

had no chief other than Seaforth ; and argued that Clan Macrae was a clan only in a popular sense.

Lyon pronounced judgement as follows : 'The Lord Lyon King of Arms having taken the proof and heard Counsel for the parties thereon, Finds that the Petitioner has failed to prove user of arms or supporters previous to the passing of the Act,' concerning the privileges of the Office of Lyon King-at-Arms, '1672, cap. 217, Refuses the prayer of the Petition, and Decerns.' His Lordship's Note accompanying the judgement is as follows :

*Note.* This is a petition for a matriculation of arms by Sir Colin Macrae, representing the old family of Inverinate. The term 'matriculation of arms' is used in the ordinary practice of the Lyon Court to denote (a) the registration, by a cadet, of a coat of arms which has been already recorded by an ancestor in his own name with a suitable difference, if necessary, or (b) the registration in the present Lyon Register of a coat which has been used by the family of the applicant previous to 1672, but which has not been recorded in terms of the Act of that year, which required all persons who claimed arms to give the same in to the Lyon, in order that they might be recorded in his books. The only other way of recording arms is by applying for a new grant or patent, which the Lyon is bound to give to all 'virtuous and well deserving persons.' As the Petitioner does not aver that he is a cadet, but, on the contrary, that he represents the senior line of the Macrae family or clan, it is evident that he can only ask for a matriculation on the ground of user of arms before 1672.

The question of arms is the first point which I must take into consideration, because under the terms of the Petition it is not a matter of pedigree which is primarily involved, still less is it one of the Chiefship of a clan with which this Court is concerned only so far as it might be the warrant for a matriculation of supporters. It is a singular fact that this question of arms, the most important, so far as I am concerned, should have been relegated to a very minor place both in the proof itself and in the speeches of Counsel. But it forms the only reason why parties can appear before me at all, and it is, therefore, obvious that it must be considered first. The Petitioner, according to the rules of this Court, must prove user of arms before 1672 by his direct ancestors. In support of his claim he produces an entry of arms in an armorial MS. in the Lyon Office, originally compiled by Porteous, who was Snowdon Herald in 1661. The entry is for Macreach (or perhaps Macreath), Argent, a fess between three mullets in chief and a lion rampant in base gules. It is not assigned to any particular individual, but, like several other entries in the same MS., has a more general name attached. I may take it, however, that Porteous was satisfied that in his day these arms were borne by some one of the name of Macrae (I do not attach any weight to the contention for the Respondent that Macreach meant anything else than Macrae, though it is a singular circumstance that it is only in this armorial MS. that any mention of such arms can be found before 1672. The coat, of which the blazon is given above, is somewhat suggestive. It is not in the least like any arms borne by other West High-