

o

A

HISTORY

OF THE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE

DIOCESE OF CAITHNESS

BY

THE REV. J. B. CRAVEN, D.D.

RECTOR OF ST. OLAF'S CHURCH, KIRKWALL

KIRKWALL

WILLIAM PEACE & SON

1908

# CONTENTS.

---

## CHAPTER FIRST.

### UP TO THE FOUNDATION OF THE BISHOPRIC.

Cultus of St. Ninian—and St. Martin, St. Barr or Finbar—His Image preserved in Barra—Dornoch identified with his Personality—Barris Fair—St. Fergus—Kildonan—Donnan of Ega—St. Drostan—Carved Crosses at Thurso—The Ulbster Stone—Lives of the Earlier Saints—St. Duthus of Tain—Lived near Dornoch—Church at Lybster—Other early Dedications—St. Modan—Criech—St. Devenick—Hospital of St. Magnus at Spittal . . . . . PAGE 1

## CHAPTER SECOND.

### THE EARLIEST BISHOPS.

Extent of Bishopric—Halkirk the first Episcopal Church—St. Voloc of Dunmeth—Description of the Northern People—Perils of Missionaries—Andrew the first Bishop—Others nominal—Darrus—Christian—John—Refused obedience to Rome—Blinded at Scrabster—Invokes St. Tredwell—Adam of Melros—Duty of Butter—Increased—Refused by Inhabitants—Burned—Wyntoun's Description—King Alexander's Anger and Vengeance—Harald's Gift to Scone . . . 8

## CHAPTER THIRD.

### BISHOP GILBERT AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE CATHEDRAL AT DORNOCH.

Agencies of Feudal System—Closer Union of the Church to Rome—Grants of Burghal Privileges—Arrival of Sutherland Family—William first Earl—New Bishop, Gilbert de Moravia, Archdeacon of Moray, Cousin of Earl William—A great Builder—Founder and Builder of Dornoch Cathedral—Constitution granted—Still preserved—1223-1245—Lincoln chosen as Model—Cathedral Dedicated to St. Mary and St. Bar—Different Dignitaries and their Churches—Site of Building—Description by Neale—St. Gilbert—Collect for his Festival—Miracles—Miracles in Civilization of Province . . . 12

## CHAPTER FOUR.

## MIEVEAL HISTORY.

Early History of St. Gilbert given by Spottiswood—At Council of Northampton—Translated Psalms and Gospels into Gaelic—Built Sorabster—Successors mere Names—Alan de St. Edmund friend of Edward I.—Grant of Wood—Proposed Marriage of Edward and Maid of Norway—King Robert confirms Constitution—Bishop Mudy—Family—Will of Sinclair of Dunbeath, 1456—Provisions—His Son Eraden of Caithness—Sanctuary rights granted—Next Bishops—Andrew Stewart—Early Wick Charter—Robert Stewart—Elect and Administrator—Charges against Earl of Caithness for Excesses—Bishop at Dornoch in 1549—Earl lays violent hands on Priests—Arche Keyth—His Servant—Violent and Profane—Curate of Bowar assaulted at Easter—Ornaments of Church of Far removed—Character of this Earl—Church Buildings—Wick—Thurso—Two Churches there—St. Peter's—Kirk at the Ebb—Officials—Seals . . . PAGE 17

## CHAPTER FIFTH.

## BISHOP ROBERT STEWART.

Bishop Stewart—of Royal Descent—Provost of Dumbarton—Early History—Accepts Reformation—Plants Kirks—Earl of Caithness opposes Reformation—Stewart a Privy Councillor—Cathedral—Bishop assists Earl in seizing Earl of Sutherland—Sutherland of Ewelioh opens St. Gilbert's Grave—Treats the Relics with Indignity—His Loathsome End—Bishop Stewart presides at Inauguration of Douglas—Reforming Party at St. Andrews—Love of Golf and Good Cheer by Bishop—He Marries—Divorced—His Servants appear before Kirk Session of St. Andrews—His Tomb—at Sorabster in 1565—Institutes Boirthuik as Dean there—Indignities at Cathedral Church—Kindness of Bishop to Nicolson . . . . . 24

