all liklihood er now, gif this course had nott prevented, bein in verie greatt disorder. Yow haue done, Sir, verie honorable in joyning your selff in this commissioun; and itt is grittumlie to your honour, and furtherance of your biffines in this contrie, this course in repreffing of infolenceis and villaneis thus proceids. Thair is one thing enlaiking, muche hinderfome to this service, that thair is no jayll in Annandail. Itt is a worthie and memorabill work for yow, Sir, to bethink yourselff of the meines to help itt, and whairin nott the leift help of the quyetnes of this

* Wilson seems to have been one of the kindly rentallers of the four towis of Lochmaben, who were said to have come in place of some favoured servants of Robert the Bruce, who had obtained their small possessions by a species of tenure unknown in any other case of heritage in Scotland, and whose representatives could not be removed by the Overlord, although possessing without charter or seisin. See Case of Kindly Tenants of Lochmaben v. Viscount of Stormont, Nov. 24, 1726. Morison, p. 15, 195.

contrie confistes. Captane Jhonstoun and a number of his servandes, for a slauchter of the Laird of Wamfrayes brother, ar escaiped, and for wther cawfes ar cited to this court, and itt is thocht falbe fugitive. The captane hes putt Drumlangrig in trust of his estate, who hes taken the gift of his escheitt and lyfrent. Heir itt is thocht the captaine is att court. Giff he can mak meins for him himselff, I doutt nott, Sir, yow will be his freind; bot gif things go werfe with him, a pairt of his estate he haldis of yow, whairroff yow may confidder whatt is fitting to be done. He embarked himselff in the purchase of the fortie pund land of Corheid, quhairon the toun of Mosseitt standis, which is one of the prettie thinges in this contrie. Gif the occasioun present that ather, Sir, yow may doo him good as his friend, or that none of his freindis can do him good, yow may accordinglie confidder. Thair is warning vsed in your name aganes the landes of Longboddom this yeir, which many conjecture this long tyme, hes holden of the Starr of Babylon; and fo yow will do weill, Sir, to desyr your agent to prevent gif thei feik any new richt. Thus, entreiting your honouris pardon of this my boldnes, I commend yow and all your effairis to the blessing of God, and fall remane

Your Honouris most affectionatlie devoted
in all service,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffet, Majj 16, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiefties
Bedchamber, these.

CXIV.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 28, 1612.

RIGHT HONORABILL,

I trust, Sir, yow haue ressaued a letter whairin I writt to yow concerning Captane Jhonstoun. He is now fugitive from this court

holden at Dumfreis, for thift, and a man of his hanged as accefforie to thatt thift whairfor he wes to be endyted. Whatt falbe the event, Sir, yow may better judge then I: Itt seames thair is no way for him bott be his maiefties favour. In the meintyme, his freindis feir his estate fall in the kinges hand; being a landed gentilman and fugitive for thift, falles vnder the compas of treason. A pairt of itt holdes of your felf; moft pairt of the Laird of Drumlangrig, as being of the landes of Torthorrell. This mekill, I thocht itt my dewtie to advertife yow of, Sir: Yow can better difpofe then I can advyfe. One thing he had, a entres in the landis of Corheid and Mofeitt, whilk gif yow had, itt wer eafie to purchase the full titill thairoff. Bot craveing pardoun of this my prefumptioun, I commend yow to the directioun and bleffing of the hieft and onlie wife, and fall evir remane

Your Honouris humble ferviteur, moft
affectionatlie devoted,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffett, May 28, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiefties
Bedchamber, thefe.

CXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF CANONGATE TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1612.

PLEIS 3OUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Thair being nane of 3our fubiectis of this kingdome quho be not grevit with the want of 3our gracious prefence, zet non haif fuch caus,

or ar moir fenfibil of the lois, then 3our pure and ever dewtyfullie devotit burgh of Cannogate, quho do now fynd a cauld nipping wynter for the fweit feaffonable fomer they inioyit in 3our maiefties ftay heir, and 3it hald thame felffis happie heirin with the ref of 3our fubieftis, that thaj inioy the benefite of 3our maiefties moft iuft, royall, and bliffit gouernament, fully perfwading thame felfis, now quhen the fardeft limeittis and bordouris of 3our impyre (ones thocht almoft impoffible) ar brocht to that fredome frome thraldome as thair refeth no farder feir of oppreffoun, that 3our maiefties fald burgh and inhabitantis thair of fall not want fum refrefching frome that fame welfpring of grace, in being proteftit frome the wrang and iniurie intentit vnder cullour of perfute by law, 3it more vniuft then qubat is done vtherways in a moir oppin fchaw of violence. And, thairfoir, we haif bene bauld heirby to mak humble treaty to 3our maieftie for paffing and expeding this article of parliament in our favouris, be ane fo iuft and reffonable, as we fkairstlie do beleif that any falbe oppofed to the expeding thair of; and that 3our maieftie wald thairwith recomend by fpeciall lettre the fame to the eftates, for a testimonie of 3our maiefties continewing favour to the inhabitantis of this pure burgh of the Cannogait, quho wer alwayis reddy and wald think thame felffis ftill happie to be employit in the fervice of 3our maieftie, 3our court and trayne. And fo, wiffing frome God the happie continewance of 3our maiefties gracious regnne over ws, we humblie tak our levis, refing

3our Maiefties moft humble and obedient
and devotit fubiefts,

Mr JOHN HART, Bailze.

Mr W. WILKIE, Bailze.

At 3our Maiefties Burgh of the Cannogait,
the xxvj. day of September 1612.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

CXVI.—SIR DUNCAN CAMPBELL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 2, 1613.

PLEIS 3OUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

3our heighnes lettres, writtin in fauoris of Robert Abbroche McGregour,* now calling himself Ramsay, I haue reffaveit, quhairby I am willit to repoffesse him in quhatfoeuer landis he haith rycht wnto, without truble or plea in law. It is of treuthe that he did possesse certane landis belonging to me without ony rycht or titill at all, yea, so far againis my consent, that with remembrance of my verie grit loiffis, I fall repent I had fuche tennent; and quhen he, as one of the cheif speceall ringleadaris of his viperous clan, did nocht content thamefelfis to wrong me by the moiff barbarous oppressing of my tennentis, but had also ovir-rwne ane grit pairt of thre or foure shirefdomeis, than the generale greif of sa mony dewtefull subiectis maid the exterminious of this damnable raice of people to be ressolueit wpone, as moiff expedient and necessary for 3our maieftis peace and obedience, and the suretye of 3our heighnes dewtefull subiectis duelling in thais partis; whiche work, since it tuik begining, haithe bene euer chairgable to 3our maieftie, panefull to the cuntrie, and with my particular very grit hurt and skayth, haueing had, befydes, many former loifes within les nor thais xvij monethis, twa hundrethe merk land waiffit and spoiled be that clan, conducted by this sam man now recommendit; my tennentis, thair wyfis and young childrene wnmercefullie mwrthoured, and sick of thame as eschaipit the sworde, in regaird thair houffis wer all brunt, being left in the oppin air, boithe the aigit and 3ounger fort wer killit with colde. It may perhapis by sum be supponit that this seruice is at sum gud pynt; bot quhen all, boithe the noble men, barrounis, and gentilmen, who haith moiff interefs in this work, wer conveyned, than it wes amang thame resolved, and by thame to 3our maieftis counfall proponed, and thair also allowit of, that without transplantatioun of this clan, no quyetnes to thais boundis culd

* See Melros Papers.

be expected; fo as this manis repoffioun to any landis, whiche by strong hand he held formerlie without any richt at all, implyis a dereft ranverfing of quhateuir was intendit for the gude of that feruice, the particular harme and inconvenience quhairof being wnfelt, no dout, to thais who hes bene fo ernoft folicitouris in the behalf of this man, fo ar thay als far miftakin in thair wndertaking for his gud behaviour in tyme cuming, in regaird thair is no dout at all, bot quhen he findis himfelf of new ftrengthed with a fresche growth of this wnhappie weid (quhairof thair be of male kynd fum xvj^{xx} of new aryfeing), lyke aneuche he will put who promiffis in his behalf to ane perfonall actioun for thair releif.

And becaus hard experience haithe maid me more sensible nor wtheris, and my dewtie to your maieftie doithe enforce me to conceale no thing of my knowlege heirin, I haue thairfor prefumed to acquaint your heighnes with the treuthe; affureing your maieftie one my credit, that gif the ringleadaris of this clan fall haue the libertie to dwell and reside in thair former poffeffiounis, this wndercotting woude fall be found heirefter moire incurable. Alwayfe, for my awin part, haueing lyfe and whoile estait euir reddie at your maiefteis difpoifeing, I moift humblie tak my leif, praying God Almychtie to continew long your heighnes happie and profperous reigne, and refis

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedient feruitoure,

DUNCAN CAMPBELL
of Glenurquhay.*

Edenbruche, the 2 of Februarj 1613.

To the King his moift excellent Maieftie.

* Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy was in great favour with King James VI. He assisted at the coronation of Queen Anne, 18th May 1590, when he was knighted. In 1617, he had the office of heritable Keeper of the Forst of Mamlorn conferred on him, and obtained from King Charles I. the Sheriffship of Perthshire for life. He was created a baronet by patent bearing date 30th May 1625, and dying in June 1631, was buried at Finlarig. He is the direct ancestor of the present Marquis of Breadalbane.

CXVII.—JACOBUS VI. CIVITATI GEDANENSI.

[1613 ?]

JACOBUS, Dei gratia Britanniarum, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor, &c. magnificis, generosis, et spectabilibus Dominis Præconfulibus, Confulibus, totique amplissimo regiæ ciuitatis Gedanensis Senatui, amicis nostris dilectis, salutem et benevolentiam nostram regiam, &c. Magnifici, generosi, et spectabiles viri, amici nostri dilecti, literas uestras, amicitie et amoris erga nos subditosque nostros plenas, jam pridem nobis reddidit famulus noster Patricius Gordonius, qui etiam ore tenus singularem amplitudinum uestrarum in regii nominis nostri fama et dignitate, aduersus iniquissimas malitioforum quorundam obtrectatorum dispersas per famosos libellos calumnias, asserenda, curam et diligentiam abunde exposuit. Quæ omnia vt prudentiæ et iudicio uestro tribuenda agnoscerimus, ita a nobis maximas et habendas et referendas gratias jure optimo censemus, nullasque gratificandi rationes, commoda oblata occasione, negligemus. Quod ad societatem Anglorum mercatorum alicubi in Borussia stabiendam attinet, etsi serenissimi Poloniæ Regis uestramque voluntatem perpeximus, et in eadem acquiescere lubenter cuperemus, tamen ne vicinis urbibus, aut subditis etiam nostris, vllam justæ offensionis causam præbere videremur, præfidi societatis illius, eiusque assessoribus iniunximus, vt (si vobis id gratum fuerit), sex homines idoneos mandatorio nostro adiungant, quibus negotii illius curam cum plena transigendi potestate committendam duximus; vt exploratis conditionibus a vobis vicinisque ciuitatibus proponendis, commodis et securitati suæ consulant. Transactionis articulos nobis confirmandos referuari volumus: cætera quæ ad tractatus initium, progressum, euentum, et ad ciuium uestrorum subditorumque nostrorum commodum pertinent, uestræ prudentiæ et promissio relinquimus.

CXVIII.—JACOBUS VI. JOHANNI SPEMANNO.

[1613?]

MAGNIFICE et generose Spemanne, sincerum gentis tuæ, totiusque amplissimi fenatus regiæ civitatis Gedanensis erga nos subditosque nostros amorem sapius perspeximus; nosque ad eundem omni benevolentia regia compensandum merito obligatos esse lubenter agnoscimus. Inprimis vero gentis tuæ virtutes egregiæ nos tibi maxime devinxerunt, effeceruntque ut negotium non valde difficile prudentiæ tuæ seorsum commendaremus. Famofus libellus, ad ignominiam totius gentis Scoticæ, in Prussia ante annos aliquot divulgatus, vestro et ampliffimorum collegarum vestrorum iussu et auctoritate in urbe vestra prohibitus et suppressus est, quod nos maximum benevolentia et prudentia argumentum, nec oblivioni tradendum existimavimus. Eiusdem libelli auctorem Johannem Stircovium* mandarius noster Patricius Gordonius ad extremum supplicium, juxta provinciam illius [leges], est persecutus. Cumque actio illa magnis sumptibus con-

* The execution of Stircovius, which, in these days, would very properly be deemed as an act of atrocious barbarity, was regarded in a very different light two centuries since, when it was considered as a most proper and necessary proceeding. This unfortunate Pole had, it seems, paid a visit to Scotland, but was not received with that hospitality and kindness for which, in more modern times, that kingdom was so justly celebrated. His strange dress excited astonishment, and his odd dialect ridicule. He was jeered, hooted, and actually laughed out of the country. Home he returned, and the first thing he did was to pen the "famosus libellus," which excited the ire of the sapient James, who lost no time in bringing to condign punishment the unfortunate scribbler. By the instrumentality of Patrick Gordon, the author of the "Bruce," Stircovius was apprehended, tried, convicted, sentenced, and beheaded. All this could not be done without money, and of necessity a considerable sum was expended; his Majesty, although desirous of vindicating the dignity of the Scottish nation, was not inclined to do so at his own expense, and he modestly proposed to make the Scottish boroughs the sufferers. To this proposition, however, the various magistrates were not disposed to listen:—so the King took proceedings against his refractory subjects before the Lords of the Secret Council. To his great vexation, the proposed Judges held they had no jurisdiction, and refused to proceed. The King was thus obliged to have recourse to some other expedient, and accordingly he appears to have written to the magistrates of Daotzig the letter now first printed, by which he proposes to tax all his subjects resident there. The decret of absolvitor in favour of the boroughs was printed from the original among the papers of the city of Edinburgh in a private publication, entitled *Nugæ Scoticæ*.

stiterit, et adhuc non exigua summa urbis vestrae incolis perfolvenda restet, consuetissimum nobis visum est, ut subditi nostri, tam in urbe vestra degentes quam e Polonia et Prussia eo advenientes, qui cum vicinis paria onera in negotio illo Starcoviano non sustinuerunt, illis pro ratione census adaequantur, donec tota summa residua plene perfolvatur, et Davidi Graio pro maximis laboribus in negotio illo conficiendo exantlatis ex equo et bono satisfiat. Quapropter ut gentis tuae iussu et consilio homines idonei elegantur, qui hujus rei curam habeant, pecuniam a volentibus colligant, a nolentibus, vestra auctoritate freti, exigant, rationemque diligentiae et fidelitatis reddant, vehementer rogamus. Factura gens tua rem nobis gratissimam, et, uti oportunitas offerat, regio favore nostro dignam.

Magnifico et generoso Domino Johanni Spemanno, amplissimo regiae civitatis Gedanensi Praeconfuli, equiti aurato, fideliter nobis dilecto.

CXIX.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 4, [1613?]

MOSTE GRATIOUS AND DREADE SOVERAYNE,

According to directioun, immediatlye vpoun my arryvall heir, I delyuered to the tuo Archbishoppis, being together, the draught of the Confessioun of Faithe, whereanent they ar to wryite, and send vp there owne opinionis. For my owne parte, I do skairfe think that it can be ather addit to, or altered to the bettir, haveing alreddy abidden fuche a tuichestone; bot leiving the divines to there owne functioun, I wes the more vnhable to yeild thame satisfiactioun in there doubttes, when the same wer referred wp from me. Anent the keiping of the parliament, I haif acquaynted the archbishoppis therewith, as in lyike fort the chancellour haveing shewin no caus thereof, bot the aid of remanding, and therewith to my

Lord Chancellour only as yit, the courfe to be takin thereat, for fome fupplie to my Lady Elizabethis mariage. In thefe few vnto whome it is alreddy impaired, I do find contrarye opinionis both of allowing and difproving the holdeing of it; bot heirof your maieftie is to be certified at more lenth by nixt packett. Auent excommunicat noblemen, and the advertifment whiche fuld haife bein long fince fent to your maieftie anent thame, Glasgou dothe excuife himfelf in fo far as both thefe noblemen ar within S^t Androis his province. The other layeth the blâme vpoun the bifhoppis, who wer employed in that fervice; always he hathe vnder-takin, that if it be not alreddy done, that it falbe performed with fpeid. In this bufynes betuix my Lord Chamberlyne and Coldenknowes, I haif written to my Lord Fentoun at lenth all difficultyes whiche I do find therein, being afeard if I fuld haif conteyned thame in this fame letre, and rather referring it to his discretioun, to be impaired to your maieftie at your highnes beft leafure. No packett fall rwnne, bot your maieftie fall vnderftand of my difcharge of fome pairte of my laidening, vntill I do cleare myfelf, difburdeyned of whatevir is within my instructiounis conteyned; wherein, I do humblye entreate your maiefties pardoun, if, in doing thereof, I fuld the more frequentlye wryite. And wifheing from God the daylie increafe of your maiefties health and happynes, I humblye kifs your facred hand, and reftis

Your Maiefties moft humble and dewtifull
fubiect and fervant,

ALEX^a. HAY.*

Edinburgh, 4 July.

* Sir Alexander Hay, younger son of Alexander Hay of East Kennet. On the 3d February 1610 he was admitted an Ordinary Lord of Session, in room of Lord Holyroodhouse. He was appointed Clerk Register on the 30th of July 1612, and died in 1616.

CXX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 10, 1614.

RIGHT TRAIſT FREIND, AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued yours off the 28 Jan^r., quhairby I onderſtand myne was cuimed to your handis off the 21, concerning Rihillis biſſines,* quhairoff I am werie glaid, ſpecialie be that yie write to me, I fould ſhoirtlie, as yie hoiped, heir off ane guid ſucceſs in that earand. This onlye I haue to write to yow; if yie that ar daylie attendantis, domeſtic and hamelie with his ſacred maieſtie, can nocht moue his maieſtie to putt that turne ſummarlie and ſhoirtlie to guid end, vpon fa guid and fuire groundis as I haue fett doun, quhilk in my faule and conſcience ar iuſt and equitabill, or then being fa adiured be his maieſties lettir, as I wiſt, I fould neiuer haue preſuimed to write ſa far, if yie, I fay, procure nocht preſentlie, ane finall determinatioun in that caufe, be his maieſties awin ſentence, quhilk may be a royall ſentence in deid, and wordie off king Solomon, or onye wiſeſt monarche; if the mater be putt to farder diſputatioun, that lordſhippe will melt and vaniſh away; and nather fall his maieſtie, nor onye other, haue eiuer honour or pleaſour off the end off the beſines. This I write to yow, and wiſſis yow communicat the fame to Lord Fentoun, and doe the beſt yie may, for I can doe na mair for my pairt. Sua, nocht hauing farder bot to wiſs yow all happines, reſtis

Yiour louing couſing always at command,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 10 Feb. 1614.

I pray yow that this may preſent baith my bedfallowis hartlie kindnes to youris and my awin.

To my weelbeloued cofen Johne Murraye,
of his ſacred Maieſties Bedchalmer.

* The diſpute between Lord Sanquhar and the natural ſon of the late Lord. The King's award will be found in the Abbotsford Miscellany.

CXXI.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 9, 1614.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

The workis of the filwer myndis being now fo far advanced that the workmen haif begunne to land fume metall, altho far inferiour to the expenfes that the wndirtakarīs bestow thairvpon, it is necessar your maieftis plefour touartis the electione ather of the tent part of the mettale, or the threttie part of the filwer efter it be fynned, vpon thair expenfes, be knawin. Sir William Alexander* hes a warrant to be past your maieftis hand for this effect, and I houpe your maieftie will mak choice of your proportione efter it be fynned, becaus thair is probabilitie of greiter benefeit that way, nor be reslaving of the mettall, to be fynned at your maieftis charges. The electione beand maid, I fall do my dewtie by taking vpp your maieftis part exactlie.

Your maieftie hes a letter sent frome the counfell, concerning fume questione that your maieftis aduocat and myself hes with the archbifchope of Santandris, whairanent, and anent fume wther questiones of the lyk nature, it is desyred that your maieftie wald be pleasit to appoynt fume of your counsell and fessione to confider and determine: He declynes the advocat and myself as parteis. The chancour, secretar, president, clerk of the register, and geue your maieftie will be pleasit to adioyne any wtheris with thame, ar weill informed of the bussines, and fo wilbe the fittest perfones to be employed, geue fo be your maieftie find it to be doune. I declyne to haif any questione with the archbifchope, geue materis may be fetled in a peaceble maner, and fo hes left of all perfutt of law, till your maieftis gracious plefour be knawin heiranent. Swa, wisch-

* The poet, created Earl of Stirling by Charles I.

ing your maieftie a lang and healthfull lyffe, with all happienes and contentment, I reft

Your facred Maiefteis moft humble
and faithful feruand,

G. MURRAY.*

Edinbrought, the 9th of June 1614.

To the Kingis moft facred Maieftie.

* Sir Gideon Murray held for many years the office of Treasurer-depute of Scotland, and had the entire direction of the revenues, which he managed so well, that, besides keeping the royal residences and fortresses in excellent repair, he was enabled to defray the expenses of the King's visit in 1617. The Earl of Mar was the High Treasurer. The following verses upon Principal and Deputy are from a rare volume, entitled *The Poetical Recreations of Mr Alexander Craig of Rose-craig, Scoto Britan.* p. 25. Aberdene, printed by Edward Raban for David Melville, 1623.

Once more one poor petition I present,
Marre not the muses, mightie Mar, I pray:
Such as to musicke haue a mynde full bent,
Will saue the sacred Muses from decay.
The dittie giues the diapason grace:
Bee friende to both; for now fits tyme and place.

Replie to a dilatorie answer sent by Sir Gedeon [Murray] to the author:—

Your sub Receiver shew'd mee, you were sorie
You could not so dispatch mee as you would;
And tolde mee on, with stambring Tongue, a storie
Scarse vnderstood, when it was ten tymes tolde.
This difference I put betwixt you two,
Hee's short in Words, and you in Deedes are slow.

Notwithstanding the beneficial results of his administration of the revenues, King James listened to the accusations of the enemies of Sir Gideon, and he was sent down to Scotland for trial. This affected him so much, that he abstained from food for several days, and died on the 28th June 1621. His son and heir, Patrick, was the first Lord Elibank.

CXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 30, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued baith 3iour lettirs off the 18 instant frome 3iour good half-marrow, and off the 7 fra my Lord Sanquhair, with all the crediēt he imparted to me frome 3iow, quhairoff I thank 3iow hartlie; and speciallie for latting me knaw his maiesties minde towartis Francis Stewart,* quhilk treulie relieuis me off ane greate thocht and cair; for I feared eiuer his maiestie nicht suspect me as consentar to ane bargane likelie to goe fordwart quhither I will or nocht, quhilk I was verie far against, and wrocht be all meanis possibill to ganestand. Fra this furth, I will leue it to Goddis will and dispositioun, and trubill me na mair thairwith; albeit in treuth I think baith parties nicht doe bettir for thair awin weill. In my Lord Sanquharis affaires, be assured I fall continew as I haue begunne, and as rafoun and equitie requires. According to his maiesties command, the counfall has fend lettirs to my Lord Scone, to deliuer to his lordship the houfs and stuf in St Jhonstoun. I haue na newis to impairt to 3iow frome this, but sic as I am certane is writtin at lenth be my Lord Secretair. Wee heir be fuim passagers cuimed fra Orkney, that after his maiesteis shippis was by that coast, the countrie peopill upon fuim guid occasioun has tane a guid number of Inglish pirattis with fuim slaughter on ather syde. The pirattis was in ane Dutche shippe off twa hundir tunne and aboue, latelie spoiled be thame, laedin with Inglish mennis geir frome eist countries with rye and irne; always off this wee haue 3it na particular certantie. Vpon fuim apeirance off fuim grudge betuix my Lord Marqueis of Hamiltoun and Lord Ogilbie and his sonne and freinds, about holding fuim courtis in August at Arbroth, the counfall, to preuent greater harme, has bound baith parties ondir greate founnis to his maiesties peace. Wee haue heir as 3it ane extraordinair cauld, wittie and windie fomer. I man be hamelie to empefche

* Eldest son of Francis Steuart Earl of Bothwell.

ziow now in quhat was eiuver done to me before be my Lord Dumbar, butt onye fuite or troubill: He fend to me frome thence eurie zeir out off his maiefties wardroppe ane brodered poolke for carieing the greate feale, sic as my Lord Chancelar caries thair, werie magnific and honest; for that can nocht be gottin maed heir, or ellis I fould nocht trubill ziow nor nane for ane. Sence my Lord Dumbar departed this lyff, this three zeir I haue had nane, and sic as I haue, ar worne aulde and nocht fa cuimelie as neid war, quhilk I man wish ziow, coufing, find meanis to gett supplied be his maiefties command out off the warderobbe, as hes bein before. Sir Alex^r Hay, now Clerk of Register, then Secretair, quaha was in vse to caufe mak thame, fayes to me he caused, eiuver at my Lord Doumbarris dire^tioun be his maiefties command, ane Mr Brodic in the warderobbe mak thame, and thay war all werie fair in deid, brodered with the armis off Scotland on the first quarter and thridde, Inglish on the second, and Irish in the fourt; and with all ornamentis off baith kingdomes anfuirabill, as I doubt nocht but the said Mr Brodic, or suim of his seruandis, has zit the exempill beside thame and patrone; for the last I had was in the zier 1610, fend to me be my Lord Doumbar. Tak suim guid course for this as zie find best. Sua, taking my leiuue, I rest eiuver

Ziour louing coufing to serue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, laft Junij 1614.

To the right honorabill my assured good freind
Jhone Morraye, of his sacred Maiesteis Bed-
chalmers.

CXXIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 8, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I haue refaued ziour kindlie lettir fra my Lord Bischop off Glasgou, and can nocht bot thank ziow off ziour monye testimonies of

kindnes. Quhen eiuer that mater concerning the Chapell Royall fall be handled, I fall doe guid will to my powar, baith for zïour fatiffactioun and Sir Robert Gordounis, as zie recommend to me. Zïour bedfellow is nocht zit returned to this toun, bot I haue ane great complaint to zïow off hir; for na treatie I can mak to hir, shoe will nocht tak ane chalmer heir in the kings houfe, quhilk my bedfellow made readie to hir, and I think ather zie or shoe fould be als hamelie and priuat with me as with onye, and specialie in this houfe. Because my Lord Fentoun is reteired to Ingilfeild for his health the tyme of this progres, zie man excufe my hamelines to trubill zïow with my pacquettis, and to burding zïow to be cairfull my lettirs be furelie delivered.

I recommend to zïow specialie at this tyme to fie deliuered with diligence mine to my Lord Bruntiland,* Sir Robert Meluill, and to my Lady Roxbrough, my sifter. As to onye fie occurrence as wee haue heir, I doubt nocht bot zie ar participant to fie as my Lord Secretair recites to his maiestie; for all is heir (praifed be God) quiet, in good iustice and obedience. Thus ending this present, wiffis zïow all weill and happines.

Zïour louing Coufing to ferue zïow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 8 July 1614.

I man nocht forziett to gif zïow speciall thankis for the guid will and faouour, I onderftand of my nepuieu Sir Claud Hamiltoun, zie haue fhawin to him in this befines he has had adoe.

To the right honorabill my affured good
freind Jhone Murray, in his Maiesties
Bedchalmer.

* Eldest son of Sir Robert, the first Lord Melville. He was appointed an extraordinary Lord of Session, 26th February 1601, by the title of Lord Burntisland. He succeeded as second Lord Melville in 1621, and, dying without issue, 9th March 1635, the Barony, in terms of the patent, devolved on John Melville of Raith, "grandson of his uncle." See Wood's Douglas, Vol. II, p. 113.

CXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 15, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank zjow hartlye for zjour kindlye aduertifment, contained in zjour lettir off the 4 instant, concerning the variance and rakning fallin out betuix my nepuieu, Sir Claude, and the Lord Deputie off Ireland, quhairoff I had fuim worde before be my nepuieu, and off zjour guid will and affistance geuin him to mantein him, and mak him redde thairoff with his crediçte, be right and trew informing his sacred maieftie, quhairin I man rackin myself zjour debtour, as in meikill mair, quhairfore I fall eiuer be thankfull, albeit I be nocht in hoipe to haue occasioun to acquite onye pairt of sic obligations, bot rather to trubill zjow farder.

I onderstand the Laird off Skelmuirle is returned to court. I doubt nocht bot it is to mak fuim wrang narratiues to trubill his maieftie aent the befinis of Eglintoun. The last tyme he came hame, he broght ane lettir fra his sacred maieftie to my Lord Secretair, and Lord Threafaumar Depute, to trie my nepuieu, my Lord off Wentoun and me, aent some fuim promeis he alledged wee maid to him; quhairanent, in his prefence, wee gaue the faidis lordis full fatiffactioun be our ansuir, quhairanent he has focht na ansuir fra the faidis lordis, bot is gone in haift thair, to mak sic informations as he may pleis. I man entreate zjow be fuim guid occasioun, latt his maieftie be requesit nocht to gif him crediçt in onye thing may concerne my nepuieuis or me, on heiring first our selfis. I wifs also his maieftie war richt informed, or rather remembered off the mannis humour (for his maieftie knawis him weill aneuch); he is ane kittill, mutinous, and onfated man, full of confaittis, readie to rafe and steir maa broylis his alane, nor tuentie guid and wyfe men will gett weill quenched. He and his was the first occasioun of the greate trubill fell out betuix the housis of Eglintoun and Glencairne. He was besief himself off onye to mantein the same, is zit laithest it fould fullie quenche; and gif it fould, he can nocht leiuie without fuim trubill and

befines to himself and others. Gif his freinds will nocht affist him to trubill sic as he callis auld ennemies, he will tak him to trubill with freinds. If he [get] guid audience and eare of his maiestie, or onye has greate crediēt thair, I warrand ziow fall mak befines aneuch, may perhappis after fasche his maiestie, and trubill his quietnes. Gif he be shortlie fend hame to adrefs him to the ordinar cowrfe off lawis, before the ordinar iudges, counfall and fessioun, his maiestie will find in that greatest ease, and is the best courfe for iustice. If he find onye extraordinair blenk off fauour thair, as he is inclined, his maiestie will find he will rafe mair sturte, and mak maa broiles, nor onye wald luike for. And this I thocht guid [to] acquent ziow with; and pray ziow doe ziour best wee be nocht ciumbred with that mannis importune or onrasonable fuitis. It wald seeme his maiestie fould nocht heir him off new, except he had brocht bak agane anfuir fra Lord Secretair, and Threafaurar Depute; quhilk I can nocht learne he speired eiuer for, I think, becaufe he fand thame nocht hallie anfuirabill to his humour and inclinaioun, as he imagined thay wald be.

Other occurrence I can write of nane to ziow, bot that we haue heir, all this somer, the maist onseafonabill waddir be daylie ranis, windis, froftis, and cauld, has eiuer bein hard off in ony mannis remembrance. Our afronomaris fayis the plannettis off this our climat aperis to be in thair conjunctions, oppositions, and sic aspectis for this zier, in als ill humour, and als far by puirpoifs, as zowr lower houfe has bein thair at this parliament; for be guid rason, the planettis fould aknowledge the sonne as thair lord and maister, quhome fra thay haue all thair light, and fould follow his cowrfe, and gid to eurie countrie in eurie quarter of the zier, sic wadder as he apointis the fason. Wee man referre all to Goddis mendis, doing the best we may: Sua, I end this, and wiffis ziow all weill and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 15 Julij 1614.

Wie man excufe me to trubill ziow with my pacquettis, fa lang as Lord Fentoun is fra court. I pray ziow direct myn to my sifter, Lady Roxbrough, and to Sir Claude, and Sir Robert Meluill. If thay be cuimed away, returne thame abak agane be the first.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued
cousen, Jhone Morraye, of his sacred
Majesties Bedchalmer.

CXXV.—THE EARL MARISCHAL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 28, 1614.

Vpoun receipt of your highnes letter, daited at Whitehall, the 24 of Maij last past, as one way I wes (not without just caus) mightely greived to consider of the hard conditionn which perhappis may befall to our ischew heirafter, in being bereft of the residence of there prince, whereof aduantage is taken by those who mak a craft of calumniating others, and procureing thame to be condemned vnhard; so, on the other pairt, it wes to me no small confort that I fould now liue and, Godwilling, end my dayes in the tyme of a most gracious Pharao, who bothe knowes and will not forgett his euir deutifull and deuoted Joseph. By your maiesties letter I conceave some offence taiken vpoun informatioun maid be the Laird of Halkertoun, as that by me he had bene wronged. If he as a subiect had bene respectfull of his dewty to his soueraigne, and had caryed a regard to his place when he is honored to be a seruant, no doubt he had bene more circumspect, then to haue begun the first fruitis of his attendance with delyeuerie against absentis of manifest vntreuthis. I do persuade my self vpoun the many infinit prooffes of your maiesties fin-

ceritie, vprightnes, and indifferency to all of your subiectis, that nothing that hath bene deliuered aganis me wilbe trusted vntill it be tryed. And therefore my humble fuite is, that your maiestie wilbe pleased to direct your highnes counfel heir to caus call bothe that gentleman (who is fo hard ane informar) and me before them, and to confrontt ws togither, and according as they shall try ather my misdemeanour or his misreporte, that they certifie your maiestie of the treuth, wherein I doe so farr confide in my owen innocency, that, as far as that particular, I doe not deprecatt any favour. And so, hoiping your maiestie, after the counfellis report, shall iudge of the pairty informer or me, according as any of ws fall be found worthye of credite, efter humble kissing your sacred hand, and praying God for your maiesties long preferuatioun, I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect
and feruant,

MARSCHALL.*

Dunotter, the xxviiij of Julij 1614.

To his Maiestie deliyuer thais.

* George Earl Marischal succeeded his grandfather, 7th October 1581, and died 2d April 1623. He founded the Marischal College, Aberdeen, and was a public-spirited and intelligent nobleman. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Lord Hume, by whom he had William, his successor, and Anne, married to William Earl of Morton; second, Margaret, daughter of James Lord Ogilvie, by whom he had Sir James Keith of Benholm. The second Countess, according to the following letter from the King, does not appear in the most amiable light:—

JAMES R.

RIGHT trustie and right weilbelouit counsellour, right trustie and weilbelouit coosenis and counsellouris, and right trustie and weilbelouit counsellouris, we greet yow weel. Whereas, upon our certane knowledge of the unkynde, ingrate, and insolent behaviour of the late Erle Marschellis wyfe to hir lord and husband, who, with her sone, * the Laird Thortoun, and utheris, besyde other indignities, had, in a thifteous bed, the said

* These blanks are in the original, which is much destroyed.

CXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 29, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABIL COUSING,

All I can write to ziou at the present is, that yisterday the counfall, be the mediatioun of fuim particulars off their number, quhome thay employed in that earand first, has fatled and fullie composed the variance was betuix the Lordis Sanquhar and Kilmaars, and Drumlanrike and his brother; bot nochtwithstanding thair agriand, has fyned the Laird Drum-

Erle of writtis, money, plate, furliture of We, out of the regarde we had to the memorie of that man, who contentment, served us at home and abroade in greatest charges; and heirefter in otheris the following of so euill a precedent, wer pleisit to recommend to you that bussines: And becausa a great pairt thereof wes clandestine and night worke, wee willed yow to call before yow and examine sik persones as the Erle Marschell and our advocat suld give wp to yow: And whereas we ar informed, that, in a later letter, under our hand, we have schawin to you that it wes not oure pleasure nor meaning in ony former letteris to hurt the said Lady Marschell, or ony other persone, These ar now expreslie to mak it knawin to yow, that we nether gave direction to insert any sik clause in oure letteris, nether, at the putting of oure hand to the samen, did tak head thairto, nor never meant ony sik favour to hir, who hath so ill deserved of one, for whose sake we wer only to respect hir: And to will and requyre yow to proceed in the said action, according to the tenour of our first letteris, against all persones persewed for the saidis factis, as ye will schaw your readdines to obey our commandementis, and zeale to sie sic barbarous deides condignelle punished. Gewin at our Court of Hanwell, the tuintie twa day of August, the year of God 1^m vi^c and tuintie foure yeiris.

To oure right trustie and right welbelovit Counsellour, Sir George Hay of Kinfaunes, oure Chancellor, and to oure right trustie and right welbelovit Cousingis and Counsellouris, and to oure trustie and welbelovit Counsellouris, Erles, Lordis, and utheris of our Priiue Counsell of Scotland.

lanrike in three thousand markis, for his misbehaviour in sending sic cartellis, in fear and terror to others. Thair is also latelie cuimed heir fuim worde fra Orknay, of fuim trubill and motions rased thair be the Earlis bastard sonne, quha has tane ane houe of my lordis, and latelie has tane the kirk and stippill off Kirkoway, principall toun off that cuntrie; is followed be fax or feiuin score eiuill peopill, ufs diuers infolencis in all that boundis.* Always, Sir James Stewart is making thairaway in all diligence, with forcis sic as wee hope fall putt ordour to all wrangs thair, and punish the offendars.

The onhappie accident of Mr Francis Bothuellis slaughter,† I persuade my self, is written to ziow at lenth be others; quhairfore I take my leiuie, and wiffis ziow all happines.

Ȝiour louing Coufing to be commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Halyruidhous, 29 July 1614.

To the Right Honorabill my weil-
beloued Coufing, Jhone Mur-
ray, in his sacred Maiesties
Bedchalmer.

CXXVII.—[SIR LACHLAN] MACINTOSH OF DUNACHTAN TO KING JAMES VI.
August 3, 1614.

PLEIS ȜOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fear off offence in prefumeing to wrett haid maid me
altogidder silent, if by my restrent in warde, and by the vrgent necessitie

* See Melros Papers, Vol. i. p. 143.

† Probably the brother of John first Lord Holyroodhouse.

of my pure eftait, lyklike to be vndone by the hard dealing vfeit agaynis me, I wer nocht conftreyned to haue recourse to your maiefties moft benigne, vpright, and iuft procedour with all your fubiectis. My aduerfarie heir is verie powerfull, whairas both my moyan is mean, and my freindis verie few. If thair wer a challenge of moir fauour and refpect, frome him for whois caus my foirbearis and kyn haue fuftened fo mucche harme, it wold be perhappis accounted by him now forgetfull of fic fervices, to be in me a point of idilnes. Always, for the prefont occafioune of my committing, and of my fo long detentioune in ward, by the fpace of thir tuelf monethis paff, it is of treuthe, that whill I wes minor (whiche, in fome fort, is a refone for extenuating of the offence), by the advyfe of fum of my evill advyfed vnclis, my kyne and freindis being than conveynit, it wes than concludit that thay fould enter in no actioun with ony fubiect, without my knowledge and allowance, whiche wes done vpon a lyklikehood of a dew confideratioune of my awin danger, who ftude anfuerabill by the ftatute of Parliament for my kyn. But when, vpon the Erle of Murraiyis complaint of my vfurping this authoritie ower the tenentis of his landis, this wes adjudgeit by the lordis of your maiefteis counfall as ane offence, and that I wes thairvpoun committed, haueing now abiddin theis tuelf monethis bypaff in prifone for the fame.* In all my fupplicationis for libertie, prefented to the counfall, I haue no anfuer returned; bot by fpeciall letter frome your maieftie, my warding is commandit to be continewit untill I fould prefent certane perfones of my kyne, particularlie nominat in that miffive; whairin, howeuer, the importun fute of partie hathe perhappis procureit this directioun, zit I noway dowt, when your maieftie fall underftand the treuthe, that the famin falbe fpedellie recallit,

* "Macintoshius," according to the Latin MS. chronicle of the family, "quippe legitimus Catanei nominis Caput et Princeps, ulteriori, eorum in armis progressui restitit, Comitisque Morrauiensis apparitori, in verba minus urbana erumpenti, nonnulla infixit verbera; qua propter et Comes Morrauiæ et Dominus Gordonus, mutua in Makintoshium conspirarunt, eumque tanquam oppressionis reum coram Dominis Secreti Consilii citarunt (donec eos, de pacato, suæ familiæ gestu, datis scilicet vadibus, certiores faceret), in arce Edinburgena incarcerari fecerunt, ubi aliquandiu manserit. Tandem vero, sua apud Aulicos habita gratia, sine ullo adhibito fidejussore pristina restituitur libertati." f. 260.

and my releif vpon that refone no longer stayit: For gif your maieftis counfall haue fund it ane offence, that I fould tak ony fort of commandement over my kyne and clane duelling vpon the Erle of Murrayis landis, what of refone can be. pretendit to vrge me with exhibiting, or being anfuerabill for theis men nominat in that letter, who haue no duelling bot vpon the Erle of Murrays landes, who haue refsaueit rychtis of wodfett fra the erle himself of thair poffeffionis, with fpeciall clauffis irritat, incais they fould ather obey or ferve ony vther than himself? It being alfo of treuthe, quhilk I proteft on my confcience, that it is a mater alto-gidder impoffibill for me to performe. Bot whairas, I haue maid offer to the lordis of your maieftis counfall to find fufficient cautione, under fic payneis as they pleifit, for my appeirance befor thame at all tymeis, whenfoeuer I fould be cited, as in lyk fort to be anfuerabill for all men, whome ony law or statute can mak me ony way bund for; and in particular, nocht to middill or vse ony fort of commandis over ony of the Erle of Murrayis tenentis. And now, fen the Erle of Murray hes nocht onlie difpoffest me of all my auld kyndlie rowmeis, deirlic bocht, and worthellie deferveit be my foirbearis frome his progenitouris, with the pryce of our best bluid; and hathe in lyk fort takin fra me the bailzerie of his landis, I can nocht conceave vpon quhat refone I fould be thus deteynit in warde, haueing now in my young zeiris gevin that prouif of my obedience whiche I intend to continew, God willing, to my laft breathe: and being willing to find furetie to do quhateuer the moift ftrict law of this kingdome can vrge, I hop your maieftie will hald it vnreafonabill I fould be burdenit with a mater impoffibill. And fen thair is non allyve that can, better than your maieftie, diftinguifche betuix richt and wrong, I refte affured, that vpon the reiding of my letter, your hienes pleafour falbe fpedallie retourneit to the counfall, fo as my lang warding hathe nocht tryit fo greaveous to me, as the contentment I fall refsaue of the vprichtnes of my moift gracious fouerane, who doithe nocht spare to heir the complayntis of the pureft, being at libertie bothe moir abill, and in confcience profeffing my self euer moift willing to fuppres all fort of difobedience, and to gif prouif of my moift dewtifull affectioun, inferiour to no fubiect quhat-

foeuer, of my rank in your maieftes fervice: For whois guid eftate, and long continewance over vs, as in dewtie I am moift iuftly bund to pray, fo fall I euer remayne

Your Maieftes moft humbill and
obedient fubiect,

MAKINTOSCHIE
of Dunachtan.*

From your Maieftes Caftell off Edinburgh,
this 3 Auguft 1614.

