

3. LORDS OF RUTHVEN.

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To supply omissions, and rectify mistakes of former writers of family history, it is necessary that any new documents produced should be particularly explained.

In the year 1789, old Mr. Campbell of Achalader, who had some fondness for antiquarian researches, sent to me, for inspection, from his family archives, an old writ which he called “a retour,” dated in the year 1444. I returned the original paper, together with a transcript I had made of it, and, as was agreeable to him, kept another copy of the transcript for myself.

ceived great sums of money from a noble and potent Lord, our dearest cousin Patrick Lord of Ruthven, in name and behalf of a noble Lady, Dame Janet Stewart, his spouse, and of an illustrious youth, William Master of Ruthven, son and apparent heir of the said noble Lord ; and having duly considered what is for the advantage of our monastery, we have given and granted, and hereby give and grant, in feu-farm, the lands under written.”

The lands granted to the Lady in liferent, and to William the Master of Ruthven after her death, are said in the charter to be “ the lands of Nether Pitlowie, otherwise called Hoill de Cheyne,” in the Sherifffdom of Perth and Regality of Scone, for which the yearly sum to be paid was fifty-three shillings, four pennies. Also the lands of “ Ach-napopple, vulgarly called ‘ the Peill,’ which of old the progenitors of the said noble Lord had gifted to the monastery to obtain their suffrages or united prayers.” The said lands were lying in the lordship of Ruthven and shire of Perth, and the yearly feu-duty to be paid was five pounds, six shillings, eight pennies.

The lands to which the Lady Ruthven was to have no right, were the lands of Byris, in the regality of Scone and shire of Perth, for which the yearly feu-duty to be paid was thirteen pounds, six shillings, eight pennies, usual money of Scotland, and twenty-four poultry.

These lands of Byris were granted as follows, viz. To the foresaid William Master of Ruthven, and his heirs-male : Failing whom, to Archibald Ruthven his brother-german and his heirs-male : Failing whom, to George Ruthven, brother-german of the said William and Archibald, and his heirs-male : Failing whom, to James Ruthven, brother-german of the said William, Archibald, and George, and his heirs-male : Failing whom, to Alexander Ruthven, brother-german of the foresaid William, Archibald, George, and James, and his heirs-male : Failing all whom, to the nearest male heirs or assignees of the foresaid William.

The charter is dated at the monastery of Scone, November 16, 1560, witnesses, John Crichton of Strathurd ; Sir John Ballenden of Auchnoule ; Patrick Blinsale, Sir William Ramsay, and John Davidson, notaries public. (Signed) Patrick, Bishop of Murray, Commendator of Scone.

In Douglas's List, the sons of Patrick Lord Ruthven were William and Alexander, by his first wife, Lady Jean Douglas ; and by his second wife, Lady Janet Stewart, James, who was Precentor or Chanter of the Cathedral Church of Dunkeld, in the year 1584. But according to the Scoon charter, and some others which followed it, Patrick Lord Ruthven had five sons, William, Archibald, George, James, and Alexander, all of them brothers-german, and therefore sons by the same mother.

Spottiswood says, that George, son of Patrick Lord Ruthven, was killed at Stirling, September 3, 1571, along with the Regent, Mathew Stewart, Earl of Lennox*. But I apprehend there was a mistake in the name, and that it was Archibald, not George, who was there killed.

There is some reason to believe that George was the famous Mr. George Ruthven, chirurgeon in Perth, where he lived to a great age. He says, in Adamson's "Muses Threnodie," that, in 1559, he was twelve or thirteen years of age. He was therefore born in the year 1546, two years after the battle of the bridge of Tay, in which, he says, his

* Archbishop Spottiswood's History, page 256.

father (who must have been Patrick then Master of Ruthven) signalised himself. Mr. George was a peaceable inoffensive man, and addicted to study. He had great knowledge of history, and had the character of being a virtuoso. In his cabinet or museum, he had a large collection of natural curiosities, particularly the preserved bodies and bones of animals of various kinds. He is introduced as the relator of the historical anecdotes contained in Mr. Henry Adamson's Poem concerning Perth.

In 1600, though he might have been suspected, as the uncle of John Earl of Gowrie, of being in some degree concerned in the bloody event which had happened in Perth, we are told that he was brought into no great trouble, but made his innocence evident to all parties.

The Perth Literary and Antiquarian Society have in their museum, as a relic of this venerable gentleman, the wainscot armed chair in which he usually sat. The shield of the Ruthven coat of arms is carved on the back, and over it this inscription ; " Mr. G. R." (Mr. George Ruthven) " 1588."

Patrick Lord Ruthven had many daughters. I only mention that his daughter, Jean Ruthven, was,

about the year 1568, married to Henry Stewart, the second Lord Methven, the son of Lady Janet Stewart by her third husband, Lord Methven.

4. WILLIAM, FOURTH LORD RUTHVEN AND
FIRST EARL OF GOWRIE.

This famous nobleman, the eldest son of Patrick Lord Ruthven and Lady Jean Douglas, was born about the year 1541. I have elsewhere spoken of his marriage with Dorothea Stewart, which happened August 17, 1561.

The following account may be given, as a summary of his public actions. In 1566, he was along with his father at the assassination of David Rizzio. In 1567, he visited Queen Mary when she was confined in the castle of Lochleven, and endeavoured to persuade her to resign her Crown; but he was so much overcome by her tears, that the other Lords of his party resolved never again to employ him in any errand of such a kind. He was firmly attached to the Regent, Earl of Morton, and was always of the party who were influenced by the English Councils. In 1581, he opposed Queen Mary's restoration to her Crown; and in