

Mr Thomas Douglas, minister of Balmerino

Mr Thomas Douglas was minister of Balmerino in 1578, as appears from the Books of Assignation. He was also minister of Logie from March 1580-1, and drew its vicarage stipend; the two parishes having been again united for a short time. On the 20th of November 1589 Mr Douglas is one of fourteen ministers of the Presbytery of St Andrews (in which Balmerino was then included) that "hes tane thaim to be ministers at ane kirk only, and hes demittit the rest." Accordingly, on the 16th of January following, the Presbytery ordains "Mr Thomas Douglas only to be imbuikit at the kirk of Balmerinoch." Thus Logie was rendered vacant; and after this time it was always served by its own incumbent.

Mr Douglas was designed of Stonypath, and was descended of an ancient family. In 1411 James de Douglas of Robertoun got a charter of the lands of Stanypathe, then in the barony of Dalkeith, but formerly in that of Linton, from his father James de Douglas, lord of Dalkeith, descended from the first Earl of Douglas, who lived in the time of King David II., and was ancestor of the Earls of Morton. Mr Thomas Douglas was, apparently, a lineal descendant of this person. Archibald Douglas of Stanypathe, the previous possessor of that property, was in all probability his father. Of both this individual and his wife there are curious notices in Pitcairn's "Criminal Trials." In 1587 Archibald Douglas of Stanypath and Alexander Crichton of Drylaw (who was also Laird of Haughton) were tried in Edinburgh for "contravening of our soverane lordis Proclamation in abyding fra the Paid appointed to follow our soverane lord to Dumfries upon the ferd of April" of the preceding year.* Crichton was proved to have been then in the north—probably at Naughton—and was therefore absolved. Douglas was desired by the Earl of Angus to be "repledged" to Dalkeith; but the result in his case is not stated. Margaret Tindall (or Tinwall), relict of the late Archibald Douglas of Stanypeth, was in 1599 "dilated of okeran [usury] and contravening the Acts of Parliament in taking yeirlie of 21 merkis for the annual rent of ilk bunder merkis of seven hundreth merks lent be hir to John Harlaw." The case was ordered to be continued, but the subsequent proceedings are not recorded.

Besides Stonypath, to which Mr Thomas Douglas no doubt succeeded on his father's death, he also possessed or acquired a considerable amount of other landed property. He had eight bovates of land (13 acres each) at Langton, and Dubend, in the regality of Dalkeith; a tenement in Edinburgh; and the lands of Broomholes in the lordship of Newbottle.t In Balmerino parish he obtained in 1602 from King James a charter of confirmation of six acres in Scurrbank, and also of the third part of the lands of Drumcharry and Bottomcraig (except two acres thereof possessed by Richard Wilson); two acres of Leadwells; the lands of Park and Poyntok; the lands called Craigingrugie's Fauld, extending to four acres; three acres in Harlands and one in Woodflat; with pasturage for six cows and their followers,

* The absence from the raid or array of those who were bound to give suit and military service pointed them out as disaffected, t Thomson's Abbreviate of Eetours.

and for two horses, on these three last named places, and on the Outfields of Byres.*

In 1585 Mr Douglas's stipend stands in the Books of Assignation as increased to £133 6s. 8d; "thereof the haill vicarage of Logymurtho xvili., and the remanent to be pait out of the Thirds of the Abbey of Balmerinoch."

In 1588 the stipend is farther increased to "the haill vicarage of Logymurtho xvilib., and the remanent to be pait out of the Thirds of the Abbey of Balmerinoch, extending to clxxx li. vi s., viii d., and iiiii li., xi s., d.; xiii bol., iii firli., iiipks. bear." In 1589 the last two items are to be paid out of the Thirds of the Abbey of Lindores; and there is added "i chalder, xi bolls, ii firli., ii pks. meal."

