

ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

AYR AND WIGTON

VOL. II.



EDINBURGH

PRINTED FOR THE AYR AND WIGTON ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MDCCCLXXX

1880

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VIII.

THE CHURCH OF KILBIRNIE.

THERE is little known regarding the ancient church of Kilbirnie, and the few notices of its earlier history are somewhat conflicting.

It is stated by Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*,¹ that the parish of Kilbirnie derived its name from the church, which was dedicated to Saint Birnie or Birinus. St. Birinus is said to have been a bishop and confessor, who converted the West Saxons. He died at Dorchester in 650 A.D., and was commemorated on the 3d of December. Other churches or chapels in Scotland seem also to have been dedicated to him. In the Boyne, a district in Banffshire, there was a place called Kilbirnie; another, in Aird of Inverness-shire. No authority is given by Chalmers for his statement relative to Kilbirnie, but the similarity of the name of this church and parish to that of the Saint, and also the name of the well to be afterwards mentioned, seem, in so far, to corroborate the historian.

In *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*,² the church is said to have been dedicated to Saint Brandane, the apostle of the Isles, who died in 578, and whose festival occurs on the 16th of May O.S., on which day Pont³ records that the annual fair of Kilbirnie was held. Upon the change of style the 16th of May became the 28th, and the fair accordingly took place on the latter date; but of late years it has been, and now is, held on the third Wednesday of May O.S. It is still called, by a corruption of the name of the Saint, "Brinnan's Day." These circumstances seem to support the connection with St. Brandane. On the other hand, it is stated in *Origines Parochiales*, that "in the neighbourhood there is a mineral well known by the name of Birnie's well." This well is still known by the name, and is mentioned in the *New Statistical Account of Scotland*,⁴ not, however, as a

¹ Vol. iii. pp. 588, 589, edition 1807.

² Vol. i. p. 92.

³ Cuninghame Topographized by Mr. T. Pont; Dobie's edition, 1876, pp. 7 and 43.

⁴ *Ayrsh.*, p. 691.

mineral well, there being no such wells in the parish, but as a spring remarkable for its volume and superior quality of water, and which had been conducted by pipes to Kilbirnie Castle, about a quarter of a mile distant.

Prior to the Reformation, the church was within the diocese of Glasgow. It belonged to the Abbey and Monastery of Kilwinning, and the cure was served by a perpetual vicar. It is mentioned as early as the year 1275. In Bagimont's *Taxed Roll of Benefices* in that year, it is noticed thus:—"In decanatu de Kyill et Cwnynghame vicaria de Kylbyrne iiij lib.;" and in the taxation of the sixteenth century it is entered as—"Vica^a de Kylbyrne, iij lib. viii s."¹ The vicarage is taxed in Bagimont's roll according to a value of xl lib.; and in the taxation of the sixteenth century at xxxiv lib.¹ References to "Domino Thoma Merschel perpetuo vicario ecclesie de Kilbryny"² occur at various times between the years 1410 and 1430. In 1506, the Archbishop of Glasgow annexed the vicarage of Kilbirnie to the University of Glasgow.³ In the *Books of Adjournal*, 1507, Robert Peblis in Brockly is convicted of a felony committed in the house of John Skeoch, "capelano in Kilbirny." In 1540 James Scott was vicar of Kilbirnie, as on 3d February of that year, "in presens of the lordis of counsale and college of Justice, ane venerable fader in god, Alexander, abbot of Cambus-Kynneth, president thairof, schew how maister James Scott, vicar of Kilbirny, ane of the scribis of counsale, had presentit to him as president, and to maister Thomas Ballendene, collectour of the said college, and to divers vthers lordis therof being present for the tyme, ane mandate maid be ane venerable fader in god, Alexander, abbot of Kilwynnyng and convent therof, in fauors of the said seite, grantand ane zeirlye pensioune therto of the sovme of xxviiij lib., to be vptaken zeirlye of the vicarage of Dunlop, pertenyng to maister Jhone Mair, usufructuar of the samyne, Quhilk pensioune was grantit of befor be the said venerable fader and convent to be tane vp of the vicarage of Kilbirny; and because the vicarage of Dunlop is of greater importance, and may better beir zeirlye the said pensioune," the transference was accepted, and was ratified by Parliament on 15th December 1543.⁴ In the rental of Kilwinning given up at the Reformation, the parsonage tithes of the church of Kilbirnie were held on a lease from the abbot and monks of Kilwinning for the inconsiderable sum of 8 li. yearly.

¹ *Reg. Glasg.* vol. i. p. lxxvii.

² *Mun. Fra. Ord. Pred. Glasg.* (Mait. Club).

App. pp. 238-246.

³ *Orig. Paroch.* vol. i. p. 507, et *Lib. Protoc.*

(Gramp. Club), vol. ii. pp. 132-198.

⁴ *Acts of Parl. Scot.*, vol. ii. p. 444. Record edition.



W. Dobie Del.

J. Swan Sc.

KILBIRNIE KIRK.
from the South East.

The lands which belonged to the church passed after that period into lay hands,¹ and in 1603 the patronage and tithes of the church were granted to Hugh, Earl of Eglinton, with whose descendants the patronage remained till the passing of the Act 37 and 38 Victoria, cap. 82, which abolished church patronage on and after 1st January 1875.

The following notices of the Ministers of Kilbirnie from the Reformation to the present day are given chiefly on the authority of Dr. Hew Scott.²

1567.—Archibald Hamilton held the vicarage of Kilbirnie at the Reformation. He had been appointed to the benefice by Gavin Hamilton, Abbot of Kilwinning, with a third of the vicarage, extending to xxxi ti. ij s. ij d. The vicar joined the party of the Hamiltons, took the part of Queen Mary in the contest which followed her dethronement, and was forfeited in the Parliament held at Stirling in August 1571.³ He appears as reader in 1574-1580, and again was promoted to the ministry before 1585. He demitted prior to 28th April, and died before 5th November 1586. He had a son, Malcolm, who was presented to the vicarage by James VI., on 28th April 1586, but not admitted.

1571.—Robert Crawford succeeded on the forfeiture of the preceding, and was appointed vicar and reader, with the *haill* vicarage.⁴

1586.—John Heriot, A.M., who had his degree from the University of St. Andrews 21st March 1580, was presented to the vicarage by James VI., on 21st November 1586. He died before 25th November 1630, aged about 70.

1619.—William Russell, A.M., was laureated at the University of Glasgow in 1610, on the exercise got a testimonial from the Presbytery there on 15th May 1616, and was, probably, admitted before 1619, as in that year "Mr. William Russell, minister of Kilbirnie, appears as a debtor in the testament of Alexander Boyd, one of the regents of Glasgow College."⁵ He was presented to the vicarage by Charles I., on 25th November 1630, contributed xx merks towards erecting the Library in the University of Glasgow in 1632, and was a member of the General Assembly in 1638. On 15th June 1647, he made a complaint to the Presbytery of Irvine, that John Braidine, one of his parishioners, had called his doctrine "dust and grey meal," who being summoned compeared before the Presbytery on 29th June, "and ingenuously confessed his fault. The Presbytrie considering how prejudicial such speeches were to the whole ministrie, after mature deliberation does ordain that first upon his knees he make ane confession of his fault before the Presbytrie, and thereafter goe to his own congregation, and there in the public place of repentance make ane acknowledgment of his fault likewise—and Mr. Hugh M'Kaile to goe to Kilbirnie to receive him."⁶ He submitted and was absolved. A prayer of Mr. Russell's on one occasion is not a little remarkable for the expression, "Lord! Thou knowes, we are false knaves together."

1670.—William Tullidaff, A.M., formerly of Dunboig, was indulged by the Privy Council on 1st January 1670; a decreet was given against him and others on 8th July 1673, depriving them of a half-year's stipend for not keeping the anniversary of his Majesty's restoration; he was deprived by the Privy Council, 27th November 1684, for

¹ *Caledonia*, vol. iii. p. 559.

² *Fasti Eccles. Scot.*, Part iii. p. 170.

³ Bannatyne's *Journal*, p. 259.

⁴ *New Stat. Acc., Ayrsh.*, p. 720.

⁵ *New Stat. Acc., Ayrsh.*, p. 720.

⁶ *Presb. Rec.*

not keeping their instructions, and imprisoned, 11th December following, for refusing to give bond not to use his ministry in the kingdom.

In the Act of Indulgence, September 3d, 1672, certain parishes are named in which ministers outed since the year 1661 were to be confined to exercise the other parts of their ministerial functions. Among those so specified is, "Kilbirnie, with Mr. William Tillidaff, Mr. Patrick Anderson." On March 12th, 1673, the ministers who had not then entered their confinements were cited before the Council, when they were appointed to do so before the 1st June under pain of being apprehended as despisers of his Majesty's authority,—among them compeared Mr. Patrick Anderson. On 3d April 1678, he is charged before the Council with holding conventicles in the years 1674-5-6-7-8, in his house in Potter-Row, and was sent to the Bass. On 26th August 1679, he was one of the prisoners brought up from the Bass to Edinburgh Tolbooth, and refusing to comply with the terms offered by the Council, he, among others, was remanded. Some time afterwards they all appear to have been liberated upon a bond to appear when called on, under a penalty of £500 stg.¹ Mr. Patrick Anderson would seem, however, never to have been resident in Kilbirnie.

168.—Alexander Duncan, A.M., probably son of Mr. William Duncan, minister of New Kilpatrick, attained his degree at the University of Glasgow 20th July 1675; recommended by James, Marquis of Montrose, on 7th May 1681, for the Church of Baldernock, which did not then become vacant; outed by the people in 1688; probably assisted his father for a time at New Kilpatrick, but settled in a Jacobite Episcopal congregation at Glasgow in 1715. So zealous and keen were his political feelings that he refused giving the communion to an English officer because he would not acknowledge his having held a commission from King George to be a sin. He was consecrated a bishop of that body at Edinburgh in 1724, and died in January 1733, aged 78, leaving a son Robert, and a daughter Grizell.

1688.—John Glasgow, A.M., took his degree at the University of Glasgow 16th July 1674; ordained 16th August 1688; died in December 1721, aged about 68, in the 34th year of his ministry. He married Jean, eldest daughter of John Cunninghame of Wattiestoun, and had a son, Robert, of Pudevenholme and other lands.

1723.—James Smith, A.M., obtained his degree at the University of Glasgow 16th June 1712; became schoolmaster at Irvine; was licensed by the Presbytery 13th March 1722; called 5th February, and ordained 2d May 1723; died 11th February 1733, aged about 40, and in the 10th year of his ministry. He married Bethia Barclay, who survived him, and had a daughter Elizabeth, who married Robert Dallas, Esq., of Kensington.

