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HISTORY OF THE MATHESONS.

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Very faithfully yours  
H. Matheson.

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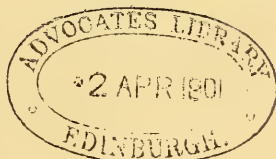
HISTORY  
OF  
THE MATHESONS  
WITH  
GENEALOGIES OF THE VARIOUS  
FAMILIES

BY  
ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, F.S.A. (Scot.)  
THE CLAN HISTORIAN.

SECOND EDITION.

EDITED, LARGELY RE-WRITTEN, AND ADDED TO

BY  
ALEXANDER MACBAIN, M.A.,  
AUTHOR OF "AN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF  
THE GAELIC LANGUAGE."



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1900.



TO  
SIR KENNETH MATHESON, BART.  
OF LOCHALSH,  
A WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE OF  
ONE OF THE MOST CAPABLE,  
BRAVE, AND STALWART OF  
HIGHLAND FAMILIES.





## PREFACE.

THE first edition of the late Mr Mackenzie's "History of the Mathesons" appeared in 1882, and the book has now been long out of print. Mr Mackenzie had a difficult task in writing this work, for though the Clan in the 14th century undoubtedly rivalled in position and power the neighbouring Mackenzies, yet through the action of the Macdonalds in the following century its unity was broken, and it became a "minor clan," with no charters, and with no references thereto in public documents. The individual history of the Northern Clans at best begins with the 15th century, but here Mr Mackenzie had only the clan traditions to avail himself of until the 17th century, when the minor clans all over the North come into the light of history from under the shadow of the larger clans and their chiefs. Mr Mackenzie's chief concern was with genealogies, not origins, and in this work he showed his usual excellence, limiting himself, however, very much to the families that have come to prominence in present times. The new edition has spread the net wider, and all the minor septs about which information has been available are dealt with. The first 55 pages, dealing with origins and traditions, and then with the chief family of Bennetsfield, are practically intact, save that the genealogies are brought up to date, and the chiefship, which, as in so many other cases, has been drifting from cousinship to cousinship, has been followed to the present undoubted owner of the title,

The rest of the book, save the house of Attadale and the Mathesons of the Lews, has been re-written and re-cast, and more than doubled, while the appendices are all new. Appendix B should be read in connection with the early history of the Clan contained in the first 20 pages, and Appendix D in connection with page 26. The reason for these cautions arises from the fact that, after much of the work was in type, a third Matheson MS. turned up, and also numerous letters, written by Duncan Matheson, teacher in Lochalsh and missionary in Manchester (1836-57). This has proved the most important source of all our information about the Mathesons.

The Editor is indebted to the willing work of many friends. To Sir Kenneth Matheson he owes the Note on the Matheson Arms, and other suggestions; to Rev. Dr Masson, Edinburgh, is entirely due the tracing out of the present Chief's family, and also the additions to the Bennetsfield genealogies, besides which he kindly contributed the Note on Dr Matheson of Montreal (App. H); to his namesake, Mr James Matheson M'Bain, Arbroath, he is under the deepest obligation, for it is he who possesses Duncan Matheson's MS. and letters, and he most kindly and unreservedly lent them for use or publication; to Mr Roderick Matheson, Buccleugh Place, Edinburgh, for lending the Iomaire MS.; to Miss Bessie Matheson, Dornie, for lending her brother, Captain Matheson's MS.; and lastly, but by no means least, he has heartily to thank Mrs Murdoch Matheson of Balmacarra for her assistance in the genealogies of all the Lochalsh families.



CLAN MATHESON TARTAN



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ARMS OF THE MATHESONS OF BENNETSFIELD.

(FROM THE TOMB AT SUDDIE.)



## CONTENTS.

Title . . . . .	iii.
Dedication . . . . .	v.
Preface . . . . .	vii.
List of Subscribers . . . . .	ix.
THE MATHESONS, ORIGIN OF . . . . .	3
The Bennetsfield Family . . . . .	24
FAMILY OF LOCHALSH . . . . .	57
The Mathesons of Lochalsh and Attadale . . . . .	59
Branches of the Lochalsh Family—	
I. Duncan Mac Ian Og Branch . . . . .	78
II. Dugald Mac Ian Og Branch . . . . .	86
III. John of Achtaghtoralan Branch . . . . .	87
IV. Perth Canada Branch . . . . .	93
V. Donald Macalastair Branch . . . . .	96
VI. Donald of Balmacarra Branch . . . . .	100
The Family of Dugald Og . . . . .	106
FAMILIES OF IOMAIRES AND GLAS-NA-MUCLACH . . . . .	113
The Family of Iomaires . . . . .	115
The Family of Glas-na-Muclach . . . . .	125
THE SUTHERLAND MATHESONS . . . . .	131
The Mathesons of Sutherland . . . . .	133
The Mathesons of Shiness, Achany, and the Lews . . . . .	137
APPENDICES—	
(A) Matheson History MSS. . . . .	147
(B) The Mathesons and their History . . . . .	148
Index of Matheson Genealogy . . . . .	153
(C) Murdoch of Balmacarra . . . . .	154
(D) The Iomaires Family . . . . .	154
(E) Number of Mathesons in 1845-6 . . . . .	155
(F) Matheson Armorial Bearings, by Sir Kenneth Matheson . . . . .	157
(G) Dr. Matheson of Montreal, by Rev. Dr. Masson . . . . .	159
(H) The Matheson Tartan . . . . .	161
(I) Robert Michael Milne-Miller . . . . .	162




## ILLUSTRATIONS.

The Chief of Clan Matheson . . .	Facing Title.
The Matheson Tartan . . .	Facing viii.
Bennetsfield Arms . . .	xiv.
Tomb of the Bennetsfields . . .	56
Old Attadale House . . .	58
Arms of Sir Alex. Matheson . . .	59
Duncraig Castle . . .	73
Castle of Ellandonnan . . .	Facing 115
Tomb of Sir James Matheson . . .	132
Stornoway Castle . . .	Facing 136
Arms of the Shiness Mathesons . . .	137
Arms of Sir Kenneth Matheson . . .	156



# THE MATHESONS.

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HE antiquity of this clan has given rise to considerable speculation among antiquarians and the family Seanachies, but, as in the case of previous clan histories, it is not our intention to go into these pre-historic mists at any length here. Scarcely any notice of the Mathesons is to be found in the public records, and in the following account of the family we shall have to draw largely upon two family MSS., copies of which we are fortunate to possess.\*

After some preliminary observations, the author of the "Iomaire" MS. refers to the early origin of the family in the following terms:—"Whether the Mathesons emigrated from Denmark to Scotland before they went to Ireland, and from thence to Scotland, we know not, but certain it is that they are an old race in Ireland. In Ossian's Poems mention is made of a Calmar Mac-Mahon,† an Irish chieftain who assisted Fingal in one of his wars in Ireland. It is well known that Ossian, the aged Scottish bard, flourished between the third and fourth centuries of the Christian era, so that the time when his father Fingal fought his battles, in the vigour of youth, must have been a number of years

\*These two MSS. are the Iomaire and Bennetsfield MSS., both quite modern, for an account of which see Appendix A.—ED.

†Calmar Mac Matha, in "Fingal I.," is purely an invention of Macpherson's own.—ED.

previous to that period. The name MacMathan, Mahon, or Mahony, is still prevalent in Ireland. There is a tribe of this clan in Altona and its vicinity, a town of Lower Saxony, who have written records of their descent for 500 years back or upwards. On the borders of England, and in the south of Scotland, they are called Mahons (with the omission of the Irish Mac) and Maddisons. In the peninsula of Kintyre, which is contiguous to Ireland, the ancient inhabitants were MacKiachans, MacKays, MacMaths.\* Such a diversity in the name for a long period is a very strong proof of the antiquity of the original tribe which emigrated from the continent. A diversity is also observed in the spelling of the Englified name, for it is written Matheson, Mathison, Mathieson, and Mathewson, and some write Mathews, omitting the termination *on*. When Kenneth III. [*sic*], King of Scotland (*alias* Kenneth MacAlpin), was at war with the Picts in the ninth century, one of the House of Monaghan, a MacMathan, came to his assistance. After the termination of the war, which almost totally extirpated the race of the Picts, the King of Scotland rewarded his followers and allies with gifts of lands. In this distribution Lochalsh was bestowed on MacMathon.† His successors cannot

\*There is no connection between the M'Maths of Argyle and the northern Mathesons. See Appendix B.—ED.

†We have express authority for the death of Bishop Duncan, the Abbot of Iona, in 1099, and that he was a son of Mœnach or Maitheanach, equivalent to MacMahon; while local tradition intimates that Kenneth II. (McAilpean), after the conquest of the Picts in the beginning of the ninth century, during a survey of his dominions, invested the MacMathon of his day in the territory of Lochailsh, which has ever since continued his Aite-Suidhe, or the provincial

be traced till the twelfth century. At that time flourished one of his descendants, viz., Kenneth Matheson of Lochalsh, whose daughter was married to Colin Fitzgerald, son of the Earl of Desmond."

The writer then gives the now exploded tradition, relating how this mythical Colin Fitzgerald fought with the Scottish King at the Battle of Largs in 1263, and as a reward for his services obtained the lands of Kintail and the castle of Islandonain. According to this account, Matheson gave Colin a portion of Lochalsh as his daughter's portion, "on condition that he would call his first son Kenneth. This promise he violated, and named his first son Colin, but called his second son

seat of the name, and where, thus removed from the vicinity of the Royal residence, he and his successors would have been involved in petty feuds with his restless neighbours, the account of which, with there genealogic succession, is lost in barbarous obscurity. There is a legend preserved among the clan that after the fall of Macbeth, in 1056, during a circuit of Malcolm Ceann Mor, while he held his court at Inverlochy, an individual presented himself; and on being questioned by the monarch as to his name and suit, replied that he was the chieftain of a race respectable "in days of yore," but, now left unprotected, he was wasted and oppressed by the Danes and Pirates from the adjacent isles. If there be any truth in this tradition, it probably alluded to the death of Macbeth, who as Rìgh of the Tòshachy of Northern Ard-Ghaidheal, was really his natural protector. The sequel is that Malcolm took him under his own guardianship, and MacMahon, in reference to the terms of his reply, which he conceived militated in his favour with the king, assumed for his Brosnachadh cath, or war cry, *de guerre*, the adverb, "O Chian," or Of Yore.—*Bennetsfield MS.* The Maynes of Powis, in Clackmannanshire, the Maynes of Achterhouse, in Forfarshire, of Lochwood in Clydesdale, of Pile in Stirlingshire, as also the Mains, are said to be descended from Magnus, the reputed ancestor of the Mathesons, as well as those mentioned in the text. [But see App. B.—ED.]

Kenneth. The Mathesons were highly offended at this violation of the marriage contract, and from that instant meditated to revenge the supposed affront. When young Colin grew up he went to visit his friends in Lochalsh, who, instead of giving an agreeable entertainment, conveyed him to a private valley in the Braes of Balmacarra, and there put him to death. The hollow where this horrid deed was perpetrated still retains the name of 'Glaic Chailean,' or Colin's Valley. . . . The murderers fled to the north, and took refuge either in Caithness or Sutherland, where a respectable tribe of the clan is still to be found."

The author of the Bennetsfield MS., after a lengthy, learned dissertation on the origin of the tribe, and the meaning of the name Matheson, brings us down to "MacMathon of Lochailsh, Kenneth Gruamach, who is said to have married a sister of Farquhar O'Beothlain, or Mac an t-Saigairt, in the reign of Alexander II., which commenced in 1214, and by whom he appears to have been established in the constabulary of the fortress of Eilean Donan. By his lady he appears to have had a daughter, Muire or Mary, as handed down by the probable tradition of Gaelic songs; while to this day is pointed out the adjusted stone called 'Clach na Baintighearna,' or the Lady's Stone, whence Muire MacMathon was in the habit of mounting her palfrey. As it stands at a place called Ard-darach, it would seem to indicate the site of Kenneth's residence in Lochailsh." The writer then describes the alleged murder of young Colin Fitzgerald in slightly different terms to our first quoted authority, and with more circumstantial detail. The offence given to the Mathe-



sons by naming the eldest son of Fitzgerald "Colin" "could only be expiated by the blood of the unconscious object of [their] savage jealousy. The nurse selected for the child was unfortunately of his mother's tribe, among which she had a kindred suitor, by whom she was induced by treachery or connivance to abduct young Cailean to a retired spot called 'Glaic Chailein,' or the place of Colin's seizure; indicating that he was seized for the purpose of being done away with, and the horrid deed is said to have been perpetrated in the neighbourhood of that spot still retaining the name of 'Tor an t-Sladraidh,' or the bush [? mound] of the murdering place, or where he was put to death." He then describes how the perpetrators of the crime fled to Sutherlandshire, and became the progenitors of the Mathesons of Shiness, of whom in their proper place.

For the next two hundred years we know nothing whatever of the Mathesons, but in 1427 the "Mak Makan," who appeared before the king at Inverness, and described by Fordun as a leader of 1000 men, is claimed as the then chief of the Mathesons. The author of the Bennetsfield MS. attempts to prove that the "Alexander McRuari de Garmoran," named by Fordun as a leader of 2000 men, is the same as the chief called "Mak Makan." On this point he writes:—"We have every authority that tradition can give us for the identity of Alistair MacRuari with the personage he (Fordun) calls Mak Makan, or MacMathon, as it was formerly written; and certain it is that there is no passage in clan history more familiar than this is—in the districts where the MacMathons predominate—that their chief in the beginning of the fifteenth

century and during the broils of Donald of the Isles, was Alastair MacRuari. . . . The MSS. tradition in our possession narrates that Alstair was married to a daughter of the Laird of MacIntosh,\* and the chronicles of the Earls of Ross expressly state that at that time MacMaken, or Mathon of Lochailsh, a leader of a thousand men, was chief of the clan." Gregory correctly states that the Alastair MacRuari, "leader of *two* thousand men," was Alexander MacGorrie, son of Godfrey of Garmoran, who is said by Hugh Macdonald, the Sleat historian, to have had a son "Allaster." Gregory, however, refers to "Mak Maken"; that is, he says, "MacMahon or Mathewson of Lochalsh," as a leader of *a thousand* men. This agrees with the chronicles of the Earls of Ross quoted, as above, in the Bennetsfield MS., and there is little doubt that they were two different persons, though it is likely enough Matheson's patronymic may at the same time have been "Alastair MacRuari;" and to have been leader of even one thousand men in the beginning of the fifteenth century is quite sufficient to show that he must have been a powerful Highland chief, at a time when his neighbour, Mackenzie of Kintail, had not a single namesake of his own in the whole district.† Matheson or MacMakan was taken

\*It is needless to say that the Laird of Mackintosh, the famous Malcolm Beg, had no son-in-law of the name Alasdair MacRuari, nor of the name Matheson.—ED.

†Fordun's, or Bower's Macmakan, chief of the Mathesons in 1427, could hardly be called Alasdair MacRuari, for neither name belongs to the old Matheson genealogy of MS. 1450. Mackenzie of Kintail was the Kenneth More of 1427; but his name is not

prisoner in Edinburgh on that occasion, and beheaded shortly after on the Castle Hill.

Skene holds that the MacMathans, or Mathesons, are represented in the Manuscript of 1450 as a branch of the Mackenzies, and that their origin is deducted in that document from Mathan or Mathew, a son of Kenneth, from whom the Mackenzies themselves take their name.\* Their genealogy is thus given :—“ Muireachach mc Doincaig ic Donch ic Donch ic Muireachach mc Cainig ic Matgamna ic Cainig,” that is, “ Murdoch son of Duncan son of Duncan son of Duncan, son of Murdoch son of Kenneth, son of Kenneth,” the last named, according to this authority, being the common ancestor of the Mathesons and the Mackenzies, his ancestor being “ Aengusa ic Cristin ic Agam mc Gillaeon oig ic Gilleon na haird ” (“ Angus son of Christian son of Adam son of Gilleoin Og son of Gilleoin of the Aird”).† In a note Dr Skene adds that “ Kermac [Kenach] MacMaghan of the Earldom of Ross is mentioned in the Public Accounts of Lawrence le Grant, Sheriff of Inverness (then comprehending that Earldom) cir. 1263, in the reign of Alexander the Third.”‡ The same author in his “ Highlanders of Scotland ” continues :—“ This origin is strongly cor-

found in the orthodox Mackenzie genealogies, and hence the modern Clan Historian denies practically the assertion of the contemporary historian Bower. See Appendix B for fuller discussion.—ED.

\*Highlanders of Scotland, vol. ii., p. 242.

†See Celtic Scotland, III., pp. 485-6, for a better edition of these names and App. B.—ED.

‡Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis, p. 62. Exchequer Rolls, I., p. 19, where the name is Kermac Macmaghan.

roborated by tradition, which has always asserted the existence of a close intimacy and connection between these two clans. The genealogy contained in the manuscript is also confirmed by the fact that the Norse account of Haco's expedition mentions that the Earl of Ross, in his incursions among the Isles, which led to that expedition, was accompanied by Kiarnakr son of *Makamals*,\* while at that very period in the genealogy of the manuscript occur the names of *Kenneth* and *Matgamna* or Mathew, of which the Norse names are evidently a corruption." This view is corroborated by the best authorities ; and whether the Mathesons are descended from the Mackenzies or not, we have no doubt that both are descended from the Old Earls of Ross.

Another authority, with the concurrence, it is understood, of the leading Mathesons of our own time, gives the following account of the origin and early history of their ancestors :—The Mathesons derive their name from the ancestor and founder of the clan, whose name, in ancient Gaelic, is spelt Mathgamna, in more modern Gaelic Mathan, but pronounced Mahan. This name, which signifies originally a bear, has been usually considered equivalent to the English name Mathew, and has always been so translated ; and the clan, termed in Gaelic Clann Mhic Mathgamna,† or Clan Mathan, have always called themselves Mathewsons, or Mathesons ; that is, descendants of Mathgamna, Mathan, or

\*Read Makamal.—ED.

†This, or rather Mathghamhna, is really the genitive. The noun is Mathghamhain ; it means "bear," and was a common personal name. See App. B.—ED.

Mathew. Their earliest possessions lay in the western part of the modern county of Ross, and included Lochalsh, Lochcarron, and part of Kintail, originally forming a part of the ancient province of Earr-a-Ghaël, or Argyll, granted for the first time to the Earls of Ross by Alexander II. after his conquest of Argyll in 1228; and as the Mathesons are derived by ancient genealogists from the same stock as the Earls of Ross, and their ancestor, Mathgamna, must have flourished, according to these genealogies, about this period, while his son, according to the same authority, actually appears on record in the subsequent reign as a man of power and influence in the western part of the county of Ross, it seems probable that these districts were granted by the Earl of Ross to the founder of the clan soon after he acquired possession of them. He is mentioned both in the Norse account of the expedition of the King of Norway against Scotland in 1263, and in the Chamberlain's Rolls for that year in connection with that expedition. In the former it is said that in the summer of 1263 "there came letters from the Kings of the Hebrides, in the Western Isles. They complained much of the hostilities the Earl of Ross, Kjarnak the son of Makamal, and the Scots, committed in the Hebrides, when they went on to Skye. In these Norse names, "Kjarnak son of Makamal," our authority agrees with Skene that it is not difficult to recognise Kenneth son of Mathgamna. The notice in the Chamberlain's Rolls for 1263 is in these terms:—Item, Kermac Macmaghan, CS. (100 shillings), pro viginti vaccis, de fine

comitis de Ross datis eidem per comitem de Buchan et Alanum Hostiarium habentes protestatem dni. regis per literas suas patentes tempore aduentus regis Norwegie.”\* According to the same authority, the chief crime for which Matheson had to appear before James I. at Inverness in 1427 was the part he took in the sanguinary battle of Drumnacoub, in Sutherlandshire. He was, however, soon liberated, but was afterwards killed by the Mackays, with four of his sons, for the death of their chief by Matheson at that battle. This is scarcely consistent with Sir Robert Gordon’s account of that engagement, who makes no mention whatever of Matheson or any other of the western chiefs in his description of the battle.

During his rule a dispute arose between him and the House of Sutherland out of the following curious circumstance. Matheson had a celebrated deer-hound named “Broddam Glas.” Sutherland asked for a loan of the hound, which Matheson at once granted him, but the dog could never be got to stop anywhere. It always found its way back to Lochalsh from any part of the Highlands. The dog soon returned from Sutherland, and his Lordship again sent for him, but Matheson replied that “while the Earl had been quite welcome to the use of the dog for a time, he was not disposed to have him altogether alienated from himself to any man.” The result was an invasion by the Earl and his followers of the Matheson country, and a desperate conflict ensued, in which the invaders were defeated and their leader killed.

\*Lineage of the Matheson Family, in the supplementary volume of Burke’s “Dictionary of the Landed Gentry,” 1848.



The author of the "Iomaire" MS. gives the following interesting details. "Lord Sutherland was so irritated at Matheson's reply that he raised an army to invade Matheson's property. Thereupon he took the Hill road westward, till he came to Lub-a-Ghoill. As soon as Matheson heard of his arrival he collected all his men to oppose him. There is a particular spot, at Acha-na-hinich of Lochalsh, called 'Dail Acha-da-thearnaidh' (that is, the field between the two descents), where the Mathesons were wont to assemble when going out to battle, thinking it lucky to set off from that place on any expedition. From this station Matheson marched up through Glen Uddalan, till he came in sight of the Sutherlands, who were encamped on a hill in the Braes of 'Poll-an-Tairbh,' which hill bears the name of 'Cnoc-nan-Cattach' to this day. Matheson kept himself concealed from the enemy till he got behind a hill opposite to them, which, from him, still retains the name of 'Cnoc Mhic Ruari.' Both parties came to an engagement on a plain between the two hills. They fought valiantly till perceiving a party sent to Matheson by his father-in-law, Mackintosh, as a reinforcement, advancing on an adjacent height, the Sutherlands betook themselves to flight. Many were killed in the retreat, and among the rest Lord Sutherland himself, who was buried near a river's side in Ault-nam-Bran of Glen-Luinge; and that spot still bears the name of 'Lub-a-Mhorair,' or the Earl's Curve. Their flight was so precipitate that, to avoid being taken, they threw their baggage in a little lake, which still goes by the name of 'Lochan-na-h-Ullaidh;' that is, the Lake of the Treasure. For this cause he

was accused before the king as a man of the worst character, apprehended, brought to Edinburgh, and beheaded there. He left two sons—

1. John, his heir.

2. Donald Bain,\* from whom the Mathesons of Sutherlandshire.

But their mother having married, according to the Iomaire MS., a son of Macleod of Lewis, or, according to the Bennetsfield MS., Angus Macleod of Assynt, the boys fled ; the elder to his grandfather, Mackintosh of Mackintosh, the other to Caithness. Captain Matheson of Bennetsfield goes into details, and states that “Angus Macleod of Assynt, tempted by the property committed to her trust, married the widow, as appears by the writs of the family of Geanies. Norman, second son of Torquil Macleod, 4th Baron of Lewis, obtained from his father the Barony of Assynt, and died in the reign of James I., and left a son, Angus, who succeeded him and married Margaret Matheson, heiress of Lochalsh. The Baronage (Douglas’s), we perceive, involves

\*This young gentleman, who had fled to Caithness for shelter from his step-father, “got Lord Caithness’ daughter with child. When she found herself in this condition, she escaped and went round to the West Coast, wishing to get to Lochalsh. After her arrival there she was delivered of a son at the roadside, between Erbusaig and Balmacarra. This son was called Iain Ghallaich, (*i.e.*, John of Caithness), and the place where he was born still retains the name of ‘Leachd Iain Ghallaich,’ a cairn being erected on the spot to commemorate the fact. From him descended a numerous offspring, who were distinguished from the rest of the Mathesons by the term ‘Clann Iain Ghallaich.’” Of these are Alexander Matheson in Arineachdaig, and Duncan his brother ; Roderick Matheson in Port-a-Chuillean ; and others in Skye.”—*Iomaire MS.*



this lady in two mistakes. In the first, Margaret, third daughter of Malcolm, 10th Laird of Mackintosh, grandson of Rory Mór Macleod of Lewis, was married to the Chief of Clan Tearlaich or Macleennan,\* whereas she was the widow of Alastair MacRuari. The second [mistake] was that she was heiress of Lochalsh, while she was in fact only tutrix for her son, the young Chief of MacMathan and Laird of Lochalsh; and it is notorious that Angus of Assynt failed to establish a footing there; and the mode of his expulsion is duly related. It is also inserted [in the Baronage] that a nameless daughter of Mackintosh was married to a Macleod in the reign of James I., but the account we have received reconciles all discrepancies." The property of Lochalsh was no doubt usurped by Macleod during the minority of the heir, and we shall now proceed to show how he was finally driven out of the district by the rightful heir, and to describe the means which he adopted to attain his object and secure the ancient patrimony of his house for himself and for his successors. In doing this we shall draw freely upon the best portions of the two MSS. already quoted.

The immediate consequence of the marriage of Angus Macleod of Assynt to Matheson's widow was the flight of the heir of Matheson to his grandfather, Mackintosh, and of the younger son to Caithness. For a time the family patrimony continued usurped until John, arriving at manhood, solicited the aid of Mackintosh in the recovery of the

\*This lady was really married to Maclean of Dochgarroch, Chief of the Clan Tearlaich. The Matheson widowhood is mythical.—ED.

possessions of his ancestors. This was at once promised by his grandfather, and John immediately communicated his intentions to his trusty friends in Lochalsh, all of whom entered cordially into his plan of operations

Macleod, who all along feared that the heir might return and be loyally received by the natives, placed spies throughout the district to inform him of any danger that might occur. It was then the custom for a certain class of beggars—outcasts from their respective tribes—to seek shelter among other clans, which was usually, according to the prevailing custom of the times, accorded to them. They were known among the natives as “Buthanaich,” (literally, livers in tents), and they were usually ready to perform any task, however degraded, which was allotted to them by those who sheltered them\*. One of these, says the author of the Bennetsfield MS., was on this occasion insinuated by Macleod into every family. “Aware of this, it was concerted that on their retiring to rest, these noxious parasites should be severally despatched” on the night Matheson should introduce his body of resolute volunteers from Mackintosh. On his arrival with these, he formed his little band in a hollow between Reraig and Kirkton of Lochalsh, at a place called to this day “Glac nam Fear,” and he then proceeded alone, disguised as a hawker of wool, and carrying a wallet of fog or heath, to “Torr-an-t-Slachdaire,” where Macleod and his wife resided. He

\*According to the “Iomaire” MS., these were “some of his own (Macleod’s) countrymen, whom he thought well affected towards him.’

sent a message to the lady, asking if she would purchase any of his fancy wools, when she requested him to come in and submit samples of what he had along with him. While exhibiting his varieties, he managed to introduce a reference to her elder son, and artfully contrived to ascertain whether she wished to see him some day reinstated in his ancestral possessions. Discovering that she entertained friendly feelings for him, he at once made himself and his designs known to her, and he was warmly received. During the night all the Buthanaich were slain in accordance with the pre-arranged plan, except one named MacEachern, who managed for some time to escape capture, but was finally overtaken and slain as he arrived within a short distance of Macleod's house, whither he was proceeding to inform him of what had occurred; and the place where he was slain is still called "Featha Mhic Eachern," or MacEachern's Fen. Meantime young Matheson had surrounded the mansion house and set it on fire, "he himself attending to the safe escape of his mother, which she affected; but not before she had secured that of her husband, concealed under her night-gown, and who, after she had passed those placed to intercept him reached 'Doire Damh,' in Duirinish, where he engaged a poor boatman to convey him to Lewis, under promise to give him a free grant of land. On his arrival, however, the Laird of Macleod, indignant at what had happened, ordered a gallows to be erected by the oars of the boat, and, hanging up the Lochalsh-man, observed sarcastically, that at the foot of the gallows he might enjoy free land for ever in terms of

Angus' promise." Soon after Macleod attempted a descent on Lochalsh, landed at Ardhill, and came to an engagement at Kirkton, where he was again beaten at (a place still called) "Blar-nan-Saighdearan," and his retreat having been intercepted,\* a number of the routed force threw themselves into the church, trusting to it as a sanctuary usually observed in those days. The sacrilege was, however, disregarded in this instance by one Duncan Matheson, who set fire to the building, and hence, ever after, retained the sobriquet of "Donnachadh-an-Teampuill;" and whose trespass, notwithstanding, did not incur the penalty through many generations of descendants, as two of them became highly respected Clergymen of the Established Church, and another a celebrated local Bard.† Meantime Macleod himself, with a remnant

\*A party of Matheson's men stood between them and the shore to prevent their embarkation. These were headed by a Matheson of the name of Iain Ciar Mac Mhurchaidh Mhic Thomais, who made great havoc among the enemy with his arrows. Part of his descendants are dispersed between the parishes of Urray and Redcastle, of whom I shall mention particularly Alexander Mackenzie, late agent for the British Linen Company, Inverness, and Francis Mackenzie, merchant, Kyleakin. Both their grandfathers changed their original names, viz., Thomas Bain in Redcastle, and Murdoch Bain, his brother, in Brahan. There is a gravestone in the Churchyard of Lochalsh having the effigy of a *dead corpse* [sic] cut upon it, which the said Iain Ciar quarried and carried down on his back from the Braes of Kirkton.—*Iomaire M.S.*

† Mr Matheson, minister of Kilmuir, and his nearest relatives are descended of that Duncan, so was Murdoch Matheson, the bard. A tribe of Mathesons were once the principal inhabitants of Strathbran, where they had a separate burying place for themselves, to which no other person laid claim, and where none of any other name is interred

of his broken followers, escaped, but was not so fortunate in a subsequent expedition, for soon after having landed at Fernaig, he was encountered by Matheson at Sail Ferna, again overpowered, and killed.

