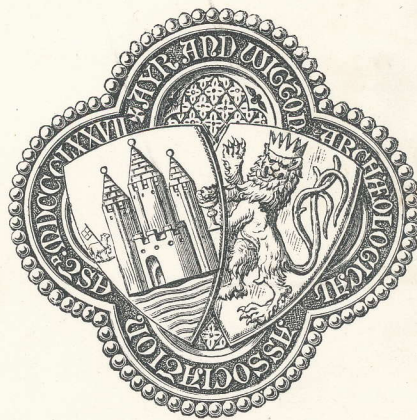


ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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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XII.

SELECTIONS FROM FAMILY PAPERS AT LANFINE.

THE Reverend James Brown, Dean of Faculty in the College of Glasgow, was the son of Nicol Brown, an officer of dragoons in the time of Charles II., who settled at Newmilns about 1658, and married a daughter of Brown of Randlecoup, near Darvel. Mr. James Brown's sister, Margaret, married Thomas Brown of Newmilns, and was G. G. Grandmother of Miss Brown of Lanfine. Having taken an active part in the religious struggles of the time, the Rev^d James Brown suffered many hardships in the reign of King James, and fled to America (1685), but returned (1687), and died minister of the High Church of Glasgow. He married, first, Isobel Bogle (4th Dec. 1689), and by her had a daughter, Margaret, who married (22d Oct. 1708) Andrew Rosse, Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow.¹ His second wife was Jean, daughter of John Hamilton of Bardouie. Mr. Brown died 30th April 1714, leaving a son James, who became proprietor of Monkton Mains, now Fairfield. Many of his sermons, prayers, letters, and memoranda are most interesting. They have lately been presented by Miss Brown to the Library of the University of Glasgow. While in America he had several pressing invitations to settle in that country and take a pastoral charge over one or other of its numerous thriving districts. He refused them all, however, and returned to Scotland in 1687. For some time, indeed till after he had stood his trial in the Court of Justiciary to which he had been cited in 1685, and where he was absolved, his presence in Ayrshire was kept secret.

¹ Family papers at Lanfine.

ABSOLVITER FOR MR. JAMES BROWN.

Curia Justiciarij S. D. N. Regis testa in praetorio Burgi de Edinburgh sexto die mensis Aprilis anno millesimo sexcentesimo octuagesimo octavo, per nobilem et potentem Comitem Georgium Comitem de Linlithgow, Justiciarium generalem, et honorabilis vivos Dominos Johannem Dalrymple juniorem de Stair, Justiciarij clericum, Johannem Lockhart de Castlehill et Johannem Murray de Drumcaine, Comissionaries Justiciarij dicti S. D. N. Regis.

Curia legitime affirmata.

The said day Master James Brown sometyme chapland to the Laird of Cessnok enterand ane pannall, delated, indyted, and accused for his alleadged ancession to the rebellion at Bothwelbridge, harbouring, receping, conversing with, and doing favours to rebels and traitors, and other treasonable crymes mentioned in his dittay, contain'd in the Porteous Roll: *Compeired*, Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, his Majestie's Advocat and Persewer on the ane part, and on the other *Compeired* the said Master James Brown, and produced his relaxation from the horne for the crymes above and declared he was ready and willing to abyd a legall tryall for the crymes abovement^d laid to his charge, as being altogether innocent thereof, and dissented frae all further continuation of the dyet, and did judicallie assert and own his loyall and peaceable principles and purposes: *The Lords* Justice-generall, Justice-clerk, and Commissioners of Justiciary, therefor and for severall other good causes and considerations moving them, *Deserted*, and be thir presents, *Deserts*, the dyet simpl^r. Whereupon the said defender asked and took instruments, and protested for his cautioner's relief, which protestation the s^d Lords admitted and heirby admitt. *Extracted* furth of the books of adjournoll by Mr. Thomas Gordon, clerk to the Justice Court.

THO. GORDON.

The following is one of several letters received by him in America. It is addressed "These, for Mr. James Brown, Minister of the Gospel, now a sojourner in Boston," and is dated—

PLIMOUTH, October 21, 1687.

