

CHAPTER I.

ALEXANDER, 1ST LORD FORBES.

Born, *circa* 1380 ; succeeded, 1404 ; died, 1448.

ALEXANDER, 1st Lord Forbes, was the eldest son of Sir John Forbes of the Black Lip—the date of his birth is not known, but it must have been about 1380 or soon after, as in 1408 he accompanied Alexander Stuart, Earl of Mar (natural son of Alexander, the Wolf of Badenoch, son of King Robert III., who had married Isabel, Countess of Mar), and Sir Walter Lindsay, on an expedition into England to tilt with Lord Beaumont.

He was celebrated by Andrew de Wyntoun as one of the four Scottish knights who did mimic battle in a tournament with English knights and overcame them. He is there called "Alexander of Forbes, Mareschire," (Mar-shire),¹ and it is recorded that "for gret pris and renoun, the Scots knights won gret commendatioun." (See page 32.)

Sir Alexander acquired most of the lands which were held by the Lords Forbes in the height of the family prosperity, and many of the charters are still extant, though there is not a "complete progress of titles"—some having been lost. (See page 136.)

His father, Sir John, was still alive January 2nd, 1404, since a document (at Castle Forbes)² shows Sir John paying some dues to Alexander Stuart, Earl of Mar, at that date. The first recorded possession of Alexander de Forbes, *Miles*, was also held in the lifetime of his father, viz. the charter of the lands of Edinbanchory and Craiglogy, November 8th, 1402, by Isabel Douglas, Countess of Mar, and confirmed by the King Robert III. June 23rd, 1405 (*Robertson's Charters*). There was a previous charter to Alexander's grandfather of the same places 1364.³

He is not, however, called *Laird of Forbes* till after his father's death, when, on November 20th, 1406, he was witness to a charter granted by the Duke of Albany, Regent for Albany's young nephew, James I., a prisoner in England (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*).

The earliest document in the *family charter chest* naming Alexander is of date ult. October, 1411, and is an infeftment from William Fraser of Philorth

¹ This shows that his lands lay within the territory of the Earl or Mormaer of Mar.

² No. 2 in the *Registrum*.

³ See page 16.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

of the lands of Mickle Fintray, part of Tulymald, Blacktoun, Smythill, Miltoun of Kin-Edwart, Belcorse, and an annual reddite from the "town of Edan," all within the barony of Kinedwart and shire of Aberdeen.¹ Most of these lands afterwards passed to younger branches of the family.

On May 24th, 1417, Alexander Forbes had a charter from John, Earl of Buchan, of the lands of Fodderbirse in the Lordship of Aboyne, of which Buchan was Constable. (The 3rd son of the 7th Lord Forbes took his designation from these lands.)

The lands of Alford, the foundation of the estates round the present Castle Forbes (Putachie), were granted to him by Alexander, Earl of Mar, in 1423, and on the 16th October of the same year the Regent, Murdoch of Albany, granted a new charter of the lands and barony of Forbes to "dilecto consanguineo sui² Alexandræ Forbes, milite, et carissimo consanguinee Elizabeth de Douglas," whom Alexander was about to marry, "and to the airs to be procreate betwixt them, whom failing to the said Alexander's airs." There is in the hands of Lord Forbes an obligation wherein "William, Earl of Angus, brother to the said Elizabeth, obliges him not to dispose nor sett the sd Earldom nor no part thereof nor in anyways taylzie the same in prejudice of the said Alexander and Elizabeth his spouse and their airs."

These two writs, in common with the majority of those quoted in this work, are still at Castle Forbes and appear in the Appendix.³

In December of the same year (1423) John, Earl of Buchan, who was first cousin once removed to Elizabeth Douglas, made a new grant to Alexander Forbes, her husband, of the lands of Meikle Fintray.

In 1425 Elizabeth's brother, the Earl of Angus, granted to her husband the lands of Easter Cluny. In short, Alexander Forbes had married well and wisely, having acquired powerful connections.

On May 10th, 1430, Alexander of Ogstown swore fealty to him.⁴

In 1430 King James I. granted to "dilectis nostris Alexandro de Forbes, Militi, et Elizabeth, sponsæ sue" the lands of Alford and Edinbanchory, the lands and barony of Forbes, with the lands of Kearn and others in the earldom of Mar. The charter is of date October 6th in the *24th year of the King's reign*,⁵ and in 1431 Elizabeth Keith, heiress of the barony of Aboyne, and her husband, Thomas Somerville, Lord Carnwath, granted to "Alexander de Forbes, militem, the lands of Ballindurno and half of Balshangy,

¹ Page 32.

