

CHAPTER VII.

WILLIAM, 7TH LORD FORBES.

Born, 1513. Succeeded, 1547. Died, 1594.¹

As already seen, under his father (John, the 6th) William, afterwards 7th Lord Forbes, had been accused of complicity in the cruel murder of Alexander Seton of Meldrum, though he must have been a boy of about 14 at the time, and his brother Alexander even younger. They were exonerated on this charge and seem not to have been accused of treason nine years later, when their father and elder brother John were imprisoned, and John paid the penalty with his life, in 1537. (Alexander *may* have been dead, as no other notice is found of him after the year 1527.)

In the year 1538 William, now Master of Forbes, married Elizabeth Keith of Inverugie, and had a charter of the Barony of Fiddes, January 4th, 1539 (see Appendix, page 96), and another of Lare, March 5th, 1540.²

He was in great favour with the young King James V., with whom he was almost contemporary. His own life covered the reigns of that monarch and of his daughter, Queen Mary, as well as 15 years of the reign of James VI., whose accession counted from his mother's forced abdication, though he was only 13 months old.

After the execution of the elder brother, John, Master of Forbes, on an unsupported charge of treason, King James V. made the new Master of Forbes, William (the subject of this chapter), a "gentleman of his bed-chamber," in 1539, to show his sorrow for the miscarriage of justice and as a compliment to the family.

William Forbes had, *before* his father's death, got into trouble with the authorities of Scotland on account of the usual quarrels with the Gordons.

" Apud. Edin.

" 31 July 1546. The quhilk day my Lord Governor and Lordis of Secrete counsell understand the varience betwixt ane noble and mighty Lord George Erle of Huntlie, Chancellor of Scotland on that ane part and William, Maister of Forbes

¹ The 7th Lord Forbes held the title for forty-seven years, that is longer than any has hitherto done, before or since, except his own father, who succeeding as a very young man, held it for fifty-four years, making over a century covered by father and son. The tenure of the 20th Lord Forbes was of forty-six years.

² *Reg. Mag. Sig., loc. cit.*

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on that other part and having respect to the articles given in be either of them against others, therefore the Lord Governour and Lordis aforesaid has thocht expedient for the suretie of my Lord Chancellor's persoun and keeping of good rule in the countrie be the said Maister of Forbes, his kyn, friendis and servands, that they shall enter their pledges to remain in sic place as it sall please my Lord Governour and counsell to depute thame. That is to say Arthur Forbes¹ brother to the said Maister,—Forbes, young Iard Petslego,—Forbes, Young Iard of Brux and Maister Duncan Forbes, Tutour of Corsinda, and unto the tyme the said personis pledges extend—ordainis the said William Maister of Forbes to inter remane himself in ward in sik place as it sall please my Lord Governour to assigne to him to that effect" (*Privy Council Records*). Later. "The Master was released from Ed. Castle on promise to remain in the north in any place assigned by Huntly." (*Ibid.*)

And after his release from Edinburgh Castle he gave his Bond.

"At Edinburgh the XXV day of August, the yeir of God M.V^e and XLVI yeiris, in presens of the lordis of counsall, comperit William Maister of Forbes and gaif in this writting under writtin, subscriyvit witht his hand, and desyrit the samyn to be insert in the bukis of counsall, and to have the strenth of ane act and decreit etc. of the quhilk the tenour followis, At Edinburgh the XXIII day of August, the yeir of God M.V^e & XLVI yeiris, the quhilk day, that forasmeckle as it has plesit my lord governour to freith William maister of Forbes furth of ward of the castell of Edinburth, quhair he was ordanit be decay of the lordis of secreit counsall to remane ay and quhill he declinet certane pleggis, namyt in the said decreit, to my lord governour in keiping, for gude rule to be keipit be him, his kin, friendis and servandis in the cuntrie, and for securitie of my lord of Huntlie, chancellare, that his persoun suld be harmless and skaitless of the said William, and all that he mycht latt; than the said William Maister of Forbes is content to pas witht my said lord chancellere, lieutenant in the north partis of this realm, and remane in fre ward, within ony place the erle of Huntlie forsaid pleissis to assign, ay and quhill the said plegis be deliveret, etc. under the pane of ten thousand pound. In witness of the quhilk, I the said Maister of Forbes, has subscriyvit this writt witht my hand." (*Ibid.*)

On the death of King James, after the disaster of Solway Moss, the Master of Forbes ranged himself on the side of the catholic adherents of the little queen and signed the secret bond drawn up by Cardinal Beaton on July 24th, 1543.

It will be remembered that Cardinal David Beaton was appointed by King James on his deathbed as guardian of the infant queen, but undue influence was suspected and the appointment set aside in favour of the Earl of Arran. (See page 70.) Cardinal Beaton remained, however (until his murder in May, 1546), the principal adviser of the Queen Mother, and was in 1543 assisting her in her opposition to the project of Henry VIII.,

¹ Black Arthur of Balfour, afterwards of Putachie (see last chap., p. 58, also page 81).

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which was to marry the little Mary (his great niece) to his son Edward, then 5 years old, and to ensure the fulfilment of the project by having the princess sent to England to be educated. The cardinal gathered together the names of all those in prominent positions who disapproved of this idea, of whom the Master of Forbes was one.

The Cardinal's bond is given in full in the Appendix.

King Henry VIII. had noted the name of Forbes among the signatories, for six weeks later, the name occurs again in the *State Papers*. The preliminaries to the treaty of Greenwich which was signed September 2nd, 1543, and contained among other matters of state the arrangement for the ultimate marriage of the little Queen of Scots with Edward, Prince of Wales, are treated of in the letters and papers of Henry VIII. In Vol. II., pp. 5-7, is Henry's letter to Sir Ralph Sadler in which he says that, as hostage for the ultimate delivery of the little princess, he will

"not be satisfied with Erskynes, or Lord Flemmings or Oliphants sones, but that Sadler must travail to get of the other sort and rather than fail, to assaye whether he can get the Earl of Arrel (Erroll) or some other of the erles and barons as the Erle Marshal or the Lord Forbes sonne, or any of the others that were lately of the Cardynall's faction, when he shall be sure that their fathers shall for the tyme of their absence do him no displeasure."

In this same year, as a sign that Lord Forbes was on good terms with Angus, appears the concession of the lands of Whitefield in Forfar from the Earl to him.

In 1545 Alex. Hay of Delgaty "concessit lands to Joneta, *alias* Jane Forbes, his wife," and William, afterwards 7th Lord Forbes, witnessed the deed. (Janet, 5th sister of the Master of Forbes married (1) Earl of Atholl, (2) Alex. Hay of Delgaty, (3) William Leslie of Balquhain.)

On August 8th, 1547, William had a charter of the lands and barony of Forbes (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*),¹ his father being alive, as William is described as Master of Forbes, but the 6th Lord died in that year, though the actual date of his death is not known, nor whether it took place before, after, or at the battle of Pinkie on September 10th. It seems, as already indicated, very probable that he was present at that battle, and was killed there.

By the end of September William had become Lord Forbes.

Shortly before his father's death the Master appears in *opposition* to Arran, the Governor (and the party to which his father was attached), as the accounts of the *Lord High Treasurer* for August 23rd, 1547, contain the following :—

"My Lord Governor's (Earl of Arran) Grace and Counsel being surelie advertisit that the army of England wes at hand, give to Mungo Stratherne,

¹ A copy only of this Charter is in the Charter chest, among the loose papers, and not noted in the *Registrum*.

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messenger, letteris of proclamation, with the fire croce to Kincardine, Abirdene, Banf, Elgin, Fores, Cromarty, Narne, Invernes, and bills *against* the Earls of Huntlie, Arrol and Maister of Forbes," etc.

Possibly it was only the traditional attitude of the heir-apparent in opposition to his father.

After he inherited the title, the 7th Lord seems to have harried his neighbours, for in the year 1548 Patrick, the Master of Ruthven, says the Lord Forbes, with Errol and Marischal "deprived me of my mayreshippe ¹ of St. Johnstons (Perth)—in my father's absence and left a strong company to keep me out." (*Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer.*)

In 1556 Lord Forbes was appointed Crouner or Coroner of Aberdeenshire, as several other members of the family had been or were to be.

Precept was granted to him in the name of the Queen of Scots (still in France) by her mother, Queen Marie of Guise-Lorraine, the Regent, and the following quaint case came before him :

DISTRAINT OF GOODS FOR FINES.

"Precept to William Lord Forbes. Edinburgh 10 Day of Feb. and of our reign the 15 year (1556).

"Marie, be the grace of god quene of Scotland.

"To our Lovites our feoffes in that part of our comunitie and severally and specially constituted, greeting For as mickle as it is humblie meant and shewn to us be our familiar clerkes and true counsellors, Maister Henry Lauder and John Spens our Advocate, that where our uther letters was dericted be delivery of the Lords of our Council at the instance of our Lovite cousin, William Lord Forbes our coroner, principal of the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, to our officers chiefs in that part, dericting them to pass, compel, pound and distress all and sundrie persons of the burgh, regality and rialty, quhithes interest with competent respect remission besides, in will or was convicted of any crime in our justice Air of our sheriffdom of Aberdeen. And make penny of the readiest goods to the avail and quantity of the sum of six shillings and eight pence usual money of our realm of every one of them, and make our said Coroner to be paid thereof conform to the Extent of our said justice Air as at mair length is contained in our said uther letteris To command you, who is Patrick Bisset our Messenger in chief in that part, to pass upon the propix and penultimate days of October, yeir of God 1556, to our borough of Aberdene and searchit and saught into the persons and goods of the following burgesses and inhabitants thereof who enter into the said Air with competent respect and submission to have provit and apprise the same to the avail and quantity of the said sume of six shillings and

¹Or Provostship. That of Perth was hereditary in the Ruthven family. On the tragic occasion known as "the Gowrie Mystery" when Lord Ruthven and his young brother Alexander were killed by the followers of King James, it will be remembered that the populace of Perth shouted to the king: "Give us back our Provost. Ye have killed a better man than yersel'."

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eight pence of each one of them to have made payment thereof in high contemplation of us and our authoritie if so be.—

“ Our will is therefore and we charge you that you lawfully summon, warn and charge the said Alex. Litster, Thomas Philip, John Quhelbie, John Fraser, Alex. Barnes, Robert Badie, John Barber, James Guthrie and Thos. Campbell to appear before us and our counsell at Edinburgh or wheresoever it shall happen as for the time being, the — day of — gif it be lawful and failing thereof the next lawful day thereunto following, to answer to us at the instance of the said Mr. Henry Lauder and John Spens for our needs upon the wrong violent and master deforceing of the said Patrick Bisset, Messenger-our-chief in that part foresaid, in the exercise of his office in pounding the sd goods. Ilk ane of them respectively for their own parts the days foresaid and upon the contempt done by them to our authority royal, then and therefore the said persons be discernit be decreet of the Lords of our council to be pursuit in their persons and goods with all rigour in example and conform to the lawes of our realm according to justice and publickly to answer at our advocation in the said matter—and proceed and minister justice after that ye lawfully summon and warn them and be our said coroner be apprehended.

“ From Alex Litster’s house in the Gallowgate, ane pewter plate, ane pewter trencher.