1734.—Malcolm Brown, A.M., got his degree from the University of Glasgow 30th April 1723; licensed by the Presbytery 10th November 1730, and became chaplain to Lord Boyle; was called 26th September 1733, ordained 30th January 1734; died FATHER of the church 21st December 1794, in his 100th year and 62d of his ministry. He was highly respected for his exemplary life, unaffected piety, regular discharge of parochial duty, and charitable and benevolent disposition. He bequeathed £10 to the poor. Mrs. Ann Bain, his spouse, died 29th November 1793.

1795.—Robert Urquhart, licensed by the Presbytery 23d September 1788, and obtained a promise of the Church of Crail in 1789, which he was obliged, on account of peculiar circumstances, to relinquish; presented by Archibald, Earl of Eglinton, 9th March, and ordained 6th August 1795; died 22d September 1845, in the 83d year of his age and

¹ Wodrow's *Hist.*, and *New Stat. Acc.*, *Ayrsh.*, p. 720.

51st of his ministry. He married, 10th September 1804, Elizabeth Hooks, and had two sons, H. R., writer, Largs, and Andrew, minister of Portpatrick.

1846.—John Orr, the present incumbent, studied in the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews; was licensed by the Presbytery of Irvine in June 1844; became assistant to the Rev. Peter Young, Wigtown, and afterwards to the Rev. Robert Urquhart, of Kilbirnie, at whose decease he was presented to the living by the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, and ordained by the Presbytery in January 1846.

In *Origines Parochiales*, already quoted, it is stated that the church “was situated on the Garnock, and beside the castle of the manor.” Although this statement, taken literally, can scarcely be reconciled with the topography of the present day—the church being nearly a quarter of a mile from the river, and the castle about three quarters of a mile distant from the church, while the river at the nearest point is three-quarters of a mile from the castle—yet there can be no doubt from the evidence on its own walls that the present church is the one referred to, and that the older part of the edifice now standing formed part of the earlier, if not original, structure. The description of the church which follows is mainly adopted from the account written by the late Mr. William Dobie in 1840, and published in *The Scottish Journal of Topography, Antiquities, etc.*, Edinburgh, 1848.

The Church of Kilbirnie is situated about half a mile south of the village, at the base of a gentle rise forming the westward boundary of the valley of the Garnock. The fabric is a simple oblong in form, measuring 65 feet in length by $29\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, with wings or aisles extending north and south from its eastern extremity, and a plain square tower of moderate elevation attached to the western gable.¹ The body of the church and tower are of common masonry, the quoins and facings of the apertures being of roughly chiseled freestone. Both the church and tower are covered with deep roofs, and the west gable of the latter is crowned with a small belfry. On the south wall of the tower and close to the line of the eave, a panel or compartment, surrounded by a moulding, contains a stone on which are carved in relief the armorial bearings of Crawford impaled with Barclay; and near the centre of the same wall, and just above the intake of the tower, on a plain stone appear carved in like fashion the arms of Cuninghame.² The aisles, which are of unequal dimensions, have been added at different periods to the original structure. The earlier, which

¹ Plate I.

² Figs. 7 and 8, Plate No. 7.

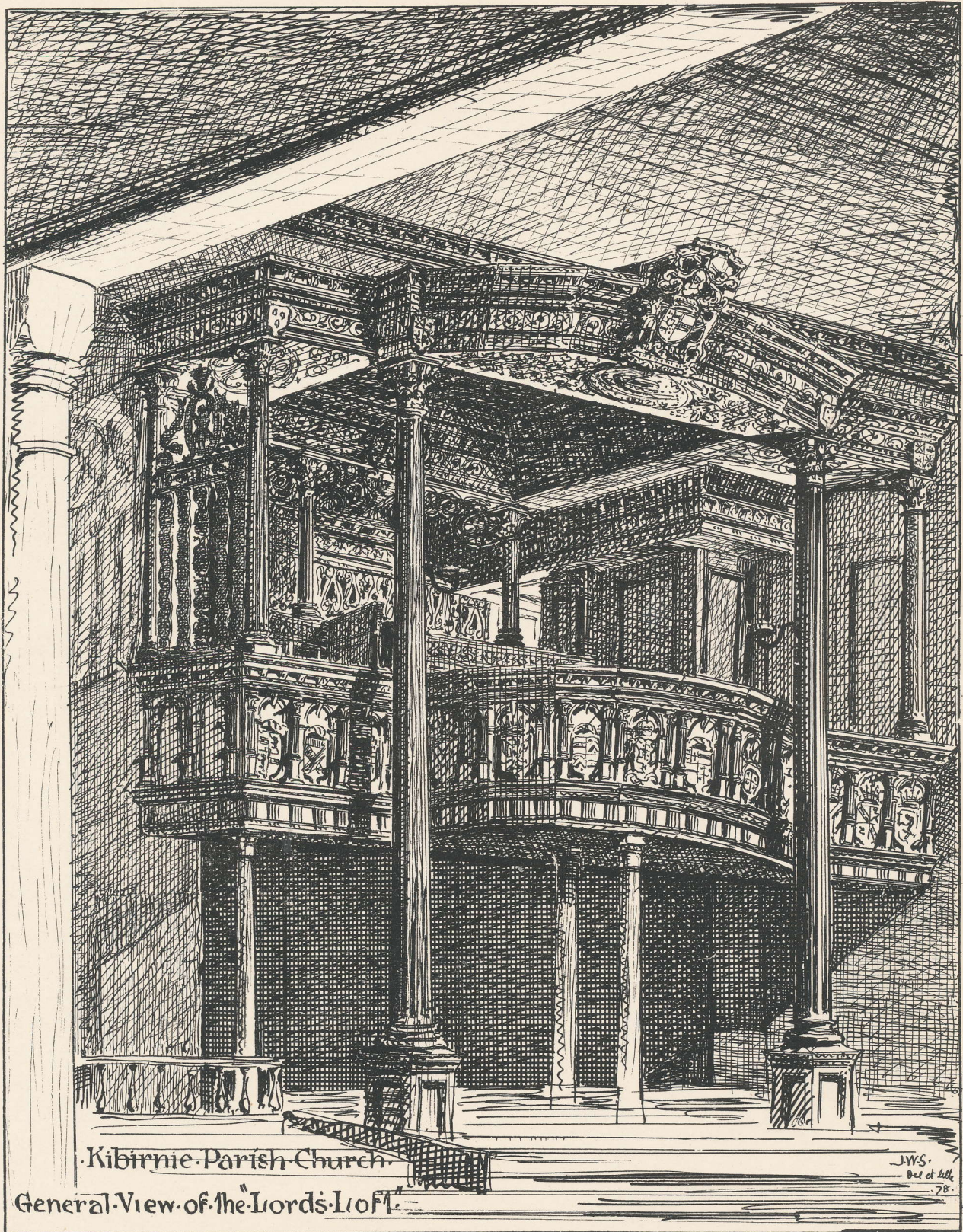
is that projecting southwards, is built of jointed ashlar, and ornamented with a few indifferently formed mouldings. Over a window of this aisle, in a panel, are cut the armorial bearings of the name of Cuninghame, with the date 1597, and the letters I. C. and K. C., the initials of Sir James Cuninghame of Glengarnock, and his lady, Katherine, second daughter of William, seventh Earl of Glencairn.¹ The north aisle or wing, which is considerably the larger, contains, besides the Crawford gallery, a private apartment and entrance lobby, and under these, in impressive contiguity, is the family burial vault. This is the most modern and best built part of the church, having been erected by Sir John Crawford in 1642, as is testified by his initials and the date cut in raised characters on the gable of the aisle.² That the edifice is of much older standing than the earliest of these additions seems obvious from the greater strength and simplicity of the masonry in the main part of the building, and though not prepared to assign a date for its construction, yet, as the south or Glengarnock aisle was built only thirty-seven years subsequently to the Reformation, it can scarcely be doubted that the body of the structure existed as a place of public worship prior to that era. Should the fess, ermine, the bearing of the Crawfurds, on the upper part of the south wall of the tower, be coeval with the building, its construction cannot be referred to an earlier period than the latter part of the fifteenth century, it having been subsequent to 1470 that Malcolm Crawford of Greenock married Marjory, only daughter and heiress to John Barclay of Kilbirnie. The escutcheon, however, of Cuninghame of Glengarnock likewise occurring on this part of the structure might lead to the conclusion of an older date. It may be here mentioned in passing that the jousts, attached to its west wall, were found more than forty years ago amongst some lumber in the tower, and have been thus preserved for the inspection of the curious.

The church is, however, chiefly remarkable on account of the carvings in oak with which the Crawford gallery and the pulpit are profusely decorated, and the numerous heraldic proofs on the former of the ancestral dignity of John, first Viscount Garnock, by whose commands all these adornments were executed early in the last century.³ The gallery in front

¹ Plate No. 6.

² Plate No. 6.

³ The title was created in 1703, and his death occurred in 1708. *Vide Douglas' Peerage*, by Wood, vol. i. p. 392.



is composed of a central part 14 feet in length, and two less advanced, each of 4 feet; the former projecting between 5 and 6 feet into the church, and the others about 2 feet less. The elevation consists simply of the fronts or breasts of these divisions, and a corresponding crowning entablature, supported by four Corinthian columns, two of which, 16 feet 4 inches each in height, including their pedestals, rest on the floor of the church; while the others, which are only about 6 feet in length, stand on the extremities of the less advanced fronts. The entablature is of the most ornate description of Corinthian, every moulding of the cornice and architrave being appropriately carved, and the frieze ornamented with scrolls of foliage. A pedimented compartment is formed over its centre, in front of which is affixed an elaborate representation of the Viscount's honours. The soffit of the entablature is richly sculptured with a running pattern of the vine, extending from the capitals of the principal columns to a central oval ornament.¹

The fronts are likewise decorated with a profusion of architectural ornament. The bounding feature of their depth, which is in all 3 feet 7 inches, is a small enriched cornice, with a kind of Doric frieze, the metopes of which, however, have long since been despoiled of their alternating ornaments—the thistle and the rose. Above this cornice, and extending along the entire fronts, is a series of thirteen arcades springing from small pilasters placed against half columns of the Corinthian order. A richly carved composite entablature, though disproportionately deep, surmounts the miniature columns, and completes the design.² This part of the elevation presents a very ornate appearance, the effect of which is considerably heightened by the shields of arms placed in the arcades. The bearings of these, with their accompanying coronets or wreaths, being tintured as well as sculptured, not only add to the diversity of the carvings, but impart, by their bright and “various dyes,” an air of dignity and splendour to the whole interior of the lowly house of prayer. A small screen of pilasters, and other ornaments, occupying the right hand space formed by the projection of the gallery beyond the side wall of the church, as composing in some measure a part of the elevation, may be here noticed. The lower part of it consists of five small pilasters placed closely together, the centre one of which is composed entirely of waved foliage and flowers “*percé à jour*”; the others are wreathed or twisted, and a third of

¹ Plates Nos. 1 and 3.

