

The Golden family.

My Maternal Grandmother was a grand daughter of Lieut Governor Cadwallader Golden. Her father was the third son of the governor, and bore his name. There remain more documents & written memoranda to illustrate the character & history of this branch of the family than of the others.

The valley of the Tweed, in Scotland, is one of the most renowned in that land of classic lore, not alone for its romantic & beautiful scenery, but for its historical & poetic associations with by-gone times. "Every field has its battle—every rivulet its song." The purple peaks of Eildon command an extensive and gorgeous panoramic view & are themselves a beautiful feature in the unequalled landscape. The hoary Abbey of Dryburgh, surrounded with yew trees as ancient as itself, lies stern and gray at their feet. Behind are the blasted peel which the seers of Ercildoune inhabited—& the bleak wilderness of Lammermoor. The ruined tower of Sonailholme the scene of the ballad of the Eve of St John, looms up in the distance. Melrose, "like some tall rock with lichens gray", appears clasped among the windings of the Tweed—& the pastoral valley of Leader water covered with "banks & braes" of uncommon beauty mingles with the Tweed, midway between Melrose & Dryburgh. All this picturesque region, so famous in ancient song & story, will always have an undying interest for the tourist or the poet—for Sir Walter Scott has preserved, and added to, its poetic associations, made it the scene of some of his finest poems & writings—built here his lordly mansion (for Abbotsford is but two miles from Melrose—on the Tweed.) & found here, in the Abbey of Dryburgh, his final resting place.

On the east side of Leader water, lies the estate of Colding-knove—consisting of an ancient tower—a modern mansion, (belonging to the family of Home, cousins of the Golden) & a picturesque hill, the knove or knoll, rendered classical by its "bonny bonny broom", giving rise to the song of "The broom of the Cowden-knoves." Sir W. Scott mentions it in

his ballad of Thomas the Rhymur.—

"Then all by bonny Colding-knowe,
Pitched pallions took their room,
And created helms, & spears a
Glanced gaily through the broom."

and again—

"Sing Ercildoune, & Cowden-knowe."

Here in the 13th century was the tower of Coldingham—(this being still the name given in modern times to the family residence of the Coldens— & spelt as Governor Colden, always spelled it himself—) Adjoining the estate of Coldingham, is Earleton formerly Ercildoune, the residence of Thomas the Rhymur & from whence he fulminated against the family of Colden the curse,

"Vengeance, vengeance! When & Where?

On the house of Colding-knowe, now & ever mair."

This curse, uttered in the 13th century is the first record, we have in history or song of the family of Colden & although the genealogical connection of the race is wanting, I feel that it is not alone a romantic clinging to ancient pedigree to trace our descent from this family— for besides that this estate is still in possession of a branch of the family the Homes, cousins of the Coldens— the family continued to reside in that precise locality through the succeeding centuries till Governor Colden, the founder of the family in America, left Kelso, on the Tweed (below Melrose) where his parents then resided. In nearly every century, we can trace one or more individuals of the name.

The family must then, have been of considerable importance to have been the subjects of such a fearful curse— for we know that few persons are so renowned in tradition as Thomas of Ercildoune— known by the appellation of the Rhymur. A belief in his supernatural knowledge was not only current during his life, but even after the lapse of 500 years is regarded with veneration by his countrymen. Spottiswoode & other historians are firm believers in the authenticity of and consummation in frequent instances of his prophecies & many are still believed to be in process of fulfilment in various families against which he fulminated them. He seems to have been actuated

by no friendly feeling to his powerful neighbors of Coldingham, or perhaps as in the case of Lochiel's warning ser, he was compelled to speak whether he would or no. For many centuries, the curse seems to have been withheld or averted — but it would almost seem, that "coming events had cast their shadow before"; when we reflect that now, there is hardly one to bear the name. Many generations of men, of high social position, eminent for intellectual attainments, distinguished in the walks of science & the halls of legislation, adorned with all the qualities of heart and character that form the Christian gentleman, have shed a lustre on the name of Colden. But they have all passed away! In Scotland, the name is extinct. In this country it is borne but by one or two — by none who preserve its ancient dignity and lustre. The family seat of Coldingham, — once the abode of elegant and refined hospitality and social intercourse, such as was perhaps not to be found in many country seats north of the Potomac, graced as it was by those who were familiar with the best society of this country & Europe — has passed out of the family possession. The high-hearted, chivalric gentlemen — the accomplished & elegant ladies that graced and gave a charm to its halls, lie in the old family graveyard. The place that has known the family shall soon know it no more for ever.

