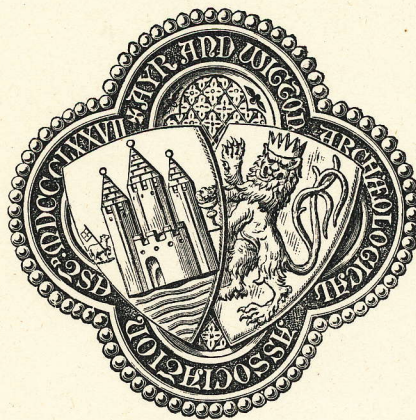


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RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

AYR AND WIGTON

VOL. IV.



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#### IV.

### THE CHURCH OF DUNLOP.

CONCERNING the origin of the name of this church and parish, Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, tells us :—"Dunlop parish had its name from the village where the church stands, and the village appears to have obtained its name from a *dun*, or small hill, on which there is said to have been a castle, or strong house, in former times. At this small hill the stream which passes Dunlop makes a bend or winding, from whence the hill seems to have been named in the Scoto-Irish, *Dun-lub*, [or, *luib*], signifying the hill at the bend or winding."<sup>1</sup> The Hill of Dunlop, or Dunlop Hill, sometimes also called Borland Hill, formed part of the old estate of Borland. At the time of Timothy Pont's survey of the District of Cuninghame, he says :—"Boirland, ouer and nether, ar ye possesions of the Earls of Cassiles. Heir of old duelt Gothred de Ross, a famous and potent nobleman of grate reputatione, quho hauing his residence heir enioyed ample possesions abrode in ye countrey, and ves for ye tyme Shriffe of Aire." The feudal castle of de Ross probably occupied the site of the more ancient fort of Celtic origin which gave rise to the name. In the *Scottish Journal* of 20th May 1848, in an Article on the Parish of Dunlop by "J. D. B.,"<sup>2</sup> it is stated :—"As a proof that there was a castle on Dunlop Hill, the residence we may presume of Gothred de Ross, a number of years ago the foundation of a ruin of considerable extent was removed by the late proprietor. A diligent observer may yet perceive the traces of the ruin. On the east side of the hill there are the remains of a deep trench cut from the top in a straight line half-way down its side."<sup>3</sup> The late Mr. Dobie, writing in 1853,

<sup>1</sup> *Caledonia*, vol. iii. p. 556.

<sup>2</sup> John Davidson Brown, the "Bard of Glazert," and formerly parish schoolmaster of Dunlop.

<sup>3</sup> *Scottish Journal of Topography*, etc. : John Menzies, Edinburgh, 1848, vol. ii. p. 177 ; see also Paterson's *Hist. of the Counties of Ayr and Wigton*, 1866, vol. iii. p. 216.



says:—"There can still be traced the meiths of a building of considerable extent on the top of the Hill of Borland, which was certainly a commanding situation for a baronial castle."<sup>1</sup> The slight inequalities on the surface of the top of the hill, to be seen at the present day, may therefore denote either the site of the castle or that of the more ancient Celtic fortification.

The Church of Dunlop belonged to the Abbey of Kilwinning, the monks enjoying the rectorial tithes, and appointing a vicar for serving the cure. Owing to the loss of the records of the Abbey, little is known of the ancient history of this church. In 1275 it appears in Baimond's taxed roll of benefices in the diocese of Glasgow and deanery of "Kyill and Cwnyng-hame," as, "Vicaria de Dounlap, v lib. vi s. viij d.;"<sup>2</sup> and in the taxation of the 16th century it is entered as "Vic<sup>a</sup> de Dounlap, iiij lib. x s. vi d, ob<sup>t</sup>;"<sup>3</sup> In the former it is taxed according to a valuation of liij lib. vi s. viii d.; and in the latter at a valuation of xlv lib. v s. Mr. John Restoun, perpetual vicar of Dunlop, is witness to a grant to the church of the blessed Kentigern, A.D. 1468.<sup>4</sup> And on 1st December 1469 he appears as notary in the transumpt of the bull of Pope Clement IV. confirming certain chapels and churches to the Monastery of Paisley.<sup>5</sup> He acts for James Lindesay, dean of Glasgow, in a vendition of lands at Glasgow, the instrument being dated 26th November 1487.<sup>6</sup> Mr. John Restoun founded a chaplaincy to St. Michael in the church of Glasgow, as appears from an instrument of resignation by Patrick Colquhoun of Glen, provost of Glasgow, renouncing a reversionary right in 3 roods of haugh land lying on the Provanside in Glasgow Green, dated 31st March 1507.<sup>7</sup> Sir Andrew Merschell, vicar of Dunlop, and one of the vicars-general of Robert, Archbishop of Glasgow, is a witness in an instrument by which Alexander Burtoune, alleged heir of Sir David Burntoun, chaplain-vicar of Cambuslang, and David Akinhed, heir of the deceased John Akinhed, both pretending right to a certain tenement in Glasgow, consent that it should fall to the church and remain with it for ever, for the relief of the souls of the deceased Mr. John Akinhed, and the said Sir David Burntoun, their parents, friends, benefactors, and predecessors, so that those who had most right to the tenement should have most merit before God in respect thereof; dated in the garden of the

<sup>1</sup> Pont's *Cuninghame*, by Dobie, p. 98.

<sup>2</sup> *Reg. Epis. Glasg.*, vol. i. App. i.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, App. iii.

<sup>4</sup> *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii., No. 1382.

<sup>5</sup> *Reg. Pass.*, pp. 308-14.

<sup>6</sup> *Reg. Epis. Glasg.*, vol. ii. p. 456.

<sup>7</sup> *Lib. Proto. Glasg.*, No. 217.



official's house in Glasgow, 25th January 1504.<sup>1</sup> His name occurs in various other notices, up to 18th May 1513.<sup>2</sup> Mr. John Major or Mair, "*Doctor Parisiensis ac principalis regens Collegie et padagogii dicte Universitatis, Canonicusque Capelli regie, ac vicarius de Dunlop*," appears in *Annales Universitatis Glasguensis*, under date 3d November 1518; and again on 24th May 1522, when he is designed "*Theologie professor, thesaurarius Capelle regie Strivilingensis, Vicariusque de Dunlop*." He is said to have been the instructor of John Knox.<sup>3</sup> In 1540 Alexander, abbot of Kilwinning, granted to the Court of Session a pension of £28 yearly from the vicarage of Dunlop, at the time "pertenying to Maister Jhone Mair, usufructuar of the samyne." This pension had formerly been payable from the vicarage of Kilbirnie, but was now transferred to the vicarage of Dunlop, as being of greater value, and better able to bear it; and the grant was ratified by Parliament in December 1543.<sup>4</sup>

At the period of the Reformation the vicarage was held by Mr. John Houston, and the whole profits of his benefice were leased to William Cuninghame of Aiket for payment of £78 yearly. At the same epoch the rectorial tithes of the Church of Dunlop produced to the monks of Kilwinning only £40 a year, having been let on lease for that sum. Of the lands which belonged to the church, part, consisting of a two merk land of old extent, was appropriated to the vicarage, and the remainder was enjoyed by the monks of Kilwinning; but the whole soon passed into lay hands. In 1566, the church lands of the vicarage were granted in fee-firm by Mr. John Houston, the vicar, with consent of Gavin Hamilton, commendator of Kilwinning, the patron of the vicarage, to William Cuninghame of Aiket; the vicar, however, reserving to himself and his successors the manse, garden, and an acre of land adjoining the manse.<sup>5</sup> The two merk land of Kirkland-Dunlop thus granted, continued with the family of Cuninghame of Aiket until the latter half of the 17th century. In 1676 James Cuninghame of Aiket disposed the teinds of Kirkland-Dunlop to James Dunlop of Dunlop, and the lands are included in the charter by James VII. to John Dunlop of Dunlop, dated 10th February 1688, re-erecting the estate of Dunlop into a free barony.<sup>6</sup> The rectorial church lands appear to have been acquired by the Earl of Eglinton. In 1603, the patronage and tithes

<sup>1</sup> *Lib. Proto. Glasg.*, No. 110.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 635.

<sup>3</sup> *New Stat. Acc.*, vol. Ayrshire, p. 292.

<sup>4</sup> *Acts of Parl. Scot.*, vol. ii. p. 444.

<sup>5</sup> *Caledonia*, vol. iii. pp. 556-7.

<sup>6</sup> *Dunlop Charters*.



of the Church of Dunlop were granted to Hugh Earl of Eglinton; after that date the family of Dunlop of Dunlop appears to have claimed a right to the patronage of the church, but at the Restoration it was held by the Earl of Eglinton,<sup>1</sup> and has since continued in that family, till the right was finally abrogated on 1st January 1875.

