

# Ladies of the Covenant

## Helen Johnston, Lady Graden

HELEN JOHNSTON was the daughter of the well-known Sir Archibald Johnston, Lord Warriston, who acted so prominent a part in the civil and ecclesiastical transactions of his day, and who at last fell a martyr to the cause of civil and religious freedom. Lord Warriston was not less distinguished for personal piety than for public patriotism. An anecdote, which strikingly illustrates how completely, in the exercise of prayer, his mind was abstracted from surrounding objects, and concentrated on the great object of religious worship, has been preserved by Wodrow. "Mrs. Lilius Stewart," says that indefatigable memorialist, "tells me that my Lord Warriston was very frequently in her father's house, Sir James Stewart's; and when he came before dinner, he [Sir James] usually desired him to pray in the family, and he made no more ceremony to do it than one minister would do in another's house. That it was remarked of him, that in prayer he was the most staid, and swallowed up in the work, of any man in his time. He heard or noticed nothing when praying. One day in his family, his lady being indisposed, she fell into a swarff [*i.e., a swoon or fainting fit.*] in the room beside him, and continued some time in it; and the servants observing [it], lifted her up, and laid her in bed. All this was done beside him, and he knew nothing of it till all was over and duty ended." [*Wodrow's Analecta, vol. ii., p. 135.*] Like the Marquis of Argyll, he may be said to have fallen a victim to the revenge of Charles II, who never forgave him for the fidelity with which, on one occasion, he reprov'd him for his vices. Writing in January 1718, Wodrow says, "My author [Mr. James Stirling, minister of Barony parish, Glasgow] has it from Mr. Oliphant, who was my Lord Warriston's chaplain at the time, that one day he told Mr. Oliphant he was going to use freedom with the king. Mr. Oliphant dissuaded him from it, but he took his cloak about him and went away, and did use freedom with him. The king seemed to take all well, and gave him very good words, calling him 'good Lord Warriston,' but bore a rooted grudge at him after that, and prosecuted it to his death." [*Wodrow's Analecta, vol. ii., p. 145.*] His enemies, like bloodhounds, dogged his footsteps on the Continent, and succeeding in their object, brought him home, to be tried, condemned, and executed as a traitor. "His natural temper was just, generous, self-denying; insomuch that he left behind him but a very small provision for a family of thirteen children, though for many years he had been intrusted with the whole government of Scotland." [*Life of Bishop Burnet, by his Son, in Burnet's History of His Own Times, vol. vi., p. 235. The Bishop's mother was sister to Lord Warriston. His father was an Episcopalian, but "his mother, who was very eminent for her piety and virtue, was a warm zealot for the Presbyterian discipline; her education that way been very strict."* – *Ibid.*]

Thus the subject of this notice enjoyed the inestimable blessing of a sound Christian education, and of a holy example under her father's roof. From her cradle, she had been surrounded with the genial influences of piety, as well as trained to the love of liberty. With the principles of the second Reformation church, all her feelings and early associations were inseparably linked. The summary overthrow of the Presbyterian church by the government of Charles II, and the grinding oppression by which it was attempted to force the consciences of men and women to act in matters of religion in conformity with the wishes of the monarch, she could not then, with such impressions and sentiments, but regard with aversion and distrust. And this aversion and distrust must have been aggravated from the relentless cruelty with which, from the moment of the Restoration, her father was persecuted, till he was put to death as a traitor on the scaffold.

In the summer of 1659, Miss Johnston was married to Mr. George Hume or Home, proprietor of an estate

called Graden, in the south of Scotland. [In Acts of Scottish Parliament, vol. vi., p. 85, he is designated “an heritor of the parish of Earlstoun.”] Hence, according to the courtesy of those times, he was generally called Graden, and his wife Lady Graden. Their marriage contract is dated 10th May 1659. In this contract, made with consent of several persons therein specified on both sides, Mr. Hume, “in contemplation of the marriage then contracted, bound and obliged himself, his heirs, executors, and successors, to provide and secure the said Helen Johnston, his future spouse, during all the days of her life time (in case she should survive him), in the sum of 2,000 merks Scots [*i.e.*, about 111 pounds sterling.] yearly, free of all burdens whatsoever, and that out of the first and readiest of his fortunes.” [Commissary Records of Edinburgh, 16th December 1691. Mr. Hume was a man of very considerable wealth. At the time of his death, the debts owing to him were 191,802 pounds Scots; and his free gear, the debts due by himself being deducted, was 105,302 pounds Scots.]

