

about the streets, proclaiming the discovery she had made ! This rumour reaching the ears of the magistrates, enquiry was made, the proofs were examined, and it soon became the general opinion that he was the son of the old baronet of Orchardston. The estate lay but a few miles from Dumfries, and the unlawful possessor being a man of considerable power and a most vindictive disposition, most people, whatever might be their private opinion, were cautious in espousing the cause of this disinherited and distressed orphan. One gentleman however, was found, who, to his eternal honour, took him by the hand. A Mr. Gondy procured his release from prison, took him to his own house, clothed him agreeably to his rank, and enabled him to commence an action against his uncle. The latter was not inactive in the defence of his crime, and took every pains to prove his nephew to be an imposter. Chagrin and a consciousness of guilt however put an end to his existence before the cause came to a hearing, and Sir Robert was at length put into the peaceable possession of an estate worth upwards of two thousand pounds a year. He now began to display those qualities and abilities which had been but faintly perceptible in his former station : he discovered a generous mind, an intellect at once vigorous and refined, and manners the most elegant and polished ; his society was courted by all the neighbouring gentry, and in the course of time he married a Miss Maclellan, a relation of the family of Lord Kirkcudbright ; with this lady he lived in the most perfect happiness for many years. He joined in the prevalent practice of farming his own estate, and built a very elegant house on an eminence overlooking the Frith. An imprudent speculation in the bank of Ayr, however, compelled him once more to abandon the seat of his ancestors. He had reserved a small pittance, on which he and his lady lived the latter part of their days. This calamity he bore as became a man familiar with misfortune, and he continued the same worthy open-hearted character that he had ever been. The reduction of his fortune served only to redouble the kindness and cordiality of his friends. He died suddenly in September 1786, whilst on the road to visit one of them—the Earl of Selkirk. He left behind him no issue, but his name is still remembered with ardent attachment.

**FINIS.**