

Bishop Forbes Journal 1762

The Journal begins on Monday 12 July 1762 when Bishop Forbes left Kinghorn, Fife, and continued through Perthshire and Inverness-shire until he crossed the ferry to the Black Isle, arriving in Fortrose on Monday 19 July 1762, where the extracts begin.

[N.B. The punctuation and spelling are as in the Journal.]

Monday 19 July

We set up at the House of Kenneth Mathieson, one of the best Taverns I ever was in, and the readiest Service, for, tho' they knew not of our Coming, they had a genteel and plentiful Dinner on Table in a very short Time, with a glass of good Claret at two shill: sterl: per Chopin Bottle; but then I found out that Mathieson imported it himself, so as to pay no Duty.

Fortrose has one of the most charming situations I ever beheld, in view of the Murray-Frith up and down, and of Inverness, at the foot of a rising ground, enlivened with the chearing Rays of the Sun every Day of the year, from the rising up of the same to the going down thereof; whereby it is surrounded, up to the Top of the Hill, with the most fertile Fields which laugh and sing in the verdant and golden Robes of the richest Corns. At Fortrose is the Cathedral of Ross [of Gothic Work], commonly called the Chanonry Church, all in Ruines, not one half of it now standing, and that which remains has only the arched Roof, upon which there is long Grass, so long that it might be mowed down. I was upon the Top of it with the Rev. Mr Ludovick Grant and Mr John Stewart, viewing two pretty Bells, still entire, and which are tolled every night at 8 o'clock. The Pulpit, old and shattered, is still standing in the Church. Around the Church is one of the largest Burying-Grounds I ever saw (1). I then visited the Ground upon which the Bishop's Palace stood of old, (2) a vestige of which is not now to be seen, as it was razed to the Foundation by the Cromwellian Adorers to build a Fort for their Idol at Inverness; a Stone of which is not now standing. There is now, where the Bishop's palace stood, a rich Field of Pease and Beans. Ah! jam seges ubi Troja fuit! This is at the West end of Fortrose, where the palace had around it a fine Glebe, and a full view of Inverness. At the East End of the Town stood of old a fine Castle, a Seat of the Earls of Seafort, now in Ruines. Mr Grant, and his Wife, Mr Stewart, and his Son, and several Ladies sup'd with me at my Lodgings at Mr Mathieson's.

Tuesday, July 20

Got up between 4 and 5 o'Clock, to take a Walk, and view the agreeable Fields and the spacious far extended Frith, when I met accidentally with one, John Man, who walked along with me, and chatted most agreeably. At eleven o'Clock I confirmed, after Morning Prayer and a short Discourse upon Laying on of Hands, in the House of Mr L. Grant, 29 young and old, who, and those at Inverness, behaved with the utmost Decency and Attention. This same Mr Grant is a rare old Man of 80 years, and yet reads the smallest Print and Writ without Glasses, and walks well, thinking nothing of 13 or 14 miles at a stretch. A goodly Company dined with me at my Lodgings. After Dinner I went to see some of the remarkable Things about the place, attended now by three Clergymen, the Revd. Mr Simon Gray having come over early in the morning from Duffus, in Murrayshire. (3) At the West End of Fortrose, a little up the rising Ground, there is a fine Spring, called St Boniface's Well, which we visited first, and a little west from that we viewed another fine Spring, called the Dovecote Well. From that we returned straight East, and, passing by St Boniface's well, we came to the Doupack-Well, an excellent and most plentiful Spring of the finest and coolest Water, at the East end of the Town; so that Fortrose is one of ye best watered Places in the known World, as a small purling Stream runs from such Well. Then a little farther East still, in a straight Line, we visited Plotcock, a little Farm-town of four or five scattered Houses, with their Barns, Stables, etc. See Hawthornden's History, pag. 74. Then we walked to the Town of Rosemarkie in a delightful Avenue of the finest Corns of all Kinds. Here stands the Parish Church now, Fortrose and Rosemarkie making only one Royal Burgh, and from the latter is derived Rosemarkiensis and Rosemarkensis, the Title of the first Bishop of Ross, which was erected into a See by King David I about the year 1124. See Keith's Catalogue of Scottish Bishops, pag. 109. Rosemarkie is pleasantly

situated on a Bay of Inverness Frith. We intended to visit two Gentlemen of the Name of Houston, Baillies of Rosemarkie, but miss'd seeing them, as they were not at Home; and then we turned our Course to the point of the Land down from Rosemarkie by the West Side of the Bay, and footed around the charming natural Walk of verdant Grass, with Fort-George, the Frith etc. still in view.

My Bill at Fortrose [with Vails] was only £1. 15.4 Sterl., tho' I had several Persons dining and supping with me, with 7 or 8 Dishes of the best meat on the Table at once, and drinking good Claret, white Wine and Punch, besides two Servants and three Horses, as I had hired one Lewis MacGillavrie at Inverness to be our Guide thro' Caithness; and indeed the Servants were very liberal of provisions both for Man and Horse, for they declared they could not have better Corn and Hay in any place whatsoever. We had likewise Fruit after Dinner and Supper, both here and at Inverness, where my Bill, including Drink-money to Servants, was only £2. 12. 6 sterl. for three Days and a half, though most elegantly entertained, and several persons eating and drinking with me in Mrs MacKinnon's, one of the best of Taverns anywhere. In a word, I am persuaded I was not a litter favoured both at Inverness and Fortrose in my Bills of Fare. Lilly MacKinnon, Mrs MacKinnon's Daughter, is a genteel Woman in every respect, and displays a fine Taste in many things, particularly in Shell-Work, and such like Female Amusements.

Wednesday, July 21

Set off from Fortrose, by 8 o'clock, through Rosemarkie, and came to Raddrie, the House of Leslie of Findrassie, where the Table was spread, and we had a most elegant Breakfast from Miss Alice MacKenzie, Sister-in-law to Findrassie, he being from Home. Raddrie is situated on the South Side of a rising Ground, with a fine and large Bottom below it of a good Moss and a fertile Meadow.

Then we went to Killean, i.e. [wrong, it should be Cella Annae. See page 962 hujus], Cella Joannis, gre, no doubt, a chapel has been of old, tho' no Vestige of one now. Here the Widow Lady of Balmaduthie lives, and had a Table of many good Things spread for a second Breakfast, and it behoved us to taste it. Here some pretty Spots of Wood in View, particularly at the House of Balmaduthie, which is not far from Killean.

From thence to Bennagefield, or Bennetsfield, the House of Mr Mathieson of Do., situated on the Top of a rising Ground in View of the Murray Frith, of Culloden House, with its fine parks [of Deer and Roe], and Plantations of Wood on the other side of Inverness Frith, and of a large country around with the whole Town of Inverness under your Eye. Hard by this place is a pretty narrow Bay, Munloch, of Inverness-Frith, running up at High Water between two Hills about two miles, into which a Vessel can roll without Masts or Rigging, and be quite safe on Clay and Sand, and land-lock'd. Dined here plentifully and genteely. After Dinner the Lady of the House entertained us with the Harpsechord, improved by a charming Voice. Here we saw a surprizing Instance of the power of Music, or rather a strong proof of a good Ear. Mr Mathieson charitably keeps an Idiot-Boy, then about 14 years old, in his family, who entered the Dining-Room, and danced to the time of every Tune; and when the Lady for a trial, varied the Tune on a sudden, he stop'd short instantly, and listen'd attentively for a little, and then [made] the motion of his body correspondent to the Time. If he happened to know the Tune, he changed his Motion as quickly as the Lady did the Air. She tried him with a Minuet, and, tho' he could not observe the Figure, his motion was surprizingly exact to the Time. Mr Mathieson made me a present of a fine long Staff, with a Head of Two human Faces curiously cut by himself with a Knife. After drinking Tea, we went to Mr MacKenzie's of Suddie, whose Lady - a Daughter of Sr. Alexr. MacKenzie of Coul - is a Blood-Relation of my Wife's, and regreted much that she had not accompanied me to Ross-shire. Here we made our abode all night, and were most kindly and Easily entertained. Suddie is situated on the South Side of a

green rising Ground, with fine Corns and Grass, and in view of pretty Spots of Wood. The Church of Suddie is near the House, between which flows a romantic Rivulet through Bushes of wood.