APPENDICES.—1. Notes as to Bishop Stewart's Seals . . . . . 29  
2. John Elder . . . . . 30

## CHAPTER SIXTH.

## THE REFORMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF CAITHNESS.

The Poisoning of the Earl of Sutherland in 1567—Portrait of Countess of Sutherland—holding a String of Beads—Y Mackay—State of Strathnaver—Planting of Kirks, Readers, &c., in 1567—Dornoch, William Gray Exhorter—Lesly—Old Clergy conform—Sir Donald Reid—Sir Robert Ferne—Sir William Reid—Bradie or Brady—Prebendary of Helmsdale—Hospital there—James Brady Archdeacon—Roman Party keep Chapel at Glutt—Eyersden Priest—Holy Grass at Thurso—Veneration of Images—St. Fergus—Prunto—Name in Later Times—Archdeacon Watsoun—at Canisbay, Dunnet, and Bower—Description of a Book—Voragine's *Legenda Aurea*—formerly his Property—Notes on this Book . . . . . 32

CHAPTER SEVENTH.

COMMISSIONER PONT AND HIS SONS; THE TWO  
"CONSTANT MODERATORS."

John Gray of Fordell, Commissioner—Grahame, Archdeacon of Ross—  
Archdeacon Innes—Walter Innes, Vicar of Thurso—Pont—Provost  
of Trinity College, Minister of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh—Offered  
See of Caithness—Assembly declines to allow him to be Bishop—  
Son Timothy—Parson of Dunnet—Family—Smith, Minister of  
Dunnet—Zachary Pont—Minister at Bower—Wounded by Mudie  
of Melsetter at Walls in Orkney—Sutherlandshire—Family of Paip  
or Pape—from Elgin—William Paip, Commissioner—Constant  
Moderator—Consistent Supporter of Episcopacy—Thomas Paip of  
Rogart—Nearly Murdered—Relic of Paip of Dornoch—A Little  
Volume of Rare Pamphlets—1609—Saul Bruce, Constant Moderator  
of Caithness—Family—Stanstill—Mowats of Buquhollie—Monu-  
ment at Canisbay—David Bruce of Odrig. . . . . PAGE 38

APPENDIX.—List of Succession of Bishops of Caithness, from MS. at  
Dunrobin. . . . . 45

CHAPTER EIGHTH.

BISHOP GLADSTANES.

Reader of Montrose 1585, Minister of St. Andrews—Character of great  
"pairs"—Nominated Bishop 1600—Admitted to Privy Council—  
Doubtful if he visited Caithness—Promoted to be Archbishop of St.  
Andrews—1605—Deeds granted by him—Chapter of Caithness  
Revived—Andrew Ogstoune—Parson of Canisbay—Succeeds Donat  
there—At Canisbay before or at 1602—Connection with Mowat of  
Buquholly—Tutor to Thomas Dempster—who describes him—Seal  
of Bishop Gladstanes—Great Storm, November 1605—partly de-  
stroyed Dornoch Cathedral—Gladstanes' Wife—Family—Daughter  
Married in Orkney—Weemyss. . . . . 46

CHAPTER NINTH.

BISHOP ALEXANDER FORBES.