Mr. Hume, like his wife, was a warm supporter of the principles of the Covenanters, and also suffered in their defence. In 1678, being in Northumberland, he was made prisoner in Crockome, a village upon the English border, by a party of English soldiers who were in search of Scottish nonconformists, several of whom had taken shelter from persecution in Northumberland. He was carried first to Lord Hume, and thence to Hume Castle. His apprehension was the occasion of the scuffle in which Thomas Ker of Heyhope (whose elegy was written by Colonel William Cleland, and is inserted in Naphtali) was killed by Colonel Struthers’ party. [See Appendix, no. vii.] How long he was kept prisoner is uncertain. We, however, find him among the insurgents at Bothwell Bridge in June 1679. [M’Crie’s Memoirs of Veitch, &c., p. 463.] His name appears in a list of persons who had been “in the late rebellion,” contained in a proclamation of the privy council, dated June 26, discharging all his majesty’s subjects, whether men or women, to assist, harbour, reset, correspond with, hide or conceal the said rebels and traitors, under the pain of treason. [Wodrow’s History, vol. iii., p. 115.] He did not long survive, having died in October that year. [Commissary Records of Edinburgh, 16th December 1691.]

It was not till 1684, when nearly twenty-four years of misrule and oppression had passed over our ill-fated country, that we meet with the name of Lady Graden as a sufferer in the cause of Presbytery. But there is no reason to believe that she had not at an earlier period become obnoxious to the government, on account of her religious principles. The severity with which she was then treated, seems rather like the punishment inflicted on an old offender, than the punishment indicted on one who had offended only for the first time. The primary instrument of her oppression was Henry Ker of Graden, who, in 1684, held the once of sheriff-depute of Teviotdale, and who recklessly imposed the most exorbitant fines on such gentlemen and ladies in his bounds as patronized the cause of nonconformity.\* By this unscrupulous man she was fined in twenty-six thousand

\*Wodrow’s History, vol. iv., p.52. So reckless was he in imposing fines, that even the government, rapacious as it was, found it necessary, from the complaints made against him, to institute inquiries as to his proceedings. On the 7th of November 1684, the privy council ordained one of their clerks, Mr. Colin M’Kenzie, to write to him the following letter, summoning him to appear before them: – “Sir, – There having been several suspensions, diligences, and petitions given in to the council, by persons fined by you as sheriff-depute of Roxburgh, and the council finding it necessary, before they proceed to consider thereof, that you be present to vindicate your procedure, there being very much alleged against the legality thereof, and which they have reason the rather to suspect, since you, being cited to have compeared before them, have neglected so to do; and therefore they have commanded me to require you, in their name, to attend them upon the first Thursday of December next peremptory, and to bring along with you the decreets and sentences pronounced by you against persons within your shire guilty of irregularities and disorders, and the grounds and warrants thereof; as also your procurator-fiscal, clerk, and officers of court, or any other executors of your summonses, precepts, or warnings, to be considered by the council, and herein you are not to fail, as you will be answerable at your peril. – I am, your affectionate friend and servant, (*Sic sub.*) Colin M’Kenzie.” – Register of Acts of Privy Council.

and odd pounds Scots, [*i.e.*, 2,166 pounds 13s. 4d. and odds Sterling.] as we learn from the Report of the Committee for Public Affairs given in to the council, September 10, 1684. In that report, it is also stated that he had fined Lady Greenhead, [The lady of Sir William Ker of Greenhead.] in the sum of sixteen thousand and odd pounds Scots, [*i.e.*, 1,333 pounds 6s. 8d. and odds, Sterling.] but that the committee found reason to sist execution as to her. [Execution was sisted as to her in consequence of a petition which her husband, Sir William Ker, presented to the council, desiring

