



ALEXANDER, 11TH LORD FORBES.
(From portrait at Castle Forbes.)

Alexander, 10th Lord Forbes

CHAPTER XI.

ALEXANDER, 11TH LORD FORBES.

Born, 1601. Succeeded, 1641. Died, 1672.

ALEXANDER was the eldest son of Arthur, 10th Lord, and Jean Elphinstone. His parents married on the 5th February, 1601, and he was born in November of the same year, and married in November, 1618 (no doubt for reasons of family policy) Anne, daughter of John Forbes of Pitsligo.

He succeeded his father between February 9th, 1641 (when, in the General Register of Hornings he appears as Master of Forbes), and the 29th September in the same year (when he appears as Lord Forbes). He was then nearly forty and had already passed through many adventurous years. In 1626, when he was only twenty-five, he and his father (from the Memorandum printed on page 185 it is not quite clear *which*) assisted a kinsman, Lord Reay, to collect 2000 men to go to Germany and join King Christian of Denmark, brother of James I.'s Queen (and therefore uncle to Charles I., King of Great Britain). The Master of Forbes cannot have accompanied these troops, for from the letter to the Tutor of Cromarty on page 191 he is known to have been in Scotland in 1626 and lamenting shortness of means,¹ which makes it the more curious that either he or his father should have ventured (as he states) such a great sum as £1000 sterling on the expedition; perhaps some of it was the tocher of his second wife. The second item in the account of his services on page 185 undoubtedly refers to *him*, viz., that in 1628 he furnished out his second brother, afterwards Colonel John Forbes, then not quite twenty, to join the Earl of Morton's regiment, which went with the Duke of Buckingham to the attempted relief of La Rochelle. Probably some of the "twelve proper gentlemen"² were among the killed at the disastrous occupation of the Isle de Rhé and the subsequent withdrawal of the English forces, when Buckingham lost 1200 men. La Rochelle was finally taken by Richelieu's army, October 26th, 1628.³

¹ In 1627 Alexander, Master of Forbes, had "a Licence under the Signet," to go abroad for five years, but in 1628 he was still in Scotland, since he was in that year charged with extortion at fairs.

² See p. 185.

³ On May 8th, 1629, Alexander, Master of Forbes, is found (according to the Aberdeen Council records) as borrowing 1000 merks from John Cushnie, burgess of that city; John Forbes of Edinbanchory and George Forbes of Auchintoul, sureties.

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In the year 1630 Alexander, Master of Forbes, himself went abroad to Germany¹ and took service under the great general, Gustavus Adolphus, with whom he fought for two years, until that monarch's death on the glorious field of Lützen, November 16th, 1632. It is almost certain that the Master of Forbes was present at that victory, and that it was then that he was taken captive and remained in prison for twenty-one months.²

Before that date, however, he had made a brief visit to Scotland as, on February 21st, 1632, "Alexander, Master of Forbes" entered a complaint "about 18 months ago he went to Germany to serve under the King of Sweden, leaving a coffer containing his principal writs in the keeping of William Forbes of Tolquhon, who placed the same in the house of Tolquhon and the complainer gave the key to Sir George Johnston of Caskieben³ so that those persons to whom he had entrusted his estate and living in his absence, might have access to the said writs in defending him in any action, etc."

The complaint continues—

"Alexander has now returned, but while Sir George Johnston has delivered up the key, William Forbes, his undutiful and unkind kinsman, will in no wise deliver up the coffer, and he has been reduced to great loss and expense for want of his writs."

An order was made for Tolquhon to deliver it, on March 8th, and he did so; Walter Forbes of Thainston, John Forbes of Balmagask, and John Forbes of Gask being also concerned in the affair. Alexander Forbes then went back to Germany, fought at Lützen and was imprisoned. On regaining his liberty in the summer of 1634 he came to England (not apparently to Scotland),⁴ with a Swedish envoy, and on going *back* to Germany found the Scottish forces with the Swedes had been annihilated at the Swedish defeat at Nordlingen, August 27th, 1634, where the Protestant army lost 10,000 men. The Master of Forbes returned to England again in 1635 and in the following year he went out to Sweden and Denmark as an official diplomatic and commercial envoy, to establish trading stations in those countries.

On his return, he remained in Scotland for some time, and in 1638 was

¹ He was accompanied, or followed, by his relative, the father of the 1st Lord Granard. (See Appendix, page 192.)

² See also note by his father. (Page 166.)

³ In 1636, the same complacent Sir George Johnston of Caskieben (his cousin) became a cautioner for the debts of Alexander. In 1642 Dame Elizabeth Forbes, Lady Caskieben, daughter of Forbes of Tolquhon, had a decree of horning issued against her for non-appearing when cited by her creditors. She was placed in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh with her husband, at the instance of Mr. Alexander Jaffray of Kingswells and Thomas Johnston of Craig. The charge against her by her creditors was that of illegally retaining and fortifying the house of Caskieben.

⁴ For a note among his father's papers is headed: "Memorial, quhat is required to be done for the Maister in his absence out of Scotland, all wrytin be Alex. Mr. of forbes himself, ye fyft day off Aug. 1634."

appointed (as Master of Forbes) by the General Assembly of the Kirk as one of a Commission to visit the University of Old Aberdeen.¹ He was presumably present at his father's deathbed (the exact date of the latter's death is not known) and succeeded to the family honours and estates, with an exchequer, as it seems, somewhat depleted by patriotic efforts.

It is permissible to believe that during Charles I.'s visit to Scotland in the autumn of 1641, Alexander, either as Lord or as Master of Forbes, was in attendance in Edinburgh, though no trace is found of this; but his consistent loyalty to the side of the king, in spite of the covenanting tradition of his house, seems to demand some explanation, which might be furnished by a personal affection for Charles himself. During the time that he held the title, which was thirty years, Alexander Forbes appears to have spent only three or four in Scotland and at his death to have left his estates in a distressingly embarrassed condition. At the end of 1641, not long after he had succeeded to the title, Alexander Forbes, according to his own account, went again to England, hoping for the command of a regiment to be raised against the insurrection in Ireland. This having for some reason proved impossible (he says it was "denyed him"), he accepted the command of the "Additional forces by sea, sent by the Adventurers for the relief of Ireland," and proceeded there as Commander-in-Chief.

A petition to King Charles I. is also among the papers, and shows his anxiety to serve the Royal House, at this date as always—

"(To the King's Most Excellent Ma^{tie} And the hon^{ble} Estates of parliamt.)

" 1641, The humble petition of Alexander Lord Forbes.

" Whereas yo^r Mat^{ies} petr, out of his Earnest desire to doe sum acceptable service to yo^r sacred Ma^{ty} and yo^r Royal Sister for the recovery of the palatinat, did engadge himself and his Estate for the levyeing of two Regim^{ts} Under the late Victorious King of Swedin, whose untimuous deith togidder with yo^r pet^s other misfortunes and long imprisonments for the said cause, hath nerely ruined yo^r pet^s estate, wch he wes in a fair way to recover by his service abroad to forrane princes (as is wele knowne to yo^r Sacred Ma^{ty} and diverse speciall Members of this hon^{ble} house) till the late troubles of his native countrey occasioned his returne, wherein he, his parents and speciall freinds for his and there service and affection to the good cause have sustained many great and heavy losses at home by the losse of his fortune abroad, wch wold be too tedious in this strait of tyme to relate. May it therefore please yo^r Ma^{ty} and the estates of parliam^t to recomend yo^r pet^s case and the reparation of his losses to the commissioners for the common burdens and to the secret Counsell, that when any good occasion offers they wold further and befreind yo^r petr. Yr Maties ansers and the hon^{ble} estates of parl', Yor Mat's petr. doth humbly attend." "

¹ Also to superintend the subscribing of the Covenant in Aberdeen. Later he had a commission "to apprehend papists and Mass Priests and such as go on pilgrimages to Chapels and Wells." (*Privy Council Records*.)

² He did, as seen, eventually obtain a commission to the command of troops sent against the rebellious Irish (but *not* from the king), and it did not bring him either much

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The Complete Peerage says, "Lord Forbes was despatched by the London Adventurers in command of a fleet of filibusters to the Coast of Connaught, against the Roman Catholic Irish rebels," and a note is added to the effect that "On his way to the West, he declined Inchiquin's request for assistance, who was then hard pressed by the rebels. His (Forbes') object appears to have been plunder, and he confined himself to burning castles and cabins, looting houses and desecrating tombs. He fought no serious engagement and gained no honour and but little profit for the raid."¹ (This appears to the present writers, in view of Lord Forbes' own account, to be a prejudiced version. He himself says that "through God's blessing he was instrumentally to the releeff of many thousands of his Majestie's Good subjects.")