On the death of Sir Dugald Mackenzie John Matheson married his widow, and succeeded him as Constable of Islandonain Castle, in the defence of which he was killed by the Macdonalds, under their chief Donald Gorm, in 1539. By his wife he had one son named after the priest, Sir Dugald Mackenzie, by whom he was succeeded in about one-third of Lochalsh.\* He was known among the Highlanders as

DUGALD ROY MATHESON. The other two-thirds of the ancient patrimony of the family had been acquired by Mackenzie of Kintail and Macdonald of Glengarry. [See Histories of the Mackenzies and the Macdonalds.]

to this day. It is called Cnoc-nan-Cleireach (*i.e.* the Hillock or Tumulus of the Clergy). From this name it may be inferred that it was a place of worship. Around the Tumulus is still visible the foundations of a circular ring of stones.—*Iomaire MS.*

\* The Mathesons never really in historic times owned an inch of Lochalsh direct from the Crown till last century. There is even no record of them as holding charters from the Earls of Ross or from the Macdonalds of Lochalsh—no mention even of wadsets. After the forfeiture of the Earl of Ross (1476-95), Lochalsh fell to the Earl's nephew, Alexander Macdonald of Lochalsh, who chartered half of it to Lochiel. Alexander's son, Sir Donald, died without male issue in 1518, and Glengarry as husband of one of his daughters succeeded to half Lochalsh. So in 1539 Glengarry and Lochiel share Lochalsh between them. These turbulent chiefs were, so far as crown charters went, superseded in 1548 by the Laird of Grant and a cadet of his house. Glengarry was again in legal possession of the half in 1583 and the Grants lingered on till the early part of the 17th century; but by 1633 Lochalsh was all in the Earl of Seaforth's hands. See also p. 23, note.—Ed.

The rent was in those days collected in kind, and a dispute arose between Glengarry and Dugald Matheson, who raised the Lochalsh rents in common, about their division afterwards among themselves. The particulars of this quarrel are given in the two MSS. already named. The following version from the Bennetsfield MS. is the most complete :—“ Dugald Roy still retained the patrimony of his grandfather Alastair, and Glengarry and he were in the habit of pasturing and taking their rents jointly, as these consisted merely of the produce of the country, and subject to a subsequent division by their several oversmen. On one occasion, unfortunately, there happened to be an old ‘ cabag,’ or separate piece of butter, which Macdonald’s man arrogantly insisted should become the property of his master, and Matheson’s as pertinaciously refusing, divided the subject of contention with his dirk or hanger ; an action which, however just, on representation gave mortal offence to his irascible co-proprietor, who swore that MacMathon would not possess a similar opportunity by that time next year ; and it appears he took an execrable mode of ensuring his own prediction. The first step was to break off with Matheson, and pick a quarrel with him ; and aware that he was so notoriously prejudiced against the flesh of goats, that it would be a studied insult to present it to him, Macdonald ordered a lamb to be fed on goat’s milk, and, under a show of hospitality, invited the other to dine with him at a castle he possessed, and the ruins of which are still to be seen in Loch Acha-na-hinich. So unsuspectingly was Matheson thrown off his guard by the familiar courtesy of



his host that, instead of his usual retinue of twelve and his Gillie Mor (for with such a guard men of his rank visited in those days), he was attended only by his Gillie Mor, or champion. The first dish set on the table was of the lamb fed as above, which he no sooner tasted than, imagining it kid, he rejected it ; and being sarcastically asked by his entertainer, What objection he had to the dish? he angrily replied, 'You know I do not eat goat's flesh.' Glengarry as warmly asserted that Matheson had never ate of more genuine mutton, and he as pertinaciously insisted upon its being goat. From the dispute, as had been contemplated and preconcerted, arose a quarrel ; Dugald Roy was immediately overpowered, bound, and conveyed prisoner to Invergarry, where he soon after died in confinement from the effect of this indignity." He married a daughter of the Rev. John MacRa, third son of Christopher MacRa, known as "Gillecriost MacDhonnachaidh,"\* by whom he had issue—a son,

MURDOCH MATHESON, commonly called "Murchadh *Buidhe*," or Murdoch with the yellow hair. He was so indignant at his father's treatment by Glengarry that he determined to be revenged upon him at whatever cost, and to enable him to punish him effectually he proposed to enter into an arrangement with Mackenzie of Kintail, and offered to cede to him the whole of Lochalsh in return for his aid in prosecuting his vengeance against Glengarry, retaining only to him-

\*See History of the Macdonalds, and the "Genealogy of the MacRas."

self the reversion of Fernaig and Balmacarra. Kintail, according to one authority, "readily entered into terms so advantageous to himself, and which he, in due time, found means to convert to purposes far more favourable to himself than had been contemplated" by Matheson; while another informs us that he took possession of the lands in terms of the proposed arrangement, "but neglected to perform the other part of the agreement." Murdoch left issue—

1. Roderick, who after his father's death succeeded to Fernaig.

2. Dugald, to whom his father bequeathed Balmacarra.\* He had three sons, the first two of whom, Murdoch and John, were twins. The third was called Dugald Og. Murdoch was liberally educated, his father intending him for the priesthood. He, however, did not adopt the clerical profession. A misunderstanding occurred between him and Mackenzie of Kintail "on account of some money which Mackenzie took from him by force. For this cause he went and entered a complaint before the King, who told him that, 'for as soon as he could be at home his money would be there before him, and that he might have Mackenzie's head if he pleased;' at which proceeding Mackenzie was so much enraged that, slighting the King's authority, he forced Murdoch to quit Lochalsh

\*There is a decret for certain sums at the instance of James Cowie against "Dougall Mathewsone in Apilcroce as heir served and retoured to the deceased Murdow Mathewsone in Bellmacarra" (who was still alive on the 28th of June 1681), dated and registered "At Fortrose, 7 March 1686."—*Fragment of Deed, Sheriff-Clerk Office, Tain.*



and to take lands in Sleat. His first wife dying there, he married next a sister of Roderick Mackenzie [fourth] of Davochmaluag, by whom he had one son named Alexander. In consequence of this marriage intercession was made for him to Mackenzie, and an agreement made that he should return to Lochalsh and pay rent for Balmacarra.\* Alexander, his son, left but one natural son called Kenneth. That Kenneth had a son called Murdoch, who died soon after marrying, leaving a son called Dugald, who was father to Donald, the

\*Murdoch Matheson of Balmacarra appears in the Valuation Roll of the County of Ross in 1644 as heritor of lands in the parish of Lochalsh to the value of £100 Scots per annum. There is a document in the Sheriff Clerk Office, Tain, endorsed, "Inventar, Christane Clerk, confermit 1668," and which within it is described as "Inventar of guidis, &c., which pertained to the deceased Christane M'Lennan, spouse to Murdo Mathesone in Bellmackarra, within the parish of Lochalsh, who died in August 1654, given up be the same Murdo her said husband in name of Dugall and Christane, lawful children procreate twixt Murdo and the defunct, exrs. dative to the defunct." The amount is £4666 13s., confirmed on the last day of July 1668, at Lochalsh, in presence of Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, commissar. In the same place there is another document, dated 1676—a summons, "Mathewson ag. Mathewson"—in which "the Sheriff states that it has been shown to him be Dugall Mathewson in Bellmacarra, only son of the first marriage of Murdow Mathewsone, his father, by the deceased Christane Clerk, his first spouse, and also executor dative decerned to his said mother deceased that by contract of marriage twixt the deceased Dugall Mathewsone, Chamberlayne of Lochalsh, for himself, and taking burden for his lawful son, the said Murdow and Mr Donald Clerk, minister of Lochalsh, and taking burden for his said umq<sup>ll</sup> daughter, of date 27 April 1631, certain sums were provided to the heirs of the Marriage, which, not being paid by the said Murdow, he is desired to show cause for not doing so, on 15th February 1676.

late miller in Fernaig, and his brothers."\* Murdoch also left a daughter, Agnes, who married Thomas Mackenzie, first of Highfield; and another, "who married to Kenneth Og MacQueen of Troutrome, in Skye, grandfather to the late Lady Raasay." John, the other twin (whom the midwife maintained to be the first born, but who was denuded of his birthright by his brother Murdoch, "who suborned witnesses against him for that purpose in order that all the patrimony left them jointly might fall to his own share,") was called Ian Og, denoting him as the youngest of the two. He married a daughter of John Mackenzie, fourth of Hilton, by whom he had three sons—Alexander, from whom the MATHESONS OF ARDROSS AND LOCHALSH, and of whom hereafter; Duncan and Dugald, both of whom left issue, who settled in Lewis, Skye, Lochalsh, Lochcarron, and in Ireland. Dugald's third son, Dugald Og, had a son John, who had six sons, Roderick, Donald, Kenneth, Murdoch, John, and Dugald (known as "Dugald Beg MacIan Mhic Dhughail.") Roderick and John left issue, whose descendants lived respectively in Kirkton of Lochalsh and Plockton. Dugald Beg left female issue only.

3. A daughter, said to have married Eachainn Cam, son of Hector Roy Mackenzie, first of Gairloch.†

Murdoch was succeeded by his eldest son,

RODERICK MATHESON, designated "of Fernaig." He inherited the family resentment against the house

\*Iomaire MS.

†Bennetsfield MS. If this is correct she must have been a second wife. We have met with no trace of this marriage in the Gairloch Records. In point of fact she married Murdoch, Hector Cam's son.

of Glengarry, and, in 1602, entered into a bond of amity with Kenneth, afterwards first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail, when the latter obtained a commission of fire and sword against Donald MacAngus of Glengarry. Matheson took a leading part in the terrible feuds which took place between the Mackenzies and Macdonalds at this period, and signally distinguished himself at the final taking of Strome Castle from the grandson of him who treacherously inveigled and contributed to the downfall and death of Dugald Roy Matheson, his grandfather.\* From this period a warm friendship was maintained between the families of Mackenzie and Matheson.

He married a daughter of Donald Mor MacIan Mhic Fhionnlaidh, described in one manuscript as "Chief of the Finlaysons in Lochalsh." By her he had issue, an only son—

JOHN MATHESON, who succeeded him in Fernaig, and known among his own countrymen as "Ian MacRuari Mhic Mhathoin." The author of the Bennetsfield manuscript, referring to the charter obtained by Mackenzie of Kintail to the whole lands of Lochalsh in 1607, says that "we have by us, as the result of a gradual recognition, receipts for rents received by Seaforth to John of Fernaig of Lochalsh, a designation still retained by his successor even after he had acquired the estates of Bennetsfield and Suddy."

John married Anne, called "Anna Bheag nam mac mora," or little Anne with the great sons, daughter

\*For a full account of these terrible feuds, see "The History of the Macdonalds and the Lords of the Isles," and "The History of the Mackenzies," both by the same author.

of Alexander Roy,\* a natural son of John Glassich, II. of Gairloch, by whom he had issue an only son—

1. John,† who succeeded his father.

He married, secondly, a daughter of Cameron of Caillort, Lochaber, with issue—

2. Farquhar, progenitor of a family of Mathesons who settled in Glenshiel.

3. Murdoch, who lived in Achamore, and was an

\*Iomaire MS. Captain Matheson, in the Bennetsfield Manuscript, attempts to prove that John married a daughter of Rory Mackenzie, I. of Redcastle. We have no hesitation in saying that he is in error. One of Redcastle's daughters married a *Dunbar* of Bennetsfield, and Captain Matheson must have confused this Dunbar with his own ancestor, who became the purchaser of the Bennetsfield property. The relationship of the children with Alexander Roy of Gairloch will be established in the text from the fact that John was educated by Alexander Roy's grandson and his own cousin-german, the Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, chaplain to Lord Reay's Regiment, and afterwards Bishop of Moray and Orkney in succession. The fact is recorded even by the author of the Bennetsfield Manuscript, though he disputes the marriage connection.

†The author of the Iomaire MS. makes this John the second son, and says that there was a first son, Alexander, who lived in Duirinish of Lochalsh, and from whom the author of the Manuscript was descended. Indeed the author claims for himself the chiefship of the clan, and if Alexander were legitimate his contention might possibly be maintained. That the chiefship is in the Bennetsfield family, descended from John named in the text, is generally admitted by the Mathesons themselves. We adopt this view in the text; but we shall deal with the question more fully when giving an account of Alexander's descendants later on. There is no doubt whatever that John succeeded his father in Fernaig, which fact is of itself pretty conclusive evidence that he was the eldest *legitimate* son. Farquhar is not mentioned in the Iomaire MS., while neither Murdoch nor Roderick Beg, whose names are given in the text, is referred to in the Bennetsfield Manuscript.

excellent swimmer. It is related of him that on one occasion, accompanying Mackenzie of Kintail to Lewis, he performed a remarkable feat. As they were passing the north point of Plockton, Mackenzie, who was amusing himself with his silver-hilted sword on the gunwale of the vessel, accidentally dropped it unto the sea. Murdoch, noticing Mackenzie's regret for his valued blade, immediately leaped overboard, dived to the bottom, and soon appeared with what turned out to be only a tangle of sea-ware in his mouth. He soon repeated the performance, and, after a considerable search below, made his appearance this time with Mackenzie's sword between his teeth. For this service Mackenzie made him a grant of that part of Achamore called Glas-na-Muclach to himself and his heirs for ever; but having no charter for it, it was lost after the death of his son Ewen. A sunken rock near the spot where the sword was picked up is still called "Sgeir a' Chlaidheamh," or the Rock of the Sword. Murdoch's descendants settled in Plockton and in Troternish, Isle of Skye.

4. Roderick, called "Ruari Beg," a celebrated swordsman, distinguished for his intrepidity and courage. He fought with Kintail in his conquest of the Lewis; and he is said to have challenged Ian Garbh Mac 'Ille Challuim of Raasay to single combat. He was invariably the leader in pursuit of the Lochaber men who on occasions paid a visit on the business of cattle-lifting to the west, and Ruari seldom failed to overtake them and recover the *creach*. He has been locally commemorated in this connection in the following lines:—

Ruari Beg MacIan Mhic Mhurchaidh Bhuidhe,  
 Dha math thig clogaide cruadhach is pic iughair,  
 'Bheireadh creach a tir an namhaid gun aon umhail.

Roderick died without issue.

John Matheson was succeeded in Fernaig by his eldest son John, commonly called "Ian Mor."

JOHN MOR MATHESON, who, although he afterwards, as will be immediately seen, purchased extensive estates in the Black Isle, always continued to style himself of Fernaig, in Lochalsh. He was liberally educated under the superintendence of his relative, Murdoch Mackenzie, grandson of Alexander Roy, a natural son of John Glassich Mackenzie, second Baron of Gairloch. Murdoch, who was an Episcopalian, served as Chaplain in Lord Reay's Regiment in the Bohemian and Swedish service, under Gustavus Adolphus; and on his return home he was presented to the parishes of Contin, Inverness, and Elgin, in succession. In 1662 he was elected to the Bishopric of Moray, and subsequently, in 1677, translated to the See of Orkney.\* The author of the Iomaire manuscript states that John "was taken up" by the Bishop of Moray, "who resided at Kinkell.† The Bishop kept him for some time at school, and gave him 500 merks Scots to traffic therewith. After following the mercantile line for some time, in which he was very successful, he began cattle dealing, by which he became master of a good deal of money." Starting

\* For Murdoch's descendants, see "The History of the Mackenzies," by the same author, p. 314.

† Hence we presume the name *Bishop-Kinkell*.



in life under such auspices, it is not surprising to find John Mor cutting out a career for himself. His friend, the Bishop, pointed out the source of wealth which might open up to him if he could succeed in driving some of the superfluous herds of black cattle which then abounded in the Highlands to the southern markets, and which were then of scarcely any value among his own countrymen, but, on the other hand, often served as a temptation to spoliations and feuds among themselves. John Mor at once saw the force of his cousin's advice. But there were various obstacles in the way at that time not easily surmounted, the most formidable being the opposition and danger certain to be met with from those powerful chiefs and clans through whose territories his droves would necessarily have to pass on their way to the southern markets.

The most powerful chiefs in his course were the Marquis of Huntly and Mackintosh of Mackintosh, each of whom had extensive possessions in Lochaber, through which Matheson would have to drive his herds. These gentlemen at the time had differences among themselves, and were jealous of each other. Matheson, ascertaining this, hit upon a ruse by which he succeeded in playing off the one against the other. To each he wrote a letter under pledge of the strictest secrecy, that the other was preparing a foray to plunder his property. "Mackintosh proceeded immediately thither, and by this precaution seemed to confirm the feigned intelligence to the other. Huntly lost no time in following. John Mor, seeing his stratagem succeeded so well, he collected as many cattle

and followers as he could, and forced a route through Badenoch [in Mackintosh's absence in Lochaber] to the low countries." Our authority, while expressing a doubt as to the morality of these proceedings, commends the patriotism of his ancestor for "having driven the first herd of black cattle across the Grampian hills from the North, which exhibits him as a benefactor to the wilds of his nativity ; and he found ample recompense in success, insomuch that some time after his return he purchased the lands of Bennetsfield, on the Moray Firth, as a low-country grazing and shelter for his future herds. He was now joined in his traffick by Sir William Gordon of Embo, in Sutherlandshire, but was prevented from ever residing permanently on his purchase by a fastidious reluctance of his wife to conform to the mode of living on corn, then more widely adopted in the more cultivated districts, in consequence of which he purchased the place of Easter Suddy for his son in 1688 ; and it is to be observed that though John was long before possessed of Bennetsfield, he continued to adopt the style of Fernaig, while his son appears in the first Parliament of William and Mary, during the life of his father, as a Commissioner of the County of Ross, under that of Bennetsfield. John's continued success appears in the various large sums of money which he was able to advance to his relatives and friends. He purchased the estate of Applecross, which had been forfeited in 1715, in the person of Alexander, fourth Laird, who had joined the Earl of Mar, which he procured to be re-conveyed to Roderick Mackenzie of Kinwhillidrum, his son and heir, and who carried on



the line of Applecross." Besides these John Mor granted many other extensive loans, "some of which still rank among a set of old fruitless actions at the instance of his grandson."\*

While it is just possible that John Mor Matheson may have been the first, as his representative here claims for him, who had sent cattle to the southern markets from his own particular part of the Highlands, official documents exist which show that from Argyll and other districts cattle were so sent considerably more than a century before he ever thought of starting in the business of a Highland drover.

In 1565 we come upon a complaint "on behalf of Allane Fischear, Thomas Fischear, and certane thair collegis," dealers in cattle from the West Highlands, against Patrick Houstoun of that Ilk, for taking the cattle from them, when "according to thair accustamat maner" they brought them from Argyll "to be sauld to thair Hieneses liegis in the lawlands," when it was ordered by the Privy Council that such parties were not to be molested, provided that they did not "transport na victualis into Ergyle" in return.† In the following year a proclamation was issued that none presume to molest the Highlanders resorting to the markets in the Lowlands. Modernised in spelling it reads :—

\* Bennetsfield MS.

† This was in consequence of the opponents of the Queen's marriage, who had taken up arms, having been obliged by the Royal forces to retire to Argyle, and a proclamation was issued, dated the 3rd of November 1565, forbidding the supply of any provisions to the rebels under severe penalties.

At Edinburgh, 17th July 1566.—Forasmuch as through the troubles occurring the last year, the inhabitants of the county of Argyle, Lorne, Breadalbane, Kintyre, and the Isles, were afraid to come into the Lowlands for fear of invasion and such other impediments as then occurred, which trouble, thanks to God, is quieted, to the honour of our sovereigns and wealth of their subjects: And since it is not only needful that good neighbourhood and abstinence from all displeasure and invasion be observed among all the lieges; but that either of them sustain and relieve each other's necessities by interchange of "the excresence and superflew" fruits grown in the Low and High lands; so that necessarily markets must be kept, and all men, indifferently, without exception, repair thereto for selling their goods and buying again of such necessities as are unto them needful and requisite: Therefore ordains letters to be directed to officers of the Army, charging them to pass to the Market Crosses of Perth, Stirling, Dumbarton, Renfrew, Glasgow, Irvine, Ayr, and all other places needful. and there, by open proclamation, command and charge all and sundry our Sovereign Lord and Lady's lieges, that none of them take upon hand to invade or pursue others, whether they be Highlandmen or Lowland; or to offer or make provocation of trouble, or tuilzie to others, notwithstanding any offence, quarrel, or question falling in the time of the said troubles, under the pain of death: Discharging all Sheriffs, Stewards, Bailies and other Deputies and officials, and all Provosts and Bailies of Burghs, of all staying, arresting, stop, trouble, or impediment-making to the said Highlandmen in bodies or goods in their coming to the said markets, remaining therein, or departing therefrom; for any crime, action, cause, or occasion, committed during the time of the said troubles, or proceeding thereon, and of their offices in that part; but that all men pursue justice by the ordinary civil manner as appertains.\*

In the Bennetsfield manuscript a curious and interesting account is given of the way by which the family ultimately obtained possession of Invermaine, in Strathconan. The manner in which this property

\* *Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis*, pp. 151-153, where other curious documents relating to the same subject may be consulted.

was acquired by the family of Fernaig betrays the depressed state at that period of the lately affluent and powerful Barons of Kintail. In writing to Kenneth, third Earl of Seaforth, his contemporary, Lord Tarbat, says "his estate was overburthened to its distraction;" and his tenacious adherence to Charles II. did not tend to enhance his prospects. It was when under this pressure that John Mor Matheson, then indifferently designed of the two Fernaigs and Achnan-Cleireach, or of Bennetsfield, returned from one of his lucrative excursions to the South. The produce, according to the custom of the times, was in gold; and this was carefully concealed, and the place of its deposit only known to the members of his own family. Through this channel, however, the Earl of Seaforth found means of ascertaining the secret, which led him to appropriate clandestinely so expedient a succour in his extreme need. A sister, named Mary, resided under John's roof; his precautions did not escape her vigilance, and she carried information to the Earl of Seaforth which disclosed to him the place in which her brother's treasure was concealed, whereupon his Lordship carried it all away. The treachery as well as the chief actor was soon detected, and, while she was consigned to the execration of her own clan under the designation of *Mairi 'n oir*, or Mary of the gold, John selected a faithful band of followers with whom he marched secretly to Brahan Castle, then in a feeble state of defence. Arriving, he immediately walked in and found the Earl, who at once rose to salute his friend, at dinner, when John instantly declared that "he had business of some importance

which must precede further ceremonial, and drawing his sword gave the astonished Earl the alternative of instant restitution of the property carried away, or instant death ; showing him that his house was surrounded, and resistance or escape impossible. It was no time for deliberation, and a bond was drawn out for the amount, which was renewed by his Countess after the Earl's death, as appears by a writ of assignation, ' Siclike and forasmuch as the deceast Isobel Countess Dowager of Seafort as prin<sup>le</sup>, and Kenneth Lord Marquis of Seafort, her son, as cautioner for her, by their Bond of the date the twenty-second day of June, one thousand six hundred and ninety-eight years, bound and obliged themselves and their heirs to have contented and paid John Matheson of Bennetsfield, etc., all and hail the sum of six thousand merk Scots,' in lieu of which follows an obligation to infest and seize the said John Matheson in all and hail the town and lands of Invermaine of Glenmaine, in Strathconan, which afterwards was re-conveyed by contract of marriage to his grandson, John of Bennetsfield, and his lady, Elizabeth Mackenzie of Belmaduthy, 1730. And here for the first time, do we find the designation of John Mor exclusively restored to that of Bennetsfield ; that of Fernaig as the last relic of his patrimonial territory in Lochalsh having passed into disuetude " among his successors.

In the disposition in his favour by Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, of the lands of Easter Suddy, dated 1688, he is described as " John Matheson of Meikle Fernaig in Lochalsh, for himself and Marie McCra his spouse, in life-rent, and Alexander,

his eldest son, in fee." He was generally known among his neighbours as "An Ceannaiche Mor Fada fo Chrìos," or the Big Tall Merchant, the last two words in the Gaelic indicating that he was long-legged, or long below the girdle—an article of common use and indispensably necessary in those days to any one in the habit of carrying money or other treasure about with him on his person.

He married early in life Mary, daughter of the Rev. Donald Macrae of Dornie, minister of Kintail, by his wife Isobel, eldest daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie, fifth of Hilton, with issue—

Alexander, his heir, and several daughters, one of whom, Isobel, married Kenneth Mackenzie, first of Alduinny, third son of John Mackenzie, second of Applecross, with issue; and another, Mary, who married Donald Murchison of Auchtertyre.

He took sides with the Chevalier, and was actively engaged in forwarding his interest at the date of his own death in 1715, when he was succeeded by his only son,

ALEXANDER MATHESON, first designated of Bennetsfield, who during his father's lifetime resided at Easter Suddy as one of the partners and acting manager of his father's extensive business and estates. He married early in life a lady of the Clan Mackenzie; settled down upon his Black Isle property, and, according to the family chronicler, "resigned any pretension to the place of his nativity and seat of his forefathers," judging it "more prudent to settle among his acquired relations than to return to undefined claims, and to engage in interminable contentions under the now paramount Earl of Seaforth." He was,

however, still anxious to possess a substantial Highland property, and having already the small property of Invermaine in Strathconan, he took a wadset from Alexander Mackenzie, sixth of Davochmaluag, of the lands of Lubriach and Island Mor, in the same place, as also of the Middletown of Auchnasheen, by contract dated at Wester Fairburn, on the 26th of June 1732. During the pasturing season he or some member of his family generally resided at Invermaine or at Auchnasheen.

On the advice of Alexander Mackenzie of Inchcoulter, and Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, at the time Lord Advocate for Scotland, his wife's uncles, Matheson before his father's death entered into negotiation for the purchase, jointly with his father, of the property in the neighbourhood of Bennetsfield, belonging to Sir George, for the sum of £78,011 10s. 5d. Scots, or about £6500 sterling; but finding the house, yards, and parks of Pittonachty set down in the valuation at £1200 Scots, he withdrew from further negotiation. In a note of the valuation of these properties made at the time, Scatwell is entered at £36,731 16s. 1d.; Bennetsfield at £13,887 10s.; Belmaduthy at £9708 8s. 5d.; Avoch and Milne thereof at £11,630 9s. 5d.; and Drynie at £6053 6s. 6d.—all Scots money—making a total, as already said, of £78,011 10s. 5d., or £6,500 1s. 10d. sterling.

Alexander, though very successful in his earlier years in adding to his means, latterly involved himself in difficulties by extensive advances to friends in the shape of loans, the attempted recovery of which entailed upon him in his old age, and afterwards on his



posterity, interminable and expensive lawsuits, with scarcely any advantageous results. The most prominent trait in his character, it is said, "besides his prudent economy, was his liberality in the education of the children of his followers and adherents, while his writings and business habits show these were not neglected in respect to himself."

He married, in 1705, Isobel, second daughter of Roderick Mackenzie, first of Avoch, in 1671 sub-chauunter of Ross, and son of the Rev. John Mackenzie, Archdean of Ross, natural son of Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigeach, Tutor of Kintail, second son of Colin Càrn Mackenzie, eleventh of Kintail, and progenitor of the Earls of Cromarty. Roderick's wife, and Isobel's mother, was Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Simon Mackenzie of Lochslinn (fourth son of Kenneth Mackenzie, first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail), by his second wife, Agnes, daughter of William Fraser of Culbockie, relict of Alexander Mackenzie, first of Bal-lone, brother of Sir John Mackenzie, first of Tarbat, and son of Sir Roderick Mackenzie, Tutor of Kintail. By this lady, Isobel Mackenzie of Avoch, Bennetsfield had issue—

1. John, his heir.
2. Roderick, who died without issue.
3. Alexander, a W.S. in Edinburgh, who, in 1739, died without issue.
4. Donald, who married Margaret, daughter of John Miller of Kincurdy.
5. Kenneth, married, without issue.
6. James, who married Mary, daughter of John Macrae of Dornie (by Anne, daughter of Alexander

Mackenzie, third of Applecross, and relict of Alexander Mackenzie, second of Kinchullidrum), with issue.

He died, far advanced in years, in 1754, when he was succeeded by his eldest son,

JOHN MATHESON of Bennetsfield, who was first taught at home by a teacher named Thomson, to whom the father granted as his emoluments a piece of land still or lately known after him as Thomson's Park. This teacher not only had to instruct the young laird, but any others of the youth of the district whom Alexander Matheson might select. John afterwards, with his brother Roderick, finished his education in Edinburgh, and shortly after his return home, during his father's lifetime, he married Elizabeth, daughter of William Mackenzie, third of Belmaduthy, when his father assigned to him, to support a separate establishment, the whole lands and fishings of Bennetsfield and Wester Half Davoch, with one-fourth of the yearly rental of Invermaine, in Strathconan.

