

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

VOLUME I.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1880.

NUMBER 43.

POETRY.

THE GRAVE.

FROM THE GERMAN OF SALIS.

The grave is deep and still,
Terrors around it stand;
It covers with a darksome veil
The mighty unknown land.

The nightingale's sweet notes
Pierce not the chilly ground,
And friendship's roses wither
Upon the moss-grown mound.

Forsoaken widows weep,
And wring their hands in vain;
The father hears no more
His orphan babes complain.

Yet vainly after peace
We weary pilgrims roam;
'Tis only by this dreary gate
That man can reach his home.

The weary heart oppressed,
Of countless storms the seat,
Ne'er finds the wished for rest
Till it has ceased to beat.

OBITUARY.

FUNERAL OF THE DUCHESS-COUNTESS OF SUTHERLAND.

The last number of our paper contained a brief notice of the removal of the body of the deeply lamented Duchess-Countess of Sutherland from London to Aberdeen, and thence to Inverness on its way to Dunrobin Castle. The interment took place in the family vault of the Sutherland family, within the ancient cathedral of Dornoch, on Thursday last, the 21st inst. and, in addition to the following account of this mournful ceremony, we prefix more ample details of the funeral procession from London to the North than was contained in our former notice.

The Duchess-Countess drew her last breath, without a struggle, at her residence in Hamilton Place, London, on the 29th of January last, at half-past six o'clock in the afternoon. Her Grace was born in Edinburgh on 24th May, 1765, and consequently attained the age of 73 years, and 8 months, and 5 days. On Saturday, the 9th of this month, her Grace's mortal remains were removed from her residence for Aberdeen, by steam from Blackwall, in the following order:—Two Mutes on horseback, the Plumbearer, the Coronet of her Grace borne by a man on horseback, on a crimson cushion, attended by two Pages; the Hearse drawn by six richly-comparisined horses, and on the sides were the armorial bearings of Dukes and Earls of Sutherland, and Barons of Strathnaver splendidly emblazoned. The Coffin was covered with rich black Genoa velvet, ornamented with gilt furniture. The first mourning coach, drawn by six horses, contained the Earl and Countess of Surrey, and Lord Francis Egerton. The second ditto contained the Earl of Cawdor, Viscount Morpeth, and Lord John Fitzroy. The third ditto contained the Hon. Captain Leveson Gower, and the Family Doctor. Fourth and fifth ditto contained the Steward and upper Servants, and other domestics.

Then followed the private carriages of the deceased, drawn by six horses, with out-riders; the carriages of the Duke of Sutherland, drawn by six horses; the Earl of Surrey, drawn by four horses; Lord Francis Egerton, a pair; their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, six horses and out-rider; her Royal Highness the Duchess Gloucester, six horses and out-rider; her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda, six horses and out-rider. The other private carriages of the Nobility and Gentry, mostly drawn by four horses, which succeeded, might amount to about seventy; and among them were those of the Duke of Argyll, Duke of Beaufort, Duke of Norfolk, Marquis of Cholmondely, Earl Cawdor, Earl of Harrowby, Earl of Clare, Earl of Tankerville, Earl of Minto, Dowager Countess of Clare, Countess of Clarendon, Countess of Bathurst, Viscount Morpeth, Viscount Alford, Lord Hill, Lord Cowley, Lady Dove, Lord Colchester, Lord Holland, Lady Mary Petre, Miss Angela Coultis Burdett, Lady C. Lindsey, Lady Davy, Miss Berry, Sir John Pechell,

Mr. Stevenson, the American Minister, M. Dedel, the Netherlands Minister, &c. Nearly the whole of the coachmen, out-riders, and footmen, had black crape sashes, arm bands, or hat bands.

The Steamer, the City of Aberdeen, having received the coffin on board, with the persons in charge of it, sailed for Aberdeen, and arrived there on the following Monday; and the coffin being then placed in a hearse, drawn by six horses proceeded by land to Dunrobin. The Lord Provost and Magistrates of Aberdeen, in a manner the most gratifying to the Family of Sutherland, testified their respect for the memory of her Grace, by tolling the public bells of the city, during the progress of the procession, and by forming part, as a municipal body, along with the carriages of Hugh Lumsden, Esq. of Pitcaple, Sheriff of Sutherland, and several other gentlemen, of the mournful cortege along part of the north road. The carriage of the Duchess of Gordon joined the procession at Huntly; and in the whole towns and villages along the road, from Aberdeen to Dunrobin Castle, a distance of 178 miles, the same marked respect was paid. At Inverness, as already announced by us, the Provost and Magistrates in full mourning, and headed by the town officers, met the procession on its approach to the town, and along with several private gentlemen accompanied to the hotel where it halted. On the hearse arriving at Ardross, her Grace's principal tenants in that quarter joined the procession, and thence it was accompanied by constantly increasing numbers of the Sutherland tenantry, to the time-hallowed mansion of her Grace's ancestors, the venerable Castle of Dunrobin, whose halls, until this mournful occasion, have ever been associated, in the recollection of the present generation, with the virtues, the cordescending affability, the courtesy, and the refined hospitality of this exalted lady, the admired and universally esteemed lineal descendant of the ancient and patriotic Earls of Sutherland.

The handsome coffin, containing her Grace's body lay in state in the Castle for three days, during which time it was visited by succeeding groups of men, women and young people, whose sorrowful countenances and very decorous demeanour testified the sincerity of their grief, and rendered more solemn the mournful silence, that pervaded Dunrobin and the surrounding district of country.

