FIFTH REPORT

OF

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

ON

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.

PART I.

REPORT AND APPENDIX.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
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PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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1876.
said Sir James, at Perth, 1 April 1837, in presence of
William of Lyndsay, Lord of Byres, Sir Gilbert of
Graham, Sir George of Lesley, Sir John of Maxwel,
Sir Andrew of Newbyng, and Sir Robert of Levyn-
stoun, knights.
Grant [dated probably A.D. 1562], by William, of
Meldrum, Lord of Auchme and Petkary, of various
ancient rights to Sir St. Lawrence and St. Ninian,
in the church of St. Nicholas of Aberdeen, for a chap-
lain to serve thereat, and to find a sufficient light and
other ornaments for the said altar, as well as bread and
wine, to be granted were to be vested for these
purposes in the alderman and four bailiffs of Aber-
deon, and the guardians of the church work of St.
Nicholas, who might disrupt the tenants of the grantees
on the estate of Logie, and tanquam pro debito
"divino vel ipso beneficio" die Starba deum leges et
"consecutudines burgorum sic quod non opportune
"ipses ad hoc aliquem officiarum Regis licitationem petere
".
Sealed with the seals of William of Meldrum, the grantees of Sir St. Ninian, and of the burg of Aberdeen.
Witnesses, Sir William, Sir Keith, Knight, and Marischal of Scotland, Sir Alexander of
Kirk, Knight, Sheriff of Aberdeen, Thomas Mercer,
Alderman of Aberdeen, William of Lethe, and John
Crab, burgesses of Aberdeen.
Charter by Sir Alexander, Lord of Seton Guardian
of the House of St. John of Jerusalem of Torfichon,
narrating that by the evils of the wars in Scotland
Walter Gretheden, burgess of Aberdeen, lately his tenant
in fee and heritage of the lands of Ochtylon, in Buchan,
had been reduced to such poverty that his relief and
subsidy as one of the number of the armes was sold to sell these lands, without the said Sir Alexander's consent, to William
of Melgdrum, son of the late John, of Melgdrum, and that
it would be more for his advantage to have the said
William's help, Walter Gretheden was making the cus-
tomary returns, and giving suit at three head courts at
Lindisfarthar, in the Garvych. Dated at Aberdeen, on
Monday, the 1st of St. Mary Virgin, 1534.
Grant by William Meldrum, of Fyvie, to the
altar of St. Ninian, within the church of St. Nicholas
of Aberdeen, at Aberdeen, 17 August 1490.
A charter of confirmation of the lands of Melgdrum of
St. Ninian, to the patronage of Mr. Alexander Allarde, last chaplain, in favour of
Andrew King, clerk and burgess of Aberdeen, at
Aberdeen, 10th of May 1490.
Register of the rights of the chaplain of St. Ninian,
presented by Andrew King, chaplain to Alexander Lord
Fyvy, patron.

John Stuart.

Miss M. E. STIRLING.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE FAMILY OF HOME OF RENTON,
in the County of Berwick, now in the possession
of Miss Mary Eleanor Stirling of Renton.

The family of Home of Renton, is descended from the Homes of Wedderburn, a distinguished branch of the
great border house of the Earls of Home. The first
who acquired the estate of Renton was Patrick Home,
second son of Home of Wedderburn, a younger son of
Wedderburn. Patrick Home married Janet Ellem, daughter and heiress of David Ellem of Renton and Butterdean, of an ancient family in the county, but by the death of his wife, and the death of their eldest son, the property descended to
the younger son of Patrick Home and Janet Ellem. The
eldest son of the marriage of Patrick-Home and Janet
Ellem was Alexander Home of Renton, who held the
property in 1616. In his official capacity he was very
rigorous in the punishment of witches; and in a letter
from his son, dated in 1634, and addressed to his king-
mander, he speaks of Wolwarth who then held the
office of sheriff, it is stated that Alexander Home of Renton had seven or eight witches at Coldingham. In the present
collection there are two letters from King James the Six
of Scotland to the King of England, to the same Alexander Home regarding the affairs of Sir George Home, Earl of
Dunbar. (Nos. 28 and 29.)