² Alexander, Lord Forbes, was not, so far as is known "consanguineous" to the Royal Stuarts, though Elizabeth his wife was first cousin of King James I. (See page 31.)

³ Page 34.

⁴ Page 35

⁵ *Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff*, IV., 391. King James had, of course, been only four years in Scotland, but the commencement of his reign dated from his father's death, though he himself was a prisoner in England.

with the mill of Torquhonochy"—this was in consideration of his assistance in enabling her to establish her right to the rest of her inheritance which had come to her from her mother, Margaret Fraser, and went eventually to her daughter (by her first husband, Adam Gordon), who was also named Elizabeth. Elizabeth, the second, married Alexander Seton, second son of Sir Walter Seton; he, with his heiress-wife, took the name of Gordon and founded that family, which was to prove for so many centuries a thorn in the side of the Lords Forbes.

The MS. history already quoted says—

“Alexander Forbes now acquired the barony of Fintray from William Fraser, Laird of Philorth, and Feddes from Andrew Feddes of that Ilk. To which plentiful revenues he likewise annexit the Lands of the Forest of Birse which was dispoit to him by Janet Keith,¹ Lady and heiress of Aboyne for his help and concurrence to recover peaceable possession of the other parts of her estate benorth the waters of Dee, which charter is subscribed at Cambus-Kenneth by her and Thomas, Lord Somerville of Carnwath her spouse.

“About the year 1448 died Alexander Lord Forbes, full of years and honour, having greatly enlarged his fortune, strengthened his family with new alliances and being confederate with the most noble and puissant families in the Kingdom—Leaving behind him a fair and pleasing offspring.

“Sir Alexander Forbes was a gentleman of an extraordinary capacity and of the rarest accomplishments as the Times then was, as well for achievements in War, as for his approved conduct in Manadging business of the greatest importance in tymes of peace. This was it, that first raised him to be a courtier and afterwards gave him such a large share of his prince's favour as to be put in trust by him with the Lieutenancy and Superintendence of all the northern provinces.

“While Alexander's father, Sir John Forbes, was yet alive (i.e. before 1404) fell out an unhappy variance and feud betwixt the two surnames of Forbes and Lesly which rose to that height of animosity and rancour that it could not be composed without much bloodshed on both sides. After divers unhappie skirmishes and encounters, where the Leslies were for the most part worsted, those of that surname that were most conterminous to the Forbesses, especially the Lairds of Balquhaine and their dependents, against whom the Forbesses had the most deadly quarrell—were reduced to the necessity of retiring themselves to fastnesses and strongholds not daring to keep the open field. The Tradition of the family of Balquhain carries how that Andrew the 3rd Laird, to avoid the excursion of the Forbesses dwelt for many years on the top of that lofty mountain Bennachie, the Summites whereof he strongly fortified with a ditch round about and a rampart of stones, the ruins whereof are to be seen to this day (See page 73.)

¹ She really was Elizabeth, as stated above. The heiress of the Aboyne land, Margaret Fraser, married William Keith, Earl Marischal. Her 4th daughter, one of the co-heiresses, Elizabeth Keith, married Sir Adam Gordon, bringing him the Aboyne estates and others in Aberdeenshire, Forfar and Kincardine as her share; the daughter, Elizabeth, succeeded her own brother, John, who died *s.p.* before 1407.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

“At the Battle of Harlaw, 1411, Alexander Forbes left many honourable marks of his courage and bravery and did such astonishing feats of arms as mightily endeared him to the general (Alexander Stuart, Earl of Mar) who entertained such an extraordinary esteem of him that he entered into a noble friendship sympathy and affection—Indissoluble until the Earle’s death.

“Alex. Forbes followed him to Flanders where they engaged under the Duke of Burgandy and married a Dutch lady.”¹

After Albany’s death, Mar and Forbes returned to Scotland.

Alexander Forbes, son of Sir John of the Black Lip, had an interesting connection with *English* history, being granted a safe-conduct, dated at Dover June 9th, 1421, “enabling him to come by water into England, remain there and go from thence.”

And another dated October 14th, 1421, “permitting him and 40 men at arms with their attendants to the number of 100 persons or under, to come to England and thence to where King James of Scotland was.”²

It is chronicled in the *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, Vol. IV., p. lxxxiii :—

“In 1419 the Dauphin in his extremity had begged the help of his ally and obtained the assistance of a body of 7,000 Scots under John, Earl of Buchan. It was doubtless chiefly with the view of detaching them from the French service that Henry V in 1421 took King James with him to France, entering in the first place into an agreement that James should, on certain conditions, be restored to his people three months after the return of both from abroad.”

