

IV.

NOTES ON THE RECORD ROOM OF THE CITY OF PERTH. By DAVID MARSHALL, F.S.A. Scot.

Having been recently employed by the Magistrates of Perth in arranging the contents of their Record Room, it has occurred to me that some notes on it will not be without interest to the members of this Society, considering the importance of "the Fair City," in our national history. The Record Room is a fire-proof apartment, in two divisions, and exceptionally dry—many of the papers had at one time, however, suffered from damp—built for the purpose of holding the Records, and is situated on the ground floor, below the Town Clerk's offices, in the municipal buildings.

On entering the room one day in September 1894, a glance sufficed to show that it had been long neglected. The floor was littered with papers, and piles of books, boxes, and bags of papers stood all around, while shelves were filled up to the ceiling with a dust-begrimed mass of documents, of which no man knew the character. I was depressed with the extent of the work to be done, and the slight probability that it would be completed. As I could not guess how long it would take to reduce the papers to order, it was agreed that I should make trial for a month, and have the assistance of Mr George Fell, city-officer, who proved a most willing and interested coadjutor in the earlier stages of the work. Our first object was to clear the floor; and with a liberal addition to the shelving, a commodious rack for the larger books, a

“locket-box” for the *curios* as they were unearthed (of which seven were ultimately filled), being speedily provided by the Magistrates, this was made possible. Public interest was excited by notices of the progress of the work in the local newspapers, and many of the citizens and others visited the room,—Lord Provost Dewar, in particular, almost daily; and both he and Mr MacLeish, Town Clerk, were most obliging.

The calamitous fire of 23rd January 1895, by which the municipal buildings were destroyed, happily did not reach the Record Room, so that its power to resist the flames was not tested, and in a day or two I was permitted to resume operations. The winter was exceptionally severe, but I continued to work on regularly till the end of June, and at intervals since, not being disposed to leave until the papers which had passed through my hands were in shape; but there is still a remnant untouched, particularly in one of the attics, which it is to be hoped the Magistrates may, in the near future, find means to overtake.

TOWN COUNCIL RECORDS.

These are contained in upwards of thirty folio volumes. The oldest of the “Great Counsell Books” extant, is a large folio beginning in April 1507; but both it and a companion volume, beginning 14th April 1543, and ending 19th September 1684, have suffered irreparable injury from damp. According to an inventory of the Town’s writings, which were in the hands of John Mercer, Town Clerk of Perth, author of “Mercer’s Chronicle,” when he demitted his office in May 1670, they then formed *one* volume, ending in October 1668, but on being rebound and interleaved, in more recent times, was divided, and indexed as completely as possible along with the other volumes of Record. “Ane Great Counsell Book,” included in the above inventory, beginning in October 1464, and ending in May 1507, cannot now be traced, and, it is feared, has utterly perished. The Protocol Books, Sasine Records, Services, &c. cover an extensive period; they are in good order, and form a valuable feature of the room. An early printed copy of Justinian’s Digests of the Roman Laws was one of the “finds” in the Muniment Room.

There is a large collection of Royal Charters in favour of the town of Perth, the oldest of the series being one by King William the Lyon about 1210, the authenticity of which the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the State of Municipal Corporations in Scotland, in their Report published in 1835, found strong reasons to doubt, while, strange to say, they pronounce all the charters of subsequent Kings, several of whom confirm it, genuine! Of these they give a list, from two Charters of King Robert the Bruce, in 1310 and 1318, to the Great Charter of James VI., in 1600, confirming all the rights and privileges of the burgh of Perth, including the contents of the Charter in question, by King William.

The places assigned to the documents recently arranged are indicated by printed tickets affixed to the boxes and shelves thus:—

First Box.—Writs of Lands in and about Perth, 1483–1803.

Second Box.—Miscellaneous papers relative to the City of Perth from 1493, including an Obligation of Andrew, Bishop of Caithness, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, 1511. Discharges of the Tocher of King James VI., 1589–1593, and of his daughter Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, 1613–1614. Revolution Settlement. Convention of Royal Burghs. Establishment of the Post Office, 1689. Letters of eminent persons during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Census of Perth, 1766, &c.

Third Box.—Miscellaneous papers relative to the City of Perth:—"Compt Book," 1660 to 1673, of Bailie Alex. Jamieson, merchant and shipowner. Book of Accounts, 1705 to 1713, of Nathaniel Fyfe, merchant, Perth. Tacks of Lands, &c., 1682–1795. Fishing Trade, 1720. Linen Trade, 1723–28. Plans of Newrow and Tolbooth, &c., 1763–64. List of Tenants, &c., in Perth, 1773. Testimonials for Academy, 1779–1830. Labouring Poor, 1826–7, &c.