The son and successor of the rigorous sheriff was Sir
John of Renton, Lord Renton as a lord of section. He held a prominent place among the Scottish
men of his time. According to Wodrow the historian
he was one of the greatest zealots for episcopey in Scotland, and in a petition to King Charles II. (No. 37 of this Report,) bears evidence of his close
attachment to the house of Stuart. He is claimed to be the first in Scotland who took up arms in defence of
King Charles I., and not only did he spend his entire fortune in the Royal cause, but he was forced to flee the country in a destitute condition. His
loyalty, however, received ample compensation on the
restoration of the King. (No. 37 of this Report.) He was knighted, created a privy councillor, and made a
Bishop of Dunbar in June 1660; nominated a lord of session and justice of the peace; and had a
son, who in 1671, leaving two sons by his wife
Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of John Stewart, commen-
dator of Coldingham, and widow of Sir George of
Bothwell, whose father John Stewart was also commen-
dator of Coldingham, and a natural son of King James V, the Fifth. The eldest son of Sir John Renton was Sir Alexander, Home of Coldingham. His father, Sir John Home, who died in January 1578, was the last of his race
and was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1682. His son, Sir John Home, died titled the 1st Earl of Dunbar, as heir-male of George of the Brandon.
His son Sir James, the third baronet, who died in 1788, is said to have been the last of the line.

Henry Home of Kames, who took the designation of Lord Kames, was celebrated both as a judge and as
the author of several learned works, was descended from
the Home of Renton.

Owing to the connection of the owners of Renton with the ancient priory of Coldingham, the family of Renton, as a family of family papers contains several documents of interest relating to that religious house. The collection also embar-
thes a number of contemporary documents, containing in-
teres ting notices of men conspicuous in the public
life of their country. Among these are Andrew Forman,
Bishop of Orkney, Henry Balnaves of Haljth, James
Kirkaldy of Grange, Sir Patrick Logan of Restalrig, and
Sir George Home, afterwards Lord Renton, who
was the favourite minister of King James the Sixth. Andrew
Forman, one of the foremost Scotchmen and diplomats of his day, sat to several deeds ex-
cuted at the priory of Coldingham in the years 1482,
1488 and 1501; and in the various writs the name of Henryson, clerk of the Justi-
ary, appears beside that of Forman. We may sup-
pose that these two politicians, if acquainted with the pri-
ory of Coldingham, or in that district for several years,
and that the object of their visit was somehow connected with the administration of the Church lands. A Thomas
Forman, Esqire, probably a brother of the noted rel-
igious ecclesiast, witnessed a notable instrument relating
the foresey of Coldingham, dated in 1410, and fully
described in the present report. Several of the charters introduce to us James Kirkaldy of Grange, the Tre-
surer of Scotland, in the act of despoiling the priory of Coldingham of its lands of Press or Press, and enriching with them the Earl of George Kirkaldy (vide No. 35; etc.). We find the Protestant John Balnaves, so highly eulogised by Knox, in the company of Kirkaldy, at the Monastery of Kirkaldy, in March 1389.

From the present papers it appears that Robert Logan
was alive on the 31st August 1605 (No. 26), and
1655; he still enjoys the favour of King James VI., but the
charters No. 37, dated 31st August 1605, by which
Logan alienates his lands and rents to the Earl of
Dunbar, King James's favourite, at the request of the
tariff of the transfer of the sugar which had been
directed against him as being intimately connected with
the Gowrie conspiracy. Logan's concession to this deed
lacks its former firmness, and it may be supposed that
James was only prevented by compassion for his
wealth and position from subjecting Logan himself to
that trial which was carried into effect in 1608 against
his fellow conspirator, when the bones of the lord of
Restalrig were produced in court. It is worthy
wards executed for concessions to the Gowrie con-
spiracy, appears as a witness to the Gowrie con-
sspiracy, and we also have the name of James Bowir, per-
son who was a renter of land who was served to Logan, and his
accomplice, although he is described as "parson of
Aunchintra." The narrative in the charters of James VI, in favour of George, Earl of Dunbar, indica-
estates by its peculiarly bombastic style, that the
King himself may have assisted in the composition of
the glowing eulogy.

ANCIENT CHARTERS.