Thursday, July 22nd

Set out from Suddie [at 10 o'clock], taking the Lady in the Chaise with me, who provided Mr John Stewart with a good Mare to ride on, and came to Mr MacKenzie's of Allangrange about 11, where we dined most elegantly, particularly on a Roe, dress'd in three Shapes, viz., in Soop, roasted, and baked, and on a variety of Fruits. This is a most pleasant Seat, with a South Exposure, beautified with Bushes of planting, a Flower-Garden etc. After Dinner, we went to [still in Ardmennach, or the Black Isle] Arpaphily, a mile from Allangrange, to Donald MacRah's House, and there, after prayers and Sermon, about 5 o'clock, confirmed 197 persons, young and old. See my Lists for Inverness, Fortrose, and Arpaphily. Returned to Allangrange, where we abode all Night. Here is an old Chapel in Ruines, the East Gable, where the Altar has been, still standing, with a fine Spring-Well beside it, called St John's Well, by which Saint's name, no doubt, the Chapel has been called. In going to, and returning from, Arpaphily, we had a fine prospect of Munloch-Bay, upon which we saw two Corn-Milns, which move by Salt-Water. At Arpaphily I had along with me three Presbyters, viz., Messrs Lud. Grant, John Stewart, and Simon Gray, and a Catechist, Donald MacRah, all of whom speak the Galic purely, and were extremely useful to me, as by far the greatest Number of the People spoke nothing but Galic, there being only 14 or 15 that knew anything at all of English. As many of them had come to Arpaphily at the Distance of several Miles, and had waited for me from eleven o'clock, the Words of our Saviour [came into my mind], S. Mark, 8. 2, 3. "I have compassion on the Multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the Way: for divers of them came from far." I therefore ordered ten shill. sterl. to be expended upon Bread and Drink amongst them. Mr Stewart alledged this allowance to be [too] much, and that it might tend to intoxicate them. "What! said I, John, how can such a pittance intoxicate about 300 people, as no fewer are here? I wish it may give every one a mouthful." Upon coming out of Donald MacRah's House, what a pleasure was it [to] see the Multitude (S. Mark 6. 39) sitting upon the Green Grass, and eating their Morsel in the open Air? They no sooner saw us, than they rose up, and made a profound Salute, with many kind Words in Galic, and waving their Bonnets around yr heads.

Friday, July 23

Set out from Allangrange half after 8 o'clock, and took Breakfast at Tore, the House of ye Widow-Lady of MacKenzie of Kilcoy, and Daughter of Fraser of Inverallochy in Abdshire. Tore is a pleasant Seat on the South Side of a rising Ground, with a Wood of Birch towards the North, besides artificial Planting. It is an excellent new House of 24 Fire-Rooms, including ye wings, and having the best prospect of Munloch-Bay. There is a Den or Hollow on ye East side of the Birch Wood full of Trees, with a small Rivulet murmuring down the midst of it.

From Tore we went to Kelcoy to Dinner, where Mr MacKenzie, Brother to the late Kelcoy, and commonly called the Tutor of Kelcoy, resides. Here I confirmed three Ladies before Dinner, and was entertained in an easy and hospitable manner. See my Lists of Confirmation. Kelcoy is an old strong Tower and a most amiable Seat, with two Gardens, and the Frith of Bewly, the Head of Inverness-Frith, under your Eye; across which the View terminates on the Woods of Bunchreve, the property of Forbes of Culloden. Bunchreve is a Galic word, and signifies the Root of a Tree. I went round this Castle, and took a minute View of the Outside of its Walls, to try if I could see any Date upon it, as Mr MacKenzie had told me it was reckoned to be very old, and observed to him, that

surely it had been once the Property of a Leslie, as I spied on one of the Windows on Top of the North Wall the Ensign Armorial of that name. "Indeed, said he, you are very right; for many years ago, a Leslie possessed this Place, and many people have taken that same Coat of Arms for a Date, but never could make it rightly out, and not one that I know of Ever took it for what it is till now."

After Dinner, we went from Kelcoy, being now 12 horses in Company. We had not gone far till a Hurricane blew, accompanied with a heavy Fall of Rain, so that those on Horseback had much ado to keep the Saddle, and a Gentleman and a Lady did fall to the Ground, but received no hurt. We came to Ord at 4 o'clock, and by this [time] we were 18 or 20 horses in Company, as several Friends met us there. After prayers and Sermon I confirmed 34 in the Chapel of the late Revd. Mr James Urquhart (3), so artfully situated in an Hollow, that those who travel along the Highway hard by it have no view of it all. We then visited Mr Thomas MacKenzie's of Highfield, where we took up our abode all night. Highfield is a pretty new House in View of Castle-Brahan, the Seat of the Earl of Seafort, which Mr MacKenzie has built upon the most barren Ground of his Estate, and thereby has shown himself to be a Farmer of True Industry and Taste; for he has brought in that moorish, healthy Spot to yield fine Corns and good Hay, some of which I saw mowed down, and excellent it was. On the North Side of his House he has reared up a large Plantation of Firs, at a proper Distance, which are thriving extremely well, and will soon make a Cover from the North Wind. Here Wm. Stewart left us.

July 24 - Saturday

Just as I was stepping into the Chaise twixt 9 and 10 o'clock, Notice was given me that several Country people were convened in the Chapel at Ord, as above, in order to be confirmed, whither I hasted on horseback, leaving some Ladies to go on in the Chaise to the Manse of Mr Peter Grant, preacher at Urray (4), and Nephew to the Revd. Mr Ludovick Grant, the Revd. Mr John Stewart accompanying me to the Chapel, where I confirmed 44, and went thence to the House of the said Mr P. Grant, where there was no parting without taking Dinner, the Ladies having formed a ploy for my taking up my abode at Highfield till after Sunday, and giving worship at Ord in their present Destitution. We were most elegantly entertained by the said preacher, a polite man, and Mrs Grant is a most genteel person and extremely well bred. When Dinner was set on the Table, the Landlord made me a Bow to say Grace; but I reckoned to the Uncle to do it, who declared he had been the B.'s Chaplain all along since he had come into the Country, and here he had a good Title so to be, being a Parent in the Family, and so he gave Grace. I could not help observing within myself that the beautiful Mrs Grant was at much pains to spoil a fine Face in time of saying Grace; for a more demure Countenance I never beheld than what she put on. I hinted this afterwards to the Ladies yt were along with us. They laughed heartily, and said it was her usual custom so to do qn serious.

By being stop'd short here I had an Opportunity of visiting Brahan-Castle, sited on the South Side of an high Hill, in View of the Water of Connan [rather, Conin], and with admirable policies around it, only the Trees of the Wood are too near ye House, on each side of which there is a large Garden loaded with Fruit, Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Bonum-Magnums, Imperials, and Grapes, and the Espaliers burdened with Apples and Pears down to the ground. In each garden there is a Fish-pond, the one on the East of an Oblong Square, the other on the West Circular. The Gardener, Cumming, has a Water-Dog that climbs a Ladder as well as any man, which I saw him do. We then went into the Castle, where there is one grand Room of about 18 Feet high, and proportionately long, but rather too narrow. There are several pieces of Fine painting in the Castle, viz., in one window the Shepherds paying their Adorations to our Saviour, on Copper, and the Magi doing the like, on Copper also. In another Room Judas - his betraying our Lord with a kiss - with St Peter cutting off Malchus's ear, etc. etc. etc., on Wood. In a third Room there is a striking full Length of Mary, Q. of

Scots, in a carved Frame of red Fir, done in a masterly manner, with this Inscription upon it: Maria D.G. Scotiae piissima Regina Franciae Dotaria Anno AEtatis Requi 38. 1580. Here I long'd for my young Friend, Patrick MacMorland, to take a Copy.