Under Presbyterian Church government, the parish of Dunlop was included in the presbytery of Irvine. The succession of the Ministers of Dunlop, from the Reformation to the present time, is here given, chiefly, on the authority of Hew Scott, D.D., F.S.A. Scot.<sup>2</sup>

1563. John, *alias* Hans Hamilton, son of Archibald Hamilton of Raploch, promoted to the vicarage in 1563. In the Register of Ministers he is named vicar and exhorter, with the "thyrd of the vicarage, extending to xxvi li., providing he wait on his charge, beltym 1567." Reader, in 1574, having as the fruit of his benefice, lxxviii li.; in which office he continued, 1596. In 1606 he was so unable to serve the cure that another had to be presented; he died, however, 30th May 1608, aged 72, having served the cure 45 years. He married Janet, daughter of James Denham of West Shilde, and had six sons, James, Archibald, Gavin, John, William, and Patrick, and a daughter Jean, who married William Mure of Glanderstone, now represented in the family of Caldwell. James, the eldest son, was sent to Ireland by James VI. in 1587, along with James Fullarton, for the purpose of keeping up a correspondence with the Protestants of that kingdom. They opened a school in Dublin for the education of Protestant youth, were afterwards appointed to fellowships in Trinity College, then newly founded, and by their talents contributed much to establish the high character which it soon acquired,—Hamilton being tutor to Archbishop Ussher. After the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, James Hamilton for his important services to his country and sovereign, was in 1622 elevated to the Peerage by the title of Viscount Clandeboy and Baron Hamilton. His son, James, was, by Charles I., created Earl of Clanbrassil, a title which became extinct on the death of his grandson, Henry, the 2d Earl. The grant was afterwards renewed in favour of a descendant of William, the fifth son of Hans Hamilton, but again became extinct. Lord Clandeboy's five brothers followed him to Ireland and shared his good fortune. Their numerous descendants, the Hamiltons of Down, Armagh, Dublin, and Carlow, with their various collateral branches, are still possessed of great

<sup>1</sup> *Caledonia, ut supra.*

<sup>2</sup> *Fasti Eccles. Scot.*, vol. ii. p. 165.



wealth and influence.<sup>1</sup> From this venerable minister have descended the noble families of Clanbrassil, Roden, Massareene and Dufferin, in Ireland, and the Principals Carstairs of Edinburgh and Dunlop of Glasgow. Archibald Hamilton Rowan, notorious from his connection with the Irish Rebellion in 1798, was the lineal descendant of Hans Hamilton's second son Archibald.

1606. James Cunynghame, A.M., translated from Inchcalzeoch, presented by James VI., 14th October; translated to Cumnock before 1608.

1608. James Muntgumrie, A.M., brother of William Muntgumrie of Bridgend, attained his degree at the University of Glasgow in 1599; translated from Kirkmichael; died in May 1613, leaving Elizabeth Montgomerie, widow, and two sons, Robert and James.

1615. Hew Eglington, A.M., son of Archibald Eglington, to whom he was served heir to certain lands in the parish of Mearns, 26th July 1634; was laureated at the University of Glasgow in 1610, and on the exercise there 30th December 1612. He got a testimonial to the presbytery of Irvine, 4th January 1615, and was presented to the vicarage by James VI. on 26th May thereafter; he contributed xx li. toward erecting the library in the University of Glasgow in 1632; had a protection from the Marquis of Montrose after the battle of Kilsyth in 1645; and died in March 1647, aged about 57. His "buiks were estimat at xl li.; insicht, etc., j<sup>c</sup> xxxiiij li. vj s. viij d." He married, 1st, Janet Maxwell, and had a son, Archibald; 2dly, Marione Hamiltone, who survived him, and had two sons, Hew, merchant in Glasgow, who died in 1649, John, and two daughters, Jean and Elspeth. By his testament dated at the parochie kirk of Dunlope, 2d December 1646, he lieves to Marione his spous "the sowme of ane thousand merks," and the residue of his estate "equallie betwixt John, Jean, and Elspeth Eglintones" his bairnes.<sup>2</sup> After his death, however, the thousand merks do not seem to have been forthcoming, as his widow petitioned the presbytery that she should have "the stipend for the year fourtie-six, quhilk her husband had left to her in testament;" and it being "likewyse the desyre of the paroch," the presbytery, on 28th February 1649, grants her supplication; and also, "that the stipend of the year '47 sall be equallie dividit betwene the children and the paroch of Dunlop for helping to repair the manse of Dunlop that was for the present ruinous."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *New Stat. Acc.*, vol. Ayrshire. See also "Pedigrees," in *Hamilton Manuscripts*, Belfast.

<sup>2</sup> Paterson's *History of Ayrshire and Wigtonshire*, vol. iii. p. 219, note.

<sup>3</sup> *Presb. Records*.



1648. Gabriel Cuninghame, A.M., graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1642; presented by the Laird of Dunlop in August, and admitted 7th December 1648; deprived in 1664, for not conforming to Episcopacy. He was indulged by the Privy Council, 3d September 1672, when Mr. William Mein appears to have been associated with him in charge of the parish;<sup>1</sup> he was sent to confer with those brethren who were averse to the Indulgence, but they arrived at no terms of agreement. In June 1674, orders were given for his apprehension as a conventicle preacher. He was called before the Privy Council, 11th August 1677, for not obeying the rules; and, on 2d April 1683, he was indicted, along with some others, "for aiding, assisting, and corresponding with Mr. John Cuninghame, late of Bedlane [Baidland], a notorious traitor." Failing to appear "he was denounced and put to the horn, and his moveable goods ordered to be escheat, and brought into his Majesty's use, as an outlaw and a fugitive."<sup>2</sup> His stipend was given to the widow of another minister.

168-. John Hay, A.M., formerly of Yester, admitted after 1680; translated to New Monkland before 1688.<sup>3</sup>

168-. William Robison; deprived by the Act of Parliament, 25th April 1690, restoring the Presbyterian ministers.

1690. Gabriel Cuninghame, A.M., already noticed, returned in 1687, after the Toleration was granted, and was restored by the Act of Parliament, 25th April 1690. As moderator at a previous meeting of Presbyterian ministers, he preached at the opening of the first General Assembly after the Revolution, 16th October following; and was on the commission for visiting schools and colleges for that year. He died in May 1691, aged about 69, in the 43d year of his ministry. He had in money and gold j<sup>m</sup> vij<sup>c</sup> xcix fi.; several books worth vij<sup>c</sup> fi.; insicht, etc., with two watches, four rings, and some silver work, iiiij<sup>c</sup> fi.: Inventar and debts xiiij<sup>m</sup> ij<sup>c</sup> xliij fi. He was a person of great piety and public spirit, and well known among the nobility and gentry, by whom he was esteemed for his goodness, wisdom, and prudence, as well as respected and venerated by his parishioners.

1692. John Jamieson, licensed by the presbytery of Paisley 11th November 1691, and ordained 21st September succeeding; died in 1708.

<sup>1</sup> *New Stat. Acc.*, vol. Ayrshire, p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *ut supra*.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Alexander Lyndsay, minister of Dunlop, is mentioned in a case of spoyling and away

taking "of seaven fourteene shilling piecis and some od turnouris" from Donald Fergusson his servitor, brought before the Baron Court of Corshill on 6th August 1687.



In him simplicity and godly sincerity were very conspicuous, so that he had the love and affection of his flock. His son, William, became minister of Rerrick, and died FATHER of the Church.

1709. James Rowat, licensed by the presbytery of Arbroath 8th November 1704, ordained in May 1709; translated to Jedburgh in August 1732.

1734. Robert Baird, a native of Kilmarnock, attained his degree of A.M. in the University of Glasgow, 1st May 1724; licensed by the presbytery 14th September 1731; presented by the tutors of Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, 8th March 1733, and ordained 28th March 1734; died 27th March 1756, in the 23d year of his ministry. He was a warm, persuasive preacher, of prompt expression and pleasant manners, a sincere Christian, and an honest man. He married, 9th May 1753, Agnes Cuninghame, who died 30th June 1780.

1757. James Wodrow, ninth [or third surviving] son of Mr. Robert Wodrow, minister of Eastwood, the Church Historian, born 21st March 1730; studied at the University of Glasgow; licensed by the presbytery of Ayr 28th February 1753; presented by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, in September 1756, and ordained 1st September thereafter; translated to Stevenston, 11th September 1759.

1760. John Fullarton, son of Mr. John Fullarton, minister of Dalry, licensed by the presbytery 20th March 1759, presented by the commissioner for Alexander, Earl of Eglinton —, and ordained 25th September 1760; translated to Dalry, 16th March 1762.

1763. John Graham, licensed by the presbytery 11th August 1761; presented by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, 7th September 1762, and ordained 12th May following; translated to Kirkinner, 11th May 1779.

