

John Edgar, Laird of Wedderlie, was, in 1674, sued by Mr. Chieslie, surgeon, of Dunse, for the maintenance of his younger brother Alexander, then Mr. Chieslie's apprentice. This lawsuit and others continued till the close of the seventeenth century. On the establishment of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, Alexander Edgar became a member, as did also his cousin Thomas Edgar, and that he is identical with the apprentice of Mr. Chieslie, an order for him "to settle the affairs of his late master Mr. Chieslie" clearly shows. Thomas Edgar, son of the previous Thomas, had property in Dunse; in which town James, father of the first Edgar of Auchingrammont, was a Surgeon.

The traditions of the family of Auchingrammont, supported by the uncertain evidence of old-fashioned silver plate, bearing the arms of Wedderlie, asserted that they were the descendants of a cadet of Wedderlie, inasmuch as the father of the first Edgar of Auchingrammont was an Edgar of Dunse; that he took with him to Jamaica, portraits of the Edgars of Wedderlie; and that on his return he married a relative named Edgar, by whom he acquired property in the Lawn Market, &c., Edinburgh.

In 1754, Alexander Edgar, then in possession of Auchingrammont, which he had owned for many years, was styled by the designation of "from Nether-houses.\*" He was then living within the bounds of South Leith, near Hillhousefield, adjacent to the village of the Water of Leith, both of which places are contiguous to the baronies of Broughton, Restalrig, and other places mentioned in the "Inquisitiones Generales" of 1599, as including property appertaining to Edgars from Berwickshire.

Early in the eighteenth century, the Edgars of Auchingrammont owned property in Jamaica,† viz., Wedderlie plantation, and Osborne, in the parish of St. George. The latter was named after a *Mr. Osborne, surgeon*, probably of the *Peffermyln* family, who settled in Jamaica towards the close of the seventeenth century.

In an old silver-bossed family Bible, the property of Margaret Edgar, the last of her family who owned Auchingrammont, is the following entry:—"Alexander Edgar, born 1698."‡ The locality of his birth is not given, and, as parish registers in Scotland are imperfect, it might be difficult to find this entry of baptism, although that of Peter Edgar, a younger brother, is recorded in the Dunse register. Alexander Edgar is, in the record of his purchase of Auchingrammont, stated to have returned from Jamaica. His younger brother Peter, of Bridgelands, married in 1743 Anne, daughter of the Rev. John Hay, minister of Peebles, and was father of Anne (the wife *first* of James Leslie of Deanhaugh, by whom she had two daughters and a son who was drowned in infancy, and *secondly* of Sir Henry Raeburn;) of an only son, John Edgar, Writer to the Signet, who died *s.p.* in 1799, besides other daughters.

In 1742 Alexander Edgar married Margaret (*ob.* 1791), daughter of James Edgar, writer in

\* There are only four Netherhouses mentioned in the Scottish Gazetteers. The place here meant is not that portion of Auchingrammont which merged in the town of Hamilton, but a "land of houses" in Edinburgh.

† There was a Scottish family of Edgar connected with Jamaica early in the eighteenth century, which settled at Bristol, and their baptismal names were Preston, Alexander, Archibald, &c. The late Mr. Alexander Edgar of Bristol was J. P. for the county of Gloucester.

‡ This page is wanting in the Dunse register.

Edinburgh, clerk to Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, as before stated. James Edgar left no male issue, but had a son Robert who died in infancy.

The issue of Alexander Edgar of Auchingrammont by his wife Margaret Edgar were—1. Alexander, *ob.* 1820; 2. James, of Auchingrammont, *ob.* 1810; 3. Handasyde, M.D., *ob.* 1806; 4. Susan, *ob.* 1778, aged twenty-two; and 5. Charity.

James Edgar, originally from Melrose, married the daughter of a Handyside or Handasyde of Kelso, and afterwards of Edinburgh, named Priscilla Handasyde. The latter's pedigree is readily obtainable from the Kelso Parish Register. The wife of the other writer in Edinburgh, also named James Edgar, was Eliza Lithgow. This latter James Edgar had sons who died in infancy, named John, Alexander, James. He is merely mentioned casually to distinguish the two families.

A portion of the patrimony of Alexander, the son of Alexander and Margaret of Auchingrammont, consisted of ground rents and tenements at Edinburgh, and a reference to the City Register of Sasines confirms the tradition of a connection with Wedderlie.

