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lot of land on Queen St., which his grandfather, Sir Alexander, had acquired in May 1753.

It is interesting to note that the witnesses to Sir John's deed were Isaac Huger, Jr. and Wm. Allen Deas, a son of John Deas.

But now the storm, which for a dozen years had been threatening the young Nisbetts, was to break upon them, and both of their long-suffering granduncles were again called upon to show their enduring kindness. For in Mar. 1790 they learn that John Rutherford of Hunthill, a nephew of theirs, was expected to commence proceedings for the purpose of disputing their legitimacy, and it was believed that Mrs. Nisbett of Dirleton was supplying the money to conduct the suit. The Dirleton family were very rich and had as yet no heirs male, and failing such, Sir John would under the Entail succeed to them.

These troubles, or perhaps the lack of money, may account for the visits of Sir John to Mr. Walter Rutherford in August 1790 and November 1791. The legal procedure must have been very slow, for in Jan. 1793 the "pursuers" produced witnesses to prove that the late Sir John had not acknowledged his marriage while in Scotland, whereupon application was made to the Court for a Commission to examine Mr. Walter Rutherford and Mrs. Rutherford in America.

The proverbial "law's delay" seems to have held good in this suit, for only on 15th Oct. 1797 does a letter from Walter Rutherford tell us:

"I have a letter from Nelly Rutherford x x x x have lost my 'very dear sister Nisbett x x x x had been ailing sometime, and 'a paralytic stroke occasioned her death twelve hours after the 'important Cause of the legitimacy of the Nisbetts was decided 'in their Favour unanimously by the Lords of Session. My 'evidence was the only Proof."

In Feb. 1796 at the meeting of the South Carolina Jockey Club (see page 18 of History of the Turf in South Carolina) there was a match race between Sir John Nisbett of Dean Hall and John Randolph of Roanoke, each gentleman riding his own horse. Mr. Randolph won the race after an exciting struggle. But the historian tells us that tradition said that Sir John, "who was a very elegant gentleman," "won the prize from beauty's eyes," for that many of the fair watchers of the race declared that, though

Mr. Randolph had won the race, they much preferred Sir John in a match.

In October 1797 we read in the Gazette of the marriage of Sir John to Maria, daughter of Col. William Alston of Waccamaw and Charleston by his first marriage to Mary Ashe.

Col. Alston was a noted patron of the turf in South Carolina, and bred on his Waccamaw plantation many fine Thorough-bred horses. President Washington visited him at this plantation, when he came to Carolina in 1791.

His first wife, married 13 Feb. 1777, the mother of Lady Nisbett, was the daughter of John Baptista Ashe, Brig.-Gen. North Carolina State Troops, by his wife Rebecca Moore, who was a daughter of Col. Maurice Moore and grand-daughter of James Moore, governor of Carolina 1700-1702. These two families of Ashe and Moore were very prominent during the entire Colonial period both in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Occasional glimpses of Sir John and Dame Maria Nisbett are caught in the "Rutherford Letters."

In April 1798, we find them planning a visit to Scotland, and they are advised to go North by the Orkneys to Leith, or else by a Glasgow ship, so as to avoid the enemy in the Channel.

And again we learn that the Laird (Mr. Walter Rutherford's nephew) in May 1799 is "much displeased with Sir John Nisbett who dashes away at London, Bath, &c. and comes not near his Estates, wishes him with his wife, or She with him as young folks should be."

Apparently Lady Nisbett was then in Carolina, for in June 1799 Mr. Horry, who arrived lately thence in New York, brought the news that Lady Nisbett had a fine boy and was impatient for her knight's arrival. Nevertheless Sir John was still in Britain, and had sent for Alic on Dirleton's account, who wished their assistance in breaking his entail, for he had only a daughter, and the Dean family was next Heirs of Entail to this estate which was called £6000 a year.

Mr. William Hamilton Nisbett's [of Dirleton] daughter was married to the Earl of Elgin, who was but lately returned from his Embassy at Vienna.

The exact relationship of the then Sir John Nisbett to Mr. Nisbett of Dirleton does not appear though doubtless a very little research in North Britain would show it.

