

wherein the *Mormaer of Leamhan* (*Earl of Lennox*) is described as the son of Ailin's daughter. The spelling "Ailin" here would scarcely alter the pronunciation of the name Alun (as it is spelled above).

The eleventh stanza, to which we will now revert, states that Alun Oge, descendant of Oilleall (probably meaning Olioll Flam-beag, who was father of Lughain), is not alone, but that the *branch* of the race of Alun sits with an hundred to drink from the same gallon—possibly referring in an exaggerated way to the many sons of Aluin, second Earl of Lennox.

From the preceding analysis of these verses of Murdach Albanach it seems that there is nothing in them for or against the theory that the Earls of Lennox were of Celtic origin; but it surely indicates that the line of male ancestors given them by Skene is wrong.

Skene states that this poem of Murdoch Albanach supports the old Irish pedigree,<sup>1</sup> but it is certain that the Irish pedigree was constructed from the poem, for we find it reads as follows:—<sup>2</sup>

Ailin  
Son of Ailin Mor  
Son of Muredach  
Son of Maeldovnaigh  
Son of Maine Leamna  
Son of Corc  
Son of Lughaid.

It converts Alwin, the name of the first two Earls of Lennox, into Ailin (Alun) to suit the requirements of the case, and strings together the other names found in the poem without regard to chronology.

That the names Ailin, or Alun, and Alwin, or Aluin, were not synonymous is clearly seen in the charters in which these names occur.<sup>3</sup>

Skene himself admits the absurdity of the Irish pedigree, as Alwin, first Earl of Lennox, was born about the beginning of the twelfth century, and as Corc was contemporary with St. Patrick in the fifth century, it only

<sup>1</sup> Skene's "Celtic Scotland," vol. iii, p. 360.

<sup>2</sup> Same vol., p. 476, appendix VIII.

<sup>3</sup> See witnesses' names in charters, *Registrum de Dunfermelyn*, pp. 8, 23; *Registrum Prioratus Sancti Andree*, p. 137; *Registrum de Glasguense*, vol. i, p. 12.