

cept indeed when they suffered from the ravages of hares, rabbits, pheasants, and other 'vermin,' which under the obnoxious "Game-laws," the tenant was not allowed to molest in any way. The only redress the suffering farmer got from the factor—for old Lord Wemyss was himself as invisible and unapproachable as the Mikado of Japan, was this—"You took the farm with this condition: read your lease."

The Earl of March and Wemyss, the seventh of an ancient baronial family and a peer of the realm, was then about 42 years of age, living in genteel seclusion in his fine old mansion called Gosford House, the main entrance to which was on the shore road skirting the Frith of Forth, near Aberlady. There were two houses, the old and the new. The former the residence of the family was a fine pile of irregular buildings reminding one of Abbot'sford. The grounds and gardens were beautiful, well sheltered from the chilly sea breezes by plantations swarming with game. The new house was an imposing classical structure immediately opposite the other at a distance of some five or six hundred yards. It had stood there for at least twenty-five years, but had never been inhabited, owing to what was supposed to be incurable dampness. The difficulty must however been eventually overcome, for only the other day (60 years later) I noticed that the family had taken possession of it. The Earl was seldom seen. When he drove out it was always in a stylish coach and four splendid black horses with postillions, and the drive was usually to Aimesfield House near Haddington—another of his seats, the hereditary home of his eldest son, Lord Elcho, whose oldest son again bore the title of the Hon. Mr. Charteris. The succession went on in regular rotation, so that the Lord Elcho of my time is now the "old Earl, and very likely driving his sable four as of old. Since above was written I learn that the Earl of to-day, now in his 86th year, spins about the country in his motor-car without any of the old show that used to make the nobility so conspicuous. He is still (1904) hale and hearty taking an active interest in every thing that goes on."

Besides his large and very valuable property in East Lothian, Lord Wemyss had large estates in Peebles and Fifeshire and must