falls into y^e^ Poe, from this place is allso an arteficial riuer which runns to Millan, by y^e^ side of which we went with our coach, and dind' next day at Millan, w^ch^ is (18 miles), on the 9^th^ of October.

MILLAN [*f*]. A towne in my opinion inferior to none that I haue seene in Italy, and if my judgment faile not, the biggest we haue yet spake off, neuertheless it has a very good line rownd it; but what is the strength of Millan is the Castle, accounted as considerable a place as most of Europe, the Castle of 3 retreits, to each of which is a mote, y^e^ out line fortefyed with 6 stronge Bulwarkes, the garrison Spangnards. The Doma of Millan a very faire church, the grand hospitall of great reuenue, the Inquisition rigorous against heretiques [*g*].

[*f*] Millan formerly a Dutchy belonging to Italien familyes who were Dukes therof, but now appertaining to the Crowne of Spaine.

At Millan we saw a monstrous woman, who was hairy all ouer at the length of a finger, hauing y^e^ like comming out of her eares, and y^e^ haire of her eyebrowes being bownd with that of her head as others behinde.

St. Carolo now protector, hauing putt out of request St. Ambrose.

[*g*] Much putt to it in passing through this Cuntry to satisfye the people about goeing to Mass.

THE EARL OF FIFE.

"The subject of Titles, frivolous as it may seem, illustrates not a few points both of man's nature and man's history."—FREEMAN.

The names of few noblemen in Scotland are entitled to more respect than that of the present Earl of Fife. The vanity that prompts the publication, at enormous expense, of the elaborate family histories of the present day, has in him found no place, leaving, however, it must be confessed, this undesirable result, that the family history remains in not a little doubt, uncertainty, and inaccuracy. The tendency of the study of historical subjects now is to place on firmer ground events ever farther and farther removed; the result of investigation in this particular instance is to cause the old ground to slip from beneath our feet and to leave us standing, so to speak, face to face with the present age. The plausible and delightful old fables of the Baronage and the Peerage must all be foregone and we left in contact with actual ascertained facts. While an authentic history of this family has hitherto been wanting, it may be by some considered an alleviation, that few families have had so many willing workers anxious to supply the deficiency, and none whose advocates were so rich in imagination. The following notes, it is to be hoped, will show the willing but not the imaginative worker.

The rise and progress of this family is as honourable as that of any in the North. There seems no reason, then, why recourse need be had to connect it with families of a long anterior date. But such an attempt is frequently made. There is quoted a MS. history of the Macduffs, Earls of Fife, of date 1599, wherein it is stated that Duncan, Earl of Fife, who was killed in 1298, had a younger son Malcolm, who married the daughter of Duncan,

Thane of Cawdor, who was the progenitor of the Duffs in the North. Instead of this, one would more naturally have expected the Duffs to be the progenitors of the Macduffs. Similarly, "Malcolm's Collections" (*Earl of Wemyss*) states that Duncan, the 6th Earl of Fife, who died in 1203, had as his fourth son Duncan, whence were sprung the Duffs of Craighead. The connection of the Duffs of Craighead, or Muldavit, with the ancient Earls of Fife is a pure assertion founded on no documentary evidence (*Jervise*). An inscription in Duff House mausoleum, of date only about a century ago, states that David Duff of Muldavit, the grandson of Duncan, 13th Earl of Fife, died in 1375, &c. The Rev. L. Shaw, in his "History of Moray" —wherein he states that his chief view was "to give the true origin and antiquity of the families" he treats of—thus deduces the Duffs of Muldavat:—John, the second son of David the fifth Earl of Athole, quitted the name of de Strathbolgie and assumed that of Duff, and had the lands of Muldavid and Craighead, &c. Shaw's genealogical table was constructed from a MS. account of the family written towards the end of the last century. No evidence whatever can be adduced in confirmation of the above assertion regarding the connection of Athole and Muldavit.