What actually occurred was that, in the first instance, Douglas of Drumlanrig went over to France taking 150 horsemen and 300 archers to the assistance of the Dauphin. After the murder of the Duke of Burgundy by the Duke of Orleans at the Bridge of Montereau, the Burgundians, somewhat naturally, went over to the party of the English, and it was at that time that the Regent Albany’s second son, John, Earl of Buchan, went to France, taking with him the formidable force above mentioned.

After the Treaty of Troyes, May 21st, 1420, Henry conceived the idea of carrying the captive Scots king with him to France. The latter was present at Henry’s marriage to the Princess Catharine of France on June 2nd at Troyes, and on September 17th, being then at Rouen, was visited by Douglas of Drumlanrig, who came from the French army under a special safe-conduct from King Henry. James had been forced or induced by Henry to issue a proclamation commanding his subjects in the French service to lay down their arms. Douglas came as an emissary from the Earl of Buchan to protest against this order and to state that, as it was obviously issued under compulsion, they had no intention of obeying it.

¹ This appears to be untrue, his only wife was Elizabeth Douglas.

² James had then been for *fifteen* years a prisoner in England, having been captured when on his way to France as a boy.

Shortly after this, at the conclusion of the siege of Melun, at which, however, James was not present, Henry ordered the execution of some Scots who were taken there, saying, somewhat unfairly, that they "were in arms against their own king."

While in France, James was, with Henry's sanction, visited by various of his subjects, as appears from passports granted to them.

On December 1st, 1420, King Henry entered Paris in state and James was probably with him, though the fact is nowhere stated, but when Queen Catherine passed through Normandy and returned to England to be crowned, James accompanied her and sat at her right hand at the famous banquet given in her honour, at her coronation, February 1st, 1421.

When Henry was also in England negotiations were begun with the object of detaching the Scots contingent in France from the party of the Dauphin and joining it to that of Henry, since their own king was with the latter. Before James went to France a safe-conduct had been issued for the Earls of Douglas and Atholl to visit him in England in April, 1420, but there is no trace of Alexander Forbes having had one at that period, nor of his having seen James in England during the lifetime of Henry V.

After the battle of Baugé, March 22nd, 1421 (in which the Scots defeated the English and killed King Henry's brother, the Duke of Clarence), the Scottish envoys were in a stronger position, and already the definite treaty, signed at Troyes, promised Scottish help for King Henry on the one hand, and the release of King James on the other—after he had taken part in one more campaign in France. The two kings set sail from Dover to Calais on June 10th, 1421, and on the previous day the first of the two passports was signed by Henry, to hold good until the 1st September following, and permitting Alexander Forbes to come to where the king was by water, having with him forty lances and other followers up to 100 men. (It is therefore obvious that the statement, so often made, that Alexander Forbes was present at the battle of Baugé, is erroneous.)

It would seem that this passport was not used, since another was issued four months later by John, Duke of Bedford (Governor of England in his brother's absence) from Westminster, and making it quite obvious that Forbes would have to come to England and thence by water to where the King of England and the King of Scots then were.¹

King James' stay in France lasted from June, 1421, till after the death of King Henry, on August 31st, 1422. It is known that Sir Alexander Seton (afterwards Lord Gordon), whose safe-conduct was of the same date and in the same terms as that issued to Sir Alexander Forbes, came to France on the strength of it and saw James at Rouen, and the probability is that Alexander Forbes did the same, though his name is not expressly mentioned.

