

to William Hamilton,\* his son, was sold by him about 1662 to John Denholm, and in time came to the present owner William Davidson, Esq. The other estate was that of Olivestob, in East Lothian, about ten miles to the east of Edinburgh, a property that seems to have belonged in 1632 to Morrison of Prestongrange, and a little later to the Setons, for Alexander Viscount Kingston in his history of the house of Seton written in 1687, says, regarding his uncle Sir Thomas Seton, fourth son of Robert first Earl of Winton, "This Sir Thomas Seton was provided by his father to the lands of Holiestob, now vulgo Olivestobe," and Wood in his Peerage, Vol. II., p. 645, calls the Hon. Sir Thomas Seton, "ancestor to the Setons of Olivestob." The original name of this estate is commonly believed to have been Holy Stob, the place where the "host stopt" when it was being carried in procession from Preston to the Cistercian Abbey of Newbattle near by. It is supposed that John Hamilton bought Olivestob from Sir John Seton, brother of the earl of Winton,\* for his country residence very soon after he bought Muirhouse, for that he was living at Olivestob in 1624 is shown by the fact that in that year, "being an honest man and ready to every good work" as the session register declares, "John Hamilton of Olivestob" was on his own request cheerfully assigned a seat in Prestonpans Kirk. To the time of his death, however, he is usually called "John Hamilton of Muirhouse," and there is little doubt that though the mansion of Olivestob may have been finer than that of Muirhouse,† so making Olivestob more desirable for residence, the estate of Muirhouse was considerably the more important. Olivestob House, which since the latter part of the eighteenth century has been known as Bankton, is a stately old mansion, near the Preston-

\* That others of the Hamiltons, perhaps members of the Preston family, at times were connected with the estate of Olivestob, is clear from various records as for example: *David Hamilton of Langton and Olivestob* was married to Margaret, second daughter of George Lord Seton. He died without issue in 1560. Anderson's House of Hamilton, p. 845. *George Hamilton of Over Olivestob* is mentioned in a document dated July 4, 1638. He lends forty-six pounds to James Bruce in Longniddrie. Register of Deeds, vol. 517. The latter allusion it is difficult to understand, for at this time Olivestob was owned, it would seem, by John Hamilton.

† The old Mansion of Muirhouse was built about 1670, but of it only two round towers remain. The present house, which is of ornate architecture, was built about 1890. "*Castles and Mansions of the Lothians.*"