The editions of Burke's "Peerage," till a few years ago, ran as follows:—"This noble family derives from Fyfe Macduff, a chief of great wealth and power, who lived about the year 834, and who afforded to Kenneth II., King of Scotland, strong aid against his enemies the Picts." The more recent editions have discarded this fanciful line of descent.

Douglas (*Peerage*), finding that the Duffs were in possession of the lands of Muldavit in 1404, assumes that before the forfeiture of the last Earl of Athole (who died 1375), these lands had been given off to a younger son and that the Duffs descended from that son. He then proceeds to trace the descent of the present family from David Duff (1404), "of whom Earl Fife is lineally descended."

Debrett, like Burke, traces the family pedigree back to the Thanes of Fife. So also does Cordiner. Baird's 'Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs,' written about 1773 and published 1869, gives a variety of pedigrees, all going back to very ancient times but all equally unreliable.

The family of Duff of Muldavit has a comparatively well-authenticated record history commencing with 1404 and continuing for upwards of two centuries. The earliest reference is in a charter which is given in the Spalding Club Collections "from a copy in private hands." This is a charter by King Robert III to David Duff and Agnes Chalmer his wife, daughter and heiress of Maud of Maldavate, of the lands of Maldavate

and Baldavy. It would be interesting to know if the charter or the copy referred to is still in existence.

Can any relationship be established between the Duffs of Muldavit and Alexander Duff of Keithmore, the ancestor of the Earl of Fife? This much, at least, may be maintained—that no proof thereof has hitherto been advanced that will bear investigation.

In 1626-7 the lands of Muldavit, with manor place, &c., were sold by John Duff "elder, of Craighead," with consent of his wife Agnes Gordon, his son John Duff, younger "fear of Muldavit," and his wife Isabell Allane. The signatures of all the parties appear in the Cullen books of sasine. John Duff, elder, died in 1627. In the Cullen Court Books occur the following entries:—

1611. "Agnes Gordoun gudwyff of Craighead spouse to John Duff of Muldavet."
1637. Agnes Gordoun relict of umq^{ll} John Duff sometime of Muldavit. Isabell Allane relict of umq^{ll} John Duff of the Orchard burgess of Cullen.
Isabell Allane relict of umq^{ll} John Duff and Agnes Gordoun mother-in-law of Isabell Allane and relict of John Duff sometime of Muldavit.

Agnes Gordon and Isabell Allane were both alive in 1637 and in 1641.

1638. "Andrew Duff eldest lawful son to umq^{ll} John Duff of ye Orchard burges of Cullen."
Isabell Allane mother of said Andrew.

1651. Andrew Gibb of Orchyaird granted sasine of certain crofts to Girsell Bell his spouse in life rent. In 1676 these crofts came, apparently by sale or mortgage, into the possession of William Duff, baillie of Inverness, after being held by Alexander Johnston of Ferriehill and others through Janet Duff "heres proxima lineæ Joannis Duff quondam de Muldavat sui avi" and John Duff heir male of the said John Duff. The above William Duff is usually given as third or second son of Adam Duff, the eldest son being Alexander Duff of Keithmore, while John Duff in Old Aberdeen is usually believed to have been the son of John Duff and Isabell Allane, and with this son ended the succession of John Duff of Muldavat.

According to Baird's "Memoirs of the Duffs"—a book which is reliable for their later but not for their earlier history—Alexander Duff of Keithmore was born in 1623, that is, previous to the sale of Muldavit, and was the son of Adam Duff of Clunybeg by his wife Beatrix Gordon; while the said Adam Duff (born about 1598) was the son of John Duff by his second wife, Margaret Gordon, his first wife being the before-mentioned Isabell Allan. But the Cullen Burgh Records show Isabell Allan alive in 1626 as the wife of John Duff, and in 1641 as the relict of John Duff. Thus, no second marriage was possible, and no connection betwen the families of Muldavit and Clunybeg. According to Baird there were four generations of Duff alive

when Muldavat was sold. There existed *a* Margaret Gordon, wife of *a* John Duff, but she was the grandmother of the husband of Isabell Allan. The son of this Margaret Gordon was an Adam Duff, but there is nothing to identify him with Adam Duff of Clunybeg, the father of Keithmore. The occurrence of the designation "Adam Duff *in* Clunybeg" in official documents leads to the supposition that he was not in possession of that property.

