

DESCRIPTION OF THE
PARISH BY ANDREW
JERVISE, 1875

family of the late Arthur Duff-Abercromby of Glasgow, and Elizabeth Innes of Cowie, as a mark of esteem and appreciation of her character during the 30 years she resided with them.

Besides the parish church, and the Chapel of Cowie, there was at least one other religious house in Fetteresso in old times, to which a burial place was attached. The site, which is called

THE CHAPEL OF ELSICK,

is situated near the mansion-house of Elsick. Traces of the church still remain within the burial-ground; and the only tomb-stone, now visible, is thus inscribed:—

Here lyes GEORG HEPBURN, indweller was at Gilibrans, who departed this lyfe the 2d day of Nouember 1702, and was of age 67 years, who lived in the foresaid place since the year 1630.

—"Gilibrans," and a great extent of surrounding territory, which, not long ago, was owned by about a dozen different lairds, constituted the estate of Elsick, as held by the family of BANNERMAN. One of them was created a baronet in 1682; but, owing to the decline of the family fortunes, they lost all territorial interest in the district, with the exception of the old kirk-yard, until the present baronet re-acquired the estate and mansion-house of Elsick.

The more immediate ancestors of the Bannermans of Elsick were merchants in Aberdeen. According to tradition, the name originated from the family having been *bannermen*, or standard-bearers, to the kings. It is certain that, as far back as 1373 (*inf.* p. 287), Donald Bannerman was king's physician, and held property in Newhills.

Aberdour.

(S. DROSTAN, ABBOT.)

THE ruins of the old church of *Aberdour* are picturesquely situated within the burial-ground, which overlooks the romantic den and bay

of *Aberdour*. *Mess John's Well* springs from a rock on the left side of the bay, and S. DROSTAN's Well is on the right.

S. DROSTAN died at Glensesk, in Angus, in the year 809. His remains were conveyed from Glensesk to *Aberdour*, where they were deposited in a "tumba lapidea," or stone coffin, and were long believed to work wondrous cures upon the sick and afflicted. Interesting notices of *Aberdour*, ecclesiastical and territorial, will be found in the *Book of Deer* (Spalding Club), edited by Dr John Stuart; and of S. DROSTAN, in *Kalendars of Scottish Saints*, by the Bishop of Brechin.

In 1318, Bishop Chein erected the church into a prebend of Old Machar.

The church of *Aberdour* is rated at 28 merks in the Old Taxation. In 1574, along with the kirks of Gamrie, Philorth (Fraserburgh), and Tyrie, it was served by Mr David Howesoun, as minister; and Alexander Ramsay was the contemporary reader, or schoolmaster at *Aberdour*.

The earliest parts of the old kirk of *Aberdour* possibly belong to the 16th century; but the piscina, or lavatory, and a hexagonal baptismal font, seem to be of an older date. The latter was brought from Chapel Den, about four miles to the westward, where, it is said, there was another place of worship.

The nave of the old church of *Aberdour* is used for interments. The east portion is walled off and divided into two separate aisles. A stone panel, over the entrance to the more easterly aisle, bears these words:—

*This Sepulture was erected by
Chas. Leslie, Esq., M.D., Fraserburgh, 1819.*

The following is abridged from a marble slab within the same aisle:—

To the memory of MARGARET ROBERTSON, wife of William Leslie of Coburty, who died 3d July 1808, aged 52. WILLIAM LESLIE, Esq. of Coburty, died Dec. 1814, aged 69. Their sons and daughter, WILLIAM LESLIE, died 11th Aug. 1819, aged 37; GRACE LESLIE, died 3d March 1821, aged 32; CHARLES LESLIE, M.D., who died at Memsie, 11th March 1839, aged 64.

—Dr Leslie, who was a native of Rosehearty, and a medical practitioner in Fraserburgh, married the heiress of Memisie.

The burial aisle of the Bairds of Auchmedden is to the west of the last-mentioned. It contains three stones, inscribed as below, each of which present carvings of the Baird arms:—

[1.]

