

Arthur, 9th Lord Forbes

CHAPTER X.

ARTHUR, 10TH LORD FORBES.

Born, April 25th, 1581. Succeeded, August 2nd, 1606. Died, 1641.

THERE is an almost embarrassing amount of material available, both in the family papers and in the public and other records, in connection with Arthur, 10th Lord Forbes. He was the eldest son of his father's second marriage and, as has already been shown, was definitely looked on from his early years as his father's successor in the title and estates. He was nearly 12 years old when his eldest Catholic half-brother, William, the first "Brother Archangel," died, in his distant Flemish convent, March 20th, 1592/3; probably it took a long time for the news to reach Scotland. William, when he abandoned his military career and became a monk, had resigned his rights and patrimony to his next brother, John, though there is no trace of any actual deed by which he did so. John was already a monk, at least a lay brother, at the time William died; since the date of full profession is given in all the extant lives of him as August 2nd, 1594, of his entering the noviciate as one year earlier, and becoming a lay brother a year earlier still; in August, 1591, he was 20.¹ He also made formal renunciation of his claims to the title and lands of Lord Forbes, and, as already seen, his father agreed with King James VI. that this Catholic scion of the Forbes family, having entered a religious house, should be disinherited (see page 128). There is no doubt that this was done; in the deed registered under the Great Seal, December 28th, 1598, already given—by which Arthur's father, the 8th Lord Forbes, ignoring John's existence completely, granted charter to "Arthur, eldest son of John, Lord Forbes and Dame Janet Seytoun his wife, whom failing to David their second son, whom failing to his own younger brothers (in order) and their heirs, of the Lordship and barony of Forbes," thus clearly demonstrating that under *no circumstances* should John, the monk, inherit. The charter is not in the *Registrum* at Castle Forbes, but is given in the Appendix to the last chapter, page 145. From this date, and probably before, Arthur was invariably known as "Master of Forbes."

Two years later Arthur wrote to his elder brother the following remarkable letter. The original, in Arthur's handwriting, is at Castle Forbes,

¹ Since in August, 1606, he was still only in his 36th year.

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which may prove (a) that it is a contemporary copy, (b) that it was never sent, or (c) that it was returned from Flanders by the Capuchin House after John's death. It shows, in any case, that the brothers must have corresponded before this date; Arthur would have been 6 years old when John made his escape from the family home, and cannot have had a very clear recollection of anything earlier than that. The tone of the letter is faintly patronizing and shows that the writer had "a guid conceit o' himsel'." There had been apparently some idea of John's visiting Scotland.

ARTHUR, MASTER OF FORBES, TO HIS HALF-BROTHER, JOHN.

[59] "'A son tres aymé frère Jean forbes qui s'appelle capucien religieux de l'ordre francais en Flandre en le vile de Saint Ouen.'

" 1600.

(At this date John was 30, and Arthur 19.)

" I hartlie thank you (both hartlie and honorablie, beloved brother) That now at last ye have broken your long silence, the respect quhareof, sence ye remit them to ther proper tym and experiences, I am content to attend in patience upon them, Resolved alwayes of your affection without forder experience, since we are brethren, and heirof thank you for counsellling me so zealouslie to be wys and circumspect in ruling the affairs of that estait and calling quharin it has pleased God to place me. Quhilk, God willing, I sall obey, acknowledging both the dignitie thereof to be gryther than I deserve and the danger gryther throug the burding of, than myself I can be able to beir. And therfoer sall studie to feir, in the mids of my rejoicing and to have thankfulness accompanied with thochtfulness As the mynd of this temper is richtlie disposed so the course of lyf so composed is guided aricht. Nether esteem I that my estait or calling can hinder this more than any other, being richtlie used, seing all are sanctified to God to one use and to them that are holie all things are holie— Otherwayes we behoved to depart out of this wardle.¹ And even this I see ye also acknowledge whenas, though wyslie ye do warn me of the danger, ye doe counsell me to clave to my calling. I sall be careful to obsairve both, hopping be so much as God has honoured me more than others, through His grace to honour Him so much above others. So far I hoip in God sall my estait be from endangering my saull, that be the contrar as it suld, so it sall serve to furder my salvation. For I hoip to hald it, not as my heaven and so as it sall not be my God, but as His good benefit to use it to His honour, holding it as ane earnest of His furder favour. And that it may be so, I sall be cairfull to hold fast that sur ground of trewth quhilk He has taught Me out of His awin Word, quhilk onlie is able to mak the man of God perfynt in every guide work. 2 *Timothy* 3. holding me fast upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets that I may know myself to be ane trew member of God His house that is his kirk *Eph.* 2 quhilk I know to be bot one, though gathered of all nations both Jew and Gentill and thairfor called Catholick, quharof I am ane member leal and trew and am assured to remain so for ever, throw the grace of God. Heirin I am more careful to confirm

¹ World.

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my awin conscience than curious to know controversies and more desirous to preuve myself of that Kirk than willing rashlie to judge of others whether they be of it or no seeing that belongs to God *2 Timoth. 2* Not absolutely leaning to the opiniown quhilk many profess, nor absolutely rejecting for partie of holders, seeing both scripture declairs and experience proveth that to be ane slipperi step to stand on. For Achab I find lost himself be this errour, following the opinion of four hundred against one Michaiiah, only trew and they all fals. *1 Kings 22* So leaning neither to singularity nor pluralitie of professours I think the trewth suld be received of one, though all men be aganst him, and ane errour is not to be followed, though all the wardle maintain it. And in this, beloved brother, believe me, seing I suld know it better nor ye, that even in this country there be preachours to improve quhois doctrine if no better argument be found nor the lyf, ther sall no just cause be found to condemn it. So as I am glad that ye agree with our preachours not to worship or adore pictures, so wold I rejoice if either ye micht warrand against the religious using of them or wilt then be persuaded to leave them—seing if Chryst be not in us no outward painting will teach us, and if He be in us, we have sufficient remembrance of Him—For it is no outward presence of His picture, bot the inward worship of His spiritt that helpeth our Infirmities *Rom. 8*. Yet do I with no little comfort to myselff, and gret thank to you, consider your earnest affection in wishing the saulvation of my sawl in procuring qhairof God forbid I suld will you to put yourself to ony pain or perril either of bodie or sawl, seing your pains could procure no proffeit and in your perrel I could tak no pleasour. Yet most desyrous to sie yow, if it may be so—as we wold have you and may keip you, with mutual contentment. I rest, wishing you everlasting peace both of bodie and mynd, from Druminnor the — day of 1600 Your luffing and affectionat brother, reddie to plasour you according to his power

Arthur, Maister of Forbes."

Arthur, as seen in his father's accounts, was married on February 5th, 1600, to Jean Elphinstone, second daughter of Alexander, Master of and afterwards fourth Lord Elphinstone. Of this wedding it is recorded in the *Diary* of Robert Borrell, Burgess of Edinburgh, 1532-1605, MS. in the Advocates' Library, that the gaieties accompanying it were so great that the beginning of the Church's fast of Lent had to be postponed. The fasts and feasts of the Church were already beginning to be of less importance in a Scotland which followed the Protestant faith.

"Februar 1599-1600. The 5 of februar lent began, but was stayit be reassone of the banket and mariage of the Earl of Sutherland, and the Mr. of Forbes wt twa dochters of the Mr. of Elphinstone."

The accounts of the *Lord High Treasurer* also give, under same date : "Item, delyverit be commandiment of his Majesteis precept, to Sir George Horne of Spot, knycht, Master of the gardrop—twa golden cheinzeis (chains) and cheinzie bettis (chain-bits), with twa pair of garnessingis (garnishings), bak and

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for, to be delyverit as his hienes propyne (gift) to the Countes of Sutherland and Maistres of Forbes, the day of thair mariage."

A further item is

"Delyverit to his Majesties self to play at the cairds in the moneth of Februar 1600, the tyme his Majestie was in the Cunzie house ¹ of Edinburgh at the mariages of the Erle of Sutherland, and Maister of Forbes, sex fyve pund pieces."

Obviously at this period John, 8th Lord Forbes, was in high favour with his Majesty King James VI. The Master of Elphinstone was Treasurer, and his accounts show the Master of Forbes often in the Royal Company.

Just eleven years after her marriage, February 8th, 1611, Jean Elphinstone, Lady Forbes, had a charter of the Barony of Fiddes, Forbes, etc., united into the Barony of Forbes.² With her was associated her eldest son, Alexander, then a child of ten years old.

Unlike many of the eldest sons with whom we have to deal, Arthur Forbes seems to have been on good terms with his father and to have assisted him in the many troubles which overtook John, the 8th Lord. The somewhat self-righteous tone of Arthur's letter to his half-brother, John, has already been seen.

Arthur was 25 when his father died, June 29th, 1606, and having apparently since his childhood had the position and title of Master of Forbes, confirmed by the deed of 1598, he at once assumed the style of Lord Forbes, and was universally recognized. It is impossible to discover from family papers or contemporary records whether there was *at that period*³ any knowledge that John, Brother Archangel, was still alive. He had been dead to the family for so long. No line in his handwriting exists and the last known communication which passed between him and his family is the letter from Arthur to him already quoted, of six years before, and that perhaps was not delivered. News would travel slowly in those days, and certainly before the announcement of the death of the 8th Lord Forbes could have been received at Teneramund (if it was to anyone's interest to carry the news), and a reply could have reached Scotland, Brother Archangel was already dead of the plague.

Arthur succeeded to his family honours in a troubled time. Three years before, King James VI. had gone south to become James I. of England, leaving a Scotland distracted as usual by feuds between the great families, though the king's tortuous methods of dealing with them had shorn some of them of their former powers.

¹ The Mint.

² *Reg. Mag. Sig.*

³ The copy of the inscription on the tombstone was subsequently received. It is not, of course, known when, or by whom, the stone was erected, and the position of the copy in the *Registrum* is merely due to the arrangement of Mr. Cosmo Innes—the writing is not contemporary.