that as “the decret was pronounced in absence, and that the sum is very exorbitant, his lady might be reponed to her oath, and execution, in the meantime, sisted.” – Register of Acts of Privy Council, 10th September 1684.] The council approved of the report. [Wodrow’s History, vol. iv., p. 52.] The decret against Lady Graden not having been preserved, we are unable precisely to state the charges against her which it contained; but we cannot be far from the truth in supposing that, like the decreets against ladies in similar circumstances, it charged her with deserting the public ordinances in her own parish church, with haunting and frequenting rebellious field conventicles, with harbouring and resetting rebels, &c., to the great scandal of religion and contempt of the government. As the fine imposed upon her, and with the approbation of the government, was a very heavy one, much heavier than that imposed upon Lady Greenhead, or indeed upon any other person in that part of the country, it is evident that she was a marked person; and there is little doubt that this severity was prompted by the malignant hatred which these wicked rulers cherished towards the memory of her father. As James VI believed, that in the whole race of the Knoxes and Welshes there lived the germ of enmity to bishops, so the persecutors, during the reigns of his grandsons, seem to have equally believed, that the essence of Presbytery had been so concentrated in Archibald Johnston of Warriston, as to taint with an inveterate hostility to prelacy the whole of his race.

But our chief object in introducing this lady to the notice of the reader is, to give a specimen of the Christian sympathy and heroism which ladies often displayed in those trying times, under the sufferings of their near and dear relatives, in the cause of religion and liberty. The part which she acted towards Robert Baillie of Jarviswood, who was her cousin-german, and also her brother-in-law,\* during his sickness when in prison, and at the time of his trial and execution, is worthy of all praise. Robert Baillie of Jarviswood, than whom the martyrology of the persecution does not embrace a more excellent man, was descended on the mother’s side from our illustrious Reformer, John Knox, his mother having been the grand-daughter of the Reformer. [M’Crie’s Life of Knox, 5th edition, vol. ii., pp. 356, 357.] From boyhood he had experienced the power of religion. He had been heard to say, that God had begun to work upon him when he was about ten years of age, and that Christ crucified had been his daily study and constant delight. To great natural parts, extensive information, and dignity of manner, he added gentleness of disposition and calm benevolence, combined with warm zeal for the Protestant religion, and incorruptible integrity. [Wodrow says that he “had a sort of majesty in his face and stateliness in his carriage.” – Analecta, vol. iii., p. 78.] By the unprincipled government of his day, he had all along been regarded with suspicion and distrust, and at last they found a pretext for taking away his life. Being in London at the time of the discovery of the Rye House Plot in 1683, [He had gone up to London on the business of the Carolina settlement. A number of Scottish gentlemen having in consequence of the intolerable oppression at home, projected a settlement in Carolina in America, where such of their countrymen as chose to emigrate might enjoy that freedom of conscience which there was no prospect of their enjoying in Scotland, they sent commissioners to London, among whom was Baillie, in the close of the year 1682, to deal with the government about that matter.] he and several other Scotch gentlemen at London were made prisoners on suspicion of being concerned in that plot. Baillie had indeed attended some meetings held in London, by several English and Scotch patriots of rank and influence, for the purpose of concerting measures for delivering their country from tyranny, and preventing the Duke of York, who was a professed papist, from succeeding to the throne, in the event of his brother’s death; but he never dreamed of accomplishing this end, desirable as it was, by murdering the king and the Duke of York, which was falsely given out by the government as the great object of these meetings. [Baillie and his Scotch friends had, in fact, broken off all connection with the English conspirators before the conspiracy was discovered, convinced that from the want of unity of views, spirit, and decision, it could not succeed; nor had they

\*Baillie’s mother was sister to Lord Warriston, and he was married to one of Lord Warriston’s daughters. His wife was a lady worthy of her lineage. Some ascribed his disaffection to the government to her influence over him. “His marrying Johnston of Warriston’s daughter,” says Fountainhall, “first alienated his mind from the government.” – Historical Notices, vol. ii., p. 594. It may here be stated that Baillie had a sister who was married to the celebrated Mr. Andrew Gray, son to Sir William Gray, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and minister of the Outer High Church, Glasgow. Mr. Gray was licensed 1653, ordained on the 3d of November that year, and died in January 1656. His relict afterwards became the wife of Mr. George Hutchison, one of the ministers of Edinburgh at the Restoration, and afterwards indulged minister at Irvine. Baillie had another sister who was married to Mr. James Kirkton, one of the ministers of Edinburgh after the Revolution.— Wodrow’s Analecta, vol. i., p. 168.

