DISCHARGES AND RECEIPTS (1459-1513).

The house of Kennedy has been bound up with the fortunes of Ayrshire from the beginning of record history; and the late Marchioness of Ailsa was one of the founder members, and was always a warm friend, of this Society. It is therefore as a tribute to her gracious memory that the following selection from the Cassillis Papers is offered as a contribution to the present volume of Collections. The Kennedy muniments are now deposited in H.M. General Register House, where their miscellaneous wealth is carefully inventoried and made available to students. The twenty-four writs which are printed below consist of Discharges and Receipts; and, with the exception of the first (which is from Box 23), they are all taken from Box 44. In date they cover fifty-four years (1459-1513), from the end of James II.'s reign to the death of James IV. During this half-century the house of Kennedy was represented by Gilbert first Lord Kennedy, his son, John second Lord Kennedy, and his grandson Gilbert, third Lord Kennedy and first Earl of Cassillis, who fell with the King at Flodden.

These years were a formative period of history, and several of the characteristics of the age are illustrated in the documents before us.

It was, for example, a time of serious depreciation of the coinage, when the fall in the value of money was causing widespread economic misery. The "matter of the money" was, indeed, one of the underlying causes of the faction strife of James III.'s reign—of the hanging of his favourites at Lauder Bridge and his own mysterious end. It was therefore as a precaution against debased metal that astute creditors (like the Abbot of Melrose) took repayment of debts in "fyne selver." [No. 4.]

Moreover, with a falling currency and rising costs, the King could no longer "live of his own" and defray the expenses of government from his private pocket. On special occasions it therefore became necessary to adopt the unpopular device of taxation. This was done, for example, to meet the expenses of an embassy to seek a bride for James IV.; and not least important among our writs are those which illustrate the machinery employed to collect this levy from the barons and the difficulty encountered in gathering it in. [Nos. 6, 7, and perhaps 9.]

It is clear, also, that the great magnates, barons and lairds, no less than the monarchy, were often short of ready money. At a time when the King of Denmark pledged the Orkney and Shetland Islands to the Scottish Crown as security for the payment of Queen Margaret's dowry, the Scottish nobles likewise gave part of their estates, when need demanded, as security for the "tocher" of their daughters. John Lord Kennedy, for one, had to resort to this expedient when he married his daughter to Sir William Colville of Ochiltree. [Nos. 5, 8.]

Another common device illustrated in these writs was the custom of setting lands in feu, heritably or on long leases, for a money rent. The discharges for the "mails" of the lands of Greenan form an interesting example, because these purely formal receipts incidentally open up a glimpse of some lost pages of history. The long forgotten connexion of the Lords of the Isles with Carrick is also revealed in the somewhat enigmatic reference to Angus of the Isles. [No. 16.] One wonders if Lord Kennedy was bestowing upon him the hand of the daughter who had been repudiated by Sir William Colville of Ochiltree, and what was the ultimate fate of the unfortunate lady. It is at least clear that her father had the same difficulty in raising money for a "tocher" in 1504 as he had had ten years earlier. [Nos. 5, 8, 16.]

Since he was short of silver, it was no doubt convenient to pay wages in meal instead of in money to his deputy keeper of the royal castle of Lochdoon [No. 15]; but on the other hand he commuted meal into money for the salary given to master Edward Blair for his "counsel and service." [No. 11.] As Blair was a university graduate, who seems to have combined ecclesiastical duties with burghal activities in Ayr, he was obviously an important retainer who could command a money fee. His case illustrates how great lords extended their patronage to priests and clerks as well as to domestic servants and feudal vassals.

Magnates were also given to the dangerous practice of entering into contracts of mutual support (known as bonds of manrent) with their retainers and friends against their enemies. The Obligation of Duncan Ferguson of Kilkeran to David Earl of Cassillis in 1512 appears to presuppose a bargain of such a nature. The ties of kinship and good neighbourliness and feudal relationship thus lent themselves to the fomenting of feuds and factions (as Carrick knew to its cost); but the sense of claanship and family solidarity prevented the feeling of any rigid class distinction between lord and retainer. Indeed, in money matters the master might be the debtor of his man. [No. 22.]

The frequency of bonds is another indication of the scarcity of currency, and it is interesting to note the important part played by the Church in financial matters. Thus we find that the Abbot...
of Melrose acted the part of a banker; that the consistorial court of the Bishop of Glasgow took cognisance of money causes (of a nature not specified); that parsons appear as the agents of creditors or as principal parties, and that high ecclesiastics hold office of state as Lord Treasurer—although it is true that some of these clerical officials were men of the world rather than priests. Education was a passport to the civil service as well as to the law courts and parochial charges; but laymen were penetrating more and more into clerical positions, and were called with increasing urgency to undertake the responsibilities of local government. It was to train laymen for these tasks that in 1496 Parliament passed its famous Education Act, requiring all barons and substantial freeholders to send their eldest sons to school to be grounded in Latin and law. The act was but imperfectly observed, but the Cassilis writs show that there was already a certain standard of literacy.