There appears to have been no Manse or glebe at Balmermerino before the Reformation; the vicar—if there was one —being, doubtless, one of the Monks of the Abbey. The General Assembly in 1581 requested that an Act of Parliament should be passed ordaining "that ministers who teaches at Abbey Kirks be provyded with glebes and manses as well as others." In 1593 also supplication was made by the General Assembly to Parliament that "in all kirks, alsweill Abbay and Cathedral kirks or uthers quhatsumever, quhere either the haill parochine is kirkland [which was the case in Balmerino], or ane part thereof only, and there has been neither manses nor glebes knawn to appertayne thereto of old," four acres of kirk land should be granted for a glebe, most commodious and nearest to the Kirk.t On the 17th of March 1590 the Presbytery of St Andrews "ordanis Mr Thomas Buchanan and James Melvin to give institution to Mr Thomas Douglas of the personage of Balmerinoch, and give in lyk maner designation of his manss and gleib;" and about the same period Manses and glebes are ordered to be designed for several other ministers of the Presbytery.

* Balmerino Writs.

t Booke of the Universal Kirk of Scotland. Row's History, p. 88. On the 1st of July 1590 the Presbytery again ordains two of its members to design a Manse and glebe to Mr Thomas Douglas at Balmerino "conform to the Act of Parliament." And again, on the 28th of July 1593, a similar order is issued. We may presume that a Manse and glebe were given to Mr Douglas at Balmerino for the first time soon after the last mentioned period. It is probable that the ministers of Balmerino lived down to that period at Logie, where there would be a Manse and glebe from before the Reformation. "When these were obtained at Balmerino, they were somewhere near the Abbey—we have not been able to ascertain the precise spot

—till the year 1682, in which year they were removed to Bottomcraig, as shall be afterwards noticed.

In a charter of the Abbey lands and tithes acquired by Lord Balmerino from the Crown in 1607, by which he was held bound to pay out of the tithes sufficient stipends to the ministers of Balmerino, Logie, and Barry, these stipends were each fixed at four chalders of victual, whereof, in the case of Balmerino, two bolls were to be of wheat; of the rest, two parts to consist of oatmeal, and the third part of bear; and a hundred merks additional in money, with communion elements and a sufficient Manse and glebe; the ministers being at the same time relieved of the burden of keeping the churches in repair.* But besides the above, Mr Douglas retained his allowance from the Abbey of Lindores, which is thus stated in the Books of Assignation under the year 1615, "iiii bolls, i fir., i pk. bear; i chalder, xi bolls, ii fir., ii pks. meal, according to his pension."f

In explanation of the ministers being relieved from the obligation to repair their churches, it is necessary to state that before the Reformation the parson or rector of a Parish was obliged to uphold the chancel, while the parishioners had to keep the body of the Church in repair. An Act of the Privy Council of the year 1563 apportioned the burden between the parson and parishioners—the former being subjected in one-third, and the latter in two-thirds of the expense, whether the Church had, or had not a chancel.*

We have several notices of Mr Douglas in Calderwood's History of the Kirk, and in the Synod, Presbytery, and other Records of the period. A paper in Calderwood makes mention of "many dissolute persons, whose corrupt lives could never abide ecclesiastical discipline, being loosed, to invade the lives and shed the blood of the ministers of God's Word, whereof lamentable examples are in sundry corners of the country, as Mr Thomas Douglas," and others. A subsequent notice explains what this refers to. Amongst "certain grieves" of the General Assembly given in to His Majesty on the 20th of February 1587 occurs the following:—"Item, Mr Thomas Douglas, minister of Logy, was cruellie invaded by Johne Forret, brother to the laird of Forret, as he came from his kirk on Sunday, and his bluid shed, and no remedie putt thereto."

