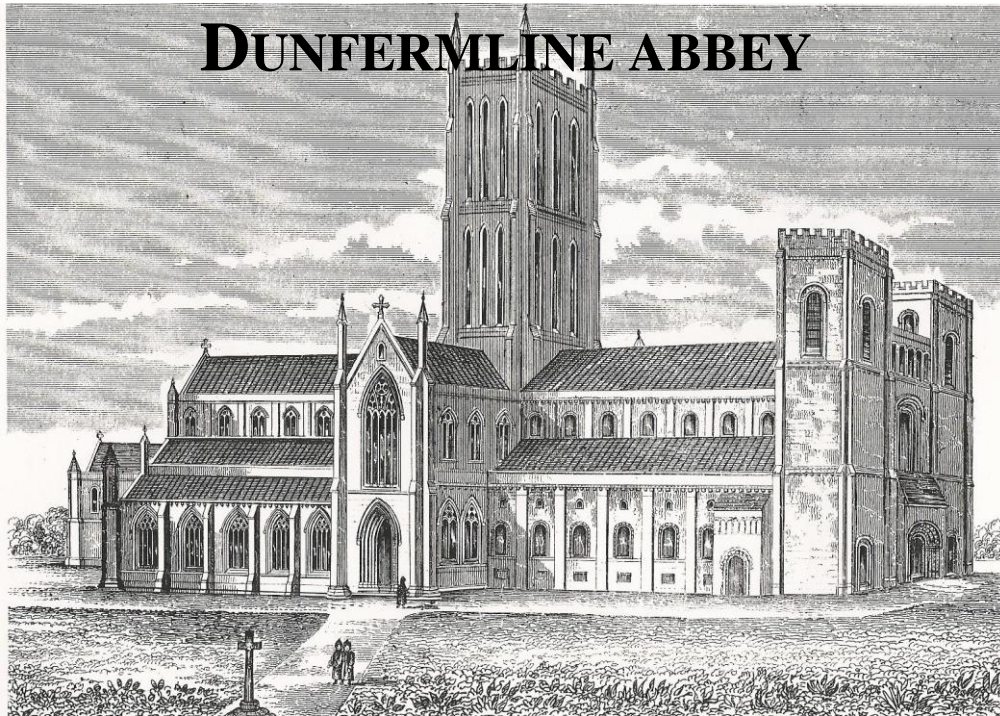


LIST OF ABBOTS



Ebenezer Henderson. *Annals of Dunfermline*. Glasgow, 1879.



Capped Monk of the
Order of St. Benedict.

From
**Historical and Statistical Account
Of Dunfermline**
By
Rev. Peter Chalmers

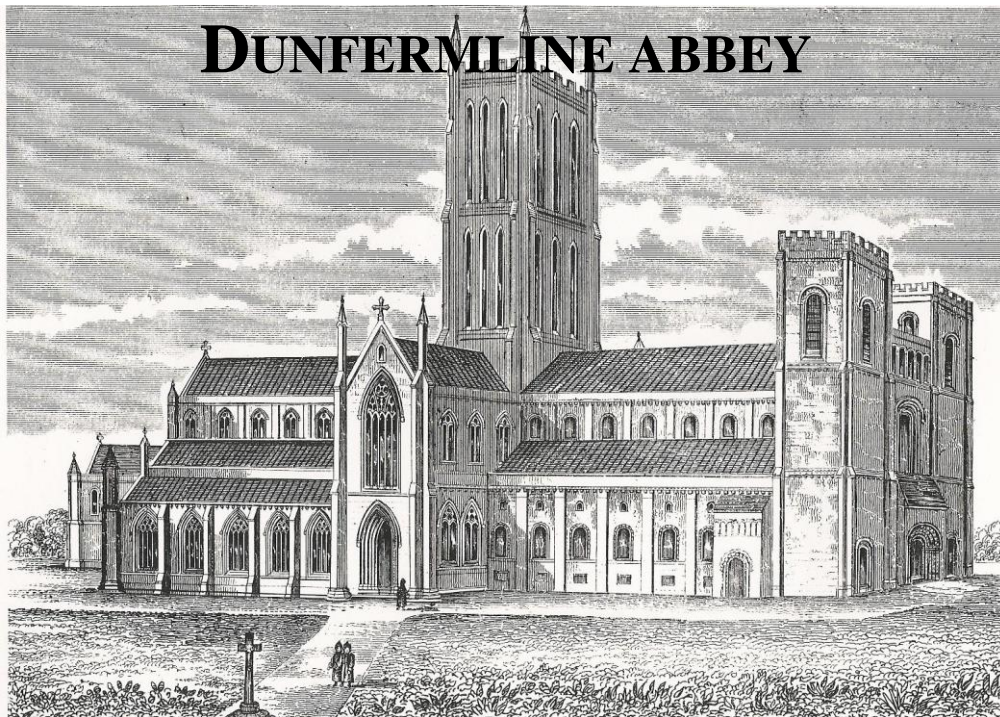


Mitered Abbot of the
Order of St. Benedict.

And

Biographical Notices or Memoranda of the preceding Abbots.

LIST OF ABBOTS



Ebenezer Henderson. *Annals of Dunfermline*. Glasgow, 1879.



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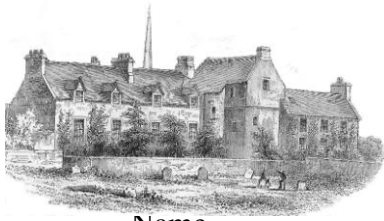
Mitered Abbot of the Order of St. Benedict.

In Steven's History of the ancient Abbeys, Monasteries, &c. of England, vol. i. fol. 1722, there is a Life of St Benedict, and an account of that order, and its rules, from which it appears that there were connected with the order as members of it, not less than 48 popes from St Boniface IV to Gregory XII inclusive; 11 emperors, who resigned their dignity, and became of the order of St Benedict, from the year 725 to 1039; 9 empresses; 10 queens, one of whom was Maud, Queen of England, grandchild of Malcolm Canmore; 20 kings (besides 11 others, an emperors, who submitted to the rule); 8 princes, sons of do; 15 dukes of Venice, Italy &c.; 13 earls, besides many other persons of different ranks. There are inserted in the column also two bulls in favour of the order, one by Pope Gregory, and the other, its confirmation by Pope Zachary I.

The monastery of Dunfermline is generally thought to have been only a Priory till the reign of David I, and to have been raised by him to the rank of an Abbey, on the occasion of his bringing thirteen monks from Canterbury; which, on the supposition of the previous occupants being Culdees, was intended to reconcile them to the new order of things. The foundation for this opinion is the occurrence of one Peter, monk and prior of Dunfermline, among the messengers sent by King Alexander I, in 1120, to Radulph, archbishop of Canterbury, in order to congratulate him on his safe return from Rome, and beg of him Eadmer, a monk of Canterbury, to be bishop of St Andrews. “Horum unus quidem monachis, et prior ecclesiæ Dunfermline Petrus nomine.” *(Eadmerus, lib, v. 130; Spotswood, b. ii. P. 33; Keith’s Cat. 8 vol. p. 402.) From King David’s time, the house was governed by an abbot, prior, and sub-prior.

The name of *abbot* is derived from the Syriac, and signifies a “father” (Mark xiv.36; Rom. viii.15); the abbot being the father, or head of the monks. In the first institution of abbots, it is said, they were secular persons, and had no rank in the church, notwithstanding that they made outwardly a profession to pray to God in their cells. The name of abbot is sometimes taken for a person of quality, as a lord, the best abbacies being at one time possessed by lords, who were obliged to serve in time of wars. These abbots were commonly dukes or earls, and were called earl-abbots, arch-abbots or military-abbots, while those who were churchmen, as a distinction from the others, were named reverend or most reverend abbots.

Another office of importance connected with the monastery was that of the *Commendator*. It would appear, that originally there were two persons who were so named, one who was appointed to perform the religious duties of a vacant benefice, till a new pastor was chosen for it, and the other, who was appointed to defend the vacant benefice from the usurpation of covetous men, and to draw the revenues of it, as a steward till it was filled up, and then to account for the profits received. The former was of course a churchman, the latter might be a secular, and was generally a person of quality, styled *Commendator-advocate*. He might be an abbot or an abbot’s soldier. In process of time the first sort of commendator came, it is said, to assume too much power and the second to appropriate the revenues to himself, and indeed received authority from Rome to do so during his lifetime. The latter could be nominated by the Pope only. George Dury, the last abbot, was also commendator; and Robert Pitcairn, his successor as commendator, is likewise styled, at times, abbot of Dunfermline. He is so styled on his monument.