John followed the Earl of Cromarty in 1745, in support of Prince Charles, and fought on that side, with some of his brothers, on the fatal field of Culloden. He, however, managed to effect his escape, and his experiences on that occasion and immediately afterwards are sufficiently interesting, and so minutely recorded by Captain John Matheson, late of the 78th Highlanders, last direct male representative of the family, that we are tempted to quote him at length. Referring to the loss of the last relic of their once vast possessions in Lochalsh, Fernaig, as already detailed, by Alexander, Captain John Matheson writes substan-



tially as follows :—There now only remains for John, his (Alexander's) grandson, the tie of consanguinity and a cordial recognition by the followers of his ancestors and their descendants, of his patriarchal claims, now absolutely associated with the more modern acceptance of Scottish chieftaincy, but assimilated more expressly to those petty sovereigns of the ancient Gallic tribes. The laird, however, lived at a time when the social habits incurred by such recollections were more expensive than prudent, a fact verified by his improvident expenditure, poorly compensated to his representatives, by the vain consolation that "*Jura sanguinis nunquam proscribuntur.*" He, however, took an effectual mode of risking the prescription of everything else for which he was indebted to the industry of his predecessors by taking an active part in support of the pretensions of the last of the Royal line of Stuart in concert with his kinsman, the Earl of Cromarty; and the unaccountable absence of the latter in Sutherland, where he was made prisoner, did not prevent the laird of Bennetsfield from joining Prince Charles Edward. And notwithstanding the pressure of the House of Sutherland, which smothered many an ardent feeling towards the cause among the adherents of Lord Fortrose and other neighbours and nearest relatives, John and some of his brothers confirmed their loyalty on the eventful field of Culloden on the 16th of April 1746, which decided the dynasty which was in future to preside over the fortunes of the British Empire.

Matheson's escape was attended by several incidents of a romantic character, "which have been minutely

detailed to us by his brother James, a participator and eye-witness on the occasion, a subject on which the former continued ever after to preserve a tenacious silence." The Laird had crossed the Firth on the morning of the battle in a yacht which constituted his favourite recreation; and it would appear that after the defeat of the Highlanders, he found means to secret himself in a pigstye, which, in the eagerness of pursuit, the Royalist Dragoons had overlooked. Towards evening he recovered his boat, where he lay hid till darkness, which favoured his re-crossing to his own shore in Munlochy Bay, but, excited by the exertions of the day, and rendered desperate by the unlooked-for turn it took, it is not improbable that he might have had recourse to the wonted *solatium dolorum* of those days, to account for the rash act of discharging a fusee at a small brig of war then in the offing, in the King's service, and his instantly having been brought on board the Government vessel as a prisoner, as if it would seem that his safety was in no particular to have been indebted to flight.

Here, aboard the brig, he was immediately recognised by an old friend, Mr Fraser, a clergyman of the Established Church, who perceiving the jeopardy Bennetsfield so imprudently placed himself in, with great presence of mind stepped forward to attest his loyalty, significantly insinuating temporary aberration of mind, which suggestion, perhaps, it is fortunate, the irritated laird did not hear. The result was that Matheson was invited to join in a convivial party of Government officers, probably as much excited as himself, from opposite causes; but by their demeanour on this

occasion, these gentlemen exhibited a liberal counterpart to those execrable and cowardly ruffians on shore, who, after a victory over an enemy from whom the basest of them could not withhold the tribute of chivalrous gallantry, gave the reins to indiscriminate murder and pillage; but the page of impartial history records this sickening accumulation of crime and exhibits a monument of indelible cruelty.

Matheson's accident, however, continued to befriend him. Among the ship's crew was Mr, afterwards General, Skinner, an eminent Engineer, whose business was to select a site for, and to erect a fort [now Fort George] on the Moray Firth. With this view he enquired of Mr Fraser where the best materials were likely to be found. The latter assured the engineer that he was fortunate in his accidental acquaintance with Bennetsfield, on whose estate was to be had the best and most conveniently situated stone quarry in the district. It was then proposed that Mr Skinner should land and make a survey on the following day. Matheson recommended landing at once, and was imperative—perhaps dreading disclosures which might prove serious. His yacht was quite ready; the Royalist was speedily embarked under the protection of the rebel chief; and on their arrival a mutual good feeling was cemented, by social habits, which was never relaxed; while it secured to the latter a semblance of loyalty which he did not deserve, and a protection which was most convenient to him at the time, and which accounts for the pertinacious silence which he ever afterwards preserved when the Rebellion of 1745 became the subject of conversation.

Long after his death an original portrait of Charles Edward was exhumed from beneath a heap of peats, where it had been concealed, in a lumber garret in the House of Bennetsfield; and in 1838 a label, which marked the small of the butt-end of his musket, was accidentally dug up by a labourer on the field of Culloden, bearing a crest and motto which he had assumed, probably in allusion to his political bias. The ancient device of the family was "O'Chian," absurdly rendered into Latin by his grandfather as "Fuimus," instead of "Per Secula." This he changed for what was more applicable to his present adventure, "Fac et Spera," with a hand dexter, bearing a scimitar, and under it "John Matheson of Bennetsfield, 10th April 1746."

This makes it appear that the musket had been made for the purpose, and accommodated to the Highlander's mode of fighting, who generally flung away his fire-arms after the first discharge, and rushed on with sword and targe, when, by the marks, the former would be recovered after the victory; and this small silver plate has, after a lapse of ninety-two years, betrayed a secret which our hero so unsuccessfully endeavoured to preserve.

From this period John's life was passed almost exclusively in the social enjoyment of his neighbours, or in the cultivation of a natural genius for sculpture, painting, and mechanics, with which he amused himself by turning it to the most eccentric uses. One feature of it was that of carving likenesses on walking sticks in caricature; and this he did so well that it was not always safe to accept of an accommodation of that kind from him, without becoming liable to the risk of

finding, if the borrower did not stand high in the laird's good graces, that he became supported along the road by some ludicrously severe representation of himself. These, at all events, he contrived to get into circulation, and many of his friends were thus obliged to recognise themselves to disadvantage, or quietly submit to the ridicule which his eccentricities produced.

Another faculty he possessed, connected with a beautiful style of penmanship, was that of affixing or annexing in correspondence a dash, a portrait, or perhaps a representation of an animal, or something burlesque which left no room for misinterpreting how the individual addressed or referred to stood in the opinion of the writer. It is but justice, however, to say that the sarcastic symbols were not indiscriminately indulged in; where they were used they were sanctioned by the manner of their reception. He was also remarkable for his great strength, which is attested by several existing mementoes of his personal prowess.

He was much chagrined, before his first wife's death, at the prospect of having no sons, while the reversion of his property was destined to heirs-male; and he became quite indifferent as to what became of it or his successor.

John married, first, Elizabeth, second daughter of William Mackenzie, third of Belmaduthy (great-grandson of Alexander Mackenzie, fifth of Gairloch), by Margaret, daughter of Alexander Rose of Clava, with issue—

1. Margaret, who married Andrew Miller of Kin-

curdy, with issue—among others, Elizabeth, who, in 1804, married Michael Miller, and died in 1833, without issue. Michael Miller died in 1826, and on the death of his widow in 1833, the property of Kincurdy reverted by will to her cousin, Jane Gordon, second daughter of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield (who died in 1825). On her death, in 1849, she was succeeded in the property by Colin Matheson Milne-Miller, late of Kincurdy.

Andrew Miller died in 1809, at the age of ninety ; while Margaret, his wife, died in 1811, aged eighty years.

2. Jean, who married Charles Baird, Aberdeen, with issue—among several others, Patrick, who married Miss Wedderburn, with issue—three daughters, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, married Captain Andrew Mason, owner of a small property in Fife-shire, but who afterwards resided in Aberdeen. By her Captain Mason had two daughters, the eldest of whom, Agnes, married the late Sir Fitzroy Kelly, for many years M.P. for Ipswich, and afterwards Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, with issue—an only daughter, Clara. Captain Mason's second daughter, Eliza, married M. de Gerrin, a scion of an ancient family of noble descent in France.

3. Elizabeth, married William Paterson, a merchant in Aberdeen, without issue.

4. A daughter, who died unmarried.

His first wife having died in 1760, he married, secondly, Christina, daughter of John Gordon, second son of Gordon of Letterfurie, by Jean, daughter and heiress of John Gordon of Achimeath, a cadet of the



Gordons of Buckie. By this lady Matheson had issue—

5. Colin, his heir.

6. John, who served for several years in a Regiment of Highland Infantry, raised by the Duke of Gordon during the American War of Independence, and afterwards continued his military career in the H.E.I.C. Service, where he was appointed Military Auditor-General on the Bombay Establishment, and subsequently Paymaster to a Brigade of the Army under Lord Lake, in which position he was suddenly cut off in 1805, “universally esteemed.” The following notice of his death and services appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* in December 1805:—“On Friday, 7th December, died here Captain John Matheson of the Hon. Company’s military establishment at this Presidency, and late Paymaster of the detachment of troops stationed at Poonah. A man of great kindness of heart and incorruptible integrity, who in situations of public trust was actuated by the purest sense of honour, and conducted himself with scrupulous and severe probity, and who in every relation of life deserved and enjoyed the esteem of all who knew him, and could justly appreciate the worth of an honest man. During the period of 13 years’ service in India, his care, diligence, and disinterestedness had uniformly recommended him to his superiors; his warm and honest heart rendered him the object of the friendship of his companions; and his great mildness, good temper, and readiness to oblige, secured the good opinion of all those who had official intercourse with him. The general feelings of this society was

manifested by the unusual number and respectability of the gentlemen who attended his remains to the place of interment, among whom were most of the principal officers of the Army and several of the principal members of the Civil Department." Captain John died unmarried.

7. Catherine, who married Alexander Gillies, London, with issue, one son, Alexander, a merchant in Berbice.

8. Maria, who died unmarried.

John died at Bennetsfield House, on the 21st of February 1768, and was buried in the family burying-ground at Suddy, when he was succeeded by his eldest son,

COLIN MATHESON of Bennetsfield, then in his fifth year. The management of the property, as well as the care of the children, devolved upon the young widowed mother, whose active mind and business habits were ably assisted by the judicious council of her father, early trained to the law; and it can be easily believed that such qualifications as both possessed were in urgent request during a long minority, while the property was heavily encumbered, its boundaries undefined, and at the same time a question of dispute with the neighbouring proprietors. Indeed matters had got into such an embarrassed position that it required the greatest prudence and the most judicious exertion to preserve the property to the family.

Colin was sent to be educated, first to Elgin, where his mother accompanied him; but finding the heir's presence indispensable at home, she returned to



Ross-shire with him, and placed him in school at Fortrose, under Mr William Smith, well known for his excellent qualities as a teacher—qualities afterwards spoken to by many of his pupils, whose subsequent successful career in various walks of life many of them attributed to his excellent mode of instruction. In due course Colin went to Aberdeen, and finally completed his education in Edinburgh.

In 1780, when only in his sixteenth year, he received a commission in the Gordon Fencibles, raised and embodied at Aberdeen by Alexander Duke of Gordon, in 1778. Here Colin served first as Ensign and afterwards as Lieutenant, until on the conclusion of peace between Great Britain, France, Spain, and America, the corps was disbanded in 1783.

In 1784 he married Grace (a very beautiful woman, whose portrait by Smellie Watson is in the possession of the Rev. Donald Masson, M.A., M.D., Edinburgh), fourth daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston, by his wife Henrietta, daughter of James Grant of Rothiemurchus, with issue, who arrived at maturity—

1. John, his heir.

2. Patrick Grant, a Major, H.E.I.C. Horse Artillery, on the Bengal Establishment, and for many years Chief of the Commissariat Department at Delhi, where he died in 1835. His death is referred to in the obituary of the Bengal *Englishman* of January the 17th, in that year ; and in the *Delhi Gazette* as follows: “ At Delhi, on Wednesday, 15th inst., Captain Patrick Grant Matheson, Commissary of Ordnance. His remains were followed to the grave by nearly all the

civil and military officers of the station, and the whole of the Magazine Establishment, many of whom shed tears of sorrow to his departed worth." He married, in India, Hannah Mills Butler, daughter of James Major Orde, an officer of the Commissariat Department, with issue—(1) James Brooks Young Matheson, Colonel, H.E.I.C.S., who commanded the 11th Bengal Irregular Cavalry; raised the Benares Horse during the Indian Mutiny; took a gun at Mooltan; and received the Indian medals and clasps. He married Louisa Keane, daughter of Dr Keane, Superintending Surgeon of the Presidency of Bengal, with issue—(a) Ian Grant Matheson, and (b) Alexander Matheson Mathon Matheson, both of whom died young in India; (c) ERIC GRANT MATHESON, afterwards chief of his clan, who, born in 1865, resided with his mother in Belgium (who on the death of her first husband, Colonel James Brooks Young Matheson, married, secondly, M. Vans Best); and (d) Ailsie Grant Matheson. (2) Thomas Theophilus Metcalf, Lieutenant, 39th Regiment, who died in India in his 21st year, unmarried; (3) Colonel Ian Grant Matheson, Staff Corps, 2nd Fusiliers, medals and clasps, died unmarried; (4) Susan Eleanor, who died in infancy; (5) Isabella Maria Grant, who married James Charles Claud Hamilton, of the Hamiltons of Tyrone, Major, late Bengal European Light Infantry, medals and clasps, with issue—Claud Hamilton and Seymour Ratcliffe George Annesly Hamilton; (6) Hannah Grace, who married Lieutenant-Colonel H. King, 13th Regiment, Bengal Infantry (medal and clasp) with issue—Mortimer James King.

3. Charles Mackenzie Matheson, who, after a short apprenticeship in a mercantile house in London, emigrated to the colony of Berbice, where he carried on a large and successful business for many years. He married, in that colony, Margaret, daughter of Simon Fraser of Kilmorack, by his wife Maria, daughter of Colonel Barclay of New York, a cadet of the family of Urie, with issue, six sons and one daughter : (1) Colin, who died in America, leaving one daughter ; (2) Simon Fraser, who married Elizabeth Pinkering, and died childless ; (3) Charles, whose son, HEYLIN FRASER MATHESON, is present Chief of the Clan Matheson, and whose family is given further on ; (4) John Cameron, who died in 1850, at the age of 27 ; (5) Donald Charles Cameron, unmarried ; (6) Anthony Barclay, who died unmarried ; and (7) Maria, who married Alexander Winter, and died in 1861, leaving two sons and two daughters.

4. Alexander Gordon, who joined his brother Charles in Berbice, and died there, unmarried, in 1819.

5. Christina, who married W. R. Spalding, an officer in the Barrack Department at Fort-Augustus, with issue—(1) Richard, a Colonel of Marines, married, with issue ; (2) Colin, an Officer in the Ordnance Department, New South Wales ; (3) Warner, who went to Berbice, and was later Police Magistrate in British Columbia, died leaving a widow and family, now living in London ; (4) Alexander ; (5) Grace, who married Charles Lesack, a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, with issue, one son, Charles, in the Army ; and (6) a daughter, who married Major Robert Chadwick, with issue.

6. Jane Gordon, proprietrix in her own right of Kincurdy, in the county of Ross, who married the Rev. Robert Milne-Miller, minister of Aboyne, in Aberdeenshire, with issue—(1) Colin Matheson Milne-Miller, late proprietor of Kincurdy, Surgeon-Major in the Army; retired in 1873. He was Assistant-Surgeon in the 80th Regiment during the Indian Mutiny. Held medal, 1876-77. He married, in 1866, Mary Ann Phipps, with issue—Colin Matheson, born 18th of June 1870, died in 1872; Robert Michael, born 26th of March 1874; Jane Elizabeth, Mary Louisa, Helen Christina, Grace and Harriet Matheson. Surgeon-Major Milne-Miller died in 1895, and the estate was sold. (2) Andrew Michael Miller, C.E., massacred at Cawnpore during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. (3) George Gordon, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr Ross, Tain, with issue—an only daughter, Jane Dora. He died on the 27th of May 1862. (4) Elizabeth Milne-Miller, who died unmarried, in the 21st year of her age, in 1849. (5) Grace, who died in infancy.

7. Elizabeth Rupert Fraser, who married Donald Charles Cameron of Barcaldine, Argyllshire, with issue—(1) Donald, (2) Alexander, and (3) Colize, all three of whom died in infancy; (4) John, who succeeded his father in 1849, and died unmarried in 1857; (5) Allan Gordon succeeded his brother John in 1857, and inherited the family estates of Barcaldine and Foxhall. He married Mary Colebrooke, only daughter of George William Traill of Vera and Rousay, Orkney, with issue—two sons, Ewen Somerled, who succeeded to, and sold a portion of, the Barcaldine Estates;

Allan Gordon, who inherited Letter Walton, another portion of the Barcaldine estates; and a daughter, Mary Colebrooke, who died in 1878. He died in 1872. (6) Donald Charles of Glenbrittle, Isle of Skye, who married Anne, daughter of Charles Shaw, W.S., late Sheriff-Substitute of Inverness-shire at Lochmaddy, with issue—(1*a*) Donald Charles, of the Bank of Africa, Durban, Natal; (2*a*) Charles Shaw, a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders; (3*a*) John Gordon Patrick; (4*a*) Annie Margaret Elizabeth; and (5*a*) Elizabeth Henrietta Maria. Donald Charles died in 1891. (7) Patrick Evan, who died unmarried in 1853; (8) Maria Grace, who married James Archibald Campbell of Inverawe, with issue—four sons and five daughters; (9) Elizabeth, who married Patrick, third son of Grant of Glenmoriston, and formerly of the H.E.I.C. Service, with issue—two sons and four daughters; (10) Helen, who married James Murray, youngest son of Grant of Glenmoriston, a Major-General in the Indian Army, with issue—four sons and three daughters.

8. Martha Fraser, who married, first, Hugh Junor of Essiquibo, with issue—(1) Colin, a merchant in Australia, is married, with issue. She married, secondly, the Rev. Archibald Brown, minister of St Andrew's Church, in Demerara, with issue. (2) Hugh, of Ventnor House, Melbourne, married, with issue—Archibald Junor (since dead), Colin Matheson (who is married, with issue), William Macdonald (since dead), Hugh Mackenzie (since dead), Martha Elizabeth (who married Hon. Alfred Deacon, barrister, M.P.), Alice (who married William Platts, Esq., the Brooms,

Sheffield), Helen Grace (who married Dr. Herbert Fawcett, Wimborne, Dorset), Lily, and also Arthur Victor and Charles Foster, minors ; (3) Grace, who married Colonel Andrew Kelso, 3rd Madras Cavalry (both of whom are dead), with issue—Archibald, C.E., Bombay (also dead), and Alice Martha, who married the Rev. Alfred Swainson, M.A. of Cambridge, and lives at Leamington, with numerous issue ; (4) Helen Jane, who married the Rev. Donald Masson, M.A., M.D., minister of the Gaelic Church, Edinburgh, one of the most eminent Gaelic scholars of the time, who has now retired from active duty, with issue—Donald Hugh (who is married at Northam, West Australia, with issue), William Muir Macdonald (who is married at Lahore, in India, with issue), Grace Isabella, Helen Margaret, Christina Amelia, Alice Isobel (who is married to Raymond Dexter Clark of Waverton, N.S.W.), Flora Macdonald (who is married to the Rev. William Green, Grantown-on-Spey), and Kate Hamilton, a distinguished student of Newnham College, Cambridge.

9. Helen Cameron, who married the late William Bell, surgeon in the H.E.I.C.S., a fine old lady, who latterly lived in Inverness, where she died in 1883, at the age of 84, the last survivor of her father's family.\*

\* In noticing Mrs Bell's death in the *Celtic Magazine* of May 1883, Mr Mackenzie writes :—" Her father was Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, the acknowledged chief of his clan, and once the proprietor of the valuable estates of Bennetsfield and the two Suddies. Her mother was Grace, daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston, while her maternal grandmother was a daughter of James Grant of Rothiemurchus. . . . In India she married Dr William Bell,



Colin of Bennetsfield died at Fortrose in 1825, and was buried in the family tomb at Suddie, which was renovated, and a massive slab erected to his memory by his widow and daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

JOHN MATHESON of Bennetsfield, first educated at Fortrose, and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh; but having a preference for a military profession, he joined the army in 1803. He finally retired as Captain of the 78th Highlanders. He wrote the Bennetsfield Manuscript of the Mackenzies, and an account of his own ancestors, taken chiefly from the family records, and to which we are largely indebted in the preparation of this sketch. He was a learned and accomplished man, an excellent musician, and as a linguist he was proficient in several modern languages, including Turkish; as also in Latin and Greek. His knowledge of French is said to have once stood him in good stead. Being taken prisoner while serving with his regiment in Egypt, he became the bondsman of a certain sheik, who employed him, first as his gardener, and ultimately as his secretary.

of the H.E.I.C. Service, a man of kindly heart and sincere piety, the friend of Metcalf, Pennifather, and the other ornaments of the India School of Evangelical religion. Of this school the late Mrs Bell was a worthy disciple; and there are many in Inverness who will long miss her cheering words and simple unostentatious charities. She was gathered to her fathers in the old church-yard of Suddie, her nephew, Colin Milne-Miller of Kincurdy, acting as chief mourner. He is the last of her race—the Mathesons of Bennetsfield—to own land in the county, where once they held large and valuable estates.” And he, too, is no more, and the last estate of the family has passed to strangers!

While exercising the functions of the latter office in the French language, he was able to communicate in English with his family, and this in due time led to his release. Captain "Jack," as his friends loved to call him, was also a writer of verses.

He married Ann, daughter of the Rev. Robert Arthur, minister of Resolis, in the county of Cromarty, and died, without issue, in May 1843, when he was succeeded as representative and chief of the Mathesons by his nephew,

COLONEL JAMES BROOKS YOUNG MATHESON, H.E.I.C.S., son of Major Patrick Grant Matheson, who died at Delhi, as already stated, in 1835, and grandson of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, who died in 1825.

Colonel James Brooks Young Matheson married, in 1857, Louisa, daughter of Dr Keane, Superintending Surgeon of the Presidency of Bengal, with issue—

1. Ian Grant; who died young, in India.
2. Alastair Grant, who died young, in India.
3. Eric Grant, born in 1865.
4. Ailsie Grant.

He died in 1886, when he was succeeded as representative of the Mathesons of Bennetsfield and chief of his clan by his only surviving son,

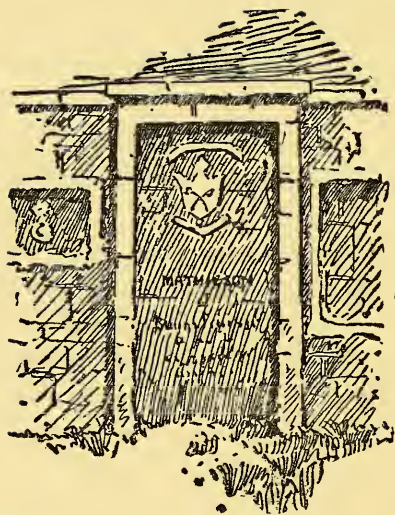
ERIC GRANT MATHESON, still [1882] a minor, residing with his mother, who married, as her second husband, Alexander Vans Best, M.D., F.R.C.S.L. of Aberdeen, who died in 1876. Since the above was penned, Eric Grant Matheson has also been gathered to his fathers: he died, without issue, in 1899. By his death the chiefship of Clan Matheson now passes to



HEYLYN FRASER MATHESON, son of the late Rev. Charles Matheson, and grandson of Charles Mackenzie Matheson (p. 49 above), third son of Colin of Bennetsfield. The present Chief was educated at Canterbury and Christ Church, Oxford; held scholarships at both places, is now resident at Eastbourne, where for sixteen years he has been House-Master at Eastbourne College, and married in 1885 Ethel Nina Hall-Say, and has three children, (1) Charles Lionel Theodore, born 1889; (2) Bertram Heylyn, born 1890; and (3) Margaret Esme, born 1892.

Besides the new Chief the late Rev. Charles Matheson by his wife Alethea, daughter of Henry Hayter, Esq., of Edenvale, Wilts, had six children—(1) Charles Cameron, who died in 1866; (2) Ellen Grace, unmarried; (3) Margaret Amy, married in 1882 to Rev. Henry Von Essen Scott, with issue Charles, John Gordon Cameron, Hugh Sumner, Aubrey Heylyn, and Henry Cecil; (4) Alethea Mary, married 1886 to Rev. T. W. Hudson, Warden of St. Edwards School, Oxford, with living issue (*a*) Eric Charles Robert, (*b*) Thomas Heylyn, (*c*) Alethea Caroline, (*d*) Arthur Hensley, (*e*) Noel Baring, and (*f*) Mary Victoria Margaret; (5) Edward, unmarried; and (6) Maynard Eliza, married 1896 Captain W. P. Garland Mylrea, A.S.C.





*Monument of John and Colin Matheson of  
Bennetsfield in Suddie Church-Yard.*

# FAMILY OF LOCHALSH.



*OLD ATTADALE HOUSE.*

# THE MATHESONS OF LOCHALSH AND ATTADALE.

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AN account of this family will probably derive its greatest interest from the fact that, while many of our ancient Highland families are fast disappearing, mainly in consequence of the extravagance and folly of their chiefs, the Mathesons of Lochalsh have, by the opposite qualities of prudence and business habits, been raised in our own day from a position of comparative obscurity to that of influence and wealth worthy of their fifteenth century ancestors, who are alleged to have been at that period the leaders of two thousand able-bodied warriors. At this very date the head of this branch of the Mathesons would, in similar circumstances to those which existed in those days, command from his extensive estates the allegiance of a following little short of his ancestor, though a small portion of these would be of his own name. But this would have been equally true of his ancestor of 1427, who in that year appeared before King James at Inverness.

That the single exertions of one man should have succeeded in raising the fortunes of an ancient family, which had almost disappeared as possessors of the soil for centuries, is as remarkable as it is creditable to his prudence and business energy. If to the

extensive properties owned by the present [1882] proprietor of Lochalsh and Ardross we add the possessions of his late relative, Sir James Matheson of the Lewis, few of the owners of old Highland properties can boast of such a heritage in possession of the representatives of any single family, though no break may have occurred in the possession or succession; while the Mathesons owe their entire modern heritage to their own personal earnings and business industry.

It must have been gratifying to themselves, as it certainly was to all good Highlanders, to see the estates of Lochalsh, Attadale, Ardross, and the Lewis, when they had to change hands from another set of Highland proprietors, coming into the possession of the representatives of the ancient stock who owned a large portion of the same lands many centuries ago. And the manner in which they have dealt with their new possessions, and with the inhabitants residing upon them, has, on the whole, been most creditable, and in consonance with the laudable and patriotic feelings and ambition which made them anxious to own the original heritage of their ancestors. We shall have more to say on this subject further on, in its proper place; meanwhile we proceed to show the descent of the present family step by step from the old stock—the ancient and original Mathesons of Lochalsh.

The reader would have observed [page 22] that MURDOCH MATHESON, known as “Murchadh Buidhe,” or Murdoch with the yellow hair, had a son RODERICK who succeeded his father at Fernaig, and from whom the Mathesons of Bennetsfield, already dealt with.

He had also a second son, DUGALD MATHESON, to whom his father bequeathed the lands of Balmacarra, and who is described as Chamberlain of Lochalsh in 1631, when he made a settlement on his son's marriage to Christian MacIennan, daughter of Rev. Donald Clerk, minister of Lochalsh (p. 23). Dugald married, and had three sons, the first two of whom were twins.

1. MURDOCH, who inherited Balmacarra, and who appears in the Valuation Roll of the County of Ross in 1644 as owner of lands in the parish of Lochalsh to the value of £100 Scots per annum. He afterwards alienated these lands to Seaforth, and paid rent for them, and ultimately, in consequence of a quarrel with his superior, he was forced to leave Lochalsh, and for a time settle in Skye. After his second marriage, however, intercession was made for him by his wife's relatives, and he was allowed to return to Balmacarra as a tenant under Seaforth, again paying rent for his original patrimony. He first married Christina MacIennan, the (evidently widowed) daughter of Rev. Donald Clerk, above mentioned, with issue—two children, Dugald and Christian. On the 15th of February 1676, Murdoch is required by the Sheriff of Tain to show cause why he had not paid certain sums which were provided for his issue under his first marriage contract, dated the 27th of April 1631.\* Murdoch married, secondly, a daughter of Alexander Mackenzie, fourth of Davochmaluag,† after which he was permitted to return to Lochalsh. By this lady Murdoch had

\* See Appendix C in regard to Murdoch's history.—Ed.

† At page 23, this lady is described as a *sister* of Roderick Mackenzie, *fourth* instead of *fifth* of Davochmaluag.



issue—one son, Alexander (whose only issue was a natural son Kenneth), and two daughters, Agnes, who married Thomas Mackenzie, first of Highfield, with issue; and another who married Kenneth Og Macqueen of Toutrome, in the Isle of Skye. Murdoch's legitimate male descendants appear thus to have become extinct, when Dugald's male line fell to be carried on by,

2. JOHN MATHESON, the other twin, called "Ian Og," whom, it is said, the midwife maintained to be the first-born; but Murdoch is alleged to have suborned witnesses against his claim to be the eldest of the twins, "in order that all the patrimony left them jointly might fall to his own share." John occupied lands in Lochalsh, and married the second daughter of John Mackenzie, fourth of Hilton, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of Dunbar of Inchbrock, with issue, three sons—(1) ALEXANDER, his heir, progenitor of the Mathesons of Lochalsh, Attadale, and Ardross, and of whom presently; (2) Duncan, who left three sons—John, Kenneth, and Alexander;\* (3) Dugald, who had issue—two sons, John and Murdoch.