1780. Thomas Brisbane, presented by Archibald, Earl of Eglinton, 16th October 1779, and ordained 27th April succeeding; he was presented to Dundonald by his lordship, in December 1780, but withdrew his acceptance 26th February 1783; died 9th May 1837, in his 95th year, and 58th of his ministry. He married, 28th September 1785, Catherine, 2d daughter of George Cuninghame of Monkriding, who died 28th March 1813, and had a son, Thomas, M.D. Publication—Account of the Parish (Sinclair's *Stat. Acc.*, ix.)

1834. Mathew Dickie, a licentiate of the presbytery of Irvine, received as a probationer by the presbytery of Paisley, 7th December 1825, and



became assistant to the Rev. Robert Douglas, Kilbarchan; ordained by the presbytery of Paisley, 4th November 1828, assistant and successor to the Rev. John Pinkerton, in the Presbyterian Church, Limerick, where he remained five years. Presented to this charge by the Trustees of Archibald William Earl of Eglintoun, in February, and admitted (assistant and successor) 8th May 1834. He got a new church built, which was opened in December 1835. On adhering to the protest, joining in the Free secession, and signing the deed of demission, he was declared no longer a minister of this Church, 24th May 1843; removed to the Free church, Beith, same year, and died 28th September 1863, in the 63d year of his age and 35th of his ministry. He was gifted with a clear penetration and sound judgement, and, having a perfect knowledge of the forms of church courts, had great aptitude for business. He married Agnes Ann Stiven, who died in 1877, leaving three daughters, Janet, Harriet, and Agnes. Publication—Account of the Parish (*New Stat. Acc.*, vol. Ayrshire).

1843. William Gebbie, educated at Kilmarnock Academy and studied at the University of Glasgow; licensed by the presbytery of Irvine in 1837; assistant to the Rev. Thomas Johnstone, Dalry, in 1842; presented by Archibald William, Earl of Eglintoun and Wintoun, 7th July, and ordained 22d August 1843; died 2d August 1883, in the 73d year of his age and 40th of his ministry. He was the means of a great revival of religion in Dunlop, and “a man of prayer, of simple faith, and of saintly life.” He married Catherine Campbell, daughter of Mr. Campbell, Bowfield, Lochwinnoch, and had three daughters, two of whom survive. Publications—numerous little books and tracts.

1883. Robert Graham, ordained in 1874 to the *quoad sacra* parish of St. David's, Kirkintilloch; elected minister of this parish 11th December.

The Manse of Dunlop, which, as already noted, was, on the disposal of the church lands in 1566, reserved by the vicar for the use of himself and his successors, continued to be the clerical residence till the second year of the incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Brisbane, when the heritors agreed to build a new manse. “As the situation of the old manse was thought inconvenient, being mostly surrounded by the lands of Kirkland-Dunlop, belonging to Gabriel Dunlop,” the heritors entered into an agreement with him, whereby “the old manse and offices of the parish of Dunlop, with the garden thereof and entries to the same,” were excambied for 54 falls,



or thereby, of his lands of Kirkland-Dunlop lying on the opposite side of the highway and adjoining the glebe, he also paying to the heritors the sum of fifty pounds sterling as an additional consideration in making the exchange. The disposition by Major Andrew Dunlop of Dunlop for himself and the other heritors, in implement of the agreement, is dated at Dunlop House, 26th May 1787.<sup>1</sup>

The new manse and offices were built, accordingly, in 1781, and the remainder of the ground converted into a garden. A considerable addition was made to the house in 1814; and having been further altered and improved during the incumbency of the Rev. Mr. Dickie, at his own expense, it is now a comfortable and commodious residence. The glebe consists of about seven acres, and the row of cottages between the manse and church composing the south side of the street, which till quite recent times composed almost the entire Kirktown or village of Dunlop, are built on the glebe lands, the occupiers being "kindly tenants" of the minister, paying him a yearly tack duty but holding no strictly legal title to their steadings. Four of the cottages have on their lintels the following initials and dates: . . . W. HD 16M—the last two figures being a peculiar conjunction of 44;<sup>2</sup> A M I A, 1765; *W B M D*, 1773; and *D H J F*, 1782. Another cottage on the opposite side of the street has *L B* 1751. Some of these cottages have, however, been rebuilt.

The old manse still stands at the end of the north side of the Kirktown, and a little off the line of the street. It is a quaint old building, having three high-pitched gables adorned with corbie steps, and is of two stories, the upper windows projecting above the line of the walls.<sup>3</sup> Inside, it contains many nooks and corners, and is at present occupied as a dwelling-house and dairy by the proprietor Andrew Anderson. A turret in its inner angle contains a circular stair leading to the upper flat, where, in the front wing, "The Minister's Study" is still pointed out. The walls of this room appear at one time to have been lined with boarding, and the ponderous lintel of its capacious fireplace, now partly built up, bears a mason's mark, and also looks as if some ornamented work had been roughly tooled off. The gable wall is here 3 feet 7 inches in thickness, and the other walls, where measured, vary from 3 feet to 2 feet 8 inches. The stones composing the inner facing of the study doorway have each its mason's mark,<sup>4</sup>

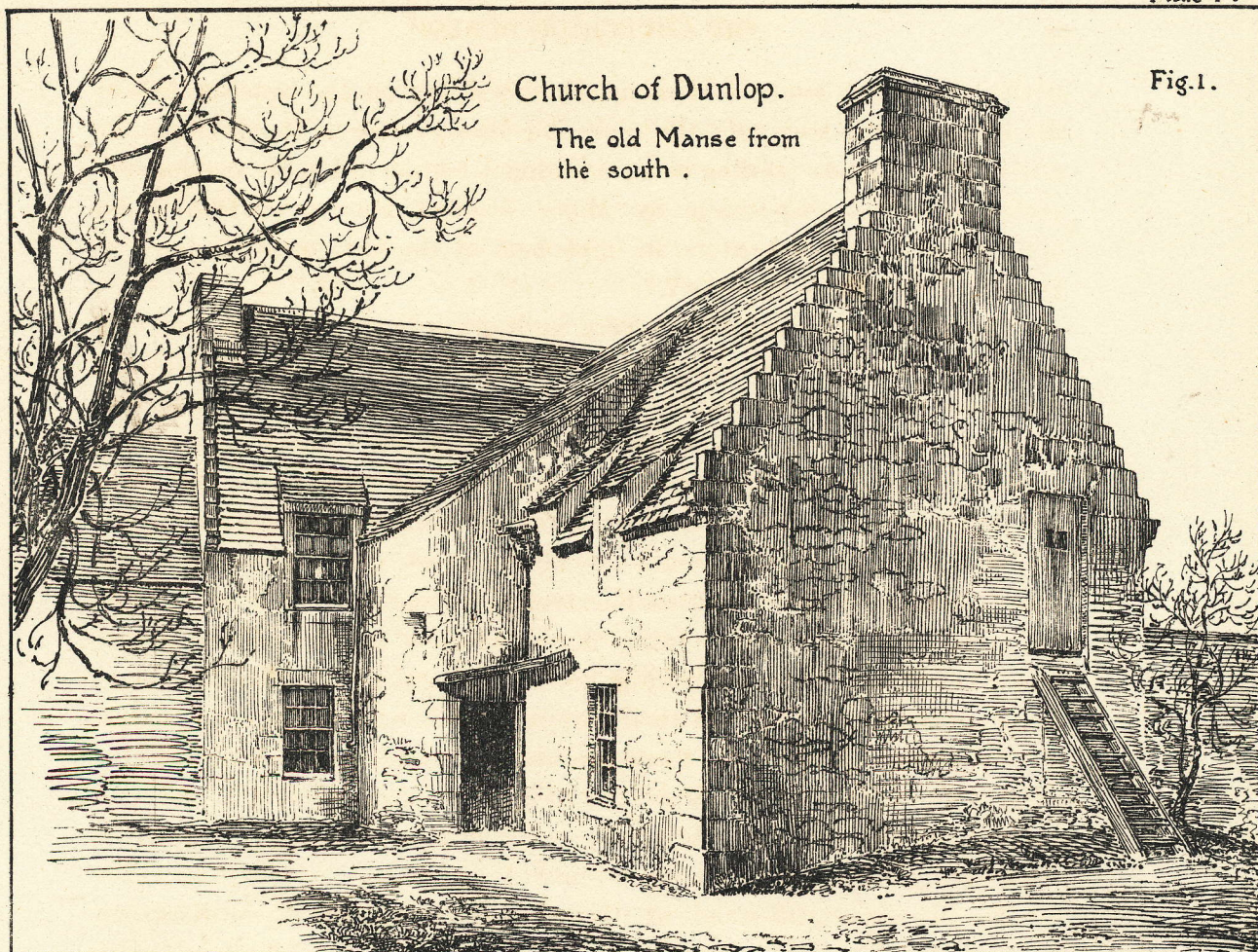
<sup>1</sup> Title-deeds, *penes* Mr. A. Anderson.