James Edgar became "of Auchingrammont" by the breaking of the entail and surrender of Auchingrammont to him by his *elder brother Alexander*, who was returned their father's heir in 1777, and had seisin of the said property. On the 1st March 1783, there is a "seisin" in favour of James, as heir of his brother Alexander of Auchingrammont.

A synopsis of pedigree is subjoined.

Alexander Edgar, of Auchingrammont, born 1698, married, in 1742, Margaret, elder daughter and co-heir of James Edgar, writer in Edinburgh, honorary burghess of that city, and clerk to Sir Gilbert Elliot, first baronet of Minto. He died in 1777, and was buried in the churchyard of Hamilton; she died in 1791, leaving issue—

I. James, who succeeded to Auchingrammont. Married, 25th March, 1789, Eliza Lorington, and died October 13, 1810, leaving issue—

1. James, *ob. inf.*, of whom there is a fine portrait by Sir Henry Raeburn.

2. Alexander, *ob. inf.*

3. John, *ob. inf.*

4. Mary Anne, *ob. inf.*

5. Margaret. She succeeded to Auchingrammont, which she sold; and died, unmarried, October 12, 1857.

6. Eliza Priscilla, died unmarried.

II. Alexander, married, 10th July, 1797, Anne, daughter of Henry Gordon, son of — Gordon by his second wife Anne, d. of Christopher Taaffe by his wife Rachel Lawrence,\* daughter of Lawrence

\* The family of Lawrence, of St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, is said to be descended from Edmund, fourth son of Sir John Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, co. Lancaster. Sir John Lawrence, ex-Abbot of Ramsey, co. Huntingdon, whose nephew, William Lawrence, of St. Ives, in the same county, was High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire in 1572, married Frances Honston, by whom he had a son, Sir John Lawrence, Knt., who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Hagar, of Bourne Castle, and had by her a son, Sir John Lawrence, Knt., who by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and

Lawrence, by his wife Susanna, daughter of John Lawrence and Susanna Pelgrave. Alexander Edgar died December 25th, 1820, and is buried in St. Cuthbert's churchyard, Edinburgh. By his wife, who died April 30, 1857, he had issue.

The issue of Alexander Edgar and Anne Gordon were as follow :—

1. Alexander, *b.* 9th Sept., 1807; Captain in the 63rd Regiment; *ob.* unm. 1837.
2. Henry, *b.* 24th February, 1815; late Captain 26th Regiment.
3. James Handasyde; *b.* June 24, 1816; Lieut.-Colonel 69th Regiment.
4. Margaret, *b.* 1st July, 1798; *m.* Lt.-Col. Hugh McGregor, and had issue, Alexander Edgar, *d.* unm., and Anne Murray, *d. s. p.*
5. Anne, *b.* 15th January, 1800; *m.* 1821, James White, M.D., and had issue, a daughter. Dr. James White was brother of Dr. White, Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, previously Surgeon of the 16th Lancers.
6. Mary, *b.* 11th January, 1802; *m.* October 15, 1822, J. H. Archer, M.D., and had issue—
  - (1) James Henry.
  - (2) A daughter.
7. Elizabeth, *b.* 19th June, 1803; *m.* George Archer,† M.D., 64th Regiment, and had issue, an only child, Captain W. M. Archer of the 78th Highlanders, who *d.* unm. in 1861.
8. Susan, *b.* 12th December, 1805; *ob.* unm., 1859.
9. Louisa, *b.* 18th December, 1809; *m.* Rev. S. Jackson, and had issue, John B., a son, *d.* unm. and 2 daughters.
10. Jemima, *b.* 15th February, 1813; *ob. inf.*
11. Catherine, *b.* 7th June, 1819; *ob.* unm.

heiress of Ralph Waller, of Clerkenwell (a cousin of the poet Waller), had two sons, the younger of whom, John, was ancestor of Sir Soulden Lawrence, whose line terminated with the late Miss Lawrence of Studley Park, who bequeathed that noble estate to Earl de Grey. Henry, the elder son, married Amy, daughter and heiress of Sir E. Peyton, of Isleham, Bart. He was an author of some repute, and though President of Cromwell's Council of State, held moderate views. He died in 1664, leaving with other issue Henry, created a baronet; a daughter, married to Richard, Earl of Barrymore; and a son, John, whose will, dated 1690, is on record in Jamaica. This John Lawrence, by his wife Jane Collins, relict of the Rev. Mr. Dunn, left with other issue a son, John Lawrence, who by his wife Susanna Pelgrave, had with other issue James of Fairfield, ancestor of the late Sir James Lawrence, and the eminent Mayor of Liverpool, his brother; Mary, his youngest daughter, grandmother of James first Lord Abinger; and Susanna, the eldest, who married Lawrence Lawrence of a distinct family, and was mother of Rachel, who married Henry Gordon, whose daughter Anne married in 1797 Alexander, son of Alexander Edgar of Auchingrammont, by whom she had a numerous family.

