

Lovat Literature.

crafty autobiographer, and he took advantage of it with his usual astuteness. Though not possessing the distinctive force that pervades his private letters, the "Memoirs" have a value which no student of the period should neglect.

The Inverness Public Library contains a rare volume of papers dealing with Lovat's peerage case. It is more interesting to lawyers than to general readers. It refers to a number of earlier peerage cases, and might prove very valuable to members of the families concerned in them.

The earlier Lives, entitled "The Life of Simon, Lord Lovat" (published by C. Whitefield, London, in 1746), and "The Life and Adventures and Many Great Vicissitudes of Fortune of Simon, Lord Lovat," by "the Reverend Archibald Arbuthnot, minister of Kiltarlity"—a purely fictitious person—(published by R. Walker, London, in 1746), may be ignored. A copy of each book is found in the Reference Department of the Inverness Public Library. Both are anonymous and inaccurate. The former bears evidences of a hasty and uninformed production, doubtless to satisfy the desire of Londoners for information about the noble prisoner who was then in the Tower. The book was translated into French, and published in Amsterdam in 1747. The latter is the produce of some literary rogue. Its contents were first published in tri-weekly parts at a halfpenny each. Its opening and closing pages bear a suspicious resemblance to Whitefield's publication, and the larger middle portion is undiluted fiction of a poor type, introduced, we may assume, to bring in more halfpence. No minister of Kiltarlity could have fathered either the biographical inaccuracies or the fiction without running a danger of ecclesiastical discipline.

Colonel Ferguson, in his introduction to Major Fraser's manuscript, mentions two hooklets, "Genuine Memoirs of the Life of Simon, Lord Fraser of Lovat" (London: M. Cooper, 1746), and "Memoirs of the Life of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat" (Edinburgh, 1747), but the present writer has not been able to get access to either. There is no copy in any of the chief libraries, so far as he can ascertain.

A considerable number of interesting references to Lovat, with accounts of his trial, are contained in the *Scots, London, and Gentleman's Magazines* for the period covered by his imprisonment and a few months thereafter. Numbers of songs, satires, and pamphlets were current at the time, and several of them have (along with valuable Lovat manuscripts) been preserved in the British Museum. Boswell tells us that in 1747 Dr. Johnson was fond of repeating the following verses by an unidentified author from the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—

ON LORD LOVAT'S EXECUTION.

"Pity'd by gentle minds Kilmarnock died;
The brave, Balmerino, were on thy side;
Radeliffe, unhappy in his crimes of youth,
Steady in what he still mistook for truth,
Beheld his death so decently unmov'd,
The soft lamented, and the brave approv'd.
But Lovat's fate indifferently we view,
True to no king, to no religion true;
No fair forgets the ruin he has done,
No child laments the tyrant of his son;
No Tory pities, thinking what he was,
No Whig compassions, for he left the cause;
The brave regret not, for he was not brave,
The honest mourn not, knowing him a knave."