3. Dugald, called "Dugald Og," who had a son, John, who left six sons, many of whose descendants are still to be found in Lochalsh (See App. C.)

The descent of this family from "MURDOCH BUIDHE" MATHESON, the common progenitor of the

\* Mr Mackenzie did not record the descendants of Duncan and Dugald, who are extra to the Lochalsh Family. As important members of the Clan came of Duncan, such as the late Rev. Duncan Matheson of Lochalsh, we give the branch after the main Lochalsh section under the title "Duncan Mac Ian Og Branch."



two families of Bennetsfield and Lochalsh, may be briefly stated thus—

I. DUGALD MATHESON of Balmacarra, son of Murdoch Buidhe, Chamberlain of Lochalsh 1631.

II. JOHN MATHESON, the twin, second son of Dugald, and commonly called “Ian Og,” brother of Murdoch of Balmacarra, 1644.

III. ALEXANDER MATHESON, his heir, who occupied the lands of Achraytoralan in Lochalsh, and married Christina, eldest daughter of Alexander Macrae of Inverinate, chief of the Macraes, and “Chamberlain of Kintail,” by his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie, second of Redcastle, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of William Rose, eleventh Baron of Kilravock. Christina Macrae was thus sister of Donnchadh Nam Pios, author of the *Fernaig M.S.*

By his wife, Alexander Matheson had issue—

1. Murdoch, who married Catherine, daughter of John Breac, son of Rev. Farquhar Macrae, minister of Kintail, with issue—an only son, John, who married a daughter of Kenneth Matheson, by whom he had two sons, Murdoch and Kenneth, and one daughter. Murdoch, the eldest son, died unmarried. Kenneth married Anne, daughter of Roderick Mackenzie, Rissil, with issue—an only son, John (and two daughters), who resided at Kishorn, and died, at the age of seventy-two, in 1849, without issue, when, in his person, the male line of Murdoch became extinct.

2. John, tenant of Achraytoralan. For him and his numerous descendants, see at the end of this main Section, under “John of Achraytoralan Branch.”

3. Farquhar, direct male ancestor of Sir Alexander

Matheson of Lochalsh and Ardross, and his family, of whom presently.

4. Dugald, who was killed at the battle of Glen-shiel in 1719. For Dugald's descendants, see further on under "Perth Canadian Branch."

5. Donald, for his descendants see under "Donald Mac Alastair Branch."

6. Colin, a merchant in Dingwall, who died without male issue, but left two daughters, the eldest of whom, Janet, married John Macneil, a builder in Dingwall, to whom she carried her father's property. The other married Roderick MacIennan, miller at Millbank, with issue, Colin MacIennan, afterwards innkeeper, Dingwall.

We shall now revert to Alexander's third son,

IV. FARQUHAR MATHESON, designated of Fernaig, to whom his father appears to have left most of his property. In 1687 he succeeded his cousin, John Mor Matheson of Bennetsfield, in the old family holding at Fernaig, while at the same time he held a wadset of the lands of Lussay, Kyleakin, Glenbeiste, and others in Skye, for which he paid 3000 merks Scots. "He was an active thrifty man, being generally engaged in droving and cattle dealing."\*

He married, first, a daughter of Evander Murchieson of Auchtertyre, without issue. She only lived about a year after marriage. He married, secondly, his cousin Mary, a daughter of Christopher Macrae, Ardintoul, grand-daughter of Alexander Macrae of Inverinate, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie, fourth of Davoch-

\* Iomaire MS.

maluag, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of Hector Munro of Fowlis, by Anne, daughter of Hugh, seventh Lord Lovat. By this lady, Farquhar Matheson had issue—

1. John, his heir.

2. Alexander, tenant of Achandarrach, who married Mary, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie of Sand, Gairloch, with issue—three sons and two daughters, Farquhar, Roderick, Murdoch Ban, Catherine, who married her cousin Alexander, third of Attadale, and Margaret, who married her cousin Kenneth Matheson, son of Donald in Balmacarra. Of the sons, (1) Farquhar of Tullich married Donald of Attadale's widow, and had a son James, who had a son Alexander; (2) Roderick died young; and (3) Murdoch left four sons and three daughters—(a) Alexander became a wealthy merchant in Carolina, and left three sons and a daughter, (b) John died young without issue, (c) Roderick emigrated to Carolina (died 1811), and (d) Farquhar died young.

3. Ewen, who died young, unmarried.

4. Donald, tenant of Balmacarra. For his descendants, see under "Donald of Balmacarra Branch" further on.

5. Mary; 6, Catherine; 7, Marian; 8, Anne; 9, Christian; who all married.

Farquhar died, about 1725, on his way from the Michaelmas market at Inverbenchran, Strathconan, and was buried in the church of Lochalsh, when he was succeeded by his eldest son,

V. JOHN MATHESON, who purchased for his eldest son the estate of Attadale and Corrychruby, about

1730, from Alexander Mackenzie, eighth of Davochmaluag. He was factor for the Seaforth estates of Kintail, Lochalsh, and Lochcarron, and "was accounted the most reputable farmer in the North Highlands of Scotland."\*

He married, first, a daughter of Mackenzie of Achilty, "in the Island of Lewis," with issue—two sons, who died in infancy.

He married, secondly, on the 9th of September 1728, Margaret, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie, I. of Pitlundie, son of Alexander Mackenzie, II. of Belmaduthy, by his wife, Catherine, daughter of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, I. of Coul, Baronet. Margaret's mother was Anne, daughter of Hector Mackenzie of Bishop-Kinkell, and grand-daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie, VI. of Gairloch. By this lady he had issue—

1. Donald, his heir.
2. Kenneth, killed at the capture of Quebec, under General Wolfe, without issue.
3. Alexander, who succeeded his brother Donald at Fernaig and Attadale.
4. William, who died unmarried.
5. Farquhar, of Court Hill, who married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of William Mackenzie of Strathgarve, with issue—(1) William, a Captain in the 78th Highlanders, who died without issue; (2) Janet, who married Alexander Matheson, a grandson of Farquhar of Tullich (p. 65), and emigrated to America. Farquhar married, secondly, Margaret, daughter of John Mackenzie of Achiltie and Kinellan, a grandson of Sir

Colin Mackenzie, Bart., fourth of Coul, with issue; (3) an only son, Farquhar, deceased.

6. Anne, who married Alexander Mackenzie, Kishorn, fourth son of Captain John, son of John Mackenzie, second of Applecross.

7. Mary, who married Simon Mackenzie, third of Alduinny, with issue.

8. Catherine, who married Archibald Chisholm, grandfather of the late James Sutherland Chisholm of Chisholm.

John Matheson married thirdly, in 1745, Elizabeth, daughter of Simon Mackenzie, I. of Allangrange (by Isobel, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Findon), with issue—one son.

9. John, who married, with issue—an only son, Alexander, Captain, 78th Highlanders, who died in India, in 1809, without issue.

He died in 1760, when he was succeeded by his eldest son,

VI. DONALD MATHESON, second of Attadale, who built the mansion-house there during his father's lifetime, in 1755, and married Elizabeth, daughter of James Mackenzie, third of Highfield (by Mary, daughter of Roderick Mackenzie, fourth of Applecross, by his wife, Anne, daughter of Alastair Dubh Macdonell, ninth of Glengarry, by his first wife, Anne, daughter of Hugh, Lord Lovat), without issue. He died in 1763. His widow married, as her second husband, Farquhar Matheson of Tullich.

He was succeeded by his brother,

VII. ALEXANDER MATHESON, third of Attadale, who, in 1763-4, married his cousin Catharine, daughter

of Alexander Matheson, Achandarroch, by Mary, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie of Sand, with issue, twenty-one children, of whom only one son and four daughters arrived at maturity.

1. John, who succeeded his father.

2. Margaret, who married, as his second wife, Roderick Mackenzie of Achavannie, with issue—one son, Alexander, who died in 1891.

3. Anne, who married Farquhar Matheson of Achandarroch, with issue as noted under the “Donald of Balmacarra Branch.”

4. Elizabeth, who died 27th July 1798.

5. Mary, who died unmarried in 1845.

He died in January 1804, when he was succeeded by his only surviving son,

VIII. JOHN MATHESON, fourth of Attadale, who, in 1804, married Margaret, daughter of Captain Donald Matheson of Shiness, by Catharine, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Mackay, minister of Lairg, son of the Rev. John Mackay, by Catharine, daughter of John Mackay of Kirtomy, grand-nephew of Donald, first Lord Reay, and grandson maternally of Sir James Fraser of Brae, son of Simon, eighth Lord Lovat. By this lady, who died in 1850, John Matheson had issue—

1. Alexander, his heir, first Baronet of Lochalsh, born in 1805, died 1886, of whom hereafter.

2. Hugh, born 1806, a merchant in Liverpool, who married, in 1837, his cousin, Christina, daughter of the Rev. Alexander Macpherson, D.D., minister of Golspie, with issue—six daughters; (1) Margaret Mary Crawford, who married the Rev. Robert

Cameron, D.D., Leeds, without issue ; (2) Isabella, died 1895 ; (3) Elizabeth, married in 1889 Thomas Matheson, merchant, Liverpool (see Achany Mathesons) ; (4) Alexandrina Macpherson, who on the 19th of August 1879, married Edward Foster, F.S.A. (Lond.), Aldershot, with issue—Thomas Matheson, born in 1880 ; and Hugh Matheson, born in 1886. Hugh's other two daughters died in infancy. He died in 1875.

3. Farquhar, minister of Lairg, which charge he resigned in 1878. He thereafter resided in Inverness, where he died, unmarried, in 1894.

4. Donald, born 1810, came to America in 1825, settled in S. Carolina, and married in 1837 Christian Macleod. He died in 1890, leaving issue—(1) Hugh, born 1838, killed in the Civil War ; (2) Walter, a Major in the Civil War, dead ; (3) Alexander James, born 1848, merchant, Bennetsville, S.C., married in 1870 Sarah Ellen Jarnigan, with issue, (a) Julian Jarnigan, born 1872, married 1892, Martha L. Macleod, with issue—Alexander Julian, Ellen, and Clarence Donald, (b) Gustave Donald, born 1878, (c) James Kenneth, born 1885, (d) Alexander Deems, born 1886, and four daughters—Harriet Lyall (married Captain W. Wannamaker), Caroline Chrystine, Alexandra Ellen, and Mary Elizabeth ; (4) Margaret Montgomery, married 1869, Augustus Vastine Eaves, with issue (a) Major Havelock, born 1870, married 1898 Eva Riley, (b) James Matheson, (c) Donald Matheson, (d) Augustus Jackson, and also four daughters—Von Etta, Leila, Margaret Christian, and Mary Ellen ; (5) Mary, married in



1882 Major Charles S. Henagan, with issue—Margaret Isabella ; and (6) Sarah Nicholson, married to Rev. John G. Richards.

5. John, who died young, in 1833.

6. Catherine, who, in 1834, married General John Macdonald, H.E.I.C.S., who died in 1895, with surviving issue—(1) Donald, a Colonel in the Indian army, married in April 1865, Emilia Frances, daughter of Lieutenant Crommelin, R.A., without issue ; (2) John Matheson, a partner in the well-known firm of Matheson and Company, Lombard Street, London, who married, in October 1870, Eleanora Leckie, daughter of William Leckie Ewing of Arngomery, Stirlingshire, with issue—Norman Matheson, Eric William, John Buchanan, Reginald Henry, Eleanora Leckie, Catherine Matheson, Bertha, and Mary Isabella. General Macdonald had also three daughters—(3) Margaret, who married, firstly, Lieut. Proctor, Bengal Army, killed at Agra in 1857, and, secondly, Rev. James Drummond Burns (dead), with issue (*a*) Rev. Hugh Burns, who married Miss Lyall, Adelaide, Australia ; Mary Proctor, married to Rev. Dr Macallister ; and (*c*) Catherine Burns ; (4) Catherine, married to Thomas Middleton, Farness, Cromarty, with issue, two daughters ; and (5) Mary Elizabeth Denys.

7. Harriet (born 1817, died 1882), who, on the 24th of March 1835, married Charles Lyall, London, who died in 1889, with issue—(1) Sir Charles James, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., late Bengal Civil Service, and now of the India Office ; born 1845, and married in 1870 Florence Lyall, daughter of Henry Fraser, with issue—two sons and five daughters ; (2) John Matheson,



born 1746, died 1881, a partner in Lyall, Rennie, and Co., Calcutta ; (3) Henry, late Major in the Royal Artillery, born 1849, and married, in 1876, to Mary Sophia, eldest daughter of the late Major-General Charles Style Akers, Royal Engineers, with issue—two daughters ; (4) Harriet Jane ; (5) Caroline Alexa, who in 1865 married the Rev. Bradley Hurt Alford, M.A., with issue, two daughters ; (6) Mary ; (7) Edith Margaret, who married, in 1882, Admiral Francis Starkey Clayton, R.N., with issue—three sons and one daughter ; (8) Constance. There were also one son and four daughters who died in childhood.

John Matheson died in 1826, when he was succeeded, as representative of the family, by his eldest son,

IX. Sir ALEXANDER MATHESON, Bart. of Lochalsh, Attadale, and Ardrross (1805-1886). During his father's lifetime the family was, in 1825, reduced to the necessity of parting with the last remnant of their heritable possessions in the west by the sale of Attadale, and Alexander Matheson had to begin life afresh without any of those advantages of position and wealth which make success in life so comparatively easy. His uncle, the late Sir James Matheson of the Lews, Bart., was at the time largely engaged and very successful in the commercial world of India and China, and under his auspices an opening was found for young Matheson in the famous mercantile house of Jardine, Matheson, and Co., on the retirement from which he founded and became head of the eminent firm of Matheson and Company, London.

About 1839, a comparatively young man, he re-

turned to the Highlands, where he had spent the earlier years of his life, with a magnificent fortune, and, in 1840, made his first start in the purchase of Highland property. In that year he bought the lands of Ardintoul and Letterfearn, a pretty estate of about 6000 acres, lying on the south side of Lochalsh and Loch Duich, for £15,500. In 1844 he acquired the lands of Inverinate, on the north side of Loch Duich, an ancient heritage of the Mackenzies and long the home of the Macrae's, for £30,000. In 1851 he bought Lochalsh, the ancestral possessions of his House, for £120,000. In 1857 he acquired Strathbran and Ledgowan, near Achnasheen, for £32,000. In 1861, Attadale, the last heritable property in the hands of his ancestors, he secured for £14,520, and in 1866 he bought New Kelso and Strathcarron for £26,000; altogether a magnificent stretch of Highland property, containing about 115,000 acres, at a total cost of £238,020, which in 1881 realised an annual rent of £13,705. In addition to original cost, Sir Alexander spent about £120,000, including some £50,000 expended on his beautiful mansion and extensive grounds at Duncraig, on the improvement of his West Highland property, bringing the total up to £358,020.

During the same period that he was accumulating this large property in the west, he acquired the estate of Ardross, extending to 60,000 acres, in Easter Ross, at a cost of £90,000; Dalmore, for £24,700; Culcairn, for £26,640; Delny and Balintraid, for £28,250; which, with other neighbouring properties, made a sum, for lands in Easter Ross, amounting to over £185,000, yielding an annual rental, in 1881, of





[By kind permission of Messrs. J. VALENTINE & SON,  
Photographers, Dundee.]

**Duncraig Castle.**

£9324 ; while the outlays for improvements, including Ardross Castle and grounds, amounted to nearly £230,000 ; total, £415,000. His entire possessions in the County of Ross extended to over 220,000 acres at a total cost of £773,020.

In addition to these extensive and valuable estates, Sir Alexander Matheson, in 1847, purchased lands in the Burgh of Inverness—the most valuable portion of the estate of Muirtown, and the smaller properties of Fairfield, Plane-field, Macleod's Park, and Ness House Grounds, lying between the River Ness and the Caledonian Canal, and including all the feu-duties and the greater part of the feuing-ground present and prospective (except the property of the Mac-kintosh Farr Trustees), on the west side of the Ness. In addition to the purchase price of this property, Sir Alexander spent between £35,000 and £40,000 in improvements and modern buildings on the estate, the rental of which, in 1881, was about £3,500, but which by no means represents the ultimate value of the property, which is yearly increasing from new feu-duties. The rental in 1862 was only £1141, but by purchase of the small properties above-mentioned, and the judicious outlay on roads and buildings, under the wise management of Mr Alex. Ross, architect, Inverness, the property is daily (1882-1900) getting very much more enhanced in value.

In 1875, on the occasion of the coming of age of Kenneth J. Matheson, his heir, we are told that "it is no disparagement to other lairds to say that Mr Matheson was among the first in the present generation who saw the advantage of acquiring Highland

property as a means of employing capital advantageously in the development of the resources of the country, and it is only due to patriotic feeling to point out the care with which, in the revolution which his improvements have effected in many parts of the County of Ross, he has avoided disturbing the traditional associations of the people. Something like £300,000 has been expended by Mr Matheson in land improvements and building in Ross-shire, but in all the work which that vast sum represents, we have not heard that it was found necessary to embitter the feelings of a single township, or even a shealing. His capital has been used to the great benefit of the country, and the means employed have been administered with so much wisdom, forbearance, and kindness, that the demonstrations of rejoicing now agitating the County of Ross are, we believe, as sincere and hearty as they are universal."\* In all this we heartily concur.

He was not only instrumental in getting the Dingwall and Skye Railway constructed, but it is doubtful whether, without his influence and means, we should have had even yet a railway across the Grampians connecting us directly with the South. There is no doubt at all that to him and to the Duke of Sutherland is mainly due that we have a system of railways throughout the Highlands, and the consequent prosperity which has followed in its wake during the last twenty [1882] years.

Sir Alexander was for years Chairman of the Highland Railway. He represented the Inverness

\* Inverness Courier, May 1875.



District of Burghs in Parliament from 1847 to 1868, when, on the retirement of his uncle, Sir James Matheson of the Lews, from the County of Ross, he gave up the Burghs and succeeded his uncle in the representation in Parliament of his native county, a position which he held till his retirement in 1884.

In the year 1882 his public services were suitably acknowledged by the Crown, a Baronetcy having been conferred upon him. On the 15th of May that year he was created Sir Alexander Matheson, Baronet of Lochalsh. Sir Alexander Matheson died on the 27th July 1886.

He married, first, in 1840, Mary, only daughter of James Crawford Macleod, Younger of Geanies, without issue. She died in 1841. He married, secondly, in 1853, the Honourable Lavinia Mary (who died in 1855), youngest daughter of Thomas Stapleton of Carlton, Yorkshire, and sister of Miles, 8th Lord Beaumont (descended from Miles, first Lord Stapleton—who died in 1314—by Sibill, eldest daughter of Sir John de Bella Aqua, or Bellew, heiress of Carlton; and also from John, second Lord Beaumont—who died in 1342—by Lady Alianora Plantagenet, daughter of Henry Earl of Lancaster, and great-grand-daughter of Henry III., King of England.) By this lady Sir Alexander had issue—

1. Kenneth James, his heir, now Sir Kenneth J. Matheson of Lochalsh; born in 1854.

2. Mary Isabell, who, in 1881, married Wallace Charles Houston, youngest son of the late Col. Houston of Clerkington, with issue—Hugo Henry (1883), and Lavinia Mary, born 1882.



Sir Alexander married, thirdly, in 1860, Eleanor Irving, (who died in 1879), fifth daughter of Spencer Perceval (by Anna, daughter of General Norman Macleod of Macleod), and grand-daughter of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister of Great Britain (assassinated 1812), son of John, second Earl of Egmont. By this lady, his third wife, Sir Alexander Matheson had issue—

3. Alexander Perceval, born 6th February, 1861, married in 1884 to Alianora, daughter of the Rev. Kyrle E. G. Money of Much Marcle, Hereford, with issue, (1) Ian Kenneth, born 1893, (2) Alex. Perceval, born 1895, (3) Roderick Kyrle, born 1897, and four daughters—Margaret Anne, Norah, Muriel Helen, and Eleanor. Mr Matheson is a member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia.

4. Roderick Mackenzie Chisholm, born 26th December 1861, married, firstly, in 1883 Jane (who died in 1895), daughter of John Grant, Esq., Putney, with issue—Ethel Ivy Flora, born 1886, and secondly, in 1899 Emma Frances, only daughter of James A. Croft, Esq. of the Niger.

5. Torquhil George, born in 1871, lieutenant and adjutant in the first battalion of the Coldstream Guards.

6. Eleanor Margaret married Hubert Charles George, 7th Baron Vaux of Harrowden, with issue three daughters—Grace Mary Eleanor (1887), Gladys Flora (1889) and Dorothy Alice (1893). Lady Vaux died in 1896.

7. Anna Elizabeth.

8. Flora, who married Sir Henry Philip Paunce-

fort-Duncombe (who died in 1895), second Baronet of Great Brickhill, Bucks, with issue—Sir Everard Philip Digby (1885) and Constance Flora Eleanor.

9. Hylde Norah Grace, who married in 1899 Walter Taylor of Bampton Manor, Oxford.

Sir Alexander Matheson was succeeded by his eldest son,

X. SIR KENNETH JAMES MATHESON, second Baronet of Lochalsh, who was born in 1854. Sir Kenneth has managed his heritage on the excellent lines adopted by his predecessors, and the kindly feelings between landlord and tenant which have marked the Lochalsh family since we hear of it first continue unabated under Sir Kenneth's rule. In consequence of pecuniary misfortunes experienced by his father during the last four years of his life, he has been compelled to part with a large portion of his estates accumulated by Sir Alexander—retaining, however, the estate of Lochalsh, including Attadale and Ardintoul—besides the small estate of Gledfield, and the greater portion of his Inverness estate.

# BRANCHES OF THE LOCHALSH FAMILY.

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The less direct branches of the Lochalsh and Attadale Family of Mathesons fall now to be treated after the Attadale main branch. We begin here with the common ancestor of the genealogies, viz., Murchadh Buidhe, and the Roman numerals denote the person's number in direct descent from him :—

I. MURCHADH BUIDHE, father of

II. DUGALD AN OIR, father of

III. JOHN, THE TWIN, father of

IV. ALEXANDER, DUNCAN, and DUGALD.

We deal now with Duncan, the second son of John, the Twin, called Ian Og.

## I. DUNCAN MAC IAN OG BRANCH.

IV. DUNCAN, known as Duncan Mor, son of Ian Og, and great-grandson of Murchadh Buidhe, lived in Sallachy of Lochalsh. He had three sons—John Glass, Kenneth Du, and Alexander—

1. John Glass, of whom hereafter.

2. Kenneth Du, called Kenneth Du nan Saighead (of the Arrows), who left two sons, Alexander and Duncan—

a1. Alexander, who left a son,

*b.* John, who left two sons—Duncan Ban and Alexander Roy. The former—

*c1.* Duncan Ban, Achnahinich, left four sons and two daughters—Kenneth, Roderick, Alexander, John, Marion, and Janet—

*d1.* Kenneth, who had one son who attained maturity, viz., Duncan, who was teacher in various places, latterly in England, where in 1837 he was appointed missionary in Manchester. He emigrated to Canada in 1848, following his family of sons and daughters, who emigrated before him. Duncan Matheson was a very able man and an enthusiastic genealogist of his clan. It was he who collected the material which is now preserved in the Tiree-Manchester MS.—a MS. edited by his cousin, Alexander Matheson, schoolmaster of Tiree. Duncan published a work on arithmetic called the “Mental Calculator.” He was no mean poet in Gaelic, which he wrote with great accuracy. Duncan’s sons were Kenneth and Robert, both married by 1841, with issue.

*d2.* Roderick, second son of Duncan Ban, was killed in the American war (1812), unmarried.

*d3.* Alexander, merchant in Plockton, died in 1828, without issue.

*d4.* John, who had four sons and three daughters, emigrated with his family to Cape Breton in 1821, all save the second son—

*e.* Duncan, then Divinity student, afterwards minister of Knock, Lewis, and, after the Disruption, Free Church minister of Gairloch. He had two sons, (1) Ebenezer, who died in 1857 a student of Divinity; and (2) John, banker in Madras, now in Edinburgh,

who married Mary, daughter of the late Dr Kennedy, Dingwall, with issue, Ian, Duncan, and Mabel. Young Ian Matheson is twelfth in descent from Murchadh Buidhe. Rev. Duncan Matheson had also five daughters—Mary, Catherine, Ann, Annabella, and Margaret, the last two, Mrs Graham and Mrs Spiers respectively, having issue—Duncan Graham and Annabel Spiers.

*c2.* Alexander Roy, second son of John, son of Alexander, son of Kenneth Du. He was survived by only one son, Kenneth, who left issue.

*a2.* Duncan, second son of Kenneth Du, who left two sons—Kenneth and Duncan.

*b1.* Kenneth, Duncan's son, left a son—

*c.* Kenneth, who left two sons—Kenneth Roy and Duncan. The former—

*d1.* Kenneth Roy, was a builder, who lived at Culbokie, and latterly in Glasgow. He had six sons—Kenneth, Donald, John, Charles, James, and Arthur. The eldest son—

(1) Kenneth, called in 1841 by Duncan Matheson “an architect and builder in Glasgow,” was a famous master-builder and railway contractor in the west of Scotland, mentioned by Hugh Miller, and had two sons and one daughter—

(*a1*) John Anderson, who had two sons—Kenneth, now in Valparaiso, and John in California, and ten daughters—Jane, who married Stephen Alley, Glasgow, with issue; Agnes, who married William Colquhoun, London, with issue; Mary, married to Walter Jowett, Manchester, with issue; Alice, married to Henry Whiting, London, with issue; Isabella; Lina, married (1899) in Liverpool; Annie;

Louisa ; and Lola married in 1899 to Charles Ross, Muthill.

(a2) Kenneth, railway contractor, and Provost of Dunfermline, who married in 1844 Jessie Mathewson, with issue—one son, and two daughters (Mary Doulton and Martha Ewens, now residing in Edinburgh with their mother). The son is Kenneth (XII. from Murchadh Buidhe), educated at Edinburgh High School and University, formerly in Dunfermline, now at Glendevon, married to Sarah Robertson, (daughter of George Robertson, F.S.A. Scot., Dunfermline), a well-known literary lady, secretary to the Clan Donnachaidh Society, both Mr and Mrs Matheson being clan enthusiasts.

(a3) Mary, daughter of Kenneth, son of Kenneth Roy, who married John Doulton, Lambeth, with issue, five sons—John and Kenneth, deceased ; Ronald Duneau, Lambeth Pottery ; Bernard Palissy, Paisley ; Allan, Burslem Pottery ; and two daughters—Mary, who married Rev. James Hocart, Brussels, with issue ; and Jane Duneau, who married Mr Delacroix, Egypt.

(2) Donald, died at Port-Glasgow, leaving two sons, Kenneth and William, who in 1841 emigrated to New Zealand to start ship building.

(3) John, third son of Kenneth Roy, left two sons, Kenneth and William Pollock.

(4) Charles had two sons, Kenneth and Donald, living in Glasgow (1841).

(5, 6) James and Arthur entered the army.

d2. Duncan, Kenneth Roy's brother, was also a mason, at Inverness, and was one of the best Clan

Matheson genealogists of his day. He left a son Duncan.

b2. Duncan, second son of Duncan, son of Kenneth Du, had two sons, Duncan and Kenneth; the latter died unmarried. The former left a son Kenneth, who lived at Redcastle and left a son Colin, and a daughter Ann, who married Rev. Mr Gordon, Alvie (d. 1805), with issue. Colin, Kenneth's son, studied for the Church, but turned to Law, and was a writer in Campbelltown (1841), as were his two sons—Duncan Campbell and Kenneth. The sons and the only daughter, Anne, died unmarried.

3. Alexander, third son of Duncan Mor. There is much doubt as to Alexander's descendants. The Iomaire MS. declares that "the offspring of Alexander are now (1824) extinct." Captain Matheson makes him the father of Murdoch Matheson the Bard, whose *floruit* was 1700-1715, but both the Iomaire and the Tiree-Manchester MSS. regard the Bard as descended from another Duncan, called Donchadh an Teampuill, who assisted John Du the Constable (killed 1539) in his war with the Macleods, and who set fire to the church where the Macleods took refuge; whence his sobriquet of "an Teampuill." (See p. 18 above). Duncan Matheson says in the Tiree-Manchester MS. :—"The descendants of Alexander had been for ages the principal inhabitants of Applecross, and the Chief of this tribe had for generations acted the part of foster-father to the heirs of that estate." Seeing that Alexander must have lived about 1700, the "ages" here referred to were not very remote. "The last of this Applecross tribe," he says, "was named Dugald,



who had a son Murdoch Ruadh, who left three sons and two daughters." One of the sons, Murdoch, had two sons—Alexander and John. The former went to Glasgow; John lived many years in Forres, where he died in 1821. By his wife, Mary Macleod, he had one son and two daughters, of whom only the youngest daughter, Anne, came to maturity. She married Robert M'Bain, son of Duncan M'Bain of Rimackak, Duthil, by his wife Janet Grant, with issue five sons—George, John, Lachlan, Robert Duncan, and James Matheson. Of these three are dead; John and James Matheson survive, the former of whom lives in America and has one daughter. James Matheson M'Bain is a banker in Arbroath, an eminent antiquarian, and the author of several historical, genealogical, and biographical works, among which are "Arbroath: Past and Present," and "Eminent Arbroathians." He married Agnes, daughter of John Ferguson, shipowner, Arbroath, and has issue, five sons and three daughters—Norman, solicitor in Arbroath; Henry, tea planter in India; James Anderson Dickson, manager of the Southern Asia Division of the Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada; Frank, tea planter in India; Maurice, Inspector of Agencies of the Scottish Provident Institution. The daughters are Amy Alice; Agnes Ferguson, wife of Dr A. R. Stoddart, York; and Anne Matheson, wife of Dr David Laing, Arbroath.