The wills and parish registers proving the descent from John Lawrence (1690) are recorded in the Island Secretary's Office, Jamaica.

† On the death of his first wife, who was drowned, off the coast of Spain, in 1846, Dr. Archer, married, secondly, Louisa, daughter of the Rev. — Hartwell, Vicar-General of the Isle of Man, by whom he had a son, Theodore, who died in infancy. His second wife survived him, and married at Allahabad in 1852, the present Sir E. H. Greathed, K.C.B., of Uddings House, co. Dorset. Her sister married Lt.-Col. W. Stuart, 86th Regiment.

III. Handasyde, M.D., F.R.S.,\* born 27th March, 1754, married a daughter of — Simpson, of Bounty Hall,† Jamaica, and died *s. p.* June 8th, 1806.

1. Charity, *ob. inf.*

2. Susan; married James Hutton,‡ merchant in Leith, and had issue a son, John, who died *s. p.*

Peter Edgar, of Bridgelands, Peebles (brother of Alexander, of Auchingrammont), born in 1706; married, 1743, Anne, daughter, by his first wife, of the Rev. John Hay, minister of Peebles, and died, aged seventy-five, at Marchfield, near Cramond, January, 1781, leaving issue —

1. John, W.S., of Edinburgh, who died unm. in 1799.

2. Anne,§ *b.* 1744; *m.* (1st) James (called *Count*) Leslie, of Deanhaugh, and (2nd) Sir Henry Raeburn, and had issue by her first husband a son and two daughters, and by her *second*,

(1) Peter, *ob. inf.*

(2) Henry, *m.* Charlotte, daughter of John White, of Kellerstain and Howden, and left issue.

3. Margaret, *m.* John Tait, of Edinburgh, and had issue—

(1) George, Advocate and Sheriff Sub. of Edinburgh; *ob.* unm. (2) Alexander, Commander, R.N. died unm. in 1866, leaving his fortune of £80,000 to his cousins, the Archbishop of Canterbury and his brothers; (3) John, W.S., *ob.* unm.; two daughters, *ob.* unm.

4. Jessie, *m.* — Oliphant, and had issue.

5. Susan, *m.* — Dickie, and had issue.

6. Helen, *m.* Henry Inglis, adv. of Edinburgh, and had issue—

(1) Richmond, *m.* Cochrane of Belretiro (Lochlomond).

(2) A daughter, *m.* Rev. A. Gordon and other children.

These were the children of Helen Edgar and Henry David Inglis a popular writer (better known as "Derwent Conway").

\* This name was occasionally spelt *Hangitsyde* (Will of James H., of Coldstream, 30th Nov., 1654) and *Handyside* (Will of Margaret Pringle, relict of Andrew H., Writer in Edinburgh, 9th May, 1744). *Vide* will of Thomas Handasyde, of Caine Park, co. Huntingdon, proved April, 1729, at Doctors' Commons. Roger Handasyde (2nd general of the name) commanded the 16th Regiment until 1763. General Handasyde was Governor of Jamaica while Alexander Edgar was there, and though he subsequently settled in Huntingdonshire, it would appear from a passage in Sir John Sinclair's Survey, that the same family were heritors in the parish of Hutton, Berwickshire. The name, indeed, is almost peculiar to the south-eastern counties of Scotland.

† A diploma was granted in 1772 to John Hutton, by Professor Andrew Dalzel, of the University of Edinburgh, and on September 8th, 1793, there is on record a proposed resignation by Dr. Mack of the surgeoncy of the 56th regiment, then at Waterford, in favour of Mr. Hutton. This was the Earl of Home's regiment. Some letters to Mr. Hutton, from Mr. Hamilton of Dalzel, and Mr. Purves of Purves Hall, still exist; but the papers of this branch of the Edgar family were destroyed under a clause in the will of the late Miss Mary Edgar.