To the King his moft excellent Maieftie.

CXXXVIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOVING COUSING,

Thir few lyns ar only to lat you kno that I am prefentlie going to my fchippe for Yrland, by that menis to geve his facred maieftie

* Sir Lachlan Macintosh of Dunchattan succeeded his grandfather in 1609. In the previously mentioned chronicle of the Macintosh family, entitled, "De Origine et Incremento Makintoshiorum, epitome," MS. Advocates' Library, it is stated: "Anno 1612, sibi matrimonio conjunxit Annam Grant, Domini a Grant filiam natu maximam, ex qua tres habuit filios, Gulielmum, Lauchlanum, et Aneam, et filiam unam, nomine Isabellam. Filiam etiam notham habuit, quæ, succedente nullo progenici monumento, morti occubuit." He got involved in a series of disputes with Lord Gordon, which lasted till the year 1619, when, continues the chronicler, "Dominus Gordonus et Makintoshius, nonnullis intercedentibus amicis, Edinburgi quandam amicitiae inierunt speciem. Verum cum postea Dominus Gordonus, Allani Cameroni caussam, adversus Makintoshium, susceperat, durante Makintoshio, aliqua semper inter ipsos vigere discordia."

In 1617 the honour of knighthood was conferred on him, and Sir Lachlan was appointed one of the gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Prince Charles, by whom he was much favoured, and who "made him a present of the sword he wore himself, which is still preserved in the family." Douglas' Baronage, p. 352. He died at Gartenbeg in Strathspey, on his return from London, on 22d June 1622, in the 29th year of his age, and was buried in the church of Petty.

contentment, quhois seruice, God willing, I fall euer prefer to any thing els in this warld: And fence, boithe by his maiesteis laft letter, and my brother Sir Claudis* informatioun, I find fuche affurance of the continowence of his maiesteis love, I will ftryve to geve proife that the continowence of that fall be my greteft greid, not dowting quhen his maieftie fall find beft occafionis, I fall be rememberit in the number of his maiesteis moft faithfull and humble ferviteurs; for quhilk, I think never to spare nather my body nor menis, quhen it fall pleis his facred maieftie to command, altho thair be fum that waild willinglie offer to me all the difficulteis thai could, as I can not bot remember zow of that I wrette in my laft letter. This, moft loving coufing, with the remembrances of my moft humble dewte, I defyre zow to fignefie to his facred maieftie that I am gone for his fervice, and that zow will favour me with zour commandementis, geve I can do zow any fervice in that kingdome, as I will ever reft

Your moft loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

Southenan, the 12 of September 1614.

Loving coufing, I will pleis zow caufe this vther letter be delyverit to Sir James Fullerton, in diligence.†

To my moft loving coufing, Mr Jone
Murray, one of his moft facred
Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

* Sir Claud Hamilton was the second son of Claud Lord Paisley, and brother to James, the first Earl of Abercorn, the writer of this letter. He obtained extensive grants of land in Ireland, and was, 6th October 1618, made constable of the Castle of Toome, in the county of Antrim, for life.

† This letter does not occur in the collection.

CXXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1614.

GOOD MR MURRAY,

I received your letter yesternight, and have thought it fitt this present day to returne you an aunswere, that it may appeere what the truthe is of the matter in question. I pray you deliver vnto his majesty the copy of the fermon which I fend heerewithall, and the letter of Mr Ball,* the authour thereof, vnto my Lord of London, whose paines I was forced to vse in that businesse, because I was not well when the complaint was first brought vnto mee; but I tooke account of it strictly as soone as possibly I could, and if I had found the report to haue bene true, I had both acquainted his majesty therewithall, and should have bene an humble futer that some severe punishment might have bene layd vpon him, whereof not long since I gaue example in a like case yet depending, as his majesty may remember. But since I found that it was a mistaking, I hold it better to suppress all stirring in it, because I hold it not good that any such buzzes should bee putt into the heads of idle people, when there is no ground of truthe. The enormity of rogues and vagrant beggers whereof hee spake is such and so greate, that certainly it will one time or other do greate hurt in this kingdome, if it be not prevented, as yesterday diuerse of vs did fay at the counsell table vpon another occasion. I trust his majesty, vpon the reading of this fermon, will give some present order to that behalfe.

I fend my seruant so speedily with this letter to know whither it bee his maiesties pleasure, that now having the copy of this fermon, and finding the truthe of thinges, I should attend him at Theobalds or not, which, it seemeth by your letter, that his maiesty doth not necessarily require. But if it bee his maiesties pleasure, I will come by day or by night, through

* Richard Ball, then holding the living of St Christopher's. His letter, dated August 29, 1614, transmitting the sermon that had excited the suspicions of the King, is amongst the Balfour Papers; but the sermon itself has not been preserved.

wett or drye, and fhall obferve this while I live, ficke or whole, according to my duty. But if I might be fpared, I defire to be at Croydon tomorrow vpon this occafion. There is an old gentleman of Surrey, called Mr Dorrel, a man of faire eftate, but himfelfe, his wife, and all his children, greate recufant Papifts; fo that one of his fonnes, for denyeing the othe of allegiance, was conuictèd vpon a præmunire, and lay long in Newgate, till, by his maiefties grace, at your interceffion, hee gave fome mony for compofitioun, and obtained his pardon. On Monday laft, another fonne of this old Mr Dorrells, a proper gentleman, about 24 yeeres of age, and one who hath bene at S^t Omers, at Doway, and diuerfe other places in thofe partes, came vnto mee, being fomewhat prepared before by an honeft diuine; and after much conference which I had with him, was contented to heare prayers in my chappell, and afterward testified that hee very well approved the fame. I difmiffed him for that time, but tooke his promife that hee fhould bee with mee tomorrow at Croydon church, where I told him, that, God willing, hee fhould heare mee preache, and fee the reverend behauiour of our publicke congregations, which hee had never beheld in all his life. So this night I looke for him, being to come fixteene or feaventeene miles of purpofe; and tomorrow I hope publickly to engage him in an affembly of more then a thoufand perfons, which I do the rather defire to accomplifh, becaufe he telleth mee that, as the greateft part of his fathers kindred are Papifts, fo there was never any of his mothers kinne or name which were of our religion. Her father was named Gage, and indeed I know none of that name but they are Papifts; and yet there are many of them in Suffex. Now, I am glad to take this day, becaufe the next Sunday I am to waite vpon the kinge at Hampton Court, and fo forward. I forbear further to trouble you, but reft

Your very loving frende,

G. CANT.*

Croydon, Septemb. 17, 1614.

* George Abbot, D.D. He died at his palace at Croydon, in 1633, aged 71.

CXXX.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

OCTOBER 3, 1614.

MOIST LOVING COUSING,

Having spent thir thre wekis paffit in trying and clering all maters questionabill betuixt my coufing Sir James Hamilton, and Sir Hew Mongomere, als weill in the marchis of thair landis as vtherwayis, quhairin, I thank God, I have maid ane gud progres, as I hope to bring it to ane happe end for thame boithe, and to many gentilmen of gud fashcion duelling vnder thame in this kingdome, quhair thai have above 2000 habil Scottis men, weill armit heir, rady for his maiesties service, as thai fall be commandit. Thir many, I will certefe so, I had at on dayis hunting with my self, fence my heir cuming, quhilk, I most confes, did incourage me the les to spare my travellis to put thame and holde thame in concorde, vtherwayis fairfeing ruyme to thame selfis by discord, not without greit hinderans to his maiesteis service. And I beleve his maiestie, being trewle informit of my procedingis, fall think I do him no lytill service heirin; for beleve me, thir gentilmen leving in concord, as I trust now thai fall, being favored and allowit by his maiestie in gud and ciuill courfis, altho thai be mere gentilmen, his maiestie may assuredlie expect grait service of thame in this kyngdome; and beydis thame, be affurit, thair ar no corner in the northe, quhairin thair is not gud numbers of our nation: and quhat I have at Straban I will not tak notice myself, leving it to vthers. Thair is cravit throch this kyngdome, by directione frome the Lord Depute and counfall, alfweill frome the vnder-takers as others, ane voluntar supple and fre gift, as thai call it, to his maiestie, quhairin, it feiris me, thai do muche wronge his maiestie. I refavit ane letter frome Sir Tobe Cafeild for this effect, to quhom I have

anfwarit, that geve I fould haif occasioun to be at any publik meting for that biffines, I waid maift willinglie explaine my affectioun to my gracious maisters service, hauing nothing bot that quhilk I acknowlage to be his and frome him; and to the berar of his letter and my answar, quhilk was Mr Hare Achefon, I said vnto him, geve his maiestie fould have occasioun to crave any thing of me in that fashion in this kyngdom, I could never mak offer of les then one yeiris rent at leif. This I gaue out of purpois to mak vthers the moir fre, and that vtheris fould not tak advantage of me and honest men of our natioun in this kyngdome, and certefe his maiestie, as I have said I have nothing in this world quhilk I will not be rady to lay down at his sacred feit, and myself with all, to be difposit vpon at his royall plesour; and quhat I fay for myself, I do in lyk fort for all thois quhome of I fall have power and credit; and specielle I geve this affurance for Sir James and Sir Hew, heir present with me. Quhairfoir, geve it pleis his maiestie, quho, out of his grait wifdome, confiders the hardnes of our beginningis in this kyngdome, to desyre quhat is ours, we desyre to vnderstand his sacred maiesteis gracious plesour, and, notwithstanding of our povertie, his maiestie fall haue profe of our love and radines, and that we fall, as we ar bund of all dewte, prefer his strait to our awin miferies. Sir Hew Mongomere is in building ane fyin houffe at the Newton, quhair of ane quarter is almost compleit, and Sir James Hamilton hes buildit at Killileuche ane very stronge castell; the lyk is not in the northe. Efter I haue put ane end to thair questionis, and cleret thair quhole marches, I purpois to go to Straban, quhilk, I think, fall be about the 6 of this instant. It is thocht the parliament fall go fordwart heir the 11 of this instant, befoir quhilk tyme I purpofe to haue my brother Sir Claud at Dublyn, quha now is at Straban taking ordour for his buildingis. I hope ze will acquent his sacred maiestie with my desyre to know his plesour, and in all diligence lat me be certefeit thair of, quhilk I will expect in this kyngdome befoir the 24 of this instant. This, I trust, ze will tak in gud pairt, as no service I fall be habill to do zow can be trublesum to me. I wiffe ze fould wrete to my Lord Secretar of Scotland to derect your answar in all diligence to my bedfallow at Paslay, quha thairefter in all haift will not fail to derect the same to me.

Thus, my most loving dewte rememberit to your self and your moift woirthie lady, I rest

Your most loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

It may pleis you to present my most humble service to his sacred ma-iestie.

Bangor, the 3 of October 1614.

To my most loving Coufing, Mr Jone Murray, of his sacred Maiesteis Bed-chalmer, at Court, with spede, and in his absence to his Lady, and Sir James Fullerton.

CXXXI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO [JOHN MURRAY?]

OCTOBER 6, [1614?]

SIR,

In this vacatioun tyme, having some reafoun of more privat reiteiring, inregaird of my laite visitatioun in the loife of my bedfellow, I tooke occasioun to review some of the olde recordis in the Registre, and by collationeing of former thinges with this present tyme, I haif deprehendit my maister to haif ressaived a greitt prejudice; for it hath bein evir in my tyme muche marvelled, how the landis in the west pairtes of this kingdome fuld haif bein so high retoured, and the landis in the northe pairtes, and in the choicest pairtes of our countrey, as Fyfe and Lothiane, to be so far vndervallewit. Heirvpoun I haif begune with a shyre or tuo, comprolleing thereby past retours with the present, and findes the

oddes fo greitt as his maieftie in tyme pafte hes been very far interest in his proffieitt, for not in wairde landis only, bot in blenfh also, endureing the tyme of the nonentrye, the kingis maieftie gettis the retoured dewtye yeirlye, and this is a fpeciall poynthe wherewith the fheriffis yeirlye in the Exchecker ar burdeyned in there accomptes. Now, whereas his maieftie in tyme pafte for fourtie pundis hathe gottin only ten pundis, and fometymes skairfe foure pundis, this, in many fmall particularis, wald turne to no meane prejudice. The reafoun how this hathe befallin is cleare to haif been done in his maiefties own minoritye, and in the best aige of his mother, of bliffed memorye; and lyike aneugh moft of them haif done it of ignorance, for tuo yeiris befor Pinkye Feild, to wit, in 1545, the toun of Edinburgh wes by our neighbouris brunte, and then many menis particular evidentis, and the moft part of all registeris, bot fome few whiche wer in the castle, wer all confwimed; fo that fenfyne every man prefwiming that nothing wes extant to controll them, they retoured there landis at pleafour, and fo vnderalewed them as skairfe they keiped the fixt part of the proportioun of there former retoures. Now, my controlment fall proceide vpoun goode warrantis of there owne retouris from the tyme of Flowdoun to Pinkye. Now, as for the compaffing of the bufines, it hathe in itself no difficultye at all, being fo cleare that no wryter boye will put queftioun in it. Bot it tuiches many, and the greitt ones mofte, who, howevir they haif gottin their landis frielye of his maiefties predeceffouris, yit ar they loathe, according to our Scottifhe proverbe, to give him kaile of his awne peittis, and every one tryis still to haif from the crowne, bot very few ar willing to returne any thing back to it. Always, for the profequuteing of the bufynes, the more quyett the mater be kept, it wilbe the eafier compaffed. There neideth nather parliament, nor affemblye, or conventioun of eftaites. It fall not requyre recommendatioun ather to fessioun or counfell, generall or particular. Bot if his maieftie do allow that I fuld proceide in it, I will break this iyce where it is thinnest, and will procvre fome cleare decifionis agans fome of my owne freyndis in the northe, and fo, peice and peice, bring it fordward in feverall corneris of the countrey, where there falbe leift refiftance; and the greitt ones falbe then efhaimed to oppoife. I haif communicatt this ma-

ter as yit to no fleshe alyive bot vnto his maiesties advocatt, becaus I neide not the concurrence of any other at first in it ; and as his maiestye desyires any otheris to know of it, it will not be the worse to spaire it vntill the turne be ryiper. As for my owne pairt, I mak no exceptioun of any per-foun in this busynes ; nather do I propone to my self any project of re-wairde. If the busynes do fray me weill for his maiesties proffeitt, so as his maiestie may find that I am a weillwilled dewtifull fervant, I haif obteyned my intent. I haif written this particular vnto you to be impairt-ed to his maiestie, and that I may vnderstand back againe of his maiesties pleafour whither I suld proceide or furceafe. As for the reasonis where-for I wald haif the mater fomuche kept vp, no questioun the knowledge of it wilbe the crosseing of it, and heirof at some other tyme. If his ma-iestie so requyre it, I can give more particular remonstrance. Bot there is one thing that wald be adverted into, that when as this mater fall breake furth, it may that some propone as a grounde of a fwite at courte to haif the bigones of the vnderualewing. Bot his maiestie must be pleas-ed to reserve this to be discharged by way of gratuitye to the whole sub-iectis generallye, they amending the errouris of all there retouris ; where-by his highnes fall haif his owne, and the subiectis must acknowledge to haif ressaived very greitt favoure. Eftir you haif communicatt the ma-ter with his maiestie vpoun the first goode occasioun, I hoipe you will cer-tifie me of his pleafour. There is no nobleman nor gentleman in the cuntry bot makis his best vse of his chartour kift ; and I think there is muche more reafoun that these who fervis his maiestie suld fie and ende-avour to help where the crowne hathe bein hurte. So, till nixt occasioun, I tak my leave, and restis

Youris at command,

ALEX^R. HAY.*

Edinburgh, 6 Octob. [1614?]

* There is an admirable letter from Sir Alexander, detailing the captures of certain pirates by Macleod of the Lewis, printed in the second volume of the *Analecta Scotica*. It is there erroneously ascribed to Lord Fosterseat, a mistake arising from these persons bearing the same name, and being both Lords of Session.

CXXXII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

NOVEMBER 25, 1614.

GOOD HONEST JHONNE,

I haiue vryttin this letter vnto zou in regard of the presentt straitt thatt our freind the laird of Vachtune stands into; for he is so huntitt be the laird of Qubitingham, as thair is no mesur in itt. Itt is a hard mater thatt a iustice of paice in execusion of his office being very neir mist of his lyf, and his neir freind innocentlie slain, albeit he hes committit ain error in his furie, zitt thatt he should be so hardlie perfeuitt. I defyr not thatt his maiestie should know thatt I deill any thing in this mater, for it may be he think thatt I deill only out of my particular fauor to my freind. Itt is treu I can nott deny bott I loue the laird of Vachtune, bott this I vill fay, thatt I vill varrand theis quha veris hagbutts shall go plain-tie aneuh in the cuntric, from this furth, befoir a iustice of pace putt to his hand to mend itt. I vill prey zou to deill be all the menis ze can to gett the day continuitt, till freindis may doe thair best to fattill itt. I heir his maiestie gatt a fyn entermiwit gofhalke from my Lord of Shreuf-berrie. I heir shee sleis the herrin. I knau shee vill not mak the king gritt plefur thair. Gif ze vill gett hir and fend hir to me, I vill think zou a good fellow. I vill fay no more, bott I prey zou remember on Vachtune. Thus I rest

Your louing goffup,

A. MARR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xxv. of Nouember 1614.

As for this mater of Vachtuns, fens the vrytting of this letter, freinds are deling in itt so as ze shall deill no thing in that mater with his ma-

ieftie till 3e heir from me againe. Now, gif 3e be a good fallow, and vill fend me the auld terfell, I vill fay itt is goffups cours : gif other vays, doo quhat 3e may, I knau his maieftie vill nott forgett me quhen his ramage halks cums in.

To my very louin freind, Jhonne
Murray, on of the Groums in his
Maieftis Bedchallmer, gif this.

CXXXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 6, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOWEING CUSIGNE,

I refawit 3our letteris befoir my cuming furthe of Irelande; and in the particular, I wryte vnto 3ow anent the voluntar contributioun there, to be given to his maieftie, I had takin that fame courfe 3e did advyffe me by 3our lettir, as his maiefteis plefour beffoir the refait thairoff, bot I think now all fall turne to ane generall fubfidy. Thir few lynis ar onlye to accompany Sir Hew Montgomerye and Sir James Hamiltounis lettiris, defyreing 3our freyndlie ayde and affiftance with his maieftie in their favouris, as 3e wil be bettir informed of by the particular of their awin letteris, quhilk ar wryttin at large; for quhilk Sir Hew Montgomerye did defyre me to crave 3our pardoun for him. Also, I defyre to be certifyet by 3our letter giwe his maieftie be pleafed to creat, at my defyre, thofe twa barrounis in Ireland, as his facred maieftie, diuerfe tymes, hes beine pleaffed to promeife vnto me, whereoff, iff fo it had pleafed God, I thocht his maieftie by ane vther fowld have beine remembered, quhilk fince it hes pleafed God to prevent by his deathe, I am conftreyned to be moir troublefome vnto 3ow as my deir freynd; and I expect thofe twa I fould

hawe created falbe the first, whereoff, also, by my brother, I had his maiefties promise. Seiknes at the present makis me moirt sehort, bot I fal evir rest

Your thankfull and loweing freynd
to serve you,

ABERCORNE.

Edinb. the 6 of December 1614.

To my most assured and loweing cusigne,
Mr Johne Murraye, one of his sacred
Maiefties Bedchamber.

CXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABIL AND WEELEBOUED COUSING,

I haue nocht writtin to you this quhyle, because I had na subiect off moment to impairt to you. At the present I haue this aduertiment to mak to you, to be impairt to our maist gracious fouerane. Sence thir rebellis off Yla, befidis the inuading and possessing thame selfis with his maiefties house of Duniwayge, presumed also maist traфонable to tak the Bischoppe off the Iles sonne, and the Laird of Ranfurlie* his cheiff, to be as pledgis to thame, to haue quhat condicions thay pleased require; onderstanding weill his majesties royall minde nocht habil to condescend to entir in onye condicions with sic peopill, and knowing also weill his heighnes foris our sufficient to dantoun all the pride off sic barbarous limmers, as his maieftie had fend his directions, quhilk are still going fordwart, sufficient to bring all thair to his will. Considering, neiuertheless, still that the parrell off these gentilmen, al-

* Knox—his descendants settled in Ireland; and the present representative of the family is the Earl of Ranfurly of that kingdom, and Lord Northland in England.

beit, too rakelſie caſſin in that danger, could nocht be bot werye onpleaſand to his gracious maieſtie; as it wald alſo haue tuiched this hail eſtatt, and us all in honour, if thay had gottin onye ſkaith, I was maift cairfull for thair releiff, and thairfore fand out ane man off my awin, quha had guid Irifh, and on his ondertaking, upon fuim auld acquentance he had with Angus Ogg M^eDonald, quha is the cheiff off all thir outlawis, that he thoct he wald be habill to perfuade him to deliuer to me the ſaid gentilmen free, I directed him about the beginning off Nouember to goe thair: gaue him na write off mine with him, nor powar to gif theſe men onye promeis frome me off onye particular condicion, bot gif he could on guid rafons, and apeirance of guid generallis, alluire thame to the deliurie and freedome of the gentilmen, I promift to himſelf honeſt rewarde off his maieſtie. He went thair with greate difficulties off wadder and otherwayis, and in end and concluſioun, dealt fa with theſe rebellis, as he has brocht hame frie the twa gentilmen (quhairoff I thank God), butt onye promeis or condicioun. Farder, thay fend to me with him the keyis of the houſe, with this worde, thay will be content to deliuer the houſe to onye I fall pleis fend thair to reſſaue and keip it, with onye cumpanie thairfore, on this onlye defirie of thairis, that thay may haue frie libertie to haue acceſs, ather to his maieſtie or to his counſall, to declair thair awin pairtis; and quhou thay ar fallin or caſin in this troubill, thay ſay thair ſould be found leitill falt in thame, and mair in others. The conſideratioun off this I remitt to his ſacred maieſties royall wiſdome. I will nocht meddill in the like off that, but ſpeciall warrand and directioun. His maieſtie knawis I profeſſed eiuer ignorance in all Irifche cabale.

I hoipe his maieſtie will think thir gentilmennis releiff guid ſeruce. The biſchioppes fonne has ſaid to me, thay boſted thame eiuer, gif onye feige came frome his maieſtie to that houſe, thay ſould be ſett out our the wals to kep the firſt ſhoittis. The gentilman quha has bein my moyenner and doar of this ſeruce, is ane Rofs man, called George Grahame.* I promift to him, gif he ſould bring me hame the priſonnars,

* The Chancellor got into a ſcrape by dealing with this man, who, if we may believe his Lordſhip, exceeded the powers entrusted to him. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 200—209.

as he has done, for his chargis and recompense at leif ane thousand markis Scottis, and quhat farder rewairde fould pleis his maieftie allow on him. I will nocht brake my condition with him, bot fall fatiffie him before this be at ziw, and fendis ziw thairfore heirwith ane precept to be signed be his maiefties most gracious hand, to command the threfaurar depute heir to rander me that meikill filuer. Nane will think it euill bestowed. Or the men had nocht bein releiued, for his maiefties and estaitis entres and honour, I wald rather haue parelled the losf off ten thousand off my awin. His maieftie may remebir, to sic priuie moyenis, for small foumis I had Jhone Dow M^eAlaister, the greateft limmer, and brokin man in all the North, and his brother baith putt out: the ane execute in this toun, the other with twa of his marrowis brunt in ane houe, becaufe they wald nocht rander. For this I gaue three thousand mark. Ane other M^eGillieworike, I had brocht into this toun, and execute, ane stark theiff and captane off theifis, a Barrabbas insignis latro, [who] trubled all the Cabroch and Braa of Mar: for him I gaue ane thousand mark. Quhilk foumes, be his maiefties command, was rembursed to me be my Lord Dumbar, and Sir Jhone Arnott; like as I haue his maiefties generall command to threfauraris to deburse at my desire, onye sic foumis upon sic occasiouns; bot I think meiteft [to] haue his maiefties speciall allowance for the seruice in eurie particular. I will omitt na thing may ly in my power or capacitie to doe his maieftie guid seruice. All this I remitt to the imparting to his sacred maieftie, at guid tyme and opportunitie. God preferue his maieftie. Sua, wiffing ziw all weill, restis

Your maist affectionat Coufing to be
commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 9 Dec^r. 1614.

Thair is latelie cuimed to this toun, fuim worde of fuim late slaughter

committed in the Iles, in the Ile of Jura, on his maiefties guid fubiectis, the particularis quhairoff I remitt to my Lord Secretairis and Sir Gedeonis relatioun, for thay ar mair particularlie aduertit off the fame.

CCXXXV.—REASONS FOR THE BURROWS OF SCOTLAND IN SUPPORT OF
THEIR FREIGHTS OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

JANUARY [1615?]

REASONS for the Burrowis of the Kyngdome of Scotland, quhairfoir thair libertie aucht not to be refrayned in the frauchting of forraine fchippis and boddomis for transporting of thair guidis to and fra the faid kyngdome.*

Firft, Thay protest, as nature and dewtie bindis thame, that they ar moft willing to prefer thair awin countriemen and fchipping to any ftrangeris in the warld in the caice forfaid, yea, ewin with evident and feine losf of thair awin accordis; bot if this proceid fra ony constitutione, or publiſt refraint, or prohibitioune, to be maid be his maieftie, they fear it fall produce fuche dangerous effectis, as may evert and overthrow thair haill feafairing tred and fchipping for ewer.

Becaus that president and example, the kynges and prynces of vther kyngdomes no doubt wilbe inducit, for the benefeit of thair awin fubiectis, to mak the lyk constitutionis within thair dominiounis; and if fo be thair is nathing to be expected but decay and wrack to our fchipping, infamikle as the greittest number of the beft fchippis of Scotland ar continuallie employed in the feruice of Frenschemen, not onlie within the dominionis of France, bot alfo within the boundis of Spayne, Italie, and Barbarie, quhair thair tred lysis, quhilk is ane cheiff caus of the increas of the number of Scottis fchippis and of thair maintenance: quhairas be the

* See Balfour Annals, vol. ii. p. 57, 58; and Melros Papers.

contrairie, the half of the number of schippis quilkis ar presentlie in Scotland, will serue for our awin priuat tred and negotiatioune, if we haid not this benefeit and commoditie of strangeris.

This is nocht to be esteimed ane naiked presumptione vpon our pairt, becaus we haue alreddye found the practize thair of in France, in fa mikle as vpon informatione gewin to the Kyng of France and his maiesties counfell thair, that this publiēt prohibitione of the frauchting of schippis belonging to strangeris in England or vther pairtis, they haue beine pleased to mak the lyk prohibitione within the dominiounis of France; quhilk taking executioun lailie in Normandie againis ane Inglish schip, and ane vther Dutche schip, quhilkis being laidned with Frensche commodities, the maisteris and marineris thair of wer compellit to disburden the fame of the saidis commodities, and returne toome and emptie to thair awin cuntries. So also the lyk wes intendit; becaus ane Scottis bark perteyning to Andro Allane, quhilk that fame tyme wes also laidned with Frensche merchandice, and no doubt wald haue beine practized againis thame, hed not the maisteris and marineris of the said bark pretendit greitter immunitie be the ancient alliance and leagues maid betuix the kyngdomes of France and Scotland nor vther strangeris; and that they wer compellit to alledge that thair wes no restraint maid in Scotland of any libertie quhilk Frenschmen haid ewer enjoyed thair before, and to find cautione to report ane autentick testimoniall thairvpon from Scotland, as may appeir both be the proces quhilk wes deducit at Rowane heirvpon, and by the lettres of the Scottis factouris sent heir to the provest of Edinburgh, testifieng the premisses to be of veritie; swa that if this publiēt restraint and prohibitione haue place heir in Scotland, we neid not to luik for any tred in France, without quhilk nather can our schipping nor tred of merchandice stand, bot all will turne to ane pitifull wrack and confusioun, for we ar not in sic caice heir in Scotland as the subiectis of vther kingdomes, quhairin thair is continuall intercourse and commoditie by resort of strangeris, by quhome thair welth and estait growis; and thair is no strangeris that repairs to this kyngdome, except sic as importis tymber and vther gros merchandice of small worth.

Secundlie, If our libertie in frauchting of ftrangeris fchippis heir in Scotland be refrained, we wilbe compellit to leave our tred of heringis, quhilk we transport to the eift countries, becaufe the best occafionne of the transport thair of is offred onlie in the monethis of September and October, in the quhilk feafonne we haue the commoditie of fum Dutche fchippis heir, quha hes imported tymber within this realme, and wilbe content to transport our guidis for the thrid of the fraucht quhilk Scottis fchippis may ferue for; becaus, if they want this imployment, they will returne emptie; and the awneris of Scottis fchippis can not undertak thir voyages bot vpone greit and exorbitant frauchts, feing they wilbe confrayned to ly the maift pairt of the wynter feafonne in the eift countries, be reafonne of the froftis inclofeing thame thair. If thir frauchtis wer gewin by merchandis, they wald report no gayne nor commoditie by that tred, and fo muft leave the fame, to the hurt and prejudice of the whole kyngdom.

It is alfo to be confidderit that Scottis fchippis can not convenientlie ferue for the importing of wayncott, knaphult, tar, and vther grofs waires within this kingdome, becaus they ar nocht able to ferue vpone fo eafie condiounis as Dutche fchippis, quha ar feruit by thrie or four marineris at the maift; and if greit frauchtis were giwen for fuch wares, all the wairis aboue writin culd fearlie be fald for dowble pryce, quhilk wald turne to the hurt of the haill kyngdome.

CXXXVI.—SIR R. MACLEOD TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1615.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOVERANE,

Since it hes bene the goode pleafour of God, by your maieftis moft prudent and happie government, and to your maieftis immortal prais and commendatioune, with the exceiding grit confort of all your faithfull fubiectis, to blis this your maieftis kingdome with ane

vniverfall peace and quietnes, throughout all the nukis and cornaris thairof, especiallie in the Yllis and Heylandis; fwa, that now the hoip and expectatioune of iustice makis all men to feik redres of these wrangis, quhairin thir mony yeiris bygane, through the iniquitie of the tyme, thay haif bene silent. So it is, that I and my prediceffouris, being heretable tenentis to 3our maieftie and 3our prediceffouris of the landis of Slait, North Vft, and vtheris landis lyand in the North Yllis, quhairin we war heretable infest be 3our maiefteis worthie goodfir of famous memorie efter his perfyte aige, the Clandonald, quho, efter the daith of 3our maiefteis said goodfir, wer of griteft power, force, and freindschip in the Yllis, did most violentlie detrude my forbearis furth of oure saidis landis with grit slauchter of diuerse of thame, especiallie of my father, brothir, and vther kynnisfmen, and by fyre and fuord mantenit thair violent possessioun aganis my forbearis and myself fenfyne; and I having now enterit myself as air to my father brethir in the saidis landis, and being infest and feaft thairintill, and 3our maieftie being lykewayis gratiouflic pleafit at my laite being with 3our maieftie, to difpone vnto me the nonentrie of the saidis landis, I hawe thairvpone intentit actioun befor 3our maiefteis fessioun, for recoverie of my possessioun and richt of the saidis landis; in the quhilk actioun, I am lyke to fustene some preiudice by the practeizis and dealing of my adverfair pairtie, Donald Gorme of Slaitt, quho taking hald of that act of parliament, quhairby the inhabitantis of the Yllis war ordaneit to exhibeit and produce thair infestmentis befor 3our maiefteis chekker, to the effect the tenour and conditiones thairof might haue bene knawin to thame, the said Donald, vpone my alledgit failzie in that poynt of the exhibitioun of my infestmentis allenerlie, intendis to furneis actioun and pley aganis me, and vpone that onlie caus to detene and withhald fra me my lauchfull heretage. Althocht it be of trowth that I and all my prediceffouris haif cuir constantlie profest 3our maiefteis obedience, and did nevir kyth in counfall, actioun, or hostilitie with ony of the rebellis of the Yllis aganis 3our maieftie, lykas, I myself, in the fourfoir fextene zeir of God, gaif my compeirance befor 3our maiefteis counfall, and at that tyme fand cautioune for my conformitic in all tymes thairefter; and I, thairvpone, simplie apprehending that the said act of

parliament could nawayis ftyrke aganis me, quho wes a lauthfull subiect, bot that the samene wes maid and devyfit aganis the rebellis and brokin men of the Yllis, in the quhilk nomber I diddanit to rank myself, I ignorantlie, and not vpon contempt, failed in that poynt of the productioun of my infestmentes, quhilkis I could not produce the tyme of the making of the said act, in respect the said Donald Gorhame stud than infest in the saidis landis, haldin of your maiestie, and continowit in the violent possessioun of the samene, lyk as he zit does; and I am bot laithlie prouet and retourit air to my said father brether in the saidis landis, quhairin I am certane that it is not your maiesteis meaning, that any advantage fall be tane of me, bot that I fall haif iustice aganis the said Donald notwithstanding thair of, or of my obiectione that can be moved aganis me thairvpon, the said act of parliament being onlie maid to draw brokin Ilifmen to obedience, and not to snair simple, ignorant, and lauthfull subiectis. In consideratioun quhair of, I am bauld in all submissioun and reverence to haue my recours vnto your sacred maiestie, as the fontane fra quhome all your distressit subiectis ressaues confort, and in all humilitie to befeik your maiestie to wryte in my favouris to your maiesteis fessioun, willing thame to proceid and minister iustice vnto me aganis the said Donald and vtheris, violent possessouris of my landis and heretage, notwithstanding of the said act of parliament, and the not productioun of my infestmentis, or ony thing that may result or follow thairvpon. And so, crawling pardone for this my presumptioun, humblie praying God lang to preserve your maiestie in your blissit government, that we your poore subiectis may, in tyme of our distresse, haw our recourse to your maiestie, I rest

Your most humble and obedient
servitour,

S^a. R. MACLEOD.

Edinburgh, 7 Januarij 1615.

To the Kingis Maiestie.

CXXXVII.—JOHN CARSE TO THE BISHOP OF ROSS.*

JANUARY 10, [1615?]

MY LORD,

I receaved your lordschippis letter yesternight. Master Geddie has vndertook the safe conveyance of this. This day I am glad of your lordships counsell; and as it may concern me, I wil ply my endeavores to practeis. Benedicat Dominus! Your lordschipp defyres to know the challenge and challengers; my Lord of Brichen† will be pleased, I hope, when he cums, to clear that poynt. They who pressed me with it sayd that the vniverfall consent of great men had caryed it as high as his majesties eare in such termes. Libera nos Domine! For your part of the character and min, as I am your lordschippis vnworthy fervant, as thear was a tang in it, I may chance ferve to tell them, in min owin name, as I haue don in yours. Noli me tangere!

My Lord, I rejoyfe, as I schould, aboue expreffion, to hear of my Lord Elect of Dumblane‡ his health and good proceedings, hic labor hoc opus est. God enable me to proue a thankfull fervant to my Lord St Andrewes for his favor. I shall be glad to ferve in the meanest of his commandements hear; and to your lordschipp I have still communicated my self, as to min own foul. Proba me!

I haue not been so weak as to stumble at your lordschippis silence; if I had not known, vnder your hand, the cause, I schould haue beleueed as much as I know. My hart ryfes at the newes of a ryfeing cathedral at

* Patrick Lindsay, minister at St Vigeans, was advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613. In 1633 he was translated to Glasgow.

† Andrew Lamb, minister at Burntisland, succeeded to this see in 1606, and retained it till 1619, when he was translated to Galloway.

‡ Adam Bellenden, rector of Falkirk, who, upon the translation of Graham, Bishop of Dunkeld, to Orkney, in 1614, was preferred to the vacant bishoprick.

Roffe, in the words of the Pfalmift, "The glorious majestie of the Lord our God be vpon it; prosper the worke, O, prosper it."

The Liturgy, ann. 2, regni Ed. 6, which with much adoe I gott, I leaft it with my curate at Brixton. He wold needs copy out what he could not find elfquher. I haue fent for it by the caryer; when it cums to me it fchall be forthwith fent to your lordfchipp.

I am fo confident of what concerns me with your lordfchipp, foe farr as you haue intereff in it, that I fchall never further examyn it, no not in a thoght, whether time wil work it pro or con; but vpon fuch a threatening as I had then, and a tryal of my patience fince, about Patney (in fuch a manner as I haue layed open to my Lord Dumblane in his letter), I fhould haue held myfelf vnworthy of fuch freinds as both your lordfchippes have fchowed your felfes to me, if I had not, as a gratefull fervant, acknowledged the honor of your noble motions, by layeing my felf in all duty and fervice, at the feet of our Holy Mother, the Church of Scotland, to be difpofed by her as fche fchall think fitt.

I directed a packett to my Lord of Galloway* vpon Chryftmafday. I hope his lordfchipp has received it. I præfume thear wer letters in it which concerned my betters, to which I was only Tabellarius. My Lord, forgive me, and ftill bliffe me by your letters and commandements.

Your Lordfchippes (very) faythfull fervant and cofen,

JOHN CARSE.†

London, 10 Jan. [1615?]

To the Right Reuerend Father in God,
my much honored Lord, the Lord
Bifchopp of Roffe.

* William Couper, born 1566, and died 15th February 1619. A prelate of great worth and extenfive learning. His works were printed at London, in folio, 1629.

† Communicated by Mr David Laing.

CCXXXVIII.—SIR HUGH MONTGOMERY TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 10, [1615?]

SIR,

Remembering me of our zifterdayis conferance conferneing that lettir his maieftie refawit fre Sir James Hammiltowne, and of his maiefteis fpich to zow abut the eftatis of sic as had planttit with me in the cwntre, bethinking me of them, I am not a lytill amaffit quhat thay fould mein; for that as conferneing the erillis decreit, I am perfuadit that thaer is non gifin out as zeit, or othervayis I have refawit mor wrong nor I am perfuadit fo nobill an erill, and fo refpectif of his awin honnour and credeit, will dow. My refownis ar, Firft, For that thair vas a lettir of his lordfchip directit to the Lord Depute for the refolutiowne of the mane and materiall pvnt, quharvpon all our queftiowne and debat ftude, I had the karieing thaerof, and it was to be delyvirit to the Depute in both our prefentis, and we both war to hawe had the refolutiowne. This I did in the cownfall chalmour. I attendit and followit always in Sir Jamefis prefent, and at the cownfall tabill, quhan, as the jugis war prefent quha war to refolf our dowl, knowing that, “veritas non quereret angwlos,” quhilk Sir Jamis fo oppofit with his accuftomat fcheiftis that for tow holl termis togethir, quhairby it coft me 300^{lb}, I could hef no refolutiowne nor meitting; and now (in my abfant) to hawe ather preffit a refolutiowne, or to hawe gifin out a decreit wpon a refolutiowne grundeit vpon Sir Jamefis forgerie at his awin poft, in my abfant, and that flat contrarej to his lordfchippis derectiowne and lettir to that effect, I newir being fo mvch as callit to hear of it, I am perfuadit that no fuche decreit will profeid from his lordfchip, or that ther is annay gifin out as zet at all.