"No one now dwells in the halls of Ivor,
Men, dogs, & horses all are dead,
And there is hardly one survivor!"

There must also have been an Abbey on the estate — as we frequently read of the Abbey of Coldingham. In 1314, Robert Bruce, directed the thunders of parliamentary censure against such of his subjects as did not return to their national allegiance after the battle of Bannockburn — & among others against Sigillum Prioris de Coldingham. We read also of St Cuthbert, visiting the Abbess of Coldingham! She must have been cast in the same mould as the haughty Prioress of Cynemouth. "Upon whose brow — nor ruth, nor Mercy's trace is shown" — for, among the ruins of the Abbey of Coldingham some years ago was found a niche & in it were discovered the remains of a female skeleton, which, from the shape of the niche & position of

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the figure seemed to be that of an immured nun. It is well known that the Church of Rome subjected its rebellious subjects to such a doom. A small niche sufficient to inclose the body was made in the massive walls of the convent— a slender pittance of food was deposited in it & the awful words "Vade in Pacem" were the signal for immuring the criminal. Upon the circumstance of the discovery of this niche in the Goldingham Abbey, Sir W. Scott founded his incident of the doom of Constance de Beverley, so thrillingly described in Marmion.

That the estate of Goldingham must have been of great extent is evident for we read of the town of Goldingham, situated as nearly as can be traced in the very locality I have described. The following fragment of a letter from the Earl of Northumberland to Henry 8th dated at Werkworth 22^d day of October 1522 is a description of the dreadful war which was occasionally waged upon the borders. after describing a number of terrible deeds done by the Scottishmen, it also recounts diverse acts of revenge "by a parte of your highnes' subjects of Berwycke, who came into England agayne, in the dawning of the day: but afore theyre retorne, they dyd mar the Earl of Murrei's provisions at Goldingham; for they did not only burne the said town of Goldingham, with all the corne thereunto belonging, which is esteemed wurthe cii marke sterling— but also burned two towns, &c, &c. Ales I have derysed that within this iii nyghts, Godde willing Kelseo in lyke case shall be brent with all the corne in the said town."

As these border raids were committed at night, returning "into England agayne at dawning of the day" it proves the fact of the Goldingham estate being contiguous thereto to Kelseo.

The next of the name whom we can trace is the Knight, Sir Richard of Goldingham whose arms are thus described by Sir Walter Scott.

"His arms shone full bright, in the beacon's red light;
His plume it was scarlet & blue;
On his shield was a hound, in a silver leash bound,
And his crest was a branch of the yew"

He lived at the time of the battle of

Ancran. Moor 1545 - in precisely the same locality as all the preceding of the name for,

"Where fair Tweed flows, round holy Melrose,
And Eildon slopes to the plain,
Full three nights ago, by some secret foe,
That gay gallant was slain."

and his tomb, as those probably of all the race was in Dryburgh Abbey, (so hallowed now as the final resting place of Sir W. Scott) for still the poet sings

"The Dryburgh bells ring & the white monks do ring
For Sir Richard of Coldingham."

There are doubtless to be found in these localities many traditions of the family - and records which would prove invaluable to the descendants.