The Forbes family was, as often, in financial difficulties owing to the misfortunes of John, 8th Lord, but their traditional enemies, the Gordons, were for the moment less powerful.¹ The son of the forfeited 4th Earl, George, 5th Earl of Huntly (whose brother, Adam Gordon of Auchindoun, had twice defeated the Forbeses in 1571), had died (curiously enough, remembering his father's death, of a fit when playing football) in 1576. The new holder of the title in 1606 was George, 6th Earl, afterwards 1st Marquis, who, at his father's death, was a minor and was being educated with a sister in Paris. After his return he was for a short time on good terms with the king, but later with other Catholic Lords raised the standard of revolt. This rebellion failed, and Huntly was for a time imprisoned, but liberated on a general amnesty at the time of King James' marriage with Princess Anne of Denmark. In 1592, being then again in great favour with the king, he received a Commission to apprehend his rival, the Earl of Moray, and, as is well known, carried out these orders with such violence as to end in the death of the Earl.² For this, Huntly was again imprisoned, but soon set free. In the beginning of 1592 he was accused of complicity in the great affair of the Spanish Blanks,³ was forfeited and excommunicated. He and his fellow Catholic Earls again raised the standard of revolt and obtained a victory over the king's forces under Argyll at the battle of Glenlivet, October 3rd, 1594 (when John, 8th Lord Forbes, had been on the losing side). But their success was ephemeral—the king's army, accompanied by the king, came north in force and demolished Strathbogie and Slains, the strongholds of Earls Huntly and Erroll, who then went abroad. Not long after this, by another amazing turn of fortune, Huntly was allowed to return from France, was relieved from excommunication and forfeiture, and on the occasion of the baptism of Princess Elizabeth (afterwards the unfortunate Queen of Bohemia) was created Marquess of Huntly, Earl of Enzie, etc., and became King's Justiciar in the North until he was superseded by Argyll in 1607. He was again excommunicated by the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland in July, 1608, and for the third time imprisoned, on this occasion in Stirling Castle. This digression has been necessary to explain the following letter found among the loose papers in Lord Forbes' boxes, in which Huntly would appear to have been asking

¹ A note in Privy Council records shows Arthur Forbes pursuing one Gordon for destroying his woods in March, 1605.

² Now wae be to ye Huntly and wherefore did ye sai ?

I bade you bring him wi' you and forbade you him to slay.

—*The Bonnie Earl of Moray.*

³ These were forms of letters addressed to Philip II. of Spain which came into the king's hands. Nothing was written on the sheets save the conclusion

"De votre Majesté le très-humble et très obéissant serviteur,"

and were signed by Huntly, Angus, Erroll and others. They certainly had a treasonable intent, as James' lords had no right to be "obedient" to any monarch but their own.

the support of his hereditary enemy, Lord Forbes, for his own justification. This paper, which is very tattered (some parts being actually missing), seems to have escaped all previous researches. It is the earliest document connected with Arthur, Lord Forbes, to be found among the family archives, with the exception of those already given under his father, and the letter to his brother. The paper is a vindication of the 1st Marquis of Huntly for the murder of the "Bonnie Earl of Moray" at Donibristle, February 7th, 1592. The date of this paper is not given, but it must be subsequent to the marriage of the dead man's son to Huntly's daughter, Anne, in October, 1607, a union arranged with the view of assuaging the family feud, and is addressed to the child Earl of Moray, but apparently *sent* to Lord Forbes.

The discovery of this letter, entirely unknown to Mr. Cosmo Innes or any previous reader of the unsorted papers, brings into the story of the 10th Lord Forbes this very characteristic incident of the violent times of King James (who so much hated violence and drawn swords).

After the Bothwell raid, in which, as has been seen, the 8th Lord Forbes was somehow involved, the king made use of Huntly (a traditional friend of the Crown) to carry a commission of fire and sword against the Earl of Bothwell, who had escaped from Edinburgh to his border stronghold.

It was also suggested that the young Earl of Moray (eldest son of Sir James Stewart, Lord Doune, who had now married, as has been said, the Regent Moray's daughter Anne) had been in league with Bothwell. Between the house of Huntly and that of Moray there had been a bitter feud since the days of Corrichie, when the Regent, James Stuart, Earl of Moray, had attempted with some success to destroy the great house of Gordon. On February 7th, 1592, Lord Huntly, the restored grandson of the victim of Corrichie, was out hunting with the king near Edinburgh and took the opportunity to tell him that he knew of some accomplices of Bothwell near at hand. The king, probably suspecting who was intended, forbade Huntly to cross the Forth, but his order was disobeyed, and Huntly with a band of followers rode that same evening to Donibristle, Moray's seat in Fife, and attacked it in force. The defences of the house were soon broken down by fire, with fuel supplied by Moray's own cornstacks, and the trapped Earl, with his followers, burst out and made for the seashore. It was night, but the plume of his helmet and his own long hair caught alight as he passed through the zone of fire and betrayed him. Tracked by this lurid sign he was overtaken and slain upon the sand. It is said that Huntly, his heart failing him at the horror of the deed, would fain have left the accomplishment of it to his servants, but one forced his dagger into Huntly's hand and, with curses on his cowardice, bade him strike. He did so, full in his enemy's face, and Moray died with the bitter jest on his tongue—"Ye have spoiled a better face than your own."

The suggestion in the famous ballad of the "Bonnie Earl of Moray"

that King James had cause for jealousy in connection with his Queen Anne of Denmark is probably quite without foundation. Moray's young wife and mother of his five children had been dead but a few months (November 1591), the tragedy taking place on February 7th, 1592.

The contents of the paper, as far as they can be read, are as follows:—

“ Offers in ye name of the Marquis of Huntly for himself his kin and friendes—dependants, partakers to my Lord (*Moray*)—his kin and friends and for the slaughter of ye umquhill erll off Murray his father.

“ First he protestes before Almighty God the searcher of all hearts that unluckie accident befell out far agains his will . . . if ony ways his Lop's slaughter . . . be impeditt be him. Lyk as I protest before Almighty God my cumming to his Lop's dunicill at sayd time was noways upon intention to have seked his Lop's blud in ony wayes that it unhappily fell out I was present upon this occasion off the schuitting of Captain Gordon as I doubt that ye . . . of the umquhill Erle . . . and whow careful ye saw me to have preservit his Lop's life, gif it had been possible. Yett notwithstanding hereoff for the said Justification of my Lord—these presents—both towards God and to *Lord F.*, I'm willing and be these premises offers to give satisfaction to his Lop for the same . . . to yr honours hands And gif it sall be agreit upon and decretit be his Ma., ye Erle of Mar and sic some honorable men of the name of Steuart, as his Lop sall chuse and nominat for that effect.”

Whether Arthur, Lord Forbes, did anything in Huntly's favour or not is not recorded, but very soon after the apparent date of this letter the usual Gordon-Forbes feud seems to have broken out with renewed vigour, and most of the papers in the family charter chest deal with it in one form or another. The first document, however, is a copy of a curious decret registered *October 23rd, 1606*, referring to an early occasion in which

“ Arthur, the Master of Forbes, now Lord Forbes, John Forbes of Pitsligo, William Forbes of Tolquhon and James Garioch of Kinstair take the burden on them for the whole clan and name of Forbes and their friends [the only time the family of Forbes can be found officially named “ a clan ”]. The burden thus shouldered was undertaken in order to make John, brother to William Forbes of Corsindae and two others ‘ pay to Alexander Irvine of Drum the sum of £4,000 as assythment for the slaughter of William Brown, servitor of John Irvine of Artamford, wounding of John Chalmer younger of Belnacrag and of Mr. Patrick Irvine in Corquhittoche, ombesetting of the said John Irvine in his way with forbidden waepins but any offence giffen to them or denunceit by them, of purpose to have bereft him of his life, miraculously preserved by the Providence of the Almighty.’ ”

The unfortunate John Forbes, brother of Corsindae was, however, condemned to death for his crime and “ tane to the Mercat cross of Edinburgh and there, upone ane scaffold, his heid was struken from his body 6 Nov. 1607.” (*Pitcairn's Criminal Trials*, II. 532.)

In consequence of this, in 1608, there is an Order from the Privy Council that

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" Arthur Lord Forbes appear at Edinburgh on 4th October charged with bearing a deadly hatred against Alex. Irvine of Drum (and with him are charged John Forbes of Pitsligo, William Forbes of Tolquhon, William Forbes of Corsindae, William Forbes of Monymusk, and Forbeses of Brux, Corse, Blacktown, Fingis (Fingask) and Echt. The cause stated was that ' Irvine had apprehended the late John Forbes of Corsindae, a noted malefactor,' and they are accused that, by their hatred, they ' have given new seed and rooting to that auld monster of deadlie feid, quhilk his Majesty sae carefullie, by his Hieness royal power and authoritie, suppressed in the Kingdom.' "

In the same year Drum and others gave promise not to harm Lord Forbes, and the Forbes family similarly promised not to harm Drum.

Pitsligo, Tolquhon, Monymusk, Auchredy, Knappernay, Pitnacaddell, Lethinty and Corse all rallied to the side of their chief on this occasion.

Some were judged to remain in Edinburgh till relieved by order, and it is further noted that

" They enter into bond of £10,000 for Arthur Lord Forbes that he will remain in Edinburgh till he satisfy the Treasurer for the offence for which he was warded."

In *The Melrose Papers*, I. 119, c. 1613, occurs this note, sent to the king, announcing a fairly peaceful state of affairs—

" As for the estate of the North, we haif conferrit with the Marques of Huntley, and sindrie other cuntrey men, and findis no suche disordour. Na cuntrey is free of thair particulair discontentmentis, as betwix the laird of Drum and the name of Forbes, and yitt all the pairtys ar under caution for your Maiesties obedyence."

The next item in the *Registrum* is a copy of the Inscription on the tomb of Margaret Gordon, at Ghent, Arthur's stepmother, already quoted. This copy may show that some time after the event it was known that John, Father Archangel, had outlived his father by five weeks, but it made no difference to the fact that Arthur was still the 9th Lord Forbes. The tombstone bears, besides the date of Margaret's own death, that of her two sons, William, on March 20th, 1592/3, and John, on August 2nd, 1606.