And, laftly, If thair had annay fuche refolutiowne com, zitt was I to haw bein aduertiffit thaerof, that if I had had annay thing to fay for my felf, I micht hawe had place to fay it, and tharefter his lordfchip micht

hawe determeined with a full refolutiowne quhat to hawe downe. Bot in fo greit a matter, and vpon a refolutiowne refawit fre Sir Jamis of his awin haching, and nothing thaerof signefeit to me, I belef that it will be thocht a harde deilling, for that vpon tways als good grwndis the erill nicht hawe profideit in my fawouris, quharas I brocht his lordfchip the trew estat of our caus, drawin wp in a moft formmall and vnevitabill kace in law, refolfit and fet ondir thre of the beft laweiris handis in Dwblin, to wit, Mr Boltowne, Sir Jhone Everot, and Mr William Tabart; the quhilk kace and refolutiowne will also hauld good heir amongift the beft laweiris in England, bot I was fatiffeit that his lordfchip fould do nothing vpon annay privat refolutiowne; and quhatfoevir I hawe downe is by the erillis confent and liberte, zit extant ondir his hand; quharonto thaer is no conditiowne annexit to aduertis his lordfchip affor I dow it; or not to profeid without his lordfchip prewac, and all that I hawe downe I am inforffit to do as he is (that the dewill drayfis), for that Sir James hefing fo inderectly and onconfonabilly profideit in that buffiuies, both agentf his maieftie and me, that I could hef no fekuirate bot from his maieftie, and that not to fuch tym as the defait and wrong down to his maieftie was firft knawin and redreffit; and that I being his maiefteis fuorne fervant, and thaerestir a fvorne covnfallour, at both wich tymys I was bwin, by them othis I tuke, to withftand and reveill quhatfoevir hurte I knew to be downe or profideing agentf his maiefteis perfwn, pofteritie, crown, or estat: And now that how fone I cam to the knowlag of Sir James profideingis, if I wald hef combeinit with him or conspayrit agentf his maieftie, and hef mad wfe of that benefeit, that by the outvart face of the law, I nicht hawe takin by wertew of that lettir that I hawe ondir his maiefteis hande, for the paffing of my estat, togethir with all that I bocht from Con, or hes richt vnto, than am I effluirit that my lord, that is not onle his maiefteis fuirne cwnfallour tuays, bot hes also refawit fo greit honnour and benefeit from his maieftie, wald hawe thocht me onvurthy of lyif, and wald hawe proklemit me for fuche a on; nathir wald his lordfchip evir hef allegit or brocht furth this decreit to hef fconddeit me with, fo as quhat I hef downe I hawe his lordfchips allowanc, and that vpon fo good grwndis, and eftir fuch a maneir profideit vnto, as that

I to my jugment pefomis that his lordfchip will nathir pris to blame me, nor do me wrong thaerfor.

Now, Sir, for the fecownd part of his maiefties propofitiowne, conferring the paffing of my estat to me, it being now fwnde woyd, that I wald happely wrong fuch tennantis as ar com to inhabit with me, and I hef fet richtis vnto, I am foure his maieftie fuld fo confawe of me quho hes been ewir funde willing and faithfull to ferf his maieftie, and that to the wttir-moft that my perfowne, puer, or credet, could ftrich onto; nathir hes his maieftie evir harde of my onfathfull cairiag to annay man. All that I feik almoft I hef it alrede ondir his maiefteis hand and fignat, gifin at Barar Caftall, the 7 of Auguft, and the 12 of his maiefteis reinge (and if I fevt now annay forder it fall not be without good confideratiowne), quhairin my honnest meneing apeiris fuffitiantly, for that in that letter it is expreffit, that for the fraynthining of my tytill, and the fettilling of thos gentilmen and otheir inhabitantis that I haw plantit thaer, his maieftie is pliffit that a grant or grantis fould be mad onto me, &c.; and this his maiefteis grant onto me, with a confideratioune expreffit in my petitiowne, is onle to be wrayttin owir agen onto me in fuche form as, the defat down onto his maieftie being mad kleir, this lettir may be fo frameit, that my estat that fuld pas theropon fould be good in law. I feik not to pas this in the perfowne of my fone or fom othir, quharby to defrad annay manis estat, bot in my awin, quha am bwnd to mak all thaer eftatis good. Now, the grant being in my awin perfowne, ze know that altho I wald be afronttit, I can not go agenft my awin deid, quhilk is to mak them eftatis; quharfor, this miftruff that is had of me, with all reverenc I fpik it, will be thoct ane evil revarde for my ferweic; and efpecially, quhairas I am com heir to attend and confinne my felf onle to his maiefteis fervice, quharas for a fife or a threifkor of pundis, I could hef stayit at hom and had my lettir fo renewit, for that it was his maiefteis pleafour that I fould be mad fewr, as it micht hef been mad good in law; quhar as, now, 1400lb. will not karie me hom agen, to my greit owirthrow, and the hinder of his maiefteis moft neffifarej ferveic intendit by me, if that his maieftie, out of his maiefteis princely and accuftomat bontefull confideratiowne, help me not, that to this hour, notwithstanding

of my gritt burdeingis, hes nather focht help, nor put his maieftie to a pennej chargis. And this far, Sir, I thoct good to wrayt onto zow, rathir nor to fach zow with long and oftin troubelfom fpichis, intretting zow to furder my difpache, that my petitiowne being harde and exameneit, I may be put to that punt, that his maieftie, in his moft royall fawour and bonte, fall think feit : And thus, intretting zour patienc, I am

Your Lordfchips ewir for his awin meine,

HUGH MONTGOMERY.*

In haift, this 25 Janvarej.

To his honorabill and his aprowed
good freinde, Mr Johne Mvrray, Gen-
tilman of his Maiefteis Prewej Purce
of Bedchalmour, gif theis.

* Sixth Laird of Braidstane. He was a descendant from the ancient stock of the Montgomeries, and was born about the year 1560. He was educated at Glasgow, and thereafter went to France, after which he settled in Holland, and obtained a captain's commission in a Scots regiment under the Prince of Orange. Upon the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, he was taken into favour, and obtained a grant from Con O'Neale, Lord of the Claneboyes, in the following manner:—This Irish chieftain, indulging with his friends and followers at Castlereagh, in a "grand debauch," as Lodge terms it (vol. i. p. 358, edit. 1754), speedily got rid of all the wine; and being desirous of procuring more, they sent their servants to Belfast for a fresh supply, when they contrived to quarrel with the garrison there, and returned to their masters after receiving a tolerably severe drubbing, and without any wine. Con, exasperated, not so much at the discomfiture of his men, as at their not procuring wine, reproached them bitterly, and as their number doubled that of their antagonists, swore "by his father's and all his noble ancestors' souls," none should serve him or his friends if they went not back and revenged the affront put upon him and them by those "few *Boddagh Sassenagh* soldiers," as he termed them. They accordingly vowed to execute their revenge; and proceeding to Belfast, assaulted the garrison, and killed one of the soldiers; but were at length beaten off and pursued, several of their number being killed and wounded. For this outrage Con and his adherents were found guilty, by a Committee of Enquiry, of levying war against the crown, and he was committed to prison. This happened a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Montgomery thought he could turn O'Neale's imprisonment to advantage, and resolved on a rescue. This he successfully accomplished; and contrived to get Con on board a trading vessel, in which he arrived with him safely at Largs, from whence he conducted him to Braidstane, where he was treated with great kindness. He then told his visitor, if he would divide his estate with him, that he would procure the king's pardon, who by this time had succeeded to the crown of England. Poor Con had no alternative. It was a sad thing to lose half his lands, but sadder still to lose his life; so, with bitter curses upon himself for his drunken frolic, he complied with the demand; and Montgomery and his victim proceeded to London, where

CXXXIX.—NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JANUARY 24, 1615.

THAT letter fend downe from his maiestie, with the petition enclosed therein anent the busshes fisheing, wes this day presented and given in to the counfall; which being opened and redde in there audience, thay do werrye well allow of the enterpryse, and so far as in them lyes, will hold hand to encourage the enterpryfares and vndertakares to profequite and follow oute that trade. But becaus the question anent the teynd, which is the cheefe poynte whereon the enterpryfares doeth now stand, can not be fetled bot in presence of the pairtyes haveing entereffe, therefore the bishope of Sanctandrois, Abirdeine, and Orknay, the Chalmerlane and customares of Orknay, the ministres of Pittenweyne, Anstruther, and Carrail, who ar the speciall pairtyes who clames enteres to this teynd, ar ordained to be warned to compeere befor the counfall, vpoun the xiiiijth day of Februarij nixt, to answere to this mater, and to seee fuche good course taken therein, as shalbe thoght expedyent; at which tyme the counfall will omitt no good duetye wherby this trade may be forthered and advanced.

The difference betweene the Lord of Scone and Andro Henderfone, being submitted in presence of the counfall to the Bishopes of Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Lardes of Pitcur and Ballmanno, and the Goodeman

a pardon was obtained; but the division was not ratified in the manner Montgomery expected; for Sir James Fullerton, a needy courtier, contrived, no doubt for a proper consideration, to introduce Mr James Hamilton (Viscount Clandeboye, 1622) as a third party to the contract, and obtained the king's sanction to this arrangement, some particulars as to which, and as to the disputes with Hamilton, will be found in the *Abbotsford Miscellany*.

Notwithstanding this tripartite division, the estate acquired by Montgomery was sufficiently extensive; and he proceeded to "plant" it with English and Scottish Protestants. He was made a free denizen of Ireland in 1605, in which year he was knighted. On 3d May 1622 he was created Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes, and died at Newtown-house, on the 25th of May 1636. From him the Montgomeries, Earls of Mount-Alexander (now extinct in the male line), were descended. Notwithstanding this curtailment of his estates, Con O'Neale is said to have ever lived in strict friendship with Montgomery, and to have been deeply affected by his death.

of Balgowne, and they having had dyuerse tryestes and meetings vpon that submiffion, they suffered the same in end to deserte, without pronouncing of any decreite or sentence therein ; whereof enformation beeng made to the counfall, and thay being desyreous to vnderstand vpon whose default and occasion the submiffion deserted, thay caused charge both the pairtyes and arbitouris to compeere before thame for that effect this present day : And thay compeering, and at length hard, it wes funden by reporte of the commonares, that after dew examination of all accomptes betweene the pairtyes, that Andro Henderfone wes restan great fowmes of money to the fade lord, which he wes not hable to pay, and whiche the lord wes verrie onwilling to discharge and quyte : And the commonares feareing Henderfones exclamationes and outcryes, yf thay decerned him to pay those restes, and beeng loath to offend the Lord of Scone, by decerning him to quyte the same, thay therefor suffered the submiffion to desert. The counfall haveing at length hard thame heerevpon, and beeng loath that thir jares should still continew betweene the pairtyes, and that his maiestie should be of new importuned by Andro Henderfone, or his wyff, thay therefor delt with the said lord and Andro, that thay wold submitt thame selues of new to the counfall, according to the tennour of the first submiffion. The Lord of Scone made dificultye to submitt according to the first submiffion, vnles the pensoun of v^e merkes, which Henderfone hes out of the lordshipe of Scone, wer lykwyfe submitted, to the effect that thereby all occasion of question betweene thame heirafter might be removed, and that he might haue no forder doing nor meddling with him. This beeng imparted to Andro, he freelye yelded to submitt his pensoun in lyk maner ; wherevpon the counfall, without ony forder delay, gave furth there decreite and sentence betweene thame, decerning ather of thame to quyte and discharge otheres of all comptes, restes, rekinninges, and fowmes of money, that ather of thame can lay to the charge of otheres, for whatsomevir caus or occasion bygane, preceeding the date thereof ; excepting allwayes the fowme of two thousand merkes, as a parte of that fowme which wes funden by the first commonares to be restan by the fade Andro ; which fowme of two thousand merkes the counfall hes thocht meete to hald aboute the said Androes head, as ane

awband to keepe him in quyetnes and ordour, and to restreane his distempered and vnreulie speatches: And thay haue ordained the faide lord onnowyse to crave payment of the fade fowme, vnles the said Andro, by his misbehaviour, give iust caus to the said lord to crave the same (the misbehaviour beeng alwyse first tryed, and declaratour geven therevpon by the counfall): And whereas in the accomptes made by the fade Andro of his intromission with the fade lordes leveing, he hes geven vp findrie restes whereof he alleedges he gatt no payment, the counfall hes ordained him to warrand thir restes frome his owne deede allanerlye. They haue also decerned the said Andro to renunce and discharge his penson of v^c merkes, which he hes oute of the abbay of Scone, in favoures of the fade lord, for the which they haue decerned the fade lord to mak payment to the faide Andro, in satisfactioun of his fade penson, both for bygaines and in all tyme cuming, of the fowme of two thousand merkes, within eight dayes after Whitfunday nixt; with this prouiso, yf he mak payment of the fowme of ane thousand pundes, preceisslie at the terme of Witfonday, that he shalbe free of the fowme of two thousand merkes.

Andro Henderfone, by his petition geven in to the counfall, complained havelie of his confyneing, and of the harme and prejudice which he susteanes thorough that occasion; and his desyre wes to be fred and releved. Becaus the derrection for his confyneing procedit from his maiestie, the counfall wold do no thing without his maiesties allowance.

CXL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 28, 1615.

RICHT HONORABIL COUSING,

I haue na farder occasion to write to ziow at the present, bot to accompanie this berar, with quhais earand heir, I doubt nocht bot zie ar acquent; like as he will shiaw to ziow all that guid freinds has

done heir. I doubt nocht bot my Lord Secretair writes to ziow herewith, like as I haue alfo writtin to my Lord Fentoun, and willed him shiaw my lettir to his sacred maiestie; and gif he be absent frome Court, I haue desired him to fend it to ziow, to be on his name shiawin to his maiestie, and reteired agane. His maiestie, feing baith quhat the secretair writes to ziow, and quhat I write to Lord Fentoun, I esteeme, fall sufficientlie tak vp, quhow far Mr Williame Murray is failed too. It can nocht be bot a regraitt to honest men, that debosched drunken babillis fould perfume, fa imprudentlie, at fa wyfe and iuste a prencis hand, to misreport honest and wordie men, abusing his fauour, more to thair estait, nor to thair mereit or ony worth; bot man be borne with, fence eiuer fa has bein, fuim onwordie in onye best estait or gang off men, a Judas amangs Chryftis twelf apostlis. Sua, ending this, wiffis ziow allways all weill,

Ȝiour louing coufing to serue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 28 Jan^r. 1615.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Cofen, Mr Murraye, in his sacred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

CXLI.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 1, [1615?]

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WORTHY CUSSINGE,

My best luffe rememberit. I haiff refaiffid zour letter the 23 of this monthe, quhilk gifis me greit contentment, bothe concerning my awin biffines and zouris; and as for the biffchope of Santtandrofe behewioure towardis zow, it is cleirly knawin bothe to the kirk of Scotland and to many more, to his greit difadwantage and dislyking of all that heiris the fame; for the hale biffchopis is lyk to go mad at him: for, blift be God, Sir, gif ze hard the honourabile report the kirk reportis of zow, ze

wald think 3owr trewell weil bestowid, 3e haif taken for thame, quhilk maid my hart glaid to heir the fame. Sir, we heir that 3e ar a lytile in wytt, and I doubt nocht bot 3e sie the fame wtter in fum mussfour. Sir, my cunfell to 3ow is for Godis caufe to be circumspeck, and cald, and wyfe, and let nocht 3owr passiou ower rewle 3ow, bot wait 3owr tyme, and feik God, and I find 3ow God to borrowis, they that feikis 3owr difcredit, they fall find thair awin lykweyis. Sir, 3e fall wnderstand Santtandrofe hes bein werie feik, and no man lippinis he fall leif.* Sir, I howpe 3e will pardoune me for my cunfell to 3ow, for I protest to God, it cumes frome ane faithfule hart, that luffis 3ow trewlie as himself. Ferder, Sir, 3e fall wnderstand that the Erle of Orkney conwick of tressone, and is to suffer the thrid of this instant.† Also, Sir, 3e fall understand, that I wfsid all diligence to haif gottin my declaratore of redemptioun throw aganst the air of Carco, conforme to ane preceis ordore, wfsid at my awin instance, for redeiming the lordschipe of Sanquhar out of Carcois handis; and the Lordis of the Sessioun hes decernit my ordour nule, and hes cassin my ordour, for nocht fulfilling the hail heidis contained in the rewerfioun and innowat kontrak, sua, that the lordis hes pute me to ane new ordour of redemptioun again: sua, Sir, quhill my ordour of redemptioun be anewe wfsid and gottin throw, and decreit of the lordis thair wpoun, the aduocat findis that I can nocht mak his maiestie ane reicht of the shireffchipe, nor he will nocht anfuer for the fame to be walid, as his lordschipe will particulerlie wryt to 3ow to the same effeck, and gif his lordschipes awin refonis for the fame to be schawin to his maiestie be 3ow, Sir; and tile me Lord Advocatis letter of informatioun cum to 3ow, Sir, 3e fall sehawe nothing of the bissines to his maiestie; alweyis, Sir, the deley quhen his maiestie knawis the trewthe of the bissines, I am persuadit his maiestie will be pleffid with the fame. Alweyis I think gud to aquent 3ow, Sir, that the casting of this ordour of myne hes pute me in ane greit securitie of my estait; for the casting of my order of redemptioun will tak away the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour of redemptioun that

* George Gladstones—"The Archbishop of Santandros has passed a dangerous fit of apoplexie. It is supposed that a new assault may be more difficil to put off." Lord Binning to John Murray—Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 194.

† According to Calderwood, he suffered at the market cross of Edinburgh, February 6, 1615.

the fame will niwer conwalefe agane; for the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour hes all the faltis that my ordour is caffin for, and many mor faltis, fua, that the lordis can niwer aganst thair awin decreit all in ane wote in foro contradictorio contentiouflie difputtit; fua, Sir, that ordour that the lordes hes caffin to me, they can niwer fuftein to my adwerferie, fua, that all the diffadwantage that I haif, I am put to ane new ordour of redemptioun. Lykweyis, Sir, ze fall wnderftand forder, that I haif put my Lord Sanquharis fone natrall to the horne for nocht obeying his maieftis decreit, and his maieftie promeift to me gif he geid to the horne I fowld haif his lyfrent for this caufe, quhilk caufe is for diffobeying his maieftis decreit. Sir, the threfforer deput wald glaidlie gif me the fame, but his lordfchip wald haif his maieftis letter for his warrand; fua, Sir, ze man get his maieftis letter for this effeck, and the fame man be done fecretlie, that Roxbruche get nocht wit of the fame, for gif he get wit, he will do all lysis in his power to fley the fame; for, Sir, fehaw his maieftie this is bot for ftrenthning of his maieftis decreit and fentence.*

Sir, I wes on Orkneyis afyfe myfelf. Sir, fehawe his maieftie that, be Godis grace, I fall be cairfule to difcharge any ferwice lysis in my power faithfullie to his maieftis contentment, for I knawe his maieftie is and hes ewer bein ane juft and equitabile prince, and I am his maieftis ferwand more nor ordinerie fubiectis, and fall give prufe of the fame, gif God fpair my lyfe. Frome Edinburgh, the firft of Feberverrie.

To wris effeccionat and luffing Cuffing to ferwe 30w,

SANQUHAR.

Sir, wryt to me with the firft occatioun, for I lange till I heir frome 30w.

To the Richt Honourabil and his
worthie gud freind Johnne Murrey
of Lochemeben, on of his Maieftis
Bedchamber, this to be givin.

* See the King's award in the Abbotsford Miscellany. Robert, Baron, and (1616) Earl of Roxburghe, was the guardian of the late Lord Sanquhar's "sone natral," and would, no doubt, have opposed the proposed gift by the King.

CXLII.—SIR JOHN COCKBURN OF ORMISTON TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 3, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

The deceifed Lord Sinclare* marrying one of my dochters, and by her havinge issue of tuo sones, of whome the elder, bye his fathers death, being now your maiestyes waird, I, as being the grandfather, can not, in dewtie, omitt to be a humble fuitter, that the gift of his waird and maryage (giving alwayes your majestyes dew consideratioun thairfoir) may be disponit vnto those whome nature doth enforce, and the generall opinion of everie man will prefume to carye the greatest to the pure orphanes weifare. As for any respect to be had to my self heirin, I do only plead out of grace, at the bar of your majesties gracious accuftomed bountye, nawayes challenging any merite (whilk in a subjeēt may be held for presumptioun); and yit with protestatioun of pardoun, avowing that never any of my rank have surpaffed me in dewtyfull affectioun to serue your majestie, according to my talent. So, if your majestie wold be pleased to testifie to the world, bye yeilding vnto this my humble suite, that I am still in your majesties gracious fauour (fence it hath bein customeable to those in publick placeis, and employed in daylie service, to be euer respected in this kynd), no doubt, as it wold gif vnto my graye haire (which are now verie neir to the grave) muche comforte in finding the vchangeable contynuance of my most gracious soveranes affectioun; so wold it also move and encourage vthers to indevore thamefelues by all service, on their part, to acqyre ane impressioun in thair princes heartis of thair dewtyfull caryage, and becum so assured, as when anie

* Patrick sixth Lord Sinclair. By Margaret Cockburn he had John his successor, and Henry, a Colonel in the army, who died at Dysart, 5th February 1670. His only daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy.

particuler which might concerne thame fould ocure, that it fould not pas vnregairded. As for the estate of the levyng, the hous hathe bein olde, honourable, and vntainted; bot the rent and revenues thairof verie small, and the same at this present alluterlie exhaustit by occasioun of three furviving widowes haifing all three feuerall coniunct fyes furth thairof, so as thair is not so muche left of the rent as will afford to the pure orphane ane monthes intertenement. Perhaps some of conceat to mak benefite thairby may be fuitters heirof, bot I falbe loathe, for the whole worthe of it, to be found within compas of vntreuth; indeid, the maryage may be some what accomptit of, bot when the boy at this present exceidis not the fourt yeir of his age, God knoweth how vnprofitable those preventiounes may prove. Alwayes humblie intreiting your majestyes pardoun for this my boldnes and presumptioun, and whollye relying vpoun your most gratyws fauour, which hes neuer yit bein wanting to any weill deserving fervant, I humblie kis your sacred hands, and with my prayer for the contynuance of your majestyes most hapye, long, and prosperous regne, I rest

Your Maiesties most dewtifull and faithfull
subjeēt and feruitour,

JO. COCKBURNE, ORMISTOUN.*

Edinburght, the 3 February 1615.

To my most gracious and dread
Souerayne, the Kings most
excellent Maiestie.

* Son of John Cockburn of Ormistoun, whom he succeeded in 1583. On the 4th of July 1588 he was made, upon the resignation of Lord Boyd, an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He was knighted, and appointed Justice Clerk on the death of Sir James Bellenden in 1591, and admitted an Ordinary Lord on the 15th February 1593. He died in June 1623.

CXLIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 24, 1615.

RIGHT HONOURABILL COUSING,

All that I haue to write to zìow is, that wee haue na mater off moment to write off frome this, nor be apeirance wee will haue na subiect off aduertisment till the prifonar is frome Ila be heir, to be tried and examinat. We ar fallin upon fuim discourie off fuim treacherie in mater off coine: fuim villains has used to gilt fuim filuer riellis, baith doubill and fingill, and has geiun thame out for Spanifh piftolettis, doubill or fingill. Suim of thame we haif in handis, and, as I hoipe, wee ar on the way off the triell of that abuife; albeit, wee haue nocht zitt attained to the full knowledge of thair knawifhe treadde, zie will heir parhappis mair off this after. The storme continewis still heir, and I think fua thair to, for wee gett na worde frome thence. Sua, ending this, wiffis zìow all contentement.

Your louing Coufing to ferue zìow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Feb'. 1615.

The Archbifchoppe St Androis apeirs fuim better in his health, and zìt is thocht fall nocht putt off this feiknes in haill. Glasgow* is gone frome this to fee the Jefuift Ogiluie refaue law.

To the Right Honourabill my weil-
beloued Coufing, Johne Murray,
in his facred Maiefties Bedchal-
mer.

* Spottiswood, who succeeded Gladstones as Archbishop of St Andrews.

CXLIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[MARCH 1615?]

I CAN say na mair to zìow, bot I will be glaid at my hairt to haue anis ane guid end in this befines, and to be bound to nane, thairfore, onder his sacred maieftie, bot to zìow, quhilk fall neiuere be forgottin for me; albeit my powar be bot small, my guid will and acknowledgement in deute fall be greate and continuall. Sence now, be this resignatioun, all is putt in his maiefties hand and powar, and he may doe greate hurt and displeasour to my nepuieu, quhilk I na wayis can suspect, zit fearing euill counfall or instigatioun micht moue his maieftie to derogate onye point to his honour, I wald wifs zìow, if zie parfauce onye sic thing or motioun in his heighnes minde, then for zìour awin entres deale with his maieftie, and shiaw to his heighnes, if he sa did, he wold doe zìow greater wrang nor to onye, to cast a galant zìoung man fa far abak, ondir zìour mediatioun, quhairby he thocht to haue had his fatling and quietnes in his promotioun. Wifs his maieftie and shiaw to him, it will be mair conuenient, or he doe zìow that wrang, to latt all stand as before: randir him his resignatioun and discharge, and destroy or cancell the writes signed, if his maieftie can na wayis consent to his preferrement. His heighnes may haue wayis anew to hald him abak mair conuenient nor this, or to bring zìow in ony blame for sic a mater. This ground I thocht guid to signifie to zìow to hald zìow be, if zie find sic intentioun or motioun; for wee fould forsee fa far as wee may, all possibilities habill to hurte us, albeit thay be neiuere fa onliklie. If zie can gett at the refaift off this, and fa son as his maieftie fall see the resignatioun, quhilk is maift sufficient, ane command to James Douglas to fend hither in diligence

the lettirs figned, quhairoff zie fend me the note, all is weil; and if zie can gett this done quicklie, I wald nocht think expedient zie maid langer stay on ceremoniall matters and circumftances. The Lord Somerfettis fubfcription is nocht neceffair, nor zie neid nocht troubill him with this. If it be nocht his maiefities pleafour and directioun, I think he will nocht be oppofite, for he has promift fauour and guid will; bot I defire no stay nor delay, and he has much adoe.*

Priuat for zior felf.

CXLV.—LORD GORDON AND JAMES MOWAT TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY [1615?]

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Efter ane inhibitioun was feruit agaynft M^cKintofhe his teynds, at my Lord Gordoun his instance, and he was requyrit to gife teynding, as ordour of laue prouyds, my Lord Gordoun fend on of his ferwards, with tuo notars and thrie witnefs, to the lands of Collodin, perteyning to the faid M^cKintofhe, and thair be wertheue of a decreit obteynid be my lord, befor the Lords of Seffioun, conteynand a leuen yeirs fpulze of the teynds of the faids lands, to haife poyndit for the by-run fpulzeis; but M^cKintofhe fend and haid lying await about the number of aught or ten feoir men, armit with guns, piftolats, bous, fuords, and axis. All of them bend thair bous and guns, and violentlie deforffit and boifit to haif kilt

* This is an unsigned confidential letter from Lord Dunfermline apparently to John Murray. It relates to the pretensions of his Lordship's nephew to the earldom of Eglinton, which were ultimately recognized by the King. See *Melros Papers*, vol. i. p. 199.

the faids feruande and witnefs, gife they fuld fett thair foot wpon ther ground, and manifaftlye mifregairdit the lords decreit, and reallit out that they did nocht cair for any decreit, or letters that culd cum from your maieftie. This thay did, the aught day of September, and twentye-tua day of September laft, in moir ufurping maneir nor can be fchouin your maieftie. M'Kintofhe did this, moir to haife the cuntrey and your maiefteis peace broikin, nor for any wther refpeck, as may be evidentlie knowin, be refene my Lord Gordoun wfit means to apoynt feuein feuerall tryftis fence your maieftie was in Scotland, for agreing that mater, and fubmiffiouns war pend and fubferyuit be either of pairteis and freinds, but M'Kintofhe not being willing the mater fuld pack wp freindlie, fand means to break euerye on of the meittings on day or tuo befoir thay fuld haife mett, and hes drauin all the broikin heighland men to him, feik as Robert Abrach, on of the Clangrigor, with uthers of his accompleeces that ar your maieftees rebels to be his fuldeours, and keips them in his houfs of Cullodin, for the fayme effeck, and gifs it out that the moft pairt of the heighland men in Scotland will tak his pairt, and will be glaid to find any occatioun of a break, becaus they fay they haife nocht threuen fence your maieftie maid the cuntrey fo peaceable. Heirfoir, my lord humblie entreats your maieftie wreit to the cunfall of Scotland to punifhe M'Kintofhe and his compleeces for his rebellion and mifregairding your maieftees laws, and that M'Kintofhe may be maid to prefent thees rebels quhom he keips as fuldeours, that thay may be takin ordour with, for the better obferuing your maieftees peace, and preuenting of gryter inconuenientefe.

The nixt cunfall day in Scotland is wpon Wednidday, the twentye-on of this month.

Indorfed:

Lord Gordoun and James Mowats
Informatioun to His Maieftie.

* This letter, which has no date, is placed by Sir James Balfour amongst those of the year 1615, although it is probably of a somewhat later date.

CXLVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 11, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

As it wes my no small greiff, when I onderstoude of the finifter and vrongous misreporte of me, conferring my professioun in religioun (the spreaderis of these calumnies vpone ther concealed advantage of the far-distance of place, presuming that the partie whome they intend to vronge salbe condemned before hearing), so it is vnto me no small confort to be the subiect of so gracious a foueraigne, with whome no detraction hath place, nor any evir be him convict vnheard; bot still reserving the one ear to the pairtie accused, whereof I haue found the particular prowise in this calumny laity vttered againes me be Mr Robert Wilkie, in that your maiestie wes pleased nott to trust what ves vttered vntill tryall wes taiken therof be my Lord Santandros; and laiteft, your maiestie did direct Sir Robert Douglas to bring your heines fertentie heirin, who, no dout, befor this tyme hes certified your maiestie how far I haue bene vronged in that buffynes, where the pretendit zeale whereof some makes professioun, caufs them forgett both honestie and discretioun. Alwayes it may veill content me to indure that which too often and most iustlie hes moved my gracious maister and foueranes owen patience. I doe not intend to be in the reverence of any of these people, if they will deliuer no more then treuth, and if your maiestie wald be pleased to direct my Lords St Androis and Glasgou to provyid many of our kirkes heir vith sik as wald not pres to supplie there vant of good doctrine and paynes, and there private instructioun, with a pretendit outward schaw and pretence of devoted zeale, no doubt it wald try a great meanes to strethen them who ar meanly groundit, and to releyue many who daylie fall away. It is now four yeares since your maiestie had a letter of my hand-vritt, which may giue full assurance of my professioun. Intreating,

therfor, humble your maiestie to rest confident, notwithstanding of what-
 evir falbe informed to the contrarie, vntill I fall refusis the tuichstone of
 all dew tryall, in geuing full satisfactiōe to the most worthie fateries of
 the church, and secunditt by these vho serve cuire vnder them, as they
 themfelses doe most vorthely discharge there owen roumes, and gives rea-
 sone of your maiesties most just praifs, in making so good choice. And
 praying the Almichtie God long to continow your maiesties long and
 most happie gracious government ower ws, I kifs your sacred hand, and
 rests

Your Maiesties most dewtifull subiect
 and seruitour,

ANGUS.*

Douglas, the 10 of October 1615.

To my most gracious and dreid Soue-
 raigne, the Kingis most excellent
 Maiestie.

CXLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.
 NOVEMBER 24, 1615.

RICHT HONOURABILL AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank zjow maift hartlie for zjour guid remembrance be zjour
 lettir, quhilk I refaued fra James Bailzie. As to that zjour lettir bearis,
 ze hoiped to see me thair shiortlie, treulie at the refaift I marueled thair-

* William, eleventh Earl of Angus. He succeeded his father (many of whose letters occur in the early part of this volume) in 1611—was created Marquis of Douglas, 18th June 1633, and died in the 71st year of his age, at Douglas Castle, 19th February 1660. He left the religion of his father, and became a Protestant.

off; for albeit the berar, James Bailzie, shiew to me, also, he was informed he wald meit me on my iornay be the way, at that tyme I knew off na apeirance nor rasoun thairfore; bot senfyne, within this four dayis, my Lord Fentoun has signified to me be his lettir, it is maiesties gracious pleasfour, at the queenis maiesties desire, that Iould cuim up fa sone as I may conuenientlie. For this present, I can nocht enterprife that iornay, for my bedfallow is on the point to be broght to bed within werie few dayis, and before shoe can be at that estaitt that I may weill leiu hir, will be the dead off the zjeir, maist difficill and hard to onye man to trauell, and I am now na chikkin, drawing to three score, was neuer werye ruide nor strong, albeit, nather too delicat nor sparing off my self. Always fa sone as I can find I may weill tak toe to sic a voyage, I fall, be Goddes grace, mak zjow foresein off my intioun, and off my dyett; for I will always be bath hamelie with zjow, and trubilsuim to zjow in all my adois.

All our estaitt heir is (praifed be God) fa quiett as can furnisn us na subjeet off occurrence to write off to our freindis. God hald all lang sua, and preferue our maist gracious fouerane and maister, quhome fra (vndir God) proceidis all this our calmnes, frome his wyfe, equitabill, and iust directioun and ordonancis. Sua, wiffing zjow also all happines, I reffe for eiuier

Your louing Coufing always at
command,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Nouember 1615.

I desire this may remembir baith my bedfallowis and my maist hartlye kindnes to zjowr good halfmarrow. We wifs hir a good and blith deliuerie off hir burding to hir contentement and wifs, and to zjowris. Zje may

fhaw hir that hir ſpeciall guid freind, my dochter, my Ladye Eglintoun, has bein in parell off hir lyff, and is zit, albeit, now (praifed be God) fuim thing fofter ; for ſhoe was fallin in a haitt feiur tua dayis, before ſhoe was brocht to bed, and through that feiknes preueined hir tyme ten or twelf dayis : has now bein this 15 dayis in continuall vehement feuir, butt reft, and oft reuing ; this tua laſt nights at fuim eafe and quietnes, zit werie feike and weake.

To the Right Honourable my weil-
beloued Coufen, Jhone Morraye,
in his ſacred Maieſteis Bedchamber.

CXLVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND REMANENT LORDS
OF THE COLLEGE OF JUSTICE.

DECEMBER 3, 1615.

JAMES R.

Right truſty and welbeloued cofen and counfellour, truſty and welbeloued counfelloures, wee greet yow well. Whereas wee were pleaſed this laſt ſummer that Commiſſioners ſhould be appoynted for ſurueying of all the coilheuches within oure kingdome of Scotland, to the effect that before wee would graunt a licence for carrying of coilles to any forraine nation, it might be feriouſly confiddered whither the coilheuches of that kingdome might ſubiſt and be mantained by their ordinarie ſale in furniſhing the cuntry about the places where they are ; togidder with the benefite arryſing by the nomber of thoſe coilles which are brought from thence to this oure kingdome ; or if there were a neceſſitie for thair better mantainance, that a priuiledge ſhould be graunted for transporting them to other nationes, wee vnderſtand that a ſurwey wes made for this effect, but for the preſent haue not befyde ws your teſtimonie thereupoun.

Therefore oure pleafour is, that yow certife ws what wes found by the Commission forefaid, with your judgement thereanent, that thereafter (haueing the regard that is due to the goode of that oure kingdome) wee may resolue what is expedient for ws to be done ; so, expecting your answair, wee bid yow hartely farewell. Frome oure Court at Newmercat, the 3 of December 1615.

To oure right trusty and welbeloued
Cofen and Counfellour, the Earle
of Dumfermiling, oure Chancellour
of Scotland: to our trustie and
welbeloued Counfellouris, the rem-
nant Lords of oure Colledge of Jus-
tice of the said kingdome.

CXLIX.—LORD CRANSTOUN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

RYGHT HONORABILL,

Within this fourtnycht I haue wryttine tuo feuerall letters to zow, quhilk I hoip be cumit to zour handis : the one be my nephew, the schereife of Tivotdaill, the vthair be my seruant Niniane Armstrange. Quhat I wrett in thes letters, I hoip it will be neidles to repeat in this ; onlej this berer beinge dyposit to repair to courtt, I make bolde to remember zow in all dewtej. I knaw the careierr will informe zow of the estait that zour sifter is in for the present,* and quhat myghttej enemej hir husband and scho hes opynglej professit to their rueine. Itt is in zour handis to help for the present, and quhat ye will commande me to do to thair furder, assure zowrfelf I fall leiuie nothinge vndoun that lysis in my

* Jean Murray, who married John Maxwell of Kirkewine. Their son James was created by Charles I. Earl of Dirleton, Lord Elbottle in 1646. As the patent limited the earldom and barony to heirs-male of the body, the titles became extinct upon the demise of the earl, who left only two daughters, Ladies Elizabeth and Diana.

power. This much I desire to make account of, and so take my
leave, and restis

Gowris ever assurit to doo you service,

W. CRANSTOUN.*

Too the Richt Honourabill my verej
kynd freinde, Mr Johnne Murrey,
of his Maiesties royell Bedchamber.

CL.—LORD SCOTT OF BUCCLEUCH TO [JOHN MURRAY?].

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

SIR,

I do vrett to you now in a subgett quhairin I did nott attend to haue had ony occasione, if them quhome it touches had had ony consideratione off thair awin particular credit, lett be ony obligatione I might justly chaulengett for mony raisons. Robin Elliott† is on hys journey towards you for a particular quiche I thynk quhen you vnderstand the verite, you vill nott approve hys fassions. You remember for your respect I gave hym the faueur that mony having the raisons I had against hym, and thofs advantages off revanche, vood a extenditt them more rigourously nor I did; yett, quhatt did passè, I estimett vell employtt for your regard. Att thatt tyme I passett hym hys infestement off lands, quhairin I hope he did signify to you he vafs satisfiètt fully by hys letter, and you also did ratify by a letter to myself of your pairt: he immediatly, efter my signing of hys securitie, gois and falsifis in the rycht I gauve hym, and inferts others lands in hys charter, quiche most evidently I vill

* William Cranstoun, son of John Cranstoun of Moriestoun. He married Sarah, the heiress of Cranstoun—was captain of the guard to James VI., who knighted him, and thereafter elevated him to the peerage, 17th November 1609. He died in June 1627.

† Elliot subsequently attempted to assassinate Lord Buccleuch. See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 378.

prove, bothe by ocular inspeccione, afs also by other circonfstances I vill schew att the triall thairof, vafs nott given hym by me : efter thys maner, he caufis a vryter raife vp some wordes and put in others, afs thai haue a trik to dow heir, them quho hefs no honesty to obserue.* Judge you if thatt man sould a carriett hymself to me in thatt forte. I knewe the humour off the man better nor you did; and you most remember I told you tharr vafs no honesty to be attenditt of hym. If you vnderstud hys particular cariage to them you fauour hym for, I am persuaditt you vood nott do for hym in indeferant occasiones, lett be in thofs quhair he nicht paraventure haue some raifone. Beliuue this informatione vill prove just to hys discredit; and I am assurett no man off honour bott vill reput hym naucht. It is nott only discredit to hym, bot indangeris hys lyf to falsify ane infestement. I thoct expedient to acquaint you with it, to the end you may assure you off my just deling, and thatt you kno hys ingrattitudes. I hope you vill thynk I do no thyng in it bott quhatt apertines to ane man off honour to do, quhen he finds hymself so ingratly and dishonestly vset. So, remetting all to your confideration, I rest ever hym quhome you haue most absolut pouer to command,

BUCCLEUGHE.†

Edinburghe, 9 December 1615.

I vifs I had occasione to fye you, quharby I nicht informe more particularly off hys carriage to me.

* Such practices as these were then common enough.

† Then Lord Scott of Buccleuch. He was not elevated to the earldom until 1619. His Lordship had the command of a regiment in the service of the States of Holland, and served with much reputation against the Spaniards. He was thus addressed by Arthur Johnston:—

Arva dedit Scoto Rex Scotus, Belga dat aurum

Estque triumphatus sarta daturus Iber.

He died at London, on the 21st of November 1633, and his body was put on board a vessel for Leith, which arrived after a most tempestuous voyage, and after being nearly cast away on the coast of Norway. The corpse was carried to Branxholm, and his Lordship interred there. An account of the funeral ceremony occurs in "The Genealogical and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour," printed at Edinburgh, 1837, from the Balfour MSS. 12mo.

CLI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, [1615?]

