

Francis, 14th Lord Forbes

CHAPTER XV.

FRANCIS, 15TH LORD FORBES.

Born, December 19th, 1721. Succeeded, 1730. Died, 1734.

NOTHING is known about this boy beyond the facts that he was born in 1721; baptized in Chelsea Old Church on the 13th of January following, and died in his 13th year, 8th Aug., 1734; buried in Chelsea.

"Dorothy Dale," the English wife of the 14th Lord Forbes, seems to have acted as guardian of her young son, and to have managed his affairs in England and by the direction of the English Courts; this was after he attained the age of 12, when the "Tutors" in Scotland ceased to act as such.

In the *Calendar of Treasury Books and Papers* appears the "petition of Francis, Lord Forbes, by Dorothea, Lady Forbes, his mother, for a grant of ward, new entry, relief and marriage, on July 31st, 1733." The last item seems to be mentioned a little prematurely in the case of a child of eleven and a half, in the eighteenth century, whatever might have been done in the fifteenth and sixteenth!

Only in the previous month, June 20th, 1733, had Lady Forbes applied for a warrant for entering her son as "heir to his father," so there appear to have been some difficulties about her administration.

The 15th Lord Forbes would seem never to have visited his estates, and no records remain of his mother's activities in Scotland during his lifetime, though during the times of his uncle, the 16th Lord, and his cousin, the 17th, she gave a good deal of trouble.

Formal titles to the estate and dignity of Lord Forbes do not seem to have been made up in the name of Francis, since his uncle James, the 16th Lord, was "served heir to the 14th," long after the death of the latter.

[180] "15 April 1743 Præceptum de Clare constat per commissionum Cosmo Georgii Ducis de Gordon ad infeofandum Jacobum nunc dominum de Forbes sicut proximum et legitimum heredem masculum fratris sui Gulielmi quondam Domini de Forbes in terris de Putachie dimidietate de Keig et Glentoun." (Charter chest.)