

at Seaton, being the Earl of Winton his hous, who  
 is her uncle by her mother and was the best marriage  
 in Scotland then, either for meanes or friendship  
 or the person of the woman." Lady Jean had a  
 dowry of 5,000 merks, a fortune which was <sup>must have been</sup> ~~probably~~  
 most useful to the depleted finances of the Earldom.

The young couple made their way north by easy stages  
 and at the same time a shipload of furniture was sent  
 from London to Preston-pans, where it was loaded into  
 another vessel and sent to Dunrobin. Possibly the  
 old castle had got shabby during the long minority,  
 but this was a period when Scottish houses in the  
 south were undergoing great improvments and one  
 of the principal noblemen engaged on this congenial  
 task was the Earl of Winton himself. Seton Palace  
 was built in 1630, ~~the xxxxxxxxxx the wedding~~, it  
 was one of the most beautiful houses in Scotland,  
~~but even the gaunt Highland castles were furnished~~  
 with fine beds and velvet cushioned chairs. The houses  
 of the small lairds and the town merchants were still