

at the edge of a flat strip of alluvial meadow bordering the river, and is surrounded with old trees and hedgerows, and a terraced garden of the antique type. A year or two after the completion of his architectural and horticultural labours at Killochan, the Laird was summoned to attend "the Leutenentis Raid of Dumfreis." Like a great many other lairds, he thought proper to stay away, and was "delatit" in consequence. Next year—namely, at the close of 1601—he was engaged, and his son with him, in one of the most memorable feuds in Ayrshire. The Laird of Bargany and the Earl of Cassilis, both Kennedies, and both comparatively young men, had long been at feud. Each jealous of the other's power, they were ready to fly to arms to avenge a real or fancied insult, and it cost King James no little anxiety to keep the peace between them. We find at one time the young Laird of Killochan sent by Bargany, his neighbour, to demand from the Earl of Cassilis the origin of a calumnious statement made by him. On another occasion, when there was like to be blood spilt between the rivals and their followers about the rents of certain fields near the sea, the old Laird Cathcart became surety for the peaceable settlement of the dispute. But these repeated quarrels, though quieted for a time, left their dark sediment of malice and revenge in the breasts of both the chieftains. "The King gart thame schaik handis," says the old chronicler of these feuds, "but not with their hairttis." At last, at the end of the year 1601, the Earl hearing that Bargany, with a small band of friends and retainers, was on his way south from Ayr, assembled a large armed force to waylay him. The two parties met near Maybole; Bargany, seeing the enormous disparity of numbers, tried to avoid a combat, and rode on with one part of his horsemen, while the young Cathcart followed at the head of the