“ From Thomas Philip’s house, one stick of white bartane canvas.

“ In John Quhell’s house, two brazen candlesticks.

“ In Alex. Barnes’ house, tailzeour, one wob of new quhite ell plaiding.

“ In Robert Baidie’s house, one pewter plate.

“ John Barber’s house, one brazen bason.

“ In James Guthrie’s, one brazen pan,

“ and in Thomas Campbell’s, one brazen pot.

“ The said officers seisit the same in their hands, to have had the same to the Mercat cross of our said borough there to have been apprised in manner above written. Nevertheless the sd persones and ilk ane of them for their own parts in the meantime and upon the days aforesaid, by themselves, their servants and complices, violently and maisterfully wrest and tak the same goods from the sd Patrick Bisset our chief foresaid and would not suffer him to have the same at the Mercat cross to have been apprised as said is and so Maisterfully deforcit our sd officer in execution of his office, whereupon he brak his wand and tak witness as our said uther letters endors.

“ We therefore charge the said Patrick Bisset to verify the said deforcement maid to him in manner foresaid, and the remanent persons foresaid to be witnesses (*names not given*) to be leal and soothfast witnesses in the said matter—The which to do, we commit to you conjointly and severally our full power be these our letters delivering them to you duly execute.

“ Given under our signet at Edinburgh 10 of Feb. and of our reign the 15 year ex deliberatione Dominum concilii

“ Sign manual

“ M.”

(The sign made for Marie of Lorraine, regent, as Queen Mary, then just 14, was out of the country.)

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This document is annotated on the outside in a much later hand :¹

“Precept to Lord William, my gryte-grandfather from Queen Mary when he was crowner of the shyre of Aberdeen.”

It was at this period that Black Arthur, William's half-brother, became possessed of the estate of Putachie. He was the *first* member of the Forbes family to do so.² The charter is dated November, 1559, is granted by George, Earl of Huntly, Chancellor of the Kingdom of Scotland, and carries a reddendo of 25 pounds Scots per annum, with a fat beast as a grassum “as is customary.” The reason why the youngest son of the late Lord Forbes was thus specially honoured instead of his elder brothers does not appear. As seen on page 77, he had already given considerable trouble to the Chancellor, and the clauses in his charter, whereby he was to afford good advice, protection and assistance, offensive and defensive to his feudal superior remained, from the beginning, a dead letter.

The charters of Putachie and a copy of the list of the subsequent writs of these lands as preserved in the Charter Chest will be found in the Appendix. (Page 102 *et passim*).

There is a curious letter in the *State Papers* of this date which may well be inserted here, though it is not known to *what* Captain Forbes it applies.

(The Master of Sempill was an adherent of the Queen Mother.)

Thomas Randolph,³ in a letter to Cecil, October 21st, 1560, says :

“Castle Symple was besieged by Arran, who after long combat and much adoe, had it delivered to him, after breaking down the chiefest tower of defence. The Master and his brother yielded to my Lord and are presently with him in this town (Hamilton). Of the other, 60 dismissed, besides 18 slain and divers hurt. The custody of the house is committed to Captain Forbes with 10 soldiers to be used at my Lord's will.

“The little fort that Lord Sempill built is to be overthrown rather for the names sake than that it is anything important. As symple was his devise, to name it ‘*Defender of the Faythe*’ as he hath been symple in all his other doings.”

¹ I.e. that of Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes.

² Arthur Forbes of Balfour had already, on September 25th, 1552, given a bond of manrent to George, Earl of Huntly (the 4th), by which he was to be seized in liferent of the davach of land, extending to four ploughgates of Ochter (Keig) and of Tonley in the lordship of Monymusk and Keig and in the lands of Wester Migvy in Cromar. “The said Arthur sall becum man and servand to the said Earl and his airis for all the days of the said Arthur's life time and sall serve the said Earl and his aires for all the dayes of his life in tyme of peace and warre, and sall tak trew and plane pairt in the law and by the law in all their just and lesum actiones, the Quene's grace and the auctorite of the Crowne alanerrie except, providing that the said Arthur sall nocht be compelled to ride gang, nor tak part againis the Lord Forbes for the tyme.” This bond is at Gordon Castle, there is no double of it at Castle Forbes.

³ Envoy to Scotland and private informer to Cecil.

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As a proof that nothing escaped the eagle eye of Elizabeth's spies, Randolph's letter to Cecil of February 21st, 1562, may be cited :

" I told you of Forbes departure to France. His errand is pretended to seek the Revenues of Chatelherault ¹ and the Duke's pension, who hath written to both the King and the constable. The Queen of Scots was right angrie at it."

In the autumn of the year 1562 Queen Mary made the progress to the north so carefully engineered by her half-brother James, then called the Earl of Mar, but aiming at the Earldom of Moray, which he eventually secured. In the course of this enterprise the House of Gordon, the great champion of the Roman Catholic faith in Scotland and hereditary enemy of the House of Forbes, was temporarily overthrown. James Stuart had set himself deliberately to bring this about, since, while George Gordon, 4th Earl of Huntly, Chancellor of Scotland, " the Cock o' the North," represented the Catholic party, he himself represented the rival and Protestant side. It was only in the previous year, August 1561, that Mary, Queen Dowager of France and Queen of Scotland from her cradle, had landed in Scotland. Bishop Lesley, one of her most devoted adherents, had previously gone over to Paris and had urged her to land in Aberdeen and throw herself at once into the hands of the Catholics and the Gordons, who had promised, if she did so, to meet her with 20,000 men. Had she done this it might have changed the face of Scotland and its history for a while, but other counsels prevailed ; she landed in Leith and allowed herself to be guided by her bastard brother, 9 years older than herself and a most astute, if unscrupulous, statesman. Huntly was forced into rebellion and defeated at Corrichie, October 28th, 1562, by the forces under James Stuart, now Earl of Moray (the lands and revenues of which Earldom had been, till recently, in the possession of Huntly.²) It was almost inevitable that the Forbeses should seize the opportunity of aiming a blow at Huntly, who had not always treated them well in the past, and indeed all those who had a grudge against " the Cock o' the North " were summoned to assist Moray ; the Government formally releasing from oaths the Forbeses and others who were enemies of the Gordons, and thus became free to rob and murder with impunity their ancient foes.

The omniscient Randolph wrote on October 23rd to Cecil : " Those at feud with Huntly, as the Forbeses, Leslies, Grants, etc., are at liberty to use force against him."

¹ Other references to this trip to France are in the *State Papers*. On January 10th, 1562, allusion is made to " the hasty departure of Lord Forbes into France," but it took some time to arrange for the " departure " as it is referred to again, both in February and March. On his return journey he seems to have been arrested in England, for Randolph writes to Cecil December 1st, 1562, " concerning the Detention of Lord Forbes and some other Scotsmen by Clavering."

² They had previously been in the hands of the Crown—the last Earl of Moray having been a Royal bastard.

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The Lords Forbes held much of their estate from Huntly (see Charters, pp. 41, 42) and had also entered into more than one bond of *manrent* with him as their Superior, implying mutual defence against a common foe, but all this was swept away after the defeat at Corrichie and the forfeiture of the 4th Earl.

On June 20th, 1563, Lord Forbes had a charter from Queen Mary to the effect that the lands hitherto held from Huntly should, in time coming, be held direct from the *Crown*. This charter, which is at Castle Forbes, will be found in the Appendix (page 103). There was a confirmation of it under the Great Seal in 1573.

In 1568 the Earl of Huntly, son of the 4th Earl (restored to his lands and titles), granted a fresh charter of Smythston, Nocht and other lands to John, Master of Forbes. (See Appendix to next chapter.)

Lord Forbes, William, the 7th, therefore had estates in the parishes and districts of Alford, Forbes, Tullynessle, Auchindoir, Kearn, Keig, Tough, Cluny, Midmar, Glenmuick, Kincardine o' Neil, and as far away as Foveran; his Rent Roll exists, but is too long to print in this work, and has already been printed by the *Banffshire Journal* in 1876.

Of Lord Forbes' attitude during the tragic events of the years 1565, 1566, and 1567, no trace has been found, but he was without doubt on the side of the Earl of Moray who, on Queen Mary's forced abdication in 1567, became Regent, and after her flight to and imprisonment in England, wielded the supreme power until his own assassination in 1570.

On August 5th, 1567, Throckmorton wrote to Elizabeth:

"Huntly has sent one Duncan Forbes to Stirling to procure a conference with the Lords and the Hamiltons and himself. The Lords are not very desirous." (*State Papers*.)

This Duncan Forbes has not been certainly identified but was probably "Monymusk." Huntly was, of course, George, 5th Earl, recently pardoned (see page 116) by Queen Mary and restored to the honours forfeited by his father.

The occasion was two months after the battle of Carberry Hill, as a result of which Mary was a prisoner in Loch Leven. Langside, the final act in the tragedy in Scotland, was fought nine months later, May 13th, 1568.

Subsequently, Lord Forbes seems to have reversed what had been the anti-English policy of his father (at least in the year 1543. See page 70.) The change is shown by the fact that on July 28th, 1568, he signs Argyll's letter to Elizabeth from "Your Majestie's most humble servandis at poweris," dated at Largs.¹

"We humbly beseech your Grace to suffer our Queen's Grace to cum and depart frelie forth of your realme again to her awin cuntrie and nocht to maik any aid

¹ Mary had been two months in captivity in England.

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or assist in ony sort to thais her unnatural subjettes, that we may do her awin service in reponing and establishing her grace in her awin realme as our detbound dewtie is, for we are all deliberat to maintain her as our natyve princeis indurand her lyfytyme and efter hir the aires cumit of her body."

Twenty-one peers signed, as well as the Archbishop of St. Andrews and the Bishops of Dunkeld and of Moray.¹

On July 30th Lord Forbes signed a similar letter to the Duke of Alva, the Scots Lords apparently hoping that pressure from Spain might move Elizabeth.

In the following year poor Mary wrote a letter to the Scots Lords, including Lord Forbes (or more likely the Master was intended), to be sent by Andrew Hamilton. It was duly passed by her jailer, Shrewsbury, and it is presumed, was received. (*State Papers*.) Mary had also a messenger of the name of Forbes, unidentified. In the *Calendar of State Papers* for 1571, page 43, No. 47, appears:

Mary to Mons. de la Mothe Fénelon—

"I have not any assurance my letters will reach you, there has been no means of delivering mine to Forbes."

Again Lord Forbes is found (2 years later) on April 16th, 1570, signing a letter sent to Queen Elizabeth by the Duke of Châtelhêrault, who, as Earl of Arran, had been Regent of Scotland from 1542 until he resigned his office into the hands of the Queen Mother, Mary of Guise, April 12th, 1554.² He was then created, by Henri II. of France, at the request of Mary of Guise, Duke of Châtelhêrault in Poitou, and was granted estates and a French pension. Through his grandmother, Princess Mary, eldest daughter of King James II., he was second cousin to King James V., and, at the same time as he was appointed Regent for the infant Mary, had been declared heir-presumptive to the crown of Scotland.³

His eldest son was the half-mad Earl of Arran, a suitor for the hand both of Elizabeth and of Mary, who died unmarried in 1609. His youngest

¹ A subsequent letter of Sussex to Elizabeth claims that seven or eight of these signatures were forgeries "counterfeit subscriptions of those who never came." (*Cal. of Scots Papers, loc. cit.*) But it is possible that some Lords were *authorised* to sign for others, as was certainly done in the case of Nathaniel Hooke's negotiations in 1703-06.