In the Forbes charter chest are the following papers dealing with the Irish episode:—

"Ld. Forbes was Lt. General of the Additional Forces in Ireland in 1642.

"On 9th July 1642. The Garrison of Tynterne Castle petitioned Lord Esmond, Governor of the fort of Dungannon, for assistance. This was forwarded by Esmond to Lord Forbes, who apparently did nothing.

"23rd July 1642. There is a letter of this date signed Arthur Willoughby, dated from *his Majesty's fort* addressed to the Right Hon. *ye Lord Furbush*, Admyral there present, hoping to be relieved by his honour, before Cap. Ashley's ship be forced to leave the harbour by want of provisions."

Another letter of the 1st September, 1642, from the Earl of Clanricarde, is addressed "to the right honourable my very good Lord, the Lord Forbes, Lieutenant General of the additional forces." It is concerned with the goods of one Marcus Lynd, which had been seized, and praying for relief.

There is one letter in the charter chest from Lord Forbes, from Ireland:—

"Castell Glyn ye 8 off Oct. 1642.

"(My Lord to the Earl of Cork.)

"My Lord, Having the occasion of this Gentleman, Captain Betoun, his coming towards Cork, I could not choose but salute yr Lop. and withal to entreat your

honour or much profit. It is conjectured that the portrait in armour, believed to be of him, dates from this period, when he was holding an *independent command* (which, perhaps, accounts for the baton).

¹ A still more unkind description of his activities occurs in Father Dalton's *History of Ireland, 1906* (*The War in Connaught and Clare and Siege of Galway*): "matters became worse when Lord Forbes landed in Galway in August. He had with him 17 vessels, an abundance of provisions and seems to have had a sort of roving commission from the English Parliament to attack the Catholics wherever he found them. Landing his men, he set fire to all the houses outside the walls, killed men and women indiscriminately, and disavowed every arrangement made with the town by Clanricarde. He would have nothing but unconditional surrender and continued the siege. When his provisions began to run short, he wantonly desecrated the church and churchyard of St. Mary, outside the walls, and having glutted his rage, sailed away to Limerick."

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Lop to intercede either with the parliament off England or with that at Dublin that considerable supplies be sent to this place, where the strength of the rebellion lyes. Iff your man that kept St. Sheilar has not been needlessly terrified with the sight of a peece of ordinance, I had relieved it within eight days but now the rebels have demolished it and whereas my resolution was to have come to my Lord of Ormond before this tyme, my men falling seek, and my seamen infected by them and the country diseases, I am in a manner arrested here. It hath pleased God to bless me with good success, in getting divers prizes and other supplies intedit for the rebells, from that if his Matie's ships that are to attend that part of the coast doe their dutie, I hope ere long there shall be none feared off—I hope yr Lop hath been carefull to relieve youre poor toun off Bandon. As I did entreat in my last letter this gentleman having the honour of yr Lop's acquaintance, I hope there needs no recommendation of him to procure ane favour to him. He hath been ane ey witness to all my proceedings and can give your Lop a full account of them—what favour your Lop shall be pleased to bestow upon him shall be upon your Lop's affec. friend and servant."

In the beginning of the Irish rebellion of 1641 Lord Cork had raised two troops of horse, fortified Lismore, and at the battle of Liscarroll, September 2nd, 1642, had four sons engaged, one of whom was killed.

Lord Forbes seems anyhow to have *lost*, not made money, in the enterprise, as the following accounts show. The paper was found among unsorted documents in the Forbes' boxes and is headed:—

“ ‘GRIEVANCES OF ALEX. LORD FORBES’ (IN IRELAND).

(Written apparently some time in 1660 or 1661.)

“ Some of ye said Lord Forbes Grievances agt. the Com^{te} of Additionall Forces by sea for Ireland, referred to by the right hon the Lord Privy seal.

1. “ First, ye money given in hand be ye Lord Forbes and his officers for thrie weeks before they entered, pay was deduced at his return, whereby at his return about £220 is lost to ye Lord Forbes upon those he compted wt and payed in Ireland, notwithstanding they received £500 levy money and by ye Lord Forbes advice they got £1000 allowed ym. as ye accts show. Never the less he loses £220
2. “ A loss of £500 prox upon ye clothing, notwithstanding the liberty to ye Lord forbes to have allowances of all ye purchases, cannot produce the Ld forbes or Capt. Rainborrow's warrant £500
3. “ Allowances taken for my Lord Tomond & Mr. Buxton's bills and they not paid, yet ye Ld. forbes arrested for ym. £312
4. “ Payed be under-officers, not allowed £248 3
5. “ Mr. Constable's bill, allowance taken for ye Lord Forbes at a very inconvenient tyme £46
6. “ The loss upon 170.4 libs transferred from Goldsmiths hall, be Dean & chapter's lands sold for half & some under,—ye Lord Forbes ought only be bear ye 3rd of ye loss £586

Carry forward £1912 3

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	<i>Brought forward</i>	£1912 3
7.	" A parcel of 68 Lib 18/ double charged	£68 18
8.	" There is a parcel of 257 lib. Ballance of Mr. Ballowes accts. made to be paid, whereas Ld. Forbes received no more but 11£, " and 4 other similar items—re officers dyet etc.	£53 10 £2798 8
13.	" There was promised ye Ld. Forbes for his great pains in serving the Additional forces, when they should get their receipes .	£1000 0
14.	" There is allowance & balance of 273 lib for horsemen's dyet—as also for sadles & pistols whereof now, 18 years after, Ld. Forbes has got nothing, nor any share of what was brought back and not accounted for	£273
15.	" The fraught of the Hoy Mary pt. of 1888 lib. comes to	£436
16.	" The third of three prize ships & passengers fraught	£731 15 0
		£7273 14"

(The addition does not seem quite correct, but there can be no doubt that Lord Forbes was a loser by the transactions in Ireland.)¹

Lord Forbes left Ireland in the early summer of 1643, as among the MS. of the House of Lords there is a letter from him, dated from Westminster, June 24th, 1643, to the Earl of Manchester (Lord Privy Seal)—“ A cousin of mine is prisoner in Holland and the Spanish Ambassador has promised that if I can obtain the release of his petitioner, he will obtain the release of my cousin. I should thus release a friend and he rid of a foe.” The petition is from Christopher Ultas, an Irishman, taken by Lord Forbes' fleet in Ireland, who promises if released to quit the country. No answer is recorded, nor is the name of the cousin known.

By the end of the summer of 1643 Lord Forbes was again in Scotland, hoping, as he said, to recover some part of his distressed estate, but in this he was unsuccessful. In October, 1644, he left Scotland for ever, going first to Holland, as he felt he could not visit Sweden as long as that country and Charles I.'s uncle, the King of Denmark, under whom so many Scots had formerly fought, were at war. In 1645, this difficulty being removed, he went to Stockholm and endeavoured to stir up the daughter of the great Gustavus, Queen Christina of Sweden, to send her Chancellor, Oxenstiern, to mediate between the king and Parliament of England (as both King Charles and his father had often endeavoured to mediate in other countries), but nothing came of the project. In 1646 he was again in London and, according to his own account, did good services to many of his countrymen there, and having gone bail for £10,000 for a friend, Sir Robert Stewart, he was himself in the King's Bench prison for debt for two years.

To this period belongs the following delightful letter from his son.

¹ It is noted in the *State Papers* that “ on 1 June 1663 there was allowed to Lord Forbes by the Committee of Adventurers £747 15 6 As Lt General by Parliament £306 5 0 for officers of the Staff £438 19 2 for his officers & troopers £1027 Total £2698 19 8.”

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Alexander had, presumably at the date of the letter, been at any rate temporarily released, and was living in Westminster, or perhaps he only called for his letters. Imprisonment for debt, then, as in the following century, though irksome, was not rigorous. His wife was with him during this time, as his twelfth child Catherine was "born at Westminster, in England," on March 18th, 1647.

Docketed William, Master of Forbes in Scotland, to his father in London, "for my Lord Forbes, to be enquired for in King St. in Westminster at London these," and *endorsed* "About Lesly's buying the lands in Auford for 40,000; of Sir Wm. Dick's pursuing the Mr. of Forbes."

"Aberdeen, the 17 May 1647.