In this Castle there is likewise a very fine painting of Cardinal Richlieu, with his red Cap by him, a Venus dress'd by the Graces, a Nell Guyn, etc. etc. etc. I went up to the top of all, and, walking on the leaded Roof, looked around, where I had a commanding Prospect of the whole Country, particularly the flowing together of the two Waters, Oran [rather, Orin and Conin] and Connan, and a good way up the Banks of both before the Junction happens. There is a delightful Avenue through the Wood from the Castle, which is a Court, down to the Water of Connan beneath the place where Oran falls into it. Both these Waters abound with Salmon and Trout. But ah! all is going to Ruin, particularly the Paintings, for want of the Lord of the Manour to dwell in his own House, as no Fires are kept in it during his absence; and yet, let him go where he will, a more charming Seat he cannot have, with everything necessary and comfortable for Life. Alas! how wretchedly do we use plenty, to make us wanton in our Conceits?

July 25 - 7th Sunday after Trinity

Preached, Forenoon and Afternoon, in the Chapel at Ord, from i. St John, 4, 8. God is Love; and, after Sermon in the Forenoon, confirmed 143, young and old. See my Lists. As it is my Custom (5) to use the Sign of the Cross, I desired the Clergy to explain to the people the meaning thereof, both here and at Arpaphily, which they did; and the Country people, with an air of Chearfulness, answered aloud in Galic, We understand it very well; We understand it very well. At both these places I was against my giving Sermon, and therefore desired Mr Grant or Mr Stewart to preach in Galic, as the multitude of the people understood nothing else; but, upon the Catechist's representing to me that the honest Souls would take it highly amiss if they did not see me perform both Prayers and Sermon, I yielded, and desired Mr Grant and Mr Stewart to resume, by Turns, the substance of my Discourse, to explain the End and Design of Confirmation, to give the Creed, the Lord's prayer, and the Decalogue in Galic; as also to give a prayer before, and anoyr after, the Laying on of Hands with the Sign of the Cross, both in Galic. Donald MacRah, Catechist, was Precentor, and I ordered him so sing in Galic only: And indeed the external Devotion of the people was admirable, and past all Description, as all the Highlanders have a remarkable serious Turn of mind.

Soli Deo sit Laus et Gloria in Secula Seculorum. Amen et Amen.

After Evening Service I ordered the Offering of the Day, being about 15 shil. sterl., to be distributed amongst the Poor of the Congregation.

In every place I took Care to have [a] Subscribed List of all persons to be confirmed. At Ord Mr MacKenzie of Ardnacraske was so good as to write out the Lists.

Monday, July 26

Between 8 and 9 o'clock, set out from Highfield, where every Day, after Dinner and Supper, we had Fruits, and breakfasted at Arkir, a Shealing or Goat-Milk-House, of Mackenzie of Dachmaluack, beautified with a natural Wood. From thence to the [In crossing we leave Ardmeanach, or the Black Isle, and Ferndonald we come into] Boat of Scuddel, upon Connan, by returning the way of Highfield, all along almost in View of that River, and came soon to Connan-side, a new House built by MacKenzie of Garloch, having a Ruinous Chapel near to it, called the Chapel of Logie, up the

Hill from which, South-East, is an old Tower, named Kinkell, the property of the said Garloch. At the Boat of Scuddel, Mr Ludovick Grant took Leave, and returned to Fortrose.

A little before you come to the Boat, the charming Frith of [Cromarty] opens to view, and has a fine Effect. It is called Portus Salutis, because all Ships entering into it are Landlock'd, and may run up as far as Water can bear them, without any the smallest danger, having [in] all the Course a Bottom of Sand or Clay. We came to the Town of Dingwall, a pretty Drive of two miles from the Boat, a little after 12 o'clock, and visited Baillie [Colin] MacKenzie, Brother-German to the late Revd. Mr John MacKenzie, in whose House I confirmed 6 persons. He conducted us to the Pyramid, a Square or four-sided Figure, ending in a sharp point at Top, upon the Burying-place of the Earl of Cromarty, of about 50 feet high, all of cut stone, which makes a grand Appearance, and was much admired by Dr Pocock, the Bishop of Ossory, in Ireland, in his travels through Scotland in 1761 (6).

Up from Dingwall, westerly, is a most fertile Bottom or Valley, called Strathpeffer, ending at Top with Castle-Leod in the midst of a Bush of planting and natural wood. This Valley yields every Year 400 Bolls of multure, tho' very narrow and only two miles in length; but then it is Corn to the Top of the Hills on each side. Dingwall is a beautiful situation in view of Cromarty-Bay, which flows, at Tides, up Connan River about 14 miles, and up by Dingwall about 12, i.e. two miles above Dingwall, which has the misfortune to be damp by its low Situation, but has a most rich Soil. Baillie Colin kindly invited Mr Stewart and me to dine at his House; but we would not hear of that, and took him along with us to a very good Tavern. After Dinner Mr Stewart and I visited Mr MacKenzie of Pitlundie and his Family at Dochcartie, on the North rising ground above Strathpeffer, down the middle of which flows the Rivulet Peffer. From Dochcartie you have a commanding view of Strathpeffer from End to End. We set out from Dochcartie about 5 o'clock for Balcony, the Seat of Mackenzie of Inchcoulter, to which place Pitlundie gave us the Convoy, and Baillie Colin MacKenzie favoured us with his Company for some miles. About two miles from Dochcartie you come to Mount Gerald, on the left hand, and on the South Side of an Hill, ye Seat of Mackenzie of Do., surrounded with Planting. Soon after that, about two english miles, you come to [a little beyond which you come into East-Ross at a little Bridge, called the Bridge of Aniss, and leave Ferndonald, i.e. the land of Donald. By better information it would appear that East-Ross begins rather between Coul and Brahan-Castle, much about the Junction of Orin and Conin] Fowlis-Castle, the seat of Sr. Henry Munro of Do., likewise surrounded with planting, and in view of Cromarty-Frith. In travelling from Dingwall you see, on the other side of the Frith, Ferintosh, the place famous for distilling good whiskie.

We arrived at Balcony half an hour after 6 o'clock, upon which place Nature has luxuriantly shed her Beauties. It has been a Strong Hold, with a Fosse, and was anciently one of the Seats of the Earls of Ross. It is sited on the Verge of a rising Ground, with a Den on the North side, and washed on the West by the Water of Skiag, with a delightful vista of Cromarty-Bay, upon which Inchcoulter has an excellent Salmon Fishing by Boat or otherwise; but the Seals prove a great Destruction* to the Salmon here. Near to Balcony is Plenty of Lobsters and Crab-fish. Down from the Castle to the Bay, and then along the side of it at Ebb, you have a charming Walk upon the green Grass of a long mile at least. There is a good Orchard here, and never did I see Trees more loaded with Pears and Apples than in it. Great Plenty likewise of small Fruit here. I ate at Inchcoulter's Table a reddish Berry, that grows wild in the mountains, as big as a Strawberry, or rather bigger, and is called the Cloud Berry. It eats extremely well with Sugar, and is formed of globular pieces. We had them twice every Day.

*Comment in 2005: nothing changes!