Thursday the 21st current having been fixed for the interment, the gentlemen who had been requested to attend it, met in the Castle at 10 o'clock a. m. when a suitable portion of scripture was read, and a solemn prayer was said by the Rev. Angus Kennedy, minister of Dornoch. The coffin was immediately thereafter raised, and placed in the hearse outside the Castle gate, when the funeral moved off for Dornoch, a distance of 12 miles. Two of her Grace's grandchildren (in absence of her two surviving sons, the Duke of Sutherland who is in Italy, and Lord Francis Egerton, whose state of health rendered a journey to the north at present impracticable) officiated as chief mourners, viz. Lord Edward Howard, second son of the Earl of Surrey, and the Hon. Francis Egerton, son of Lord Francis Egerton, M. P. The Pall Bearers were, on the right, James Loch, Esq. M. P. Patrick Sellar, Esq. of Westfield, and George Gunn, Esq. Rhives; and on the left, the Hon. William Howard, M. P. William Mackenzie, Esq. of Muirton, and William Young, Esq. of Burghead.

The procession then proceeded from Dunrobin in the following order:—

George Gunn, Esq. Factor for the Estate of Sutherland, Robert Horsburgh and Alexander Stewart, Esquires, Factors for the Tongue and Scourie districts abreast, William Lewis, Esq. Agent for the Duke of Sutherland in Staffordshire, all on horseback.

Heads of departments riding two abreast, viz. Messrs James Aitchison, Overseer, Dunrobin, and William Ogilvie, Overseer, Tongue, Messrs Thomas Barclay, Overseer, Skelbo, and James Matheson, Wood Ranger, Dunrobin.

THE BODY.

In a Hearse drawn by Six Horses
The Duchess Countess's Carriage, drawn by 6 Horses,
with Servants on the Dicky,

Carriages with Chief Mourners and Pall-Bearers
Carriage with part of Her Grace's Household
Carriages with Clergymen of Parishes in which the
Sutherland Estates are situated.

Other Carriages.

Gigs.

Gentlemen on Horseback, two abreast.

Her Grace, a few days before her death, entrusted the management of her funeral to her long attached and confidential friend, Mr. Loch, M. P. and with the greatest composure, among other directions, characterised by the good sense and judgment evinced by her, throughout the whole course of a long and remarkable life, she wished that the attendance of a very great crowd of persons would not be required; but although this wish was attended to, and although the extreme coldness of the day might be supposed to prevent the great body of the country people from leaving their homes, still the greater part of the small tenantry and people of the parishes of Loth, Kildonan, Clyne, Glospie, Rogart, and Lairg, assembled at the Fleet Mound, about half-way between Dunrobin and Dornoch, and, with an orderly behaviour and strict decorum above all praise, lined the sides of the road as the procession passed. The respectable and grave appearance of this rural population of an extensive district in one continued line—their voluntary attendance at a considerable distance from their homes on one of the coldest days of the season—and their respectful and solemn obeisances with uncovered heads, as the hearse with the body and the mourning carriages passed them, were interesting and deeply affecting incidents, which can only be very rarely witnessed, and which expressed in a stronger manner than words can describe, the heartfelt feelings of sorrow and regret, with which the people of Sutherland deplore the death of their illustrious *Banamitorar chath*. After passing these persons, the procession was met about two miles from Dornoch, by the people of that parish who followed the procession on foot into the town.

At the boundary of the burgh, the whole gentlemen, with the exception of those in the mourning coaches, alighted, and walked two by two to the Cathedral, preceded by the Magistrates of Dornoch and the town officers. The company entered the Cathedral by the west gate; and when all were seated, her Grace's principal servants, the pall-bearers and chief mourners, proceeded in solemn array along the west aisle, followed by the officiating clergyman and the coffin, until the latter reached the choir of the ancient Cathedral, under the lofty and handsome arches of which the body was rested, while the Rev. Charles Fyvie, Episcopal Clergyman of St. John's Chapel, Inverness, the recently elected Dean of the united Diocese of Moray, Ross, and Argyll, read the impressive service of the Church of England for the burial of the dead, with great solemnity and effect. The mortal remains of the Duchess Countess of Sutherland were then deposited in their last resting place in the vault of the East Aisle, close to the body of the late Duke of Sutherland, who died at Dunrobin on the 19th July, 1833, and of whom it has been beautifully and truly written, with reference to his connection with Sutherland,

"A stranger from a distant land he came;
And brought a birthright where he chose a name;
And native accents shall his loss bewail,
Who came a Saxon, and remained a Gael."

This vault adjoins the south transept, in which the greater number of the Earls of Sutherland and the members of their families, have been buried since the year 1248.

It is impossible to close this account of the obsequies of the Duchess Countess of Sutherland without referring, however briefly, to a few of the leading occurrences in her life, and of the many qualities which endear her memory among her numerous tenantry. William the 18th. Earl of Sutherland, died at Bath, in June 1766, after he had just completed his 31st year, and only sixteen days after the death of his Countess, who died at the early age of 26, of an infectious fever, with which the Earl was seized while attending his young and amiable Countess's death-bed. This Earl left an only child—the late Duchess Countess of Sutherland—who, thus was bereft of both her parents at the tender age of one year. The very melancholy death of the young Earl and Countess, in such peculiar circumstances, directed public attention, especially in the north, with intense interest towards their only child a female infant, and the only existing direct representative of the oldest lineally-deduced Peerage of the United Kingdom. A native Bard while lamenting in Gaelic verse, the demise of the Earl and his Countess, alludes very poetically to the situation of the then only existing descendant, of the long and unbroken line of Sutherland Earls, and compares the noble infant to a solitary spark, which he trusts will increase in strength and lustre, and become a bright and lasting flame. At this critical period, Sir Robert Gordon

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