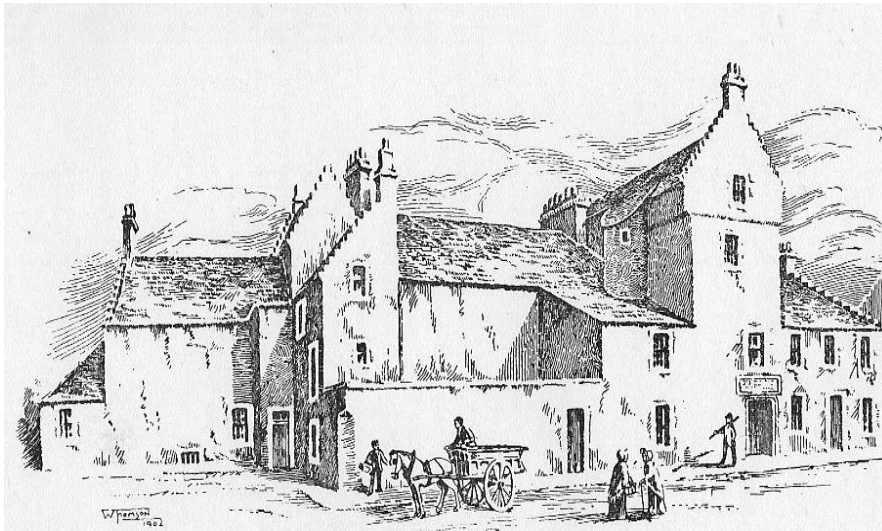


LIST OF ABBOTS.

	Name.	Duration of Abbotship A.D.	Cause of Removal.	Page
I.	Galfrid I. (Galfridus, Gosfrid, or Geoffry)	1128-1154.	Died.	6
II.	Galfrid II.	1154-1178	Died	6
III.	Archibald (Erkenbaldus, Archombaldus),	1178-1198	Died	7
IV.	Robert I. de Berewick	1198-1202	Disposed.	7
V.	Patrick I.	1202-1223	Died.	8
VI.	William I.	1223	Died.	8
VII.	William II.	1223-1238	Died.	8
VIII.	Gaufrid III.	1238-1240	Died.	9
IX.	Robert II de Keldelecht,	1240-1252	Resigned.	9
X.	John I.	1252-1256	Died.	9
XI.	Matthew,	1256-1270		10
XII.	Simon,	1270-1275	Deposed.	10
XIII.	Ralph (Radolphus de Grenlaw),	1275-1296		10
	(at least)			
XIV.	Hugh.	1309-1313		10
	(at least)			
XV.	Robert III. de Crail.	1316-1327		11
	(at least)			
XVI.	Alexander I. de Ber,	1331-1353	Died.	12
XVII.	John II. Blak.			12
XVIII.	John III. of Stramiglaw.			12
XIX.	John IV.	1363		13
XX.	John V of Balygirnach.	1365		13
XXI.	John VI.	1380-1395		13
	(at least)			
XXII.	John VII. De Torry.	1399-1409		14
	(at least)			
XXIII.	William III. de Sancto Andrea.	1413-1419		14
	(at least)			
XXIV.	Andrew I.	1437-1442		14
	(at least)			
XXV.	Richard de Bothuel.	1445-1472		15
XXVI.	Henry Creichtoun.	1472-1482		15
XXVII.	Adam.	1483-1490		17
XXVIII.	George I.	1494-1499		17
XXIX.	Robert IV. Blacader.	1500		17
	(at least)			
XXX.	James I. Stuart	1502-1504	Died.	17
XXXI.	James II. Beton or Bethune,	1504-1510	Resigned.	17
XXXII.	Alexander II. Stuart,	1511-1513	Slain in battle.	18

XXXIII	James III. Hepburn,	1515-1516	Resigned.	19
XXXIV.	Andrew II. Forman,	1516-1522	Died	19
XXXV.	James II. Beton or Beton, or Bethune (again),	1522-1539	Died.	21
XXXVI.	George II. Dury,	1539-1560	Died.	21
	(or later)			
XXXVII.	Robert Pitcairn.	1560-1584	Banished	22
			(and died.)	
XXXVIII.	Patrick II. Gray, Master of Gray, 7 th Lord Gray.	1585-1587	Banished.	24
XXXIX.	George III. Gordon, the 6th Earl of Huntly,	1587.	Banished.	²⁵
	Also			
XXXIX.	Henry Pitcairn.	1587-1593		25

In 1593 the Abbey was perpetually annexed to the Crown.



Biographical Notices or Memoranda of the preceding Abbots.

1. **GAUFRID I**, prior of Christ's Church, Canterbury, was elected first abbot of Dunfermline in 1128, on the petition of David I, in the fourth year of his reign, with consent of archbishop William, and ordained by Robert, bishop of St Andrews, in whose diocese Dunfermline was. He is characterized as a man of singular piety, *vir religionis eximia*.‡ He is witness to a charter of King David I, granting to the abbey of Reading, in England, Rundalgros in Perthshire,§ and to another of confirmation by King Malcolm IV, to the monks of Kelso,± and also to a charter of Robert, bishop of St Andrews (ante 1147). He died in 1154, ¶ and his obit was annually celebrated on 2nd ides (or 14th) of October.**

‡Somner's Antiq. Canterbury, 1640, p.277. Dart's Antiq. Canterbury, 1726, p.650.
§Melrose Chart. (Ban. Club, Ed.) p.32. ±Morton's Annals of Teviotdale, p.160.
¶Chronic. S. Crucis, p. 32. Fordun (a Goodall), i. 443. Dart's Canterbury, Supra.
**Dart's Hist. of Canterbury, App. P.38.

2. **GAUFRID II**, nephew of the former, succeeded him. He received a bull from Pope Alexander III, dated at Senon, 6th August (without year), consenting to him and the convent having the Church of the Holy Trinity of Dunkeld and lands belonging to it, with the approbation of the illustrious King of the Scots (Malcolm IV, who had granted the same church and lands to the Church of the Holy Trinity of Dunfermline.)*

He received another bull from the same Pope, dated at Turon on 7th June 1163, and fourth year of his pontificate, enumerating and confirming to him and his convent the various churches, lands, and other possessions, previously granted by kings and faithful nobles, a specification of which will be afterwards given in noticing the property of the monastery, - confirming even what might, in future, be so bestowed, or be otherwise lawfully acquired.† He is a frequent witness to several charters of King Malcolm IV, one of these is to the abbey of Scone, in the 11th year of his reign (1164); and also to several charters of King William the Lion, in the Register of St Andrews; and to charters of Arnold and Richard, bishops of St Andrew, in the same Register. He is noticed in a conversation between Henry II, of England and William King of Scotland, in 1175.‡ In the same year, in a "deed for the subjection of the Scottish Churches to the English Church," Gaufrid is mentioned along with Herbert, prior of Coldingham, as "granting that even the English Church may have that right in the Church of Scotland, which is ought to have *by right*, and that they will not be against the right of

the English Church;”§ which was just equivalent to saying in another way, by the insertion of the cautious phrase, “quod de jure habere debet,” that the Church of Scotland was, and always had been, independent of England. Accordingly, it was soon after declared to be completely free, as it had been before, by a bull from Pope Clement III about 1188-9, declaring it to be subject to Rome only. Gaufrid died in 1178.*

*Printed Dunf. Chart. P. 151 (1159-1165) †Ibid. 15103. ‡Rymer’s *Fœdera*, 1.770 (Edit. 1816) §Wilkins’ *Concilia*, vol. i.p.479; and Roger de Hoveden in 1175, whence Wilkins makes the extract. King William, the bishops of St Andrews and of Dunkeld, and many others, were obliged to acquiesce in the deed of the Pope above referred to. But this was opposed and refused by Joceline, bishop of Glasgow, at the council of Northampton, 1176, the very next year. – Wilkins, and Fordun, p.714. *Fordun, i, 443. *Chronic. Mailr.* 89; *Chronic S. Crucis*, 32; *Hay Scot. Sac.* 323.