Alexander Forbes—Student of Heidelberg—Graduate of St. Andrews—  
Pedigree—Aberdeenshire Man—Kinkell Tombstone of Bishop's  
Father—Parliament, 1606—Supports Episcopacy—Parliament,  
1609—Godwin and Milburne—Apparel of Ministers—Bishop  
favours Marquis of Huntly—Consecrated May 1611—at Brechin  
—Deplorable state of Caithness—Bishop admitted Privy Coun-  
cillor—Need of Ministers and Magistrates—Bishop much engaged  
in Politics—Roman Party—Earl of Caithness and Countess  
"Suspect"—Forbes nominated to Aberdeen, 1617—Fuller Restora-  
tion of Episcopacy—William Pape—Thomas, his brother, James

Gray, Ogstoune — all support Episcopacy in Assembly—Letter, Countess of Sutherland in favour of Gray as Bishop—Table of Grays of Skibo—Slab at Dornoch. . . . . PAGE 51

APPENDICES.—1. Notes on the Earlier Clergy of the Name of Gray in the Diocese. . . . . 58  
 2. Archdeacon Richard Merchistoun. . . . . 58  
 3. Note of Tack by Bishop Forbes to Macky Forbes of Strathnaver. . . . . 60

## CHAPTER TENTH.

### BISHOP ABERNETHY.

Of the Family of Mayen—Earlier History—His Copy of *Talæus*—Dream—Calderwood—Holy Communion not administered in Caithness—Commissioner to Linlithgow—Aspirant to See of Glasgow—D.D.—Caithness—Visits it five times—Scrabster—Gavin's Kirk—Assists at Morton's Consecration—Union of Three National Churches—Repair of Dornoch delayed—Dean Gray—King written to by Abernethy—Earl of Caithness obstructs him—Wretched Condition of Peasantry—Lord Berriedale—Abernethy urges Patrick Forbes to accept Aberdeen—John Innes profanes Sacraments—Apprehended, 1621—Bishopric seized by Earl—Archbishops write King as to this—His own Account—Archbishop Law also writes—Synod at Dornoch, 1623—Thurso—Head Courts—Duty payable to Bishop—1633, made Burgh of Barony—Criech—Letter to Sir R. Gordon as to Culmanie—William Abernethy—his Son marries Ulbater's Daughter—Sinclair's History—William Abernethy nearly killed by Ryan at Brawl Castle—Monro of Reay—his Books preserved—Famine—Royal Letter as to Repair of Dornoch—Erection of Parish of Kintail—Church Services—Roman Recruits—Apparel of Churchmen—Proposal of Liturgy—Subsequent History—English Prayer-Book used—Abernethy and old Bishops oppose Liturgy—Result—Berridale supports popular opposition—Assembly of 1638—Account of Proceedings at Abernethy—He submits—but eventually refusing to denounce Episcopacy, is Excommunicated—Scott's Account—Mowat stands for the King—Death—Seal—Johnston's Epigram. . . . . 61

APPENDIX.—Notes as to Sir R. Gordon. . . . . 81

## CHAPTER ELEVENTH.

### BISHOP ABERNETHY AS AN AUTHOR.

"Christian and Heavenly Treatise, containing Physicke for the Soule"—Final Edition, 1630—Latin Addresses to Author—English Addresses—Account of this Work—A quaint and fascinating Style—Work very popular—Copy found in Shetland—Signs, Symptoms, Faculties, Prognostics, Remedies—Proof of Diseases in the Soul—Specimen—Sixth Chapter—Hardness of Heart—Thirty-Fourth Chapter—

Contents—Introduction on Spiritual Sickness in General—Specimens — “Unsatiabie Avarice” — “The Tympany of Pride” — “The Leprosie of Ingratitude” — “The Poysonous Tongue” — “The Gangrene of Heresie” — “The Plague of Discontentment” — “Putride Hypocrisie” — “The Falling Sicknesse or Epilepsie of Apostacie” — “The Excesse of Intemperancy” — Buckle’s Comments on the Work—Edition of 1622—Dutch Edition, 1623—Original Edition of 1615; of this no copy can be found—Dignity and Duty of a Christian—1620—Gal. v. 24—Extracts. . . . . PAGE 82