Their bad writing and capricious spelling suggest that the lairds of Carrick were reader with the sword than with the pen, but that they could turn their hand to both. Indeed, from the literary no less than from the historical point of view these writs are important. They belong to the period when the vernacular was beginning to supersede Latin in official documents, and they appear archaic in form, because although the Latin language has disappeared the Latin idiom and sentence structure have remained. As far as the spelling is phonetic, it serves as a key to local pronunciation; but it is sometimes simply erratic, as when sir Robert Bell writes his name in three different ways and Melrose appears in two variants in the course of one short document. [No. 4.]

The title of this unscholarly scribe marks another point of interest in the collection before us. Spelling might be arbitrary, but men's designations were rigid. Barons who were Lords of Parliament were addressed by their legal titles, as Alexander Lord Montgomerie, James Lord Hamilton and Andrew Lord Avandale. Belted knights were described as Sir William Wallace of Craige, knight; Sir David Kennedy, knight; and Sir William Colville of Ochiltree, knight; as the case might be. Aspirants to knighthood merited the title of "esquire" while serving their apprenticeship to arms in personal attendance upon a knight. Thus the intimate relationship between the Lord of the Isles and Thomas Davidson of Greenan, his "native esquire and pupil," makes one wonder how far the seaboard of Carrick was involved in the seditious schemes of the turbulent Island chiefs, and what affinities existed in the fifteenth century between the royal earldom of Carrick and the "Celtic fringe" of traitors to the Crown.

Landowners were known by the name of their estates: as Quintin Mure of the Ard, Thomas Corry of Kellwood, John Campbell of Skeldon and Humphrey Campbell brother of the said John. Landlords were "of" their lands; tenants were "in" them. Such a one was Robin Campbell in Lochfergus.

Among town dwellers, to be a burgess of a royal burgh was a proud distinction; and Thom Cant, burgess of Edinburgh, was obviously a man of substance. The King's chartered towns were royal burghs, but a Bishop's episcopal town was a city. Thus, when John Davidson sought to make his position in Greenan secure, he obtained the support of Donald of the Isles in the royal burgh of Irvine; and he later made his peace with the King in the citizen, however, could, as such, write himself "master" (or "Mr."). That was the prerogative of Masters of Arts of a

Baillie, graduates of Glasgow and St. Andrews respectively, both men of some consequence. [Nos. G, 20.] An ecclesiastic who had no university degree might bear the courtesy title of "sir"; and to distinguish them from knights their title is here written without a capital. Such were sir Robert Bell, chaplain of Melrose, and sir George Blair, chaplain and notary public. [Nos. 4, 24.]

It is to be noted that the above-mentioned sir Robert Bell dated a writ with his own hand on 26th March, 1485. According to the chronology then in general use throughout Western Europe, this was the second day of the new year. Until 1600 the Scottish calendar began the new year on 25th March (Lady Day), so that dates from 1st January to 24th March are a year behind the modern reckoning. If Bell had granted his discharge two days earlier, it would have been dated 24th March, 1484. Again, when Sir David Kennedy paid a debt to Lord Avandale on 10th January, he might still have been feeling the effects of the Yuletide festivities.

There is no less "What is time?" no less than "What is truth?" Pilate "did not wait for an answer," and neither did the men of Carrick who gave and received the Discharges in this collection. The somewhat arid writs have long since lost their significance for the parties originally concerned; but they have acquired a new importance for posterity. They give us a glimpse of men and women who felt the pulse of life in their own generation; who knew joy and sorrow, caring care and sudden calamity. In a time of change and uncertainty they faced their problems as they came, as we in our turn are called upon to do.
Discharge by Alexander Lord Montgomerie to Gilbert Lord Kennedy for £300 marks, Scots, due by reason of the marriage of Alexander Montgomerie, grandson of the granter.

Be it known to all men be this present letters me Alexander Lord Mongumry knaycht for till haif resaywyt trow the haunds of ane honnorable lorde Gilbert Lorde Kennedy three hundreth markis of gude and wesable none of the kyngryk of Scotland, the quhilk soum off three hundred markis the sayde Gilbert Lorde Kennedy was awande to me by caus of the marwag of Alexander Mongumry my son son, of the quhilk soum of three hundred markis the forsayde Alexander Lorde Mongumry haldis me weill content assythith and payt, and the forsayde Gilbert Lorde Kennedy his ayyris executouris and assignis for me myn ayyris executris and assignis quhietclamys and dischargis for ever mayr be this my present lettres. In witnes of the quhilk thing I the forsayde Alexander Lorde Kennedy hayf set to my seille at Ardrossane the nyntene day of Jamare the yere of our Lorde at [sic] thousande four hundreth fifty and acht yeres, and subscriwyt with myn awyn hande.

(Signed) ALEX LORD MONGUMRI.

[Endorsed]: The quytclam of the Lord Montgumre for iii' markis.

Trace of seal.

Discharge by James Lord Hamilton to George Douglas of Leswalt for 100 marks, being the last instalment of a debt of 300 marks.

