

daughter, Janet, baptized on the 1st March, 1704. Coutts died the same year, leaving a fortune of £2,500, which was considered a large sum in those days. By his will he stipulated that the money should be divided amongst the three surviving children, two sons and a daughter. Being young, they were sent back to Montrose to be educated under the care of their uncle, James, who had retired to his town house in Montrose. The two boys, John and James, were educated at the Old Grammar School of the burgh, which was at this time only a stone-throw from their uncle's house, and under the fostering care of Mr. Robert Strachane and Dr. Robert Milne, third son of the parson of Benholm, in Kincardineshire. James Coutts, after finishing his education and at an early age, proceeded to London, where he engaged as a merchant. He succeeded in amassing a fortune of £20,000, and died a bachelor in 1740. He bequeathed his money to his elder brother, John, who carried on the male line of the family. Their sister married John Stephen, a merchant in Leith.

John Coutts, the elder son of Patrick Coutts, after completing his education at Montrose, returned to Edinburgh between the years 1713 and 1718. The magistrates of Montrose, in order to encourage the formation of a library in the grammar school, ordained that "everie scholar in the first class should yearly (before their going off from school) give in something for buying books to it, and a record* thereof to be kept." In obedience to this

* "A register of the persons' names who have mortified books to the library of the School of Montrose. Erected by the Magistrates of the said burgh, anno 1688. Together with the number and names of the books given by each person set down after the order of the alphabet. Sint macsnares non decorant Flacce marone. Will. Langmoor; Ro. Strachane. N.B.—Distichion. Nee Maro. nec flaccus Longimurus Strachanus, audit Qui Quam vis Docti Carmine Nulla dabant P.B."