1. Charter by William de Byralde in favour of John
de Rayton, burgess of Southwark, of 'two acres
of land in Nether Aytoun' in the tenement of 'Flame.'
mence through him of 35 silver-pennies, and to the lord of Coldingham through him of 15 silver-pennies, at fixed and usual terms. To this charter was affixed the seal of one of the other witnesses, attesting the same. Andrew, Bishop of Moray, commen- dator of the abbey of Arbroath in Scotland, and Mr. James Hemson, "clerk of the general justiciary of our supreme Lord the King." These two persons are also witnesses to the subsequent sasine of the 12th June, and to a charter of Alexander Whittaker, prior of Coldingham in favour of the above Alexander Ellem and Christian Lumssen.

6. Notarial instrument of resignation, narrating that on the 10th August 1313, John de Keystoun, burgess of Southberwick, of an oxgate of land in Nethert Ayton within the tenement of "Marer Water," and heir of John de Keystoun, virgin of Nethert Ayton, was to be paid to the said John de Keystoun for yearly payment to him and his heirs of three silver-pennies, and to the lord of Coldingham through him of nine silver-pennies, at fixed and usual terms. This charter was also appended to the said charter as the preceding charter, and the charter is dated at Aiton, the Wednesday following preceding the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel [September 29] 1325.

7. Lease by Adam prior of Coldingham, with consent of the charter thereof, narrating that for great sums of money received by them from Alexander Ellem in Rantoun, for payment of their tax to the King and for the redeeming them from the obligation of the said charter of the prior of Coldingham, which was the condition of the preceding charter, and the said charter of the prior of Coldingham to the lord of Coldingham, to the extent of the third part of a carucate of land in the town and territory of Coldingham, in favor of Alexander Ellem, spouse of Christian Lumssen, daughter of the said John Lumssen. Done in the royal palace adjoining the monastery of the Holy Cross in Coldingham.

8. Commission by Pope Paul III. to Richard Laussoun, archdeacon of the cathedral church of Sodor, and John Guillermi, provost of the collegiate church of Seyton in the diocese of Caithness, under the seal of the archdeacon and provost, to include in the said grant of the lands and town of Rantoun, and, if satisfied with the agreement, to approve and confirm it. Dated 15 March, 1535.

9. Proclamation by Richard Laussoun, archdeacon of the cathedral church of Sodor, and John Guillermi, licentiate in laws, provost of the collegiate church of Seyton in the diocese of Caithness, under the seal of the archdeacon and provost, to include in the said grant of the lands and town of Rantoun, and, if satisfied with the agreement, to approve and confirm it. Dated at St. Giles, Edinburgh, on the 21st July following. Dated at St. Giles, 13th July 1536.

The seal of Richard Laussoun, and of the provost of Seyton, are appended. The seal of the provost is a ship on the sea. Circumscriptio, "S. Johannis Wili."


11. Papal rescript by Cardinal Antounius, commissioning the archdeacon of the church of Glasgow, the dean and provost of Seyton, and the provost of Seyton, to inquire into the grant of the lands of Pressis made by the prior of Coldingham to George Kirkcaldy, brother-gorman of James Kirkcaldy of Grange, and, if satisfied with the agreement, to approve and confirm it. Dated at Rome, 4th months of September, 5th year of Pope Paul III. [1538].

This charter here referred to was given by the charter to Kirkcaldy on the 13th January, 1538.

12. Charter by Adam, prior, and the charter of the monastery of Coldingham, in favor of Robert Logane, son and heir apparent of Robert Logane of Restalrig, of the lands of Flatnynmen and Flatnynmen, which had been resigned by Robert Logane, elder, in favor of his son; the life-rent of the lands being reserved by Robert Logane, elder; and a third part after his decease in favor of his daughter, Elizabeth Hume, heir of the said Robert Logane, elder. This charter is dated at the monastery of Coldingham, 4th March 1539. Two of the witnesses are James Kirkcaldy of Grange, Lord Treasurer of Scotland, and Mr. Henry Balnives of Halkie.