3. **ARCHIBALD**, succeeded in 1178. He is a witness to charters of Hugh and Roger, bishops of St Andrews, in the Register of that priory. From the use of the initial letter only of his name in instruments, as in the copy of a charter of confirmation by King William the Lion, to the church of Mernis (Mearns, near Paisley), before the chancellorship of Hugo, between 1189-98, Alanus has sometimes been given by mistake as the name of the abbot in his time.† Archibald received two bulls from Pope Lucius III, the one dated on 2nd May 1182, and first of the pontificate, the other on the 14th November 1184, and fourth of the pontificate, both of a somewhat similar purport to those of Alexander to Gaufrid, being confirmations of royal and other grants to the monastery.‡ There was issued also a precept in his favour by King William the Lion, requiring the burgh of Haddington to pay him 3 merks annually, one-half at the feast of St Martin, the other at that of Pentecost, for lighting the church of Dunfermline. He died in 1198.±

†Pref. Dunf. Chart. II. Registr. De. Passelet, 100. ‡Printed Dunf. Chart. 153-8. ±*Chronic. Mailr.* 103; *Fordun*, i. 513.

4. **ROBERT DE BEREWICK**, succeeded in 1198. He granted charter, without date, for an acre of land, &c., on the northern part of the Esk, at Musselburgh, to one Symony Stury, a burgess there, on condition of making a small payment at the feast of the nativity of John the Baptist;¶ and another, also without date, to Robert de Moray, of some lands at Kyndun, near Dingwall, in Ross, for a payment at the same feast to the superior of the cell of Urchard in Moray, belonging to the monastery, and for doing due homage and service to the abbot and convent.* He was deposed for some irregularity, by the Cardinal Legate, John de Salerno, at a general court held at Perth in 1202, towards the end of William the Lion’s reign,† the same

ecclesiastic, who, before departing furth of the elm, kept a convention at Perth in 1201, in which some prior were deposed for taking orders on Sunday.‡ He is witness to a charter in the possession of the Pitferrane family, Dunfermline beautifully written, and in good preservation, without date, containing a grant, by the widow of Michael Scott, of the third part of *Pethfurran* to one of her sons.

¶Printed Dunf. Chart., 149. *Printed Dunf. Chart., 195-6. †Chron. Mailr., 103; Melrose Chart., 116; Fordun, viii, 62. ‡Hay's Scot. Sac., 331.

5. **PATRICK**, who had been sub-prior of Durham, and dean and prior of Canterbury, succeeded in 1202. He is a witness to transactions along with William de Malvoisin,§ bishop of St Andrews, and “it must have been during his incumbency that the lordly prelate is said to have levied on the abbey the mullet of no less than two churches” (Kinglassie and Hailes, now Colington), “for supplying wine too scantily in the bishop’s chamber, when visiting Dunfermline.: witness to a charter, without date, by Alicia, granddaughter of one Rannulph, granting six acres of land in Cramond to the monastery; and he received from Pope Innocent III in 1207, a bull of protection in the possession and privileges confirmed by the second of the bulls of Pope Lucius III to abbot Archibald, before notice, word for word, with the additions of the churches and lands of Molin and Strathardolf.** Patrick died in 1223,†† which is thus recorded in Dart’s Obituary of Canterbury. – “15 Kal. Oct. Obiit Patricius, Abbas de Dunfermelin.” §Regist. St Andrews. ±Pref. Dunf. Chart., II; Fordun, i. 359. ¶Printed Dunf. Chart., 115-16. **Printed Dunf. Chart., 161. The design on the seal of this abbot, on Plate III was taken from the Melrose Charters, but the date given by the copyist, which I have followed, is erroneous. It should be about 1202 not 1185. ††MS. De Cupro, Spottiswood, b. ii. 41; Fordun, viii, 62, Melrose Chart. 124.

6. **WILLIAM I**, Succeeded in 1223, who designs himself abbot of the Church of Christ of Dunfermline. He died in the same year.* *Fordun, ii. 48.

7. **WILLIAM II**, succeeded in 1223. He received from the prior and convent of St Andrews a grant and confirmation (without date) of the church of Hailes (*in laudonia*, Lothian) for the support of the poor and strangers.† He appears, along with Hugh, first abbot of Culross, in a controversy between the monasteries of Culross and Dunfermline, as to certain payments due to the latter for the church of Abercromby, within the territory of Culross, settled by composition, dated in 1227;‡ and in an agreement between Thomas of Lastalric and Mr Richard, *person* of Hailes, regarding

the right to the mill-pool of Hailes, &c., dated in 1226§ William died in 1238.±

†Printed Dunf. Chart., 62. ‡Ibid, 126-7. §Ibid. 135. ± MS. Dunf. Chart. (M'Farl.), 795-6; Chron. De Mail, 148.

8. **GAUFRID III**, "prior of the same house," succeeded in 1238, and died in 1240. ¶ ¶Chron. De Mailr., 148, 151.

9. **ROBERT DE KELDELECHT**, or Keldeloth, a monk of the convent, succeeded in 1240, and was afterwards, Chancellor of Scotland, towards the end of the reign of King Alexander II, and in the minority of King Alexander III. In 1244, he obtained for his convent, from Pope Innocent IV, the privilege of exercising within their abbey the functions, and assuming the badges of bishops, viz, the mitre, ring, the other pontifical ornaments.** About 1248, he is witness to an undated charter of Sir Roger, de Moubray to an ancestor of the Moncreiff family, granting to him the lands of Moncreiff, of which the family of Moubrays were superiors.†† In 1250, the year of the coronation of Alexander III, he assisted at the solemn translation of Queen Margaret from an inferior to a more dignified part of the Abbey.‡‡ In 1251, he was suspected of being engaged in the plot of Alan Durward, the justiciary, for procuring the legitimation of his lady, sister to the king, at the Court of Rome, so as eventually to succeed to the throne. On this becoming known, he resigned the seals of office, and retired to his abbey. But, quarrelling with the monks, who probably treated him with disrespect, after his disgrace at Court, he in a few weeks after withdrew as a simple monk into the Cistercian monastery at Newbottle. The charges against him as a chancellor, having probably been discredited, he was elected abbot of Melrose n 1268 or 1269, and died either three or five years after. According to Dempster, he wrote *De Successione Abbatum de Melros, lib.i. Florilegium Spirituale, lib. i.**

**Printed Dunf. Chart., 180. ††Douglas's Baronage, fol. 43-4. ‡‡Wynton, vii. 10. *Chron. Mail., 151, 191, 216; Morton's Annals, 226; Crawford's Officers of State, 13, 14; Fordun, ii. 68, 216.

10. **JOHN**, prior of Dunfermline, succeeded Robert. He is characterized as "a man of wonderful mildness," and is styled in the chartulary of Paisley in 1251, "Judge and Preserver of the privileges of Paisley." Having gone to the Court of Rome, to negotiate a release from a papal interdict, imposed on the monastery for failure of a pecuniary engagement towards promoting the confirmation of Gamelin, the new bishop of St Andrews, he died on the road, at Pontigny, in 1256.† †Fordun, ii. 85.

11. **MATTHEW**, the cellarer of the monastery, succeeded in 1256,‡ and must have died, or ceased to be abbot, before 1270, in which year, ‡Ibid., ii, 91.

12. **SIMON**, abbot of Dunfermline, was sent, with William, Earl of Mar, as ambassadors to the King of England, for the recovery of the king's earldom of Huntingdon. He granted charters of confirmation for the lands of Balbard (supposed to be in the north-east of Fife), Pitbauchly, in Dunfermline parish, south-east of the town, and Bendachin, belonging to the church of Dunkeld. § He was deposed by Baiamund (Bagimont), the papal legate, in 1275, for obstinacy, and crossness to the poor. ±
§Printed Dunf. Chart., 213-215. ±Fordun, ii. 123.

13. **RALPH** (Radulphus) de Grenlaw, sub-prior of Dunfermline, succeeded Simon, and is described as "mild, cautious, and well trained in monastic discipline." In 1275, the first year of his incumbency, he granted a charter to seven persons (named) to have eight oars in the boats at Queensferry, which belonged to the monastery.* In 1280, he granted another to Sir Michael Scott of Balwery for the mill-pool of Kirkcaldy, and also entered into a convention with him for the same, in which it is said "that he and his heirs shall possess the course of the water running between Balweary and Invertule (Invertiel), and between Balweary and the land of Milneton." This last deed is styled *cyrographus*, most probably intended for *chirographus* (Gr. X?????) "handwriting." A beautiful lithographed facsimile of the original document is given in the Register.† A charter was also given by him for some lands to William of Cramond.‡ In 1291, he swore fealty to King Edward I, at Dunfermline, along with many others, some of them above the great altar, and others in the chapter-house, of the monastery. He again did so at Berwick in 1296. §

*Printed Dunf. Chart., 216-17. †Ibid., 145, 422. ‡Ibid., 219. §Rotuli Scitiæ, i. 3 (fol.1819,) Rymer's Fœdera, I. 773.

