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as 'Mr. Peter Rollock of Pilton.' Some years before this, and while still a bishop, he had evinced a disposition to take a prominent part in secular affairs. In 1603 he was one of the influential Scots who accompanied James VI to London, and was subsequently rewarded with the controllership of the royal household. Two years later, however, he returned to Edinburgh. The latter part of his career was stormy, and almost the last public record of him is his resignation in 1620 of his seat on the Bench.

In 1611 an attempt was made on Rollock's life by two sons of a neighbour, Matthew Finlayson of Killeith, with whom he had a lawsuit. The *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland* gives a circumstantial account of the incident. On 21st September John and Robert Finlayson, 'armed with certain weapons and with pistolets at their belts,' waylaid Rollock 'at the back of Innerleith' while 'returning from the toun of Restalrig.' When the two sons of Killeith saw him approach they 'horsit thameselffes to his awn house of Piltoun' and 'with ane loude scheut [shout] cried: This is a traytour!' Rollock, who was accompanied by his son, was 'fiercely pursued.' Both assailants shot at him but their pistols missed fire. The spirit of revenge, however, was strong, and on the following day John Finlayson sent a message to Rollock regretting 'his awn mishap in missing of the taking of the said Rollock's life' and adding menacingly that nothing would 'stay him fra scheding of the best blood in his body.'

Rollock died on 30th June 1632. He was twice married. His first wife, Christian Cant, was at the date of the union a widow twice over. Her first husband, Colonel Henry Balfour, was killed in November 1580, and her second, Captain John Balfour, died *ante* 17th November 1592.[1] Rollock's second wife, whom he married in 1607 and who died in 1621, was Elizabeth Weston, widow of John Fairlie of Bruntsfield.[2]

[1] See *Scots Brigade in Holland*, vol. i. p. 43 (Scottish History Society).
[2] *Fasti*.

Apparently having no lawful surviving issue, he was succeeded in Pilton by his nephew, John Rollock of Pitmeadie and Pilton. Admitted advocate in 1608, he became Commissary of Dunblane and later Sheriff of Stirling. In 1607 he married Christian Justice, daughter of William Justice, merchant burgess of Edinburgh. By her he had a son, Peter Rollock, who acquired Pilton and part of Muirhouse (Toungs and Forty Acres) by gift from his father. Peter Rollock died in April 1653, leaving a heritage of debt to his daughter, Christian, by his first wife, Elizabeth Halyburton, and his son, John, by his second wife, Mary Stirling. The estates accordingly were apprised from them in July 1654 at the instance of James Menteith of Milnhall, probably a brother-in-law of Peter Rollock.[1]

The next family to possess Pilton were the McCullochs, descendants of the McCullochs of Catboll in Ross-shire. In 1672 Hugh McCulloch had a Crown charter confirming his possession of the lands of Easter and Wester Pilton together with parts of Muirhouse. It is known that he had already acquired proprietorial rights in the latter through George Cockburn, late of Pilton, who derived from the appraisers of Peter Rollock's estate. Hitherto McCulloch had been described simply as writer in Edinburgh, but in the charter of 1672 he is designated 'of Pilton.' Three years later he figures as 'Sir Hugh McCulloch of Pilton, knight,'[2] but when or in what circumstances knighthood was bestowed on him, has not been ascertained. McCulloch, whatever his rank, evidently was a man of substance, since he also owned the lands of Howletstoun and Cumnorig in Stow parish as well as the estate of Innerethie in Ross-shire. He married (January 1660) Jean Gibson, daughter and heir and executrix of Alexander Gibson, minister of the Second Charge of South Leith from 1640 to 1650. Gibson, who was connected with the historic

[1] See *Great Seal Reg.*, 28th July 1654 and Test. of Peter Rollock, confirmed 6th July 1653.
[2] Reg. of Deeds.

family of Durie, was appointed in 1644 by the Presbytery of Edinburgh to attend the Covenanting army in England.[1]

Some interesting particulars regarding Pilton are given in the marriage contract between Hugh McCulloch and Jean Gibson, dated 21st December 1657. In order to provide his wife with suitable liferent, McCulloch disposed of the lands of Wester Pilton ' and fourtie aikers with haill housis, biggings, yeards, etc., occupied by Thomas Cleghorne . . . also maner house of Pilton, with the park on south side thereof surrounded with a stone dyke, and with haill yeards south and north, office housis, doucat, girnall housis, high and laigh ; also lands of Easter Piltoune, housis, biggings, park, etc.' McCulloch also granted to his wife the furnishings of the manor house at Pilton, likewise a dwelling in Edinburgh, ' on the fore street, south side of the Cross, being part of new stone tenement built there.' Lady McCulloch married as her second husband, John, third Lord Lindores. She died in 1712.