SIR,

There is nothing that I can wryite from henfe bot it is fo fpedelye advertified by thefe who haif the chaarge, that I holde it a neid-lefs poynte in me to trouble any with renewing of ftate advertifmentis. Thir pairtes affordes not nather mucche nor greit mater. So long as it pleifes God of his infinite mercye to prolonge our maifteris gracious government over vs, there is nothing to be expected heir bot all dewtiful obedience; and albeit now and then there may fall out fome incidentis, fo is there no bodye of nevir fo gode constitioun, bot will haif a catharre, or fome other diftemperature. Alwayes our Iyles fervice is finifhed, and our lieutenant, the Erle of Argyile, returned yifternight, and wilbe with the counfell this day. By many it is thought, that if goode will did fecunde the dewtye whiche they ar bounde to do, thir frequent iyland employmentis wald not occurre fo often. I wrotte to yow in my former lettres that account being takin what this Iyla hathe floode his maiefties coffers into thir tuo voyages, and fpecially in the accomptes of admiralitye there. I doubt if the rent of our whole Iyles will recompense it in ten yeir. Sen it is now quyted, it is fitting the purcheffers of the new right ather fecuire it heirefter, and difburdeyne his maiefties coffers of furder chaarge, or then furrender it to his maieftie; for when thir employmentis ar fo profitable in prefent pay, and a preparatioun for making fuite at courte for fervice done, how eafie a mater it is to haif fome of thefe vnhalloved people, with that vnchristiane language, readye to furneis frefh wark for the tinker, and the mater fo caryed as that it is impoffible to deprehend the plotte. But leiving this vntill the lieutenant

mak a relation of his service, we haif had in the boundis of Cathnes, some barne yairdes brunte to the Lord Forbes, a barbarous actioun, and pernicious in so skairfe a year. Alwayes, howeivir, baife lownes be actouris, it is muche to be feared that without setting on of greiter, these things wald not be interpryifed. In the other pairtis of the cuntry there is greit quyetnes and obedience; and there is a very dewtifull nobleman, your maiche, the Erle of Kingorne deceiffed,* concerning whois waarde no doubt you will heir be the officieris whome it concernis, who in this fame particular, without regaird of any manis fwite, howeivir otherwayes he affectis them, caryes no other sounde bot a goode compositioun to his maiestie, and haiftenis to haif it put to the best, that suiteing and importuneing his maiestie there, hinder not his proffite heir. We haif now ane act regiftrat in our exchecker bookis, whereof I can not find these hundreth yeiris past any lyike president, to witt, to lay vp so muche every moneth in stoire. It is one of the most dewtifull courfes that evir wes intendit for the kinges service; for if we had ones bot ten thousand pundis sterling in stoire, not to be stirred, the report of it wald do as muche to reteyne our people in obedience as the interteyneing of a continuall garriefoun. The povertie of the crowne is the caus of the insolence ostentymes of people who propone to them felfis befor preparatioun can be made for thair perfwite, ather a compositioun, or then tyme to escaipe; bot when it is knowne to be in reddyne, it will stay them to furre. His maiestie will find the goode of this in a short progres of tyme; and I pray God that nothing from thense hinder the going forward of it. The Erle of Mar is there alreddy; we looke the chancellour fall shortly tak jorney. I pray God in these busynes of discovereyes whiche yow haif abowe, his maiestie may evir haif a regairde to himself; and yit I doubt not of Godes provydenche for his preservatioun, for I am fully affiured of Godis mercye towardis me, that I fall prevent him, and that he fall longe continew efter; and if it be Godis pleafour, I haif no denvire as yit to end. In him is all our earthly happynes; and for my pairt,

* He died December 19, 1615, which fixes the date of this letter.

I culd wishe the laft confirmatioun fuld come at the time of his visiteing. Lord keip him, and you yourself still attend him as you do; and so I rest

Youris at command,

ALEX^r. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Decr. [1615?]

To the Right Honorabill and his assuiured
Mr Johnne Murray of Lochmaben, of
his Maiesties Bedchamber.

CLIL.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, 1615.

SIR,

I must begine with craiveing pardoun for my bypast silence, haveing this excuise, that in so busye tymes abowe, lettres, vnles they wer of the more moment, might give mater of offence rather than contentment. To retribute complement .for the substance of favour I reffaiue, wer in me vndewtifulnes. I wrotte vnto you in a particular, and obteyned not only the busines dispatched by his maiestie, but so recomendit by your self to him who wes to performe the residew of it, as haveing it all done, I must confes my self your iust debtour therefor in no les degrie then if it had bein your owne frie gift, and yit can offer no more then what I wes formerly bounde, and fall evir remayne what I am or evir falbe; and as beggeris do moste importune where they come best speide, I must entreate you in the first occasioun of any of your lettres to

my Lord Thefaurar, your coufeing, to give him thankes for his freyndly dealing in my bufynes, and I hope he fall not find it ewill beftowed. The other lettre* I haif written to be fhewin by you to his maieftie, if you think meitt, or fuppreffed; for I can wryite nothing bot what otheris may bothe preuent me, or wryite bettir; and yit I falbe loathe to wryite any thing bot the treuth. So, with remembrance of my humble dewty to your fueitt bedfellow, vnto whome I pray God grant my Lady Dumfermling hir laite goode lucke, I tak my leive, refting,

At your fervice,

ALEX^r. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Dec^r. [1615?]

To his very honorabill and affiured freynd, M^r Johne Murray of Lochmaben, of his Maiefties Bedchamber.

CLIII.—THE EARL OF CRAWFORD AND LORD SPYNIE TO KING JAMES VI.
[1615?][†]

MOST DREDE AND GRACIUS SOUERANE,

We, your maiefties humble fubiectis, the Erle of Craford, the Lord of Spynie, Anna and Margaret Lindfayis, dochteris to vmquhile

* See preceding letter. The present one was entirely confidential.

† There is no date to this letter; but it has been placed by Balfour, whose arrangement, however, cannot much be relied on, amongst those of 1615. Edzell seems to have been by no means in an enviable situation, for some years after the death of Lord Spynie. In a letter to the King, dated 16th August 1608,

Alexander Lord of Spynie, hering that the presbitrie of Edinburgh, and bishchopis of this 3our maiesties kingdome, hes enterit in deiling with the Laird of Edgzell for relaxatioun of him fra his excommunicatioun, without anie fatiffactioun of 3our maiestie, or guidwill of ws, quhiche fall neuer be without 3our maiesties speciall command for oure pairtis, we most humble haue taken occasioun to pray 3our maiestie for iustice, and that 3our maiestie wald nocht suffer so hard ane preparatiue pas in oure contrare, quho hes no other protektioun, vnder God, bot 3our maiesties favour; and we dout nocht bot 3our maiestie will remember the one of ws wanting his vncl and dereft freind, the rest thair father, and hes left ws altogidder vnprovydit; and that pur estait quhilk it pleifed 3our maiestie of 3our most gracijs liberalitie to bestow vpon vmqhile the Lord of Spynie, 3our maiesties owne creatour, be his vntymlic deith neir brocht to rowein. So, in all humilitie, we most humble desyre 3our maiestie to fend fuche ordour to the bishchopis, that thair be no favour schowne to that cruell murderer without 3our maiesties first fatiffactioun: Praying to God for 3our maiesties monie happie dayis, we, as we aucht, fall ever remaine

3our Maiesties most humble and obedient subiectis,

CRAWFORD.

SPYNIE.*

To his most Sacrede Maiestie.

he states that he had "stayt heir in Edinburgh ane yeir bygane, and three months, crawling ewer to be tryit of the onhappy slauchter of my unquhill Lord of Spynie, quhairof I protest before God and your Maiestie I am maist innocent." He complains besides of the persecution of Lord Crawford in March 1609. See Letter, a previous part of this volume, where he accuses that nobleman directly of forgery,

* The second Lord Spynie.

CLIV.—SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS OF DRUMLANRIG TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

RIGHT WORTHIE AND LOWING BROTHER,

Ze remember, in on of my former lettres, I schew zow that I had gotin fum tryall of that uyld and barbarous uillaine, quhilk was countit in the slaying of my scheip, quhen I was laft at court; quhairn I did than wreat ze more sparinglye, being lothe (in respect of zour griter affairis) to trubill zow with it, till I had brocht it till fum farther cleirnes, quhilk now I have done, and hes tuo fallowis presentlie in hand that war aëtoris in it, the on callit Jok Scott, the fukler, quho hes confestit the simpell treuth in all poyntis, bothe of his auin pairte, and the rest that war with him at that filthye aëtioune, to wit, Geordie Scott, the fouter, callit Mariounis Geordie; Watt Scott, callit Braidis Wattie; Willie Scott, callit of Satchelis; and Ingrum Scott. This fuccler in his confefioun he condiscendis cleirlye both vpoun the tyme, place, and forme of thair meiting and pairting, with all wther takinis and circumstancefs that past amongft thame quhen they war togidder (as his depositioun beiris): Notwithstanding, this vther, callit Geordie Scott, the fouter (quhom I have also in handis) standis zit to his denyall. Altho they be many grit presumptiounis of his guiltines, always the fuccler being fundry tymes examinat and confrontit with him befor the Lordis of Counfall, he abydis constantly at everye poynt of his first confefioun, and offeris nocht only to fecht the fouter in it, bot all the rest, everie on of thame efter another, quhenfoeuer they can be had, gif it will pleis his maieftie and the counfall to suffer him. The vther thrie ar fugitiues for that and other crymes of thift and slauchter; and, as I wnderstand ar all out of the cuntray, fum in Irland, and fum ellis quhair; vtherwayis befor this tyme, I think I had fund meanis to have gotin thame in handis, zit (according till our auld Scottis proverb) "Ane Zule feist may be quat at Pasch," quhen perhapis they may imagin it to be forget. In the meintyme, let me intreit zow, that ze will do me that fauowr to motioun this maister to his maieftie, quhair-

by I may have it by his letter recommendit to the counfall, nocht only for the exact tryall and punifchment thair of to the daith, for the wrang that is alredie done, bot also to terrifie all other malefactoris from attempting the lyk heirefter: Quhilk, I protest to God, I ponder more in respect of the preparatiue and consequens that may follow thairvpoun to the preuidice of the comoun weill of the countray, in cais it be lichtlie passit over vnpunifchit, than for any particular of my avin. Now, gif ze find it expedient, it war nocht amis, feing the chancler and fecritar (quha knowis the haill estate and progress of this buffines) ar to be with his maiestie at court, that ze fould haue thame neir hand by, quhen ze propoun it to his maiestie, incais he happin to desyre thair opinioun in it. And this I wald befeik zow to do with all the conuenient haift zow can, that I may have zowr anfuwer, with his maiesties letter, befor the seuin or aucht of the next month; becaus I do intend, Godwilling, at thatyme to have thir tuo fallowis, at leif on of thame, put to the tryall of ane affyse, at quhilk tyme, if nocht befor thame, I do assur myself that God fall mowe the hart of him quho standis most obstinatlie to his denayall euin to confes the treuth, as the other hes done; albeit thair be sum buffie headit men heir, quhom I will nocht name at this tyme, that wald wis the contrair, and ar deiling be all menis possibill, so far as in thame lysis, to that effect; bot be the grace of God, and his maiesties fauour, with zowr help, I howp to disapoynt thame. As for the rest of my particularis, I trust zow will nocht be forgetfull of thame, and quhen zow find zowr auin tyme, will let me know, that I may luik for in thame. So I have no more to say, bot always efter on, I rest

Zowris in quhat I can to serue zow,

DRUMLANRIG.*

Edinburght, the vi. day of Januar 1616.

* Sir William Douglas entertained James VI. at his house of Drumlanrig in 1617. He was created a peer by the title of Viscount of Drumlanrig, Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibberis, to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Douglas, by patent dated at Whitehall, 1st April 1628. In 1633, he was advanced to the Earldom of Queensberry by patent, dated 13th June, with a similar remainder. He died 8th March 1640.

How will do me the fauour to present my humbill seruice to your lady.

To his muche honoured and worthie
 Brother, Jhone Murray of Loch-
 maben, Grume of his Maiesties
 Bedchamber, thes.

CLV.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

LOUING COUSING,

I haue reffeuit your lettre from Royftoune the 21 off December laft. Albeit ye vill excufe your fellff, yit I vill euer aqualedge your loue and kyndenefs, allthoo I knoo it hes not produft fuche effects as ye vifcht, yit it is not your fault. And whair as ye vrett that my honours fall be expecte at my lords fecretairs vpcumming, and, in the men tyme, that I take no noteife thairoff to any ; I affure you, coufing, I haue careid myfellff fo. Bot it hes fallin out vtherwayis, not be me, for me Lord of Scone, at his returne home, haid occafion off conference with me Lord Chanfler, to whome he fcheu his maieftis gratius plefour touarts me in that, vpon me Lord's demand, thinking he hed beine alls villing heirto, as off befor he hed proffest, bot he fund him allert and oppofeit, and yit moir in forme than effect, bot houeuer by not fo as off befor ; and at my leiuie taking off me Lord Chanfler, he entert fom thing with my fellff in that mater, to knau hou far vais proceidit thairin ; bot I fcheu his Lordfchip that I kneu nothing. His reffone vais vpon the forme, which he thocht could not be be the Erl of Atholls demiffion in his auin tyme, bot only be vay off taillgie, as it fell to me Lord Eglingtonne. I denyed that thair vais ony fuche mater concerning myfellff, and yit I reffoned with him that, be demiffione and refignation, that mycht be be his maieftis vill,

all is veill as if by this forme off taillgie, for boithe off them vair be difpofitions; albeit that off me Lord Eglingtones referued his lyffrent, and the vther not; nor could me Lord Eglington have fuccedit to the laft, be reffone of the ordinar taillgie, as nareft of blood, if it haid not beine refignd be the laft lord in the kings hands, referuand me Lord Eglington his lyffrent, and to this efter his difcefs: This he could not anfuer too. I fcheu him lykvaïs hou the Lord Ochilltry hes his honour and place as the laft lord and wtheris: Mycht it not be fo vith me, be all refoune? my vyffe being the Erlle off Atholls eldeft dochter, and, if his maieftie pleafed, fcho mycht boithe be lau and reffoune fuccede to the honour and place off hir father. This he confeft vais treu; and fua I endit that difcours, affuring him that I kneu nothing off his maiefteis vill heirin. He vill impedé all that he can; me Lord off Scone and I advyft vith me Lord Secretair, wha hes thocht miteft that ve fould boithe vrett to you, that if ye could, it mycht be fent home fubfcryvit, as I take it all redy togidder vith ane lettre to the counfell heir, and command to the keiper of the gret fell to pafs the fame vith diligence, and this to be donne befor me Lord Chanfler his cumming to court, fua that thinge being ons done, he valld be content. Conforme heirto, ve haue boithe vretin thir presents, and they ar to be fent poft be me Lord Secretair, to whome ve haue delyverit them. Cufing, doo heirin as ye vill, for if itt fall reffeve this fecond lett, I vill haue the lefs houpe, and I proteft to God I think moir off mens maleice nor I cair off ony thing ells. I vrett ane lettre to you laittly derect to me Lord off Scone and you boithe, tuitching the dethe of my Lord of Kingorne, and that ve compond for this lords vaid and marriage heir at home for twellff thoufand marks: my defyr to you boithe, as lykvaïs in my vther letter to my brother Sir Patrik, [is] to deill vith his maieftie if I mycht haue haid the compofition. What ye haue done heirin I knau not, bot I vald request you to be ane feuter at left to affift Sir Patrik heirin, that his maieftie mycht be pleafd to grant it to me, for in confcience, cufing, ye knau my help off his maieftie as yit hes bein bot litill, and I doe all that I can to help ane diftreffit eftat. It may be that thair vill be vthers in fent off this off his maieftie, at me Lord Chanflers comming thair; and if it could be pre-

veind in tyme, I vald requeift you erniftly. Bot I remitt this to your
auin difcretion, and committs you to God. I reft

Yours euer affurit loving Cufing,

TULLIBARDINE.

Edinbro, the 6 off Janouer 1616.

CLVI.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 8, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABIL AND LOVING FREIND,

It is not long fince I trublit yow with ane lettre, with your
brother in law of Lariftane, quhairof I haue not yit receauit anfuer:
Yit, not the les, the former prooffe I had of your wnderferued and wn-
acqyuteable fauour imboldenis me agane to truble yow, and maift ear-
neftly to defyre your favourable affiftance, your pouerfull interceffion and
great moyane, to the fecounding of this my moft equitable and humble
petition, quhilk the Lordis of our Counfell off Scotland, in my name, hes
fent wnto his facred maieftie, be his maiefties speciall command unto
my felfe, quhen laft I had the honor to kis his royall hands, command-
ing me quhatfumeuer I had to fay vnto his maieftie in ane my awin par-
ticulars, at my returne to Scotland, to prefent it be petition to thair
lordfchips, and to defyre thair lordfhips, in his moft facred name, to pre-
fer my equitable, iuft, and humble petition to his maiefties royall pre-
ference, to the quhilk his moft facred maieftie promeift ane gracious
anfuer; affuring myfelfe, if in this it fall pleas yow to honour me with
your fauour, freindfhipe, and affiftance, to obtain my moft equitable de-
fyre, my petition being fo iuft and reafonable, as his moft gracious ma-

iestie did never refuse the lyke to anye of his gyltes subjects. Leving, for tedioufnes, the particulars of my petition, for your better instruction, I haue referred them to the sufficiencie of the beirar, M^r James Reath, feruitour to my Lord Chancellour of Scotland, quhom it will pleis yow to do me the favour to question in this matter: Him also haue I most earnestlie intreated to be, in my absence, agent at your hands for me; desyring yow most humble, as euer I fall be reddye to do yow seruice, that it wald please yow at all times quhen your moir ferious adois fall permit me the favour, that, being requyred of the beirar in my name to give your prefence to the heiring and assisting of my just cause, not to deny it. For the quhilk to the death, I fall rest

Euer oblised to do yow seruice,

FRANCIS STEUART.*

Setoun, the 8 of Januar 1616.

To the Right Honorable and my verie loving freind, M^r Murray of Lochmabane, one of his Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CLVII.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 9, [1616?]

RIGHT HONORABIL AND WORTHIE CUSSING,

My best luffe and dewtie rememberit, I haif refaiffed zowr letter daittit the 21 of December, frome Roystowne, quhairin I perfaiffe that ze, Sir, haiffe gottin fure resolution that my Lord Sanquharis sone

* See page 294.

is ane and tuentie zeiris compleit bygane at Santandrofe day ; as also, Sir, ze defyre me resolwe with my Lord Chanchler and Advocat quhat is best to be done, and the same shall be followed with all faithfulness and expeditioun. As for answer, Sir, therto, within aucht dayis I shall wryt my awin oppinioun and the advocats to zow ; and as for the chanchleris, his lordschip wes gone to curt befor I sawe this letter of zowris, bot I shall wryt to his lordschip particulierlie in that bussines of myne, to confer with zow at lenthe in it, and ze and his lordschip, I doubt nocht, will resolwe on the best curse concerning my weill. For I do trust in my Lord Chanchler as I do in zow, Sir, for I haif greit pruffe of his lordschippis favour in my greitest bussinesse ; and, Sir, as ewer I may be eble to ferwe zowr plefour, let his lordschip see that for my cause, ze will haife so muche the greitair cair to stand freindlie to his lordschip, and spair nocht to let his lordschip knawe, albeit ze neid nocht my fute, howe ernest I am with zow to plefour his lordschip : And, Sir, I earnestlie requist zow ower agane to do the chanchler all the gud offeice lye in zow ; for, Sir, consider he may do zow gud offeice in our cuntrie ; and gif ze wnderstude his lordschip reichthlie, ze wald find his lordschip ane worddie man ; and I dar assure zow, the more ze haiffe ado with him, Sir, ze shall ewer find the moir worthe in his lordschip ; and gif it wer wtherwayis, I protest to God, I wald nocht affirme the same to zow as I do, for all the erthe ; and the onlie cause makis me, Sir, to wryt this earnestlie to zow is pertlie out of my lowe to zow, as lykwyse for the luffe I carie to his lordschip, and that quhilkis last of all, I knawe his lordschip to be ane of the honestest myndit men within our kingdome, and it is ewer sik men I wald wisse zow to be in greitest formes with. And as for my place in cunfell, Sir, ze haif verie fite tyme now to deill in it, for thair is twa places in cunfell waikand ; the ane is my Lord of Gingornis* place, and the wther is Mr George Zowngis place, quha ar baith laitlie disseissit at the plefour of God. My Lord Henzie† wes plecid on the cunfell this last cunfell day, and I lukit, Sir, to haif cumit alse gud speid as any in our cuntrie that wald haif bein futteris for the same, alweyes quhat fall I see, I am a lytle disap-

* Patrick, ninth Lord Glamis, and first Earl of Kinghorn, died the 19th of December 1615.

† The Earl of Enzie, afterwards second Marquis of Huntly.

poynntit of my expectatiounis; bot, Sir, do ze in it as ze pleis. Sir, I knawe gif his maieftie speik the chanchler any thing concerning me or my biffines, the chanchler will report better of me nor I am worthe: and I recommend that turne, tuiching my place in confell to zowr doing, Sir, with als greit expedition as may be, as ze haif done mekill mair for me. Sir, I am werie diligent [at] present till trying the secreit of my Ladie Thororoells lyfrent, and fall with the first cettation adwerteiſe zou quhat I learne of the fame, bot I can proceid no forder bot be on my tryell till I heir frome zow, quhat ze haif done thereanent zourſelf. Sua, I fall ewer continew zowr effectiſonat cuſſing to ſerwe zow,

SANQUHAIR.

Frome Edinburgh, the 9th of Janarey
[1616].

Sir, ſpeik me Lord Secreitter on my biffines, that if Roxbruche enter my wey with his Lordſhips, that he may ſchewe Roxbruche ther is no helping in that perticuler be lawe to be lukit for to the Lord Sanquhars fone, as lykweyis that his Lordſhip ley downe no wther curſe to Roxbruche in my contrair.*

To his muche honnoreit gud freind,
Johne Murrey of Lochmeben, on
of his Maiefteis Bedchamber,
theiſe be givin.

* 18th September 1616. "Thair is charges direct againſt William Creichton, baſtard ſon to the late Lord Sanquhar, and the Laird of Drumlanrig, one of his curators, to compear before the counſall-day, the mint of October, now approaching, for ſatling that mater betuix the Lord Sanquhar and him. The Lords of Roxburgh and Buccleugh, vther tuo of the ſaids curators, being perſonalie preſent with the Lord Sanquhar, ar warrit heiſerof *apud acta*, and promiſed to keep the ſaid day." Note of Privy Council proceedings. The reſult of the proceedings on that day was tranſmitted to the King by the Privy Council, and the letter on the ſubject will be found in the Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 264.

CLVIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 12, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND MY LUIFING FREIND,

Howfoeur hithertillis I haif neur found the meanes, in any fort, to oblishe zow vnto me, zit, wnderstanding be findrie aduerteifmentis from my sonne, and lastly mair particularlie fra my sonne, my Lord Erkin, zour luifing kindnes and ondeferwit fauour to my sonne; as I find myfelf werie far indebtit to zour courtesie, fa can I not omit heirby to rander zow maift hertlie thanks for the same, defyryng alwayis the continewance of zour regard to him; lyk as, gif be zour furtherance he find good succes in his effairis with his maiestie, as he will thairby be the mair able to ferue his maiestie and his luifing freindis, fa fall ze rest affurit, that wherin I and he can ferue zow or any of zouris to good offices, ze fall find zour kyndnes thankfullie acquyted in what we can be worth, praying zow to mak wfe of ws as occasioun fall offer. Sa, remitting all farther to zour luifing consideratioun, my hertly affectioun rememberit, I rest for euir

Zour maift luifing freind,

ERROLL.

Erroll, 12 Januar 1616.

To the Richt Honorabill my luifing
freind Johne Murray, one of his
Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CLIX.—THE EARL OF CAITHNESS TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 26, 1616.

MOST GRASIOUS SOVEREINE,

The occatioune that hes moued me to faffe your maieftie with this my letter, is the malicius malice of my iuill difpofed nightbouris, quha neuer ceafes to do me vrang, and to inuent calumneis aganeft me, to incens your maiefties vrathe aganeft me. Thay haue inuentit ane moft odius and ane inhumane lie, as my Lord Binning and Jhone Murray wille informe your maieftie at grytter lenthe, whilk thay wald, if thay could, mak me to be the authore of (weche inuentioune will not content thame, all thoght that the vorld knauis my innoſenſie, and hes offered myſelfe to the tryell of your maiefteis moſt honorabile counſell, if I could find ane accuſer). Thay haife preaced to ſuborne brokin men to lie wpon me, be promiſing thame bothe land and geare, as I fall qualife; thinking throw the intollarabile wrangis I daylie fuſtine, I will be compelled to do ſume thingis aganeft thame for my creditis cauſe, to brake your maiefteis peace, and be that mine to make me to loſe your maiefteis fauour. My ennimeis ar many and malifius: (my confort is) I knaw your maieftie is wyfe, and will wy my willing hairt to do your maieftie ſeruice, withe the malife and numer of my fois. I confidder with my ſelfe thair is no remaneing heire to me, feing I uill be forſed to parrell your maiefteis fauour, or then to ſuffer bothe ſchame and ſkethe, quhilk is hard to ane nobill hairt. God of his merſie grant me paſiens to I heire from your maieftie, and knaw your will. I moſt humblie bege at your maiefteis moſt graſius hands, not for enny thing that is in me, nor enny merit that euer I haife deſerued, or is abille for to deſerue; bot for Godis cauſe lat me haife ane juſt tryell and juſtife, ſo to your maiefteis moſt admirabile wiſdome will tak fuche ordoure, that according to your maiefteis pleaſure, and my good intentione, I haif occatioune to liue in peace. I tak my liue, withe all hu-

militie, wifhing 3our maieftie many and happie dayis, withe all contentment that 3our awine hairt wald wifhe. I fall euer remane

3oure Maiefteis moft houmille feruand to the deithe,

CAITHNES.*

Caftill Sinclair, 26 Januar 1616.

To the King his moft Sacred and
Excellent Maieftie.

CLX.—THE COUNTESS OF EGLINTOUN TO [MRS MURRAY?]
1616.

MY DEARE AND LOUING BROTHER,†

I did refeaue your kynd and wealkom letter from Sir Daued Morray, which did infinitie content me boeth by the pleafing newis of her maiefties good helth, and her fingullar fauour fhowed to you in this fullich falling out of Sumerfyds with you, to his oune grit difgrace, which hes med him fo heated of thofs hear that ar bound to you, and knowes your trew worth and his fallshoud, that if ther war non but your feruant my houfband, he wold, if it war exceptable to you and nefficer, vndertak to pruf him ane erand lyare in that he wret to you, and meffage fent with that vngret fullich coufing of yours, Herie Gib.‡ I long now to hear what fatiffacione is med vnto her maieftie and you. I pray God increfs her gritnefs with the king, and eftimacione and loue of the piple, with

* George, fifth Earl of Caithness. He died in 1643, aged 78. A worthless nobleman, even for those times. His base betrayal of the unfortunate Lord Maxwell is an indelible stain on his memory.

† So in the original, but the letter is evidently addressed to the lady of John Mnrray.

‡ It may be inferred, from the strong language used against Somerset, that the favourite was then tottering. This letter was probably written early in the year 1616, as Somerset and his infamous wife were brought to trial on the 24th of May in that year.

ane long and hapie raing ouer ws. I was mor then defyrous to haue hard the fertantie of thes things from you, and especialie conferring your owne helth, which I pray God may be good, and I doubt not of your wealfear vther ways, but I proteſt your ſiklines, when I hard it, did mor griue me then yee can imagine, and I was neuer content till ye wret to me of your better helth: God of his merſie increfs it whileſt I liue. As conferring thoſe particulars yee defyred me, I haue bein courious for your fateffactione to tray them, and fyndis that my Lord Ab[ercorn?] dois eſteim him ſelf bound to my Lord Chamberland * for no thing but fear wordes, and thinkis him proud and ſecleſ; and I haue this out of his owne moueth, that he could haue found in his hert to haue foughtin him in your qwarell. Boeth hee and Sir Wiliam Setoun did much prefs your good interteament at your owne hous, and kyndnes to me. We haue bein all at Jhon Achamutiſ† wading to Sir Wiliams dochter, wher yee was oftin remember'd. As for my Lord B. hopes they ar but ſmall, as I euer doubted. It was thoght that Sir James Stewart, now Lord Oc[hiltrie]‡ did put him in hop the chamberland wold doe much for him, and when he found himſelf deſeu'd at his coming to court, I think he was affhamed to enter with you, in reſpect he did not creue your opunione nor your houſbands in this vp coming; but as I did expect, he rewis it. I pray you lat me know what is don betwext your houſband and Louchinvar§ conferring thoſe lands he hes in wadſet in Loudiane, for Louchinwar gaue it out that ye had agried with him for his right, but I remember ye med me once diſſuad my ſiſter and her houſband to giue ther conſent to him, ſo I can not think ye ar agried, but if it might content you or your houſband, they wold giue it to your ſelf, but not to him; ſo I expect to hear from you conferring thoſe matteres.

Now, dear brother, I can not omit to giue you thanks of the inſinet

* Earl of Somerset.

† John Auchmootie, Groom of the Bedchamber, afterwards knighted.

‡ Upon the 9th of June 1615, Sir James Stewart of Killeith obtained a charter to the lands and barony of Ochiltree. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 329.

§ Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar. He married Lady Isabel Ruthven, daughter of the Earl of Gowrie, by whom he had John, created, in 1633, Viscount Kenmure and Lord Lochinvar.

fauouris boeth you and your worthie houfband at all ocaſionis ſchowis to me and my houfband; and now in haueing ſuch ane car at my Lord Glenkern, got no thing don in our preiougice. Ther was ane letter procur'd from his maieſtie to my lord, in fauours of the Lerd of Eakat, which he hes ſent the anſur of to your houfband to preſent to his maieſtie, with the trew informacione of the eſteat of that erand; and I moſt intret you to inſiſt that he will haue ane care that his maieſtie does not belieue anie wrong informacione of our vnfrends. My lord hes his ſeruice remember'd vnto you, as to her whom he thinks himſelf mor bound vnto then he is able to reqwynt: Boith he and I am aſhamed that as yet we haue in no meſour but good will reqwyted the infinit obligacie we owe you; but I wiſh we may liue no longer if yee haue not full powar to comand ws in what is in our pouar to pleſour you and your houfband, whois employmentis we long for. I will ſay no mor, but hopes ye will do it ſhortlie; as I wiſh it to be alſo trew that my Lord of Skun hes givet Fakland to you alredie, but I pray you lat me hear of it from your ſelf, which will mak me haue the greter deſyre to liue and ſie you ther as I wiſh. My good Ladie Mar, preſſed be God, growis ſtronger the neirer her tyme aproches. Her ſonne, my Lord Bouchan,* and the Erell of Routhous,† beifs boeth wadet this nixt wiek to their young brydes. God giue them much ioye. My Ladie Erkins dochter is departed this lyf, but groues fat herſelf. Your ſonnes, Hew and Henrie, is in good helthe, thanks to God, and I truſt ſhall be men to ſerue you, and efter Mer-timeſ I expeēt yee will pray for me, that I may bring fureth this chyld, and liue to deſerue your innumerable kyndneſes; but houfoeuer, ye

* James, eldest son of the second marriage between John seventh Earl of Mar and Lady Stewart, married Mary, Countess of Buchan in her own right, and thereupon he assumed the title of Earl. On the resignation of his wife, a royal charter of the earldom was, 22d March 1617, granted to the countess and her husband, in conjunct ſee and liferent, and to the longest liver of them, and the heirs-male of their marriage, whom failing, to the nearest lawful heirs-male and assignees whatsoever of the said James Earl of Buchan.

† John fifth Earl of Rothes, whose History of the Church was recently printed as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, married Lady Ann Erskine, sister of Lord Buchan, and second daughter of John Earl of Mar. He died 2d May 1640.

shall neer show fauour to anie that boeth in lyf and death shall trewlier
rest

Yours most fathfulie affectionat
euerie way,

ANNA C. EGLINTOUN.*

My ladie, my good mother, remembers her louing dewtie vnto you and
to your housband.

CLXI.—THE EARL OF LOTHIAN TO KING JAMES VI.
APRIL 10, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

I reffeauit your maiesties lettre, beiring that as your ma-
iestie wes gratiouflic pleisit to grant your remission to Johnnestounburne,
fo your maiestie wald wische that your clementce wer extendit towardis
his estait; and thairfoir desyreing me, that these landis whilk I posses be
his forfaytour could be restoirit bak vnto him, he giveing vnto me fuche
fatiffaetioun as my vmquhile father offerit to haue acceptit. As in all
dew submissioun and reuerence, I acknowledge myself bundin to acquiesce
in eurie thing to your gracious maiesties will and pleasour, feing nothing
can proceede frome your maiestie bot that whilk is weill groundit vpoun
infallible reafoneis of equitie and gude conscience, so, laying afyde all
priuate consideratioun whilk I nicht haue pretendit on that foirfeytour,
as being difponit vnto me be your sacred maiestie, in remembrance of

* Lady Anne Livingstone, eldest daughter of Alexander first Earl of Linlithgow, and wife of Alexander sixth Earl of Eglintoun. She died November 1632. This letter has no address, but was probably written to the wife of John Murray.

sum zeiris feruice and attendance vpoun your maiestie, I wes content to enter in a freindlie commoning with him. And first, I vrgeit that poynt mentionat in your maieſties lettre, anent the conditioun past betwixt my father and him, being resoluit yf it had bene cleirit to haue gevin vnto your maiestie satisfactioun thairin, bot he wes nocht abill to qualifie nor instruct ony fuche conditioun; and he haueing failzeit in this, I proponit vnto him the judgement of indifferent freindis, quhilk wes acceptit; bot these quhilkis wer for him stooode so preceisslie vpoun his richt, whilk wes befor his forfeytour that thay sufferit the submissioun to defert; as more particularlie the berare heiros, Sir Williame Balfour, who wes one of the commoneris, will informe your maiestie, in eurie circumstance, to quhois relatioun I refer the fame. And so, humble beseiking your sacred maiestie nocht to harken to the reporte of my pairtye, bot to think of me as of one who in sinceritie of trew affectioun, with all submissiue obedience, salbe willing and reddie, with the best of my indevoiris, to serue your maiestie in what I am abill to do, I end with my hartye and humbill prayeris vnto God for the lang continuance of your graceis most bliffit and happie regne, and I do rest for euir

Your Maieſties most humbill and
obedient seruitour,

LOTHIANE.*

Newbottill, the tent of Aprile 1616.

To the King his most sacred and
excellent Maieſtie.

* Robert, second Earl of Lothian, succeeded his father, Mark, the first Earl, in 1609, and died 15th July 1624.

CLXII.—LORD MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 1616.

IT MAY PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

3our gracious fauour confranis me to tak the bauldnes, humblie wpone my knees, to give 3our hienes most humble thankis for the monye benefeitis I haif refaut of 3our maieftis liberalitie, and not the les of my absence frome 3our maieftie thir ten 3eiris past. It hes pleasit 3our maieftie to remember me with moir fauour in honoring me with the name of ane barroun, then I can deserue; quhilk mowis me to be so far obleist in affectioun and loue to 3our maieftis seruice and pleafour, as to omit no occasioun quhairin I may gif pruiiff of my fidelitie. At my last departing frome 3our maieftie, it pleasit 3our maieftie to command me to aduerteife 3our hienes of the estait of this cuntrye, quhilk hes beine in gret quyetnes, and 3our subiects maist loving to obey all 3our maieftis directiounes. And at this present, haiffing sua guid occasioun to mak 3our maieftie aduertifment of our happie estait and governement, I vill forbear the wayne byward, quhilk men of my age is accustumat to utter, quhilk in effect is to praise the dayis and 3eiris bypast, and the present to be eiwill; albeit the treuth is, I haue continowit longer in 3our maieftis and princie predecessoris seruice, then ony parfoun this day living; and all the said 3eiris we was destitut of the trew religioun, our cuntrye being full of barbarity, deidlie fedis, and opprefsiounes. Since the tyme 3our maieftie tuik the manymment of the effairis of 3our princie dominionnes in 3our awne hand, all 3our hyenes cuntreis hes beine peaceible and quyet; and specialie this cuntrye, quhair the trew religioun flurissis, and justice sua veill ministrat be 3our electioun of 3our faithfull officiaris, as I may be bauld to affirme, that no cuntrye is in ane mair happie estait, and hes bettir occasioun to be thankfull to

God, and faithfull to your maiestie. Thair is sic loue borne to your maiestie, as your officiaris stryves amongis thame selfis quho fall do best, being presentlie in hand to decoir all deformiteis in this cuntrie that hes beine ouerfeine in tymes past, and speciallie your maiesteis houffis, and the Castell off Edinbrughe fau weill orderit, as I hoipe it salbe to your maiesteis guid contentment; and the present officiar in the thesaurie* verrie panefull and diligent in repairing the rest-of your houffis, quho omittis no occasioun to put all the rest to the fame poynt. Haiffing tane the bauldnes to be so tedious to your maiestie, efter I kyffit your maiesteis hand, I humblie tak my leiff, praying God to grant your maiestie monie long and happie dayis, in quhais protectioun I commit your maiestie.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiect
and feruitour,

R^r. MELUILL.†

To the Kingis Maiestie of Great Brytane.

CLXIII.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 26, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

The heighe benefite laitlie granted to me be your maiestie, in granting me acces to your sacred prefence, being the thesaure incomparable; as also the former favour in the purches of my wyfe (being, according to the coustume of all other daft youthes, than the first of my

* Sir Gideon Murray.

† There is no date to this letter, but it must have been written about the time the patent was passing the seals, creating Sir Robert Lord Melville.

vishes), hes emboldened me, with a few lynes, in all submission and humilitie, to giue your maiestie, so gracious a fouerane, most hartie and humble thanks for both, that hes so gratiouſlie overſhaddoued me with so great and fauorable benefitis, and that of free grace, and but any my merite, being the poore distressed sone of ane vnhappy father, your owne creature, inriched with fauour, honor, credite, and all other felicitie, abowe his or any other subiects merite: ay, and quiblie his brutifhe, haynous, and detestable defection, and so iustlie deservand to himself and all his posteritie tenfold more heaue and sharpe afflictiones and punishment then ewer befell ws; whairin I haue no other meafour to beg, bot willinglie to sustene and indure so mony as your most excellent maiestie please to inioyne, being the prince leifand who best knowis what of law, reafſone, equitie or conscience, aught to be done. I haue nothing to present to your maiestie bot a loyall hart, a faith unspotted, placeing my being in your maiesties sole fauour, and more willing, then to leif, to sacrafize my lyfe at any occasion in your maiesties service. Most humble begand that your maiestie wold be gratiouſlie pleased to esteeme of me that your command falbe the rewill of my lyfe, no wher ellis fall I feik fauour. If any it fall pleas your sacred maiestie to bestow, whatfoeuer be the meafour thereof, I fall rest and acquiesce thairat with contentment, and fall spend my hole studie and cair to pleas, and nowayis offend your maiestie, to my lysis end. Humble prayand the Eternal to grant bothe your maiesties, your childrene and posteritie, all temporall and eternal felicitie,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient seruiteur,

FRANCIS STEUART.*

Seton, 26 Majj 1616.

To his most sacred Maiestie.

* Eldest son of Francis Stewart, the turbulent Earl of Bothwell. He married Lady Isabella Seton, only daughter of Robert, first Earl of Winton. His son and heir, Charles, is said to have been a trooper in the civil wars, and the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the dashing cavalier, in *Old Mortality*. From the kirk-session records of Perth, it appears that a son of his received alms as a pauper—a melancholy proof of the instability of human greatness.

CLXIV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1616.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

As I did præsume to acquēt your hienes with the progres of the Assēmbly from Aberdein, so nou I doe with the finishing thair of, which (according to that happie succēs vhairwith God hes always blissed your maiesteis most gracious actionis) is concludit, with great contentment of all estatis. The Marquis of Huntly keipitt the day apoyntit; vhaire itt vas aduysitt that the archbischopis, with the præfident and certane vtheris, schould first deal with him, to resolue his doubtis; lyke as, I did particularlie desyre him to remember your maiesteis gracious fauour touardis him, and obey your hienes directionis. He, efter sum difficulteis, condefenditt to cum before the Assēmbly and giue satisfaction, vhair the Archbischop of Sanctandris did so vyfelie moderat, that the Marquis gaue humble obedience, and the church receaued full contentment; and efter opin reading of thois thingis enacted, according to your maiesteis direction, and receauing of certen speciall citizenis of Aberdein suspect of Poprie, and thair publick assenting to the particular Articles of the Confession of Faith establischt at this Assēmbly, the sam vas concluditt with generall applause, all praising God, and praying for long continuance of your maiesteis happie raing. As to my self, altho I haue bein villing at this tym to discharge that humble and faithfull deutie, which I am always bund to perform in your maiesteis seruice; zitt, the good succēs of all dois onlie proceed from your maiesteis godlie, vyfe, and happie deffeingis, which the Lord so vnderfullie prosperis, that ve, your maiesteis faithfull seruandis, ar more and more encourgitt to proffrat our lyuis, for the aduancement of vhatfumeuer your maiesteis seruicis; lyk as, I doe particularlie acknauledge myself infinitlie tyed to

your maiefties moft gracious remembrance and truſt to me, which, in all humble and faithfull obedience, ſo long as I leiuē, I ſhall ſtudie to deferue, and ſhal be moſt readie to feall with my blood. Remitting the more particular relatione to the archbiſchopis, in all humilitie, I kiſſe your hienes handis, praying God for the long continuance of your maiefties prosperous eſtate and happie raing ouer vs,

Your Maiefties moſt humble and obedient ſubiect
and ſeruitor,

MONTROSE.*

Newmontroſe, the 27 of Auguſt 1616.