Sir—I am sorry I had not your company home on Saturday last; since then I have received letters from Sandwich to renew their earnest desires of

your company and helpe in the ministry ; I now write to accompany theirs with my sincere request that you would hasten hither and gratify my godly neighbours with being in a readynesse to goe to them. What though there are many Quakers there ? yet there are divers godly persons also, to whom you will be heartily welcome, and in whose fellowship you will finde reall delight and comfort, and will, I doubt not, doe their utmost for your encouragement : Good sir, be persuaded to try and see what of God there is in this motion. I shall expect every day to see you here. The Lord bring you with a blessing. I am, Sir, yours in Christ, JOHN COTTON.

Soon after his return to Ayrshire he received the following letter :—

To Mr. James Brown, Minister of the Gospel at Newmylns.

AIR, Ap. 6, 1688.

Dear Bro^r—We ar very glad of your safe return again to this country, and long greatly to see you, and y^rfor intreat you (if possible) to com to this place on Wednesday next, to Mr. W^m Ettles' house in Montgomerystun, and pray forgive , because he is ill of y^e gout, and thair to stay till tuesday y^rafter, when y^r will be a meeting of y^e brethren of this presbitry who will be very glad to see you, and impairt to you something of concern both to you and us. We ar hopfull you will satisfy this our very earnest desyre, and refresh us by your presence, who remains, dear Bro^r your very affectionate brethren,

W. L. HUTCHESON.

WILL. ETTLES.

The three following documents are curious, and throw some light on the customs of our ancestors 170 years ago :—

1.

I, John Hamilton of Bardouie, grants me to have receaved of Mr. James Brown, min^r of the Gospel at Glasgow, fifty merks Scots, as ane quarter of ane year's boording of his wife, viz. from lambas last bypast to martinmas also last bypast, and discharges him and of all preceding, as witness my hand at Glasgow y^e 18th Nov^r 1713.

JO. HAMILTON.

As also a crown for her pocket.

2.

May the first, 1714.

Mrs. Ross for Mr. James Brown's funeral accompts.

Item, 5 pecks and three forperts of flower in short-bread, sugar-bread, and plumcakes	04 12 00
Item, ten pound of butter	02 06 08
Item, two pound and half of sugar	01 00 00
Item, for barm, peper, and alle	00 10 00
	<hr/>
Somma is	08 08 08

Received the above account by Me Thomas findlay.

3.

1714. April 30, furnished at Mr. Brown's funeral be Mr. Cochran.

To 29 yerds crap	at 18 ^d . p. y.	02 03 06
To 1 pair gloves	at 8 ^d .	00 00 08
To 10 yerds whyt riben	at 4 ^d . $\frac{1}{2}$ p. y.	00 03 09
To 4 yerds and half manti silk	at 4 ^s .	00 18 00
To 4 yerds fariten	at 2 ^d . $\frac{2}{3}$ p. y.	00 00 10 $\frac{2}{3}$
To 3 yerds and 3 nails Camreck muslin	at 5 & 6 ^d . p. y.	00 17 06 $\frac{1}{4}$
To 13 yerds black Kilmankie	at 22 ^d . p. y.	01 03 10
To 20 ell and half a quarter black crap	at 11 ^d . $\frac{1}{2}$ p. y.	00 19 03 $\frac{1}{3}$
To 2 pair black shambo gloves	at 3 & 8 ^d . p. p.	00 07 04
To 4 yerds and a half crisp	at 14 ^d . p. y.	00 05 03
To 1 yerd black riben	at 4 ^d .	00 00 04
To half a yerd riben	at 2 ^d . p. y.	00 00 01
To 2 pair black stokens	at 27 ^d . p. p.	00 04 06
To 1 yerd fariten	at 2 ^d . $\frac{2}{3}$	00 00 02 $\frac{2}{3}$
To 1 yerd and 3 quarters fine Camreck	at 8 & 6 ^d . p. y.	00 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
To 1 yerd tape	at 1 ^d .	00 00 01
To 1 pair black stokens	at 27 ^d .	00 02 03
To 1 drop black silk	at 2 ^d .	00 00 02
To 4 drop $\frac{1}{4}$ whyt silk	at 2 ^d .	00 00 08 $\frac{1}{2}$
To half a papare pins	at 3 ^d . $\frac{1}{2}$	00 00 03 $\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>
		08 03 06 $\frac{2}{3}$

Recived full and comeplet payment of the above accompt and all pro-
seeding, this twntefourt of Janavery, onthowsand seven hunderd and five-
tine years by me

MARGARET COCHRAN.