Fourth Box.—Papers relative to the Rebellions of 1715–16 and 1745–46.

Fifth Box.—Papers of John Glas, 1650–1689, sometime Lord Provost of Perth; of John Mercer, 1670–1743, Sheriff-Clerk of Perthshire, with Family Pedigree, 1590–1865; Threipland of Fingask; Oliphant, of Gask and Williams-toun. Division of the estate of Mr James Ramsay, 1713–1736, Minister of the Gospel at Collace, &c.

Sixth Box.—County Papers, Roads, Estates, 1672–1788. Writs of the Lands of Pockmyln, Bonhard, Spoutwells, &c., 1505–1741.

Seventh Box.—Melville Trust:—Papers of the Melvilles of Easter Greenside, burgesses of Perth, 1642–1816; Gardiners of Easterhaugh of Huntingtower, 1695–1779; and Faichneys, burgesses of Perth, 1726–1732, with whom the Melvilles were intermarried, &c.

On the Shelves.—Treasurers' Accounts, 1577–1856. The earliest of these are in the Second Box. Bonds, &c., 1627–1710; Bonds, &c., 1695–1881; Decreets, &c., 1660–1700; Decreets, &c., 1700–1800; Sentences, Death Warrants, &c., 1682–1833; Claims of Service, Decreets of Cognition, &c., 1690–1860; Miscellaneous papers, processes, &c., 1700–1800; Council mass (each year's papers) 1800–1890 current; Letters 1810–1866, including letters and papers relative to the Queen's visit to Perth, 6th September 1842; Board of Health papers (relative to the visitation of Asiatic Cholera) 1831–1835 (interesting).

Among the Writs of Lands in and about Perth, 1483–1803, there is a "Back Band" (letter of obligation) by Elizabeth Gray, Countess of Huntly, with consent of Alexander, Earl of Huntly, her spouse, to the Magistrates and Community of Perth, in return for a special licence and tolerance granted to his Lordship in connection with a land and tenement belonging to her, lying on the east side of the Spey gate, betwixt the lands of the Abbot and Convent of Cupar on the south, the lands of Sir Robert Vstne on the north, the King's gate on the west, and the water of Tay on the east; wherein she binds herself, her heirs, &c., that when it shall happen that the Magistrates build a wall at that part of the town betwixt her tenement and the water of Tay, that the said wall shall be wall and closour to her tenement and yard, with licence to have a "yet" and passage to the Tay in the said wall, with an iron "yet" upon it, and likewise to build houses upon the said wall, with windows "starklie branderet" (strongly grated) with iron, so that the neighbours of the town may have free passage upon the "battalling" of the said wall, and in the time of war to have passage for carts with artillery and other necessaries for the defence of the town, and they to have liberty to break her walls to be built contiguous to the walls of the town, or make sufficient "yets" of *largiour* (Fr. *largeur*, breadth) through the yard of the tenement for the passage of the same; and when it shall happen the Earl or his spouse to be furth of the town, they bind themselves and their heirs, &c., to deliver the keys to the Provost for the time. Dated Perth, 12th February 1518. The document is written upon parchment, and has the seals of the Countess and her husband appended, but there are no signatures either of the principals or witnesses, who are not named. The Countess was eldest daughter of Andrew, third Lord Gray, and married (1) John, sixth

Lord Glamis, (2) Alexander, third Earl of Huntly, (3) George, fourth Earl of Rothes. The tenement in question was the original of Gowrie House, which subsequently to the forfeiture of the Earl of Gowrie was frequently called the "King's House," and possessed successively by Lord Chrichton of Sanquhar, Earl of Kinnoul, William Butter of Argath, and Lieut.-General David Leslie of Newark, who sold it to the town of Perth in 1659. After the battle of Culloden it was presented by the town to the Duke of Cumberland, who sold the subject to the Government, by whom it was converted into Artillery barracks; and on being repurchased by the town, the buildings were entirely demolished in 1807, when a scheme was proposed for making a new street along the riverside, now Tay Street.

The Second Box contains, among others, the following important documents:—

An Obligation by Andrew Stewart, Bishop of Caithness, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, to the Burgh of Perth, to deliver "a full remut and plane discharg of all actionis and accusationis that ma be put to thame or ony ane of thame in the Chalamberlane airis for ony caussis bigane unto the day of the Dait herof." Dated at Perth, 19th February 1511.

