

CHAPTER II.

THE ORIGIN OF THE EARLS OF LENNOX.

Much has been written on the origin of the Earls of Lennox, each writer apparently satisfying himself that his own conclusions are correct, yet, it appears, insufficient attention has been devoted, in every case, to the arguments advanced by those holding different views.

The chief point of contention seems to be whether the old Earls of Lennox were of Saxon or Celtic origin. Among the upholders of the former theory are Crawford and Douglas, the writers of the Scots Peerages; J. Denistoun, editor of the Lennox Cartulary; and Sir William Fraser, author of "The Lennox" and many important genealogical works. Among those found adhering to the Celtic origin are E. W. Robertson, author of "Scotland Under Her Early Kings;" the genealogist, William Buchanan of Auchmar; and W. F. Skene, the well-known antiquarian, author of "Celtic Scotland" and other valuable contributions to Scottish history.

In this search for the progenitors of the old Earls of Lennox the starting is generally made with Alwin (junior), Earl of Lennox. Two charters by him are on record, one preserved in the register of the Monastery of Paisley, granting and confirming to the Church of Kilpatrick the lands of Cochinach, Edenanernan, etc. Among the witnesses are Maldouen and Malcolm, sons of the Earl, and Rodardus, his grandson (nepote).¹ The editor of the Paisley register sets the date to the charter about the year 1199.

The other charter by Alwin (junior), Earl of Lennox, son and heir of Alwin (senior), Earl of Lennox, is recorded in the register of the Church of Glasgow, and consists of a grant of the Church of Campsey to the Church of Glasgow. Among the witnesses are Maldouen, the Earl's son and heir; Dugald, also the Earl's son, and

¹ Registrum Monasterii de Passelet, p. 157. Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax, p. 12.