Inquiry respecting the Library, &c. of King James IV.

what is "the vein of Ancients," commemorative of the proud origin of the relic, and of the degradation to which it was doomed.

"Cum Lartisio oppidum apud Scottos non incenderit, et Edinburgus primaria apud eos civitas incendio conflagrarent, Richardus Lewis, eques auratus, in flammas seceptum ad Anglos percutit. Hucus ego tanti benefici memori, non nisi regem liberos lavare solutus, nunc mean operam istam infimis Anglorum liberenter condux. Lewis victor sec voluit. Vale. Anno Domini MDXLIII, et Anno Regni Henrici Octavi XXXVI." i.e. "When Leith, a town of some importance, and Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, were consumed by fire, Sir Richard Lee, Knight of the Garter, rescued me from the flames, and brought me to England. Not forgetful of this favour, who was accustomed to baptize only the children of kings, now submit to do the same office even to the meanest of the English nation. Let the Conqueror has so ordained. Farewell.

A.D. 1543-4.

The font, a century afterwards, fell into the hands of Cromwell's soldiers during the civil war, and was probably destroyed by them for the sake of the metal.

Whether any of the Norris family were concerned in the expedition of 1544, cannot now perhaps be ascertained: it appears, however, from the Pedigree at page 7 of this Inquiry, that William Norris was killed during the subsequent expedition of 1547.

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In Mr Hinuchilffi's communication to the Society of London Antiquaries, where mention is made of the prevalence of the tradition, "that part of the carved ornaments at Speke were brought from Scotland," he adds, "It may be as well to remark, that in the great hall there are two figures of Angels, entirely gilt, in form such as are introduced under canopies in rich Gothic architecture, above the wainscot, which, according to the fashion of the day when it was executed, does not reach to the ceiling, and evidently making no part in the general scheme of the decoration."

(Archæologia, XIV. 22.) These figures, as Mr Hinuchilffi suggests, might have been trophies brought from Scotland; but unfortunately, as we learn by a subsequent communication from Mr Wharton, these Angels were removed from Speke Hall before his sketches were made, in 1827, and as he could then get no tidings of them, it is to be feared they had been destroyed.


II.—An Account of the Assassination of Sir George Lockhart, President of the Session, by John Chiesley of Dalry, 31st March 1689.

Communicated by Patrick Fraser Tytlar, Esq. Advocate, F. S. A. Scot. and F. R. S. E.

[F. S. A. Scot. and F. R. S. E.; Read 12th January 1829.]

It is well known that Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath, President of the Court of Session, was assassinated by Chiesley of Dalry. The following curious account of this barbarous transaction is taken from a manuscript volume, entitled Hay's Memoirs: preserved in the library of the Faculty of Advocates.

"Upon the 31st of March [1689], Sir George Lockhart, President of the Session, was shot by Chiesley of Dalry, going down his own close, upon Easter Sunday, after the first sermon. This Chiesley had sent a letter to the President at London, telling him that he had taken the government of his family from him (meaning that he had settled an estate on his lady and children, who were starving), and therefore desired a speedy remedy, else he would attack him either in church or market.

"It was not known that the villain was come from London till Sunday the 31st, which day he came to the New church, and offered money to the bedder for a part of my Lord Castlehill's seat, just behind the President, whom he designed to have murdered there; but not getting the seat, he would have none at all, and walked up and down the church till the end of the sermon. When sermon was done, Chiesley went out before the President, and gained his close head, where he saluted him going down, as the President did Chiesley. My Lord Castlehill and Daniel Lockhart conveyed [the President] a pace down the close, and talked a while with him, after which they both de-


2 See Arnot's Criminal Trials, p. 153.
parted. The President called back the last, and whilst Daniel was returning, Dalrey approached, to whom Daniel said, "I thought you had been at London," without receiving any other answer than that "He was there now." Daniel offered to take him by the hand, but the other shuffled by him, and coming close to the Presidents back discharged his pistol, before that any suspected his design: The bullet going in beneath the right shoulder, and out at the left pap, was battered on the wall.

The President immediately turned about, looked the murderer grievously in the face; and then finding himself beginning to fail, he learnt to the wall, and said, "Hold me, Daniel; hold me." These were his last words. He was carried immediately to his own house, and was almost dead before he could reach it. Daniel and the Presidents Chaplain apprehended, in the mean time, Dalrey, who own'd the fact, and never offered to fly. He was carried to the guard, kept in the Weigh-house, and afterwards taken to prison.

The Presidents Lady, hearing the shot and a cry in the closs, got in her smock put of her bed, and took the dead bodie in her arms, at which sight the guard, kept in the Weigh-house, and afterwards taken to prison.