² Plates Nos. 3 and 5.

their height, in the centre, is fluted spiralwise, a viscount's coronet terminating the flutes. The pilasters carry a neatly carved entablature, over which, supported by thistles issuing from scrolls, is the figure of St. Andrew bearing his cross, within an oval band, inscribed with the motto of the order, "*Nemo . me . Impune . Lacesset.*" A thistle, ensigned with an imperial crown, surmounts the band, and finishes this rich and singular composition.¹

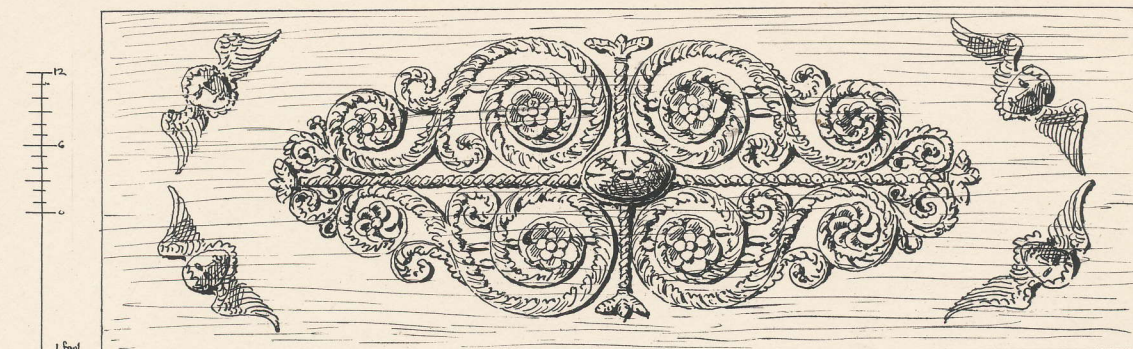
The interior finishing of the gallery corresponds in style with the parts described. The walls are panelled in oak, and surmounted by a deep architrave cornice, ornamented with eight tiers of enrichments. The principal, or central ceiling, being about 2 feet higher than the range of this cornice, is surrounded by a congeries of mouldings, distinct alike in size and decoration from the other. The ceiling enclosed by these is thrown, by means of a few bold enriched members, into a deep compartment, much of which is covered with a centre ornament, composed of an enriched pendant, and four tapering scrolls, similarly foliated, each resembling in profile the contour of a console. The scrolls enclose rosettes, and are separated from one another by wreathed rods lying along the central length and breadth of the ornament. In the angular spaces of the compartment are placed flat mal-formed winged masks, intended to represent the heads of cherubs.² The platfonds, right and left of this ceiling, and which are of the height of the cornice first mentioned, though small, have not been left without decided marks of the carver's patience and ingenuity. In the centre of each is a star of ten points, encircled by a row of eight ruffled leaves, from between every two of which spring double stems of foliage, terminating in expanded scrolls. Detached sprigs of the like ornament occupy the angles of the platfonds instead of cherub heads as on the central ceiling.

The front seat of the gallery is separated from that allotted to the household by a panelled partition of oak, 4 feet 9 inches deep, on which are placed four columns, with a half one at each end, of about the same height as the partition. From the capitals of the columns extend pendant convolutions of foliage, and over the central intercolumniation are affixed against the cornice and architrave his lordship's initials, interwoven with those of his lady. The characters are in full relief, and surmounted by a coronet; while below, a cherub's head with expanded wings feigns the part

¹ Plate No. 1.

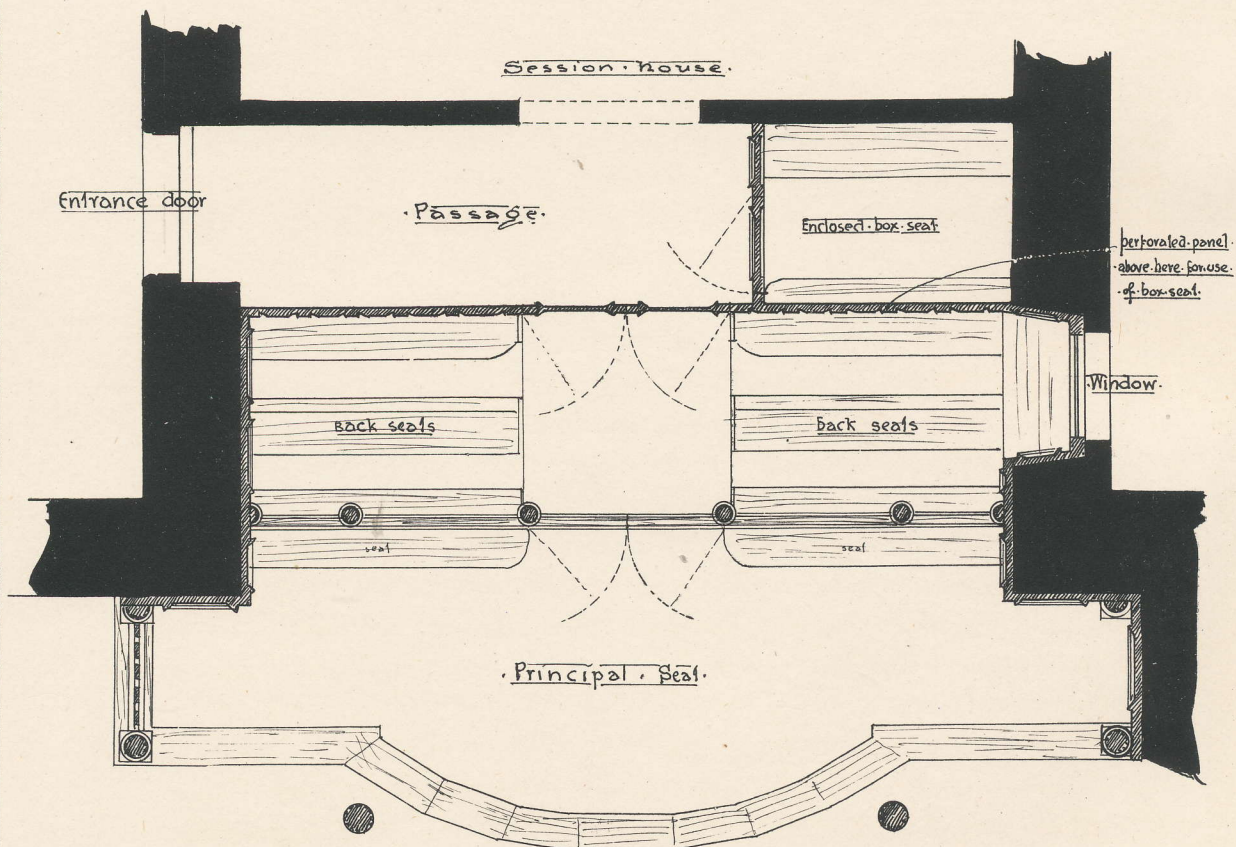
² Plate No. 2.

Kilbírnie Parish Church: Plan of the Lords Loft:



Scale of feet

Detail of Enrichment in ceiling of principal seat.



Scale 1' 2' 3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 17' 18' 19' Feet

J.W.S. 1880

of supporter.¹ In illustration of the style of the time, it may be stated that these initials are repeated immediately below, though on a smaller scale and in a plainer form, on a cartouche placed at the intersection of the foliage between the capitals of the same intercolumniation. Other minor features and ornamental details are passed over, as any account of them would not render more distinct the general idea of this stately church seat. There were, however, two paintings on the panellings of the walls at each end of the gallery, which, though but of slender artistical merits, it may be as well to mention, in order to avoid the accusation of having overlooked them: That on the right hand, representing the Jewish legislator holding the Tables of the Law, still remains, though considerably wasted; the other, on which was the High Priest in his pontificals, has altogether disappeared.²

The armorial bearings, of which there are sixteen on the gallery, exclusive of two representations of the viscount's, besides four disposed in different parts of the church, now fall to be mentioned.³ Of these proofs of lineage there are thirteen in the arcades on the fronts, and five on the crowning entablature; four of the latter being placed above the capitals of the columns, and the fifth in front of the pediment over the centre. The last, as being the only complete achievement, as well as embodying, or representing as it were, all the other honours, claims priority of description. It is in all about 3 feet in height, and of a proportionate breadth, and is affixed in a position slightly inclined to the plane of the compartment. The bearings are as follow:—two coats impaled, Baron and Femme; the first bears quarterly, first and fourth, azure, three cross-patées, or, for Barclay; second and third, gules, a fess chequé, argent and azure, for Lindsay; and, by way of surtout, gules, a fess ermine, the maternal coat of Crawford; the second bears, or, a fess chequé, azure and argent, for Stewart, his lordship having married Lady Margaret Stewart, only daughter of James, first Earl of Bute. The shield is timbred with helmet, coronet and mantling, befitting the quality of Viscount, and on a wreath of the principal tinctures of the coats, for crest, a stag's head erased proper, collared, ermine, and between his attires, or, a cross crosslet, fitché, of the last. On an escroll is the motto, "*Hinc . Honor . Et . Salus.*" Supporters, on the dexter a man robed in green, striped with gold, and carrying on his right arm a shield charged with the fess ermine of the Crawfurds, and on

¹ Plate No. 5.² Plate No. 3.³ Plates Nos. 3 and 4.

the sinister a horse, sable ; the whole standing on a compartment on which are the words, "*Sine . Labe . Nota.*"¹

The other representation of his lordship's honours alluded to occupies appropriately the central arcade of the fronts. The bearings here are simply a repetition of the dexter coat above, viz. Barclay quartered with Lindsay, and Crawford on an inescutcheon. The shield is surmounted by a coronet only, and supported on the dexter by the like figure, as on the achievement above ; but, on the sinister by a greyhound proper, collared, ermine—all of which rest on an escroll, on which is likewise inscribed for motto, "*Hinc . Honor . Et . Salus.*" The eight shields of arms, including two on the entablature to the right of the armorials just described, present so many proofs of the illustrious descent of the Viscount by the maternal side of his house ; and the like number, to the left, his still more noble lineage paternally.² The right hand series bear the following armorial ensigns, to the blazon of each of which we have annexed the name and affinity to his lordship of the personage thus represented, so far at least as we have been able to ascertain them :—

1st. Crawford and Barclay quarterly ; Crawford as before, but Barclay with the addition of a cheveron, or, between the three cross-patées of the same tincture :³ The Viscount's mother, Margaret, second daughter of Sir John Crawford of Kilbirnie.