## CHAPTER TWELFTH.

## INTERREGNUM—1638-1662.

Dr Hamilton appointed to See of Caithness—Never Consecrated—His Advanced Views—Affray in Thurso Church—Lord Reay not in sympathy with Covenant—Ogstoune—Campbell at Bower—Clerk at Latheron—Dornoch—Special Parliamentary Ratification—Montrose—Lands—Tyranny of General Assembly—All the Caithness Clergy but one sign Montrose’s Declaration of Loyalty—Besieges Dunbeath—Leslie’s Army—Montrose’s fate and Execution—Clergy attend Assembly of 1638—Names—Views on Episcopacy—Church Government “ambulatory”—Tower of Thurso Church—Description of Interior—Pictures—Panels—Church Register begins at Thurso, 1647—Canisbay, 1652—Presbytery Record, 1655—Extracts—Elders’ Names—Discipline cases—Canisbay Record—Proceedings—Davidson enters, 1652—English Horsemen there—Calling Names—Smith of Watten—Witchcraft—Many “slighting the word”—Stroma people—Schoolmaster—Maddane’s Chapel visited—“Gray-coat,” a Witch—Elders “negligent”—Invoking the Devil—Olig—Dunnet—Thurso—“Plays”—Keiss—Stroma—Joggs—Synod at Kirkwall—Minister in Orkney—Allerdes—Elders and Deacons in Canisbay—Selch floated on “Sabbath”—Yule Day—Stroma—Minister sick—Baptisms at Canisbay—Presbytery Record—First Minute, 1654—Clergy present—Davidson—Monro at Thurso—William Abernethy—Reay—Watten—Geddes first mentioned—Settled at Wick—1659—Smart—People “semi-barbarous”—Cromwell’s Troops—at Ackergill—Itinerating Clergy in Reay’s country . . . . . 94

APPENDIX.—Story of William Smith—Comments . . . . . 113

## CHAPTER THIRTEENTH.

## THE RESTORATION.

Three Principal Clergy in Caithness at Restoration—Davidson of Canisbay, Monro of Thurso—Geddes of Wick—History of Davidson—Goes to South Ronaldshay—Extracts from Canisbay Record—Synod at Dornoch, 1661—Shipwreck of “Hollanders”—Watty Laird—

“Halling of Dulses” and taking of “Lubster” on Lord’s Day—  
 Thurso—Monro—Settled 1655—Wife and Family—Character—  
 Panel with his Arms—His Copy of Boyd on the Ephesians, a huge  
 folio of 1300 pages—His Oath of Canonical Obedience to Bishop  
 Patrick Forbes—Subsequent History—Geddes of Wick—Settled  
 1659—Submits to Episcopacy—Presbytery Clerk—History—Wick  
 Burgh Record—Records of Wick placed in Geddes’ care—An  
 Author—Earl of Caithness moves Presbytery to return thanks for  
 Restoration . . . . . PAGE 116

APPENDIX.—The Rev. William Geddes of Wick as a writer and author. 121

## CHAPTER FOURTEENTH.

### BISHOP PATRICK FORBES.

Unpopularity of the Covenant in the North—People ready to adopt Epis-  
 copacy again—Sydserriff—Consecration of Bishops—Consecration of  
 Forbes and others at Holyrood, 1662—Meeting of Parliament—  
 Bishops introduced—History of Bishop Patrick Forbes—Father—  
 Nephew of Bishop of Aberdeen—Much in Holland—Said to have  
 signed the Covenant—At Delft—Army Chaplain—Chaplain to Earl  
 Balcarres—Called “holy and honest-hearted”—Wife—His Family  
 —Daughter in Orkney—Lady Rusland—Bishop in Thurso in Sept.  
 1662—Presbytery Minute—Holds first Synod in Dornoch Cathedral  
 —Minutes—Those present—Business—Widows of Ministers—Over-  
 tures—Lessons to be read—Catechising ordered—Elders—Excom-  
 munication only to be given by Bishop—Repairing of Churches—  
 Desolation of Sutherland as to Churches and Ministers—Temporary  
 Supply—Thomson—Conventicles—None of these in Diocese. . 127