² In the year 1563 Châtelhêrault (formerly Arran) had complained to Randolph that "Capt. Thomas Forbes, my servitor who was in France for my business and now returning home, was constrained to land in England and is stopt be the capitaine of Norham." As Châtelhêrault himself failed to get redress, the Queen Mother of Scotland wrote to Queen Elizabeth requesting a safe conduct for the same "Thomas Forboys" to pass and repass to France during six months. And Randolph adds a private note to Cecil requesting the latter to favour the buying by Forbes of "ane ambling gelding" (*State Papers*). Thomas Forbes was the son of Duncan Forbes of Abersnithack of the Tolquhon family. (See page 401.)

³ See page 70.

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son was Claud, Baron Paisley, the ardent supporter of Queen Mary in all her troubles down to the battle of Langside, in which he commanded the van of her troops, chiefly composed of Hamiltons. The letter of April 16th, 1570, was to ask Queen Elizabeth, still the jailer of Mary, to interfere in Scottish internal politics. The important passage is as follows :

" We have recourse to your Majestie as the Princess of Christendom who has the best means, and as we think should have the best will to quench this heat begun amongst us before it burst out to a flame which may set both countries on fire. The first harm is like to be ours, seeing the fire already kindled in our house, yet is the consequence thereof likely to draw your Majesty's state into danger." (*State Papers*, Vol. VI.)

It is to be presumed, since he signed this document, that Lord Forbes agreed with the sentiments contained therein, surely forgetting the terrible results, two and a half centuries earlier, of asking an English sovereign, Edward I., to meddle in Scottish affairs. The situation of Scotland in 1570 was critical. The assassination of the Regent Moray on January 22nd had been a great blow to the party which favoured Elizabeth in the country ; and in this very month of April, Mary's friends met at Linlithgow and proclaimed her *Restoration* ; the Pope having two months previously issued a Bull " *Regnans in Excelsis*," depriving Elizabeth of her " pretended " right to the English crown and in effect proclaiming the captive Mary to be the true sovereign of both kingdoms.

The friendship of whoever held the reins of power in Scotland was thus of the greatest moment to Elizabeth, since Scottish ports would form an easy back-door for any Spanish or French invasion of England, and the invitation to intervene was promptly accepted, even forestalled. By the middle of May, English troops had reached Edinburgh and, with the assistance of Lennox, father of Darnley (who also himself had some claim to the Scottish throne and joined them), they attacked the party of the Hamiltons and burnt Hamilton Palace. It is difficult to know exactly *what* Châtelhéralt expected from his appeal to Elizabeth. In any case he apparently did not get it, for Lennox was appointed Regent in July, and the Hamiltons retired into obscurity.

There is nothing in the Forbes family papers bearing upon this period, but it is evident that, possibly through the influence of Châtelhéralt and certainly of Huntly, William, 7th Lord, became for a short time an ardent supporter of Queen Mary, for he appears in November of the same year as one of the twenty-three Scottish peers who agreed severally that the son, brother or next of kin of each should go as a hostage for Queen Mary to England. Four to go at a time and these to be relieved by others. The document was signed at Doune and at Strathbogie on November 20th, 1570. (*State Papers*, Vol. VI.)

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Mary was apparently to be allowed to return to Scotland, after her two years' imprisonment, and to put herself at the head of her own party, but nothing came of the project, which is *never* even mentioned in lives of Mary or Scottish history generally.¹

In this year also (1570) James Douglas, Earl of Morton (not yet Regent), was "labouring violently to draw the Forbesees to him," as stated in a letter from Lord Saltoun. The Earl of Mar's Regency lasted from shortly after the scuffle of September 4th, 1571, in which Lennox, "the Silly Regent," was slain, until Mar's own death on October 29th, 1572. Morton was next appointed and for nine years kept Scotland in order with a strong hand. Then, strangely enough, he was accused of long-past treason by James Stewart of Ochiltree in full council before his young Master, who was heartily tired of his tutelage. Did James perhaps remember unconsciously how that uncompromising fierce face with the red beard had bent over him when he was crowned as an infant, and taken in his name the immensely long coronation oath? In any case, Morton was condemned, with perfect justice, for his crimes were many, and was executed June 5th, 1581, on the 15-year-old charge of "complicity in Darnley's murder." James thereafter reigned more or less alone for a while—he was 15 years old and very precocious! but in the following year took place the Raid of Ruthven which made him "but a bairn" again, and he shed tears and passed another year in durance to his great nobles.

In 1570 Morton had been no doubt most anxious to have on his side all the ultra-Protestants of the realm,² and in September of this year Lord Forbes' name again appears on a list drawn up by the Regent of those "Obedient to the King."

In May, 1578, it is noted that "the Master of Forbes votes *with* the Earl of Morton to be of the King's Council." (*Calendar of Scot. Papers, loc cit.*)

In the year 1583 there were frequent reports that some of the "nobles of Scotland" were now against the party which was hand and glove with England. On July 31st Robert Bowes writes to Walsingham:

"Sundry bruits were received that Marischal, the Masters of Glammis and Forbes were gathering on another side."

¹ The important papers on this subject are too long for quotation, but can be found as indicated.

² A curious letter of Morton to Cecil is in the *Calendar of Scots Papers*, under date March 8th, 1563, in which he begs favour for a friend, William Forbes, who *in cummen* with a gentleman had committed a slaughter, but having made satisfaction to the family, the "Queen hath spared his life and banished him the realm during her pleasure." He hopes Cecil will find him employment in England, and was doubtless glad to find Forbes there when he himself was in turn banished after the murder of Rizzio. The identity of William Forbes was not disclosed.

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But in the following spring a rival informer, John Colville, also wrote to Walsingham :

" Her Majesty (i.e. Elizabeth) hath been beneficial to my sovereign (James) and his whole country and the most part of the burrowis and the barons within the realm acknowledge the same and next their own sovereign reserve a special duty to her Majesty by all Princes in the world. The whole noblemen who are joined in the late cause are of the same mind with Angus," and he then enumerates them, including " the Masters of Glammis, Oliphant and Forbes," etc.

That Colville was mistaken appears from a third entry of date May 9th, 1584 :

" The masters of Forbes and Oliphant are withdrawn to their countries in the north and are like to be the first prosecuted with open force " (i.e. by James and his party).

This third informant of Walsingham was William Davison. His assertion is supported by an official entry of :

" The names of such of the nobilitie and others in Scotland as are presentlie distressed, of which some are without the realm and some have withdrawn for fear of apprehension, as the Masters of Oliphant and Forbes," etc.

In 1584, after the Earl of Gowrie had been beheaded for self-confessed attempted violence to the king, on May 7th, one " Mr. John Forbes," was hanged at Stirling ; he has not been identified.

According to Privy Council records

" the King and his Council were advised to proceed against all parties with expedition and violence and to begin with Glamis and the Forbeses. The Master having withdrawn to the North for fear of apprehension." ¹

It was said that Esmé Stuart, Duke of Lennox, who, though now dead, had exercised so much influence over the mind of the young king, had set him against some of his nobles, among them the Lord Forbes, and that there had been question of sending the Master to the Low Countries to fight. Patrick, Master of Gray (afterwards James' treacherous ambassador to England at the time of his mother's execution), had already gone there, and the Master of Forbes was to follow, but did not apparently do so (May 29th, 1586). (*Calendar of Scots Papers, loc cit.*)

In 1587 another correspondent of Walsingham, this time anonymous, announces that

" Huntly hath the whole nobilitie of the country banded together to assist and defend with him and he with them in all their and his adoes."

Among these he mentions " Forbes," presumably the Master, but again he was possibly mistaken.

¹ The Act of Parliament referring to this is in the Appendix to next chapter (page 134).

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Lord Forbes appears shortly after in a list sent to Elizabeth among "Earls¹ that are Protestants," and on March 3rd, 1571, signs another letter asking for her intervention in the critical state of affairs in Scotland.²

A further list of "Lords and Barons in Parliament in Scotland" sent to Burghley and endorsed by him, has marked against each name Q. (queen), K. (king) or N. (neutral). Forbes appears as a partisan of the king.

In 1573 Lord Forbes was present in the Parliament which restored the Duke of Châtelhérauld's children to their inheritance, also the Earl of Huntly (married to one of the duke's daughters), "and his friends."

Another *State Paper* of 1577 is headed "The Nobilitie of Scotland." (Burghley seems to have demanded *very frequent* accounts of the state of parties there.) In it appears

"Lord Forbes is a Protestant and a favourer of the King—of no great substance or party. He is in deadly feud with the Gordons, and is chiefly assisted by the tenants of the Earl of Mar."

From causes which will be more particularly described in the life of William's son (the 8th Lord), renewed quarrels broke out between the Forbeses and the Gordons, and the sons of the Huntly vanquished at Corrichie attacked their enemies, as described in the *History of the Feuds and Conflicts among the Clans*, printed by Foulis from a MS. of the time of James VI. (*Troubles between the Forbeses and the Gordons in 1571 and 1572.*)

"These two surnames did live together at this time rather in secret emulation than open envy, because they had in way of reconciliation by marriage intermingled their families together, but their hid and longrooted rancour did now burst forth . . .

"Black Arthur Forbes,³ youngest son of the 6th Lord, mortally hated the Gordons. He was a man of great courage, ambitious and ready to undertake anything whatsoever for the advancement of his family. The Forbes from the first time of the civil discords in Scotland did follow the King's party, the Gordons did always remain constantly faithful to the Queen ever unto the end."

(*The battle of Tillieangus was fought on October 10th, 1571.*)

"Adam Gordon, of Auchindoun, acting as deputy for his brother George, 5th Earl of Huntly, and moved by the ancient jealousy and new grievances, attacked the Forbeses in their entrenchments on the Whitehill of Tillieangus in the south-west corner of the parish of Clatt and the Forbes were heavily defeated and forced to flee. Arthur Forbes, broder to my Lord (*occupant of Balfour in 1552*), defended the rear in the retreat. He was a man of remarkable bodily strength and energy and he kept the pursuers at bay, till coming to a *brook*, he stooped

¹ Although he was *not* an Earl!

² Yet another confidential report describes him as "A man of good power and living (the Forbeses) Enemies to the Earls of Huntly whom they have manfully withstood, considering their greatness."

³ See page 58.

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down to quench his thirst and one of the Gordons gave him his death blow through an open joint in his armour." (*Op. cit.*)

That he was a man of great strength is shown by the immense, two-handed sword traditionally belonging to him, still preserved at Castle Forbes.

After Arthur's death, the retreat became a rout, the Forbeses scattered and fled, and the Castle of Druminnor itself was attacked and sacked. It is said that the remains of entrenchments can still be seen on the hill of Tillieangus, and cairns marking the graves of the numerous members of the Forbes family who fell there. Also the well [*sic*] at which Arthur drank.

