

## THE EARLS OF CAITHNESS.

Walter, sixth high steward of Scotland, married Marjory, daughter of King Robert Bruce, and had by her Robert II., the first of the Stewart kings. John Macdonald, first Lord of the Isles, married Margaret, daughter of Robert II., and had by her Donald, his successor. Donald, second Lord of the Isles, married Margaret Leslie, by whom he had Alexander, Angus and Mariot. Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath married Mariot, daughter of Donald of the Isles, and had by her Marjory and others. William St. Clair, first Earl of Caithness, married as his second wife, Marjory, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath, and had by her William and other children. He gave the earldom of Caithness to William in 1476.

William Sinclair, second Earl of Caithness, married Mary Keith, by whom he had two sons; John, his successor, and Alexander, first of Dunbeath and Stemster. He was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1573. About three hundred of his followers fell with him. He was the first chief of the Sinclairs of Caithness considered as a Highland clan. John, second earl, invaded Orkney in 1529 with five hundred men, and was killed at the battle of Summerdale. The most of his followers perished with him. He was succeeded by his son, George. George, sixth earl, was appointed justiciar of Caithness in 1566. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Graham, Earl of Montrose, and had by her three sons: John Garbh, Master of Caithness; William, first of Mey; and George, second of Mey. He was a wily and ambitious man. He turned against John Garbh, his heir, and imprisoned him in Girnigo castle, where he was murdered in 1576. The fourth earl died in 1582.

John Garbh married Jean, daughter of Patrick Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, and had by her three sons: George, James of Murkle, and John of Rattar. George succeeded his grandfather. James of Murkle was succeeded by his son Sir James. Sir James had two sons, John and David of Broynach. John became Earl of Caithness in 1785. David of