COLONEL MILNE-HOME OF WEDDERBURN.
THE SCOTTISH FIELD.

Wedderburn Castle: The Seat of Colonel Milne-Home.

THE Homes of Wedderburn are descended from Sir David Home of Thurston, in East Lothian, second son of Sir Thomas Home of Home. Sir David received, in 1413, from the superior, Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas, a grant of the barony of Wedderburn, in the county of Berwickshire, which was confirmed by royal charter, dated 19th April, 1431, and again by charter of resignation under the Great Seal, dated at Stirling, 16th May, 1450, confirming the lands and barony of Wedderburn to Sir David and his wife Alice and their heirs; and the land thus acquired has been in the possession of the family ever since. In 1513, the laird of Wedderburn was that Sir David Home, who, with his seven sons, known as "the Seven Spears of Wedderburn," fought so valiantly at Flodden. They were inveterate enemies of the English, and their martial ardour and fiery zeal are vividly portrayed by Scott in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

Vails not to tell what steel did span,
Where the Seven Spears of Wedderburn
Their men in battle order set.

Alas! when the sun sank behind the towering heights of Cheviot, brave Sir David and his eldest son George lay cold and stiff, with many another gallant Merseman to bear them company.

During the minority of James V., a bitter feud raged between the Duke of Albany and the Homes. This came to a height when the Earl of Home and two of his brothers were treacherously done to death at the instigation of the Regent. Sir Anthony D'Arcy, Seigneur de la Bastie, a French knight of great personal charm, was then created Governor of the Lothians and Warden of the Eastern Marches, and to him were also given the castles of Dunbar and Home. Little wonder the Homes were furious when they saw the lands and castles of their murdered chief held by a foreigner, whose only claim to rule the Borders was his friendship with their arch-enemy. Every time they raised their eyes to the hill top, on which Home Castle stood, like a lonely sentinel, keeping watch and ward over the Merse below, their hearts grew hot within them, and their rage simmered, until at last it reached boiling point. Then the hat went forth, the interloper must die.

Quietly, patiently, they bided their time; and the hour of reckoning was not long delayed, for on a sunny day in mid-September however, they failed to do, and were declared rebels and traitors, while their estates were confiscated. To enforce this decree, the Earl of Arran was despatched to Berwickshire, but ere his arrival Sir David Home had entrenched himself in his castle of Edrington, and the Earl was forced to return to Edinburgh, after placing garrisons in the castles of Home, Wedderburn, and Langton. As soon as the coast was clear Sir David emerged from his retreat, and in a very short time had recovered all the strongholds garrisoned
by the Regent, one of the first to surrender
being his own tower of Wedderburn.

In the famous street encounter, known as
"Cleuse the Causeway," which took place
in 1520, in Edinburgh, between the followers
of the Earl of Angus and the
Hamiltons, the
Homes ranged
themselves on
the side of
Angus, and
greatly helped
to augment his
forces, but the
return of Albany
from France in
the following
year revived the
memory of the
murdered De la
Bastie, and the
Homes hastened
back hot-foot to
strengthen their
castle in case of
reprisals. Nor
were their fears
groundless, for
scarcely were
their defences
completed when they were
declared traitors.
The end of the
feud was in
sight, however, for
two years later, seeing
that further resistance was useless, they
entered into a treaty with the Regent, in
which they agreed to espouse his cause in
return for the undisturbed possession of
their estates. Sir David so distinguished
himself at the siege of Wark Castle that
James V. granted him an augmentation
of his coat of arms, i.e., a unicorn's head,
gorged, with an imperial crown as a
crest, and "Remember" for a motto.

and estate to his brother, another David,
who fought against Queen Mary at Langside.
His eldest son, Sir George Home of Wedder-
burn, was made Warden of the East Marches
and then Comptroller of Scotland. He died
the same year Sir George Home was made a
prisoner at the battle of Preston. He was
tried and condemned, but obtained a pardon,
and eventually died at Wedderburn in 1729.
For his part in the Rebellion, though he
escaped with his life, he had all
his estates for-
sited, but by a
decree of the
Court of Session
in 1719 Wedder-
burn was ex-
empted from
the Crown rights.
He had six sons
and three daugh-
ters. The second
son, George,
emigrated to
Calpeper, Vir-
ginia, U.S.A.,
and married, but
was lost sight of.
His descendants
are still settled
in Virginia, and
according to the
Historical Manu-
scripts Com-
mission Report,
"Among them,
by right of
blood, there may
be the preferen-
tial heir to the
peerage of Marchmont, dormant since 1794.
Sir George's eldest daughter, Margaret, mar-
rried Ninian Home of Billie, and their son
Patrick became laird of Wedderburn. Thus
the estate passed into the female line. The
surname of Milne was added to that of Home
in 1532, when Jean Foreman Home of
Wedderburn and Paxton married David
Milne, eldest son of Admiral Sir David Milne,
G.C.B. They had one son, David, the father of
the present proprietor.

