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XIV.—ROBERT COLQUHOUN

Fourteenth of Camstradden, 1736-1787.

Helen Johnston, his wife.

ROBERT COLQUHOUN, fourteenth of Camstradden, succeeded his father before 14th May 1736. He was apprentice as a Writer to the Signet with William Seton, W.S., conform to an indenture dated 1st March 1733.¹ He was served heir of conquest-general to his uncle, Humphrey Colquhoun, Edinburgh, a Macer of Justiciary, 14th March 1737, and the

¹ Inventory of Writs of Humphrey Colquhoun in Camstradden Charter-chest.

service was recorded 18th March 1738.² Robert Colquhoun obtained from Sir James Colquhoun, as superior of Camstradden, a precept of *clare constat*, for infefting him in the lands of Camstradden, as heir of John Colquhoun of Camstradden, dated 20th October 1739.³ He married Helen, only daughter of James Johnston, merchant, and bailie of Glasgow, by Agnes, eldest daughter of Walter Colquhoun, senior, merchant in Glasgow. The marriage took place on 19th November 1740.⁴ Their certificate of marriage bears that they were joined in matrimony on that day by Mr. George Aytone, minister, in presence of Captain Colquhoun and Mr. Robert Graham.

Their marriage-contract, which was post-nuptial, was dated 30th September 1741. By it Robert Colquhoun of Camstradden became bound to pay to Helen Johnston, his spouse, provided she survived him, an annual rent or annuity of 1000 merks Scots, free of all burdens and deductions whatsoever, at the two terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, by equal portions. This annuity, however, during the life of a bairn or bairns that might be procreated of the said marriage, was to be restricted to 800 merks Scots; but should the said bairns die, she was to receive, immediately after the death of the last of them, the full annual rent of 1000 merks Scots. For her further and better security her husband bound himself to infeft her in that annual rent payable out of the lands of Camstradden, Aldochlay, Auchengavin, and the Hill of Camstradden, with the Slate Craggs thereof; out of the town and lands of Craigentuy, with the teinds, both parsonage and vicarage, thereof, lying upon the side of Lochlomond, in the barony of Luss; out of the town and lands of Coulchippen, with that piece of land called Tomglas, including the teinds, parsonage and vicarage, thereof; out of the lands of Torr, with the old and new lands thereof, and the lands commonly called the High Shandons, upon the said lands of Torr, and adjacent thereto, with the teinds, parsonage and vicarage, thereof. Upon a precept of sasine contained in the said marriage-contract, Helen Johnston was on the same day infefted in the foresaid annual rent. In the marriage-contract, her father is described as deceased.⁵

Robert Colquhoun of Camstradden was collector of cess for Dumbartonshire.

The year 1745 was signalized by the attempt made by Prince Charles, grandson of James the Seventh, to recover the throne of his ancestors. Having landed in the Highlands, he erected his standard at Glenfinnan on the 10th of August that year, and the three kingdoms, especially Scotland, were immediately thrown into great commotion. A few weeks after, this laird's mother-in-law, Agnes Colquhoun, who was a

² Decennial Indexes to the Services of Heirs in Scotland, vol i. 1700-1749. Edinburgh, 1863.

³ Colquhoun Cartulary.

⁴ Certificate of Marriage in Camstradden Charter-chest. Mrs. Colquhoun died before 3d May 1763. Letter of Condolence by her brother, James Johnston, to Robert Colquhoun of Camstradden, dated London, 3d May 1763—[Original in Camstradden Charter-chest.]

⁵ Instrument narrating Marriage-contract.—[Original in Camstradden Charter-chest.]

woman of much shrewdness and ability in the management of secular affairs, as appears from various family papers in Camstradden Charter-chest, wrote to him letters from Glasgow, where she resided, communicating to him such information as she had received respecting the movements of the conflicting parties, and the confusion and excitement which then prevailed in that city.⁶ Two of these letters are here subjoined:—

Glasgow, September 13, 1745.

Dear Sir,—I have sent yow the two inclosed from my son James, and must now at last write yow the melancholy condition we are in here; vizt., This day, in the morning, we had an express advising us that the rebels raised their camp, and passed the bridge of Down this morning, and has been succeeded by several expresses, giving us account of their march, the last of which assures us they had passed Kippen Kirk, and were entring on the Craw Muir, where they are supposed to ly this night; so we expect them morrows forenoon. This was not all our troubles, for the tradesmen in toun raised in a mobe, and desired arms from the magistrates, and they would goe meet them (a most desperate attempt indeed, and likely the consequences would be, our toun would be laid in ashes), but by the assiduity of the magistrates, and especially the ministers, they are now quieted, for which we are very thankfull. Our Excise folks and Custome house people are leaving the place. And now our last hopes is that we rely, if we don't rise in arms against them, they will be civill to us: only laying us under contribution, or the worse is a desperate plunder. I am very anxious to know how Betty takes with the spenning, and is so struck with our present danger that I don't know what hand to turn to, nor where to secure anything that is valuable; also has been much indisposed these eight days past, and does not beleive that I shall outlive this great shoack. My compliments to Nellie (begging you'll not let her know the worst), with the same to yourself, is all at present from,

Your loving mother,

AGNES COLHOUN.

To Robert Colquhoun, Esqre. of Camstroddan, Dunbarton.

Glasgow, September 16th, 1745.