¹ Lest the accuracy of any part of the above blazon should be called in question, we shall briefly notice what appear to be three errors committed in the "getting up" of this handsome achievement. The first is the omission in the sinister coat of the double tressure flowered and counter-flowered with *fleur-de-lis*, gules, assumed by the first Earl of Bute in addition to the simple coat of Stewart. The second is in the tincturing of the supporter of this coat, viz. a horse, sable, whereas in the Bute achievement, from which it is taken, and of which it is the dexter supporter, the horse is argent, bridled gules ; and thirdly, the mantlings, which are or, doubled sable, appear to be faulty, inasmuch as they are not of the tinctures of the arms within the shield, as was the rule of old with us, nor are they agreeable to the English practice, which of late, says Nisbet, "our heralds have followed, who have all the mantlings of gentlemen and knights red without, and lined or

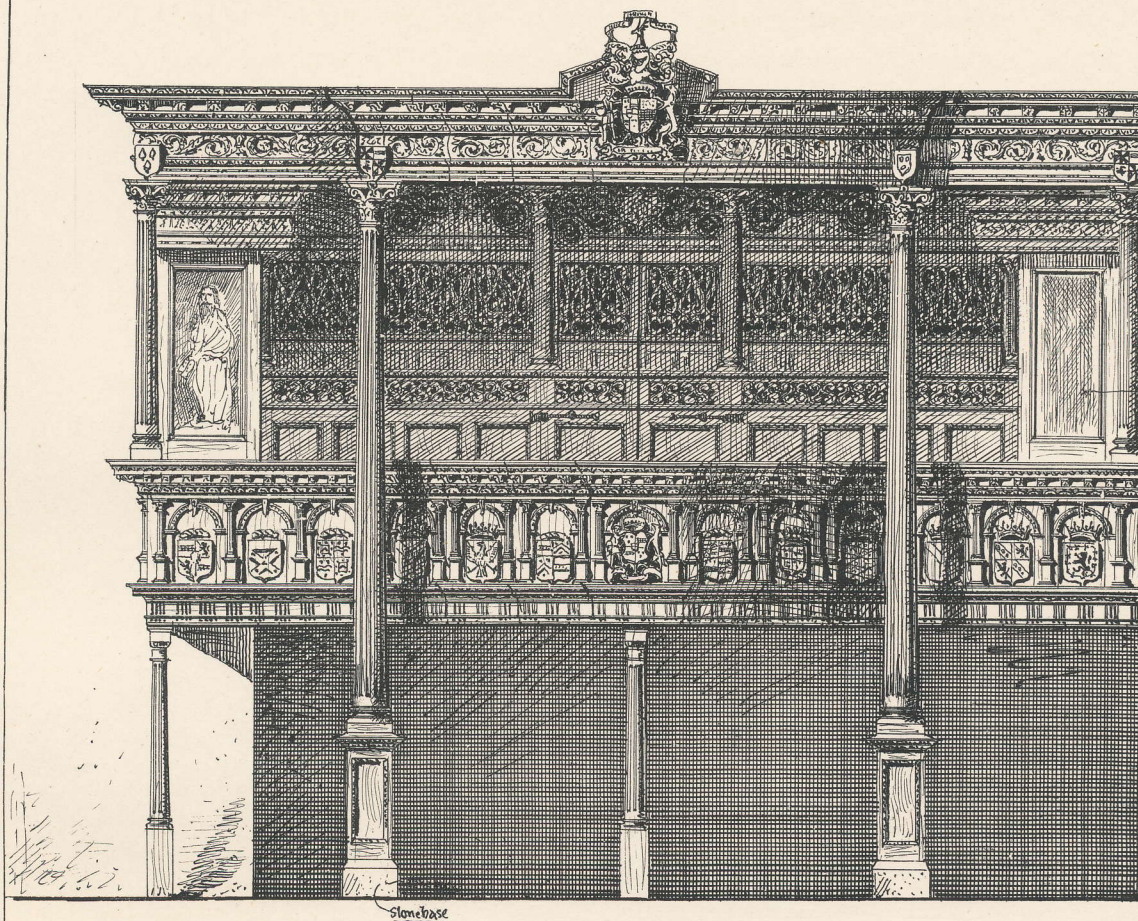
doubled with white within, and those of dignified nobility also red but doubled ermine." The above is the description of the achievement as it appeared in 1840. Since that time several alterations have been made in the tinctures of the supporters, and the cross crosslet on the crest has disappeared.

² The right hand position assigned to the female side of the house, so unusual in the marshalling of arms, is explained by the settlement of Sir John Crawford (maternal grandfather of the Viscount), who entailed the estate of Kilbirnie on his second daughter, Margaret, and her husband, the Hon. Patrick Lindsay, on the condition that he should assume the surname and arms of Crawford.

³ In reference to the bearings of the Barclays of Kilbirnie, Nisbet, in his *Essay on the Ancient and Modern use of Armories*, chap. vii. pp. 108-9, makes the following observation :—"Malcolm Crawford of Greenock, a branch of the old

Kilbirnie Parish Church:

Geometrical Elevation of the Lord's Loft:

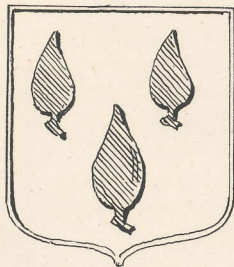


Stone base

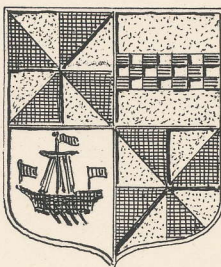
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 feet.

Detail of armorial bearings in cornice.

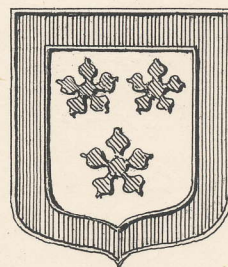
R.H. 8th.



R.H. 7th



L.H. 8th



L.H. 7th

R.H. right hand.

L.H. left hand.

12 6 0 7 feet.

scale for shields.

JWS
and others
1880

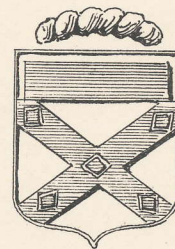
Kilbīrnīe · Parish · Church.

Detail of Armorial Bearings.
on front of the "Lord's Loft."

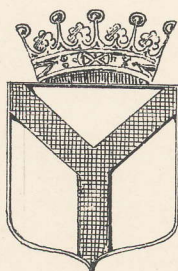
R.H. 6th



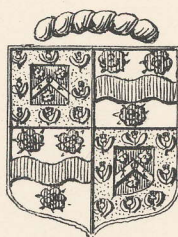
R.H. 5th



R.H. 3rd



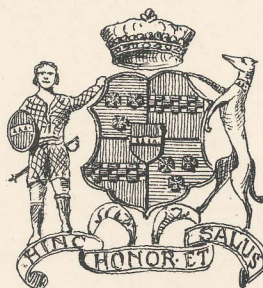
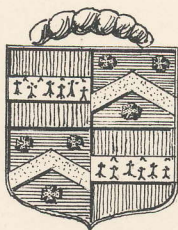
R.H. 4th



R.H. 2nd



R.H. 1st

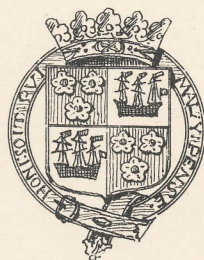


Centre of front

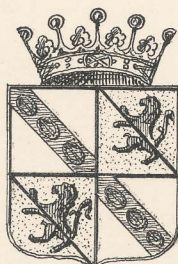
L.H. 1st



L.H. 2nd



L.H. 5th



L.H. 6th



L.H. 3rd similar to R.H. 4th with addition of coronet over as in R.H. 3rd : L.H. 4th similar to R.H. 3rd :

R.H. = right hand.

L.H. = left hand.

JWS. Del. & Lith. 1876.

2d. Or, an eagle displayed, azure, beaked and membered gules : Mother's mother, Magdalene, second daughter to David, Lord Carnegy, eldest son of David, first Earl of Southesk.

3d. Argent, a shakefork sable : Grandfather's mother Mary, daughter of James, seventh Earl of Glencairn.

4th. Quarterly, first and fourth, gules, on a cheveron, between three cinquefoils, pierced, ermine, a buckle, azure, between two spots of the second, within a bordure, or, charged with eight thistles proper, for Hamilton of Innerwick ; second and third, argent, a fess wavy between three roses, gules, as a coat of augmentation for the title of Melrose : Grandmother's mother, Margaret, daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Haddington.

5th. Argent, a saltier and chief, azure, the first charged with five mascles of the field :¹ Grandfather's father's mother, Margaret, third daughter of John Blair of Blair. This bearing seems erroneous alike in the charges and tinctures, and represents neither Blair of Blair, as was meant, nor any other name or family that we are aware of in Scotland. Blair of Blair, one of the most ancient families in the west of Scotland, was in use to carry, till *circa* 1730, one coat only, viz. argent, on a saltier, sable, nine mascles of the first ; and such, questionless, ought to have been this bearing. That these mistakes, and others previously noticed, should have been allowed to remain uncorrected, cannot be easily reconciled with the heraldic acumen ascribed in the foregoing note to the first coroneted chief of the family.

6th. Quarterly, first and fourth, gules, a fess chequé, argent and azure, for Lindsay ; second and third, or, a lion rampant, gules, debruised with a

family of Crawford of Loudon, Hereditary Sheriffs of Ayr, carried gules, a fess ermine, marry'd Marjory, daughter and sole heir of John Barclay, Baron of Kilbirnie, in the reign of King James III., and got with her that Barony, who carried azure, a cheveron betwixt three cross-pattées argent, which were impaled with his arms as Husband and Wife, and afterwards quartered as on their seal of arms ; but the cross-pattées of Barclay were so unskilfully cut that they were taken by those not well seen in armorial figures for mollets, which, as I am informed, were sometimes quartered with Crawford, and sometimes composed by the Heads of the Family and its Cadets, till John, first

Viscount of Garnock, marshalled and represented them aright, thus : Quarterly, 1st and 4th, gules, a fess ermine, for Crawford ; 2d and 3d, azure, a cheveron betwixt three cross-pattées, argent, for Barclay."

Our great heraldic authority is, however, himself incorrect both here and in his *System of Heraldry*, in assigning argent as the metal of the charges in the coat armorial of the Barclays of Kilbirnie ; at least every other writer on the "Art Noble" that we have consulted, blazons the cheveron and cross pattées on the bearing in question, or.

