

ed; but government in Masonry was not then reduced to such order as at present, and usages and practices were then tolerated which would not be at the present time.

Lord Elcho was elected Grand Master on the 30th of November, 1786, "and visited most of the Lodges in Edinburgh in the course of the winter, beginning with the Canongate Kilwinning on the 7th December." He was re-elected Grand Master on the 30th of November, 1787. "He bore the highest character for amiable manners, benevolence, generosity, and marked kindness to the lower classes; and he endeared himself to all who were honored with his acquaintance, the whole tenor of his life being a series of kindness, friendship, and philanthropy;"—an honorable testimony too worthy man and zealous Mason.

LORD TORPICHEN

Was initiated in the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge on the evening of the 7th of December, 1786, being the night of Burns' first visit. He was soon after nominated in the Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Master, but we believe never rose to the "chief command," in that body. In June, 1787, he was elected Master of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge, but we are unable to state how long he served as such. His name was James Sandilands, was born on the 15th of November, 1759, and succeeded to his father's title in 1765. He was an officer in the 21st Regiment of Foot, or Royal Scots Fusiliers; he served under Burgoyne in our Revolutionary war, and "was one of those who had to pile arms at Saratoga." He afterwards served in the Coldstream Guards, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1790 he was chosen one of the representative peers of Scotland, but died without issue in 1815. One of his ancestors, Sir James Sandilands of Calder, "on account of his learning, and serving at Malta, was appointed Preceptor of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem." Lord Torpichen was a warm friend to the Poet, was present at his coronation as Poet-Laureate of the Lodge, and Burns calls him "a higher brother in Freemasonry."

ARCHIBALD (ELEVENTH) EARL OF EGLINTON.

"'Twas in that place of Scotland's Isle
That bears the name of Auld King Coil."—Burns.

"The tenth Earl of Eglinton (Alexander), was killed in a dispute about a fowling-piece in 1769, and, dying unmarried, the honors devolved on his brother, Archibald, who figures in the painting to which we have referred. He was a military officer, and served in a Highland Regiment in America. He was asked by his mother, on his return, to recount the dangers he had passed and the sufferings he had endured; he informed her that his chief endurance was from the sting of the vegetable nettle, and the animal muskito on his killed hounds." He died in 1796, and having no son (though twice married) the title devolved on his kinsman, and another friend of Burns', Hugh Montgomerie, of Coilsfield. This was the Col. Montgomerie in whose service Highland Mary, was employed as a dairy maid when Burns became her lover. The "palace of Montgomerie" was near Tarbolton, and near it the trusting tree of the lovers, and the brook—the scene of their final pledge and parting.

Archibald, the eleventh Earl, was born in 1740, and died in 1819. He entered the army in 1755, and rose to the rank of Colonel. He was in America with Sir Ralph Abercromby. On one occasion, in assaulting a fort, the troops met with such a terrible fire as to compel them to halt. "He was behind, turned round as the smoke was clearing away, and exclaimed in the hearing of the Captain, 'What! am I to take the place myself?' The question was met by a British burrah, and the fort was carried."

At the time Burns came to Edinburgh, Hugh Montgomerie was a Member of Parliament for Ayrshire. Burns alludes to his services as soldier and statesman, in his usual free and easy manner:—

"Thee, eger Hugh, my watchman stented,
If bardies e'er are represented,
I ken if that ye're second were wanted,
Ye'd lend ye're hand;
But when there's naught to say anent it,
Ye're at a stand."

Archibald, the eleventh Earl of Eglinton, was a great admirer of Burns' poetry, and evinced his estimation of the Poet by extending a liberal patronage to him;—he subscribed for forty-two copies of the first Edinburgh edition of the poems.

THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN.

"The drillegoan may forget the bride
Was made his wedded wife yestreen,
The monarch may forget the er we
That on his head an hour has been;
The mother may forget the child
That smiles sae sweetly on h'r knee;
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,
And all that thou hast done for me."—Burns.

Few, among the many masonic friends of Burns, made such during that winter—a friend frequently mentioned, or mentioned in more grateful terms, than the Earl of Glencairn. He seems to have become acquainted with the Poet soon after his arrival in Edinburgh, and became at once a very sincere and valuable friend;—his name, his influence, and his purse were ever ready to aid the Ayrshire Bard, by whom his memory was gratefully cherished by his protegee to the close of life.

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, EARL OF GLENCAIRN, was born in 1749, and succeeded in 1775 as fourteenth Earl. In 1778 he served as captain in Lord Frederick Campbell's Regiment of Fencibles, and subsequently took orders in the Church of England. He married, in 1785, Lady Isabella Erskine, daughter of David Henry, tenth Earl of Buchan, and so was the brother-in-law of the Earl of Buchan and of the Hon. H. Erskine. Having no children, the title became extinct on his death, which took place near Edinburgh, on the 24th September, 1791.