In Greyfriars Churchyard there is a monument to Sir Hugh McCulloch of Pilton, who died in 1688, aged seventy. According to the Latin inscription he was a most exemplary person. Translated, the lapidary conveys the impression that he was ' grave in his manners, harmless in conversation [whatever that may mean], sincere in devotion, a faithful friend and pleasant companion, a most just citizen.' This laird of Pilton also was ' singular in piety towards God ' and exhibited ' honesty towards his neighbour '—in short, an exemplar of the Christian virtues.

The ' sole heir of the defunct ' was James McCulloch, a kinsman to whom Sir Hugh left the lands of Pilton in fee. In 1690 James McCulloch purchased the estate of Mulderg in Ross-shire.[2] In 1716 his eldest surviving son, David, sold

[1] *Fasti*. See also *South Leith Records*, by D. Robertson, S.S.C., Session Clerk, 1911.

[2] As late as 1779 Christian, daughter of James McCulloch and sister of David, is referred to as ' of Pilton ' (Edin. Tests.). She had died in 1751.

Pilton for £6000 to Thomas Fairholm of Kinglass, grandson of John Fairholm of Craigiehall. The new proprietor was a merchant's son and owned a tenement in Fairholme's Close, near the Bowhead. But he got into financial difficulties, and in 1727 Pilton was disposed of by his creditors to George Ainslie, merchant at Bordeaux, who opens a fresh and shining chapter in the history of Pilton.

The Ainslies in olden times were a noted race of warriors, the earliest of whom, says an epitaph, ' defended the strong town of Dolphingston in the Cheviots in the reigns of six Scottish kings.' George, the first of the family to settle at Pilton, had a prosperous business connection at Bordeaux, and there his numerous family was born. Late in life he returned to Scotland, and for the remainder of his days his interests were centred in the broad acres lying between Edinburgh and Granton, which he had bought. George Ainslie died on 11th August 1773, leaving by his wife, Jean, daughter of Sir Philip Anstruther of that Ilk and sister of Christina, Countess of Traquair, three sons and five daughters. Of the latter, three married and settled in France.

Sir Philip Ainslie (he was knighted by George III) was the eldest son. After succeeding to Pilton he increased his territorial responsibilities by purchasing a considerable portion of the barony of Craigleith. Sir Philip, who married Elizabeth, fifth daughter of John, twelfth Lord Gray (and therefore was allied to the family of the Earl of Moray), followed a military career. In 1754 he joined the Horse Grenadier Guards, in which he was promoted Major. On the breaking out of hostilities between Spain and Portugal as a result of the latter country giving support to Britain, this laird of Pilton became Lieutenant-Colonel of the Portuguese Cavalry. After completing his foreign service he held similar rank in the 4th Regiment of Horse. He retired in 1787 but lived other fifteen years, dying on 19th June 1802.

George, the brother of Sir Philip, was Major-General in

the 13th Regiment of Foot and one of the staff officers of the Duke of York during His Royal Highness' service on the Continent. Subsequently he was appointed Governor of the Scilly Isles. Still more distinguished was the career of Robert Ainslie, the third brother, who, in 1775, was appointed British Ambassador to Turkey. Resident in Constantinople till 1792, he is reported to have been a favourite with the Sultan, Ahmed IV. On his return to England Ainslie was given a pension of £1000 on the Civil List, to be held ' during the joint lives of His Majesty and himself.' He now became Parliamentary representative for the close borough of Milbourne Port, Somerset, and in 1804 a baronetcy was conferred, with remainder, in default of male issue, to his nephew, Robert Sharp Ainslie, son of Major-General George Ainslie.

Sir Robert, who died at Bath in 1812, in his eighty-third year, was an ardent numismatist. While at Constantinople he formed a choice collection of ancient coins from Eastern Europe, Asia Minor, and North Africa. His researches also embraced antiquities of various kinds, objects of natural history, and sketches of contemporary life in the East. He published three volumes of drawings, containing ninety-six plates.