*ever matured any plan of their own. – Carstares' State Papers, pp. 10-14.] He and his Scotch fellow-prisoners [These were, – Sir Hugh Campbell of Cesnock and Sir George Campbell, his son; Sir William Muir of Rowallan and William Muir, his son; John Crawford of Crawfordland; William Fairly of Bruntsfield; Alexander Monro of Beacrofts; William Spence; Robert Murray; John Hepburn; William Carstares. – Register of Acts of Privy Council, 5th November 1683.] were, in the end of October 1688, sent down from London to Scotland; and on their arrival at Leith, they were conducted to the tolbooth of Edinburgh. Baillie continued to languish in prison, till, being tried for high treason, he was brought in guilty by a packed jury, and condemned to the gallows.*

It was during these, his last sufferings, that Lady Graden displayed, in the part which she acted towards Baillie, whom she highly respected and honoured for the excellence of his Christian character, that active sympathy, that self-sacrificing spirit, and that noble heroism, to which we have referred. For a considerable period previous to his martyrdom, his rigorous imprisonment had so undermined his health that he was, to all appearance, in a dying condition. In these circumstances, he found in this lady a friend indeed. To her he owed that solace and support which kind and unremitting attentions administer under the pain, anxiety, langour, and fears, which always attend sickness; and which would especially attend it in his case, when he was confined to a prison, and when his life was thirsted after by the unrelenting malice of his enemies. It was about the month of July 1684, that his illness assumed a dangerous form. To his lady and friends, this was a cause of great anxiety and alarm. It would have been highly gratifying to her had she been allowed to remove him for a time to her own chambers; but, though disease was apparently hurrying him to the grave, she could not prevail upon the lords of the privy council to listen so far to the voice of pity as relentingly to allow him to be removed from prison; for they were determined not to forego their hold of a victim whom they so deeply hated, and whose valuable estate would, when forfeited, be so rich a prize. Being then unable to obtain for him a temporary release, she was very desirous that, in his present condition, he might have a constant attendant in prison. Gladly would she have devoted herself, with all the tenderness of her faithful heart, to the office of nursing him in his sickness; and her presence would, doubtless, have been more agreeable to him than that of any other friend. But for this office the infirm state of her own health unfitted her. Her sister, Lady Graden, however, a woman of active habits, and of a generous and exalted mind, engaged, with the greatest pleasure, should the privy council grant permission, to attend the sick-bed of her cousin and brother-in-law. Accordingly, she presented a petition to the council, praying that this permission might be granted her. The council, upon inquiry, finding that Baillie was dangerously ill, allowed her, in answer to her petition, to attend him, on condition of her remaining a close prisoner with him. The act of council is as follows: –

“Edinburgh, 14th August 1684.

“The lords of his majesty’s privy council having considered an address made by Helen Johnston, Lady Graden, supplicating that she might be made close prisoner with the Laird of Jarviswood, to wait upon him, he being at present in a sick and dangerous condition, with the report of the lord president of the session, and justice-clerk, who were ordered to visit him, bearing that they found him in a very dangerous and sickly condition, do allow the said Lady Graden to be close prisoner with the said Jarviswood, and appoint a macer of council to take her immediately to that room within the prison of Edinburgh, where the said Jarviswood is now prisoner, and appoint the keepers of the tolbooth before she enter the said room, to take narrow inspection that she have no letters or papers upon her body; and if she have, that they secure the same; and after she has entered the said room, ordain the foresaid keepers to keep her close prisoner therein, in the same way and manner that the said Jarviswood was ordered to be kept, in every respect, until the council further order, as they will be answerable at their highest peril.” *[Decrees of Privy Council.]*

To these restrictions Lady Graden gladly submitted, that she might minister to the comfort of her friend. Over his sick-bed she watched with the most affectionate and assiduous care, administering to him those comforts which his situation required; and nothing which warm sympathy and overflowing kindness could suggest, was wanting to alleviate his distress. Lady Jarviswood, though unable, as we have said, from the delicate state of

her health, to undertake the entire charge of attending him, was desirous of being occasionally allowed to visit him. She accordingly presented a petition to the privy council, praying that this favour might be granted her; and the council, at their meeting on the 18th of August, allow her to have access to her husband with any of the physicians who are to visit him, and to stay in the room with him so long as the physicians stay, and no longer, during which stay she is not to utter or speak any thing but in audience of the physicians present.”

