"THE OUTLAW MURRAY."

The extraordinary conclusions arrived at by the author of a recently published work, entitled "A Scots Mediæval Architect," demand a passing notice. The subject of his essay is introduced by the well known inscription at Melrose Abbey :—

JOHN : MOROW : SUM : TYM : CALLIT : WAS : I : AND : BORN : IN : PARYSSE : CERTANLY : AND : HAD : IN : KEPYNG : AL : MASOUN : WERK : OF : SANTANDROYS : YE : HYE : KYRK : OF : GLASGW : MELROS : AND : PASLAY : OF : NYDDYSDAYLL : AND : OF : GALWAY : I : PRAY : TO : GOD : AND : MARI : BATH : AND : SWEET : S : JOHN : KEP : THIS : HALY : KYRK : FRA : SKAITH.

It is in the last chapter of his treatise that the reader is let into the secret of who this John Morow really was. His doings as an architect are dealt with in preceding chapters, and can be summarized as follows—(1) he appears after 1473 and disappears about 1512; (2) he carved *inter alia* the Royal arms at various places, therefore "that he was a Royal favourite may be held as certain"! (3) "the reason for his selecting Melrose Abbey for the site of his memorial tablet" was "because it was the Church of his own home." Mr. Chalmers then proceeds to make this statement "John Morow can now be identified with the John Murray, who first appears in the pages of history, on his inclusion in the lease of Lewinshop, and Hangandshaw in Ettrick, with Patrick, his father, before 28th June, 1497," by which he at one fell swoop identifies his *protegé* with the head of an important family and a person who may or may not have been the "Outlaw Murray" of the celebrated ballad,[1] but whom he accepts as such. Thus at a blow John Murray, of Falahill, becomes an architect and an outlaw, and furthermore, we are told he was the King's "friend,"[2] and that on his obtaining a charter of the lands of Cranstoun-riddell "he was then John Murray, Esquire, of Fallohill."[3] His seal shows *a hunting horn & in chief three mullets*, and the arms of John Morow carved at Melrose are a *fleur-de-lys & in chief three mullets*, but John Morow, the architect, being also John Murray of Falahill (and outlaw) on his appointment to the Sheriffship of Selkirk, we are now told, substituted the *hunting horn* for the *fleur-de-lys* to denote that office. If this John Murray of Falahill was the first to use the *hunting horn*, it is far more likely to have come through his wife, Jonet Forrester, as is evident in the case of the *fetterlock* in the Blackbarony coat, which first appears after Andrew Murray's marriage with Elizabeth Lockhart. It is certain that the arms of the last mentioned family were not settled until after this marriage, an interesting heraldic point, so another statement by Mr. Chalmers may be taken for what it is worth, viz., "John Murray who, as an Esquire, in 1497, must by that time have received a grant of arms, carved his arms on the tomb of Dervorgilla," &c. In addition to the honours heaped upon this John Murray, "now discovered as a great Scots architect," and "who has been known to every lover of the ballad

[1] Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border.
[2] "*familiari suo*" in the charter.
[3] *familiaris armiger* of the King in original charter.

literature of our country as 'The Outlaw Murray,'" his patron goes still further by suggesting that he also wrote the ballad himself! His "grandfather" is moreover without any hesitation identified in these words, "John Murray,[1] the elder, was evidently the architect of St. Salvator's College, St. Andrews," while of his father we read, "there is little doubt that he also was an architect." Here we have three successive chiefs of an influential border family all identified as architects, without a suspicion of the fact leaking out through the Public Records. One of them in all probability was the genuine outlaw thus described in the ballad—

> "The knight was armed capapie,
> With a bended bow, on his milk white steed."

a description the wildest enthusiast, we should have thought, would be chary to associate with one plying the peaceful craft of a "practising mason." Shakespeare is said to have been a poacher as well as a poet and playwright, but Mr. Chalmers, without by the way producing a tittle of evidence, has discovered in John Morow, "whose business it was to design and execute the mason work of the buildings under his charge," a King's friend, the chief of a well known family, a sheriff, an outlaw with five hundred men at his back, and the singer of his own praises in verse.[2] The existence in the fifteenth century of such a person is too overpowering for the intelligence of an ordinary mind, so I propose to resolve him again into his component parts, taking for my own purpose a few of them only, and leaving his masonic qualification to the author of "A Scots Mediæval Architect."

My object in putting together the following notes on the early history of the family of Murray of Philiphaugh, is to approach more nearly to an identification of the Outlaw, and to draw attention to one or two points in favour of my supposition, which appear to have been overlooked in the past. The pedigree begins as under:—

Archibald of Murray, ob. ante 1321. [Erchebaud de Morref subscribed the oath of fealty to K. Edward I, 1296.]

