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CHAPTER IV.

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"The Honorable Sir James Montgomery, a person of knowledge, courage, piety and worth, well educated at schools and universities, as his manuscripts yet extant do show; traveled to France, Italy, Germany and Holland, learned those languages and made profitable observations relating to peace and war; returning home, studied at the inns of law, solicited his father's business at the Royal court, at the council table, at the Parliament and prerogative in England and before the government and from counts in Ireland; was second son of Hugh, first Lord Viscount Montgomery of Ards, and gentleman-in-ordinary of the privy chamber to King Charles; the Major-Colonel of foot and captain of horse, which he raised at his own expense and by his credit, and maintained by his prudence and industry fifteen months in the Barony of Lacale, which he preserved all that time from the Irish of this country and their assisting neighbors—and many other valuable services performed during all that war."

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The author of the Montgomery Manuscript gives quite a lengthy account of Sir Hugh Montgomery of Ballymagoun, commonly called

"my Lords Hugh," because he was in the service of the third Lords Viscounts of the Ards. Hugh Montgomery was born in the north of Scotland. His brother was a minister.

"This clergyman has already been mentioned by the author as attending the funeral of the first Viscount, to whom he was related. See page 153. James Montgomery was of the Kessilhead branch and the first Viscount's mother was a daughter of the sixth Laird of Kessilhead."

His grandfather, Robert Montgomery, sixth Laird of Kessilhead, who succeeded to that estate in 1602, obtained a grant from Bishop George Montgomery in Farmanagh in the year 1618. These lands he granted to his second son, James Montgomery, on the 13th of August, 1623.

From this Robert Montgomery sprang a large male family, but what became of them the author does not know. "Whether removed by death or into a warmer, richer soil beyond our seas, I know not; but when they were alive and at home they were called the nine bold brothers of the Katonne."

When the Prebysiterians were in the ascendancy in 1643, this Rev. James Montgomery was not only deprived of his pulpit but vexed and harrassed continually by one Mr. John Drysdale, causing him to be cited to appear before the Covenant. On those occasions he offered to meet any one or all of them in his own defense, but this was not allowed. Then he boldly refused to denounce the service book and swear by the Covenant, and told them that they were too many hounds to pursue so small a hare. But still Mr. Drysdale kept up his vexing. Finally the two men met one day on the public highway, when Montgomery said: "You are determined to deprive me of my office and salary, and you harrass me from place to place by your summons; but here I swear if you forbear not to trouble me more, or if you presume to give sentence of excommunication against me, I will take my amends on your bay and bones; for you shall wrong me too much to cause my salary to be given from me." These words mortified the said John, and he had care to stop further citations.

He was made chaplain to the regiment of Sir James Montgomery and proved to be a valuable one, too.

James Montgomery had an older brother, Samuel, who was senior captain in Sir James' regiment, and was a member of the court-martial which met at Portaferry on the second of March, 1642, to try Sergeant Walter Kyle for the homicide of Lieut. William Baird. Samuel was at one time a major in Scotland, and died unmarried.

Rev. James died in 1647 or '48. His son, called "our Hugh," was put under the care of William Montgomery, the author, who cared well for him and secured a lucrative position for him with the

third Viscount Montgomery of the Ards; and with the exceptions of a few reverses he fared remarkably well, and died in 1707 at the age of 72 years, having been born in 1635. His wife died in 1688. They had twelve children—six sons and six daughters viz: Hans, Hugh, Hamilton, James, Vere; Elizabeth, Catherine, Jane, Elinor, Alice and Christian. Hans was made a priest in 1691 and died in 1726, aged 58 years. He had four children—May, Lucy, Jane and Alice. His wife, Jane Hamilton, died in July, 1689, aged 37 years.

The large family of Hugh just mentioned, consisting of twelve children, are all again mentioned except Vere, Alice and Christian; but they are all referred to as a whole family as being "well-conditioned and dutifully humble and observant towards their father," the mother having died 37 years before the father. She was a very estimable lady and transmitted many of her good qualities to her children, as is always true in such cases.

It is said of this large family, "In a word, I do not see a more orderly, regular household anywhere, without cursing, swearing, obscenity and debauchery, every one being industrious, yet without noise."

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CHAPTER V.

SOME OTHER MONTGOMERYS.

