

CHAPTER XXXVI.

ECHT.

I. THE family of Forbes of Echt sprang from "Tom of the Loch," natural son of Alexander or Alistair Cam Forbes, 1st Laird of Brux. Thomas married Marjory Stewart, niece of the Earl of Mar, and heiress of the lands of Echt, and had three sons, Alexander the elder, his heir. Another Alexander, who had a son, James in Larie, and a grandson and great-grandson both named William Forbes of Keithmore, but their descendants are not known. And a third son, John of Tilliegonie, who married a Garioch.

II. Alexander of Echt married a daughter of Skene of Skene, by whom he had John, his heir, and three daughters :

Margaret married Robert Stewart of Laithers. A second married (1) Alexander Morrison and (2) Donald Shand. And the third married (1) Alexander Riach, and (2) Alexander Burnett of Leys.

III. John married his cousin, Margaret, sister of Robert Stewart of Laithers, by whom he had eight sons :

(1) Alexander, his heir. (2) William, killed at Flodden. (3) John, married a daughter of Strachan of Linturk, and had a son, Alexander of Tilliechink and William. (4) Robert, married a daughter of Fraser of Durris, and had four sons, Alexander, George, William and Arthur (minister of Echt). (5) Alexander, married a daughter of Calder of Asloun, and had issue. (6) Thomas, married a daughter of Crichton of Conland. (7) Gilbert, unmarried. (8) James, married a daughter of Gordon of Invermarkie.

One daughter married (1) William Cumming, and (2) Richard Irvine of Cullerlie. The younger daughter married William Wiseman.

IV. Alexander of Echt married a daughter of John Gordon of Invermarkie and had Robert.

V. Robert, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Forbes of Brux, by whom he had seven sons and one daughter :

(1) John. (2) Alexander. (3) William, died unmarried. (4) Robert, his successor. (5) Arthur, who became the 8th Laird. (6) James of Tillyboy (see p. 464), and (7) John, who married a daughter of George Fraser, and had two sons, John of Wester Echt and Robert.

The daughter married William Cheyne of Arnage.

VI. Robert, his third son, succeeded. He married Janet Fraser of Durris, relict of John Cheyne of Arnage, and had issue, John, his heir, and Barbara, who married (1) James, son of George Gordon of Lesmoir, and (2) Gilbert, son of the Laird of Skene.

VII. John, married Helen Strachan of Thornton, and had one son, John, who predeceased him—he was succeeded by his uncle.

VIII. Arthur, who married (1) Elizabeth Lyon, daughter of Lord Glamis and relict of John, Master of Forbes, beheaded in 1537—he married (2) Margaret, daughter of John Burnett of Leys, by whom he had a son, Robert, and died in 1669.

IX. Robert Forbes of Echt and Finnersie, married the fifth daughter of Alexander Burnett of Leys, by whom he had two sons, Arthur his heir, and Thomas of Knockwharn.

X. Arthur, born 1615, married (1) Anna, daughter of Arthur, 10th Lord Forbes, by whom he had a son, Thomas, and other children who died.¹ He married (2) Margaret Blackburn and (3) Barbara, daughter of John Forbes of Asloun, and had by her one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Arthur Forbes of Auchintoul (see p. 220). After Echt's death, Barbara married in 1682, as his third wife, the 12th Lord Forbes, nephew of her first husband's first wife. Her daughter by her second husband married the son of her third by a former wife.

Arthur Forbes died in 1680 and was succeeded by his brother.

XI. Thomas of Knockquhorne was served heir to his brother, the Laird of Echt, and to his nephew, Thomas, sometime fiar of Echt, in 1681. He married Margaret, daughter of Patrick Forbes of Wester Echt, by whom he had three sons and a daughter :

Arthur, his heir. David, who married Elizabeth, daughter of William Forbes of Corsindae. Robert, an advocate in 1692, died without male heirs, 1701. Thomas died at Knockwharn in 1698 and was succeeded by :

XII. Arthur married October 4th, 1681, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Innes of that Ilk.

The behaviour of the Forbeses of Echt during the two Jacobite risings was like that of many another family ; they " ran with the hare and hunted with the hounds." Arthur, the 12th Laird, had seven sons : Thomas the eldest, born 1684, married when 23 Mary, second daughter of Sir Charles Maitland of Pitrichie, and during the '15 nothing was heard of him. Robert, the second son, died young. Of James, Peter and another Robert there is no record. The third and fourth, Arthur and William, who in 1715 were respectively 28 and 27, were already established as merchants in Aberdeen, and when the entire Magistracy declared in favour of Jacobitism they followed suit, and were both appointed among the taxers for " stenting and proportioning " the voluntary loan of £500 to be raised by the inhabitants for the support of Mar's army. Arthur had married in 1711 Violet, daughter of George Ross, Pewterer of Aberdeen, and William, in 1713 Elspet, daughter of Alexander Pyper, another merchant of the city. He became Treasurer to the Corporation of Aberdeen, and was known as " Treasurer Forbes." He was also Sheriff Depute of Aberdeenshire, an office which, prior to