Petition by the Town of Perth to the Commissioners of H.M. Exchequer, for a modification of the composition for the Citadel, commonly called "Cromwell's Fort," or "The Mount," erected by the Protector on the north side of the South Inch from materials which lay to hand, but of which even the exigencies of war could not justify the use: the stones of the eleven great arches of their demolished bridge, the suburbs, a third part of the burgh, the Spey Tower, Hospital, Grammar School, walls of the burying-places, and stones of the sepulchres! These facts are embodied in the Petition, which is based on the ruin wrought upon the burgh by the building of the Citadel; but the Commissioners, in a brief deliverance at the bottom of the page, dated Edinburgh, 14th January 1662, bluntly refuse the prayer of the petition as to any modification. This is followed by a Discharge granted by James Standsfield, burgess of Edinburgh, to Patrick Threapland, merchant, Perth, in name of Andrew Butter, Provost, the Bailies, Council, and inhabitants of Perth, of the sum of £366, 13s. 4d. sterling, being the

just proportion which His Majesty, by his letter of the 4th of June then last, did appoint the Donator of Perth Citadel to pay for the satisfaction of the English workmen concerned in the building of Leith Citadel, dated Edinburgh, 18th December 1663. These two relative documents effectually dispose of a statement made that, by the intercession of Mr George Halyburton, one of the ministers of Perth, and afterwards Bishop of Dunkeld, the Citadel was *given* to the city by Charles II. in 1651, as an indemnity for losses sustained from Cromwell in its building.¹

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OFFICE.

Posts certainly existed in England, although only partially in the modern sense, before the middle of the sixteenth century. There was a chief postmaster of England in the reign of Elizabeth (1581), and the office of postmaster for foreign parts was created by her successor, James I. In the reign of Charles I. (1635) a Letter Office for England and Scotland was instituted. By the Commonwealth of England a weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the kingdom was established in 1649. In the beginning of the reign of William and Mary the office of Postmaster-General for Scotland was farmed by the Privy Council to John Blair, apothecary, Edinburgh, for seven years from Martinmas 1689, for 5100 merks yearly. In his "tack" the rates of postage were fixed as follow:—Letters from Edinburgh to Dumfries, Glasgow, Ayr, Dundee, Kelso, Jedburgh, *Perth*, and Stirling at two shillings Scots per single letter and four shillings Scots the double, and so on proportionally to other parts of the kingdom according to distance; and for letters from "bye roads" from the several towns and villages in the country to the next adjacent post office, one shilling Scots per letter to the persons who shall be appointed to carry the letters from the country villages to the next fixed post office; and where no posts were settled, carriers had freedom to carry letters.²

A letter of John Blair, Postmaster-General, himself, to the Provost

¹ See *Fasti Ecclesiæ Scotiæ, or Catalogue of the Ministers of the Church of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1869, p. 611 of vol. ii.

² Letter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe to the Lord Provost of Perth.

and Town Council of Perth, fully explains the beginning of the Post Office system in the city, and was written at the request of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, and is of date at Edinburgh, November 7, 1689, in which he says,—“there is designed ane letter office at St Johnstone, together with ane foot post who is to travell by Kinross and Queensferry, and so to this place, and also he is to travell up to Dunkell; and if you can do me the favour as to provide ane good honest man in the toun who will keep this office, I am resolved to give him the fyft pairt of all the letters that comes or goes from St Johnstone to Edinburgh or from Edinburgh to St Johnstone for his pains, and to pay the bearer who is to run with the letters so much for his pains as can be agreed with him, which I presume may be about 24 or 30 shillings (Scots) every time he shall run; *and it being only a short way*, I presume he may run twice each week. I presume such an honest man may be found with you as will travell to this twice each week, who needs be qualified only with honesty and nimbleness, who is to run with the packwit betwixt the postmaster of your toun and our office here in Edinburgh.”

A proclamation of the Privy Council of King William and Queen Mary, dated Edinburgh, 29th November 1689, gives the date of Blair the Postmaster-General's tack as the 14th of August immediately preceding, and that provision is therein made for employing horses to carry “packwets and expresses.”