‡ In reference to the marriage of Mrs. Leslie with Sir Henry Raeburn, Mr. William Anderson, editor of the *Scottish Nation*, writes: "The lady, Anne Edgar, daughter of Peter Edgar, Esquire, of Bridgelands, was much pleased with the skill, and likewise with the manners of the artist; and about a *month or so* after the adventure of the studio, she gave him her hand in marriage, bestowing at once an affectionate wife and a *handsome fortune*." The fortune was the result of her *first* marriage, and the artist was fifteen years younger than the lady.

## EDGARS IN NITHSDALE AND ANNANDALE AND GALLOWAY.

IN the Chartulary of Kelso the baptismal name of Edgar occurs amongst the descendants of the ancient lords of Nithsdale, supposed to have been related to the lords of Galloway and kings of Man, but must not be confounded with the surname.

The Earls of Dunbar, from whom the Edgars are understood to be descended, seem to have parted with their lands in Nithsdale before 1453. The latter continued till long after that period to be one of the most numerous *clans* (if this word may be used) in the district.

The origin of the family of Edgar with its numerous branches in the south-west of Scotland is probably attributable to the marriage of Richard Edgar in the time of Robert the Bruce with the co-heiress of Ros of Sanquhar, and also to Donald, son of the former. Some younger branches in the royal household may likewise have been settled by the Bruce on the lands about Lochmaben along with other servitors. Probably *Edward*, eldest of Richard Edgar's four sons, and who renounced his succession to Wedderlie, was progenitor of the various lairds of the name.

The following passage in Chalmers' "Caledonia" confirms these suppositions:\*

"During the reign of Robert Bruce, Richard Edgar possessed the castle and half of the barony of Sanquhar in Upper Nithsdale. Edgar also held the lands of Ellioc in the same district, and the lands of Bartmonade and of Lobri, of Slochan, of Glenabenkan, and part of the lands of Kilpatric in the same shire, of all which he obtained charters from Robert Bruce. He also obtained of the same king the barony of Kirkandrews. Donald Edgar (Richard's Son) acquired from King David II. the captainship of the clan MacGowan in Nithsdale. In the reign of David I. the territory of Sanchar formed a part of the extensive demesnes of Dougal of Stranill, from whom it descended to his son Duvenald, and from him to his son Edgar, whose progeny appear to have assumed the surname of Edgar. During the reign of Robert Bruce the barony was divided between Richard Edgar . . . and William de Crichton, "who held the other half in right of his wife Isabella de Ros."

During the reign of Queen Mary, lands in Nithsdale were granted by royal charter to Quintin the son of Ninian Edgar. In the Act in favour of John Maxwell, Earl of Morton (10th December, 1585), although many Edgars are mentioned, no notice occurs of the family of Inglistoun (Irongray); and, yet so far back as 1453, in the retour of Robert Lord Maxwell as heir of *Herbert*, Lord Maxwell, his father, besides Richard Edgar of *Garnsallacht*, there was on the inquest John Edgar of Ingliston. In 1664 (March 22), John Edzarc of Inglistoun was absent from an assize for the trial of certain persons in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright; and in 1598 a John Edzer of Inglistoun was denounced as a rebel for his share in the "slaughter" of Patrick Maxwell of Dalquheon.

A James Edgar, in Kirkpatrick Irongray, died early in the eighteenth century, but it is very doubtful whether he could reasonably be accounted an impoverished descendant of the house of Inglistoun.

There were Edgars, lairds of Bombie, Kirkcudbrightshire, before the days of the McLennans; and

\* "Caledonia," vol. iii., page 72.

we find the name in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries at Cornetown, Shireinton, Gilichtoun, Kerringarroch, Correghe, Creoquhane, (otherwise *Creaken*) Doublahill, Kenter's Isle, Furd, Gullishill, Kirkland of Irongray, Lochkindeloch, Blackshaw, Elsieshiells, &c. To the last-named place Thomas Edgar, Provost of Dumfries, in 1730 bequeathed an annuity of £40 for the education of the poor.

In the seventeenth century an uninterrupted intercourse appears to have subsisted between the Edgars of Dumfries and those who had taken up their abode in Edinburgh and its environs.