<sup>2</sup> Plate I. Fig. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Plate I. Fig. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Plate I. Fig. 2.





Church of Dunlop.  
The old Manse from  
the south.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

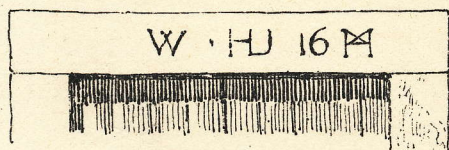
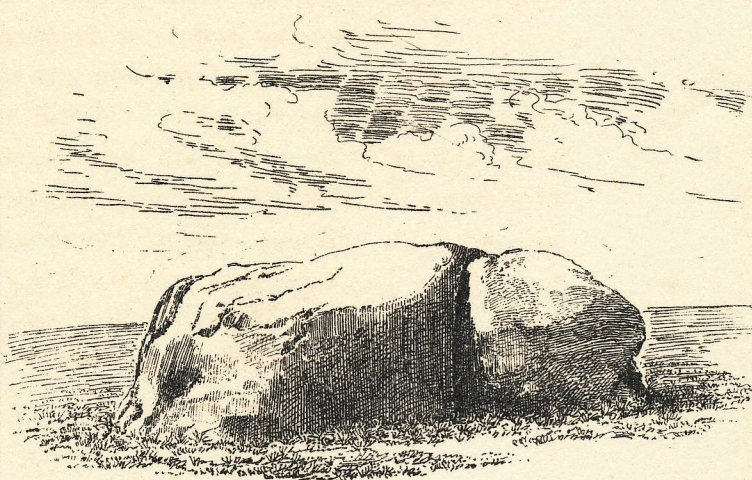


Fig. 4.



The 'Ogirstane' from the south-east.



and there are also mason marks on lintels and corbie steps in other parts of the building. The former ministerial sanctum is now used as a store for cheese and other farm produce, and an outside wooden stair leads to a door which has been made in the gable for the convenience of such purposes.

In the vicinity of the village of Dunlop, writes Chalmers in 1824, "there was in former times a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which had an appropriate endowment for support of a chaplain. After the Reformation, this chapel was allowed to fall in ruins, but the remains of it are still to be seen on the side of a small rivulet which was here crossed by stepping-stones called the *Lady's Steps*, and this name is still continued altho' the steps have been superseded by a bridge."<sup>1</sup> Following out this subject, the author of the *Statistical Account* of the parish, writing in 1837, says:—"A few years ago the ruins of this chapel were removed. They stood at a place called Chapel House, about half a mile from the village. Whether this was the parish church before the Reformation, as is conjectured in the former *Statistical Account*, or a chapel distinct from it, as stated in Chalmers's *Caledonia*, is now uncertain. In a field in the neighbourhood is a large detached stone, round which, if tradition is to be believed, it was customary for persons attending at the chapel to perform part of their devotions. It is called the *Thugart Stane*, supposed to be a corruption of *the grit stane*."<sup>2</sup> This stone, the name of which is by the inhabitants of Dunlop commonly pronounced "Ogirtstane," is composed of a variety of trap rock, differing from the trap formation in the surrounding country.<sup>3</sup> What appears of it above the surface measures about 12 feet by 8, and its greatest height is about 4 feet. It was computed by Robert Aitken, who surveyed the district of Cuninghame in 1829, to weigh about 25 tons 8 cwts.<sup>4</sup> A carved relic of the old chapel, supposed to have been the font for holy water, after having been debased to the purpose of a swine's trough, was some years ago finally broken up and used as building material. The chapel well, a fine spring of clear water, still exists, as do also the Lady's Steps on the line of the footpath which leads from the site of the chapel to the Kirktown.

The following description of the present parish church, including some notices of its more authentic predecessors, is, with a few additions and

<sup>1</sup> *Caledonia*, vol. iii. p. 556.

<sup>2</sup> *New Stat. Acc.*, vol. Ayrshire, p. 294.

<sup>3</sup> Plate I. Fig. 4.

<sup>4</sup> MS. note by Robert Aitken.



emendations, from the manuscript of the late William Dobie of Grangevale.

The Church of Dunlop stands at the west end of the village. The burying-ground surrounding it falls away rather abruptly on the south, where it is flanked by the beautiful dell watered by the Glazert, the prospect in this direction being bounded by the hills composing the opposite bank of the stream. Towards the west the view is intercepted by two high and boldly-rounded grassy knolls, between which the Glazert flows seaward. The highest of these knolls, being the one on the opposite side of the stream, is the Hill of Dunlop, which, as before noticed, is said to have given rise to the name of the church and parish. The picturesque peaks of the island of Arran are unfortunately shut out by this projecting knoll, but the view looking down the course of the stream, though circumscribed, is prettily varied by the tower and woods of Aiket,—the distance here, and to the north-west, extending to the high ranges of Kilbirnie, Dalry, and Kilbride. To the north, along the course of the tributary stream called the Blackburn, on the banks of which stood the chapel before mentioned, the view is composed of gently undulating scenery, enlivened by sheltered farmhouses, and belts and clumps of plantation.

The former church, built in 1766, having become frail, as well as too small for the population, the heritors, in 1835, agreed to erect a new one. The ground-plan of the present edifice, which is similar to that of the preceding structure, the site of which it occupies, is of oblong form, lying east and west, with an aisle projecting northward from its centre. A tower, 20 feet in base, and 60 in height, crowned with an embattled parapet, rises from the east end of the building. The tower is divided by a moulded string course into two unequal portions, the upper division being considerably the lesser, and its front angles have diagonally set buttresses of two stages, which die into the walls about a foot and a half below the upper story. On its eastern aspect, in the lower division, is a gothic arched window of two lights and a transom, and above it, on a raised square panel set diamond-wise, is the dial of the clock—the like position on the north and south sides being occupied by an arched blank window. The upper or belfry story, on each of its four sides, is pierced with two narrow windows, placed a short distance apart. The cornice under the parapet is plain, and the battlement is of equal intervals, with the capping running only horizontally. The principal entrance to the church is by an arched



Church of Dunlop.  
The Aisle from the north-east.

Fig. 1.

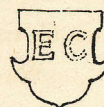
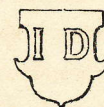
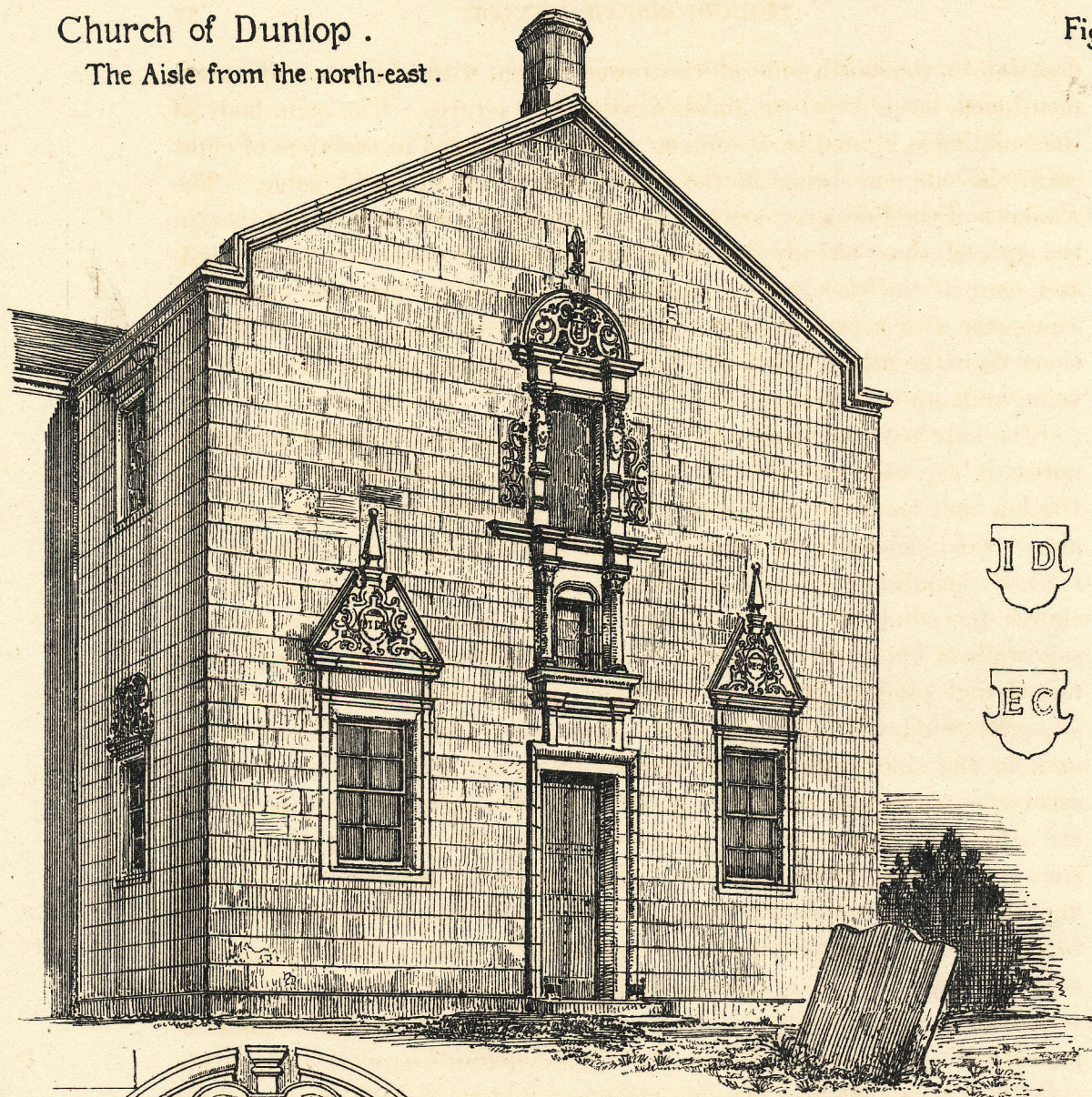