"The Presidents Ladie," hearing the shot and a cry in the closs, got in her smock put of her bed, and took the dead bodie in her arms, at which sight swounding she was carried to her chamber. The corps were laid in the same room where he used to consult. The first of April a Meeting of the States was call'd, att nine of the clock, anent the Murtherer. The Provost of Edinburgh and two Bailiffs, with the Earle of Errol's deputies, were admitted to concur if they pleased. Two of each bench of the meeting, viz. the Earle of Eglington and Glocarne, Sir Patrick Ogilvy of Boyne and Blackbarroure, Barons, Sir John Dalrymple and Mr William Hamilton, Burgesses, were impatient to sit on the Assize, and to cause torture Dalrey, to know if any other was accessarie to the murther. The President's friends, out of tenderness to the Ladie, and childring, did not insist upon the crime of assassination of Barons, Sir John Dalrymple and Mr William Hamilton, Burgesses, were Eglinton and Glencarne, Sir Patrick Ogilvy of Boyne and Blackbarroure, 5 other was accessarie to the murther. The President's friends, out of tender-

- The President Lockhart was perhaps one of the ablest men, and certainly one of the most profound lawyers, that have ever appeared in Scotland. Sir George Mackenzie's character of him is well known. *Lockartius corpus alternum Juris Civilis, alterque Cicero dicit poterat. Illi etiam peculator erat argumenta suo ex ordine disperse ut tamquam lapides in fornicis alter alterum sustineret: quem ex improviso, dum oraret, ei ingeniosus, prompta solertia indicabat, aptissque locis disponebat. Nihil ab eo abscondit jurisprudentia et quas primum causas illi a cliente aperiretur, sua omnia, omniaque adversarii argumenta retexebat, et iri ipsam sententiam qua desinienda erat causa, pene-travit. Incedit, quas alios creatores turbat, eum tantum excitare solebat; "voce tamen latratu, tumultuque rugis deformatum."

This high character is confirmed by Bishop Burnet. "He was," says this author, speaking of the President Lockhart, "the most learned lawyer and the best pleader I have ever yet known in any nation." 6 Chiesley, who was a profligate but determined villain, had openly avowed his resolution to commit the murder; and it appeared, from the evidence adduced at the trial, that the President had been repeatedly informed of Chiesley's threats of vengeance; but he was naturally courageous, and despised the warning. The character of the Assassin was shown by his demeanour when he was apprehended. On hearing that his victim had almost instantly expired, he declared, with savage exultation, that "He was not used to do things by halves."

The Close where the murder was committed is that known by the name of the Bank Close, on the south side of the Lawnmarket. The Lady Grange, who was long confined by her husband in the island of

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3 This was Alexander Walker. See Arnot's Crim. Trials, p. 152.
4 It appeared in the evidence at the trial, that the President's Lady was at this time visited by illness.
5 This word should be Blackbarony. The person here meant is Sir William Murray of Blackbarony. Arnot's Crim. Trials, p. 151.
Account of the Assassination of Sir George Lockhart.

St Kilda, and who afterwards died a solitary and wretched captive in one of the Western Isles, was a daughter of this Chiesley of Dairy. She inherited, it is said, the fierce spirit of her Father, and previous to her captivity, during an occasional quarrel with Grange, had thrown out some threatening hints bidding him remember " that she was Chiesly's Daughter;" insinuating that she might be provoked to imitate the lesson of paternal vengeance.

The following Letter to the Secretary, from Sir Walter Scott, Baronet, in reference to Mr Tytler's communication, was read to the Society, 26th January 1829.

Dear Sir,

I return the curious and particular account of Sir George Lockhart's murder by Chiesly of Dairy. It is worthy of antiquarian annotation, that Chiesley was appointed to be gibbetted, not far from his own house, somewhere about Drumsheugh. As he was a man of family, the gibbet was privately cut down and the body carried off. A good many years since some alterations were in the course of being made in the house of Dairy, when, on enlarging a closet or cellar in the lower story, a discovery was made of a skeleton, and some fragments of iron, which (were) generally supposed to be the bones of the murderer Chiesley. His friends had probably concealed them there when they were taken down from the gibbet, and no opportunity had occurred for removing them before their existence was forgotten. I was told of the circumstance by Mr James Walker, then my brother in office, and proprietor of Dairy: I do not however recollect the exact circumstance, but I dare say Francis Walker Drummond can supply my deficiency of memory.

Yours truly,

WALTER SCOTT.

Shandwick Place, 15th January 1829.

To E. W. A. Drummond Hay, Esq.

III.—An Inquiry respecting the Site of the Battle of Mons Grampius.


[Read 27th April, 14th December, 1829, and 11th and 25th January, 1830.]

The Battle of Mons Grampius, fought between the Caledonians on one side, and the Romans under Agricola on the other, has long been an interesting subject of inquiry. Yet notwithstanding all that has been said and written upon the subject, few seem satisfied that the Site of it has been ascertained with that accuracy which modern history requires. Nor is this at all to be wondered at; for Tacitus, to whom we are indebted for the account of the battle, in writing the Life of Agricola, has gone but little into detail, in the geographical description of the country. He has merely laid down particular headlands, as it were, and left us to steer our course the best way we can between them. Yet notwithstanding these difficulties, there are still several sources of information open to us, from which we may draw pretty accurate conclusions.

In reading the Life of Agricola we become acquainted with the character of the General, and are thus enabled to form an estimate of the style of his operations; for the Historian has represented him to us as consistent in all his plans; cautious, though enterprising; leaving as little as possible to chance; and not likely to overrun a country, unless with a view of making a permanent conquest of it. Much may also be gathered from the Roman camps and stations still in existence, or of which, though now obliterated, we have authentic accounts. But in tracing the march of Agricola, one of our surest guides, I conceive, will be the topography of the country; for, however much the art of war may change from age to age, mountains, rivers, and other natural obstacles must always continue in a great measure to regulate the march of armies. As to tradition, I am not inclined to give more credit to it than it.