

DUNDONALD

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649565948

Dundonald by J. W. Fortescue

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J. W. FORTESCUE

DUNDONALD

English Men of Action

DUNDONALD





THE EARL OF DUNDONALD

After the Picture by SERRAVALLO.

DUNDONALD

BY THE

Hon. J. W. FORTESCUE

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

AND NEW YORK

1895

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CHAPTER I

ANCESTRY—BIRTH—BOYHOOD—ENTRANCE INTO THE
NAVY

1775—1793

“TRADITION,” says Lord Dundonald in his Autobiography, “has assigned to the Cochranes a derivation from one of the Scandinavian sea-rovers who, in a remote age, settled in the lands of Renfrew and Ayr.” With such a tradition the biographer of a great sea-king will feel little disposed to quarrel. Nevertheless for authentic record one must needs wait until the year 1262, when the name of Waldenne de Coveran first struggles into light among the tale of witnesses to an ancient deed. A grant of King Robert the Second dated 1389, confirming to William de Cochrane the lands of Cochrane in Renfrewshire, to be held by him as by his progenitors, gives sufficient proof of the antiquity of the family and of the origin of its name.

Robert Cochrane, grandson of this William, was the first of his clan to win a place in history. He appears in the year 1456 to have resigned his estates to his son, and to have betaken himself to the study and practice of architecture, in which art he is said to have displayed