

burnt by King John. In 1554 the English Invaders (Temp. Mary) occupied it as a Fort. After the Reformation it was granted to Earl Bothwell. Cromwell, in his campaign against Leslie and the King, besieged it, and blew up a large portion; and finally, its old 90 foot tower fell in 1774; leaving only these sturdy old walls that have met a better fate.

The Village and Parish of Coldingham, in which this ruined Priory is situate, is a well known Court Town of Berwickshire of about 3000 inhabitants; eleven miles North West of Berwick and eighteen miles from Dunbar; and in the old wars frequently lay on the path of the Invader and became the scene of many battles. The Priory remains are beautifully engraved in Billing's Antiquities. Upon the confiscation of Bothwell's estates its lordship passed to Lord Hume, in whose family it still remains. Our family name, or that of PETER DODGE, nowhere appears in its history: and the other gift of a Lordship, Podenhughe, is not now to be found in any work of authority, and doubtless is long extinct.

Our libraries lack Scotch heraldic books or lists of their landed Nobility and Gentry.

These are mostly preserved in the Lays of its Minstrels. But the antiquarian of leisure might perhaps find in the Confessions of the Refugees to its Mediæval Sanctuary; now preserved in the library of Durham Cathedral, among the many narratives of Border Frays, and Seiges of Berwick and Dunbar; some record of the deeds of PETER DODGE, the new English lord of the Barony of Coldingham and Podenhughe, and their description at that epoch.

I have seen many of these Confessions: they are on parchment, in old monkish Latin, bound in heavy folios, and stand in many ranks, in that curious old Library, in the twilight and silence of the Cloisters of Durham.

It was, from early time, the great Sanctuary-Shrine of St. Cuthbert. In the constant Border turbulence and bloodshed, the man-slayer fled to this Sanctuary as a Refuge from Justice, or the vengeance of the kinsman of his victim. He knocked at the old Griff-in-headed knocker on the North door (in 1847 fully preserved), was admitted and shriven by an attendant Monk, who recorded his confession; he then assumed, for thirty days, the gown and cross of the order of St. Cuthbert; and then, if not demanded meanwhile by the King, was shipped to Sea at the Abbey's Sea-port of Lindisfarne or Holy Island, near modern Bamborough, on the North Eastern Coast of England.