Other items among the family papers deal with debts, feu duties, etc.

There is a curious paper of date May 3rd, 1616, entitled—

[73] " *Conditions to be requierit of ye sueris off keig for yer leind.*

" Not to alienate nor contract debt, to set no tenant in their rooms but of yeoman or husband degree—not to trouble any of Lord Forbes tenants. To pay *pro rata* of augmentation of stipend and Kings taxation.

" Item yt Balgoune pay ane nest of meirlzouns (merlin hawks) yeirly to my lord forbes and his foresaids yrin . . . betwixt ye last day off May and ye last day of Junii—or yan XX marks for ye same and ane labourit merlzoune—(trained hawk) yat slay pout (here probably grouse, as the word means both) and partrick before ye fifteen of Julii or yan X marks for ye same.¹

¹ The hawk was obviously to be ready for the 12th of August.

"Item on yese conditionns aforesaid yai sall have ane nynteen yeir tak for ye payment of every pleuch off ye soume of twa hunder and fitei pound at witsunday next 1616 to be payit."

The details of these peaceable arrangements are followed by several papers dealing with the perennial feuds of the House of Forbes and the Marquess of Huntly, which remained as bitter as ever. In 1616 were drawn up

[72] "*Articles* for the part off my Lord Marques off Huntlie to be considerit and adjugit be the noble and honorable freinds chosin betwixt his lop and my Lord Forbes.

"In the first, the said lord Marques declairis yt ye said Lord Forbes and his lops predicessoris hes bruikit ¹ yis manie yeirs bygane, sundrie lands wtn ye parochins off Clunye, Midmar, Kinernie, Touch, Kincardine and Abergardine wtn the Sheriffdome off Aberdeene qrin ye said Lord Marques stands heritable infeft, haldine imediately off our soverane Lord, Lyk as his predecissors held the same these many yeirs bygane. Qhairupon yr was lettres raisit at his Lop's instance againis the said lord Forbes for exebitione before ye lords off sessione off ony wredits or documents ye said Lord Forbes might aclaime to the said lands or any part yroff to ye effect ye same might have beine improwine cūntlie ² *et omni alio modo quo de jure* and for not productione the saids evidents iff ony be, or fund improwine at ye leist sa far as ws proceidit yr intil as the saide evidents, if onie be, will mak na fath.

"Secondlie, if it be fund yt ye said lord Forbes hed only pretendit right off the saide lande or ony pt yroff, it can nar be denyit bot ye same is haldin immediatelic off ye said lord Marques qhby ye ordiner rente appertined properlie to his superior be ye privilege off his superioritie off ye same, sa lang as his wassall was his soverane lord's rebell and trew it is yt Umqhl John Lord Forbes, father to Arthur now Lord Forbes, wes our soverane Lord's rebell attour yeir and day, sa Arthur now lord Forbes sone and air, at ye leist universall successor *titulo lucrativo*,³ to his said umqll father, sould make ye duties off ye saide lands for ye space of— yeirs furth cummand to ye said superior extending yeirlie ye said yeir to—

"Thirdlie, ye said Lord Marques being weill myndit to ye said Lord Forbes for his will, gave to him ane new infeftment off ye lands he held off ye house off Huntlie within Mar and tuik ye said Lord Forbes band for restitution of ye said new infeftment onusit and to be reformit and made word for word according to ye first and originall infeftment qulk ye lord off Forbes had off ye lord off ye house of Huntlie and albeit ye said lord marques his ofttymes requyrit the said Lord Forbes to delyver ye said new infeftment to him according to ye tenor of his land, yit he postpones, defers and refuses to do ye same againe all equitie and reasoune.

"Fourthlie, yr is ane auld decret off perambulation past betwixt my lord off Huntlie's forbeirs and ye lord Forbesis, devyding in propertie ye said lord Marques forrest off Correnie fra ye said Lord Forbes lands contigue ajacent yrto, not obstant off ye qulk decret and sens ye pronunciation, ye said lord Forbes, his predecissors in qhwic wise he succeeds *vitis nondum purgato*, hes riven out

¹ Enjoyed.

² Conjunctly.

³ A gratuitous title.

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grt parts off ye said forrest, on everie quarter yroff, schawine, shorne and wone ¹ cornes off ye same, committing yrby manifest perprusatione [*sic*] ² and indaminging off ye said lord Marques and profyting, yeirlie ye soume. — Fyftlie, the said lord Marques and ye said Lord Forbes being under loving freindschipe, the said Lord Forbes declairit yt he behovit to sell his Lands in Abergardine qroff ane part was halden off his Majestie, ane other part off ye said Lord Marques quhranent they enterit in loving communication bying, blokyng and selling off ye said lands and in ye meine tyme ye bargane no being frelie dischargit, onfreindlie, by ye said lord marques his expectations, the said Lord Forbes disponit ye heritable right off ye said lands to ye Lard of Abergeldie, qhr intill ye saide Lord Marques is hevillie prejudgit qho wald have givine and offered to give, ye said Lord Forbes als meikill for ye saide Lands as ony mane wald have givine for ye same and yrby in ye said Lord Forbes default, the said Lord Marques wanted ye saide Lande and fell in caldness and allmest in enmitie wt ye said Lord off Abergeldie his speciall kinsmane."

1616. The contrary articles on the part of Arthur, Lord Forbes, "ageainst George, Marques off huntlie and his son the Earll of Enzie," are next given (somewhat abridged)—

1. Arthur, Lord Forbes, claims the lands of Noth which belonged to his father, or compensation.
2. He demands justice against Patrick Mortimer.
3. He enters a claim for £27,000, according to a decret of the Court of Session in his favour, and to have the
- 4 & 5. Heritable right to certain lands confirmed.
6. to be discharged of the necessity to produce old writs, now he has a new deed.
7. To be free of the Sheriff depute's Interference.
8. That Huntly shall either deliver up to justice malefactors who dwell on his land and have committed depredations on Forbes' land, or that Forbes shall be free to deal with them himself.
9. That Huntly and his son confirm the wadsetts and feus granted by Forbes.
10. That all old inhibitions and arrestments against him raised by Huntly be now destroyed.
11. That the decret of escheat, presumably issued against his father—now having been "lifted," the document be given him to destroy.
12. Discharge of his taxation, which is paid.
13. Justice on Huntly's tenants who spoil his woods.
14. That Huntly's son, the Earl of Enzie, ratify everything to which his father agrees.
15. His own restoration as "baillie off Keig and Monimusk according to the contract of marriage bet. his own father John 8th Lord Forbes and Huntly's father George 4th Earl, for his daughter" (John's first wife and Arthur's stepmother).

¹ Sown, reaped and gathered.

² Total forfeiture of fee.

The result of the presentation of these rival claims is also chronicled.

" 23 March 1621.

" This day the Lordis having considerit the hail claimeis of the L. Marquess of Huntly, the lord forbes and Patrick Mortimer and the decreit qlk was projectit and intendit be the L. of Banff, ffindis of consent of the said parteis that it is expedient that decreit stand be in all thinges perfytt as it bers.

" Except anent the sattissfactioun to be given to Patrick Mortimer qlk the Lordis refers to their furder consideration, And ordains the parties *hinc inde* to see and put the same to sum certaintie. And for the articles qlk ar not contenit in the claimis, thinkis expedient as follows—

- " 1. Quhair it is clameit that Corenye commountie be devydit, the Lordis ordaneis my L. forbes originall infeftment to be schawin that they may know gif he has Richt to commountie or nocht.
- " 2. Quhair it is clameit that the L. Marqueis further the L. forbes to get justice aganis sum of his broken hielandmen. Ordainis the Lord forbes to schaw his Letters of horning aganis the broken men befor they consider any moir of that.
- " 3. Quhair it is cravit that the Marqueis ratifie sum infeftments granted be forbes. The Lordis ordanis forbes to be speciall in the infeftments, personis, nature and qualitie yrof.
- " 4. The Lordis considering that the L. Gordon hes nocht Subscrivit the prorogation declairs they will, be thair sentence, burdein my L. Marqueis to caus his son ratifie the sentence qulk they sall pronounce.

[75.] Of date in the year 1617 there is a letter from James, younger of Corsindae, to Arthur, Lord Forbes. The letter is dated, London, Aug. 29, 1617, and shows how James Forbes had been trying to push his fortune in the southern Kingdom.

" My werie goode Lord, have been ensueing for two places since I did come into England, quhairof the worst wold have yielded me 80 lib sterling, but altho' I had gryt promesses of noblemen yet the envy of the English crue hes borne me doune in them both, quhairfoir I had recourse to the Florence ambassadore & maid acquaintance with him, qua hes given me letters to Florence that (as he has promised) sall get me ane hundred crowns a yeir, as guid clothes as any gentleman of England wears, with my dyet, quhairfoir I am hying me thither so fast as I can. For the supply of the quhilke journey I am forced to have sold such buikes as I haid, at half rate; so luik for no more letters from me until the tyme I be settled, which I hope sal be sooner than iff I had staid in England. . . . Ther is no news bot daylie expecting of the King: our Scottishmen are in verie lyttle regaird among the English and I think more hated now than befor the King come in England. . . . Your Lordship's friend my Lord Hay is not yet married, nor will never get my Lord of Northumberland's guidwill to it."

(This refers to the 9th Earl of Northumberland, who had been long imprisoned in the Tower on suspicion of being concerned in the gunpowder plot. His youngest daughter, Lucy, did, in fact, marry James Hay,

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afterwards 1st Earl of Carlisle, on November 6th of this year. She became known as the friend of Strafford.)

"So haveing no more to wreit to yr Lordschip bot ever wishing yr Lp. and her Lp. in health and wealth, I commit yr Lp. to the protectione of God and rest

"Yr Lp's servitor to his power

"J. Forbes."

(Letter sealed with a fancy seal—of a heart, etc.)