In the official Register of the matriculation of the arms of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, 1676, in the Register House, Edinburgh, he is designed as "linealle descended and now representer of ye family of Craighead," but a different, though, apparently, contemporary hand, makes the unofficial addition: "There is good reason to beleeve that he is not the representer of Craighead." Had the acquisition of the Orchard Crofts (which belonged to the heirs of Muldavit) in that very year (1676) any connection with the establishment of the family claim as "representers of Craighead?"

In the Cullen Kirk Session Register, under date 1695, is a note of Mortifications given up by the minister in the year 1670, wherein he says, "Observe this hence that since the airs of John Duff of Muldavat ar not to be found the Bailies and Community of Cullen are undoubted patrons." This statement made at such a date by the minister and endorsed by the Kirk Session, is not favourable to Keithmore's claims. It is curious to contrast this statement of the minister and Kirk Session of Cullen with the inscription on Keithmore's monument in Mortlach church, written, probably, in the very same year, wherein it is stated that he was lineal and lawful heir to the ancient family of Craighead.

A glance at the interior of the family mausoleum at Duff House gives ample evidence of the belief of the family in their ancient lineage. The crest of the ancient Earls of Fife appears again and again cut in stone. A long inscription records their descent from the Duffs of Muldavit, while Braco's monument claims his descent from the illustrious McDuff, Thane of Fife. To add further confirmation to this idea, a fine stone effigy, with a singularly well-preserved inscription, was removed from the Duff aisle in the old church of Cullen about a century ago, and now adorns the interior of the mausoleum. That inscription appears genuine, barring the date, 1404, the Arabic figures of which expose the anachronism. A monumental slab in front of the effigy bears an old inscription, but cut by a modern hand, the original inscription on the stone not being completely erased. The long inscription referred to above may here be given, as it will soon be undecipherable, owing to the unsuitable character of the freestone; "David Duff of Maldavat, grandson of Duncan 13th Earl of Fife, died in the year 1375. John Duff of Malda-

vat, his son, died 1404. John Duff of Maldavat, his son, died 1480. John Duff of Maldavat, his son, died 1500. Andrew Duff, his son, died 1519. Sir George Duff, second son of John Duff of Muldavat, died 1549. John Duff, son and heir of Andrew Duff of Muldavat, died 1589. John Duff of Maldavat, his son, died 1624; and Agnes Gordon, his sponse, died 1628. Adam Duff, son and heir of John Duff of Maldavat, died 1674; and Beatrix Gordon, his spouse, died 1640 (?). Alexander Duff of Bracco, son and heir of Adam Duff of Maldavat, died 1696; Helen Grant, his spouse, died 1694, and were buried in the Kirk of Mortlech. Alexander Duff of Bracco died 1705; Margaret Gordon, his spouse, died 1722. William Duff of Bracco died 1718: Helen Taylor, his spouse, died [ ], buried at Mortlech. William Duff of Bracco, father to William Earl of Fife, died 1722; Helen Gordon, his spouse, died 1706 (?), buried in the Duke of Gordon's Isle at Elgin."

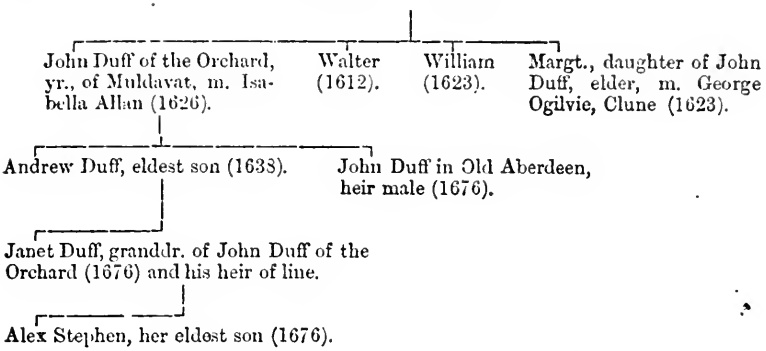
This inscription has an air of completeness about it, tracing the descent, as it does, from the time of the old Earls of Fife to the resumption of the title in modern times; but on several points it will not bear examination. For example, John Duff is said to have died in 1624, but the best ascertained fact in the family history is the sale of the lands of Maldavat by him in 1626, his signature still attesting the fact; while his wife Agnes Gordon, so far from dying in 1628, was alive, as the Cullen Court books show, in 1641.