Be it kend til al men be thir present lettres me James Lord Hammyltoun til haf resawyt be the haunds of mye worschypful couting George of Douglas of Leswalt the soume of a hundreth markis for the last payment of iiiij hundreth merkis aunt to me be the said George, of the quhilk soume of a hundreth merkis I hald me weill payt content assithith and fulldey payt, and the said

(1) Alexander, grandson and heir of Alexander Montgomerie, first Lord Montgomerie, married Catherine, daughter of Gilbert, first Lord Kennedy. Their son, Hugh, succeeded to his great-grandfather as the second Lord Montgomerie. Catherine is the "Lady Kate" of the St. Andrews University Students' Festival, Kate Kennedy's Day.

(2) George Douglas of Leswalt died soon after this date (R.M.S., II., No. 761). Lord Hamilton perhaps claimed kinship with him through marriage. His first wife was the widow of Archibald fifth Earl of Douglas, and George Douglas of Leswalt was described as a "relative of Earl Archibald's mother, Princess Margaret, Countess of Douglas and Duchess of Tournay, Lady of Galloway (P. H. McKerlie,' Lands and Their Owners in Galloway, I., 426). Lord Hamilton created dynastic links for his house through his second marriage, with Princess Mary, elder daughter of James II.

(3) Sir William Wallace of Craigie, 1471-1478.


(5) For reference to Alexander Scott see Index to Volume VIII of the Exchequer Rolls and to Acts of Parliament, Volume II.
Discharge by Sir Robert Bell, chaplain of Melrose and servant to the Abbot and convent, for £20 of fine silver, received from Alan Lord Cathcart in name of John Lord Kennedy. Received by Bell at the command of the Abbot and convent of Melrose, and subscribed by him.

Be it known to all men that the present letters me Sir Robert Bell yields service to the Abbot of Melrose and the coifayne grants me to have resuaynt be the handis of a worthy lord Alan Lord Caithcart,7 the sum of twenty pounds of fine silver, and be haveyf a worthy lord John Cunninghame [Kennedy], and the for said twenty pounds I the for said Sir Robert Bell grants me to have resuaynt be the command off the Abbot and the cowyne. I the for said Sir Robert Bell discharges and quitclaims the for said Lord Caithcart and the for said John Cunninghame for now and ever more. In witness of the quhill thing I hath subscribyit this present wryt with thine awn hand wrytyn in Edinbourgh the xxvij day off March the yer off God m.viiii and awchty and fyv yeris.

I Sir Robert Bell, chapellayn of Melroes retfyis this wryt with myn awn hande.

Ayr, 11 June, 1490.

Discharge by Sir William Colville of Ochiltree, knight, to John Lord Kennedy, for 600 merks Scots, in part payment of the tocher of Elizabeth Kennedy, wife of the above Sir William and daughter of Lord Kennedy; as security for which tocher the late Sir Robert Colville, his father, and Sir William, have had from Lord Kennedy a /10 land of old extent with the pertinents, lying in his barony of Dalrymple in King's Kyle.

Be it known to all men that this present letters me Sir William Colvil of Uchiltre knycht til have ressavit be the handis of ane noble and mighty lord John Lord Kennedy the sowme off sex hundr'd merks of gud and usuale monee of the realme of Scotland all and to gikker upon a day realy and with effect for my tocher and marriage of Elisabeth Kennedy my spous and the said lordis dochter,8 for the quhill tocher and securite of payment of the sumy Sir Robert Colvil umquhile my fader and I has had of the said lord ten poundis worth of land of auld extent9 with ther pertinents land in his barony of Dalrymple in Kingis Kyle. Off the quhill payment of sex hundr'd merks of gud and usuale monee and for the caus aboon exprimit in part of payment of the said toicher I grant me wele pait content and assithit, and the said lord his ayris executouris and assignees for me myn airis executouris and assignees of the said sowme of six hundr'd merks dischargis quhitclaiymes and be thir presentis remittis forevermar.

Signed.—Wylliam Colvere de Owchyltre knyte wyth my hand.

Endorsed.—Sir William Covillis discharge of vi merks for the tocher of Elizabeth Kennedy.


Discharge by James Aitkenhead to master Walter Kennedy for £6 as part payment of the tax of Carrick.

I James Aikhened grantis me to have ressvayt be the handis of master Walter Kennedy the sum of sex pandis thretten schillings and foure pennis in parte of payment of the taxt of Caryk.11 In witnes herof wrytyn with my hand at Edinbourghthe xxvij da of May the yer of God m.viiii and f.valid yrises.

(Signed) J. AKENHEIDE.12

Edinburgh, 21 May, 1491.

Discharge by James Aitkenhead to master Walter Kennedy for £6 as part payment of the tax of Carrick.

I James Aikhened grantis me to have ressvayt be the handis of master Walter Kennedy the sum of sex pandis thretten schillings and foure pennis in parte of payment of the taxt of Caryk.11 In witnes herof wrytyn with my hand at Edinbourghthe xxvij da of May the yer of God m.viiii and f.valid yrises.