¹ Thomas had an illegitimate son, Kenneth, a writer in Edinburgh.

the abolition of heritable jurisdiction in 1747, could be held by one not trained to the legal profession. This appointment proves that his earlier Jacobite indiscretions had fallen into oblivion; he died in 1743. Their father would seem to have upheld the *Whig* traditions of the House of Forbes, as according to the account given later by his eldest son, Thomas, he was active on that side both in 1688-89, and during the '15. Thomas, who was born on October 12th, 1684, married, as already said, a Maitland of Pitrichie, of another Whig family. When Lord Lewis Gordon with his Aberdeenshire men defeated the Whig Highlanders under Macleod of Macleod and Munro of Culkairn at Inverurie on December 23rd, 1746, the latter numbered in their ranks a few gentlemen volunteers, among whom was Thomas Forbes of Echt, and incidentally Mr. Charles Maitland, his nephew. Both these were taken prisoner. Among the *Cumberland Papers* now at Windsor is a curious document, dated January 25th, 1746, headed "Parole of Honour of Jacobit officers," which must mean "officers who are prisoners with the Jacobites." The place of their imprisonment was Stirling, and they undertake "Not to take advantage of any indulgence given us towards making our escape." The last name on the list is Thomas Forbes, and even if his signature were not so well known, he adds with a flourish—"Echt." There is no record of this parole having been withdrawn. It is therefore to be feared that he broke it, probably with the tacit approval of Cumberland, for a little further on, among the *Cumberland Papers* under date March 12th, 1746, appears a petition from Thomas Forbes of Echt in which he "Represents that his father appeared zealous for the revolution and had an active hand in assisting to quell the unnatural rebellion in 1715." From documentary evidence all that Arthur Forbes of Echt did in 1715 was to pay a forced assessment of £100 to Mar's charter chest, while his son Thomas, the writer of the petition, supplied £50. The petition continues, "Your petitioner has also shown himself particularly loyal both by going at his very great hazard with intelligence to my Lord President and employing others to get such,¹ and joining that detachment of the King's troops at Inverurie where he was made prisoner and cruelly used for 7 weeks, till he *made his escape at considerable expense and great hazard of his life* in the Highlands after their flight from Stirling. That in 1736 [*sic*] his circumstances were such that he appealed to the Government who was pleased to allow him some Feus and Teind duties on Chaplaincies which by the negligence of the former Granter were unpaid. He had therefore put the matter into the hands of James Petrie, late Sheriff Substitute for the county of Aberdeen. James Petrie engaged in the Rebellion and all his papers and accounts are thus lost to the petitioner. He craves therefore that these may be sought for among Petrie's papers.

"signed Thomas Forbes."

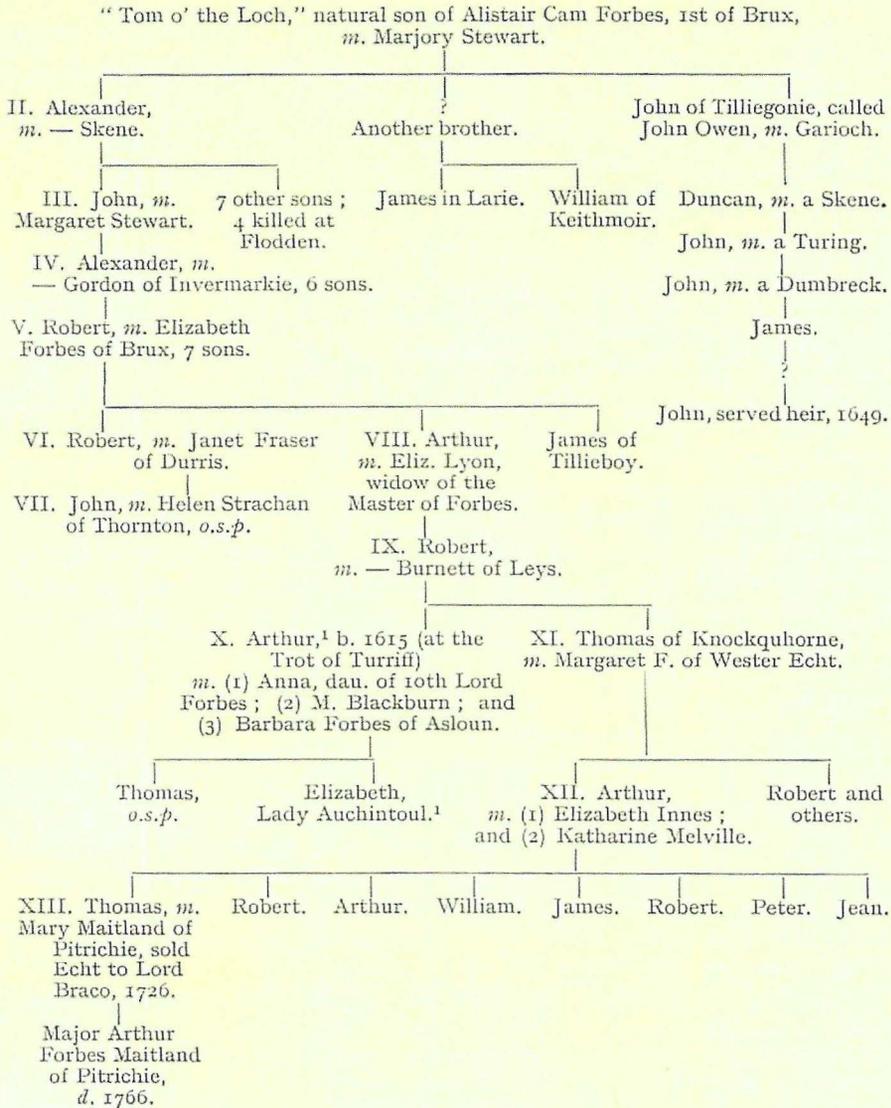
(The original petition of which this is a copy is among the Fintray papers.)

