

V., the matter was referred to the King, who by his decree arbitral dated at Stirling, May 8, 1535, thus pronounces judgment:

'Whereas We having been advised and knowing the said gentlemen the Halliburtons, to be leal, and true honest men, long servants unto the said Abbeye for the saide landis, stout men at armes, and goode borderers against Ingland: We doe therefore decree and ordain that they shall be repossess'd and bruike and enjoy the landis and steodings they had of the said Abbeye, paying the use and woute: and that they shall be goode servants to the said venerabil Father, like as they and their predecessours were to the said venerabil Father and his predecessours, and be a good master to them.'*

A junior branch of the Hallyburton family which had been long settled in the south of Scotland ended in an heiress married to an ancestor of Sir Walter Scott. The illustrious poet and novelist in the full blaze of his literary fame was very vain of his connection with the noble family of Hallyburton, procured himself to be served heir to this line of his ancestors, quartered the arms of Hallyburton on his shield, and printed a genealogical memoir, which distinctly shows my mother's pedigree and our common descent from this ancient stock.

My consinship with the 'Wizard of the North,' had it been a little less remote, I should have considered my chief family distinction, however clear the evidence might have been of my being a direct lineal descendant of MacCallum More. I have often read with admiration the passage in Gibbon's memoir of his own life showing his passion for literary fame:

'The nobility of the Spencers has been illustrated and enriched by the trophies of Marlborough, but I exhort them to consider the "Faery Queen" as the most precious jewel in their coronet.'

Although I can truly say—

Of gentle blood, part shed in honor's cause,
Each parent sprung.

yet in my early days I derived no credit or assistance from ancestry or relatives. I was born in obscurity, and had to

* *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, by Sir Walter Scott. Introduction, p. 188.