¹ On a stone, on the old Church at Dalry, the arms are five mascles as here.

ribbon, sable, for Abernethy; and on an inescutcheon the ensign of a Baronet of Nova Scotia: Grandmother's father's mother, Margaret, daughter of Sir David Lindsay of Edzell. The inescutcheon is an error in the marshalling and should not have been placed in any part of the shield.¹

7th. Quarterly, first and fourth, girony of eight pieces, or, and sable, for Campbell; second, or, a fess chequé, azure and argent, for Stewart of Lorn; third, argent, a lymphad sable, with oars in action: Grandfather's mother's mother, Margaret, daughter of Sir Colin Campbell of Glenurchy.

8th. Argent, three bay leaves slipt, vert: Grandmother's mother's mother, Margaret, daughter of James Foulis of Colinton.

The symbolical proofs, etc., of noble descent on the father's side are as follow:—

1st. Quarterly, first and fourth counterquartered, Crawford and Barclay as before; second, gules, a fess chequé, argent and azure, and in chief three stars of the second, for Lindsay of the Byres; third, the single coat of Lindsay: Father of the Viscount, the Hon. Patrick Lindsay, second son of John, fourteenth Earl of Crawford and first of Lindsay.²

2d. Quarterly, first and fourth, gules, three cinquefoils pierced, ermine, for Hamilton; second and third, argent, a ship with her sails furled, sable, for the title of Arran; surrounded with the principal ensign of the most noble Order of the Garter: Father's mother, Margaret, second daughter of James, second Marquess of Hamilton.

3d. Armorials the same as No. 4 on the right: Grandfather's mother, Christian, daughter of Thomas, first Earl of Haddington.

4th. Armorials the same as No. 3 on the right: Grandmother's mother, Anne, fourth daughter of James, seventh Earl of Glencairn.

5th. Quarterly, first and fourth, argent, on a bend, azure, three buckles, or, for Leslie; second and third, or, a lion rampant, gules, debriused with a ribbon, sable, for Abernethy: Grandfather's father's mother, Euphame, daughter of Andrew, fifth Earl of Rothes.

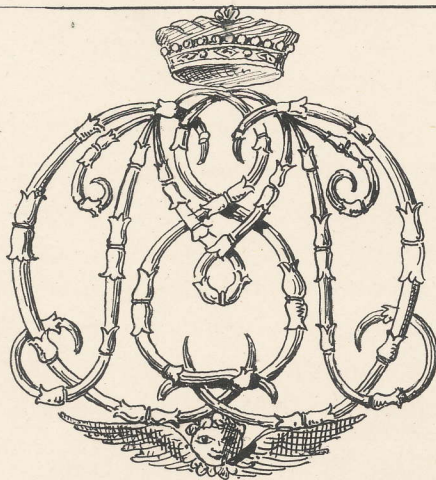
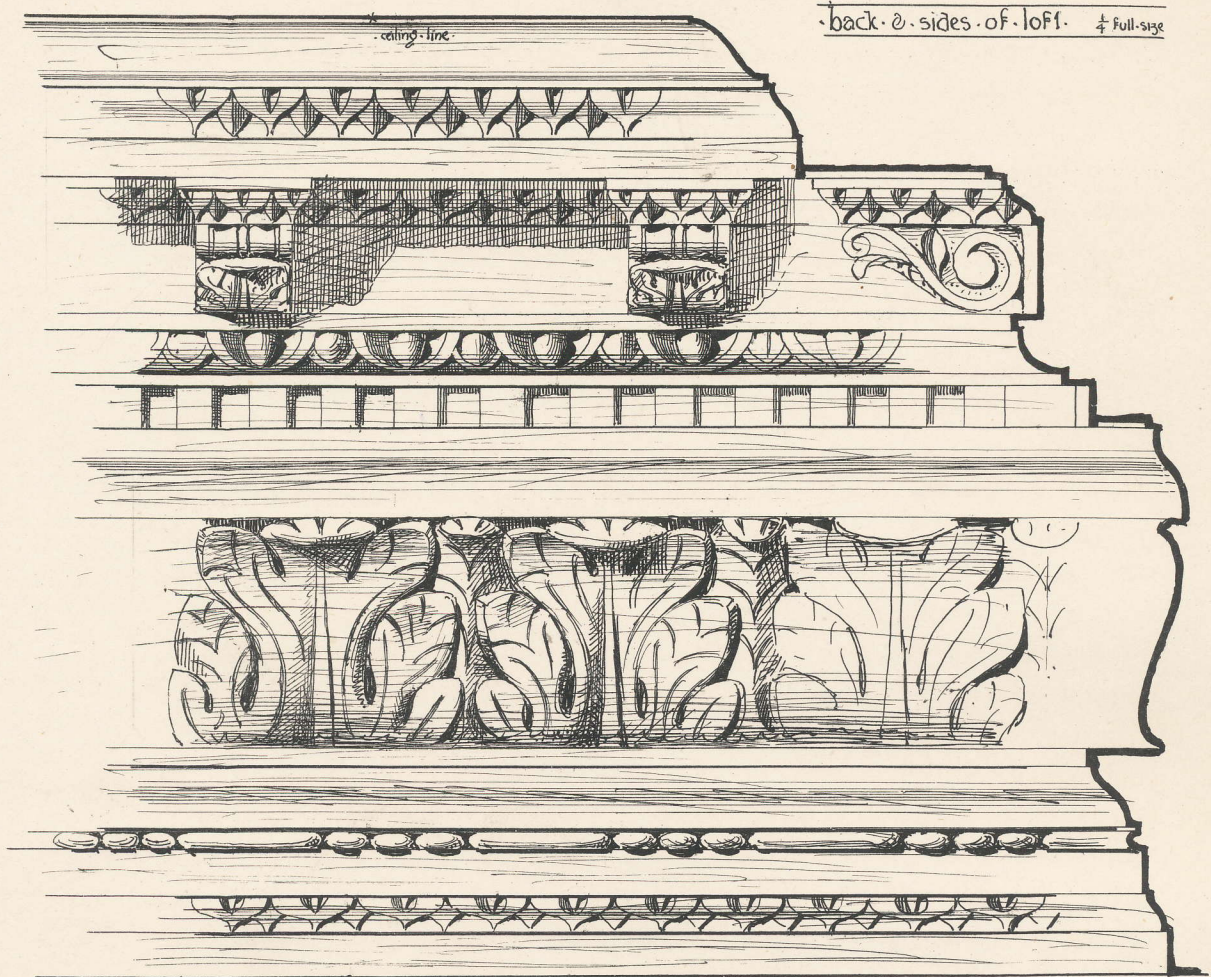
6th. Argent, a lion rampant azure, armed and langued gules, within a double tressure, flowered and counterflowered with *fleur-de-lis*, of the last: Grandmother's father's mother, Margaret, daughter of John, seventh Lord Glamis.

¹ Note by R. R. Stodart, Esq., Lyon Clerk-Depute.

² This blazon has been altered (or restored?), and second and third are now the same, viz. for Lindsay of the Byres.

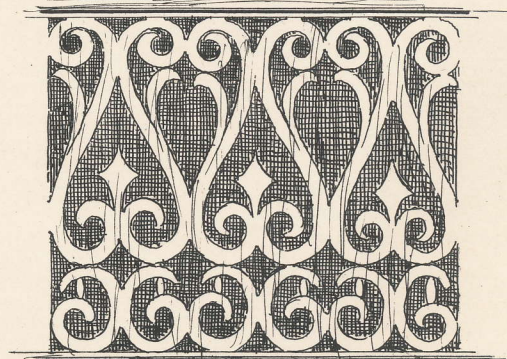
Kilbírnie Parish Church

Section & detail of cornice round



J.W.S.
Det. of detail
1678

Device above division between principal & back seats.



Detail of open work at back

inch scale

7th. Argent, three cinquefoils vert, within a bordure gules : Grandfather's mother's mother, Margaret, daughter of James Borthwick of Newbyres.¹

8th. Armorials the same as No. 7 on the right: Grandmother's mother's mother, Margaret, daughter of Sir Colin Campbell of Glenurchy.

Besides the foregoing illustrations of the ancestral dignity of the house of Garnock on the gallery, there are on other parts of the church three repetitions of the conjoint bearings of Crawford and Lindsay. One of these, which is a painting in oil, and an exact transcript of the armorials in the central arcade, is on the front of a "*loft*" (or gallery) running across the western portion of the church, erected about the year 1770. The second is on the pulpit, and bears simply the impaled coats of Crawford and Lindsay. The third is suspended over the Glengarnock aisle, and the shield, which is of an oval form, is tastefully inwreathed with palms, and ensigned with a Viscount's coronet, the bearings in every respect being the same as those first mentioned. Previous to 1840, a picture frame, affixed against the moulding, above the armorials last noticed, contained a beautiful specimen of the ornamental cipher, of which there was occasion to mention two examples among the carvings. The one in question was a painting; or, in other words, the letters J. C. M. S., composing it, were in gold, artistically shadowed, on canvas of a bright blue colour. On its falling down, the cloth, when handled, crumbled into dust; and thus, as in countless similar cases, was lost that which, by a little timely attention, might have still withstood the wasting influence of many years.

There remains yet one coat armorial to be noticed before closing this part of our subject. Besides the peculiarity of being the only one within the church unconnected with the house of Garnock, its date shows it to be of considerably older standing than the more elaborately insculped and artfully emblazoned armorials of that family. It is cut on the back of the Ladyland family pew, and formerly occupied only the dexter side of the shield, the other half having either been left plain, or, more probably, having become so from accident. The bearing is a mullet between three cinquefoils, but the bordure waved, the special mark of difference of Hamilton of Ladyland, is omitted.² Over the shield is the date, July 1671, in raised

