

pieces of ordnance, "like retired veterans," still do duty so far as appearance goes, but moat and portecullis are gone. To the ancient building, erected in the thirteenth century,* considerable additions have been lately made; and, happily for the picturesque, they are in strict keeping with the original. The interior of the Castle has been kept as much as possible in its primitive simplicity.

The country and grounds around Dunrobin, from their mixture of cultivation with mountain scenery, as well as their extent and variety, are highly picturesque. One of the most perfect Pietish towers that ever delighted an antiquary, stands on the east of the Castle; and, on digging at the spot lately, some bones and charcoal were found. Golspie-burn† flows through a deep wooded ravine, that occasionally may vie with the banks of the Findhorn in wildness and beauty, and is further enriched by a succession of picturesque waterfalls. The surrounding forests are extensive, well-stocked, and such as would have afforded ample scope to the most chase-loving of Scottish sovereigns.

The whole of the immense tract, called "Lord Reay's country," and from time immemorial the habitation of the clan Mackay, has now been added to the other estates of the Sutherland family. It abounds in wild, majestic scenery; its lakes, rivers, caves, spacious bays, headlands, and numberless curiosities, natural and artificial, would alone occupy a volume of description. We proceed, therefore, to offer a few words on the subject of the engraving.

Cape Wrath, the "Parpl" of ancient geographers, is a remarkably bold headland, forming the marked and angular north-west extremity of Great Britain. It is, consequently, one of the extreme points of our island, and on that account, like John o' Groat's, or the Land's End, is much visited by strangers. Its stupendous granitic front—its extensive and splendid ocean scenery—and the peculiarly wild character of the country by which it is approached, invest Cape Wrath with an interest to which few, if any, other promontories on the British

* The THANES of Sutherland first received the title of earls from Malcolm Canmore, king of Scotland, A.D. 1031. The duchess-countess is the twenty-third representative of this family, and a lineal descendant of ROBERT BRUCE—the third William, earl of Sutherland, having been married to the princess Margaret, daughter of that monarch. On the visit of King George IV. to Edinburgh, in August 1822, it was determined by His Majesty that the right of carrying the Scottish sceptre lay with this noble family; and Lord Francis Leveson Gower was permitted to act as deputy for his mother, the duchess-countess, in that honourable office.—See our sketch of the ceremony in the first vol. of this work, art. "King's Visit to Edinburgh."

† A clergyman from Orkney had brought his son, a fine intelligent boy, with him on a visit to some friends in the south. They had travelled during the night; and when the scenery of Golspie, seen on a bright summer's morning, burst on the view, the boy, who had hitherto been a total stranger to woods and trees, and familiar only with the bare rocks and ocean of his native landscape, seemed perfectly entranced with astonishment and delight. He ran about, wondering at all he saw; eagerly exploring every leaf and flower, as if entering on possession of a new world of enjoyment.—*Inverness Courier. Statist. Anderson.*