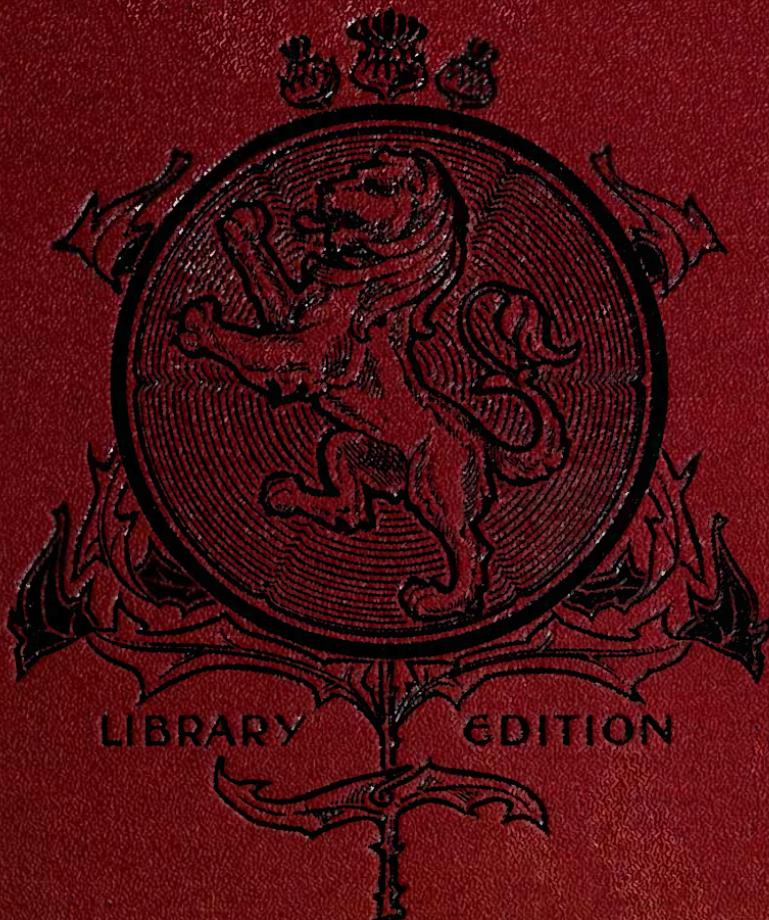


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THE SCOTTISH CLANS AND THEIR TARTANS



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THE SCOTTISH CLANS

AND

THEIR TARTANS

WITH NOTES

“Nowhere beats the heart so kindly
As beneath the tartan plaid.”—AYTOUN.

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W. & A. K. JOHNSTON, LIMITED
EDINBURGH AND LONDON

THE CLAN OF MACGREGOR.

War Cry :—“Ard-collie” (“The Woody Height.”)

Clan Pipe Music :—*Gathering*—“Ruaig Ghlinne Fraoine” (“The Chase of Glen Fruin”).
Salute—“Failte Chiann Ghriogair” (“MacGregor’s Salute”).

Badge :—Giuthas (Pine Tree).



HEN I asked a very learned minister in the Islands,” says Dr Johnson, “which they considered their most savage clans, ‘Those that live next the Lowlands,’ said he; and most true was this of several tribes, among them the Macgregors, whose ancient territory was on both sides of Loch Tay; and these are still called Tuaruith and Deasnith, or north and south.”

The sept of the Macgregors, of whom Sir Walter Scott says “that they were famous for their misfortune and the indomitable courage with which they maintained themselves as a clan”—a clan the most oppressed for generations—claim a descent from Gregor, third son of King Alpin, who flourished about 787, hence they are usually termed the Clan Alpin, and their proud motto is “*Srioghaill mo dhream*”—“Royal is my race;” and one individual tribe of these retains the same name. They had at one time very extensive possessions in Argyleshire and Perthshire, which they imprudently continued to hold by the *cóir a’ chlaidheimh*, that is, by the right of the sword; thus the Earls of Argyle and Breadalbane gradually found the means to usurp their lands under the pretext of Royal grants. The Macgregors strove to retain their lands by the cold steel; and this conduct, “though natural,” says Sir Walter Scott, “considering the country and the time, was represented at the capital as arising from an untamable and innate ferocity which nothing could remedy save cutting off the tribe of Macgregor, root and branch.” They were styled “Lawless Limmers” in Parliament; their name was suppressed; and at baptism no clergyman could give the name of *Gregor* under deprivation and banishment.

Prior to these dark days of the seventeenth century, the Macgregors appear to have been in possession of the lands of Glenorchy in the thirteenth century. In the Ragman Roll of 1296, John of Glenorchy appears. In their genealogy this John is called the son of Gregor; but in the reign of David II. the direct line of the chiefs would appear to have ended in an heiress, who, it is said, married a younger son of the House of Argyle. The next chiefs appear to have remained in Glenorchy as tenants of the Campbells, who were relentless in their efforts to usurp all they had.

John Dhu Macgregor of Glenstrae, and Gregor Macgregor of Roro, in Glenlyon, were both, says Robertson, younger sons of the chief Patrick who succeeded in 1390, and on the extinction of whose line the chieftainship went to Glenstrae. In 1502 the line of Roro lost their lands by the Campbells. In 1552, Gregor, son of the deceased Sir James Macgregor, Dean of Lismore, became head of an independent sept, but bound himself to Campbell of Glenorchy, and his heirs “taking him for his chief in place of the Laird of Macgregor, and giving him his calp.” Scott says that it has been disputed whether the Macgregors were the real Children of the Mist; and quotes an Act of Council in 1589 proving that they were so.

In 1603 the fierce battle of Glenfruin came to pass through the severity with which the Colquhouns executed the barbarous laws against the Macgregors, who retaliated by invading Luss, under Alister of Glenstrae. The Colquhouns were vanquished, and resorted to the device of appearing before the King at Stirling with the pretended shirts of their slain smeared with blood, and hence the Macgregors were more sternly proscribed; but so recently as 1744 Macgregor of Glengyle drew Black Mail as a kind of Lord Warden of the Highland Borders.

In the end of the last and beginning of the present century the proscription laws were in force; but Sir John Murray Macgregor, Bart. of Lanrick, whose father had been A.D.C. to Prince Charles was acknowledged as chief by 826 Macgregors capable of bearing arms. The present Baronet is his direct representative.

Macgregor, a French officer, defended Gingee in India in 1759, under Count Lally. His garrison consisted of 1750 men. He defended the hill fort with such valour that he was permitted to march out with the honours of war on the 5th April in that year.



52. MACGREGOR.