"Another son of Murdoch Ruadh," says Duncan Matheson, "named William, was the father of John Matheson, excise officer, Dunoon. The third son of Murdoch Ruadh lived in Applecross."

We now revert to Duncan Mor's eldest son—

V. JOHN GLASS. According to Duncan Matheson he lived at Sallachy, and married Ann, daughter of Alexander Matheson of Achtaghtoralan (p. 63). He had one son—

VI. DUNCAN, who as “Duncan M'Ean Glas, in Achnashou of Lochalsh,” appears in the list of Donald Murchison's followers at the skirmish of Ath-nam-Muireach in 1721. He left a son—

VII. JOHN OG, who married Christian, fifth daughter of Farquhar Matheson of Fernaig, and had six sons and a daughter Ann. John's sons were—

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Duncan, who lived at Loan, Corrycruby. His sons were—

*a*1. John, the “Wright,” who was a boatbuilder, and latterly tenant of Achandarrach. He married Mary, daughter of John Finlayson, Achmore. He had six sons and a daughter (Christina)—

*b*1. Farquhar, who married Jane Macrae, Duaird, with issue—Ewen, Duncan, and three daughters.

*b*2. John, who emigrated to Carolina, was a banker in Charleston, and left a numerous issue.

*b*3. Donald, who similarly emigrated, and left issue.

*b*4. Duncan, who died at Craig, unmarried.

*b*5. Kenneth, tenant of Duirinish, where he died at an advanced age. He married Annabella, daughter of Alexander Macrae, Ardelve, with issue—(1) Alexander, who holds a responsible position in the Hudson Bay Company's service, and is married, with issue—two sons and several daughters; (2) Duncan, who is likewise in the Hudson Bay Company's service, in charge of Ungava district; (3) Donald, merchant in

Rothsay ; and (4) Ann, and (5) Flora, both married, with issue.

b6. Ewen, who emigrated with his brothers, and died young.

a2. Duncan, second son of Duncan of Loan, lived at Avernish, married with issue.

a3. Alexander, who married Margaret, daughter of Christopher Finlayson, Achmore, and emigrated with his family to America.

3. Ewen, third son of John Og, had three sons and two daughters (Christina and Margaret). His sons were—

a1. Farquhar, who had issue—John, Hector, Ewen, and six daughters. The first two sons died young ; Ewen had issue—Farquhar, Roderick, and three daughters. The eldest (of the six), Christina, married Donald Matheson, shipowner, Plockton, with issue. The third, Margaret, married Ewen Mackenzie, Shantullich, with issue—(1) John, died young ; (2) Kenneth, emigrated to America, and married, with issue ; (3) Farquhar, married, with issue—Ewen, Jane, and Sybil ; (4) Hector, married, with issue ; (5) Alexander, mining engineer, Michigan ; (6) John, merchant in Inverness, married, with issue ; (7) Ewen, in London ; and (8, 9) Margaret and Mary, both married, with issue.

a2. John, married, and emigrated to America.

a3. Alexander, emigrated to America.

4. Kenneth Roy, fourth son of John Og, was tenant of Ruarach, Kintail (circ. 1798). He had one son, Farquhar, and two daughters. Farquhar emigrated with his family to Canada in 1849.

5. Donald, resided in Fernaig, married, with issue—Alexander, Farquhar, John, and four daughters—

*a1.* Alexander, married, with issue—(1) Alexander, who emigrated with his family to Melbourne in 1857; and (2) Kenneth, married, and resident in the Black Isle.

*a2.* Farquhar.

*a3.* John, tenant at Craig, married, with issue—one son, Farquhar, who had issue—Murdoch and Isabella. They emigrated to Australia in 1857.

6. Farquhar, sixth and last son of John Og.

We now return to the eldest son of John Og, namely—

VIII. JOHN, also called John Og, married Isabella, daughter of Farquhar Macrae, Conchra, with issue—two sons and three daughters. The sons were John and Farquhar. The latter was married, with issue—Alexander and Christina. Alexander resided at Plockton, married, with issue—Farquhar, Kenneth, and John.

## II. DUGALD MAC IAN OG BRANCH.

IV. DUGALD, the third and youngest son of Ian Og, the Twin, was fourth in descent from Murchadh Buidhe. He had two sons—

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Murdoch, who left Lochalsh to dwell in Lewis. He had a son, Donald Ban, and a daughter, who married, according to Duncan Matheson, the Chief of Clan Torquil, and was grandmother of Colonel John Macleod of Colbecks, who belonged to the old

Macleods of Lewis (Mackenzie's "Macleods," p. 373).  
The son,

*a.* Donald Ban, left three sons—

*b1.* Murdoch, eldest son of Donald Ban, died in Kirkton of Lochalsh, leaving a son,

*c.* John Ban, who died in Lochcarron, leaving seven sons, two of whom emigrated.

*b2.* Roderick, Donald Ban's second son, who died in Lewis, left one son, Roderick, who left three sons—(1) Duncan Roy, living in Attadale (1841), with a family of sons and daughters; (2) Alexander; (3) Donald, who died in America.

*b3.* Alexander, who was a seafaring man, and settled in Ireland. "His descendants are scattered over the County Down."

V. JOHN, eldest son of Dugald Mac Ian Og, was a tenant in Strath, Skye, and left sons and daughters, whose descendants were there two generations ago.

### III. JOHN OF ACHTAYTORALAN BRANCH.

JOHN MATHESON, tenant of Aichtaytoralan, was the second son of Alexander, grandson of Dugald of Balmacarra, from whom John was thus fourth in descent, and fifth from Murchadh Buidhe. As head of his family line, he is, therefore,

V. JOHN of Aichtaytoralan. He married Anne, daughter of John, third son of William Mackenzie, first of Shildaig, and sixth son of John Roy Mackenzie, fourth of Gairloch, by whom he had issue, two sons and two daughters, viz., (1) John Og, his heir; (2) Kenneth, who died young, unmarried; (3) Mar-

garet; (4) Flora, who married Murdoch Matheson of the "Iomaire" family, and became the mother of Alexander Matheson, Rector of the High School of Edinburgh.

John of Achtaytoralan was succeeded by his eldest son,

VI. JOHN, known as John Og of Duirinish, of whose learning, legal skill, and prowess tradition has much to say. John married, first, Mary, daughter of Kenneth Roy Mackenzie of Alduinny, with issue—

1. John, who succeeded his father at Duirinish, of whom presently.

2. Farquhar, who went to America with his family in 1774.

3. Ann; 4. Janet; and 5. Catherine—who all married well.

John Og married, secondly, Marion, daughter of the Rev. Finlay Macrae, minister of Lochalsh, with issue,

6. Alexander, merchant and schoolmaster at Dornie, Lochalsh, who married Catharine, daughter of James Matheson, son of Alexander Matheson of Bennetsfield, with issue, two sons and three daughters.

*a*1. John, born in 1790, who married Isabella, daughter of Donald Macrae, and had a large family of four sons and six daughters, viz. :—

*b*1. John, who died in 1849, aged 31, unmarried.

*b*2. Roderick, a sea-faring man, living at Dornie.

*b*3. Donald, merchant and registrar at Dornie.

*b*4. Alexander, shipowner at Dornie, known as Captain Matheson. He was an indefatigable searcher into Matheson history—the best seanachie on this

subject in his day. He has left a MS. giving traditions of the clan and the genealogies of the Lochalsh Mathesons from Murdoch Buidhe to the years 1862-68. He also collected the Matheson poetry of his district, notably many of Murdoch the Bard's lost effusions. He died in 1897.

♂5. Flora, who married Farquhar Maclellan, and is now a widow at Dornie.

♂6. Ann, who married James Turnbull, and went to America. She died in 1898, leaving issue.

♂7. Marion, who married, first, Dugald Matheson, and emigrated to America, where he died on landing. She married, second, Murdo Murchison from Lochcarron, with issue.

♂8. Mary, who died at Dornie, unmarried.

♂9. Isabella, who married in 1863 Roderick Macrae, Inverinate, with surviving issue two daughters, (1) Christina, who married Donald Macmillan, emigrated to America, and has issue, and (2) Catherine.

♂10. Betsy, merchant at Dornie, noted for her kindness and hospitality.

♂2. Farquhar, second son of Alexander the Schoolmaster, known as Farquhar Bàn Matheson, for many years inspector of poor in Kintail, married Isabella, daughter of Kenneth Roy Mackenzie, Kishorn, of the family of Alduinny, cadets of Applecross, with issue, five sons and two daughters—

♂1. Alexander, died at Dornie, unmarried.

♂2. James, postmaster at Dornie, died unmarried.

♂3. Kenneth, merchant at Salen, who married Mary A. Macdonald, Finiskaig, with issue—six sons and a daughter—(1) Alexander, a doctor, died in



Glenelg, leaving one son ; (2) Donald, merchant in Liverpool, married, with issue ; (3) John Colin, a doctor, practising in London ; (4) Farquhar, merchant in Oban ; (5) and (6) Archibald and James, both with their father ; and (7) Christina.

64. Farquhar, doctor, of Soho Square, London, a well-known and patriotic Highlander. After studying at the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen, and graduating in medicine, Dr Farquhar Matheson went as a young man to London, where he has risen to eminence in his profession, and is particularly recognised as an experienced and skilful specialist in diseases of the ear, nose, and throat. He is one of the surgeons to the Royal Ear and Throat Hospital, London. For many years he has been one of the best known and most influential Highlanders in London, and has been President of the Gaelic Society of London, and Joint Secretary of the Highland Society, and is Governor and Surgeon to the Royal Scottish Hospital, a Justice of the Peace for the County of London, and a Fellow of several learned and Scientific Societies. Dr Matheson is married, and has issue two daughters, Isabel and Barbara, and a son, Farquhar, who studied at Cambridge University.

65. John, living in Birmingham, married, with numerous issue.

66. Barbara, married to Alexander Urquhart, with issue ; emigrated to New Zealand.

67. Catherine, who lives at Dornie.

Alexander the Schoolmaster's three daughters were—1, Margaret, who married Farquhar Buidhe

Matheson, youngest son of Donald of Balmacarra, with issue, for whom see "Donald of Balmacarra Branch;" 2, Betsy, who married John Macrae, ship-owner, Dornie, with issue; and, 3, Mary, who married Donald Maclean, merchant in Kishorn, with issue. Alexander the Schoolmaster died in 1828.

7. Colin, youngest son of John Og of Duirinish, was educated at St Andrew's University for the Church, but he did not adopt the clerical profession. One account says that he entered the army, and died in Bristol; another that he finally landed in India and made a fortune, dying about the year 1817.

We now revert to the eldest son and heir of John Og of Duirinish, viz.—

VII. JOHN, also called John Og, who succeeded his father in Duirinish, and married Margaret, sister of Alexander Macrae (who left the Macrae Fund for King's College, Aberdeen), with issue, several sons, two only of whom arrived at maturity, John and Donald, and four daughters—Margaret, Ann, Janet, and Isabella, who all married well. Donald, the youngest son of John of Duirinish, joined the army, where he died, leaving two sons, Murdoch and Colin, who both joined the 78th Regiment. John of Duirinish's eldest son was, as already said, another

VIII. JOHN, commonly called John Og the Youngest. He married Isabella, daughter of James Matheson, a son of Bennetsfield. John died before his father, leaving a family of seven sons (and a daughter Mary), Alexander, Kenneth, Farquhar, James, Duncan, Roderick, and Colin.

1. Alexander, Sergeant in the 78th, afterwards

in H.E.I.C.'s service ; left a son, Farquhar, who died in India, without issue.

2. Kenneth, died without issue.

3. Farquhar (died 1856), married, with issue—(1) Duncan, married to Barbara Livingstone, Kishorn, with issue, John and Farquhar and three daughters ; (2) John who had four sons—Farquhar, Roderick, Charles, and Kenneth ; and (3) Kenneth, married to Flora Macdonell, Dornie, with issue, four daughters.

4. James, merchant in Plockton ; married in 1818 to Elizabeth, daughter of Murdoch Matheson of Achandarroch, with issue—(1) Farquhar ; (2) John ; (3) Murdoch, married at Edinburgh, with issue, John and James ; (4) Alexander, emigrated in 1868 ; (5) Margaret ; and (6) Isabella.

5. Duncan, merchant in Carolina ; died in 1812.

6. Roderick, married to Ellen, daughter of Kenneth Campbell, shipowner, Plockton, with issue John (who emigrated to Rangoon) and Duncan, Margaret, Isabella, and Catherine.

7. Colin, married Christian, daughter of William Smith, Forres, with issue—three children, who died in infancy ; and (1) William, who emigrated to Columbus, in the state of Georgia, where he left one son and three daughters ; (2) Alexander, who emigrated to the same place, where he married, and was living in 1882, with a family of three sons and three daughters ; (3) Duncan, the distinguished missionary to the Highland Brigade during the Crimean War, whose Memoir, by the Rev. John Macpherson, entitled “Duncan Matheson, the Scottish

Evangelist," has made him so widely known, married Mary Milne, Faversham, Kent, with issue—three sons and three daughters. He died at Perth on 16th September 1869. (4) Jessie, Colin's only daughter, married Donald Shearer, M.A., Ph.Dr., of Huntly, without issue.

#### IV. PERTH CANADA BRANCH.

This branch is descended from Dugald, fourth son of Alexander Matheson of Achraytoralan, the great grandson of Murchadh Buidhe, from whom Dugald was fifth in descent. Hence—

V. DUGALD. He lived at Duirinish, and was an officer in Seaforth's regiments in the 1815 and 1719 risings. According to the family accounts, he fell in Glenshiel in 1719; according to the MSS. he fell at Sheriffmuir. He married a daughter of John Mackenzie, and sister of Kenneth Mackenzie, in Culdrain, Attadale, with issue, two sons and four daughters. The sons were—

1. John, who married a woman in the Isle of Skye, and died early, without issue.

2. Roderick, of whom next.

VI. RODERICK, second son of Dugald. He resided at Kishorn, and married Christina, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Culdrain, according to Captain Matheson. By her he had two sons and three daughters. The sons were—

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Dugald, who was forester at Reraig, and died in 1846, at the age of 98. He had two sons—

*a*1. John, who enlisted, and died soldiering.

*a*2. Colin, residing at Craig in 1841, and tenant at Nosty in 1868, who had eight sons—Colin, John, Roderick, John, Dugald, Angus, Finlay, and Donald.

VII. JOHN, eldest son of Roderick, resided at Kishorn, and then at Inverness, and married Flora, daughter of Donald Macrae, a native of Strathconan. By her he had two sons and three daughters—Farquhar and Roderick, who both received a liberal education at Inverness; and Mary, Isabella, and Flora. The two sons emigrated to Canada, and both brothers fought in the American war of 1812-14. Farquhar was killed at Fort-Wellington, in Upper Canada, on 7th November 1813. The headship of the family then fell to his brother,

VIII. RODERICK. As already said, Roderick took part in the American War, 1812-14. He was gazetted senior ensign in the Glengarry Light Infantry Regiment, then raised in Canada, in February 1812, and before he was twenty-one years of age he was twice wounded (at Sackett's Harbour, May 1813). He was thirty-three times engaged with the enemy. He was made lieutenant and paymaster in 1813. On the reduction of the forces in 1816, Mr Matheson retired on half-pay, and soon after settled in Perth, County Lanark, of Canada, where he resided until his death in 1873. In 1827 he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the 1st Regiment Lanark Militia; and in the Rebellion of 1837 Colonel Matheson volunteered with five hundred men of the

regiment for service in Lower Canada to quell the Rebellion. In 1847 he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Canada for life, and afterwards a Senator of the Dominion of Canada, when the Confederation took place—a position which he held till his death. In 1856 he was appointed Colonel in command of the Militia serving in No. 1 Military District in Upper Canada. He married, first, on 5th November 1823, Mary Fraser Robertson, daughter of Captain John Robertson, Inverness (N.B.) She died in 1825 after giving birth to twin sons—John Robertson and Roderick Edward. On 11th August 1830, Colonel Matheson married, at Gairloch, Scotland, Annabella, daughter of the Rev. James Russel, minister of Gairloch, with issue—four sons and seven daughters. Colonel Matheson died in January 1873. His sons were—

1. John Robertson, the elder twin, who was killed in riding to school by a fall from his horse in 1833.

2. Roderick Edward, the other twin, of whom presently.

3. William Marshall, eldest son of the second marriage. He was for nearly 25 years Master in Chancery in Ottawa, until his death in 1895. He married Annie Frances, daughter of George Emery, and had three sons—

- (1). Roderick Balmacarra, who married Harriet Annable, daughter of Professor Darey, LL.D., with issue—(a) Roderick Darey; and (b) Arthur Marshall.

- (2). George Marshall.

- (3). Arthur John, who married Madeline Letitia, daughter of Rev. Conway Cartwright.

4. Charles Albert, 5 Arthur James, and 6 Alan Frederick, sons of the Hon. Roderick Matheson, are all three resident in Perth, Canada, at present. Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur James Matheson is a barrister, and also Lieutenant-Colonel in the reserve of officers, having been Colonel of the 42nd Battalion (Volunteers) for twelve years. He is also member for South Lanark in the Ontario Legislature.

IX. RODERICK EDWARD, the second of the twins, sons of the Hon. Colonel Roderick Matheson, married Jane, daughter of Thomas Farrel, with issue—Roderick, Thomas, James, and William, and three daughters, all but one resident in County Lanark.

## V. DONALD MAC ALASTER BRANCH.

This branch is descended from Donald, brother of the ancestor of the last two branches. He was fifth son of Alexander, son of John Og, the twin, and therefore fifth in descent from the common ancestor, Murdoch Buidhe. Hence,

V. DONALD, son of Alexander, son of John Og. He was tacksman of Craig and an officer in Seaforth's rebellious army. He married in 1715 Isabella, daughter of Alexander Macrae of Conchra, with issue three sons—

1. Donald Og, tacksman of Craig, married, first, a daughter of Alexander Macrae, tacksman of Achtertyre, without issue, and, secondly, Mary, daughter of Finlay Macrae, Strathglass, having five daughters—(1) Florence, who married Donald Matheson, Plock-



ton, and emigrated to America ; (2) Annabella, who married Donald Finlayson, Achmore ; (3) Margaret, who married her cousin, Alexander Matheson ; (4) Mary, who married Duncan Macrae, tenant in Nostie ; and (5) Isabella, who married Duncan Murchison, Lochcarron.

2. John, who married Catherine Macgregor, Strathconan, by whom he had one son, John. Both father and son died young. The son married Mary, daughter of Alexander Finlayson, Achmore, and left a son and two daughters, but now no male issue survives.

3. Dugald. As carrying on the male line of this branch, he may be reckoned as

VI. DUGALD, third son of Donald Mac Alaster. He married Margaret Macgregor, Strathconan, and left four surviving sons living when Rory of Iomaire and Duncan Matheson wrote their MSS., viz. :—

1. Alexander, tenant at Craig, who married his cousin Margaret, daughter of Donald Og Matheson, as mentioned above, by whom he had one surviving son and four daughters. The son, Dugald, resided in Craig, married Clementina, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie, Camusluinie, Kintail, and in 1809 emigrated to Canada with his family.

2. John, tenant in Braintra (1795), and catechist in Sallachy, who married Isabella, daughter of Roderick Murchison, Ardelve, by whom he had four sons and six daughters—(1) Dugald, born 1797, merchant in Ardelve, died unmarried ; (2) Roderick, died unmarried ; (3) Donald, who married Mary Maclellan, Ardintoul, with issue—Dugald, Flora, and Mary, who married Roderick Macleod, Druidag, with issue ; and

(4) John, died unmarried. The daughters were—Mary, married to Roderick Mackenzie, Arynichdaig, Lochcarron; Ann; Margaret, married to Duncan Macrae, Sallachy; Janet, married to Donald Macaskill, Harris; Catherine; and Margaret, married to John Mackay, Achmore.

3. Murdoch, of whom presently as No. VII.

4. Duncan, who married, firstly, Margaret, daughter of Donald Mackenzie, Braintra, by whom he had two sons and a daughter—(1) Murdoch, who joined the 72d Highlanders, married in Inverness, and had fifteen of a family, one of his sons being a sergeant in the same regiment; (2) Dugald Beag, who married in 1849 Marion, daughter of John Matheson, Dornie, and died on his way to America the same year; and (3) Euphemia, who married Alexander Maclellan, Duirinish. Duncan married, secondly, a sister of Thomas Macrae, Camusluinie, by whom he had three daughters—Margaret, Anne, and Catherine.

VII. MURDOCH, third son of Dugald, third son of Donald Mac Alaster. He lived in Fernaig some time, and married Mary, daughter of Donald Mackenzie, Braintra, with issue—four sons and four daughters.

1. Donald, who married in 1834 Margaret, daughter of Donald Matheson, Achandarroch. He died in 1849 (and his wife in 1874), leaving issue—one daughter, Anne, who married James Mackay, contractor, Lochalsh, with issue—(1) Donald, died 1885; (2) Donald Matheson; (3) John, who married Elizabeth Anderson, with issue; (4) Catherine Margaret, died 1886; (5) Mary Anne; (6) Catherine Isabella, died 1878; and (7) May Alexandrina.

2. Dugald, who married, first, Margaret, daughter of Angus Cameron, Aird Ferry, without issue; and, secondly, Mary, daughter of John Macrae, Dornie, with numerous issue. They emigrated to Canada in 1849. ✓

3. Duncan, of whom presently, as No. VIII.

4. Farquhar, merchant in Dornie, where he still lives—catechist and elder in the Free Church of Lochalsh; unmarried.

5. Catherine, who married John Macrae, Avernish, and emigrated in 1848 to Canada, with issue.

6. Isabella, who married Donald Mackenzie, and emigrated to Canada, with numerous issue. ✓

7. Margaret, who married in 1845 Donald Macrae, Achmore and Avernish, with issue, five sons and three daughters.

8. Christina, who lives at Dornie.

VIII. DUNCAN, third son of Murdoch, son of Dugald, son of Donald Mac Alaster. He was innkeeper at Dornie, and married in 1849 Margaret, daughter of Farquhar Buidhe Matheson, son of Donald of Balmacarra, with issue, two sons and two daughters.

1. Donald, of whom presently.

2. Farquhar, who married Jane Macrae, with issue, one daughter, Margaret Mary.

3. Margaret, who married Farquhar Macrae, Dornie.

4. Mary, who married Andrew Ross, and died in 1898.

IX. DONALD, who is in the firm of Thomas A. Matheson and Co., Glasgow, married Christina Macpherson, with issue—(1) Duncan; (2) William Mac-

pherson; (3) Farquhar; (4) John Campbell Macintyre; (5) James Alexander; (6) Catherine Macintyre; (7) Margaret; (8) Jane Macpherson; (9) Anne; (10) Christina Macpherson; and (11) Mary.

## VI. DONALD OF BALMACARRA BRANCH.

This branch is the leading cadet of the House of Fernaig and Attadale, being descended from Donald, fourth son of Farquhar Matheson, first of Fernaig, and brother of John Matheson, who purchased Attadale in 1730. Donald was thus sixth in descent from Murdoch Buidhe; and hence,

VI. DONALD, fourth son of Farquhar, third son of Alaster Mac Ian Og. He was educated at Chanonry of Ross and at Aberdeen University, and was farmer, first at Balmacarra, and latterly at Reraig. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Roderick Mackenzie, second of Sanachan, by whom he had issue, two sons and five daughters—

1. Kenneth More, who resided at Reraig, married to his cousin Margaret, daughter of Alexander Matheson of Achandarroch, his paternal uncle. By her he had a son—

(1) Farquhar Roy, tacksman of Achandarroch—born 1772, died 1846—married his cousin Anne, daughter of Alexander, third of Attadale, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth, who married (1838) John Finlayson, merchant, Achmore, with issue (*a*) John, in the

service of the Caledonian Bank, (*b*) Farquhar, in Accountant's Office, Highland Railway, married (1891) to Jessie Mackintosh Macbain, (*c*) Anne, died at Rue-more in 1862, and (*d*) Mary, residing in Inverness.

2 Roderick, Donald's second son, educated at King's College, Aberdeen, who ran away, joined the army, and was not afterwards heard of.

3. Ann, 4 Margaret (married to Farquhar Matheson), 5 Christian, who all married and emigrated to America.

6. Mary, married Donald Kennedy, Kishorn, with issue, among others, (1) the Rev. John Kennedy, minister of Redcastle, father of the famous Highland theologian, Dr. John Kennedy of Dingwall, who married Mary, daughter of Major Forbes Mackenzie, with issue—Mary, who married, with issue, John Matheson, Banker, Madras, and Jessie; (2) Neil Kennedy, minister of Logie, whose son John, minister of Rosehall, was father of the well known advocate Neil J. D. Kennedy; and (3) Alexander, farmer, Kishorn, with issue—Donald and Neil, the former of whom married Mary Macpherson, Kingussie, with issue—six sons and two daughters, and lives at Inverness.

7. Catherine, who married Roderick Mackenzie (Rory Mac Cailein), in Slumbay, Lochcarron.

Donald of Balmacarra and Reraig married, secondly, Anne, daughter of John Matheson of Duirinish, with issue, five sons and two daughters—

8. John Bàn, of whom as No. VII.

9. Alexander, born 1777, called the "Blind Fiddler," having become blind through smallpox, who



married Christina Livingstone, Kishorn, with issue four sons and three daughters—

*a1.* Kenneth (1813-1883), shipowner, Plockton, married Margaret Finlayson, with issue—

*b1.* Duncan, died 1885.

*b2.* John, married, with issue—Margaret, Helen, Mary, and Duncina.

*b3.* Mary, married to Alexander Mackenzie, shipowner, Plockton, with issue—(1) James, died 1890; (2) Duncan; (3) Kenneth; (4) Maggie Lina; (5) Margaret; and (6) Catherine.

*a2.* Alexander.

*a3.* Donald, shipowner, Plockton, married to Christina Matheson, with issue—(1) Dr John, Greenwich, London, with issue; (2) Mary; and (3) Annabella, married to John Fraser.

*a4.* John.

10. Donald Glas, born 1778, Donald of Balmacarra's third son by the second marriage, tenant in Croulin of Applecross, Courthill of Kishorn, and latterly in Achandarroch; married, first, to Anne, daughter of Murdoch Ban Matheson, formerly of Achandarroch, by whom he had two sons and four daughters—

*a1.* Farquhar, latterly emigrated to New York.

*a2.* Roderick.

*a3.* Ann, married Duncan Macgregor, Lochcarron.

*a4.* Mary, married John Macleod, tacksman of Newton, Raasay, who emigrated with his family to Melbourne in 1852.

*a5.* Margaret, married Donald Matheson, innkeeper, Plockton, with issue—Ann, married to James Mackay.



*a6* Ann, called Ann Bhàn, married Alexander Macdonald, Lick of Knoydart, who died soon after marriage, leaving one son, John, who has amassed a large fortune in cattle ranching in Brazil; married, with issue, two sons (John Alexander and Kenneth) and eight daughters.

Donald Glas married, secondly, Mary, daughter of Duncan Macrae, younger of Conchra.

*11.* Murdoch, born 1785, who married Catherine Mackenzie, Mid Strome, and left issue—Farquhar, Donald, John, Mary, Ann, and Margaret.

*12.* Farquhar Buidhe (1790-1832), youngest son of Donald of Balmacarra. He married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Matheson, schoolmaster at Dornie, with issue, one son and four daughters—

*a1.* Donald, who emigrated to Invercargill, New Zealand; married, with issue—Alexander, Farquhar, Donald, Margaret, and Mary.

*a2.* Ann, who married Alexander Maclellan, tacksmen, Kyle, with issue—

*b1.* Peter, merchant, Fort-William, married, with issue—(1) Dorothy Grace and (2) Alexander.

*b2.* Annie, married to Alexander Matheson, Inland Revenue Officer (retired), with issue—(1) Alister Donald; (2) Murdoch John; (3) Angus Peter; (4) Alister John; (5) Peter Maclellan; (6) Donald Farquhar; (7) Jonathan Kenneth; and (8) Catherine Margaret.

*b3.* Christina, died 1864.

*b4.* Harriet, married to Charles Macgillivray, H.M. Customs, Glasgow, who both died in 1887, leaving—(1) Flora, (2) Mary, (3) Kate.



*b5.* Margaret, died in 1894, unmarried.

*b6.* Mary.