The Minutes of the Presbytery of St. Andrews contain many curious entries in reference to this case. | On the 20th of October 1586 John Forret appeared before the Presbytery, in compliance with the advice of some of his friends, and offered to submit himself to the discipline of the Church " for

"Dunlop's Parochial Law, p. +.

t The volume referred to contains the Presbytery Minutes from October 1586 to April following, and from October 1589 to December 1605. This Record was recovered by the late Dr Buist of St. Andrews, and is very curious as being one of the oldest volumes of Presbytery Records extant, and as containing interesting notices of the celebrated Andrew Melville, and of the early working of Presbyterian Church government. It would be very desirable to have selections from it published.

removing of the sklander committed by him in the shedding of the bluid of Mr Thomas Douglas," though he afterwards "denied that he had offendit Mr Thomas, but affirmed that Mr Thomas offendit him." The Presbytery ordered both parties to appear on the 27th of October following,* and seventeen witnesses (among whom were George Stirk and David Stirk, no doubt, of Ballindean) were summoned to give evidence regarding the "invasion" of Mr Douglas. Subsequently the Presbytery found it sufficiently proven by the report of three ministers appointed to examine the witnesses, that "Jhone Forett and his servand lay in waitt for the said Mr Thomas Douglas for the space of thrie hours efter his sermone maid at Balmerinoche, and thairafter at ane convenient place persewed and invadit him, and drew his bluid, and, except certane persons viewers [?] had intervenit, the said Mr Thomas had bene in danger of his life." The Presbytery then resolved to petition the King and Secret Council "that the said Jhone may be severely punished in example of uthers, and that the said Mr Thomas may without damage resort and returne fra his kirkes, and do at all nther times his lawful busines."

On the 22d of December of the same year three members of Presbytery are sent to John Forret to induce him to submit to the discipline of the Church, and the week following he appears, and confesses that he "sklanderit the Kirk in the said fact, and offers to submit to the Kirk willinglie." (There is here a long blank in the Presbytery Minutes). On the 7th of May 1590 the Presbytery again orders him to appear and satisfy for his scandals against the Church. Accordingly he appears on the 14th before the Presbytery,

* It was then the practice of Presbyteries to meet every week—a practice derived from the weekly meeting of the brethren for religious exercises (hence called "The Exercise") out of which Presbyteries arose.

when an extraordinary scene occurs. Having first confessed himself guilty of another scandal of which he stood accused :—

"Secundlie, being desyrit to satisfie for the sklander committit aganis the kirk in drawing of the bluid of Mr Thomas Douglas, minister at Balmerinoch, hedenyitthe fact,*notwithstanding of the tryall wherebie he was convict of the said fact. Ane act whereby he confessit the same, and submittit himself to the kirk, wes producit and red in his presence; qlk. tryall and actis he querelit of falsott, saying we nicht writt upon [him] in our buikis quhat we pleisit,

saying he was not of purposs to persew the said Mr Thomas, and gif it had bene his purposs to have persewit him, it suld not have bene his bluid bot his lyfe. Quhairunto Mr Thomas answerit that he praisit God that his lyf wes never in his hand, bot, contrare, the said Jonis lyfe wes in his hand, and God gave him victorie over him at that tyme; in signe and token thair of the said Mr Thomas brak the said Jhonis sword. Upon the qlk. occasioun [i.e., in presence of the Presbytery] he \;tterit sic language to the said Mr Thomas, Thou nor nane that appertenis to the dar stand up and vow that in my face. And thairupon he cutt his gluif, and kuist the half thair of to the said Mr Thomas, provoking him; sayand thair of, Thou or ony in the kin dar tak it up and nieit me in ony place. And when as Mr Nicoll Dalgleiss said he wes far in the wrang falsefying the acts and process of the presbyterie, qlk. we behuilit to hald for treuth, and all his alledgances in the contrare for leis, and that ho behavit himself ungodlie and barbarouslie in using sicminassing and hosting in the presence of this auditor, and wes not to be , sufferit, and to behave in so doing, bot aucht to be commandit to depart from us, that we may do our tumis in Goddis fear without molestatioun, the said Jon answerit, I ken you weill aneuch, we sall meit in ane uther place; and quhen Mr Nicol answerit, Suppos ye slay ane minister this day, ane uther the morn, the thrid the thrid morn, thair will be ay sum that mll call blak blak, condemn your wicketnes, and dischairge thair conscience, notwithstanding all your bosting; and for me, this is the first day that ever I saw you or knew you. I have nought to say to you, bot I heit your manners. And thir things were done in presense of the haill brethering assemblit in the New Colledge schules, qlk. extraordinare and ungodlie behaviour the haill brethering condemnet as ane gret contempt of the majestie of God in the persons of his servants thair convenit, and as ane wechtie sklander done to the haill Kirk of this countrie. And therfor ordanis commissioun to be gevin to Mrs. Andrew Melvin and Thomas Douglas, till propon this matter to Mr. Rot. Bonor and the presbyterie of Edr., that thai may complain to the Kingis Majestie, that ordor may be takin with sic ane extraordinare sklander. Ordanis Mr Patrick Wemyss to teach in Balmerinoch kirk on Sunday nixttocum."