James Forbes was the eldest son of William, 6th Laird of Corsindae (and nephew of John, who was beheaded), James and three brothers having died without issue and apparently in great financial difficulties—the estate was apprized by Lord Forbes in 1622 and an excambion effected with Balfluig, when a new family of Corsindae arose, by whom the estate was eventually sold to Lord Braco, and disposed of by him to his relative, James Duff, the last representative of whose family recently sold Corsindae to Thomas Innes of Learney.

James Forbes seems to have done his best to push his own fortunes.

Early in the year 1621 another letter was received from him addressed—

[83] "To ye veary noble and
Potent Lord
Lord Forbes
these
at Drumino^r."

(Indorsed by Lord Forbes "Letter from James Forbes, son to corsindaye wrytin out off Padua in Apryll 1621.")

"My veary good Lord,

"My humble deutie remembered—Please, it is lytle moir as a month since I did wreat to yor Lp. wt. Ro' douglas a broyer of ye Laird of glenbervy in ye quhilk lettres I have wrethin to your lp of my ententione and my bypast travaill, as also of all newes in thois pairts, to ye qlk lettres I remitt yor. Lp. yet in case my lettres be Lait (qlk I hope not) yor Lp. sall know tho occasions haveing faillit me to Jerusalem, I am purposed in August to Spaine quher I will stay two monthes to perfyt my Spanis Language and from thence straicht throug France to England qr I sall be in ye first fyfteine dayes of december. I have prayed your Lp. in my uthir lettre to wret to me ye estait of all oy. affairs of fayther, mother and how all hes behaved them salves, as also being remembred of ye promeis yor. Lp. maid to me on Leyth shoir, as also oftymes in Edr. to aid me by counsall and pairt of moyen, So now I request yor. Lp ayd me to persue ye designe I have in hand wt a lytle moyen about a hundreth lib or two hundreth merks, for I have builded much on yor. Lp. promeis as yor. Lp. knowes I have done befoir. If yor. Lp. faill me in yis it haid bein better for me yor. Lp haid not bein so kynd in word and in truth I haid not builded on it as I have done, yerfoir as yor Lp Loves his owne honor in keeping promeis and Loves me in furthering my designe disapoynt me not at this tyme and sent it together wt yor. Lp. letters wt. ye salmon schipp

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and caus be ye moyen of Whythaugh gif it at Paris to Mr. James Leyth at quhom I sall demand it. I will wreat with ye first occasion to yor. Lp at moir lenth, quhilk if I do not, blame want of a bearer and not of a wreatter, howsoever yow sall heir from me so soone as I com to Londone togither wt. my designe. So haveing me in all humble dutie recommended to yor. Lp. her Ladiship yor. Lp noble children and all guid freinds and praying yor. Lp. wt. yem all earthlie contentment and hevinlie felicitie, I rest

“ Yor. goode lordship's

“ oune man

“ Forbis.”

(He was not, of course, entitled to sign in this manner, but the signature is quite clearly written and there is no initial prefixed.)

“ Padoa this 22 Apryle

1621

Lord Forbes did not apparently help him with the money asked for, but 18 months later raised a summons against him as his father's heir.

In the year 1617 Arthur, Lord Forbes, was summoned by Andrew Whyte, keeper of the Tolbooth, “ on a bond for 1000 merks due to him.” This was probably an aftermath of the time when John, father of Arthur, was “ wardit ” in Edinburgh. (The civic seal, much perished, is attached.)

In the year 1618 Arthur Forbes, “ patron ” of the Kirks of Forbes and Kearn, agreed with Robert Youngson, parson, with the consent of the Bishop of Aberdeen and the Presbytery of Alford, for payment for the teind sheaves, 110 merks, 200 merks for the vicarage and for furnishing materials for the communion, 36 bolls of victual—20 from Forbes and 16 from Kearn. [78.]

That the consent both of a Bishop and a Presbytery was required, points to the settlement having taken place during the period when his Majesty King James managed to retain in Scotland the services of the Bishops, to whose order he was so much attached, though their powers were greatly restricted by the authority of the General Assembly. They were not finally abolished in the Scottish Church till after the first and second “ Bishops Wars ” in the reign of King Charles I. and all the turmoils of the reigns of Charles II. and James II.

(The year 1690 marks the *final* establishment of Presbyterianism as the State Church of Scotland.)

Arthur's eldest son, Alexander, married on November 10th, 1618, when he was 17, the daughter of John, 8th Laird of Pitsligo, and Christian, daughter of Walter Ogilvie of Deskford. This marriage, though designed to compose some family disputes, apparently led, as so often happens, to the embittering of them, and the young wife was compelled to take sides with her father-in-law and husband against her own father. (See page 164.)

The eldest child of this young couple was born within a year of the marriage, but was short lived. He was followed by four others, before

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the death of young Anna Forbes, when her husband promptly took a second wife and had thirteen more children (See page 189.)

In 1619, the year after the marriage, two long memoranda were drawn up and are still at Castle Forbes. One headed—[79].

“ ‘Heidis to be performed be Alex^r. Maister off forbes to his father Arthur Lord Forbes as efter follows, befor witsunday nixt. In ann Jm VI^e and 19 yeir,’ marked on the back—’ wryten be umquill James Forbes off tolmade, my lordis naturall broyr.’ ” (See page 114.)

1. “ *Imprimis*, the Laird off Pitsligo to giff securitie to Arthur Lord Forbes for pymment off twentie thousand merks.
2. “ Item, securitie to be given to Arthur Lord forbes be Alex. Maister off forbes for twentie thousand merks to be paid befor nixt Witsunday and that to be satisfaction off ye hail fourtie thousand merks oblisit to be pyit be ye said Mr. off forbes for relief off his father’s debts conforme to the contrak off marage.
3. “ Item, that the sd Maister sall rateffie the richt off ye land of Blaktown to Jas. forbes of Blaktown for relief of ane band of thirteen hundred marks.
4. “ Item, that the Mr. sall at his perfitt age, rateffie the ryte of the lands of Allathen in favor off Johne forbes of Gask.
5. “ Item, ane perfytte securitie to be granted be the Mr. wt. consent off his curator, to my lord’s barnes ¹ off the soume off 18 thousand merks—sex thousand merks yeirlie to be paid ilke yeir induring ye said thrie yeirs.
6. “ Item, details about the living of Forbes.”

In December of the same year (it may have been at the same date) another paper was drawn up showing the obligations of the father:—

“Heidis to be performit be Arthur Lord forbes to his soone the maister”—

1. “ Item, in the first to delyver Lawfull dischargis of all ministeris stipendis, uther teinds, deuties, taxation of my Lordis landis, preceding Mertimas sax hundreth and auchtan yeiris To wit of ye teind dewties of the Landes of Fintray and Balchers, barony of Fiddes, The parochin of Kynneathmont and Keig except Sevedlie. The parochin of Kearn-Forbes, the landis off Tollis wtin the parochin of Cleat, Logie and Edinbanchorie wtin the parochin of Auchindoir My Lord Forbes landis, Auchentowllis Landes, Corsindais landis within the parochin of Awford, My Lordis landis wtn the parochin of Kyncarne, My Lordis landis wtin the parochin of Birs and Aboyne, the few deutie of the Landis of Mounkishill, Tollie in Cleat and of all taxationes of his Lordshippis hail Landis wtn the schire of Aberdeen.
2. “ Item to delyver the hail assedationes and assignatione of ye hail teinds of ye lordship of Forbes that was maid be my Lord to the maister at ye tyme of his first infetment of fie, such as my Lord has or may acquir.
3. “ Item to get payment from my Lord Forbes of sick of ye Last yeir’s rent of sax hundreth and auchteen and sax hundrett and nyntein yeiris as is taiken up to my Lordis awin use according to the chalmerlane’s comptes.

¹ Bairns, i.e. his younger brothers and sisters, seven in number.

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4. "Item to get the haill Reversionis taks of teinds and for ye old tak of Keig and Alford to get ane new set yairof and other writes and securitie of ye living of Forbes and Landis of Caithness ¹ reserving my Lordis lyfrent.
5. "Item, to get the hous of Dryminnor and Fiddes and keyis yairoff delyverit.
6. "Item to get infetment of the haill Landis to be holden from my Lord of his supperiores, except ye landis holden of his Majestie.
7. "Item, ane infetment of the saidis Landis to be holden of my Lord himself To wit, the braes of Tolmaddis the scheall of Ardefork, Kebbity, Corsindae, Tilliecarne, Tilliefure, Tillieriach, Fodderbirse, Tollie of Cleat, Monkshill, with reservatione of all forder burdens or disposition upon theis lands maid by my lord or his predecessors to any personis.
8. "Item to get assignatioune to ye reversions and ratificationes of the former fie subscryvit wt ye forsaid reservationis.
9. "Item to infet the Maister in the haill lands of Caithness stok and teind thairof and patronage of Kirkis wt reservatioune of my Lordis lyfrent and fyve yeiris takis.
10. "Item, that my Lord discharge that claus of the contract, concerning the victuall yat suld be exchanit out of ye Maisters rents out of ye shyre of Aberdeen and to have no Intromission wt no part of ye Maisters rent in tyme cuming.
11. "Item that my Lord sall give the Maister all securitie as he has or may have be advyse of men of law for securing of him in his haill landis and Leiving, teindes, reversions etc.
12. "That my Lord give dischargis to ye Maister upon ye payment of ye fourtie thousand merkis contenit in ye contract of marige and of sax thousand merkis in compleit payment of all soumes my Lord can seek of ye Maister for help in his estait or for any uther caus or occasione quhat sumevir induring ye said Arthur Forbes his lyfetye The same being done be advys of men of law and that but (without) prejudice of the new suirtie to be maid be ye Mr. of Forbes and ye Laird of Petsligo his cautioner for Implement and performance of the same.

¹ The lands in Caithness seem to have caused nothing but litigation. As early as 1613 Arthur Forbes is found complaining to the Privy Council that William Sinclair of Mey had tried to prevent pursuers tenants from paying their rents to him.

There were constant riots, and Forbes, the newlandlord, was sometimes the aggressor.

On May 26th, 1614, it is recorded that the servants of Lord Forbes attacked Robert Keyth, servitor to Lord Sinclair of Berriedail, "and chased him a great space and would undoubtedly have slain him, but for his speid of foote."