Tuesday, July 27

After Prayers and Breakfast, Inchcoulter and Pitlundie were so obliging as to conduct me to view one of the greatest Wonders of Nature I had ever seen or read of, which is the Water of Aultgrad, i.e. the Ugly Burn; so called, it is thought, from the Blackness of its Current and the Roughness of its Rocks; for it rushes rapidly, for a mile, between two Ridges of perpendicular Rocks so near one another that, were one from the Countries where Earthquakes usually happen, to view it, he would readily give a solemn Asservation, that certainly it behoved to be a Rent or Fissure occasioned by an Earthquake; and for my own part, I am persuaded it has been originally formed by the Falling of the Waters of the deluge from off the Earth. You walk up the North-side of the Water - the very best way to have any tolerable View or Idea of this wonder - till you come to a deep Pool or Pot, about a mile from Balcony, into which the rapid Current disgorges itself from between the Rocks; which pot or depth is term'd in Galic, Pool-Intlugid, i.e. the Throat, or the Pool in the throat, and out of it Salmon have been fished. Up from this Throat is one continued Thicket of Wood on each side, arising out of the Openings or Fissures of the Rocks. In the compass of 6 or 7 yards of Circumference you can see Ash, Oak, Birch, Roan-tree, Allar, Hazle, Plane-tree etc. Box-wood likewise grows naturally here: And it is one continued Dove-Cote or Pigeon House; so that there are thousands of Doves constantly here Summer and Winter, and they would be many more were it not that the Hawks prey upon them. The Opening at Top is only about 22 or 24 Feet at most, and it grows gradually narrower to the Bottom, excepting some Caves or Bosoms that open here and there; and in some places it will not be above 20 Feet broad over the surface of the Banks. We walked up on the Verge of the Precipice, Inchcoulter and I Arm in Arm; but Pitlundie drew back and cried, "Come back, go not so near, Gentlemen; for I am frightened to look at you." "Oh! I wish I had a Tree across here," said I; "and then I would be astraddle upon it to look down into the amazing Gulph!" "O, Sir, you must have no Vertigo or Swimming in your head," said Pitlundie. And, indeed, if ever I return to that country, I intend, God willing, to enter the Depth from the Top of the Opening to the Surface of the Water. Sometimes we were agreeably entertained with a Murmuring, then with a Rushing, and after that with a Raging Fall, of water. We threw down some Stones at different places, and it is almost incredible how long it was before we hears the Plash in the Water, which made a great Echo; and several Echos happened in the going down, as the Stone chanced to strike a Tree or any part of the Rock; and when the stone rebounded from the one side to the other, which was frequently the case, then ye Echo was re-doubled, and had a fine Effect. I doubt not, but it may be 40 or 50, if not 60, fathoms deep down to the Surface of the Water; but there is no seeing of the water till you go up three-quarters of a mile from Pool-Intlugid. In some places the noise of the Fall of Water is so very great, that I am persuaded there are considerable Cascades in it; but no Discovery can be made of ym, as men, after being led down by a Rope 20 or 30 Fathoms, to cut Trees according to their Choice, have seen the water far beneath them. At length we came to a place over which there was lately a Bridge of Eight Trees, where it is just 22 Feet broad. Here we have a view of the water 10 or 12 Furlongs by looking up and down, and a terrible Depth it is, tho' far from being so deep as we may conjecture some Places below to be from the raging Noise of the Water.

Inchcoulter told me that the Cattle, Goats etc., by browsing on the South side too near the Verge, have tumbled down headlong, and have lain where they fell till the Rains or Thaws have so swelled the water as to bring down their Bodies forcibly to the Pool-Intlugid. He has frequently had Goats that have faln down, and, by luckily resting on a flat or shelve of the Rock, have been there 10 or 12 Days alive, and, at length, being discovered by their Cry, have been haled safe and sound by Ropes fixed about them by men lowed down for the purpose.

About half-way to the Pool from where the Bridge has been, upon the south side, near the precipice, there is a Rock above Ground, of a singular form, with the East End of it up from the Earth, so as

several persons, 6 or seven, could lodge under it, and be sheltered from Rain. There is a flat stone under this End, with a gradual, easy Declivity, so as to make a good Bed for a Highlander in his Plaid. Both sides of this rapid current are the property of Inchcoulter. The Bishop [he died Sept. 25, 1765] of Ossory viewed this august and grand wonder of Nature; but, I am told, he took his Observations on the south side, where he could not discover the tenth Part of its Grandeur, the Bank being so steep and slippery in many places that there is no attempting to get near the Verge of the precipice. Inchcoulter, happening accidentally to meet his Lordship on the Highway upon his coming from Ault-Grad, made up to him in a very polite manner; and the Bishop, after Compliments, told him he had been viewing that Wonder, and that he admired it much, as one the greatest he had every seen in all his Travels. To which Inchcoulter said in Return - "Well, my Lord, that same Wonder is the property of a MacKenzie, every inch of it; and as I have the good fortune to be the Owner of it, your Lordship will do me much Honour by a visit at my House (pointing to it), qch is hard by here." But his Lordship begged to be excused, as he was in haste to be gone at present. So they parted with mutual Bows. Inchcoulter's kind Invitation, after so seasonable a Memento, was a Home-Thrust to his Lordship, as, remarkable as it is, he did not visit one MacKenzie in all Ross-shire, tho' it be the well-known Country of the Clan MacKenzie. A Gentleman [Dr Sinclair, at Thurso], a Sinclair by name, and, I have reason to think, a Whig, too, told me that Ossory was surely a narrow-thinking Man, and gave the above Omission or Neglect as a strong proof of it. This rapid Water issues out of a Loch, called Loch-Glass, in which there is great plenty of Trout, and it is about four miles long, and in some places about half a mile broad; and there is a small Brook that runs into this Lough.

At Balcony there was of old a Chapel, called St Ninian's Chapel. South from Balcony, hard upon the Frith of Cromarty, are the Kirk and Manse of Kiltearn. This is one of the closest neighbourhoods in any rural place; for within three miles East, and three miles West, that is, forming an Oval of five Miles in length, and about three in breadth, there are about 17 or 18 Gentlemen's Houses - a strong and convincing Argument of the Fertility of this Corner: And, indeed, richer Corn-Grounds I have never beheld in any country than what are to be seen here.

Wednesday, July 28

Set out from Balcony between 10 and 11 o'clock, Inchcoulter complaisantly giving us the Convoy, and came to Newmore-Castle - 4 miles - 15 minutes before 12, and dined with the Widow-Lady of the Place, a Grand-daughter of the Family of Culloden, and being a Forbes, expressed much Fondness to see me in her House. This seat is on the South Side of a rising ground, beautified, amongst other things, with commanding prospects; for, by going only to the Barn-Yards, you have a [full] View of [all] the Cromarty-Bay from the Mouth to ye Head thereof above Dingwall. Here we were most politely and kindly entertained, and plenty of Fruit after Dinner, good Wine and Punch.

From thence to Ballblair, only an English mile from Newmore, and drank Tea with Mrs Gorrie, Niece to Bp. Archibald Campbell, who was not a little surprized to find that I knew so much about him, and, still more so, that I should have his fine Seal of three Sides and two Top Ones cut in Steel, which I shewed to her, as also some of his Hand-writing, very like unto her mother's Writ, she declared. She kept the Seal long in her hands, viewing it nicely with a Critic's eye, and then said [with a smile] - "I think, sir, I have a good Right to this." Making a low Bow, I returned - "You see, Madam, it is mine in the meantime;" and then told her how I came by it, as she was anxious to know that. Mr Gorrie was from Home. He is Factor to Gordon of Invergordon, which Seat, environed with Planting, is hard by, both it and Ballblair being close upon the Cromarty-Frith. Here is the Kirk, and the Manse - one of the best in Scotland - of Roskeen. Inchcoulter took leave of us here, and returned home.

We came to the house of Dr Alexr. MacKenzie at Milntown of New-Tarbat half after 6 o'clock, travelling along the North Side of the beautiful Portus Salutis, within a few yards of it, upon the verdant Carpet [of] about [five] Scots miles. The Doctor shewed us the Skin of a Crow, the long Feathers of which in the Forepart of the Wings, and the Feathers on the Throat, were white as snow.

Thursday, July 29

By 7 o'clock, morning, Dr MacKenzie kindly conducted me to ye Castle of New-Tarbat, one of the Seats of the Earl of Cromarty - a grand and most beautifully sited House, indeed, or rather a princely Court, with fine Gardens, a natural Wood, charming Avenues, a rapid Water Dashing the Foot of the Rock on which the House stands, and then disemboгуing itself into the Cromarty-Frith, and with a view of that Bay, of the Town of Cromarty on the South Side of the Frith, etc. This Castle has a grand staircase [the Steps] of Oak, and the Rails of Mahogany. There is a Dining-Room in it of 54 by 24 Feet, and of a proportionable Height. The sight of this Castle and its fine policies [one and all gone to wreck] affected me greatly. Ah! jam seges ubi Troja fuit. A little west from it is a pretty Country-Kirk, called Kilmure, i.e. the Chapel of Mary.