Three weeks after this scene John Forret appeared again, and offered to satisfy the Church according to such form as the Presbytery should appoint; and his offer was accepted. The following week, however, the Presbytery refused to prescribe a form of repentance to him, till he should make "a more simple and cleir confessioun of the sklander" in regard to Mr Douglas. It is evident throughout the whole proceedings, that Forret's object was to get himself freed from Church censure without making any real acknowledgment of his guilt. There is nothing more recorded in the Presbytery Minutes regarding him. Probably in consequence of this case, the General Assembly petitioned the King in 1590 for "a law and ordinance against them that trouble and hurt ministers going to their kirks, and executing their offices."*

* Calderwood's History (Wodrow Soc. Ed.), vol. iv., pp. 424, 661; T., p. 107.

The Records of the Presbytery of St Andrews contain also the following entries :—

11 th June 1590.—" Ordanis Mr Thomas Douglas to baptiss the laird of Forett's bairn at the kirk of Balmerinoch."

2d July 1590.—"Ordanis the minister of Kilmany to baptiss the laird of Forrett's bairne, upon condition that he acknowledge his fait in presenting ane baime of his to the bischop of St Andros to be baptisit, and [be] suspedit for the tyme fra all functioun in the kirk, and that he also at the first occasioun be reconcilit to Mr Thomas Douglas, qlk. the said laird promisit to fulfil in presence of the haill bretherin."

23d October 1590.—" Ordanis ane writting to be direct to the laird of Forrett, desyring him and his servandis not to resort to the kirk of Kilmany, for eschewing of farder inconvenientis, and to desyre him to resort to the kirk of Balmerinoch, according to the act of the presbyterie, ay and until their awn paroche kirk be reediliit."

11th June 1590.—"Ordanis everie minister within this presbyterie to intime to their congregations the present necessitie and strait of the kirk of Geneva, with exhortations to support thair extreme indigence be reason of the lairge saige, according to brotherlie love and charitie." Contributions were appointed to be taken up from Balmerino and the neighbouring parishes by Mr Andrew Melville, the Abbot of Lindores, and Robert Cairney, "goodman of the Grange."

11 th March 1591.—" Ordanis the Sessione of the kirk of Balmerinoch to cause violatoris of the Sabbath day publictlie to make publict repentance thairfor, and thaim of the said parochin that hes commissioun of the King [to] traville to upleft twentie sh. fra everie one of thame, according to the Act of Parliament."