14. **HUGH** was abbot, "by divine permission," in 1309, and also in the seventh year of King Robert I, (1313).± He appears, at the former date, as a leading witness in an "Inquisition made by the Reverend Father in Christ, Lord William, by the grace of God bishop of St Andrews, and Master John of Solerium, clerk of the Lord Pope, against the order of the Templars, and two brethren, named, of that inferior order, alone remaining in the kingdom of Scotland in their own habit, by a mandate of our most holy Lord Pope Clement V, by divine providence, in the abbacy of the Holy Cross of Edinburgh, of the foresaid kingdom and bishopric, on the 15th December in

the year of grace 1309.”¶ Hugh granted two charters, with out date, one relative to land that belonged to the shire-mill of Musselburgh, and the other relative to part of Pitbauchly, in Dunfermline parish, for so much white lime annually, with an exemption to the persons, in whose favour it was given, from coming to the mill or smith-forge of the monastery.*

±Father Hay, quoting a charter. ¶Wilkins’ Concilia Mag. Brit. et Hibern. (fol. Lond. 1737) vol. i.p.380, where there is inserted a Latin MS. Of the Bodleian Library, Oxford entitled, “Acts against the Templars in the kingdom of England, Scotland and Ireland.” As a specimen of early evidence against a religious order, long since suppressed, as well as from its being locked up in Latin, and in a work little known, rare, and expensive, not easily accessible, Hugh’s testimony may be here presented to the English reader. First witness. – Lord Hugh, abbot of Dunfermline, witness, being sworn and interrogated upon the condition and conduct of the foresaid brethren (previously examined), and other brethren of their order, and upon all the articles contained in the bull of the Lord Pope, said “That he never knew for certain, but heard it affirmed, that they commit such evil things” (alleged against them). “However, he has an unfavourable suspicion against them, and always had, concerning the clandestine reception of their brethren, and the profession made by them and nocturnal celebration of their chapters. Also he said that he believes that there are the same observances and the same statutes every where in that whole order; and he believes this, because the visitor from France was wont to visit their order in England, and the visitor from England their order in Scotland, and the brethren of that order were wont to be assembled from all places to their general chapter, and by consequence the secrets of their order appear to be communicated. He said, also, that he never heard it affirmed, that any brother of the said order was received in Scotland, on account of which heir secrets could not be known there.” (P.382) Hugh appears to his testimony to have been very cautious as to criminating the Templars. There were forty-one other witnesses, sworn and examined on the same occasion in this affair, among whom was one Adam de Winis, a monk of Dunfermline, all of whom are said to have agreed generally with Hugh. Besides the space occupied with their evidence there are about fifty folio pages filled with similar proceedings in England, and two in Ireland, the object of all which was to condemn and extirpate this religious order. *Printed Dunf., Chart, 146, 226.

15. **ROBERT DE CRAIL** was abbot in 1316, when Duncan, twelfth Earl of Fife, did homage to him in the monastery, before the great altar, for the lands of Cluny, near Kinglassie, Fifeshire, held of the abbey *in capite* (in chief)† He is noticed also in 1323, in a deed of King Robert I, given at Scone, concerning the lands of Melyn in Athol, Perthshire;‡ in a deed of the same king, without date, concerning the common of Gatemilk§ (near Kinglassie) and other things;± and in another of his, also without date, about canonical obedience due to the bishop of Dunblane for teinds from Cometon and Airthrey in the parish of Logie, diocese of Dunblane;¶ and farther, on the 10th March 1327, in a deed for the distribution of certain charities, arising from provisions used in the abbey, to be made to the poor at the

Elimosynary house *without the gate* (at the manse gate, where a portion of the old archway still remains), near to the Chapel of St Katherine, which stood, as noticed at page 159, at the west end of Nether-ton, for which service the Elimosynaries received a grant of said chapel, and adjacent houses below the bridge, commonly called the *gyrthbow*.* Note:- (St Mary's Chapel, Nether-ton, north end of Elgin Street opposite foot of Moodie Street, one of the walls of this old ruin was blown down in 1783, and the last vestige of the ruin of the Chapel was removed in 1814.. An. Dunf. P.512, 585)

†Ibid. 236. ‡Ibid., 248-250. §Probably from *Goat milk*. ±Printed Dunf. Chart., 238-9. ¶Printed Dunf. Chart. 241-243. *Printed Dunf. Chart. 253-4.

16. **ALEXANDER DE BER** continued abbot for twenty-two years from 1331. He received a procuratory from King David II, conferring upon him certain privileges in legal transactions and a letter of obligation from the same monarch, to make certain payments, to him, both in 1335.† He granted seven acres of land to Simon Stury, at Musselburgh, in 1340‡ He appears in an agreement with James of Dundas about the Queensferry passage in 1342; § and afterwards in a deed regarding the churches of Kinross and Orwell, with the approval of Pope Clement VI, granted by the bishop of St Andrews. ± Having gone to Rome to solicit a grant of a general indulgence, he died on his return at the village of St Stephen, in Lombardy, in 1353.

†Ibid. 256-8. ‡Ibid. 150. §Ibid. 206. ±Ibid. 412. §Ibid.262.

17. **JOHN BLAK**, cellarer of Dunfermline, was chosen abbot by the convent, with the license of the king and the bishops of the diocese, and is spoken of as an excellent governor of the house. But,

18. **JOHN OF STRAMIGLAW**, a young monk of the abbey, then studying at Parish, hastened to Avignon, and obtained the abbacy, by apostolic bulls. ¶ John Blak yielded to his rival and accepted from him first a pension, and afterwards the priory of Urchard, in Moray, a cell of the abbey.*

¶The story is curious.- "At the same time a certain monk of this monastery, John of Stramiglaw by name, then studying at Paris, and fearing that his monastery would sustain damage on account of the general reservation made by the Supreme Pontiff, concerning all the dignities of those who departed on a journey of this sort; lest that dignity should fall into the hands of a stranger, he repaired to the court of Avignon, and obtained the abbacy of Dunfermlyn by papal bulls. But these things being heard of, the said Lord John Blak, having consulted the Lords secular and temporal, pretended that he would not give up his dignity as abbot even to the Papal Legate himself; but having learned the apostolic reservation and collation made to him by papal bulls, whilst the Apostolical Legate himself was entering the cemetery of the monastery, with a few attendants, the

aforesaid abbot, by the advice of his brethren, for the preservation of the indemnity of the monastery, adorned with the ecclesiastical vestments, and wearing his mitre, proceeded to meet him, the convent following him in procession, and placed the mitre on the head of the Apostolical Legate, put the pastral staff in his hand, and led him to the choir and the altar, singing *To Deum Laudamus*, with a melodious tone and loud voice, and having made a speech, he, with not less humility than cheerfulness, caused him to be installed; and he first with bended knees, rendered his manual obedience, the others following in like manner. To whom, in his turn, the Apostolical Legate shewed himself grateful by providing for him an honourable pension; and he was afterwards elected to the priory of Urchard.” Which same John of Stramiglaw, on account of the taxation of his monastery made in the court, paid 50 merks sterling to the apostolic treasury.± It is to be noted (adds Fordun’s continuator), that he received that dignity from the liberality of the apostolical see, upon this condition, tht the right of the monastery should remain thereafter as at first, and the right of confirmation to the Lord Bishop [of the diocese] as clear, unimpaired, and entire as of old, and [as it ws] from the first foundation of the house, without any diminution of its right, or prejudice or exaction whatsoever. ±Fordun, ii.p349.fol.edit.1759. *Fordun xiv. 8; vol. ii.349.

19. **JOHN** (without any surname) is mentioned as abbot on 5th December 1363, when he obtained a safe conduct for many Scots, about to stay in England, along with six horsemen.† †Rotuli Scotiae. i.876.

20. **JOHN OFF BALYGIRNACH** is similarly noticed, on 20th May 1365, having a safe conduct, along with Sir D. Fleming, for one company and six horsemen.‡ ‡Rotuli Scotiae. i.893.