(Signed) J. AKENHEIDE.12

Edinburgh, 21 May, 1491.

Discharge by James Aitkenhead to master Walter Kennedy for £6 as part payment of the tax of Carrick.

I James Aikhened grantis me to have ressvayt be the handis of master Walter Kennedy the sum of sex pandis thretten schillings and foure pennis in parte of payment of the taxt of Caryk.11 In witnes herof wrytyn with my hand at Edinbourghthe xxvij da of May the yer of God m.viiii and f.valid yrises.

(Signed) J. AKENHEIDE.12

Edinburgh, 28 July, 1491.

Discharge by the Treasurer to David Kennedy, Bailie of Carrick, for 40 merks, Scots, for the tax of Carrick, by assignation made to Thom Cant, burgess of Edinburgh.

I grantis me to have tanse and ressavat fra David Kennedy bailye of Carrick13 for the taxt of Carrick the sowm of fourti merks of the usuale money of Scotland be assignation maid to Thom Cant burges of Edinburgh.

(10) Walter Kennedy, brother of John Lord Kennedy, was a Master of Arts of Glasgow in 1470, and has gone down to fame as a poet and as a participant in the "Flyting dochter of Dunbar and Kennedy." He is probably acting in the present instance as disposer of the treasury of his father, Sir Robert,11 who was created Lord Cathcart in 1452, and died in 1497. He was a considerable landowner in Carrick and played a part of some importance in national affairs. (Scots Peerage, II., 455.)

(11) In October, 1488, a tax was imposed by Parliament to finance an embassy to France and Spain and "other places" to seek a bride for the King. A sum of £5,000 was voted, of which the clergy was to contribute £2,000, the barons £2,000 and the burghs £1,000. The barons' share was to be levied only on Crown tenants and the respective proportion of each Estate, and left the ways and means of collecting it to the parties concerned. (See R. S. Rait, Parliaments, 491.)

(12) James Aikenhead was clerk of the Treasurer (Exchequer Rolls, VII., 245). There are numerous references to his activities in the Treasurers' Accounts.

(13) David, eldest son and heir of John, second Lord Kennedy, was created Bailie of Carrick on 9 July, 1489. He succeeded his father between 24 July, 1508, and 23 May, 1509; and was created Earl of Cassilis in October, 1509 (Scots Peerage, II., 457, 460).
of Edinburgh thereof. Off the quhilk swm of xl merkis I grant me weill content pait and assisth and thereof quytelanism and discourisg the said David Kennedy of the samyn be ther my lettres. In witnes herof I have subservit with myne awne hand at Edinburgh the xxviiij day of July the yer of God i'iiij nynty and a yer.

(Signed) W. THESARIAIUS.14

Ochiltree, 1 December, 1493.

Discharge by William Colville of Ochiltree, knight, to John Lord Kennedy for 360 merks, Scots, as part payment of 400 merks, owing to him by Lord Kennedy for part of his tocher, for which his lands in the Stewarton were given in pledge.

Be it kend til al men be thir present lettres me William Colvil of Uchiltre knycht to haf resavit be the handis of ane noble and mychty lord John Lord Kennedy the some of aucthen scor of merkis of gud and usual money of the some of twenty scor of merkis aucthe be the said lord to me for part of my tochy, for the quhilk his landis in the Stewartoun lay in wed to me, of the quhilk aucthen scor of merkis I hald me weill content and payt and quytclemes the said lord and hys ayris thereof for ever for me and myn ayris be this my wryt. In vyntes her of to this present quytclem I haf put my sell at Uchiltre the first day of December the yer of our Lord i'iiij lxxxxiiij yrers.

(Signed) Wilyam Colvyll of Wchiltre wyth my hand.

Trace of seal.

Ayr, 19 January, 1495-6.

Sir Hugh Campbell of Loudoun undertakes to guarantee 35 merks to the Treasurer in the name of Sir David Kennedy, bailie of Carrick.

I Hew Campbel of Lowdon grantis me to be bundin to Si[r] David Kinddie bailye of Carrik to varand him at the Thesavrair15 hand for the swm of xxxv merkis and to pay the samyn for him. In vitnes her of I haf set to my seil at Air the xix day of Januar the yeir of God meceelxxxxxv.

Much of the seal remains.

(14) Sir William Knolle, Lord of St. John and Preceptor of Torshiden, Treasurer, 1488-1492.
(15) George Shaw, Abbot of Paisley, Treasurer from 1494 to 1497.
the said twenty bolls of mele after the tenour of my letter to be paid to me every year that it shall happen to fale. The entress of fifty schillingis of the said payment to be at the fest of Sanct Martyn in winter in the yer of God M'tijc. lxxxvii yeris, and as further to continew for all the space and termes contenit in our lettres, and falyeand of the pament of the twenty bolls of mele. In witnes herof I haue subscribit this writt with my hand at Stridelberg the xiiij day of Februar the yer of God M'tijc. nynte and nyne befor thir witnes.22

(Signed) EDWARD BLARE manu propria.

