

ART. IV.—*Cumberland and "The Forty-Five"*—some letters. By MAJOR J. P. DALTON.

THE letters given below were written by my great-great-great grandmother Mrs. Dorothy Palmer of Great Broughton to her son the Rev. Thomas Palmer of Hull. They are of some interest as providing a view of the Rebellion as it appeared to a Cumbrian country dweller at the time. The siege of Carlisle naturally figures prominently in them and the information here given should be compared with that to be found in "Carlisle in 1745" (ed. G. G. Mounsey, Carlisle, 1846).

I have added to them copies of some curious verses—"The Power of Dissonances exemplified on Jericho, Sir John Cope and Carlisle" and "The Surrender of Carlisle, by the Revd. Mr. Jno. Harrison of Bridekirk." My great-great grandfather Henry Dalton of Eaglesfield (1723-78) took part in the defence of Carlisle and I have in my possession the sword he used on the occasion.

The contractions in the text have been expanded.

(1)

Great Broughton

Oct. 28, 1745.

As for us hear at Broughton and the towns about we are not so terrified about the Rebills marching this way, as we were some time since, nor do we think the Rebills will attempt to take Carlisle should they come that way, the place being well provided with all things for a siege, and the Inhabitants resolved to loose their lives before they surrender the town.

There's in the town now six Companies of Militia, and one Company of Light Horse and abt. 40 of Cope's men who were taken prisoners at the late battle of Preston having made their Escape and since they came have taken up a man for a spy who

was seeing the Light Horse exercise, and they gave affidavit, that they saw the same man among the Rebels at the battle.

The Pretender and his rebellious Company the last week were returned to Edinburgh, and kept under great fear of Castle not daring to appear within the reach of the Cannon, since we have news that they drew up into a body, left Edinburgh and a second time marched South.

There is a man come from Edinburgh who gives an Acct. that he was there at the time of the battle, and see the Engagement, gives this Acct. that the English at the beginning fired about six pieces of cannon at the Highlanders and one round with their muskets before the rebels attacked sword in hand and the Engagement seemed Equal some few minutes but the English having a want (?) of their swords, having left them on the other side the Forth were obliged to turn and fly, he says the night before the battle Gen. Cope was with the Pretender some hours and that Gardner having come whispering of it to Cope he supposed that himself—meaning Cope—should fly and he should be in danger of losing his life which accordingly happens. He says that when he left Edinburgh the Pretender's army did not exceed six thousand, and the loss at the battle was near Equall on both sides an account since that there's 800 deserted since, and that his army dayly diminish, siverell persons (are?) take up and committed to gaol for drinking the Pretender's health. Ben. Cope is gone Prisoner to London with one James Lockhart, Esq. who surrendered himself prisoner to Cope at Berwick we having nothing to add but our prayer to the all wise God to keep us all from the hands of these unnatural Highlanders.

I am

Dor: Palmer.

(2)

Great Broughton

Nov. 12th 1745.

I shall give you the best acc^t about the rebels which is now current (viz.) on the 4th of this Instant their came an Express to Cockermouth that the rebels were at Moffat and the Towns adjacent, and Dayly Expresses advised of their nearer approach toward us on Friday last about four of the Light Horse being sent out to spy for the rebels observed an Highlander at some distance from them upon an hill, they agreed to ride up to him and Examine him, so cocked their Guns, Galloped up to him, one

Killpatrick an Attorney at Workintown the first Clapt his Gun to his breast, asked his errand told him if he either moved or resisted, he would shoot him dead upon the spot, so he surrendered, so they brought him to Carlisle, he had four Pistolls, 2 on his saddle one in each Pockett, a Carabine, and broad sword he was supposed to be one of the Quarter Measters Generals Genteelly dressed a breast plate on Plenty of Gould but neither Powder nor ball with him, they sent him to Newcastle on Saturday under a Guard of Ten Light Horse on Saturday the rebels appeared on King Moor so the Governor of Carlisle ordered all Country People forthwith to repair out of the town, the flag at the Castle hung out, and a messenger sent to demand upon what errand they came the Pretender told him to receive his right And if the Governor would suffer him to pass Quietly thro Carlisle upon his word and Honour not a man should be disturbed, but if he refused they would lay the town in ashes but upon his arrival the Governor fired a Cannon to lett them know they were resolved to give them battle, he would neither trust his word nor Honour, then they demanded Contribution but they refused, the Castle kept a slow firing all Saturday after noon till within night, so the rebels marched of Crossed Eden at Pertwath, near Rockcliff. Pitched their tents at Beernin Church, one part, the other at Gratna Green, the officers were billeted in the Country Towns, the Pretender lay at Thomas Sturdy's of Low Murris they payd for every thing they had, shews very civil in all respects save takeing horses to dray their Baggage and Artillery, on Sunday morning they moved to Carlisle Moor their Pitched their tents, the Castle begun about two on Sunday morning to Cannonade the rebels most severly which lasted till day then ceased, 'twas Generall opinion that both parties were Ingaged, and when the firing ceased, thought Carlisle had been taken, but the rebels never fired a Gun, these struck their tents at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, marched towards Coornorvdeale, and since they have being marching in small Parties the same way with the waggons.