We come now to the first written documents relating to the family of which we are in possession. It records the death of Rev John Colden, pastor of the Kirk of Kinross in 1640. We have no particulars of him - or of his life - nor can we trace the connection between the "gallant knight" & the stern Prior & Abbess, heretofore mentioned, & the peaceful occupant of the Presbyterian Kirk of Kinross. In the political convulsions of the period & the progress of the Reformation, stranger events took place than that a devotee of the Romish church, in the great anxiety to avoid all the errors which were opened to their view in the reformation, in place of adopting the pure doctrine & worship of the church of England, became converts to the doctrines of Calvin - those of the Kirk of Scotland. The following memorial was copied from the original document now in possession of the Earl of Morton at Dalmahoy -

Right noble & our verie "Honorable Lord

Please yo^r L. That it hes pleased God of his Mercie to call Mr John Colden - your Lo' umg^t Pastor, upon the first of Julie instant. And now yo^r Lo' Kirk of Kinross and people are destitute of a Pastor wherefor we are bold upon yo^r Lo'

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last direction by Michael Schaw in favours of Mr George Colden
to supplicate your Lo' for the said Mr George (sonne to the
late Minister) who has bene here lately at Kinross and
given testimonie two severall sundays. That he will serve yo^r Lo'
and the parochin of Kinross befor any employment whatsoever,
which hee made us verie earnest to sute the same. Hoping to have
yo^r Lo' farther warrand and concurrence by presentation or
otherways as yo^r Lo' shall think fit for that effect, which
shall be obeyed in all dutie by the undersubscribers who shall
ever pray for your Lo' health & happiness as becomes
Your Lo' humble

Kinross 13th Julie
1640

and obedient Servants
William Keith
John Craufurd
Ja. Dempster
James Steidman
Alex^r Steidman
Henrie Burt.
fflorunce Schaw.

To the Right Noble
our much honored Lord
The Earl of Morton

Rev George Colden, son of the Rev John Colden, therefore succeeded his
father as the records show in the Kirk of Kinross. His son, also
a clergyman, Rev Alexander Colden, went to Ireland at the time
of the revolution and returning after its close to Scotland, settled
at Oxham, near Kelso. He must have been a man of very noble
and superior character - judging from his letters to his son and
also the testimony of the latter who says, "My father was
acquainted with & had gained the esteem of many of the nobility
& gentry, not only of those who thought as he did in respect to
religious principles but likewise of those who differed widely from him."
He must have married a Miss Cadwallader, as from a letter in
later years addressed to Mrs Elizabeth Hill, his wife's sister, by
Governor Colden, some reasons were adduced for not giving a
child her family name - so the presumption is, that this is

the source from whence this name so general in the family is derived. The original of the following letters is written in so peculiar a hand as to be almost unintelligible without minute study. They are addressed to his son, Cadwallader who had emigrated to America. One is addressed conjointly to his son & his wife, & One to his son. They beautifully illustrate the noble & christian character he possessed.

Oxham March 19th 1719

Dear son & daughter.

I have yours dated in October last, I bless God y^t I hear so often from you & y^t you do not forget us, & also that dear Alice is so well recovered & y^t Alex^r is preserved to you in life & health tho' it hath pleased the Lord in his holy providence to take David from you. I bless the Lord y^t he hath mist y^t bitter cup to you with so much mercie. I desire also to give God thanks who continues you in the Governours favour. I do not cease to pray for you both and our dear grandchild, and especially that all these providences of God with respect to you of mercie & judgment may be sanctified & blest to draw you nearer God & to lay your dependence on him for all good & resignation of yourselves to his disposing will in all things, its but a little time when we must all go hence & be here no more. O that we may more & more see the vanitie & uncertaintie of all sublanarie comfort & may endeavour to our utmost in the use of means to secure the one thing needfull y^t better part y^t shall never be taken from us. Our interest in Christ & his purchase the blessings of the everlasting covenant are of greater value in y^r selves & will appear to be so in a dying hour, than ten thousand worlds. May the Lord bless you both & the children with a large effusion of his holy spirit q^uhairby ye may be sealed to the day of redemption and may have the first fruit of glory y^t will give you that inward satisfaction & contentment y^t all others who are destitute thereof are utter strangers to. It may be this may be last y^t ever you may have from me therefore I would with all the seriousness I am capable of recommend to you Christ & religion as y^t q^uick will make you truly happy here & forever, his wayes are wayes of peace