21. **JOHN**, abbot, in 1380, grants a charter of the lands of Aldecambus, belonging to the priory of Coldingham, to Lord George Dunbar,§ and another to John Lord Glamis, who was Lord Chamberlain of Scotland from 1378 to 1383, when he was killed and which (without date) must have been between that time.* John, abbot, still without any surname, grants a charter to William Scot of the lands of Balweary, in the viceroyalty of Fife (near Kirkcaldy), on the 13th June 1393, for payment of a small sum at the feasts of Pentecost and St Martins; and an indenture is made between him and his convent, and the alderman and community of the burgh of Dunfermline, on the 13th October 1395, the terms of which are quoted under the article, *Parochial Economy*. And he grants a charter concerning the hospital-lands lying on the east side of the town of Inverkeithing.† §Printed Dunf. Chart. 272. *Printed Dunf. Chart. 273. †Ibid. 275-7.

22. **JOHN**, with the surname **DE TORRY**, appears as a witness, in 1399, to a charter of William de Scot de Balwearie, granting to his cousin Philip of Halket, laird of Ballingall, a third part of the lands of Pitferrane, &c.‡ He is styled son of Philip, in the genealogical table of the family. He obtained a safe conduct from Henry IV of England, with Sir Richard Comyn and six horsemen, dated at Westminster, 20th March 1404. He is noticed in the Register of Dunfermline on 4th December 1404, as also 13th June 1409, on which last occasion he augmented the allowances of his monks, on a statement of the increased dearness of their clothing. §

‡Douglas's Baronage. 284. §Printed Dunf. Chart. 278-9.

23. **WILLIAM DE SANCTO ANDREA**, was abbot in 1414 and 1419.± Nothing particular is known of him, except that a bull was directed to him by Pope Benedict XIII, to whom, bad as he was, the church of Scotland appears to have adhered. ±Ibid. 280-2.

24. **ANDREW**, was abbot on the 31st July 1437, and he is found in various transactions till 8th February 1442; as in a contract with David Haket of Lunfinnan, as to certain disputed portions of the lands of Pitferrane claimed by both, lands of Cluny, in the shire of Gaitmilk, to Sir David Stewart of Rosyth. And a letter of sasine respecting the same, on 1st August 1437; in a charter of the lands of Hailes, in the barony of Musselburgh to Sir William Crichton, on 6th May 1438; and in two charters to different persons of some lands of Gartinker, in Clackmannanshire, within the regality of Dunfermline, 9th June 1493; and in several deeds of agreement with the bailies and community of Perth, as to granting them the right of interment under the choir of the parochial church of that burgh for their building and maintaining in repair the choir and vestibule, and upholding the vestments and other ornaments of the same, &c., in 1440; and in one deed of the bishop of St Andrews on 30th January 1441; - all under Popes Eugene V and King James II.* He is witness to an act of Parliament, or rather to a charter given in Parliament, by this prince, "in he general council at Stirling," on the 8th February 1442, confirming the privileges of the cathedral of Dunblane.† In this deed, the abbot of Dunfermline takes the precedence of the other abbots who are also witnesses to it, viz. those of Arbroath, Cambuskenneth, Inchcolm, and Culross, in the order of signing.

*Printed Dunf. Chart. 285-7, 301-4. †Thomson's Acts of Parliament. Vol.ii.p.58.

25. **RICHARD DE BOTHUEL** appears as abbot of Dunfermline in 1445,‡ and on 16th December 1446, and at various other periods till 14th May 1468.§ There are eleven deeds in the Register relating to him; among which is a letter of James II, for repledging the lands of Luscreviot and Dollar to their inhabitants, which had been granted by him to the regality of the monastery of Dunfermline, and a charter of the same king concerning the lands of Arlary, in Kinross-shire, granted to Richard for the founding of a chaplainry in the same monastery, in 1450.± He was appointed one of the Committee of Parliament to revise, collate, and authenticate the previous acts of Parliament since the beginning of the reign of James I, at Edinburgh, 19th January 1449.¶ He appears as one of the principal persons in an act of Parliament passed in the general council at Perth, on the resignation of the foresaid lands of Arlary, by William Curren, forester, for the founding of one chaplainry in the abbey Church of Dunfermline, dated 4th May 1450, about a month previous to the granting of the charter on the subject by James II;* as witness to a deed or charter, ratified in Parliament on 14th June 1452;† as one of three from the clergy, chosen and sworn to administer justice, and adjudicate complaints, in various “cleyne places” of the kingdom, in a year of pestilence in Scotland, on 19th October 1456;‡ and also as one of the Committee of the kingdom, to regulate and average the bullion and coinage. § He is witness to a charter in the Chartulary of St Giles, Edinburgh, 20th October 1453.

‡Wilk. Concil. §Printed Dunf. Chart. 304-18, 269; Rotuli Scotiæ. ii. 336,347. ±Printed Dunf. Chart. 314. ¶Acts of Parl. Vol. ii. 36. *Acts of Parl. Vol. II.65. †Ibid. vol.ii.74. ‡Ibid. vol.ii.46. §Acts if Parl, vok, ii.48.

26. **HENRY CREICHTOUN**, abbot of Paisley, succeeded him in 1472. Bishop Leslie states, that, on the occasion of the vacancy, the convent chose one of their own number, Mr Alexander Thomson, but that King James III, excluded him from the place, and promoted Henry Creichtoun to it. He mentions the circumstance as an instance of the abuse of court patronage. His words are:-

“The abbacye of Dunfermeling vacand, the convent cheisit ane of their own monkis, callit Alexander Thomsoun; and the King promovit Henry Creychtoun, abbot of Paislay, thairto, quha wes preferrit be the Paip, through the Kingis supplicationis, to the said abbacye. And siclik, Mr Robert Schaw, persoun of Mynto, was promovit be the King of the abbacye of Paisley. And sua than first began sic maner of promotione of secularis to abbacies by the Kingis supplicationis; and the godlie erectionis war frustrate and deokayde, because that the Court of Rome admittit the princis supplicationis, he rather

that thay gat greyt proffeit and sowmes of money thairby; quhairfore the bishoppis durst not conferme them that wes chosen be the convent; nor thay quha wer electit durst not persew thair awn ryght. And sua the abbays cam to secular abussis, the abbots and pryouris being promovit furth of the court, quha levit court lyk, secularlye, and voluptuouslye. And than ceissit all religious and godlye myndis and deidis; quhairwith the secularis and temporall men beand sklanderit with thair evill example, fel frae all devoisioun and godliness to the warkis of wikednes, quhairof daylie mekil evill did increase.” ± Corroborative of Leslie’s account is the following just statement of Morton.

“The privilege of electing their own superiors, originally enjoyed by all the monastic communities, had now fallen generally, or rather universally, into disuse, and was become a mere form, the power itself being virtually exercised by the king, who, when an abbey or priory became vacant, found little difficulty in obtaining a mandate from the Pope, directing the monks to choose the individual whom he nominated or recommended. This began to grow into use about the year 1474, when the king presented to the vacant abbeyes of Dunfermline and Paisley. It soon led to the more corrupt practice of granting the superiority and revenues of religious houses to bishops and secular priests, who, not having taken the monastic vows, were not duly qualified to preside in th monastery. Out of this grew the still greater abuse of committing charges of this nature to laymen, and even to infants. All these things were done with the sanction of the papal authority; and the monasteries, thus disposed of, were said to be held in *commendam*, or in *trust*, until it should be found convenient to appoint a regular superior.” – (Annals, 95-6.)

Henry Creichtoun was *ex officio* a lord of Parliament.* He grants various deeds between 1472 and 1482; as the lease of the parsonage of the kirk of Stirling in 1472 and 1479; a presentation to the vicarage of Perth, in 1479; and in this last year, also, a charter of the ancient chapel and chaplainry of the North Queensferry to David Story, in which the following particulars are stated. The chapel was dedicated to James the Apostle (but which of the two Jameses is not mentioned), and the chaplain’s salary was to be 10 merks Scots, with a manse and garden near the chapel, two acres of land of the Ferryhill, and the pasturage of one horse yearly, with all the oblations of the altar of the chapel, except so much as served to light it up for divine service, and twenty shillings Scots yearly to maintain the ornaments and vestments of the altar of the said chapel, arising from a tenement in the burgh of Dunfermline. Richard continued abbot till 6th May 1482.† ±Leslie, Edit. Edin. 1830. p.30. *Hay. †Printed Dunf. Chart. 359, 369-372.