Liston, 13 January, 1499-1500.

Edward Blare took his Master's degree at Glasgow in the academic session 1486 (Montemonia Univers. Glasguensis, II., 245-6). It appears from the Exchequer rolls that he was influential in the burgial affairs of Ayr. In 1502 he is listed selling in an official capacity in name of the choristers of St. John's Kirk (Charters of Royal Borough of Ayr, 105-23).

Discharge by Elizabeth Countess of Ross to George Campbell in name of Thomas Davidson of the Greenan for £20 as the rent of the lands of the Greenan for the Martinmas term last past.

I Elizabeth Countess of Ross grantis me to haif resavit frome ane rycht nobill and mychty lord Sir Georg Lok and Alexander Hanyn with uthiris divers.

I haif subscribit this writ wyth myn hand at Edinburgh the x day of Marche the yer of ... be for their witnes: David Howme of Wedderbewrne, George Kanede of Atkyyn and Jhone of Montgumy wyth uthiris divers.

迹 Trace of signet remains.

Discharge by David Bishop of Argyll to Sir David Kennedy, son and apparent heir of John Lord Kennedy, for 40 sh. Scots, for the rent of the 40 sh. land of the Barr of old extent, for the Whitsunday and Martinmas terms, 1499; also £5 Scots, paid in advance for the said rents to come.

I David Bishop of Ergilegrantis me to have resavit fra ane honorable man Sir David Kennedy, sonne and apparend [heir] to Jo hone Lord Kenneley, fourty shillingis of the usuall mone of Scotland for the Witsonday and Mertimes maile of the xl s. land of aord

Discharge by Sir Patrick Hume of Polworth, knight, to Sir David Kennedy, bailie of Carrick, for £20 Scots.

I Schir Patryk Howme of Poluart knaycht grantis me to haff rasavit be the handis of ane honorable man Schir David Kanede balye of Carryk the sowme of twenti powndis of gud and usuall mone of Scotland, of the quhilk sowme of twentij li. I hald me weill content and payt, and dischargis his airis executours and assignais for me myn airis executours and assignais for now an ever. In witnes of the quhilk thing I haif subscribit this wyrt with my hand at Edinburgh the x day of Maj the yer of God imiiijo Ixxxxvij yeris.

(Signed) PATRIK HOM OF POLWORT.

Barganny, 4 March, 1503-4.

Discharge by Quentin Mure of the Ard to John Lord Kennedy for £5, which the said Lord was owing to Quintin Mure and his father in terms of a loan; also for 120 bolls of meal owing to him from the past six years' salary (at 24 bolls a year) for keeping Lord Kennedy's house of Louchdon.

Be it kend till allmen [sic] be this present lettres me Qwynynme Mur of the Ard grantis me to haf rasavyt fra ane rycht nobill and mychty lord Jhone Kennedy the some of fyfty poundis quhilkis the said lord was auchtand my fader and me be ane obligacion of lent sylver. And of the som of sex scor boUis quhilk my said lord aucht me of thir sex yeris by gane, xxiiij boUis yerly, for the keping of my said lordis hous of Louchdon.

(22) No names of witnesses are given.

(24) There are various references in official records to Quintin Mure of the Ard, father and heir of John Lord Kennedy, for 40 sh. Scots, paid in advance for the said rents to come. Also for 120 bolls of meal owing to him from the past six years' salary (at 24 bolls a year) for keeping Lord Kennedy's house of Louchdon.

Discharge by Sir Patrick Hume of Polworth, knight, to Sir David Kennedy, bailie of Carrick, for £20 Scots.

(Signed) DAVID ERODIENSIS EPISCOPI MANU PROPRIA.

Edinburgh, 10 March, 1501-2.

Discharge by Sir Patrick Hume of Polworth, knight, to Sir David Kennedy, bailie of Carrick, for £20 Scots.

(Signed) PATRIK HOM OF POLWORT.
fyfty poundis and sex scor boUis of meyll I the said Quyntyn grantis me thankfully pait be the handis of my for said Lord Kennedy, and quytclamys and dischargis for me myn airis executuris and assingnais my said lord his airis executuris and assingnais of the foresaid som for now and ever but fraud or guile.26 In vytnes her of I haif set to my seyll at Bargany the ferd day of Marcht the yer of God m fyf hundredreth and thre yeris with the subscription of my hand.

(Signed) QUINTYN MwyR OF THE ARD with my hand.

Seal intact.

Dunure, 3 July, 1504

Discharge by Angus of the Isles, son of Sir John of the Isles, knight, to John Lord Kennedy for 400 merks, Scots, in part payment of a sum of 800 merks of tocher, in terms of an indenture between them.