First Postmaster of Perth.—Robert Anderson, glover, burghess of Perth, was appointed by the Postmaster-General and his copartner, William Menzies, merchant, treasurer of Edinburgh, postmaster-depute for Perth, 19th December 1689, “allowing him pour to erect and sett up ane post and letter office at this burgh of Perth, and to exact the deues of whatsoever letters shall be given in there, conform to ane list given him with the said agriement, as also allowing him libertie to settle and exact the deues of all post hyring pack and baggage horses, conform to use and wont in the said town of Perth, and applye the same to himself,” and that for the space of two years. Anderson, however, made over the dues of the hiring of horses to the magistrates for a weekly salary of three shillings sterling.¹ There is a large and curious broadside

¹ Assigination by Robert Anderson to the Town of Perth, 1st January 1690.

of instructions for postmasters as to the rates of postage chargeable for letters "directed to any parts beyond the seas," which are confined to the Continent of Europe and all parts of Turkey. On 19th June 1704 the Council appointed the Treasurer to pay to Gilbert Gardiner, writer, then keeper of the post office of Perth, £5 sterling a year during their pleasure, for his encouragement in furnishing a foot post *twice* a week betwixt this and Edinburgh, commencing his entry from Lambas last, 1703, but on 14th June 1708 this allowance to Mr Gardiner was withdrawn, whereof he grants them a complete discharge to Lambas 1708. A beautifully written "memorial" relative to the "Port" of letters from Edinburgh to Aberdeen and back, undated, but probably not later than the reign of Queen Anne, who improved the postal service, informs us that three foot posts, or carriers, went weekly from Edinburgh by Cupar-Fife, Dundee, Arbroath, Montrose, Bervie, Stonehaven, &c., to Aberdeen, for which they were allowed six shillings and eight pence each, with one shilling and sixpence each for the ferries, and that the cost of the whole three posts was not more than twenty-four shillings sterling a week. The postmen were allowed to carry small parcels. The authorities at the General Post Office seem to have given orders for the greatest care as to closing and opening the mail bags; for, in 1732, while Mrs Graham, postmistress of Perth, was sick, Mr Archibald Douglas, the Postmaster-General, wrote her, upon complaints entered, that while she was not in a condition to attend personally to the receipt and despatch of her packet, to cause the bag sent her to be opened in presence of one of the magistrates, and the bag sent to the General Post Office, Edinburgh, to be sealed by one of their seals.

About the time of the Rebellion of 1745-46 the postmaster of Perth was Mr Robert Morison, bookseller, ancestor of Mr Robert Morison, C.A., Perth, who with admirable business tact issued a broadside containing the regulations of the post office, which show considerable regularity and despatch for the time, together with a detailed list of the goods sold by himself, of which a copy has been fortunately discovered in the Record Room.

A letter from the Magistrates of Perth to Mr John Drummond, M.P.,

in November 1736, refers to the very small sum allowed by the public to *their two horse postboys*, who travel thrice a week betwixt Perth and Queensferry, being *20 long miles of bad road*, for which they have only two shillings and three pence each journey fore and back, which is no way sufficient to maintain them and their horses, and they entreat their member to endeavour to procure for the postboys three shillings and fourpence, which is but two pence per mile, and without such allowance their town and country could not be punctually served by the postboys, who had long threatened to give over serving for want of bread! The horse post seems to have been given up, for in 1740 the magistrates of Aberdeen, Dundee, and Perth, with all the burghs and counties on the route, for the benefit of trade, agreed to address their representatives in Parliament, with a view to altering from a foot to a horse post; and Mr John Drummond, member for the Perth Burghs, was memorialised on the subject, who waited on Sir Robert Walpole (afterwards Earl of Orford), the celebrated Prime Minister of the first two Georges, who desired him and the other gentlemen concerned for the northern towns, chiefly Mr John Maul (member for the Burghs of Aberdeen, &c.), to draw up a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, and they would refer the matter to the Postmaster-General, and if they should represent it as not very prejudicial to the revenue, which was all appropriated, he would be sure to forward it, and give it all the despatch which the nature of the thing would permit. What was the effect of this application to the Treasury we know not, but at a considerably later period the mail-bags were carried in a light cart drawn by one horse. A stagecoach, carrying the royal mail between Edinburgh and Perth, passed through Kinross for the first time, it is said, on July Fair-day 1799, some fifteen years after the experiment had been successfully made in England, and continued to run down to the 22nd December 1847, when the mails were transferred to the Edinburgh and Northern, now the North British Railway, through Fife. It is worthy of note that at the very time the papers relative to the establishment of the post office at Perth were discovered, arrangements were making to erect a new post office for the city.