"My werie noble good lord and loveing Father,

"I had writte nere twentie dayes agoe wt the laird of cromartie our cusin to yr lo. and again having occasion of Mr. Alexander Forbes, I wold not neglect ye samen in showing your Lo. that the bargaine I did writte to you in my last, wt the laird of Leslie is now closed, onlie the securities are not perfytt which shoulde be subscribed by the compryser. The bargaine will not goe on wt ym. excepte they shall take so much asyde for their full payment, so that if ther be anie thing over, it may be absolutely frie of burdin. Friends and I are forced to make yt bargaine, gryttle to your prejudice, which delay of former tyme and not appearance of merchants to be hade, makes us goe on so. I hope your Lo. will be carefull to rid me of Sir Wm. Dick,¹ who is to put at me for what I subscribed for to him at your command at your way going from Scotland. Ther is onlie fourtie thousand pounds to be gotten from the Laird of Leslie for your wholle lands in Alford, which he does, not but (*only*) as at a rental, bot *in cumulo*; this is ye furthest length friends could draw him to, whose humour is well knowen to your lo. The berer can informe your lo. of the present state of business hier concerning the condition of this schyre and of friends and my condition, which I spare to writte.

"Your friends, as I have often written, remaine in the same posture towards me, and the house they are come of. It pleases the Lord to provyde me. I wish I may sie your Lo. shortlie, according to promise. I expect to here from you with the first post concerning my relief of Sir Wm. Dick.¹ Not troubling your Lo. further, I am

"Yr obedient sonne and servant,
"William Mr. of Forbes."

"Sence there is so manie occasions that be sure coming from London to Aberdene I entreat your Lo. to send me ane pair of strong waxed boots that be long, and two pairs of walking boots for the strete. With ane beaten silver hatband and anie other comoditie your Lo. pleases. Let all these be sent to Patrick Chrystie, his house, burgess of Aberdene with the first bark that shall come from London to Aberdene, whereof now there will be plentie."

Another paper in the charter chest gives "information for the Master

¹ Sir William Dick of Braid, ancestor of the Dick Cunningham.

of Forbes against Sir Andrew Dick¹ and his creditors, relative to a reduction of a cautionary obligation of the Master for his father," refers to the second son of Sir William; both were knights.

The lands in Alford did *not* pass into the possession of the Laird of Leslie. In the year 1647 the Master was 27 years of age, but the transaction with Dick may have been of ancient date, during his father's earlier absences. William was 12 years old when his father was taken prisoner after Lützen, and not quite 21 when his grandfather, the 10th Lord, died.

Quoting again from the MS. of the House of Lords:—

On February 15th, 1648, Lord Forbes presented a petition to say that he had now been waiting nineteen months for the money due to him by Parliament; had been arrested for debt and unable to follow his occupation. He prays the House to order his release and to protect him that he may follow in freedom his business until such time as Parliament shall pay him.

In June of the same year he complains that he has waited two full years, and on December 29th states that he has long attended the pleasure of both Houses concerning the accounts for his services in Ireland, which are now "ready to be delivered." He "is desirous of embracing some employment abroad and prays licence to levy and transport 2000 men that he may engage with some foreign prince."

To this petition the terse comment is added, "Nothing done."

Lord Forbes was still in London at the time of the execution of King Charles I. and seems to have made a personal protest to Cromwell and to have been again imprisoned. When set free, he refused to take the oath to Cromwell, "for a Government without King or House of Peers," and went into voluntary banishment.² He sold what goods he had with him and managed to get, via Holland, to Sweden, where he joined his brothers, John, William and James. In 1651 Queen Christina gave him a pension and a commission to raise sunken ships in Swedish waters, he having conceived a chimerical scheme of thereby providing King Charles II. with a fleet and guns, and raising an army of British subjects abroad, as well as collecting money to pay it. The disaster of the battle of Worcester put an end to the project, but King Charles had heard of it, and sent orders for Lord Forbes and his brother, Colonel William, to collect troops to help Lord Middleton in Scotland. Nothing came of this, and on the voluntary abdication of Queen Christina and the loss of the pension in 1654, the fortunes of Lord Forbes were at a very low ebb, his brother, Colonel William, having been killed at Bremen-Sconce on May 16th in the same year. Lord Forbes also became

¹ It is very curious to note that "Sir Andrew Dick's wife" (not his widow) appears on the list (mentioned on page 187) of those who, after the Restoration received pensions from Charles II. Hers was only £50.

² To this date must belong the "pass" recorded in the *State Papers*, dated April 5th, 1649—"For Lord Forbes and his family to pass to the United Provinces."

at that time somewhat infirm and very deaf, as is shown in the memorial he presented to King Charles II. after the Restoration, from which many of the above particulars have been taken. It is here given in full ; it does not appear that he presented it personally, and no answer is recorded, nor any notice of it in King Charles' letter books, etc.

[138] " YE 26TH OF AUGUST 1661 AT WESTMINSTER. (*Presented to the King.*)

" A short relation of the Lord Forbes loyall indevoirs to serve his Majesty and the Royal family theas many yeers bygon. Anno 1626 the Lord Ray his cusin being ingadged to serve the King of Denmark in his warres against the Emperor, of the two thousand men he (Lord Ray) caried over by his Majestie of Great Brittaines permission (for the releef of his uncle),¹ the Lord forbes² and his freends did furnish aucht hundreth and did engage himself for above a thousand lib sterlin to help the Lord Ray to cary on that service, wherof he was glaid to accept of half payment fyve yeers thereafter. In the year 1628 when the Earl of Mortoun, commandit by his Majesty did levy a regiment for the releeff of the Rochell, the Lord forbes did furnish out his second brother (John) and twelve proper gentilmen on his owin charges well clothed and armed, till they wer at the appoynted randevouz.

" In the year 1630 when the King of Denmark had made peace with the Emperor, and the King of Swedin, Gustavus, had takein that warr in hand for the restitution of the Palatinat and comission for levies sent to him by the said King haveing miscaried, he (Lord Forbes) went himself to the King of Swedin and made a capitulation and conform therto by his Majesty of Great Brittaines permission, did levy two thousand six hundreth men for the service in Germany, for the which levies ane great pairt of the levy monies doth remain yet dew, beeing inforced to ingadge his estait, which groaneth as yet under that burthen and did suffer two sad imprisonments, one wherof endured one and twentic months.

" In the year 1634 soon after his release he did com over with the Sweds Ambassador, Grave Kean Oxinstern, to whom levies beeing at that time denyed, he (Alex. Forbes) reteered to Germany and in goeing up to his regiments, had the sad newes of ther total ruin at Nordlingen, since which time he hath had no actual service under them, but got his pass (home) in the year 1635 and in the year 1636 was sent over by his Majestie (Charles I.) with comission to establish som staples for traffique both in Swedin and Denmark, which the next yeer's troubls did put a stop unto ; yet if the humble proposals then presented to his Majesty had been effectually followed for provyding a royal fleet in Scotland and setting a foot the fishing trade with the manufactories etc. it could probably have preventit much mischeef that hath followed. Since that tym the Lord Forbes remaining two years and som more in Scotland, did always use his best indevoirs to preserve his Majesties subjects from the beginning (of) oppressions, protecting all indifferently and wronging none, poor or rich ; but finding things grow worse, he did reteer to England in the end of the yeer 1641 of purpose to have followed his former comission, and the proposals which wold have been for

¹ I.e. The king's uncle—King Christian of Denmark.

² Probably Arthur, 10th Lord, father of Alexander ; the latter was then only 25, and *not* Lord Forbes.

his Majestie's honor and the honor and wealth of the kingdome. A Regiment out of Scotland for Ireland being denyed him, he did imbrace ane imployment as *Comander-in-cheeff* of the additional forces by sea for the releeff of Ireland, wherin he was, through God's blessing, instrumentall to the releeff of many thousands of his Majestie's good subjects, as the accompts of that service and diverse eminent persons yet alive can bear record.