¹ Pages 32-33.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

"After the negotiations for the release of King James had been opened by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, another uncle of the baby King Henry VI, several Scottish knights were appointed to go to Durham as hostages, amongst whom was Sir Alexander Forbes. Feb. 3. 1423-24, Westminster. *Safe conduct* under letters patent till the last day of April next for Sir James Douglas of Dalkettie, Knight, _____, John of Seton, lord of Seton, Sir Robert Logan and Sir William Rothvin, Knights, to meet James K. of Scots in the city of Durham, with horses and harness and servants to the number of 20 persons in all, as hostages for his deliverance. *Similar letters* patent for the following, for the same period:—(the Earl) of Levenaux (Livingstone), Duncan Cambel of Argyle, John Sempyl of Eliotston, Robert of Lille, Knight of Doughale—with 16 persons: Archibald of Douglas, Earl of Wigton; Harbart of Maxwelle of Caralfrok (Caerlaverock), Harbart of Herys of Tarreglys, John Steward of Dundornaldo, John Steward of Blude (Bute). (*Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland.*) And on May 18th 1423, the following had a feat for safe conduct—viz. Walter Abbot of Aberbrothok, John Abbot of Balmurino, and the Abbot of Camskynelle with 20 attendants. Alexander of Seton lord of Gordon, Walter of Ogilvy and Alexander Forbes, Knight—20 attendants. James Douglas Lord of Abircorne, John of Wemys, Knight & William of Ruthven, Knight. 20 attendants. Safe conduct granted at the Friars Preachers, London, for the within persons of Scotland to come to the town of Pounfrayt and return till . . . Present, the Duke of Gloucester, the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Bishop of Worcester, the Earl of Warwick, the lords Cromwelle, Tystoft, the Chancellor and Treasurer." (*Chancery Miscellaneous Portfolios No. 11, 927.*)

In the *Reg. Episc. Aberd.*, page 293, may be found the information that Sir Alexander Forbes of that Ilk gave an annual rent of 13 merks from lands in his barony of Forbes (Asbachlach and Lastrody and the Mill of Ardgaich) for the performance of masses for the souls of himself and Elizabeth Douglas, his wife, on June 26th, 1436.

The Priest of the Parish of Forbes¹ was a prebend of the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Machar, Old Aberdeen, having "a manse, yard and gleib" assigned to him in Old Aberdeen, while his duties at Forbes on the Don were performed by a deputy.

In 1447 Alexander, Dominus de Forbes had sasine of Kynaldy, and his son James, the 2nd Lord, had a similar sasine in 1451.

As stated above, Sir Alexander Forbes was the 1st Lord Forbes, becoming a Peer of Parliament, but not till after the death of James I.

His appointment, which cannot be called a creation, since no patent

¹ In 1722 the parish of Forbes was joined with that of Kearn and in 1792 Kearn was joined to Auchindoir and Forbes was absorbed in Tullynesle.

The roofless old church of Forbes still stands in the old graveyard near the river Don, and the similar old church of Keig stands in the grounds of Castle Forbes, the new church being on the hill above.

accompanied it, was subsequent to the similar elevation of Alexander Seton, Lord of Gordon, and of some other Scottish nobles, but that of Forbes is the earliest of the kind where the title has remained hereditary in the family, and not been merged in any subsequent and higher creation. This fact makes the Lord Forbes the premier Baron of Scotland.¹

Alexander was made a Lord of Parliament as Lord Forbes between October, 1444, and July, 1445, as he is found sitting in Parliament at the latter date.¹

He died in 1448.

In 1421 he married Elizabeth, only daughter of George Douglas, Earl of Angus, and granddaughter of Robert III. by his daughter Mary, and by her (who married, secondly, Sir David Hay of Yester) had

1. James, 2nd Lord.
2. William, Provost of St. Giles, Edinburgh, who was granted a special indulgence by the Pope.
3. Annabella, married 1445, Patrick, Master of Gray.
4. Margaret, married Alex. Meldrum of Fyvie.
5. Elizabeth, married Alex. Irvine of Drum.

To quote again from the MS. family history—

“Besides the children already mentioned, Alexander Forbes had before his marriage a base son, with one Stuart, named Richard, a brave man who for his valour was honoured with knighthood, but had no succession, save some private men about Aberdeen. This Richard became Archdeacon of Ross, and Chamberlain of the Kingdom, 1455. He demitted office 1458. In 1462 he was granted the ward of the lands of his deceased nephew, James 2nd Lord, pending the succession or majority of James' son William.”

¹ Had the claim of Sir Bruce Seton to hold the Lordship of Gordon as distinct from the Marquisate of Huntly been made good in 1928, it is conceivable that a claim might also have been made out for precedence over Lord Forbes on the Union Roll of Barons of Scotland, although this precedence was not strictly one of dates, but rather of importance at the time of riding to Parliament. The making of a Lord of Parliament was performed by the King in person who named him and belted him; thereafter the new Lord was proclaimed by the Lyon and heralds, and all rode in procession to Parliament. A charter under the great seal might follow. Lord Glamis was so proclaimed on June 28th, 1445.

The first official Roll of Lords of Parliament existing is of date 1467 and gives six earls, Menteeth, Marishall, Rothes, Crawford, Argyle and Arran, and sixteen Lords, of whom Forbes is the fifteenth, being followed by Lyle. The titles of the fourteen who precede him have now all either been merged in higher titles, or ceased to exist.