## CHAPTER FIFTEENTH.

### BISHOP PATRICK FORBES, 1663-1664.

Bishop stays all Winter in Caithness—Ordains Hugh Monro at Watten—  
 Elders there—Visits Wick, 1663—List of Elders—Visitation  
 Inquiries—Elders get a “good testimonie”—give the same of their  
 Minister—Discipline Quickened by Bishop’s Visits—Monros—  
 Durness, “a most wild place”—Alexander Munroe, Minister—his  
 Verses—Bishop Forbes had a “particular regard for him”—Diocesan  
 Synod of 1663 held at Thurso—Sermon by the Bishop—Sederunt—  
 Planting of Schools—Churches mostly Ruinous—Justices of Peace  
 uplift Penalties—Clergy ordered to set about the “celebration of  
 the holic communion”—John Munroe at Reay—for Farre—Davidson  
 “declared” by Bishop to be Dean; Mcky, Chancellor; David  
 Munroe, Treasurer; Gibsoun, Archdeacon—Letter, Bishop to Heri-  
 tors of Farr appointing Munro to serve—Collated by Anderson—  
 Allerdes—Visitation of Thurso—Elders—Minister Recommended—  
 Synod at Dornoch, 1664, Sermon by Bishop—Sederunt—Schools—

Records—Women whose Husbands gone to Barbadoes—Durness Delinquents—John Gray, Student—Rorie Dow—Dunbar at Watten Marries Geddes without Proclamation—Censured—Both Rebuked— Kildonan — Golspie — Tack of Teinds of Farr, &c. — Signa- tures . . . . .	PAGE 135
---	----------

## CHAPTER SIXTEENTH.

## BISHOP PATRICK FORBES, 1665-1680.

Letter of Thanks from Parish of Farr—Latheron—Alexr. Ross settled there—Neill Beaton, Schoolmaster of Thurso—On Trials—Other Clergy—Synod at Thurso, 1668—no Record—John Gray, Assynt— George Gray, Loth—Synod at Dornoch, 1669—Bishop Ordains George Gray at Thurso for Loth—Shilpes—Schoolmaster at Wick— afterwards in Orkney—Oswald Family—Synod to be held at Loth, 1670—Visitation of Canisbay, 1671—Bishop ever busy in Diocese— Robert Munro—Desolate Condition of Sutherland—Young Men pushed on for Ordination—MacCulloch—They are Ordained at Thurso—McIntosh—Farr—Fullartone—Bishop visits Orkney— His Daughter, Lady Russland—Preaches in St. Magnus Cathedral— Bishop MacKenzie—Scapa—Earl of Caithness—Died, 1676— Glenorchy—Earl being Sick, asks Prayers of Church—Cumming— Marriage Connections—Holy Communion Administered at Thurso, 1679—Death of Bishop Forbes, 1680—Legacy to Thurso—A Mort- cloth of Velvet—Forbes observant of Political Duties in Parliament —Attendance—Earl of Sutherland—Lord Reay—Much at home— Puritan Refugees—Sir John Cunningham, a native of Caithness— One of the Noblest Churchmen of this period—Character by Bishop Burnet . . . . .	146
APPENDICES.—1. Notes as to Bishop Forbes' Family . . . . .	155
2. Story as to the "Swearing bishope" . . . . .	157
3. Bishop's Seal . . . . .	158

## CHAPTER SEVENTEENTH.

## BISHOP ANDREW WOOD, 1680-1684.

New Bishop, of Isles and Minister of Dunbar—His Ordained Assistants there—Father—Mother—Sister of Bishop Guthrie of Moray—First at Spott—Records there—At Thurso, 1682—In Session with Lord Breadalbane—Session Rules—Church Doors to be open at "seven of ye morning"—Glenorchy—Altimarlach—Bishop—Re- organising—Presbytery Record—Bishop at Presbytery Meeting, 1682—Oswald on Trial—Man pretending Dumbness—Clunies at Wick—History—Three of his Books—One belonged to Sir Thomas
--