HIC . IACET . HONORABILIS . GEORGIUS . BAIRDE .
DE . AVCHMEDDEN . QVI . OBIT . 20 . MAII . 1593 .
ANNO . AVTEM . ÆTAT . SVÆ . 76 .

[Here lies the honourable GEORGE BAIRDE of Auchmedden, who died 29th May 1593, in the 76th year of his age.]

[2.]

. BAIRD . DE . AVCHMEDDEN . QVI .
OBIIT . 23 . DIE . MENSIS . FEBRVARI

[3.]

1559 : IACOBVS . BAIRD . DE . AVCHMEDDEN .
HOC . MONVMENT SVORVM . ANDREÆ .
GEORG GEORGII . BAIRD . DE . EODEM
. QVORVM . CORPORA . HIC . SEPVLTA
. ET . OBIERVNT . 10 . FEB . 1543 .
MAII . 29 . 1593 1620 . ET . FEB . 12 .
1642 . AC . ETIAM . ANNÆ ER . ET .
ELISABETHÆ . KETHE . MATRIS . ET . PROAVÆ .
EIVSDEM .

[1559: James Baird of Auchmedden [erected] this monument [to the memory] of his ANDREW, GEORGE GEORGE BAIRD of the same, whose bodies are here interred, and [who] died 10th Feb. 1543, 29th May 1593, 1620, and 12th Feb. 1642; and also to the memory of ANN ER, and ELIZABETH KEITH, mother and grand-mother of the same.]

—The erector of the monument from which the third inscription is copied, was high sheriff of Banffshire, and took an active part in the public affairs of his time. He was knighted by Chas. II., and married Christian, daughter of Walter Ogilvy of Boyne. Her initials and arms are also upon the monument.

The half-obliterated name of ANN FRASER refers to a daughter of Lord Saltoun, who was the mother of Sir James Baird. Sir James' grand-mother, Elizabeth Keith, wife of the first-named

GEORGE, was a daughter of Keith of Troup, brother to Earl Marischal. The name altogether obliterated (between the two Georges) had been that of GILBERT BAIRD. He was third in succession, and died 23d Feb. 1620, having had, by his kinswoman, the heiress of Ordnhuives, no fewer than thirty-two sons and daughters. It was in 1597, during the absence of this laird, that James Chein from Pennan, and others attacked the house of Auchmedden. In a contemporary account of the affair, it is stated that the assailants "clam to the tops of thair houssis, kaist in stanes at the chymney," and shot the lady "throw the claythis, sche being grit with barne; for feir of the quhilk schot," it is added, "she schortlie thairafter pairtit with the said barne."

In the year 1534 Andrew Baird, a son of Baird of Posso, in Peebles, and designed of Laverocklaw, in Fife, bought the lands of Auchmedden from Stewart, Earl of Buchan. The charter is attested by George Baird of Ordnyhuiff and others. The Bairds held Auchmedden until 1750, when it was sold to Lord Haddo by William Baird, who joined in the rebellion of 1745.

Mr Baird married a sister of the first Earl of Fife, by whom he left a numerous family, none of whose descendants now remain, except those of his daughter Henrietta, who married Francis Fraser, Esq. of Findrack (*infra*, p. 239.) It ought to be added that Mr Baird wrote two interesting works, one, which gives an Account of his own Family, has been edited by his descendant, W. N. Fraser, Esq.; and the other, Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs, has been privately printed by Major Gordon-Duff of Drummuir, accompanied by a photographic portrait of the author. The above notes regarding the Bairds are made up from the first of these books.

The property of Auchmedden, which has been in several hands since 1750, now belongs to Jas. Baird, Esq., one of the Gartsherrie family.

