

tunc presentibus hujusmodi sub tenore // James be the grace of god King of Scottis Til oure alderman and balyheis of oure burowes of Abirdene and Perth greting / for alsmekil as We ar infourmyt that Johne of Scrogs eldar burges of oure said burgh schapis him to analy and sellis his landis and annuale Rentis Within oure saidis burowes in preiudice and disherysing of Thomas Scrogs his sonnys sone and apperand air / the said thomas beyng in tendir age / and sen it affeiris til us of law to defend orphanis and pupillis beyng within age / Oure will is and we charge zhou that zhe Ressaue na Resignacion nor geve saisying of ony landis or annuales Rentis pertenyng to the said Johne of Scrogs eldar within our said burrowes in preiudice of the said thomas his apperand air on to the tyme that the said Johne mak knawin to us the cause quhi he wald anali the said landis or annuales and quhill zhe haue speciale charge and licence of us thareapon / Under al payne and charge that eftir may folou / deliueryng thir oure lettres be zhou sene and understanding agayne to the berar / Gevin under oure Signet of the Unicorn at perthe the viij dai of februarye And of oure Regne the xxiiij zhere / Quaquidem littera ut premittitur lecta prefatus Willelmus Rede presentans et adducens in Manu sua dictum thomam scrogs nepotem prefati Johannis scrogs & apparentem heredem declarauit publice. . . (Entry incomplete)

One further note may be added. Professor Hannay printed an order of James V, of 8 March, 1540, directed to his Secretary, Sir Thomas Erskine, which shows that the King had then 'three small signettis for service in our sessioun, justice airis, and for our awn directiouns' (sounding much like a differentiation in their use), and which charged the Secretary to 'caus mak ane thrid signet in place of it that was stollin, to be usit in our service as said is.'⁵ Letters patent, and their endorsement, preserved in the Pittodrie Papers, show that the lost Signet was 'the leist of oure small signetis,' and that it had been 'stollin or rekleslie tynt' as early as March 1539,⁶ whilst other papers in the same collection throw additional light on the office of the Secretary at this time and on his use of that 'signet which he keeps himself.'

W. CROFT DICKINSON.

LADY BREADALBANE'S REGULATIONS FOR HER SERVANTS

No aspect of domestic manners and customs has so greatly changed within the past century as that of servants and service. Most of us, when reading old novels, have gasped slightly over

⁵ Op. cit., 33; *Acta Dom. Conc.* (1501-1554), 485.

⁶ *Spalding Club Misc.*, ii, 194-195.

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the number of maids kept in modest homes by ladies of small means. Mrs. Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility*, though reduced in income and compelled to move from a mansion to a cottage, had at least a cook and a housemaid, and a man to wait at table, while she and her daughters had the leisure to sit down, in the morning, with a book or sketching-block or a piece of embroidery.

The problem of how they managed it is solved by almost any wage-book of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The Breadalbane Papers, in the Register House, Edinburgh, give some illuminating figures. In 1775, James Lee, valet-de-chambre to his lordship, 'received of the Earl of Breadalbane thirty pounds in full of a year's wages, and all demands due.' The footmen had £14 each; the coachman also £14, 'and a guinea if he behaves himself.' The best-paid of the staff was the cook who had 25 guineas, rising to 45. The guineas have a professional air; and indeed the Breadalbanes appear to have been unusually lavish in this payment. Possibly their cook was a master of that noble craft. The level of wages, at the period, is more or less uniform, as we find when comparing various accounts such as those of Lady Grisell Baillie and the Dunbars of Thunder-ton; £6 to £8 was apparently enough of a wage for a cook, but this may have been for a local product of the 'good plain' type, with emphasis on the 'plain.' One of Lady Grisell's 'stayd only a night' which sounds like a modern tragedy. We miss, in the Breadalbane Papers, the bills of fare that are so enticingly set forth in Lady Grisell's Household Books, and we should very much like to know what sort of dinners the highly paid Breadalbane chef could produce.