27. **ADAM** was abbot from 1483 till 20th June 1490.‡ ‡Ibid. 372-3.

28. **GEORGE** was abbot on 20th June 1494, and also one of the Lords of Council in that year,§ and abbot on 24th February 1499.±

§Charter of K. James IV. In Kennedy's Hist. of Aberdeen. Col.i.p61. ±Printed Dunf. Chart.374.

29. **ROBERT BLACADER** is said to have ben abbot of Dunfermline, and to have died on his journey to Syria in 1500.* If this were the same person who afterwards became archbishop of Glasgow, &c., this date must be wrong, for the archbishop died in 1508. But possibly there may have been two ecclesiastics of the same name, at one time. *Hay's Scotia Sacra,

30. **JAMES STUART**, second son of King James III, and of Margaret, daughter of Christian III, King of Denmark, archbishop of St Andrews, Duke of Ross, Marquis of Ormond, Earl of Ardmearach, Lord of Brechin and Nevar, chancellor of the kingdom of Scotland and abbot of Arbroath, held the monastery of Dunfermline in perpetual *commendam* from 1502, given to him by his brother James IV, till his death in 1503-4, aged 28, and was interred in the cathedral church of St Andrews. †

†Officers of State, 58-9; Keith's Catal. 32-3.

31. **JAMES BETON OR BETHUNE**, the youngest son of the Laird of Balfour, in Fife, was Provost of Bothwell in 1503,‡ and became successively prior of Whithorn, abbot of Dunfermline, and a Lord of Session in 1504, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland in 1505, bishop elect of Galloway in 1508, archbishop of chancellor of the kingdom in 1513, 1516, and 1524, abbot of Arbroath and Kilwinning soon after, one of the Lords of the regency in 1517 under the Duke of Albany, and archbishop of St Andrews in 1522-1539.

He appears in Parliament in 1504, 1505, 1513, and 1526, on which last occasion there is the following record:- "20th June 1526. - The king's grace, with advice and consent of the three estates of his realm in the present Parliament, has requirit and requires ane maist Reverend Father in God, James, archbishop of St Andrews, commendator of Dunfermline, that he ceis fra all proceeding againis our sovereign lord's leigis that has taken of any part of his landis, be himself or his commissioners, be vertue of any commission otherways than conform to the common law, and use and consuetude of this realm and that letters be direct heirupon."

While at Glasgow he enclosed the Episcopal palace with a magnificent stone wall of ashlar work, on the east, south, and west, with a bastion at one

angle, and a stately tower at the other, fronting the High Street, where in different places the arms of his see and family were placed. He augmented the altarages in the choir of the cathedral, over which, too, his arms were affixed, duly blazoned; he likewise built or repaired several bridges about Glasgow, as also in Fife, on which his arms stand as lasting monuments of his public beneficence. Soon after he entered on his bishopric at St Andrews in 1522, he founded the New Divinity or St Mary's College, and began to build it, but did not live to complete it, - the best feature of him now remaining. He is frequently noticed in the Register of Dunfermline, and at p.380, with many of his proud titles, as granting at Dunfermline a charter for the lands of Cluny. In 1527, he superintended the martyrdom of Patrick Hamilton, almost at his own door. On 16th November 1532 he was chosen by the king a Lord of Session. He had the honour to marry James V, to Mary of Lorraine, in his cathedral of St Andrews, and was godfather to their first son. He resigned his abbacy of Dunfermline about 1510 or 1511, after the return of his destined successor from Italy, resumed it in 1522, and died at an advanced age in the autumn of 1539, and was buried before the high altar in the abbey church of St Andrews.*

‡Even previous to this, viz, "on the 11th October 1497, he was presented to the lucrative office of the chantry, or precentor of Caithness in the cathedral church of Dornoch," probably the earliest public appointment given to him, after he was made a priest. - Ban. Club Miscell. Vol. ii. P.162. * Officers of State, 368; Keith's Cat. 35-6 Charters of Melrose, 601; Pitsc. Hist, 314, 315, 317; Printed Dunf Chart. 361,274, 275, 277, 279,280; Acts of Parl, vol. ii. Pp.247,249,260,262,281,208. M'ure's View of the City of Glasgow, 8vo, 1736, p.28. Haig's Cat. Of Sen. 34-37; vide also Appendix.

32. **ALEXANDER STUART**, natural son of King James IV. He was born in 1495, became archbishop of St Andrews in 1509, when only fourteen years of age, Lord Chancellor in 1511, about which period he was made the Pope's legate a *latere*† in Scotland, and received the rich abbey of Dunfermline, and priory of Coldingham, *in commendam*. He was slain at the battle of Flodden, with his father, in 1513. His learned tutor, Erasmus, gave him a very noble character.*

†At his side, as being the Pope's assistant and counsellor in ordinary, and taking his place in councils, his favourite and confidant; and sent on important legations to foreign countries. He had the power of conferring benefices without a mandate, of legitimating bastards for holding offices and had a cross carried before him as the ensign of his authority. He was a cardinal, and superior to the other two kinds of legates, *de latere* and *nati*, the former of whom were not cardinals, but might be employed on apostolical legations, and the latter were legates by virtue of their dignity and rank in the church, as archbishops, without having any particular legation given them. - Encyc. Brit., vol. ix. 3d. Edit. 1797. The archbishop of St Andrews was *legatus natus*, i.e. a legate naturally,

not by formal appointment. – Dunf. Chart. 380. *Crawfurd's Officers of State, pp. 59,60; Keith's Cat. 33,34; vide also Appendix. When the ruins of the cathedral of St Andrews were repaired (about the year 1820) by order of the Exchequer, a skeleton, in a stone-coffin, immediately under the site of the high altar, was discovered, the skull of which had been cut deeply by a sword. This is supposed to have been the skeleton of archbishop Alexander Stuart, commendator of Dunfermline, &c.

33. **JAMES HEPBURNE**, third son of Adam Lord Hales, and brother to Patrick, first Earl of Bothwell, assumed the title of abbot of Dunfermline in 1515,† as chosen by the convent. But in terms of a compromise with Andrew Foreman, who also claimed the office, he resigned it in his favour in 1516, having been the same year nominated to the bishopric of Moray, held but then given up, by Forman. On the 15th June 1515, he was made Lord Treasurer, but quitted the office on 3rd October 1516. He died in 1524 or 1525, and was interred in Our Lady's aisle, in the cathedral church of Elgin. ‡ † Officers of State, 369. ‡ Keith's Catal, 148; Officers of State, 369.

34. **ANDREW FORMAN**, of the family of Hatton, in Berwickshire, and abbot of Dryburgh, was a person of some consequence. "He was actively concerned in the principal affairs both of the church and State of Scotland, in the reigns of James IV and James V, and shewed considerable talents and address in bring them to a successful issue. He took an effectual part in the negotiations for the marriage of the first of these princes with Margaret, the daughter of Henry VII, in 1501. In 1502 he was employed in an embassy to the court of France, and was chiefly instrumental in concluding a treaty of mutual assistance, upon the footing of the ancient league between the French and Scots. In 1498 he was the Pope's protonotary, and was afterwards his legate a *latere*. The number of ecclesiastical benefices is remarkable. The monks of the Isle of May acknowledge him as their prior in 1498. He was appointed to the bishopric of Moray in 1501, and held at the same time the priories of Coldingham and Pittenweem, to which was added, before 1512, the comendatorship of Dryburgh. Through the favour of Louis XII, he was made archbishop of Bourges, in France in 1513; but he had scarcely done homage for this preferment, when having received intelligence that the archbishop of St Andrews had fallen in the field of Flodden, he hastened away to Rome to solicit the vacant see. Leo X, out of his affection, as he professed, for the Scottish nation, and to bind closer the ties of kindness between him and them, had already given the see, in commendam, to his nephew, Cardinal Cibo; but having been given to understand, that it was repugnant to the feelings of the Scots that the highest ecclesiastical office in their land should be held by a foreigner, he cancelled that appointment, and

nominated Forman to this, and all the other benefices enjoyed by the late archbishop, among which were the abbeys of Dunfermline and Aberbrothock. After much opposition from the influence of rival candidates, one of whom was Gavin Douglas, the translator of Virgil's *Æneis*, he was enthroned in the cathedral of St Andrews in 1514; when he resigned the sees of Moray and Bourges, and the priory of Coldingham. When the Duke of Albany came from France, and assumed the regency in 1516, Foreman resigned into his hands, as the laws of Scotland required, all the benefice which he had hitherto enjoyed only by the Pope's nomination, and was re-appointed only to the see of St Andrews, and the abbey of Dunfermline. Andrew Forman is said to have written, 1st, *Contra Lutherum*; 2nd, *De Stoica Philosophia*; 3d, *Collectanca Decretalium*.*