*[Register of Acts of Privy Council.]* It would appear that, some short time after, she was allowed to remain constantly with him in the prison, subject to the same stringent rules as her sister Lady Graden, though this permission continued only for a brief period. *[On the 30th of August, the council also allowed Baillie's advocates and friends to have free access to him until Thursday, and granted warrants to the keepers of the tollbooth for that effect, they being always answerable for the safe custody of his person. – Register of Acts of Privy Council.]*

While thus enjoying the society of his wife and of his sister-in-law, the cup of Baillie's affliction was greatly sweetened. Not only was his every wish anticipated, and his sickness alleviated by the gentle language and engaging offices of love; but his intercourse with these beloved friends was, from the congeniality of their minds, sanctified and endeared by religion, in which all of them sought and found their greatest enjoyment, and their most effectual solace under all their afflictions. His confinement and sickness were thus deprived of more than half their bitterness, and surrounded by his nearest and best-beloved relations, he felt that his prison was in some measure like home. But his sister-in-law had not been with him much above three weeks, and his lady not so long, when the privy council issue orders for their being removed from him. The act of council is as follows: –

“Edinburgh, 10th September 1684.

“Whereas the lords of his majesty's privy council were formerly pleased to allow Mr. Robert Baillie of Jarviswood's wife, and the Lady Graden, to be close prisoners in the room with him, he being then under some indisposition of body, they have now thought fit that they be removed from him, and he continued close prisoner by himself as formerly; and therefore do hereby require the keepers of the tolbooth of Edinburgh, forthwith to remove the said Lady Jarviswood and the Lady Graden forth of the room where they are now close prisoners with the said Jarviswood, and to keep him close prisoner, and not to suffer them or any other person to have access to, or converse with, or speak to him, till further order, as they will be answerable.”

*[Register of Acts of Privy Council.]*

On the removal of these dear friends, Baillie continued alone in prison for nearly two months. His recovery had been very partial, and from the want of their kind attentions, and as the cold weather set in, his bodily illness greatly increased, and assumed so dangerous a form as to render it indispensable for him to have a constant attendant. His own lady would again willingly have shared in his imprisonment and ministered to him; but the infirm state of her health rendered it impossible for her to undergo the confinement and fatigue, to which, in the performance of such duties, she would have been subjected. But her sister, Lady Graden, was ready as cheerfully as ever to supply her place, should permission be granted her by the privy council. Accordingly, Lady Jarviswood presented a petition to the council, “in name and behalf of her husband, showing that the council was graciously pleased, upon application made by the supplicant, to allow her sister [Lady Graden] to wait upon her husband in regard of his dangerous and sick condition, and ever since her coming from him, no person is suffered to visit or speak to him, save the keeper that takes in his necessaries, and therefore humbly supplicating, that, in consideration of the premises, and of the supplicant's husband being so tender and unwell that he cannot rise from bed, and of the coldness of the weather, and other things that attend sickness and weakness, the council, out of their clemency and tender compassion, would allow the supplicant's sister, or niece, to attend him, the supplicant herself being so tender that she cannot.” The lords of council having considered this petition at their meeting on the 6th of November, “allow Helen Johnston, Lady Graden, the petitioner's sister, to be made close prisoner with Jarviswood for waiting on him, he being very valetudinary, the keepers of the tolbooth being always answerable for their safe custody, and that the said lady

shall not go out of the room where the said Jerviswood is close prisoner, without order from the council.”