The baronies of Holywood and Caerlaverock were largely inhabited by Edgars, the gradual subdivision of property in pastoral districts tending to perpetuate a patriarchal system. The Edgars of Bowhouse of Caerlaverock settled in Edinburgh and Fife. Those of Sheirinton, probably a branch of the Blackshaw family, betook themselves to commercial pursuits, and formed a connection with Edinburgh; they also acquired property in Forfarshire. The Edgars of Kirkblane seem to have been identical with those of Bowhouse, and it is not improbable that the Chrystenhill Edgars were closely related to the Inglestoun family.

From Nithsdale, the Edgars strayed into Ayrshire, and Lanarkshire, in which latter county, during the earlier portion of last century, a farm called "Blackbird," was held by an Alexander Edgar. In Ayrshire before 1699, the heiress of one of the branches of Edgar of Edinburgh married a Mr. Rome of Cluden.

#### EDGARS OF INCHGALL, FIFE, AND EDINBURGH.

In the Act of the Scottish Parliament passed in 1585, in favour of Lord Maxwell, designed Earl of Morton, many Edgars are mentioned, among others Thomas Edgar of Bowhouse, and his sons John and Clement. Thomas Edgar was probably the father of Edward Edgar, by whom was purchased, in 1604, the barony of Inchgall, in Fife, an acquisition soon lost.

This branch of the Dumfriesshire family was powerful in Edinburgh, and had lands in other parts of the country; and the common origin of these branches is indicated on a tombstone in the churchyard of Holywood, which represents the arms of Maxwell of Cowhill impaled with those of Edgar of Wedderlie: the deceased is styled "the husband of Barbara Maxwell."

The barony of Lochore was formerly called Inchgall or Inchgaw; that barony or the western part of it formed the parish of Ballyngry. In the reign of Charles I. this barony reverted to the Wardlaws, who then parted with it, and about fifty years later it came into the possession of a family named Malcolm; it is now the property of Lady Scott, relict of Colonel Sir Walter Scott, Bart., son of the great novelist. The old tower is in part remaining, but the lake which surrounded it has been drained.

Robert, Duke of Albany, when Regent of Scotland, granted a Confirmation Charter of the lands of "Trakeware" (Traquair), in Peebleshire, to Watson of Cranystoun, dated "Apud Inchegall," September 27, 1407. (*Reg. Mag. Sigill, f. 233*)

Notices of this barony will be found in *Inquisitiones Speciales*. Under "Fife" (No. 389, May 23, 1627) the services of one of the heirs runs thus:—

"In terris et baronia de Lochirschyre-Wester alias nuncupatis Inchegall; terris nuncupatis

Flockhous et Bōwhous\* de Inchgall, cum lacu de Inchgall et jure patronatus Capellæ de Inchgall,†" &c.

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EDGAR OF MIDLOCHARWOODS, DUMFRIES.

JOHN EDGAR, holding with others, a *pendicle*, or small division of land, at Rimdale, died in 1801, at the advanced age of 100 years. He had a kiln for drying corn for the neighbouring farmers, which, notwithstanding its dangerous construction, is supposed to have produced meal of a better flavour than any since invented. His son, Robert Edgar, born in Caerlaverock in 1776, died in June, 1863. He served in the Yeomanry Cavalry during the French war. He kept greyhounds and coursed with them after he was fourscore. He shipped great quantities of grain from Glencaple to Glasgow and other ports, when the Nith was much more used for shipping than it is now; and was also the first to establish a bone mill, and introduce that description of manure among the farmers of Nithsdale and Annandale.

John Edgar, his son, born in Caerlaverock in 1801, was an eminent engineer. He was in business in Dumfries from 1828 to 1852, and took much interest in draining, and the manufacture of peat. He was proprietor of Midlocharwoods, and had a son, the Rev. Robert Edgar, born in Dumfries in 1835.

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EDGAR OF KEITHOCK, FORFARSHIRE.

THE estate of Kethick or Keithock, Forfarshire, a portion of the ancient possessions of the noble house of Lindsay, came into the Edgar family early in the seventeenth century. In January, 1613, Edgar of Keithock appears in the tax-roll of the sheriffdom of Forfar, at £44 10s. 4d. The name Edgar is found in the locality at an early period, viz., from 1202 to 1218, when the signatures of Robert and Thomas Edgar were attached to charters of the Bishop of Brechin, in favour of the abbey of Arbroath.

There were *two* separate families of Edgar, successively lairds of Keithock, in the seventeenth century. The second family purchased the estate from the former, about the year 1680, and there-

\* There was a Roman camp at Inchgall, where the ninth legion was attacked and nearly destroyed by the Caledonians.

