

don, second son of the Earl of Sutherland, to the dignity of premier Baronet of Scotland and Nova Scotia; and on the resignation of Sir Wm. Alexander, his grant of sixteen thousand acres of land in Nova Scotia was erected into the Free Barony and Regality of Gordon, in favour of himself, his heirs male, and assignees, whomsoever.

This Charter to the premier Baronet is recorded in the Register Office, Edinburgh; and is also to be found printed, at full length, in Sir Robert Douglas's Baronage of Scotland. It is made by subsequent instruments the regulating Charter for the whole of the persons created Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia.—*Royal Charter, Car. I. to the Gordon Family, 28 May, 1625.* On the 12th of July, 1625, King Charles I., by a Charter of Novodamus, ratified and renewed his father's grant in fee of Nova Scotia to the Earl of Stirling, his heirs and assignees, with extensive additional powers and privileges, which Charter is recorded in the general register of sasines kept at Edinburgh, under date 6th September, 1625. His Majesty having appointed the Castle of Edinburgh as the place for giving sasine by infestment, that ceremony was performed and correctly implemented within the Castle gate, on the 29th September, 1625. This Charter and sasine form effectual instruments, and constitute a complete feudal right, title, and investment of the property.

It is specially declared by the Sovereign, "*in verbo Principis*," that the Charters conveying these grants "shall be valid, sufficient, and effectual, in all time coming, in all points as set forth, against the Crown, its heirs, and successors,—“nor shall it be lawfully impugned or called in question;” his Majesty for ever acquitting and renouncing “all title, action, instance, and interest heretofore competent, or that may be competent to us and our heirs and successors, renouncing the same *simpliciter, jure lite et causa, cum pacto de non petendo*,” &c.—*Register of Precepts, and Register of the Great Seal, B. 51, N. 23, and General Register of Sasines, B. 18.*

Between the 28th of May, 1625—on which day Sir Robert Gordon was created—and the 19th of July following, nine other grants of land in Nova Scotia, of 16,000 acres each, were erected into free Baronies and Regalities, and conferred upon nine individuals, with the title of Baronet, their Charters being, *mutatis mutandis*, identical with that of the premier Baronet.

By a Royal Letter, bearing date Windsor Castle, 19 July, 1625, King Charles I. acquainted the Lords of the Privy Council of Scotland, that he had created the Baronets above referred to; and that “he had sent them a Commission for accepting surrenders of land from the Earl of Stirling, and conferring the dignity of Baronet upon such as should be found of quality fit for the same, till the number appointed within the said Commission (viz. one hundred and fifty) should be perfected.”—*Letter from Charles I. to the Privy Council of Scotland, 19th July, 1625.*

The Commission referred to in the above Royal Letter is recorded in the Register Office, Edinburgh, and was passed under the Great Seal of Scotland,