In 1735 William Duff was raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Braco of Kilbryde. Why he assumed an Irish title is not easy to explain. The higher title he subsequently obtained —Earl Fife—was expressly given, it is said, "in consideration of his descent from Macduff Earl of Fife." The title the present Earl obtained in 1885—Earl of Fife—is peculiar in this respect, that very few instances occur of a peer assuming a title from a district where he possesses no territory. The title granted in 1759 was an Irish one and was that of Earl Fife, but it is not a little curious to observe that that title was never adopted in practice, except on the rarest occasions, by any speaker or writer, including even the holders of the title, the form of Earl of Fife being substituted; and this latter is the form that appears in the recent patent.

The following Table is made up from actual *data* in the Cullen Burgh Records of the dates appended:—

John Duff, m. Margt. Gordon. [She also married Walter Ogilvie (1612)].

Patrick Duff of Darbreich, eldest son of John Duff and Margt. Gordon. He m. Janet Ogilvie (1591, 1612, 1633).	John Duff, senior, of Craighead, m. Agnes Gordon (1614, 1623). In 1594 he assigned certain lands to her in life rent. Sold Muldavat 1626-7.	Adam Duff, son of Margt., Gordon and brother-german of Patrick Duff (1612).



In conclusion, the ancestry of the Earl of Fife can with confidence be traced to Alexander Duff of Keithmore (1676), and probably to his father Adam, but beyond Adam it is impossible to go, at least, with the existing evidence.

WM. CRAMOND.

CALENDARIUM GENEALOGICUM.

(*Continued from p.* 185.)

69. Hugo de la Tour, filius et hæres Thomæ de la Tour *defuncti*. *De ætate probandâ.*

Edwardus *etc.* Waltero de Gloucestr' Escaetori suo citra Trentam salutem Quia Hugo de la Tour filius et heres Thome de la Tour defuncti qui de domino E. quondam Rege Anglie patre nostro tenuit in capite dicit se plene etatis esse et petit a nobis terras et tenementa que sunt de hereditate sua et in custodia Margarete de la Tour cui Magister Thomas de Columbrigge qui eandem custodiam habuit ex commissione dicti patris nostri custodiam illam vendidit Habendam usque ad legittimam etatem heredis predicti sibi reddi per quod volumus quod idem Hugo qui apud Yveton' in comitatu Sumers' natus et in ecclesia de Bromfelde in eodem comitatu baptizatus fuit ut dicitur etatem suam probet coram vobis Vobis mandamus quod probacionem illam per sacramentum tam militum quam aliorum proborum et legalium hominum de balliva vestra per quos probacio illa capi et veritas etatis predicte melius sciri poterit et inquiri capiatis. Et scire faciatis prefate Margarete quod tunc sit coram vobis ad ostendendum si quid pro se habeat vel dicere sciat quare prefato Hugoni ut illi qui plene etatis est (si plene etatis sit) terras et tenementa sua predicta reddere non debeamus Et probacionem illam sic captam nobis sub sigillo vestro et sigillis eorum per quos capta fuerit sine dilacione mittatis et hoc breve. Teste me ipso apud Westm' viij die Februarii anno regni nostri tercio [1309-10].

Hugo de Popham miles etatis lx. annorum Willielmus Fychet' etatis xl. annorum Johannes de Kent' etatis l. annorum