Mr Innes thus describes the unseemly controversy between his and Hepburn's family as to the abbacy:-

"The abbacy, with other great benefices, was now an object of fierce contention between the family of Hepburn and Andrew Forman, archbishop legate – a dispute which ranked all the nobility of Scotland with one or other of the parties. Jams Hepburn assumed the title of abbot in 1515, as chosen by the convent. The legate held a prior grant from the Pope. The law was not quite clear; but, at any rate, it as not heard in such cases in the regency of Albany. The regent endeavoured to appease the factions by a compromise in 1517, and the abbacy of Dunfermline fell to the share of the archbishop while James Hepburn had the bishopric of Moray."* Spotiswood gives also an account of the ambitious struggle, and says of Forman, that he was "a plain, open man, but said to be profuse," and adds, "that besides the benefices he possessed in Scotland, he was archbishop of Bourges, in France, by the gift of King Lewis XII, which did greatly increase his means." † Andrew Forman died, and was buried in Dunfermline in 1522. ‡

*Morton's Annals, p.298-9. "Pitscottie attributes the archbishop's favour at the courts of Rome and France to his having had the address to bring about a peace between Pope Julius II, and Lewis XII, when they were in the field at the head of their respective armies, ready to give each other battle. This agrees ill with the acknowledge truth of history."

The following is a curious but absurd account of a banquet given by Forman to the Pope and cardinals: - "Then the bishop made a banquet to the Pope and all his cardinals in one of the Pope's own palaces; and when they were all set, according to their custom, that he who aught the house for the time should say the grace, he was not a good scholar, nor had good Latin, but began rudely in the Scottish fashion, saying *Benedicite*, believing that they should have said *Dominus*. But they answered *Deus*, in the Italian fashion, which put the bishop by his intendiment, that he wist not well how to proceed forward, but happened out in good Scots, in this manner, saying, which they understood not, 'To the devil I give you all, false cardinals, *in nomine Patris, Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen.*'

Then all the bishop's men leugh, and all the cardinals themselves, and the Pope enquired whereat they leugh, and the bishops shewed that he was not a good clerk, and that his cardinals had put him by his text and intendiment, therefore he gave them all to the devil in good Scots, whereat the Pope himself laugh very earnestly." – Pitscottie's Chron. Scot. Edin. 1814. vol. i.254. *Pref. to Dunf. Chart. Xvi. †Hist. 62. ‡Keith's Cat. 35, 146; Morton's Annals, 298-9; Pitscottie Hist. 254.

35. **JAMES BETON OR BETHUNE**, archbishop of Glasgow, who succeeded Forman in the primacy, was his successor also in abbacy of Dunfermline in (1522), which he held a *second* time, *in commendam* (in trust), and afterwards, styled himself *usufructuarius et administrator* (generalis) fructuum,* while he allowed the name and probably evolved the duties, of abbot on George Dury,"† as early, at least, as 1530. He died in 1539. ‡

*i.e. Possessor and administrator-general of the produce of the lands, without having right to the lands themselves. – Printed Dunf. Chart. 386. †Pref. to Dunf. Chart. xvi. ‡Keith's Catal. 36.

36. **GEORGE DURY**, archdeacon of St Andrews, was the next abbot, and the last before the Reformation, as well as perpetual commendator of Dunfermline. He was the son of John Dury of Dury, in the county of Fife, and brother to Andrew Dury, abbot of Melrose and bishop of Galloway. He was born in 1496; and in 1527 and 1530 he appears to have been judge and executor of the privileges of the monastery of Aberbrothick. With the permission of archbishop Beaton, his uncle, and apparently subordinate to him, he took the title and discharge some of the functions of abbot or commendator of Dunfermline from at least 1530, and on the death of that prelate in 1539, he was promoted to the honour and authority of the office by King James V.§ He appears in Parliament as abbot and commendator of Dunfermline on the 25th February 1540, 13th March 1542, 15th December 1543, and 12th April 1554. He was an Extraordinary Lord on the 2d July 1541, and repeatedly chosen a Lord of the articles, as also appointed of the Governor's "Secret Counsale," on 15th March 1543, and afterwards of the Governor's Council in June 1545, and June 1546, and again on the 18th March 1547. According to some writers, it was mainly owing to him that the regent Arran did not accept the offers of the Earl of Hertford, which preceded, and might have prevented, the fatal battle of Pinkie in 1547. He was Keeper of the Privy Seal in 1554. The latest deeds of the ancient Register are granted by him, and in two of the volumes of feu-charters he is the granter down to the year 1560 or (new style) 1561 on the 29th January, in which year he and the Earl of Eglinton were sent to France,* probably on

the embassy to induce the young widowed Queen of Scots to return to Scotland, and to represent to her the local aspect of affairs. He died or suffered martyrdom (*pasus est*), according to Dempster, on the 27th January 1561, at a very advanced age; but his name appears in charters granted as late as 1564.† Two years after his death he was canonized by the Church of Rome, probably for his zeal against the Reformers, he having voted for the death of the two early martyrs, Patrick Hamilton and Walter Mill, who were sentenced by archbishop Beaton and his court at St Andrews, to be burnt for heresy as also having brought to trial his cousin John Dury for the same sin, as opposition to Popery was then termed, who was sentenced to be built up between two walls (!) till he died, but was liberated by the Earl of Arran. He subscribed also the sentence of death passed against Sir John Borthwick, 28th May 1540, who fled to England in the year following. It does not appear, however, that purity of morals was one of his claims to saintship, as he had two natural children legitimated on 30th September 1543. ‡

§“James Beatoun, before he died, had providit succesouris to all his benefices, quilkis were Mr David Betoun, then being cardinal, to the archbishopric of St Androis, and to the abbey of Arbroith; and Mr George Durie, quha wes archdene of St Androis, to the abbacye of Dunferling; quha enterit with the kingis benevolens, and without any stoppe to thair benefices eftir his deceis.” – Lesley’s Hist. of Scot. Ban. Club Edit 1830. p.158. ±Act. Pr. ii. 366,443,603. *Diurnal of Occurrents, Ban. Club Edit. P.64. †A tack of the office of bailiary of the Regality of Dunfermline in favour of David Dury of tht ilk, runs in the following style: - “George be the grace of God commendator of the abbey of Dunfermlyng, and mayster robert pytcarne, our successour to the same, and convent thairof, cheptowrlie gedtherit,” &c.; which is dated “at Dunfermling, the iiiii day of April, the yeir jmyc threescoir thre yeris.” – Vol. ii. Fol.31. Pref. to Dunf. Chart. p.xvii. ‡Brunton and Haig’s Historical Account of the Senators of the College of Justice, Edin. 1832 pp.67-8; Scots Worthies; Hay’s Scotia Sacra. P. 335; Keith’s Hist. pp.4, 10, and Appendix p.6; Knox’s Hist. fol. (1732) p.4; Dempster’s Hist. Eccl.; Register of Great Seal, xxix. 81, *apud Diplomata Regia*.