" In the end of the sommer of 1643, being in hopes to recover som part of his distressed estait, either by treatie with theas who had wrongt him or by law, but dissapoynted of both in October 1644 he did take fair well of Scotland and went first for Holland. The Sweds beeing then ingadged in warr against his Majesties uncle the King of Denmark, he did forbear goeing to Swedin till that peace was concludit and in Swedin he did labor what in him lay to vindicat his Majesties honor and in the yeer 1645 beg'd of her Mesjety the Queen Christine to send the Rex Chancellor Grave Axell Oxinstern to have mediat betwixt his Matie. and both houses of Parliament, but his indevors wer successless for want of a commission, tho he told them his birth and dewty as a subject did give him sufficient commission to use all indevoirs for the wellfair of his sovereign, who had so oftin givin way to so many thousands of his subjects to spend ther bloods in ther service ; and had (both he and his Royal father), to ther no small charges, sent so many ambassadors to procure ther peace with all ther neighbours round about. Ther being hopes in the yeer 1646 that his Majesty should com to London to a treaty, he did com over as for soliciting his accompts for Irish service, wher he did again divers services in saiffing the lives and estaits of many of his good subjects that was prisoners and with the hazard of his owin lyf, did bail som of them from assured death and was two year or therby prisoner at the King's Bench upon bail for a debt that was to have been payd by the Parliament. Beeing forced to be heer at that sad blow which did overthrow us all, yet not without bearing testimony to the injustice thay intendit, even to the principall parricid two days before the murther of that sacred martir, which latter did procur his sad restraint and the loss (of) all hopes to get what was due to him. The occasion takein from his bealling of Sir Robert Stewart whom they had appoynted to death, beeing still prisoner as said is, and under ther lash for that ten thousand lib bail for Sir Robert Stewart, which, tho he did not pay, yet the prejudice he sustained therby was very great as divers yet alive can bear record. Till upon Cromwells march for Scotland, ther oath ingadgment to maintain ther government without King or House of Peers with the act of banishment of all Scots that refus it, made him willingly goe anywher to be free from them and ther tyranny. Haveing sold above 300 lib worth of moveabls at the third of the valew to pay off the most considerabl debts he was owing, he cam to Dover with one shilling. Coming within three months to his noble brother,¹ he was supplied till he cam to Swedin, wher in the year 1651 the Queen allowed him a pension and in 1652 did give him a priviledge for taking up sunk ships and goods in the waters, seas and harbours belonging to the dominions of Swedin. His design therin being to be inabled to furnish his Majesty (Charles II.) with compitent stor of brass guns both for a train of artillery by land, and ships by sea. Lykas at the same tym he obtaind from her Majesty a connivence to

¹ William, who seems to have been better off than the rest of the family.

solicit all his Majestie of Great Brittain's subjects in her dominions as well as merchands and others, and if the sad blow at Worcester had not com, ther was above 100^m crowns promised to have been subscriv'd. Of which indeavour his Majesty was graciously pleased to take notice and to command his brother Col. Wm. and him to set that design afoot, for inabling the Lord Lt. Generall (now Lord Commissioner for Scotland) the Earl of Middleton, to furnish armes and ammuniton for theas of his Majesties partie in Scotland. Tho the merchantmen that ar most able did all draw back and only some few military men by his brothers procurement and his, did advance according to ther abilities, this was then thankfully acknowledged by my Lord Commissioner, as good and acceptable service to his Ma^{tie}. with ingagements to befreind the wholl family according to his power. Let not then the escapes of the Lord Forbes freends in his absence (whose wholl estaits, tho' confiscat, wold make no considerable fyn, tho' he hopes non of them deserves to be in so black a roll) bring theas that have so near a relation to his family ther names or credits to be broght in question, the Lord Forbes offring to ingage (or find others that his Majestie may be pleased with) for futur loyalty.

"In the year 1654 the Queen of Swedin quyting the government and his dear brother beeing kild, his pension kept from him and a sad ten months seekness oppressing him, so that skillful phisitians did expect no lyf for him, to increas his miseries, a deafness did then befall him which disabled him from makeing his owin caice knowin to his Majestie, unless a privat audience be allowed him."

A somewhat similar petition is to be found among the Add. MSS. in the British Museum, signed by Alexander, Lord Forbes, his brothers John and James and several other Scots. No answer to this, either, occurs in the family papers or in the Warrant and Letter Books of King Charles II. in the Public Offices.¹ The king, of course, received hundreds of similar appeals from distressed Royalists and had a great deal to do with his money. A manuscript list of pensions granted by him on his Restoration, to Scots alone (now in the possession of the present writers) shows distribution of an amount of over £12,000 sterling. It includes such diverse items as "the Earle Marischall and his Lady £500," and "George Murray, a coach man £40." They vary from £1000 each to "The Earle of Middleton" and "the Earle of Dumfermling," to £25 to "Captain Morton's widow."

"PETITION OF DIVERS DISTRESSED SCOTS.

"To the King's Most excellent Majesty. [Undated—but of 1660 or 1661.]

"The humble petition of divers distressed officers who have served under the crowne of Sweden. Humbly sheweth

¹ On June 12th, 1664, probably two or three years after the receipt of the above petition, it is noted in the *State Papers* that "The King, being informed that some noblemen, as the children of the deceased Count Douglas, Lord Forbes, Cranstoun and Glenawly with others, his subjects in Scotland, have sundry claims to demand of the King, Queen and Regents of Sweden, and the administration of that country, he asks for favour for them if they apply."

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'That not only in yr Grandfather's, but also in yr father's of blessed Memorie's tyme, many of yr Majestie's Subjects were by treaties between both kingdomes licensed to capitulate with the Crowne of Sweden to serve them and did levy and transport many Regiments into their service, who either before the enemy or by pestilence, hunger and ill usage lost the most part of their lives, the few remnant saved by God's providence having made their address unto the present Regents of Sweden, humbly desiring satisfaction for their true and faithful services done unto them—have been by the general peace sett from their charge, without any satisfaction being given them. Divers also who served yr Majestie and father of blessed memorie were forced in these rebellious tymes to seke employment abroad for the preservation of their lives and enabling them to be in readiness to attend your Majestie's further commands, have bene in like manner ill-used and no promise or capitulation kept unto them. Many, having lost all they have, wounded and imprisoned, sett from all their several charges, were at last forced to beg so much as did transport them to their country and now for want, must live in Misery. Others who did gett any small satisfaction for their long service in lands, their children after their death have not enjoyed them. Our long attendance and dayly supplicating unto them, was either to give us contentment according to our capitulation or to make up our accompts giving us some assurance hereafter of our payment, the which was wholly refused.

" May it therefore please yr Sacred Majestie to take the sad condition and ill usage of us yr subjects into yr royal Consideration in granting us in general yr royal letters of recommendation to the Present Regents of Sweden that they may state our first accompts and either give us present satisfaction or assurance in certane tyme to pay us what will justly be found to be due. As also that such of yr Matie's Subjects or their children who have gotten for their services any lands may be maintained by their general grants, our condition being not able to prosecute our first pretensions. We doe humblie beg that yr Sacred Majestie wilbe graciously pleased to lay yr Commands on ffelt Marshall Duglas¹ and Hew Hamilton baron of Glenely to present yr letters of recommendation to the p̄st Regents and to procure the answer. Our deare-bought satisfaction being refused by them, we shall in all humility hereafter beg and seke yr Majesties gracious assistance, for wh. Royal favour yr Petrs. shall ever be bound to pray for yr Matie's long and prosperous Raigne.

" Forbes.

André Fullarton.

" John Forbes.

William Lindsay.

" James Forbes.

Roger Johnston.

" John Fraser." *Add. Mss. 23, 116-178.*

Lord Forbes had also signed a letter to Lauderdale, asking him to forward congratulations to King Charles on his restoration. Other signatures are Tullibardine, Duffus, Belhaven, Eglinton, Buchan, Cardross, etc.

All the charters, dispositions, tacks, etc., in the charter chests dealing with the years 1641 to 1672 are executed by William Master of Forbes (his

¹ Robert Douglas, son of Patrick Douglas and Christina Leslie. He served three sovereigns of Sweden in succession, and died in Stockholm in 1662.

father being abroad). As shown by the following (among others) : on March 23rd, 1648—the Presbytery of Alford

“ approved an augmentation allotted by the Master of Forbes, of his own accord, to the Glebe of Forbes, declaring it together with the old Glebe and twenty merks money assigned formerly by Alex. Lord Forbes to be a full and perfect Glebe ‘ except it sale please ye sd rt. hon^{ll}. Maister of Forbes of his accustomed bountie as before, at anie time hereafter, to eke any farther yrto.’ ”

Also a “ Disposition by William Forbes of Corsindae to William, Master of Forbes, of the lands of Brockhowes in the Parish of Kincardine and Burlassie in the parish of Cluny, containing a procuratory of resignation *ad perpetuam remanentiam*.”

Witnesses—“ Arthur Forbes of Bruchis, Robert Forbes of Asloun, Thomas Forbes, son to umquhile James Forbes of Tilliefour.”

There is, however, one writ which must have been executed by Lord Forbes while abroad. The date is June 11th, 1666. Appendix [42].

“ Precept of Clare constat per Alexandrum Dominum de Forbes ad infeoffandum Robertum Gordon de Pitlurg sicut filium natu maximum et heredem quondam Magistri Roberti Gordone de Straloch in terris de flechill Cobleseat Coblcroft lie priviledge of ferricing super aquam Ythan, Procter’s Croft—jacentibus per annexationem infra dominium de Altrie, par de Ellon et V. Com de Aberdeen.”

It is signed by Alexander, Lord Forbes, and witnessed by his youngest son, Robert, who was in Germany with him, and by Captain Thomas Erskine. The Forbes’ seal is intact.¹

Alexander never returned to Scotland but died in Stockholm after a long illness, April 20th, 1672.