These troubles continued up to the year 1621. In 1623 Arthur's son, Alexander, was made a J.P. for Caithness.

The lands, usually referred to as "Dunbeath," must have come into the possession of Arthur, Lord Forbes, by some arrangement with his sister's husband, George Sinclair. They subsequently returned to the hands of the Sinclair family; meanwhile he had a great deal of trouble over them. In the paper of 1620, page 163, there is a curious entry, reminding himself to decide which member of his family shall go with him to Caithness, no doubt to settle some disputes there, and also the question of what shall happen to his eldest son, still under 20, and the latter's young wife, during his own absence. He seems to have been a very careful father.

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" James Ogilvie—Master of Deskford, Elphinstone (*the 4th Lord, father-in-law*
Curator (*brother of the Master's* *of Arthur Lord, Forbes.*
wife).

" R. Forbes—officer. Ad. Bishop of Dunblane."

Marked on the back " Minit at Brechin, in December 1619.

" This is doublit ower and my sone hes ane other heiroff."

This memorial, though long, is worth printing in full, as the various items show the parlous state of the Lord Forbes' finances and the expedients employed to improve them.

It also serves to explain some of the difficulties of Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes, in his own day and those of his son and grandson. The "superioris" mentioned in item 6 include, of course, the Marquis of Huntly, the Earl of Buchan, and others.

The lands mentioned in item 7 seem to have been held by Lord Forbes *himself* direct from the crown.

According to item 9 it appears he sometimes resided on the lands in Caithness, formerly the property of his brother-in-law, which is borne out by the fact that Arthur, the 5th son, whose birth occurred in 1615, was born at Dunbeath.

Three of the other children were born in the family mansion of Drum-innor, of which the keys were to be delivered to the Master, showing that his father had now only a life-rent in it, as well as in Fiddes, at which place three children were born; the 10th Lord and his lady apparently lived alternately in each castle. Of that of Fiddes nothing now remains save the name of the farm of Fiddesbeg, and it is no longer in Forbes' hands.

The 10th Lord Forbes seems to have been both business-like and litigious. There is another long memorandum in his handwriting headed—

" MEMORANDUM TO BE DONE IN MAR AND BUCHAN AND ABERDEIN YE FIRST
OFF AUGUST 1620¹ [81].

It contains 37 items of things to be done. Among others—

" *Item* order wt Makintosh to wryt to my lord Deskford and to ye lard off Grant and send ane discreit man to yem to get payment off 2 thousand merks at Mertimas 1620.

" *Item* ane gud boye provydit agen Mertimas.

" *Item* sum obligations and lands registrat in Edinr. to get payment, and minute qt yai ar and mak ane assignment and arrestment on ym all.

" *Item* to send for Mr. Wm. Barclay advocate to my auld uncle Lethinty to be my agent, and to pursue dyvers actiones in Abirdeen.

" *Item* to gett my sone Jhone his wryte from Mr. Duncan Forbes from Monimusk.

" *Item* to provydt siller agen Martimas nixt and see what I have to paye and qt is to be payd to me.

¹ This has been somewhat abridged.

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" *Item* to put all things to ane ordour twixt me son and me and Pitsligo.

" *Item* to advys quha sall go wt me to Cathness and how lang yai sall stay and qr my sone and gud dochter sall remaine and quhow, till my return.

" *Item*, Ordour wt my Lord Bereidall to get payment shortly off fourteen thousand merks and more.

" *Item* order wt one Setoune and sumond him for ye slauchter of Androw forbes, glesin-wricht ¹ in Aberdein and caus my uncle, auld Lethinty to do it, according to ane memorandum, on ye said Androu's wyffe's expensis.

" *Item* minit qt I have debirsit in Wm. Gray's effers agens James Gordone in newbiggin and to get payment qhn he is satisfyeit.

" *Item* minit qt number of servands I will have in household and qt conditione to every ane and to note qt is resting yem and ye terme of yr entry, and remove all ydill and deboschit men and pay yem justly qhat is resting to ym.

" *Item* order wood cutters and specially in ye wood off Putachie.

" *Item* my horse in druminnor schod in tyme, and ane pockmantel neg ² brocht in Putachy.

" *Item* my suit mantell gotten out of Aberdein from Walter Collesoune his wyff, quha has it only in keepin.

" *Item* compt wt William Yett for all byganes.

" *Item* 4 horse in tym—ane to myself ane to my wyff ane to Margaret sinkdar, ane to Barbara.³

" *Item*. Drink and graith ⁴ to dogs directed."

Two years later there is another revealing document in Arthur's hand :

" MEMORANDUM OF THINGS TO BE DONE IN EDINBURGH THE 26 DAY OF SEPT.
1622.

(Extracts only are here given. It is chiefly concerned with law cases.)

" *Item* to delyver my packett of Lettres to Walter Hay my agent, and in his absence to Mr. Francis Hay, wryter to his Ma's Signett and in both yr absences to his good frend Mr. John Skein, clerk to his Ma. Session.

" *Item* to raise summondis against James Forbes apperand of Corsinday upon the contract and inhibition sent at my instance and my sone Wm., that the said James may enter as heir to his father Wm. forbes umqhill of Corsinday and becaus the said James is out of Scotland presentlie, the summonds to be upon three scoir dayes and to be executed at the cross of Edinr. and peir of Leyth and at the cross of Abd. and shoir of Abd.

" *Item* to delywer my letter to Thomas Bruntfield in Leyth and delyver to him his book, and gett all newis from him in writ and the answer of my Letter and caus him wyll (wale = choose) sum good Tubiacca and gif him the same.

" *Item* to delywer my letter to my lady Ormistoun and get me tryall of my Lord Ormistoun his hailth and the answer of my letter in wrytt.

" *Item* to try for all newis and put yem in wrytt.

" *Item* to buy me three unce of reid brunt soape from James Brun in Edinburgh."

(This item is unexplained.)

¹ Glazier.

² Pack horse.

³ His eldest daughter, then 13.

⁴ Food and shelter.

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In the December of 1622 occurs what must have been a welcome item, viz., a Discharge by Alexander, Lord Elphinstone, to his son-in-law, Arthur, Lord Forbes, of a bond of £200 paid.

In the same year Lord Forbes summons the Laird of Wardes for "wringous occupation of Glentoun, whereof the said Lord is life renter and John his son fiar."

This is the future Colonel John Forbes, at this time 14 years old, who afterwards had the letter of recommendation from Charles I. to the Shah of Persia. (See page 200 *n.*)

In 1623 there is a long memorandum, docketed "Memorials between me and Pitsligo only. Minutes of bonds and obligations which the laird of Pitsligo has of mine, with divers assignations to the said bonds."

Shortly after this date there were bitter disputes between Lord Forbes and Lord Pitsligo, and the following letter from Lord Forbes' son shows how that son's wife (Pitsligo's daughter) ranged herself with him against her own father.

LETTER, DOCKETED IN AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY HAND, "PAPERS OF NO USE."

"8 Feb. 1623-4. (*Downey.*)

"My Lord and most loving father, My dutiful service in all humilite remembered, please. I received your kind letter 7 of Feb. of date 28 Jan. desiring me to come to Edin. with all diligence for settling your Lordship in yr trouble with Pitsligo—truely if my travill might do the same, I wd most willinglie bestow itt, but I am so forfitt for the present that I have not ane horse that would carry me to Rosse, far less to Edin. and here I will get none to borrow, but since I may not cum myself for thatt and other respects which I shall show your Lop at meeting, I have thought good to writt this letter, with the within enclosed to the Laird of Pitsligo which is not so sharp as I could wish itt, yitt as I thought best for obtaining the contents of it—which if he obey itt, will do the turn by my travell, if otherwyes I shall, God willing fulfill that which I have written to him in retrieving your Lop and offending him worse nor he believes. Therein I shall follow your Lops advyce and if your Lop wold have done as I wold have desyred your Lop, you should not have troubled yourself so much as ye have for that errand, and with God's assistance your Lop should nott have intered—for he may well barke, he shall not gett liev to bite. At my coming as said is, I shall either sattell your Lop finally or I shall be no longer a beholder but a partner with your Lop against him. So desyryng your Lop to excuse my staying at this tyme, till meeting, at which I shall God willing give your Lop contentment and prove myself to your Lop as becomes a loving and obedient son. I have no further to write for the present, but commit your Lordship to the protection of the most Hie, who has hithertill and I hope shall as yett deliver your Lordship outt of all troubles. My bedfellow hath her service remembered to your Lop and thanks your Lop most heartilie for your memorie of her and writt a litle of her mynd to your Lop with the last bearer. For come what will come she

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must and will gladlie take a part wyth yr Lop and me for the standing of the house against all the world.

“ So nott troubling yr Lop farder, I rest, and sall still God willing continue,

“ Your lop's obedient sone ever to be commanditt,

“ A. Forbes.

“ I will desir your Lop to remember the B. of Dumblane to perfytt my turn and be Walter Hay's advyse speak to the B. of Cathness. Forgett not yr own turn with Drum eyther—Wreit to him again, for it was long delayit.”

Alexander Forbes was 22 when he wrote this letter and had been married five years to Pitsligo's daughter. She had already had three children, of whom two were dead.

In 1628 the same John Forbes who had the passport to Persia, second lawful son of Arthur, Lord Forbes, summoned William Gordon of Balgonie for wrongous occupation of Caldumes Bray and the sheepfolds, being part and portion of the lands of Putachie and Keig, of which the said John Forbes was “ Proprietor.” His father, Arthur, must have made them over to John Forbes on the death of his own brother, David Forbes of Putachie ; though in the same year Lord Forbes is found paying, in his own name, one third of the “ girsum ”¹ for Keig teinds to the Bishop of Dunblane, for the above-mentioned estates.

For the year 1633 there is yet another “ Memorial ” drawn up by Arthur, 10th Lord Forbes, “ before a Journey to Edinbruch, ye 26 off October 1633 yeir.” (Slightly abridged, items of no general interest being omitted.)