It may be here stated that Presbyteries were first formed in 1581. One was established at Falkland; but in 1582 the ministers of the eastern portion of its bounds were ordained to be joined to the Presbytery of St Andrews, and those of the western portion to that of Dunfermline. Cupar Presbytery was first formed in October 1592, by the separation of its parishes from the Presbytery of St Andrews.*

In the General Assembly of August 1590, a Mr Thomas Douglas "was accusit for marriage of my Lord Errole and his spouse without his owne paroche, being ane of his parochiners." f Calderwood states that Errol was married in Fife. J If this Mr Thomas Douglas was the minister of Balmerino, and if there is no error in the record, Lord Errol must have been about

that time temporarily resident in Balmerino Parish, in which, at least, he had no permanent abode.

In February 1597-8, the Synod of Fife appointed Mr Douglas one of seven of their number to remonstrate with the King, "in all humble reverence and dutiful manner," against certain changes which he proposed to introduce in the constitution of the Kirk, with a view to its subversion[^]

In 1601 Mr Douglas was one of two Commissioners sent by the General Assembly to Perth and Strathearn, (other Commissioners having been sent at the same time to other parts of the country), to try the brethren in the ministry there "in their life, doctrine, qualification, and conversation, and how they have behaved themselves touching the rents of their benefices, whether they have sett tacks of the same but [i.e. without] consent of the General Assembly or not, and so delapidated the same; to depose such as deserve deposition;" to plant ministers where necessary, and for other similar purposes; and to report to the next General Assembly. ||

We have now to notice another "invasion" of Mr

» Row's History (Wodrow Soc. Ed.), pp. 86, 90, 151. t Booke of the Universal Kirke, p. 345.

i Calderwood, v., 267. § Ibid., v., 578. || Ibid., vi., 123.

Douglas, which is thus recorded in Pitcairn's "Criminal Trials :"—

"Invasion Of A Minister, near the Tolbooth, where the Privy Council were sitting in judgment.

"June 29, 1603.—Walter Grahame, servitour to Mr Robert Williamson, wryter.

"Dilatit, accusit, and persewit by Dittay [indictment] of of the crymes following, viz. :—That the said Walter, vpon deidlie malice consavit be him aganis Mr Thomas Douglas of Stannypeth, Minister at Balmirrieno, and haifing forgit a quarrel aganis him, for the revenge of certano injurious speiches, allegit gevin be the said Mr Thomas Douglas to the said Mr Robert Williamsons, his maister, vpon the xxj day of Junij instant, he vpon the xxij day of the said moneth of Junij, preparit to him selff ane grit foure-nuikit battoun of aik, of purposis to

haif fellit the said Mr Thomas Douglas thair. Lykas the said Walter set vpon him, behind his back, vpon the hie streit of the burch of Edinburghe, in the time of the Trinitie ffair, a lyttel beneath the Stinkand-style [near the Tolbooth], the Lordis of Secret Counsell being within the said burgh, and haifing sittin at Counsell in the Tolbut of the said burch, nocht passand ane half-hour befor the violence and invasion following; and thair maist schamefullie, barbaruslie, and crewallie, without regaird to the persoun of ane minister, and haifing never spoken with him ane word befor, invadit him, for his slauchter, with the said batoun; strak him thairwith twa straikis vpon the heid, behind the richt lug, and hurt and woundit him thairwith, to the effusion of his bluid in grit quantitie; and then fled and gat away," &c. On being afterwards apprehended, Graham confessed his crime; and the assize, or jury, finding him guilty, he was sentenced to be "scurgit fra the Castell hill to the Nether Boll, and his richt hand to be strukin af at the Nether Boll, and thairafter to be banischit his Majestie's hail Dominiones."

At a meeting of the Synod of Fife in 1607, when the King's Commissioner demanded of each of the brethren severally, whether he would accept the so-called bishop (Gladstones) to be constant Moderator of the Synod, or not; those who should answer in the negative being declared to be rebellious, and threatened with being "put to the horn j" all refused excepting six ministers, of whom Mr Douglas was one; he being, apparently, not so averse as the majority were to the introduction of Episcopacy. At the Assembly of 1610, Mr Douglas was one of four members of the Presbytery of Cupar who consented to a modified Episcopacy.*

In 1610 there was some dispute about a "desk," or pew, in the Church of Balmerino, as appears from the following entry in the Synod Records of April 1611 :—"The brother appoynted be the Synod halden in St Androis, in the month of October bypast, to deall for removing ane debait aysen for placing of ane desk in the Kirk of Balmernoct, reported that they had put the game to ane end."