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Roger of Murray, of Fala in the barony of Heriot *vic.* Edinburgh, by grant from James, Lord of Douglas, 1 Sep. 1321, "*pro servicio suo nobis impenso.*"

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John of Murray, had a gift of the lands of Cranstoun-riddell from John Murray of Cranstoun, ob. ante 6 Mar. 1356-7.

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William of Murray, s. and h., had a confirmation of his father's lands of Cranstoun-riddell 6 Mar. 1356-7.

The charter granted to this William was copied by a Notary Public in 1849 from the original extract in the possession of the Earl of Stair, and is as follows:—

David Dei gratia Rex Scotorum Omnibus probis hominibus Totius

[1] John Morvo's inscription at Melrose, Mr. Pinches, in his *Melrose Abbey*, states must have been carved at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

[2] Sir Walter Scott considered the ballad to have been composed about the reign of James V.

terre sue clericis et Laicis salutem. Sciatis nos ratificasse Approbasse et hac presenti Carta nostra confirmasse Donationem et Concessionem illam quam Joannes de Moravia de Cranystoun fecit et concessit quondam Joanni de Moravia filio Rogeri de Moravia de illa terra de Cranystoun Rydell cum pertinen' in qua quondam Isabella de Rydell obiit vestita et saysita ut de Dotis Tenend' et Habend' Wilielmo de Moravia filio et heredi dict' quondam Joannis de Moravia heredibus suis et suis assignatis cum omnibus et singulis libertatibus commoditatibus aysiamentis et justis pertinen' suis quibuscunque adeo libere et quiete plenarie integre et honorificie bene et in pace in omnibus et per omnia sicut carta predicti Joannis de Moravia de Cranystoun eidem quondam Joanni de Moravia patri predicti Wilielmi de Moravia inde confecta in se juste proportat et testatur salvo servitio nostro In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte nostre sigillum nostrum precepimus Apponi. Testibus venerabilibus in Christo patribus Wilielmo et Patricio canc' nostro Sancti Andree et Brech' Ecclesiarum Dei gratia Episcopis Roberto Sen' Scotie Comite de Strathearne nepote nostro carissimo Thoma Comite de Marr dilecte consanguineo nostro Wilielmo Comite de Duglas Wilielmo de Levyngstoun Wilielmo de Ramsay Roberto de Erskine Waltero de Halyburntoun et Joanne de Prestoun militibus Apud Edinburgh sexto die Martii anno Regni nostri vicesimo octavo.

Haec est vera copia principalis Carte suprascript' content' in Registro S. D. N. Regis Extract' copiat' et collationat' in omnibus cum originali concordan' nil addito vel remoto quod substantiam mutaret aut sententiam variaret per me Dominum Joannem Hamilton de Magdalensis militem Clericum Rotulorum Regn' ac Concilii Dict' S. D. N. Regis sub meis signo et subscriptione manualibus.

In 1384 a William Watson had a charter under the Great Seal, on his resignation of Cranstoun-riddell, to him and the lawful heirs male of his body, which failing to Alexander of Murray, and the lawful heirs male of his body, which failing to George of Murray, brother of said Alexander, &c., 15 July 13 Robert II. In 1409 William Watson (son of William Watson, of Craniston) and his spouse got a charter of the lands of Trekware and Schelinglaw, on the resignation of William Watson, the father, to them and the lawful heirs of their bodies, which failing to Alexander of Murray, son of the deceased John of Murray of Blackbarony, &c. In 1463 the lands of Cranstoun-riddell, Traquair and others had been forfeited by a William Murray, then deceased. It was not till 1497 that Cranstoun-riddell was again in the possession of the family when John Murray of Falahill, on the resignation of John Murray of Blackbarony, got a Crown charter of these lands "*cum superioritate.*" Thus it will be seen that the titles of Cranstoun-riddell as given above throw no light on the pedigree below William Murray, living 1357, and of those of Falahill I know nothing about. It is, therefore, impossible at the present to say how the Patrick Murray of Falahill, so designed in a Precept by Henry, Bishop of St. Andrews, dated 1413,[1] descended from Roger Murray, of Fala, neither is it proved whether or not his successor in Falahill, the John Murray

[1] In Douglas' *Baronage* he is shown as grandson of Roger Murray of Fala, living 321, and therefore cousin german of William Murray above mentioned, living 1357.