Servants, then, were easily paid, and easily procurable; even if one departed abruptly, a successor could be found without delay. Probably many of the staff came from the estate. Our present difficulty of searching for a 'daily' or a 'weekly woman' was unknown. But the problem of keeping the servants up to standard had, even then, to be tackled.

Lady Breadalbane dealt with it firmly and capably, as may be seen from the following 'Domestic Arrangements and Regulations For the Servants,' drawn up at Taymouth Castle, in November 1829. There was, by this time, a house-steward whose responsibility was considerable and whose popularity was probably slight. He was expected to 'see that all is right . . . that the servants do their duty' and to 'report those whose conduct is

reprehensible.' Just beneath him in rank came the butler, in more immediate command, who 'should make such rules for the servants' Hall as will prevent noise, quarrels and disturbances of any kind.' Apparently these were to be expected; the under-butler was also to act as disciplinarian, and 'keep order, *as much as possible*, in the Hall.' (The italics are mine.) He must also say grace before meat—cold meat, as no hot joints were allowed, nor any butter. Dripping was used to the last drip, and the sale of the surplus, to provide alms for 'the distant poor who are not within reach of the broth,' reveals Lady Breadalbane as being as economical in the part of Lady Bountiful as in that of housewife. 'The poor's kitchen' is an interesting part of the domestic arrangements; it does not appear in any other Household Books.

In his own domain of pantry and dining-room, the butler was a ruler, with responsibility but also with power. The detailed instructions about setting the table, and about removing the more delectable 'left-overs' in the way of sweetmeats and wine, can be matched by Lady Grisell Baillie's rules. She and Lady Breadalbane, had chronology permitted, might have enjoyed a cosy and congenial talk over domestic matters. Both ladies were very strict about these 'left-overs,' and about snacks between meals. The servants were to be adequately but plainly fed, and no chance of tasting and nibbling and filching dainties was to be left to them. Equally stern, too, is the rule against hopeful hangers-on. Servants who walked out on their mistress were not such a nuisance as the outsiders who walked in: 'Santering old people,' as Lady Grisell called them. Gate-crashing is an ancient social nuisance; and Lady Breadalbane was alert to it.

The insistence on cleanliness is excellent and was probably necessary; that on morality is most impressive. 'The impropriety of paying improper attentions' must have brought heavy penalties upon the offender. Georgian England and Scotland may have been raffish enough in certain circles, but the tide of morality was flowing in. There is an almost Victorian strictness about many of Lady Breadalbane's directions.

Compared with Lady Grisell Baillie's Household Books, these Breadalbane Papers contain less vivid detail, and Lady Breadalbane herself is at once a more shadowy and more formidable figure than Lady Grisell who had such a zest for parties and for splendour, with an endearing touch of the spendthrift about her. One feels that she would disapprove as easily and as often as Queen Victoria herself. But she was no useless, fine lady. She

looked well to the ways of her house, and stretched out her hand to the poor.

The homeliness of an earlier age, when the lady of the house spent much of her time in the still-room, and had her own cherished, hereditary recipes for preserves and cordials, is lost; but the separation of kitchen from drawing-room has not yet occurred. As material, not only for social history but for domestic comedy, the Household Books and Papers of eighteenth and early nineteenth century Scotland are excellent; and among them, the Breadalbane Collection ranks very high.

MARION LOCHHEAD.

*Domestic Arrangements and Regulations for
the Servants.*

Taymouth—Nov. 1829.

' John Ferguson who acts as secretary and House Steward receives and conveys all orders respecting the management of the household, likewise all the orders for the outdoor servants or others which Lord or Lady B. desire him to communicate. It is expected he will take a general charge (as far as possible) of seeing the orders he receives *are attended to*. He should go round frequently the different departments particularly the *Kitchen* and *Pantry* to see that all is right, and that order and regularity is observed throughout. In short that the servants *do their duty*. He will report those whose conduct is reprehensible. It must be understood the livery servants are under the particular charge and direction of the Butler who must see they are clean and neat in their persons, regular and orderly in their conduct. The Butler should make such rules for the servants Hall as will prevent noise quarrels and disturbance of any kind. None of the country people, tradesmen or outdoor servants must be permitted to come into the hall. He will see that all the servants assemble at the regular hours of meals, and note down the names of any who are absent. When he has any complaint to make of their conduct he will advise with Ferguson.