Letters.—It has been remarked that “although our forefathers began

to use their vernacular tongue in law and business documents about the end of the fourteenth century, letters of correspondence are hardly met with in Scottish repositories till the sixteenth. Even to the end of the latter century they are incredibly meagre and unsatisfactory." This holds good in regard to the Record Room at Perth. Of royal letters there is one by King James Sixth, exempting the burgesses of Perth from attendance upon assises, unless within burgh, dated Edinburgh, 7th June 1594; and a letter of the Prince of Orange, calling a meeting of the Estates, dated St James's, 5th February 1689, addressed to the Town Clerk of Perth (Mr James Oliphant, whose memorable speech, on occasion of choosing a commissioner to the Convention, has been preserved). There is a series of miscellaneous letters, public and private, from 1662 to the present time (including letters and other documents relative to the visit of Her Majesty Queen Victoria to Perth, 6th September 1842), of which I may be allowed to notice the following:—

Letter from the Privy Council, signed by John, Duke of Rothes, Chancellor, addressed to the Provost and Bailies of Perth, enjoying all in authority to take the test oaths to the Government, under certain pains and penalties. The letter is almost illegible, while the Chancellor's signature retains its primitive blackness. Dated Edinburgh, 12th October 1676.

Letter, Mr James Drummond, minister of Muthil, afterwards Bishop of Brechin, to the Lord Provost of Perth (Mr Robert Lundie), returning his presentation to be minister of Perth, dated Muthil, July 31, 1680.

Letter, Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, advocate, to John Glas, Provost of Perth, advises in curt terms as to choosing four new bailies in place of those who refused to take the oaths . . . 1681.

Letter, John Glas, Lord Provost of Perth, to Thomas Butter, clerk of Perth, mentions the sittings of the burghs; waiting upon H.R.H. the Duke of York at Holyrood, to whom his party was introduced by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh; riding of the Parliament; the bearer had all the News Letters. Dated Edinburgh, 29th July 1681.

Letter, the Provost to the same, about sending over the town's charter to be ratified; sitting of Parliament; the enclosed News Letters were all he had seen that week. Dated Edinburgh, 6th August 1681.

Letter, the Provost to the Magistrates and Council; returns the charter,

and leaves it to the Council to proceed or not. He wishes from his heart a sudden and good conclusion of the Parliament, and they a happy meeting together.

Letter, Marquis of Atholl to the Magistrates of Perth, granting the services of the hangman at Dunkeld, unless when required for executions on his Lordship's own regalities. Dated Edinburgh, 25th November 1681.

Letter, Archbishop Alexr. Burnett of St Andrews to the Lord Provost of Perth, relative to the call of Mr Gilbert Crockett to Perth. Dated Edinburgh, 16th March 1683.

Letter, the Lord High Treasurer and Treasurer-Depute to the Magistrates of Perth, requesting a list of all fines imposed by them upon all withdrawers from their parish churches, conventicles, and other ecclesiastical disorders, since *anno* 1679. (Signed) Queensberry, *Treasurer*; J. Drummond. Dated Edinburgh, 10th April 1683.

Letter, Marquis of Atholl, desiring liberty for John Smith, mason, to hew stones in the new church of Perth for his Lordship's house at Dunkeld. Dated Dunkeld, 29th September 1684, addressed "For the Provost of Perth." [Sir William Bruce of Kinross was the architect of Dunkeld House.]

Letters, Archbishop Arthur Ross of St Andrews to the Provost and Magistrates of Perth, anent providing sittings in the church of Perth for Thomas Hay of Balhousie and Patrick Oliphant of Bachiltoun,—two letters, dated 19th January and 15th February 1685.

Letter, Earl of Perth, Chancellor, in virtue of the King's royal letter, dated at the Court of Windsor, 12th September instant, that all elections in royal burghs shall cease until his royal pleasure shall be known, and they are prohibited to elect any new magistrates that year. Signed, at command and in name of His Majesty's Privy Council, Perth Cancell. J.P.D. Edinburgh, 16th September 1686. Addressed—For the Provost and Bailies of Perth, to be communicate to the Town Council.

Letter, Earl of Mar, on information that five of his colliers were *resett* by the magistrates of Perth, and were setting down a heugh (coal-pit) near their town; and that they may either send them back, or secure them in prison till he send for them, "otherwise they will force him to use the legal way in such cases." Dated Alloa, 22nd September 1686. For the Provost and Bailies of the Burgh of Perth. [Betwixt this date and 1732, if not later, various abortive attempts were made to find coal in the burgh moor. An Act of Parliament was passed to emancipate the Scottish colliers in 1775, and another in 1799.]