By ten o'clock we left Milntown of New-Tarbat, Dr. MacKenzie giving us his Company, and, taking the Opportunity of the Ebb, we journeyed [a full mile] across the smooth Sands of Negg, a Back-Bay of the Frith of Cromarty at Tides, and then came upon a fine Carpet of the Verdant Grass to John Mackenzie's House, Dunskeith-Ness, an Inn at the Ferry of Cromarty, which will be about a mile broad. I was agreeably surprized to find John Mackenzie's wife have a charming Hand of Writ. Crossing the Ferry, we arrived at the Town of Cromarty, or Crenach, by 12 o'clock, where of old was a Monastery of Red Friars. See Keith's Catalogue, pag. 243. Here we visited St. Regulus's or Rule's Chapel (7), on the Top of a green Mount up South-East from the Town, and nigh to the Castle of Cromarty, the Seat of Urquhart of Do. We dined with Mrs Reid, daughter of the late Baillie John Stewart, of Inverness. After Dinner we visited Mrs Bayne, Daughter of the Revd. Mr Bernard MacKenzie, Pastor of Cromarty in 1688 (8), who would by no means comply with the new Powers. The Frith of Cromarty is of such a Length and Depth, and has such fine Moorings, that, I am persuaded, all the Fleet of England might ride at Anchor in it. At ye Mouth of it are two Hills or Promontories, one on each side, commonly called the Sutors of Cromarty, from whence there is a proverb, viz., We'll meet before the Sutors of Cromarty meet.

The Town of Cromarty has a pleasant situation, though on the North Side of an Hill, and at the Foot of it, being close upon the Frith, and [having] an excellent natural Harbour of a Beach of Sand. We left Cromarty between 6 and 7 o'clock, and returned to Dunskeith-Ness, where we had left the Chaise and Horses. Here we drank some glasses of good Wine, for which honest John and his Wife would take no Money, till I forced it upon them; and, when they found me positive, they said - "Well, then, Sir, you must take our Bottle," and insisted keenly upon it; but I would not yield to their kind Importunity. We arrived at MacLeod of Cadboll's between 8 and 9 o'clock, being five miles from the Ferry, Dr MacKenzie parting from us at the Head of the fore-said Back-Bay, it being then High-Water.

Friday, July 30

Mr Stewart and I dined at Renie, the House of MacCulloch of Glastullich, a mile only from Cadboll, whither we returned, after Tea. Dr MacKenzie met us at Renie. Before Dinner, Mr MacCulloch went with me to visit the Ruinous Church of Ferne, of old an Abbacy of

Praemonstratenses, or White Friars. See Keith's Catalogue, pag. 247. The Roof of Flag-Stones, with part of a side-wall, was beat down in an instant by Thunder and Lightning on Sunday, Octr. 10, 1742, and so smash'd and bruised 40 persons, that they were scarcely to be discovered who or what they were; and, therefore, were buried promiscuously, without any manner of Distinction. The Gentry, having, luckily, their Seats in the Niches, were saved from the Sudden Crash, as was the Preacher by the Sounding-Boards falling upon the Pulpit, and his bowing down under it. Great Numbers were wounded. See Scots Magazine for 1742, pag. 485. But there is a most material circumstance not mentioned, which has been carefully concealed from the Publishers, and it is this. By a providential event this was the first Sunday that the Revd., and often mentioned, Mr John Stewart (9) had a congregation near Cadboll, in view of Ferne; whereby many lives were saved, as the Kirk was far from being so throng as usual, and that he and his people, upon coming out from worship, and seeing the dismal Falling-in just when it happened, hastened with all speed to the afflictive Spot, and dragged many of the Wounded our of the Rubbish, whose Cries would have pierced a Heart of Adamant. Had not this been the happy case, I speak within Bounds when I say 2, if not 3, to one would have perished. Some of the wounded died (10).

This Church has been a large and lofty Building, as the Walls are very high, and still standing. I viewed in it the Tomb, in a Niche, of an Abbot, with his Effigies of Stone entire and at full length. There is only one line of an Inscription, but somewhat defaced. However, I thought I could read - Hic jacet Finlaius, Abbas de Fern. Anno M. CCCC. The other Figures are quite wore out or broken off. Rather than be at the Charges of placing a new Roof upon the old, grand structure, they have built a little, diminutive [Kirk} hard by it, as a Patch to set off the Beauty of the August Ruine. Such is the Presbyterian Taste.

Saturday, July 31

Glastullich and his Lady came to Cadboll and dined there. Before Dinner we all took a pleasant Walk to View Cadboll's artificial Mount, about a mile East from his House. It is a four-sided Figure, drawing to a point on Top, from whence you have the view of nine Shires, and about 32 Feet of perpendicular Height. It ascends by Steps, at the Bottom of which Whins are laid to prevent idle people or Cattle from ascending it, as there is long Grass upon it. Cadboll uses to add so much Earth to it every year to increase its Height.

Cadboll is a most charming seat on the South Side of a Rising Ground, with a Natural Grass-Avenue of an easy Descent till you come to a High green Bank on the Murray-Frith, a full view of which you have, with the opposite coasts of Murrayshire and Inverness-shire, from any Part of the Seat. He has two large, fine Gardens, one [on] each side of the Avenue, with very high Walls of good Stone and Lime, and great Plenty of Fruit in them, and yet a very indifferent House to live in. He has the valuable Property of a White Fishing upon the Murray-Frith, and keeps the best of Wines in his House. I drank Claret with him above 12 years in his custody. He is a great Antiquarian and Medalist, having, perhaps, the best Collection of Scots Coins, Copper, Silver, and Gold, from the first Penny of each down to the present Time, of any Gentleman whatsoever; and, to complete the character, he has an excellent Library of Books. The Bishop of Ossory, spying his Mount at some distance, asked what it was, and would by all means take a View of it. When upon the Top of it, he admired it greatly, and said it behoved the Gentleman who had contrived and effected it to be a curious Person indeed; and then he made particular Inquiry about him; for so poorly and indifferently had his Lordship been directed, that he had never [once] heard that such a Man existed, though he had lodged a night within a mile of Cadboll's House, which being pointed to him at length from the Mount, he went directly to it, spent about two Hours with Cadboll, and was agreeably surprised to find the Scots Coins to be much older than what he had supposed, Cadboll

giving him presents of some, of which he had Duplicates. In a word, he plainly declared he would have been very sorry if he had miss'd seeing such a Gentleman, as being one of the greatest Rarities he had ever met with in all his Travels; and so much was he taken with what he saw or heard at Cadboll, that, in token of his singular pleasure, after his Return to London, he sent Cadboll a present of his 4 Vols. of Travels in Folio, elegantly bound, with a copy of his Sermon at Magdalen's Hospital, and of a Pamphlet giving an Account of its Foundation, etc. A polite Letter accompanied the handsome Present, which I saw [and] read, and in which his Lordship said, among other Things, that he had attended a Sale of medals at London upon Cadboll's [account], but that he saw nothing there worthy of one of his Taste.

Augt. 1 - 8th Sunday after Trinity

I confirmed Lady Cadboll in the Morning, and performed Worship, Morning and Evening, to about 20 persons in Cadboll's Dining-Room, preaching from 1 S. John 4, 8 - God is Love. This was the first time that ever England's Book of Common Prayer had been used in Cadboll's House (11), he being so keen a Scotsman, that he would have nothing to do with England at all; insomuch that he is for disuniting the two Kingdoms altogether in every Respect, and for having a King over Scotland alone independent of England, and let the English have a King for themselves. Knowing his Trim well, I gave a Toast the first night I was in his House, that pleased him extremely, viz., To the Renewal of the old Achaian League between Scotland and France. Looking wistfully at me, he said - "If you please, sir, where met you with that Toast?" "Why, sir," said I, "it is not a new, but an usual, Toast with me." "I thought," said he, "such a Toast as that had belonged only to us Patriots." "Very good, sir," said I; "and don't you think me one of that number? I can assure you I am as much a Patriot as any one ought to be." This naturally paved the way to a friendly Arguing in his own favourite manner, and he soon discovered his political principles, as above. To which I answered - "But, pray, sir, consider, if our Kings have as good a Right to England as to Scotland, why divest them of any part of their Right? Let them have all they ought to have." "Ay, but, sir," said he, "their original Right was in Scotland; and we ought to have nothing to do with England, as such a Connection is not for the Interest of Scotland." "True, sir," said I, "in part, and, if properly explained. For instance, let yre be an Union of the Crowns, but not of the Kingdoms. Let us, therefore, break the late Union in 1707, and then we will have our own Parliaments, and be governed by our own Laws." "Ay" said he, "and by our own King, too, and England by a King of her own." "Well, sir," said I, "methinks I need not go far to make a Supposition, which, I hope, will clear up the Point, and let us see it in a true light. You have a good Estate in Scotland, and thereby your original Right is on Scots Ground; suppose, then, that a Blood Relation of yours has an opulent fortune in Germany; he dies, and you are his undoubted Heir. Will you relinquish your just Title to this same opulent Estate in Germany because your original Right is in Scotland? I know not. You would keep both." This occasioned an hearty Laugh; but the old Patriot did stick close to this Tackling, and would by no means part with his own favourite Plan of political Principles.