(whom Mr. Chalmers calls John Murray, the elder) was his son, nor is there evidence to show whether the succeeding Patrick Murray of Falahill (*c.* 1477-1492) was son of the said John.[1] From this Patrick, however, the pedigree is clear, and it is sufficient for my purpose to draw attention to a few facts only relative to the family from the year 1461 :—

John Murray of Falahill, who had a charter under the Great Seal 20 July 1461, of the lands of Philiphaugh was evidently the John of Murray appointed with John Turnbull in 1467 to take Inquisitions for Selkirk,[2] herdsman to the Queen in Ettrick Forest,[3] and Keeper of Newark Castle.[4] His successor was

Patrick Murray of Falahill, who was acquiring lands in the Philiphaugh between 1477 and 1492. He inherited from his brother Alexander, Canon of Moray, a house in Edinburgh, which he assigned to John, Lord Bothwell, by charter dated 1 Mar. 1485 "*pro gratuitis consiliis et auxiliis.*" His son and heir was

John Murray of Falahill (considered by many to have been the "Outlaw") who had a charter under the Great Seal of the lands of Cranstoun-riddell, 5 Nov. 1497, being therein designed the King's *familiaris armiger*. In 1500 he, with David Hoppringill, in Tynnes, had a tack from the King for nine years of the Forest stead of Haining, and a similar tack in 1509 of Hangingshaw, Lewinshope and Harehead. The following year he had a Crown charter of Peilhill, and the burgh customs of Selkirk, with the office of Sheriff of Selkirk, in which he was seised 7 Jan. 1510. He was also seised 12 May 1497 of a great mansion house in Edinburgh, which Alexander, Lord Home, had given him, which house it appears later, 10 Nov. 1504, Lord Home granted to Mr. John Murray (afterwards of Blackbarony) for service "*multipliciter impenso.*" John Murray of Falahill, married Jonet Forrester, before 1492,[5] and was slain by Andrew Ker and Thomas Scott in 1510.[6]

The object of giving the above details of the family history, anterior to 1357 and subsequent to 1461, is to point out that for a hundred years before the latter date the movements of these Murrays are veiled in obscurity, and as we gather from the ballad that the hero was an unknown person to the King until he received word "That there was an outlaw in Ettricke Foreste, Counted him nought, nor a his courtrie gay," it is not unreasonable to suggest that the John Murray first appearing on the records as obtaining a legal holding in Selkirkshire in 1461 was the unruly person who "laid lee the country for many miles round"[7] and no other. Moreover, it is pretty certain he must have been in Ettrick some time before the date referred to, and quite possible that he or his ancestors might have taken possession of lands in that

[1] Mr. Chalmers says he was, and refers to Ex. Rolls, viii, 357, where he is only given as heir of John Murray.
[2] Acts of Parl. ii, 90.
[3] Ex. Rolls vii, 98.
[4] Ibid. vii, 478.
[5] Acta Dom. Con.
[6] Pitcairn's Criminal Trials.
[7] Sir Walter Scott's introduction to "The Sang of the Outlaw Murray."

part without interruption, if one realises the disturbed state of the country at that period. When asked of whom he held his lands "'Thir landis are mine!' the Outlaw said; 'I ken nae King in Christentie; Frae Soudron I this Foreste wan, whan the King nor his Knightes were not to see.'" These words were addressed to "James Boyde (the Earle of Arran his brother was he)," who, although differently styled in other copies of the ballad remains James Boyd, and it is a point worth emphasizing that the Boyds were in Royal favour in the middle of the fifteenth century, but that in 1469 Arran and his father were both forfeited. Sir Walter Scott did not consider it likely "that the circumstances mentioned in the ballad could occur under the reign of so vigorous a monarch as James IV," but on the other hand says, "James IV had particular reasons for desiring that Ettrick Forest which, actually formed part of the jointure lands of Margaret, his Queen, should be kept in a state of tranquility," an argument which would apply equally well in favour of the earlier John Murray. His appointment to take Inquisitions for Selkirk is also important, as it was not a far remove from the office of Sheriff, conferred on the later John Murray.

We have, therefore, the following facts connected with him—That until about 1460 he was apparently unknown, and that after that date he was in receipt of three appointments given him by the Sovereign, either as favours or for political reasons, and we also shew that his successors held similar offices. It is not unreasonable to infer from such evidence that the Outlaw was the earlier John Murray of Falahill, and not he who can, in my opinion, be satisfactory accounted for during his possession of the family estates, but I do not for a moment suggest that I have identified him as such. I should not have been tempted to touch the matter at all had not Mr. Chalmers identified (a process in this case peculiar to himself) a John Morvo, an architect, with the earlier John Murray, and John Morow, another architect, with the later, and in the course of his argument thrown in the intermediate possessor of Falahill as following the same profession, an extraordinary medley of improbabilities which utterly prevents any one of his statements being of the slightest value.

KEITH W. MURRAY.

LE POHER.

By COUNT DE LA POER.

In the last number of *The Genealogist*, under "Notes and Queries," Mr. J. H. Round, in his reference to the Le Pohers, states that Mr. Redmond has in his memoir of that family, "systematically and deliberately altered" (the surname) "from Le to De Poher (or Puher) in order to make the name territorial. Similarly the Breton vicomté of 'Porhöet' has been, most unjustifiably, altered to 'Le Poher,' to