The following is addressed by Lady Rosse¹ (wife of the 11th Lord Rosse)
to Mrs. Rosse (wife of Mr. Andrew Rosse, Professor of Humanity in the
College of Glasgow) :—

HALKHEAD, July 5, 1725.

MRS. ROSSE—The reson of my not given a retourn for your last with y^e
suach of streped holland, I was from Ed. befor I had your reply ; since
sevrel things acord that I had no time to writt, but now, when you can con-
veniently gett me 3 all of bleu ferenten and as much of red, and 3 quarters
of this culer of reben or a charlet nerer, for my head, any of the tow colours
you can gett best, and 2 alls of a light bleu, so you sie when I want any
thing I am stil trubling you to dou it att your on convenience. I bles God
all my famly ar well just now, and shuld be glad to delever up my charg in
the end of the week to Lady Beattie. With my Lord service to you, and
both of wss to Mr. Rosse, beleve me to be, Mrs. Rosse, your most aswred
Friend and Servent, A. ROSSE.

A ball of pleane tep of this bried, not nereur.

The following letters are addressed by the Countess of Kilmarnock to
Mr. Ross, Professor of Humanity in the College of Glasgow, and his wife,
The *temper* of the son appears to have been showing itself at an early
period.

¹ Lady Rosse was daughter and sole heiress of
Sir John Wilkie of Fulton ; her children were—
George—12th Baron Rosse.

Eupham—Countess of Kilmarnock, whose
son William, 4th Earl, was beheaded.
Mary—Duchess of Athol.
Grizel—Lady Lochart-Ross.

Eupham, Countess of Kilmarnock, to Mr. Rosse, att Glasgow.

Sr—Pray let my L^d know if D. A. (Duke of Atholl) has writ to Glasgo, and what is to be done in that affair; let me know how Higen carries now and if y^o see any alteration in Wille's temper at any time. Give my service to Mrs. Ross, and my L^ds to y^o is all from, Sr y^r humble Serv^t

April 13th, 1717.

E. KILMARNOCK.

Sr—You'l very much oblige me if you'l sincerely give me an account how my son has behav'd of late, that by that I may know how to manage him; tho' I'll never use rigour, yet there may be a little cuning necessar; likewise whither y^o think he need return to the Colladge now or not; y^o may be sure I'll be dericted by y^r advice. I am, very much, y^r humble Ser^t

May 27th.

E. KILMARNOCK.

Sr—My brother told me there wuld be a sum rais'd in y^r town for pay^t of E. Eglinton against Lambas. I beg you'l let me know if we can have that mony, and what sum, that I mayn't disapoint him to promis what I can't perform, and I am very loath now he has so great necessity for mony that he sho^d want. My children give their service to y^o w^t mine to Mrs. Ross, and y^r pretty little ones. I am, good Mr. Ross's most humble Ser^t

KIL., July 13th.

E. KILMARNOCK.

Countess of Kilmarnock to Mrs. Ross at Glasgow.

Madam—I've sent in the mony I ow'd y^e.

My Lady Ross, if possible y^o can get Miss' shoes to send by the bearer, she's almost barefoot. Give my service to Mr. Ross. In hast, I am, y^r humble Ser^t

E. KILMARNOCK.

Lining	0	12	6
Soap	0	00	8
Startch	0	00	5
A lace	0	00	5
	<hr/>		
	0	14	0

Send a p^t Currants
to Lady Betty.

Madam—This is to ask the favour of y^e to see if y^e could get me 20 or 30 eles of ell broad linin, about 2 spinle yarn, green, and very thick, 'tis for my sister Atholl; she writ to me for some, and I fear twill not be got so thick about Kilm^k as she would have it. Pray let me know by the first carier, and send the letter to my son; she wants it to whiten her self.

Give my service to Mr. Ross. I hop he and the children are well. I am, Madam, y^r humble Ser^t

E. KILMARNOCK.

LOCKHARTHALL, Aprile 4th.