*b7.* Alexina, married to John Macphie, merchant, Dumbarton, with issue—(1) Charles, (2) John, (3) Alister Maclellan, (4) James, (5) Anna, and (6) Mary Stewart.

*a3.* Margaret, married to Duncan Matheson, inn-keeper, Dornie, with issue as already given (p. 99).

*a4.* Mary, emigrated in 1852, and married Ewen Henderson, Melbourne, with issue—(1) Farquhar, died at 23, full of promise; (2) Ann; and (3) Margaret.

*a5.* Harriet.

Farquhar Buidhe was a seafaring man, and was drowned at sea in 1832.

We now revert to

VII. JOHN BAN, eldest son of Donald of Balma-carra and Reraig by his second marriage. John received a good education, and was tenant of Duirinish till removed by factorial high-handedness. He married Margaret, daughter of George Jeffrey, factor in Lochcarron, by whom he had four sons and three daughters—William, Farquhar, Donald, George, Ann, Helen, and Margaret. The fourth son, George, was for some time in the service of Hugh Matheson, of the firm of Matheson, Jardine, and Co., London, and latterly in the Stamp Office, Edinburgh, where he died in 1893. He married Sarah Goldsworth, with issue—(1) Hugh, (2) Helen Margaret, (3) Sarah, and (4) Georgina.

We may, as carrying on the family, regard as

VIII. FARQUHAR, second son of John Ban, born 1813, died 1898. He married Isabella Matheson, with issue—

1. John, of whom next.

2. Donald,

3. Margaret, married to Alexander Macdonald, with issue—George William, Ellen Margaret, Catherine, Jessie Ann, and Bella Ann.

4. Catherine, married to Alexander Finlayson (died 1844), with issue—John Duncan, Jane Ann, and Ann.

IX. JOHN, son of Farquhar, son of John Ban. He married Ann Matheson, with issue—(1) Farquhar, (2) Donald, (3) William, (4) George, and (5) Margaret.

## FAMILY OF DUGALD OG.

The names of Murdoch and Dugald appear so often in the early Matheson genealogies that it is no wonder that some confusion has arisen in the case of one, if not two, of them. Dugald of Balmacarra, chamberlain of Lochalsh about 1631, was son of Murdoch Buidhe, and himself had a son Murdoch, the elder of the twins (p. 61). The Iomaire and Tiree-Manchester MSS. represent Dugald as having a third son called Dugald Og, and so entered in our text\* at p. 61, which follows these MSS. there; but Captain Matheson makes this Dugald Og to be a son of Murdoch the twin. Fortunately we possess contemporary Sheriff Court references to Murdoch's family (pages 22-23), and it is a little disquieting to find that these do not agree with the statements of the two MSS. mentioned. From these Court references we learn that Murdoch of Balmacarra was twice married, as the genealogists say, his first wife being Christane, daughter of the Rev. Mr Clark of Lochalsh. By her Murdoch had two children—Dugald and Christane, both unknown to the genealogies of the Iomaire and Tiree-Manchester MSS. Dugald appears in 1676 as "in Bellmacarra," and in 1686 as "in Apilcroce," heir to the "deceased Murdow Mathewsone in Bellmacarra," (p. 60). This is the Dugald whom Captain

\* Mr Mackenzie's text. The editor, being in sore doubts, let the text stand, and now regrets that he did not warn the reader that difficulties existed.

Matheson calls Dugald Og, whom, however, he mistakenly calls Murdoch's second son by his second wife—a daughter of Alexander Mackenzie, fourth of Dochmaluag. The epithet "Og" seemingly made the genealogists regard Dugald as son, and not as grandson, of Dugald of Balmacarra, as we will now, though with doubts, regard him. Murdoch the twin had two children by each wife—

1. Dugald Og, of whom hereafter.

2. Christane, who doubtless is the daughter whom the genealogists represent as marrying Kenneth Og Macqueen of Totrome, Skye, Murdoch, the father, having been in exile there, avoiding Seaforth's wrath over money matters—no doubt the redemption of the wadset of Balmacarra.\*

3. Alexander, who left only one natural son, Kenneth, whose son was Murdoch, father of one son, Dugald Buidhe, who in 1743 married Flora MacIennan and left four sons—

- a1. John, who left two sons—(1) Murdoch, general dealer in Glasgow, died without issue; and (2) Dugald, married Catherine, daughter of Duncan Macrae, tacksmen of Conchra, and was a brewer in Liverpool, where he died in 1861, aged 68, leaving six sons and a daughter (Mary, Mrs Alex. Brown, Liverpool), the sons being—(a) William, brewer and spirit merchant, Liverpool, who by Margaret Macrae had issue—John, William, Hugh, Dugald, Henry, Flora, Isabella, and Margaret; (b) Hugh, married, and in busi-

\* Mr Mackenzie's text at page 26 follows the MSS.

ness in Liverpool; (*c*) Duncan; (*d*) Farquhar, emigrated to Australia; (*e*) Hector; and (*f*) Alexander, a sea-captain.

a2. Donald, miller at Fernaig, died at Avernish in 1845, aged 101 years, leaving—(1) John, parish schoolmaster of Lochalsh (1820-30), emigrated to Canada and Cape Breton, where he died, leaving numerous issue; (2) Duncan, died in Charleston, America; and (3) Dugald, who emigrated with his family to Upper Canada in 1849.

a3. Murdoch, killed in an encounter with a Revenue cutter off Scalpa in 1815; left three sons—John, Kenneth, and Roderick, the first and last being married, and emigrating to Cape Breton in 1820.

a4. Alexander, married to Mary, daughter of Kenneth Matheson, Plockton, with issue—Dugald, who married and emigrated; Murdoch and Alexander, both in Glasgow (1862-8); Elizabeth and Catherine, both married.

4. Agnes, daughter of Murdoch of Balmacarra by his second marriage, married Thomas Mackenzie, first of Highfield, with issue, for which see Mackenzie's "Mackenzies," p. 533.

We now return to Murdoch's eldest son,

IV. DUGALD OG, who had a son,

V. JOHN, who, according to Captain Matheson, married a daughter of John Mackenzie of Applecross, by whom he had six sons—

1. Roderick Beag, of whom hereafter.

2. Donald, "whose descendant was Dugald Matheson," commonly called Dughall a' Chaoil, of Kyle, who left three sons—

*α1.* Murdoch, who had issue—(1) Donald, ship carpenter, Duirinish, who had issue, (*a*) Murdoch, ship carpenter, Plockton, whose children were Roderick, Donald, Catherine, and Christina ; (*b*) Mary, married to Christopher Macrae, Avernish ; and (*c*) Marion, married to Farquhar Matheson, Plockton ; and (2) Dugald, who died of exposure in Glenbeaste.

*α2.* Donald, tenant of Reraig, had two sons—(1) Alexander, whose issue was (*a*) John, tenant in Dairnaherbinn, who had issue, Donald, lately steamboat agent at Balmacarra, and Kenneth, and (*b*) Rebecca, who married her cousin, William Matheson ; and (2) Roderick, who left a son Dugald, who had three sons—(*a*) Roderick, a seafaring man, then merchant at Plockton, and the first to build a slated house there, who had issue, John and Mary, emigrated to Cape Breton, where the family flourished in wealth ; (*b*) Murdoch, emigrated with his family to Cape Breton ; and (*c*) John, who died without issue.

*α3.* William, third son of Dugald of Kyle, who married Ann, daughter of John Ban Matheson of Duirinish, by whom he had Dugald Beag, Erbesaig, who had three sons and a daughter—(1) Donald, married, with issue, Kenneth, who married Harriet MacIennan, Sallachy, with issue ; (2) Alexander ; and (3) William, Erbesaig, married his cousin, Rebecca Matheson, with issue, William and Dugald.

3. Kenneth, third son of John, son of Dugald Og, left no son.

4. Murdoch, left no male issue.

5. John, who left a son Roderick, who left a son Roderick Og, who left also a son Roderick Og, living

in Kirkton of Lochalsh in 1780, and at Kyle, married to Catherine, daughter of Duncan Finlayson, Achmore, with issue, nine sons—(1) Roderick, emigrated to Canada ; (2) Donald, enlisted in the 78th, and died in India ; (3) Kenneth, emigrated to Canada ; (4) John, enlisted in the 78th, and died in India ; (5) William, emigrated to Canada ; (6) Duncan, teacher in Dundee ; (7) Alexander ; (8) Murdoch, who emigrated to Canada ; and (9) Dugald, emigrated to Australia in 1828. We now revert to

VI. RODERICK BEAG, eldest son of John, son of Dugald Og. He had the farm of Achandarroch, had a gentleman's education, and was an extensive dealer in cattle. He married Catherine, daughter of John Breac, son of Rev. Farquhar Macrae of Kintail, Chief of the Clan ; she was widow of Murdoch Matheson, son of Alister Mac Ian Og. By her he had two sons—

1. Murdoch, of whom presently.

2. Alexander, married Mary, daughter of Donald Macrae, Ariyugan, with issue, three sons and four daughters—Mary (married to Murdoch, son of Dugald Matheson of Kyle), Catherine, Christina, and Ann, all married. The sons were—

a1. John, married Annabella, daughter of Farquhar Macrae, Ariyugan, with issue—Roderick and Isabella. Roderick, known as the Taillear Ban, lived in Plockton, married, with issue—(1) John, married Catherine Macrae, Strome, with issue, Donald and Roderick, both seafaring men, at Plockton ; (2) Farquhar (died 1862), boatbuilder at Plockton, married to Marion, daughter of Donald, grandson of Dugald of Kyle, with issue, John, Roderick, Mary, Isabella, and Christina ; (3) Alexander ; and (4) Margaret.



*α2.* Christopher, second son of Alexander, married Catherine, daughter of John MacRory Matheson, with issue—(1) John, married Mary, daughter of Roderick Buidhe Matheson, Erbesaig, with issue, John, Roderick, Donald, and Alexander, the first three of whom emigrated to America, while Alexander became tenant at Drumbuie; (2) Alexander, married, with issue, Duncan and Christopher, at Duirinish; (3) Donald, tenant at Erbesaig, married Flora Macrae, with issue, Duncan and Donald; and (4) Mary.

*α3.* Kenneth, married Catherine, daughter of John Mackenzie, Plockton, with issue—Alexander, shoemaker, Plockton, who died in 1862, leaving issue, his son John being a seaman, who married and emigrated to Australia with his family.

VII. MURDOCH, eldest son of Roderick Beag, tenant of Carr, Kintail, married Mary Macrae, from Strathglass, with issue—John and Catherine, who married Murdoch Macaulay, Bundalloch.

VIII. JOHN BUIDHE, who left Kintail on his mother's re-marriage, became Lovat's forester in the Aird, then tenant of Leanassie, and died in 1845 at the age of 109. He married at sixty Christina Macrae, with issue—

1. Roderick, called the Fiddler Ban.

2. Murdoch, who had three sons—(1) John, joiner in Edinburgh; (2) Donald; and (3) William, a baker at Inverness (1862-8).

3. Duncan, of whom presently as IX.

4. Alexander, married, without issue.

5. Catherine, unmarried.

IX. DUNCAN, third son of John Buidhe, who married Mary, daughter of Roderick Matheson, Lundy, held the farm of Leanassie and had issue—

1. Donald, of whom presently.
2. John.
3. Duncan, died young.
4. Roderick, tenant at Torranherick, Kiltarlity, at present.
5. Murdoch.
6. Christina, 7, Ann, and 8, Mary.

X. DONALD, presently proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Greenock, married, with issue—(1) Roderick, (2) Alexander, (3) John, (4) Mary, who married John Davidson; (5) Harriet, (6) Elizabeth, who married Andrew Hill; (7) Charlotte, (8) Janet, who married Alfred Harvey; and (9) Ida.



FAMILIES OF IOMAIRES

AND OF

GLAS-NA-MUCLACH.

On the opposite page is the Castle of Ellandonan, of which Duncan Matheson in 1539 was Captain, who was slain by Donald Gorm of Slate in his attack upon it.





[By kind permission of Mr. D. Whyte  
Photographer, Inverness.]

## Eilandonan Castle.

## THE FAMILY OF IOMAIRES.

In the preceding 34 pages we have dealt with the Family of Lochalsh, in its broadest sense, which means all the descendants of DUGALD AN OIR, second son of the common ancestor Murchadh Buidhe. We now revert again to the descendants of RODERICK of Fernaig, the eldest son of Murchadh Buidhe.\* Roderick was succeeded in Fernaig by his eldest son JOHN, who married, firstly, Anne, daughter of John, son of Alexander Roy, son of John Glassich, second of Gairloch, she being thus sister of Murdoch Mackenzie, Bishop of Moray (1600-1688). He married, secondly, a daughter of Cameron of Callart. By each wife he had two sons, thus:—

1. John Mor, of whom the Bennetsfield Family discussed above (pp. 28-55).
2. ALEXANDER MOR, ancestor of the Iomaire Family.
3. Murdoch, Ancestor of the Family of Glas-na-Muclach.

\*This sandwiching of not merely the Lochalsh Family, but also of that of the Sutherland, between the leading branches of the descendants of Roderick of Fernaig is the plan of the first edition, and is due to the Author's views in regard to the Iomaire Family, see p. 26 above, where Mr Mackenzie promises to deal with the matter at this point—the beginning of his account of the Iomaire Mathesons—but does not do so. What he says before he comes to the personal history of Alexander Mor will be found in App. D, where the matter will be discussed.



4. Roderick Beg, who left no male issue.\*

We now take up the family and descendants of Alexander Mor, second son of John of Fernaig:

IV. ALEXANDER Mor, who was fourth in descent from Murdoch Buidhe, married Annabella, daughter of Murdoch, son of Hector Mackenzie of Fairburn, and had four sons—

1. Roderick, his heir.
2. Duncan, who left no male issue.
3. Murdoch, and 4. Angus, who were both drowned going to Skye.

V. RODERICK, who married Flora, daughter of Alaster Mac Ian Og of Achtaytoralan, ancestor of the Attadale family, had four sons and one daughter (Annabella)—

1. John, his heir, of whom presently.
2. Alexander, who married Ann, daughter of John Mackinnon of Aisk, Skye, “son of Donald, son of Hector Mackinnon of Mackinnon” (Duncan Matheson). He had many sons and daughters, but all his sons died before himself, save Murdoch, who died unmarried. His fourth daughter, Annabella, was mother of Duncan Matheson, the compiler of the Tìree-Manchester MS.

3. Murdoch, who married Flora, daughter of John Matheson of Achtaytoralan, son of Alaster Mac Ian Og, with issue, several sons and daughters, who all

\* The above account of John of Fernaig’s marriages and issue is from Duncan Matheson—his papers and Tìree-Manchester MS. It differs from that on pp. 25-26 above, but the reasons are explained in App D.

died young except two, Alexander, who became Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, and under whom Sir Walter Scott was taught. He died in 1799. The other survivor of Murdoch's children was Anne, who married William Macdonald, Ord, with issue, one son, Alexander, a tinsmith in Dalkeith.

4. Donald, who married one of the Mackenzies of Hilton, and removed to Contin, leaving a son John, who had two sons, Donald and Alexander, both living in 1824, and leaving descendants.

VI. JOHN, eldest son of Roderick, held the lands of Inchnairn in Strathasgaig. He married Mary, daughter of Duncan Mackenzie of the Dochmaluag family by Janet, daughter of the poet Lachlan Mac Thearlaich Oig Mackinnon, and niece of Mairi Nighean Alasdair Ruaidh, the poetess. John died young, leaving two sons—

1. Alexander, his heir.

2. Murdoch, who married, and had four sons, all of whom died young and unmarried, except Donald, who was (1824 and 1841) schoolmaster at Blaich in Ardgour. He had three sons—(1) Alexander, who lived near Edinburgh, for long clerk to the Bonnington Chemical Works, married to a lady of the family of Colonel Macdonald of Powderhall, with issue—three sons and three daughters, and died in 1880; (2) Murdoch, who resided at Castleton, Braemar, married to Helen Gunn, with issue—two sons and three daughters; and (3) John Kenneth. Donald had also six daughters.

VII. ALEXANDER, eldest son of John, who was married to Janet, daughter of Duncan Macrae, Tutor

of Conchra, by his wife Isabella, daughter of Rev. Finlay Macrae, minister of Lochalsh, by his wife Margaret, daughter of Duncan Macrae of Inverinate (the Chief) by his wife Janet Macleod of Raasay. Alexander fought at Culloden in his 18th year. He lived at Sallachy and died in 1793, leaving by his wife a son RODERICK, of whom hereafter. He had a son Murdoch, who left three sons and two daughters. The sons were Alexander, John, and Donald. The latter two entered the army and were both dead before 1841. Alexander was for thirty years school-master of the western division of Tiree. On his retirement he lived in Edinburgh. It was to him that Duncan Matheson of Manchester addressed the correspondence which embodied the history of the Mathesons contained in the Tiree-Manchester MS. Alexander had four sons and three daughters—(1) Donald; (2) Robert, who emigrated to Melbourne and had three sons; (3) John; (4) Alexander; (5) Sophia, married to Lachlan Macbain, Gardenston Arms, Lawrencekirk; (6) Isabella, died 1846 unmarried; and (7) Jessie.

VIII. RODERICK, known as Ruaraigh 'n Iomaire, or Rory of Immer, held the farm of Immer in Lochcarron. He was the author of the Iomaire MS., the first historical record of the Mathesons, written in 1824. He married Margaret, daughter of Finlay Macrae, descended on the father's side from Alexander Macrae of Inverinate, and, on the mother's, from Donald Macrae of Torloisich, who fell at Sheriffmuir in 1715. By her Roderick had issue—seven sons and six daughters—

1. John, of whom hereafter.

2. Alexander, who resided in Lochalsh, dying unmarried.

3. Murdoch, who was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, went to America in 1809, and died in 1817 at Lexington, where a monument was erected to his memory.

4. Duncan, who resided in Lochalsh, married Janet Macrae, with issue—(1) Donald, who married but left no issue ; (2) Roderick, who married Mary Finlayson, Avernish, with issue—four sons and two daughters, one of whom, Flora, is married to Captain Alexander Matheson, Keppoch, with issue ; (3) Flora, married to Donald Macrae, farmer at Achbeg, with issue—five sons and two daughters, one of the sons being Rev. Duncan Macrae, now in Ardgour ; and (4) Isabella, married to Kenneth Murchison, Craig, with issue—two daughters.

5. Farquhar, Rory of Immer's fifth son, married Catherine Matheson (died 1868), with issue—six sons and one daughter (Mary)—

a1. Roderick, lately in the Inland Revenue, now retired, and living in Edinburgh, married Emma Watts, with issue—(1) Farquhar William, M.B., C.M., practising in England ; (2) Augustus Alexander, M.B., C.M., in Edinburgh, married to Emily Adams, with issue ; (3) Roderick Murdoch, M.B., C.M., practising in Douglas, Isle of Man ; and (4) Catherine, married to Dr Boxil, Barbadoes, with issue.

a2. Alexander, who studied for the Church, and was for twenty-six years minister of Glenshiel, where he died in 1890.

α3. John, supervisor of Inland Revenue, Paisley, now retired, who married his cousin, Agnes Finlayson, with issue—(1) Farquhar, architect in Glasgow; (2) Alexander, chartered accountant and broker, Paisley; (3) Colin in the Commercial Bank; (4) Donald; (5) John; (6) Johanna; (7) Annie; and (8) Catherine.

α4. Donald, who lived at Kirkton, Lochalsh, where he died in 1884, married Catherine Mackenzie, Reraig of Lochcarron, with issue—three sons and a daughter, who died shortly after her father. The sons are:—(1) Farquhar, in the Hudson Bay Company's service, in charge of Cassiar District, British Columbia; (2) John; and (3) Roderick Murdoch.

α5. Murdoch, who was in the Hudson Bay Company service, retired in 1894, and presently tenant of Balmacarra. He married in 1882 his cousin Anne, daughter of John Macrae, tacksman of Braintra, with issue—(1) Flora Catherine, born 1884; and (2) Joan Alexandrina Mary, born 1886.

α6. James, who died unmarried.

Farquhar, father of these six sons, died in 1854.

6. William, the sixth son of Rory of Immer, who emigrated to Alabama, where he married Maria Darlington, and died in 1835. He had one son, William (who died unmarried), and three daughters.

7. Donald, who passed for the Church, but, disagreeing with the Presbytery, emigrated to America, where he died young and unmarried.

8. Flora, married to Donald MacIennan, Plockton, where she died in 1820, leaving four sons and four daughters—

a1. John, shipowner, married to Catherine Mackenzie, Plockton, with issue—four sons and several daughters. The sons are:—(1) Alexander; (2) Kenneth, who lives at Plockton, married to Jessie Maclellan, Achandarroch; (3) Donald, who was drowned near Eigg, had married Mary Finlayson, Kyle, with issue one son, Donald John; and (4) Murdoch; who went with his mother and sisters to New Zealand.

a2. Captain Alexander, married to Jessie, daughter of Duncan Maclellan, Kyle, with issue—sons and daughters—one of the sons being Dr John Maclellan, Thurso.

a3. Kenneth, married to Margaret Maclellan, Duirinish, ground officer in Lochalsh until 1852, when he emigrated to Australia.

a4. Murdoch, married to Catherine Macrae; died at Inverness without surviving issue.

a5. Janet, married to Murdoch Macrae, Ardeniasgan, with issue, five sons and two daughters.

a6. Elizabeth, married to Alexander Maclellan, Badicaul, with issue, four sons and four daughters.

a7. Catherine; and a8, Christina.

9. Catherine, second daughter of Rory of Immer, married to John Mackintosh, Glenelg, and was early a widow; without issue.

10. Isabella, who died young.

11. Janet, married to John Macdonell, Dornie, with issue—(1) Murdoch, who died in Edinburgh, unmarried; (2) John, who married a Miss Farquharson, with issue, and emigrated to America, where he died; (3) Roderick, who emigrated to New Zealand, married,

without issue ; (4) Dugald, died young ; (5) Mary ; (6) Janet ; (7) Flora, married to Kenneth Matheson, with issue, four daughters ; (8) Margaret, who married her cousin, Farquhar Macdonell, and emigrated to New Zealand, where both died, without issue ; and (9) Christina, married to Mr Farquharson, and emigrated to Buenos Ayres—issue, a large family.

12. Annabella, fifth daughter of Rory of Immer, married Roderick Finlayson, Achmore, with issue—

*a1.* John, who emigrated to New Zealand, and died at Inchnairn there, unmarried, in 1882.

*a2.* Farquhar, who died at Inchnairn, New Zealand, in 1888, unmarried.

*a3.* Roderick, who was tacksman of Achmore, where he died in October 1899. He married in 1870 Isabella Renwick, with issue—(1) Roderick, (2) John Macrae, (3) John Albert, (4) Farquhar Ewen, (5) Lily, (6) Annabella Flora, and (7) Mary.

*a4.* Duncan, supervisor of Inland Revenue, now retired, living at Burntisland, who married, first, Paulina Anne Sellick (died 1895) from Burntisland, with issue—(1) Roderick James, who died in 1893 ; (2) Henry, surgeon in the Navy, who married his cousin, Miss Sellick, in 1892, with issue ; (3) Duncan ; (4) John Alexander ; (5) Farquhar ; and (6) Flora Annabella, who in 1898 married Dr William Dinsmore, Bucksworth, Newcastle. Duncan married, secondly, his cousin, Jessie Macrae, Reraig.

*a5.* Flora, who married John Macrae, tacksman of Braintra, died in 1867 at the age of 45, leaving issue—

*b1.* Duncan, J.P., tacksman of Ardintoul.

*b2.* Roderick, M.D. Edin., Lieut.-Colonel in the



Indian Medical Service. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, and is now Chief Medical Officer of the District of Dacca, in Bengal.

b3. Ewen, who is in New Zealand, and married in 1891 Mary Eleanor Fantham, with issue—(1) Flora Mary; (2) Annie Ethel Frances; (3) Robert Cunningham Bruce; (4) John Farquhar.

b4. Donald John, planter in Assam, married in 1894 to Catherine Isabella Gibbs, Daisybank, Portobello.

b5. John Farquhar, M.B., C.M., Brighton, married in 1886 Edith Lily Johns, and died in 1899, leaving no issue.

b6. Anne, who in 1882 married her cousin, Murdoch Matheson, as stated above.

a6. Mary, second daughter of Annabella, Rory of Immer's fifth daughter, married Alexander M'Erlich, Morar, now tacksman of Invercannich, Strathglass, died in 1884, leaving issue—(1) Roderick, who married Miss Black in 1899; (2) Annabella; (3) Mary Ann; (4) Flora; (5) John Macrae; and (6) Jessie.

We now revert to the eldest son of Rory of Immer, viz. :—

IX. JOHN, who died in 1822 before his father's death. He had married Jean Stalker, with issue—

1. Alexander, for some time tenth eldest representative of the family, emigrated to New Orleans, where he was a merchant, but returned for health's sake, and died at Bridge of Allan unmarried.

2. John, of whom presently.

3. Murdoch, married in Glasgow, with issue—two sons, John and William, and two daughters.

4. Janet or Jessie, was married to Mr Mackenzie, without issue.

5. Mary, who was married near Glasgow.

6. Anne, married first, to John Finlayson, with issue, a daughter ; and, secondly, to Rev. Donald Macrae, F.C. of Cross, Lewis, with issue.

7. Flora, married to Mr Hill, son of the proprietor of the *Dundee Courier*, and left a widow a year thereafter.

X. JOHN, second son of John, son of Rory of Immer. He married in 1844 Margaret, daughter of Duncan Macrae, Auchtertyre, who died in 1846, without issue. He married, secondly, Christina Munro, Fearn, with issue—

1. Roderick, of whom next.

2. John, who emigrated to America.

John, Rory of Immer's grandson, died a few years ago, and was succeeded by

XI. RODERICK, who lives at Totaig, Glenshiel, married Isabella, daughter of the late Malcolm Macrae, Dornie, with issue—(1) John ; (2) Jessie ; (3) Christopher ; (4) Hugh ; (5) Roderick.

## FAMILY OF GLAS-NA-MUCLACH.

John Mor of Bennetsfield and Alexander, ancestor of the Iomaire Family, had, as above stated (p. 116), two half-brothers, sons of John of Fernaig by his second wife. Their names were Murdoch and Rory Beg; their life history has already been given at pp, 26-28. There it will be seen how Murdoch saved Seaforth's sword, which had fallen into the sea, and for his expert diving and swimming, and for the service thereby rendered, Murdoch was rewarded with the lands of Glas-na-Muclach in Strathasgaig, to be held by him and his family for ever; but, as no charter was given, these lands were lost to the family on the death of Ewen, Murdoch's son. Hence this family of Mathesons begin with

IV. MURDOCH, third son of John of Fernaig, and fourth in descent from Murchadh Buidhe. He was succeeded by his son,

V. EWEN, last of Glas-na-Muclach. Ewen left a son,

VI. MURDOCH ROY, who was, so Duncan Matheson says, the man who carried the last fiery cross sent through Lochalsh. He left two sons—

1. John Buidhe, of whom presently.

2. Donald Roy, who migrated to Skye, where he became miller at Steinscholl, and married a daughter of John Matheson, Pensuraig, originally from Lochalsh, by whom he had a family of six sons and two daughters, only five of whose names are recorded—James, the eldest, Murdoch, Roderick, John, and Alexander. The last two died childless. Roderick had two sons—Roderick and Donald. Murdoch, Donald Roy's second son, resided in Boreraig, married to Catherine Macinnes, with issue—John, Donald, Angus, Alexander, Flora, Christy, and Jessie. James, eldest son of Donald Roy, succeeded in the mill at Steinscholl, married a Macleod (Loanfern), and left nine sons, the eldest of whom was Peter, all living, save Alexander, in 1845, six being in Skye then. Capt. Matheson, in a confused passage, gives Donald as the name of Donald Roy's eldest son, not James, as does Duncan Matheson. The Captain says Donald succeeded to the mill, and by his first wife—a Martin of Steinscholl—had issue John, Alexander, Murdoch, Patrick, Roderick, and Marcus (Magnus?); by his second wife, Marion Nicolson, he had Malcolm, William, and John. Directly descended (great grandson?) from Donald Roy was Alexander Matheson, retired Inland Revenue officer, Inverness, who died in 1899, and whose family is given at p. 103 above.

VII. JOHN BUIDHE, eldest son of Murdoch Roy, married Margaret Maclean, with issue, three sons and a daughter, Catherine (who married Alexander Macdonald, Plockton):—

1. William, of whom hereafter.

2. Roderick, died young.

3. John, third son of John Buidhe, who was a shipbuilder at Plockton. He had three sons and three daughters (Flora, Margaret, and Isabella, who all married and emigrated, the first to Cape Breton, 1821, and the other two to New Zealand). The sons were—

*a1.* Donald, who was accidentally drowned at Easdale, was married to Margaret Black, daughter of Captain Black, with issue—

*b1.* John, who has four sons—Donald, Samuel, John, and James, and three daughters.

*b2.* Donald, in the Inland Revenue (Stamp Office), Edinburgh, married, first, Mary (?) Matheson, sister of Donald Matheson, Royal Hotel, Greenock (p. 112 above), with issue, Duncan, Donald (medical student, now dead), John, and a daughter. Donald's second wife was Hannah Goldsworth, niece of Mrs George Matheson (page 104).