Burns looked upon his Lordship as his best friend, and often alludes to him in his writings. His factor on the Finlayson estate, Ayrshire, Mr. Dalziel, laid the first edition of Burns' Poems before his Lordship, and he (says Cromek) declared that its merits exceeded his expectations. He took it with him in November, 1786, as a literary curiosity, and communicated, through Dalziel, that he wished to know "in what way or manner he could forward his interests." Meantime Burns also had reached Edinburgh; and there, in a few days, he says,—"I have found a worthy warm friend in Mr. Dalrymple of Oranfield, who introduced me to Lord Glencairn, a man whose worth and brotherly kindness to me I shall remember when time shall be no more. By his interest it has passed in the Caledonian Hunt that they are to take each a copy of the second edition, for which they are to pay one guinea." Mr. Creech was induced by his Lordship, to undertake the publication of the second edition; and thus Burns found a ready publisher, and the means of bringing his work before the Edinburgh public. He seems to have been a man of great kindness of heart, and a very devoted member of the mystic brotherhood.

THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

"Praise from thy lips 'tis mine with joy to boast,
They best can give it who deserve it most."—Burns.

David, Earl of Buchan, is a historical personage, both in the annals of Masonry and freedom. He was born in 1742, and died in 1824. On finishing his education at the Glasgow University, he joined the army, and was appointed Secretary to the British Embassy in Spain in 1776. His father dying the next year, he succeeded to the title and estates, and returned to Scotland. He aided in the formation of the Antiquarian Society, and contributed to its lectures. He subsequently published a volume of essays on the lives of Fletcher and Saltoun, and of James Thomson the poet; and was also a contributor to the various periodicals of the day. We are not advised as to the time when, or the place where he was initiated into Masonry; but he was elected Grand Master of Masons on the 30th of November, 1782, and re-elected on 1st of December, 1783. He frequently visited the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge. He usually wore the Jewel of a Past Grand Master.

He was present at the inauguration of Burns as Poet-Laureate. During the evening he addressed

a note to the Poet, "containing a flattering advice to excite his muse by a visit to his classic country,"—for the Earl spent his summers at his seat at Dryburgh. He is represented in the picture as in the act of handing the letter to Alexander Cunningham, "who occupies the seat next to that which Burns, always resorted to." There seems to have been some foible in the Earl's character, for Burns, in his reply, with a singular freedom, says:—

"I wish for nothing more than to make a leisurely pilgrimage. But in the midst of these enthusiastic reveries, a long-visaged, dry, moral-looking phantom stands across my imagination, and pronounces these emphatic words, 'Wisdom, dwell with Prudence.'"

Now that your dear-loved Scotia puts it in your power to return to the situation of your forefathers, will you folk with these wul-a-wisp meteors of fancy, and whom, till they bring you once more to the brink of ruin?"

In 1791 the Earl wrote him again, "intimating a grand festive commemoration of the poet of the Seasons, to take place on his Lordship's grounds at Edman, on the 22d of September, on which occasion the bust of Thomson was to be crowned by the Earl with his bays. Burns could not resist the appeal to his muse on behalf of this sweet Bard, and so he transmitted the 'Address to the Shade of Thomson,' but, along with it, he wrote the Earl that, "a week or two's absence in the very middle of my harvest is what I much doubt I dare not venture on." Burns was at this time on the farm at Nithsdale.

In 1792, the Earl was presented with a box made of the oak which sheltered Sir William Wallace, bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the Goldsmiths of Edinburgh to David Stuart Erskine, Earl of Buchan, with the Freedom of their corporation, by their deacon—A. D. 1791." The Earl could not consent to return this precious gift, but, by consent of the donors, immediately transmitted it to General Washington, then President of the United States, as may be seen by the following notice published in the papers of this country at the time.

PHILADELPHIA, January 4, 1792.

"On Friday morning was presented to the president of the United States a box, elegantly mounted with silver, and made of the celebrated oak tree that sheltered the Washington of Scotland, the brave and patriotic Sir William Wallace, after his defeat at the battle of Falkirk, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, by Edward I. This magnificent and truly characteristic present is from the Earl of Buchan, by the hand of Mr. Archibald Robinson, a Scottish gentleman, and portrait painter, who arrived in America some months ago. The box was presented to Lord Buchan by the Goldsmiths' Company of Edinburgh, from whom his Lordship requested and obtained leave, to make it over to a man whom he deemed more deserving of it than himself, and the only man in the world to whom he thought it justly due. We hear further that Lord Buchan has, by letter, requested of the President that, on the event of his decease, he will consign the box to that man, in this country, who shall appear in his judgment, to merit it best, upon the same consideration that induced him to send it to the present possessor."

Our readers, we are sure, will excuse us for this brief historical digression, even if we complete it by tracing the "box" a little further. In the last Will and testament of the great Washington we find this:

"Item.—To the Earl of Buchan I recommend the 'Box made of the oak that sheltered the great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk,' presented to me by his Lordship, in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request 'to pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that induced him to send it to me.' Whether easy or not to select the man who might comport with his Lordship's opinion in this respect, is not for me to say; but, concluding that no disposition of this valuable curiosity, will be more eligible than the recommitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original designs of the