1. “ Item to cause Jon Strachin meit me at fettercarne and advertyse him in tyme on Teysday at nicht ye 29 day off October.
2. “ Item to veisit ye Lady Thornitoun in my going south.
3. “ Item to wryt ane letter to my lord ogilvy out of thorntoun and appoynt qhr. we sall meit and qh day at Dundie.
5. “ Item. To visit ye old Lady drum² in Kellie as I go south and schau her anent her sone.
6. “ Item to ride to Rires and tak him with me to Edinbruch and informe him.
7. “ Item to ryde to halzeard [Halyards] to Mr. Androw Skein and tak him wt me to Edinbruch and inform him weil.
8. “ Item To wryte letters to my Lord of Lithcou, ye Mr. of Elphinston, my lord off balmerinloch, ye lard off ormstoun, and Hunter and young Fawside, to meit me in Edinbruch ye fyfft day off November be ten hours and send yem out of leith to yem.
9. “ Item to wrytt to my lord Elphinstoun qt day I will see him at Elphinstoun.

¹ “ Grassum,” payment to a landlord by a tenant on entering on the lease of a farm. A kind of premium.

² Lady Marion Douglas, daughter of Robert, Earl of Buchan, wife of Alexander Irvine. In 1622 she had a life-rent charter of the lands of Kellie in Fife. Her husband had died in 1630.

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11. " Item to advys wt my advocat and agent and lat yem see ye sumuns and to put my answer in wryte in sum better forme and schorter, and get my information to ye clerk of secreit counsell and have my wryte redei to instruct. . . .
13. " Item to help Claud Hamiltoun to get ane decreit on his right.¹
14. " Item to speik Wm fairly in Edinbruch to help him to redeem his plenishing and heest it north and himself efter it, with his decreit and to assur him he will get no more siller [silver] nor victual from me, guyd it as he lyke.
15. " Item to put ane seill to my chartour wt. Harthill his name and arms.
16. " Item To advyse with Rires and uthers anent my richts and inhibitiones and arestments wt my sone and qubeur I sall get relieff of Wm. Dick, Robert Keith wryter, ye laird Drum's actione, Blacktounne's actione, Peter Reid's actione, and dyvers uthers and qt sall be done anent my two dochters yer richts and inhibitions and arestments yron.
19. " Item to inquyr giff Robert Gardin servitour to ye lard of Blackfurd de-lyverit my letter and ye silver yrein to georg steuart my agent or to Wm. Chalmer wryter to ye signet.
20. " Item to try out ane sufficient man yt will playe my actionne *first* agens Makintosch and Grant *2nd* against Allan Makkonedeny *3rd* agens sum stradoune men, *4th* agens sum Cathnes men.
21. " Item to deill wt my lord off Mar to get ane warrand to his baillie to do me justice and specially agens Alex. Esplein and Thomas Troup and uthers and to cause doo Justice wt diligence.
22. " Item to try at Wm. Dick and all uthers that has intelligence in forran countries qr and qhou my twa sonis ar, And gif my eldest sone be releissit or not and qt houpes of his estait.²
23. " Item to sumund ye witnesses agens Adam Abercromby ³ to yt day yt he is summund to before ye secreit counsell. . . .
27. " Item qhen I have sum ydill houre, to luik out all my wrytes and papers yt I tak south and yrafter eik yis memoriall.
28. " Item, Giff I have silver eneuch, to buy sum things in Edⁿ. and mak ane memoriall yroff qt it sall be and take ye advyss off sum yt hes skill yrto.
29. " Item ane buik callit ' ye sanctuary off a trublit soull ' and sum uther guid litill buike and sum tobacco coft [bought].
30. " Item summunds agens James Tarnsoune in Tolleys for brak of arestment and neu letter off arestment necessitat."

(On the back of this lengthy document is written : " Mem^{dm} of wrytes and information sent south wt Alex. forbes off Bredhaard ⁴ contrar Adam Abercromby, styllit off auld Raine ⁵ ye 29 off October 1633.")

This paper is an extraordinarily interesting one as a picture of the times—showing what an event was a journey of about 150 miles from

¹ Second husband of his half-sister, Margaret.

² See next page.

³ See Appendix, page 173.

⁴ Breda.

⁵ Eighteen months later, April, 1635, Lord Forbes complains to the Council that " Adam Abercromby in Auldrayne and others carry arms in defiance of the law and assault his servants."

Donside to Edinburgh—which now takes at most four or five hours ; and showing further the number of legal entanglements in which every landed proprietor found himself involved ; the simplicity of a man who so seldom bought anything that he must ask advice of those more conversant with the great world ; and the difficulties of communication with the Continent, whereby the three sons of the writer, on foreign service in Germany, were wholly lost to sight : Alexander, the Master, was a prisoner after Lützen ; the others were John, the third son (see page 200) in 1635, and William, who survived till 1654 ; the two youngest sons, who were eventually killed in Germany, were at this time boys of 17 and 18. Arthur had also three daughters, Barbara, Lady Seaforth, who was already married, Anna, afterwards Mrs. Forbes of Echt, and Elizabeth, afterwards Mrs. Skene of Skene.

The penultimate item is particularly quaint, showing a desire perhaps for some antidote to so much legal strife, to which however Lord Forbes again returns in the somewhat vindictive item concerning James Thomson.

A rather pathetic document, of date July 2nd, 1636, is a

“ Suspension at the instance of Arthur Lord Forbes of a decree of lawburrows obtained against him by William Gordon of Tulloch,” among other reasons given being the large amount of security demanded, and “ Lord Forbes is na ways Marquis, Viscount nor Erle, but onlie ane nacked lyfrenter of ane small part and portion of his old estaits and liveing of Forbes.”¹

On September 17th, 1636, an Agreement was drawn up between Arthur, Lord Forbes, and Dame Jeane Setoun, his spouse, conjunct feears and life-renters of Putachie and Keig, and William Gordon of Tulloch, respecting the Moss called by the former the Bishops Moss, and by the latter the Moss of Tulloch. The Moss to be used by both parties and their tenants in common as heretofore, without prejudice to either to discuss their rights by action of law “ which salbe no brak of freindship,” mutually discharging all letters of lawburrows and other actions and pursuits between the parties.

In 1638 Arthur, Lord Forbes, prepared another Memorandum (showing a quarrelsome state of mind) “ off actiones I have to suit be law ” : [116]

1. “ *Item* ane actione I have aganis Mackintosch chief off ye clanchattan.
2. “ *Item.* I have ane actione againis allan Mackdonald Chief off the clan camrone and horning againes him and certaine of his servands this 24 yeir bygane for spulzie of 24 Ky out of Corgarff.
3. “ *Item.* I have ane actione againis sum Caithness men anent Dunbeath Sinklar, I have horning and inhibition aganis them for gryt somes payed be me for them.
4. “ *Item,* I have ane actione aganes Johne Leith of Hartbill and I have comprising of his lands and inhibition againis him and horning againes some of his tenants for soumes payit be me for them.”²

¹ See page 176 for the smallness of the “ liveing.”

² Arthur, Lord Forbes, had sasine on Harthill, 10 Sept. 1633.

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5. " *Item*. I have actione againes George Gordone in Logie-Altone and horning and captione againis him for soumes peyet be me for him.
6. " *Item*, I have four thousand markes on the Laird tolquhone his Landis of Little Ythfeg. I have the heritable right, and captain Lawrence Sinkler has the lyffrent yrof.
7. " *Item*, I have comprising of Tolmad and Fodderbirse for my twa dauchters tochergood, Echt and Skein [*which shows that Anna and Elizabeth, respectively 28 and 27, were then married*] and my lyfrent landis therefor to be made frie yrof and my bands and writs restorit to me be Leslie and uthers.
9. " *Item*, Caskieben ¹ rests me four or fyve hundrett marks anent the Lands Dunbeith and my sister ² als much to me.
10. " *Item* to be fried of Blacktounes cautionrie and the land back.
11. " *Item* I have ane action against those that brak my house of Putachie and has them registrat at the Horne before the justice in Edinburgh and letters of captione against them.
(*No other details of this outrage have so far been found.*)
12. " *Item*, I have ane actione against certaine rebellis in Blackwater and Strathdoune, quha are responsibell and horning against them. They are the *Marquess* men."

This last item would seem to imply that the attack on the house of Putachie was engineered by the Gordons in very comprehensible retaliation for the part Lord Forbes had played against Huntly in former years.

The year 1638 was almost the middle of what Spalding in his history calls the "Trubles." According to him they lasted from 1624 to 1645. Lord Forbes and his family were always on the side of the Covenant and, as Aberdeenshire was chiefly Royalist, the Forbeses suffered accordingly.

The death of Arthur, Lord Forbes, occurred between the 9th of February and the 16th of September, 1641.

As already seen, he was married before he was 20, February 5th, 1600, to Jean, daughter of Alexander, 4th Lord Elphinstone (with whom his father had had many disputes), and had ten children, as follows:—

Six sons and three daughters by his wife—

1. Alexander, afterwards 11th Lord Forbes; born, 1601.
2. John; died young.
3. Colonel John (*secundus*), born at Drumminor November, 2nd, 1608. (He had a letter from King Charles I. to the Shah of Persia, December 2nd, 1635. The letter is at Castle Forbes, see Illustration facing p. 200.)
4. Colonel William, born in Fiddes, February 2nd, 1614. Went to the German wars, as did his brothers—killed there, May 16th, 1654.
5. Captain Arthur, b. at Dunbeath, Aug 29th, 1615—killed in Germany.

¹ George Johnson, husband of Margaret, daughter of William, 7th Lord Forbes, his aunt.

² There is a sasine of 1633 "Ratification of the town and lands of Balfour Margaret Forbes, Lady Dunbeath to Arthur, Ld. Forbes."

6. Captain James, born, 1617. Also killed in Germany.
7. Barbara, born at Druminnor, January 17th, 1607; married, 1628, George, 2nd Earl of Seaforth, and had issue.
8. Anna, born at Druminnor, March 1st, 1610; m. Arthur Forbes of Echt.
9. Elizabeth, born at Fiddes, March 8th, 1611; m. James Skene of Skene. He had one illegitimate son, Major John Forbes; killed in Germany.