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and all his paths are pleasant, the light of his countenance will give more heartjoy than all the abundance of the world can afford the greatest worldings; taste & see y^t God is good, they are blest in whose heart are his wayes & unfeignedly trust in him. O love the Lord above all things, let him be your pattern y^t you have chosen; let him have your chiefe delight, let his glorie & pleasing him in all things be your chiefe aim & end. Neglect not the means of grace publick and privat and seek the Lord in them all & endeavour to be patterns of pietie, righteousness, sobrietie to others, set your faces heavenward without looking back, the more you strive against sin & flee temptation to it & are taking up in mortifying the deeds of the bodie by the Spirit & endeavour to grow in grace in faith, humility, self denial & hope of heaven, & in love to your neighbour's souls & in conjugal love to one another & in endeavours to be usefull for the honour of God & the salvation of others. The more of God's favour & gracious presence of the beginning of Heaven, you shall have here in this world & the sweeter and easier will religion be to you.

Your Mother had a letter from her sister at that same tyme y^t I received yours - she writes to her - Now I bless God that there still continued such a good correspondence between you & your aunt. I doubt not if your continuance to shew yourselves gratefull to her on all occasions. Your brother James is at home & is studying divinitie - you must excuse his writing to you now & the shortness of this because I had only notice this evening of My Lord Jedburgh's going early next morning for London by whose servant I send this & your brother is employed by your Mother to write to your aunt, she not having tyme to write herself.

Just before the receipt of yours I wrote to you & sent the same to Mr Richard Hill who wrote to me that he had received them, which I hope you will receive by Mr Fraser & that occasioned my not writing anew by him. When I wrote then your brother was not within & therefor you will excuse his not writing them. I know neither of — does doubt of the sincerity of his affection to you both. I hope if the Lord spare him he may be usefull in his day.

Mr Chrystie & Mrs Chrystie ever in health about

9.
10 days agoe. We were all of us with them at the house a night when we went to Mr John Glen's ordination, who succeeded his father. We are affrayed of new troubles, we being threatened with one invasion from Spain in favour of the Pretender. We do fear trouble to you in New York from the Spaniards in America. May the Lord him self be your defence & fortrefe. May he command salvation for walls & bullwarks to you in that place. I doe not forget you nor the place where you are in prayer to God. I have had my health better this summer than the former & also this winter till within these 5 or 6 weeks my former fainting fits have returned but not so frequently as formerly. Your mother keeps her health - We doubt not of your concern for us in prayer. Continue to shew your dutifull affection to us in omitting no opportunitie of writing to us, for we expect to hear oftener from you than formerly & therefor not hearing from you for any time will prove more unweasie than formerly. Because of the lateness of the night wherein I write this & being obliged to rise early to morrow that I may see my Lord Sedburgh befor he goes off, I am obliged to break off. I gave your kind service to your kind cousin Mr Come & acquainted him with your sympathie with him in his present circumstances. Never forget the goodnes of the Lord to you both through the whole of your lives hitherto & especially since your marriage. Now that the God of all blessings may multiply his blessings upon you both & the child, & may follow you with goodnes & mercy all your life & that you & I (if we never see one another in this world) may be together with Christ & all the elect of God in another world for ever & may be employed in exalting & admiring free grace to us in Christ Jesus, is & shall be the prayer of Dear children.

Your most tenderly affectionate father
Alex^r Golden.

Oxham May 4th 1719

Dear Jones.

I mist the opportunitie of sending the letter on the other side by my Lord Sedburgh's servant & therefor having now

an occasion of a pure hand going to London I add the melancholic news of the death of your mother-in-law Mrs Chrystie which I expect you may have by Mr Chrystie himself as soon if not sooner than this. She has long been troubled with a shortness of breath, yet was able to strive about & was in the church in the afternoon the Lord's day before. Your mother went down to Kelso, that evening Mrs Chrystie died & stayed till she was buried on the 18th being Saturday. I was at the burial tho' I was to preach the next Lord's day in the afternoon after the sacrament at Bedrule. I saw & was with Mr David and Mr James Chrystie the week thereafter at the synod. James happens not to be at home now & knows nothing of the opportunity of this bearer—otherwise he would have written to you, neither did I know of it till Saturday last & that very accidentally, & could not take time to write a new letter to you because of my studies & this morning the bearer to London is to go off. My health is rather better than when I wrote that in the other syde. We are now longing to hear from you having had no letter since yt dated October last, I pray you smitt no opportunity. The Lord bless you & Alice & the child with all spiritual & saving blessings in Jesus Christ. May he watch over you all night and day for good. May he lead you in the way everlasting & keep you from temptation.