George Robert Ainslie, the eldest son of Sir Philip, was born at Pilton in 1776. Continuing the family tradition, he entered the Army in 1793, served as Major with the 85th Regiment in Flanders, and took part in the expedition to the Helder. But a military life was not to his liking, and in 1812 influential relatives obtained for him the governorship of the island of Eustatius, from which he was transferred to Dominica. Here his term of office was unfortunate, allegations being made that in subduing the maroons he resorted to cruelty. The matter was raised in Parliament, and in 1814 Ainslie was recalled. Some years later he was promoted Lieutenant-General but had no more active employment.

Like his uncle, Sir Robert, General Ainslie had a passion

for collecting rare coins, of which he had a unique collection. He specialised in the Anglo-Norman variety, and travelled over all England as well as many parts of Normandy and Brittany in pursuit of his hobby. In 1830 the result of his labours was given to the world in a sumptuous and copiously illustrated quarto entitled *Anglo-French Coinage*.

General Ainslie also was an enthusiastic antiquary and owned a valuable and varied collection of relics drawn from many quarters. To the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland he presented a basket-hilted sword which he had dug up within the precincts of Edinburgh Castle. His treasures included a painting purporting to be a likeness of Sir William Wallace. A reproduction of this painting, which had been in the Pilton family for upwards of a century, is in John Kay's *Original* [*Edinburgh*] *Portraits*. He also possessed a small, profile cast of Prince Charles Edward, presented by the ' Young Pretender,' while at Holyroodhouse, to Colquhoun Grant for distinguished service at the battle of Prestonpans.

In later years General Ainslie resided almost constantly in Edinburgh and was a familiar figure in the salerooms. There is an etching of him in Benjamin Crombie's *Modern Athenians* where he faces the rather pugnacious-looking Bindon Blood of Cranacher. Ainslie was in his sixty-second year when the sketch was made, but looks considerably older. He is dressed in blue, wears spectacles, and clutches what looks like a stout bamboo cane. The pose is anything but military; indeed suggests the last stage of decrepitude. Allowance, however, must be made for caricature.

This son of Sir Philip Ainslie died at his house in South Frederick Street in 1839. He was a friend of Sir Walter Scott and a frequent caller in the Castle Street days. In Scott's *Journal*, under date 3rd March 1828, there is an entry revealing Ainslie at his favourite pursuit. ' The General,' writes Sir Walter, ' is a medallist, and entertains an opinion that the bonnet-piece of James V is the work of some Scottish artist

who died young, and never did anything else. . . . He also told me that the name of Andrea de Ferrara is famous in Italy as an armourer.'

Pleasant glimpses of the Ainslies of Pilton in the closing years of the eighteenth century and the first two decades of the nineteenth are contained in an octavo volume entitled *Reminiscences of a Scottish Gentleman* by ' Philo Scotus,' the pseudonym of Philip Barrington Ainslie, a younger son of Sir Philip. Published in 1861, and bearing a London imprint, the work, which runs to several hundred pages, brings the narrative down to the year 1819, thus covering the earlier portion of the author's life. The book closes with the promise of a further instalment dealing with his ' subsequent residence of twenty-four years in Scotland.' As far as is known, the intention was never fulfilled, at least diligent search has failed to unearth any such volume, which is regrettable, for the author of the *Reminiscences* has a talent for graphic narration, and has much of interest to tell regarding happenings, mainly social, in Edinburgh in the heyday of the author of *Waverley*. True, a number of the events recalled are to be found in Cockburn's *Memorials of His Time*, but Ainslie usually treats from a different angle and here and there adds particulars omitted in the more famous work. Incidentally too ' Philo Scotus ' furnishes sidelights connected with his family and of the early days when his father was still laird of Pilton—sidelights which we would have been sorry to miss.

Philip Barrington Ainslie, the writer of the volume, was born in St. Andrew Square on 13th March 1785. He had thoughts of joining the Navy, but a pressing invitation by a relative to go to Jamaica and become a West Indian planter was ultimately accepted. The climate however injured his health and after some years he was compelled to return home. Then it was that his predilection for a naval career revived, but he was now too old. Instead he entered a mercantile establishment in Liverpool. Later, he made his home in

France, and a large part of the *Reminiscences* is occupied with describing experiences gained in extensive travel in that country. Still the author's boyhood was spent in Edinburgh, and in touching on it he is delightfully anecdotal.