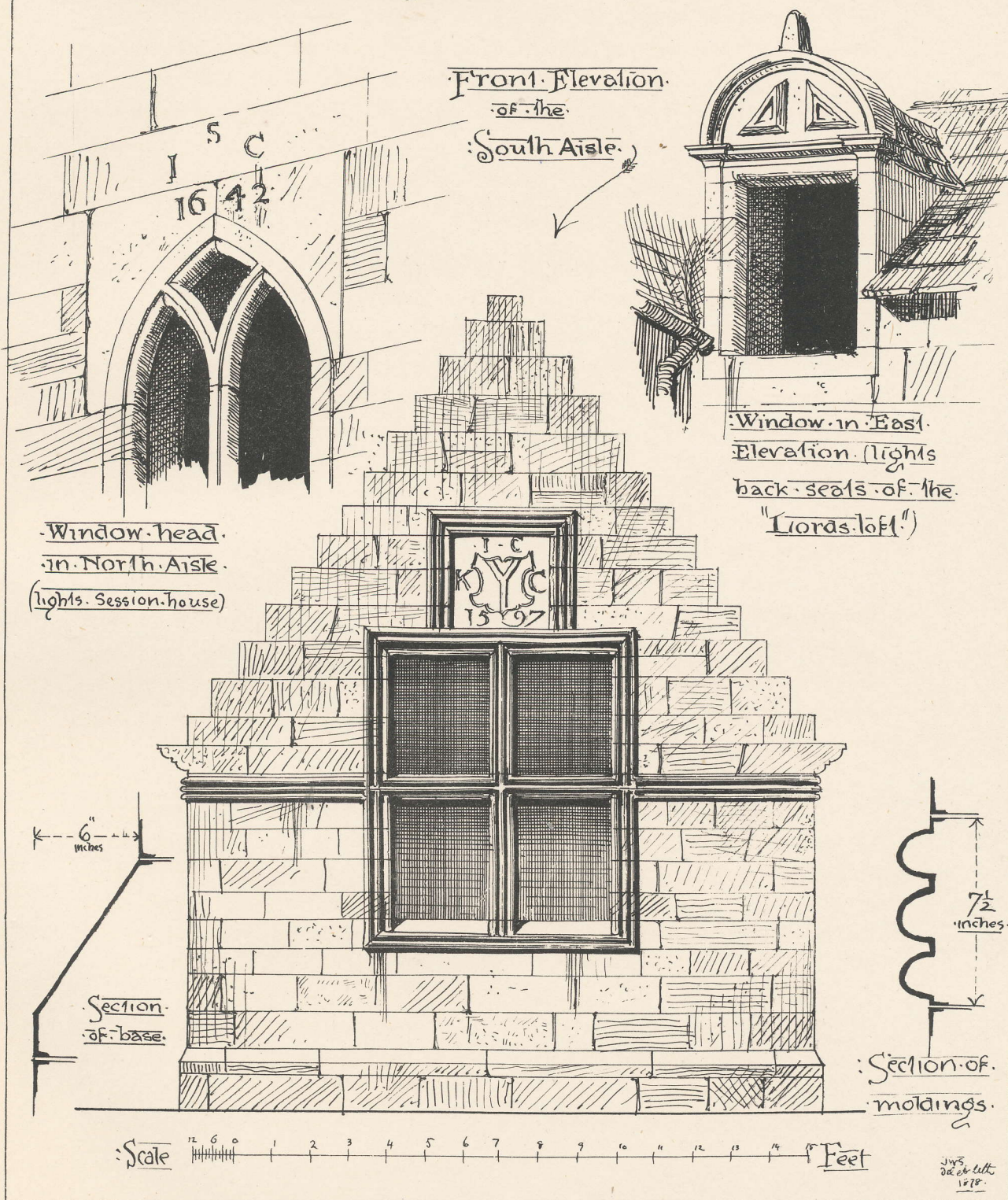
¹ The cinquefoils are here erroneously tinctured, and should be sable, not vert,—an inaccuracy, arising probably from a re-colourer mistaking a faded colour.

² "Hamilton of Ladyland, descended of the family of Torrence, a Cadet of Hamilton, now Duke of Hamilton, gules, a mullet between three cinquefoils, all within a bordure, waved, argent. Lyon Office."—Nisbet, vol. i. p. 171.

characters. The proper sinister bearing of the shield that of Brisbane of Brisbane, and the initials W. H.—I. B. planted against its sides, being those of Captain William Hamilton of Ladyland and his spouse Janet, fourth daughter of John Brisbane of Brisbane, were restored by the late William Charles Cochran-Patrick of Ladyland. The pew was formerly covered by a plain flat roof supported on pillars; which have been removed and replaced by an ornamental hanging canopy, having in the centre of its lower ornament a shield bearing the arms of Cochran of Ladyland and Patrick of Trearne.

The pulpit, an object which, by its form and the peculiar style of its decorations, arrests more or less of the attention of every visitor, was situated close to the angle formed by the Glengarnock aisle with the body of the church, but is now affixed to the wall of the eastern gable. It is constructed of Norway pine, which, though bearing many proofs of assaults from the worm, is still in a comparatively sound condition. In front the body of the pulpit is of a semi-octagonal form, the height of which is divided by a torus and two enriched mouldings into a double tier of ornamented panels. The lower part of the back, which is 4 feet in width, is finished with Ionic pilasters, surmounted by an appropriate entablature, and the wall is thrown into an enriched semicircular headed panel with flowers in the spandrels. The entablature, for the purpose of gaining breadth for the greater display of ornament above, has been extended a foot beyond the line of the pilasters. To palliate or conceal this violation of correct design, the projecting space was partially covered with ornamental scroll-work, gradually diminishing in breadth downwards, until it died against the body of the pulpit,—but this ornamentation has now disappeared. Above the cornice, and separated from it by a small moulding, springs a cavetto, 11 inches in depth, beneath which formerly ran a row of alternately raffled and plain leaves, now no longer existing. The cavetto had originally a projection of about a foot, and the under-face or soffit was carved with a recurring enrichment, but in moving and re-erecting the pulpit the projection has been sacrificed, and the soffit is not now visible. The cavetto, besides the impaled coats of Crawford and Lindsay, is adorned with foliage, grotesque figures, and other ornamental fancies in bold relief. From the member thus enriched, in lieu of the usual horizontally projected canopy there rises a flat compartment in a sloping position, of the same inclination as the roof of the church against which it was formerly fixed.

Kilbirnie Parish Church.



The breadth of the compartment is 8 feet, and its height nearly 5 feet. Its outline from the returned points of the cavetto is perpendicular for 2 feet, at which height it is contracted a few inches, and above this is nearly of a semicircular form. The area thus bounded is ornamented with an ingenious variety of singular carvings, "more circumspective," to use the quaint phrase of a local historian, "to be seen than described." The most prominent of the carvings is a winged female figure, the emblem of religion, standing on coiled serpents, and holding in her right hand an olive wand. Beneath the serpents is a richly carved ornament, in outline somewhat resembling an ancient lyre. The lower part of the compartment is occupied by a kind of divided pediment, composed of two fillets, and finished with circular flowers, from which, across the last-mentioned ornament, extends a festoon of bay leaves. The fillets, which are 5 inches apart, enclose three cherubs' heads on each side of the pediment, the field of which is decorated on the right hand with a thistle, and on the other with a rose. The space between the female figure and the pediment is ornamented with wreaths of fruit and foliage, terminating in grinning masks, and doves with sprigs of foliage in their beaks; the interstices being *semé* of stars, while at each extremity of the canopy stands a half-draped juvenile figure blowing a trumpet.

Besides the gallery and pulpit there are several lines of carved cornices, scroll and other ornamental work, on different parts of the church, demanding nothing beyond a passing notice. Little, indeed, if any of the sculptured work, above described, is calculated—either from spirited handling or delicate finish—to elicit commendation from the connoisseur; by much the greater part of it, though effective enough at some distance, bearing too many obvious marks of the gouge and the chisel to stand a close inspection. The most obviously defective portions of the carvings—defective alike in the conception and execution—are the capitals of the columns and pilasters, much of the foliage, all the cherubs' heads, and though a small feature, not on that account the less worthy of note, the Doric frieze forming the nether bounding line of the fronts of the gallery. Here the error of the workman has been such that, through having mistaken depression for elevation in the channels of the triglyphs, he has, contrary to all precedent and principle, completely reversed the design. However, instead of more minutely dilating on the architectural and ornamental defects of the work, we shall only observe that the designs

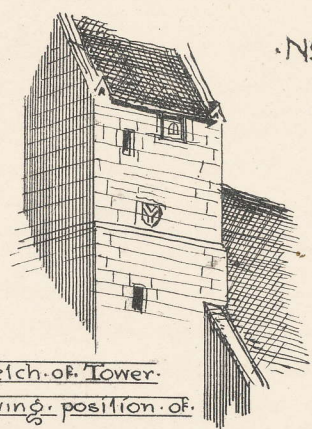
certainly merited a better style of execution. These strictures, though somewhat severe, have been deemed necessary, in case the description in the foregoing pages—which relates more to form than to style of execution—should have left too favourable an impression on the reader.

The interior of the church, as recorded by Timothy Pont, in the work already referred to (see pp. 19 and 233), was formerly used by the Kilbirnie, Glengarnock, and Ladyland families, as their place of sepulture. Of this once common, though baneful practice, excepting a flagstone forming part of the pavement of the passage in front of the gallery, there were of late years no visible indications. This stone, now removed, bore only the engraved figure of a two-handed sword, with a slightly sunk fillet or groove cut around the margin, but the memory of him who lay beneath it had long since sunk into oblivion; for, though it had been surmised that this memorial denoted the last resting-place of Sir John Crawford of Kilbirnie, who died in 1661, it does not appear at all likely that this distinguished person should have been buried elsewhere than in the vault erected by himself in 1642. This stone, which, since the recent repairs hereafter to be mentioned, had disappeared, was after a most diligent search discovered to have been used as material in the construction of the heating-apparatus, made at the east end of the building, and part of it now forms the second lowest step in the stair leading down to the furnace.

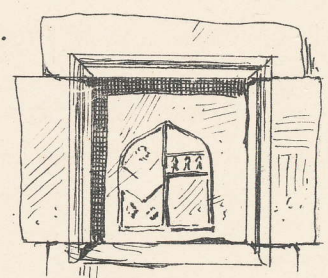
The apartment over the vault is entered by the same outside stair as the gallery. Shortly after the death of the last Earl, in 1808, this apartment was denuded of its garniture by the order of his sister, the late Lady Mary Lindsay Crawford. Long previously, however, it had ceased to be the occasional resort on Sundays of noble lords and high-born dames, and was, at the period adverted to, the rendezvous where the tenants of the Kilbirnie estates met on term days to pay their rents to the factor.¹ For several years past it has been used as a vestry. The pictures that once adorned its walls consisted of drawings in water-colours of Kilbirnie Castle, Glengarnock Castle, and engravings of scriptural and allegorical subjects. Several of these possessed considerable merit, and the view of Kilbirnie Castle was deemed worthy of especial notice in the description of Crawford Priory, by the celebrated Delta, of *Blackwood's Magazine*. These pictures were all dispersed many years since.

¹ Kilbirnie Castle, or "*The Place*," as it is destroyed by fire on 1st May 1757, and was familiarly called by the natives, was entirely never rebuilt.

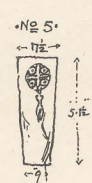
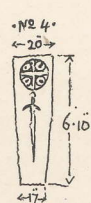
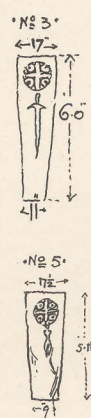
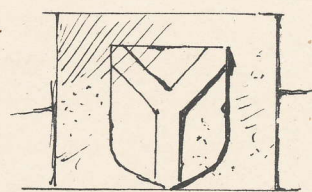
Kilbirnie Church.