I am Dear sone

Your most tenderly affectionat father
Alex^r Golden.

Give our kinde respects to our sister when you write to her or shall see her. Mr David & James Chrystie were both in health when I was at the synod & I had a letter from Mr David last week.

Our fears of the invasion designed against us from Spain are almost over, for the Lord of hosts, by his own immediat hand by storm at sea, hath scattered & disperst them. O that we may be helped to render again to the Lord according to the great deliverances he hath once & again wrought for us tho' we be a sinfull & ill deserving people. —

Mr Cadwallader Golden

Doctor of Medicine at
New York — America

The following letter of much later date to his wife's sister Mrs Hill of Philadelphia, alludes to the death of his wife — though I am unable to find any account of it or of her, in any of the few letters we possess.

Dear Sister.

I wrote to you, by the bearer Mr Rutherford, which my son Cadwallader signified to me you had received. I would have taken it very kindly if you had been pleased to have favoured me with a line from you but I hope you may do what may be much the same by my son. I doubt not of your sympathy with me under the afflictions I have been & am under by the death of your sister, my dear wife, I have daily remembrance of her, having no one now that can sympathize with me under the infirmities of old age as she did, nor can any be so helpful to me as she was, nor can I communicate my mind under various spiritual diseases as I did & could with freedom do to her, but now since she is where she hath no need of me nor any created comfort, I bless God who hath raised you up to be a mother to my son Cadwallader & I hope you do not shall not repent of your being good to him. My son James knows nothing of this. He has called his young son Bohn after your husband. I am sure the salvation of your soul is the desire of my soul. The Lord be with you & bless you with much of his regeneration spirit in Jesus Christ.

I am your aff. brother
Alex. Golden

Oxham Feb 6th 1734

To Mrs Elizabeth Hill

Philadelphia

There are no details among the letters we possess of the life & history of this good man. That he was a scholar, is evinced by his letters — his standing socially is spoken of before & his pure deep religious

character is purely indicated in the preceding letters. Nor have we any account of his wife - We can conceive what may have been her virtues, from the character given of her by so noble a man as her husband. The first mentioned two sons James & Cadwallader & the latter's son in after years mentions having heard his father speak of a brother Andrew - James as his father mentions studied divinity following in the footsteps of his father. We know but little of him also - He married & had a family - but whether he succeeded his father in the parish, we cannot discover by any of the very few letters from him. The following is a copy of one in his own handwriting, written on the same sheet as one from his father & addressed to his brother Cadwallader in America

Oxham Sep 14th 1720

D: B:

I received yours & should have answered it long before if we had not waited the opportunity of Mr Gilbert Elliott's going to London that we might send our letters by his servant. I shall not all together excuse my not writing to you so often as I ought to have done, only, which is the true reason of being the winter season in Edinburgh, & by that means not at home when my father writes, but that reason will be taken away now for tho' I may not have the opportunity to write my father yet I shall with Mr David Christie & therefore I hope you will pardon the past for you shall have no reason to complain of this for the future & I am sure you will never think it was want of respect to you that made me neglect to write for I can assure you it was not & that I have all the affectionate love for you that it becomes for one to have for his brother.

My Lord Sedburgh obtained the Duke of Argyle's promise to desire your late Governour to recommend you to his successor Mr Burnet in his name so that we hope your new Governour if he come safe will be your friend, both because we are told he is a particular favorite of the D. of Argyle & that he is a man of good learning.

But if he should, (as I hope he will not) bring over

the new Anian scheme to your parts, I am confident your good sense & good education will secure you from giving into it, especially seeing y^e are things that are certainly true & you are very well acquainted with that are as inexplicable as the doctrine of the ever blessed Trinity. Please give my duty to my aunt, of whose kindness to you, I do & ever shall bear a gratefull remembrance & my love to my sister & the dear babies. Now dear brother that the Almighty who has been with our aged father hitherto, may be with you & protect you from all evil & all that wish you ill & may give you at last the entire victory over all your enemies both spirituall & temporal is the prayer of

Dear Brother

Your loving brother

James Colden.