His pen-portrait of his father, Sir Philip Ainslie, no doubt is coloured by filial regard, yet conveys a clear impression of what manner of man he was. This laird of Pilton, we are told, was ' distinguished for the elegance of his manners and address, to which his tall and handsome person and the expressive intelligence and sweetness of his countenance, added force and every advantage,' while ' his constant intercourse and intimacy with the highest in grade created in him that settled polish which distinguished the *haut ton* of that day.' Sir Philip was ' passionately fond of horses and considered an excellent judge of them,' as became the ' favourite pupil in equitation of the famed Sir William Meadows ' and ' the most perfect horseman among all his contemporaries in the Horse Grenadier Guards.'

Field sports appealed strongly to Sir Philip, and these were indulged in to the full at Pilton and neighbouring estates. ' Many a stubble we beat across,' writes his son, ' and many a potato and turnip field we waded through, ranging over the lands of Inverleith, Wester Pilton, and even as far as Royston (Caroline Park), sometimes with good fortune, sometimes the reverse.'

The fact of Sir Philip and his son shooting over the Inverleith policies brings to mind that there was close intimacy and much coming and going between the Ainslies and the Rocheads of Inverleith. With the latter family the author of the *Reminiscences* ' passed some of the happiest days ' of his life. And again : ' My taste for field sports was encouraged by my constant visits to Inverleith,' the lands of which were ' much interlaced with those of Pilton. Every Saturday morning during the shooting season I was to be found at Inverleith.' And he pays tribute to Mrs. Rochead, the stately

dame whose lineaments are indelibly fixed for all of us in Cockburn's *Memorials*. 'Nobody could sit down like the lady of Inverleith. She would sail like a ship from Tarshish, gorgeous in velvet or rustling in silk, and done up in all the accompaniments of fan, ear-rings and finger-rings, falling sleeves, scent bottle, embroidered bag, hoop and train—all superb yet all in purest taste.' Thus Cockburn. Our author, on the other hand, points out that despite her grand manner and love of finery, the mistress of Inverleith was noted for her kindly disposition. He writes: 'At the period of my mother's death, I was in infancy; and Mrs. Rochead, who was her much-loved friend, immediately on this afflicting event taking place, had my brothers and sisters as well as myself much with her at Inverleith.' At Mrs. Rochead's our author often met 'Lang Sandy Wood,' the famous Edinburgh surgeon, with whom he had many walks and much social enjoyment.

The Ainslies also were frequently guests at the Earl of Moray's town mansion at Drumsheugh, which, as indicated in Dr. Clark Wilson's article in this volume, stood in front of what is now Randolph Crescent. The two families were related, and a further link was forged at Pilton in 1801 when Margaret Jane Ainslie was married to her first-cousin, Lord Doune, afterwards eleventh Earl of Moray. In the twenties of last century the family mansion at Drumsheugh was pulled down and the ground behind was feued. Ainslie Place is a reminder of the relationship of the Pilton family with that of the Earl of Moray.

Here is another passage from the *Reminiscences* which brings the Earl of Moray and Drumsheugh into the picture: 'It was on a dull gloomy day in October [1798] when the gazette containing the account of the action in Aboukir Bay arrived in Edinburgh. My father . . . immediately dispatched me with a note of congratulation to his friend and relative, the Earl of Moray (who resided in his beautiful villa and

grounds of Drumsheugh, then at some distance from Edinburgh but now covered with the fine buildings of Moray Place, Ainslie Place, etc.) with whom and my father a constant interchange of political feelings and opinions took place.' The Earl was elated, and that evening entertained the Ainslie family to dinner at Drumsheugh in celebration of Nelson having destroyed the French fleet in Aboukir Bay (battle of the Nile). In 'one of two small houses opposite to the grounds of the Earl of Moray' resided at this time Colonel Halket and his family. The son, Hughie Halket, was a companion of Philip Barrington Ainslie, and there, as he tells us, 'I frequently passed my Saturday holiday.'

Another intimate of the Ainslies was Sir Ralph Abercromby, who defeated the French at Alexandria in 1801 but was mortally wounded. Our author writes (the year is 1799): 'On the return of the British forces from the Helder, I had many opportunities of seeing Sir Ralph Abercromby in the frequent visits he paid to my father. . . . Sir Ralph remained in Edinburgh until June 1800 when he was again called into active service. . . . I was present . . . when he came to take leave of my father, and they parted for the last time.'

W. Forbes Gray.