*[Register of Acts of Privy Council.]*

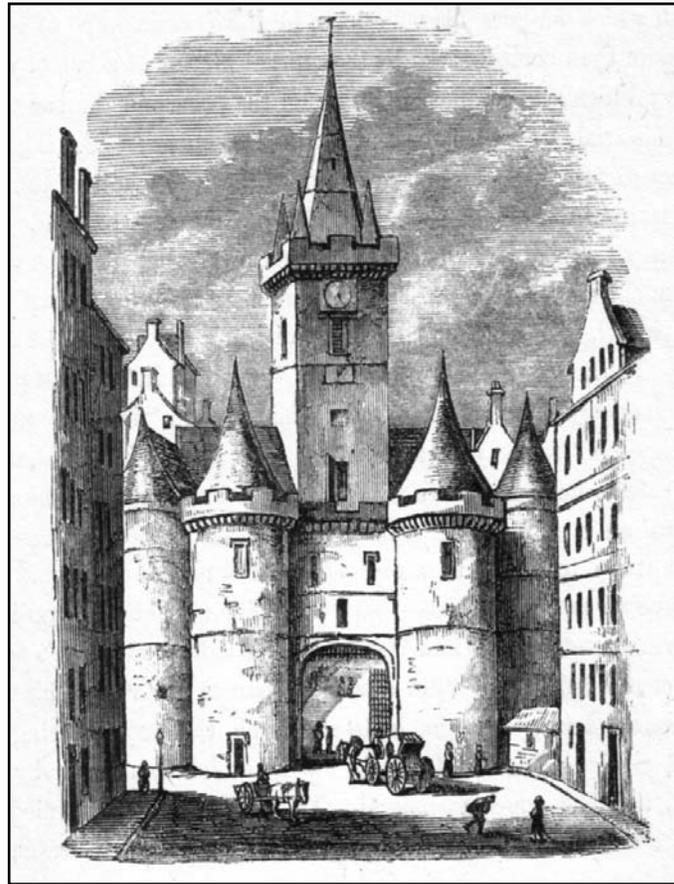
Lady Graden now continued without intermission to attend him till his death. And not only by her presence did she relieve the tedious hours of his confinement, but consoled him under his sufferings, by suggesting to his mind the promises and hopes of the gospel, and especially by reading to him from the Book of God its divine lessons of instruction and comfort, to which the dying martyr listened with that intensity of interest which the near prospect of death and eternity so powerfully tends to inspire. Nor, though those days and nights that she watched over him were in some respects days and nights of sadness, could she fail to be comforted and edified by the heavenly spirit which he displayed – in witnessing the patience and joy with which he bore his afflictions, in the certain hope of having them more than compensated by the eternal glories of a better world.

Lady Graden accompanied Baillie from the prison to the bar on the day of his trial, which was on the 23d of December; and, taking her place beside him, she watched over him during the whole of the trial, which lasted from eleven o'clock in the forenoon till past midnight. “He was so unwell and weak,” says Wodrow, “that when he was in the pannel, [*i.e.*, “*in the dock,*” or as panel at the bar.] his sister-in-law, Lady Graden, behoved to be with him in the pannel, and gave him some cordial now and then to support him.” [*Wodrow's Analecta, vol. iii., p. 78.*] To the lengthened proceedings she would listen with painful and melancholy interest. Sir George M'Kenzie's “most bloody and severe speech” to the jury, as Wodrow characterizes it, would, doubtless, create in her mind more poignant sensations than any thing else she heard on that day; nor can we well describe her feelings when he cast it up to Baillie as a reproach – what he felt to be and what really was an honour to him – that he was the nephew and son-in-law of her venerated father, Lord Warriston. The lord advocate's speech being concluded, and Baillie having spoken a few words, his great weakness rendering him unable to say much, the jury, it being then so late, were ordered to bring in their verdict to-morrow by nine o'clock, and the court dismissed. Lady Graden accompanied him from the bar to the prison, where she still continued to watch over him and to minister to his comfort.



Lady Graden reading to Robert Baillie in Prison.

But her assiduous and soothing attentions to him she had not now long to perform. On the following day, about ten o'clock, being brought from the prison to the bar of the justiciary court, he was sentenced to be hanged that day (Dec. 24) at the market cross of Edinburgh, betwixt two and four o'clock in the afternoon, and his head to be cut off, and his body to be quartered: his head to be affixed upon the Nether Bow Port of Edinburgh; one leg to be affixed on the tolbooth of Jedburgh (where the greatest part of his estate lay); and another leg to be affixed on the tolbooth of Lanark (near to which his house of Jerviswood lay); another member to be affixed on the tolbooth of Ayr; and another on the tolbooth of Glasgow; his name, fame, memory, and honours, to be extinct; and his blood to be tainted, &c. [*Wodrow's Analecta, vol. iii., pp. 78-80. Wodrow's History, vol. iv., p. 110.*]



**Nether Bow Port, Edinburgh**

It is highly probable that on that day, as on the day of the trial, Lady Graden attended him to the court, and that, with panting breast and bitter agony of spirit, she heard the sentence of death pronounced upon him. She returned with him again to the prison, resolved to minister to his comfort, as far as in her power, to the last. The scene through which she had now to pass, as well as the scenes through which she had already passed, would have been too much for many female minds. Their fortitude would have abandoned them; and, robbed of all power of acting, they would have resigned themselves to the dominion of uncontrollable anguish. It was different with Lady Graden. On this trying occasion she was greatly supported. Her friend had now only a few hours to live; but it was solacing to her to witness his fortitude, resignation, and heavenly joy; to know that, though feeble in body, he was not infirm of soul; that no terror was upon it; that there was no faltering of his inward strength, but that his trust was firm in God. It afforded her satisfaction, though a painful satisfaction, to listen to the last prayers, so full of fervent devotion and of triumphant faith, that proceeded from his dying lips, and to hear him give expression to the heavenly rapture which filled his soul in prospect of eternity. "When he was brought into the prison [after receiving his sentence], he fell over into the bed, where he broke forth into a most wonderful prayer. He seemed to be in a rapture. There seemed to be a shining majesty in his face; the tears abundantly trickling down from his eyes. He spoke like one in heaven; he showed what great