*b3.* James, married, with issue—three sons and a daughter.

*b4.* Donald, in Australia, a sea captain, married.

*a2.* John, second son of John, son of John Buidhe, married Christina, daughter of Kenneth Livingstone, called the Captain. His issue was Duncan, John, Christina, and Mary. His sons are both in America, unmarried. Christina married a Matheson.

*a3.* or IX. from Murchadh Buidhe, Roderick, third son of John, son of John Buidhe, married Catherine, daughter of Donald, son of William, son of John Buidhe above, with issue—

*b1.* Donald, merchant at Ullapool and J.P. for the

County of Ross; married to Isabella, daughter of Murdo Finlayson, Kyle, with issue—Kate, Donald, and Roderick.

b2. John, M.A., M.D., presently residing at Gibson Square, London, and married to Kathleen, third daughter of Robert Whelan Boyle, F.R.S.L., editor of the London *Daily Chronicle*. Dr Matheson married in 1889, with issue, (1) Dorothy, b. 1891, (2) Roderick, b. 1892 (now deceased), and (3) Kathleen Phyllis, b. 1897.

b3. Rev. Alexander, M.A., formerly F.C. minister of Blair-Athole, now of Belgrave Presbyterian Church, London. He married Mary Dunning, daughter of Robert Adamson, a merchant of Liverpool; with issue, one daughter, Marion.

b4. Christina is married in New Zealand to one of the Macbeaths of Applecross.

b5. Mary, married to Donald Maclean, with issue, three sons and one daughter. One of the sons—Donald Matheson Maclean—is a medical student at Edinburgh University.

b6. Margaret, married to John Mackenzie, fish-curer, Strome Ferry.

b7. Isabella, married to John Mackenzie, Plockton,

b8. Johanna is married to John Mackenzie, son of Capt. Mackenzie, Strome of Lochcarron, and nephew of the husband of b6.

b9. Georgina, married to Andrew Johnstone, Kilmarnock.

Roderick, the father of the above nine children, died in 1892.

VIII. WILLIAM, eldest son of John Buidhe. He married Christina Campbell, and had three sons:—

1. Roderick, who had issue, John and Annabella, but they died unmarried.

2. John, of whom next.

3. Donald, married Christina Mackenzie, with issue—

(1) Hector, married Christina, daughter of Murdo Matheson, with issue, Donald (died young), and Murdo.

(2) Catherine, married her cousin Roderick, son of John, son of John Buidhe, with issue as above.

(3) Janet, married Alexander Maclellan, with issue.

(4) Alexander, died young.

IX. JOHN, son of William, son of John Buidhe, had two sons and three daughters (Isabella, Ann, and Mary). The sons were—

1. Murdo, of whom next.

2. Alexander, who is married, and has a family of three sons—Roderick, Donald, and Duncan.

X. MURDO, great grandson of John Buidhe, married Margaret, daughter of Alexander the "Blind Fiddler," (p. 101), and had a family of six—John, Donald, Farquhar, Kenneth, Catherine, and Bella. Farquhar is married, with issue; and so was the eldest son,

XI. JOHN, who married Phoebe, daughter of Henry Stewart, road contractor, and latterly innkeeper at Plock. They are both dead, but have left a family of

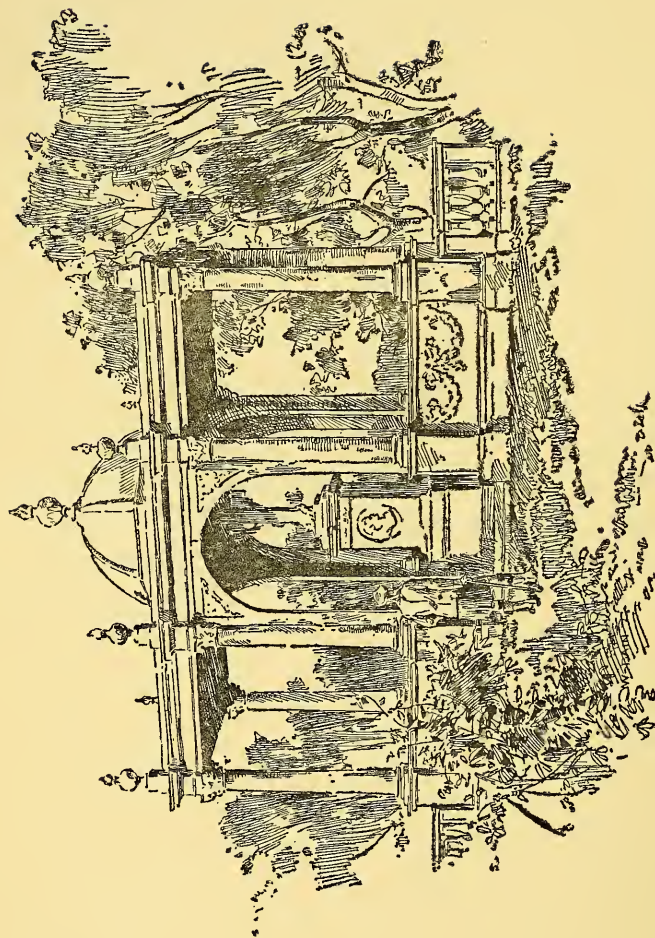


four—Murdo, Henry, Katie, and Annie. Murdo is XII. in descent from Murchadh Buidhe, and VIII. from Murdoch, the founder of the Family of Glas-na-Muclach.



THE SUTHERLAND  
MATHESONS:

THE FAMILY OF SHINESS, ACHANY,  
AND THE LEWS.



Tomb of Sir James Matheson, Bart., at Lairg.

THE MATHESONS OF  
SUTHERLAND.

We may take it that the Mathesons of Sutherland are an offshoot from the Lochalsh clan. One strong reason for so believing is that the name Mathan, bear, possibly due to the prevalence of the Norse personal name, Bjorn, in the Kingdom of the Isles, also meaning bear, did not long survive the departure of the Norse as a Christian name. The clan surnames of M'Leod, M'Kenzie, M'Nicol, or Nicolson, and M'Mathan, or Matheson, originated shortly after the departure of the Norse; so that the Mathesons of Sutherland may date their origin from a scion or scions of the main clan any time from 1300 to 1450. That is to say, it is unlikely that the Christian name Mathan survived long enough to give rise to a second and independent clan in Sutherland. It is not so with names that were popular in the 14th and 15th centuries, when the clans and sub-clans were assuming distinctive names; the clan name Mackay has two, if not three, sources of origin (Aodh or Hugh, now Huisdean), not to speak of the Galloway Macky.

What the MSS. have to say of the origin of the Sutherland Mathesons may be seen at pp. 6 and 7 above: the first of them was the murderer or

murderers of Colin M'Colin Fitzgerald, who fled to Sutherland and originated "a respectable tribe of the clan," (Iomaire MS.), found there still, and whose descendants long after became chieftains of the Siol Mhathain of 1600, whose chief was in 1616 Matheson of Shiness (Bennetsfield MS., a fact which Sir James Matheson's father acknowledged, it adds). Duncan Matheson bluntly states that the murderer fled to Sutherland, and was ancestor to (Sir) James Matheson; the Iomaire hints as much. The date of this interesting event would be about 1270. As Colin Fitzgerald, the Irish ancestor of the Mackenzies and the first chief of their line, is himself a myth, this tradition too must follow him into barbaric cloudland.

The first Matheson we find mention of in Sutherland is Alexander Matheson, mentioned in a sasine in 1492, as one of the Earl of Sutherland's bailies; and William Matheson appears on an inquest as one of the "seniors" of Dornoch in 1512. Sir John Matheson was Chancellor of the Diocese from 1544 to 1554, and made himself conspicuous in the Church troubles of his time. Robert Matheson was a saddler and burgess of Dornoch in 1566 (died 1603). To these we must add for 1569 and 1616 the name of the Chief of Siol Mhathan, viz., John, son of John, son of Donald Bane of Shiness. The last (Donald Bane) would have his *floruit* about 1520. From the above facts we see that the Mathesons were fairly strong in Sutherland about 1500, and by no means confined to the real habitat or "home" of the Sutherland Mathesons, the north of Loch-Shin side, where the

Chiefs' holding of Shiness lay. In a census made for Duncan Matheson privately in 1845, there were 42 heads of families of the name Matheson in Dornoch—burgh and parish; and his census-taker declared there were more in Loth. He then quotes a work on Sutherland, wherein the author says:—"In the vicinity of Dornoch the names Sutherland, Mackay, Ross, and Matheson are chiefly to be met with, and in Strathfleet and at Lairg Mackay and Matheson."

Unlike the Mathesons of Lochalsh, there are no genealogies of any length to be found among the Mathesons of Sutherland. Even the leading family of Shiness breaks at 1715, though the tradition of direct Shiness descent is so strong as to be nearly as good as a full pedigree. No other family goes so far back as 1715, so far as we know. Many of the Sutherland Mathesons are now professional or business men in the South, and "care for none of these things," that is, for pedigree or genealogy; but those on the soil have been about as bad. Duncan Matheson in 1836-42 appealed to every one whose address he could get to give him genealogies, but in vain. They did not even reply to his letters.

Of the Mathesons of Sutherland that are known for professional or business fame falls first to be mentioned, that eloquent divine, the minister of St Bernard's, Edinburgh, the Rev. George Matheson, D.D., author of several works on theology. He was born in Glasgow, whither so many Mathesons, both of Sutherland and Lochalsh, have gone and been

successful; for business success is in the blood. Dr Matheson's cousin is the well known East India merchant, Sir Donald Matheson, also of Glasgow, whose father, John Matheson, was a merchant there before him.\*

\* The above section on the "Sutherland Mathesons" is entirely the Editor's.—ED.





[By kind permission of Messrs. J. VALENTINE & SON,  
Photographers, Dundee.]

**Stornoway Castle.**



## THE MATHESONS OF SHINESS, ACHANY, AND THE LEWS.

It has been already pointed out [page 14] how, in the fifteenth century,\*



DONALD BAN MATHESON, son of Alexander Matheson of Lochalsh, fled to Caithness, and became progenitor of this family. It is said that the Chancellor of Caithness was at the time a Matheson, and that this accounts for Donald's choice of that remote country when he had to find protection from his step-father, Macleod, who was lording it so haughtily in Lochalsh.

\* This account of the family of Shiness, Achany, and the Lews is entirely Mr Mackenzie's and has the imprimatur, we believe, of the family. The Editor disbelieves entirely in the first two personages in the genealogy, viz., Donald Ban Matheson and John Matheson. The name of the youth that fled to Caithness is unknown to the MSS. except Duncan Matheson's, who gives it as Kenneth. But he had never seen Sir Robert Gordon's work on the *Earldom of Sutherland* (published 1813)! It is right in the teeth of the Iomaire MS. to suggest that "Ian Gallach" settled in Sutherland, for it distinctly says that this progeny were still in Lochalsh and Skye. The whole thing is an attempt to fit the traditions on to Sir Robert Gordon's chief called "John Mak-ean Mak-Konald Wain," or John, son of John, son of Donald Bane. Donald Bane's *floruit* should be about 1520; the first recorded Matheson in Sutherland is a generation earlier than that. See above (p. 134). The third name in the genealogy is right and rightly dealt with and so are the rest.

By a daughter of the Earl of Caithness Donald Bàn had a son who, according to the tradition recorded in all the Matheson manuscripts, was born in Lochalsh.\* The son was named

JOHN MATHESON, but he was better known among the Highlanders as "Ian Gallach," or John of Caithness, and his descendants to this day are sometimes called "Sliochd Ian Ghallaich," or the descendants of John of Caithness. He settled on the lands of Shiness, which extended along the north-east side of Loch-Shin, in Sutherlandshire. He was succeeded by his son,

JOHN MATHESON of Shiness, referred to in Sir Robert Gordon's Earldom of Sutherland, as one who, in 1569, with Y Mackay, made a narrow escape from a fearful snow-storm on a certain foray. He is described as "John Mak-ean Mak-Konald wain [John son of John, son of Donald Bàn], that dwelleth now in Cinenes [Shiness], and is at this day [1639] Cheiff of the tryb of Seilwohan [Siol Mhathoin] in Sutherland." This is the first authentic glimpse we obtain of this branch of the Mathesons; and so little is known of John's successors that it will be impossible to give more than a very incomplete genealogical sketch of his descendants.

In 1579 several of the leading men of the district were surprised and killed at Durness by the Chief of the Aberigh Mackays and others, at the instigation of the Earl of Caithness, because these leaders gave allegiance to the Earl of Sutherland, "at which tyme

\* See footnote, p. 8.

John Mack-ean Mack-Donald Wane\* in Cinenes (chieftane of the Seilwohan) escaped with great valor through the midst of his enemies, being then in the company of John Beg Mackay."

A tribe of the Mackenzies, known as "Siol Thomas," originally from Ardmeanach, in Ross-shire, obtained a strong footing in Sutherlandshire by the aid of the "Siol Wohan," or Mathesons, who appear to have followed the lead of the Mackenzies until January 1616, when, on the recommendation of Sir Robert Gordon, Tutor of Sutherland, they elected a chief of their own in the person of John Matheson, and separated from the Mackenzies. Sir Robert's namesake, the author of *The Earldom of Sutherland* [pp. 326-27], gives the following account of how this election came about. Sir Robert, "perceaving that some of Seill-Thomas in Sutherland began now to depend vpon Macky (alledging their tryb to be descended of his house, although ther begining and first prediccursors came out of Ardmeanagh in Rosse), he essayed to weaken the power of the Seill-Thomas, becaus he thought it a dangerous exemple that any tryb within that cuntrey should depend vpon any other then the Earle of Southerland, or such as did supplie his place, which he brought to pass in this manner:—There is a race of people in Southerland, of equall, yea rather of greater force and power then the Seill-Thomas called Seill-Wohan. This clan, or tryb, at all meetings, conventions, weapon shews, and hoisting, these many years bypast still joined them-

\* John Mac Ian Mac Dhomhnuill Bhàin.

selves to the Seill-Thomas; so that now they were both almost reputed to be one familie, under the name of Seil-Thomas. Sir Robert thought that iff he could withdraw the concurrance and assistance of this people from the Seil-Thomas, that then the Seil-Thomas would be of little force. Therefor he taketh occasion to send for the tryb of Seil-Wohan, and declared vnto them how far more honorable it were for the Earle of Southerland, and greater credet for themselves to choyse a chieftane or captane of ther own tryb, then thus to give ther attendance to others, who were their inferiors, and at the most, bot their equalls; that they were as strong everie way as the Seil-Thomas, and therefore he advysed them to choyse a heid of ther own race and familie, who wold be, from tyme to tyme, ansuerable for the rest of his tryb to the Earle of Southerland, or to any haveing his place: that so they should not onlie be in greater accompt with their lord and master, the Earle of Southerland, bot lykwise therby they should be more respected by the rest of the inhabitants within the cuntrey. Whervnto they hearkned willinglie, and the motion pleased them weill; so they did choyse John Mack-ean-Mac-Konald-Wam, in Chinenes, for head and chiftane of ther tryb; which policie of Sir Rodert's hath much weakned the power of the Siel-Thomas." Matheson must have lived to a good old age, for, as we have seen, he is referred to by Sir Robert Gordon as being very prominent among the leading men of Sutherland in 1569 and 1579, or 47 years earlier than 1616, when he was elected chief.

He was succeeded by his son,

GEORGE MATHESON of Shiness, who, in 1626, accompanied Sir Donald Mackay of Farr, afterwards Lord Reay, to the wars of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, in whose service he rose to the rank of Colonel. He, on his return, on the 5th of October 1639, matriculated his arms, in the Lyon Office, describing himself as Colonel George Matheson. The next head of the family of whom we know anything after Colonel George, and who must have been his grandson or great-grandson, is

DONALD MATHESON, who took an active part on the side of the Government in 1715.\* Donald was succeeded by his son,

NEIL MATHESON, born in 1740, and, at the head of his house, in 1745-46. His son, Duncan, however, seems to have represented his father in the field, and fought against the followers of Prince Charles Edward. In a skirmish with the enemy, the latter received a wound, from the effects of which he died in 1750.

Duncan married Elizabeth, daughter of William Mackay of Moudel, with issue—(1) Donald, who succeeded his grandfather; and (2) a daughter, Anne, who died young. After Duncan's death his widow married Dr Archibald Campbell, by whom she had

\* The leading man or chief of the Braechat or Lairg Mathesons in 1715 was evidently John Matheson, for the Earl of Sutherland in writing to his son about raising his forces against the rebels tells him to communicate with the leading man or men in each district, and in regard to Braechat, he says:—"Write to Mr Mackay and John Matheson about the Breachat men." This John may have been Donald's father.—ED.



issue, among others—George Washington Campbell, Secretary to the Treasury of the United States of America, and afterwards Ambassador-Extraordinary to the Russian Court at St Petersburg. Niel Matheson outlived his son, Duncan, for twenty-five years, and on his own death, in advanced years, in 1775, he was succeeded by his grandson,

DONALD MATHESON, then in the twenty-ninth year of his age. In 1762, in his sixteenth year, he was appointed ensign in a Fencible Regiment, raised by the Earl of Sutherland in 1759, and served with it until the peace of 1763, when the regiment was disbanded. The Earl raised another Fencible Regiment in 1779, and Matheson joined it as Captain-Lieutenant. This corps was reduced at Fort-George in 1783.

Matheson married, in the same year, Catherine, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Mackay, minister of Lairg, by his wife, Catherine, daughter of John Mackay, Kirtomy, and grand-daughter of James Mackay, nephew of Donald, first Lord Reay, by his wife, Jean, daughter of the Hon. Sir James Fraser of Brae, son of Simon, eighth Lord Lovat. By this lady Donald Matheson, at his death, in 1810, left a family of three sons and five daughters--

1. Duncan, his heir, born in 1784.

2. James Sutherland, afterwards of the Lews. He was born at Lairg, Sutherlandshire, in 1796. Educated at the High School and at the University of Edinburgh, he afterwards joined the well-known mercantile house of Jardine, Matheson, & Co., of

India and China, where he amassed a large fortune. As a partner of this firm he resided for many years abroad. On the occasion of his return to his native country, in 1842, he was presented by the native merchants of Bombay with a service of plate of the value of £1500, with an address, in acknowledgment of his exertions in promoting British commerce during the first Chinese war, and for his conduct during the Opium dispute with the Celestial Empire. He published a pamphlet on the position and prospects of the China trade, which procured considerable attention ; was elected a fellow of the Royal Society ; and represented Ashburton in Parliament from 1843 to 1847. In the latter year, he was elected for the Counties of Ross and Cromarty, which he continued to represent until he resigned in 1868. In 1843, he had married, Mary Jane, fourth daughter of Michael Henry Perceval of Spencer Wood, Canada, a member of the Legislative Council of Quebec (who survived him), without issue. In 1851 he was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom in recognition of his great exertions and munificence in providing the inhabitants of the Lews (which Island he had in 1844 purchased from Mrs Stewart-Mackenzie of Seaforth) with food during the severe famine of 1845-46 and succeeding years. He spent an amount of money on building his residence, Lews Castle, laying out the grounds, and on improving his property generally, which, in any previous era of Highland history would have been considered fabulous ; but the manner of this expenditure, and the results generally throughout the Island, as well as the

career of Sir James Matheson, would require a separate tractate.\* In 1866 he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of the Counties of Ross and Cromarty. He died, without issue, in 1887, leaving his Island principality, and the estate of Achany, Sutherlandshire, in life-rent to, and under the uncontrolled management of his widow, Lady Matheson of the Lews, and entailed on his nephew, Donald Matheson, present representative of the family of Shiness.

3. Thomas, a General in the army, born in 1798, and died unmarried in 1874.

4. Margaret, who, in 1804, married John Matheson of Attadale, and became the mother of Sir Alexander Matheson, Baronet of Lochalsh, M.P. for the County of Ross, and several others.

5. Harriet, who, in 1814, married the Rev. Alexander Macpherson, D.D., minister of Golspie. She died in 1816.

6. Williamina, who died unmarried.

7. Johanna, now Miss Matheson of Achany, Sutherlandshire.

Donald Matheson of Shiness was succeeded as representative of the family by his eldest son,

DUNCAN MATHESON, an Advocate and Sheriff of the County of Edinburgh. He married, in 1815, Annabella, daughter of Thomas Farquharson of Howden, by whom (who died in 1829) he had issue—

\* In the first edition a special supplement was devoted to Sir James's life. The same as an article will be found in the *Celtic Magazine*, X. p. 489, &c., on Sir James.—ED.

1. Donald, his heir, born in 1819.

2. Hugh Mackay, who married Agnes Ann, daughter of David Macfarlan, Esq., I.C.S., with issue—one son, Hugh, and two daughters—(1) Mary, and (2) Annabella, who married Adam Rolland Rainy, son of Principal Rainy, in 1887, with issue—(a) Adam Rolland Rainy and (b) Agnes Rolland Rainy. Mr Matheson was in the firm of Matheson and Co., Lombard Street, London, and Chairman of the Rio Tinto Company, but he devoted most of his spare time to philanthropical work. He died in 1898, and a memoir of his life and works has been published by Mrs Matheson, who died in 1900.

3. Thomas, a Liverpool merchant, who was married, first, to Anne, daughter of John Cropper, in 1850; secondly, to Rose Hamilton; and thirdly, to Elizabeth, daughter of his cousin Hugh Matheson: all without issue.

Duncan Matheson died in 1838, when he was succeeded as representative of the family by his eldest son,

DONALD MATHESON, born 1819, who succeeded to the property of the Lews, Achany, &c., on the death of Lady Matheson. Mr Matheson has devoted himself much to religious and philanthropical work. He married, in 1849, Jane Ellen, daughter of Lieut. Horace Petley, R.N., with issue—

1. Duncan, born 1850, Major in the Inniskilling Dragoons, D.L. County of Ross, of Achany and the Lews. He married in 1875 Clara, daughter of Sir Erasmus Burrows, 9th Baronet, with issue—

(1) James Sutherland Mackay, born 1880, Lieut. 3rd Cameron Highlanders.

(2) Duncan Kildare Frederick, born 1892.

(3) Alastair Ian, born 1899.

(4) Winifred.

2. Donald, born 1852, married Margaret, daughter of Robert Orr, Esq., J.P., Elgin, with issue—Donald Macleod.

3. James Horace, born 1854, Lieut. 3rd Buffs, died 1891, and buried in Kensal Green.



# APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX A.

### MATHESON HISTORY MANUSCRIPTS.

THE two MSS. used by Mr Mackenzie are quite modern—the Iomaire, written in 1824, and the Bennetsfield in 1838. The former was written by Rory Matheson, farmer of Iomaire (see above p. 118), who was fully conversant with the lore of his country, and, no doubt, had some family papers himself, while he had access to all the information of the Attadale family (whence Sir Kenneth Matheson). He lived at a time and among a people when and where traditional lore still held its full volume of flow; and we may trust his genealogies well back into the 17th century—even to Murdoch Buie himself. Rory was also a man of brains and good education. His MS. has been published in the *Highland News* for April 7th, 14th, and 21st, 1900.

The Bennetsfield MSS. was written by Captain John Matheson of Bennetsfield, chief of his clan (pp. 53-54, above), a man of University education and wide attainments. He was well versed in Highland history. It is said that he wrote a genealogical history of the leading Ross-shire families (*Scots Magazine*, Dec. 1899). At anyrate he wrote a history of the Mackenzies, the MS. of which was largely made use of by the late Mr Mackenzie in his *History of the Mackenzies*. Captain Matheson wrote in a florid style, and his statements are not always agreeable to facts. He knew the family traditions and the genealogy of his own family, but of the other branches he seems to have known little. Thus he has led Mr Mackenzie astray as to the sons of John Matheson, son of Rory of Fernaig (p. 26), a blunder which the editor was not able to correct in time. He gave John Mor a brother Farquhar, by a daughter of Cameron of Callart, and called him progenitor of the Mathesons of Attadale, “now,” he adds, in a note written after 1840, “of Ardintoul in Glenshiel.” The mistake is unfortunate. His MS. has been published in the *Scots Magazine* for October, November, and December 1899, with the omission of John Mor’s life (due to an oversight), edited by Mr Kenneth Matheson. The last two printed pages of this copy is by Captain Matheson of Dornie (pp. 53, 54).

While this work was in the course of being printed, in January of 1900, another MS. turned up, practically that of Duncan Matheson, missionary, Manchester (p. 79 above). We call it the Tthree-Manchester MS., because it originally consisted of a series of letters written to his cousin, once school-



master of Tíree, then in Edinburgh (1841-2). It was long known that he had collected materials for a Matheson history. He took a trip to Lochalsh in the winter of 1836 and collected all the traditions and material that he could concerning his clan. He intended publishing it, but got no encouragement from his clansmen. If he wrote a regular history of the Mathesons it is probably lost; but fortunately the present MS., comparatively short and informal though it be, has been almost miraculously preserved. It is in the possession of Mr James Matheson M'Bain, Arbroath (above p. 83). Mr M'Bain has also a vast number of letters and documents—over 200—written by this enthusiastic man. About 50 Gaelic poems are scattered throughout the collection. Duncan Matheson evidently consulted the Iomaire MS.

Captain Matheson of Dornie (pp. 88, 89 above) was an unwearied collector of Matheson genealogies. His MS., now in the possession of his sister, Miss Bessie Matheson, Dornie, is very valuable for the genealogies of the present century. We were allowed to consult this MS. through the kindness of its owner.

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## APPENDIX B.

### THE MATHESONS AND THEIR HISTORY.

The English surname Matheson attaches itself to the Clan Mathan simply on account of similarity of sound, just as Morrison renders the Gaelic M'Goille-mhoire, or Livingstone M'An-llibhe (M'Leay). Matheson means "son of Matthew" and is a common English name, and Continental too with *-sen*. It appears as Mathewson, Mattinson, Mathieson (as Duncan the missionary always wrote it), and finally Matheson. The real Gaelic name by translation for this is M'Matha, now M'Math or M'Ma, common in Kintyre, Ayr, and Galloway now and in days past. This name and the clans or families bearing it have nothing to do with the northern Clan M'Mathan in any respect. The M'Maths often English their name as Matheson. Nor have the Maynes, supposed by Captain John Matheson to be from Magnus (p. 5), but really from the local name *main* or *mains*, anything to do with the clan. The name MacMathan simply means "son of the Bear," the Gaelic of which in later times may be given as *Mathan* or *Maghan*, the older form being *Mathghamhuin*. It was common as a personal name in Ireland, and no doubt so likewise in Scotland, so long as the Norse influence lasted, for Björn, bear, was a favourite Norse name.

So much for the name. We shall now look at the history of the clan, first by way of criticism, and, secondly, by way of construction.

#### CRITICISM OF MATHESON HISTORY.

Both the Iomaire and Tíree-Manchester MSS. begin with a Mac-Mahon from Ireland coming to help Alpin, or his son Kenneth Mac Alpin, against the



Picts. Duncan Matheson calls him Fergus Mac-Mahon, son of the King of Ireland, and in a poetic vein at great length tells how he helped Alpin and his son King Kenneth Cruaidh (843). For his pains he got Lochalsh and part of Kintail, with the title Baron of Lochalsh—a poor return, surely, for the King's commander-in-chief! Then Duncan gives a list of successors down to Murchadh Buie, thus—1. Fergus Mor, the progenitor himself; 2. Kenneth; 3. Donald Donn; 4. Kenneth Mor; 5. Donald Ban; 6. Duncan Ard; 7. Kenneth; 8. Roderick; 9. John; 10. Murdoch Roy; 11. Kenneth (Kenneth Gruamach, no doubt, Fitzgerald's father-in-law, 1263); 12. Roderick; 13. John; 14. Kenneth; 15. Roderick; 16. Alexander (1427); 17. John (d. 1539); 18. Dugald Roy; 19. Murdoch Buie. This genealogy sadly lacks a few more links, not to mention that it is very artificial, contradicts the contemporary 1450 MS., and absurdly introduces John.

The MSS. all agree about the Fitzgerald marriage, and even grave Mackenzie MSS. give it too; but the Fitzgerald story, as Mr Mackenzie has amply proved in his History of the Mackenzies, is entirely mythical (p. 5 above). The curious and gruesome story of the murder of Colin in Glac Chailein follows the Fitzgerald myth into cloudland, as does the rest of the legend.

We now come to 1427, for the Matheson historians modestly disclaim knowledge of the story of the intermediate chiefs, in thus being wiser than their neighbours, the Mackenzies, who fill the period from 1263 to 1427 with farcical stories that cloy by their similarity in each chief's case—Mackenzie on side of King, holding Eileandonan against the Earl of Ross, whereas all the time the chiefs were the bound liegemen of the Earls of Ross and *toiseachs* of Kintail under them! The name of their Chief in 1427 is unknown to them. Kenneth More and his two thousand of 1427 are not found in the veracious pages of Mackenzie history! In short, Mackenzie history begins at 1427 with Kenneth More, and gets fairly respectable by 1463, when the Earl of Ross was forfeited and Crown charters were given. The Mathesons, however, recognised that Fordun's, or Bower's, Mackmaken was their chief, leader of two thousand. They called him Alexander MacRuari; and Captain John of Bennetsfield strives hard to identify him with Fordun's Alexander Mackreury of Garmoran. This is ridiculous. Garmoran was the Clanranald country, and Alexander M'Rory belonged to the old M'Rory family of Garmoran, ousted by John Macdonald of Isles marrying the heiress Amy M'Rory. He and John Mac Arthur, a claimant for Garmoran, were beheaded, no doubt for pushing their claims too strenuously against the Clanranald.