37. **ROBERT PITCAIRN** succeeded George Dury as commendator, and is sometimes also styled abbot. He was the son of David Pitcairn of that ilk,§ born about 1520, and bred to the church. He occupied a very prominent place, and took a very active part, in the civil as well as ecclesiastical affairs of his day. He was appointed a Lord of the Articles in 1567, in which year he repaired to Stirling, to attend the coronation of the infant prince, which took place on the 29th July, more than a year after his birth; and immediately afterwards was present at a meeting of Parliament held at Edinburgh. His name appears amongst many others, who signed the bond of Association, after the resignation of the Queen at Edinburgh, in Rolls of Parliament, 15th December of the same year, when the Reformed Church was legally

recognised as the only national church.† He was appointed an Ordinary Lord of Session on 2d June 1568, and accompanied the regent Murray in September or October of that year to York, as one of the commissioner against Queen Mary, after the battle of Langside, which was fought on the 13th May preceding. He visited England frequently in 1569 and 1570, for negotiating matters between the regent's party and Queen Elizabeth's and is characterized by Buchannan as "a man of not less wisdom than integrity." He was made Secretary of State to James VI, in the latte end of 1570, on the deprivation of the celebrated Maitland of Lethington, and continued in that office under the successive regencies of Lennox, Mar, and Morton. He went to England in 1571,‡ as one of the commissioners to treat with Queen Elizabeth, and to contract a league offensive and defensive; and was in committees of Parliament, on the affairs of the church, from 1571 till 1578, when the Second Book of discipline was ratified.§ In 1578 he, along with many others, deserted the waning fortunes of Morton, and so secured his place. His name is attached to the "Confession of the true Christian Fayth and Religione, subscryued by the kingis Majestie and his household, att Edinburghe, the 28 days of Januare 1580 [81]." In 1582, he was one of those that arrested the King at Ruthven Castle, an enterprize called, from that circumstance, the Raid of Ruthven; and on the King's regaining his freedom, he suffered accordingly. Calderwood says quaintly, "that, coming to Court, and suspecting no harm, he was carried captive to Lochleven, but set at liberty after, to remain within five or six miles of Dunfermline, under the pain of L10,000.* This agrees in substance with Sir James Melville," who states, that "to curry the favour of Colonel Stuart, then captain of the guard, he gave him a purse of 30 pieces of gold, at 4 pounds a piece; witch pieces the Colonel distributed to so many of the guard, who bored them, and set them like targets upon their knapsacks, and the purse was borne on a spear-point like an ensign." According to Spotiswood, he fled to England, but returned, and died at Dunfermline on the 18th October 1584, in the 64th year of his age; where too he was buried, and a monument bearing a Latin epitaph, more laudatory, it is believed, than just, and withal heathenish, was erected to his memory, in the north aisle of the present Old Church.†

As mentioned at p.156, there is the following inscription over the door of the abbot's house on the south side of Maygate Street, which was occupied by Pitcairn :-

SEN . VORD . IS . THRALL . AND . THOCHT . IS . FREE
 KEIP . VEILL . THY . TONGE . I . COUNSEL . THE

These words bear so close a resemblance to some lines, part of a metrical composition ascribed to King James I, of Scotland, that it is not improbable

they may have ben borrowed in substance from them. As a specimen of early Scottish poetry, good sense, and royal taste, they are here subjoined. They may be seen in Dalryell's Scottish Poems of the XVIth century (but these were of the XVth), vol. ii. P. 216, and in Dr Irving's Lives of Scottish Poets, vol. i.p.315. The title of the volumes is the "Compendious Booke of Godly and Spiritual Sangs."

'Sen word is thrall, and thocht is only free,
Thou daunt thy toung, that power hes; and may
Thou steik thy eine fra world's vanity;
Refraine thy lust, and harken what I say:
Graip or thou slide, and keep thee furth the hie way;
Thou hald thee fast vpon thy God and man
And for ilk inch he will thee quite ane span."

§ i.e." of the same place," – and expression applied to a person whose surname and tht of his place of residence were the same. † Act. Part. Ii.14-22. ‡ Stuart's Hist. vol. ii p.77-78. § Act. Parl. Ii. 89,105-6. *Calderwood's Ch. Hist. folio. P.141. †Account of the Senators of the College of Justice, p. 139-140; Spottiswood, lib. 5; Row's Hist. of the Kirk of Scotland, by the Wodrow Society, p. 77.

The following is a literal translation of the epitaph:- "To Mr Robert Pitcairn, Abbot of Dunfermline, Archdeacon of St Andrews, Royal Legate, and Secretary of his Majesty. "Here is interred the hero Robert Pitcairn, in a plain urn, the hope and pillar of his country, whom virtue, gravity, worthy of a generous hear, and fidelity with sincere piety adorn. After various changes of life, he now, with the mass of his body left behind, proceeds in spirit to the Elysian grove. He died in the year 1584 on the 18th October, aged 64."

38. **PATRICK GRAY**, Master of Gray, afterwards the 7th Lord Gray, of Kinfauns, in 1584 became commendator by a crown grant, ratified by Parliament in December 1585.* Sir James Melville gives the following account of the origin of this appointment. – "The Earl of Arran, who was warded three or four days in the Castle of Saint Andrews, declared," he says, "unto me a secret to be shewn unto his Majesty, in case his life was taken from him, which was a promise made to the Queen of England that the King should not marry with any for the space of three years. – Nevertheless, he forgot not to travel for himself, for he sent his brother Sir William, to the Master of Gray at midnight, promising to get unto him the abbey of Dunfermline, so that he would obtain his liberty at his Majesty's hands, which was incontinently granted, and also the said benefice disposed unto the same Master (of Gray). Whereupon (Watton) the English ambassador as in a great rage at the Master, but their discord was afterwards agreed,"†

“He possessed all the talents of a courtier, a graceful person, an insinuating address, a boundless ambition, and a restless intriguing spirit. On his return home from France, where he had been admitted to the most intimate familiarity with the Duke of Guise, he paid court to King James VI, with great assiduity, obtained a great share of his favour, and was, by that Monarch, appointed a gentleman of his bed-chamber, master of his wardrobe, a privy counsellor, and commendator of the monastery of Dunfermline, 1584. The same year he was sent ambassador to England, and again in 1586, to intercede with Elizabeth for Queen Mary. He was banished from Scotland 1587, and resided several years in Italy.:* He was accused of various points of treason, of consenting to the death of Queen Mary, &c., in consequence of which he was committed a prisoner to Edinburgh Castle, on the 20th August 1587, afterwards tried, and his life and estates were declared to be forfeited; but intercession being made to spare his life, on condition of banishment, it was spared.† In the same year, the Parliament annulled various fraudulent feus, tacks, &c. of abbey lands, granted by him.‡ He succeeded his father in the peerage in 1609, and died in 1612.§

*Act. Parl. li.412. †Memoirs, Edit. 1751. p.305. *Wood’s Peerage, Scot. i.671. †Moyse’s Memoirs, Edit. 1755. p.123. ‡Act. Parl. iii.473. §Wood’s Peerage, i. p.671.

39. **GEORGE GORDON**, the sixth Earl of Huntly. was given the abbacy in 1587, after the merited disgrace of the Master of Gray. He obtained a letter under the Great Seal of the grant of the dissolved abbacy of Dunfermline, 26th of May 1587.± This gift is one of the “Greevances of the Kirk, given in to the King’s Majestie, by the 52d General Assemblie, convened at Edinburgh, February 6. 1587-8.”¶ He is twice mentioned in the register, as granting deeds regarding the lands of Nether Grange, and the teinds of St Margaret’s Stone and Randell’s Craigs.** He it was who, to gratify his revenge against the Earl of Moray, attacked his house at Donibristle, and burned it to the ground, and killed the Earl, on 8th February 1591-2. He died in 1636. ††

±Wood’s Peerage, i. p.650. ¶Row’s Hist. of the Kirk of Scotland by the Wodrow Society, p.135, 137; Calderwood’s Ch. Hist. folio, p.267. **Printed Dunf. Chart. 484,486. ††Wood’s Peerage.

40. **HENRY PITCAIRN**, of that ilk, a relative, it is presumed, of Robert Pitcairn, is styled commendator in 1593, and his name might have been added to the list of abbots, at pl.179, although not strictly one of that number. In that year he resigned his trust to Queen Anne of Denmark, - she having obtained the abbacy for her life from James VI, on the morning after

their marriage at Upslo in 1589, and it having been confirmed to her by a crown charter in 1593. In the same year, the abbacy was perpetually annexed to the crown by act of Parliament; and the infestment then given by James, on Pitcairn's resignation, to his Queen and heirs, with all infestmentis granted by her, was ratified by Parliament in 1612.* This whole transaction may, doubtless, be traced to the royal cupidity, and at the suggestion of some parasitical, worldly-minded courtiers, whereby the church was stripped of a large portion of its once vast possessions. *Act. Par. Iv.474.



Such is a brief sketch of a long line of abbots, extending from 1128 to 1593, some of them distinguished for talents, wisdom, and character, occupying the highest offices in Church and State, "famous in their day, and men of renown," benefactors at once to their country, to the abbey, and to its surrounding inhabitants; and others, worthless and avaricious, ending a useless and dishonoured life, in the degradation of deposition or exile.