13. Letters of confirmation by John Laikaird, archdeacon of the church of Glasgow, John Guillermi, provost of Seyton, and the lord dean of Restalrig, in obedience to letters from Cardinal Antounius, of a grant
of the lands of Pressis by Adam, prior of Coldingham, in favour of James Kirkaldy, brother-german of James Kirkaldy of Grange, in favour of Alexander Hume, brother-german of unquhile David Hume of Wedderburn, of the lands of Pressis in the barony of Coldingham, to be held by the prior and his heirs from the prior and convent of Coldingham for paying yearly to the prior of Coldingham the sum of six marks. Dated at Edinburgh, 10th January 1542. Two of the witnesses were James Balnavis, solicitor, and John Kirkaldy, brother-german of the grater.

15. Notarial instrument, narrating that on January 20rd, 1542, the sub-prior and convent appeared for the confirmation under the great seal of Scotland, and in the chapter-house exposed and declared how they had given a charter of the lands of Pressis to George Kirkaldy on January 9th, 1538, that the grant was made in obedience to the "supplication literatumque quinque domini nostri Regis (ciuilis anime propicietur Deus)" and through fear of the Prince; and that, nevertheless they confirm the grant by George Kirkaldy to Alexander Hume (No. 14 supra) on account of the numerous favours, aids, &c. which the latter had bestowed on the monastery.

A confirmation of the grant was made on the same day by the sub-prior, John, commissary, &c. No mention is made in it of the ground of the gift.

16. Precept from Queen Mary to Gawin, Archbishop of Glasgow, enjoining him to issue a proper charter of confirmation under the great seal of Scotland, and in the chapter-house exposed and declared how they had given a charter of the lands of Pressis to George Kirkaldy on January 9th, 1538, that the grant was made in obedience to the "supplication literatumque quinque domini nostri Regis (ciuilis anime propicietur Deus)" and through fear of the Prince; and that, nevertheless they confirm the grant by George Kirkaldy to Alexander Hume (No. 14 supra) on account of the numerous favours, aids, &c. which the latter had bestowed on the monastery.

The precept reserves to the Crown "de toto" the "et occasionem suffragia de eisdem capite vella et consuetas." Dated at Edinburgh, 19th March 1542.

17. Charter by John, commissary, and the convent of Coldingham in favour of Alexander Hume, in Hielawis, and Barbara Hume, his spouse, of the four merk lands of Hielawis, &c., for aids, &c., often given by him to the said monastery, and especially for a sufficient sum of money paid by him "granter et integro" for the repair of the fabric and fabricating a monastery where it was razed and burned by "our ancient enemies of England. To be held for rendering certain sums of money there specified, with 12 capons and 4 "pulite" fowlis." Dated at the monastery of Coldingham, 8th May 1547.

18. Charter by Robert Logane, of Restalrig, and Margaret Seton, in favour of James and William Aschirnaw, of the 10 merk lands of "a mynningtoun." [Margaret Seton signs with her own hand.] Part of her seal remains, three crescents within the ring of cushion. Dated at Edinburgh, 10th December 1547.

19. Ancent copy charter, given by William de Redchis, earl of Dunfermline, in favour of Archibald Edimestoun, of the lands of Wolmet, in the lordship of Coldingham and shire of Edinburgh. Dated at the monastery of Dunfermline, 16th December 1547.

20. Instrument of seisin in favour of Robert Logane, son and heir of unquhile Robert Logane, of Restalrig, of the lands of Flemington in the barony of Coldingham. Dated at Fastcastel, 5th May 1576.


22. Charter by John, commissary of Coldingham, and James Durhame, of Dunartie, his administrator, with the consent of King James VI., Francis Earl of Bothwell, and others, in favour of George Hume of Pryorsknowk, Knight, and familiar servitor to King James, of the lands of Horsley, &c., in the barony of Coldingham and shire of Berwick. To be held for payment of 50 20th Scots. There are attached six seals, including those of the King and the Earl of Bothwell. Dated at Kelso and Holyroodhouse, 30th January 1590.

23. Contemporary office copy under the hand of Sir George Horm, clerk registrar, of a charter by King James the Sixth in favour of Robert Logan of Restalrig, of the maines, mills, and fortress of Fastcastel, the lands of Flemington, and others, which he and his ancestors had held of the prior of Coldingham, but which were now annexed to the Crown to be held by yearly payment to the King of 30l. Dated at Stirling, 22nd August 1598.