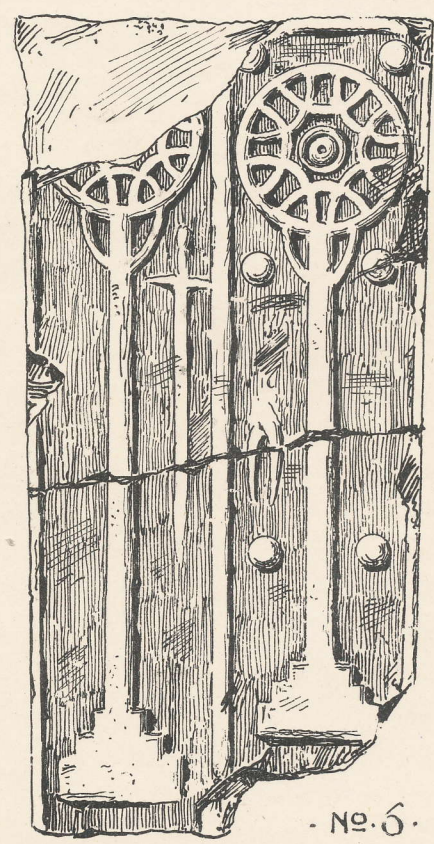
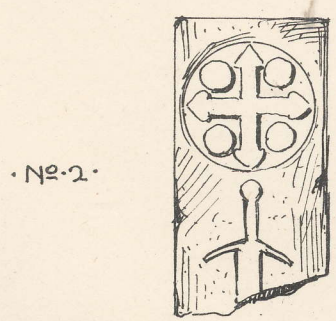
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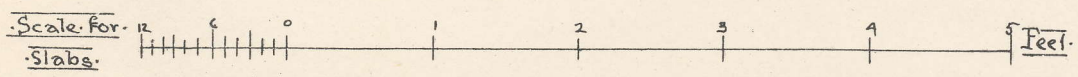
No. 7.



Grave Slabs from Church-Yard.



Remains of a slab built into boundary wall.



JMS
20th July
1878

Before concluding this account of Kilbirnie Kirk it may be remarked that, although its exterior presents not a single architectural feature meriting attention, its venerable simplicity of form, combined with the rural amenity of the locality, constitutes a *tout-ensemble* possessing a charm that rarely fails to arrest the attention of the passenger of taste. It is, however, much to be regretted that, as an object of interest in the landscape, the church sustained irreparable injury at the hands of the heritors, its legal guardians, when in 1839, in order to gain more room in the burying-ground, they caused all the fine old ash and plane trees which adorned two sides of the churchyard to be cut down, except a few of the most stunted and deformed—an act by which they not only despoiled the fabric of its most picturesque accompaniment, but by laying it open to the stormy west might have considerably endangered its stability.

It may be observed as somewhat singular that Mr. William Dobie's account of the church should have been the first attempt made to describe it. The Statistical Account of the parish, written in 1793, passes it over in silence; and even Robertson, the professed topographer and genealogist of the district, in his quarto volume on the *Topography of Cunningham*, published in 1820, makes no allusion either to the church or churchyard, though few subjects more interesting to the local antiquary or the family genealogist are to be met with in this section of the county. The late Mr. James Dobie, in his *Examination of the Claim of John Lindsay Crawford to the Titles and Estates of Crawford and Lindsay*, published by Blackwood in 1831, had given the only descriptive sketch of the church previously printed; but from its being merely incidental, it is by its brevity calculated more to excite than to gratify curiosity.

The burying-ground, which lies chiefly to the south of the church, was in the early part of this present century surrounded by substantial walls, before the construction of which it lay open to every intruder; and, during the great annual fair of "Brinnan's Day," was the resort of itinerant vendors of every description, gamblers, and all the motley crowd formerly attending these noisy and not unfrequently riotous assemblages. To the Rev. Mr. Urquhart, the late minister of the parish, the credit is due of having put an end to so disgraceful a profanation of the sanctuary of the dead. After repeated representations of a usage so revolting, the heritors granted the necessary outlays for building the walls; and since their construction the churchyard has ceased to be polluted by

being made the scene of low roguery, noisy quarrellings, and boisterous hilarity.

By far the most interesting monument in the burying-ground is the "stately tomb," erected in 1594, by Captain Crawford of Jordanhill, for himself and his lady.¹ It stands a few yards south of the church, and is of a quadrangular form, measuring $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length, 6 feet in width, and 6 feet 6 inches in height. It is built of chiseled freestone, and covered horizontally with the same material; and, though still entire, has been long in a state ripe for repairs. The walls are finished at the angles with columns composed of three bottels separated by hollow curves, which are enriched with the Gothic astrated ornament, and over each of the bottels is carved a mask, by way of capital. The only other decorated external feature of this "pretty stone monument," as it was designated by Timothy Pont, already quoted, is a cornice composed of alternating cima-reversas and quarter rounds, surmounting the walls. Through an aperture in the east end of the monument, aided by a faint light admitted through slits in the south and west walls, are seen the recumbent statues of the gallant captain in military garb, and of his spouse in the costume of the time. The figures have the hands joined on the breast as in prayer, and, though at first look but indifferently seen, the light soon becomes strong enough to repress all regret that these rude efforts of the untutored stone-cutter are not more distinctly visible. On the exterior of the north wall, carved in relief, is a shield, bearing quarterly Crawford and Barclay; a sword, proper, hilted and pommelled, forming its transverse division, and for crest the helmet of an Esquire. The shield is on three sides surrounded by the following inscription, cut in large raised characters:—

GOD . SCHAW .
THE . RICHT .

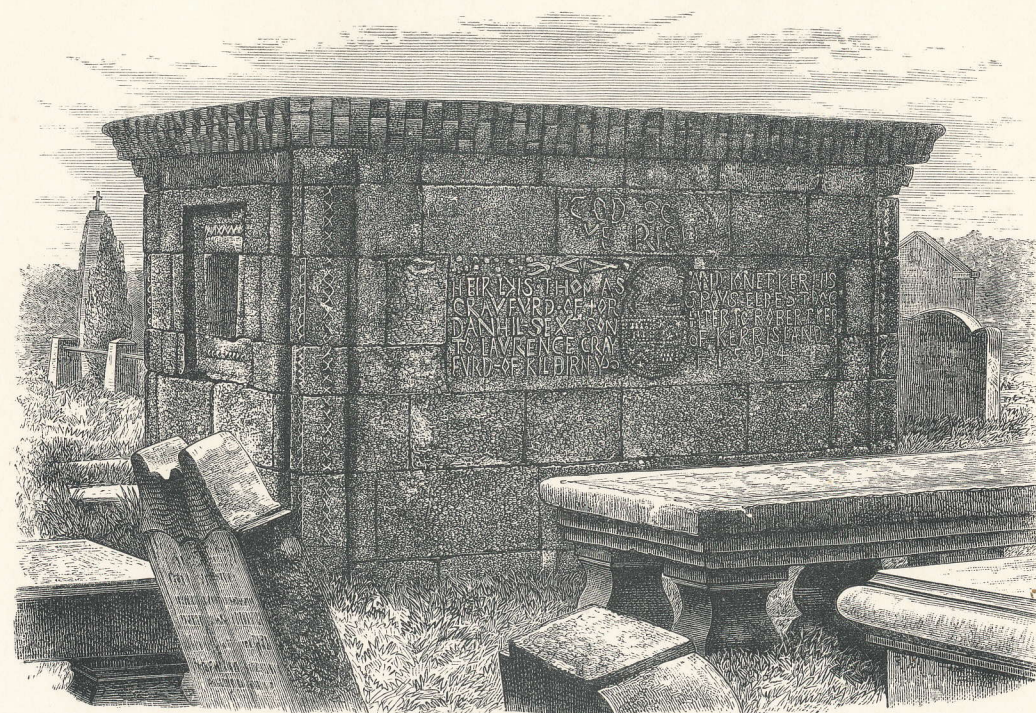
HEIR . LYIS . THOMAS .
CRAWFVRD . OF . IOR .
DANHIL . SEXT . SON .
TO . LAVRENCE . CRAV .
FVRD . OF . KILBIRNY .



AND . IONET . KER . HIS .
SPOVS . ELDEST . DOC .
HTER . TO . ROBERT . KER .
OF . KERRISLAND .

1 . 5 . 9 . 4 .

¹ Plate II.



TOMB OF CAPTAIN CRAWFURD OF JORDANHILL.



W. Galloway, Mens. et del.

Waterston & Sons, Lithrs. Edin.

EARLY GRAVESTONES IN THE CHURCHYARD.

The motto, "God . Schaw . The . Richt," was conferred on Captain Crawford by the Earl of Morton, in memory of the conflict at the Gallow Lee, in 1571, betwixt the factions of the King and Queen. Captain Crawford died 3d January 1603, and was buried alongside of the inscribed wall of the monument, as is still indicated by a flat stone bearing his name, which, however, can now be only partly traced.

There is no other monument in the churchyard of so old a date as the one just described, by nearly half a century; but there are three flat stones bearing the figure of a sword, which may, undoubtedly, lay claim to an antiquity considerably more remote. These stones vary from 7 feet to 5 feet 6 inches in length, and from 20 to 17 inches in breadth at the head, tapering to from 16 to 11 inches at the lower end. Between the handle of the sword and the upper verge of the stone is cut, within a circle 16 inches in diameter, a figure, seemingly intended to represent a cross, with an annulet in each of its quarters. The stones are similar to each other, with this exception, that on one of them all the carvings are in relief, and on the right of the upper part of the blade of the sword it bears a device, now so obliterated as to be unrecognisable.¹ This stone appears also to have had a raised fillet round its edge; the portions next to the cross, however, only now remaining. The other stones have the devices merely cut into their surfaces, and are without any fillet. There is a fourth stone, bearing the sword, but the cross has been chiseled off, and a fifth has been broken, the upper portion of which has been used in building up the postern entrance to the burying-ground. Two other stones bearing the same style of cross, instead of the sword have the device of the shears, and are slightly chamfered on the edges. On account of these figures, but especially of that of the sword, it has been alleged that these unlettered memorials commemorate at least the fact of so many Knight Templars having been buried here, though no other evidence has been adduced in support of the notion. The inference, however, from such data seems to be purely gratuitous, as anciently the sword on the tombstone was not restricted to a particular class or order, but denoted only, in a general manner, feudal dignity or military authority. It appears a much more probable supposition that the memorials in question may have marked the graves of some members or connections of the ancient families of Barclay, or Crawford of Kilbirnie, or of Cuninghame of Glen-garnock, than that they were tributes to the memory of an order of knights

¹ Plate No. 7, Fig. 1. See also "Early Gravestones, etc.," Plate 2 opposite.

whose existence in this quarter, at any period, is altogether hypothetical. But whatever may have been the names or rank held by the individuals whose last place of rest these sepulchral stones once indicated, they have long since been removed from their original bed, and have for many years been used by the persons on whose places of interment they are to be found.