To his moſt Sacred Maieſtie.

CLXV.—THE EARL OF HOME TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

DECEMBER 8, 1616.

MY LORD,

I heare, by my Lord Hamblton, that Frances Stewart has ſubmitted all his differences with all partes to the kinge, and that there is a blancke left to bee filde up with my fonnes name; and that if it weare thought fit by my fonnes frendes, that he ſhoulde come in, that I ſhoulde aduartis your lordſhip, that his name might bee contaynde in the ſub-

* John, fourth Earl of Montroſe, married Lady Mary Ruthven, eldeſt daughter of William, firſt Earl of Gowrie. He was the father of the celebrated Marquis of Montroſe. His lordſhip died 24th November 1626.

mishtjon. Trewly, my lord, I coulde haue wisht his parte of that bifnes had not byn to haue fetled, tel his yeays had giuen him tow understande beter, that he might haue byn a dealer for his oune composfhtyon; but now I see no remedey but it must be ventred. God fende him finde as much fauer at the kinges handes as the rest. I haue writin to my Lord of Morton* to seeke his opinion heare in, and if he thincke as I dow, then that he will speacke with your lordship, and that you will bee plesde to let his name bee put in. The great fauor that your lordship hathe euer shoune to him in his presence, I must houmbly bege the continuance of in his absence; and as I haue founde allready your lordships respect and care of him to haue preferued him from many inconuenentes, so in that must I repose his safety still to proteçt him from the maney ingures of fo maney malishtyus, unconftyonat peple, that are continewalley plotinge his hurt. For which he will be bounde with his utormost indeuers to dow farues, and myfelfe to remayne,

Your Lordships trewly afeçtionat frende and seruant,

HOME.†

London, this 8 of December [1616?]

To the Right Honorabill my Lord
Chanflor.

* William, Earl of Morton, born 1582, served heir to his father Robert, 3d July 1605, and to his grandfather, 4th November 1606. He died in Orkney, where he had retired during the great civil war, 7th August 1648, in the 66th year of his age.

† From the writer mentioning that he had a son, he must have been Alexander, sixth Lord, and first Earl of Home. He died 5th April 1619. His son James, though twice married, had no issue by either of his wives, in consequence of which the titles, upon his death, in the month of February 1633, in virtue of the remainder to heirs-male whatsoever, devolved on Sir James Home of Coldingknows.

CLXVI.—THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 14, 1617.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We reffaut your maieftis lettre tuitcheing that overtur and propofitioun maid vnto your maieftie, anent the making of linning cloathe in this kingdome in another foirt and maner nor formarlie hes bene wrought heir, and tuitcheing the making of goode and fufficient tyill for building and fclaitting of houffis at lowe raittis; whairin it wes your maieftis pleafour to craue our aduife and opinioun, yf the preuilege foght of your maieftie for this purpois myght importe ony benefeit or preiudice vnto the cuntrie. As with all dew reuerence and moft humble thankis, we acknolege your maieftis faderlie cair, and the refpectiue confideratioun whilk your maieftie hes ever had of the publiçt goode of this your maieftis kingdome, in being fo fpairing to yield to ony overturis and propofitionis of the natur and qualitie foirfaid, whill firft your maieftie commnicat the fame vnto your maieftis counfall heir; whairin it becometh ws in all finceritie and efauldnes, without ony privat refpectis or confiderationis to prefent oure fimple and waik opinionis and iudgement vnto your facred maieftie. So, we haveing at lenthe conferrit, reafounded, and confultit vpoun the benefeit and inconuenientis whilk by the overtur foirfaid, and preuilege foght of your maieftie for that purpois, may refult to this kingdome, we do find the overtur and propofitioun foirfaid, alfueele anent the working of the cloathe, as of the tyill, in the forme and tennour as is confavit in your maieftis lettre to be neceffair and verve expedient to be imbraceit, and to importe the publiçt goode and benefeit of the kingdome, and that a preuilege for fome certane yeiris may be grantit to that effect, refpect being alwayes had to the terme of the preuilege, and that the fame be for fuche a reafounable fpace as nouth

your maieſteis ſubiectis haif iuſt cauſ of greif and complaynt, as being fruſtrat of the hoipis of thair awne labouris and traveillis in leirning of the ſaidis workis, nor yitt that the vndirtakaris of thir workis haif mater of grudge and miſcontentment, and ſo be discouraget to proſequute and follow oute the worke. And ſo, with oure humble and hairy prayeris vnto God, recommending your ſacred maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, vnto his diuyn and fatherlie proteſtioun, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

SANCTANDROIS.

BLANTYRE.

A. ELPHINSTON.

JO. PRESTOUN.

ALMUSSAR.

GLENCAIRNE.

WIGTOUN.

ROSS.

R. COKBURNE.

CL[ERICU]S REG[ISTR]I.

Edinburgh, the xiiij day of Marche 1617.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent
Maieſtie.

CLXVII.—ARTICLES GIVEN BY THE JUSTICES OF PEACE FOR ABERDEEN.

[1617]?

ARTICLIS giuine in be the Juſtices of Peace within the ſchirefdome
of Aberdeine to the Lordis of his Maieſteis Secreit Counfall,
for Reformatione of the Abufis following.

In the firſt, becauſ their ar diueris vagabundis within the ſaid ſchiref-

dome, quha ar giltie of thiftis, pykrie, and robing, and vther fufpect perfones of thift, quhais punifhment and tryell is negleçtit be the fhereffis, thairfor, the faidis Juftices of Peace cravis ane commiffione to be givine to thame to try and punifh fik perfones.

Item, becaus the faid fchirefdome is verie fpacious, and quhen any perfones ar apprehendit within the faid fchirefdome, be the faidis Juftices of Peace, quhais tranfportatione to the brught of Abirdeine, is verrie expenfive, daingerus, and trubillfome to the faidis Juftices of Peace, thairfor, it is cravit that jeyollis and ward-houffis may be buildit be the faidis Juftices of Peace within evrie prefbetrie of the faid fchirefdome; and for that effect, that the half of the fynis may be allowit to the faidis Juftices of Peace for building thairof.

Item, becaus the clerkis, officeris, and remanent memberis of court will not exerce thair funçtionis without fwme reffonabill fatiffaçtione for thair paines, thairfor, it is cravit that ane compitent fie be modifeit, to be payit to thame of the firft and reddieft of the faidis fynis.

Item, becaus the faidis Juftices of Peace, haveing presentit captives and malefactouris to the fchireff of Abirdeine his deputis, and to the proveft and bailleis of the faid brugh, thay refuife to accept thame af thair handis, thairfor, it is cravit that fwme expedient cours may be takine thairanent.

Item, becaus thair ar diveris parochines within the faid fchirefdome, quhilkes no jeyoll or ward-hous; thairfor, it is cravit be the faidis Juftices of Peace, that thai may have power to ward the perfones to be takine be thame, within thair awin duelling houffis, quhill jeollis be buildit, or that the prifoneris may be convenientlie tranfportit.

Item, becaus the perfonis vnlawit be the Juftices of Peace will not willinglie mak payment of the fynis and vnlawis, it is thairfor cravit that

lettres of horning, poinding, and vtheris exe[cutoria]llis neceffair, may be direct vpon the actis maid be the saidis Iustices, for recoverie of payment thair of, and of the contrabutione to be imposit for susteinynge of the pair of the indigent perfonas.

Item, to remember to speik my Lord Chancellour that quhilk I am directit be tonge.

CLXVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JUNE 1617.]

It coule not bot be verie greeuous vnto vs if the earnest desire wee haue longe had to visite that our natiue and ancient kingdome of Scotlande, shoulde be mette at our arriual there, with anie vnwelcome coldenes of a number of our good subiectes in that contrie, and that by the occasion of a præiudged opinion in manie of our peoples hartes, grounded vpon false rumouris, eyther maliciouſlie or foolihlie ſpred anent the cauſes and erandes of our intention to repair thether at this time. Wee haue therefor thoughte it verie conuenient, for preuenting of this mistaking, to make by these presents, an ingenuous and sincere profession vnto you of the motiues inducing vs to resolve vpon our journey thether at the time appointed. First, wee are not ashamed to confesse, that wee haue had these manie yeares a greate and naturall longing to see our natiue foyle and place of our birthe and breeding, and this salmond-like instincte of ouris hath restlesslie, both when wee wer awake, and manie times in our sleepe, so stirred vp our thoughtes and bended our desires to make a iorney thether, that wee can neuer rest satisfied till it shall please God that wee may accomplish it; and this wee do, vpon our honour, proteste to be the maine and

principall motiue of our intendit iorney. But vnto this desire of ouris, proceeding from a naturall man, is joynd the care wee haue to discharge our kingle office the time of our being there, and so to mak vse of our naturall affection, by applying that occasion to the discharge of our calling; wherein, firste, our greateste care shalbe to heare and giue redresse to such iuste complaintes, if anie there be, of our subiectes, as coule not vtherwise be so well redrest withoute our owne presence; and our nexte cair shall be to reforme anie such abuse or disorder, if wee shall finde anie, as could not be so well performed in our absence. As for making anie alterations or reformations in the state of that gouernment, eyther ecclesiasticall or ciuile, it is trew wee wilbe glad that by our presence as manie thingis tending to good as may be, may haue their setting in the time of our being there, but we wish not onlie you, who, by your place, ar best acquaynted with our intentionis, but all our good subiectes of whatfoeuer degree, to haue that fetled confidence in our honestie and discretion, that wee will not so much as wish anie thing to be done there, which shall not tende to the glorie of God and the well of that commonwealth, and all our good subiectis therein. As also, there may be diuers thinges, which, although wee mighte iustlie wish them, yet may ther be so manie impedimentis and lettes to crosse them, that although, in our conscience and honestie, wee might auow them to be good, yet in our discretion we wold be loth to trouble ourselfe and our good subiectes with them at this time, except they mighte aswell proue to the generall liking and applause of our people, as to the benefite and well of the commonwealth. Wee ar therefor hereby earnestlie to desire you, that yee will, not onlie for your oune partes, harbour no preiudged conceapte of our intention vpon the ground of these idle rumouris, bot also make this our sincer declaration come to the eares of our other good subiectes, [that] wee may haue conforte of such a ioyfull meeting there with our people, as wee for our parte shall euer deferue. To conclude, wee pray you to reste assured that our intention is so to behaue ourselfe, the time of our being there, as euerie one shall see that our care shall not be wanting to do as much good as wee can, and yet so to carie ourselfe, as our actions

shalbe accompanied with the applaufe and hearty confente of all our good people.

[Indorfed :]

Lettre dited by his Maieftie felfe to the Counfell, before his going to Scotland.

CLXIX.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1617.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

As I did oftymes importune your maieftie at your being heir, by dealing with your hienes that no fauor might be granted to Symon Scott of Bonyngtoun, himfelf, his breither and complices, for the cruell flaugter of one of the fones of Walter Scott of Harden,* fo will I now, in moft humble maner, craue pardone to put your heines in remembrance thair of. I knaw they haue fent vp to folicit the buffines, and ar put in houpe, by the moyane of thair freindis thair, to get a pardone, at leift to procurir the gift of thair lifrentis to be difponit to fume freind for thair behou, whiche is almoft equiualent to a pardon. Geue they wer apprehendit and broght to thair punefchment, it wer not amiffe to difpone thair efcheatis and lyfrentis in fauoris of thair freindis and childering; and counonlie that cours is keiped when malefactoris are punefched for thair faultis; but fuche as committ flaugter, and ar maid rebelles for the fame, thair efcheates and lyfrentis vfes alwyfe to be difponed to the partie that hes gottin the herme, and fo is maid a part of thair punefch-

* In October 1616, "Walter Scot, second sone to Harden, was cruelly murdered by Scot, Laird of Boniton, and hes brother; the murderers escaped."

ment. This cours haue I alwyfe keped in your maiefteis feruice, and neuer fuffered the efcheat of a malefactour that efcheaped punifchment to pas in his fauoris. I procured your hienes hand to a fignatour of that lyfrent in fauoris of my fone-in-law, who is brother to the perfone that wes killed. Geue your maieftie wilbe pleafed that I geue it him to be put throw, anie fuit to be maid in fauoris of the malefactoris may be refused with the better reafone, that your hienes haue maid grant thairof already. Whairanent I humblie intreat the fignificatiōne of your maiefteis plefour, and will end with earnest and feruent prayeris for your hienes longe preferuatiōne in all healtie and happienes.

Your facred Maiefteis moft humble and
faithfull feruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinbrught, 9 of September 1617.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

CLXX.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 5, 1617.

PLEASE YOUR GRACIOUS MAIESTIE,

I receavid your maiefties letter, fchowing the repoirtis made of me to your maieftie be fuche perfons, and willing and requyreing me, vnder my hand, to certifie your maieftie of my mind in these Articles, which your maieftie defyred to be receavid into this Church.

As to the reporteris, certanelie I admire what fould haue moved thame to repoirt to your maieftie that which was passed in priuat betuix ws;

for, ſpeaking with thame of ſome particulares, I ſchew to thame ſimply my opinionone, to know thair judgement thairin ; bot I neuer ſaid to any of thame that ather I was vnrefolued, or throughly refolued, into theſe Articles, bot was to informe myſelf in tyme of euerie poynt of thame, and to do according to my knowledge to informe otheris. And as to my awin mynd in euerie one of theſe Articles, this is it, Ser ; bot with moſt humble proteſtatioune :—

I. That I trewly fett doun to your maieſtie what I think of thame, being readie, vpon better informatione frome your maieſtie, to amend what is amiſſe.

II. That this is my awin privat opinionone keepit with myſelf, and yit vncommunicat to any man, and fend to your majeſtie firſt to vndergoe your maieſties cenſure.

III. That what I wryte, it is frome a afald mynd, readie to help fordward your ſervice, ſo far as my knowledge and credite may reache ; and thairfoir wold be the more favourable accepted, and able to procure of your majeſtie, that, as your majeſtie hath done before to me, ſo your majeſtie wold put to your hand to pen, and fend me your particular informatione and warrand of theſe Articles, which I may embrace and follow ; for thay ar Articles which I neuer thoght neceſſar to tak paines in to know thame, till I hard your maieſtie propone thame as thoght meete be your maieſtie to be embraced be ws.

I. As to the firſt Article, of Confirmatione: I think it is ſufficiently fett doun in the laſt General Aſſembly at Aberdeene, and needis no more bot to be put in praſtife.

II. As to the nixt Article, of Holy Dayis: of Chriſt our Saviouris natiuitie, paſſionne, refurreſtione, aſcenſionne, and comming of the Holy Spirite, to be keepid with preaching, prayar, prayfe, &c., I think it the more indifferent, becaus I reide that Auguſtine comptis it among apoſto-

lik traditions, and obseruid be all kirkis, Lib. Epist. 118; and fundry Reformid Kirkis vses it, both in Germany and Swisserland, as thair dominicall fermons in these dayis printed testifies.

Bot with vs the fame will seeme more hard to be embraced; becaus hitherto we have beene frie of thame, keeping only the Lordis day, and on it preaching (I am affured) sufficientlie of Christ's nativitie, passione, resurrectione, and ascensione, and comming of the Haly Spirit, almost in all our fermons; and it will be hard to sett vp a weeke day for thame whilk will not be abused be superstition and surfet; and the pastors will be more bufid in declameing against abuses, nor in preaching of Christs gospel. I sehew in my priuat talking with Doctor Young, that giue when these dayis fell on a weeke day, thay fould be referrid to the nixt Lordis day (as the Councill of Nice concludit concerning the day of the celebratione of the Lordis Supper), and the ministrie ordayned to change thair ordinary textis, and mak that the subiect of thair doctrine that day, it wold appeare that your maiesties desyre wer reasonably satisfied.

III. As to the thrid Article, of Baptisme, to be ministred at all tymes to these that craifes it: I think it fould be graunted; and betuix funne and funne, in day time, to be denyed to nane quho is a knowin honest persone of that flocke. Bot to graunt baptisme in priuat houfes, and vnder silence of night, to such as craife it (if this be the Articles meaning), wer to confirme the opinione of absolute necessitie of baptisme, which is dangerous, and to doe as our Church wer vnder persecutione; when as we inioy pace vnder your gracious maiestie to doe the workis of the ministrie in publict, in day light, and at all occasiouns.

IIII. As to the ferd Article, of the celebratione of the Lords Supper in priuat houfes, to persons craueing it: I think it may be graunted, bot not absolutly (for then euerie wyfe most haue it before she come to church from her chyld bed, and euerie headach mvst haue the communion before it come to the calfay, and that graunted to one, most be commoun to otheris, or the pastor falbe exclamed on as a respecter of persons, in end, the sacrament fall become of so small account in

publiēt, as few fall be had to celebrat the remembrance of the Lordis dead, in the publiēt assemblies of the Church, whairupon arose, of old, the celebratioune of priuat messis), bot according to that instance which I hard your maiestie give of your old fervand, Johne Bog, that is, if ane knawin honest man, vpriight in the religioun, haue keepid house or bed for a yeere or tuo, and is vnable through age and feeknes to resort to the church, then he earnestlie craifing it for the confirmatione of his fayth, in the assurance of the remission of his synns and lyfe euerlasting, I think it might be graunted to him, some reasonable number of his honest neighbouris accompanying him thairat, with his minister.

V. As to the fyft Article, of receaving the Lordis Supper kneeling: Trewlie, Ser, I wolde faine be informed of your maiestie, how I might doe it myself? how I might informe otheris to doe so? and how, be reafone, I might meete and mend otheris who ar of contrary mynd? And as for my awin opinione heerin, I think as yit that the best forme of taking it is, as we do, sitting; becaus, first, Christ our Lord did so: he had a table, Luk. 22. 21; and, vers 14, fat down with the tuelf to celebrat the supper; and Christis actiōne sould be our institutiōne. And the Apostles rule is, 1 Cor. 11. 1, “Be the followaris of me as I am of Christ;” and, vers 23, “I haue receavid of the Lord that which I haue delyverid vnto yow;” so following simply the practise of the Lord in the celebratioun of the sacrament.

Nixt, prayar and prayfe going immediatly before the actioun, and following immediatly after the actioun, with kneeling: it appearis most simply that the actioun itself sould be according to the custome vsed in such actiōns, and that is, to eate and drink sitting, and as communicantis with our Lord, to rejoyfe with him at his table.

Thridly, The Churches Apostolik, and such as followid after thame, till the yere 1215, neuer vsed, as I can reid, kneeling at the receaving of the communion, till Pope Innocentius 3, at Lateran, decreed transsubstan-

tiatione of the elementis in the Sacrament; and after him Pope Honorius 3, the yeere 1220, decreed that the elementis shoulde be lifted vp be the preest, adored be the people, and keepid in a box, and on the box shoulde be this inscripitioune:—

“Hic Deum adora: item flecte genu: pisis hic venerabilis hospite Christo.”

And Doctōr Sutliue, a learnid and grave divine, contra Bellarminum de Ceremoniis Missæ, sayis, fol. 99, 100, 101, “Omnes hæ ceremoniæ ex recentiorum Missalium formulis auctoritatem et originem habent.” Then he enumberis amongis the rest, “Et coram eis genuflexiones.

“Item nusquam certe legimus genua flectenda esse coram Sacramento, nisi in missalibus et libris ritualibus.

“Item nihil turpius quam genua coram Sacramento flectere.

“Item nusquam legimus inclinationem corporis et genuum incurvationem coram Sacramento indicium esse; humilitatis aut aliquos viros sanctos aut pios se coram Sacramento panis aut calicis dominici vel corpora sua inclinasse.”

And Bellarmine, a man as seemis mightie for transubstantiatione, wreittis, lib. 4. cap. 30, “De Eucharistia melius discunt rudiores in Eucharistia Sacramento vere esse Christum presentem; et proinde falsam esse hæreticorum doctrinam ex publica adoratione totius ecclesiæ, et honore illo eximio qui huic Sacramento exhibetur, quam ex multis concionibus.” And thairfor in another place he sayis, “Non potest carere suspitione idolatriæ capere eucharistiam genuflexione, nisi concedatur transubstantiatio.”

Thus, I haue simply obeyed your majesties command, in setting down my opinioun of these Articles, which I beseech your majestie to accept in good part, and to amend whair any thing is amisse, be your loveing informatione; remembering how, according to knowledg and abilitie, I have followid your maiestie before, and is now als readie to follow as euer I was (whatsoeuer reportis be made of me); and fall, Godwilling, according to my knowledg, follow the same course to the end; and

thairfoir needis bot informatione and confirmatione, that I may proceed, quhich nowe I attend.

Pardone me now, Ser, to renew my requeaft for your maiefties præcept to your thefaurer to pas my fonns gift, which fo lovingly your maiefties felf hath paffed ; and to befeeche your maieftie, in any reportis that fall be made of me, to keepe ane eare free for my anfore, whilk will encourage me to goe on in the fervice of fo loving a maifter. So, humblie taking my leefe, I recommend your maiefties facred perfone, familie and eſtate, to the bleſſing and proteſtioun of God. Frome Edinburgh, this 5 off Nouember, the day of your maiefties moſt gracious deliuerance from the gunnpoulder treafone of confpyred Papifts, 1617.

Your Maiefties awine old and truſtie feruitour,

M^r P. GALLOWAY.

[Indorfed :]

To his Maieftie.

M^r Patrik Galloway his judgment
anent the 5 Articles of Perth.

5 Novemb. 1617.

CLXXI.—OLIVER ST JOHN TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 25, 1617.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

This noble man, the Lord Cromwell,* beinge defirous to kiffe your maiefties princelie handes, defires to go accompanied with my letters,

* Thomas fourth Lord Cromwell, and great-grandson of the celebrated Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, beheaded by Henry VIII. in the year 1540. This nobleman was in 1625 created Viscount Lecale, and in

which I could not denye vnto him, findinge his caryadge here to be very noble, and himselfe apte and likely to live to be a worthie fervant to your maiestie. He hath humblie befought, that I would make knowne vnto your maiestie his conformitye to your maiesties princely direçtioues, in a controverfie concerning M^r Alexander Julius and Adam Abercromney, wherein, although it was manifest that the state the late Lord Cromwell, his father, had in those landes, was such as he could not passe them away without doinge wronge to his sonne, and that by the lawe he was not compellable to confirme the graunt that his father had made to M^r Julius and Abercromney; yet, in obedience of your maiesties princelie pleafure, he hath assured vnto them a free-farme in those landes, to his hinderance of thirtie or fortie poundis a yeare of his inheritance. Thus much, at his humble desire, I haue presumed to relate to your sacred maiestie, that his promptnes to obeye your maiestie may appeare; leavinge him and his other occasions to your most royall pleafure. Humbly beseechinge the Almightye to bleffe your sacred maiestie with longe life, and a prosperous reigne over vs,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient subiecte
and fervant,

OL. ST. JOHN.*

Dublin, the xxvth of Nouember
1617.

To the Kinges most Sacred Maiestie.

1644 Earl of Ardglass in Ireland, where his property was situated, his father having sold all his English estates. He died in 1653. The Irish Earldom and Viscounty became extinct by the death of Vere Essex, seventh Baron Cromwell, and fourth Earl of Ardglass, without issue male, upon the 26th November 1687. The English Barony has remained dormant.

* Succeeded his father as fourth Lord St John in 1618, and was created, December 28, 1624, Earl of Boliobroke.

CLXXII.—ANNE COUNTESS OF ARGYLL* TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

You shal vnderstand ther is on James Ratrey, who now is in your farvies, that onc was in myne, tel his falsevod pot him awaye. I will now speke it, altho euer sinc, I have byn content to consele it, in hope of amendment. Ther is on Dromand, who now is his wife, that had in trust and keepinge of myne, fundrye thinges to the value of five hundreth povnd or ther aboutis. After shee knew of my determynacion in goinge to Scotland, shee and hee together, secretly by nyght, convayed the fayd goods out of my hovse, and had not byn scarce a fortynght ther bot shee mayd herselfe an occasion, by her evel tonge, to com hear agayn. Within fev wickes after, my lord sent a gentelman with money to paye sum deptis he was owinge in London. Shee and her hvsband would not let the gentelman paye the money, bot would have it in their owne hand, and went to every credetor and prvuaded them it was but desprat deapt, and would haue had them taken, sum halfe, sum a quarter of ther money, to my lordes great dishonor. If you dout of this, Sir, I shal send the men themselues to testyfie it. The same gentelman I desired to reseve her charge, but shee refvsed it, and answred she would keepe it tel my owne cominge, which shee thoughte would never haue byn: But when shee sa mee come, and that shee could get no oather excvse, shee fayd shee with hild them for deapt I was owinge her. I desired to know for what: but shee mayd a byl to mee which she movght have byn shure non would have harkend to aboue the age of twlve in that fashon. What I myght have dun of my owne good will, mor then her depart, after the

* There is no date either to this or the succeeding letter. The writer, Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, was the second wife of Archibald Earl of Argyle, who entered the service of Philip 111. of Spain, and became a Roman Catholic in 1618, much to the vexation of his relatives. His Lady was a Papist herself, and made him a convert. He did not return to England till 1638, in which year he died at London, aged about 62.

delivrie of my thinges, fhee myght haue put to my owne cortefye, if theyr meninge had not byn to have kepte them stile; but that cannot be as longe as ther is a kinge and laves in the cuntrey. I will trvble you, Ser, no fvurther with my tedyvs leater, whos end is to tel you the trvth, fearinge you shovld have byn abvfed by false informacion, which I desire non fheuld bee that I wifh al honor and hapynes to, as on that shall ever remayn

Your louinge frind to difpofe of,

A. ARGYLE.

To my verae good frind, M^{ro} Morey,
of his Magiftyes Bed Chamber.

CLXXIII.—THE COUNTESS OF ARGYLE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

I make no question, knowinge the trvth, that you would eather mayntayne him or anye oather in fo vild a accion; but knowinge of ould the fkope of falfnes and difemulacion of his tonge hath mayd mee this fare to trubuel you. You desired, Ser, by your leter, to vnderftand further of his behavyore in the tyme he was with my lord. It wear vn-femlye to wright every thinge in partikiler what hee dyd; but this fare I will faye, that what a man could do in theft, he left not vndune. Hee had for a while the keepinge of my lordes purfe, but his falfwod in that extended fo fare, that it was foon perfeved halfe a year after his goinge awaye, my lord was faine to paye thinges hee had taken in troft, which my lord befor had payd redye money to him for. When thefe greter

trickes fayld him, hee would not sticke to pilfer anye thinge hee could conveniently. One I toke him with the maner, and mayd him laye it downe agayne. I haue hard diueres report of his steling money out of the pocketes, and that they haue taken him with the maner, but I will speke nothinge of fartentye but that which I haue fene and knowes my selfe vpon my chargies; yet, altho on would thinke it were to much for on to beare paciently, yet the showe of his fayned repentanc was so great, that I protest, Ser, I neuer dyd so mvch as reuele it to anye, tel now this last vileny of his hath mayd mee thinke I haue conefeld it to longe. For anye thinge, Ser, that hath latly hapned, this berar, who hath byne witnes to most part of there procidinges, can tel, if you plese to give him leue, the trvth: he beares a honest nam. I hope he shal not lye in anye-thing. So, I will no longer, Ser, be trubelfom to you to explainn the great ronge I haue refeued, which I am shur is vnmachabel in that kinde, and leue al to your nobvel and wife confederation, and shal now and euer remayne

Your most ashured frind to despose of,

A. ARGYLL.

To my ashured frinde, Mr Murey, of
his Magiftys Bed Chamber.

CLXXIV.—SIR JAMES LUNDIE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 8, 1618.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

It may pleas your most excellent maiestie, vmquhile King
William, of worthie memorie, for the lufe wiche he caryit towardis his

fone naturall, my prediceffour, callit Sir Robert,* thairefter callit Sir Robert of Lundy be King Alexander the Second, gaue all and hail the barony of Lundy, of whome the Lairdis of Lundy hes linialie descendit, as oure charteris and evidentis dois record; and evir since the dayis of King Williame, be the space of foure hundreth, fyfte and fyve yeiris, we haue bene in peciable possessioun of our awin teindis, quhill now laitlie, that the Laird of Largo hes procurit the kirk of Largo, erectit in ane laick patronage, quha intendis most rigorouffie to leid oure teindis: albeit that I haue cauft deal with him thir fevin yeiris bigane for ane new tak of oure awin teindis, quhairunto he will nawayis condiscend be ony persuasioun or reasonable offer; bot hes intendit actioun aganis ws for spoliatioun thairof, whairintill be the rigour of law he is liklie to preuale. The hail Senatouris of your maiesties Colledge of Justice thinkis it agreble with reafon and conscience that we suld still continew in possessioun of our awin teindis, feing we ar fa lang kyndlie takifmen and possessouris thairof; and I am fullie resolyt that thair is no mean to hold me in possessioun of the saidis teindis, bot that it wald pleas your most excellent maiestie to direct ane lettre to the Lordis of your hienes Colledge of Justice, to caus ws both submitt that mater to thame, anent quhat takis the Laird of Largo fall giue of our awin teindis, and quhat fall be gevin thairfoir. This I am most willing to do. It is weill knowin to your maiestie quhat querrellis and deidlie feidis hes followit vpoun rigorous teinding within your hienes kingdome of Scotland, whiche hes bene the ruine of many houses thairof. Most humlie, thairfoir, befeiking your gracious maiestie to prevent ws be your hienes letter to the Lordis of your maiesties Colledge of Justice, thus in all humilitie expecting your

* Sir George Mackenzie, in his MS. Genealogical Collections, observes, in reference to the Laird of Lundie, "His predecessor was Robert de Lunden, naturall son to King William, so surnamed because begotten within the city of London, in England, as some say, or from their lands in Fyfe, which he got from the King, as others [say]. I haue sein him frequently designed by that King, amongst the witnesses in his chartours, 'Roberto de London, filio nostro,' and in ane chartour by King William to the Erle of Stratherne, amongst the witnesses, Joanne de Londonij. I haue sein also ane charter quherin King William gives Roberto de London, filio nostro, the Foresterie of Tith, near Dunfermling, which thereafter the said Robert giues to the abbacy, and designs himself filius Regis Scotiae."

maiesties moſt gracious will and interceſſioun in this point, I moſt humlie tak my leve, kiſſing, with all reverence and humilitie, your moſt gracious hand.

Your Maieſties moſt humle and obedient
ſubieſt and fervitour,

S^a JAMES LUNDIE.

Edinburgh, the 8 of Aprile 1618.

To his moſt excellent Maieſtie.

CLXXV.—HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE COUNCIL.

[1618 ?]

WHEREAS by your lettre vnto vs, yee make mention of the regrete that the magiſtrates of Edinburgh made anent this ordinance, and proclamation craued to be made that it ſhould not be lawfull to laden anie of the commodities of marchandife of that our kingdome in foreyne bottomis, ſo long as anie of our owne contrie ſhippes remayne vnfreighted: to this wee anſuer, that wee are aſſured that yee remember nocht what was done and concluded in that buſines, in our prefence the laſt day that wee ſat at our counfell table in Scotlande, which was this, that as for the generall, it was directlie agreed in theſe verie termes that yee ſette doune in your lettre, without one contrarie vote, and wee our ſelſe did propoude the queſtion; but becaus, it is true, that manie particulair queſtions might reſulte vpon this grounde, which wolde require furder time to be digeſted and debated, thoſe thinges were leſte to a furder time, and a full hearing of both marchandes and mariners. Wee, therefor, for our parte, can ſee no reaſon to change our former reſolution in generall; and as for the diſcontentment of the magiſtrates, wee haue learned to diſtinguiſh betwixt

the particulare well of the marchantes, and the well of the wholle kingdome; nether are wee anie thing feard by that resolution alledged to be taken in France, for wee see no reason whie the wine should be transported to Scotland in French bottomes, since wee do assuredlie know the French wine to be a commoditie of that nature, as France must be faine to vtter once a yeare in anie bottomes, being a commoditie that they must yearlie vende, or else be extreme loafers. And vpon the other parte, naturall reason teacheth vs that Scotlande being a parte of an Ile, cannot be mainteyned nor preferued withoute shipping, and shipping cannot be mainteyned without employment, and the verie law of nature teacheth euerie forte of corporation, kingdome, or contrie, first, to sette themselves and their owne vessels on worke befor they employe anie stranger. For our parte, therefor, yee may giue our counsell there full assurance that no argument can or shalbe made against the generall conclusion which our selfe tooke there, that shalbe hable to alter our resolution in this generall grounde, no more then to make vs beleive that day is nighte, and fire is colde. But as for the particulare conditions and restrictions, which at our being there wee lefte to be debated at full leasour, is, that that course shall still be kepte; and in caise, vpon the hearing of the marchantis and mariners, anie such question shall arise vpon the particulare, as may distracte our counsell in diuers opinions, then and in that case our counsell shall do well to fende vs these controuerted heades, together with their opinions or doubtts therevpon. As for your other pointe of your lettre, wee neede giue no other answer, then that wee approue verie well the order which the counsell hath taken in the same.

[Indorsed:]

His Majesties Answer, dited by him selfe,
concerning transporting goodes in
strange bottomes.

CLXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 19, 1619.

RYGHT HONORABIL COUSIN,

I haue hithertill continued to mak anfuir to ziours of the 26th Januar, that I micht fee fuim progres in ziour befines, all this oulke has been bestowed in ziour aëtions, in feffion with the vassals and fewars in Anandell; all is done to ziour aduocatts contentment. With Dundranane all donne: also, almost as ziour aëtions ar rasonabill, sua I can nocht fay to ziou, hot zie haue als greate fauour off all our breether in feffion* as onye honest man can wish. I knaw particulars heiranent will be mair particularlie writtin to ziou be ziour doars.

Ziour aëtioun with Bonitoun fall be, God willing, donne this next oulke, for I called the other aëtions first in order, as I was desired be ziour agent, James Hamiltoun.† All the occurrents I can write to zou [are], our Bischope of Galloway is departed this lyff.‡ Mr Robert Bruce, minister, according to his sacred majesties royall direction, is confined to his awin houfs, and ane mile about.

Nocht ellis at this present, bot my deutie remembered to ziour good

* Murray could not fail to be in high favour with the judges. He had succeeded the Earl of Dunbar in the management of Scottish affairs, and was all-powerful; so much so, that the proudest of the Scottish nobility sought his patronage.

† The notion of a Lord Chancellor advising and superintending the management of the law proceedings of a friend is somewhat inconsistent with modern ideas of judicial character. There is too much reason to believe, from the evidence that has come down to us, that the administration of justice in Scotland then, and for nearly a century afterwards, was very corrupt. At a later period, Lord Balcarres positively asserts that the leading men of his time got persons thrust in as judges, for the express purpose of influencing the decisions in those cases in which their patrons were personally interested. It is remarkable, that, at the date of Lord Dunfermline's epistle, the English judges were not so subservient as their northern brethren seem to have been; and there is a letter preserved in the Abbotsford Miscellany, in which Sir Henry Montagu, afterwards Earl of Manchester, solicits two of the judges to favour a man who had been one of the King's falconers, but who was in prison on a charge of felony. These upright men disregarded the application, and the culprit having been convicted, they shewed him no favour, but ordered his instant execution, which, to Sir Henry's great annoyance (as he had interfered to gratify the King), actually took place. See p. 212.

‡ William Coupar, a learned and excellent man. He died 15th February 1619.

half mairaw,* wiffis ziow baith all ziours all happines and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing at command,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 19 Feb^r. 1619.

To my weilbeloued Coufen, Mr Murray
of Lochmaben, off his facred Maieftie
Bedchalmer.

CLXXVII.—NOTE OF THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

AUGUST 25, 1619.

Halyruideous, xxv. Auguft 1619.

THE mater anent the navigatioun and fraughting of strangearis shippis wes this day at grite lenthe agitat befor the counfell, and the baill objectionis, anfueris, replyis, and duplyis, maid thairanent in write wer all red, and the pairtyis hard thairupoun; and after lang conteftatioun on ather fyde, the mater wes drawne to tua pointis, to witt, the difcuffing of the difficulteis and impedimentis proponned anent the easterline trade, quhilk is the cheif point now contrauertit, and the fetting doun of the frauchtis and conditionis of goode and deutifull feruice on the pairt of the marinaris to and fra France, Spayne, and Flanders; and for this purpois, the marcheantis and marinaris hes nominat aucht on ather fyde to conveene and meet at Edinburgh, vpoun the xiii day of September now approtcheing, with my Lord Prefident and fome otheris of the counfaill appointit for that buffynes, quho ar to deale thairin, and to fie yff

* Marrow, *i.e.* his wife.

with mutuall consent the pointis contrauertit may be broght to ony goode concludfoun, and thay ar to reporte thair procedingis to the counfaill, vpoun the xv day of the faid moneth of September, at quhilk tyme this mater wilbe putt to a point without forder delay.*

Thair wes ane other point contrauertit, anent the portage, quhilk is discuffit by difchairgeing of all vnfreemen to haif portage.

The particulair recommendit be his maieftie to the counfaill, anent the refyneing of fugair, is thocht, in the generall, to be very reaounable; and yitt for remoueing of all questioun and obiectionis that may be proponned aganis the expedencie of the fame, the counfaill hes appointit some of thair number to confer thairupoun, and to reporte thair opinion thairanent.

The particulair anent the reffett of Egyptianis, whilk wes lykwayes recommendit be his maieftie, hes reffaut this answer, to witt, that yf the perfone recommendit be his maieftie will call the reffettaris of thir Egyptianis befor his maiefties thefaurair, and deputie thefaurair, and fuche otheris of the counfell as falbe adjoyned vnto thame, and will furneis probatioun aganis thame, that thay fall haif the ane half of the efcheatis and penalteis of the perfonis that falbe conuict of the faid reffett.

— The patent grantit be his maieftie to Gilbert Dik for the Booke of Commoun Prayer is exped.

The pouder boughte in Danfkin for his maieftie being taken to the vse of the King of Denmark; and the counfell hauing written to him, desiring that it mighte be restored to the marchant who had boughte it for his maiefties vse, no order was taken in the mater; and, therefor, it is humblie desired that his maieftie may be pleased to require his brother, the King of Denmark, to take iuste freindlie order in the busines, and to permitte the marchantes of this contrie to transporte thair pouder and other lawfull wares, withoute any trouble or impediment in his boundes.

* No note of the proceedings in September occurs among Sir James Balfour's MSS., but see Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 347.

CLXXVIII.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

MAY IT PLAES YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I kno that begging is ane ordinar phrafe for all men that ar futers for thee kings liberalitie, and of this fort I haue beine on, this long tyme, altho I haue as yit come no speid, bot nou, Sir, I am a begger of ane vther kynd, if nobilitie vill permit pouerty to expresse itself in thee hyest degree, or if your maiestie can think me poore, that hes nather maete, fyre, clothes, monny, nor credit. I am perfuadit your maiestie will think this ane strainge chainge from that of my prediceffours, who war rather hellfull and lenners to vthers, then borrouers from any: some pairt of thair thankfullnes your maiestie hes feine, altho not as thay wischt. Whoofouer, God hes nou layde his correcting hand on me, yit can I plaede nothing bot vwirrhines, and becaus kings ar called gods, it may be your majestie wald take euill (thee word of deseruing), I will forbaer to vse that too, only, Sir, geiue me leiuie to begge your charatie, in such misffour as it fall plaese your majestie best to extend thee fame, according to my present misery, vntill your maiestie may be plaesd to vse your liberalitie according to your gratius promise. Thus, remitting all to your maiesteis gratius confideration, I kisse your majesties hands.

Your Majesteis most humble and obedient
subiect and seruant,

WILL: TULLIBARDINE.*

[No date.†]

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

* William, second Earl of Tullibardine. See letter from him to John Murray, p. 280. He died in the year 1626. He married Lady Dorothea Stewart, eldest daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl, by whom he had one son, John, whose right to the title of Atholl was confirmed by Charles I. 17th February 1629.

† Probably written in the year 1620.

CLXXIX.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

PLEIS YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I haue so long expectid your maiesteis gratius fauour, for releiffe of my distressid esteat, that nou I am vtterly ondone, for I haue fould all my fathers patrimony, I haue ingadgd all the esteat off Atholl, and I haue bond my freinds heir and in Scotland for great foumes off monny, that I dar not go home, and hardy byde heir vithout your maiesteis present hellpe. I befeische your maiestie not to be displeide that I propone on off this vuertours; the making off ane Inglishe barroune or tua thousand pounds sterling out off your Eschequer heir, vith sex thousand pundis sterling off the taxatione of Scotland; or ells that your maiestie will geiue me leiuie to fell my styll of Tullibardine to ane Inglishe man.