It is very late & the letters must go away very early to morrow.
Mr Cadwallader Colden - Doctor of Medicine
at New York - America.

Cadwallader Colden, the founder of the family in America, the son of the Rev Alex^r Colden was born in Scotland in the year 1688. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh & took the tour of Europe, by no means the ordinary event than that it is in these times, but confined to the nobility & higher gentry. His father's view in his education was to fit him for the church, & being himself so highly esteemed, & having considerable interest with many of the nobility, could have no doubt of his son's preferment in it. But after the latter had gone through the usual studies at the University his inclinations were averse to entering into orders in the church. He therefore applied himself to the study of physic. He learned the rudiments of botany, a study which he in after life pursued with so much zest & success, with Dr Preston. He also went through a course of Anatomy with Dr Easkine & of chemistry with Dr Wilson, both eminent in their professions in

London. After the completion of his studies, he found that his father's fortune was not sufficient to enable him to make.

Which it is necessary for a young physician to do in Great Britain on his first appearing in the world, though it is highly probable from the high standing he afterwards held in science & literature & the talents, he possessed, he would soon have won an eminence in his profession. His mind was evidently, actively exercised in all scientific pursuits as well as in investigations into the physical & moral laws of the universe - for his notebook dated London Dec 9th 1708, when only 20 years of age, is filled with quotations & observations on all subjects. His mother had a sister Mrs Hill, who with her husband had come with Wm Penn to America & settled in Philadelphia. Having become a widow, being without children, & in the possession of considerable property, she invited her nephew to come out to her & try his fortune in America. This he resolved to do & accordingly went over to Pennsylvania in the year 1710, being then 22 years of age. He was young & inexperienced in the world, though a good scholar. The encouragement to mere men of letters in those days in America was very small & he had, as he remarks, little sense of the value of money at that time when it would not have been difficult for me by trade to have raised my fortune as others did about the same time. He remained in Philadelphia five years practising physic - at this period a strong magnet drew him back to his native land - for dwelling at Kelso, the most beautiful if not the most romantic village in Scotland, (as Sir W. Scott observes) was the lady of his love and to whom neither time nor absence had power to render him unfaithful. Previous to his departure from Great Britain he was betrothed to Miss Alice Chrystie, a daughter of the Rev David Chrystie of Kelso. They had probably been close friends from childhood, as in after life he speaks of her brother James Chrystie as having been his most intimate friend & comrade. She was a woman of most superior character - throughout her life adorning her position as wife & Mother & meriting the life-long devotion which her distinguished husband cherished for her! They were married in the year 1715 - & the following year returned to

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Philadelphia & he resumed the practice of Medicine. In the year 1718, he visited New York, being merely on a tour for amusement & called as was the custom with all strangers upon the Governor, General Hunter. The latter received the young Doctor most kindly. He was a man who had distinguished himself not alone in the field & in court, but among men of learning & in all probability soon discovered the extraordinary talents & acquirements of his visitor, who, though only remaining three days in the place, was invited by him to particular conversations. Dr Golden no doubt then possessed the elegant & courtly manners & appearance for which he was afterwards distinguished.

After his return to Philadelphia, about a fortnight had elapsed, when Dr Golden very unexpectedly received a letter from General Hunter with an offer of his friendship & an invitation to go to New York & fill the office of Surveyor General of the King's lands — an office of profit. This, without the aid of influence or interest, unsolicited even by himself, & owing solely to the effect produced by his conversation & appearance upon a man renowned for his talents & holding a high position socially and intellectually, was Dr Golden placed in a position of honor, & the pathway for his future fame & distinction was opened to him. Governor Hunter continued in office only two years after Dr Golden removed to New York. He was succeeded by Mr Burnett whose friendship he also gained, partly owing doubtless to the promise of the Duke of Argyle to Lord Sedburgh that he would particularly recommend him to the friendship of Mr Burnett who was a particular favorite of the Duke.