Letter from Jean, Countess of Southerland,¹ (eldest daughter of David, second Earl of Wemyss, and relict of Archibald, Earl of Angus), to the Rev. James Brown, Minister of the Gospel, Glasgow.

ABBEY, Jan^{ry} 14th, 1704.

Reverend Sir—I receaved the favour of yours of the 12th instant, shewing me y^t you had receaved a letter from the Reverend Mr. Mather in New England, who is my worthy friend and acquaintance these severall years. I acknowledge I am much obliged to him for the value he puts upon my endeavours q^{ch} I used with our late gracious Queen Mary, in behalf of the Church of God in New England, for whom he acted, and procured y^m favours from y^t excellent Queen, and since you give me the occasion of writeing to him I have written the enclosed, hoping you will convey it under your cover with the first opportunity going to Boston in New England, and I shall be very glade to receave a return from him, by q^{ch} I may know how it fares with himself, and the people of God in y^t place; and if you will be pleased to favour me with a visite when you come to Ed^b it will be a piece of charity, ffor I am afflicted and laid low by the loss of my dear husband, so y^t I stand much in need of the converse and prayers of the Lord's faithfull servants, and earnestly desyres y^t you may remember me at the throne of grace, q^{ch} will be a lasting obligation upon, Reverend Sir, your sincere friend and Servant,

J. W. SOUTHERLAND.

There is a report here of some uproar y^t has been in Glasgow, I wold gladely know q^t truth is in it, and who are to blame for it.

¹ The Portrait of the Countess of Southerland of the Right Honourable Sir James Fergusson, (the writer of the above letter) is in the possession Bart., of Kilkerran.

I have clos'd Mr. Mather's letter only with a flying seall, so y^t you may read, and fasten it with a little wax.

Letter from the Rev. Ja. Lawrie, Minister of Kirkmichael, Ayrshire,
to Mr. Andrew Ross, Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow.

26 Jan. 1714.

Sir—My acquaintance w^h you is so small (q^{ch} I look upon as my misfortune) that I had some difficulty to prevail on myself to presume to write to you ; but I got over this objection when I got a line from your quondam scholar, Alex^r. fergusson, q^o tells me that you remember to have seen me, beside that I'm no stranger to your character, q^{ch} is such as prompts me to cast pupills under your care q^r my influence can reach.

I'm much out of humour at the common way of teaching in the schools about me ; and I'm so vain as to think, tho' I live in a country place, could I have got a young man, w^h a tollerable skill in the Latin, I might contribute to mend the matter, and therefore have been, totis viribus, struggling for the primum mobile, viz. a suitable encouragement, but met w^h so much opposition that I was obliged to drop y^t : qⁿ this was over I was resolved to push on the matter w^h the small sallary we had, q^{ch} is but fourscore merks Scots yearly. Here I was likewise opposed by y^e Commonalty, q^o were horribly affraid at the verry name of a *Latin Domine*, as they call him ; and beside, y^e English Domine was bred and born among y^m (as we use to say here) and related to many of y^m. However, by the concurrence of the Presbytry and some of our Heretors, I surmounted this ; and at length got our old companion turned out, and the consent of the Heretors to call one sufficiently qualified, seeing y^e sallary was not to be augmented. The way being clear my next work was to find a man tollerably qualified ; for more I was not to expect, his encouragement being so small and in a country place.

At lenth I got nottice of Mr. Thomas Abercrombie, who owes his birth and education to y^e City of Glasgow School and University there ; before I engadged him I saw his credentiall letters from some Min^{ts} of Glasgow, and Mr. Law his regent, ample enough ; and he was tried by two of the Min^s of our Presbytry, q^o pretend to be very much masters of humanity, and passed his trials w^h with very great applause ; moreover, he taught a school in the neighbourhood, in the parish of Sorn, q^r Mr. Mongo Lindsay, once

