

obtained from James IV, with whom he was in high estimation, the lands and barony of Auchinleck. He fell at Flodden and was succeeded by his only son David Boswall, who married a daughter of the first Earl of Arran. Seventh in descent from this David Boswall sprang Alexander Boswall, Lord Auchinleck, one of the senators of the College of Justice and a Lord of Session. This eminent lawyer had a self-opinion of his ability, and of his superiority over others. These peculiarities he imbibed from his aristocratic relations. His mother was a daughter of the second Earl of Kincardine. He highly valued his advantages as a good scholar, and an able lawyer of great estate and ancient-family. He was, moreover a strict Presbyterian, and a whig of the old Scottish caste. This did not prevent his frequent ebullition of feeling when occasion arose and great was the contempt he entertained, and expressed for his son James, the nature of his friendships and the character of the personages with whom he associated. To a friend, his Lordship once said: "There is nae hope for Jamie, he is gaen clean gyte. Whadae ye think he has pinned himself to nou man?" And here the old Judge summed up with a sneer of the most sovereign contempt, "A dominie mon; an auld dominie, he keepit a schule and called it an academy?" This great ornament of the Boswall family died in 1788, and was succeeded by his son James, the friend and biographer of Dr. Johnson.

James was born in Edinburgh in 1740. He studied law in the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and was called to the Scottish Bar. He cultivated the friendship of literary men, and was introduced to Dr. Johnson in 1763. In 1790 he published the life of the great moralist, which obtained an extraordinary degree of popularity. He also wrote a work on the great Douglass Peerage case. He died June 19th, 1795, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Boswall, who was created a baronet, August 16th, 1821.