

Far from this gravestone, poets, vain recede,
 This man loved truth alive, so now, when dead.
 On earth he led a heavenly life ; his death
 Possession of heaven's kingdom doth bequeath.
 No stains his life or manners could attack,
 They found no ground whereon their claim to make ;
 Fools, from this learn true wisdom to live well,—
 A pious life a pious end will tell.

William Coutts * or Coutes, was father of three sons,—
 David, baptized 10th July, 1641 ; John, baptized 6th April,
 1643 ; and Robert, baptized 12th July, 1651 ; also of a
 daughter, Margaret, baptized 28th Feby., 1645. His wife
 having died in 1638, he appears to have married again,
 but no trace has been found of his second wife's name.
 William Coutts had a younger brother, named John, who
 carried on an extensive business as a wood merchant in
 the burgh.

An extensive trade with Norway and Sweden was carried
 on at this period, both Swedes and Norwegians resorting
 in great numbers to the port in the months of April, May,
 and June. When a Swede arrived in the harbour, his
 first action was to seek out the dean of guild, who always
 was entitled to the first chance of the cargo. Should that
 official consider that the burgh had plenty of timber in
 store, it was then offered by public roup. The bellman

* William Coutts or Coutes, was probably a branch of the family of "Coutts"
 of Auchtertonl, members of whom engaged in agricultural pursuits in
 Aberdeenshire and other northern counties from the sixteenth century
 onwards. Another opinion is entertained regarding the Coutts of
 Montrose. William Coutts, the husband of Janet Ochiltree, is supposed to
 have been a son of William Coutts, nephew of Adam Colt of Inveresk and
 Janet Harkiss, who were married at Musselburgh. The Colts were come
 of an eminent lawyer family, of whom Oliver Colt transacted much of the
 law business connected with Montrose in the beginning of the seventeenth
 century. ("Gen. Mem. of the Coutts Family." Dr. Rogers.)