Letter, Duke of Hamilton, intimating that, in virtue of a letter from His Majesty, dated at the Court of Bath, 8th September instant, all elections in royal burghs are suspended until his royal pleasure is known. Signed in name and by warrant of His Majesty's Privy Council, Hamilton, J.P.B.C. Edinburgh, 16th September 1687. Addressed—"For the Provost and Remanent Magistrates of the Burgh of Perth, or either of them, to be communicate to the Town Councill thereof, Thes. For His Majesties Service."

Letter, Rev. Hugh Kennedy, minister of Trinity College Church, Edinburgh, and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to the Lord Provost of Perth, about settling a minister at Perth. Dated Edinburgh, 5th February 1691.

Letter, Alexander Murray to William Austin, Lord Provost of Perth; desiring, on behalf of the Duke of Atholl, that his Lordship would allow the hangman of Perth to go to Logyrate and execute two thieves condemned and lying prisoners there, and to deliver him to his Grace's chamberlain, who would "bait" him and send some men to guard him up the country. Dated Huntingtower, 17th October 1719.

Letter, John Coutts, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, ancestor of the Baroness Burdett Coutts, to Patrick Cree, merchant, Provost of Perth. He had heard yesterday that a large cargo of linen and other goods loaded by the Provost's town's-people on board of a vessel for London had been unloaded since the declaration of war (with France) until the navigation could be rendered safer by convoys; and believing that Dundee and other ports might be in the same situation, he had called a meeting of the Committee of Burghs, and by their unanimous orders had written to the agent at London, to solicit from the Board of Admiralty ships to be stationed on their coast, and convoys for their shipping; also to the Lord Advocate (Robert Craigie of Glendoick) as a member of Committee, and to their own member. Thinks it may not be amiss that the Provost not only write to their own member, but also to the Lord Advocate, as he is Assessor for their town of Perth to the Burghs. Dated Edinburgh, 4th April 1744.

Letter, Lieutenant Colonel Wolfe, afterwards General Wolfe, the hero of Quebec, to Provost Cree, relative to a charge brought before the magistrates of Perth at the instance of Convenor Buchan, against Adam Henry of the Royal Artillery, for insulting him on the public street, and injuring him in his good name and reputation; for which Henry was fined, and being unable to pay the fine, was imprisoned. Wolfe calls in question the legality of the sentence,—whether defamation or scandal

could properly be called criminal, or whether a soldier could be guilty of such a fault. The contentions of the writer are clear and moderate in tone, and withal respectful to the civic authorities. The Provost's answer, declining to interfere with the sentence, is equally firm, nor is he less hearty in wishing "to contribute his good offices to maintain that harmony and union which has subsisted between the civil and military, and which he hopes subsists in this place at present." The Colonel's letter is written on a sheet of fine gilt-edged post; but, from being expressed in the third person, there is, unfortunately, no autograph signature. Both letters are dated Perth, 18th July 1750.

CENSUS OF PERTH, 1766.

This is a list of the whole inhabitants of Perth, taken up by the magistrates of the burgh on the 19th of March 1766 and following days, contained on sixty-six pages of a thin folio volume, together with eleven sheets of the original scroll thereof, being a very carefully got up record of the names and occupations of all householders, heads of families, children, male and female, men-servants and women-servants, in the four quarters of the burgh, corresponding to the present four wards, with their religious persuasions, which it would be well for some local society to print. The population of Perth was then only 7542.

Account Books.—The "Compt Book" of Bailie Alexander Jamieson, merchant and shipowner, Perth, 1660-1673, and Treasurer of Perth, 1667-1668, is a folio volume of about 350 leaves, with two alphabetical indexes, and has had clasps. Mr Jamieson was a general merchant, and had an extensive business connection with all classes. Clergymen bulk largely. Among the nobility may be named David, Viscount Stormont; John, Earl of Atholl; John, Earl of Tullibardin; Countess of Kinnoull; &c. In those pages he has preserved an account of what timber, stones, and other materials were sold out of the Citadel by the Town; also an "Inventar of the good ship called the Elizabeth of Perth [of which he was owner], delywerit to Thomas Gregorie, skipper, upon the 25th of August 1668 yeiris."