He was killed by the English in 1524.
Sir David Home's eldest son George was
taken prisoner at the battle of Solway Moss,
and killed at Pinkie in 1547, leaving his title
devolved on the latter's son, also
named George. In 1695, we find George
making over the property to his son George,
although he himself lived until 1715. In

Not a trace of the ancient fastness or
tower of Wedderburn remains to-day. Like
many another Border stronghold, its thick
walls and battlements, after holding their own

PHOTO, AMY N. CAMERON.

WEEDERBURN CASTLE FROM THE AVENUE.

PHOTO, AMY N. CAMERON.

OLD STONE IN COURTYARD.

WEEDERBURN.

NORTH GATEWAY.

ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND.
stoutly throughout centuries of savage Border warfare, succumbed at length to the slow but, oh how relentless! hand of time. Surrounded by level meadows, at one period a deer park, with splendid old trees and picturesque clumps of woodland, the modern Wedderburn Castle rears its stately front above the theatre of fierce fray and stubborn siege. Standing very nearly on the site of the original tower, it was erected by Patrick, son of Ninian Home, sometime M.P. for Berwickshire. He succeeded his uncle in 1766 and died in 1808. It is a stately pile, square, with a central courtyard, entered from the back. Its many-windowed façade (it is said that the castle has a window for every day in the year) looks south, and terminates at either end in an octagonal battlemented tower. From these the wings spread at right angles to meet another pair especially the drawing-room and what is known as the library, though this latter has much more the appearance of a ballroom, and is frequently used as one. Its delicately hued green walls and white pillars make an admirable background for pink hunt coats and rainbow-tinted diaphanous frocks. The drawing-room contains a handsome mantelpiece of pure white marble, inset with plaques of mosaic, while in the dining-room the chimney-piece is supported by dark-hued marble pillars, which gives it a rich effect. Amongst other objects of interest are two spinetts, quaint pieces of furniture, whose yellow keys still give forth a faint sweet tinkle, and in imagination one sees the fair dames of the house of Home of bygone days making melody on them.

But there is one priceless treasure in Wedderburn Castle compared with which all of towers, connecting the fabric with the north wall, and here is an archway opening into the courtyard. On the east side of the house, an old stone, engraved with a coat of arms, has been let into the wall; this is apparently a relic of a previous mansion.

Within a stone portico the front door opens into a lofty stone hall, with a double staircase, also of stone. At the top is a pillared arch, whence the main corridor branches off to right and left. A quaint old hammered-iron lamp swings from the ceiling in the hall, and after dark its soft radiance shines on the wide stone steps, while velvety shadows hover in remote corners and behind pillars, and lend an air of mystery to the gallery overhead.

This gallery is quite a feature of the house, and serves to connect the dining and drawing-rooms. The public rooms are large and lofty, else fades into insignificance, and that is the flag beneath which the Homeos fought at the battle of Flodden. Carefully preserved in a glass case which hangs on the wall of the main corridor, its chequered career ended, it rests at peace. Frayed, begrimed with the stress and tumult of war, stained perchance with valiant Scottish blood, how proudly, it floated in the morning breeze, tinged with the gold of sunrise, above the heads of the Seven Spears "marching so proudly to the fateful field." Also how limply, how wertly its folds drooped when at sundown it was laid as a pall over the dead bodies of father and son, and the house of Wedderburn was plunged in dull and sorrow.

In a field not far from the castle, within sight and sound of a little babbling stream, is the old burying-ground of the Homeos, that he either broke his neck, or was killed before he could get out of the water.

Wedderburn Castle is approached by two avenues winding through tree-shaded meadows. In spring, the ground is thickly carpeted with snowdrops, glistening pure white like snow-wreaths. A little later these give place to a wealth of golden daffodils, whose glamour is again succeeded by the pale saffron stars of the primroses, while in the strip of woodland in the west approach, a mist of blue forget-me-nots and pink satin sheets of ragged robin tell of the coming of summer.

Besides Wedderburn Castle, Colonel Milne-Home is the possessor of several other estates, including Paxton on the banks of the Tweed. He is a J.P. and D.L. for the County of Berwickshire. He is married and has three daughters.