

**ANCIENT CATHOLIC  
HOMES OF  
SCOTLAND**

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Ancient Catholic homes of Scotland by Odo Blundell

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ANCIENT  
CATHOLIC HOMES OF  
SCOTLAND

BY

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE following short accounts of old Catholic homes in Scotland have been collected mostly from printed sources, difficult of access. The only claim I can make for them is that they are thus presented in handier form. I must sincerely express my gratitude towards those who have assisted me with the illustrations, the revision of the articles and the correction of the proofs, as also to The Librarian, Fort Augustus, and Rev. Basil Weld, O.S.B., for their continued co-operation and encouragement.

FORT AUGUSTUS,  
10th June 1907.





## INTRODUCTION

I CANNOT but feel that no words of mine are needed to introduce Father Blundell's history of our old Scotch Catholic Homes. To us who belong to the "Leal Northern Land" everything connected with it is of supreme interest, and from others the story of the sufferings of the Catholics in Scotland for their faith, and the happy signs of the "second spring," will, we feel sure, gain sympathy and interest. This will be increased when we remember that the author speaks to us from the first Benedictine monastery founded in Scotland since the Reformation—in itself one of the most consoling evidences of the return of the Faith—and that he has himself visited each of the places described in his book.

Father Blundell has also a family connection with three of the Homes—*Carlaverock*, *Terregles*, and *Traquair*—being one of the descendants "numerous beyond compare" of Lady Winifred Maxwell, grand-daughter of the heroic Lady Nithsdale. The present writer, while claiming a share

by marriage in this privilege, has also many early, happy recollections of some of the homes, notably of *Traquair* and *Glenfinnan*. At the former she well remembers the kindness and courtesy of the venerable Chatelaine Lady Louisa Stuart, who, even when approaching her hundredth year, took the same kindly interest in her visitors and everything modern, and who yet would speak of the death of Queen Marie Antoinette as if it had occurred quite lately. The history of *Glenfinnan* and of its ever-loyal family is another interesting memory. No one can visit the spot without sad and stirring thoughts of Prince Charlie, of whom M. François Coppée rightly says, "Scotland cannot judge him, because she loves him," and yet who, for his own glory, we feel had far better have died at Culloden, "for his father, his faith, and his crown," than have lived to dim the bright vision of the gallant young Prince who raised his standard at *Glenfinnan*.

On the whole, perhaps, the chronicles of the northern families and their devoted Pastors will be of freshest interest to Father Blundell's readers. The names of the great Bishops of Aberdeen, Bishop Elphinstone and Bishop Gavin Dunbar—to whom Our Lady foretold that he would be the last Catholic Bishop in his See for generations—

are closely connected with the house of *Fetternear*, while the account of Lady Aboyne's pilgrimage to Our Lady of Grace in 1638, reminds us of the steadfastness of the chiefs of the Gordon family to the Faith, which continued till well on in the eighteenth century, and to which the traditions of Aboyne Castle, regarding the Chapel near the roof and the Priest's Escape, still bear witness.

One name stands out conspicuously in the annals of later days—that of Bishop Hay—and the history of his great work for the Church and of his holy apostolic life will be read with deep interest. *Aquhorties* seems to us but a poor substitute for *Fetternear* and other Homes of our early Bishops, but it is in such humble and retired spots that the work of the last 150 years has been chiefly accomplished, the visible and consoling results of which it is our privilege to witness.

M. M. MAXWELL SCOTT  
(OF ABBOTSFORD).

June 1907.