In April 1613, Mr Douglas and Mr Patrick Lyndsay were appointed by the Synod of Fife Commissioners for "dealing" with Balfour, Lord Burleigh, about taking the Communion.

After a modified Episcopacy had been introduced (in 1610), Mr Douglas was several times appointed by the Archbishop Moderator of the Presbytery, or, as it was now called, the "Exercise" of Cupar, and was for a long time on the Synod's "Committee for privy censures."
J

In the Records of the Diocesan Synod of St Andrews, under date, May 1614, occurs the following entry :—" Anent the complaint maid bo Jhone Hay of Little Tarvatt and James Hay of Fudie against Mr Thomas Douglas, bearing in effect that the said Mr Thomas had taken from the said Jhon Hay VP" ten [6101] libs. penaltie of ane band besyd the principall

* Calderwood, Ti, 676; vii., 106. † Synod Records. § Ibid.

soume and hail profittes, and siclyk had seduced the said James, heing ane simple young man, and caused him leave his friends and dispone his lands, and deceived him he ane back band containing dyvers uncouth clauses, and binding the said James to impossibilities; the said Mr Thomas denying the complaint: In respect Mr David Kinneir, minister at Auchterhous, who is not ane member of this Synode, is lykwayes delated be the complainers to have concurred with the said Mr Thomas in the forsaid seductione, it is thought meitt that the complainers prosecutt thair actione against the saids Mrs. Thomas and David befor the Lords of High Commissioun, to whome the Synode referres the same." The Register of Sasines for Fife contains a Renunciation by Mr Douglas to Mr James Hay "of ane annual rent of 200 merks furth of Little Tarvet;" from which it may be inferred, either that this matter was settled by compromise, or that it was decided against Mr Douglas.

Under date, May 1614, the Synod Records mention a complaint made by Mr John Durie, minister at Logie, against Mr Douglas, and a petition from the former that the action subsisting between them might be submitted to some of the brethren as arbitrators, in compliance with an Act of Assembly in reference to such cases. It was submitted accordingly to arbitrators chosen by both parties; but the result is not recorded, nor is the matter in dispute specified.

In April 1617, the Synod, at the Lord Archbishop's desire, nominated fifteen of the brethren, of whom Mr Douglas was one, or any six or seven of them, as the Archbishop should advertize them, to attend with the Bishops at the approaching meeting of Parliament, and to concur with, and assist by their advice the Bishops, and others from various parts of the country, in regard to such questions as might bo proposed by them to Parliament, without committing the Synod to their views or counsel.*

Synod Records.

In the Assembly held at Perth in 1618, the celebrated Five Articles were passed, contrary to the wishes of the nation. The first of these Articles was, that the Lord's Supper should be taken by the communicants kneeling. At the Synod held at St . Andrews in April 1619, the Clergy were taken to account in regard to the observance of this ceremony, and we find Mr Douglas reporting that "he gave .the elements with his awin hand to al the people, bot not kneeling, because he perceived the people urtherwise inclyned. He promised to keip the prescryved order and forme in al poynts, and to urge his people to conformitie." There appeared great unwillingness on the part of many of the neighbouring ministers to comply with the new method, and various excuses—some of them of an amusing nature—were

made for their non-conformity. In regard also to the administration of the Sacrament at "Pasche," or Easter, the same backwardness was manifest in the "Exercise " of Cupar, and its members were ordered to comply, under pain of deprivation.*

In the year 1619, the Laird of Bottomcraig was killed by the Laird of Kirkton, who was at feud with him. (See Part IV., Chapter III). Strange to say, Mr Douglas was accused of having been accessory to the deed, as appears from an entry in Pitcairn's "Criminal Trials," under date, March 10, 1619, which is as follows :—

"Mr Thomas Douglas, minister at Balmirrienoche, Dilaitit of airt and pairt of the slaughter of vmquhile Thomas Creichtoun of Bodumcraig: committed betwix Balmirrienoche and Couper in Fyfe, vpon the xiii day of Februar last, 1619.