One legend says there were nineteen members of the Forbes family slain at Tillieangus. A variant of this is given by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, who says that at the ensuing battle of Craibstone, when the Master of Forbes had secured Government assistance,

" Captain Chisholm, the commander of the Regents companies, and fifteen gentleman of the name of Forbes were slain."

Sir Robert commends the moderation and humanity of Adam Gordon who was apparently more anxious to capture than to kill.

After the defeat at Tillieangus, the Master, who had barely escaped with his life, made his way to Stirling, the seat of Government at the moment, and by ardently pleading his own cause and representing the hardships under which the country laboured by the oppression of the fierce Gordons, he induced the Regent, Mar, to afford him some help, to the extent of five companies of foot, some horsemen, and the " men of the Mearns."

As before, Elizabeth's agents knew everything, and Robert Drury wrote to Lord Burghley on October 29th, 1571 :

" The Master of Forbosse is with the Regent,¹ soliciting to have horsemen and footmen sent into the north against the Gordons."

Adam Gordon knew it too, and himself collected reinforcements.

Hunsdon wrote to Burghley, November 11th, 1571, from Berwick :

" Huntly has sent soldiers to maintain the Gordons against Lord Forbes with promise to send more, and a commandment to offend the Forbeses all that they can."

He wrote again to the same correspondent on November 27th :

" I am presently advertised that whereas the King's side sent 200 harqubusiers into the north for the maintenance of the private quarrel between the Forbossys and the Gordons, all are overthrown by the Government, the Captain slaign and the Master of Forbes and sundry others taken. I shall know the certainty in a day or two." (*State Papers.*)

This was the fight at Craibstone when the Master and his reinforcements attacked the Gordons just outside Aberdeen, were again routed and the

¹ John, Earl of Mar, who died in the following year.

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Master taken prisoner and lodged in Spynie Castle, where he languished for fifteen months.¹

Hollinshed (*Chronicles*, Vol. II.) describes the battles of Tillieangus and Craibstone in his own vivid manner. (*He was, of course, mistaken in the name of the Master of Forbes, which was not Alexander but John.* His own prejudice was in favour of the Gordons.)

"A miserable misfortune now happened in another part of Scotland, for a great slaughter was in the North end of the realm (1571).

"There were in that country two families of great power and authority, both valiant and wise, both harbouring deadlie feud of long rooted between them. These two were of the surnames of Gordon and Forboise, whereof the first lived with great concord and amitie amongst themselves, and by the King's sufferance had manie years governed the people adjoining unto them, whereby they purchased both strength amongst themselves, and the help of other men towards them; when contrarie the Forboises were at wars one with another, dailie impaired their own strength by their own slaughters, and in the end wrought their own confusion, for everie divided kingdom cannot long continue.

"But yet though this secret rancor did still remain amongst these families, they did not, in many years before, attempt anie open wars the one against the other, rather living in secret emulation than open envie, because they had (in waie of some shew of reconciliation) by marriage intermingled both their families together.

"Among these Forboises there was one called Arthur (a man of singular wit and of no less readie hand to perform his devise) who had alwaies followed the King's part to his uttermost, from the first time of these discords. This man, therefore, supposing this to be the time (now or never) wherein he must honor himself and his name, increase the substance of that part which followed him, and suppress the rage of the Gordons, first laboured to bring his familie to unitie and mutual love, for all vertue gathered into itself is greatest strength.

"The which if he might compass (as by anie possible meanes he would leave no stone unturned that might further it) he was then in so good safetie as he desired. For then was there not anie faction or familie in those parts whatsoever, whose wealth or strength he doubted, and whose state or authoritie he did fear.

"For furtherance of which union, when day and place was appointed to assemble the Forboises together, Adam Gordon, brother to the Earl of Huntlie (devising by all pollicie he might to hinder the same, and having privie intelligence thereof by his kin, favourers, and followers) came with a great power of armed men unto the same place at the time appointed for the assemblie of the Forboises to breake off their union, and although there were two troops of the Forboises, which presentlie appeared in their sight, yet before they could join their strengths,

¹ Some time after the fights at Tillieangus and Craibstone, took place the burning of Corgarff Castle by Edom o' Gordon; this was part of the long-standing feud between Forbese and Gordons, and is commemorated in a well-known ballad. The site of the tragedy, however, is sometimes placed at Towie Castle, and apologists for the Gordons state that Adam's lieutenant and not himself was responsible.

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Adam Gordon speedilie set upon the one armie (not readie to be succoured by the other) and in the middle thereof did kill this Arthur Forboise, who, being the hope of all that race, and now slain, his death did so amaze the other, that forthwith the rest were soon overthrown, scattered, and fled each one as he might best shift for himself. In which unhappie conflict some persons of name were presentlie killed, and manie others taken and reserved for ransome. Whereupon the residue (fearing more crueltie should be used upon the prisoners, loath to have anie more of their race to be cut awaie, and giving place to the time present) *withdrew themselves* from the fight, and never attempted anie thing afterward in revenge of their overthrow. Which fear and wise suppression of revenge, grew not without just cause, supposing that their adversaries (if they were further urged) would shew no more mercie to such as they had prisoners, than they did to the house of Alexander Forboise ¹ before time. The eldest brother of Arthur ² (who was the chief of that familie) having his house so spoiled, and himself hardlie escaping from his enemies' hands, hasted to the Court, from whence (though the matter was in great extremitie) he was by the King to be relieved. For which cause there were appointed 200 footmen to such of the nobilitie as favoured and followed that faction, with letters to the adjoining nobilitie to associate themselves to the part of the Forboises. These thus confederate and come together to the rest of the Forboises, with certain other families of their affinitie and neighbours, so advanced the spirit of this Alexander (John), that he now thought himself sufficiently fensed against all the forces of his adversaries. But as their number increased, so there wanted amongst them one person sufficient to enjoy the place of a captain, whom the rest might follow, 'sith all the principals and heads of the families were almost young men, and scarce one better than others in degrees of calling. Wherefore the assemblie being drawn into divers companies (for they were inforced to follow several leaders) John Keth with 500 horsemen departed to his house not far from thence. Alexander (John) Forboise with his retinue and 200 horsemen went to Aberdeen, to expell Adam Gordon from thence, and to repara his armie in the jounie.

"Adam Gordon (not sleeping his affairs, knowing the preparation of the Forboises, and understanding the approach of his enemie so near with so small companie) assembled his people, led them out of the town, and compelled the citizens to follow, to make the number of his army seem the greater. Shortlie after, in a field next adjoining to the town, the two companies met, and a sharp conflict was committed between them. In which the King's footmen (appointed to the Forboises) desirous more hastilie than wiselie to fight, and adventuring further in following of the Gordons than their shot of powder would continue, they went so far, that in the end, being out of reach of defence or help of their company they were put to fearfull flight by the bowmen of the Gordons, who pursued them eagerlie, and continued the battell until night. At what time there were not manie of the vanquished slain, but mostly taken and reserved as prisoners, among which was the said Alexander (John) Forbes taken, after that

¹ The Forbes who had defended the Castle of Urquhart in 1306 is usually said to have been John. (See page 20.)

² John, Master of Forbes, who was in reality the *nephew* of Arthur.

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he had long and valiantly defended himself against his enemies in the same conflict, to the perpetual glorie of that house." (*Op cit.*)

Another and more modern account is as follows :

" 1571. In the Hardgate where it turned at a short distance eastward is ' The Craibstone,' said to mark the site of a battle which took place on the 20th November, 1571, between Adam Gordon and Forbes. Gordon had on the 10th October attacked the castle of Towie and burned it along with the inmates, consisting of the wife, children, and servants of Forbes, in all twenty seven persons. Forbes fell in with Gordon at Aberdeen, and they fought with feudal hatred, each of the clans leaving sixty slain. Forbes was defeated and taken prisoner." (*Aberdeen Fifty Years Ago*, page 17.)

An attempted revenge for Tillieangus occurred three years later. (*History of the Gordons*. C. A. Gordon (1754), reprint 1890, page 48.)

" In the beginning of 1574, Sir Adam Gordon of Auchindown, with Sir George Gordon of Gight, with six other gentlemen, went over to France for their pleasure. Sir Adam was very kindly received and honourably entertained by Charles the ninth, who was then King of France. At that time there was one Arthur Forbes,¹ son to the Lord Forbes, who had vowed to kill Auchindown for killing his uncle at the battle of Tillieangus ; and to accomplish his vow had followed him over to Paris, where he associated himself with some abandoned wretches fit for his purpose. Forbes and these desperate fellows lay in wait in the street through which he (Adam Gordon) was to return to his lodgings from the Palace of the Archbishop of Glasgow, then Ambassador in France. They discharged their pistols upon Auchindown as he passed by them and wounded him in the thigh. His servants pursued, but could not catch them ; they only found by good chance, Forbes' hat, in which was a paper with the name and place where they were to meet. John Gordon, Lord of Glenluce and of Longormes, son to Alexander Gordon, bishop of Galloway, Lord of the Bed-chamber to the King of France, getting instantly notice of this, immediately acquainted the King, who forthwith despatched le grand provost de l'Hotel, or the great provost of the Palace, with his guards in company with John Gordon and Sir Adam's servants to the place of their meeting to apprehend them. When they were arrived at the place, Sir Adam's servant, being impatient, rushed violently into the house and killed Forbes ; but his associates were all apprehended and thereafter broke on the wheel. Sir Adam soon recovered of his wounds and returned to Scotland, and a little time after the Earl of Huntly his brother dying, he had the care of his children and estate entrusted to him. He lived but a few years after, and died peaceably at home, anno 1580. He was certainly the most resolute and successful Captain the Nation had at that time."

Two years after the battles of Tillieangus and Craibstone, Lord Forbes seems to have reaped some advantages from his adherence to the *de facto* Government of one Regent after another for the baby king.

¹ Fourth son of the 7th Lord Forbes.

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[54] "17 Sept. 1573. Gift under the Privy Seal to William Lord Forbes of the nonentry duties of the lands of Fortherbirse and Abirgardine in the Lordship of Aboyne, Corsindawe, Cabedy, Ordequhork, Auchtabedy, Ruvyn, Auchlauch and Tulycarse, Tullereoch and Tullachguenis, Little Tolmad, Wester Tolmad, Tornavechin, Drumlassie, Barglassy in Cluny, Tulyfour and Tulykery in the Lordship of Tully^t and barony of Cluny. Suchnahunny in the barony of Midmar (with the Mains of Cluny and other lands to be held in warrandice of the same) and of the annual rent of £4 furth of the lands of Kinstairs; for all the years the lands have been in the King's hands by reason of non-entry since the decease of Umq^h George Earl of Huntlie and the annual rent since the decease of Umq^h John Lord Forbes, father to the said William."

The Seal has gone.

(George, 4th Earl of Huntly, had died at Corrichie, October 23rd, 1562, and John, 6th Lord Forbes, in September, 1547, so the accumulated annual rents must have amounted to a goodly sum in 1573.)