Fig. 2.

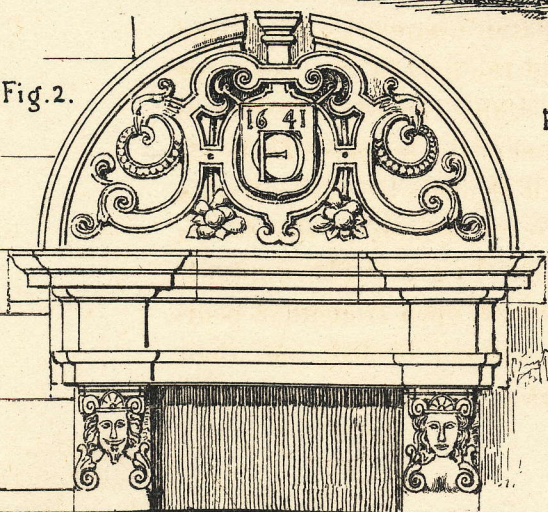


Fig. 4.

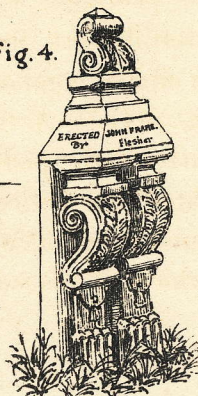
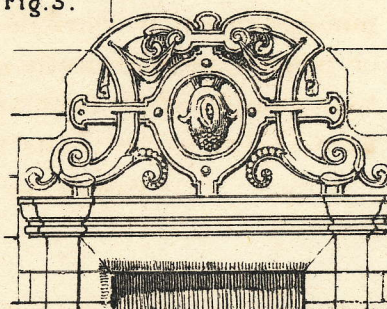


Fig. 3.



G. Waterston & Sons, Edin. Lith.

W.H.P.  
design.



doorway in the north side of the tower, which, with the other apertures mentioned, has a dripstone, finished with plain returns. The main body of the building is lighted by seventeen windows, arranged in two tiers of eight each, the odd one being in the upper portion of the west gable. The windows of the lower tier are of the ordinary form, and have dripstones, in the style of those already described. Those of the upper tier are arched, and, two in the east gable excepted, are divided by mullions and transoms—the two central windows in the south wall being of larger dimensions than the others, the lower halves of which are further curtailed by being built up with ashlar.

The only part of the exterior of the church entitled to more particular notice, is the aisle alluded to. It belonged to the family of Dunlop of Dunlop, and has been rebuilt of the same dimensions, and faced with the same ashlar, as when it formed, in like manner, part, not only of the recently demolished edifice, but likewise, as the date 1641 evidences, of the church preceding it. To correspond with the new church, however, the side walls of the aisle required to be considerably added to in height, the former high pitch of the gable being, consequently, reduced.<sup>1</sup> There are, in all, seven windows in the aisle; three of which are in the gable, and two in each of the side walls, but the uppermost in the latter are modern and unadorned. The doorway, by which the aisle is entered, is in the centre of the gable, and is faced with a double moulding. Over the lintel is a deep frieze and cornice, from which rise two columns having composite capitals, and between the columns is a window-like recess, but now backed up with rough ashlar. On the capitals of the columns rests another frieze and cornice, over which the principal window is placed. The window has terminals on either side, in the form of male and female caryatides, accompanied with ornamental scroll-work. The caryatides support a frieze and cornice, surmounted by a circular pediment, and the field of the pediment contains an escutcheon within scroll-work fancifully carved. In lieu of armorials, the escutcheon bears a cipher, composed of the letters I. D. E. C., and over the cipher is the date, 1641.<sup>2</sup> A tall fleur-de-lis, rising from a minute projection above the centre of the pediment, completes the design or perhaps, more correctly speaking, the series of designs. The windows, right and left of the door, are finished, each, with an open triangular pediment, between the points of which is placed a small obelisk, and their

<sup>1</sup> Plate II. Fig. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Plate II. Fig. 2.



tympanums are enriched with shields and ornaments in the same taste as the one above. The shield, on the right hand, or eastern pediment, bears the characters I. D., and that on the other E. C., being the initials of James Dunlop of Dunlop, by whom the original aisle was built, and those of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Cuninghame of Corsehill. Instead of pediments, the lower windows in the side walls are surmounted with ingenious designs of the formal scroll-work applied so frequently in this way by the architects of the 17th century, and of which the street elevation of the old University of Glasgow presents a number of elaborate specimens.<sup>1</sup> The reconstruction of the aisle has not, however, added anything to the value of the exterior of the edifice as an architectural design; for, besides its sombre and patched aspect, the windows in the old and new parts are unlike in form and dimensions. A couple of chimney heads, one rising from the west gable of the main building, and the other from that of the aisle, by their incongruity on a place of worship still further deform its appearance, and, along with the double tier of diminutive windows throughout the building, detract considerably from its dignity and church-like aspect. Underneath the aisle is the burial vault of the Dunlops of that ilk, which is entered from without by a low-browed door in the west wall.

Within, the church has a neat, light, airy, and comfortable appearance, and is capable of accommodating about 750 persons. There is a gallery in both ends of the building, besides that in the aisle belonging to the estate of Dunlop; but there is nothing in the interior arrangements or finishing demanding particular observation. As there were no galleries in the old church, the family pew of the Dunlops was of course on the ground floor of the aisle, the side walls of which were lined with ornamented panelling in oak. In a panel at the head of the principal seat were carved the armorial bearings of Dunlop—a double-headed eagle displayed—flanked with the initials, I. D.; and in another, at the foot, were the following bearings carried quarterly, viz.—First and fourth, a lion rampant; second, six stars, disposed three and three, fess-ways; third, three cross crosslets, fitché;—and the characters I. S., placed against the shield as in the other. These armorial bearings seem to refer to James Dunlop of Dunlop, who was in possession of the estate in 1596, and his spouse, Jean, daughter of Somerville of Cambusnethan, descended from Lord Somerville,<sup>2</sup> and would imply that the seat, or the panel containing them, had existed in the older

<sup>1</sup> Plate II. Fig. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Robertson's *Ayrshire Families*, vol. i. p. 333.



church before the aisle was originally built. The whole of this carved work, which was quite fresh when pulled down, was destroyed, or permitted to be carried off for firewood. It may be here noticed that the arch of the aisle, in consequence of the raising of the side walls and the addition of the gallery, requiring to be entirely remodelled, the ornamented keystone and imposts of the former arch were discarded, and may now be seen in a combined form doing duty as a memorial stone on the burying-place of John Frame, flesher, by whom it bears to have been erected in 1858, in memory of his mother and father.<sup>1</sup>

In the year 1882, a series of designs in very handsome stained glass by Powell of London was inserted in the principal windows of the church, by order of Thomas Douglas Cuninghame Graham, the present proprietor of the estate of Dunlop. The two windows, upper and lower, on either side of the pulpit, contain the Twelve Apostles. In the two windows next the east end of the same wall are depicted Abraham, Moses—David, and Isaiah, in the order as named; and the two next the west end contain B. V. Mary, Dorcas—Eunice, and Priscilla. These figures are all nimbed and have their proper emblems, each being also surrounded with architectural devices. Along the lower margin of the windows of the ground tier runs the following inscription in Roman capital letters—"THESE WINDOWS WERE ERECTED BY—T. D. C. GRAHAM,—IN MEMORY OF—THOMAS DUNLOP DOUGLAS,—BORN 1ST JANVARY 1776.—DIED 30TH JANVARY 1869.—ALSO HIS WIFE ROSINA HUNTER,—BORN 28TH JUNE 1785, DIED 26TH MARCH 1864." The three windows which light the gallery of the Dunlop aisle contain, respectively, Faith, Hope, and Charity, "the greatest of these" occupying the central window of the gable. The church, altogether, is creditable to the parish, presenting as it does, in its strong contrast to the former mean-looking, damp, and uncomfortable structure, a gratifying proof of the advancement made of late years by the parishioners in wealth, taste, and refinement.

