

trived to rouse the enmity of a branch of the Kennedies who had lands among the hills to the south, and suffered the loss of his left hand, besides sundry cuttings and woundings about the face. His grandson makes a more notable figure in the history. Choosing a pretty reach of the Girvan, a few hundred yards east from the Baron's stone, where possibly an older castle stood, he built a quaint mansion on the banks of the river, which still stands, and is known as the old House or Castle of Killochan. It is a characteristic specimen of the Scottish architecture of the period—a sort of passage from the old feudal keep or tower to the more recent mansion-house. The need of a strongly-fortified retreat, with loopholes and portcullis, had ceased to exist ; but the builders still made their walls four or five feet thick, and, though they were no longer afraid to open out windows, they kept such openings as small as might be. They had been building flanking-towers so long too, that they could not but add one or two to the corners of the house. Moreover, they must needs cut the coping into embrasures, but instead of leaving them free for harquebuss or crossbow, they peaceably surmounted each with a short dumpy spire, like the cap of a pepper-box. Over the doorway is another indication of the advancing civilisation of the time ; it is an inscription which runs thus :—

“ This work was begun the 1 of Marche 1586 Be Johne Cathcart of Carlton and Helene Wallace his Spous The name of the Lord is ane strang tour and the rychteous in thair troublis rinnis into and findeth refuge. Prov 18 vers 10.”

It is unnecessary to remark that this is from an older translation of the Scriptures than our Authorised Version. The house—as appears from a curious set of carvings inside, representing the founder with his wife, and apparently his son and daughter—took several years to build. It stands