His will, dated April 6th, 1672, exists in three copies among the family papers, two Latin and one English, and is given in full in the Appendix. It is there to be seen that his second marriage was peculiarly happy. Some of his descendants are probably living in Sweden to this day.

Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes, married when 17, on November 10th, 1618, as his first wife, Anne, eldest daughter of John Forbes of Pitsligo, by whom he had five children :

LIST OF HIS FAMILY.

(*Indorsed*. “ Within this paper is contained the proginie of My Grand Father Alexander Lord Forbes.”) [In the handwriting of the 13th Lord (before 1716).] “ Alexander Lord fforbes being sixteen years of age was married the tenth of Nover 1618 to Anna Forbes eldest lawfull daughter to John Forbes of Pitsligoe, by whom he had these children after mentioned. [He was actually exactly 17, having been born on 7 Nov., 1601.]

1. “ John Fforbes born in Pitsligoe the second of Novr. 1619 who died the second of June 1620.

¹ This document was placed by Mr. Cosmo Innes in the Appendix to the *Registrum*. The reason why it is not with the other writs of the 11th Lord is not apparent.

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2. " William Forbess born in Castle forbes the 10th of Octor. 1620.
3. " Arthur born in Castle forbes the day of 1621, who died in May thereafter.
4. " Margaret Forbes born in Dumbeath in Catness the third of May 1622, died in June 1623.
5. Alexander Forbes born in Castle fforbes the day of 1624, died the November following.
 " Anna, the mother off these children died the 8th of February 1625 in Polfluig and was burried in Chappel of Castle fforbes.
- " Alexander Lord Forbes was married the second tyme to Elizabeth Forbes eldest daughter to Robert Forbes of Rires the twentieth of March 1626/7 by whom he had these children after mentioned.
 1. " Alexander Forbes born in Castle forbes in December 1627, died 1629.
 2. " Jean Forbes born in Polfluig Nover 1628 and died December 1629.
 3. " John Forbes born in Polfluig the 19th of Nover 1629, died in London the 4th of April 1663.
 4. " Lucia Forbes born in Brem [Bremen] in Jermany the last of March 1636 died in Brem the 25 of June 1660.
 5. " James Forbes ¹ born in Rires the 6th of June 1637, died in Germany.
 6. " Elizabeth Forbes born in Polfluig the 2 Aug. 1638 died in Brem Jan. 1660.
 7. " Anna Forbes born in Polfluig the tenth of Octor 1639.
 8. " Margaret Forbes born in Polfluig the sixth July 1640 died in Aprill 1641.
 9. " Arthur Forbes born in Polfluig the 19th June 1641 and died in March 1643.²
 10. " Christian Forbes born in Polfluig the 23rd July 1644.
 11. " Robert Forbes born in Rotterdam in Holland the 23rd of Septr. 1645 died in Castle forbes on Munday the sixth of May 1678.
 12. " Catherine born att Westminster in England the 18th of March 1647.
 13. " Marie Forbes born in Stead in the stift of Bremen in Germany on Saturday 26th July 1651. m. 1 Hugh Rose of Kilravock, and 2 Kinnaird of Culbin.
 " My Father Will: (12th) Lord Forbes was born in Castell Forbes 10th October 1620. Dayed at Castell Forbes the 5th of June 1697—was of age when he dayed 77 years.

It is amazing when realized that, in those days (when most Scots lairds made their wills before riding to Edinburgh), Alexander, Lord Forbes, crossed the Irish Sea twice and the North Sea no less than *eleven times*.

He first went to Germany in August, 1630, aged 29 (page 178) 1
Returned " in 18 months," February, 1632 2
Back in Germany before Lützen, November, 1632 3
Imprisoned 20 months
Regained freedom, June, 1634
In England that summer 4

¹ Of this seventh son of the 11th Lord Forbes, the only thing known is that on June 25th, 1676, in his fortieth year, he had " a pass to go beyond the seas." (*Scottish State Papers*, Warrant Book 3, 506.) His father left to him the estates of Putachie, Glentoun and Auchterkeig, but apparently he never enjoyed possession of them.

² The *Scots Peerage* is wrong in giving *this* son as a Colonel, since he died aged 2.

ALEXANDER, 11TH LORD FORBES

To Germany again before August, 1634 (page 178)	5
Back in England	6
To Sweden	7
To Scotland	8
To England	.
To Ireland	.
To Scotland	1643 (page 182)
To Holland and Sweden again	9
In London	10
(Another imprisonment)	.
Final departure for Sweden where his last thirty-three years were spent	1649, (page 184) 11 times in all

Death 1672—aged 71.

The financial anxieties of Alexander Forbes over his second marriage in 1626 are amusingly revealed in a letter (found among the Fettercairn Papers) from this somewhat unromantic young man of twenty-five to the Tutor of Cromarty, a relative and wise friend :—

“ To the Tutor of Cromartie.

“ Putachie. 8 Nov. 1626.

“ Right honorabill Sir & assured good friend, pleas according to my promise I have wryttan this lyne, seeing I am in tearmes for a match for myself that I may have your advyse before I proceed for as I told you at my last, being at your house, my mean estatt will not suffer to be pairtitt, quhairfor I have made choise (if I can have freely ensuit to my choice) off ane match quhair I willed— To witt off the Laird off Reres oldest dochter, quhairuntill since I would have had ane grytt tryst in matches, I should have twentie thousand marks off tocher at martimas next and the witsunday thereafter and should give onlie my Lands off Polfluig and Sic in Alford as pertaint to me quhilk will not exceed sax and twentie chalder victual in conjunct fie and in fie and sasine redeemable be me or my eldest son. As also I should have title to the tailzie quhilk if itt fall¹ as I swear I neither desyr nor expect—I shall satisfie your good brother for his enterest be your ain sort and ye behest of other discreit friends. I pray you send me your advyse—quhat ye think of this purpose—for my own pairt I have contentment of the gentlewoman, and iff Reres might do more he wold mak me my ain career, but trewlie this same will give him a grytt burden and iff my ain burdens wer not nearer, I wold be fond to stress him so much, but because this soumm, iff we agreed, will not cum or at the next tearm, I will entreatt you according to your promess for relieff of my wadsett to deall for my lands off Balchers and Fintray. I know your gryttest scrupell is for the teynd and no lack of monie as ye pretend. Always to remove that scrupell, iff ye be willing to deall, I having right to the teynd during my Lord my father's lifytyme and my Lady's, and will oblige me to purchase and warrand a nyntein yeirs tak

¹ I.e. at his father's death.

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longer, before the expiry of the lyfrents, quhilk nynteen yeirs tak, I shall be carefull to obtain your son. I can and have already my Lord Erroll's promise and other friends in his name for ye same, bot I will entreat you to keip this quyett for marring of that matter. I doubt not ye will send me your loving advyse in this, and your favourable acceptance and assurance in these particulars quharbie I shall think myself much obliged to you and shall always remain

"Your loving and assured friend in all I may.

"A. Forbes."

APPENDIX FOR ALEXANDER, 11TH LORD FORBES.

CHARTERS, ETC.

Charter of 1619. *Abstract only in the Forbes Charter Chest.*

By a charter under the great seal of March 18th, 1619, the king disposed to Alexander, Master of Forbes, and his heirs male by the charter of February 8th, 1610, the lands and Barony of Fintray, the lands of Craigtown, etc. This proceeds upon Lord Lindores' resignation.

"Copy ratification, Lord of Mar and Lord Erskyne, and John L. Erskyn our eldest son, to Alex. Master of Forbes of,

"The barony of Auford, Argathill, Surdiehill, Covillseat town and lands of Auford town and lands of Wellhour, Mortescroft, Arshballoch, Auford Balloch, Carnancran, Newmyln of Auford, Milnland, multures, Meikle Endowie, Polslizly, Baldurno, Baldinleg with the Milne of Kinstair, Little Endowie, Asloun, Tuloch Ellay, Auchintoul and Langauch, Braidaugh, Culquhanoch, Tibbechoudy, Asloun, Mill of Asloun, Dorisail, Badinmay, Petie, Drumin and Quhaner and Overmill.
"At Holyrood House 24 July 1629 before these witnesses

"Robert Forbes of Rires, Henry Dow, Master Alex. Rae and John Williamson our servitor.

"And Confirmation at Edinburgh, 15th January 1630.

"John Earl of Mar, Lord Erskine and Lord Garioch, High Treasurer of the realm of Scotland and John Lord Erskine his son, to the right honourable our well beloved cousin Alexander Master of Forbes ratify and confirm the infeftments."

AGREEMENT between Alexander, the 11th Lord Forbes, when Master of Forbes, and Sir Arthur Forbes (*father of the 1st Lord Granard*), re troops to be brought to Scotland for embarkation to Germany.