"There is a charter apprissing of the lands of Bochravn, 25th May 1579 in favour of Lord Forbes. And in the same year an Assignation by William Lord Forbes to Patrick Forbes of Corse for 5 marks annually, the blanche mail due to the said Lord out of the lands of Guyseddil in the Barony of Kerrymuir, Sheriffdom of Angus, for twenty-eight years on consideration of the said Patrick having paid to umquhile Archibald Earl of Angus seven score marks for composition and new infetment obtaining to umquhile John Lord Forbes, father of the said William. The lands being in the King's hands for forty-five years by reason of non-entry.

15 March 1579."

The *Calendar of State Papers* for 1592 gives "a catalogue of noblemen well or evil affected to the amity with England," and amongst "the *well* affected in the North are Marischal, Forbes,"¹ etc.

But of the last twenty years of William, 7th Lord Forbes' life, no details are known.² He died in the beginning of 1594 (then called 1593 until March 25th), and was succeeded by his son John, the 8th Lord, who had a long and chequered career both as Master and Lord Forbes. As Master of Forbes he was made a Privy Councillor on January 1st, 1593-94—which shows that his father's death took place in the latter year.

William was, like his forbears, buried in Kearn churchyard, the Parish Church of Druminnor, but no stones remain.

¹ And of the same date is a brief entry in the "Estimate of the Scottese Nobilitie": "Forbes Protestant, of 75 years. His mother Lundie, his wife Keith. Himself esteemed to favour religion, and encline to the best part."

² Though the following from the Aberdeen Burgh Records must refer to him:

"1593. Item, to Myll, the poist, to bring hame letteris, of suspensione of the horning execut agains the provost, bailleis for not taking of my Lord Forbes. 7 lib."—There are no further details.

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He married in 1538, in the Abbey Church of Lindores, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of John Keith of Inverugie (whose sister Margaret married William, the 4th Earl Marischal), and had 8 sons and 8 daughters. Six of the sons and all the daughters grew up, the latter all married, one twice and another three times.

1. Alexander, born November 25th, 1539, died young.
2. Jean, born April 25th, 1541, married James, 5th Lord Ogilvie.
3. John, born July 3rd, 1542, afterwards 8th Lord Forbes.
4. William of Fodderbirse and Fintray, born March 2nd, 1544.
5. Elizabeth, born November 10th, 1545, married Henry, Lord Sinclair.

Alexander Ogilvie of Boyne was made "donator" of the marriage of Elizabeth when she was nearly 20 years old, and she was offered in marriage to *him*, with the proviso that he should marry her on November 1st, 1565. As he did not do so, he was sued for "double avail." (*Acts and Decrees.*)

Alexander Ogilvie, in 1566, married Mary Beaton, the queen's maid of honour, who died before 1599, and on December 10th of that year he married Jean Gordon, divorced wife of Bothwell and sister of Margaret, divorced wife of John, 8th Lord Forbes, brother of the Elizabeth Forbes whom he did not marry.

6. Christian, born June 24th, 1547. Married George Johnston of Caskieben and became the mother of Arthur Johnston the poet.¹
7. Isobel, born October 16th, 1548, married John Gordon of Pitlurg and died 1622.
8. Arthur of Logie, born April 3rd, 1550, killed in 1574 in Paris. (See page 92.)
9. James of Lethenty, also afterwards of Fechil and Auchnacant, born July 16th, 1551. He married Margaret Forbes of Pitsligo, eldest daughter and co-heiress of the 6th Laird and had issue.²
10. Alexander (*secundus*) born January 24th, 1552-53, died young.
11. Catharine, born July 7th, 1554, married the Laird of Grant according to Matthew Lumsden, but according to the *Scots Peerage* she married Barclay of Gartly.³
12. Robert, Commendator of Monymusk, born January 1st, 1556-57, married Agnes Forbes of Corse.
13. Margaret, born October 14th, 1557, married George Sinclair of Mey in 1578 and had a son John, whence the present Sinclairs of Dunbeath, and the 12th Earl of Caithness.

¹ In her brother's accounts (see page 124) she is called Christian Forbes, Lady *Ardes*, perhaps Ardo.

² He seems to have given a good deal of trouble to his nephew. (See page 126.)

³ There was, in fact, no Laird of Grant in this century. They were still Lairds of Freuchie, and none married a Forbes at this time.

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14. Abraham of Blackton, born March 2nd, 1558-59, married Janet Duncan of Merdrum and had issue.
15. Barbara, born January 31st, 1560-61, married (1) Robert Allardyce of Allardyce, (2) Sir Alexander Hay of Delgaty, and (3) Sir Archibald Douglas of Keilor.
16. Anne, born September 30th, 1564, married (1) Sir John Seton of Barnes, and (2) John Hamilton, brother of Patrick Hamilton of Samuelston.

One of the younger sons of William, 7th Lord Forbes, William of Fodderbirse and Fintray married Marjory, co-heiress of Janet, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Tolquhon, and relict of William Forbes of Corsindae, thus creating a veritable family tangle. He was one of those fifty Forbeses excepted by name from the jurisdiction of the Earl of Huntly in 1573. These letters of exception were *purchased* by William, Lord Forbes, and John, Master of Forbes, and were granted expressly because

“ grit nummer of the complenars kinnismen, freindis and tenentes were crewellie slane, thare houssis and biginis rewenit and cassin down, thair wodes and forestes cuttit and distroyit, thair gudeis, plenising outsycht and insycht reft and spulyeit be the said George Erle of Huntlye lord Gordoune, Adam Gordoune of Auchindoune his brother germane and utheris assemblit with thame.”¹

Five years later William Forbes of Fodderbirse appears in another commission granted

“ to certain Lords to decide in ane cause betwix the Gordounes and the Forbeses ” and other acts and decreets on the same subject were registered in 1579 and in 1581 and 1582.²

The fourth son, Arthur of Logie, distinguished himself, as already seen, in a personal attempt at vengeance on the Gordons, in which he lost his own life.

James of Lethenty appears several times in the accounts of his brother, the 8th Lord's, legal and financial troubles, not always in the most helpful manner. Arthur, the 10th Lord, also refers more than once to “ my auld uncle Lethinty ! ”³

Robert was appointed Prior of the Community of Monymusk, the Priory Lands of which afterwards passed into the secular possession of a cousin, and were in Forbes' hands till they were sold in 1712. (See page 302.)

Abraham, the eighth son, founded a new family. (See page 339.)

¹ Appendix, page 104.

² Appendix, pages 104-107.

³ A curious note about James of Lethenty is the following—written on the back of a letter from King James VI. (while still a boy of 13) to the Lord Sinclair (*Private MS.*): “ Ye fourteenth day of September [1579], James forbes, sone to the Lord forbes, came to ye hous of the Knokhall and brak upe ye windoks and dores yroff at twalve houres in the nicht.” No further details are known.

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APPENDIX FOR WILLIAM, 7TH LORD FORBES.

P. 76. "Reg. Mag. Sig.

"Apud Edinburgh, 4 Jan. 1538/9.

"Rex concessit Willelmo Magistro de Forbes et Elizabeth Keith ejus conjugii—terras et baroniam de Fudes, viz. Fudesmore, Fudasbeg, Culter cullane, Auchinacant, cum molendino et Le Ailhouse earundem, terras de Pettymuk et Blaredinde, cum advocacione capdle B. Marie earundem, ac 5 libras annui redditus de terris de Archidlie, vic. Abirdene; terras de Lair, strogarink et Kirkoun, cum molendinis earundem, in baronia de obyne, vic. Abirdene; quas Johannes dom. Forbes personaliter resignavit; et quas terras de Lare etc. rex, pro bono servitio dicti Wil. uniuit baroniae de Fudes:—Tenend. dictis Wil. et Eliz. et eorum alteri diutius viventi in conjuncta infeodatione, et heredibus masc. inter ipsos legit procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legitimis et propinquieribus heredibus masc. dicti Wil. quibuscumque:"

P. 77. CARDINAL BEATON'S BOND. 24th July, 1543.

"'Bond made by the Cardinal and others of Scotland for Mutual Defence, in case the Governor is persuaded by Private Persons under the umber of the Queen's authority, to "put at" any one of them.'"

The preamble states that, considering how affairs have been evil treated since the decease of the late King, no policy or justice being used and the great affairs between realm and realm handled by suspect persons for their own profit,

"quharthrow this realm standis in gret danger to be subdewit till our awld enymis of England, and als the persone of our said Soweran Lady the Queenes Grace is in danger of being transported into England, to the danger of the liberty of this realm, the confederates are now convened in Lythkow for orderying and pittyn of remain in ther premisses.

"Lythkow 24 July 1543, Signed

"DAVID CARLIS Sti. ANDREE: Pa. MORAVIEN. episcopus.

"ANDREAS, CANDICASIE¹ episcopus:

"Wm. of DUNBLANIEN: ROBERT byschop of Orkenay: D. abbot of Capron: Thomas commendator Drybrocht: John Abbot of Jedworth: Priour, Candicasei: Jo. prior de Pyttwemen: Alexr. priour Pluscarden: George Erl of Huntlie: Arch. Arll of Argyll: Matthew Erl of Lennoux: Patrick Erl Bothwell: John Erl Suthyrland: Wm. Erl Menteith: John lord Erskyn: Wm. lorde Ruthwen: Malcolm lorde Flemyng: Wm Lord Crichton: David lord Drummond: John lord Lisle: George lorde Hume: Wm. lord Saltom: Hew Frisell, M. of Lovet: Wm. M. of Forbese: Patrik Haborn:² John Campbell of Calder: John Campbell Lundie, Knyght: Walter Scot of Buckcleugh, Kny(ght): Walter Car of Sesfwrđ: Wm. Murray of Tillibern: MARCK KER: JOHN CUNGNGAME of CAMPRE: ROBT. DOWGLAS

¹ Whithorn.

² Hepburn.

WILLIAM, 7TH LORD FORBES—APPENDIX

OF LOWCHLEVYN: WALT. OGILWEY OF DRUM-LYNGES, Knycht. Alexr. Dunber of Cumnock: James Sterling of Keir: John Rosse of Craigie: James Kennadie of Blayrquhan: John Lisle of Bolqwhan: ¹ Wm Edmeston of Duntreld: James Grant of Freuchy, George Gordon of Schew: John Cochown of Lws: ² George Baquhannan of That Ilk.³

"With my hand led at the pen by me James Lauder, noter-publique."

(Copy in the hand of Sadlers clerk.

Add. MSS. Hamilton Papers. No. 446.)

There is a charter of Assignation (in the Charter Chest) from John, Abbot of Lindores, to John, Lord Forbes, and William, Master of Forbes, of date *September 24th, 1553*, of ten sheaves from the parish of Kennethmont, bearing a reddendo of £28. [44.]

Fragments of the seal of the monastery are still appended.⁴

THE HAMILTON PAPERS, 1543-1590.

"Vol. VII. Sept. 2, 1543. *Henry viii to Sadleyr.*

"Trusty and right welbiloved we grate youe well. Lating youe wit that on Frydaye morning arryved here your lettres of the XXVJth of the last moneth, written to our Lieutenaunt and others the lordes of our Counsail in the North parties, which we have seen and perused. And the same daye arryved here the Lard of Fife, with lettres of credence unto us from the Governour, and the ratificacion of the treatye, which we immediatly receyved, and (at) good lenght harde his credence, which consis(tes) in three pointes:—

...