What redress, if any, Forbes obtained is not known. Sheriff Petrie was reinstated in his post after the rising, taking the oath of allegiance to King George *for the second time*, on April 14th, 1748.

¹ For which efforts at spying he certainly was at one time imprisoned in Inverness.

ECHT

No. 29. TREE OF ECHT.



¹ In 1644 the Estates of the Realm made over to Arthur Forbes of Echt the Rents of the Irvines of Lochills, who were Papists.

In 1648 he was served heir to his deceased father, Robert, in the lands of Echt and Hillsyde in the Parish of Echt and Barony of Cluny.

Arthur Forbes actually succeeded his father, Robert, in 1632, and in 1639 he declared himself to be "within the age of 24 years."

He married (1), in 1635, Anna, daughter of the 10th Lord Forbes; (2) in 1663, Margaret Blackburn, daughter of William Blackburn, burgess of Aberdeen. This is

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

Thomas Forbes had a sister, Jean, who married Provost John Ross of Arnage. By his first wife, above-mentioned, he had three sons :

Arthur, major in the service of the States General of Holland, Charles and Alexander, but none of them succeeded to Echt, which had been sold to Duff of Braco in 1726.

There were two daughters, Jean, and Katherine, the latter married John Forbes of Boyndlie.

Thomas Forbes married, secondly, Margaret, youngest daughter of Sir John Forbes of Craigievar, widow of David Lumsden of Cushnie, and had two daughters :

Mary, who married John Lundie, merchant at Lonmay ; and Margaret, married John Douglas of Fechil.

Thomas Forbes, "formerly of Echt," survived until 1761.

Echt passed into the hands of another branch of the Forbes family, descended from Waterton. (See p. 424.) They purchased it from the Earl of Fife.

Major Arthur Forbes, his eldest son, succeeded in 1751 under a deed of entail executed in 1706 by Sir Charles Maitland of Pitrichie, his maternal grandfather, to the estate of Pitrichie, in the Parish of Udny, last held by his cousin, Charles Maitland, M.P. and advocate, who was at the battle of Inverurie. Arthur Forbes thereupon assumed the name and arms of Maitland.

He married Judith, daughter of Richard Minnecks, a Dutch lady, and had a son, Thomas Maitland. He died 1766, being succeeded by a grandson, who sold Pitrichie.

TILLIEBOY.

James Forbes of Tillieboy, son of Robert Forbes, 5th Laird of Echt, married *circa* 1580 Beatrix Skene of Skene, by whom he had Mr. Robert Forbes of Findrassie, minister of Echt. Mr. Robert Forbes married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Arbuthnot of Edinburgh, and had Alexander and Mary, married Robert Duguid of Auchrie.

Alexander of Findrassie married a daughter of William Simpson, burghess of Edinburgh, and had issue.

proved by a sasine in her favour of that date, but she must have been short-lived, as before 1669 he married (3) Barbara Forbes of Asloun (who in 1682 married the 12th Lord Forbes) ; by her, Arthur Forbes of Echt had one daughter, "Lady Auchintoul" (married Arthur, second son of 12th Lord Forbes).