102] "21 July 1631. Heads of Agreem^t. betwixt the right hon^{ble}. Alexr. Master of Forbes, Colonel of two Regim^t. by the vertue of a Comission granted to him by the late King of Swedin etc. on the one part and Sr. Arthur Forbes, Baronet, Lieutenant-Colonel under the foirsaid Alexr. Mr. of Forbes on the other part, and Captane John Baillie one of the Captanes appointed to be in the sd Master of Forbes his owne regim^t. And the sd Sr. Arthur as Cau^r. for him on the third pt. in maner and forme as followeth (*viz*).

"forasmuch as the said Sr. Arthur for himself and in name of the said Captane John Baillie, hath received at the making herof the inst. sowme of fifteen hundreth Rex Thalers in Specie, Therefor he obliges him to bring upon his owne charges out of Ireland to the Shor of Leith in Scotland five hundreth men wherof the said Sr. Arthur shall have the choose and disposing of the officers of 300 of them,



ELIZABETH FORBES OF RIRES.
Second Wife of Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes.
(From portrait at Castle Forbes.)

Captane Baillie of one hundreth & fyftie and the other fiftie to be disposed as the said Master of Forbes shall think fit, the wth. 500 men, being good able and to pass muster at o^r Randevous shal be brought to the Shor of Leith before the last of Sepr. nixt under the pain of 30s. sterling for every man lacking of the said 500. And on the other part the said Master of Forbes obliges himself to have sufficient Shippes ready victualed, from the 1st of Sepr. furth one three tydes warning after wind and wether serve, they bringing 100 men in company togidder at least. So that from the tyme that wind and weather serve, there Embarguing and transport to the place of Rendevous shal be upon the Master of Forbes charges, And for the better performance of the sd. conditions, the before mentioned parties have here under put there hands and Seales. St. Martins Lane in London 29 July 1631.

" sealed and subscribed befor Sic subscribitur Alexr. Forbes.
 " William Forbes witness Arthur Forbes.
 " Pa. Lumsdell witness. John Baillie."

Even before he was of age Alexander, Master of Forbes, was raising money on his estates and expectations :—

Disposition to George Gordon of Terpersie. A.D. 1631.

(Abridged from the original in the possession of the late Patrick Rose, Esq., sheriff-clerk of Banffshire.)

" Be it kent to all men . . . me Alexander Maister of Forbes for ane certane soume of money payed . . . to me be George Gordon of Terpersie . . . to have sold and heritably disponed . . . to the said George Gordon his aires and assignies all and hail the tynd shaves of all and hail the toune and lands pertaining heritably to the said George Gordone lyand within the parioch of Kinethmont and shirefdom of Abirdene . . . to be holden of me or my forsaidis or frae me or my forsaidis of my immediat superior feu, for payment yearly to the minister serving at the quoir of the said kirk of the soume of tuantie five pundis money and aught bolls victuall. Lykas for the said George Gordon and his forsaidis better securatie theranent I the said Alexander maister of Forbes. . . . ratifies . . . all . . . titills of the tynd shaves of the saids lands . . . granted by . . . Lord Lendores or other persons whatsoever . . . be thes presents written be George Scott servitor to Maister Alexander Davidson advocat and subscrivit at Aberdene the tuantie third day of November j^m vj^e thretie one years befor these witnesses Alexander Cuming apparent of Culter, Patrick Gordon of Badenscoth William Forbes servitor to me the said Alexander maister of Forbes W. Gordon servitor to Sir Alexander Cuming of Culter knight."

A few days before his twenty-first birthday a relative of his mother's sued him for debt :—

On November 1st 1632 " Michael Elphingston of Quarrell obtained a Decreet of appryzing against Alexander Master of Forbes of the Lordship and estate for £5520, and £274 of Sheriff fie, this appryzing disponed to Sir Robert Innes." February 10th 1637 " Thomas Mackenzie of Pluscarden also obtained a decreet of appryzing against Alex. Master of Forbes of the said Lordship and estate for 37,853 merks, 4 shillings and 4d. Scots and £1261 13. 6 of sheriff fie. (About

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£2,000 sterling and £65 fee.) In 1642 he had a charter infesting him in the estate, as he had advanced 47,963 merks more."

Subsequently Sir Robert Innes had a charter and precept infesting him 17 May 1644.

On 29 April 1657 Mackenzie and Innes reconveyed the estate to Alexander's son, William, Master of Forbes. For this they seem to have required the consent of Kenneth, Earl of Seaforth. (See page 206, next chapter.) Only abstracts of these deeds are at Castle Forbes.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SWEDISH CHANCELLOR, 1635.

[109] " Sacrae Regiæ Majestatis Regniq̄ue Sueciæ Senator Cancellarius ad exercitus et per Germaniam plena cum potestate Legatus ibidemq̄ue Fœderis Evangelici Director Axelius Oxenstierna Liber Baro in Kymitho Dominus in Fykholmen et Tydoen Eques.

" Notum Testatumq̄ue facimus omnibus præsentibus nostras Literas visuris, Earum Exhibitorem Illustrem ac Generosum Dn. Alexandrum Forbus per spatium quinque annorum sub signis sacrae Regiæ Majestates Sueciæ quondam Nostri Regis Augustæ memoriæ, fideliter militasse functumq̄ue munere Tribuni militaris unius legionis pedestris. Ea per omnes occasiones industria et fide sicut virum fortem et egregium decet.

" Nunc cum fortunam alibi suam experiri constituerit bona nostra cum venia dimissionem postulavit quam denegare ei non potuimus sed hoc testimonium suae virtutis hac etiam recommendatione addita ipsi reddentes, rogamus humiliter ac officiose ab omnibus Potestatibus tam terra quam mari Eorumve Legatis ut dictum Dn. Tribunal non solum absque impedimento ire liberum ac immunem permittant, verum etiam omnia eidem benevolentiae ac humanitatis officia ostendant exhibantq̄ue. Facturi eo ipso non solum rem meritis ipsius dignam verum quum et nos similiter omni studio ac officiis ad cujusque conditionem reponemus. In rei fidem manu nostra subscripsimus et sigillum fecimus apponi.

" Signatum Hamburgi die XXIV Jun Anni MDC XXXV.

" Axelius Oxenstierna."

Four references to Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes, occur in the Proceedings of Parliament—one as a judge, two as accused, and one as petitioner. All in the year in which he succeeded his father.

1. " Oct 2 1641, SUPPLICATIOⁿe be Mr. Thomas Mitchell desyring ane committee to be appointed for cognitione of his complaint: Red in Audience of his Ma^{tie} and Estaittis of parliament (who appointis the comitte underwritten for trying of the Supplicantis bussiness and having overto^{rs} theranent: viz. Erles of Seafort, finlato^r and *lord forbes* for the Nobilitie, Craigivar, Leslie and Birkinboig for the gentrie: the commissioner of Bamf, Kirkcudbright, and forres for the barronis Or any fyve of thame: To maitt efternoone).

" Proceedings of Parliament Oct. 29—Nov. 1 A.D. 1641.

" Rege Presente.

2. " SUPPLICATIOⁿe be the Erle of Kinghorne Erle of Seafort and Laird of Innes AGAINST THE LORD FORBES Red in Audience of His Ma^{tie} who appointis the Lord forbes to haif ane copie thair of that he may give answer thairto.

3. " 5 Novy. MDCXLI (1641) Rege presente.
 " ANSWERIS be the lord forbes to the Supplicac^one gevin in be the Erles of Kinghorne and Seafort and the laird of Innes (produced) and appointed to be shewin to the lord Seafort.
4. " Acta Parliamentorum Caroli I. A.D. 1641. Nov. 7.
 " REFERENCE in favours of the Lord Forbes.
 " THE QUHILK DAY The Supplicatione givine in to the King and Parliament be Alexander Lord Forbes.
 " Craveing that the King and Parliament would recommend to the committee appoynted for the commonne burdenes of this Kingdome and lordis of his hienes secreet counsell, the consideration of the reparacion of the supplicantes loisses susteened be him in his service and engadgement abroad for the Palatinate and at home in the late troubles of this Kingdome Being red in audience of the parliament His Ma^{tie} and estates of parliament remittes the foirsaid supplicatione to the committee appoynted for the commone burdingis of this Kingdome."¹

HIS ATTEMPT TO RAISE ANOTHER REGIMENT.

1641. Petition of Alexander, Lord Forbes to the Lords and Commons: " There are many soldiers desirous of employment, besides those that are likely to be designed for the defence of the Kingdom or for serving in Ireland. Your Petitioner having formerly engaged in foreign wars, desires that he may have leave to entreat such of the officers and soldiers as shall not be any longer employed here and will willingly put themselves under his command in the service of any foreign prince."