In the preceding chapter we have briefly noticed the Montgomerys of Blackstane, Gransheogh, Creboy and Ballymagouns. We now turn to give some account of the man that was a chief instrument in assisting the sixth Laird to escape from prison in Holland, as referred to on page 22. His name was Robert Montgomery, and "he brought his Dutch wife over with him." The sixth Laird settled him in upper Cunningham in the Great Ards in Ireland. The first three lairds took good care of the title given to this Robert, but in the minority of their successors this title was fraudulently taken away from Robert's second wife.

William, the eldest son of Robert, moved to Scotland and died unmarried.

Henry, the second son, was in troop of the Earl of Eglinton in 1689; was married and doing well. His daughter seems not to have married so well.

The Montgomery Manuscript, page 386, says that many Montgomerys of less note came over to Ireland about 1617. The following persons of that name received grants of denizenship at this date: John Montgomery of Ballinacrosse, Robert and William Montgomery of Donoghdie, Thomas Montgomery of Knochfergus, John Montgomery of Redene, Mathew Montgomery of Donoghdie, Robert Montgomery of Edenamany, Robert Montgomery of Moneyglosse and John Montgomery of Ballymagorrie. Mention is also made of other Montgomerys. John of Ballyhenry and John of Bellie Rollie were both men of considerable estate in Ireland, but under a change of administration both were dispossessed of their lands, and John of Bellie Rollie was forced to take lands in north-west Ireland.

It is claimed that the majority of all those Montgomerys were free from most of the vicious crimes and wickedness of their days, and yet they had their faults, one of which was an over-confidence in the goodness and honesty of other men, and from this cause suffered many losses.

Hugh Montgomery of Derrygonnelly was a justice of the peace and was a captain of horse and fought under Justin McCarty in 1689. He was the oldest son of Nicholas Montgomery, who was a lieutenant in Sir James' regiment in 1641. This Nicholas lived to be more than 84 years old and was made Master of Arts in Glasco; and his father was Hugh Montgomery, who was made receiver of rents to Bishop George Montgomery at Clogher Dyoces. This Hugh died before 1641.

Robert, second son of Nicholas, was a lieutenant in the army. He had the honor of bearing the standard at the funeral of the first Viscount in 1696.

Andrew, the third son of Nicholas, was a good preacher and was possessed of the degree of A. M. He was married and had children.

Montgomery Manuscript, pages 390-1, mentions Captain Hugh and Captain James Montgomery as being quite prominent men in 1696. The author says that the families of these two men furnished him but very little to write about.

The same author says: "There are other Montgomerys of greater name and fame for warlike feats than those two."

"They are grandchildren of Mr. Alexander Montgomery of Doe in the county of Donnegall. Being debarred by the Presbyterians to use the word, he took the sword and fought against the Irish and secured a command. He served several years in the King's cause in the Irish rebellion before 1649. His epitaph is as follows:

"Now he to Nature his last debt bequeaths,
Who in life charged through a thousand deaths.
One man ye have seldom seen on stage or to do
The parts of Somwell and Samson too.
Fit to convince or hew an Agog down;
Fierce in his arms and priest-like in his gowns.
These characters are due, as all may see,
To our own Dwin and brave Montgomery.
Now judge with what a courage will he arise
When the last trumpet sounds ye great assize."

And for the grave-stone:

"By what here underlies, you may conclude,
Whate'er he be, how either great or good,
Nor might nor meekness can from death secure us;
Here lies a parson utrinque Juris."

The following is the inscription on the tombstone of Alexander Montgomery's wife in Doe church:

"Here lieth the body of Margaret Montgomery, Alias Cunningham, wife of Alexander Montgomery, who deceased the 18th of June,

1675."—Manuscript Notes by Brigadier General George Montgomery of the Bombay Army.