The church bell is of modern date, having been cast since the church was rebuilt. It measures 2 feet 3 inches in height, by 3 feet 1 inch in diameter at the mouth, and bears, in raised Roman capital characters, this inscription: "THOMAS MEARS, LONDON, FOUNDER, 1837." The bell of the former church, now in the possession of Colonel M'Alester of Kennox, is considerably smaller than its successor, measuring about 1 foot 2½ inches in

<sup>1</sup> Plate II. Fig. 4.



height, by 1 foot 7 inches in diameter at the base, and bears the inscription, also in Roman capital letters: "FOR THE PARISH OF DUNLOP, 1792." No notice of any earlier bell has been discovered.

To the Viscount Clandeboyas the parish of Dunlop was indebted for the schoolhouse that, until quite recent times, continued to be the principal school of the parish. The building, consisting of two flats, stands on the south-east boundary of the burying-ground, and its back wall is attached to the end of the vault or Picture House. The schoolroom was on the ground floor, and the upper flat, containing two rooms, was occupied as the schoolmaster's dwelling, entered by a door in the north gable, and approached by an outside stair. Over this door, on an oblong stone set perpendicularly, was cut the following inscription, now obliterated, but preserved in the *Statistical Account* of 1793 :—<sup>1</sup>

"1641.

This school is erected and endowed by Iames Viscount Clandeboyas, in love to this parish in which his father Hans Hamilton was pastor 45 years in King Iames the sixt his raigne.

I<sup>c</sup>LV."

The old schoolhouse, described in the same authority as "a good substantial building," and "one of the best houses of the kind" in the district, is still in good repair, the walls varying from 2 feet 3 inches to 3 feet 4 inches in thickness. But, having been found insufficient for the accommodation of the rising generation of an increased population, it was, in 1839, sold by the heritors to James Jamieson, church-officer, and both flats are now occupied as dwelling-houses. *Tempora mutantur!*—The new parish school which supplanted it has, in its turn, been superseded by the present school erected under the Education Act of 1872.

In the south-east portion of the burying-ground, and detached from the church, stands the "Picture-House,"<sup>2</sup> a vaulted apartment, containing a monument in marble to the memory of Hans Hamilton, who was minister of the parish for forty-five years, and of Janet Denham his spouse, both of whose remains lie underneath the apartment. The whole was erected at

<sup>1</sup> Vol. ix. p. 548. By order of the present proprietor this inscription was entirely erased with the chisel in order to destroy any evidence that might lead to a question as to his rightful ownership!

<sup>2</sup> Plate III. Fig. 1.



# Church of Dunlop.

The "Picture-House"  
from the south-west.

Fig 1.

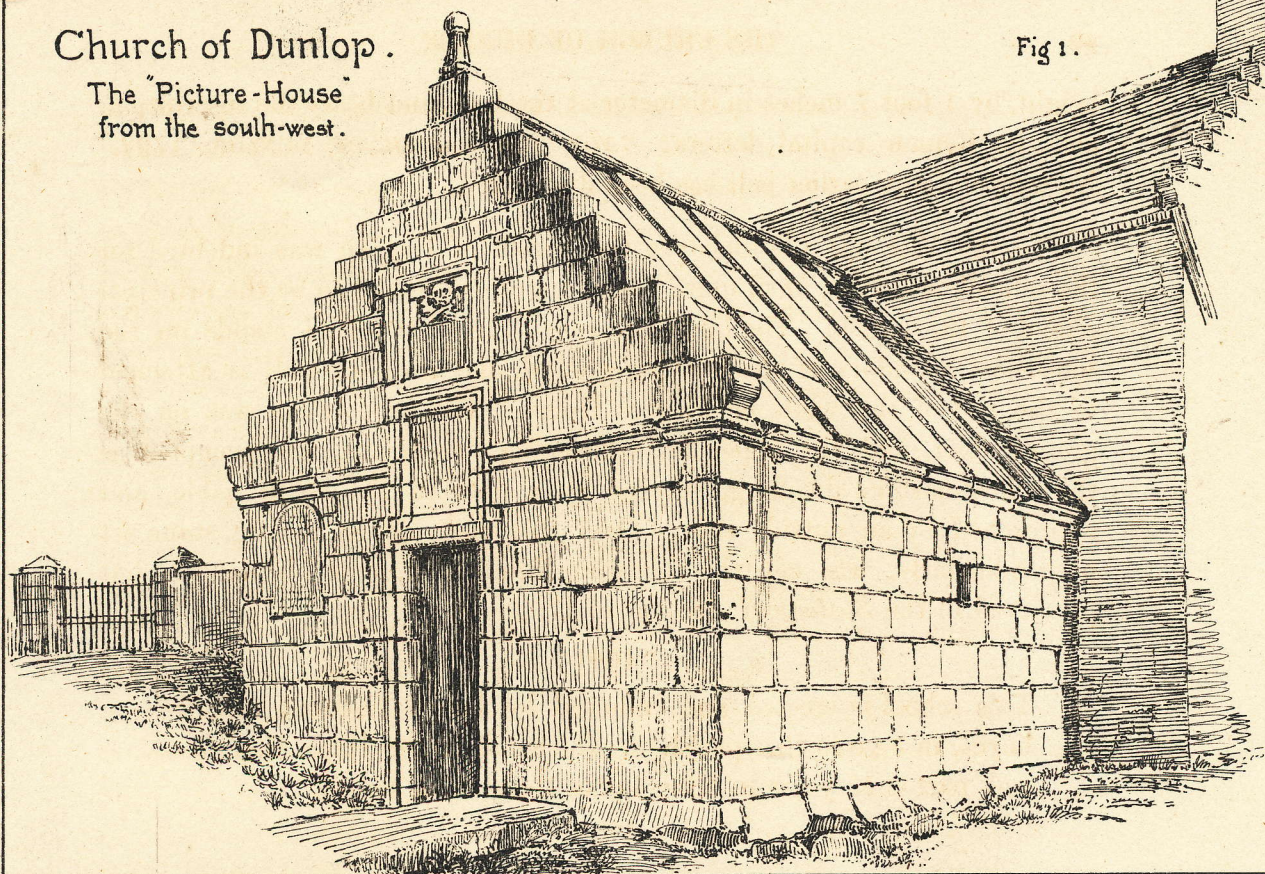


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

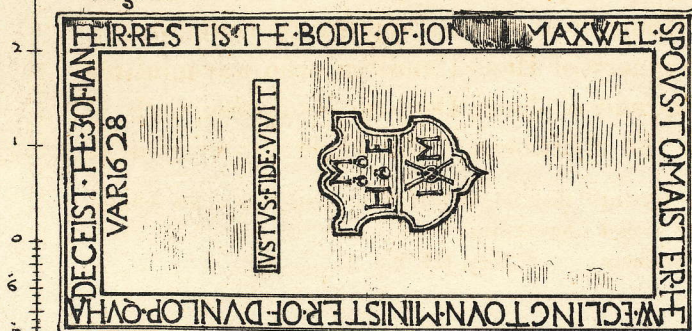


Fig. 4.

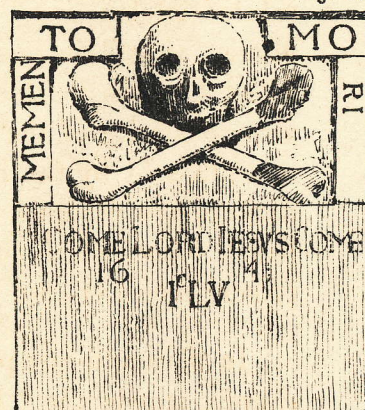


Fig. 5.





the expense of their eldest son, James, Viscount Clandeboy, in the peerage of Ireland, and is still a fine memorial of his piety and filial affection, and an honourable tribute to the memory of worthy parents.

