

rest. But the Earl and his company were determined to use their advantage, and began to fire across the valley. Bargany's men being now in danger, he boldly rode forward with only two or three friends, and, pushing into the heart of his enemies, called out loudly for the Earl. Fighting his way onward, he soon had a host before and behind him. After a brave resistance, he was mortally wounded; but his horse bore him back to his own men, among whom he died soon after. The chronicler does not say what part the young Laird of Killochan took in the fight. He mentions the names of four comrades who dashed with Bargany into the ranks of the enemy, but Cathcart is not among them.

The next hundred years saw the reign of the Charleses and the Revolution, with the weary warfare of religious intolerance between Presbytery and Episcopacy. Ayrshire was a stronghold of the Presbyterians, and its remoter hills served as a favourite retreat from the authority of the Government. The old laird who built the house of Killochan must have witnessed the earlier scenes of that long strife, for he was alive towards the close of 1612, and in October of that year, "being sick in bodie, but haill in mynd," he made his will. He seems to have been in old age imbued with a large measure of the religious fervour of the period, if the words of Wodrow, as is probable, are to be referred to this individual. "The old laird of Carltoun was extraordinary at solving of cases of conscience," says Wodrow, and he gives an instance of how Dickson, who afterwards became a leader among the Presbyterians, had his doubts and fears as a student cleared away by the graphic exhortations of the old laird to whom he applied for relief. "The said Laird of Carltoun," he adds, "was wonderfully holy and heavenly in his family, and he had