Be it kenny all men be thir present letras me Angus of the Ilis sone to Sir Jhon of the Ilis knyght,27 that for sa mekill as ane nobill and mychlyt lord Jhon Lord Kennyde is bownd to me be his endentour for acht hundred merkis of toichtyr,28 lyk as is at mayr lyncht conteynynt in the samyn. Of the quhilk sowme of acht hundred merkis I, the said Angus, dischargis the said Jhon Lord Kennyde the sowme of four hundred merkis of gud and usual [money] of this realm and haldis me veill content pait and assit hath herof, and quytclamys [and] dischargis the foresaid Jhon Lord Kennyde his airis executuris and assigneis for me myn airis executuris and assigneis for now and for evermar. In vitnes herof to this my present letter of discharg and quytclam my haif set to my seyll with the subscripccion of myn haft hand at Dunnwyryr the third day of Julij in the yer of God i9iv and four yeris befor thir vitnes : Gilbert Kennide of the Koyf Jhon of Mungenmrby of Cassillis sir Adam Cwningham chaplan Patrick Campbyll bro to the lard Duntrin Donald Okayn Dunkan McKaye and sir Nivin a Brolowichane vikar [of] Kilquheslane with uder divers.

(Signed) ANGUS OF THE ILIS wyth my hand.29

Part of the seal remains.

(26) i.e. without fraud or guilt.
(27) This writ disproves the tradition that Angus, natural son of John Lord of the Isles, was killed by an Irish Harper in Inverness in 1490 as an act of private vengeance.
(28) The only known wife of Angus of the Isles is Margaret Campbell, daughter of the first Earl of Argyll.
(29) The writ is holograph, but not in the hand of Angus. It is a clerk's script.
last bigane. Of the quhilkis sex pundis xiiii s. I hald me wele content pait and assithit, and for me myn airis executoris and assigneis the saidis Johne Lorde Kennedy Schir David and Thomas thar airis executoris and assigneis herof quietclamys and dischargis for now and evermar. In witnes herof because I had na seile present of myn awn I haif procuryt with instance the seile of a worchipfuU man Johne Campbell of Skeldon to be affixit herto vith the subscripcion of my hand at Uver Sheldon the xxiiij day of Aprils the yer of God mv'' and six yeris befor thir witnes : Umfra Campbell broder germane to the said Johne Campbell David Campbell sir Donald McClayne and Rob Myllar with wderis divers.

(Signed) ROBBN CAMPBELL with my hand led.

Discharge by Robin Campbell in Lochfergus to Sir David Kennedy, Bailie of Carrick, and Thomas Corry of Kellswood for the sum of £10 Scots, which they were obliged to pay to him within eight days after Midsummer Day last past in terms of an act entered in the Book of the Official of Glasgow.

I Robyn Campbell in Lauchfergswss grantis me till haif rasavit be the handis off a rycht honorabOl man Schir Dawit Kanady ballye of Carrik and Thomas off Corre off Kelwood the sowm off ten pwndis off gud and wsualle mone off Scotland, the quheilk swm off ten pwndis the forsaid Schyr Dawyt and Thomas is ackyt in the Offysallis, buk off Glassgow to pay to me the forsaid Robyn in wytht aucth dayis eftyr Messummyr Day last by passit, as is contenit in the said ac at maire lycht, off the quheilk swm off ten pwndis forsaid I hald me weill content and payit and asythit for me myn airis excecuturis and myn assyngnais, and quytclamys and dysschargis the forsaidis Schir Dawyt and Thomas off the forsaid swm off ten pwndis for now and ever mair. In witnes off the quheilk thyng be causs I had na seiU off my awyn I haff procurit wyth instans the seUl off ane werchipfuU man Jhon McAUexander off Glenmwk to be set to at Lowchfergwss the fyff and twynty day of Juin the yeir of God a thwssand fyff hundryt and sax yeris befor thir witnesis : Jon Watston Sandaris Kynnade Gawan Balye Sandaris Balye wit wderis divaris.

(Signed) MASTER CUDBART BALYE person of Sanqwechar.

Discharge by master Cuthbert Baillie, parson of Sanquhar, to John Lord Kennedy for the sum of £40, owing by the said Lord to Sir William Baillie of Lamington.

We James Abbôt of Dunfermlyne grantis ws to have resavit fra Sir David Kennedy knycht bailye of Carrik the some of twenty lib. usuale monies off Scotland in full payment of the composition of the charter of resignation maid to Johne Lord Kennedy of the lands of Ellekenze and Killelzy.

Memorandum: xxx Hb. payit for the samyn cans of befor.

The writ is holograph.

Discharge in the King's name by James Abbot of Dunfermline to Sir David Kennedy, Bailie of Carrick, for the sum of £20 Scots, in full payment of the composition of the charter of resignation made to John Lord Kennedy of the lands of Ellekenze and Killelzy.

We James Abbôt of Dunfermnlyne grantis ws to have resavit fra Sir David Kennedy knycht bailye of Carrik the some of twenty lib. usuale monies off Scotland in full payment of the composition of the charter of resignation maid to Johne Lord Kennedy of the lands [of] Ellekenze and Killelzy. Of quhilk some of xx lib. in full payment forsaid we hald ws content and payit, and in our soverane lordis name quitclamis and dischargis the said Sir David Kennedy therof for now and ever be this acquiotance written under our signet at Ed[in.]burgh the viij day of December the yeir of God ane thousand five hundreth sex yeris.

