

1st, Robert, who entered the Royal Navy, served under Captain (late Admiral) William Dickson, and was present at nearly all the battles of Rodney. The Peace of Versailles in 1783 having shattered his legitimate hopes of advancement, he entered the service of the East India Company, made two voyages to India and died a victim of its fatal climate. He possessed a talent for literature which only needed cultivation, and turned out verses quite skilfully. They may be judged by the following little elegy on the supposed loss of a vessel, composed during the night which preceded the famous battle of Saintes, April 12th, 1782. He alludes to the numerous amusements of his mess:

"No more the geese shall cackle on the poop,
No more the bagpipe through the orlop sound,
No more the midshipmen, a jolly group,
Shall toast the girls and push the bottle round.
In death's dark road, at anchor fast they stay;
Till Heaven's loud signal shall in thunder roar;
Then starting up, all hands shall quick obey,
Sheet home the topsail and with speed unmoor."

2nd, John, who entered the army, rose to the rank of major, and died May 8, 1816.

3rd, Walter, the great writer, author of so many masterpieces.

4th, Anne, born in 1772, who died unmarried in 1801.

5th, Thomas, of whom I am writing

6th, Daniel, who tried several professions, succeeded in none, and died on his return from India in 1806.

Thomas at first embraced his father's profession and remained some years a Writer to the Signet, but then became taken with an ambition for riches, and entered land speculations, in which unfortunate operations ruined him completely. He then retired to the Isle of Man. He had always been fond of a military life. Even as a young man he had been a member of a corps of volunteer Grenadiers at Edinburgh, and in a letter written by his brother Walter to their aunt Christian Rutherford, in November 1794, we read:

"Our volunteers have now all assembled. In spite of the dullness of the uniform they have a martial appearance. Their address in manœuvres and exercises of all kinds excite the surprise and admiration of regular soldiers. Tom is very proud of the Grenadier company to which he belongs. It is the one which has on every occasion carried off the palm."

Lord Melville, therefore, who knew his tastes, and desired to protect him for the sake of his brother Sir Walter, whose schoolmate he had been, appointed him, some time after his retirement to the Isle of Man, an *extractor*, an officer in the British army who corresponded to the recruiting officer of the French army. His annual pay was £400.

But Thomas Scott was unlucky. A short time after his appointment the office of extractor was abolished. Lord Melville, wishing to indemnify his friend's brother for the loss of his position, proposed in the House of Lords a measure—the Scott Judicature Bill—to grant Thomas Scott an annual pension of £130. The bill met quite a lively opposition among the Lords, and when it was read the third time, the Earl of Lauderdale and Lord Holland energetically opposed its adoption and delivered forcible speeches upon it.

"Thomas Scott," exclaimed the Earl of Lauderdale, "was appointed extractor at a time when it was decided and well known to all that the position was on the point of abolition. Mr. Scott has not even filled the duties of the place, yet he is to obtain a pension of £130, while poor employees work and labour twenty years and have no right to any remuneration!"

Lord Holland was a little milder. He even rendered homage to the talent of Walter Scott. "Those who know me," he said, "will not suspect me of being unfavourable to men of letters; on the contrary, I have the greatest esteem for the literary character of Walter Scott. I have always considered it my duty to encourage literary merit regardless of political opinions. But in what concerns Mr. Thomas Scott the question is very different; he was appointed to a position knowing that it was on the point of abolition; and now he claims a recompense for losses which he has not suffered. This is unjust."

Lord Melville's bill nevertheless passed, and Thomas Scott drew the pension until his death. Some years later he was appointed paymaster in the 70th Regiment, which in 1814 received orders to embark for America. Scott came with it. The 70th was at first in barracks at Cornwall, but afterwards, in 1815, was transferred to Kingston, and at

length to Quebec. During his stay at Kingston Thomas Scott was suspended from his duties by direct order of the Minister of War, communicated to General Wilson by Major Evans in a missive dated December 1st, 1816, as follows: "It is ordered that Thomas Scott, paymaster of the 70th Regiment, be suspended from his functions until the pay lists and other military papers be transmitted to the Ministry."

He had, while still young, married Elizabeth McCulloch, of a good Scotch family, and had by her one son and four daughters, of whom the youngest, Barbara, died at Quebec on the 5th of October, 1821, at the age of eight years. Of his son, Sir Walter wrote his brother on the 23rd of July, 1820: "After my own children, those in whom I have most interest naturally are yours. I have thought long over what you have told me about your son Walter. In whatever career you desire to give him I can be of great service to him. But before doing anything I wish to consult you on your boy's inclinations. I do not mean by that to say that you ought to ask him his opinion because at such an early age a well-brought-up child accepts what his parents suggest to him; but I believe you should consider with very great impartiality his temperament, his disposition, and his qualities of heart and body. It would not be seeking his welfare to make him take up a profession because that profession offers more advantages than another. It would be better to sacrifice those advantages rather than to introduce a child into a career for which he is not fit. If my nephew is wise and prudent, if he loves quiet and a seventary life, if he progresses in arithmetic and has a taste for it, he cannot take up a better career than that of an accountant. It is the employment in which I can render him the most services. It is one of the least encumbered of careers. If he wishes to enter that career, I will obtain him employment with a good patron, and pay his board myself; but if—which is not impossible—the boy loves active life and adventures, I can introduce him as a cadet into the service of the East India Company."

As a matter of fact, Walter entered the service of the East India Company, becoming an ensign at Bombay.

Jessie, the eldest of Thomas Scott's daughters, became the wife, in 1819, of Lieutenant—later Lieutenant-Colonel—Huxley. It is to her that Sir Walter's letter to his brother of the 16th October, 1819, treats: "I yesterday received your letter in forming me of the approaching marriage of Jessie. Before this letter reaches you the happy event will probably have taken place. I enclose herein a word for this bride, and send her a little present which she is to use as she likes."

The two others, Anne and Eliza, after their father's death, followed their mother to Scotland, and on the 19th of April, 1826, Sir Walter writes in his journal: "I have written to Mrs. Thomas Scott begging her to permit her charming daughter Anne to pass the season with me." Some months later, on the 21st of November, 1826, Sir Walter Scott writes anew in his journal: "My sister-in-law (Mrs. Thomas Scott) and her daughter are just arriving at the house. They are both in perfect health." At this period, Anne and Eliza were not yet married.

Sir Walter had a very high opinion of the literary talents of his brother Thomas. In 1808, disagreeing with the editors of the Edinburgh Review, with whom he had worked until then, he resolved to found the Quarterly, and wrote Thomas the following letter about it:

"Certain pressing affairs have prevented my hitherto completing for you my collection of the works of Shadwell. It is, however, on the eve of being so. You must obtain all the original pieces in order to be able to collate them with the octavo edition. But I have just now a more pressing and lucrative employment for your pen. I inform you under the seal of secrecy that a plot is hatching at this moment to kill the Edinburgh Review. We have the intention of founding a new review, which we trust will display quite as much talent and independence. I was offered the chief editorship of the new publication, but although the remunerations attached to the post are very high, I declined. Mr. Gifford, the author of the 'Baviad,' accepted the task. He attached one condition, however: I must give him all the assistance possible."

"You are going to have the opportunity to practise your talent as a writer. The Quarterly Review will accept everything; poems, romances, novels, etc., etc. You will get for each sixteen printed pages ten guineas. To com-