APPENDIX FOR ALEXANDER, 1st LORD FORBES.

From The Cronkyl of Scotland *Anno* 1408
 Andrew de Wyntoun
 Bk IX ch. XXVII line 2861.

“ Schir Waltere of Bekyrtone, that was then
 off Lufnok Lord in Louthyane,
 Schir Wylliam off Cockburn, and Schir William
 off Cranstone, that twa wyth a name,
 And in that Court than alsua was
 off Mare-Schir Alexander off Forbes ;
 This foure Knychtis off Scotland
 Wertuously tuk upon hand
 Wyth gret famous Inglis men,
 Commendit of mycht and worship then,
 off gret prowes, and of land
 Wythyn the Kynrike of Yngland,
 lordis of ancestry ;
 Oure Scottis Kynchtis
 Be forsaid in till ar,
 Til thir gret lordis man for man
 And at all poynt ilke dele
 All thare tailye fulfillyt wele
 For grete pris and renown
 (Thai) wan gret comendatioun.”

Page 25. Precept.

“ *Apud Aberdeen. Ul. Octob. 1411.* [3]

Preceptum per Willelmum Fraser dominum de Philorth (directum amico suo Johani de Inchemartyn, Canonico Aberdonensi, Ballivo suo in hac parte) ad infeoffandum dilectum et specialem suum *Alexandrum de Forbes* Militem dominum ejusdem,—in terris de mykl fyntra cum dimidia parte de Tulymald, Blacktoun cum ly Smythill, Miltoun de kynnedwart, Belcors et uno annuo reddito decem solidorum villæ de Edane in baronia de Kynedwart infra vicecom de Aberdeen. In testimonium possessionis traditæ sigillo Ballivi in secunda cauda apposite.”¹

THE SAFE CONDUCTS QUOTED ON PAGE 29.

“ *1421 Rotu. Scot. V. II. p. 230.* Salvus conductus usque ad primum diem Septembris pro Alexandro Forbas milite cum 40 lanceis in comitiva sua cujus, cumque gradus existant cum equis et armaturis usque ad numerum centum in toto in Regnum regis Angliæ per aquam tantum veniendo et ubicumque venerint in eodem Regno vel extra applicando ibidem morando, et exinde versus partas

¹ On May 24th, 1417, Alexander, Lord Forbes, had a charter from John, Earl of Buchan, of the lands of Fotherbirse.

And in 1423 one from Alexander, Earl of Mar, of the lands of Alford. These are not given in full as they have already been printed in the *Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff*, IV., 383, and the *Miscellany of the Mailland Club*, I., 378, respectively.

RECEIPT FROM THE BUILDERS OF THE FIRST CASTLE OF DRUMINNOR, 1440.

(See page 37.)

Handwritten receipt in Latin script, likely from the 1440s, mentioning the builders of the first castle of Druminnor. The text is written in a cursive hand on aged parchment. A circular seal is visible on the right side of the document.

Handwritten receipt in Latin script, dated 1530, mentioning King James V. The text is written in a cursive hand on aged parchment. A circular seal is visible on the right side of the document.

RECEIPT FOR MONEY PAID FOR A PARDON GRANTED BY KING JAMES V. 1530.

(See page 66.)

ALEXANDER, 1ST LORD FORBES—APPENDIX

proprias cum lanceis etc. per aquam tantum, redeundo. Teste rege apud Dovorriam per ipsum Regem.

“9 June 1421. Anno Henry V. 9°.

“*Rotu. Scot. V. II.* Salvus conductus pro Alexandro Forbus militi et aliis ad Reges Anglicie et Scotiæ (apud Rothomayum accessuris). Salvus conductus pro Alexandro Forbus milite, Domino de Forbus, de Scotia ac 40 hominibus ad arma et armatis de Scotia, cujus cumque gradus existant cum eorum famulis usque ad numerum centum usque civitatem Regis London per terram veniendo et ibidem morando ac deinde penes presentiam Regis et carissimi consanguineo sui Jacobi Regis Scottorum per terram et aquam transeundo et ibidem morando ac predictos reliquos homines ad arma et armatos cum eorum famulis in comitiva sua usque ad numerum predictum ad ducando Regis Normanniam per aquam et per mare ac portus maris proficiendo et exinde penes dictam presentiam Regis et predicti regis Scottorum per terram et per aquam ac portus maris veniendo et ibidem morando necnon bona vel armaturas et harnesia quæcumque etc.

“Teste Johanne Duce Bedfordian. custode Angliæ apud Westminster 14 die Octob. 1421.9.^{mo} Henr. V.”