"This Alexander Montgomery had a son John, who was a major in the service of the third Viscount Montgomery, and he was taken prisoner probably at the battle of Lisnastrain, near Lisburn, and was sentenced to death; but two ladies, probably the third Viscount's wife and mother, Jean Alexander and Mary Moore, interceded in his behalf and saved his life. This Major John Montgomery lived at Craghan and his will was proven on the 28th of August, 1679. He directed that his body be buried in the Lifford Church and left 100 pounds for funeral expenses. He mentions his brother William and his dear kinsman Dr. John Leslie. He bequeathed Curran and Castle Oghry, still portions of the Convey estate, to his son with a charge on them to his dear wife. To his seven daughters—Catharine, Nichola, Margaret, Mary, Eliza and Ann—he left legacies; the largest 150 pounds. To Nicholas, his personal estate amounted to 1400 pounds. This will he sealed with the Kesselhead arms. The seal has the initials "A. M." and probably belonged to his father. In Ulster Office there is a funeral entry of this John Montgomery which mentions his son John and his grandson also named John. I have followed this and made Colonel Alexander Montgomery a second son division of the Donegal, Cavan and Fermanagh estates. Craghan was sold by Robert Montgomery in the year 1800. Castle Oghry is near Invor, County Donegal." Manuscript Notes of Brigadier General George Montgomery of the Bombay Army.

The author of the Montgomery Manuscript saw Alexander Montgomery in 1643. The author at that time was only ten years old.

The name of the first grandson, as has been stated, was John of Castle Oghrey, and founder of the family of Beaulien, near Drogheda, County of Louth. William Montgomery, the author, also saw him in 1696. He married a very wealthy woman—Lady Moore. He died soon after, 1696, and left children, male and female, by his first wife.

Alexander, Jr., the second grandson of Alexander, Sr., was in 1704 a major in the army. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Coles, the heiress of the County of Managhan and now, 1704, lives in two miles of that town. He has one son and a good estate, and is a thriving man and a great tenant of the Duke of Ormond. He is the ancestor of the present family of Convey, near Raphoe, formerly of Ballyneck. His marriage with Elizabeth Cole occurred prior to 1696 and he died in 1726. His eldest son, Thomas Montgomery, is said to have been disinherited because he married without the consent or contrary to the wishes of his parents. He probably emigrated to America, for his third son, Richard, became after-

ward a general in the revolutionary service and was slain at the storming of Quebec on the 31st of December, 1775. These facts were communicated in 1864 by Lieutenant Colonel George Samuel Montgomery, Bombay Army, to Thomas H. Montgomery of Philadelphia, author of the genealogical history of the several American families of that surname.—Manuscript Notes of Colonel F. O. Montgomery.

Robert, the youngest and third son of Alexander Montgomery, Sr., was ancestor of the Montgomerys of Bessmount. In Tyhalland Church, near Managhan, there is the following inscription on one of his descendants:

"Alexander Nixon Montgomery, of Bessmount Park, died on the first of April, 1837, in the 76th year of his age. As a husband and father he was unequalled, and as a Christian will be held in veneration by all classes and denominations of society. Mark the prophet—'Let me die the death of the righteous.'"

Mrs. Eliza Montgomery, wife of Alexander Nixon Montgomery, died on the 8th of May, 1827, aged 40 years.

Mark Anthony Montgomery, late Ensign in the 76th regiment, died at Manchester on the 26th of April, 1844, aged 20 years.

The three Montgomery brothers—John, Alexander and Robert—mentioned in the text, were Sir Albert Cunningham's grand-nephews, being the grandsons of his eldest sister, married to——— Montgomery, Esq., of Bonnyglen, County of Donegal.—Lodges Peerage, edited Archdall, Vol. 7, page 179.

The Montgomerys of Bonnyglen, or more correctly Bun-no-glynn—foot of the glen—are descended from William Montgomery, fourth son of the first Earl of Eglinton. Hugh Montgomery of Andimhood and Bowhouse, was grandson of this William. Robert, third son of Hugh of Bowhouse, came to Ireland, sojourning for a time at Rosemount, where he had a son born in 1660, and settling afterwards at Bun-no-glynn. His son, also named Robert, married the daughter of the Rev. Alexander Cunningham, Dean of Raphoe.—Playfair Family Antiquity, Vol. 7, page 861, as quoted by T. Montgomery, page 120.

We here call attention to Alexander Montgomery, Sr., and Alexander junior, and the supposed distinguished son of Alexander junior, and the father of General Richard, his third son, and to their many descendants and legal heirs in Ireland, and then refer to the claims of parties in this country to the supposed fortune in New York, said to have been left by Alexander Montgomery, and you will find that the American biography says that General Richard had a brother John and a brother Alexander. Mr. Lair, one of the claimants, says that he had another brother, Ezekeil. Mrs. Brickins says that Alexander had issue and that she is one of his descendants, and