In the year 1722 Dr Golden received the additional appointment of Member of the King's Council for the province of New York. In these two offices he continued for a length of years. His office of Surveyor general called him constantly from home and his family, a separation that appears to have been a great trial to him. We find him writing thus to his wife.

My Dear

I have been long enough absent to find all

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the uneasiness that fondness creates when one wants to be with
the companion he most values & you may be assured I'll stay no
longer than I think it necessary. * * Pray let me know how
you & the children are. Do take care of yourself, by which you will
most effectually oblige.

Your most affectionate,
Cadwallader Golden

Morrisania

July 22^d Friday 1722.

Dr Golden seemed to have retained a most grateful sense of his
obligations to his Aunt Mrs Hill - He found many expressions of it in his
letters to her & he corresponded constantly with her till her death. He
writes. -

We are all in perfect health & have good reason to hope that
you may long continue in good health - for on many occasions you
have done for more us than we could do for ourselves. & upon all
occasions you show that concern for our welfare which few Parents
do for their children. It shall be my study to do everything in my
power for your satisfaction, that you may with pleasure reflect on
the kindness & affection you have shown to me & mine. I beg of you
that you may let us hear frequently from you for every line from
you gives me a great deal of pleasure & when at any time you keep
long silence, you can hardly imagine what uneasiness it gives me,
& indeed it is no wonder, seeing you are in place of all my
relations & have shown yourself the best friend I ever had in the
world. God Almighty, I hope blesses you for it. My wife & children
offer their duty thankfully to you. I am

Your most obliged & dutifully nephew
Cadwallader Golden

New York July 29th 1722.

Dr Golden's family being now
considerably increased & his position in society & intimacy with the
governors obliging him to live in a more expensive style than suited
his circumstances & tastes, he resolved to remove to the country. He

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obtained a grant of a large tract of land about 70 miles from New York City, in the Highlands. Here accordingly, accompanied with no small share of envy, he removed in 1729, passing however part of the year in the city. In writing to his aunt, he says, "We seem all to be very fond of a country life & no doubt the more so because we all continue very healthy & the children give us much less trouble in the country than in town, as well as less expense now when our family grows considerably numerous. The design to stay as long as we safely can before the cold weather comes on. I believe we shall return some time next month." And again, he writes to her,

Madam,

I left my family in good health last Thursday. Everything goes on in the country so far as we have no reason to complain of our servants — but since I last wrote there has been a great alteration in our public affairs by the death of the Governor, & I must look upon his death as a loss to me, not only because of the uncertainty of what kind of man may succeed him, but likewise because I had no reason to suspect that he entertained any unkind thoughts of me & that I should have lived easily under the remaining part of his administration in the enjoyment of the offices which I now hold, & which is all I shall desire of any Governor. I told you likewise in my former, of some considerable advantage I was in hopes of having by a grant of lands in which I had a share, but we have lately heard that a grant was passing in England for the same lands, & if that grant happens to be prior to ours, I am affrayed it may render ours ineffectual or involve us in a troublesome lawsuit. Anything like this never happened before & as we have no suspicion of any such thing, we were not upon our guard against it. The arrival of the next ships will inform us whether the grant has passed or not. If it be of a later date to ours it can do us no manner of harm. Some of the principal men of this province are concerned with me. I believe I shall not get from this before the next postal return — but shall stay as short time as possible, for I have no

pleasure in being from my own house, though I have been almost perpetually from home since March. I beg of you therefore to let me hear from you by the return of the post for it gives us the greatest satisfaction to know that you still retain your affection. The uncertainty of all worldly affairs, but of such especially as depend on the public, makes me the more assiduous to provide for my family while I have any opportunity. I hope this will be some excuse with so kind a relation for my having been so long without waiting on you, though I may be thought very undutiful & ungratefull for so long a neglect. What with the sickness that happened to myself & my wife & what with my business I have had for these three years past very little time that I could have called my own, & I have employ'd the least of it in the manner that gives me the most pleasure, in being with my own family & improving my farm. My wife & children desire me to offer their duty to you.

I am Madam,

Your dutyfull Nephew
Cadwallader Colden

New York Aug 9th 1731.

I continue to have my health very well much better than for two or three years before this.