(Translations.)

“*Rotu. Scot. V. II. p. 230.* Safe conduct until the first of September for Alexander Forbes, soldier, with 40 lances in his company, whose ranks (numbers) together with horses and equipment made the number of one hundred all told—to come into the kingdom of the English sovereign only by water, and to keep together wherever they go in that kingdom, to stay there, and thence to return only by water to their own land.”

“*Rotu. Scot. V. II.* Safe conduct for Alexander Forbes soldier, and others, to go to the Kings of England and Scotland (at Rottomay).

“Safe conduct for Alexander Forbes, soldier, lord of Forbes in Scotland and 40 men at arms and armed persons from Scotland, with their servants, to the number of one hundred, to come by land to London, the King’s capital, to stay there; and thence to proceed by land and water to the presence of his King and dearest relative, James, King of the Scots; to stay there, and to take those who remain of the aforesaid men at arms and armed persons in his company with their servants to the aforesaid number to Normandy, the King’s land, by water and by sea, to proceed to a harbour and thence to come to the aforesaid presence of the King and the aforesaid king of the Scots by land and by sea, and to stay there, etc.

“Witness, John Duke of Bedford, Warden of England at Westminster.”

P. 26. CHARTERS TO ALEXANDER, 1ST LORD FORBES.

“*Apud Perth.* 6 Oct. 1423. No. [5] in the *Registrum.*

“Carta per Murdacum Ducem Albanie comitem de fife & de Menteth ac gubernatorem regni Scotiæ sub magno sigillo officii sui facta dilecto consanguineo suo Alexandro de forbes militi et carrissime consanguinee suae Elizabeth de Douglas,

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

quam idem Alexander per Dei gratiam ducat in uxorem) et eorum alteri diutius viventi et heredibus inter ipsos legitime procreandis, quibus deficientibus heredibus quibiscunque dicti Alexandri—de terris Baronie de Forbes jacentibus infra vicecomitatum de Aberdene unacum advocationibus ecclesiarum dictæ baroniæ per dictum Alexandrum resignatis in manus Gubernatoris. Reddendo servitia debita et consueta.”

P. 26. No. [8] “1423. Pateat universis per presentes, nos William de douglas comitem angusie et dominum de Lidalisdale tener. et per presentes fide media firmiter obligari nobili viro domino Alexandro de forbes militi domino ejusdem sponso Elizabeth sororis nostre quod nuncq^m Impignorabimus vendemus aut aliqualiter alienabimus seu cuicumque talliabimus aliquas terras annuos redditus seu possessiones quascumque nos die confeccois pncium Juste contingen̄ ab heridibus nostris de corpore nostro legitime procreatis seu procreandis in dampnū seu prejudicium dīct Elizabeth sororis nostre, heridibus de corpore nostro legitime procreatis seu procreandis deficientibus In cujus Rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus apponi fecimus apud Edinburgh, quarto die mensis novembris, anno domini millesimo quadragentesimo vicesimio tertio.”

A curious record about exporting white wool to Florence, concerning the 1st Lord Forbes, is found in the *Exchequer Rolls* of 1424.

“Forbes, Alexander.
Aberdeen.

389. Rot. Sc.
Reg. Scot.

“Et pro canutro exposito super
lanam Anglicanam exceptam
in villa de Aberdeen per
quemdam mercatorem
Florentinum, testante domino
Alexandro de Forbes
receptum super computum
iiijti. xijs.
(receives canvas on English Wool
for Florentine Merchant.)
Compatum Willelmi de Camera
et Thorne de Roule,
Custumaridium
burgi de Aberdeen
(Stirling 14 May 1425
from 27 July 1424 to date).”

ALEXANDER FORBES AS BAILLIE OF MORAY.

There is another interesting charter in favour of Alexander Forbes as Baillie of the Diocese of Moray, granted by King James I. after his return from England, May 20th, 1426 :

ALEXANDER, 1ST LORD FORBES—APPENDIX

[9] "Carta sub privato sigillo Jacobi Regis, constituens nobilis viros viz Johannem de Narne et Ricardum Wisman procuratores domini Alexandri de Forbes nostri militis Ballivi Episcopi Moraviensis quiquidem Alexander in nostris arduis negotiis multipliciter impeditus in officio ballivi terrarum dicti Episcopi vacare non poterit. concedens dictis procuratoribus potestatem assedandi terras Episcopales, levandi fines tenendi curias eschætas et amerciam levandi, homines Episcopatus ubicunque et coram quocumque iudice attachiatis cum eorum bonis et curiam Episcopi Replegiandi aliaque faciendi ad officium Ballivi apportuna.

