



"LET FEAR BE FAR FROM ALL"

hill, and connecting the French secretary with St. Cuthbert! About the same period, a similar document was prepared in favour of Don Joseph Cantelinus, Duke of Popoli, in which his descent was deduced "from the line of our royal predecessors, Kings and Queens of Scotland, by a continued course of pedigree for about 330 years before the incarnation of our blessed Saviour." Some forty years previously (1648), the notorious Robert Menteith, "ex-minister of Duddingstone, Jesuit, Public Secretary, Canon of Paris, historian, etc.," obtained a bore-brief from Scotland, certifying his descent from the baronial house of Menteith, whose arms he boldly assumed; whereas, in point of fact, his father was an unknown Edinburgh burgess, who had netted salmon on the banks of the Forth, from which circumstance the "ex-minister" had humorously and unsuspectedly introduced himself to Cardinal Richelieu as one of the Menteiths of *Salmonet*! Mr. Riddell refers to an early instance of a bore-brief, in the year 1510, which seems to have been of a much more trustworthy character than those of a later period. On that occasion Francis Forrester, *alias* Pitlard, Herald to his most Christian Majesty, appeared before the Daily Council (then the supreme civil court), and stated that, although born in France, he was of



The Duke's pedigree, however, is entirely eclipsed, in point of antiquity, by that of the Laird of Macnab, who repudiated the idea of being sprung from one of the sons of Noah. On being asked how he contrived to get over the "little diffi-

culty" of the flood, the dignified Highlander coolly replied that his ancestor "had a coble o' his ain"; and to this day the family of Macnab, like the Watermen of London, carry an open boat in the base of their escutcheon.