The Matheson MSS. represent Alexander Mac Ruari as having been executed for killing the Earl of Sutherland. Iomaire MS. does not know of the events of 1427; Duncan Matheson does know, and also of the disturbances of 1429, wherein Alexander Mac Ruari took part with the Lord of the Isles and was beheaded. In his letters, however, he afterwards argues that Alexander Mac Ruarie was condemned to die after 1470; it was Ruari or

Rory Mor who was the 1427 chief, and it was he who killed Sir James Scrimgeour at Harlaw ! And thus history is made ! No doubt there is a little modicum of tradition here, but there is more knowledge of Scottish history.

The legend of the battle of Poll-an-tairbh does not seem to have any more foundation in fact than the explanation of the place names. The cause of the quarrel—the refusal to give the hound Brodainn Glas (compare Loch Bhrodainn in Badenoch, also called after a hound)—is somewhat idiotic, but the Earls of Sutherland of that date (1460-1514) were alas ! given that way, but neither of them fought or fell in a battle with the Mathesons. John, Earl of Sutherland, died at Dunrobin in 1460 ; the next two Johns died peaceably, if not sanely. A curious legend it is.

Alexander's wife was a daughter of Mackintosh, her name being Margaret ; so goes the story. The Mackintosh historians marry her to the Chief of Clan Tearlach, that is, Maclean of Dochgarroch. But the M'Lennans, dependants of the Mackenzies, were also known as Clan Tearlach, and hence the confusion in which Captain John of Bennetsfield labours (p. 15 above). The only marriage connection which the Mackintoshes had with Kintail and Lochalsh was a hundred years later, when Kintail in 1550 captured the infant laird as he was being taken to the Reay country, and afterwards married him to his daughter. Angus Macleod marries the widow, and we have the usual "Return of the Exiled Heir Story," with local variations. The proprietor of Lochalsh at the time was Celestine of Isles, brother of John Earl of Ross. There is no reference to the Mathesons. Angus Macleod is accused by Duncan Matheson of selling part of Lochalsh to Glengarry during John the Heir's exile, so that when Dugald Roy succeeded as chief (1539) he had only a third of his ancient patrimony, Kintail and Glengarry having the other two-thirds (p. 19). Now in 1539 Lochiel had nearly half Lochalsh given him by Alexander of Isles in 1492, and the other half was divided between Dingwall of Kildun and Glengarry. No Matheson appears. Their chiefs were extruded from their rights, and their traditions do not a bit help us to understand how or why.

The wrath of the Mathesons was kindled against Glengarry, and in the clan wars that raged from 1580 to 1603 they took an active part, as we know from the Mackenzie Histories—Dugald of Balmacarra and John of Fernaig being both mentioned. Glengarry's cruelty towards them is shown by the legend of Dugald Roy Matheson (pp. 20-21). So much for criticism.

#### SKETCH OF EARLY MATHESON HISTORY.

The earliest history of the Mathesons goes back to the twelfth century, when the Gaels were regaining from the Norse the mastery of North Argyll, as the district of the Clanranald and Wester Ross to Lochbroom was once called. The Ross portion of North Argyll appears, from the indications in the 1450 genealogical MS., to have been tribally in the hands of the *toiseachs* or chiefs of the Mathesons, Mackenzies, Clan Gillanders or Rosses,

and the M'Nicols or Nicolsons. The latter were in the Lochbroom district, and their early genealogy is Norse, as indeed the clan must also have been in the 12th century. The Clan Gillanders were in Gairloch, the Mackenzies in Kintail, and Applecross belonged to the Church. The Mathesons held Lochalsh, and the first historical reference to them is in connection with the attacks on the Isle of Skye opposite them, under the Earl of Ross in 1262 and 1263; Kjarnak, son of Makamal, was, according to the Sagas, the Earl's henchman in these attacks on the Norse inhabitants of Skye, and as such he received compensation for his services in 1264, as the Exchequer Rolls show, where he is called Kermac Macmaghan. There is no mistaking the name in the latter form; it is Cormac Mac Mathan. The 1450 MS. has not got his name; he was not in the direct line of descent, which was carried on by Coinneach Mac Mathghamhna, probably his brother. The genealogy runs from about 1380 or 1400 thus backwards: Murdoch, son of Duncan (Murdoch, according to Skene's latest list corrected by Macvurich's MS.), son of Duncan, son of Murdoch, son of Kenneth, son of Mathan, son of Kenneth, son of Christin, &c., where the MS. genealogy ends. The family was a branch of the priestly family that rose to be Earls of Ross in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Mackenzies were also of the same stock, as the genealogies of 1450 show. Skene thinks that the whole of North Argyle, belonging to Ross-shire, was in the hands of the lay abbot of Applecross, from whom Ferchar Mac ant-Sagairt, the first Earl of line (circ. 1214), was descended. In any case Mac-mathan's position as tribal chief or *toiseach* of Lochalsh, under the Earl of Ross, as *mormaor*, was on a par with that of Mackenzie of Kintail; the two clans in the 14th century were equal in power and position. The next historical reference proves this. Mac-mathan was arrested by King James in 1427 as a follower of the turbulent Master of Ross and Lord of the Isles, along with Ross's other Thanes, viz. :—Angus Du Mackay, leader of 4000, Kenneth More, chief, or acting chief, of the Mackenzies, leader of 2000, John Ross (of Balnagown), William Lesly, and Angus Moray of Pulrossie, who, as well as Mac-mathan, were each leaders of two thousand men. So says the contemporary historian Bower, who spells the chief's name as Mackmaken. A later writer (Sir James Balfour, circ. 1640, working from older annals) enables us to get Mackmaken's first name. After noting the rising of the Earl of Ross, he adds: "And with him his gray hondes, Angus Duffe, Kennethe More, John Robe (read Ross), Alexander Macmurkine, and Alexander Mackrorey. Thir 5 the King, to terrifie utheris, caused to be hanged, but Alexander Earl of Ross does the King lead prisoner with him to Perth." Hence his name was Alexander Matheson, as the traditions have it. How Alexander Matheson, the chief of 1427, stood related to the last chief Murdoch given in the 1450 MS., whether son, grandson, or collateral, cannot be decided now; nor can his relationship to the first traditionary chief of the Mathesons, Alexander Mac Ruaraigh, father of John Du Matheson, constable of Ellan-Donnan in 1539, be settled. The history of the Mathesons for over two hundred years after the affairs of 1427 can be checked by no record out-

side late family traditions and incidental references in Mackenzie and Macrae family MSS. (mostly dating about 1700).

It is difficult to account for this submergence of the Mathesons, while their neighbours, the Mackenzies, similarly situated, soon began to flourish like the proverbial green bay tree. The reason may be partly guessed. Celestine, eldest "carnal" son of Alexander Earl of Ross, received from his father the lands of Lochalsh, among others, and we find him in possession in 1449. Alexander, his son, granted in 1492 to Cameron of Lochiel one-half of Lochalsh—the northern part mostly; the other half went to his son's, Sir Donald's, two heiresses in 1518, so that Glengarry, the eldest daughter's husband, had his share of it, the other share going latterly, in 1554, to the rapidly-rising Chief of the Mackenzies, who in 1607 and 1610 acquired the whole of Lochalsh. The Mathesons were merely tenants during the 16th century; the Macdonalds had thus completely arrested the development of a Highland clan, reducing them to the position of a sept or minor clan like the Macraes.

John Du Matheson, son of Alasdair Mac Ruairidh, married the widow of Sir Dougald Mackenzie, priest of Kintail, and constable of Ellan-Donnan Castle. John Du succeeded Sir Dougald as constable, and was killed in 1539, when he and two others held the castle against Donald Gorm of Sleat, who was mortally wounded by Duncan Macrae, one of the defenders. John Du's son was Dugald Roy, who was much harassed by the Macdonalds, and finally imprisoned and put to death by Glengarry himself, if we can trust the tradition. He left a son called Murchadh Buidhe, tenant (proprietor, says tradition) of Fernaig and Balmacarra. All the Matheson genealogies now extant centre in Murchadh Buidhe. The fact that the tenth generation from Murchadh has in every branch at present representatives alive fixes Murdoch's *floruit* at 1580—a date which otherwise agrees with the facts.

Murchadh Buie's son, Dugald of Balmacarra, and his grandson, John of Fernaig, are especially mentioned in the feud between Kintail and Glengarry, the former being present at the death of Angus Og of Glengarry in 1602, the latter acting as guide to the flying Mackenzies in the Applecross raid in the same year. In a MS. of 1750, edited by Mr Lang, the author thus writes of the Mathesons: "Lochalsh is inhabited by Mathesons, who are next to the Kintail people in stature and valour. They and the Kintail people were the only part of Seaforth's men that behaved well at Sheriffmuir, for when the rest ran away shamefully they kept their ground, till a good number of them were left dead upon the spot." This is corroborated by the local traditions and histories. In the 1745 Rebellion the Mackenzie Chief was against Prince Charlie.

The Mathesons of Sutherland are fully treated on pages 133-136 as to their origin and general history, while their deeds, as recorded by Sir Robert Gordon, will be found on pages 138-140 above.

On the following page (153) an index, in the form of a genealogical table, is given of Murdoch Buie's descendants to the fourth generation, the last column containing the branches from these.

## INDEX OF MATHESON GENEALOGY.

MURDOCH BUIDHE.	Roderick of Fernaig	John	John Mor	Alexander	"Bennetsfield Family."
			Alexander Mor	Roderick Duncan Murdoch Angus	"Iomaire Family."
			Murdoch	Ewen	"Glas-na-muclach Family."
			Roderick Beg	No male issue	
	Murdoch		Dugald Og Christane Alexander Agnes	John	"Family of Dugald Og."
				Murdoch	Family extinct, 1849.
				John	"Achtaytorlan Branch."
				Farquhar	{ "Lochalsh and Attadale." "Donald of Balmacarra."
			Alexander	Dugald	"Perth Canada Branch."
	Dugald an Oir.	John Og		Donald	"Donald MacAlaster Branch."
				Colin	No male issue,
				John Glas	Descendants living.
			Duncan	Kenneth Du	{ Duncan the Historian. Descendants living.
				Alexander	Descendants doubtful.
	Dugald Og?		Dugald Og	John	Descendants living (1841).
				Murdoch	Descendants living (1841).



## APPENDIX C.

Mr Mackenzie made a blunder in regard to his account of Murdoch of Balmacarra, son of Dugald of Balmacarra, Chamberlain of Lochalsh. He misunderstood the two documents reproduced by him on pp. 13-14 (our pp. 22-23). He thought that Christane Clerk and Christane MacIennan were two different persons, whereas Christane was one person, daughter of Rev. Mr Clerk, minister of Lochalsh, married at least twice. Their marriage contract was drawn up on 27th April 1631, Dugald Matheson of Balmacarra, Chamberlain of Lochalsh, and Rev. Mr Clerk, the fathers of the parties, going bound for their respective children. Mr Mackenzie confounded the Chamberlain with his grandson, Dugald Matheson, in Applecross. Mr Mackenzie's first account of Murdoch (above pp. 22-24) is left intact, but is correct so far as it goes, only it omits the name of his first wife and her children. This is rectified in the second account as now given by the Editor on p. 61. Murdoch's possession of Balmacarra, for which he is entered on the valuation roll of 1644 (Seaforth and Donald Murchison being the other two entered), must have been as a wadsetter of Seaforth, that is, holding property rights for money lent to Seaforth. That is the meaning of the quarrel between them.

For the question of Dugald Og and Murdoch of Balmacarra, see above, pp. 106-107.

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## APPENDIX D.

The position of the Iomaire Family is a vexed question with Matheson genealogists. Owing to the Tیره-Manchester MS. not turning up till p. 26 was long in print, the Editor was unable to give Duncan Matheson's views on the Iomaire question. He gives John of Fernaig four sons, two by each of his two wives. He definitely asserts that Alexander Mor, ancestor of the Iomaire Family, is the second son of the first wife. The Iomaire MS. claims that he was the first son, that John Mor of Fernaig was the second son. In that case the Chiefship lies in the Iomaire Family. Duncan Matheson is distinctly against this every time he refers to it: he regarded Captain John of Bennetsfield as chief of the Mathesons in his own day. So does, for instance, Sir Kenneth Matheson in the next Appendix. All parties acknowledge that John Mor succeeded his father in the family *duchus* seat of Fernaig. This should be enough of an argument for a student of history, but we are so imbued with the commercialism of agriculture for the last one hundred years that we forget the fact of the "kindly" tacksmanship that existed before—the *duchus* in short. Alexander Mor settled in Duirinish.

Mr Mackenzie's note on p. 26 practically means that, if the Iomaire

Mathesons insist on Alexander Mor being the first son, he was not legitimate, for he did not succeed his father in the family seat. The answer to this, from the other side, is that he had married and hived off early, especially as there was a second family. This is not a strong argument in view of the customs of the time with regard to tacksmen of the position of the goodman of Fernaig.

The Iomaire and the Tiree-Manchester MSS. give John of Fernaig four sons—John, Alexander, Murdoch, and Rory Beg (the former inverting the order of the first two). The Bennetsfield MS., seemingly as an afterthought, gave John Mor of Fernaig only one brother, whom he called Farquhar, ancestor of the Attadale Family, now (after 1840) of Ardintoul in Glenshiel. Farquhar succeeded John Mor in Fernaig, John's interest having centred in his own estates in Easter Ross, and thus giving up his tacksmanship of Fernaig to his cousin Farquhar, ancestor of the Attadale and Lochalsh family. Captain Matheson of Dornie gives also only one brother—Rory Beg—and represents Murdoch as his son, not his brother. Alexander Mor, ancestor of the Iomaire family, he ignores, though he must have known all about the claims put forward.

## APPENDIX E.

The ever-energetic Duncan Matheson, from his Manchester study, got a census taken in 1844-5 of the heads of families bearing the name of Matheson in at least five parishes in the North. These are—Lochalsh, Portree, Snizort, Kilmuir, and Dornoch. In the parish of Lochalsh in 1844 the Matheson heads of families were for the several districts thus—we must omit the names for space's sake—Plockton, 24; Duirinish, 2; Drumbuy, 8; Erbusaig, 5; Badicaul, 1; Kyle, 4; Balmacarra, 3; Kirkton, 3; Avernish, 8; Ardelve, 3; Salachy, 3; Achmore, 2; Fernaig, 1; Achnadarroch, 2; Craig, 6—in all 75 heads of families, exclusive of other men, and women and children beside. The commonest fore-names were—John (18), Farquhar (10), Alexander (8), Donald and Murdoch (7), and Kenneth (5). In 1845 there were in—

Portree—Heads of families,	32 ;	others,	118—total,	150.
Snizort	„	22 ;	„	118— „ 140.
Kilmuir	„	31 ;	„	146— „ 177.

In Dornoch there were 42 Matheson householders, duly named and localised, but the number of “followers” is not given. The census-taker judged there were as many in Loth.





ARMS OF THE MATHESONS OF ATTADALE & LOCHALSH.

(SIR KENNETH MATHESON.)

## APPENDIX F.

### NOTE ON THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS

OF THE

### MATHESONS OF ROSS-SHIRE & SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

BY SIR KENNETH MATHESON, BART.

The earliest record of arms for the name MacMaken or MacMathon, the Gaelic patronymic of the Mathesons of the West of Ross-shire, is the blazon given by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, Lord Lyon King of Arms, in his celebrated Heraldic Manuscript of the year 1542, viz., "Argent three dexter hands coupéd, erect gules," while in an Heraldic Manuscript, in the Lyon Office, entitled *Gentlemen's Arms of the reign of Charles I.*, a blazon is given as follows for the same name, viz. :—"Or a mullet azure, between three sinister hands fessways coupéd at the wrist and turned to the sinister, gules." Arms, founded on the coat of 1542, were allowed, by the Lord Lyon, to Alexander Matheson or MacMathon of Ardintoul, eldest son of the then deceased John Matheson of Attadale, and the heirs of the body of his said father, and were duly confirmed and matriculated in Lyon Register, February 17th, 1841, viz., "Argent three dexter hands coupéd, erect, gules, within a border of the last; Crest, a hand holding a scimitar in fess, all proper, with the motto, *Fac et spera*, over the crest."

The border is to denote that the bearer represents a younger branch of the family, and is a mark of difference. The said Alexander Matheson was subsequently created a Baronet of the United Kingdom, May 15th, 1882, as Sir Alexander Matheson of Lochalsh, and recorded his arms, as above, in the College of Arms, London. His son, Sir Kenneth Matheson, has lately matriculated his arms, as a Baronet, in the Lyon Register, with a difference in the crest. The elder branch of the family, which, after leaving Fernaig, in Lochalsh, was seated for a century and a-half at Bennetsfield, on the east coast of Ross-shire, bore the same crest and motto, but a shield quite different from those previously mentioned, for which no authority exists in Lyon Register. As it is, however, carved on the family tomb, and also given in Berry's and Sir Bernard Burke's "*Dictionaries of Arms*," I give the coat, viz., "Two Lochaber Axes in Saltier, between a cock in chief and a rose in base, all proper."

Yet another coat is to be found in the books of Berry and Burke, attributed to Matheson of Balmacarra, with the same crest and motto, but the shield as follows, viz. :—"Gyronney of eight, sable and gules, a lion rampant argent, on a border of the last, eight crosses crosslet of the second." This coat is

evidently taken from the arms matriculated for Colonel George Matheson, in 1639, and could, under no circumstances, appertain to Matheson of Balmacarra. Dugald Matheson of Balmacarra, Chamberlain of Lochalsh in 1631, was father of Murdoch Matheson of Balmacarra, mentioned in the Valuation Roll of the County of Ross in 1644, and the last Matheson owner of that property, until it was repurchased in 1851 by Sir Alexander Matheson, along with the rest of Lochalsh, he (Sir Alexander) being the descendant of Murdoch's twin brother, John Matheson, by his wife, the daughter of John Mackenzie of Hilton. I believe the above coat is borne by the family of Matheson living in Canada, and certainly equally descended from Dugald Matheson of Balmacarra, but there is no authority for its use in Lyon Register, and I cannot understand how arms, which clearly belong to another family, can have been assigned to them.

I now turn to the arms of the Sutherlandshire branch of the Mathesons, which are founded on the coat confirmed by the Lord Lyon to Colonel George Matheson, and matriculated in Lyon Register, October 5th, 1639, as follows, viz.:—"Gyronney of eight, sable and gules, a lion rampant or, armed and langued argent, a border or, charged with eight crosses crosslet fitchée of the second. Crest, an armed hand, holding a naked sword. Motto, "*Heart in Hand.*" Arms were allowed to James Matheson of Achany, second son of Captain Donald Matheson of Shiness, Sutherlandshire, who claimed descent from Colonel George Matheson in 1842, viz., Gyronney of eight sable and gules, a lion rampant or, armed and langued azure, a border or, charged with three bears' heads, coupé azure, muzzled argent, two in chief and one in base, and two hands fessways proper holding daggers, erect gules. Crest, a dexter arm in armour erect, holding a scimitar in fess, proper. Motto, "*Heart and Hand.*" The charges in the border are to indicate maternal descent from the family of Mackay. The said James Matheson was created a baronet of the United Kingdom in January 1851, and recorded the above arms in the College of Arms, London, as Sir James Matheson of Achany and the Lews.

From the fact that, notwithstanding that the Mathesons of Sutherlandshire are said to be of common origin with those of Ross-shire, the arms recorded for them are entirely different from those recorded for the MacMathons, while they are almost identical with the arms of the English family of Matthew, one of whom was Lord Mayor of London in 1490, I think it most probable that Colonel George Matheson, on his return from the wars of Gustavus Adolphus, obtained a grant of arms in England, which he subsequently had ratified and confirmed by the Lord Lyon, in Scotland, and that this is the explanation of the great difference that exists between the shields of the two branches of the family, although the crests of all the various branches are almost the same.

## *APPENDIX G.*

### DR ALEXANDER MATHESON OF MONTREAL.

BY REV. DONALD MASSON, M.A., M.D.

Of the many Scotsmen who helped to build up and auspiciously consolidate the great Dominion of Canada, few have left behind them a nobler record than the Rev. Alexander Matheson, D.D., of St Andrew's Church, Montreal. He was a genuine Highlander, and came of a good stock. His father, George Matheson, the son of a Sutherlandshire farmer in good position, enlisting while yet a boy in a Highland regiment, found himself, after some years foreign service, invalided home to be one of "a garrison of six" valetudinarians charged with the defence of Dunbarton Castle, of which his grand-uncle, a Mackay, was barrack-master. Being still a young man he was allowed, though nominally on garrison duty and understood to sleep in the Castle every night, to apprentice himself as a copper-plate printer in one of the neighbouring "printfields." An expert in that trade, and discharged with a soldier's pension, he settled down in 1807 at Campsie, where he was the friend and elder of Dr Norman Macleod, afterwards of St Columba's, Glasgow, and of that notable Highland minister's successor, Dr Robert Lee. Brought up under such influence it is no wonder that this pious elder's son was destined for the ministry.

By the mother's side Alexander Matheson was connected with the Rodgers of Claddoch and the Ewings of Keppoch. While a student he was for some time tutor to Mary Campbell whose "visions and tongues" afterwards so sadly misled Irving and Story and Campbell of Row. As a probationer he broke a lance in epistolatory conflict with Dr Thomas Chalmers over the vacant parish of Methven, and his marked ability and rare personal qualities had secured him many influential friends, who unfortunately, however, for his prospects of a living in Scotland, were on the wrong side of politics. To Canada thus his thoughts were turned. Beginning his ministry at Montreal early in 1827, he gave heart and strength to his work, in which he found ample scope for the best resources of an earnest and richly gifted mind. From the pulpit of St Andrew's he addressed the pick of those young spirits who in due time, and largely inspired by his influence, became the wise and patriotic empire-builders of Canada. In the social life of the city his was everywhere the pervasive Christian leaven that made for righteousness and for that high-toned manly courtesy which is to this day the distinguishing note of the Upper Ten in Montreal. His missionary journeys to the backwoods have left such memories as give tone and tenderness to the traditions of three generations. One class of his fellow Highlanders, unequally yoked to the

toils and privations of a colonist's hard life, had ever his special care and sympathy. In the old days of unmitigated entail the younger members of many a Highland family, and especially their children, were left to sink into a state of genteel poverty, which was most pitiful, and not a few of these luckless cousins of the purple sought their El Dorado as emigrants to Canada. Some of them, blessed with vigorous health, were true to the old stock, rising to be kings of men in the New World, as are their children's children to-day. But others soon fell out of the running; broken and hopeless hiding themselves away in dismal poverty. To search them out and care for them with the delicacy of a true Highland gentleman was Dr Matheson's chiefest joy. Let one instance suffice. It came under my personal knowledge when in 1872, after Dr Matheson's death, I was in Montreal. The newly discovered Chief of a Highland clan, recently called home to heir a noble estate, was then dedicating his first handling of ancestral wealth to the erection in St Andrew's Church of a splendid memorial window in honour of the good doctor who, often in the cruel winter of Canada, brightened the poverty-stricken home of the young chief's mother, while he, a sensitive, hard working boy, and she, broken and dead beat in health and spirits, could barely keep soul and body together.

The space allowed me is nearly overrun. For a full length portrait of Dr Matheson, as preacher, patriot, and the widow's friend, I can but refer the reader to his Biography, written as a labour of love by his friend and disciple, Mr James Croil (Montreal 1870). In that racy volume, etched in with the keen point of a master pen, and with many a graphic touch of dramatic detail, the reader will find much that will deeply interest him, and also amuse. One scene I must specially mention, showing as it does how brave and independent, even when face to face with royalty, this pious and chivalrously loyal Highland minister could be if in his person his Church was threatened with slight or injury. When the Prince of Wales in 1860 visited Canada there was such a rush of public bodies to present each its own loyal address to the heir of the throne as greatly embarrassed the Prince's entourage. They resolved that, of all the many Churches, the Church of England alone should present an address to the Prince, and *read it*. Other Churches at the levee must just hand in their addresses and pass on. To this arrangement Dr Matheson, as Moderator of the Church of Scotland, respectfully but firmly objected. There was keen diplomacy and much correspondence on the point. And up to the last moment on the day of the levee the point was not definitely settled. But Dr Matheson would not give in. In full Court dress, the observed of all observers, the grand old man in his appointed place in the procession, attended by his suite of ministers and elders, approached the royal presence, and the Synod Clerk put in his hands the address solemnly prepared for the high occasion. With calm self possession and gracious bearing he leisurely unrolled the parchment, and was preparing to read it. "Present your address: it cannot be read." As leisurely as he unrolled the document the brave old doctor rolled it up again, and, putting it in his pocket, passed on with graceful dignity and a



profound bow. The young Prince's instinct of *savoir faire*, so often displayed in later years, was equal to the occasion. He took in the situation at a glance. Before the doctor had stepped many paces from the royal presence a whisper in his ear invited him to confer with the Duke of Newcastle, the Governor, at the close of the levee. That night Dr Matheson dined with the Prince of Wales. And a fit occasion was found for the address being presented and read with all honour to our beloved Queen's eldest son, who marked his gracious appreciation of the brave and gracious Moderator's loyal and spirited vindication of the honour of his Church with the words:—"Doctor Matheson, allow me to do myself the pleasure of shaking hands with you." Impartial history adds: The tear started to the Doctor's eye; he grasped the royal hand with a right Scottish grip, while the loyalty of his big heart rushed to his lips in the irresistible utterance, "God bless you."

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## APPENDIX H.

### THE MATHESON TARTAN.

Duncan Matheson, the missionary, in 1844 calls the Matheson tartan a "splendid" one; it is both splendid and chaste. Clan tartans at best are a thing of yesterday, but territorial tartans are old—Martin (1700) says different islands and districts favoured certain tartan combinations—and tartan itself is as old in history as the Celts who wore it. Most tartans are inventions of this century, many made by well-known "tartan" firms. The tartans of the minor clans mostly all belong to this century. Some light is thrown on the history of the Matheson tartan by Duncan Matheson's correspondence. Writing in November 1844, he says: "I am not so much concerned about the original tartan as you seem to be, for I feel extremely proud that there now is a splendid tartan which the Mathesons can call theirs. Ten thousand thanks to (Sir) James Matheson, the father of the tartan!" A month later he writes wittily about the original tartan: "Mr Macdougall can tell you what it is, especially if you were to purchase any from himself." A palpable hit! In January 1845, he has the following remarks:—"You think Achany (Sir James Matheson) had no right to call it the clan tartan without consulting his chief and his nephew (Bennetsfield). But I cannot see why he should consult either of them concerning doing what he likes with his own. If ever the Mathesons had a tartan and that tartan being lost, I cannot see that any man on earth has a right to call him to account for doing that which no other man would have done for the clan, viz., giving them a tartan which they can claim as theirs. There was a time when no clan had a tartan, and if the Mathesons had no tartan till now every patriot of the name will feel grateful to that distinguished man, who gave them a new tartan, or who had dug their old tartan from the rubbish of old times."

*Verò Sap.*

## APPENDIX I.

## THE LATE ROBERT MICHAEL MILNE-MILLER,

KILLED AT LADYSMITH 18TH DECEMBER 1899.

*“Cuiridh sinn clach air a chàrn.”*

Robert Michael Milne-Miller, the “last of his race” in the male line, as one account has it, had a short but glorious career. For an account of the family see above, pp. 43, 44, and p. 58. He was the eldest surviving son of Surgeon-Major Milne-Miller of Kincurdy, was born in 1874, and spent his earlier manhood as sheep-farmer in Australia, where he acquired his fame for horsemanship. He returned home and spent some time at Fortrose. He then went to Canada to take up cattle-ranching. His strong martial spirit determined him in September of 1899 to proceed to the battlefields of South Africa, and at Ladysmith he joined the Natal Carabineers. He took part in all the engagements prior to the siege (Elandslaagte, &c.), and was one of the 200 Volunteers chosen as picked men to destroy the Boer guns during a night sortie. At Lombard’s Kop, the top of which he was the first to reach, he showed conspicuous bravery in volunteering to go down the hill—an awful one to climb—and fetch up the abandoned water carts. His comrades are (November 1900) erecting a monument in Ladysmith Church-yard to his memory, the “B” Squadron subscribing a day’s pay from each man. He was killed on the 18th December 1899 by a shot from a 96 pounder, the bursting of whose shell killed also 5 men of the Natal Carabineers and 14 horses.


## CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

P. 5. Line 10 from bottom : for *tosachy* read *toparchy*, as in the first edition—one of Bennetsfield’s high falutin words.

The *O Chian* here, translated “Fuimus” (p. 42), is rendered by Duncan Matheson “Bha sinn, tha sinn, is bithdh sinn.”

P. 26. Anna Bheag was grand-daughter of Alexander Roy and sister of the Bishop of Moray (D.M.) See p. 115.

P. 114. Read for “Duncan,” “John” Matheson.


 FAC-ET-SPERA.



