24. Charter of confirmation by King James the VI., in favour of Robert Logan of Restalrig, of the lands and barony of Restalrig, which he held to the hands of the King for new infirmities, erecting them into one entire and free barony called the barony of Restalrig, also containing a novadosamus. Dated at Holyrood House, 5th April 1603.

An instrument of seisin, proceeding on a precept in the preceding charter, was executed at the manor of Restalrig on 30th November 1603.

25. Charter by Robert Logan of Restalrig, with consent of Marioun Ker, his spouse, in favour of George Earl of Dunbar, in fulfilment of a contract formerly agreed upon between the granteer and grantees of the whole lands of Flemington and Restalrig to be held in the barony of Coldingham, to be held for payment to the Crown of the sum of 30l. yearly. Dated 30th and 31st August 1605. Among the witnesses were George Sprou, notary, and James Bowir parson of Auchinarrow. "Maroion Ker" signs with her own hand.

26. Precept from the Crown, proceeding on a charter of novadosamus by King James the VI., to George Earl of Dunbar, Lord Home of Berwick, of the lands of Greenlaw, Reipdeth, Fowiden, Eddingtoun, Pincartouns, Lochend, Fastcote, Flemington, &c., and erecting the same of new into one free earldom, lordship, and barony to be called the earldom of Dunbar. Dated at Whitehall and Perth, 1st and 9th July 1606.

The following preamble proceeds the grant:

"Inasmuch as we, revolving frequently in our memory the "faithful, most profitable, lengthened, and most "pleasing obediences and services rendered to us by our "most faithful and beloved Kinman and familiar coun- "sels George Earl of Dunbar, Lord Home of Berwick, "high treasurer of our realm of Scotland, and minister "of the Exchequer in England, who having in his earliest "youth really dedicated and firmly bestowed all the cares "and troubles of his life and soul, his whole life even "to us, and to our safety, service, and most noble will, "has continued to this day with the same constancy and "perfect fidelity in this his most noble purpose of deserv- "ing well of us, and of the Kingdom and State, and of "making us and the Kingdom free from all hatred and "enmity;" and that in consequence of the measure of Kings, and his nerves of wisdom and industry were kindled by the highest care and a sort of divine provi- "dence, so that he was able to dispose of all dangers that "hung over the King and to avert them. The less upright lords fearing his prudence, fidelity, and industry, a "large force of rebels was collected by them, and the "King not having the least strength to cope with them, Sir George Home retired from Scotland, unwilling to expose the King to danger, and escaped "with difficulty. He was, however, when the storm had "waned passed away, and came to this city and re- "turned to his former offices, which he fulfilled with even greater fidelity, prudence, and care, and he accompanied his Majesty on affairs of the greatest moment into Norway and Denmark. [Here he especially mentions his Majesty's prudent and "rare tacturnitures," which we may suppose Home exer- "cised in manner specially pleasing to James in the mar- "riage expedition of 1599, here obviously referred to].""

The King gives him the credit of having successfully and "alone fully discovered and combated the rebellions "schemes of Bothwell; praises his management of the "treasury of the Realm; speaks of his energetic endeavours "by home and foreign diplomacy in the favour of James "to the English throne, so that on Queen Elizabeth's "death his accession was attained without shedding of blood.

ROYAL AND OTHER LETTERS. 27. Letter of gift by King James the Sixth to Sir George Home, Spot, of the second baronies, &c. of all the lands, tenements, &c., which he agreed upon with David Ellem of Rantoun, and to Jonet, his daughter, and Patrick Home, her spouse, within the barony of Coldingham. 1598.

28. King James the Sixth to Alexander Home of Rantoun, Palace of Whitehall, 28th May 1612. Sub- scribed by King James the Sixth, and also by Alexander, Master of Drumcastone, as treasurer. Relates that direction had been given to Alexander Home, by a former special warrant from the King, to intromit with the rents, duties, &c. not uplifted before the death of the Earl of Bothwell. He is commanded to deliver the sums he had collected to the agent of the...
The petitioner then prays the King to save his family from perishing, and the country from fines or otherwise of the foresaid sum, and of 2,000 pounds lost in the troubles of the years 1650 and 1651.