The vault, which is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, 9 feet 10 inches wide, and 11 feet in height within the walls, is built of ashlar, and covered with a high-pitched roof of flagstones overlapping each other. The doorway, which is in the gable of the vault,<sup>1</sup> is surrounded by a moulding, and over it is a square panel, in similar style, formerly containing a window, but now filled with a flat weather-worn sandstone, along the top of which is cut in modern lettering, "Pulvis & umbra Sumus." Above the window there is another and smaller panel, in the upper half of which is carved in relief a skull and cross-bones, with the motto, "MEMENTO MORI," inscribed on the three sides of the panel surrounding it. In the lower half of the panel a black marble slab is inserted, on which has been cut the inscription mentioned in the *Statistical Account* above referred to as being then "scarcely legible." It is now with difficulty and only in part decipherable, but what is still traceable shows it to have been arranged thus:<sup>2</sup>—

COME LORD IESUS COME

16

I<sup>c</sup>LV

41

The monument is placed in a semicircular headed recess,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height, and 6 feet wide, in the end of the apartment. It is composed of a sarcophagus, occupying the width and depth of the recess, on which are placed effigies, a little less than the natural size, of the husband and wife, who, face to face, on either side of a faldstool or desk bearing open books, kneel on cushions, their hands being uplifted and joined as in prayer. The costume of the figures, particularly the female, indicates the period of the sculpture, as do likewise the flowing hair, curled-up mustachios and pointed beard of the male. Within the pediment of the faldstool is carved a skull and cross-bones, and from its horizontal moulding hangs a fringed vallance; and the pedestal contains, within a compartment (or panel), two young arms and hands holding up a heart. The recess is finished with marginal pilasters and architrave, and between each of the former and the contiguous

<sup>1</sup> A tablet inserted in the outside of the wall, to the right of the door of the vault, is inscribed:—"In affectionate remembrance of Catharine, second daughter of the Rev. William

Gebbie, who fell asleep in Jesus 26th April 1872. 'Being justified by faith through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. v. 1.'"

<sup>2</sup> Plate III. Fig. 4.



angle of the vault, stands an insulated column of the composite order. Over the capitals of the columns are small pedestals surmounted with shields, bearing each an open book. The space between the head of the recess and the roof of the apartment is sculptured in resemblance of curtains, held aside by a hand issuing from behind each shield. The top of the central parting of the curtains is covered by an oval-shaped escutcheon—the crowning member of the design—on which is neatly carved in relief a human heart, between three cinque-foils pierced ermine.<sup>1</sup>

In the head of the recess are the following inscriptions and quotations, cut in faint, though distinct, Roman characters:—

HEIR LYES THE BODIES OF HANIS HAMILTON, SONNE OF ARCHIBALD  
HAMILTON OF RAPLOCH, SERVANT TO KING IAMES THE FIFT, & OF  
IANET DENHAM HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF IAMES DENHAM, LAIRD OF  
WEST-SHEILDE, THEY LIVED MARYED TOGETHER 45 YEERES, DVING WHICH  
TYME THE SAID HANS SERVED THE CVRE AT THIS CHURCH. THEY  
WERE MUCH BELOVED OF ALL THAT KNEW THEM, & ESPECIALLY OF THE  
PARISHIONER<sup>s</sup>. THEY HAD SIX SONNES, IAMES, ARCHIBALD, GAVIN, IOHN,  
WILLIAM, & PATRICK, & ON DAUGHTER, IEANE, MARYED TO WILLIAM  
MUIRE OF GLANDERS-TOVNE.

THE DVST OF TWO LYES IN THIS ARTE-FULL FRAME,  
WHOSE BIRTH THEM HONOR'D FROM AN HONORED NAME,  
A PAINEFULL PASTOR, AND HIS SPOTLES WIFE,  
WHOSE DEVOVT STATVES EMBLEME HERE THERE LIFE  
BLEST WITH THE HEIGHT OF FAVORS FROM ABOVE,  
BLOOD, GRACE, A BLEST MEMORIAL, ALL MEN<sup>'s</sup> LOVE.  
A FRVITFULL OFSPRINGE ON WHOM THE LORD HATH FIXT  
FORTVNS WITH VIRTVE, AND WITH HONOR MIXT.  
THEN LIVE THESE DEAD ABOVE IN ENDLES IOYES,  
HEERE IN THEIR SEID AND NOBLE CLANDEBOYES  
IN WHOM (GRAVNT SOE, O HEAVENS) THEIR HONORED NAME  
MAY NEVER DIE, BVT IN THE DEATH OF FAME.

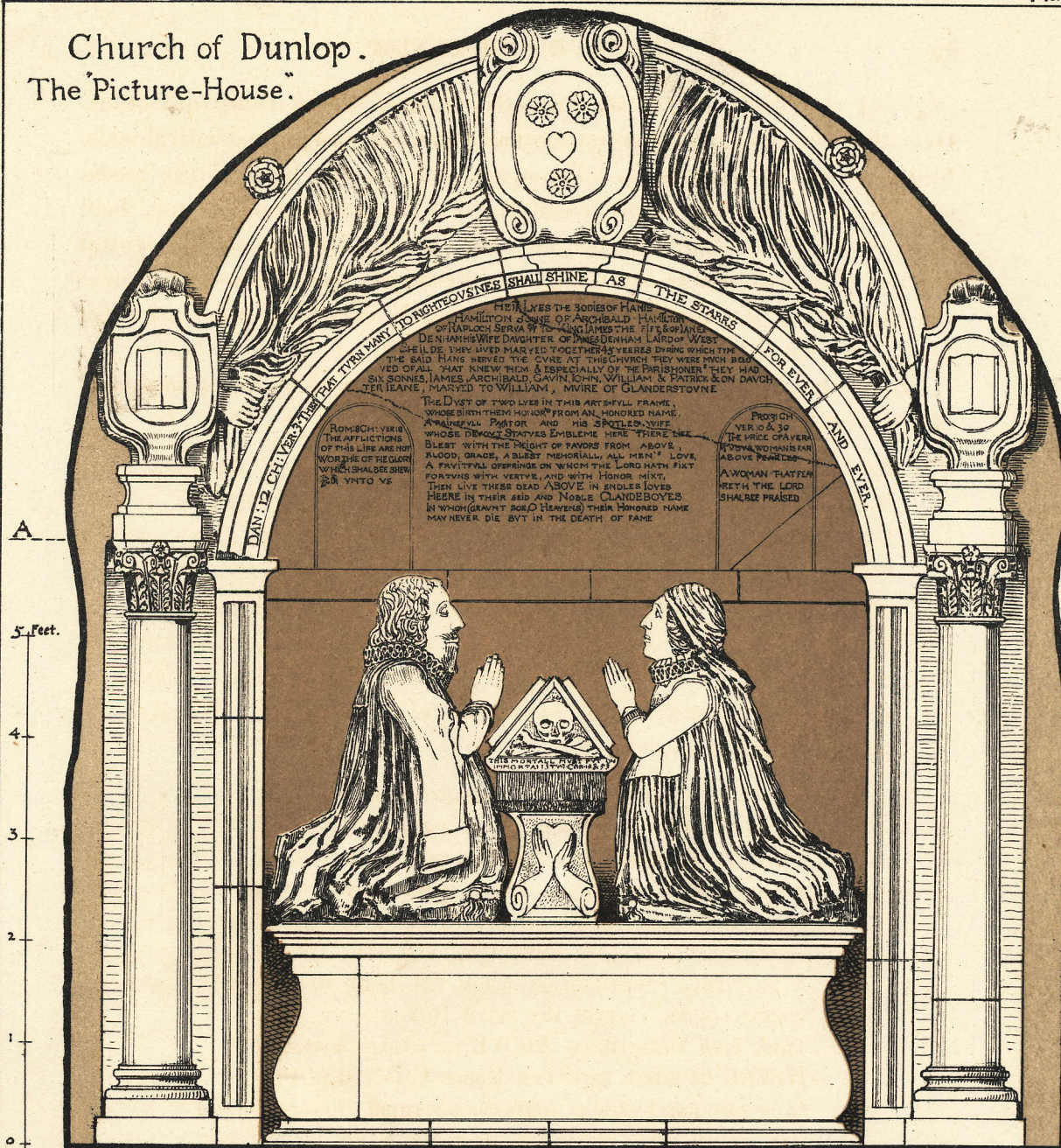
On the right hand of these verses, in a compartment defined by the chisel only, is the following quotation:—

ROM. 8. CH. VER. 18.—THE AFFLICTIONS OF THIS LIFE ARE NOT WORTHIE  
OF THE GLORY WHICH SHAL BEE SHEWED VNT0 VS.