Memorandum: xxx lib. payit for the samyn cans of befor.

Edinburgh, 17 July, 1506.

Edinburgh, 8 December, 1506.

(37) Now Hollybush. The earliest reference to a Campbell of Over Skeldon known to Paterson is in 1570 (Ayrshire Families I., 443).
Edinburgh, 27 February, 1506-7.

Obligation by John Schaw of Haillie to relieve Sir David Kennedy and William Schaw of Polkemmet at the hands of master James Henderson of the sum of 500 merks, for which the above Sir David, William and John were together obliged. John undertakes to pay the whole sum of 500 merks at the terms contained in their joint bond to the above master James Henderson before witnesses.

I Jhone of Schaw of the Hallie byndis and obhsis me be the fayth and trewyth in my body that I sail releif and freyth Sir David Kennady knycht and Wilyem of Schaw of Polkemmet at the handis of Maister James Hendersone of the sowme of iyi hundretht merkis, for the quhilkis the said Sir David Wilyem and I ar bmidyn for to the said maister James therapon. I witnes of the quhilk thyng I the said Jhone haif subscribit this present writ with my hand at Edinburgh the xxvij day of Februer the yer of God i"v= and vj yeris, befor thir witneses: Jhone Gordoun of Lochinver Patrik Synkler Patrik Agnew Sherif of Wigton and Jhone of Gordoun sone to the said Jhone Gordon of Lochinver with otheris divers.

(Signed) JOHNS SCHAW OF THE HALLY with my hand.

The writ is holograph.

Edinburgh, 3 January, 1507-8.

Discharge by master James Henrisoun to Sir David Kennedy for 75 merks, Scots, as part payment of the sum of 500 merks, owing by Sir David by an act in the book of the Official of Glasgow.

I maister James Henrisoun grantis me to have ressavit fra Schir David Kennedy knycht the soume of thre scoir fifetene merkis usuale money of Scotland in part of payment of the soume of five hundredth merkis money forsaid, for the quhilk the said Schir David is actit in the Officilaes buk of Louthiane. Of the quhilk soume of thre scoir fivetene merkis I grant me wele content and paikt, and quytclamyys and and dischargis the said Schir David thereof for ever. And this soume of thre scoir xv merkis is paikt in part of payment of the latter five hundredth merkis actit as said is. In witnes herof I haif subscribit this writ with my hand at Blarchquhan the xxviij day of Julij the yer of God i"v= and twelf yeris, befor thir witneses: Sohir Johne Kennedy of Blarchquhan knycht Quintyn Mur of the Ard and George Kennedy of Atiquyne maister Uchtre Adunwel of Dalquhewane and schir George Blair chaplane and public notar with wther divers.

(Signed) DONKAN FORGUSSON OF KYLKARAN with my hand.

APPENDIX.

Writs relating to the Lands of Greenan.

The lands of Greenan may have come into the hands of the Lords of the Isles on the marriage, in 1350, of Margaret, daughter of Robert the Steward (afterwards King Robert II.) to John of Isla, Lord of the Isles. They were held of the Crown, or of the King's eldest son as Duke of Rothesay and Earl of Carrick. John, the last Lord of the Isles, conferred them upon his wife, Elizabeth Livingston, in conjunct fee; and the following documents help to elucidate their history during the fluctuating fortunes of the granter.
1. 2 April 1475. Charter by John Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles to John Davidson. John Earl of Ross grants to John Davidis, son of Gibbon Davidis, a feu charter of all and whole his lands of Grenane, with their pertinents, in the earldom of Carrick and sheriffdom of Ayr, for an annual rent of £20 Scots without other burden, military service or exaction. At Killewnan in Kintyre. (Clan Donald, I, 546-7.)

2. 8 October 1475. Obligation by Donald of the Isles, Lord of the Glens and of Dunnyveg in Antrim, chief counsellor of John Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles. He makes known that the preceding charter of the lands of Grenane to John Davidson was made with his advice and consent, and binds himself to defend John therein. At Irvine [Erwyng]. (Ibid., 548.)


4. 4 December 1475. Commission to the Earl of Lennox to carry through the forfeiture of John Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles.

9 January 1475-6. The Earl of Lennox received the allegiance and homage of John Davidis, esquire, of all the lands of Greenane with their pertinents, and received John to the King's peace. John Davidis took a public instrument thereanent in the city of Glasgow in the house of the rector of Glasgow, at one in the afternoon. (Clan Donald, I, 550-1.)

5. 8 February 1475-6. Great Seal charter to Elizabeth Countess of Ross of the lands of Grenane and other lands, which she had in conjunct fee from her husband before his forfeiture. The grants made to Elizabeth by this charter are conferred because of her thankworthy services to the late King and to the present King and Queen, and because she had never given assistance to her husband in his crimes and treason but remained innocent and blameless. Edinburgh. (R.M.S., II, No. 1227.)

