

also called Castle MacNichol, claimed by tradition as having been in existence before even the advent of the Norsemen. Indeed, records go to show that for centuries before that event both the old fort or castle and the country surrounding it were under the sway of the MacNichol family, afterwards wrested from them by Leod, a Norwegian chief, the founder of the MacLeods, and one of the pioneers of the Norse invasion.

At a later date the whole of The Lewis, including Stornoway, passed under the sway of the MacLeods of the Isles, and later still, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the MacLeod family fell under the ban of the Government, it came for a time into the hands of the Mackenzies, of Seaforth, and then by purchase, for £200,000, to the late Sir James Matheson, a Sutherlandshire family, whose heirs now possess the island.



DUNE CARLOWAY, NEAR CALLERNISH.

It is said that a sum equal to this purchase money was spent by the late Sir James upon the town and island in the laying out and building of roads, in bettering the conditions of the harbour and encouraging the industries.

"Rock Welcome" is now covered by pier extensions. Its position is marked by an iron ring fixed in the top of an old rock about 25 yards north of the Harbour Offices. The next landing place, 30 yards south of "Rock Welcome," consisted of an old vessel named the "Amity," which has since disappeared and given place to the more modern structure, now known as "King Edward's Wharf," on which is erected an iron lamp post with an inscription celebrating the landing there of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, on 2nd September, 1902.