"The second was, forasmuche as he myndeth to reserve about him as many of the pledges of those that be our prysonners, beeng assured to us and him, as he could, and to sende in other for hostages which were of the contrary parte, his sute is that it might please us taccept for three of thostages, the Lorde Flemminges sonne, the Lorde Olyphantes sonne, and yong Erskyn, whereof two lye nowe pledgies for lak of their father's entrees, and thother for lack of his brothers, alledging that the Governour should not elles be hable at this tyme to furnishe tholl nombre of the same.

...

"To the seconde we sayd, that myndeng to procede in all thinges frendly with the Governour, as with a person whom we specially trusted, and whose affayres we accompt our owne, like as we liked well that he mynded to reserve with him as many of the pledgies of those that be our prysonners, being trusty to him, as he

¹ John Leslie of Balquhain.

² John Colquhoun of Luss.

³ George Buchanan.

⁴ A similar charter was granted, May 7th, 1553, to William, 7th Lord Forbes, and his son John, as Master. In this case the seal is intact and very beautiful, bearing a St. Andrew on his cross, with life-like figures in the background, and on the reverse a seated Madonna and Child, with Saints.

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could conveniently, and to sende in of thother sorte that were against him, to lye as hostages, soo we must nedes frankly tell him that we thinke not his desire for the three pledges before named in any wise met to be granted. For fyrst, Erskyn is no personage hable by the treatie to be an hostage, onles we shulde in the acceptacion of him doo otherwise than the treaty purpoteth, which were not expedyent. And as to the Lord Flemming and Oliphantes sonnes, considering of what sorte their fathers be, we thinke it were more mete to have them to remayn pledges for their father's ransom, then to be freed by the Governour, and then to be entred as hostages for performance of the treatie. For if they remain pledges for default of their fathers and brothers entrees at the dayes appointed, by reason wherof they be not in suche cace as other be, that have kept their faith and the Governours appointment, it shall still conteyn their fathers in a staye that they shall not dare doo or attempt anything against the Governour. Whereas if they be once freed and shal at the six monthes ende, returne into Scotlande, then shall their fathers be out of all stay and feare, and percace the rather attempt somme thing which maye be to the governours displeasure, and yet the burden of their ransoms shal rest on the Governours necke. Advising him therefore for this fyrst tyme, to travail to get of thother sorte, and rather than fayle, tassaye whither he can get the Erle of Arrel, or somme other of therles and barons, as thErle Marshal or the *Lord Furbus sonne* or any of the others that were lately of the Cardinalles faccion; whereby he shall not only have his desire, but also be sure that their fathers shall for the tyme of their absence doo him no displeasure. And uppon thoccasion of thanswere of this article, we caused to be declared unto him, that forasmuch as the layng in of thostages is the knot of the holl treatie and that it ought not to be confyrmed before the same be entred, we have thought it mete to write these unto youe with diligence for the more acceleration of the same, and to requyre the sayd Lard of Fife, as a man whom we specially favour, and that rather upon your recommendacion—to write also the semblable, which poyntes youe must remembre to inculce to the Governour, to thintent he may accelerate the putting in of thostages; for that till the same be doon, the confirmacion must be deferred. And in this meane season, all thinges requisite shalbe put in odre accordingly."

CHARTER IN FAVOUR OF THE 7TH LORD FORBES AND HIS WIFE, 1553, AND
CHARTER OF AUGUST 25, 1557.

A paper in 18th century handwriting gives the following :

"This is a copy of an original charter by Robert, Commendator of the Monastery of Deer,¹ To ane noble and potent Lord, William Lord Forbes and Elizabeth Keith, his Spouse in conjunct fee and to his heirs male of the lands of Fechill and Monkshill, Lying in the parish of Ellon and Sherifffdom of Aberdeen. 12 Feb. 1553."

There is a note on the back of the said copy bearing that the foresaid

¹ Lord Altrie, brother of the Earl Marischal.

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Charter with a Double of Mairshills (Marischal) charter to Forbes of the lands of Lashintilly and Tilliebin in Warrantis of Fechil and Monkshill are to be found among Udny's writs in his Cabinet in a Skuttles, marked 22. *Item* there is a charter by William, Lord Forbes, to John, his fourth son¹ of the said lands of Fechil, to be holden of the said Lord Forbes for yearly payment to Robert, Commendator of Deer and convent thereof and their successors Superiors of the said lands of eighty Bolls of Victual. *Dated at Forbes, August 25th, 1557.*

These two charters of Putachie of the years 1559 and 1560 are of special interest to the present holders of those lands :

[46] "Ult. Nov. 1559. Carta feudifirmaria per Georgium Comitem de Huntle Dominum Gordone et Badzenoth Cancellarium Regni Scotiæ ac Empheoditarium baronarium de Keig et Monimusk facta Arthur forbes de Balfour fratri germano domini de Forbes et heredibus suis quibuscumque de terris de Puttachie et dimidietate magnæ villæ de Keig alias Ochter-keig jacentibus in baronia de Monimusk infra regalitatem St. Andræ. Reddendo 25 libras annuatim pro omni firma, grassuma marta bidente customa aliisque exactionibus. Faciendo tres sectas annuatim ad tria placita capitalia Regalitatis Sancti Andræ apud Monymusk. Insuper, 'Arthurus et heredes sui predicti juramentum fidelitatis successive in quolibet Eorum introita prestabunt nobis et heredibus nostris ac ad fidele et speciale concilium nobis et eis cum ad hoc requisiti fuerunt prebendum necnon et auxilium assistentiam manutentionem protectionem et omnimodam defensionem nostram et eorum contra quos cumque invasones seu perturbatores medio juramento impendente perpetuis futuris temporibus Tenebuntur et obligabuntur. Proviso etiam quod dictus Arthurus et heredes sui memorati faciant eorum exactum diligentiam et omnem eorum operam perpetuis futuris temporibus Impendant tota defensione conservatione et manutentione veterum marchiarum et limitum singularum terrarum predictarum . . . et hoc contra quoscumque illas seu aliquam Earundum quomodolibet injuste usurpare violare seu appropriare volentes.' Cum clausula de non alienando sine licentia superioris."

Huntly's seal is still attached to the parchment, but very little is to be seen beyond the helmet and the supporters.

Renewed charter of the same—also in the family papers, and called "*A copy.*" The conditions vary slightly. 1560.

"Memorandum. There is ane charter granted by Geo Earl of Huntlie, Lord Gordon of Badinoch, Chancellor of Scotland in favores of Arthour Forbes of Balfour and Christian Barclay his spouse, thair aires maill and assig^r yr, in conteant of the Lands of Putachie and half the townes and Lands of Meikle

¹ From this it appears that William, 7th Lord Forbes, had, besides the eight sons of whom record has been kept, two others besides the Alexander who died young, and that these two were older than John, afterwards 8th Lord, and were presumably alive in 1557. John at that date was 15 years old.

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Kegge comonlie called Aughter Kegge Lyand in the Barronie of Monymusk, regalie of St. Andrewes and sch^m of Aberdeen.

“ The narrative of the Charter is ‘ pro servitiis alliis gratitudinibus beneficiis et bene meritis nobis Impensis per Arthurem Forbes de Balfour.’

“ The lands are holden in feis.

“ Reddendo inde annuatim dicti Arthurus et Christina sua sponsa et eorum alterdiutius vivens heredes sui et assignati predicti nobis et heredibus nostris pro annuali solutione firme cum girsumma marta bidente customa et pro omni alia exactione que de predictis terris cum suis pendiculis et pertinentiis exigi porterit vel requiri summa viginti quatuor librarum duodecim solidarum et octo denariorum—ac summam septem solidorum et quatuor denariorum pro augmentatione rentalis ad duos annos terminos consuentes festa viz pentecostis et sancti martini in hieme per equales portiones ac faciendo tres sectas annuatim ad tria placita capitalia regalitatis sancti Andræ apud Monimusk annuatim tenenda. Nec non heredes dicti Arthuri et assignati suprascripti duplicando dictam feudifirmaria annis anni in primo introitu cujuslibet heredis aut assignati antedicti ad singulas prenominate terras cum pendiculis et pertinentes nomine feudifirme tantum pro omnia alia onere etc.”

After the end of the Latin charter in the usual form there occur the following :

“ Item, ane irritant clause that if their fermes run together in one, that this infeftment shall be null.

“ Item, that they give their advyce help assistance and counsell to the Earle of Huntlie in his affairs as they shall be required.

“ Item, that the saide Arthur forbes, spouse and successors shall doe their grait diligence in keiping and maintaining the marches of the said lands.

“ Item, that they shall not sell, wadsett nor disown the sd lands without consent or license of the Earle of Huntlie or his successors hade and obtainit thereto, otherwayes the infeftment to be null.

“ Item, This Charter contains absolute warrandice and is daitit the 13 day of Jan. 1560 yeirs.”

At the death of Black Arthur, his estate passed to his only child, Elizabeth or Isobel and (though it, of course, was not issued until many years after), the later procuratory to her husband is also given, as it seemed better to finish here the story of how Putachie came first into the family of Forbes and later into the hands of the head of that family, becoming its principal seat.

Arthur Forbes of Putachie being killed October 10th, 1571, on May 9th, 1573, Isabella Forbes, his only child, was served heir to him, and later had quarrels with her mother over the possession of the property, as on December 1st of the same year Elizabeth or Isobel Forbes, wife of Alexander Innes of Cromy, raised letters of arrestment of the rent of the lands of Putachie, etc., and Balfour, against Christian Barclay, relict of Arthur Forbes (her mother), who had retained unjust possession of the lands.

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Two and a half years later Elizabeth or Isobel Forbes, daughter and heir of Black Arthur, issued her Procuratory, October 8th, 1575.

" Be it kend till all men be yis presents Me Elizabeth forbes the dochter and onelie air umq^{ll} Arthur forbes of Balfour wt express consent and assent of ane hon^{ll} man Alexr. Innes of Crome my spous and he for his entres To have maid constitute and ordinit And be ye tenor heerof makes constitutes and ordinis our welbeluffit freindes Wm. forbes in tullkyrie, ——¹ And Ilkane of them conjointly and severalie our verie lau^{full} endowttit and Irrevocable p^{rs} atto^{rs} factors and speciall erandberaris Givand grantd. and intromittand to yem and Ilkane of ym jointlie and severalie our expresse powar bidding and command for us and In our name to pas to ye personale presens or otherwaies to ye dwelling place of ane noble and potent Lord, George erll of Huntlie Lord Gordone and Badenoch our superior of ye land onder writtin respective als oft as beis necessar or requirit. And thair for us and In Name of me ye said Elezabet to present deliver effix upon ye yett of his duelling place ye precept or preceptis of our sovrane Lordis Chancellarie. In first secud and third formes callit Forta memimis And to require him to enter me ye said Elizabet as air to my said umq^{ll} fader to all and haill ye Landis of Puttarquhuy and half landis of ye mekill town of Keig other callit Outhtterkeig occupait sumetyme be David Strathauthin In Fey and David Strathauthin eldair wth all and haill thair toftis croftis owtseittes pendeticles and pertinente liand wtin ye barony of moinmusk and shefdome of Aberdeine conforme to ane precept of ye chancellarie direct or utheris to be direct to that effect. And to do thairefor to ye said noble Lord all yat of richt thairfor of Law conforme to ye tenor of ye said precept or preceptis and gnalie all and syndre thinges to do exerte and cause be done yat we myt. do or selves gif we war present in propir person Instruments heiron to take list and Rais in most ample forme ferme and stable haldand and for to hald all and quhatsuever thing our said p^{rs} or eny ane of ym giontlie and sevralie dois or cawss be done In ye premises under or obligationn ypothek We beand oblist and sworne, ye holie evangele twechit, never to canecall nor cum in ye contrar of ys. our pror under ye paneis of piure, infamie, and inhabilite for ever.