The youngest daughter, Elizabeth, married James Skene, 14th Laird of Skene, in 1637, as on July 14th a sasine was drawn up in her favour of the lands of Letter and Broomhill for her jointure. On December 20th, 1629, her brother Alexander, Master of Forbes, had signed an obligation on her behalf for payment of 4000 merks secured on a tenement in Aberdeen "ex boreali parte by Keyhead"; this was assigned by Elizabeth herself with consent of her father, Arthur, Lord Forbes, on July 5th, 1637, to James Skene, her future husband. James Skene was a loyalist and a friend of Montrose.

"He had the misfortune, soon after his marriage to be bitten by a swine in the knee, and his lady who liked gaeing about and had an expensive turn, persuaded him for his cure to go to the wells of Germany. They stayed there a year or two with a brother of his, a merchant, and by his wife's expensive turn, brought the estate under a great load of debt. He died young—the said Elspet Forbes lived a widow on the estate till the year 1695." (*MS. History of Skenes.*)

James Skene seems to have died in 1656, when his eldest son, John, succeeded as 15th Laird, and Elizabeth Forbes drew her jointure off the estate for nearly 40 years.

James, the second son, was a martyr for the Covenant and was hanged in the Grass Market, December 1st, 1680.¹

There was one daughter, Barbara Skene, who married her cousin, George Calder of Aswanley.

The following items from the Burgh Accounts of Aberdeen refer to the 10th Lord Forbes.

The first, while he was still Master of Forbes, i.e. before the death of his father and brother.

"1604. Item, mair to Braig the post, to carie ane letter to my Lord and maister of Forbes for staying at Barthol fair, 1 lib."

The second for the entertainment of himself and his brother-in-law.

"1612. Item, for ane gallone wyne, & sex bustis confectionis, to present my Lord Forbes and the Maister of Elphinstonne, 6 lib. 10.s."

¹ James Skene kept a commonplace book which contains notes on various Forbeses, especially "the last words and testimony spoken by that famous and worthy noble lady, Mrs. Margaret Forbes, my lady Duffus, dowager, who died spouse to Gordonstoun yeir 1677." She was great niece to James Skene's mother, became fourth wife of the 1st Lord Duffus, and first wife of the 2nd Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun. She died in childbirth. (See page 211.)

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The third, at the christening of the 10th Lord Forbes' sixth son, James, who was born March 25th, 1617.

" 1617. Item, to the provest and baillies being invited be my Lord Forbes, to be his gossipis, and given thame of drink silver at thair being in Fuddes. 24 lib. 4.s.8d."

APPENDIX FOR ARTHUR, 10TH LORD FORBES.

DOCUMENTS, ETC.

" 1612 Inventar of the Laird of Puttachie's wryts, deliverit to Thomas Burnett of Kenetty [Kennerty]. (*Among the loose papers.*)

" Memoriall of the wryts the Gudman of Kenetty has in keiping of David Forbes of Puttachie, which Inventar was maid at Kenetty the twentii ane of February ane thousand sex hundred and twelf yeirs.

" Item—the charter and seasing of Puttachie and Auchterkeig.

" Item, the charter and seasing of Glentoune.

" Item, the seasing of the house of Aberdene.

" Item, my mothers renunciation of the Glentoune.

" Item, my mothers renunciation of the half lands of Auchterkeig.

" Item, the contract betwixt James Forbes my brother and me of the pleugh of Auchterkeig presentlie occupiet be Arthur Urquhart.

" Item. The contract betwixt John Farquhar and me on Eister Glentoune.

" Item. The contract betwixt Johne Strachane in Auchterkeig and me on his pleugh.

" Item, ane band of Johne Strachane and Arthur Urquhart for guid neighbourhood.

" Item, ane letter of Warrantice of my Lord Forbes being caution for ane suspensione raisit be the Lady Thainstone.

" Item. Patrick Farquhar his renunciation of Eister Glentoune And I the said Thomas Burnett of Clunye, Grant me to have receivit from the said David the haill wryts above spēt and obliges me, my heirs servitors and assignees to delywer the said wryts back again to the sd David Forbes of Puttachie and in his absence to Arthur Lord Forbes his brother, in case of his decease and *no utherwayes* to the sd. Lord.¹

Actions for Trespass.

[70] " On September 20th, 1614, David Forbes, fear of Putachie, brother of Arthur, and Dame Janet Seton, their mother, summon ' the Gordons of Balgownie for wrongous occupation of part of the lands of Putachie,' and five days later Arthur, Lord Forbes, in his own name and in that of his little son, Alexander, Master of Forbes, summons ' George Gordon of Terpersie and Alex. Troup in Quhyteley for trespass and wrongous occupation of the lands of Marchmar and Edinbanchorie.' "

¹ The last item of the above seems to show that Arthur and his only full-brother were not on the best of terms.

On March 6th, 1616, Arthur, Lord Forbes, assigns to Alexander, Master of Forbes, the teind sheaves of Putachie, Balgonie, Brunney, Auchterkeig, Pettindreich, Auchnagathill, Glentoun, Arsbalach, Carneveran and Mill of Alford, of all of which he describes himself as Liferenter. The Assignment is witnessed by "James Forbes, brother natural of the said Lord." (See page 114.)

"On 24th Sept. 1617, before John, Abbot of Lindoris, contract was signed betwix my Lord Forbes and Maister Androw Cant minister at Alfurd anent the peice land in Alfurd sett to the said Maister Androw only off guidwill. A.D. 1617. (Abridged from the original in the charter chest at Haughton.)"

"At Aufurd the threttein day of December the year of God j^m. VI^c and sewintein yeiris. It is appointed . . . betwixt ane noble and potent lord, Arthur Lord Forbes and Maister Androw Cant minister at Aufurd . . . in manner following, That is to say the said noble Lord settis . . . to the said Maister Androw . . . that littill peice of land callit The Dykhous, lyand contigue to the gleib of Aufurd stankit about and castin with ane stank,¹ and marched with the said stank as the samen is presentlie kennit, having the said gleib on the west and the dyk and unlabored landis on the east and south partis therof . . . within the lordschip of Forbes parochin off Aufurd and schirefdome of Abirdene . . . to be usit . . . be the said Maister Androw during the said noble Lordis will allanerlie payand therfor yeirlie . . . tuentie schillingis Scottis money . . . In witnes qhairoff both the saidis parteis hes subscrivit this presentis . . . before this witnessis James Forbes off Tomadis John Forbes of Gask and John Forbes servand to the said noble Lord and William Cuik, notar.

"James Forbes witnes.

Arthur L. Forbes.

"Johnne Forbes witnes.

Mr. Androw Cant with my hand."

1618. Among the Tolquhon charters is to be found an instrument of resignation by Arthur, Lord Forbes, in favour of his eldest son, Alexander, Master of Forbes, and sasine thereon on a tenement in the Shiprow of Aberdeen, formerly belonging to David, the said Lord's brother, December 23rd, 1618.

There is also among the Tolquhon writs a charter, granted in 1629 by Arthur, Lord Forbes, to

John, his second son,

William, his third son,

Arthur, his fourth son, and

James, his fifth son, of the town and lands of Little Ythsie "obtained by back-bond from Tolquhon."

In 1633 a contract was made between Arthur, Lord Forbes, and Dame Jane Elphinstone on the one part and John Forbes of Putachie their (second) son of the other part, which requires some explanation. David Forbes of Putachie was the only full brother of Arthur; at one time he held these

¹ Ditch.

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lands, but died in 1617. There had been a contract between Arthur and David and John, May 21st, 1616 (John was then 8 years old). By the present contract Arthur makes over to John (who later received the letter to Persia) the whole estate of Putachie, with the right to redeem it for £6. John then "set" or *let* the whole back to his father and mother on certain conditions, one of which was that no wood on the estate was to be cut or destroyed. Putachie seems in several generations to have remained in the hands of a younger son, while the head of the family resided at Castle Forbes (Druminnor).

[108] P. 114. LETTER FROM KATHERINE, HALF SISTER OF ARTHUR, 10TH LORD.

" For ane Noble Lord
" and her Loving
" brother my Lord Forbes.

(Indorsed by Lord Forbes, "' Letter from ye Ladye Rothemaye ye 27 off November and on ye said day it was alledgit that ye corns off freindraucht war burnt. 1634.')

" My lord and loveing brother,
" pleass your Lo, these rebellious gentilmen ¹ who opinlie contemns the Lawes, com heir to the place of Rothimay yisternicht the 26 of this instant November, and have taken the keyis in thair owin custodie desyring me ather to remove my self and familie or otherwayis to tak a pairt of the hous for our selfs for thay will remain heir. If I be content it is weall, if I be not content thay know what cours to tak, I heir they have said to my bairns they mynd to put me out, if I gruge to let them stay within. I resaved a charge from Frenndracht to compeir befor the counsell the 16 day of December, thir ar two extremities for me whilk maks me doubt sume what I sall doe. If I compair not, I am in danger of the Law, if I compeir and abandon my hous and children and leave my estate to the government of theis chalmerlans, I know not what compt thay will mak to me, sieing they refuse to be comptable to the King and his counsell. I will assure your Lo this mater is lyk to draw very deip and not to end so sone as many belives. For my self I am set in the mids betwixt two extrems not knowing what way to turn, so I intreet your Lop to wreit to me your advyse. Bot I wold have yow to consult wt. sum of the wysest of our freinds, since I can not have the commoditie to speak to them at this tyme.

" So remitting all further to your Lop answeir I remain
" your Lop loveing Sister to be commandit
" KATHERINE FORBES.

" Rothiemay this 27 of
" November 1634."

Dame Katherine Forbes, Lady Rothiemay, had to stand her trial in Edinburgh in 1636 on the charge of " sheltering light horsemen within the wood of Rothiemay and provyding them with victuals and aille, whereby

¹ Certain members of the Gordon family.

she became airt and pairt in the thefts, burnings, sornings and depredationes committed upon Fren draught." The feud between the two houses dated from the killing of her husband and the subsequent tragedy of the burning of Fren draught when young Rothiemay was burnt in the Tower with Lord John Gordon under most suspicious circumstances on October 8th, 1630.