MS. of the House of Lords.

In the same series of papers there is a petition of Alexander, Lord Forbes, saying he has suffered great losses, and praying for a competency to transport himself and family to Scotland. It is undated, but probably belongs to the year 1643, after his return from Ireland.

A NOTE INSERTED IN THE "REGISTRUM" BY COSMO INNES.

" The Lord Forbes's *services in Ireland* which form the subject of the documents from 117 (dated 9th July, 1642) to 125 (dated 24th Dec., 1642) and which are mentioned in 138 (dated 26th Aug., 1661) are hastily related by Ludlow in the Introduction to his *Memoires*—' The Lord Forbes, a Scots-man was sent with a party to Munster where he greatly annoyed the Enemy; and being furnished with some ships sailed up the Shannon and secured several places upon that river particularly Bonratte the residence of the Earl of Thomond, where he found about three score horse fit for service. Major Adams was made Governour of that house. But the enemy frequently resorting to a place called Six-mile bridge, about two or three miles from thence, the English pressed the Earl [of Thomond]

¹ Eight years later, in the year 1649, August 27th, there appears to have been a motion "to hear his petition," but four days after, viz. August 31st, there is a note that "the Judge Advocate will defer the prosecution of Lord Forbes till further orders." (*State Papers*). It was at this period that he retired to the Continent.

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to assist them to fall upon the Irish, who unwilling to oppose the English interest, and no less to make the Rebels his enemies, endeavoured to excuse himself; yet upon second thoughts resolved to comply if some care might be taken to spare his kindred. Whereupon some of the English officers proposing to him (Lord Thomond) that his relations should distinguish themselves by some mark, and he concluding it to be in order to secure them to the English interest, chose rather to withdraw himself into England and to leave his house to the soldiers; where (though he pretended he had no money to lend them to supply their wants) they found two thousand pounds buried in the walls, which they made use of.”

APPRIZING OF LANDS IN 1643.

[126] A part of the estate of Forbes was “apprized” in 1643 by the Marquis of Huntly for a large sum owed to him by the absent Lord Forbes.

6 Aug. 1643. “Carta appretiationis per Georgium Marchionem de Huntlie Comitum de Enzie etc. (facta Thomas McKenzie de Pluscarden) de terras de Putachie, Fodderbirse, Cattie, Torquhinlochie, Bandorie, Belhangis, Inchbair, Tilliriach, Tillieveines, Little Tolmadis, Tornavene, Drumlassie, Barlassie, Rinnalach, Balnacraig, Carlogie lie half Bellangis half mylne of Cattie, Corsindæ, Rabbatie, Ardifork, Kebbataie, Tilliecairne lie Mikil Tolmadis, Tilliekiries, Tilliefour, Tonley, Finlatrie, Broomhill — Pro summa 47,973 mercarum 4 solidorum et 4 denarnim debita ab Alexandro Domino de Forbes, fili et herede ad intrandum monito, patres quondam Arthuro Domini de Forbes.”

This sum, which looks so immense, would in sterling be under £3,000; but it must have been a heavy burden on the impoverished Alexander. The dates on which the various portions of the estate were redeemed are not found recorded in the family papers.

The following letter, now in the Charter Chest, shows that Alexander's son was no Royalist but adhered to the traditional Covenanting lines.

(No date, but probably about 1650. So entered in the *Registrum* on the authority of Cosmo Innes.)

[Letter addressed] “For the freinds of the house of Forbes

“Much honored and Loving freinds.

“I doubt not but the Mr. of Forbes will acquaint you with what past betwix him and me (with a few of his freinds) at Edr. and how readie I was and am still to contribute what is in my power for the weall and standing of that famelie whairin all of you are very muche concerned and I shall not be a little encouraged in my futur indeavours finding your zealous cair for the sam end and unanimous concurrence in the readiest ways and means for effectuating it, I will not presume to speak of the particulars, I leave that to your own wisdoms and his information . . . Sterns¹ boundal of arrows has a good moralitie and you want not examples at your doars to teache you by experience what the misthryving of a

¹ The parable of the bundle of arrows which singly are weak but together are strong. It was the favourite maxim of Louis XI. of France, who acted upon it in the opposite sense, dealing singly and cautiously with his rebellious nobles.

ALEXANDER, 11TH LORD FORBES—APPENDIX

cheef can doe. Wee ar not born for our selves. Every man knowes or should know his dewtie and relations and so I profes myself to be without all cerimonie
“ your reall freinde and servant

“ Argyll.

“ Rosneith 22 May.”

“ I can give no advyce in publick affairs at this distance, but Moses the man of God chused rather to suffer affliction with the peopll of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sinn for a season.”

This letter is holograph of Argyll. There is also a letter to the Master from General David Leslie of approximately the same date, again showing where the Forbes' sympathies lay.

Leslie's letter is dated from Edinburgh, April 12th, 1650 :—

“ Honorable dear Camarad,

“ Forasmuch as ye forces in yis kingdome being employed in ye cause of God and for ye good of religione ought not to be wanting in any Christian duetie but cheerfully to express their charity to such as are indigent and seeing there are diverse poore and weill-affected officers and other poore Christianes in great necessitie, who have no means of subsistence and in honor and conscience sould be supplied so farr as is possible And that though, by God's providence wee are in present employment yitt we know not qn we may be redacted to the lyk conditione and worse. It is yrfoir resolved upone and thought fitt yt every trouper dedicat and lay aside a sex pence of his monethly pay and yr officers according to yr severall charity and qualities doe lykways mortifye and give proportionally of yr pay for such pious and charitable uses as sall be thought fitt. Which money is to be uplifted monethly from ye officers and shouldiards of ye whoill army and to be delyvered to ye Generall quarter-maister and colonell Innes and yrefter distributed by ye Generall officers wt advice of ye other officers in such maner and for such uses they sall think most for ye glory of God and supplieing ye necessities of christianes and yrfoir I recommend to yr special cair, and confidently expect from yow that accordingly to ye custome areaddie observed in other troups and companies you will see ye moneys readily collected and payed and those particulars duly prosecuted by all under your comand Whairby yow sall doe a honourabill and christiane act which will exceedingly obleidge me also to remaine

“ Your Camerad

“ David Leslie.”

Memorandum sent to the 13th Lord Forbes, Alexander's grandson :—

“ 4th Nov. 1714.

“ Alexander Count of Forbes whose great Family is much renowned in Scotland has been a Colonell of two Regiments in the King of Sweden's army anno 1630 viz. one Regiment of Horse and another of foot, but was made Prisoner by the Imperialists and kept in the City of Minden so long till he paid 2000 Rix dollars for his Ransom, after which he returned first into Swederland and then into his own Country. His Son and Heir was married in Stockholm to the

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Countess de la Guardi, a renowned family. And whereas these fifteen years nothing could be heard of the said Count Forbes, notwithstanding the great care that was taken and yet some certain persons have a great concern for it, This is therefore humbly to desire the favours to inquire if there is any of his heirs or family alive and if they are people of any estate and where they live."

The above refers to Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes. The son who married in Sweden was not his eldest son, nor Colonel James, the second—but may have been Robert, the youngest, of whom nothing is known, save that he was alive when his father's will was made in Sweden, in 1672, only a fortnight before the latter's death.

COPY OF TESTAMENT OF ALEXANDER, LORD FORBES, MADE IN LATIN IN SWEDEN,
AND TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH. [142.]

(Two copies in Latin and one in English are in the Charter Chest.)

" 1672.

" To make a Testament is the serious meditation of approaching death, because nothing is more profitable and nothing more pleasant to the elect in Christ. Whether we consider the absolution of inherent sin or death as the transition out of the valley of misery into glory inaccessible; or if we consider after death, Eternal fruition of the beatifick vision in mansions not made with hands; I think I hear the voice of the Prophet Isaiah to King Hezekiah as if spoken to me.—To set my house in order, for I am to die.

" Therefore I, the said Alexander Forbes, going in the seventieth year of my age, when I see the many troubles of decaying age, the presence and weakness of senses and members daily growing on me And when I consider that nothing is more certain than death, the Time, the Place, the Year, the day, the hour and the manner of death all very uncertain. It is long since I left oft to live to the world, desiring to live with Christ. It is the duty of every prudent man neither to fear nor to desire death. He may indeed fear death who does not desire to go to Christ.

" I have now served forty years (besides the current one) ¹ for the most part in the service of the Crown of Sweden. What service I have done, what damages I have sustained, How much blood, both of my brothers and friends, and how much money I have laid out or how much may be due to me by the King's Companys I hope will appear in a short time. But when I desire to look upon my beloved wife and her children, I see nothing remaining for me but that I may hope for the clemency and justice of the most Sovereign King of Sweden. Especially when the troubles of painful old age hinder me from attending upon the necessary and due solicitations. And I can scarcely hope to see an end to those troubles before the end of my own life.

