

**LETTERS RELATING TO SCOTLAND
IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE;
PUBLICATIONS OF THE SCOTTISH
HISTORY SOCIETY, 2ND SERIES,
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VOL.
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LETTERS RELATING TO SCOTLAND IN THE
REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE BY JAMES OGILVY
FIRST EARL OF SEAFIELD, AND OTHERS

NOVEMBER 1915

LETTERS RELATING TO SCOTLAND IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE

BY JAMES OGILVY, FIRST EARL OF
SEAFIELD, AND OTHERS

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION,	vii
I. LETTERS OF JAMES OGILVY, FIRST EARL OF SEAFIELD, LORD CHANCELLOR OF SCOTLAND, . .	1-110
II. LETTERS OF JAMES, FOURTH DUKE OF HAMILTON,	111-117
III. THE FIRST CAUSES OF SCOTLAND'S DIVISIONS, BY LORD TARBAT,	118-133
IV. LETTERS OF JOHN MURRAY, SECOND MARQUESS, AFTERWARDS DUKE OF ATHOLL, KEEPER OF THE PRIVY SEAL OF SCOTLAND,	134-141
V. LETTERS OF ROBERT HARLEY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AFTERWARDS EARL OF OXFORD,	142-148
VI. LETTERS OF LIEUT.-GENERAL GEORGE RAMSAY,	149-151
VII. LETTERS OF DAVID MELVILLE, THIRD EARL OF LEVEN, AFTERWARDS SECOND EARL OF MELVILLE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN SCOTLAND,	152-158
VIII. LETTER OF SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE, FIRST EARL OF CHOMARTIE, LORD JUSTICE-GENERAL OF SCOTLAND,	159
IX. LETTERS OF CHARLES MONTAGU, FIRST LORD, AFTERWARDS EARL OF, HALIFAX,	160-163

	PAGE
X. LETTERS OF ADAM COCKBURN, LORD ORMISTOUN, LORD OF SESSION, AND AFTERWARDS LORD JUSTICE-CLERK,	164-169
XI. LETTERS OF HUGH CAMPBELL, THIRD EARL OF LODOUN, SECRETARY OF STATE IN SCOTLAND,	170-172
XII. LETTER OF THOMAS HAY, VISCOUNT DUPPLIN, AFTERWARDS SIXTH EARL OF KINNOUL,	173-174
XIII. LETTERS OF JOHN FRISKINE, ELEVENTH EARL OF MAR, SECRETARY OF STATE IN SCOTLAND,	175-177
XIV. LETTERS OF DAVID BOYLE, FIRST EARL OF GLASGOW,	178-184
XV. LETTERS OF ALEXANDER RIGBY,	185-189
XVI. COPIES OF PAPERS SIGNED AND DELIVERED BY JAMES M'DANIELL TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYL,	190-199
INDEX,	201

INTRODUCTION

I

THE majority of the letters contained in the present volume relate to the years 1702-1707. The period is a momentous one in the national history, as it saw the beginning and the end of the negotiations that resulted in the abolition of the National Assembly of Scotland and its incorporation with that of England. As throwing fresh light on these negotiations the letters here brought together may be said to be of prime importance. They were all written by persons who took a leading part in the successive proceedings which led up to the union of the two Parliaments, and written at the moment and on the spot when and where the events to which they refer actually occurred. The writers, moreover, were all men of ability and experience, and possessed the faculty of saying briefly and clearly what they had to communicate. The letters as a whole, indeed, bear favourable comparison with those of English statesmen of the same period, and confirm the impression we receive from other sources that, as an order, the Scottish nobility were an accomplished body of men.

The greater number and the most important of the letters were written by James Ogilvy, at the time when he wrote them, first Earl of Seafield, and subsequently fourth Earl of Findlater. In his *Introduction to the Seafield Correspondence*, edited by him for the Scottish History Society, Mr. James Grant has given a full account of the Ogilvy pedigree; here, therefore, it is sufficient