" In witnes of ye qlk to yis puts ye seill of My said spous for me and him Is effixt to ye same togedder wt. our subscripnes manuale.

" At Finresse² ye VIII day off October ye yere of God ane thousand five hundret Sevinte five yeres Befoir yis witnes Jhon Kynnard off Salterhill, Nicholas Innes, Peter Garrioch William Forbes with otheris diverss.

" esobell forbes wt. my hand

" Alexr. Innes off croum with my hand In token
of my cosent heirto."

(Seal impressed)

(Endorsed :—) " Esobell Forbes, procuratory."

The provision that this procuratory to William Forbes of Tilliekerrie and others unnamed, to act for her, shall *never* be revoked under " pains of perjury, infamy and inability for ever " is unusual.

¹ Left blank in MS.

² Findrassie.

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Elizabeth or Isobel Forbes, only surviving child of Black Arthur,¹ married, as his third wife, Alexander Innes, 3rd of Crombie or Cromy, who had succeeded to the estate on his father's death "under the Queen's banner" at Pinkie, September 10th, 1547.

The marriage contract is dated at Auchnacoull, December 18th, 1568.

Five years after the date of the above deed, Alexander Innes was "barbarously slain in Martin Howieson's house in Aberdeen by the Laird of Invermarkie the 13 day of April 1580." It appears to have been a cold-blooded and premeditated murder, due to family disputes. In 1588 his widow, Elizabeth or Isobel Forbes, married the Hon. Sir David Lindsay of Edzell, but died without issue. Her arms are on Edzell Castle.

This second marriage explains why in the writs of Putachie and elsewhere she appears as Lady Edzell.

The complete list of the writs of Putachie is added (down to the year 1633). (*Castle Forbes Charter Chest.*)

From a "Copie of the Minutt of the writtes of Puttachie" in a 17th century hand. (Many of these are no longer in existence.)

" 1. Imprimis—the first Charter of Puttachie and of the half lands of Ochterkiegg given be the Marquess of Huntlie to Arthur Fforbes of Balfour 1559 the last day of Nov. given at Huntlie.

" 2. Precept of saisein of the same daitt with the sd Contract.

" 3. Charter given be the Marques of Huntlie to Black Arthur and his spouse of the foresaid lands of the daitt at Aberdeen Jan. 13. 1560.

" 4. 5. Two saiseins of the said Charter of ane daitt viz. 1560 24 Feb.

" 6. Copie of the Marques of Huntlie's precept of Clare constat to Elizabeth fforbes (*daughter of Black Arthur*) of the lands of Putachie daitted July 18. 1566.

" 7. Copie of Elizabeth fforbes saisein on the foresaid precept. Sept. 36. 1568.

" 8. Copie of the Earle of Huntlie's precept of Clare constat to Elizabeth fforbes of the lands of Putachie daitted 26 Sept. 1568.

" 9. Copie of Elizabeth fforbes (*ladie Edzell*), her charter to Jon. Lo. fforbes of the lands of Putachie Oct. 14. 1578.

" 10. Copie of Jon. Lo. fforbes his saisein of Putachie upon Elizabeth fforbes charter Nov. 1578.

" 11. Charter a saisein of Patrick fferquons in the Den head.

" 12. Bundle of ten old papers of the proceedings of Elizabeth fforbes wt. the Earle of Huntlie.

" 13. David Forbes of Puttachie his charter given be Arthur Mr. of Fforbes of the

¹ One of the family historians notes that

" Soon after the death of Black Arthur and the feuds with the Gordons, the family of the chief of the Forbes' beand still declining altho' the branches rather increased."

The period during which William, 7th Lord Forbes, held the title was the most disturbed in the annals of the family, and Black Arthur, his brother, contributed not a little to the troubles, as will be seen in the ensuing chapter.

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lands of Puttachie halfe lands of Achterkeigg with consent of John Lord fforbes his father daitted at Ekgill (*Edzell*) Jany last 1604 yeirs.

" 14. Saisine on the foresaid Charter regd. in James Mowatt's books April 26, 1605.

" 15. Charter of the lands of Glentoun given to David Forbes be Arthur Lord Forbes his brother containing ane precept of sasein within itt at Puttachie Aprile 22. 1608.

" 16. Contract between Arthur Lord fforbes and David fforbes of Putachie his brother gm. The said David gives his hail rights of the foresaid lands with consent of Arthur Lord fforbes to John fforbes, second laull. son to the sd Lord Arthur, Putachie, May 24. 1616.

" 17. Ane charter given be Arthur Lo. fforbes to Jon. fforbes his son of the lands of Putachie upon David fforbeses contract betwixt my lord and him daitted att Moniemusk May 30. 1616.

" 18. Prorie of resignation of David fforbes in the superior's hands in favour and for new infetments to be given Jon fforbes of the sd lands May 24. 1616. Robt. fforbes factor of Achterkigg June 2, 1616.

" 19. Copie of inhibition—Lord fforbes and his son to sd David fforbes quhilk inhibition is daitted at Edin. Sept. 28.

" 20. Copie of some writtes thereof—the principles are in Aber. or Edin. among the rest of the writtes.

" 21. Duncan fforbes of Campbell his renunciation of Achterkigg at Aberdeen, 3rd May 1618.

" 22. Contract bet. Arthur Lo. fforbes and his son Jon. fforbes daitted at Putachie, July 6, 1633."

A most important Charter of the lands *formerly* held from Huntly, and now direct from the Crown (after the downfall of Huntly at Corrichie, October 10th. 1562).

P. 83. [48] " 20 June 1563. Charter of ye landis halden of ye Erle of Huntlie to be haldin of the Crown, in tyme cumming.

" Carta Regia sub magno sigillo Maria Regina facta consanguineo suo Willelmo domino forbes heredibus suis et assignatis hereditarie, de terris de Corsindawe, Capaittie, Ordiqhorsk, Tullicarne, Tulliereauch, Auchabaty, Rannaldauch, Tynawynneis, Tolmadis, Mekill et litell Tornawichin, Drumlassie, Barglassy, Tulefoure et Tulykera in baronia de Cluny jacentibus. Terris de Fordirbrass et Abergardin in baronia de Oboyne. Terris de Sunnahony in baronia de Mygmar. Quasquidem dictus Dominus de Forbes prius tenebat de Comitibus de Huntly in capito—nunc Tenendas de Regina et successoribus suis, quibus superioritates dictarum terrarum devolutæ sunt ratione eschætæ et forisfacturæ quondam Georgii Comitibus de Huntly."

From Berwick, on November 27th, 1571, there was another laconic letter to Cecil thus epitomised in the *State Papers* :

" *Lord Hunsdon to Lord Burghley.* Necessity of the Queen of England's proceeding in the action there without further delay. Force requisite for the winning of the Castle. If her Majesty will be at the charge of 4,000 men for a month, all Scotland shall be brought to do what she pleases. His own wish to have the

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charge of the enterprize. Till the Castle be won they will never leave craving for money. 200 men lost in the quarrel between the Forbese and the Gordons.¹ Wreck of a ship of Hull. (*Scot. Calendar State Papers*, Vol. I., No. 95.)

P. 95. "1573. The persons excepted from the jurisdiction of Huntly 'wha can nocht of reasone and equitie for the caussis forsaidis be jugeis to thame' were, among others

"William Forbes of Fetterbus, Catherine Barclay relict of umquhill Arthur Forbes of Balfour, John Forbes of Brux, John Forbes of Boyndlie, Maister Duncan Forbes of Monymusk, Robert Forbes in Echt, William Forbes of Tolquhone, Alexander Forbes of Petslego, Alexander Forbes, burgess of Aberdeen," and a very large number of other Forbese, together with many of their friends in the country such as The Johnstones of that Ilk, Several Burnets, Maister Matho Lumisden of Tullicarne, Reids, Thomsons, Bannermans Grant of Carron, Strachan of Glenkindie, Alex Skene of Skene, Robert Duguid of Auchinhove and others, 'all of whose actions are ordainit to be persewit befor the Lordis of the Counsail themselves until they take farder order.'" (*Register of Acts and Decrees*, Vol. II.)

P. 95. Yet another attempt by King James' Government to settle the Gordon-Forbes feud. (From the *Acts of Parliament, Scotland, 1579*):

"Act anent the debatable causs betwix the gordonis and forbefis.

"The supplica^onis presentet to the Kingis Mat^{ie} and Lordis of Articles of his present Pliamēt be George Erll of Huntlie lord gordoun and Badzenot, sone and air of umqle George Erll of Huntlie, last depairtit, for himself and the rest of his kin, freindis and servandis, dependaris on his hous, requiring the hail actionis of spuilzie depredationis and demolitionis contenit in the preceptis and clames o Williame Lord Forbes, Johnne Mr. of forbes his sone, thair adherentis quhatsoever as Comittit aganis the teno^r of the abstinence concludit and aggreit upoun the secund day of July 1572 to be declarit to be exstinguisit expyrit and prescrivit in all tyme cuing according to the tenno^r of the pacifica^oun and the saidis Williame Lord forbes Johnne Mr. of forbes thair adherentis and utheris foirsaid nevir to be hard to persew and walkin the family in tyme cuming and likwyse desyring that command may be gevin to the Lordis of Session to proceid and minister justice in the cause persewit be the said Erll of Huntlie and his father brother aganis the saidis Lord and Mr. of Forbes and certane utheris thair surname and dependaris on the House of Forbes for removing fra the landis and baroneis of Keig and Monymusk. According to the warning maid befor the Feist of Witsounday 1576 zeiris notwstanding the Act of Parliament purchest be the saidis Lord and Master and thair adherents at the last Parliament haldin at edinbur^t the xj day of November 1579 yeris dischargeing the Lordis of Sessioun of all proceiding in the same cause unto the tyme decreittis were pronunceit in the saidis actionis persewit for the spuilzeis and depreda^onis allegeit done efter the tyme of the abstinence. Qlk Act tendis only to the frustration of justice. The said Erll of Huntlie and his father brother quhome it concernit in speciall And quha my^t have informit his Hines and his estatis thairanent nevir being callit thairto nor hard thairin. As at mair length is contenit in the said supplica-

¹ Battle of Tillieangus. (See page 91.)

