

old castle and the sea, has been demolished. Even in the upper reaches of the estuary, above the narrow strait at the Ferries, the waves have removed a considerable tract of land, which once lay between the sea and the present road leading westward from Queensferry. Similar effects have likewise been produced on the northern shores at Culross and eastwards by St. David's, Burntisland,¹ Kirkcaldy, and Dysart. The seaports along this coast have all suffered more or less from encroachments of the sea—roads, fences, gardens, fields, piers, and even dwelling-houses having been from time to time carried away. In the parish of Crail some slender remains of a priory existed down to the year 1803. These, along with the old gardens and fences, are now wholly removed; but the adjoining grounds still retain the name of the croftlands of the priory. At St. Andrews, Cardinal Beaton's castle is said to have been originally some distance from the sea, but it now almost overhangs the beach, and must ere long fall a prey to the waves.²

¹ 'At the east end of the town of Burntisland the sea comes now far in upon the land; some persons in the town, who died not long since, did remember the grassy links reach to the Black Craigs, near a mile into the sea now.'—Sibbald's *Fife and Kinross*, p. 152. The waste still continues, in spite of the strong railway embankment, much damage being done by occasional storms.

² R. Stevenson, *op. cit.* 'The learned Mr. George Martine (*Reliquiæ Sancti Andreae*, chap. ii. p. 3) relates it as a tradition received that the ancient Culdees, Regulus and his companions, had a cell dedicated to the Blessed Virgin about a bow flight to the east of the shoar of St. Andrews, a little without the end of the peer (now in the sea), upon a rock called at this day Our Lady's Craig: the rock is well known, and seen every day at low water. The Culdees thereafter, upon the sea's encroaching, built another house where the house of the Kirkheugh now stands, called Sancta Maria de rupe, with St. Rule's Chapel, and says in his time there lived people in St. Andrews who remembered to have seen men play at bowls upon the east and north sides of the castle of St. Andrews, which now the sea covereth at every tide.'—Sibbald's *Fife and Kinross*, p. 152.