Monday, Augt. 2nd

Set out from Cadboll by 9 o'clock, and we were not far gone till an Express was after us, earnestly requesting that we might [be] there again upon our Return. We breakfasted with Glastullich, who and his Lady gave us the convoy over to Tayne in one of the pleasantest Roads I ever travelled over Sand, and then a green Plain of three miles and about nine miles in Circumference along the Frith of Tayne, upon which fine plain of Nature-Grass I saw at least 1000 Sheep browsing. This would be one of the best Fields for a Horse-Course, being quite level, and not a Stone upon it. We came to Tayne, a Royal Burgh, 'twixt 1 and 2 o'clock. It is called, in Galic, St Duthus's Town, as it was of

old a Collegiate Church in Honour of St Duthacus (12). See Keith's Catalogue, pag. 289. You see the Ruines of St Duthacus's Chapel on a green Hill near the Town. Tho' it be distant from Inverness only 16 miles, yet I made it 59 by the Criss-Cross way I travelled in visiting the Gentlemen's Families. We put up at the [to which I had sent my Servts and Horses before I came to Cadboll] House of one Mrs Ross, a very good Tavern [where I found that Cadboll had paid the Bill for me]. We had no sooner done with Dinner than a message came to me with Compliments from one Mr Innes, from Edr., desiring to speak with me in the next Room. I went accordingly, and finding him to be my acquaintance, son of Innes [of] Natrie, and Surveyor General of the Stamp-Duties, I saluted him thus - "O, Natrie! your humble Servant. What has brought you here?" "Even, my Lord," said he, "to help you to visit your diocese." "Very well, my Lord Surveyor General," said I; "and I will be glad to travel under the Protection of your Wings." "Well, well," said he; "even sit down and take a Glass of Wine, and then we shall talk more about it." "No, no," said I, "you have only one Gentleman with you, whereas I have several in Company with me; and, therefore, as I have the greater number, you must even take up your Bottles and Glasses, and come along with me." "All fair, in troth," said he; "and so be it then." After being seated, and taking a Glass or two, he asked me how far I intended to travel Northward. "Just," said I, "till the sea hold me again, even to Thurso, in Caithness." "Very good. I am glad to hear that," said he, "for I intend the same Length; and, if you please, I will be glad of your Company." "With all my heart," said I; "and indeed, George, I repeat my former Compliment, and I will gladly move under the Protection of your Wings." "Agreed, my Friend," said he: "But you are just upon the wing. Where intend you to take up your Abode all Night? And what Time will you be at Dornock to-morrow?" "I intend," said I, "to sleep this night at a private Gentleman's House at the other Side of the Mickle-Ferry; and though I could take Breakfast to-morrow at Dornock, I chuse rather to dine there, in order to wait your motions." Thus our Route was settled. Several jocular Stories pass'd between him and me, qch made the Gentleman that dined with me gaze with Admiration to see an Officer of the Revenue and me so easy, frank, and free together. Good Mr Stewart, in particular, was not a little surprised, and even delighted with it.

We left the chaise at Tayne, and took to Horseback, Mr Stewart having got a Horse sent after him from MacKenzie's of Scotsburn, as there is no Chaise-Road through Caithness, but through Sutherland a Machine may drive very well. We visited at Cambuscurrie, near ye Mickle-Ferry, the widow of Sutherland of Bogsie, of facetious Memory, and her Sister. We were obliged to wait long at the Mickle-Ferry, as the Boats were all on the other Side. This passage belongs to Cadboll, and will be [about] two miles in breadth.

[Bishop Forbes' Journal then continues to describe his journey through Sutherland and Caithness until he returns to Cadboll during the evening of 14 August (1762)]

Augt. 15 - 10th Sunday after Trinity

I read prayers, and preached, Forenoon, from Num. 23. 10, and Afternoon, from Rom. 12.15. After Matins, as I was going up to my Room, Cadboll asked me where I was going? "To confirm Mrs Bettie Sutherland," said I. "If you please, Sir," said he, "I desire to share in that Benefit." "What," said I, "Cadboll, you was acquainted with Bp. Rose of Edr., Bps. Keith and Gillan, etc. (12), and yet have you never been confirmed?" "Never," said he. "Then, Sir," said I, "gladly do I embrace the opportunity of complying with your Desires." Accordingly, he and Miss Sutherland were confirmed in Presence of the Revd. Mr John Stewart and Lady Cadboll, and very much to their good Liking.

Monday, Augt. 16

When ready to set out, Cadboll, eagerly supported by his Lady, fell upon several kind Inducements to Keep us a Day or two longer; and when they could not prevail, Cadboll said, "We must not part so; come, let us have a glass of wine;" and, indeed, he obliged us to drink several Glasses of Frontinac, which Mr Stewart declared to me afterwards he had never seen Cadboll do with any Company whatsoever, as, indeed, he is a Gentleman of the strictest Sobriety. With much ado we got off quarter before 10 o'clock. On the Highway, about a mile from Cadboll, we came to a Short Obelisk, which an Inscription upon it engraved from Top to Bottom, and fixed on a Pedestal; but there is no more legible than Abbas de Fern. What precedes appears to be Malcomus, but is so defaced and overgrown with moss that there is no making it out. In travelling on we were in View of the Castle of Balnagowan, where are the Greatest Plantations of Firs to be seen anywhere; insomuch, that reckoning each Tree at only at 6 pence sterl., it is computed they would give more Money than the Value of the whole Estate, which is 20,000 Merks Scots a-year.

We came to Milntown, Dr MacKenzie's House, half after 11, and then to Ulladale, the House of MacKenzie of Scotsburn, at 1, where I confirmed Charles and Margaret MacKenzies, children of the late Scotsburn. Ulladale has an excellent South Exposure, with Gardens declining easily to the Sun at his Meridian altitude, and is in View of the Firs of Balnagowan. Mr Wm. MacKenzie, Schoolmaster at Tain, met us at Ulladale, which we left at 6 o'clock, and came to Balcony at 8, qn Inchcoulter told me that the Day after I left Balcony, on my Journey to Caithness, Sir Hary Munro had sent his Gentleman with a polite Card inviting me to Foulis-Castle; which I was glad to hear, and told Inchcoulter he should have the appointing of the Day, as he was to favour me with his Company.

Tuesday, Augt. 17

Went to Newton, the Seat of Munro of Culcairn, in Company with Inchcoulter and Mr J. Stewart, and dined there. Culcairn is a Gentleman of great Address, and one of the best Farmers in Scotland. He has made an excellent Garden of 2-1/2 acres out of a Bogue or Morass in his Wood, and has much good Fruit, many Shrubs and Flowers, and a Pond with Trout in it. His Grounds produce the best of Wheat, and he has erected a Flour-Miln for dressing it. His House lies very low, and is yet quite dry by his good policy of Sunk-Fences and proper Drains. We drank here the best of Strong Ale, Claret of Vintage, '49 and good Coffee, made of his own Wheat. In our return to Balcony we made a short visit to Mr Robertson (11), preacher at Kiltearn, and Brother to Mr Robertson, at Kirk of Clyn.

A later entry:

Friday, Augt. 27

In the Morning, Donald MacRah, Catechist, presented to me one Murdock Mackay for Confirmation, whom he had brought from Ross-shire, which was done accordingly, after that Mr John Stewart had discoursed the man in Galic. After Matins, Mr Stewart and I paid some visits, and I bought two pairs of black Stockings from Mr Hugh Fraser.