' The Butler or under Butler must take charge of distributing the servants beer. The Under Butler ought also to carve the meat, and keep order as much as possible in the Hall. Lady B. recommends that thanks should at all times be offered up before meals, therefore the under Butler should regularly say Grace.

' The Butler must be responsible that one of the servants is at all times in the Butler's Pantry to answer the Door Bell. The pantry must be kept clean and every thing in its proper place. The plate not in use locked up, also the best cut glass. It must be distinctly understood that it is never to be given out for the Lunch parlour or for children's dinners, or is it to be sent

to Bedrooms. It is to be used only in the eating room when there is company. The Butler must put down and remove the wine from the Table *with his own hands*, and also the sweet meats of the dessert, and *sugar* which should be carried immediately to the Housekeeper as well as the dessert and dessert china (same regulation holds with respect to sweet meats and sugar at Breakfast). It must never be carried into the Pantry, and the Butler must receive particular directions to this effect. He should assist every day in laying the cloth and putting out the dinner things to see that all is right.

'The ornamental plate should *not be often cleaned* but should be kept covered up with green baize. It must be put down with the Butler's *own hands* when used. He should never allow any one but himself to place the best branch candlestick *on the Table*. The lights should be all put first into the sockets otherwise the branches will be broken; an accident has occurred from the ignorance of those in whose care they have lately been *from not attending to this*.

'All the pieces of spermacetti candles are to be collected by the under Butler and given over to the House-keeper at least once every fortnight for the lanthorns and lighting the fires. It must be understood that no pieces of candles of any kind are permitted to be taken by the servants at Taymouth under the name of perquisites or any other articles.

'None of the servants must be allowed to wear nails in their shoes.

'The lights must be all out in the servants apartments when there is no company by eleven.

'Gentlemen's own horses are to be put in the stables at Taymouth. Post horses are sent to the Inn.

'Was the game-keeper informed that no under keepers or their assistants are at any time admitted into the house under pretence of receiving orders from him. Let this be distinctly understood.

'Ferguson should know where the game-keeper is, and at what hour he comes home. He must report if he is not regular and orderly in his conduct.

'None of the outdoor servants, Tradesmen or country people are permitted to come into the Hall or any part of the house. Any of the servants therefore that encourage them to do so to be reported as it is *against the rules*.

'No whisky to be brought into the house by any of the servants without Lord B's permission.

'Ferguson is desired to go into the Kennels now and then and report to Lord B. the state in which he finds them and the number of dogs &c.

'None of the servants are to go into the Kitchen or Scullery.

'No eating or drinking allowed except in the *Servants Hall* at the regular hours.

'The poors kitchen must be kept neat and clean and regularly swept by the man who makes the broth.

'The house-keeper must report to Lady B. if any of the women should shew symptoms of levity or lightness of conduct, the men servants must be made aware of the impropriety of paying improper attention to any of the

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women, and that as no such conduct will be permitted in this house their names will be reported to Lord and Lady B.

' It is understood that all the lamps in the house are under the care and directions of the groom of the chambers, except those in the Parlour and eating room which are under the charge of the butler.

' The greatest caution respecting the fires is necessary the chimneys in the Castle being all *much contracted*. The grates should not be more than half filled with coals. *No peats or wood* to be burnt on any account in the servants apartments or in any of the bedrooms in the Castle; it will not be safe for any of the vents to go more than 3 months without being swept.