Sir, it is not presumtione that moues me, bot extreme necessitie; and I houpe your maiestie will take it fo, vtheruayis I vill be forst to fell all, and fo no moir to be your subiect, althoo all misereis and banifment fall neuer make me leue to be

Your Maiesteis most humble and
obedient feruant,

TULLIBARDINE.

To his sacreide Maiestie.*

* There is no date to this letter. It was probably written not long after the preceding one. It presents a singular picture of the extreme poverty of this Scottish nobleman, who seems willing to sell his title even to an Englishman, in order that he may obtain the means of subsistence.

CLXXX.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[No Date.]

RIGHTIE TRUSTIE AND RIGHTIE WELLBEILOUED CUSENS AND
COUNSELLOURS, AND RIGHTIE TRUSTIE AND WELLBE-
LOVED COUNSELLORS,

We greeete you well. Whereas by reafons of thofe troubles in France, a verie great number of people profefling oure religione haue lofte their fortunes in that realme, and for thair fafetie fledde with their wiues, childrene, and families into this, hauing no other meanes of mayntinance, fauinge charitie of well difpofed people, wee haue bene pleafed, oute of our royall commiferation of their diftreffed eftate, to permitte a voluntarie contribution to be leuied in this our kingdom, frome fuch as oute of their christian charitie fhallbe difpofed to contribute to their reliefe; and although wee are not ignorant of the fmall ftore of monie prefentlie to be founde in that our kingdome, yet in fo pitifull a cafe, wee haue bene pleafed to yealde to the humble fuite of the deputies of the French Church here, who haue moſte humblie befoughte vs that the volunterie helpe of well difpof'd people there may likewise be craued and collected, it is therefor our pleaſor that yee giue direktion to the Archbyſchoppes to write to the Byſchoppes of their prouinces, to recommende the matter to the miniſters of their dioceſes, and they to recommende it to the charitable deuotion of their particular flockes, and fuch moire as ſhalbe leuied for that effect, to be by the miniſter of each parroch broughte to his ordinauce, and by him to the Archbiſhop.

CLXXXI.—ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EARL AND
 COUNTESS OF HUME AND JOHN STEWART.

APRIL 12, 1620.

ARTICLES of Agriement fet downe by his maiestie, and agreit to by James Erle of Hume, and the Countes of Hume, his mothir, for hir entres, on the ane pairt; and Johne Stewart, sone to Frances, sumtyme Erle Bothwell, on the vther pairt, for a finall determinatioun of all difference and contraverfie betuene thame, concernyng the Abbacie of Coldingham, to be extendit, and past in the best forme of securitie that can be devyfed for that effect, by his maiesties Chancellor, Prefident, and Advocat, with advyfe of both the pairties lawers.

First, That the said erle and his mother, for hir entres, dispone, renunce, and transfer in the favoures of the said Johne, his airis, assignyis, and successeouris, all richt, entres, and possessioun, quhilk they haue or may claime, to ane part of the landis and teindis of the said abbacie, pendicle and pertinent thair of, to which Johne Stewart wes provyedit, and had richt befor his said fatheris forfaltour; with warrandice from ther awin proper factis and deidis allenerlie, done or to be done since the deceis of Alexander, last Erle off Home. That is to say, that they haue nethir maid nor fall mak ane other richt or translatioun of the title and possessioun foirsaid, bot to the said Johne Stewart onlie; and with this explanatioun, that that dispositioun falbe nowyfe interpreted nor accopted anie deid done by them, quhairby they or anie of them may be

called or perfewed at the instance of the said Johne or his foirfaidis, or anie other partie quhatsumever, for warrandice of anie anterior takis or richtis, fet, maid, or granted be the said Erle of Hume ; bot that the said Johne Stewart, his airis and successouris, fall warrand and relieve the present erle and countes, thair airis and successouris, of all warrandice quhilk may follow, be occasione of these presentis, at the instance of quhatsumevir perfonas haueing or pretending richt from the said late Erle off Home : Provyiding alweyis, that the grant beiroff fall nowyfe prejudge the said Johne in his awin anteriour richtis, nor bind him in anie sort to warrand, ratifie, or approve the said deidis done be the said late Erle of Home ; bot that it falbe lawfull to him to reduce and annull the same be vertew of his forsaid anteriour richtes be law.

That therfor the said Johne fall give perfite securitie to the said Erle of Home, for peyment to him of the sowme off fourtie eight thousand pundis Scottis, in maner and at the termes after following : viz. off ane fourt pairt thairoff, being tuell thousand pundis money foirfaid, at Mertimes nixtocum in this instant geir of God 1620 ; of vther tuell thousand pundis at Whitfonday ; and of ane thrid 12 thousand pundis at Mertimes thairefter 1621 ; and of the last tuell thousand pundis, in full and compleit payment of the foirfaid sowme of 48000 pundis, at the terme of Witfonday 1622, with vsuall penalties for ilk termes failzie : And to the effect that the said late Erle of Home's debtis dew be bandis, and as zit vnrelivet, being satisfiet and peyit furth off the first end of the said sowme, and ane competent proportioun of the profeit thairoff zeirlie allowit to the said countes, for recompense of the lose quhilk scho fall sustene by this transactioun in quyteing onie thing scho had richt to for her lyfytyme, the supplus thairoff may be maid furthcuming to the said Erle of Home, and his airis of his awin bodie, and failzeing therof, to the said erles sifteris, thair airis and assigneys : And that the samyn may be dewlie imployit for his and thair best profeit, it is his maiesties plisour, that the said lordis caus sufficient securitie be maid be the said countes, ather be finding of caution, or, if that cannot be becaus scho is a franger, be binding of hir conjunctfee for performance of the samyn.

That the said Johne lykweyis bind and obleis his haill landis, teindis, and vtheris apertaining to him of the said abbacie, for payment to the said erle, and his aires male of his bodie, zeirlie of the fowme off thrie thousand sex hundreth pundis Scottis, at tua termes in the geir, Witfonday and Mertimes, be equal portiounes, the first termes payment to be reuled be his entrie, and fet downe be the said lordis, according to the custum and practife in the countrey in the lyke caiffis. Provyiding alweyis, that if it fall happen the said erle to die without airis male getting of his awin bodie, that the said annuite of thrie thousand sax hundreth pundis Scottis fall returne to the said Johne, and remane with him and his foirfaidis heritable.

That the said Johne fet and grant takis of the teindis of Ald Cambes and Fastcastell to the said erle, and the airis male of his bodie, he and they de-faceing and allowing to the said Johne and his foirfaidis zeirly, of the said annuite of thrie thousand sax hundreth pundis Scottis, so much as by dew estimatioun salbe fund equivalent to the zeirlie value of the saidis teindis; with this provisioun, that failling airis male of the said erles awin bodie, the saidis takis fall furthwith expyre and be null of them selfis, and the richt of the saidis teindis returne to the said Johne and his foirfaidis, to be intromettit with and disponit vpon at ther plifour: And if the saidis pairties at ther appeirance befor the saidis lordis do not agrie vpon the zeirlie worth of the saidis teindis, that ilk of thame in that case chose and nominat tuo freindis to try and vpon oath to informe the saidis lordis of the trew value of the same; and that accordingley they ordane a proportionable defalcation to be expresse conditioned and mentioned in the saidis takis, quhilk gif the said erle refuse to condiscend to, that then it salbe lawfull to the said Johne and his foirfaidis to intromet with the saidis teindis, and dispone therupon at their plifour, they paying in that cace zeirlie the foirfaid haill fowme of thrie thousand sax hundreth pundis Scottis money.

That Johne Stewart discharge the said erle, his said mother, and ther foirfaidis, of all byrun dewties and profetis of the said abbacie since the late Erle Homes possessioun therof; provyiding alweyis, that (if the afoir-

namet lordis fall find it requiſite and neceſſar for the ſaid Johne his bettir ſecuritie) the ſaid erle be in that caſe bund at his majoritie to ratiſie and approve the diſpoſitiounes and ſecurities to be now maid in favouris of the ſaid Johne and his foirſaidis, and that, if the ſaid erle reſufe to do the ſame, it ſalbe lawfull to the ſaid Johne and his foirſaidis, nochtwithſtanding the ſaid diſcharge, to call and perſew, be ordour of law, for the ſaidis byrumis : And lykweyis, that, in caſe of his ſaid reſuifeſfall, the takis ordaned, as ſaid is, to be ſet to him, ſall fall, and be null in themſelfis, and the ſaid Johne fred, from thencefurth, of all forther payment of the ſaid annuities of thrie thouſand ſax hundreth pundis money foirſaid, and the ſaid erle and his foirſaidis be bund and obleiſt in reſeyment of the foirſaid ſowme of fourtie aucht thouſand pundis Scottis to the ſaid Johne and his foirſaidis.

That, for the better ſecuring and eſtableiſing of the ſaid Johne and his foirſaidis in the heritable richt and poſſeſſioun of the ſaid abbacie, and pertinentis of the ſame, quberunto he wes provyidit befor his ſaid late fatheris fall, the ſaidis lordis, with advyſe of his laweris, cauſ forme and ſend to his maieſtie ſuch new richtis and ſecurities, or confirmatiounes and ratificatiounes of his auld richtis, containing in them ane erectioun of the abbacie to him and his foirſaidis (bot without title and dignitie of a lord), as, in ther jugement, they ſall think moſt effectuell to ſecure him and them of the ſame.

Laſtlie, It is his maieſties plifour, that, for the ſpidier performance of the premiſſis, baith the ſaidis pairties ſall repair to his maieſties kingdome of Scotland betuene the date heiroff and the day off nixtocum, that ſo they may the moir convenientlie meit with the foirnamet lordis, to the effect foirſaid ; and in taikin of ther willing conſent to the fulfilling of the haill premiſſis, to theſe preſentis, ſigned by his maieſtie, both the ſaidis pairties haue ſet ther handis : At Whytehall and St Mertenes Lane, the tuelf and auchteint dayis of Apryle 1620, befor Archibald Prymrois and Duncane Prymrois, and Mr Patrik Hammiltoun, witnes to Johne Stewartes ſubſcriptioun, and Mr Edward Wrae, off his ma-

iefties bedchalmers, and James Dowglas, witnes to the Countes of Homes.
Sic subfcribitur,

A. HOME.

Edward Wray, witnes to the Countes of Homes subfcription. James Dowglas, witnes to hir subfcription.*

J. STEUART.

Archibald Prymrois, witnes to Johne Stewartes subfcription. Duncane Prymrois, witnes to his subfcriptione.

CLXXXII.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 30, 1620.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

It is litle past a yeare fence forrane moneyes, by proclamatione, wer discharged to haue cours within this realme; bott that prohibitione hes bred fuche vniuersal feartie of moneyes throuhout the whole kingdome, as your maieftes subiectes of all fortis ar liklie thairby to recaue irreparable herme, geue fume speidy and tymous remedy be not provydit. Amongest a number of wther inconvenientis, your maieftes coffers heir ar maid fo emptie, that I find great difficultie to gett whairwith to furneische moneyes for your maieftes buildingis, and the wther necessarrie and ordinarie burdingis, altho no part thair of wer to be employed for paymentis dew befor Witfonday last; and geue the inconvenient fall continow and incres, your subiectis heir, of all rankis, wilbe rendered unable to performe thair dew seruice for your maieftes honour, when it fall pleas God we haue the happienes to sie your maieftie within this kingdome. It wilbe peraduentur obiected aganes the humble petitione presented

* "It is lykeweyis signed by his Maiestie."

in name of the noblemen, burowes, and remanent subiectis of this kingdome, whairament your maiestie hes a lettre frome the Lordis of Cownfell, that thair desyr wilbe preiudiciall to your maiesteis benefeitt, arryving frome the mynt, whairament it will pleas your maiestie be informed, that, albeit for the space of ane half yeare after the proclamacione, moneyes came by exchange to the mynt hous moir abundantlie nor they did for a long tyme befor, yet the frie proffeit thairof, and of all that cam in for the space of twa yeares (the bulzeoun payable by the merchantis excepted) did litle exceid the foume of sex or fevin thowsand merkis Scottis, as the compt laitlie maid by the maister of the coinziehous doethe testifie. Nor will the geving cours to fume spaces of forraine moneyes heir do preiudice to your maiesteis subiectis of England, whair these spaces, beand transported frome hence, will onlie serue for bulzeoun, altho they pas in paymentis amongest yowr maiesteis subiectis heir. The difficultie I find to do yowr maiesteis seruice, by reafoun of the present scarftie, with the earnest desyr I haue that your maiesteis subiectis heir may be eased of fuche inconvenient, haue moved me to present to your maiesteis princelie confideration these informall lynes, for the whiche I humbly craue your maiesteis pardoun, and will end with my humble prayer for your maiesteis long preferuation in all healtie and happienes.

Your sacred Maiesteis most humble
and faithfull seruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinburgh, the last of June 1620.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXIII.—MR H. BLYTH* TO THE REVEREND HENRY CHARTERIS.

DECEMBER 26, 1620.

MY DEIR AND MAIST LOVING BROTHER,

I hartlie wishe to zow in the Lord Jefus, our common Sauour, the sweit affluence and joyfull increafe of all spirituall happines with zour deir bedfellow and hopefull children. I haue bene and am in great langour defyring to heir of zour weifair, and mervells ze wryt not to me, feing I forzeitt nocht zow as I haue occassioun, for ze are still in my remembrance, wifhing it may pleife our good God I may haue agayne the zour face, and inioy the sweitnes of our wonted christiane familiaritie. I [doubt] nocht, deir brother, bot ze remember me also, bot I wald haue the testimonies of zour loving remembrance more frequent be zour wryting to me, till it pleife our God to bring ws more neir to vther. As to my present estait, I preis my God it is tolerable. I am awayting in patience the isfew it fall pleis my heavenly Lord to fend of my troble, wherin my God hes wyslie disposed. Albeit I think in vnderfered in regard of all the instruments wha hes concurred in the sam. I am expecting a relenting of this rigorous dealing, hoping also that be zour intercessioun with sic vther my weillwillers thair, the sam may be procured att St Androifs hands, be whais will, as I vnderstand, only I am deteined heir. I think it my dewte to omit no lawfull meane I may vfe for my awin releif, and thairfor will renew my earnest requieft to zow as my most speciall and loving brother and freind, to remember me as ze find occassioun, with the help of Mr Thomes, my father, and billie, Mr James King, and sic vthers ze think meit in speiking St Androis for me, that I may haue libertie ayther to cum hame agayne, or at least may haue a tyme granted to putt my disfordered affairs to a poynt, as I may within thir four or fyue dayes. I being in Channorie mett with the

* Mr Henry Blyth, minister of the Canongate, on the 2d July 1619, was brought before the Court of High Commission—suspended from his ministry, and banished to Inverness by the King's orders. See an account of his troubles in the printed edition of Calderwood's Church History, pp. 731 and 735.

Bishop of Ros,* wha professis great kyndnes to me, and willed me to wryt my self to St Androis, quhilk he thinks wald effectuāt muche, for he tells me it may be that St Androis† stormes, and thinks I dort that wryts not to him my self. Trewlie I think not ill of the overture, for my not wryting to St Androis aryfes of na contempt, and if that meane may do good I mind not to neglect it. The Bishop of Ros, out of his love to me, quhilk he professis, hes drawn vp a minute according to the quhilk I fuld frame my letter to St Androis. When I wryt it I fall send zow the copie. In the meane tyme, do ze as the Lord fall present occasioun, and be not fa slaw in wryting to me anent that, or ony vther purpose ze pleis, for nothing will cum fra zow quhilk will not be moft acceptable to me. My jewell is weill, all preifes to God, and hes hir hartlie commendatioun to zow, and her sweit kymmer and sifter, Helene, hes bene maist dangeroullie diseased thir 18 weeks, as I dowt not ze haue hard, bot in the Lords gracious mercy is recovered. All the rest of the barines hes had the fluxe thir many days, bot I hope without preiudice of thair health. The bears haft cutts me short. I pray zow remember all our freinds, namely, zour honest mother-in-law, zour brothir, and Mr Thomes Sydferf. He wrytes not to me, and I haue small purpos to him bot commendatiouns, quhilk I pray zow mak in my name. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with zow.

Your loving brothir, in all I may
in the Lord Jesus,

M^r. H. BLYTHE.

Inverness, 26 Decemb : 1620.

To my maist loving and deir Brothir,
Mr Henrie Charteris, Minister of
the Evangell, at Edinburt, thes.‡

* Patrick Lyndesay, advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613, translated to the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, 1633.

† Archbishop Spottiswood.

‡ Communicated by Mr David Laing. The original letter had been pasted upon the boards of a book to strengthen the binding.

CLXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 30, 1621.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND COUSING,

I directed ane pacquett to ziw 9 instant, quhilk I lang to onderstand that zie refaued, because I directed the same at Mr Thomas Henderfon his desire, and with his lettirs to ziw. Our Archibifchioppe of St Androis is going thair to Court, in this terrible euill waddir, at the greate entreatie off all the nobilitie was heir at this conuention, to giue his sacred maiestie, in name of all, all possibill satisfiactioun. I man requiest ziw also, in name of all, and my self also, to assist the said lord bifchioppe be all ziwour best meanis, so he may be weill hard and accepted be his maiestie. I assure ziw, if his maiestie fall giue eare to his ouuerures, and profecute sic course as he will propone, it will worke all for the bettir to his maiesties intentiouns. I hoipe my lord bifchioppe will latt his maiestie knaw I did for my awin pairt all I nicht, to haue all at his maiesties wifs and will; sua I did in treuth, and, if ziwour heir off onye other, I pray ziwour ansuir for me, and latt me knaw it: I fall mak it cleir for ziwour releiff and my awin. Mr Archibald Hamiltoun, called Doctour Hamiltoun, hes shiawin me he was meikill behaldin to ziwour quhen he was thair this last fomer. He sh[iawis] also that he had ane promeis of his maiestie, as ziwour knaw, off ane bifchioprick in Ireland; the bifchiopricke off Cassillis has required me to remembir ziwour of the fame, for he onderstandis the present bifchioppe* is werye weake, if he be nocht gone, and wald be thairfore remembred to his maiestie. I wald zie did him onye guid zie could, for I knaw na farder in the besines nor be him. He is minister of Paslay, and I knaw werye weill his father, ane werye honest man, Claude off the Cochno; thairfore I remitt that to ziwour awin wifdome, albet I wifs euier our pepill had all rafonabill and possibill helpe. I haue writtin to

* Miler Magrath, a Franciscan friar, who, turning Protestant, was promoted to the see of Cashell in 1570. He died, aged 100 years, in 1622. He was succeeded by Malcolm Hamilton, and in 1630 Archibald Hamilton was translated from Killala to this Archbishoprick. He died at Stockholm in 1659, aged 80 years.

ziow fuim tymes to remembir ziow helpe me to ane new poolke for the greate feale, bot hes had na ansuir fra ziow zit off the fame; nather is thair haift in the mater, bot I wifs it nocht forziett. I haue na farder to wryte to ziow, other nor my awin and my half-marrows maift hartlie commendations to ziow and ziour bedfallow. Sua wiffis ziow baith and all zjours all happines,

Ziour maift affectionat Cofing,
to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 30 Jan^r. 1621.

To the Right Honorabill my
weilbeloued Coufing, Jhone
Murray off Lochmaben, in
his sacred Maiesties Bed-
chalmer.

CLXXXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH TO JAMES VI.

APRIL 6, 1621.

MAIST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOUERANE,

As none of our endeouris doe satisfie ws till we find thame approved by your sacred maiestie, fo your maiesties trustie counfailour the Archibifchop of Sanctandrois, vpone his returne haveing delyuerit to vs, to our inestimable conforte, your maiesties gracious constructioun of our meanest seruices in the rewellis of your royall affection, and for our furdur incouragement in the work of draperie latelie intendit be vs, your maiesties grant of findrie liberties and priueledgis, we can not bot in all

humilitie and submissioun of myndis, rander to your maiestie all those sacrifices of maist humble submissioun and acknowledgement of your royall faouours, quhilk is dew to so great, gracious, and wyse a monarche; and humblie prostrate our selfes, and quhat we haue in this world dearest to vs, at your sacred feet to be disposed vpon. To this effect we haue directed the bearar heirof, Maister Johne Hay, our clerk and commissioner, to your maiestie, and, with all, humblie intreate from your sacred maiestie those supplies whiche we houped to haue reffaued by your maiesties royall prefens (more then which nothing in earth can be pleasing to vs), quhairf we fall now be eclipsed, if it fall not pleas your sacred maiestie, vnder your royall hand, to giue warrant to your maiesties estaites of parliament heir to be conuened, to ratifie those grants whairwith your sacred maiestie and your maist noble progenitouris hes formerlie beautified this your maiesties guid toun. For the quhilk, as we haue nothing to rander bot which is dew, so will we assure your maiestie we fall not value our lyffes nor our fortunes to mak your maiestie demonstratioun of our royall affectiounis, quhen we fall haue the happienes of the occasioun to schaw it; nather fall any thing be more in the lyne of our defyres, then that your maiesties dayis may be extendit to the periode of nature, the limites of your empyre to the boundis of your matcheleffe wisdome and worth, that as in all royall furniture, so in dominioun, your sacred maiestie may surpasse all earthlie monarches. And sua, maist humblie craving pardoun for our presumptioun, remitting quhat furdur is to be said to our commissioner, quhom your maiestie fall be pleased to trust on our behalfe, we fall euer rest

Your Maiesties maist humble and obedient subiectis,
The Provest and Baillies of Edinburgh,

D. AIKINHEID, PROVEST.

W^m. DICK, BAILLIE.

ROBERT DOUGALL, BAILLIE.

HARY MORESONE, BAILLIE.

JHONE MAKNACHT, BAILLIE.

Edinburgh, 6 April 1621.

To his most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXVI.—THE EARL OF MORTON TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1621.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Wpon the ficht of a licence giuin be your maieftie to Mr Alexander Coluill, for the freindis of the hous of Argyll,* to deal with that erle to try if we micht recall him from that euill cours wharin he hes plungit him felue, I, as on who, both by bluid and allyance, am oblisit to wifch the standing of that hous, did wret to him to kno if he grundid him felue upon anie refons in that cours wich he had takin; as also, I laborit to fie if yet he was cum to that fence of him felue as to wifch a retrait from his euill wayis: His anfuer cam sfolie to me, and when I had it, I could gedder no uther thing by it, bot that he ferit I had no uther pouer bot by my kynd wifchis to procur him a faif retrait. Heirupon I heue prefumit humble to beg your maiefties refolution, if without offence I may yet trauell with the Erle of Argyll to bring him to a iust acknoledgement of his grait ouersicht, and that he may mak fuch offers of amendment as may be acceptable to your maieftie: and in my trauels to this effect, albeit I will ftryue to scho my felue a kynd freind to him and to his hous, yet my greteft cair fall be, that I do no thing which may be unfeimlie for

Your Majesties most faithful subject
and humble feruitor,

MORTON.†

Neuhous, 18 Apryl 1621.

To the King his most sacred Majestie.

* The Earl of Argyll left his own country, took service under the King of Spain, and became a Papist. His conversion, as we have previously remarked, was brought about by his second wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, a Roman Catholic lady. Craig of Rose-Craig has these lines on him:

Now Earle of Guile, and Lord Forlorn thou goes,
Quitting thy prince, to serve his Spanish foes.
No faith in plaids, no trust in Highland trews,
Camelion like, they change to many hues.

† William seventh Earl of Morton. He was born in 1582, and died in his sixty-sixth year, 7th August

CLXXXVII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI

APRIL 25, 1621.

SIR,

For obediens of your maiesties comands delyuerit vnto me oy Sir Patrick Morray, I haive bein als caerfull as the shortnefs of tym vold suffer me to try the best mein for effectuating your gracious plefor anent the makking of Glenammind* a forest, as this berar your maiesties seruaut can most particularlie shau you, quhat I can nott doo att this tym I shall very shortlie, I houp, rander you an account of; the greateft parts of all the forest most be of Sir Patricks aun lands, only this far I vill afuir your maiestie, thair is not in this kingdom so fitt a place for a forest. In this, or any thing els quhairin I can ferue your maiestie, I shall euer be reddie as my deutie binds me. Thus, efter the kissing of your sacred handis, I humblie rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect
and feruitour,

MAR.

Alluay, the xxv of Apryll 1621.

To the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

1648. He suffered great pecuniary losses by his support of the royal cause during the great civil war, and was compelled to part with his noble property of Dalkeith—now a principal estate of the Buccleuch family. His sister, Lady Agnes, was the first wife of the Earl of Argyle.

* A picturesque valley in Perthshire, watered by the river Almond.

CLXXXVIII.—THE TREW INFORMATIOUN OF THE ACSIDENT FALLIN OUT
BETUIX DRUMLANGRIG AND CASSCHOGILL, VPON SATTURDAY THE
TUELF F DAY OF MAY, 1621 YEIRE.

IN the first, It is to be rememberit, that the landis of Airdoche and Cnokcone, pertening to David Douglas, brother to the Laird of Drumlangrig, and the landis of Casschogile, pertening to Sir Robert Douglas, ar baith hauldin of the hous of Drumlangrig, and lyand within the barronie thair-off, merchand togidder, weill knawin, be ane walter passaige diffending from the hicht of the hill, and rining doune betwix thame. Thair being no guid mois vpon that pairt of the landis pertening to Casschogile, thay haue oft and diuerse times haid licence and tollerance of the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, as thair kinefmen and freindis, to cast and wine thair peattis and haill elding vpon the landis of Cnokconie, and diueris tymes as thai omittit thair dewtie to the hous of Drumlangrig, thay haue beine interupit and impedit thairof, ay and quhill thai creavit libertie out of luiff frome the Lairdis of Drumlangrig to cast thair faidis peattis thair, quhilkes being creavit was ever granted.

It is to be rememberit, that this being the first yeir of the faid David Douglas his entrie to the faidis landis of Erdoche and Cnokconie, fyne the deceis of his vmquhile faither, and expyring of his minoritie, he haueing the occasioun to go to Hawick to vifeit his mother, quhilk is mair nor fourtie four mylnes distant fra the faidis landis, the faid David, efor his goeing, did defyre his brother James Douglas of Mowfwall, to haue ane caire that he, his grund, nor tennentis, fould get na wrange befoir his returning home againe frome Hawick; as alswa he directit his tennentis, that gif Casschogill or his tennentis com to cast their peattis vpon the faidis landis, that thai fould adverteife his brother the Laird of Mowfwall thairoff, quha wald not suffer him nor thame to get wrang.

Vpon Wedinsday the nynt day of Maij, Casschogills fervandis and

tenentis haueing cumed to the mofe of Cnokconie for caſting of thair peitis, the Laird of Moufwall being adverteit thair of, fend to the cafteris and diſchairgit thame in the ſaid Daud Douglas name, of the caſting thair off, without his licence, affiureing thame gif thai wald not ſtay, that thai wald be impedit and not fuffered to caſt the ſaidis peitis. Lykeas the ſaid James Douglas of Moufwall, vpon the morne thairefter, come himſelf and ane vther with him, and interruptit the ſaid wark be cutting of fume of the peitis and caſting of thame in the pot agane.

Vpon Setturday thairefter, being the twelff day of Maij, Caſchogill himſelf, with his ſone Robert, his hail ſervandis and tennes, to the number of threttie ſex men or thairby, with fuordis, hagbottis, lances, corne-forkis, and great kentis, by wemen and fallowis, com to the ſaid mofe per force be way of bangeſtrie, to caſt thair peitis. The Laird of Moufwall being adverteit thair of, paſt and tuik with him the Laird of Ballaggine, ane freind of thairis, quhome he directit to deall with Caſchogill and his ſone to ſtay the ſaid wark, and not to doe it in contempt, bot to ſeik it out of luiſſ; quhilk being ſua creavit thai fould get thair deſyre; quhilk thai diſdainefullie refuifit, and vterit contemptuous ſpeitches, declairing that thai fould caſt thair peitis thair, quha wald, quha wald nocht. The ſaid James Douglas of Moufwall enterit in ſpeitches with the ſaid Robert Douglas, requeiſting him to move his father to leive of that contemptuous forme of doeing, for eſchewing of ane gretter ſkaiſe, affiureing him that he wald cum better ſpeid eſter ane luiſſing mainer. The ſaid Robert than anſuerit him with the lyk diſdainefull ſpeitches as of befoire. The Laird of Moufwall, than anſuering and affiureing the ſaid Robert, gif his faither and he war of that mynde, thai fould not be ſufferit to proceed in that wark.

This cuming to the Laird Drumlangrigis knowledge, he, for preventing of evill, directit the Laird of Dalzell, the Laird of Lage youngar, the Laird of Balagane, and Capitane Johnſtoun, to deall with Caſchogill and his ſone, to ſtay that contemptuous warke, and to gif thame ane affiurance that gif thai wald ſeik libertie to caſt peitis out of luiſſ, thai fould be fatiffit: And eſter he had directit thame away, he callit to remembrance the ſtuburnes of the people of both fydis, and quhat authoritie

he had vnder the kingis maiestie to command thame, he heaftit himself efter the faidis comissioneris to quhome he schew his farder will, that gif Casschogill could be moveit to ony reffone, he wald abfolute, as superiour to thame both, command his brother, and as the kingis maiesties officer and shirreff, discharge the wark for ane schort tyme, that sume better ordour war takin thairwith. According to the quhilk, the faidis comissioneris procedit, Drumlangrige being present, he as shireff, in maner foirfaid, in his maiesties name dischargeit the faid warke, and all being done in maner as faid is, was disobeyit; the Laird of Mouffwall heiring the contemptuous answer, vterit in thir speiches, as folowes: “Ye ar over peart to disobey the kingis maiesties charge, quicklie pack you and goe away.” Immediatlie thairefter, ane of Casschogillis fervandis with ane great kent, strak Capitane Johnstoune behind his bak, tua great straikis vpon the heid, quhilkis maid him fall deid to the grund with great loife of his bluide. And than the faid Robert Douglas presentit ane bendit hagbote within thrie elnes to the Lairdis of Drumlangrigis his breift, quhilk at the pleafour of God misgave. And immediatlie thairefter, the faid Robert of new morfit the faid hagbut, and presentit hir agane to him, quhilk schot and mist him, at the plefou of God; and Robert Dalzell, naturall sone to the Laird of Dalzell, was struken throuche the body with ane lance, quha cryit that he was slaine; and sume tua or thrie men was struken throuche thair clothis with lances, sua that the baill company thought that thair haid beine killit, and than thought it was tyme for thame to begine to defend thame selfis; quhairvpon the faid Robert Douglas, and vther thrie or foure of his folk being hurte, was put to flicht, and in the fleing the faid Robert fell, quhair the Laird of Drumlangrig chanefit to be narrest him, quha, notwithstanding of the formar offer, the faid Robert maid to him with the hagbute, not onlie spairit to straik him with his awin handis, bot lykewayis dischargeit all the rest vnder the paine of thair lyffis to steir him; vtherwayis the faid Robert had beine slain, as the faid Robert and findrie vtheris of his company declaird. All this was done vpon ane great suddinetie efter the falling of Capitane Johnstoune, the presenting of the hagbute to Drumlangrig, and Robert Dalzellis crying that he was slaine. Quhat hurt of bodie and lois

of bluid, Drumlangrigis few company hes, it war langefum to wrytt; for Caffhogill war thryfe als many of company as he.*

CLXXXIX.—JAMES VI. TO THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON.

AUGUST 2, 1621.

RIGHTE TRUSTIE, &c.

Wee haue vnderstood by the letters of diuers perfons, your good and happie endeauoris in our seruice at this parliament, and how far your paines and trauelles haue aduanced our affaires. How yee haue behaued your selfe, or what formes yee haue vsed wee know not, but your prouident and wise cariage hath bene highlie commended to vs by all fortes of people, both ecclesiasticall and laik, whereby as yee haue giuen vs exceeding contentment, so wee can not choose but giue you moste heartie thanks, not doubting but the finall euent wilbe correspondent to fo good a beginning. And now, the Lord Ochiltrie returning into that our kingdome, who exhibited vnto vs certeyn Articles concerning Sir Gedion Murray, it is requeste that the said Articles be tried, that if that man who is now deade haue bene honest, his fame may be cleared even in the graue wher he lyeth; as, on the contrarie, if he haue bene dishonest, it is no lesse important to our crowne that he be discouered. And if the enformer proue false, it is likwise materiall; for besides the perpetuall aspercion which will ly vpon him, it will cause vs be the more warie in crediting him herafter. And because it is requeste that for triall of these Articles, commiffion be granted to certeyn perfons for that effecte, the Lord Ochiltrie presented vnto vs one which wee refused to signe, but haue thoughte good to require yow to cause one be framed by the aduice of our counsell there, and speciallie of our aduocate, in legall forme ac-

* Both Drumlangrig and Douglas were criminally indicted. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. iii. part ii. p. 500, but were never brought to trial—having accommodated matters amongst themselves, and having doubtlessly dealt with his Majesty in the usual way.

customed, or as shalbe requesite in this case; and that yee cause inferte therin with your selfe, our Chancellour, the Archbyhoppe of St Andrews, the Earles of Mar, Lithgow, and Winton, the Byhoppe of Rosse, Sir George Hay, Sir Androw Car, and Sir James Skene. Wee likewise require yow, before your comming frome thence, to sette the said triall on foote, and see such of the said Articles tried and examined as may by witnesse be moſte easilie procured; and in speciall, the first Article concerning the setting of our customes, which (in respecte that those who were farmers thair of, are all or moſte of them yet aliue) may be easilie tryed, to the entent that, at your returne hether, yee may giue vs a tasting of the mater, that, by those few pointes, wee may coniecture what wilbe the euent of the wholle; and becaus, for clearing of diuers pointes, it wilbe requesite that the Lord Ochiltre haue inspection of such writtes, rolles, and registers as may serue for his better prooffe, it is good reason that yee cause the same be made patent to him as often as he shall require, and that yee giue him all lawfull encouragement which may animate him to perseue in a good course. And assuring yow that the finding oute of the truth of this mater wilbe vnto vs moſte acceptable seruice, wee, &c. Apothorth,* 2 Aug: 1621.

[Indorfed:]

Coppie of his Maiesties lettre
to the Marques of Hamilton, 2d
of August 1621.

CXC.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY OF LOCHMABEN.

JUNE 12, 1622.

Good Gossip,

Theis ar to aquentt zou that this morning betuix fax and feuin, my Lord Cancelar departed this lyff at his aun houfs of Pinkie.

* Althorp?

I knau or this tym, ze haue received letters from Sir Jaems Ballyie. I will erneslie intrett zou to be carefull in this mater concerning the keiping of the abbay and park of Holyroudhous, thaer is many refons that moues to itt. I am duelling presentie in it, and am fo tyed be my place. All thir particulars I remitt to Sir Jaems Balyeis letter with this berar, and I doubt not bot ze vill haue a cair of itt, as ever I can doo zou pleafar. This from

Your louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhous, the xij. of June 1622.

To my louing Cufing, Jhoone
Murray of Lochmabane.*

CXCL.—INSTRUCTIONS BY JAMES VI. RELATIVE TO THE ACTION BROUGHT BY THE EARL OF MAR† FOR RECOVERY OF THE BARONY OF KILDRIMMIE.

1. For my aduocate not to conceale, as he will anfwre to me upon his allegiance, if I can refflaue anie hurte ather in honoure or proffeit, if the Erle of Marre shoulde tryumphe in this aëtion.

* Shortly afterwards Viscount of Annand and Lord Murray of Lochmaben, and lastly Earl of Annandale. —Wood, in his edition of Douglas, mentions that "the date of his creation does not appear," but that he had a charter, wherein he is called John Viscount of Annand, of the Palace in Dumfries, &c., 20th February 1623-4. His elevation to the Peerage is earlier than this, as amongst the Balfour MSS. there is a letter signed "John Murray," dated the 27th June 1622, and addressed to the Earl of Melros, and then follows a letter by the Lord Johnstoun, dated 6th August 1622, to Murray as "my Lord Viscount of Annan."

† John Earl of Mar brought an action of reduction-improbation, &c., against the Lord Elphinstone for setting aside his right to the barony of Kildrinnie (or Kildrummie), the principal estate of the ancient Earls of Mar. In this law-suit he was successful, and Lord Elphinstone, although he and his ancestors had been in possession for more than a century, was (as the act 1617 had only recently passed) compelled to restore the lands.

Kildrinnie had been seized by Alexander Stewart, a natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch. Alarmed at what he had done, he, on the 19th September 1404, presented himself at the castle gate of Kildrinnie, and

2. That he transference his place for this action, upon a qualified person of the Lorde Elphinstons election.

3. That the feffion be commandit to take goode heede if any thing interuene in this proceffe, that may indeede ather towche me in confidence, honour or profite, and that how soone any such thing shall be touched upon, I may be acquainted thair with, before they make anie proceeding in that point.

4. That the Erle of Marre shall publicquely declare, that he claimes nothing by Dame Marguerite Douglasse tytyle* to any part of the erldome

surrendered to Isobel, Countess of Mar in her own right, and widow of Sir Malcolm Drummond, not only the castle, but the furniture and title-deeds. He then delivered the keys: whereupon the Countess, taking them in her hands, chose the said Alexander for her husband, gave him the castle, together with the Earldom of Mar, to be held by her said husband and herself, and the heirs to be procreated betwixt them: which failing, to the Countess and her lawful heirs. Accordingly, in presence of the Bishop of Ross and her tenants, she granted a charter to this effect on the 9th December 1404, which was ratified under the Great Seal the 21st January following.

Isobel Countess of Mar died without issue in 1419, whereupon the earldom and estate devolved on the heir of line, Janet Keith, grand-daughter of Ellen, sister of Donald, twelfth Earl of Mar. But James the First, who, in his desire to curb the nobility, made no scruple to set justice at defiance, refused to recognise her right or that of her husband, Sir Thomas Erskine, and although Alexander Stewart had merely a liferent, his Majesty obtained from him a resignation of the honours; whereupon a charter of the earldom was granted, 28th May 1426, to Alexander for his life, and to Thomas his natural son, and the lawful heirs-male of his body; which failing, to return to the crown. Earl Alexander died without issue in August 1435, and, as his son Thomas predeceased him, the earldom, under this charter, reverted to the crown. The resignation was, however, clearly null, as the substitution to the heirs of the Countess Isobel, in the charter 1405, upon her death effectually transferred the earldom to Janet Keith.

Robert Lord Erskine, son of the marriage between Janet Keith the heir of line, and Sir Thomas Erskine, upon the death of Alexander, served himself heir (22d April 1438) to Countess Isobel, and a precept was issued for infefting him, upon which seisin followed, 21st November 1438. He assumed the title of Earl of Mar, and subsequently besieged and took possession of the castle of Kildrinnie, but was compelled to redeliver it to the King. His service was thereafter reduced, and although his right to the earldom was perfectly clear, neither he nor his descendants were able to obtain it for more than a century. Upon the 5th May 1555, John Lord Erskine was served heir of Robert Erskine Earl of Mar, and upon the 23d June 1565, Queen Mary granted a charter of the earldom in his favour, which was ratified by Parliament, 19th April 1567. He accordingly became Earl of Mar; various suits, for recovering the family estates, were instituted by him and his son John, the next earl, which were for the most part successful.

* "Margaret, daughter to the third Donald, Earle of Mar, as she designs herself in severall charters, succeeded her brother. She married William, the first Earle of Douglas, by whom she had James, Earle of Douglas, killed at Otterburn, who had no lawful issue, only two bastard sones, the eldest, William, Laird of Drumlanrig, predecessor to James, Duke of Queensberrie, who got of the family severall lands, and, in

of Douglass, and shall, if need be, make renunciation of any such claim in such manner as the parties having interest shall desire; et sic fiat iustitia.

CXCII.—THE COUNTESS OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 16, 1622.

MOST WORTHY SERVANT,

I am forry att my hart, faving Gods pleafur, to haue this occasion to advertis you of the death of my Lord Chancellor, who deceafed this morning betuixt fax and feaven. I pray God derect his magesty to take the best cowers for the estaytt of this poore kingdome, for itt will be fownd thatt ther will be greatt missing of him thatt is gone. I know my lord hath wretten to you as one whome he doth repose in. My Lord is defywors to haue his magestys favor to haue the keeping of the Abbay and the Park, the rather thatt in regard of his continuall attendance heir in his magesty service, and thatt none will so willingly undergo sic occasions as do concerne the honor of the country, in entertainment of frangers when itt fall fall owt, or any vther occasions of his magestys service. So I befeik yow to giue your best assistance in thes, and thatt yow will do me the favor as to let me know whatt cowers his magesty is to take, both in his service for appoynting of another chancellor, as lykways in this other

token of his grateful sense of their kindness, quartered the armes of the family of Mar with that of Douglas: the other bastard was Archibald, predecessor to Douglas of Cavers. She bore also to the said William, Earle of Douglas, a daughter called Isobell, afterwards Countess of Mar. The said Margaret, Countess of Mar, was married after to Sir John Swinton, whether after the death of William, Earle of Douglas, or by reason of a divorce from him, is not certain; by whom no issue. She designed herself Countess of Mar and Douglas. Godscroft, in his History of the Douglasses, as also a printed genealogie since come out, makes the said James, Earle of Douglas, to have been son to Margaret Dumbar, daughter to the Earle of March, which is a mistake, as appears by a disposition of Keith of Invergies, as also by a charter granted by the said Margaret, Countess of Mar, of a mortificatione to the chappell of the Virgin Mary in Garviach, which is to be seen in the chartulary of Aberdeen in the Advocates' Library." Erskyne's Genealogie of the Mar Family, MS.

particular of the Park and the Abbay: So, wifching yourfelf and your bedfellow all happines, I reft

Your affeured freind to ferve yow,

A. ERSKYNE.

Halyrudhus, 16 of June 1622.