† Act. of Scot. Parl., 1585, and Inquis. Spec., 1627.

upon procured a grant of coat armour. The representative of the *ex-laird*, forty years afterwards, followed their example: he is accordingly styled in the Lyon register as of "Dantzic in Poland," and eldest son of Keithock—that is, of the dispossessed laird.

David Edgar of Keithock, who bought that property from Thomas,\* father of John of Poland, had a large family, of whom were John and James, who were prominent in the Rebellion of 1715. The former died a prisoner in Stirling Castle, and the latter, escaping to Italy, became private secretary to the Chevalier St. George. A brief sketch of this remarkable person may not be unacceptable. James Edgar was a younger son of David Edgar of Keithock, by his wife Katherine Forester, and was born at Keithock on the 13th July, 1688 † Of his boyhood nothing is known; nor does it appear how he happened to enter the service of the Chevalier, but he must have done so early, as he occupied his post of assistant secretary for the long period of fifty years. On his demise he was succeeded by Andrew Lumsden, whose letters, incorporated in the Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange, contain frequent notices of his predecessor; and afford, in a few graphic touches, a remarkably clear idea of the placid and enduring old Jacobite, and his somewhat unrefined partiality for certain comestibles. ‡

On the suppression of the civil war of 1715 James Edgar made his way to Keithock, and there applied to a tenant farmer named Bell, for the loan of a suit of labourer's clothes. In this disguise he succeeded in reaching the Continent, subsequently returning the borrowed apparel, which the worthy farmer preserved as a memorial of the adventure. Under similar circumstances, the suit was again called into requisition, thirty years later, by John Edgar, the secretary's favourite nephew, and also a staunch Jacobite.

It is only from casual observations by contemporaries, and his own letters, that we discover the little that is known of James Edgar. During his exile in Rome, he appears to have been in straitened circumstances; but his poverty was honourable, inasmuch as it was due in a great measure to his scruples, which, as a Protestant, incapacitated him from holding such remunerative situations, under the Pontifical government, as his master might otherwise have obtained for him. Andrew Lumsden tells us, that he had himself served as assistant secretary under James Edgar, before he succeeded the latter, but on so small a salary, that it was only with the addition of a French pension he was secured from actual want.

He farther informs us, that the *English* gentlemen whom he found in attendance on the prince were six in number, namely, his principal secretary, the titular Lord Lismore, whose wife resided in France, and who died in 1757; Mr. James Edgar, acting secretary, who managed the more important correspondence; and four others.

Field sports seem to have been among the pastimes of these exiles, for Lumsden says, writing in

\* *Vide* Jervise's "Land of the Lindsays."

† Edgar of Keithock's *Family Bible*.

‡ "Memoirs of Sir R. Strange," p. 253: "As you [Sir R. S.] desire to send something to my worthy friend [Mr. Edgar], I believe you can send nothing more acceptable than some fine pigtail, for he eats a great deal of tobacco. You may likewise send him a cheese."



1753, "Last week we were four days at Montefortin, with an intention to hunt. The company consisted of Messrs. Edgar," &c.

The assistant secretary's convivial habits are likewise indicated by the observation, on his keeping the festival of the *national saint* of Scotland.

"Pray, how have you celebrated St. Andrew?" asks Mr. Lumsden of Captain Edgar.

"Mr. Edgar," replies the latter, "does great justice to the good saint."

The following anecdote confirms the secretary's reputation for fidelity. Some considerable time after "*the fifteen*" (as it was a fashion to style that eventful period), the British Government having reason to believe that another attempt for the restoration of the exiled family was about to be made, Sir Robert Walpole sent spies to discover in which of his attendants the Chevalier reposed the greatest confidence. In due course it was reported to the minister that the prince chiefly trusted his private secretary, the younger son of a poor Scottish laird, who, on a small salary, nevertheless indulged a hospitable disposition in entertaining his countrymen at Rome.

An offer of a handsome sum was made to the secretary, to induce him to betray the intentions of his master; but the former indignantly put the letter into the fire, and returned no answer. Several other offers, gradually increasing in amount, followed, but met the same fate; until at length, Sir Robert, imagining that he had not yet come up to the secretary's *price*, wrote to the latter, informing him, that £10,000 had been placed to his credit in the Bank of Venice; at the same time abstaining from any reference to his previous offers. Hereupon the secretary consulted his master, and after a brief interval replied; and while thanking Sir Robert for the money—which he had lost no time in drawing from the bank,—informed him, that he had just "laid it at the feet of his royal master, who had the best title to gold that came, as this had done, from *his own* dominions."