6. 1 July 1476. Restoration of the Lord of the Isles in Parliament. He was created anew Lord of the Isles and restored to his possessions, excepting the earldom of Ross, Knapdale and Kintyre. (A.P., II, 113; R.M.S., II, No. 1246.)

7. 18 July 1476. Precept by James III. to Gilbert Lord Kennedy, his Bailie of Carrick, to grant sasine to John Lord of the Isles of the lands of Grenane [the sign of his reinstatement]. Edinburgh. (Clan Donald, I, 556-7.)

8. 20 August 1476. Feu charter by John Lord of the Isles to his esquire and pupil (alumpno) John Davidisone, son of the late Gilbert Davidisone, of the lands of Grenane, for a rent of £20. Islay. (R.M.S., II, No. 1277.)

9. 14 December 1476. Great Seal charter confirming to Elizabeth Livingston the grants made to her after the forfeiture of her husband, including the lands of Grenane. (Above, No. 5.) (Ibid., No. 1272.)

10. 31 January 1476-7. The King, in the name of his eldest son, as Duke of Rothesay and Earl of Carrick, grants confirmation of the charter of John Lord of the Isles to John Davidisone (No. 8), saving the life rent of Elizabeth Livingston. (Ibid., No. 1277.)

11. 15 October 1477. Royal confirmation of charter of lands of Grenane to Elizabeth Livingston (No. 5, above). Edinburgh. (Ibid., No. 1318.)


13. 26 July 1480. The King, in the name of his eldest son, as Duke of Rothesay and Earl of Carrick, confirms the preceding feu charter, saving the rights of Elizabeth Livingston. Edinburgh. (Ibid., No. 1449.)


15. 29 August 1493. Great Seal charter to William Douglas, son of Archibald Earl of Angus, of the £10 lands of Grenane, of old extent, in the earldom of Carrick, which were in the King's hands by reason of the forfeiture of John, formerly Lord of the Isles. Durisdeer. (R.M.S., II, No. 2172.)

16. 28 January 1508-9. Another Great Seal charter, as in the preceding. Edinburgh. (Ibid., No. 2292.)
17. 1 July 1510. Public instrument, stating that Thomas Davidson "compeared at his own mansion house, and in presence of William Douglas, then taking infeftment of the lands of Grenane, after casting down a certain vessel upon the ground and breaking it, he asserted that such infeftment was broken and dissolved by the breaking in pieces of the said vessel, and protested that such infeftment taken by the said William Douglas should not hurt or prejudice that of the said Thomas Davidson, or his heritage." Greenan. (Quoted by Paterson in _Ayrshire Families_, II, 352; without stating his source.)

The lands of Greenan were included in the barony of Glenbervie, erected by James V. in favour of Archibald Douglas, son of the above Sir William, who fell at Flodden. (R.M.S., III, 14 April 1542, No. 2644.)

The family of Davidson continued to hold the lands of Greenan in feu until 1576 (see Paterson, _Ayrshire Families_, II, 353).

The Carrick Covenant of 1638

JOHN D. IMRIE.

Whether one agrees with Johnston, of Wariston, that Wednesday, the 28th of February, 1638, was "that glorious marriage day of the Kingdome with God" or holds with Charles I. that the Covenant was "a most wicked band," it cannot be denied that Scotland was swept by a movement which for fervour and unanimity stands unparalleled in her history. Copies of the Covenant were penned and dispatched to most parts of the laad shortly after the first signing at Greyfriars in Edinburgh. As such copies were frequently laid up in family charter chests, many have come down to posterity. However, the Covenant in the Ailsa Muniments, now preserved in H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh, is worthy of attention in its own right. It is a very fine specimen and has suffered less than most at the hands of time. Copies of the Covenant were proscribed and their adherents suppressed.

The untrimmed skin, with the neck piece retained at the foot, measures 31 ins. x 25½ ins., and has been mellowed by age to a dull cream. A few stains, some ink blurs in the area of the signatures and one small hole in the text, constitute minor blemishes. The name of the notary has not been inserted, but the text is written in a smallish, round but clear hand with a very sparing use of capitals. All the signatures are readable and many of them still challenge boldly over the years. In accordance with normal practice they are headed by the Covenanting nobles and other leaders. Then follow the bulk of the signatures running roughly in lines across the document, although considerations of space forced John McAlexander, younger of Dalreoch [no. 43], to make what is to modern eyes a surprisingly wide detour to complete his signature. Some of the lairds sign under their territorial designations only, a mode of execution valid at law until 1672. Styles range from the polished flourish of the Maybole notary, John Shaw [no. 33], to the laboured scrawl of John Fergusson [no. 45]. There is a distinct tendency towards family and territorial groupings and some rather striking differences of ink. As in some other extant Covenants the famous Glasgow Determination has been added under the body of the signatures at a later date. This is in a smaller and less careful hand than the text and has suffered a greater degree of fading. The seven signatures which follow the Glasgow