An aisle on the south side of the ruins of the church was erected by Mr Gordon of Aberdour. It contains a handsome marble tablet, with the Gordon and Rose arms, quartered; also an inscription to the following effect:—

To the memory of WILLIAM GORDON of Aberdour, who died 11 Nov. 1839, aged 67; and of his wife MARY ROSE, eldest daughter of William Rose of Ballivat, who died 18 Jan. 1828, aged 49; and of their children: JOHN, who died in October 1802, in infancy; ALICIA, who died 2 August 1810, aged 14; ANNA, who died 4 Feb. 1822, aged 16; ELISABETH, who died 28 Augt. 1826, aged 16; ALEXANDER, lieutenant of the Coldstream Guards, who died 1 April 1818, aged 20; GEORGE, who died in Surrey, 7 Dec. 1820, aged 7; and WILLIAM, who died at St Kitts, 18 June, aged 40.

—The father of the above first-named Mr Gordon was tenant of the Milltown of Aberdour, also factor for the 3d Earl of Aberdeen and for General Gordon of Fyvie. He bought the estate of Aberdour, and founded the village of New Aberdour. His son, who died as above in 1839, sold the estate shortly before his death. It is a tradition that the Lieutenant fell in a duel with a Frenchman, who appears to have been a good marksman, for it is added that he had previously shot three or four antagonists under similar circumstances. Lieut. G.'s grandfather died in 1785.

Having accidentally heard of a carved stone in the more westerly part of the nave of the church, and on the site of the old pulpit, I had diggings made when at Aberdour sometime ago, and discovered, at the depth of from one to two feet, an interesting slab of freestone, measuring four feet nine inches by two feet; but it is unfortunately broken. It is embellished in the centre with a cross, terminating in a fleur-de-lis at the top; and at the foot, within a circle or belt, there is a shield charged with three cinquefoils in chief, and a martlet displayed between two cinquefoils in base, for White. The following inscription is carved in relief round the margin of the stone:—

HEIR . LYE . . . HONE . QVHYT . SVTYM . IN
ARDLAHIL . QVHA . DECEISIT . YE . XI . OF . OC.
1590.

—In a letter from Professor Baird of Lyons, to his brother of Auchmedden, dated from Lyons, 23 Jan. 1603, he remarks—"As to the Abbot, Mr John Quhyt, John Quhyt of Ardlyhill's son, thair is half a yeir since I hard he is in guid helth." It is stated (Edinburgh Review, No. 243, p. 180),

that John-James Whyte became Abbot of the Scots monastery at Ratisbone in 1595, and died in Germany in 1629. The above inscription appears to relate to the father of Abbot Whyte. Whytes tenanted Ardlawhill in, and long before, 1696, under Lord Pitsligo.

The following inscriptions are from stones in the churchyard:—

Heir lyes WILLIAM GORDON, sometye in Little Byth . . . departed Feb. 9, 1724; and MARGARET DALGARNO, his spouse, who died Sept. 8, 1713.

There is a pretty complete set of tombstones to the old ministers of this parish. Upon the first noticed are the initials, M. G. C: I. O.; a shield bearing (1), a fesse-chequy, between a crescent and 2 mullets, a boar's head couped in base; (2), 2 lions rampant in chief, and 3 lozenges in base; also this brief inscription:—

Heir lyes Mr GEORG CLERK and IEAN OGSTONE his wyf. Mr GEORG CLERK entred person of Aberdour the 20 day of Febr. 1614 years, and departed this lyf the 18 of Agvst 1644 years.

The next stone presents the initials M. W. R., and the armorial bearings, boldly carved, of a double-headed spread eagle in chief, and 3 leisters in base:—

Here lyes Master WILLIAM RAMSAY, a faithful minister of the Gospel, who was entered person of Aberdour the 2 day of Januar 1651, and departed this life the 31 day of December 1690 years.

Here lyes Mr ALEXANDER REYNOLD, a faithful servant of God in the ministry, being admitted thereto at Aberdour, September 17, 1663, and dyed August 9, 1691, and MARGARET FORBES, his spouse, who dyed Feb. 28, 1695:—

This dormitory which thou sees,
Was once the object of my eyes;
But now my body is in dust,
Thine also death will hither thrust.

—Mr R.'s wife was a daughter of John Forbes of Pitnacaddel, by Christian, daughter of Johnston of Caskieben. The writer of the *rare verse* is not recorded!

