

too long to be here recited.^r In less than three years after this, the King advanced him to the honour of Earl of Stirling, by his letters patent, bearing date the fourteenth of June, 1633, at the solemnity of his Majesty's coronation, in the palace of Holyrood house. His lordship discharged that office of Secretary of State, with universal reputation for near fifteen years, even to the time of his death; which happened on the 12th of February 1640; having, three years before, permitted a new edition of his poetical works, or the greatest part of them, to be published: that is to say, 1. *The four Monarchic Tragedies*; 2. *Doom's Day*; before which are some verses by William Drummond; as in Drummond's book of poems, there are also others, to and by our author.^s 3. *The Parænesis*, to Prince Henry. 4. and lastly, *Jonathan; an Heroick poem intended, the first book*: which was now, I think, first published. These three poems are written in the *Ottavo Rima* of Tasso; or, as his friend Drayton describes it, A stanza of eight lines; six interwoven, and a couplet in base.^t The author's style and versification are much polished in this edition, especially of the plays; and the plans, with the subject matter, improved in some of them. The whole is fronted with a new title, w and the dedication aforesaid, to King James, prefixed; which if Langbain had observed more than he did the date of the book, he had not said it was addressed to King Charles.^x Before the copy of this edition, a good effigies of the author has been found, though missing in many. It was engraved by W. Marshall, and is one of his best performances. It represents his Lordship in a close-bodied coat; a full ruff about his neck, and the badge of his new created order hanging at his breast. Liveliness and gravity are well tempered in his countenance: his hair is short, and well curled; and his beard tapering gradually to a point, according to the fashion of the times. The oval frame is encompassed with two olive branches; and the inscription in it, is, *Vera Effigies Gulielmi Comitis de Stirling. Ætatis suæ 57*. So that, he was threescore years of age at the time of his death, three years after the

said publication of his plays, and this print, as is above-mentioned. Here the issue of his brain, gives us an easy transition to that of his body. He left by his wife, Janet, the daughter of Sir W. Erskine, 1. William Lord Alexander, his eldest son; who dying his Majesty's Resident in Nova-Scotia, during the life-time of his father, his son William succeeded his grandfather in the earldom, but died about a month after him. 2. Henry Alexander, Esq; afterwards Earl of Stirling. This is the son, who, according to two authorities here followed,^y married a daughter of Sir Peter Vanlore, Alderman of London; and had a son, from whom the present Earl is descended. 3. Sir Anthony; but this is the son, who, according to the order of descent, married, if we adhere to another, not the daughter, but the granddaughter of that Vanlore, and not Vanlove, as his name, in the said account, is erroneously spelt; which account is underneath transcribed.^z 4. John: and two daughters; the Lady Margaret, and Lady Mary; both married, and the latter had issue.

^y Crævusford, and Brit. Compend. vol. 2. and vol. 3. 1741. p. 274.

^z From a letter written to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, afterwards Earl of Strafford, by G. Garrard, afterwards Master of the Charter-house, and dated December 16, 1637, wherein these are his words: "A grandschild of Vanlove's, rich Vanlove, was to be married to a son of Sir Thomas Read's; he was to lay some years in the Fleet and spent but eighteen pence a week; he lives now at Bracket-Hall, near Hatfield. Read hath stated up in this second son of his, 1500*l*. a year, and the match was intended with Mrs. Vanlove, who had a portion of 400*l*. and 400*l*. a year, after the death of her father, young Peter. The day before, in the afternoon, she sends to speak with one Mr. Alexander, a third son of the Earl of Stirling, Secretary of Scotland here; he comes, finds her at cards, Mr. Read sitting by her; she whispers him in the ear, asking him if he had a coach (he was of her acquaintance before), he said yes: she desired Mr. Read to play her game, and went to her chamber, Mr. Alexander going along with her. Being there, she told him, that to satisfy her friend, she had given way to marry the gentleman he saw, but her affection was more to him; if his was so to her, she would instantly go away with him in his coach, and be married. So he carried her to Greenwich, where they were married by six that evening."—Earl of Strafford's Letters and Dispatches, fol. vol. 2, 1739. p. 141.

^r Vide Epigrammata Arturi Janssonii, Scoti, Med. Regii. 8o. Adretonia 1632. p. 30. Et Paræges, ejusd. auth. f. 59.

^s See the most elegant and elaborate poems of that great court-wit, Mr. W. Drummond, &c. 8o. 1659.

^t Epist. to the Barons wars.

^w Intituled, Recreation with the Muses, fol. 1637, and again in 12o. about 1727.

^x Account of the dramatick poets, p. 5.