' Lady B. wishes the kitchen to be kept perfectly clean, economy in fuel must at all times be observed. The Kitchen range must be contracted, and the fire low after dinner. Lady B. is anxious that all the refuse particularly meat and bones should be kept sweet and clean for the poor's broth. The housekeeper will see the kitchen maids are neat and clean, they must provide themselves with linen bibs and aprons which they must wear at all times in the kitchen and change frequently. She must see that the china is kept in the large press and not left lying about the Kitchen. The press must be kept in the greatest order, and nothing put into it except the china.

' Fish the moment it arrives should be well washed and put on the leads.

' The hog's lard must be properly melted down in cans as formerly and stored up in proper season in charge of the House-keeper, but to be used in the Kitchen only when there is company as Lady B. dislikes it.

' Ferguson is particularly desired to see that all keys are ticketed.

' Ferguson will see that all the courts and the approaches to them behind the house are kept clean and in good order. Stables, Coach house &c., at all times ready for any strangers that may come.

' The Porter's charge is important and if he does his duty conscientiously he deserves encouragement.

' Ferguson will report if he keeps the gutters clear on the roofs and if he is attentive to prevent overflows in time of rain which can only be done by constant attention and keeping the roses on the tops of the water pipes perfectly clean. When any thing goes wrong Ferguson will of course inform the clerk of the works and the Tradesmen McKenzie and Skeen that it may be put to rights.

' Great care and attention is necessary when the sweeps are cleaning the vents. The Porter must ascertain that they go completely through them all.

' See the balconies are swept and cleaned at least twice every week.

' Lady B's orders are there should be no hot joints for the Steward's Room luncheon, they will have the family broth and cold meat.

' Ferguson will see that the brewhouse, Beer cellars and all the casks are kept clean and in good order.

' Be attentive and prevent injury if possible being done in removing snow off the roofs, and that this necessary work is done in proper time by McKenzie Skeen and the old hands.

' Anderson must secure a quantity of live pike in proper time (May) and put them in the pond under Drummond Hill.

' The Post runner must wear his tartan dress from the 1st of August to the 1st of November, Sandy Stewart Gatekeeper the same.

' During the summer months he must play his bugle an hour morning and evening.

' See that the cinders are properly sifted in Town and country and that there is no waste of coals.

' It is necessary for the House-keeper to go frequently through the house to observe if any wet gets in, it will be right Ferguson should accompany her as often as possible that he may know where the defects originate. Many of the sashes are still defective in keeping out rain. Murray will see what can be done to rectify this.

' There must be always one of the upper servants in the house, therefore it must be *distinctly understood between them* that when *one goes out* the other *remains in the house*. Ferguson is particularly desired to attend to this order.

' No Butter is allowed for the Servants Hall. The Pies and Puddings for the servants are all made with the drippings of the meat and except what is required for the Lamps must be carefully melted down for the benefit of the distant poor who are *not within reach* of the *broth*. It will be sold by Ferguson to the best advantage and the money divided by him as Lady B. may direct.

' As the House-keeper found the bones had not all been *kept as formerly* for the poor's broth she has been directed to *see* what is collected *each time* the broth is made and to Report to Lady B if there is *any deficiency*.

' The Butcher will bruise the bones and carry them to the poor's Kitchen.

' Ferguson is the only person in the establishment who is authorized by Lord or Lady B. to give orders to Tradesmen or workmen of any description. Orders given by others are not to be attended to.'

[*I am indebted to the Earl of Breadalbane for permission to use and quote the papers in the Breadalbane Collection now in H.M. Register House, Edinburgh. The transcript was made for me through the courtesy of Dr. William Angus, Keeper of the Registers and Records of Scotland.—M.C.L.*]

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR 30 MARCH 1550

HITHERTO we have known only the ' Ansueris to the maist Cristine King of Francis memoriale ressavit fra Monsieur de Funnell, gevin to Thomas, Maister of Erskin, ambassadour for the Quenis Grace of Scotland, and my Lord Governour thair of, to be schawine to his Hienes upoun thare behalff.'¹ From this

¹ *Reg. Privy Council*, i, 86-93 (22 April 1550).