Memoriae Rndⁱ admodum Dⁿⁱ IAC. BROWN, qui in meridionalibus hujus regionis parœchiis de Kilbochoilli, natali, et Walston, aliquot annos in Evangelif

laboribus versatus, huic tandem admissus parochie 7^{mo} Cal. Sep. 1697, postquam Christo fidelitate summa et vigilantia indefessa inserviisset, fatis cessit, pridie Cal. Aug., 1732, ætatis 70, ministerii 44. Monumentum hoc extruendum curavit filius ejus unicus Ioannes, pastor Longsidensis.

[To the memory of the very reverend Mr JAMES BROWN, who, after having been employed for some years in the work of the Gospel in the south country, in the parishes of Kilbucho (his native parish), and Walston, was at length appointed to this parish, 27 Aug. 1697; and after serving Christ with the utmost faithfulness and unwearied vigilance, departed this life 31 July 1732, in the 70th year of his age, and 44th of his ministry. His only son, John, minister of Longside, caused this monument to be erected.]

Mr THOMAS ANDERSON, 31 years minister of Aberdour, died 1765, aged 65.

The Rev. ANDREW YOUNGSON, A.M., 43 years minister of Aberdour, died 15 June 1809, aged 83. AGNES ANDERSON, his wife, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Anderson of Aberdour, died 22 May 1825, aged 76. His piety, sweetness of disposition, mildness of manners, fortitude, and cheerful resignation under the greatest bodily distress, endeared him to all who knew him; and set a happy example of the power of that religion which he taught to others.

—The allusion to "bodily distress" refers to the painful fact, that Mr Y. suffered from cancer in the throat for the long period of 30 years. His son,

Major THOMAS YOUNGSON, H.E.I.C.S., died 27 Oct. 1839, aged 55. Erected by his widow.

The Rev. GEORGE GARDINER, for 46 years minister of Aberdour. He was born at Smithston in Rhyndie, A.D. 1782, and died at Manse of Aberdour on the 30 January 1857.

—Many stories are preserved of Mr Gardiner's erratic habits and uncompromising disposition. He wrote the New Statistical Account of the Parish, and in speaking of the character of the people, he remarks that they are "strangers to that fanaticism which acts as a nurse to sedition, and that pharisaical hypocrisy which serves as a cloak to the most heinous sins, their maxim is, 'to fear God, honour the King, and not meddle with those that are given to change.'"

The Rev. THOMAS KIDD, A.M., ordained minister of Longside, 14 May 1829, died at Aden, where he had been tutor for several years, three days after his settlement, aged 34 years.

Here lyes the ashes of an honest man named JAMES BRUCE, who lived sometime in Mininy, who departed this life Febry 23, 1718 years; and likewise IEAN BROWN his wife who died This stone is erected by ALEXANDER BRUCE, lawful son of the said James Bruce, who departed this life May 10, 1705, also IANET SPENCE, spouse to Alex. Bruce, who departed this life May 12, 1759.

—Notwithstanding the apparent contradiction in the above inscription, it is a literal copy of the original. The middle paragraph appears to have been the last engraved part of it.

. JOHN MONCUR d. 22 Ap. 1853, a. 15 y.; ROBT. d. at sea, Oct. 13, 1856, a. 22 y. :—

Ye readers all both old and young,
Your time on earth will not be long;
We was like two lilies fresh and green
Who was cut down and no more seen.
We grew in beauty side by side,
We filled one home with glee;
Our graves are severed far and wide,
By mountain, stream, and tree.

—The last verse of this epitaph, which forms such a contrast to the preceding lines, is copied from a poem by Mrs Hemans.

The parish church was removed from the old site to the village of New Aberdour in 1818. The date of 1771 is upon the belfry; and the bell was put up in 1859. A tablet outside the church bears this inscription :—

This church was erected by JOHN DINGWALL, Esq. of Brucklay, Patron and Principal Heritor of the Parish, and CHARLES FORBES, Esq., proprietor of Auchmedden. 1818.

A neat Free Church was recently erected at New Aberdour.