Mr Stewart having informed me that Culcairn had made him a present in Gold at Foulis-Castle, though he himself be a Whig and a Presbyterian, I thought myself obliged to write him a Letter of Thanks, and the more so as Culcairn never fails to make Mr Stewart such a present when he happens to see him in Rosshire. Here follows a Copy of that Letter, which was addressed thus:

To John Monroe of Culcairn, Esqre., at Newton.

Sir, - Not to insist upon the polite and elegant manner in which we were entertained at Newton and Foulis-Castle, I think myself obliged to testify a grateful Resentment of that particular and most seasonable Place in your Regard, with which you are pleased repeatedly to favour Mr Stewart. All I can say is that if it ever be in my Power to tender you the Smallest Service, you may with Freedom command,

Sir,
Your most grateful well-wisher,
And very humble Servant,
Robert Forbes
Inverness, Aug. 27, 1762.

Wednesday, Augt. 18

At Matins I churched Mrs MacKenzie, Inchcoulter's eldest Daur., who had been delivered of a child, baptized by Mr Lud. Grant, a day or two after my going for Caithness. Taking leave of Lady Inchcoulter and the young Family, Mr Stewart and I set out for Foulis-Castle, the Seat of Sr. Harry Munro (12, and came there by 12 o'clock. It is one of the most delightfully sited Places I ever saw, and a mighty fine House, in View of Cromarty-Frith, adorned with fine Gardens, abounding in a Variety of Fruits, and with Vast Woods, natural and artificial. Here is an Avenue down to the Frith, which is a great Deceptio Visus. You would imagine it very short, and that you would come instantly to the Frith; where it is a large English mile in length, having a little Rising near the House, and then descending wt an easy Step to the Bay. We walked into the Gardens, and Down this Avenue, before Dinner, and, by turning to the Right, Westward, we came to a pretty Den, or Hollow, of natural and artificial Wood, with a small Brook in the Bottom, and here we saw some of the finest young Ashes one can behold. Then we went upon the Balcony of the House, where we had an extensive prospect of Cromarty-Bay, and a commanding View of a rich Country of Corn Fields. Sr. Hary, a most agreeable and entertaining Gentleman, has a large Library, with two Globes in it, the Celestial and the Terraqueous. In the Dining-Room, a large Square next to a Cube, are two Fine Pieces of Painting, a Closet piece of the blessed Virgin with the Babe, and Elizabeth offering him an Apple, all at full length in Miniature on Wood; the other by Michael Angelo, a large full Length of Time, Cutting the Wings of Cupid asleep. In a word, Foulis-Castle is quite elysian, in a most charming Site, decorated with finished Policies, and may truly be term'd a princely Seat. After Dinner we were kindly importuned to stay all night; but that was not at all convenient, and, therefore, we took our Departure at 6 o'clock. We called for Baillie Colin MacKenzie and Mrs Williamson in Dingwall, and then went up the fertile Valley of Strathpeffer, where, passing the Kirk of Foddardy, we called at Keppock, the House of Alexr. MacKenzie of Lentren. We came to Castle-Leod quarter after 8, where one Capn. John MacKenzie now lives. It is one of the Seats of the Earl of Cromarty, and has been a Strong-Hold, the walls in some Parts being nine feet Thick. It looks down upon all Strathpeffer, and may well be resembled to a stately Landlord sitting at the Head of his own Table. At the foot of Strathpeffer, upon a rising ground, is the Castle of Tulloch, the Seat of the Chief of the name of Bain, or Bayne, or Bane; but now, alas! out of the possession of that name altogether. Castle-Leod has a large Hall or Dining-Room, of about 36 by 18 Feet, and 16 high, upon a Vault.

Thursday, Augt. 19

Left Castle-Leod half after 10. Came to Kinellan half before 12, and there confirmed Margt. MacDonald, Daugr. of MacDonald, late of Kirkibost, in the Long Isle. Came to Contin at 12, where we put up at the House of Donald Reoch, who, not being at Home, Mrs Reoch, sister to Mr John Stewart's Bosom-Friend, entertained us very kindly. The Kirk of Contin is upon an Island, formed by the water of Contin, and is only thatched, as is also the Minister's House. Hard by Contin is the Seat of Sr. Alexr. MacKenzie of Coul, beautified with Wood and Water, who and his Lady not being at home, we were invited to meet them at Fairburn, where we dined accordingly with a numerous Company. The Tower of Fairburn upon an high Eminence, is a lofty Tower of five Stories and Garrets, only one Room on a Floor. Here I saw two Cupples of a Creel House, which the late Fairburn had carefully preserv'd in their own Place, by building up stone and lime Walls upon them, and making a Dining-Room upon the Ground where they stand. They are of oak, and near a yard in Breadth. After Dinner the Gentlemen proposed to go down the Hill to see the Cascade of Water upon Orran between two Rocks, called the Lin of Fairburn, which Consists of Four Falls from Rock to Rock for ordinary, but, when the Water Swells with Rain, it forms but one great Fall. These

Rocks are of a very singular Composition; for they appear as not one Solid Piece, but as if they were Pebbles, or pieces of Rock, some not bigger than one's Hand, joined together by some natural Cement. Here we saw the Diversion of fishing in a very peculiar Manner. A country-fellow throws a Line, or rather, indeed, a Rope, wt a strong Hook at the End of it, into ye Hole or Pool into which the Cascade discharges itself, having a Piece of Lead near ye Hook to sink it down to the Bottom; and then he pulls up his Line on a Sudden, and it is odds, but he hooks a Salmon on in one Place or another of its Body, so numerous are they for ordinary in that Pool. He had not thrown about three or four times till he hooked one, and the Gentleman called to him to let the Fish play a while; and, when taken to Land, it was hooked by the Tail. This method of Fishing was not known hereabouts till 1716, when a Garrison of Swiss, in the Tower of Fairburn, taught them it. We made a Short Visit at Highfield, and slept at Mackenzie's of Ord, whose Great-Grandfather was a stout old Cavalier, for, hearing one Day that a Party of Cromwellians were to set out from Inverness, in order to raise Contributions, or levy Money at Pleasure, got together some bold hardy Men like himself, and made the Cromwellians retreat wt speed, upon which a Process ensued. It was then that the Custom to call a Gentleman of small Fortune only Good man of such a place, and he being so termed in the Libel, an Officer that had been in the Command and had witnessed the reolute Behaviour of Ord, and, perhaps, had been roughly handled by him, stood up in the Court, and cried out, "No, no, by no means Good man of Ord, but Evil man of Ord!"

Friday, Augt. 20

Got up in the morning and wrote a Licence for Donald MacRah to be catechist at Arphphily and Ord, and then went off at quarter before 10 to visit Alexr. Mackenzie at Ardnacrask, who, not being at Home, we immediately set out to visit Beaulieu, now Bewly, being the Ruines of a Priory, or Monastery, of Monks of a Strict order.

Bishop Forbes' journey through Ross and Cromarty ends here, and he returns to Leith, through Inverness-shire and Perthshire, on Thursday, 2 September, 1762, having been absent for 53 days and having expended £38.4s.6d on his travels.

