

## THE ESCAPE OF ARCHIBALD, EARL OF ARGYLL.

It is well known to most English readers that the heads of the great Scottish house of Campbell have for centuries been the most powerful lords and almost princes of the Western Highlands, and that most of them have borne an active part, whether for good or for evil, in the history of Scotland, both before and after the union of the Scottish Crown with that of England proper. But it is not so widely known, that under the earlier Stuart kings the Earls of Argyll were "justiciaries" of all Scotland—that is to say, that justice was administered in their name along with that of the king; and that it was not until the reign of Charles I. that the eighth earl resigned this right, and contented himself with that of administering justice in his own name throughout the Western Highlands. On the death of his sovereign upon the scaffold at Whitehall, this powerful earl placed the Scottish crown on the head of his son at Seone, and proclaimed him as Charles II.; but afterwards he was led, mainly through his fear of Popery, to support the Government of the Lord Protector Cromwell, for which he was condemned to death on the restoration of monarchy, and had his head struck off by the executioner's axe at the Toll-booth of Edinburgh.

The same fate awaited his scarcely less powerful son and successor, another Archibald, who became the ninth earl, and who for his refusal to subscribe to what is known as the Test Act, was found guilty of high treason. It is true that at the time he escaped the block, though he lay under sentence of death in the Castle of Edinburgh, being smuggled out of that stronghold by his stepdaughter;

but a few years later he was taken prisoner in an abortive attempt to invade Scotland in the first year of the reign of James II., and was then not only sentenced but put to death in the same way and in the same place as his father.

The story of his escape from Edinburgh Castle is an instance of what a woman's wit will effect, and a proof that there have been other brave Scottish heroines besides the well-known Countess of Nithsdale.

In December, 1681, the earl was lying, as already stated, under sentence of death, a prisoner in Edinburgh Castle, and was in daily expectation of the order for his execution, when his favourite stepdaughter, the sprightly Lady Sophia Lindsay, effected his escape. Having obtained leave to pay him a farewell visit, she drove in a carriage to the great gate of the castle, attended by a tall, awkward country fellow, dressed as a lacquey or page, with a light-coloured wig, and with his head tied up as if he had been hurt in a fray. Having entered the condemned cell, she persuaded the page and her stepfather to exchange clothes, and at the end of her interview she bade farewell to the former in a flood of tears, while her stepfather walked out of the prison in the garb of her attendant. The sentinel posted at the drawbridge eyed Argyll hard; but she was equal to the occasion; her presence of mind did not desert her; for at the moment she twitched out of the supposed page's hand her train of embroidery, and, dropping it in the mud as if by accident, picked it up again and threw it across his face, saying, "Take that for your clumsiness! Don't you know how to carry a lady's train, you

varlet!" These words so took the sentinel aback, that he let them pass unquestioned, and the lady and her servant in less than a minute reached the outer castle gate, where her coach was waiting; and while she stepped into it, the earl mounted behind. The coachman drove on quickly. On reaching the narrow High street, it was the work of only a moment for the earl to slip off and to dive down one of the narrow lanes or "wyndes" which still remain almost in the same condition as then, and he was speedily lost to the view. Having found a friend, a clergyman named Veitch, who knew the lowland country well, the earl made his way on foot to the eastern coast, where he found a vessel in which he effected his escape to the Low Countries, and he remained in Holland till the death of King Charles. On the accession of James II. he was induced, as stated above, to risk his head a second time, and—he lost it on the scaffold, as being guilty of high treason.

And what was done to his sprightly and spirited stepdaughter, the Lady Sophia? She narrowly escaped the disgrace of a public whipping through the streets of Edinburgh; but the Duke of York—afterwards James II.—with greater kindness and tenderness than he usually showed, protected her from this fate, saying that "they were not accustomed to deal so cruelly with ladies in his country." It may interest our readers to learn that a year or two later she married a near relation of the stepfather whose life she had saved, an officer in the royal army, the Hon. Charles Campbell; but when she died, and what children, if any, she left behind her, is not known to history.

## VARIETIES.

## AN UNHAPPY GIRL.

She had a glorious appetite,  
She was in the pink of health,  
She had the very best of times  
That could be had for wealth;  
She bathed, and rowed, and walked, and sat,  
And revelled in repose:  
But still was sad, because there were  
Some freckles on her nose.

NAMES IN JAPAN.—People in Japan are called by the family name first; the individual, or what we should call the Christian name, next; and then the honorific—thus, "Jones, Thomas, Mr."

HOW TO MANAGE TALE-BEARERS.—Hannah More had a good way of managing tale-bearers. It is said that whenever she was told anything derogatory of another, her invariable reply was, "Come—we will go and ask if it be true." On her saying this, the tale-bearer would often stammer out a qualification, or beg that no notice might be taken of the statement; but the good lady insisted on having her own way, and the effect was, that in her circle scandal was seldom uttered, and never allowed to spread.

RICH OR POOR.—No one can tell whether she is rich or poor by merely turning to her account books. It is the heart that makes us rich. We are rich according to what we are, not according to what we have.

REPROACH AND PRAISE.—Reproach is usually honest, which is more than can be said for praise.

## POVERTY AT THE PIANO.

A beggar was coming out of a house when another beggar met him at the garden gate, and asked what chance there was of getting anything.

"It is not worth while knocking," was the reply. "The people are not up to much. I have just had a peep through the window, and saw two ladies playing on one piano."

## THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE!

An old Quaker lady was once sitting quietly knitting when a man in a wild state of excitement rushed in and exclaimed, "The house is on fire!"

"It is?" she said, rising calmly, and putting her knitting into her pocket after she had carefully wound up the loose yarn. "I thank thee for the information, and now if thou wilt just go round and sound the alarm, I will take my pies out of the oven and be ready to tell the people what to carry out first."

GIRLS, GO ON LEARNING.—It is no more possible for idle people to keep together a certain stock of knowledge than it is possible to keep together a stock of ice exposed to the sun. Every day destroys a fact, a relation, or an inference, and the only plan to preserve the bulk and value of the pile is constantly to add to it.

## NO TIME TO SPARE.

Fireman (on the ladder): "Make haste; there isn't a moment to spare!"

She: "Oh, dear! Must I go out this way? Do tell me, please, if my hat is on straight."

## THE RULE OF BOY.

It is often said that the more servants you have, the less work you get done. The farmers' "Rule of Boy" in the West of England is a recognition of this fact, laying down the following scale for the value of boys' labour:—

- 1 boy is a boy:
- 2 boys are half a boy:
- 3 boys are no boy at all.

GREAT GAINS.—No one is a better merchant than she who lays out her time upon God and her money upon the poor.

## A TALE OF A FAMILY GROUP.

The celebrated portrait-painter, Copley, was a calm, deliberate, methodical workman, who never hurried and never neglected any part of his task. He required many sittings; and to illustrate how slow he was in painting a portrait, an anecdote is told to the effect that he once undertook to paint a family group, but that before the work was finished the wife died and the husband married again.

The first wife was therefore represented as an angel, and her terrestrial place was given to the second wife; but the latter died also before the painting was completed, and had to be placed aloft, while her successor occupied the earthly centre of the family group.

ABOUT MAPS.—The word "map" came into use in the Middle Ages, the name *mappa mundi*, *mappe monde* ("world napkin"), proving that maps were originally painted on cloth.