The death of the Governor alluded to in the last letter, was that of Gov. Montgomerie who had been appointed to succeed Gov. Burnet in the office. The latter, (Son of the celebrated Bishop Burnet) on his succession to Gov. Hunter, had received from him a knowledge of the leading men of the province & soon understood the value of Cadwallader Colden, advancing him to officers honor & profit. He was appointed Master in Chancery, also - "the state of society in this country, which did not yet allow of the regular division either of labor or professional study, rendered this last appointment less remarkable than it might seem to a reader of the present day. Doctor Colden's general knowledge & habits of business soon qualified him for the able discharge of this office." He was, together with Mrs Alexander, (also a Scotchman who being engaged in the

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Scotch rebellion, left for America, & who was heir to the title & estate of Lord Stirling, afterwards claimed & enjoyed by his son) & Lewis Morris, the principal advisers of the Governor - & they were all three "eminent for the purity of their morals, literary talents & thorough knowledge of public affairs. Such was the eminence of Dr Golden's position & standing that he continued to fill his offices of trust & to be constantly occupied in public affairs throughout the administration of the different Governors who succeeded Montgomerie. In these harassing affairs however he was not so entirely grossed, but that he found time, in addition to the care & superintendance of his numerous family & his large estate, to cultivate with zeal & success the literary & scientific pursuits so congenial to his tastes & to maintain an extensive correspondence with the most eminent men in Europe and America. It was during the administration of Gov Burnet that he published his "History of the five Indian nations," a work much celebrated in its day. In his zeal for the interests of the province, Gov Burnet appreciated the immense profit to be derived from a trade with the Indian nations - which was then carried on exclusively by the French in Canada, with English articles furnished by merchants in Great Britain to certain traders in Albany. By furnishing the articles directly to the Indians, all the influence of the French might be counteracted & a vast amount of trade & profit to the provinces. The English merchants who furnished the goods & the Albany traders who sold to the French carried their compliments to the House of Lords, with many misrepresentations. It was only by the plain statement of the truth vigorously set forth by Dr Golden that the arts of those who consulted their own selfish views, were defeated. These statements were published as an appendix to his history. Tho' the local interests involved in this book, do not of course, survive, it is yet a most interesting work - the style is chaste, vigorous & in many parts highly eloquent, & it is with the highest sentiments of philanthropy & zeal for the interests of the poor Indians. His other principal work was entitled the "Principles of action in matter," to which he devoted many years

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of labor.

In the "selections from his scientific correspondence" published by the 'American Journal of Science & Arts', Dr Colden is described as, "One of the earliest & most distinguished cultivators of science in North America. He maintained, as is well known an active correspondence with many of the most eminent men both in Europe & this country, on medical, philosophical & scientific subjects, devoting to these pursuits the intervals of his public duties as surveyor general & member of the council, & at a later period, as Lieutenant & acting Governor of the province of New York. Some of his letters & other papers on mathematical & philosophical subjects, in which he was particularly skilled, have been given to the public. (Vide American & Phil. register Vol 1. (1810) which contains a spirited biographical memoir of Gov Colden from the pen of Dr Francis & Sparks' Works of Ben Franklin Vol 6 (1838). But so far as I am aware, no part of his botanical correspondence has yet been published, excepting his two letters to Linnæus, which are included in the agreeable volumes edited by Sir James E. Smith. ("A selection of the correspondence of Linnæus & other Naturalists from the original manuscripts - Vol 2 p. 457-458). Supposing that other botanical papers of equal interest might be brought to light, I availed myself of the permission kindly accorded me by D. C. Colden, Esq of New York, to examine the voluminous correspondence of his celebrated ancestor & to select some portions for publication. I trust that these contributions to the early history of science in this country will not be deemed inappropriate to the pages of the American journal of science.

Although Dr Colden had acquired the rudiments of botany as taught in the University of Edinburgh at the beginning of the last century, yet he paid little attention to the subject for twenty or thirty years after his arrival in this country. But having casually obtained some of the earlier writings of Linnæus shortly after their appearance, he zealously engaged in the examination of the plants around him, accordingly to the new system & soon established a correspondence with