Another interesting volume is "Nathanaell Fyfe, Merchant in Perth, his Book of Accounts, 1705." It is a tall narrow book of 130 leaves, which has been originally fastened with clasps. The accounts are care-

fully kept on the system of double entry, upon good paper, and there is a complete alphabetical index. The accounts extend from 23rd February 1705 to (incidentally) 6th December 1716. Mr Fyfe had also a large connection, including many of the nobility and gentry of Perthshire, the Duke of Atholl, Alexander Robertson of Strowan, Lord Nairn, &c. &c. He was one of the Jacobite magistrates appointed by Colonel Hay, Governor of Perth, in 1715.¹

Papers relative to the Rebellions of 1715-16 and 1745-46.—The papers in connection with 1715-16 include, among other interesting documents, a Commission by Colonel John Hay of Cromlix, Governor of Perth under the Earl of Mar, appointing Commissioners to supply the place of magistrates. Dated Perth, 21st September 1715.—Order from John, Earl of Mar, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of James VIII. in Scotland, to the Provost, Bailies, and Town Council of Perth, requiring and commanding them to raise and levy six months' cess for the support and maintenance of these forces. Dated at the camp at Perth, 4th October 1715.—Muster-Roll of the Town of Perth's two companies serving in the rebel army, 1715.—Lists of the Inhabitants of Perth who acted in the Rebellion of 1715-16.—List of prisoners in custody in the Tolbooth of Perth for their accession to the Rebellion, 1716. Papers relative to a process by the magistrates against those burgesses who were judged to have forfeited their freedom by their accession to the Rebellion of 1715-16.—Accounts, Letters, &c. during the same period.

The papers in connection with the '45 include the Declarations of twenty-three State prisoners taken between the 10th and the 15th of February 1746, and Examinations of 113 State prisoners committed at Perth from 21st April to 22nd July 1746.—Precognitions of witnesses from April to December 1746.—An alphabetical List of such State prisoners as had been committed to the Tolbooth of Perth since 1st February 1746, and were still there, or had been transported to Edinburgh, Stirling, and Inverness. Among these were Sir James Kinloch

¹ By kind permission of the Magistrates of Perth, I have reported upon these two merchants' books, as well as upon the papers relative to the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745, to the Scottish History Society.

Nevay of that Ilk, lieutenant-colonel in Lord Ogilvie's regiment; and Messrs Alexander and Charles Kinloch, captains in the same regiment, his brothers. — Nairn, Lady Strathallan, who solicited persons to the Rebellion. Henry Clark, Esq., residenter in Edinburgh, lieutenant and adjutant of the Clan M'Intosh, who died in prison at Carlisle. John M'Naughton, watchmaker in Edinburgh, or Canongate, Perthshire squadron of the rebel army, who was said to have killed Colonel Gardiner—(M'Naughton denied the fact)—executed at Carlisle. Alexander Dalmahoy, only son of Sir Alexander Dalmahoy of that Ilk. John Stewart of Balado, Kinross (who, on his own confession, was an officer of the rebel army in 1715), one of five prisoners at Carlisle, not tried, and in hopes of being discharged for want of evidence. In a particular State of the cases of the prisoners for treason in Perth jail at 6th November 1746, the Duchess of Perth and Lady Strathallan are said to be then prisoners in Edinburgh Castle.

Treasurers' Accounts.—There is a very extensive series of accounts of the City Treasurers, reaching back more than three centuries. Scanty at first, they gradually increase in volume as time goes on, and will doubtless prove a valuable quarry to the future historian. They include vouchers for the pensions payable to the monks of the defunct monasteries of Perth, Scone, &c., including "acquittances" by Mr Robert Purves, one of the brethren of the Abbey of Scone, afterwards burgess of Edinburgh, Alexander Young, minister of Tibbermure, and "umquhillane of the briether of Tullilum," and Robert Riche, Prior of the Whitefriars or Carmelites of Tullilum; and by Mr John Row, first Protestant minister of Perth, of a pension sometime paid out of the mills of Perth to the place of the Charterhouse, and now assigned him as part of his stipend.

There are a number of payments to account of the taxation of £100,000 Scots granted to His Majesty King James VI. by his Estates in April 1588, "for furnesing of the honourable chairgis and expenses to be maid upone his hienes mareage and reking furth of the Imbassadour to that effect," of which the proportion of the Town of Perth was £12,000 Scots. In 1613-14 there are Discharges of the taxation appointed to be paid "for the marriage of his Majesties dochtour," the

Princess Elizabeth Stewart, Queen of Bohemia, eldest daughter of James VI., who married in 1613 Frederick, then Elector Palatine. She was mother of Prince Rupert, and of Sophia, wife of Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover, mother of George I.