38. William Somervell to Mr. John Chisholme, "Minister of the Church of England at Rentoune." Edinburgh, 23 September [1697].

Chiefly on the articles of peace agreed upon between France and England. "The news of the peace has put almost all the states out of their heads, nor will not be proclaimed till one of the articles be interchanged, and then we shall have another merry day of it as we had upon Saturday last. It is thought if anything be done for the French towns, except perhaps the private commounings, and there is no doubt but if there shall happen to be good and firm friendship betwixt the two Kings, our King will procure at last the French King's favour towards them." The letter also narrates: "The letters gives account only of one passage remarkable: that the French King should have said that he never did believe that the Oser of Muscovy in his last letter to the King of England had payed him a visit, and then made no further doubt of it, — which is the first time that ever he was heard name the Prince of Orange — as King. It is said that the Oser is to have 500 officers from the King of Great Britain, and that he is not to come to London. The King had him at dinner, and with quich the Oser was so well pleased as to the customers, manners and service at the King's table that he invited himself again to dine with the King which was very well taken."
Miss M. E. Sterling.

"against Captain Christopher Popham of Berrie-
haughs and his tennants and cottars." January 24th, 1721.

Narates that an assault had been made on Sir Robert's
attorneys while attempting to collect the old
customs of the office of Forestry. The curious perquisite was,
one wood or reek hen out of each dwelling-house that
killed and had reek within the barony of Coldingham,
and the sale, presumably of nine ready out of the
lands and estate of Berriehaunches. Captain
Popham armed himself against the collectors of the ob-
novation tax with "swords, pistols, guns, .. . and
"did in a most startling and outrageous way obstruct, &c.
The pursuer and his officers.

WILLIAM FISHER.

Edinburgh, 32, Castle Street,
23rd July 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. DOROTHY MAXWELL
WitHAM OF KIRKCONNELL, and her husband,
ROBERT MAXWELL WITHAM, ESQ.

The family of Maxwell of Kirkconnell is very ancient, and
traces its origin to Aymer de Maxwell, second son of Sir Herbert Maxwell of Maxwell and Carlawrock, and brother of Sir Herbert Maxwell, first Lord Maxwell, and one long line of the lineage now represented by the Lord Herries. The estate of Kirkconnell, in which
Stewarty of Kirkboudry (not to be confounded with
the former parish of that name in the Stewarty of Annandale), was, by the peculiar beauty of its purple, has
been considered the home of the representative of an ancient family which is supposed to have had the
estate from about the middle of the eleventh century.
The date of this marriage cannot be definitely accounted for, but it is supposed that the daughter of Lord Maxwell and Janet her wife, the family obtained from King James the second the charter of the lands of Kirkconnell on the 20th March 1456; and it is probable that the event took place about the
year 1450.
The family of Kirkconnell was unalterable in its support of the late King James, and were among the
earliest to recognize and assist the Government in its
war with the haughty and formidable insurgents of
the Earl of Northumberland. During the four centuries of possession of these lands by the family of Maxwell, of Kirkconnell, in direct descent from Aymer its founder, several of its representatives and caddies attained distin-
tinction, not only in the military, but in the more
peaceable pursuits of literature and science. A pro-
minent member of this house was a younger son of the Laird of Kirkconnell, who, after
serving in the household of Mary of Guise, joined a Scott-
ish regiment in the service of the French King. His
grandson, James Maxwell, M.A., who was a
prominent figure in the early career of the Scottish
Church. A distinguished member of this house in modern times was James Maxwell, who was inoffice in the last century and a half. He was a
member of one of the many other families which remained steadfast, not without much persecution, to the Catholic Church. He received his education at the College of Douay, and as a confiden-
tial counselor to Charles de la Tour, took part in the
insurrection of 1745.