" If I happen to die, I surrogate and substitute my beloved wife Elizabeth Forbes in my place. Appointing her Executrix and Administratrix of my last Will and committing to her the care of our common children, as her prudence is well known to me. Humbly requesting the sovereign King of Sweden, that he may

¹ He left Scotland in August, 1630.

assist her and her children with his clemency and favour. I have had a most sweet bedfellow and Companion of her in every turn of fortune for these forty-six years and the current year. She is the parent of thirteen most sweet and beloved children,¹ she is renowned for piety, invincible for patience, remarkable for charity and modesty—Scarcely imitable for conjugal fidelity, Love and obedience. She was the solace and comfort of my youth and I have found by experience that she is the most careful nurse of my old age and excellently versed in all Oeconomy and disciplines.

“ God gave her to me for the comfort of my life and pleasure in affliction. I chose her for myself, neither do I repent of it but render infinite thanks to God Almighty for giving me such a consort and companion who could sweeten all the adversities and bitters of fortune. I enjoin my sons and daughters that they give due obedience and reverence to their Mother and be assisting to her in all affairs according to their power as they would wish the blessing of God and my paternal blessing to be upon them and their posterity.

“ In the first place I ordain my son William who possesses the lands and Lordship of Forbes as the eldest of my sons (though he has not paid my debts contracted on the said Lordship) that he discharge and pay the money which was bound to be paid to my wife and children of the second marriage by virtue of my contract matrimonial, which he will get by virtue of an obligation of the Earl of Seaforth, which my said wife shall renounce in his favour her Life rent infettment upon the lands of Polfuig with the pertinents. He shall give her yearly all the days of her life the sum of one thousand marks Scots.

“ Moreover I leave and gift to my eldest son James of the second marriage, the lands of Putachie, Glentoun and half of the lands of Auchterkeig with the heritable right there whereby the said lands were to come to me after the deaths of my brothers John and William ;² Reserving always to their Mother the life rent of these lands with the whole pertinents thereof. And that their elder brother William who possesses these lands in my absence may give up the possession more frankly, I will and command that they remitt and pass to him the Ten thousand crowns which are due by the contract of marriage with the said Elizabeth to the children to be procreate of the second marriage together with the whole rents uplifted forth of the said lands from the death of our dearest Mother in the year 1645 untill the coming of our son James into Scotland on notification thereof,³ by his plenipotentiary which shall be competent to him while I live.

“ But with this special condition, that if my son William shall deny and refuse to give up the Lands of Putachie with the pertinents, to his Mother or her son James or shall litigate the possession against my will above mentioned, or shall dare to deny what I desire, then the foresaid gift and donation shall be absolutely null, and it shall be in the power of the said James my son, to exerce all the rights and privileges for demanding the moneys as well as the rents uplifted.

“ I leave to my son Robert the reversion of the Barony of Tollies in the parish of Kinbettoch in the Shire of Aberdeen whereof his Mother will give him the

¹ Seven of these were already dead.

² Both were already dead.

³ It is not known for certain whether James ever resided in Scotland or not, but see next chapter, page 225, for his inheritance in Sweden.

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authentick documents ; in like manner if there shall be any more decerned to be due to me or my wife by the Companys in Sweden and which may be evinced or evicted by the processes depending there before the Lords of Revision ; As also what may be recorded for my services to our Sovereign Lord the King of Great Britain (whereof Sir Arthur Forbes,¹ General of His Royal Majesty's Army and Councilor in Ireland got the documents from me, and which he will restore to my Executor or her lawful Commissioner upon showing him this my last will, or by his exemplary fidelity of my testamentary disposition). All these things are adjudged to the Administration and free disposition of my beloved wife for the benefit of herself and of our sons and daughters of the second marriage.

" If a privilege shall be prolonged to me my Will is that there be an equal partition between my sons James and Robert ;

" That these things may be prosecute by their common advice and expences and pay equal shares, I have corroborated this my last Will, knowing myself to be of sound mind, not only by adhibiting my subscription and affixing my seal but also for the greater faith and certification of the premises I have called Testamentary witnesses, the Generous and noble and faithfull officials and ministers of his sacred Majesty of Sweden. Sir Malcolm Hamilton of the Westre-Gothick Regt of Foot, Lieutenant Collonel Sir John Ochterlony also Lieut. Collonel and Sir Ptolemy Slicht, Auditor General of the Army, and I most humbly request the most serene and most powerful King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, my most merciful Lord and Sovereign, that he would be pleased to look upon this my last will with most favorable eyes and that he would most powerfully defend all and every one of those named my heirs, by the Tenor of this my Testament, against all violence and injury. Given at Hoelme in the year of Christ 1672, the 6 April. Signed. A. Forbes, Ptolomeus Slicht, M. Hamilton, J. Ochterlony."

THE YOUNGER BROTHERS.

Of the younger brothers of Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes, who all died in the service of Sweden on the battlefields of Germany, or of wounds received there, a good many details are to be found in the documents in Sweden so industriously gleaned by Dr. Th. Fischer and published by him in *The Scots in Sweden*.

John, the brother next to Alexander, was first sent out to Sweden in 1628, according to his brother's " short relation." Fischer is only aware of his having come out in 1633. He calls him John de Pittachie and states that he was wounded at Nordlingen, eventually killed near Hageburg, and buried at Minden. This appears to be a mistake, as he was certainly alive and in England after the Restoration. (See letter on page 187.) It is not known when, if at all, he went to Persia, but the Commission to do so from King Charles I. is at Castle Forbes.²

¹ Afterwards Lord Granard.

² " Charles by the grace of Allmightie God, King of great Brittain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Christian Faith etc. To the high and mightie Monarch the Lord Shaugh Suffie, Emperor of Persia, Media, Armenia, and many other great and

William, the second brother, left a short account of his life, which is now in Sweden, and from which Dr. Fischer gives some quotations. He came out with his brother Alexander, on the latter's *second* visit to Sweden in 1634,¹ was enrolled in Colonel Leslie's regiment in the following year and fought nobly without ever returning to Scotland for twenty years, till his death in 1654. He became Colonel of his regiment in 1647, and in 1649 was severely wounded in the right loin. He says: "I thank God my wound is better than a month ago. I have made them cut the loin again and more than one hundred and fifty pieces of bone have come out and continue to do so, some of them several inches long. My condition has improved so much that I hope with God's help to be restored in a short while, though I shall never be as strong as before."

At the end of his Memoir is written: "In the fortieth year of his life (he was actually 47) he died in that unfortunate and miserable hole of Burgk in 1654; he that had been present at so many famous battles, skirmishes and mighty attacks, and earned so much undying honour and glory therein. His loss has been grievously felt by all, and he has been wept over by two kings."

Captain Arthur is known to have been killed in Germany—apparently without returning home.

James, the youngest brother, was in England after 1660, *vide* his brother's letter—but returned to Germany and met a similar fate.

The illegitimate son of Arthur, Lord Forbes, Major John, was in Colonel Pottley's regiment. It is probably *he* who "lies buried at Minden."

populous countreys sendeth greeting. The Bearer hereof, our well-beloved subject *John Forbes* sonne to the noble Earle of Forbes in Our Kingdome of Scotland, having spent many yeares in the severall late warres in Europe and desirous to passe further and to visit farre remote Countreys, hath bene so powerfullie invited, and perswaded, by the renoune of your Mat^{ties} martiall vertues and royall estimation of valorous men, That resolving to present himselfe into yo^r Imperiall service, he did humbly crave, both our license and letters of recomendation. Forasmuch as Wee assure our Selve of yo^r princely and hartie affection towards Our royall person, and do intend to continew, and increase Our Imperiall frendship and also the mutuall and usefull correspondence w^{ch}., this long time hath bene, recomend the said *John Forbes* unto yo^r. grace. Not doubting, but approving with Us of his generous desire, and laudable resolution, you will preferre him to such a martiall charge, and employ him in such military dessignes and actions, whereby yo^r. Mat^{ty}. may reape the frutes of yo^r. bountie, and hee those of his Faith and valour. And so Wee wish yo^r Mat^{ty}. all happines and prosperous successe in all things, with a long, healthfull, and contented life. Given in Our Imperiall Citie of London the second day of December, 1635 and In the eleventh yeare of Our reigne.

"Charles R."

"To the high and Mightie Monarch the Lord Shaugh Suffie, Emperor of Persia, Media, Armenia, and many other great and populous Countreys, greetinge."

It appears likely that this was never used.

¹ In the same year he had had sasine of Alford from his father.—*Aberdeen Sasines*.