Yesterday his mageftys letter was rede in the ceffion, and according to his mageftys defyr in itt, my lord did publickly renunce all claime to the Erldome of Dowglas, and therefter fett his hand to itt, as the lordes defyred.

To my verie loving freind, Mr Jhon Murray,
of his Majestys Bedchamber.

CXCIII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 20, 1622.

GOOD GOSSUP,

Althoh I haiue vryttin this other letter, quhilk, according to your aun diferefion (give ze think itt good), ze may fhau unto his majestie, zitt haue I vryttin this letter particularlie for your felf, to latt you knau fumquhat of the proceedings betwixt my Lord Elphinston and me in this action we haue in hand. On Setterday laft our action vas called, and his majesties letter to the lords red in that grett mater that thay maed all the varld to startt at, concerning the erldom of Douglas and his lands. I haue giuuen the lords fatiffaction, and hes ondir my hand befor the lords renunced itt, quhilk is incert in the Bouks of the Seffion, and thair is no honeft man that is nott fatiffied with it, bott I houp to giue him fatiffaction for yourfelf. I fee my onfreinds hes not fpared

(giff thay could) to haue fired vp 3e eiuin my best freinds against me, bott thay ar difceved. I haue spokin both with my Lord Precedent and M^r Thomas Houp, and 3e shalbe fatified in any thing 3e or thay shall think good; fo no mor of this att this tym.

Vpon the xviii of this instantt it vas called again: thair thay naimed aine aduocatt, and the man vas my Lord of Durie, M^r Alexander Gibfoun, a thing thocht fo strange be all men heir, as the lyk vas neuer hard; for itt is aine ordinarie thing to my Lord Aduocatt to mak substitution of anie in his place, to any aduocatt the partie vill choose; and in any caufs quhaer he may nott compeir himself, bot to naim a lord of the cessioun itt vas neuer hard befor, bot this is nott all; thay haue moued his majestie to vrytt a particular letter to him to accept it; vpon this my partie giuueith furth, that his majestie doth fauor thair caufs better than myn; and altho I knau itt is aine ontreuth, zitt itt grieues me nott a lytill that many peipill heir talks of itt. I vill pray 3ou and all my freinds thair, to moue his majestie to be indifferentt, and latt the comun courfs of justice go on, and latt thaem mak thaer choifs of any aduocatt thay can, and lat the lords be our judges, and nott to suffer thair triks to haue place. The treu refon that thay vuld haue my Lord of Durie aduocatt is, that he may be fett and nott haue a vott in thatt cawfs, becaufs he is aine ondirstanding honest man, and thay knau any man of ondirstandings vill neuer be on thaer fyd. This pakkett of letters I haue directed in my Lord of Kelleis abfens, to be delyuered onto 3ou, feiring he should be abfentt from courtt for his aun particular efsaers; thairfor, giue fo he brek vp my letters to him, and giue he be thaer, I desyr euerie on of 3ou to see others letters, for I vrytt euerie thing to any of 3ou as itt did cum in my mynd. I am loth to fasche the prince vith continuall vryting to him, bott I vill pray both 3ou and my Lord of Kellie to remember my service vnto him; and vithall, in all humilitie, to desyr him to hauld hand that no nouasion may be brocht in in my caufs, for than the varld vill think that my Lord Elphinstoun hes mor fauor of my master then I haiue, quhilke vill do me mor herm than all the land is vorth. I haue vryttin tuo lynis (of creditt to my Lord of Kellie or 3our self) to my Lord Deuk; and

thairfor I pray 3ou inform him particularlie as I haue vryttin unto 3ou. This is all I can fay for the present ; and fo I vill rest

Your louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

As for 3our aun particular, itt is doin.

Ye shall receiue inclofed in this letter 3our letter of the 11 bak again according to 3our defyr ; and I vill pray 3ou to fend me bak thir tuay letters in this pakkett vith this berar, for I haue only fentt him vp for expedition, becaufe the ordinar pakkett runs fo flaulie ; and I pray 3ou heft him bak to me, for my partie feiks nothing bott delay. My Lord of Sanctandros vnderftanding of this pakkett, defyred me to fend this inclofed vnto 3ou, quhilk 3e shall receiue.

Your louing Goffup,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhous, the xx of Junie 1622.

CXCIV.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERAINE,

Becaus of the warrants directit by 3our maieftie for paments to my Lord Chancellor, the Marques of Hamiltoun, and Thomas Hudfon, of ther moneysis out of the first and fecond termes pament of

the taxatioune, ther wilbe no moneyis at this nixt Mertimes terme where-with to buy in ane of these penfionis whiche your maieftie hath appointed to be bought, for laik wherof your maiefties debts will increas, and the possibilitie of pament therof wilbe the harder; for remedy heirof, I do heir present wnto your maieftie my awin simple opinion, leiving to your maieftie your confideratioun to embrace or reiect the famyn.

If your maieftie wilbe pleased that ane hundreth thousand merkis falbe borrowed vpon interest, I hoip so to manage the fame, as I shall buy in of zearlie rent to your maieftie, frome these penfioneris, twentie thousand pounds—the rent to be pait for this borrowed money in ane zear and ane half, will extend only to ten thousand pounds, and the rent to come into your majesties coffers in that space, will extend to threttie thousand pounds, so as your maieftie shall ressaue three pennys for one whiche you shall giue out. I dar nocht promise, in regard of your majesties former warraunts, that this ane hundreth thousand merkis can be pait in schorter tyme nor ane zear and ane half after Mertymes, from whiche tyme furth, your maieftie wilbe freed of paiment of the annualrent therof. If your majestie allow of this my opinion, and will let me haue your warraunt for paiment of this ane hundreth thousand merkis, with the annuell therof, out of the reddieft of your majesties rents and of the taxatioun (the Marques of Hamilton being first pait), I shall engadge myselff and my frends our credits for borrowing therof. I haue ordanit William Barclay to attend your majestie, and to receave your directioun heirin, whome it will pleas your majestie to trust: And so, befeiking Almightye God to blisse your majestie with many happy dayes, I rest

Your Majesties most humble subiect and fervitor,

J. MAR.

Halyruidhous, the tenth of
October 1622.

To the King his most Excellent
Majestie.

CXCV.—LADY BEATRIX RUTHVEN TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MY MOST HUMBLE SERUICE BEING IN ALL REURANCE REPRESANTITT,

Gif it may ples your most excelant maieftie not be offendit withe me, most excelant, most worthi, and most gracijs feuit Keing, that I most humbly ons againe befeik your gracijs grait maieftie to haue pitie on my most diffretit efftett of me your maieftis most treu and faithfulle feruant, quha neuylis vnder the daenger, in this next fession, to lose and be put fra that littille roume calit Coufland, quhairin I haue remaenit and liuett fence my motheris diffese to this prefeantt tym; and thairfoir I most humbly befeik your maieftie, for Godis caus, and for the lang and faithfulle seruice I maed your maieftie, that your maieftie will be sue gracijs to me, as presantlye, befor the fession sit dune, to send ane varand of your maieftis to the counfalle, comandng tham varrie staetlye, that I be nae vaves truubilit or hurt by laue in the pessabille brukng of Coufland for my lyftyme; vithe ane particiler letter of your maieftis to the schanfler, and to the Erile of Mourus, that thay tua may nou be my protekturisse, vnder God, in all my afferis, as the last schanfler vas, quha now restis with God: Your maieftie dereking tham this vaye, thay velle affeuritlye do sue. I most humbly befeik your most gracijs maieftie, gif this varant, together with your maieftis particuler letter to the schanfler and president, aether to gif thes to the Douk of Lenox, or to the Erile of Huldernese, to fend me, that I may go with tham myself, and present tham to thes lordis in your maieftis most princly naincye naeme.* Most humbly expeking this fauuaris of your most excelent maieftie, as I fall euer pray the Eternalle God, of his grait mercie, to grant your maieftie many lang and happie dayes, with the most joyfulle ring of all erthly kingis, to Godis

• Sic.

glorie, your maieftis heiche honour, and to the grait contentment of vs
all, your maieftis moft loueing feruantis ; euer refting

Your Maieftis moft humble, faithfull, and
obediant feruant to deithe,

BEATRIX RUTHUEN.*

Edinbroche, the x of O&ctober.

[Indorfed:]

Ladie Coldenknoweis, 10 O&ctober 1622.

CXCVI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI

NOVEMBER 24, 1622.

MOST GRACIOUSE SOUEREING,

I receiued your maiefties letter of the 21 of O&ctober, fhauing that ze haue maed choifs of Sir Archibald Naper to be trefurer deput of this kingdom, with the motiues mouing your maieftie to tak this courfs ; fen your maieftie hath fo refolued, I fhall in all humilitie obey your dire&ctions ; as for the gentillman, he is knaun to be both iuditious and honeft, and as your maieftie wrytts in your aun letter, frie of partialitie or any factious humer ; and I, with all my hartt, doo viſhe that all your maiefties fubie&ctes var als free of ther tuo fallts, as I houp tym fhall mak knaun to your maieftie that beth he and I ar ; in quhilk reſpe&cts your maieftie heth made a good chois. For myſelf, my caer and paens fhall be

* The writer was a daughter of William firſt Earl of Gowrie, and ſiſter of John the laſt Earl. She married Sir John Home of Coldingknowes.

nothing the lefs in forthering of your maiefties feruice in all things incident to that place* viche your maieftie heth honored me vith: And fo, befeiking Allmichtie God to blifs your maieftie vith many happie days, I reft

Your Maiefties moft humble fubiect and feruitor,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufe, the 24th of
Nouember 1622.

To the Kings moft Excellent Maieftie.

CXCVII.—THE EARL OF BUCCLEUCH TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.
[1623?]

MY LORD,

I recevett your letter from Andoveer, and dois attend hys majeftie refolutione about the particular the counfell rytte in, viche I in thatt shall obey in all humilitie, vhatt it shall pleis hys majeftie to comand. I dout nott bott my Lord off Nithifdaille vill acquent you vhatt hes bein done att thys laft courte, fo I vill nott enter in ony particular. For me in thatt fervice, affeure hys majeftie thatt my lyffe shall rather faille then vnvillingnes to doo hym all fervice, viche I am bond too, and moft faithfullie as hys trew fubjett. My Lord, I vnderftand that my

* The office of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.

uncle, Frances Stewart,* is partett from heir towards your courtt : vhatt hys defyrs vill be to his majestie I kno nott, yett I vood defyre that faueur from you, as to remember hys majestie faueur towards thos thatt hes bein faithfull servants to hym, and thatt to thaire pouar is daylie doing his majestie service, thatt if fo be his disseins be as befoire to the prejudice off me and others thatt hes done hys majestie service, in thatt particular he may be pletett to schow the continuance off hys royall dispositione in our faueur, as befoire it hes pletett his majestie to do. I ritt thys nott off any misdout I haue off hys maiestie faueur to me, far aboue my meritte I confes, bott lest hys majestie fould be surprisett, and he persuade hym of vhatt is nott. I am confident your Lordship vill do this faueur to your serviteur, and vithe all speike hys majestie in thys particular about Frances Steuartt; as also befrind vhatt concerns hym, thatt on all occasions vill ever proff your lordships serviteur,

BUCCLEUCHE.

[No Date.]

I vill humblie intratt that faueur off your lordship as to lett me heir from you in thys busines, and to caus delyver thyr other too letters, for viche I shall be ever obligett.

To my verrye honorable good
 Lord, my Lord Vicount off
 Annande.

* Francis, the forfeited Earl of Bothwell, married Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of David seventh Earl of Angus, and relict of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch. Francis Stewart was, therefore, brother uterine of Sir Walter Scott, first Baron of Buccleuch, and uncle of Walter (the writer of this letter), who succeeded his father as Lord Scott of Buccleuch in 1611; and who, by patent, dated 16th March 1619, was created Earl of Buccleuch.

CXCVIII.—THOMAS NICOLSON TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

JANUARY 27, 1623.

RICH HONORABIL,

My very guid lord, efter dewtifull remembrance of my feruice, I receavit your honouris letter from my guid lord the Earle of Roxburgh, quhairby and be his lordships informatioun of the pains your honour hes takin in my particular, anent my gift of the postmaisterschip of Colbrandspeth,* I think my self so tyit to ferue your honour, that I am afchamit of my inhabilitie, quhilk closis vp the inward affectioun I haue to ferue your honour. Bot feing thair is no obligatioun of impossibilitieis, I doubt not bot your honour will accept of my guid mynd, and vse me as your honouris servand in any thing quhairin my service may be steadable. And becaus, notwithstanding of the difficultie of my erand, your honour wills me in the letter to abyd quhill his maiestie may be movit, I haue takin the bauldnes at this present to putt your honour in remembrance heirof. I haif sent the gift with this gentilman, Archibald Campbell, who will attend your honour heirin. I think my Lord Marques of Hamilton will assist your honour heirin, becaus the Erle of Roxburgh and the Clerk of Register hes writtin to his lordschip in my favouris. The only scrupule that withhaldis the kingis maiesty is becaus he will not mak offices hereditary; bot in my particular, thair is no sic daunger as in offices of authoritie and jurisdicthioun. For, first, it is ane service and a thraldome quhilk I wald never vndergoe, if it wer not to eschew ane gritter oppressioun, if the office wer disponsit to men of clan, quho wald, vnder colour thairof, oppresse me and my tennentis; nixt, it is only within my awin land, and sua can do no man harme; and last, thair is no schyir quhairin his maiestie hes not heritabill mairis or servandis, quhilk ar allowit as maist necessar for his maiesteis feruice. The lyk is in my case;

* See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 494.

for if I had the office heritabill, I wald caus mak provisioun boath for sufficient horffes and intertenement of gentilmen passingeris, quhilk is aluterly negleçtit, and can not weill be redrefit, in respect of the waiknes of the postmaisteris; quhair, be the contrair, I wald be compellit be my infestment to mak sufficient provisioun for hors and man. These argumentis, I think, wilbe sufficient to move his maieftie; bot the grittest argument I rely vpon is your honouris favour towardis me vndeferved; for the quhilk I will remane

Ever your honouris bund man,

TH. NICOLSON.

Edinburgh, 27 Januarij 1623.

To the richt honourabill my verry
guid Lord, the Lord Vicount of
Annand.

CXCIX.—THE VISCOUNT OF STORMONT TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

FEBRUARY [1623?]

MY WERAY HONORABIL GUD LORD AND LUVING SUNE,

Thir presents ar onle to let 3ou knaw quhow gled I ame to heir off 3our preferment,* quhilk I thocht to hef knavne by 3our avine letter, for so 3e affurit me at our last miting that 3e vald do nothing in 3our avine afers bot 3e vald acquent me with the fame with the first of 3our frindis; bot since, sen 3e hef dune so vill, and I think all 3our freindis heir vill be gled, and none mor nor myfelff, for the quhilk we that ar 3our freindis heir hes grayt caus to thank God for the fame, and 3our lordschip felff mor nor enay; vtherfor, God hes the hert of all creatur in his handis, quha dispoſis all thingis at his pleſur in the avine tyme. Now,

* The elevation of John Murray to the peerage, as Viscount of Annand.

my gud lord, fen ze hef gotine zour preferment by God and zour grafivs mester, let it be zour griteft ker to be thankfull, and that God will continow his bliffings with zow, and vill continow zour mesters louf in gifin mor and mor. And I pray zow let not zour preferment draw zou ava fre zour vuntit atendens vpone zour mester that hes bene fua grafivs to zow: let zour thankfulnes be knavine to the varild, and fper nather penis nor trevell in zour atendens, mor now nor ze hef dune befor. Sune, I lef this to that God that hes direkit zow in all zour afers to direk zow now fefer frome him, and he vill gif zow mor nor ze kane vis or cref. Now, fune, I most end, and I recommend zow and all zour afers to the proteccionne of Almychte God. Zit, fune, I most be trubilfum, and intret zour vuntit faour to be kerfull of zour fervand, my auld mane, quhume I vis recomendit to my grafivs mester, quha promist to me that he vald prefer him to fume fervis. My hert fune, remember quhow stedabill ze hef beine by the ples that ze hed in zour mesters fervis, not onle to me, bot to menay vtheris. Remember quhat it is to hef ane trow frind in ane ples of credit; and now since zour credit is avansit, and I ame fertene ze hef credit boithe with zour grafivs mester, and with them that hes most credit abut him, extend zour credit, and ples Mungo* in fum ples of credit abut his maieftie or the prens, for the varild is no fo constant, bot the grayteft may hef ado with ane trow frind fumtyme, and I vill be gud for his trowthe and duate to zow. My hert fune, remember quhat I hef wretine, and be kerfull to pleis him and extend zour credit, for I houpe ze fall niver repent the fame. Sua I rest, and fall remene,

Your Lordschips trow friend to
ferff zow,

STORMONT.

To my weray honorabill gud Lord and
luing fone, my Lord Vicountt off
Annand.

* Fourth son of John first Earl of Tullibardine. He became, upon the death of the writer of this letter, on the 27th of August 1631, by force of a special remainder in the patent of creation, second Viscount of Stormont.

CC.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 15, 1623.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair wes a complaint maid to your maiesties counsell, be the Earle of Bugcleugh, the last counsell day, proorting, that quhairas by a custome vncontrauerted, and in commoun practize betuix the twa kingdomes thir mony yeires bigane, the commissiounaris on ather fyde wer allowit, be thame selfis, thair freindis or seruandis, to follow and persue fugitiues fleeing frome the one cuntrey to the other, and to apprehend thame, and bring thame bak to thair tryall, whilk wes a speciall meane to suppress the forder growthe of thift, and wes a grite scair to lymmaris and malefactouris to offend. And that he, as one of the commissiounaris ouer the Middlethyris, haueing directit certane gentlemen, who are authorized be your maiesties warrand, in the executioun of some pointis of seruce concerning the Middlethyris, to apprehend one Johnne Hay, a commoun and notorious thief and lymmair, who wes fugitiue, and fled oute of this cuntrey to England for thift, that thay wer persewit be a number of Sir Raulff Gray his men, houndit oute be him, the fugitiue tane of thair handis, and thay thame selfis maid prifonnaris, till they fand cautioun to be answerable to thair tryale in England. And he forder complenit, that whereas the lawis of this kingdome admittis summar and faourable iustice in materis of thift and wrongis falling oute betuix the kingdomes, quhair of the subiectis on that fyde hes had goode prooffe in all thair adois presented to the consideratioun of the iustice heir, that notwithstanding the lyke meafour of iustice is not grantit to the subiectis of this kingdome, who, when thay challenge ony of thair goodis in England, and craueis redres and restitutioun to be maid vnto thame, according to that mutuall goode forme and ordour whilk aught to be interteyne betuix

the kingdomes, and is verie respectiuelie kepted on this fyde, that thay ar putt of and remittit to the commiffionaris and iusticeis of affise in thair ordinarie circuitis; quhairthrow the growthe of thift hes a daylie progres, malefactouris vpoun hoip of impvnitie ar encourageit to offend, your maieftis subiectis ar frustrat of iustice, and that goode correspondence and mutuall concurrence whilk fould be intertenyed betuix your maiefties officiaris on ather fyde, for suppreffing of thift and pvnisheing of malefactouris is interrupted and neglectit. Whereof, at the humble requieit and desire of the said earle, we haif heirby thocht meete to acquent your maieftie, to the intent that youre maieftie, in the excellencie of youre wifdome, may tak fuche ordour thairin as shalbe fitteft for the goode of your maiefties subiectis of bothe kingdomes. And so, with the remembrance and continewance of oure vncessant prayeris vnto God for your maiefties lang and happie reignn, we rest

Your Maiefties most humble and obeydent
subiectis and feruitouris,

GEORGE HAY.
SANCT ANDREWS.
NITHISDAILL.

J. MAR.
MORTON.
GLENCAIRNE.

Haliruidhous, xv. July 1623.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maieftie.

[Indorfed :]
Counfell, concerning the E. of
Buckleughes complainte of
S^r Ralphe Grayes people,
15 July 1623.

CCl.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

OCTOBER 10, 1623.

MY MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your lordship, I have mett with William Dik, but bath not as yet concluded with him. I fie gif he vndertak to furnishe ellevene hundreth pundis, your lordship must before the terme, and before he come out of Paries, give vnto his factour the vther thowfand pundis, whiche will outred my Lord Nithfdall and Bacleuch. But in this I fall be fullie refolved befor I fie your lordship and part with William Dik. I hoip to be at Roistoun this Setterday, and fo foone as your lordship is able to gett me dispatched, I mynd to returne homeward, both for your lordships awin caws and myne. I will not dubt but your lordship will be thinking to gett all thingis done to my contentment, for I falbe forie at my hart to fie any thing discontent yow. I pray your lordship confer with the marques, and vnderstand his lordships mynd befor I come, and both of you enter with his maiestie anent Sir Archbald,* to quit the justice clarekship for some tittle of honour, and that I may be dealt with for my place; and be sparing to promes too muche in my name, but promes to deall with me. Do in this particular as your lordship thinkis meitest, and I beseech your lordship have it begune befor I come, for I may not stay on it. Gif the marques delay tyme, and gif this takis no effect, I must pas all in Sir Archbaldis his name. Tak head that Sir Robert Duglas and his freindis misinforme not the prince of me. Speak the Duk of Buringhame, wha I know will fie me gett no wrong. Pleas your lordship, refave this letter frome your honourable and good ladie, whome

* Sir Archibald Napier. This attempt to induce him to resign his pretensions to the office of Justice-Clerk was not successful, as Sir Archibald obtained the appointment (which he, however, retained a very short time) in November following. He was, in May 1627, created Lord Napier of Merchiston.

I have found at this tyme most loving and kynd. So I tak my leave to meating, and reftis

Your Lordships loving cufyne,
to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.

Kingtreat, this 9 October 1623.

Since the wrytting heirop, I come to the Exchange, and spak with William Dik,* who is content to fend down his man with me, that befor I go to Scotland thingis may be left at a certantie, and himself will wrytt to yow his awin mynd.

London, this 9 October 1623.

This morning I haue feene the marques go to the Starchamber, fo that I know not what to do. I pray your lordship let me hear your lordships awin opinion, whidder I fall come downe or stay till the marques come.

This 10 of October 1623.

To my most honourable good
Lord the Vicount of An-
nan, theas.

[Below the Seal :]

This letter wes twys opened, ons for William Dik, and this morning when I did fie the Marques going to the Star Chamber.

* * Afterwards Sir William Dick, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in 1638, 1639. He was, at one period, perhaps the most opulent merchant of his time, but subsequently he fell into difficulties, and died in poverty. There is an exceeding rare pamphlet, in small folio, containing an account of his sufferings, with three engravings by William Vaughan; in the first of which Sir William is seen mounted on horseback, with attendants, shipping, army, and a town in the back-ground. In the second, he is represented in prison, with his wife, attended by the jailor and his assistants; and in the third, he is in his coffin, with his family mourning over him. A copy of this curious volume was sold for twenty-three guineas at the sale of Sir James Lake.

CCII.—THE VISCOUNT OF LAUDERDALE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

NOVEMBER 27, 1623.

MY VERIE HONORABILL GOOD LORDE AND BROTHER,

The good proof your lordship hath often giwen whatt place my requerits hath fund with yow makes me oftentimes more importunatlie to be urged to be a footer to your lordship, nor either reafone or discrezione can suffer me to obeye. Houbeitt, at this tyme I can not refus to fecond ther entreatyes, who I know will be humble footers to your lordship in the behalf of my Perfone of Lauder, Mr James Burnett, who defyreth be my Lorde of St Androes (who I know can not in dewtye refus anye of your lordships demandes) to be transported to the cure of the kirke of Libbertoun, wher I am lykwayis a parishoner. The particular informatione I will remitt to his brother, your lordships servitour, Mr Robert Burnett, who, att his last cumming home, delivered a letter of your lordship anent youre reductione against Harden, which, I shall be verie cairfull, maye goe right; and in everie thinge els, shall be readie to discharge the dewtye of

Your Lordships most affectionat brother
to ferue yow,

LAUDERDAILL.*

Edinburgh, 27 of Nov^r. 1623.

To my verie honorabill good Lorde
and brother, my Lorde Vicount
of Annand.

* John, second Lord Maitland of Thirlstane, created Viscount of Lauderdale by patent, dated at Whitehall, 2d April 1616, to him and his heirs-male and successors in the Lordship of Thirlstane, and Earl of Lauderdale by patent to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Maitland, dated 14th March 1624. He died in January 1645, and was buried in the church of Haddington. Drummond of Hawthornden wrote an epitaph upon him. He was the father of the celebrated Duke of Lauderdale.

CCIII.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

[NOVEMBER 1623?]

MY MOST HONOURABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your Lordship, I refaved your lordships of the 8 of this instant, wherin it appeiris your lordship hes writtene a letter to Mr Thomas, whiche your lordship thinkis sufficient to informe both Mr Robert Burnett and me, as indeid it had beene so, gif it had comit to Mr Thomas Hoips handes, but we cannot fynd fuch a letter : Alwayes for the buffines of Bonitoun, I hoip we fall do the best we may, for your lordship is mutche beholdene to my Lord Chancelair, and Mr Thomas Nicolfone does his part bravelie. As for all your lordships effairis, I fall tend theme as my awin, and do theirin, I hoip, to your lordships contentment. I delyvered your lordships letter to my Lord Kinclевene prefentlie, who gave your lordship many thankis for the same and the letter of exchange. I culd not shawe it to my Lord of Mar als your lordship defyred, becaus it was clofed ; but I read the postscript of your letter to his lordship, who randered your lordship many thankis, and fayd he cared not what my Lord Kinclевene wriett, for he had no just caws. Your lordship will per-fave be Robert Burnettis letter how your action goes : He missed the pakat the last week : your lordships letter is within this pakat, whiche your lordship may break vp and tak your awin : this him self fayes. In tyme coming he will give me your lordships letter to be sent, for I know the Duk his grace is fomtyme absent. I thank your lordship that wraett to my Lord of Melroes, that I putt your lordship in mynd of his maiesties

tokene : His lordship gave me many thankis, and delyvered me theas laft letteris out of his awin hand, and fent at night to fie gif I wold wrytt an anffwer. I hear no thing of Harbart Maxwellis coming to this towne. I feir he come not at all. It merwellis me that he never wryttis his mynd to me. A greater man wold have honored me with ane anffwer of my letteris ; but your lordship is wys, and knawes how to come by your awin. Had he comit heir, I thocht to have takene himself, his fone, and fone in law, bund for the fowme to Witfunday, whiche I perfave he eshewes. Your lordship rememberis what charge his maieftie gafe me anent Sir Jhone Buchannan, and I wes going about to have drawene him to have gevene his maieftie all contentment ; but I perfave the commiffioneris of the rentis hath mett vpon a letter of his maiefties, writtene in favouris of my Lord Chancelar, that gif they fynd it meitter to fewe it thene to feek the rayfing of the tenentis, that thene my Lord Chancelar fuld have the benefit of the fynes of the feweris for his help, and releif of his lordships dettis. I beleve the lordis hes found that the fewing is the beft way for his maieftie, and that howfoever Sir Archbald Napier hes beene informed, and wold have ftryvene to improve the rent for his maiefties profit, yit that way wes vncertane for his maieftie and fuceffouris ; wheras, being fewed to the heieft rental, it will euer be a fure rent heirefter to the crowne. Muche reafouning hes beene in this, and many thinkes my Lord Chancelar not wys to tak that, I meane the fynes, for his maiefties help and revard, for the people ar poor, and hes beene rayfed to als great a rent as the land is able to pay to the lordis and earles of Orkney, and fewe of theme will defyre fewes, fo that, gif his maieftie be not grateful to him vtherways, he hes fped evell. I proteft to God, thoghe himself go over as he intendis, I do think he fall repent his jorney, and never mak fyve fhillings the frank. So that, gif your lordship heir any thing of this when the commiffioneris anffwer comes, tell your opinion to his maieftie freelie, to lat his freindis their at court fie that your lordship is his freind, and lat his maieftie knaw that I forgot not his directioun in any one poynt. Sir Archbald Napier merwellis your lordship never wreatt to him his maiefties mynd concerning the Justice

Clerk's place;* but I think Sir George Elphinstone is not so sure of it as is talked of heir, in respect your lordship hes never writtene. Do as your lordship thinkis good and fittest for his maiesties service. I think I gaue your lordship thankis in my last for your lordships newe yeir gwyft or tokene to my doghter Sophei, and now my wyf, who hes read your lordships letter, fendes hir most hartlie thankis with the remembrance of hir humble service to your lordships self and your noble ladie. I pray God grant that we may have yow both long to the foir. So, wifhing your lordship and hir both all happines, I remaine

Your Lordships loving Cufyne
to serve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.†

[No date.]

For the landis of Wamphray, and all thingis of that erand, we fall meit and do the lykeliest, and I think your lordship is of a good opinioun.

CCIV.—JOHN ASHBURNHAM TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

APRIL 8, 1624.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

The queene, my mistrife, being folicited by this bearer, James Reid, to recommend vnto your honour the confideration of his

* Napier was appointed Lord Justice Clerk, 23d November 1623. So this letter, which is without date, must have been written shortly before that event.

† Weldon mentions Baillie, amongst other favourites of James, as getting a "pretty" estate, and observes, "Old servants should get some moderate estates to leave to posterity." Secret History of Court of James I. Edinburgh, 1811, 8vo. vol. i. p. 372.

estate, and having had information from his captain of his true and valiant service in the wars of Bohemia and the Palatinat, her selfe commiserating his hurts and misfortunes, hath given me the bouldnesse, in these fewe lines, to signifie as much vnto your honour, and to desire you, in her name, to shew him such favour, as shall stand with his desert and your convenience; for which her maiestie will be readie to acknowledge the obligation at your hands, and my selfe bound ever to remaine,

Your Honoris faithfull and humble servent,

JO. ASSHEBURNHAM.*

Hagve, the 8th of Aprill 1624.
St. Novo.

To the Right Honourable Sir
George Hay, Lord Chauncellor of Scotland, &c. at
Edinburgh.

* John Ashburnham has obtained an historical celebrity from having been one of the two persons by whose means Charles I. fell into the hands of his enemies after his escape from Hampton Court. Whether this was the result of accident or design, is one of those controverted points which can never be satisfactorily settled, although the presumptions are much in favour of the former supposition. His descendant, the present Earl Ashburnham, with the view of vindicating his ancestor's reputation, published in 1830, at London, in two volumes 8vo, "A Narrative of John Ashburnham—of his attendance on King Charles the First from Oxford to the Scotch Army—and from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight. Never before printed. To which is added, A Vindication of his Character and Conduct from the misrepresentations of Lord Clarendon. By his Lineal Descendant and Present Representative." The biographers of Ashburnham seem not to have been aware of his ever having been in the service of the Queen of Bohemia. He died on the 15th of June 1671, in the 68th year of his age.

CCV.—THE EARL OF SEAFORTH TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

JULY 4, [1624?]

MY WERE HONORABIL GOOD LORD,

The Inglish gentilman quho was recommendit heir be your lordschip, efter as he taried sum dayis with me, he thairefter vent to Lochew, and saw sick voodis as was thair, and vent to Lochcarron, and saw the voodis and sick commodities as he thocht nicht best ferue his purpose. Sick certanty as I haue gottin of him, your lordschip may perceave by theis tua letteris of his, quhilk efter as your lordschip hes considerit them, your lordschip wilbe pleasit to think on the best vay how to draw on a bargan tuixt him and me for the voodis of Lochcarron; for I mynd to keip the voodis of Lochcarron for him, since thej may best do his turne, and may mak me maist benefeit; sua that gif he cumis schortlie as he vreatis, I assuir myfelse he will adrefs himself to your lordschip, efter quhilk tyme how far your lordschip may vork with him, your lordschip fall acquent me. Gif vther vayes he cum nocht befor the 15 or 20 of August, it will pleis your lordschip to vreat to him that he will nocht find me to bargan vith wules he mak speid. Since this is one of the best things I haue, both to get your lordschip and me moneyis, your lordschip fall tak your avin consideratioun heirin quhat is fittest to be done with him. I creaw your lordschips pardoun for putting sow to this panis.

The workis that ar at Lochew, I found at Vitfunday the furnace blowin outt, and no stok provydit; sua that, quhill I may get a stok mead, I haue dismisst all the seruandis, except the saw millis, quhilk I will follow. I conduit vith George, your lordschipis nephew, for to set both the furnace he vreatt till Lambes; bot things hes interveinit so to him, that the

pairt concernit me of the vorks ar to do, quhilk I pafs. He is in deilling with me for the things that ar about that loch of Lochew. Since nothing as 3it hes taken effect, I spair to vret any thing thairanent. Gif ony thing be done, I fall haue 3our lordschip aduertefit, quhair be that or I had ony thing ather in that of Lochew or the vther, I may be aduyfit be 3our lordschip. This, with the remembrance of my best feruice,

3our Lordschips maist affectionit freind and seruant,

SEAFORT.*

4 Julij.

On my vay to Lochew.

Gif anie thing 3our lordschip dois with this Inglich man, be way of bargan tuix me and him, I fall performe the same at his heircuming. Gif vther uayis 3our lordschip thinks good to bring him to ane point, and to aduertife me, in that do as 3e think best: I fall follow 3our lordschips aduyfe. Sick letteris as beis direct to him, he desyrit George Hay to fend them to Mr Galloway, or to James Douglas. I tak vp no les nor that he and George thinks to partak togidder.

To the Right Honorabill my
noble good Lord, my Lord
Chancellour of Scotland.

* Colin, second Lord Kintail, was created Earl of Seaforth by patent to him and his heirs-male, dated 3d December 1623. This letter was probably written in 1624. His brother George succeeded him in 1633, and became the second Earl.

CCVI.—SCOTISH SUBJECTS AT DANTZIC TO KING JAMES VI.*

August 30, 1624.

TO THE KINGIS MAIESTY OF GREAT BRITANE, &c. OUR
GRATIOUS AND SOVERAIGNE LORD,

Your maiesties lettre, sent to ws with Hughe Mowat, your maiesties seruaunt, hes manifested the fatherlie cair quhilk your maiefty hes of our wiellfair, and to protect vs frome the oppressioun of thir straungeris amang quhome we lief; and trewlie we acknowledge that his diligence with your maiesties authority hes bein very profitable to ws. Bot of lait their is ane generall edict promulgat, quhairby all straungeris (quha ar not burgesfis) ar commanded to remowe out the townis of Dantzic and Lueinsbrig (althocht we knau that the executioun is onelie bended aganis thefe of the Scottis natione quha ar not frie), and we can coniecture no other reafone for this vnaccustomed rigour, bot the exorbitant numberis of young boyis and maidis, vnable for any seruice, transported hier zierlie, bot especially this fommer, quha baithe scandalizes the natione, and ar burdenable to ws. Hierfoir we most humblie besiek your maieftie, that (by the advys of this gentillman) your maieftie wald prevent the scandall in tyme comming, and by your maiesties favorable lettres to the magistratis of this land, hinder the executioun of theis edictis, leaft we be ranked with Jewes and Infidellis; and we (as in

* In the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 385, a letter is printed from Patrick Gordon, the Poet, to James VI. in which he gives a very curious account of the dissolute morals of the Scotch in Dantzic.

dewtie bund) fall pray continewallie for your maiesties lang and happie regne,

Your Maiesties most humble and distressed subiectes
of the Scottis natione, remaining in Dantzik and
Lueinfrig,

JAMES MORESONE.

JAMES RUTHVENE.

GEORGE BLEWHOUS.

WILIAM LYNSDAY.

WILIAM RAMSAY.

DAVID OUCHTERLONY.

THOMAS MORTTIMER.

DAUID MAXWALL.

With fundrie wtheris quhais names cannot heir be contained.

Dantzik, this penult August 1624.

To the Kingis Maiefty of Great
Britane, &c. our Gracious and
Soveraigne Lord.

CCVII.—FRANCIS HAY* TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

NOVEMBER 5, 1624.

RYCHT HONORABILL AND MY VERIE GOOD LORD,

Pleis yow receave tuo letteris that I had out of France.
Ane other of my Lord Ambaffadouris fervantis wryttis to me, that Monfr.
de Cheuereux wes at the Begnieux, making greatt preparatioune to
come ouer, bot the work men ar stayit, which makis him think the
match is not far advanced, and faves the Cardinall ruillis all, and the
Cardinall may not offend the Pope, and the Pop must not displeas the

* Probably the chancellor's nephew. He was a writer to the signet, and acquiring the lands of Balhousie in Perthshire, was designed by that title. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 48. From him the present Earl of Kinnoul is descended.

Deuillis bairnes, the Spainyardis. He that brocht ouer this pacquet wes dispatched that fame nicht he come, and my Lord Buckingham, who went to London, and wes not to returne for aucht days, come bak with this pacquet to gett ane anfuere dispatchit, as he did. The morrow we go to Newmercat, and dynes by the way in Chesterford Park. They talk of the Duik of Buckinghames going to France, and manie noblemen to go with him, as Salisburie, Montgomerie, Dorsett, and vtheris. Pray God all thingis wer in reddines for that journey. This in haift, finding my Lord Kellie to fend away a packet. I rest,

My Lord, your Lordshippis humble seruitour,

FR. HAY.

Roylstone, the 5 of Nouember 1624.

I pray your lordship remember the Nafmythis buffines, and help Andro Scott.

To the Rycht Honorabill my
verie good Lord, my Lord
Chancellour of Scotland.

CCVIII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 8, 1624.

MOST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Amongst vther lettres from your maiestie, whiche I cannot fo quiklie anfuere, I reffautt this day one, bearing that your maiestie is credible informed that the Lord Kincklevin gave way to my bufiness con-

cerning Orkenay; but your maiestie not knowing the conditiones, requyreth me to aduertife your maiestie how farre wes commoned betuix vs, and whither anye thing wes concluded, and what it wes. And whereas the said Lord of Kinclavin* demandeth six and threttie thousand pounds Scotts for his satisfaction in that matter, that your maiestie is well pleased that I find out the meanes how he may be payit or satisfeit without your maiesties hurte. The passages betuix the Lord Kinclavin and me, as I mot anfuere to God and your maiestie, fa farre as my memorie serveth me, have been these, and no vther.