"Consentientibus Episcopo et dicto Domino Alexandro de Forbes

"Datum apud Monasterium Sanctæ Crucis de

Edynburch 20 Maii Anno Regni vicesimo primo."

—*Chartulary of Moray.*

A DEED OF 1430.

P. 26. "10 May, 1430. Be it made kend till almen throch ys presents lettres yat I Alexander off ogistun the son and ye ayr off Thomas off ogistun llorde of yat ilk is becumyn lele man and trew till a nobill man Sir Alexander off forbes off yat ilke ffor all ye dayis off my lyffe agaynys all dedelyke, myn alegeans tyll my lorde ye kyng anerly outane, ffor a certane some off money off ye quhilk ye said Sir Alexander has content me as in his lettres yaroff to me made is ffullyly contanit ande I ye said Alexander off ogistun sall serff wt. III hors qwyll my ffader lyffis & efter hym wt. sex.

"In ye witness off ye quhylk thyng, my sell I haff put to yse. lettres at Aberdene ye X day off May ye yeir off our lord fourteen hundred and therty."

"*Apud Perth 20. Oct. 1431.*

"Preceptum per Elizabeth de Keth dominam baronia de Obyne et Thomam Somyrweile ejus maritum ad infeoffandum consanguineum suum dominum Alexandrum de forbes militem dominum ejusdem in terris de Ballindurno dimidia parte villa de Ballangy—cum medietate molendini ejusdem necnon medietate villæ de Torquhonoquhy cum foresta de ffothirbrys jacen. in dominio de ffothirbrys in baronia de Obyne et Vicecomitate de Aberdene."

"ABRIDGEMENT OF CHARTER BY MR. COSMO INNES" [12] IN
REGISTRUM.

Charter under the Great Seal of King James II. approving, ratifying and confirming the terms of an Indenture entered into between Alexander Lindsay, Earl of Craufurde, and his son and heir Sir Davy Lindsay on the one part and

"'a nobill man Sir Alexander forbes lord of that ilk' (styled in the Confirmation 'dilectum consanguineum nostrum Alexandrum dominum de forbes') of the other—Sir Alexander to have the care and keeping of the lands and Castle of Strathnarn lying within the Sheriffdom of Inverness, for his lifetime—The Castle

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

to be delivered to the Earl or his son when they happen to come into that Country, —at a Rent of fourscore and one pounds deducting £20 allowed for Sir Alexander's fee and his Retinew and £11 which he underlies to pay yearly in Dundee. The remaining £50 to be paid ' baith in pece and were.' "

Also grant to Sir Alexander for term of his life to be Sheriff-Depute of Aberdeen under the Earl, paying therefore £10 yearly—the Earl and his son having power to exercise this office when within the Sheriffdom.

" 1432. Ult Mai. Ratified 1447 7mo. Januarie.

[13] *in Registrum*. " 17th November 1435. (Abridged by Cosmo Innes.)

" A copy in an old hand of an Indenture between ane honourabill and mightie Lord Sir Robert of Erskyne Lord of yat ilk and Sir Thomas of Erskyne his son and heir on the one part and a warthie Lord Alexander of Forbes, Lord of that Ilk on the other part, Sir Alexander to do all his business and diligent care to help and further Sir Robert and his son to all their rights of the Earldom of Marr and of Garioch and ' nother spair for cost na travell.'

" In recompense whereof, if successful, the Erskyne's are to infett him in the barony of Auchindoir with the patronage of the Kirk, the Buck and the Cabroch with the haldanwauch ¹ in frie forest annexed to the said Lordship or other lands elsewhere of equal avail—to be held of the Erskynes in blench ferm. Sir Robert and Sir Thomas also to confirm to Sir Alexander all his lands within the parish of Aufurde as contained in his charter. Attour it is accordit yat ye said Sir Robert and Sir Thomas sall confirme, ratife and gift Sir William of Forbes ² of all ye landis yat he hes in ye Sherrafdome of Aberdein in lyke manner as he is confirmed of our Lord ye king ffor the qulk the said Lord William ² shall becumme man to ye said Sir Robert for all ye dayes of his lyfe."