The Chevalier was deeply moved by this unexpected and kindly service, and, in token of his gratitude, presented his faithful adherent with a richly chased gold snuff-box. The gift was, of course, deeply prized by the devoted secretary, and it has been with equal care preserved by his representatives. It is now in the possession of J. D. Edgar, Esq., Toronto, head of the House of Keithock.

Secretary Edgar's duties seem to have been onerous, for his successor observes, on announcing his death, "You may easily believe what a real affliction, as well as additional fatigue, this must give me; it obliges me to execute both his own, and my own branch of *trade*."

George the Second ascended the throne without opposition, and, under the rule of Walpole, the authority of the Court triumphed over what was called *the Country party*. Public morality was at the lowest ebb; a spirit of avarice seemed to infect every rank of life; and it was even asserted in the House of Lords that the forfeited estates, instead of being applied to the service of the public, had become the reward of venality. The ill success of the ministers' *Tobacco Bill* increased the unpopularity of the Government, till at length the unfortunate reverse at Carthage led to the disgrace of Walpole, whose official fall was dignified with the coronet of Orford. The infraction of the *pragmatic sanction*, in 1740, had involved Europe in a general war, in which the king, with his usual predilection for thrusting himself into the political affairs of the Continent, had joined; and *Dettingen* and *Fontenoy* were the consequence.

Meanwhile, the French projected the invasion of England, and Charles Edward Stuart hastened from Rome to Paris in the disguise of a courier, and entering into the designs of the French king, embarked for Scotland. The prince was unequal to the enterprise. The fatal indolence which characterized his proceedings after the victory of Prestonpans turned the scale of fortune against him, and the decisive battle of Culloden extinguished for ever the hopes of his dynasty.

It was immediately after this crushing defeat, that John Edgar, nephew of the secretary, arrived, a fugitive, at Keithock; and by a curious coincidence sought the protection and aid of the same farmer who, thirty years before, had facilitated the escape of his uncle. To his surprise he was told that he should be accommodated with the identical clothes in which his relative had found safety; and a kind-hearted Presbyterian minister, who was proceeding to Edinburgh, generously allowed the fugitive to ride behind him as his servant. On the way Edgar narrowly escaped detection by a party of soldiers, who recognised a gentleman, even in the mean garb of a rustic, but who were at length persuaded by the clergyman of their mistake.

Arrived at Edinburgh, John Edgar, under the name of Mr. Willoughby called on a family to whom he was related. Directed to admit the uncouth visitor, the servant had her suspicions, and leaving the parlour door ajar, she watched the interview. The ladies of the family, believing themselves unobserved, embraced the fugitive; and this at once confirming the suspicions of the servant, she immediately hurried off to the nearest military post to give information; and the rebel only escaped, by five minutes, a party of soldiers which came to arrest him. The officer and his men searched the house, but finding no male rebel, fancied that one of the ladies, who was of a tall stature, must be a rebel in disguise, and would have carried her to prison, had not her brother, by removing the kerchief from her neck, satisfied him of his mistake. Later in the day the family reproached the servant for her treachery, but she excused herself by saying that, on the previous Sunday, her minister had preached that, "any one who concealed a rebel, would go to perdition."

After this adventure John Edgar was attending a female cousin on horseback, as her groom, and being unobserved, as he thought, rode up to her side, when suddenly a troop of horse made its appearance, and the sergeant in command beckoned to him. For a moment he hesitated, but on second thoughts he approached the sergeant, who, to his great relief, asked him to convey a message to his landlady in the neighbouring town, that *he had been suddenly ordered away and could not return*—probably to pay his bill.

At length the fugitive succeeded in reaching London, where he had several introductions to persons of that numerous class who, though well disposed to a cause, do not commit themselves until success be assured. These good friends, however, must have been indiscreet, for they were *suspected*, and, consequently, Edgar had some difficulty in delivering his letters.\* But he seems to have been a *physiognomist*, and as it was impossible to avoid a certain amount of risk, he generally satisfied himself of a stranger's expression of countenance before accosting him to ask his way through the strange town. One day, to his inquiry, the gentleman addressed, after a pause, replied, "Follow me." Edgar

\* Letters in possession of the family.