Urquhart—Relations in Cromarty—Diocesan Synod at Thurso, 1682—Minutes—Sederunt—Moderators—Overtures by Bishop—Holy Communion—Acknowledge present Governments—Observation of 29th May—Absences—Visitations—Catechising—Decalogue and Apostles' Creed to be repeated weekly—Reparation of Churches—Lord's Prayer to be used—and Doxologie—Bishop goes south, but returns before winter—Andrew Munro refuses Test, and retires—Elders of Thurso—John Wood now Minister—a relative of the Bishop—Synod, July 1683—at Thurso—Bishop preaches—Sederunt—Minutes defective . . . . . PAGE 159

## CHAPTER EIGHTEENTH.

### BISHOP ANDREW WOOD, 1684-1688.

Great Storm—Macpherson on Trial—James Munro for Dunnet—Violent Opposition to him—Rattar—Synod at Thurso—1686—Bishop in Thurso that year—William Munro—McIntosh admonished for absence—Synod of 1687—Minutes—Marriage only to be given to those instructed—"Belief" at Baptism—Lord's Day—Holy Communion—Anstruther Harbour—Serious Exhortation to Members of Synod—Last Meetings of Presbytery under Bishop Wood—Synod, 1688, at Thurso—Minutes—Sederunt—Committees—Libel by Dempster against John Rosse—Discipline—Orders—Contumacious persons—Thanksgiving for Prince's Birth—Earl of Caithness and Elizabeth Lesly cited—Wood in Caithness—Grant—David Wood—Bishop's Family—Eldest son, Harie—Deprivation, 1689—Bishop retires to Dunbar—Dies, 1695—Family of Gibsone—Clergy—Letter from one—Fragment of a Sermon—Subject—Archdeacon's large family—Particulars—Tarres—John Alexander of Criech—after at Kildrummie—Subsequent cruel fate—Note of Historical continuity with Bishops Alexander and Jolly—Relics of Bishop Wood—Two Books—His Pocket Hebrew Psalms—Monstrous Child of Latheron—Wood's Attendances in Parliament . . . . . 168

## CHAPTER NINETEENTH.

### THE REVOLUTION IN CAITHNESS.

Disestablishment, 1690—Change more Political than Religious—New Establishment—Mackay's Opinion of the Relative Strength of the two Bodies—Carlyle of Inveresk his Opinion—New Result—An Entire Separation between two Beliefs—Thurso—Fast Ordained—but Elders all Refuse to Act—Three new ones Ordained—Andrew Munro returns—his Wife—Will—Death—Succeeded by Innes—who has small Encouragement—New Presbytery—Attack the Episcopal Incumbents—Munro Aisle at Reay—Absentees from Presbyterian Ministration—Forse and Crosskirk—Halkirk "lettergæ"—Iverach

—General Assembly Commissioners—arrive Caithness, 1698—did not Remain—Gentry and People “stick by old ministers”—Bishop’s Rents—His Family left in great Distress—Relieved by the Episcopal Charities—Visitations—Innes of Canisbay—Stroma—No Fault Detected—Sorcery and Witchcraft in Wick—Mary Chapel—Agnes Really picks Presbyterian Minister of Wick’s Pocket—Laird of Rattar a strong Episcopalian—Dunnet—Refuses to Attend there—Beaton of Latheron—Declines Presbyterian Order—Suspended, but taken off—Durness—Cumming—Arthur Anderson—Officers, Marries, and Baptizes—Declines Presbytery—His Defence—Married Broynach to Janet Ewing—Janet Scourged and Rescued—No Discipline for the Earl himself—Dunnet and Ratter—Oswald—Death of Innes—His Tombstone at Canisbay—His Wife’s in Thurso—Oswald’s Tomb in Watten . . . . . PAGE 180

- APPENDICES.—1. Memorandum as to Caithness Clergy at Revolution—Taylor to Bishop Keith, 1749 . . . . . 194
2. Diocese of Caithness at Revolution, probably by Rev. David Lyon, written about 1740 . . . . . 196
3. Tabulation of Caithness Clergy at Revolution, from Scott’s “Fasti” . . . . . 197
4. (1) Rev. John Sinclair of Camus ; (2) Rev. Robert Sinclair of Bulvan . . . . . 198

CHAPTER TWENTIETH.