AGREEMENT OF LORD FORBES AND THE EARL OF MAR. (*Not dated.*)

[14] " (1435-1453). It is to remember that it is appointyt and accordit betwix my Lord of Marr and Robert his sone and Thomas Master of Mar on a part and Alisander of forbes and his sonys of ye tother part in yis manner—Yat is to say yat ye sayde lorde of forbes has submittyt hym and his sonys forsayde and his men to my lorde of Marr forsayde to his counsale upon al unkendnes wrangis and injuris done be him or his sonys to my sayde lord of Marr or to his sone forsayde and to reforme at yar ordinance yt yai hafe defawltit and rycht sua ye sayde lorde erle and his sone forsayde sal reforme at ye sycht of ye sayde counsale of all unkendnis wrangis and injuris don be yame to ye sayde lorde of forbes or his sonys forsayde and yis are ye personis sal be consalloweris to my lorde of Marr in all yir matteris. In ye firste place Jhon of cokburne Thomas of Wemys, Wilzame Sympyle Jamys of Skene Wilzame of Murray Alene of Erskyne Jhon of dromounde Jhon—wm and Patricke of galbrath, upone ye fulfyllne of ye Indentur made of befortyme betwex ye sayde lorde of Marr and ye lorde of forbes ye sayde lorde of Marr sall take and to be of his counsale yir personis Jhon of forbes, Jhon ye Ross Jhon of Mar and Thome dawysone wythe quat four of ym for

¹ "Half davach."

² William Forbes of Kynaldy, brother of Sir Alexander.

nominat as him likis ande be ye sycht of yem al.—contenynt in yar indenturis beande unfulfyllit sall be reformyt and fulfyllit and gif it be Mar to lay it fra hym and al yir matters gode wilande sall be endyt betwex ye day of yis byle makkyne and yole¹ nexte followande appon four days warnenyng quhen my lordis counsale cumys til hym, but fraude or gyle. In witness of ye quhilke ye sellis of ye sayde lordis of Marr and his sone Sir Thomas are to pute, wythe ye sele of ye sayde lorde of forbes."

(From *Mar charter chest*.)

"BUILDING OF DRUMINNOR. 4 July 1440.

"Memorandum that John Kamloke and Wilyhame of Ennerkype has tane and are fullily content of ane hundretht marke and fiftie ane marke and 5 shillings of the two hundretht marks yt yai suld haf had for ye makyn of ye house of Drumynnour before ye lord of ye Ross and Alan of Erscken and this contract maide on ye ferde day of July ye yeir of oure Lord a thousand four hundred and fourty yeirs—In ye witness of ye quhilke ye said Wilyhame has procurit ye signet of ane honorabil man Alan of Ersken to yis present letteris to be put ye day before wretyn." ² (See illustration.)

"1442. In the Sheriff Court of Aberdeen, Domini Alexandro Lindisay Comitidis de Crawford Vicecomitis de Aberdene et Alexandri Domini de Forbes sui Deputati Militis, ane precept vritten in Inglich, is directit be the King to the Lords of the Exchequer Makand mentione that the King has remitt it to his Cusine Alexander Lord Forbes the Arreages and rest of his last Compt. quhilke precept is of the dait the 12. July Anno 1442 James 2."

"Sir Alex. Forbes was told by the King ³ to 'put remedie' to the great extortion of John 'out with the sword'—his bastard brother, and that if Forbes would not do it, he would charge others to the same effect, and upon this writting, Sir Alex. Forbes took him at the Kirk of Forbes and struck off his head and caused yerd him behind the kirk and sett his grave about with tippet stones, where it remains as yet (1580) to testifie the same." (*Matthew Lumsden*.)

¹ Yule.

² Note on *Druminnor*, the old Duchus lands (see p. 267 in chapter on 17th Lord). Druminnor was sold by James, 17th Lord Forbes, to Captain John Forbes of Newe by disposition dated October 23rd, 1770 (see p. 276). Captain Forbes conveyed the Estate to John Grant of Rothmaise by disposition dated May 1st, 1771, and Mr. Grant of Rothmaise in turn conveyed it to his elder son Robert Grant, who married the daughter of Captain John Forbes (above).

Mr. Robert Grant subsequently became Mr. Robert Leith of Blair, and he, by Disposition dated December 1st, 1840, conveyed the Estate to his daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Grant or Foulerton in liferent and his grandson Robert Foulerton of Craighall, afterwards Mr. Robert Grant, in fee.

Robert Grant married Hon. Elizabeth, eldest sister of 17th Baron Sempill in 1854.

Their daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Henrietta, married in 1886 Philip Alexander Holland, who assumed the name of Grant, and had a son, Alexander Philip Fullerton Holland Grant, born 1887, present owner.

³ James II. (Fiery face).