Carlisle kept a slow firing most part of Sunday, and on Monday, but we have had such foggy weather that they only shoot at randome, but we hear that they have killed some of the rebels, but the number uncertain, this day an Express came to Cocker-mouth, that they had left Carlisle, and marching towards Penrith, we're all in the utmost consternation here, especially at Whitehaven and Workintown, where they have shipped their best effects and put to sea most places about have removed their best effects

I have sent our Horse with 2 of Bro: Fletchers to Mrs. Clarke at Buttermere . . .

Dor. Palmer.

(3)

Great Broughton,

Dec. 2, 1745.

In our last we gave you an Acct. of the taking of Carlisle, we can give you little more only their behaviour during their stay at Carlisle, which was much shorter than expected occasioned by the Army at Newcastle marching from that Place towards Carlisle, which the rebels hearing on Monday night begun their march on Tuesday, and continued till Friday, they left about 200 Highlanders to guard the town. We dont hear that they have moved any Cannon from the Place, they have 10 Pieces of Canon 3 Pounders, 150 Carriages, 18 Sumpter Horses, etc., the time they stay'd in Carlisle they behaved in a most beastly manner spoyling all the places where they lay, and especially St. Mary's Church. there came about thirty to Wigton, bought Boots and Shoes, did no other Damage, we don't hear of any being at Oulton, the Country round about Carlisle suffered severly by them taking what they liked without asking any Question, they marched from Carlisle to Penerith from thence to Kendal, and so into Lancashire betwixt Carlisle and Kendal they took about 100 Horses from the Country People.

Last Wednesday, about 20 fell to Plunder Lowther Hall, but 30 armed men from Penerith surrounded the Place killed 2 wounded 1 and took 7 Prisoners, 19 Horses a Portmantric in which was 300 Pounds, they have Carried y^t to the Army, an Express that Lord Loudon had engaged 4000 in Scotland gott the Victory, we hear the rebels are at Preston, our Army but 3 miles distant and expects an Account of an Engagement every day.

Dor. Palmer.

(4)

Great Broughton

Jan. 5th, 1746.

We all were glad to hear that Hull and the parts adjacent were not visited by those Infamous Savages and Plunders, we all give you thanks for your advice about these rebels, tho the Duke had

Invested Carlisle before we rec^d your Letter (on Dec. 23). As to the return of the rebels we had various Acc^{ts} till they had marched to Lancaster, then we had certain advice of them their, then a false report came that the Duke had come up with them, and entirely routed them upon which report the Sheriffe sent Warrants to raise the County to take up those that had escaped the brave Duke, which was done most People shewing great willingness in obeying the warrants, we all met at Cocker-mouth and then divided into two Parties, one marched to Keswick with the High Sheriff, the other to Ierby with the under Sheriff, but an other Express arrived brought advice that the main body of the rebels, were come into Penrith, we were all dismissed, so we all returned home, next day an order from his Royal Highness came, to meet him at Carlisle on the 20th of December which all obey'd, so from Broughton sett forward on the 19th the day after the first Division of rebels Entred Carlisle On the 20th yo^{rs} two Bro: went to Heskett in the Forest, half way betwixt Penrith and Carlisle, but the Army did not march that day, stayed all night next day the Duke marched from Penrith, came with the Center of his army thro Heskett, so they marched along with the Army within half a mile of Carlisle, they see the Duke draw the Center up in Order of Battle on a place called Carleton Common, the Army marched in three Colums, one to the Irish Gates one Col: towards the Scots and the Duke in the Center to the English Gates. In the return of the rebels a Party posted themselves behind the Hedges about 2 miles from Penrith near a Place called Clifton, and as a Party of Dragoons were marching down the Lane the rebels fired upon them In the Skirmish we had 12 men killed and some wounded, the rebels had about 60 killed and 46 made prisoners.