After my returne from England in December 1623, or thairabout, he came to me in the logging I have in your maiesties pallace heir, and sayd that he wes informed that I wes about the fewing of Orkenay, and that he culd hardlie believe that I wold feik the ouerthrow of his honse. I said his lordships informatioun wes trew; but that I wes perswaded that neuer he nor anye of his wold get that erldome nor anye subiect els. He said that I wold neuer mak 30^m markes of that busines (whatfoeuer hopes I had of more). I anfuere that then I fuld have ane ill bargaine, for I doutid my chairges wold furmount that, befor all wer fetled. Some other wordes he vttered, and pairted discontent. After that, I hard not from his lordship againe (that I remember), till the verie day I tooke my journey from Dalkeith, in August last, towards your sacred maiesties court, whiche being Sunday, and I having dyned and haiftening to fermon about elleuin a cloke, to be at Lawder tymouffie befor nicht, he cam to me in the street, and asked if I meant to go on in the busines of Orknay. I sayd that not, and that I had left thinking anye more of it. "Nay," quod he, "ye shall not do so. I stopped yow, and I will

* John Stewart, second son of Robert Earl of Orkney, was created a Peer by the title of Lord Kinclavin, 10th August 1607. He was subsequently advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carrick, but although his creation was in July 1628, he was not admitted to the dignity for more than two years, owing to a doubt expressed by the Peers, how far the title of Carrick, which was the proper style of the Prince of Scotland, could be communicated to a subject. His Lordship explaining that he took the title from a place called Carrick, on his own estate in Orkney, and not from the Earldom in Ayrshire, the difficulty was got over, and he was received as an Earl. He died in 1652 without male issue, when the titles became extinct, his Lordship leaving only one daughter, and the dignities being limited to the heirs-male of his body. In the year 1733, a notice was inserted in one of the newspapers, that these honours were to be claimed by one having right to them.

worke it againe for yow." "That is more then I know" (said I), "that ye flayed it. As euer it be, I meane to deale no further in it:" And my words wer as my thoughts, for as I mot be sated, when I cam to your maiestie at Ruffod, I had no intention euer to meddle anye more with it. The rest of his wordes at that tyme he remembreth better then I, who took na great head to them, as having cast of all thinking of Orkenay. He sayde he wold wryt vp to the Erl of Annandale, who wold speak with me more particularlie. The Erl of Annandale, I think, can remember whither at anye tyme of my being thair, his lordship and I had euer anye conference anent the giving off my lands, but for the pryce. When I cam bak from England last, the Lord Kinclavin asked me if I had done anye thing anent Orkenay? I said, "Yes, more then I thocht to have done at our pairting." "Then," quod he, "ye will let me have Kinclavin and Innernytie." "That ye shall," quod I, "and als cheape as I can give them to anye man in Scotland." "Nay," quod he, "ye will let me have them frielie, and I will give yow the half of the precept I am to get from his maiestie." This to me was a motion I neuer dreamed of, and made me to reply, that I wold not give him ane aker of myne heretage for your maiesties gift to me; nor had I euer in my lyffe anye share in any vther mans gift. He insifted to make me think that his meaning at Dalkeith wes fuche, and that his lettres wrytten vp to court, procurd your maiesties and the princes highnesse fauour to me in that particular, both whiche may be trew, but not to my knowlege. After this, he cam to me to Perth, and thair, passing from his former imaginarie grounds, he asked of me the pryce of my lands, whiche, because I wes desyrous to sell, and rather to him then anye vther, for his contentment, I told him at the seconde and last word, wes fourtie four thousand markis, or tuentie nyne thousand and sum odde pounds, with a discharge of a desperat det of four thousand pounds, for whiche my poore brother wes oblist to his lordship for the Laird of Clunye. He then asked me if I wold accept a precept for my payment? I sayde that I wold be loth to be a futar to the thesaurar for the pryce of my lands, but if his precept did bear to be payde be myselff off the few deutie of Orknay, I wold accept it for payment, and put his lordship in present possession of the lands. Thus we left, and at

his desyre I wret to the Erl of Annandale and Mr Maulde. If in this I erred in naming so fure and constant a pairt of your maiesties reueneue to be subiect to his precept, I crave your maiesties pardon. I know it is nather my dutie, nor hath it bein my custome, to shaw men the wayes to draw or keep moneyes out of your maiesties coffers; but having vnderstoode from your owne sacred mouth, that ye wer pleased to grant him a precept, I thocht it a point not so materiall for your maiestie out of what pairt of your rents the same wer payde, and to me, ouercharged with detts, important to be fure of payment for so good a pairt of my heretage. The tyme your maiestie was gratiouflic pleased to grant the abatement off the fyve thousand markes of the rent to me, and to aske me what I thocht wold content the Lord of Kinclavin, I sayd to your maiestie that I believed if he culd have my land of Kinclavin and Innernytie, they wold content him; and if your maiestie wold be pleased to abate so muche of the 40^m markes per annum of the rent of Orkenay, as these lands payde to me yearlie, he fuld have them. Your maiestie answered me, that ye wald diminifhe the rent no more. "Then your maiestie must grant him a precept," sayd I; and so your maiestie bad me think of it: and I may lang think of it, befor I fatiffie the last pairt of your maiesties lettre, willing me to find out the meanes to gett him moneyes without your maiesties hurte; for wher shall these moneyes be fund, whiche nather ar, nor shall, nor can cum into your coffers? I have bein tedious, but it is out of a desyre to answer your sacred maiesties lettre in all pointes. The summe is, that, as God is my witnes, I neuer made any condition with the Lord Kinclavin for giving any pairt of my lands, bot for payment, as to vthers; nor to share with him in any precept, nor till my last returne from your maiestie, did I euer conceive that his lordship had anye suche meaning anent my lands, but by way of sale. What his owne thoughts have bein he knoweth best; or what stopp he made to me first, or what way he gave last, your most sacred maiestie and your most excellent son know, not I, whom, albeit priuate difficulties have oft made ane importune, ane oft and happie beggar from that foueraine bountie; yet reason, conscious of my small worth and poore seruices, hath teacht to acquiesce euer cheerfullie, with your good pleasure in grant or refusal (whereof I

remember few), without anye curious enquiry of the motives to the one or vther; resting ever confident, that as I serve your maiestie with as muche loyaltie, sincere zeale and affection, as euer seruant did master, your maiestie (whom God of his mercye to vs, mot long preserue in helth and all prosperitie) will neuer suffer to want, neither me nor the children of

Your most sacred Maiesties most faithfull and most
humble fervant and creature,

GEORGE HAY.*

Hallir. this 8 off Nou^r. 1624.

[Indorsed:]

The Lord Chancellour concerning
what past betuixte him and the Lord
Kincleuin, 8 Nouemb. 1624.

CCIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

[1624?]

My resolution to execute your maiesteis commandements is, and euer shallbe, fuche as ought in fo meere and obliged a creature; bot becaus I know that, from that fontaine of reason which iustificieth the all your

* George Hay, second son of Peter Hay of Meginche, who was brought up to the profession of the law, was knighted and appointed Clerk Register in 1616. He was made Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, 16th July 1622, upon the death of the Earl of Dunfermline. On the 4th May 1627, he was created Viscount of Duplin, and Lord Hay of Kinfauns, and 24th May 1633, Earl of Kinnoull. He died at London, 16th December 1634. His body was conveyed to Scotland, and interred, 19th August 1635, in Kinnoull Church, where a sumptuous monument was erected to his memory. An account of the ceremonial of his interment will be found in the "Heraldic and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour." Edinburgh, 1837. 12mo.

actions, your maiestie is pleased to let flow, euen to the meanest ministers, so much as may cleare thair proceedings from the blame of grosse and incongruous errors; and that, since the ressaing off your maiesteis last instructions, I can by no meditation licht vpon a faire formulaire of so round a discharge of all former treaties for mareage as is prescrybed by the said instructions, and that, by conference with Sir Thomas Edmonds, I finde myself rather perplexed further then helped heirin; I haue adu ventured by these humble to intreat your maiestie to consider how (in a treatie off mareage, wherin so many propones and ansueres have been interchanged, reasons have been alleaged by either fyde; a willingnes to performe hath been expressed with the protestationnes; a dealing with the king off Spaine during the tyme off this treatie hath been furnished by many, boasted of by his ministers, and scarce denied by your maiesteis; an extraordinair ambassadour hath been sent out of your bedchamber, with a warrant vnder your great seale, to treat and conclude a mareage), it fall agrie with your maiesteis royalle procedure in all your other actions, that we begin with a discharge of all former dealing and treaties in that mareage, and that, because your maiestie dothe thinke thair last ansueres not to be worthy off your maiesteis self and your sone.

Now, if they aske vs in what poyntes your maiestie dothe finde them onworthy or unreasonable, we must say, either that your maiestie hath not been pleased to let vs know so much, or cum to the particulars, whiche we dar not, nor may not by our instructions. And iff we shall stand vpon the discharge of all former dealing, without examination off any article, zit with whate faces shall we bothe discharge all former treaties, and requyre them to make new offers iff thei will have any farther dealing for mareage? May they not justly vrge us to know what conditiones will content vs, since these already made do not? Shall we receit thair conditiones offered, and propose none for your maiestie?

This seemeth to vs, and we feare shall seem to thame, a harsh and peremptorie forme off dealing in a treatie of mareage with a state and cuntry to whome your maiesteis loving care in appeasing these last troubles, and the expectation of alliance, hath so indeared your maiesteis freindship, as hath been well testified by the concurse, welcoming accla-

matiounes and prayers for your maiestie, since my cumming into this land. We think this treatie of mareage micht have bein more easilie, and with lefs din, shaken off by him who hathe delt in it hithertils ; and that I, your extraordinarie embassadour, micht thereafter have cum, and to better purpose have talked off the continuance and assurance of your maiesteis friendship towards this king, crowne and cuntrey, rather then with suche a neidles sollemnitie off ane extraordinary ambassadour, to proclayme to fo michtie and fo well affected a nation a neglect of thair alliance. These things I have presumed to represent vnto your maiestie.

[Indorfed :]

Sir George Hay, Chancleour
of Scotland, hes letter to King
James the 6, concerning Prince
Charles hes mariage.

CCX.—JAMES VI TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

JANUARY 12, 1625.

JAMES R.

Right trustie and right veill belouett counfellowr, we greit you veill. Much earnest fuit being made to ws by the French embassador, in the behalfe of the Roman Catholicks (as they terme them) of that our kingdom, requyring that inregaird of this mariage (vich aught to be a tyme of publique reioyfeing, vherin all perfons ought to be fet at libertie), we vold shou them fauor, we wer pleased to ureat to the Archbifchop of St Androus to fu[r]ceafe al troubling of them, ather by citation to compeir befor any iudgs or by excommunicatioun, till our furder pleasur should be knowen, the said recusants giuing no publick offence. And therfor ve haue thought guide by these presentts to acquaint you with our forsaid pleasur, to the intent that, if any buffines fall araffe vpon any former ex-

communication or horning for mater of religioun vich fall be brought befor our counfell, ye fall caufe it be diffimifed vith the leaft fturc or noyfe vich may be : And this recommending to your fpeciall care, we bid you fairveill. Giuen at our manour of Theoballds, the 12 day of Januarij 1625.

King James Letter to Sir George
Hay, Chancleour, concerning
Catholicks, 12 Januarij 1625.

CCXI.—JOHN WOLFE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

One Sires, being fervant to Maifter Morgan, apothecarye to the lait queen of happie memorie, vrgeing his preferment, and difapoynted of bothe your maiefties and the queenis fervice, prefumeing vpoun there ignorance who did accompany your maieftie, that thay did not know what was dew to thair placeis, heirvpoun moft craftelye procured himfelf to be fworne fergeant of the confectionarye, being a parcell of the apothecareis office, and als apothecarye for the houfhald : and not heirwith contented, he did alfo pas a graunt of being fervitour odoriferous to your maieftie, to the queenis highnes and your royall iffew, being a plaice nevir hard of befor in the court of England (the very fmell whereof hes bein evir onfavory vnto me), only vfeing it as a meane by this difmembering the office to difable the poffeffour, and fo to mak him vearye of his plaice : and heirvpoun taking hold of Clavies, your maiefties lait apothecarye his fimplicite, by the meanis of a fubmiffioun, and the otheris craftie dealing with the arbitouris, Clavie was maid to pairt and devyid the furneifing of wateris, perfumeis, and odouris (whiche did foley and onlye belong to him), with this other new invented feruitour, who, taking boldnes vpoun this advantage, intendit to haif vfed me in lyk foirt,

I being than in service with the queenis highnes, bot being loathe to be abuised, or to loise any part of my dew privilegis of my plaice, and standing out for my right, I wes continowit in the full possessioun. Now, efter it hes pleased your maiestie to accept me in that service, voyde by Claves deathe, this odoriferous fellow, mistaking his smell, wald haif the continuance of that abuise in not contenting himself with the plaice of apothecarye of the hous and serieant of confectionarye, bot wald also distmember that only one place which I posses. And this fresche water fouldiour nevir preissing to come one myle abroade in all your maiesteis journays, dois nottheles challenge the perfumes, fueit wateris and odouris for your maiesteis prefence, and linning, and other occasionis that ar for and inrespeet of your maiestie, and no otherways; he laying his full accompt that, howevir I did faive myself from being wronged in the queenis service (vnto the whiche his grant dois beir him alyk), that yit nottheles, vpoun Claves president (whiche I aucht not to acknowledge, heaveing nevir consented thereto), his furnesing in part of my office fall continow, and I thereby so disabled to attend, as by my veareing, he may atteine to that plaice whiche in conceate he hes already devored. Now, since the multitude of offices ar a charge to your maiestie, inregaird no plaice wants a feall, and that it wes weill knowen that no court in all the worlde wes so perfyite in all memberis as this courte, your maiestie may easilie conceave what wrong I refaive by this new innovatioun, which evir produces also with it some preiudice to your maiestie. And therefore, as in the tyme of my service to the queene, the craftie courtes of this fox did nothing availl him for doing vnto me any preiudice; so it may pleis your most gracious maiestie not to fustler your poore Wolfe to be any way wronged, howevir this countrey hes bein fatal to that kynd of beist, inregaird of the Prince of Wales his tribut payed, whereby all my kinfolkes by name war maid ane end of; yit, since I was nevir no ravenous beist, and standes now in feire to be robbed, I haif no other recourse, bot to the Lyons saced patrocinye, humblie entreateing that I may be continowit in the rightis of my plaice whiche ar dew thereto, that so I may be the better enabled to attend your maiesteis service. And, according to

my bound dewtie, I fall pray for your maieftes long, happie, and prosperous regne.

Your Maiefties humble supplicant
and daylie fervant,

JOHNE WOLFE RUMLER,*
Apothecarye.

[Indorfed:]
Mr Wolfes Letter to the King.

CCXII.—SAMUEL COCKBURN TO KING JAMES VI†

SIR,

Your sacred maieftie, of your accustomit gratius fauor, ordenarlie extendit towards all your faithful subiectis, whereof in my awne particuler I haue had so manie testemones, will excuse my bauldnes at this tym, forfit be some necessitie, if I presume to interrupt your maieftes more ferius

* "John Wolgango Rumlero was, in 1617, the King's principal apothecary, and received for his fee, by the year, L.40, as appears by the abstract of his Majesty's revenue, attached to Truth brought to Light by Time." Nichols's Progresses of King James, vol. iv. p. 721. In the Epilogue to Ben Jonson's Masque of the Metamorphosed Gipsies, 1621, it is said—

" But, lest it prove like wonder to the sight,
To see a gipsy, as an Æthiop white,
Know, that what dy'd our faces was an ointment
Made and laid on by Master Woolfe's appointment,
The court Lycanthropos."

Gifford's Ben Jonson. London, 1816. Svo. vol. vii. p. 424.

† As there are no dates to the Papers that follow, and as some difficulty consequently occurs in the arrangement, it was judged best to place them at the end of the volume.

and weghtie effeaes, with the reading of this my humble petitione. Your maiestie, of your gratius and princelie liberalitie, for my great peans bestowet in your maieftis seruice heir in this cuntrie, and dyuers voyages to your court, grantit wnto me a gift of the escheatis of all such as wer put to the horne for not confirming of testaments; wherewith the bishops, finding themselues fomewhat interest in there particuler, dealt with your maiestie for the benefeit thereof, and with me for my good will, which whan I knew to be agreable to your maieftis plesur, wpon some conditions, I yealdit wnto. But now of leat, when the bishops wer about to haue there gift confirmit be your maieftis counfel and officers of your steat in this kingdome, thay fand the mater of such importance, and fo prejudiciall to your maiesties regal authoritie and puir heir, that in no ways could there graue wisdoms be mouet to assent therto, but to signifie the importance and weght of that bussines to your maieftis selfe to determine therevpon: Wherby the houp of that recompence of my seruice is altogider takin from me, and I compeled to haue recourse to your maieftis princelie and gratius fauor. It hes plesit your sacred maiestie to imploy me in some charges heir of great peane and trauel, without any profite, and subiect to the envye of the greatest, which notwithstanding, in respect of your maieftis seruice, I did neuer regerd. I take your maieftis whol counfel to record of my behaiour and peans in dischargin therof: And my esteat wer such as might wnderly this burdin without my wter overthro, I wauld be forie to importune your gratius maiestie, and principallie at such a tym. And so, referring the trew report heirof to your maieftis graue and wyse counfel, your maieftis trefurer deputie, who knawes the whol steat and counfelis mynd therein, I in al humilitie, with my earnest prayer for your sacred maiestie and royel esteat, shal euer remane

Your sacred Maieftis most loyel
and faithful subiect,

SAMUEL COKBURNE.

To the King his sacred Maieftie.

CCXIII.—WITNESSIS PRODUCEIT BE ALEXANDER INNES OF COITTIS
 AGAINES THE LAIRD OF BALVANE AND HIS BROTHER.

MAISTER JAMES GUTHRIE, Minister at Vrquhart, sworne, and demandit quhat he knawis anent the libell; deponis, that he wes defyreit be the good man of Cokftoun and the goodeman of Coittis, to go with thame to the tryft appoyntit to be keptit at Haltoun the day libellit, and to bring with him the testament of vmquhile James Innes of Haltoun, for sieing the goodis mentionat thairin compryfit; and accordingle Alexander Innes of Coittis come to the deponneris houfe the day lybellit, and tooke the deponner with him to the tryft. Alexander Innes, bruther to Balvany, come thair about the evining, and saluted the hail perfones at the tryft, and conferrit a litle with Williame Innes of Coittis, and thairefter pretending that he wald ryde that nycht to Elgin, the goodeman of Cokftoun invited him to stay with him; who answert he wald not stay, and raid away, as it feamed to the deponner towardis Elgin, and wes not fene agane, quhill he was fene in company with his bruther at the fact lybellit: And as the guidman of Coittis, the deponner and Andro Innes wer ryding hame by Vrquhart to the Coittis, thay mett in the way the goodeman of Letterfourie, who, after some litle priuat conference with the goodeman of Coittis, tauld him that in the way he saw some aught or nyne horffe in the mure, whome he thocht to haue bene his young cheif, the Lord Gordoun; and he preaffing to haue riddin to thame, and addressing himself towardis thame, thay efchewit him and fled, as not willing to be fene: And with this, Letterfourie takis goodenycht and raid towardis Elgin, and the goodeman of Coittis and the deponner rydding the hie way home to thair houffe, thay tooke vp thir horffe in the mure, who come fordwart taking the way, as it feamed, to Vrquhart, and not directlie to thame; quhill quhen the goodeman of Coittis perfaueit, he said to the deponner, "It is some folkis of Geycht going to my houfe?" My wyff wes ay vntymous to haif left her houfe in mercat tyme; and then thay haueing tint fight of thir horfemen, throw

occafoun of a litle howe in the way, at thair firft kytheing agane vpoun the hight, within a litle fpace afor the deponner, thay kaiſt thair clokis frome thame, and drew thair fwordis, and come galloping towardis the ſaid Alexander Innes of Coittis, quhilk, quhen he perfaved, he ſaid, “ It is ſome vnfreindis.” The deponner anſuerit that thay wer miſtaken, for thair wes no vnlaughfull perfone heir; and Andro Innes ſaid, “ I trow yow fall find thame vnfreindis:” And quhen thay come neir, the deponner knew nane of them bot Balvennie himſelf and his bruther Alexander; bot one who callit himſelf George Cuming, ſaying his mother wes a Innes, advanceit foirmeſt, and he ſtrooke at the goodman of Coittis, bidding him be tane; and the goodman lightand, drew his fword, and rebaitting the firſt ſtraik, wes hurt with his awne fword a litle aboute the ey, to the effuſioun of his bloode; and the hail remanent perfones come fordwart and ſtrooke at the goodman of Coittis, bot thair fwordis lighted vpoun George Cumingis fword, ſua that it appeirit to the deponner thay haid not a purpois to ſlay him. Then the deponner turneing and abyding with Balvanie, quho had his fword lykewayes drawne, bot ſtrooke not, the deponner ſaid to Balvanie, “ Allace, Sir, that yow ſould behald this, for thair wes other thingis lippynnit of yow in the country.” Balvany anſuerit, “ Yow ar a man that feares God, Maifter James: I hawe borne more of that companyoun nor fleſche and bloode could degeiſt:” And Balvany turneing to Coittis, ſaid, “ Thou haid no mynd of this, quhen after the biſchoppis coppis, in thy drukinnes thou ſaid, thou wes als goode as myſelf; quhairin thou leiſ, and may not compair with me.” Coittis anſwerit, he ſpak not theſe wordis in that ſenſe and meaneing. Balvanie thairafter commandit him to ſitt doun on his knees, and ask him forgifnes; quhilk Coittis ſlowlie and ſmoothlie, with ſome diſcontentment, did. And depones, he knawis not how the goodman of Coittis fword wes takin frome him, or reſtoirit to him, in reſpect of his contenowall inſtance with Balvanie; and depones, that Balvanie, at the inputting of his fword, and calmeing of thir thingis, ſpak thir wordis to the goodman of Coittis, “ Sie, Coittis, as thou wilbe anſuerabill to thy wyff and bairnes, vpoun the perrell of thy lyff, that thair be no moir dir of thir thingis:” Quhairvnto Coittis anſwerit this only, “ Thair is ouer many behalderis ſua to do.”

And depones, that afoir Balvany finderit frome Coittis, the said Alexander Innes, Balvanys bruther, haueing his drawne sword shaiking ouer Coittis head, said to the laird his brother, "Alaice, Sir, gif ye wer away;" unto whome the deponner anfuert, "Thair hes bene ouer meikle of this alreddy."

Andro Innes, in the barne yaird of Innes, sworne and examinat, deponis, conformis primo testi in omnibus, addende that he threw the goodeman of Coittis sword oute of Alexander Innes brother to the Laird of Balvany his hand.

[Indorfed:]

Mr James Gutheries depofitions
in the caufe betwixte Baluanie
and Cotes.

CCXIV.—INFORMATIOUN FOR THE ADWOCATTIS AND REMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SESSIOUN TUICHING THAIR PRIULEDGES.

FIRST, The Seffioun and Colledge of Justice ar exemit fra all taxatiounes in the erectioun thair of in anno 1537.

And quhair it may be obiectit that thair is na mentioun thairin of Aduocattis Clerkis, and Wrytteris, it is anfuert thairto, that the Seffioun and Colledge of Justice most comprehend thairin all memberis, becaus the said exemptioun man be vnderftoud according to the fens, and not according to the letter; vtherwayes the fame exemptioun falbe altogidder personall, becaus it speikis allenarlic of the Lordis of Seffioun that then wer, and dois not extend verbalie to thair successoris, quhilk wer absurd.

Item, The absurditie of the said first act is cleirit be the subfequent

aēt of parliament, quhilk ratifies the faidis priuilegis, and declairis the fame to haue bene gevin to the Colledge of Justice and memberis, for the quhilk we haif xiii or xiiij aētis of parliament.

Item, Our faidis priuilegis ar cleirit be our lang and peaceable possessioun be the space of lxxx yeires; quhilk possessioun is proven be the buikis and registeris of the comptis of the taxatiounes subscrivit be the commissiounaris of parliament, and be the decreittis and sentences gevin baith befor commissiounaris of parliament and Lordis of Sessioun, quhair we ar fund to be exemit fra all taxatiounes.

Item, His maiestie hes remowit all doubt quhilk may be obieēt to our priuileges, in fa far, in August 1588, quhen the realme and the religioun was threatnit be the Spanzeardis, his heires did not vrge ws to pay taxatioun, bot did gratioullie except of ws, ane voluntar and frie contributioun than offerit be ws to his maiestie, being fitting in ane sessioun in prefens of the hail lordis; quhilk acceptatioun is registrat in the buik of statutis of the Colledge of Justice.

Item, Albeit we wer not able to schaw ane exprefs grant of our priuileges, maid at the erectioun of the Colledge of Justice; zit our possessioun be the self is sufficient to mentene ws; becaus be speciall aēt of parliament maid in Junij 1594, his maiestie and estaitis hes ratifiet our priuileges maid to the memberis of the Colledge of Justice, not onlic as the fame ar contenit in the erectioun thair of, bot also as the fame hes bene brukit and possēt be ws fensyne; sua that our possessioun with this aēt gevis ws ane full priuilege.

Item, His maiestie hes declarit ws to be exemit fra all contributioun of taxatiounes with the burrowis, quhair of we haif ane speciall aēt in Junij 1592, cap. 15, 3; be the quhilk aēt, his maiestie and estaitis, considering that the taxatiounes vpon the realme wer multiplied, and the burrowis haelie burdenit, and thairfoir hes statut and ordanit that all inhabitantis within burrowis fall contribut to taxatiounes for thair releiff; bot that,

with this expres declaratioun, that the same fall nawayes preudge the memberis of the Colledge of Justice thair priuiledges and immunities grantit to thame, or quhairof they haif bene in vse in tyme bygane, and giue we be frie fra all contributioun of taxatioun with the burrowis (as we ar be this act), we man also be frie from the rest, feing we haif bene in possessioun alyk of baith; and it wer ane absurd thing to mantene that we wer exemit from ane pairt, and not from the rest, that is to say, baith exemit and not exemit.

Item, The ordour of taxatioun in speciall act of parliament, maid in December 1595, fett down and declairit be his maiestie and estaitis. In the quhilk act, the memberis of the Colledge of Justice ar declairit to be priuilegit and exemit, and als his maiestie hes thairby declairit his gracious will and mynd that he intendis not to hurt priuileges dirogat nor prejudgit, and thairfor, feing his maiestie being present amangis ws, wes gratiouflic pleifit to mantene our priuileges, it war ane hard preparatiue to infringe them now in his hienes abfens.

Item, We ar certainlie informit that it is [his] hienes will, that no man nor perfonis be hurt or prejudgit in thair priuileges, bot that all be movit and persuadit to contribute at this tyme, in respect of the weichtines and necessitie of the caus; quhilk we, to signifie our affectiones to his maiestie, ar most willing to do, our priuileges being referuit.*

Item, It is humlie desyrit that the estaitis consider how dangerous it is to begin notatioun, and to quarrell mens priuileges and prescriptioun heirof be fourscour yeires possessioun, for omiffioun of ane word, for this thaireftir may be drawin to thair awin priuiledgis, feing thair ar fundrie priuileges pertening to ilk ane of the estaitis feueralie, and to them all in generall, quhilk hes no warrand be writt or law, bot only lenis to custome and prescriptioun of tyme; and thairfor it is desyrit, that they on nawayes gif thair consent nor writt be this notatioun.

* This probab'y refers to the contribution for the Palatinate.

CCXV.—THE ACCOMPT OF MY DILIGENS IN THE SERUICE COMMITTED
TO MEE, WITH A MOTION COMMENDED TO HIS MAIESTIE FROM HIS
EMBASSADOUR AT THE HAGHE.*

AFTER my difpatche at Beauer Cattle, I did with all diligens adreffè myfelfe to the Lowe Cuntries, where, within foure dayes after I did ar-

* This singularly valuable paper contains a narrative, by Patrick Scot, of his expedition to Holland, in order to secure, if not assassinate, David Calderwood, the Church Historian, who fled there to escape the vengeance of James VI., which had been roused against him, as author of the "Perth Assembly, containing—1. The proceedings thereof. 2. The proof of the nullitie thereof. 3. Reasons presented thereto against the receiving the five new Articles imposed. 4. The oppositenesse of it to the proceedings and oath of the whole state of the land, an. 1581. 5. Proofs of the unlawfulness of the said five Articles, viz.—1. Kneeling in the act of receiving the Lord's supper. 2. Holy daies. 3. Bishopping. 4. Private Baptisme. 5. Private Communion." 1619. 4to. Calderwood having been carefully concealed, his death was rumoured, and Scot thought this an admirable opportunity for gratifying his Majesty, and vexing the refractory clergy, by forging a recantation, which was skilfully done, in a work with the following title:—"Calderwood's Recantation, or a Tripartite Discourse, directed to such of the Ministerie and others in Scotland, that refuse Conformitie to the Ordinaunces of the Church. Wherein the causes and bad effects of such Separation, the legall proceedings against the refractarie, and nullitie of their cause, are softly launced, and they louingly inuited to the Vniformitie of the Church. Epist. Iam. cap. 3: Vbi Zelus et Contentio, ibi Inconstantia et omne opus prauum. London, printed by Bernard Alsop, dwelling in Distaffe Lane, at the signe of the Dolphin, 1622." 4to. The introductory notice is dated "Amsterdam, this 29th of November 1622," and the general appearance of the work was such as to induce a belief of its reality. Unfortunately for this conspiracy against his fair fame, Calderwood was alive and able to expose it, which he lost no time in doing.

The following account of the matter is from his Church History (MS. Advocates' Library), vol. xv. p. 1209:—"Patrick Scot, a landed gentleman, beside Falkland, having waisted the money that he had, had no other meanes to recover his estate, but by some unlawful shift at court. He set furth a Recantation under the name of a banished minister, Mr David Calderwood, but soon after came furth a Latine worke intituled *Altare Damascenum*, which testified to the world, that he was farre from minding any recantation, and that he was yett living: for the Recantatione was sett furth upon a report that he was dead. The truth is, he was deadly sicke, and if he had died, the Recantatione had gone for current as his. But the devise turned to the shame of the devisers; he confessed himself, that the King furnished him matter, and he set it down in forme. This course failing, he went over to Holland—sought the said Mr David at the Hague, at Delf, at Amsterdam, and other towes, in the moneth of November; pretending to such as he thought favoured the said Mr David, that he had a thousand pounds to deliver to him, which was collected among well affected people at home; and offered money to some to reveal where the said Mr David was. Noe doubt the man was employed to seeke his life, and murder him privatly; which was easie for him to doe, if he had been there under cloud of night, when the said Mr David was to come from the Scottish inue to his owne chamber,

ryue, findinge by my intelligens at Roterodam, that the perfon after whome I enquiryed was latelie remoued, I came to the Haghe, where I deliuered his majesties letter to the embassadour, with that which was referred to my relation, which hee verie dutifully receaued, and promised his best indeuouris to further this seruice, telling mee there was a yeare and more past, since vpon viewe of that paities labouris, his eie had bine vpon him; but (lyke a foxe when hee offendeth) hee had learned a tricke to keepe himselfe obfcure or out of the way.

The Embassadouris aduyfe was (for shunning of discouery), that before ane motion were made to the States, I should labour by all meanes to learne the certaintie of his residens; foe, resoluinge vpon the fittest places and persons by whome intelligens might be had, I did returne backe to Campheare, from that to Dort, from thence to Roterodam, and then to Leyden; in all which places I learned hee had bine, but could find noe present certantie of him.

either by shooting him in the water, or otherwise, not fearing evill of the man he had never seen before. After he had stayed at Amsterdam seventy days, and inquired diligently, he was informed that the said Mr David was at home in his own native countrie of Sentland; and soe he returned to court disappointed. His dependence, for the most part, was upon the Viscount of Annan, a man unknown likewise to the said Mr David, be whom he was wounded out." See also the learned biographical account of Calderwood, in the last edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica.

The following anecdote of Scot is given at length, by Calderwood, in his MS. history:—An Englishman had bought a piece of land, and promised to pay part of the price on a certain day. When the time came, he could not raise the money, and he was threatened with 'the extremity of the law.' He went to London, and walking 'in Paul's church, and pensive, made his own mone to a Scotishe man walking there,' and 'offered him a reward if he could procure the King's protection.' The Scotch man replied that he had no court influence, but observing Scot, who probably had been dining with Duke Humphrey, he said, 'I see one walking hard by, his name is Mr Scot, he can doe your turne.' An introduction followed—Scot demanded fifty pounds for his patronage, but took thirty, and the Englishman's horse worth five pounds, giving him 'a packald, as it were of letters sealed,' to be delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed. Alas, these missives were as deceptive as his satanic majesty's coin, for when opened by the individuals to whom they were presented, there was nothing inside. As a fitting termination to this adventure, the poor applicant for royal protection was cast into prison. Of course, this story coming from the pen of an enemy must be received with caution, but we much fear that the moral principles of the fabricator of "Calderwood's Recantation" would not operate as any bar to his defrauding the poor Englishman of his money.

"After the death of King James, he set out a pamphlet full of lies, intituled 'Vox Vera,' but as true as Lucian's *Vera Historia*. For all his godlesse and unlawfull shiftis, he died soon after, soe poor, that he had not wherewith to bear the charges of his burfall, but it behoved the Bishope of Ross to bear the charges of it, for the good service he had done to the King and the Bishops."

At laſt (after twentie dayes were thus confumed) I repaired to Vterght, where Mr. Scot that wrote *Vox Populi** dothe remaine, with whome I did foe infinuat myſelfe, that within twoe dayes hee did tell mee, that my freind whome I ſaid I was deſirous to ſee was at Amſterdam, but (as the embaffadour had ſaid before) hee thought hee ſhould be hardlie inquired after; yet did hee direct mee to an inne keeper, to a booke feller, and to a printer, of his acquaintance, ſome of whome (hee ſaid) might perhapps bringe mee to the knowledge of the man whome I deſired to ſee.

At my cominge to Amſterdam, and three dayes conuerſinge with thoſe to whome Mr. Scot directed mee, I did learne that the partie was in toun; yet by noe meanes durſt I reueale myſelfe further to them (they beinge ſtricke Puritans), then that I had hard much good of the man, and was deſyrous to ſee and haue ſome of his workes. The booke feller told mee, that one Johne Hamleton, a religious merchaunt of Edenboroughe, had tranſported the moſt part of them to Scotland this laſt yeare; yet at night he promiſed to goe to a freind that had the felling of the remanent, wherby I coniectured that it was the author that had bothe the keepinge and felling of thoſe bookes, foe I did carefullie watche the booke feller's oute goinge at night, whoe did goe directlie to the printer's houſe, where the parties refidens is, as before I had learned from dyuers perſons by infalible circumſtances. When I had done this, I returned to the embaffadour, told him I had found the parties refidens, and deſired that hee would be pleaſed to procure the States warrant, and I ſhould doe my beſt to enforce the printer's houſe, and ſeaſe vpon his ghuelt.

The embaffadour aunſwered, that he would willinglie moue the States to this effect, but hee much feared that the motion might marre the buſines, in regard the partie was kept foe cloſe amongſt thoſe of his owen profeſſion, and that it was to be doubted that ſome amongſt the States, without whome he could get noo warrant, were his ſpeciall freinds, and would aduertife him before anie warrant could be ſerued. Secondlie,

* *Vox Populi*, or *Newes from Spaine*. 1620, 4to. By Thomas Scot. He was author of numerous political tracts, of which there was a very complete collection in the Gordonſton Library, ſold in March 1816.

The embassadour told mee there was another motion in hand (wherofe M^r. Johne Forbes was directed to giue his maiestie information), that might in short time procure a generall warrant from the States for apprehension of all delinquents of this nature, withoute suspition of aime at any particular person.

For these reafons, hee thought good to let the motion I defyred sleepe till his majestie were aduertised of the conueniencie of the other.

Becaus sicknes and the roughnes of this winter season did lett M^r. John Forbes from vndertakinge iornay towards England, as hee intended, the embassadour did thinke fitt that I should supplie M^r. John his place in preferringe these instructions to his majesties consideration, which I should haue, and his letter to this purpose. When I had receaued his letter, conceaued the instructions, and goten direction to M^r. John Forbes to giue me particular information of the former proceedings, I tooke my leaue, and came to Delphe, where M^r. John Forbes did deliuer mee the substance of the ensuing motion.

THE MOTION.

Vpon a ferious consideration of the loosenes of lyfe, and scandalus behaiour of manie bothe Englishe and Scots ministers resident in the Vnited Provinces, and more frequent resort of others then before, the Dutche ministers, oute of their care to haue suche scandalus presidents in the Church repressed, were content to ioyne with the Englishe and Scots ministrie, in petitioninge vnto the States, that an act from them might be established, authorizinge them to reforme suche abuses wherofe they did complaine, and depose from the ministrie all such as should be found faultie in lyfe or doctrine, or that did preiudice the vnitie of the Church and dignitie of their cuntry, by preachinge, wrytinge, or anie other meanes, then their profession and good order would allowe. This correspondens of the Dutche Church was soe well lyked by the best sort of the Englishe and Scots ministers, that furthwith they appointed M^r. John Forbes to deale with the rest of the ministrie to assemble at the

Haghe, where, by assistance of his maiesties embassadour, they might concurre for the aduancement of soe necessarie a motion; which accordingly Mr. John Forbes performed, in assembling aswell the Dutche as Englishe and Scots ministers at the Haghe.

But at their first meetinge the motion was obuiat by a proposition (as it appeared sinisterlie thrust in) made by one Mr. Alexander Mackduffe, minister at Campheare, whoe desired in his maiesties behalfe, that there might be a constant moderatour chosen, and that three, at least twoe, names might be sett doune and sent to his maiestie, that hee might make choyce of one of them.

This proposition was so distastfull to the Dutche Church, that they presentlie broke vpp, and refused to ioyne anie further in that motion, which they did conceaue directlie tended to the erection of bishops: Yet the most part of the Englishe and Scots ministrie did conclude for giuinge his maiestie all possible satisfaction on their parts, that Mr. John Forbes should be sent to England to giue true information of the conueniencie of the first course, and to supplicat his royall approbation and assistance, that it may goe one as it was first propounded, for three speciall reasons:—

1. Reason.—First, It will curbe all lewde, insolent, or vnqualified persons, that daylie, without order, intrude themselues in the ministrie, and liue lyke libertins, without makinge consciens of their profession, to the disgrace of the Church, and reproache of their cuntry.

2. Reason.—Secondlie, If this beginninge had once taken effect, it wilbe a speciall meanes to repress aswell the insolent wryttings of fugitiues, resorters, or residents, as the seismes that daylie fale oute heare, which cannot but vnquyet bothe Church and State at home.

3. Reason.—Thirdlie, His maiesties approbation and assistance of this motion, will vindicat him from those ieaiousies which the Dutche Church (prompted with some ill affected persons) conceaue that his maiesties intention is to bringe in Episcopall gouernment amongst them, if not Po-

pisme itself: Of the first their cuntry is not capable, church revenues being destitute to other publick uses, and irrecoverable; and the other they cannot hear named with patients.

This is the summe of that which the Embassadour and Mr. John Forbes by his direction did deliver unto mee, both seriously regrating the misdemeanours of such whose disloyall labours are daylie vented, to the griefe of every good subiect.

Thus, after long stay at Flushing, and foure repulses by contrary winds, am I returned, referring the premises, with such other observations as I have sett downe apart, to his maiesties royall consideration.

THREE SHORT OBSERVATIONS.

1. First, I observe, that the correspondents betwix the Puritans of Scotland and those of the Lowe Countries, dothe rather increase than diminish, wherby it faileth out, that by comunitie of Puritan seminaries, and correspondents from Scotland, the most part of his maiesties subiects inhabiting in the Lowe Countries, are not onely addicted to Puritanisme, readie to intertaine the badest impressions of their owne state, but to cherish afwell sedition, libellis, and rebellious notions, as the authors thereof.

2. Secondlie, I find that the contempt of bishops, and the wrytinge bothe against their persons and government, is much applauded in the United Provinces, which cometh (as I conceive) thorough the neglect of correspondents, wherof they have litle or none either to aduance their well, or oppose their prejudice.

3. Thirdlie, I have learned that the cause of the comunitie of forbidden bookes, both here and in the Lowe Countries, proceedeth from the correspondents that is kept betwix the printers and stationers in England, Scotland, and there. If there be here a copy that cannot be printed without danger, it is conveyed to Amsterdam, where it is faillie printed,

returned, and fould at a tenn-fould deerer rate then anie other booke whatfoeuer. I haue diligently marked this abufe, and I do werelie thinke that without stricke animaduersion, it will rather increafe then become leffe.

[Indorfed:]

Patrickke Scott,
his Accompt of his Diligens.*

* A letter from Sir Dudley Carleton, Ambassador to the States, relative to Patrick Scot's transactions in Holland, and addressed to James VI. is printed in the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 433. Scot complains that he beheld, in Holland, every "Bookseller's shop and most Pedlars' stalles loaden with the Nullitie of *Perthe's* Assembly, the Altar of *Damascus*, the Dialogue betwixt *Theophilus* and *Cosmophilus*, the Speech of the Church of Scotland to her Beloued Children, and the Course of Conformitie joynd with all these (severally printed before), reprinted in one volume, and to be sold at no lesse a rate then if they had been oracles of *Apollo*." See "Vox Vera, or Observations from Amsterdam, examining the late insolencies of some Pseudo-Puritanes, seperatists from the church of Great Brittain, and closed vp with a serious three-fold advertisement for the generall vse of every good subject within his Maiesties dominions, but more especially of those in the kingdome of Scotland." London, 1625, 4to. p. 3. It is dedicated to King Charles I. He was also probably the author of "A Table-Book for Princes, containing Short Remembrances for the Government of Themselves and their Empire," &c. London, 1621. 12mo; a copy of which is No. 2095 of the Gordonston Catalogue.

The Altar of *Damascus*, above mentioned, was the English edition, now very scarce, which was subsequently enlarged, translated into Latin, and published, first, in 1623 (no place), and secondly, "Lugd.-Bat. 1708," both in 4to. At the end of the English work is the following very curious paragraph, in which the venerable primate of Scotland is spoken of in terms by no means flattering:—"Bishop Spotswood hath spread a rumour, that M. David Calderwood is turned Brownist; but I assure thee, good reader, it is not true. That old impudent lyar hath, together with his supposed authour, a young man, trimmed up a tale with many circumstances, to make the misreport the more credible. But if ever he required by letter, the judgement, either of that supposed authour, or of any other man else, ament their opinions, then let him never be reputed for an honest man hereafter. If he had doubted, he would not have sought resolution from yong schollers, and unsettled brains. The ground being false, all the rest of the circumstances builded upon it are knaivish forgeries also. If either Spotswood, or his supposed authour, persist in their calumnie after this declaration, I shall try if there be any bloud in their foreheades."

It is, perhaps, almost unnecessary to add, that the "young man" is evidently intended for Patrick Scot.



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