The Earls of Douglas were proprietors of this district before and for sometime after 1408. About the time mentioned Fraser of Philorth acquired part of the lands of the barony of Aberdour from the Earl of Douglas as superior.

Dundarg Castle, of which little more than the arched gateway remains, stood upon a peninsula which juts into the sea. It is said to have been built by Cumin, Earl of Buchan, and to have been garrisoned in the 13th and 14th centuries. Tradition says that the roof was taken off the castle to replace that of the old church, which had fallen into decay.

Lord Pitsligo's cave, where that nobleman lay in hiding after the rebellion of 1715, and amused himself by scooping out a little reservoir, is between Dundarg and Roseheart, in an almost inaccessible part of the cliffs.

Ellon.

(THE BLESSED VIRGIN.)

KING ROBERT the BRUCE gave the kirk of *Ellon* to the Abbey of Kinloss, in Moray, in 1310. It was sometimes called *Kinloss-Ellon*; and possibly the church was granted to Kinloss by Cumin Earl of Buchan at the time of its foundation.

According to the Edinburgh Prognostication for 1706, MARYMASS Fair was held here in August, and RUDE Fair in May.

There was an altar within the church called the HOLY ROOD, to which, in 1380, Leask of that ilk (whose burial place was within the church), made certain grants of money and wax for saying mass, and for lights to be burned at his family tomb.

The present church was erected in 1777, within which a marble is thus inscribed:—

JOHN LEITH-ROSS of Arnage, died 15 May 1839, aged 63: ELIZABETH YOUNG, his spouse, coheirress of Bourtie, died 9 June, 1852, aged 70: their third son WILLIAM ROSS, M.D., died 28 Sep. 1834, aged 22; GEORGE, their fourth son, and FREDERICK, their grandson, died in childhood.

—John Ross, a merchant in Aberdeen, bought the property of Arnage in 1702. The male line of Ross having failed, the succession devolved

through a female on the above named John Leith Ross, who was a cadet of the family of LEITH of Freefield. The first Ross of Arnage married a daughter of Forbes of Echt, and died at Amsterdam in 1714, aged 50.

A tomb of freestone, which was built into the inner wall of the old church, is divided into three compartments. Over the centre inscription-panel (which is blank), are the Annand arms, with supporters. Below is the motto, SPER ABO. On the left, the initials, D.A.D., and on the right "Obiit 1326." The Annand and Fraser arms, with the initials, A.A: M.F., and motto, ET SALUS are over the east panel. Upon it is the following inscription, which, though but recently restored, will, owing to the inferior sort of stone employed, require soon to be renewed:—

Monumentum marmoreum honorabilis ALEXANDRI ANNAND, baronis quondam de Ochterellon, qui obiit ix Julii, A.D. 1601; ejusque piæ conjugis, MARGARETÆ FRASER, filiæ quondam dō de Philorth, quæ obiit Aug., A.D. 1602.—Salus per Christum.

[The marble monument of ALEXANDER ANNAND, the late honourable baron of Ochterellon, who died 9 July 1601; and of his pious spouse MARGARET FRASER, daughter of the late laird of Philorth, who died Aug. 1602.]

Over the panel, on the west, are carved the Annand and Cheyne arms, with the initials A. A: M.C.; and motto, MORS CHRISTI VITA NOSTRA. The panel bears the following renewed inscription:—

Sub hoc quoque tumulo resurrectionem expectant corpora ALEXANDRI ANNAND de Ochterellon, filii dicti Alexandri, qui obiit . . . , et caræ suæ conjugis, MARGARETÆ CHEYNE, filiæ dō de Esslemont, quæ obiit . . .

[In this tomb also await the resurrection, the bodies of ALEXANDER ANNAND of Ochterellon, son of the said Alexander, who died . . . , and of his beloved wife MARGARET CHEYNE, daughter of the laird of Esslemont, who died . . .

—Henry Annand, who left a widow called Marjory Cullen, and who was succeeded by his son Alexander in Ochterellon 1505-6 (of which the Earl of Crawford was superior), is the first An-