After the battle of Culloden he escaped to
France, and in the interval which elapsed previous to his
return to Scotland in 1750 he composed a "Narrative of
my life in the French army, and my adventures in Scotland in
the Year 1745," which possesses not only historical
value as a record of the observations of one who knew
intimately the secret workings of the Pretender's Coun-
cil, but as an account of the events and characters of
the year 1745, yet to others the interest of being
with events of the revolution. The influence of the
revolutionary ideas then current in that country, and
as one of the National Guards, attended in arms at
the execution of Louis XVI. in 1793. It is related of
him that he dipped his hands in the blood of the
executed king; and his impulsive nature gained him the
appellation of "Dagger Maxwell." On his return to Scotland, he settled in Dumfries, and in the peaceful
profession of physicians, sustained a high reputation in
his native country. He was the friend of Robert
Burns, the Scotch poet, and attended him with
peccular care during his last illness at Dumfries. After
the poet's death he exerted himself with the utmost
Zeal to excite sympathy in the public mind for his
destitute widow and children. He died at Edinburgh
in 1834. The last male representative of the name and
family of Maxwell was James Maxwell, who died in
1827, and with him only child of the family, Dorothy Mary
Maxwell, married in 1844 her brother, Robert Maxwell
Witdam of Kirkconnell, eldest surviving son of William Witdam of Grey's Inn, and resident in
Edinburgh, 1875, where a complete pedigree is
given, with notices of the more important individuals.

From the present report a few excerpts, which might have been worthy of a place were omitted,
as they have already been published by me in "The

On the 11th July 1444, a notification of the
parliament of the marches of Lesser Aird, Greater Aird, and Kirkconnell, as fixed by an assize before
Alexander Mar, the justice of Annandale, was obtained
by William Maxwell, heir apparent to Lord Maxwell
Witdam of Kirkconnell; the assize consisting of 21 "good
and true men," among whom are two Gledstanes. In 1456
King James the second granted the charter of the lands
of Kirkconnell already possessed and an instrument of
sasine, of the 13th November 1461, narrates that the
same Amer de Maxwell, founder of this line, had
disposed of the lands of Kelton, in the shire of Dun-
fryes, to Gourdie and the sheriff. The only
interest that attaches to this last writ arises from the
presence of certain names as testifying witnesses: — John
Fagan, who appears as burgher of Dumfries, although we
know that this witness was connected with For-
sashire, and the two thoroughly Celtic names of
McInlauch, and McMonlaine, considered respectable enough
beggars, even at this early period, to find a place in
the same writ. The charter was granted by Lord Maxwell.
There are other writs of this company and this early period,
but none of them possess any historical interest.

The present report contains notices of I. A collection of
letters, from royal and noble personages; II. A
manuscript volume of King James the Second's
regiments of Queen Mary of Moiden in 1702; and, III. Two
registers of the Scone College of Douay.

None of these have any direct connection with the
family of Maxwell, of Kirkconnell, or have been
obtained by purchase or otherwise. Special interest attaches itself to the authentic original of the Douay Register,
which is the only extant of its kind in England, and regards
the companionship of King James the Second in its
entirety.

I.—Collection of Letters from Royal and Noble Per-
sonages.

1. Letter of King Henry VIII. of England, inscribed as follows:—"To the right excellent and my mighty prince, our most dereest brother and nephew
the King of Scotts."

Right excellent, right high and mighty prince, our most dereest brother and nephew, we recommende
unto you in our most hertie and auctious maner (by
this berer your familiyer seruitor. David Wood) we have not only receuved your most louing and kinde
direcions howmore to your most requisiu and regardes
to the conservacion and maintenence of good and lawful
vs and groundes as well in proximitie of blood
(as in the good offices, actes, and doynings shewen on
this day) as in the good offices. And in the graven comforite affirme and confess to be dayly mony and moore carreser in sinderacion and remembrance (but also two caste of faire and
good haukes which presteed in your name and
bought as yow have staid and given) and gye vnto yowe our most hertie and autious will.

Taking greate comforite and consolacion to peruye
and vnderstande by your said berer and the credence
accompanied to your said familiyer seruitor David Wood this our last letter (which we haue receuved and do
send vnto yowe with this our brewe and autious letter
that ye like a good and vertuous prince) haue so mee
to herte and mynde the good rule and ordre vppon the
borders, with redresse and reformacion of suche a
complainnte that haue been committted and donne in the
same. Not doubting but ye if ye for your part do and shall intende for our (doe effectuallly persisnte and contynue
in so good and vertuous purpose and intende) not only