John Jamesone, burghess of Cupar-Fife, factor for the Right Honourable Sir Michael Balfour of Balgarvie, knight, grants a Discharge to the magistrates of Perth for £800 Scots, being complete payment of the sum of £1623 Scots, being the price of four score and ten pieces of armes received by them. Dated Perth, 17th August 1603. [About this period Sir Michael (who is said to have been sometime Ambassador to the Dukes of Tuscany and Lorraine) was at considerable labour and expense in providing his countrymen with armour out of foreign countries, whereof King James VI. received 5000 merks' worth, and for security the King and Parliament wadset the feu farms of Star, payable to the Crown, to Sir Michael, who owned the lands. He was afterwards created Lord Balfour of Burleigh, ancestor of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, present Secretary of State for Scotland. (Warrant by the King to Sir David Murray of Gosperdie, Knight, 1601, and Act of Parliament in favour of the Laird of Burleigh, 1606,—Burleigh Peerage Case.)]

The Estates of Scotland being indebted to their factors at Campveere in a great sum for arms and ammunition, the Burghs undertook to make certain advances in Holland, of which Perth paid £6666, 13s. 4d. Scots upon 24th September 1641, as appears by a "testificate" subscribed by Mr Robert Hepburne, advocate, clerk to the Commission for Common Burdings, and Act and Precept in favour of the Burgh of Perth, 1644.

There is a Discharge by Sir William Sharp, His Majesty's cash-keeper, to Henry Boog, glover, burghess of Perth, of the sum of 400 merks, being a fine imposed upon him by the Privy Council 1st March instant, dated 2nd March 1676.

During the rising of 1715 the accounts are of unusual interest. It appears from the Discharges of the commanding officers for subsistence money that instead of three or four hundred Highlanders whom the Duke of Atholl was willing to send for the defence of the town of Perth, only 110 were *lent*, as the loyal inhabitants were *tender* of asking

more, and these, it is said, ultimately joined the Earl of Mar. A discharged account, the Town of Perth to Janet Craigdellie, innkeeper, relict of Walter Moncreiff, writer, extends from 12th November 1714 to September 15, 1716, and covers seven folio pages, which, while showing how these old magistrates could enjoy themselves while the cloud of civil war was hanging over them, at the same time supply materials for history:—"July 28 (1715), being the the day the inhabitants were drawn out under arms, thirteen bottles wine, ten bottles ale, bread 6s., in all £12, 15s. Od. To part of the guard who searched the town for arms 14s., officers 12s., £1 6s. Od. 25th August, to the Magistrates with Captain Bell of Edinburgh who brought the news of the French King's death, six bottles wine, ale, &c., £6, 8s. 10d." "The French King" was Louis XIV., who, according to the Rev. Peter Rae, a contemporary, in his History of the Rebellion raised against his Majesty King George I., died on the 21st August (old style) 1715. Sir Walter Scott, in his *Tales of a Grandfather*, gives the date of the death of Louis as the 1st of August. Smollett, in his History of England, and Mrs Markham, in that of France, name the 1st of September; but all these historians fall to be corrected by this tavern bill! The death of the "Grand Monarque" was a great disappointment to the Jacobites, and the news of the event must have been carried with great speed—from France to Perth in four days—rivaling the famous ride of Sir Robert Carey from London to the Scottish capital with the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth.

At the close of the Rebellion of 1715-16, those citizens of Perth having the town's arms in their custody delivered them up, in obedience to an order from the magistrates; and it is noteworthy that in May 1724 the Council appointed the treasurer to repair the roof of the Council House as the magistrates should direct, and the broken arms and other materials lying in the garret thereof were to be roused, and the prices applied, so far as they went, for helping the expense of the reparation. An inventory of the rousp has been preserved, containing large and small arms, and brass guns, pikes, old swords, flints, legar chests, saddles, tents, beds and bedding, clothes, timber, and a box with old papers, sold for 6d.,—the whole amounting to the value of £274, 7s. Scots.

The accounts relating to the '45 are less numerous. There is a note of particulars furnished to the army under the command of H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, chiefly for the sick men in the hospital, amounting to £45, 4s. 1d. sterling, and includes "canvas for palliaces," and making them, and "fitting up an apothecaries shop." Dr Maxwell was Surgeon-General. This was in 1746. There is also an account of the expenses of Provost James Crie, Bailie Robert Robertson, John Robertson of Tullielbelton, and George Miller, town clerk, for their journey to Fort Augustus, with two servants and six horses, to present the address from the town of Perth to H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, amounting to £16, 7s. 5d. sterling, debursed by Tullielbelton in June 1746, and discharged by him 10th November 1746.