

prices of the lands he had purchased, and at the same time the Earl brought an action of declarator against the heirs of entail, to have it found that he had power to sell, and to grant a valid title to the purchasers. In these questions the Court of Session, on the third day of June 1847, found that the entail contained no valid or effectual prohibition against selling or alienating the lands therein contained absolutely and irredeemably, and this judgment was affirmed by the House of Peers on the 8th day of June 1847. On this final judgment being given, the prices were paid to the Earl, and he granted the necessary dispositions to the purchasers.

When Mr. Morton entered into possession in 1843 none of the lands had been drained. He immediately commenced operations, and in due time drained every acre. He began with drains of two feet and a-half, and ended with four feet deep. They were all carefully laid with tiles and soles. He farmed Kincaidston from Martinmas 1846 to Martinmas 1859, erected upon it an excellent farm steading, and, by liberal manuring and improved management, brought the soil into high condition. These lands were let in 1859. The rental, when he purchased it in 1843, was £231. In 1862 it is £512.

COCHRANES OF BRIDGEHOUSE.

The small property of Bridgehouse lies at the extremity of the High Sands, on the low road to the Doon. It consisted, as described in the cartulary, "of that portion of land some time called Brownrigg Chapel-fall [from its proximity to the chapel of St. Leonard], and Bryan-fall, bounded by the burn called the Carrochan-burn [the Curtecan] on the south; the common belonging to the town of Ayr, and that laigh piece of ground commonly called the Common Isle, also belonging to said burgh, on the west; the lands sometime pertaining to Dr. Kennedy, [what is now called Seafield, we presume] on the north; and the lands of Slaphouse on the east." The lands are elsewhere described as "contiguous to the moor and

common pass." When acquired by Andrew Cochrane—which must have been previous to 1720, in which year we find him in possession—the property was called Bridgehouse, no doubt from the bridge over the Curtecan, near the premises—not the Low Bridge of Doon, as might be supposed. This is apparent from a minute of council, in 1721, ordering "the Bridgehouse Bridge to be repaired." The Low Bridge of Doon, to which the other led, unquestionably existed at this time, though we know not the precise period of its erection; but we should conceive it to have been built sometime between 1652 and 1687. During these thirty-five years the presbytery of Ayr—for the presbyteries in those days were the virtual road and bridge trustees of the country—kept no records, otherwise they have been destroyed; and in 1643 an overture is introduced respecting the repairs of *the* Bridge of Doon. Had more than *one* bridge existed at that time, it would no doubt have been stated to which the overture referred.

Mr. Cochrane was the son of David Cochrane, merchant in Ayr, and Janet Crawford. He was born 19th February 1693. He had one sister, *Agnes*, and two brothers, *John* and *David*, the latter of whom, also styled "of Bridgehouse," was admitted a burgher of Ayr, in right of his father, deceased, on the 28th August 1722. Andrew Cochrane of Bridgehouse, like his father, was a merchant in Ayr. In 1720, he obtained from the town, upon wadset, the "Common Isle," which seems to have been situated between Bridgehouse and Cuningpark, but which, from the improvements by drainage and otherwise, cannot now be well traced. It had no doubt been formed by the Doon, flowing in various streamlets, as it now does within water-mark. It had previously been rented by Mr. Cochrane's mother. Mr. Cochrane, shortly after this, became a merchant in Glasgow, and rose in civic dignity, as formerly mentioned, to the honourable position of lord provost. He seems to have parted with Bridgehouse in 1763, or previously, in which year the magistrates grant a charter of resignation of the property to the trustees of James Brown.

Having been brought to sale, at the instance of the Douglas and Heron Banking Company and their creditors, in 1785, they were purchased by Hugh Hamilton of Pinmore. Before the sale, the magistrates were called upon to pay up the wadset upon the Common Isle, which they did; and the Isle remained in the town's possession till 1789, when—after the enclosure of the Race Course, all the odd pieces of land were exposed to sale—it was sold to David Cathcart of Greenfield, for £120. It contained about three acres. Bridgehouse is still connected with the property of Belleisle.

Mr. Cochrane, who was provost of Glasgow in 1745, 1746, as also on two subsequent occasions, was much distinguished on account of his prudent management of the affairs of that city during the rebellion, and for his unwearied exertions in subsequently obtaining compensation for the losses sustained through the neglect of all precautions on the part of the authorities in Scotland. He was a person of great learning, and considerable literary abilities. In 1836 the "Cochrane Correspondence," regarding the affairs of Glasgow, was published by James Smith, Esq. of Jordanhill, with a prefatory notice by James Dennistoun, Esq. of Dennistoun, and presented to the Maitland Club. This correspondence consists principally of letters from Provost Cochrane, to the parties at the head of affairs in Scotland, at the time of the rebellion, and of their replies, and is extremely interesting as matter of authentic local history.

Andrew Cochrane of Bridgehouse was infest, on 1st May 1760, in parts of the lands of Stobcross, called Cochrane Lodge. He married the eldest daughter of Peter Murdoch, Provost of Glasgow. He was, for more than forty years, Preceptor of Hutcheson's Hospital, and his portrait had been taken for that institution, from which it has now disappeared; there is, however, a curious miniature of him, on copper, still in existence.* His library was bequeathed to James Browne, junior, merchant in Glasgow, who again left it to John Ballantyne, "late merchant in Glasgow, now in Ayr," with a request

* In the possession of Henry Ritchie Cooper, Esq. of Ballindalloch.

that the said books should not be sold. There are in the hands of William Cooper, Esq. of Failford, several letters addressed by Provost Cochrane to his wife's sister, Mary Murdoch, wife of William Craufurd of Balshagray, which are written in an elegant and amusing style. From reference in these letters to the state of health of Lord Dundonald, it may be inferred that Provost Cochrane was a relative of the Dundonald family.

Andrew Cochrane died on 9th July 1777, in the 85th year of his age, and the magistrates of Glasgow erected, in the High Church of that city, a handsome monument, with a Latin inscription, to his memory, which is still in existence.

CAMBUSDOON.

This fine property is composed chiefly of the lands of Greenfield, originally purchased from the town of Ayr by Elias Cathcart, ancestor of Lord Alloway, upon which the latter he built the mansion of Greenfield, and planted the avenue long known by that name. The present proprietor, *James Baird, Esq.*, who acquired the property in 1852, changed the designation to Cambusdoon. The splendid residence so called, built in 1853, is delightfully situated upon the banks of the Doon, near to a pool formerly known as Craigweil. The lands and garden grounds are beautifully laid off and kept in the finest order. A rustic bridge spans the river near to the house, connecting the property with the farm of Doonbank, which Mr. Baird possesses on lease from the Marquis of Ailsa. The old house of Greenfield has been swept away, and all around presents a new and princely aspect. It may be mentioned that Mr. Baird has recently purchased the lands of Middle Auchindraine from Mr. Cathcart, who retains that portion of the property, with the mansion-house on it, called Blairston.

James Baird, Esq. of Cambusdoon, is the fourth son of the late Alexander Baird, Esq. of Lockwood, in Lanarkshire, by