The main body of the rebels marched out of Carlisle on the 19th and 20th and in crossing the water several of them were drowned. When the Army had Invested the City round, the rebels fired upon them from the Castle but did no hurt. On Dragoon and 6 Foot marched directly to the English Gate knocked demanded to be open'd for Duke Willm and his Army, but the rebels fired upon them from the walls and Lodged 3 Muskett balls in the Dragoon's Arm, the Duke (sent ?) for ten Pieces of Cannon 18 Pounder from Whitehaven, 6 Pieces arrived on the 24th then the Duke order the County to appear again to make the Trenches, and cut wood to make the Batteries of. On the 26th the Trenches were open'd and the Batteries fixed and Guns mounted on the 27th at night, On the 28th abt. 7 o'clock in the

morning they begun to cannonade the City. Both Parties kept a Hot fire till about Eleven o'clock when they dismounted one of the 4 Guns Battery, and the rebels Ceased (their ?) fire, about 12 they beat round the City to their Arms, about 1 o'clock returned to their fire but out of light Guns could only fire three, all the Day they played hard against the Castle walls, in the Evening they brought a Cohorn mortar to the Trench, and as soon as Dark flung Cohorns into the Castle and Town. The 29th the firing continued, on the 30th the rebels hung out the white Flag from the Castle in the morning, so the firing Ceased, in the after noon, they left the Castle fled for Safety into St. Marys Church, and betwixt 7 and eight at night the Soldiers Entred the City, Plundred the Castle, took all the rebels Prisoners, the noble Duke entred the City on the 31st about nine in the morning, the number of Prisoners taken in Carlisle is about 500, Among whom is Esqr Salkeld of Whitehall about 5 Belonging to the City, and 100 from Lancashire, &c.

During the Seige, the Duke but Lost one man, but the rebels had about 50 killed and wounded, the Duke sett forward for London upon the 2nd Inst. (Jan. 2nd 1746).

Dor. Palmer.

APPENDIX.

The following verses are quoted in the letter of 6 Jan, 1746.

I. THE POWER OF DISSONANCES, Exemplified in Jericho, Sir John Cope, and Carlisle.

To sway the Gentle, and the Generous warm,
 Please the Politist, and the Curious charm,
 The Soul to ravish, and Enchant the Heart,
 By Harmony, and Musick's various art.
 Quick dancing Fingers and a flying hand
 Let Handel, and Let Avison Command.
 Vain boast of human Power! how feeble found,
 Compar'd wth Dissonance and horrid sound
 Twixt this and that unspeakable the odds
 Great as between old Heroes and old Gods
 For lo! 'tis this performs the Feats of Wonder
 Beyond ev'n Drums and Trumpets, Guns and Thunder
 So Jericho of old to Ruin cast
 Her walls all tumbled at a Ram's horn blast

Thus a whole Army Put to hideous Rout
 Let Cope bear Witness, by a Highland shout
 This too let Carlisle, frighted Carlisle tell
 To Squeaking Bagpipes how her city fell
 If each of these a part could overthrow
 Copes Army, Carlisle, and old Jericho
 What might we dread should all in concert jump
 A shock too nature like the Worlds last trump
 Ram's horns, Scots Bagpipes, and a Highland Yell
 Would scare the Devil and Doubly fright all Hell.

II. THE SURRENDER OF CARLISLE by the Rev^d Mr.
 Jno. Harrison of Bridekirk.

Come hear you my Song
 Its not very long
 And I will the story relate
 How some did beguile
 The City Carlisle
 To the rebels we mortaly hate.

The train band you know
 Were order'd to go
 And Garrison safely the Town
 And would without doubt
 Have kept the rogues out
 If th' Officers had not laid down.

For the men did behave
 Most Gallant and brave
 Like soldiers their Enemies fac'd
 Till the word of Command
 Put them all to a stand
 To make their best way of in haste.

For the Captains did Cry
 We must shortly die
 Such pannick the Cowards posses'd
 We'el Home to our wives,
 And save out Sweet Lives
 We care not what come of the rest.

The Chancellour oppos'd
 The motion propos'd
 And quickly the walls did ascend,
 Most Loudly did call
 The officiors all
 The Castle and Town to Defend.

But presently they
 Did all run away,
 But Gilpin¹ and some of renown
 Who manfully stood
 To venture their blood
 In defence of their Country and Crown.

Let them wear the Bays
 With honour and praise
 While they that refused like a Cope
 Give them what is due
 To a Treach'rous Crew
 And that I must tell you's a rope.

For if in one mind
 They'd heartly Joyn'd
 And play'd their guns at a distance,
 They would have kept out
 The Rabbelly rout
 Till Wade had come with assistance.

They tamely submit
 Without being hit
 And gave up the Town to Plunder
 To a ragged Scot
 Who ne'er made a Shot
 Surprises the world wth winder.

Let Farrah² give o'er
 And tell us no more
 What mighty exploits he hath done
 The Cock we think still
 Is but a Dunghill
 When pitted that offers to run.

¹ Capt. John Barnard Gilpin, Commanding one of the Companies of Invalids at Carlisle

² Major M. Farrer of the Militia, mentioned in "Authentic account of the Occupation of Carlisle in 1745 by Prince Ch. Ed. Stuart," G. G. Mounsey, 1846.