The populous village of Garmouth stands about a quarter of a mile above the embouchure of the Spey, occupying the base and slope of a gently rising ground. It consists of several winding streets. The houses, many of them three stories high, are built of clay kneaded up with straw, in a frame, as practised in the south of France, at Roanne, for example, the  
whole of which town is of these materials. Here they are plastered, or rough-cast, with lime, so as to present an extremely good exterior. The smaller village of Kingston stands on a ridge close to the sea-shore, composed of rounded pebbles brought down by the river, and again thrown up by the tide. It has its name from the historical fact of Charles II.  
having landed here from Holland in 1650. The descendants of a man of the name of Milne, who carried his Majesty ashore, are still in existence; and the family have been distinguished ever since by the appellation of King Milne, from the service then performed by their ancestor.

Thomas Milne, or, as some will have it, John Milne, was ferryman here in 1650. The vessel which brought Charles to Scotland could not come into the harbour, but rode at anchor in the bay, whilst a boat was sent to land the King. The boat could not approach the shore sufficiently near to admit of  
Charles landing dry-shod; and Milne, wading into the tide, turned his broad back to the King at the side of the boat, and resting his hands on his knees, very quietly bade his Majesty “loup on.” “Nay, friend,” said the King, smiling, though somewhat alarmed at the proposal, “ I am too great a weight  
for so little a man as you.” “ Oh ! I may be leetle o’ stature,” replied Milne, looking up and laughing in Charles’ face, “ but I’se be bound I’m baith strong an’ steedy; an’ mony’s the weightier burden I’ve carried i’ my day.” Amused with the man, and persuaded by those around him that there was no danger, the King mounted on Milne’s back, and was safely landed on the boat-green. It does not appear that Milne received any reward for this piece of service. The present representative of the family is Mr William Milne, ship-master at Banff, a very respectable man, who is great-great-grandson to King Thomas. Mr Milne has a son, a half-pay surgeon of the Royal Navy, and he still possesses the small property in Garmouth on which all his predecessors lived. It is now occupied by his brother-in-law Mr John Wilson. The old dwelling-house was taken down, and a new house built by the present occupier. With the exception of the present King Milne, all the descendants of the original King Thomas have lived and died here, maintaining their families by salmon fishing in the Spey, a right enjoyed by all the feuars  
or proprietors of houses in this place till a comparatively recent period.