THE REVOLUTION OF 1688 IN SUTHERLAND.

The Dean located in Sutherland—at Clyne—John Gray, Dean, 1625—Descent—Gray Family—No Church Register preserved—John Ross, Parson of Dornoch—his History—Summoned before Privy Council, 1689—Dead before 1713, when his Widow assisted by Episcopal Charity Fund—New Presbytery—Meet at Criech—Golspie—Discouraging both there and at Dornoch—“little success”—Schoolmaster not subscribed Confession—No shelter from the rain—Kildonan—Hay dead—No Tradesman would repair Cathedral—Nor Obedience given by Heritors—Hector Pape, Loth—Wears a Surplice till his death—Vestments—Witchcraft at Dornoch—Woman Executed—Charmers—1716—No “Intruders” or Meeting-houses—Kirk of Dornoch still roofless—Gray of Assynt—his History—Declines Presbytery—Ordained by Presbytery to give in his Demission by reason of age—Agrees—but his Wife and Children forcibly prevent him—Stories of Gray—his Daughter—“The red-haired lad” . . . . . 201

APPENDIX.—Old Caithness Church Libraries—1. Caithness ; 2. Sutherland . . . . . 206

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIRST.

## BEFORE AND AFTER THE ACT OF TOLERATION.

Latheron—Beaton dies before 13th April 1715—Presbytery's Man obliged to Preach in Churchyard—Synod on Stroma—Kennedy—Sir Alexander Mackenzie—Officiates as Reader—Reported to Synod—Uses Book of Common Prayer—Long Letter of Abuse—Synod Petitions against Toleration—Church Crushed and Oppressed—Toleration Bill introduced into Parliament—Passed by both Houses—Provisions—Bitterly Opposed by Presbyterians—Prayer-Books sent from Oxford—Ulster "signifies" that he was Married by Barkly in Buchan—Barkly Incumbent at Peterhead—his History—James Lyon—Visits Wick—James Lesly—Visits Caithness—in Canisbay—John Gordon Officiates, 1720—Presbytery to Apprehend him—Sinclair of Stemster "disaffected"—Sutherland—Visited by Rev. Alex. Mackenzie, Chaplain to Earl of Cromarty—Officiates in Sutherland by "the Liturgie" . . . . . PAGE 207

## CHAPTER TWENTY-SECOND.

## TAYLOR AND LONGMUIR.

Robert Keith—Appointed Bishop—His History and Consecration—James Taylor—History from 1722—Lerwick—Old Meldrum—Called to Thurso—Copy of original Call—List of Signatures—Correspondence of Taylor and Keith, 1734-1739—Site of Taylor's Meeting-house—Plan of adjoining Properties—Grove Lane—Account of conterminous Proprietors—Further Notes on Taylor's Meeting-house by old People in Thurso—Old Title-Deeds—Taylor's House or Parsonage in Grove Lane—Good Templar Hall erected on site of this—Woodwork—Candlestick found in the ground—William Longmuir of Wick—Native of Grange—Account of pre-Revolution Church—Customs there—One of the Clergy of Edinburgh. . . . . 213

## CHAPTER TWENTY-THIRD.

## THE 1745.

Bishop Keith's appointment confirmed, 1731—Church once more increasing—but the "Auld Stewarts" appear again on the scene—The two "Risings," 1715, 1745—at Thurso—Proprietors in Caithness favour "Stewarts"—Health of Prince openly drunk—1745—Cause warmly espoused—Royalist Troops at Thurso—Billeted—Armed—Badly Clothed—Women all in their favour—No violence done—Taylor's misfortunes after 1745—His own account—Preserved by Bishop Forbes—Chapel burnt—also its contents—Table of Ten Commandments put to the flames—James Sinclair's Letter—Ulster and

Bowermadden—Frances Sinclair—Burray's Tenants—Gilchrist, Presbyterian Minister, flies from Thurso—Sutherland of Forse—Visit Lady Sootscaldler—but go away quietly—Taylor returns—Assembles his Congregation in his house—Severe Penal Statutes—Account of these—Church “minished and brought low” . . . . . PAGE 224

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FOURTH.