"The Justice, in respect of the seiknes of Jeane Carmelie, the defunctis relict, quha can nocht be present to concur in this persute, continewis this matter to the thrid day of the next Justice-air [Court] of the scheref dome of Fyfe, or sooner, vpone fyftene dayis wairning: And ordainis the pannel to find caution for his re-entrie; quha ffand James Douglas of Moirtoun, portioner of Gogar."

Crichton's wife died soon after the above date. As Mr Douglas continued minister of Balmerino, the charge against him must have been withdrawn, or sentence pronounced in his favour.

In October 1619, the Moderator of the "Exercise" of Cupar, on being examined by the Archbishop, in Synod, in reference to the order observed by the brethren "in their meetings at exercise and otherwise," reported certain complaints from the "Presbyterie;" one being "ancnt the disobedience of Mr Thomas Douglas, quha being requyred be the Moderator to be scryb to the presbyterie this last half yeir in his awin course, conformo to Acts maid thereanent, stubbornlie refusit aither to do it be himself in his awin courss, or to substitut another. The said Mr Thomas was graivlie rebuikit for his undewtiful refusal and ordinit to conform himself to the Act maid in the Synod in April 1617; and for eschewing al controversie heirefter anent the supplying of that office, it is apoynted that in al tyme cumming they sail have a constant and ordinar clerk to be intertained upon the common expenses of the haill breithreh yeirlie, conforme to the tenor of the foir-named Act." *

In 1626 the Moderator and brethren of the "Exercise " of St Andrews were appointed to determine some dispute between Mr Peter Hay of Naughton and Mr Douglas. They failed in doing so, and the matter, tho nature of which is not stated, was again referred to the Exercises of St Andrews and Cupar, on behalf of each of the disputants respectively, t

Between 1603 and 1631, there were no fewer than four lawsuits, regarding the payment of teinds, between Lord

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Balmerino and Mr Douglas, in three of which actions the feuars in this Parish, or in Barry, were parties on Mr Douglas's side, and in the fourth, on Lord Balmerino's side.* Mr Douglas was alive in June 1632, but seems to have died soon after. His ministry thus extended over fifty-four years at least, during the last ten or eleven of which he had, however, an Assistant. It must be confessed that he was somewhat of an Ishmael, and possessed much of the character of the race from whom he was sprung, which, in an earlier age, would have been displayed in doughty deeds of Border warfare.

On the 14th of August 1634, Mr Douglas's son, James, designed also of Audit, was served heir to him in the lands of Stonypath, Langtoun, Dubend, tenement in Edinburgh, Broomholes, and acres in Scurrbank.t His other lands in this Parish were acquired by Robert Auchmouty—part of them in 1613, and the rest before 1622. Anne, daughter and heiress of James Douglas of Stanypath and Airdit, married Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie (descended from the Earls of Angus), who thus acquired James Douglas's lands. J Their only son, Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie, commanded the Scots Royals at the battle of Steinkirk in 1692, where he fell. The title then devolved on his cousin, Sir Robert Douglas, who changed the name of Airdit to that of Glenbervie, from which it was afterwards again changed to the original designation. Sir Robert Douglas, author of the "Peerage of Scotland," was the representative of this family.

* Balmerino Writs,

t Thomson's Abbreviate of Retours.

Balmerino Writs. Thomson's Abbreviate of Retours.

Mr Walter Greig was appointed Assistant and Successor to Mr Douglas about the year 1622.