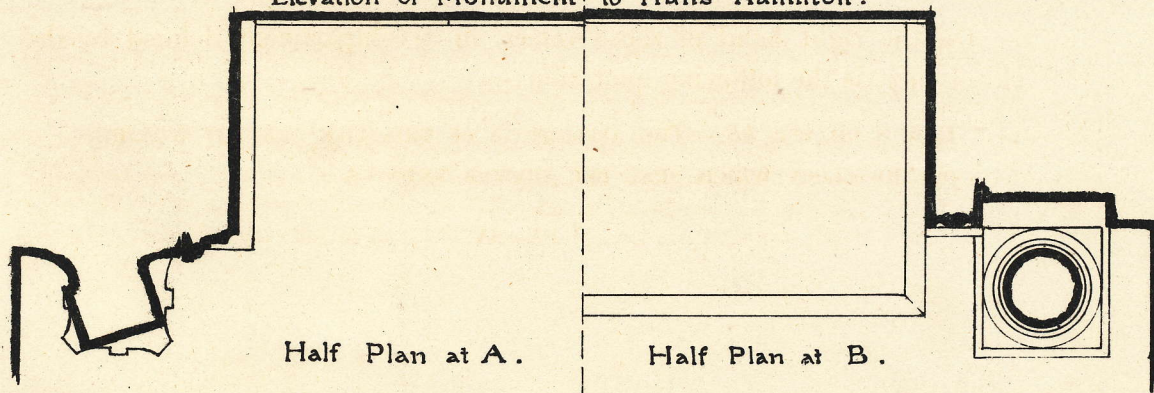
<sup>1</sup> Plate IV.



Church of Dunlop.  
The Picture-House.



Elevation of Monument to Hans Hamilton.





And in like manner, on the left:—

PROV. 31 CH. VER. 10 & 30.—THE PRICE OF A VERTVOVS WOMAN IS FAR ABOVE PEARLES. A WOMAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD SHAL BEE PRAISED.

Around the fascia of the architrave runs this passage:—

DAN. 12 CH. VER. 3.—THEY THAT TVRN MANY TO RIGHTEOVSNES SHALL SHINE AS THE STARRS FOR EVER AND EVER.

And on the horizontal moulding of the desk between the statues is inscribed:—

THIS MORTALL MVST PVT ON IMMORTALLITY, 1 COR. 15 & 53.

Two large flat stones, which formerly lay along the floor of the vault, are now inserted, horizontally, in the side walls. Around the margin of the stone fixed in the south wall is cut the following inscription:—

HEIR . LYIS . HANES . HAMMILTOVN . VICAR . OF . DVNLOPE . QVHA . DECEISIT .  
YE . 30 . OF . MAII . 1608 . OF . YE . AIGE . OF . 72 . ZEIRS . AND . OF .  
IONET . DENHAME . HIS . SPOVS.

The centre of the stone is ornamented with a figure composed of semi-circles enclosing a square, in which are engraved hearts and cinque-foils.<sup>1</sup>

The stone fixed in the north wall bears this record:—

HEIR . RESTIS . THE . BODIE . OF . IONET . MAXWELL . SPOVS . TO . MAISTER .  
HEW . EGLINGTOVN . MINISTER . OF . DVNLOP . QVHA . DECEIST . THE . 30 .  
OF . IANVAR . 1628 . IVSTVS . FIDE . VIVIT.

On the centre of the stone is a shield, party per fess, bearing three annulets stoned, in chief; and, on a saltire an annulet stoned, in base; the initials M. H. E. and I. M. being disposed around the charges.<sup>2</sup>

The vault, and the interesting monument it encloses—doubly valuable as a specimen of a style of monumental architecture of which there are but few examples in Scotland—after the death of Henry 2d Earl of Clanbrassil on 12th January 1675-6, suffered from neglect, and its attendant decay. So early as 5th June 1699, William Mure, the then laird of Caldwell and Glanderstoun, writes to “Mr. William Hamilton, att Lieutenant Gavin

<sup>1</sup> Plate III. Fig. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Plate III. Fig. 3.



Hamilton's, att Lisrene in Ireland."—"See iff ye can procure anything from Westsheills [Sir William Denham] towards the Repairing off our Tombe, that iff ye stay here ye shall be witness to the agreement for it. Take no less than a ginea, which was what he promised me."<sup>1</sup> And again, on 2d November 1704, he writes:—"There is nothing yet done in the repairing ye burial place at Dunlop, your directions being wanting about it, in respect you did not name what you allowed for y<sup>r</sup> self, as weil from whom it should be had. Besides its hard you should solely be at the expences while Westsheilds and your relations in Ireland are equally related. What you can procure send with the bearer, with what you order for yourself, to be given to the minister of the place, who will see the thing applyed, together with a line to Westsheilds for his proportion; wherein also I shall concur, and shall not be wanting in what comes to my share. If it be longer neglected it will be so spoiled that it will be vain to do anything in it." Addressed—"For Mr. William Hamilton of Killileagh, Esq., Ireland."<sup>2</sup> In the Records of the Presbytery, of 28th March 1734, at the ordination of Mr. Robert Baird at Dunlop, the church, schoolhouse, and manse were inspected, after which, "the workmen being ordered at the sight of the heritors to sight the Tomb or Picture House of Dunlop in order to reparation, there was presented the following accompt [estimate?] of expense:—We, James Neilson and John Dunlop, having sighted the Tomb of Dunlop, the accompt yreof follows: Imprimis, for stone, five shillings: Item for lime, seven shillings and sixpence: Item for a door, four shillings and tenpence: Item for glass, two shillings and sixpence: Item for a pair of iron bands, three shillings: Item for workmanship, twelve shillings: In whole, one pound fourteen shillings and tenpence sterling: In Scots money, twenty pound eighteen shillings." The neglect, however, would appear to have become chronic; nothing further is said on the subject, and the good intention of the presbytery would seem not to have been carried out, as the worthy statist of the parish in 1793, when noticing the tomb, laments that "through length of time and great neglect it has been much injured; and, as there are none who think themselves immediately concerned to keep it in repair, it will soon become ruinous."<sup>3</sup> This deplorable state continued till near the middle of the present century, the roof of the vault being then pervious to almost every shower. Besides weakening the masonry of the building, the surface

<sup>1</sup> *Caldwell Papers*, vol. i. p. 194.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. i. p. 206.

<sup>3</sup> *Sinclair's Stat. Acc.*, vol. ix. p. 548.



of the marble composing the monument had, consequently, become very much corroded, and its crowning member, fallen from its pride of place, lay among the rubbish on the floor. The painting and gilding with which, in the taste of the early part of the 17th century, the monument was fancifully decorated, and to which, probably, the apartment owed its name of the "Picture House"—a name it still retains—had all but entirely disappeared. The attention of Colonel Mure of Caldwell having been called to its ruinous condition, about the year 1849, he had the vault put into a thorough state of repair, and the fallen down portions of the monument replaced. In the Introductory Memoir to the *Caldwell Papers*<sup>1</sup> it is stated that "the care of the monument has now devolved exclusively on the Caldwell family."

In the other portions of the burying-ground, the immemorial place of parochial sepulture, none of the tombstones have claims to consideration on account of their antiquity, 1720 being the oldest date on any stone it contains. The following records, on a table-stone in the corner of the graveyard between the vault and the schoolhouse, are here selected as being the only ones of general interest:—

THIS . IS . THE . BURIAL-PLACE . OF . IOHN . DUNLOP . OF .  
OVERHILL . AND . BARBARA . GILMOUR . HIS . SPOUS . AND . THEIR .  
CHILDREN .

1732.

Here lies the body of Andrew Brown of Overhill, Grandson of the above John Dunlop, who died 15 March 1794, aged 72 years: Also Jean Anderson his Spouse, who died 6 Janry. 1801, aged 74 years.

Barbara Gilmour, whose name appears on the first of the above records, is said to have been the person who introduced into the parish the art of making sweet-milk cheese, and who by her superior management of the dairy has given a more widely extended celebrity to the place of her nativity than any other individual belonging to it. Tradition further states that she acquired her skill in Ireland, whither she went to avoid the hardships to which conscientious people in the "dirk and drublie dayes" of Charles II. were exposed on account of their religious tenets, and from whence she returned about the time of the Revolution. Although it seems very unlikely that she could have acquired this knowledge in Ireland, which has never been noted as a cheese-producing country, there seems no

<sup>1</sup> Vol. i. p. 25.



good reason to deny her claim to the honour of introducing the improved process by which this parish has been long celebrated for the excellence of its cheese, while to many its name is known only in connection with this its staple production. On a lintel of what is now the dairy-house at Overhill (now called Hill), are cut in old characters the following initials, arranged between the date, thus—16 I. D. B. G. 92.<sup>1</sup> The initials, it is scarcely necessary to add, being those of John Dunlop of Overhill, and Barbara Gilmour the cheesemaker. John Brown of Hill, who died in August of the present year, was great-great-great-grandson and representative of the worthy couple.

JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE.

MORISHILL, *December* 1883.

<sup>1</sup> Plate IV. Fig. 5.