### BISHOP FORBES' VISITATION OF CAITHNESS.

Faloonar Consecrated as Keith's Successor—in Caithness when young—New Election, 1761, by Taylor and other three Presbyters of Ross—in favour of Robert Forbes—his Consecration at Forfar—his Letter to Taylor—to visit at once—Journal of 1762—Dornoch—Clyne—Minister there—Struan—Helmsdale—Ord—Ausdale—Langwell—Berrydale—Dunbeath—Causeymire—Auchateebst—Arrive at Thurso—Taylor's condition—Lady Clardon's Description—Street Scenes—Christie Finlayson—Mrs Taylor confined to chair—Campbell of Lothead—Lady Scotscaddel—Mrs Liddell—Dr Liddell—Murray and Pennyland—Scrabster—Holburn Head—Clet—Bishop of Ossory—Dunbar—Bailie Donaldson—Sunday in Thurso—Communion and Confirmation—Bids adieu to Taylors—Thurdystoft—Lochend—Confirmations—Barrock—has fine Garden—Lady Brabeter—Mey—Confirmation—Canisbay—John O'Groat's House—Buckies—Stroma—Kennedy Burial Place—Freshwick—met Sinclair of Barrock—Keiss—Wester—Noss Head—Confirmation—Ackergill—Chapels—Girnigo—Wick—at Campbell's House—Frances Sutherland—Lord and Lady Duffus—Confirmation—Old Wick—Swenzies—Ord—List of Persons Confirmed in Caithness—Letter from Lord Reay as to Christie Finlayson—Taylor's Death—Bishop Forbes receives his Papers and Sermons—Opinion of these—Proposes Successor—None—Most of the Congregation “go to the Kirk”—Another Confirmation—Bishop Forbes' Journey to Argyll—Death and Funeral . . . . . 234

APPENDIX.—Historical Prayer-Books. . . . . 280

## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIFTH.

### MODERN HISTORY : WICK, THURSO, DORNOCH.

WICK:—Longmuir appears, 1758, as assisted—up to 1769, but place not named—Bishop Forbes officiated in Mr Campbell's House—1792—Church Tolerated as to Religion—1839—Proposal for Church in Wick—falls through—Bishop Low—1854—Service started under Bishop Eden—Petition—Particulars—Bishop Officiates in room at Pultneytown Academy—Committee—Clergy from 1857—Church

Built and Consecrated, May 13, 1870, by Bishop Eden—Description —Parsonage added . . . . .	PAGE 282
<b>THURSO</b> :—Service begun in Drill Hall, 1881, by Bishop Eden—Account— Assisted by R. Eden and Murdoch—Sermon published—Large Attendance—Meeting in September—Those present, 1882—Service again begun—by Canon Murdoch—Baptism—Appeal issued—Headed by Sir Tollemache Sinclair and Mrs Sinclair of Barrock—W. Lumsden Walker then appointed Priest in charge, Dec. 3, 1882— Site for Church given—Bazaar held—Statement at opening—Church opened in May 1885—Consecration Service by Bishop Eden published—Confirmation held—Sermon by Archdeacon of London preached and published—Dedicated to Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Owen Williams—Walker succeeded by Fergus and Plant—Walker reassumes charge, 1898—Chancel Foundation Stone laid by Bishop MacLean, 1905—A Memorial by Mrs Sinclair to her son—Dedi- cated, 4th September 1906 . . . . .	285
<b>DORNOCH</b> :—Under Tain—Summer Services now held—Need of a resident Priest for Dornoch, Golspie, and Brora . . . . .	291