There is yet another stone worthy of remark. Although now considerably shattered at two of its angles, it has been surrounded by a raised fillet, and, by the same means, is divided into two compartments, the one on the right measuring 5 feet 8 inches in length, by 1 foot 5 inches at the head and 1 foot 3 inches at the foot; the other being of like proportions, but 5 inches shorter in length. In each compartment is cut in relief an ornamental cross, consisting of a roundel and annulet in the centre, surrounded by segments of circles forming a cross and saltire, the shaft of the cross terminating in an expanding base of three steps. On the compartment to the right, between the shaft of the cross and the dividing fillet, is a figure resembling a sword; on that to the left, in the same relative position, a figure, now almost effaced, seems to represent the shears. Near to each saltire angle of this cross there is a roundel, and one also on each side of the shaft towards its base.¹

Of the other epitaphs in the churchyard only the following are here considered worthy of notice. The three first are on table-stones; the fourth is on a "throck," or flat oblong stone lying immediately over the grave; and the others are on head-stones.

1.

Heir . lyis . Ane . Good . Gentlevoman . calid . Lvcres . Scrimgeovr . Spovs .
To . Master . William . Rvssel . Minister . at . Kilbirny . who . deceased . 3 . of .
September . 1637 . A . D.

The above inscription is cut round the margin of the stone, and incloses the engraved outline of two shields, one of which is charged with the initials M. W. R., and the other is flanked with the letters L. S., and bears, in the second and third quarters, some non-heraldic fancies of the stonecutter.

2.

The following epitaph is said to have been composed by Patrick, second

¹ Plate No. 7, Fig. 6. See also "Early Gravestones, etc.," Plate 1 opposite.



W. Galloway, Mens. et del.

Waterston & Sons Lith^{rs} Edin^g

EARLY GRAVESTONES IN THE CHURCHYARD.

Viscount Garnock, who died in 1735, an eccentric nobleman, of whom many anecdotes are still current among the villagers :—

Bethia Barclay erected this monument in memory of her dear husband, Mr. James Smith, Minister of the Gospel in Kilbirny, who died 11th of February 1733.¹

Underneath this record of the death are sculptured a winged cherub on the right, and a man in pilgrim's guise on the left of the stone. On a level with the feet of the latter—for the former seems poised in air—are a skull and cross-bones, to which both the figures point; and above the skull and between the heads of the figures are engraved, as if spoken by the cherub, the following words from Ezekiel :—

Son of man, can these dry bones live ?

Beneath the sculptured figures is the pilgrim's answer, from the Book of Job :—

And though after my skin worms shall destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Then follows the conclusion of the epitaph—

Buried . here . lys . a . worthy . man .
 Whose . life . alas . was . but . a . span .
 He . pleasure . took . by . God's . Command .
 To . lead . us . to . Emanuel's . land .
 He . was . [a] . blessing . to . our . place .
 Where . he . did . preach . by . power . of . grace .
 Bidding . us . Jesus' . footsteps . trace .
 And . from . all . sinning . strive . to . cease .
 To . us . alas . he . is . no . more .
 His . soul . triumphs . in . endless . gloire .
 Why . should . we . then . his . loss . deplore .
 Who . joined . has . the . heavenly . choir .
 To . make . his . character . complete .
 Nature . blessed . him . with . temper . sweet .
 Grace . and . manners . in . him . did . meet .
 Kind . to . his . own . to . all . discreet .
 All . who . do . love . his . memory .
 Must . like . him . live . and . like . him . dy .
 Then . ye'l . enjoy . Eternity .
 In . ever . praising . the . most . High .

¹ This worthy couple had a daughter named Elizabeth (what other progeny we know not), who was married to Robert Dallas of Kensington, Middlesex, who died in 1796, and had, besides other issue,—Sir Robert Dallas, who was Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas; married Charlotte,

daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Gardine, by whom he had a son and daughter.—Note by Dr. Crawford, Lochwinnoch, from Debrett's *Baronetage of England*, vol. ii. p. 960.

Both the composition and workmanship of this bas-relief are much superior to the commonplace carvings, formerly lavished with tasteless profusion on similar memorials.

3.

Erected to the memory of the Rev. Robert Urquhart, Minister of Kilbirnie, who died on the 22d Sep. 1845, in the 83d year of his age, and 51st of his Ministry.

His son, Robert Morris Urquhart, who died on the 20th May, 1843, in the 16th year of his age.

His daughter, Jane Fulton Urquhart, who died on the 24th February, 1846, in the 32d year of her age.

4.

In memory of William Miller, of Dykes, who died the 12th of October, 1753, and Mary King, his spouse, who died the 9th of May, 1754.

Though tombs prove faithless to their trust,
And bodies moulder into dust,
A good man's name shall ever last,
In spite of every nipping blast.

5.

Erected by James Orr, weaver in Scarslie, in memory of Agnes Allan his spouse, who died 5th May, 1775, ag'd years 37, months 9, days 11.

Affliction sore, with meekness long I bore,
Physicians were in vain,
Till God did please, that death should seize,
And eas'd me of that pain.
Here also lys 2 girls and 2 boys?
They were part of my earthly joys?
But life's a jest and all things shew it?
I once thought so, but now I know it.

On the opposite face of the stone, beneath a bas-relief representing a herald, sluggard, and skeleton, and the references, Prov. vi. 6, Rev. xxii. 12. are the following rhymes:—

Awake, thou sluggard of the dust,
The Eternal Son doth cry,
Forth into judgment come thou must,
Thine actions for to try.

O all ye saints, who's full of wants,
Love God and sin abhor;
From sin I rest, and every blast,
In this my silent bower.

The stone bearing the foregoing inscriptions and carvings, which were all *composed* and cut by the ingenious person who erected it, albeit a weaver by vocation, having been lately accidentally broken, has been supplanted by one of the plainest form, and which tells us only of its being "Erected in memory of James Orr, late farmer in Cockstone, who died on the 28th Feb., 1813, aged 77 years."

6.

The following record of deaths and epitaphian verses will probably likewise soon disappear from the churchyard, the stone having been broken by the fall of one of the trees when they were being cut down. As it has lain ever since on the soil, the lettering is wasting, and will in a short time become quite illegible:—

This stone is erected by John Allan, Farmer in Lohead, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, in memory of Robert Allan, his Father, who departed this life, Dec. 11th, 1772, aged 82 years, and Margaret Aiken his Spouse, who departed this life, Jan. 20th, 1781, aged 66 years. Also the remains of David Allan his eldest Son, by a former marriage, who departed this life April 20th, 1784, aged 56 years.

Remember Man as thou goes by,
As thou art now so once was I,
As I am now so must thou be,
Therefore prepare to follow me.

And on the west face of the stone:—

MORIENDUM EST OMNIBUS.

Likewise James Allan their son departed this life,
24th April 1786, aged 34 years:

An op'ning flower, at brightest hour,
In spite of every physic power,
Was suddenly cut down;
This blossom rare, which promised fair,
Beyond all temporal repair,
Fell by the deadly frown.

7.

Jean Bain, Spouse to the Revd. Mr. Sinclair, Minr. in Balfrone, died 20th Aprile, 1784, and lies interred here. Also Mary Tod, daughter to the Revd. Mr. Tod, Dreghorn, who died Jan. 14th, 1787, aged 4 years.

8.

To the memory of the Revd. Malcom Brown, Minister of Kilbirny, who died Dec. 1794, in the 100th year of his age, and 62d of his Ministry. Also Mrs. Ann Bain, his Spouse, who died November 1793.

They were highly respected, esteemed, and regretted.

The remains of Tam Giffen, the reputed warlock of the district, lie in the south-east corner of the old churchyard, or to the south of the postern entrance, now built up. A few of his ridiculous sayings and pretended doings, by means of which he "kept the country-side in fear," and procured a ready "awmous," are still preserved in the parish.

It only remains now to notice, shortly, some of the renovations and alterations which have been made on the venerable edifice since 1840.

In the years 1854-55, the church underwent a thorough repair. During the operations, when the old earthen floor was being cleared out preparatory to laying down the present wooden floor, numerous remains of human skeletons were exhumed, and, although occurring in greater abundance in front of the pulpit, they were not confined to any particular portion of the area, but were found nearly all over it, and frequently close to the surface. As before noticed, the pulpit, including its sloping compartment, was removed to its present position. Its base, which formerly tapered inwards towards the floor, was enclosed, at a height in line with the precentor's desk, by a railed-in platform, and the pulpit and platform were painted in imitation of oak. A considerable portion of the south wall in the main part of the building proving insecure, it was rebuilt, and near the angle formed by the Glengarnock aisle where the pulpit had heretofore stood, a large double window was made, and the other two windows previously in this wall were enlarged and divided by stone mullions. In the north wall, the woodwork of the old arched window was modernised, and the entrance door to the church close to its north-west angle was converted into a square-headed window, also divided by a mullion. By all these alterations much additional light has been gained. Adjoining this last-mentioned point, and at right angles to the north wall of the tower, the outside stair which led to the entrance through the tower to the people's gallery, or loft, was removed, and the main entrance-door to the body of the church was here formed, a stair leading up to the gallery being made inside the tower. A paved area or gutter,

enclosed by a low parapet wall, was made outside, round part of the base of the building, for the purpose of drainage. The belfry, the cupola of which rested on four slender stone pillars, having become too frail to be repaired, was taken down and rebuilt in a more substantial manner. The high corbie steps of the gables of the tower were then lowered and modernised, detracting somewhat from the ancient style of its architecture, though in keeping with that of the new belfry. In making these alterations the stone near the top of the tower containing the armorial bearings of Crawford and Barclay impaled, had been taken out, and most unfortunately (*unpardonably* would be the better word), it has been replaced upside down.¹ At the east end of the church a porch has been added, enclosing and protecting the entrance-door near the pulpit; and a toolhouse, with a lean-to roof, has been built at the base of the south side of the tower for the convenience of the sexton.

The ground acquired by sacrificing the old trees having been found insufficient, an addition was made to the burying-ground from the field adjoining on the south, when that portion of the wall was taken down and rebuilt in 1849.

The church bell, which has hitherto escaped notice, is, comparatively, of recent date. Around its middle circumference it bears, in two lines composed of Roman capital letters in relief, this inscription and date:—

FOR THE KIRK OF KILBURNIE M^r MALCOLM BROWN
MINISTER IOANNUS MILNE EDINBURGO FECIT J753

JOHN SHEDDEN DOBIE.

MORISHILL, BEITH, 25th September 1879.

¹ Plate No. 7, Fig. 8.