He concludes -

Soli Deo, Patri, Filio, Spirituique Sancto, sit Laus et Gloria, in Secula Seculorum.
Amen et Amen

N.B. After my Return to Leith I sent books [such as Rattray's Liturgia Jacobi, Keith's Catalogue of Scots Bps., Holloway's Originals, His Letter and Spirit, Dissertation on Jacob's prophecy, Gen. 49, 10, etc. etc. etc.] in Presents to several Persons in Ross-shire (Rd. Mr Lud. Grant, Rhod. MacKenzie at Killean, Mathieson of Bennagefield, Wm. MacKenzie of Suddie, Thos. MacKenzie of Ord, Thos. MacKenzie of Highfield, Geo. MacKenzie of Allangrange, Wm. MacKenzie of Pitlundie, Alexr. MacKenzie of Inchcoulter, Dr Alexr. MacKenzie, MacUlloch of Glastullich, MacLeod of Cadboll, Sr. Harry Munro of Foulis-Castle, John Munro of Culcairn, Alexr. MacKenzie at Ardnacrask, MacKenzie, Tutor of Kelcoy, MacKenzie of Reidcastle, Sr. Alexr. MacKenzie of Coull, Leslie of Findrassie, Lady Kelcoy, Miss Bettie Sutherland, Colin Reid, Postmaster at Fortrose, and Mr Wm. MacKenzie, Schoolmaster, Tain]

FOOTNOTES TO BISHOP FORBES' JOURNAL

- (1) Cathedral of Ross - "The Cathedral Church, dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Boniface, stood at the Chanonry (now Fortrose) about a mile west from the Parish Church. When entire it consisted of choir and nave, with aisles, eastern Lady Chapel, western tower, and chapter house at the north-east; its remains consist of 'the south aisle to chancel and nave, and the detached chapter house, all in the middle pointed style'. The seal of the chapter, now used as that of the Burgh, bears the figures of Saint Peter and Saint Boniface, and the inscription: Sigillum Sanctorum Petri et Bonifacii de Rosmarkin. A large old bell, now hung in a modern spire, bears the name of Thomas Tulloch, Bishop of Ross, the date 1460, and an inscription intimating its dedication to the Virgin Mary and Saint Boniface." - *Origines Paroch*, Sect. ii, ii, 582. "Only a small part of the ancient Cathedral now remains. This seems to have been a wing that ran from east to west, with an arched roof, about 100 feet in length and 30 in breadth. It had a communication, by entries or porches, with the main body of the Cathedral. It was preserved and repaired by some of the bishops since the restoration as a place for public worship; but it has long since fallen into a state of decay, and is only now used for the purpose of interment." - *New Stat. Acct.*, 14, p. 351.
- (2) Bishop Leslie, about the year 1578, describes 'the house and place of the Chanonry' as the Bishop's Palace, situated not far from the dwellings of the Canons, and in splendour and magnificence inferior to few in the Country." - *De Gestis Scotorum*, p. 17, quoted in *Orig. Par. Scot.*, 2, 2, 591.
- (3) Rev James Urquhart - His name appears in an address to the then Primus in 1758, as one of the Presbyters of Ross and Caithness. He was a native of the Diocese, and lies buried in the churchyard of Urquhart. One of his female descendants is still alive (1885) in Fortrose at the age of 91.
- (4) Formerly minister of Cawdor. Licensed by Presbytery of Haddington 1734. Translated to Urray 1749; had D.D. from King's College, Aberdeen. Died 1787, aged 81. His wife, here mentioned as a "most genteel person, and extremely well bred", was Ann Spence, who died at Forres 1793, aged 78. - *Fasti Scot.*, vol. v., 249, 306.
- (5) My Custom - It appears that, when Confirmation was generally revived in the Scotch Episcopal Church in the early part of the 18th century, whole Congregations shared in the holy rite, and different uses existed. The Sign of the Cross, etc., taken from the first book of Edward, was used by most of the Bishops, and is still frequently employed in the Northern Dioceses.
- (6) Richard Pococke, an English clergyman's son, who was successively Precentor of Waterford, Archdeacon of Dublin, Bishop of Ossory and Bishop of Meath. After having travelled in Egypt, Palestine, etc., he published a narrative of his journeys. When in Scotland, "in search of the picturesque", he visited many of the English or "qualified" congregations, and confirmed in them all. He died unmarried. His sister was wife to the Rev. Joseph Bingham, author of the well-known "Antiquities of the Christian Church". See *Mant's History of Church of Ireland*, ii, pp. 623-7.
- (7) Between 1561 and 1566, Sir Andro Robertson was Chaplain of the Chaplainry of Saint Regule, in the diocese of Ross. In 1584, James Burnet held this office, who then granted its lands to Alexander Urquhart. This chapel stood on a detached wooded knoll east of the town of Cromarty. In the last century there was found in a recess in one of the walls an ancient rubricated MS, the fate of which is unknown. - *Origines Par. Scot.*, ii, ii, 560-1.

(8) Rev B. Mackenzie - Instituted by John, Bishop of Ross, 1678, deprived by Act of Parliament, 1690. Retired to Presbytery of Haddington in 1691, and died 1710, leaving with other issue a son Alexander, M.D., Fortrose. He was proprietor of Sandilands, to which his son succeeded. - Scott Fasti, v., 278-9.

(9) The Rev John Stewart, apparently for some years, officiated at Tain and neighbourhood, as this note proves. Moreover, in 1758, "John Stewart" is a subscribing presbyter of Ross, and in 1759 Bishop Alexander of Dunkeld speaks of "Stewart of Tain" as "a sensible, honest man," and fit, in his opinion, and in that of "Mr Abernethie", afterwards Bishop Abernethy Drummond, to be a Bishop. - MS. Glen.; S. Guardian, 1871, pp. 3 and 9.

(10) Duncan Ross was then minister. He "was seriously injured by the falling of the Abbey Church" "which killed thirty-six persons. He was seized with palsy in 1767, which deprived him of his memory and faculties." - Scott Fasti, v., 312-3. The Abbey of Fearn was founded A.D. 1227, by Ferquhard, first Earl of Ross. It was annexed to that bishopric 1607. Mr Patrick Hamilton, Abbot here, was the first who suffered at the inbringing to Scotland of the "reformed" opinions, 1527. A tomb, surmounted by a warrior's effigy, is still pointed out as that of the founder. The Abbey Church consisted of chancel and nave, two chapels to the former, perhaps south aisle to the latter, and nearly wholly first Pointed. After the Bishop's visit, in 1772, the church was repaired and used as the Parish Church again. The names of 21 Abbots of Fearn have been preserved, from "Malcolm of Galloway", 1230, to Walter Ross, Titular, 1597. Another reading of the inscription, subsequently quoted by Bishop Forbes is - Hic Jacet Finlaius M'Fead, Abbas de Fern, qui obiit anno MCCCCLXXXV. (1485) - Gordon's Monasticon, 340-52.

(11) The Common Prayer Book, though introduced into some congregations in Scotland immediately after the Revolution, was in other places very long of being adopted, worship being performed in the extemporaneous way common in use before 1688. In the large congregation in Aberdeen, now S. Andrews, it was not till 1735 that the Prayer Book was used. But, long after that date, changes, alterations, and omissions were allowed. The late Rev. P. Cheyne told the writer that, with the exception of the revered Bishop Jolly, he was the first who used the Athanasian creed in the North. The only vestment was the black gown, even for Bishops, till the end of the 18th century or beginning of the 19th. Then surplices were occasionally used, and Episcopal robes on State occasions.

(12) Tain - A collegiate church dedicated to St Duthacus, who is said to have been born in Tain, afterwards Bishop of Ross, died 1249 or '53, and was buried in that town. In 1487, Thomas, Bishop of Ross, at the instance of King James III, for the weal of his soul, and of the souls of his predecessors and successors, Kings of Scotland, etc., erected the chapel of St Duthus of Tain, Bishop, Confessor and Priest, into a collegiate church for a provost, 5 canons, 2 deacons or sub-deacons, a sacrist, with an assistant clerk and 3 singing boys. The 5 canons or prebendaries were to be priests regularly qualified and trained in morals, literature, and specially singing, and were bound to be present with the other officials at matins, vespers, and other canonical hours, and at masses in good surplices, made at their own expense, and to sing at the mass De corpore every Thursday. The whole of the officials were to reside constantly in the college. Pope Innocent III confirmed the foundation, 1492. The collegiate church, which is still standing, consists of a chancel, nave, a chapel, a south porch, detached tower, and a detached chapel. An old carved pulpit given by the Regent Murray is still preserved. - Origines Par. Scot., ii, ii, 416, et seq. Nicholas Ross, provost of the church, and abbot of Fearn, sat and voted for the abolition of the Roman power in the Parliament of 1560. He died 1569. - Gordon Mon., 362. King James IV made seven different

pilgrimages to this shrine. The Rev. Robert Ross, MA, incumbent at the Revolution, was "deposed", 1699, for refusing to acknowledge the authority of the Presbytery. - Fasti, v., 309.