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tionis, oure Sovereane Lord with advise of his three estatis in this present Parliament decernis and declaris that the said pacificatioun sall stand firme and inviolable in favour of the said Erll of Huntlie his kin friendis servandis and dependaris on his house. And that the haill actionis of spuillies depredationis and demolitionis contenit in the preceptis and clames of Williame Lord Forbes, Johnne Mr. of Forbes his sone thair dependaris and uthers above writtin aganis the said Erll of Huntly his father-brother his kin friendis servandis and dependaris on his hous, as committit aganis the tenor of the said abstinence are and salbe extinguisit expyrit and prescrivit in all tymes cuming heirefter and the said Lord and Mr. of forbes thair adherentis and utheris forisaidis nevir to be hard to persew and walkin the same in ony tyme cuming. And sic like declaris and decernis be Act of Parliament purchest be the said Lord and Mr. of Forbes thair kin and adherentis in the Parliament haldin at Edinburgh the xj day of November 1579 yeris, to *expyre* and be extinct in all tymes heirefter. Qlk act dischargeit the Lordis of Counsale and Sessionn to proceid in the caus of removing of the said Lord and Mr. and thare freindis fra the landis and barony of Keig and Monymusk. Ay and qll decreittis were pronunceit in the actionis of spuillie depredationis and demolitionis persewit be the said Lord Mr. and thair freindis aganis the said Erll of Huntlie his father-brother and utheris foresaidis and zit His Ma^{tie} and thre estatis in his Parliament, considering that the debetable causes, deidly feidis and contraversies betuix the saidis pairteis ar not yit removit and takin away to the said submissioun maid to that effect the tyme thairof being expirit, his Hines gude will and intentioun remayning to have the family yit done thes, thairfoir thocht meit be advise of his qrthrow his Hines as odman and owrisman with advise of sic of his Privie Counsale as he sall elect and call unto him may gif finall decisioon toward the saidis deidly feidis and contraversies. Quhairupoun decreit pronuncit at the furthest betuix and the tent day and the saidis causes into brocht, civill and criminall, not being determinat & decidit be the submissioun foirsaid in that caise ather of the saidis partijs sall have place to persew utheras for quhatsumever cause except sic as ar takin away be this present Act and the pacificaioun foirsaid, qlk o^r souerane Lord ordanis to haif full effect in all tyme cuming."

In 1580 the Privy Council resolved to take steps to put an end to the "deadlie feuds" between the Gordons and the Forbesees, and in the following year was still making investigations into the matter. There were complaints on both sides of breaches of the truce proclaimed by the Council and a further Act followed.

"Acta. Parl. Jac. VI A.D. 1581.

"*Act of compromit betwix the gordonis and fforbess.*

"OURE SOUERANE LORD and his estates convenit in this present parliament considering THAT THE DEIDLIE FEIDIS QUERRELLS AND CONTRAVERSEIS BETUIX HIS HINES SUBJECTIS AND THE SURNAME OF GORDOUN AND FORBES AND THAIR PTAKERS AR NOT YIT REMOVED AND TAKIN AWAY BE THE FORMAIR SUBMISSIOUN MAID TO THAT EFFECT, THE TYME THAIROF BEING NOW EXPIRIT AND HIS HINES GUDE WILL AND INTENTIOUN REMAYNING TO HAVE THE SAME YIT DONE, HES THAIRFOIR THOCHT MEIT BE ADVISE OF HIS SAID ESTATIS THAT THE SAIDIS DEBETABLE

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CAUSES DEIDLIE FEIDIS AND CONTRAVERSIES SALBE SUBMITTIT OF NEW TO CERTANE FREINDIS ON ATER SYDE ACCORDING TO THE QULK HIS MAT^{els} PLES^r AND GUDE WILL REMAYNYNG, BEING IN THE SEALF SA GODLIE AND RESSONABLE, ANE NOBLE AND MIGHTY LORD GEORGE ERL OF HUNTLEIE LORD GORDOUN AND BAIDENO(H)T WITH EXPRESS CONSENT AND ASSENT OF JOHNE GORDOUN OF LOCHINVER AND PATRIK GORDOUN OF AUCHINDOUN CURATOR^s TO THE SAID ERL FOR THAIR INTERESSE FOR THAME SELFISS AND TAKAND THE BORDING ON THAME FOR THEHAILL KIN FREINDIS S^vVANDIS AND PTAKERS OF THE SAID ERL OF HUNTLEIE, ON THE ANE PAIRT, AND ANE NOBLE LORD WILLIAME LORD FORBES AND JOHNNE MAISTER OF FORBES HIS SONE AND APPERAND AIR FOR THEME SELFISS AND TAKAND BURDING ON THAME FOR THE HAILL KIN FREINDIS S^vRVANDIS AND PTAKERS OF THE SAID LORD FORBES ON THE UTHER PAIRT, HES SUBMITTIT AND BE THE TENNO^r HEIREOF SUBMITTIS ALL QUERRELLS DEIDLIE FEIDIS AND CAUSES DEBETABLE ALSWELL CRIMINAL AS CIVILL THAT HES FALLIN OUT AND HAPPYNIT BETUIX THAME SEN THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER THE YEIR (1571) OF GOD J^m V^o THRESCOIR ELLEVIN YERIS TO THE PERSONIS UNDERWITTIN. THEY AR TO SAY FOR THE PAIRT OF THE SAID ERL OF HUNTLEIE HIS NAME FRIENDIS AND PAIRTAKERS FOIRSAID, ROBERT COMMENDATAIR OF DONFERMLING SECRETAIR TO OUR SOVERANE LORD, MARK COMMENDATAIR OF NEWBOTTL & ALEX^r HAY, CLERK OF REGⁿE AND FOR THE PAIRT OF THE SAID LORD AND M^r. OF FORBES THAIR NAME FREINDIS AND PTAKERS GEORGE ERL OF MARISCHAL PATRIK LORD LINDSAY OF THE BYRIS AND MR. JAMES HALYBURTOUN PROVOST OF DUNDEE. QLK PERSONIS CHOSIN FOR BAYth THE SAIDIS PTEIS SALL CONVENE HEIR AND DETERMINAT THE SAIDS DEBETABLE CAUSES DEIDLIE FEIDIS AND CONTRAVERSEIS IN THE KINGIS MAT^{els} PRESENCE WHERE HIS HINES SALHAPPIN TO BE FOR THE TYME UPOUN SIC DAY OR DAYES AS HIS HINES AND THE SAID LORDIS BEING WITH HIS MAT^{le} SALLAPPOINT, SA THAT ALWAYSES THAIR SENTENCE DECREIT ARBITRALL AND DELYVERANCE SALBE PRONUNCIT BETUIX AND THE TENTH DAY OF FEBRUAR NIXTOCUM AND IN CAISS ONY VARIANCE RESULT UPOUN THE PREMISSES QUHAIR THROW THE SAIDIS ARBITORS SALL NOT HAPPIN TO AGGRIE AND APPOINT AMANGIS THAME SELFISS THEN THEI SALL REPORT IN PRESENCE OF HIS MAT^{le} AND COUNSALE THE MATERS AND POINTIS QRIN THE VARIANCE STANDIS QRTHROW HIS HIENES AS ODMAN AND OWERSMAN COMMONLY CHOSIN BE BAYth THE SAIDIS PAIRTEIS WITH ADVISE OF SAMONY OF HIS PRIVIE COUNSELL AS HE SALL ELECT AND CALL UNTO HIM, MAY GIF FINALL DECISIOUN TOWARD THE SAIDIS DEIDLIE FEIDS AND CONTRAVERSEIS QUHAIRUPON DECREIT SALBE PRONUNCIT BETUIX AND THE TENTH DAY OF MARCHE NIXTOCUM ATTOURE BAYth THE SAIDS PAIRTIS SALL DELIVER THIR CLAMES GIF ONY FURTHER THEI HAVE, NOR IS ALREADY GEVIN, TO THE CLERK OF SECREIT COUNSALE BETUIX AND THE TENTH DAY OF DECEMBER NIXTOCUM QLKIS BEING INTERCHEYNGEABLE DELIVERIT AGANE TO THE PAIRTIIS THEY SALL MAK AND DELIVER THEIR ANSWERS HINC INDE TO THE SAID CLERK WITHIN TEN DAYS THEREFTER AND QUHATEVER THE SAIDS JUGEIS ARBITORS AND AMICABLE COMPOSITORS IN ANE VOCE, OR THE MAIST PAIRT OF THAME IN ANE VOCE. BEING CONVENIT IN EQUALL NUMBER IN HIS MAT^{les} PRESENCE AS SAID IS, OR IN CACE OF VARIANCE HIS MAT^{le} WITH ADVISE AS SAID IS, PRONUNCES DECREITTIS AND DELIVERIS IN THE PREMISSES AMICABLE BAYth THE SAIDIS PARTYS FOR THAME SELFISS AND TAKAND THE BURDING ON THAME AS SAID IS, SALL ABYDE UNDERLY

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& FULFILL THE SAMY TO UTERS BUT APPELLATIOUN RECLAMATIOUN OR CONTRADICTION QUHATSUMEVER, ATTO^r BAYth THE SAIDIS PAIRTIJS FOR THAME SELFISS AND TAKAND THE BURDING ON THAME AS SAID IS, AR CONTENT AND CONSENTIS THAT THE ASSURANCE ALRWADY TAKIN AND AGGREIT UPOUN TO STAND BETUIX THAME UNTO THE FIRST DAY OF APRILE NIXTOCUM SALL REMANE AND YIT CONTINEW UNTO THE FIRST DAY OF JUNIJ NIXTOCUM QLK THEY PROMĪT TO OBSERVE AND KEIP UNVIOLAT IN ONY POYNT UNDER THE PANIS CONTENIT THEREIN QHAIRATTO^r BAYth THE SAIDIS PARTIJS AR CONTENT AND CONSENTIS THAT THIS PRESENT COMPROMIT AND SUBMISSIOUN WITH THE DECREIT ARBITRALE THAT SAL HAPPIN TO BE PRONUNCIT AND GEVIN THAIRUPOUN BE ACTIT AND REGRAT IN THE BUIKIS OF PRIVE COUNSALE AND SESSIOUN TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF ANE ACT AND DECREIT OF THE LORDIS THEREOF AND THAT LETTERS AND EXECUTORELLS BE DIRECT THAIRUPOUN IN FORME AS EFFEIRIS AND FOR ACTING AND REGISTRING OF THE SAME IN THE SAIDIS BUIKIS IN WITNESS OF THE QLK THING, BAYth THE SAIDS PTHJS AND ARBITO^{rs} IN TAKIN OF THEIR ACCEPTA^{oun} TO THIS PRESENT COMPROMIT IN AND UPOUN THAME AS ALSWA THEIR SOVERANE LORD HES SUBSCRIVIT THIS PRESENTS WITH THAIR HANDIS AS FOLLOWIS AT . . . THE XXVIJ DAY OF NOVEMBER THE YEIR OF GOD J^m V^o FOURESCOIR ANE YEIRIS."

The family of the 7th Lord is to be found in detail on pp. 94-95.

A curious detail as to the second marriage of his 7th daughter, Barbara, occurs in *Pitcairn's Criminal Trials*, "Nov. 25, 1598, Alexander Hay, Laird of Delgaty was summoned for the cryme of adultery with his pretendit spouse, Barbara Forbes. He did not appear and his defence was that he was lying sick of ane indigestion and cruditie in his stomach with ane great squalling in his haille belly that he might not travel to Edinburgh." This defence was allowed, and the result of the trial in the following year is not recorded.