She had first been put to the horn for not appearing before the Council to answer various charges, and in 1635 she was ordered to remain in ward for the offence of "resetting" (or receiving) rebel Gordons.

She complains that being a prisoner she can get no rents.

"Now the truth is, the time assigned to her was in the great storm, quhilk fell out in the late winter, when there was no possibilitie of travelling on horse nor foote—otherwise she would have appeared before their Lordships and cleared herself of the foresaid imputation."

She found caution and was released.

She now complains of robbery of her "horse" and assault upon her daughter Helen. She was allowed sustenance out of her estate.

She was also accused of connivance in a retaliatory outrage against the Laird of Fren draught on August 3rd, 1636, but was given her liberty in March, 1637, by the special order of King Charles I., conveyed in a royal letter from Whitehall of February 16th, being ordered to remain south of the Forth until the month of July. She was eventually acquitted.

The 10th Lord Forbes seems also to have had to deal firmly with malefactors in the county. An amusing MS. concerns Adam Abercromby, who appears to have been a most undesirable great-uncle of John Abercromby of Authorsk, of Francis, Lord Glasford, and of Dr. Patrick Abercromby, a Jacobite and author of *Martial Achievements of the Scottish Nation*.

It is headed "The true description of Adam Abercromby, his birth, his lyffe and his manners 1634."

"This Adam's Granther was ane wicked man and troubled all the country about him, both far and near and there falling out ane quarrel betwixt the Laird of Balquhane's forbears and him, the Laird of Balquhane came to the lands of Torries where he dwelt and brunt him quick, so being given to violence, he maid a violent end.

"Then *his* son (that was brunt) was this Adam Abercrombie's father and was fair war. Where his father troublit one man, this Adam's father troublit three, both by cause and but (without) cause, and then he married the laird of Brux's daughter for the tyme, and after she had borne him bairnes he put her away and being uneasie, he married most unlawfully the Laird of Balquhain's daughter, who had brunt his father, which was plain adultery, his first wyf being alive; and the more that this last woman was Adam Abercromby's mother and so he was gotten in adultery and after his unlawful marriage this Adam's father being a restless man, fell in trouble with the Gordons of the house of Leicheston and two of the brothers callit Gordon being greatly wrongit by him, they stabbit this Adam's father in ane moss being at his hawking and causit his awin dogg to

eat his harns [brains] and some of his fleshe, so ane ill lyf made ane ill end and thus his grandfather was burnt, his father was stabbit, and this Adam himself gotten in adultery.

“ Thus declaring the said Adam’s birth, I will now speak of his lyff and manners. He exceeds in wickedness his grandfather and his father and surpassit them in malice and gyff he gat audience and credit he had many to bear him out—he through-gane all the north of Scotland quarterly about, at least once in the year in Edinburgh and when he came to be a man he fell in adultery with Harthill’s wyfe, Janet Gordon, sister to this laird of Gight. The said Adam had a wyff of his awin, sae it was double adulterie and near the degree of incest to marrie twa brothers wyffs and when he enter with her he had neither cott nor sark nor hose nor schoon, but stark—and she causit buy to him, and the man is yet alive who bought them to her and gat silver from her and sometime malt and meal to buy them with and will yet declare the same, and so he lived cruel, sometime living in adultery, she being Harthill’s wyfe for the time—as the proof for adultery had against her by the ministers and kirk in the north which we have here present to instruct your Lordship of the verity thereof, and while itt was more shamefull, it is alledgit she being under double adultery with him she made a contract of marriage with him a long tyme before Harthill her husband (which *was* her husband) departed this lyff and the witness to this contract were the auld laird of Birkenbog and Robert Abercromby, brother to the sd Adam and Wm. Lesley in Ryehill and Mr. Andrew Abercromby who is now minister in the kirk of Fintray, but then was not admitted ane minister and subscribit by Adam Abercromby himself and be Janet Gordon now his wyff and after the subscribing thereof the sd contract of marriage and the charter of seasing of the said Janet, her Smithy lands of Auld Rain with such other writs and all that she had was deliverit to Hector Abercromby of Fetterneir in keeping, which was for the grytter assurance that shee should marrie his brother Adam and this was done the yeir before her husband Harthill departed this lyfe which the four witnesses will not deny on their grt aith being passed thereupon and this was notorious kenned to the Ministers and was so manifest his adultery . . . this Adam Abercromby . . . [torn] and he causit ane priest most unlawfullie marrie them, because he wold not have gotten marriage in Scotland in respect of the manifest and brazen adultery committed by him with her who is now his wyff and getting some moneys by her—two and three thousand merks a yeir all out of Harthill and this Harthill got nothing himself to live on. He (Adam) troubling all men about him as I think his name is oftener heard (as the registry will record) before your Lop. or any other chief in the north.

“ The said Adam Abercromby this Adam, and George Gordon with him now are at the horn for the murder of one callit Barclay and have the horning to produce to your Lop. He has with him ane Robert Dempster who murdered his awin good brother under night shamefully and have the horning and caption ready to serve. The samen likewyse he has ane Alex. Lesly who is at the horn for hurting ane Mr. James Ogilvy his goodbrother and for hurting of Patrick Gellie under night, dayley in company with him who is excommunicat at the horn, as the process here present will declair. Further there is ane John Lobban at the horne for slaughter and murder and is his dayly tacksman and was the

special instrument between Fren draught and Rothiemay and goes about where he may find anie trouble or question. When parties are agreed he goes betwixt them, and horning and captions there is severals, against the said John Lobban. The Laird of Balquhain, Wm. Leslie of Ryehill and Wm. Abercromby at the Mill of Durnoch are dayly with Adam Abercrombie. Ilk ane of them one or several tymes at the horn and no indemning servit. Now these men, being at the horne for murder, theft and gryte oppression and some excommunicat, they are dayly with the sd Adam and wear hagbutts and pistollis and the sd Adam by craft wears hagbutts and pistolls and except they raik hell they shall not find such ane band of rebells combined together to the contempt of God and man and thro' envy and scorn of the lords of counsell, he has some of these rebelis written his commission against Harthill, because the lords of the Secret Counsell kennis them not, but thinks them to be honest men—but Adam dare never bring anie of them to Edinburgh with him as the copie of the commission will declare, and this he does in contempt of God and man and further the said Adam has made himself bare man and given his rights of all he has to his brother Hector Abercromby of fetterneer as the nottar Mr. Patrick Cheyne his Intimatiour will declare, so as he's liable when he likes, and not lyable if he so pleases.

"So, as his birth is evill—his life worse and so is his actions worst against Harthill, as sall be shewn in ane other scroll following on the other side."

The scroll referred to is unfortunately not extant. The only other mention of Adam Abercromby in the papers of Arthur, Lord Forbes, being of date April, 1635, when he complained to the Privy Council. (See page 166.)

"To The trewlie Nobill and

"his most Respect. guid

"Lord, my Lord Forbes These

[Indorsed "Letter from Mr. Thomas Gordoune of pettindreich anent his gudsone Tulloche ye 4 off September 1636."]

"Trelie Nobill

"Since Or. Cheiffis¹ Buriall I have not met wt. my guidsonne Toullouche so that in schort I can not perfitle resolve yor. Lop. if the cautione be sevt. or not. Bot wt. Godis grace the morrow onis Before two eft none I sall se yor. Lord: in Polflood wt. the certantie of all, as also I must acquaint yor. Lop. wt. ane fard^r. commissione from my brother Cluny in yat same particular (Lat Materis go as they will). I sall no^t in my owin persone be oblivious of Yor. Lop. former courtasis in Recording to freinds yor. Lord kynd and generous forme of Dealing wt. my guidsonne, (Notwithstanding some of his gross oversihtis of dewtie). Thus confident of yor. Lop wise considerate of me, and the premisse in unfenizit Love and service Rememb^t to yor. Lord and to yor. Lord vertius and nobill Ladey, childs, kissing yor. Lord: hands Lat me still continow

"Yor. Lord. Trewlie affection^t

"But charg to serv you

"Pettindr.

"Thes are Immediatle eft the receipt. of yor. Lordschipes."

¹ The chief of Thomas Gordon was, of course, the 1st Marquess of Huntly, who died at Dundee in his "wand bed," June 13th, 1636.

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1637. *Rental of Putachie, etc.*

" 13 Jan 1637 The Rentall of yt pt of ye paroch of Kigge belonging to my Lord Forbes, given up be Arthur Lo. forbes and subt. be him at Putachie.

" *Putachie.* Three pleughs, three chalders of vittuall, two pairt meall, and thrid pt malt with three scoir poundis silver yerly for stock and teind.

" *Croftes of Putachie.* Payis fourtie merkis money yerly for stock and teind.

" *Wester Glentown, with the haggis under ye wood.* Payis twenty four bollis vittuall with fyftie poundis J monie for stock and teind.

" *New Kigge.* Payis yerlie for stock and teind, twenty bollis vittuall viz twelve bollis meill and eight bollis malt with fourtie merkis money.

" Summa of vittuall fyve chalders and twelve bollis.

" Summa of silver eight score three poundis, sax shillings eight penies.

" *Item* out of this foresaid vittuall payed yeerly to ye minister sax bollis vittuall, two pairt meill thrid pt bear, with four score merkis money.

" *Item* out of this foresaid Landis, payed yeerly to ye Marques of Huntly of few dutie, thrittie poundis four shillings.

" *Item* out of ye forrsd landis payed ten poundis for taxn. yeerly."

" I Arthur, Lord Forbes upone my faythe, honour and conscience declares that my particular lands within ye parochine of Keig above specifeit as off no gryter worthe yeirle nor yai ar schortlye heir rentallet in bolles and silver and that for stok and teind and that in respect off ye evill yeirs and poverty off ye tennents is bot *evill payit* as our Ministers hand wryt and parochiners will declare. Yis wrytin and subscryvit wt my awin hand."