DEAR SIR,—Yesterday after yow left us, in time of Divine service, our gentlemen returned, which occasioned the outmost disturbance, the churches dismissing; (the reason that they returned for) is said that on Saturday evening they stopped at Kylsyth and Comrie, with one of our gentlemen's servants, went to the camp to acquaint the Prince of their embassy, the camp being allarmed twice that night, upon account that the Dragoons had come to Linlithgow, joined with a vast number of volunteers, were to make an attack on them yesterday. When the morning came our servent came off and acquainted our folks of this; upon which Seaton took horse and left them: so they were perswaded to return by Mr. Cross, the advocate, he saying it was treasonable; which report when got amongst us (of the intended engagement), our whole

⁶ The Marriage-contract of Agnes Colquhoun and James Johnstoun is dated at Glasgow, 10th January 1708.—[Original Marriage-contract in Camstradden Charter-chest.]

ears went a tingling, and each thought they heard the firing of great guns. The imagination was so strong that many persons took horses to goe see the engagement; and the magistrates and most part of the inhabitants went to the High Church yaird and steeples, who, when on the bartizans, thought they heard firing; but to our great surprise an allarm was that they were at the toun head. So all the people came down the High Street, like mad folks, each making more hideous crys than another, and severall folks left the toun (this was occasioned by some persons clearing the way for an express). We did not settle till about four at night, when some of our gentlemen who went out met with the Earll of Kilmarnock, who told them that the Prince lodged in his house all night, and that the army marched for Edinburgh, and that they would encamp at Kirkliston. This day we had expresses that 2000 of the Rebels passed the Freugh, headed by Lord Nairn. They were to ly at Falkirk this night, and were to be succeeded by 2500 more under Tillibardin, which party we are affraid may come and demand the money. This night we had advices from Edinburgh, that the Train Bands and the new regiment, with the Dragoons, were designed to attack the Rebels, (but never came out of the city.) They say the said express mett the Rebels about five miles from Edinburgh. It is reported that Cope has come to Leith; so we expect to hear good accounts from that quarter. William M'Kenzie had a letter from London advising, vizt., it is now confirmed that the Grand Duke of Tuscany is chosen Emperor, which has caused great rejoicings. I am still in greater consternation than yow can imagine; and do not know what to doe either with myself or papers, is all at present from your loving mother,

AGNES COLHOUN.

To Robert Colquhoun, Esqr. of Camstrodan, Dunbarton.

This laird of Camstradden appears to have been suspected of favouring the Jacobite interest in 1745, and having, in consequence, fallen under the suspicion of the authorities, he was prevented from receiving a supply of meal which he had imported from England.

The following letters relating to this subject were addressed to him by Major-General John Campbell of Mamore and Mr. Campbell of Stonefield, Sheriff of Argyll, who were acting in the service of the Government:—

Inveraray, April 28th, 1746.

SIR,—I beg you will be so good as to believe that I did not come into this country to oppress any man who was not in the Rebellion, and even those I shall leav to the laws of their country, if they submitt and don't attack me.

The meal imported from England belongs to the publick, under my direction, as without my licence it could not have been brought in, for which reason I hope you will excuse my detaining it, but towards your being no looser, I offer to take and pay for it. And as soon as His Majesty's rebellious subjects have submitted and given up their arms, you may command what meal I have to spare. You must know that in your neighbourhood numbers of the rebels are return'd, and some of rank, sculking. I leav it to you to consider with your selfe, inform'd as I am, if I can comply with your request. A little time will give me an

opportunity of obliging you and others of my friends. Have patience, and look upon me as a humane man, and,

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN CAMPBELL.

To Rot. Colquhoun of Camstroden.

On His Majesty's Service, To Robert Colquhoun of Camstroden, Esqr.,
To the care of James Duncanson of Garshake, Esqr., att Dunbarton,
from Major- General Campbell.

Inveraray, 14 Aprile 1746.

SIR,—I received your letter upon the subject of some meal bought by you for the use of your family and workmen.

I spoke to General Campbell, who I find some people have blam'd for giving such extensive licenses for importing meal to the West of Scotland, which, indeed, I consider'd as a very happy thing for all our country. However, this makes it necessary for the General to be extreemly cautious that none of the meal be carry'd to supply the Rebels.

The General does not chuse to let any quantity be carry'd up the country that is in the neighbourhood of Rebels, but will grant you liberty to have some for the use of your own family and servants, upon your finding baile that it shall not be carry'd to the Rebels.

You shou'd apply to the General directly to give you a licence to carry up what quantity he judges proper, or that he grant warrant to some body at Dumbartoun to give such licence from time to time, as your necessity requires.

This is what casts up to me as the best expedient; and as your quantity is not large, perhaps he will allow the whole. I am, with great truth.

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ARCH. CAMPBELL.

I was obliged to keep your servant: if I can prevaile with the General to give the licence before your letter comes to hand, I shall send it by post to Dumbarton.

To Robert Colquhoun of Camstroden, Esqr., From the Deputy-Shirriff of Argyll; The bearer to pass unmolested.

ARCH. CAMPBELL.

This laird of Camstradden was the intimate friend and correspondent of George Colquhoun, fourth of Tillyquhoun, who styled himself Baronet, two of whose letters to him are printed in the sketch of his life,—one on the occasion of the death of his brother James in 1747, and another after his marriage with Rebecca Jones, only daughter of William Jones, Collector of the Stamp Duties in Scotland in 1749 or 1750.⁷

Robert Colquhoun of Camstradden, on 23d January 1752, was made a burges of the burgh of Glasgow, as having married Helen Johnston, daughter of the deceased James Johnston, merchant burges thereof.⁸

⁷ *Vide* pp. 168, 172, *supra*.

⁸ Original Burgess Ticket in Camstradden Charter-chest.