

A CRITICAL EXAMINATION
OF THE
Genealogy of Masterton of that Ilk, Parkmill,
ETC.

THIS pedigree is a good instance of the way in which fact and fiction are interwoven, and notices of several different families thrown into one so, as to compose a long pedigree.

Crawford begins by the statement that the Mastertons of Parkmill "were probably the most ancient lauded proprietors in Clackmannanshire, the traditional account of their origin being that one of the chief architects at the building of the Abbey of Dunfermline obtained from Malcolm Canmore the lands of Masterton, in Fifeshire, from which he and his posterity assumed their surname."

The church of the Holy Trinity and St. Margaret, at Dunfermline is believed to have been founded soon after the marriage of Malcolm and Margaret; the Abbey probably dates from the reign of their son David.

Malcolm IV. (1153-65), granted the lands of Ledmaedunegil, afterwards called Masterton, as formerly held by *Magister Ailricus cementarius*, to the Abbey church of Dunfermline. Ailric's designation has perhaps formed the ground of the fable of the architect, and it is evident that the lands not being then called Masterton could not have given a name to their owner.

The first we find is

I. Hugo de Villa Magistri, who about 1250 witnesses a charter of Petrus de Rupe; there is nothing to suggest a descent from the *cementarius*.

II. William de Maysterton, son and heir of Hugh, in 1272 enters into an agreement with Symon Abbot of Dunfermline as to the cultures of his lands of Maysterton, he being a vassal of the Abbey; in 1278 and later, he is a witness to several charters, and in 1296 as "William de Meistreton del Comté de Feyr," he swears fealty to Edward I.

III. Duncan de Maysterton in 1316 witnessed the homage of Duncan, Earl of Fife, to the Abbot of Dunfermline, for lands held of the Abbey.

IV. Symon de Maysterton, in the reign of David II. (1329-71), witnesses the resignation of the lands of Wythker to the Abbey by Alan de Lybirtou.

V. John de Maisterton was dead 23 March, 1419, when his son and heir

VI. William de Maisterton has sasine of the Villa de Maisterton, as formerly held of the Abbots of Dunfermline by his ancestors. In 1540 James II. granted to the Abbot and Convent of Dunfermline a Charter of Confirmation of all their possessions, including Mastirtone, the gift of King Malcolm. 1455, William