Doctor of the Grammar School in Glasgow (q^o is paucis secundus, not to say nemini, in his skill that way), q^o give him a verry ample testimony; after all (wch deserves scarce to be mentioned) I made a kind of tryall of him myself, and found he had a competent stock, yet might be improved upon, all w^{ch} I ventur'd to do my outmost to get him settled, and endeavoured to get him schollars from severall places, got him provided in some of the best classicks, w^h notes, and the most approved translations, and so the work begun in Dec^r last. He had not been six weeks in the place, tho' behaving himself w^h all the prudent management imaginable, untill the country people begun to pick quarrels; but this was not likely to prevail; but we have a school in the principall toun of the jurisdiction at Mayboll. The schoolmaster there is related to verry many of the gentlemen about the place. They begun to think this new erection if it prosper'd, might eclipse y^r friend's school, and break his reputation; so to prevent this, they have not been wanting to fall upon projects for that effect; but that w^{ch} has done him most prejudice is y^t your late schollar Mr. fergusone has wrote home to me (y^t was indeed readily to be conceal'd), but also to his ffather the Laird of Auchinblane (q^o is the schoolmaster in Maybole's friend, and seeing wonderfully prejudged at our new school), that you told him that this new schoolmaster Mr. Thomas Abercrombie was most insufficient for the office he had undertaken, and that this you were willing to attest, under your hand if need were; this story Achinblane hands about, in gentlemen's comp^y who were inclinable to send y^r children to this place, effectually to prevent it. I confess the story surprises me much; its so contrary to what in fact I find now by experience of the young man, who I think by assiduos applection, together w^h good helpe (q^{ch} God willing he shall not want), may come to be a verry able teacher; and its so unlike, dear Sir, that character you have, of generosity, candour, and justice, that I'm uneasy about it, and can scarce give the story credit, and I must be bold in saying it wold be ungrate, upon me and Mr. Thomas both, q^o are at great pains to raise your reputation on all occasions, and had resolved to have kept up a strict correspondence w^h you, for your direction, in the whole of the management of his school; and hoped in a year or two to have been able to send you a swatch of topping schollars; but I cannot express how much this story has dashed us, and we are both verry uneasy till you send us a satisfying answer. I presume to give my humble respects to my old acquaintance, your lady, and so I subscribe myself (expecting your answer p. post of ye 30,

Sic.

or as soon as possible, and if you please let Mr. fergusone know nothing of it till we obtain it), dear Sir, your sincere wellwisher and most humble serv^t.

JA. LAWRIE.

MANSE OF KIRKMICHAEL, 1714, Jan. 26.

Addressed to the Reverend Mr. Andrew Ross,
Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow.

Letter from William, 4th Earl of Kilmarnock, to William Porterfield of
Porterfield.

17 Nov. 1741.

Dear Willie—I receiv'd your's without a date, by which means I don't remember exactly when it came here, farther than that I have been a great deal too long of answering you, for which I own my fault and beg pardon. The person who brought yours here vanished as soon as it was delivered; and when I came in, got the letter, and enquired for the bearer, he was not to be heard of, nor has he cast up since. This prevented my writing to you fully of what you mention, as I would have done if I had got your express or servant, whatever he was; and the uncertainty at post offices makes me avoid now, as you know I always have done, to write my mind to you by post. I would with all my heart wait on you, and I flatter myself you don't think any trouble or travelling would keep me from coming to your house when you have occasion for my service; but I have at present affairs of very great importance giving forward at Edⁿ where my business is now come to the crisis, and I dare not be absent one post, as I am obliged to send orders almost every day, and dont know how soon I may be called either to town or to Calendar, tho' I'm in hopes I shall get leave to stay here till the end of next month. Meantime, as what is doing in your affairs is no joke, yet I think if right managed need not make you uneasy. I'll beg to see you as soon as is convenient for you. If my business did not make my being at home of greater importance to me than I believe yours can make your staying Duchal Castle, I would bring this message myself, and wou'd expect to be welcome for all the anger of your last letter, of which I shall say nothing further at present than this, That no friend was ever more attach'd to another than I have been, am, and always will be, to you and your interest.

My Lady Kilmarnock and Miss Hay offer their compliments to Mrs. Porterfield and you. I beg you'll make mine acceptable to Mrs. Porterfield, and believe me sincerely, dear Willie, faithfully yours, KILMARNOCK.

KILM^K, Nov^r. 17, 1741.

If you come here, bring with you the copys of any transactions in your affairs, that you have by you.

[The above selections from the Lanfine Papers were made, with Miss Brown's permission, by Mr. Gairdner.]

THORNTON HOUSE,
April 1880.