and wonderful joy would be at the meeting of the saints with the Lord, and with one another. He said God had begun the good work in him; he had carried it on, and now he was putting the copestone upon it, and now he had received a wonderful cordial: that within a few hours he would be inexpressibly, beyond conception, well. . . He said in his prayer that he was to be made a sacrifice; he prayed it might be an acceptable sacrifice to God, and that his death might put a merciful stop to their cruel shedding of the blood of his people.”  
[*Wodrow's Analecta, vol. iii., pp. 78-80.*] To such utterances as these, she could not listen without being convinced that God was present with him of a truth; that the Divine strength was made perfect in his weakness, and that He, who now so mercifully sustained him, would continue to sustain him to the end.

The time appointed for Baillie's execution soon arrived. Owing to his sickness, he was carried in a chair to the scaffold. On coming out of the chair, he was so weak as to be unable, without assistance, to go up the ladder. He wore his night-gown. Lady Graden accompanied him from the prison to the scaffold. On their way to it, they passed the house of her father; and, in passing it, Baillie looked up to the chamber where Lord Warriston usually sat, and a multitude of associations connected with the past vividly rushing into his mind, he said to her, “Many a sweet day and night with God had your now glorified father in that chamber.” “Yes,” she replied; and, thinking of his cruel death, she added, “Now he is beyond the reach of all suffering, equally free from sin and sorrow; and the same grace which supported him is able to support you.” She went up with him to the scaffold, and stood by him while he attempted to address the crowd of spectators; which he no sooner began to do – “My faint zeal for the Protestant religion has brought me to this end” – than he was interrupted by the beating of the drums; after which he made no farther attempt to speak. Previous to his engaging in prayer and being thrown over, she took her last farewell of him, which struck to the inmost feelings of her soul as with the hand of death. The last adieu of a dying friend, even when he dies upon his bed, though gratifying, is always painful – agonizing to the survivors. But when his death is tragical and outwardly ignominious, the final parting is still more overwhelming to the feelings. After Baillie had been thrown over, Lady Graden had still another duty to perform to him. She knew that the very dust of God's saints is precious in his sight; that their bodies, though they may become the victims of man's implacable rage, continue to be the objects of his incessant care, and in the faith of this, and in imitation of God, she exercised an anxious care over the body of her friend, after the emancipated spirit had ascended from it to the throne of God, to receive the crown of immortal life. “With a more than masculine courage,” as Fountainhall justly observes, she continued on the scaffold not only till Baillie was executed, but till she saw the hangman quarter his body. She also went with the hangman to see the pieces oiled and tarred, and she took them and wrapped each up in a linen cloth; after which they were thrown into the thieves' hole, before being dispersed to the respective places where they were to be exhibited as a public spectacle. [*Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. ii., p. 595. Wodrow's Analecta, vol. iii., pp. 78-80.*]

The affliction of Lady Jerviswood, who, while all this was going on, was confined to her chamber, was great; nor did the government show much sympathy for her lacerated feelings. The night after her husband was hanged and quartered, they placed a guard of soldiers at her door; so that a gentleman, who had received from him a paper for her, could hardly get access to deliver it to her. Their object in placing the soldiers at her door was to get from her his dying speech, with the matter of which they were extremely offended, and the circulation of which they were very anxious to suppress. She gave them a copy of the speech, upon which the soldiers were removed. The idea of his members being dispersed through the country, and exhibited to public view, was peculiarly distressing to her feelings, and she petitioned the privy council to permit them to be buried. The council were too heartless to grant her request from sentiments of humanity; but not altogether insensible to public odium, they would willingly have given her his members for interment could she have called in and suppressed all the copies of his speech, which was so much calculated to create, in the public mind, sympathy for the martyr, and indignation against the bloody men who murdered him. This, however, she very probably could not do, several copies of it having been written out and circulated; and, accordingly, her petition was rejected. The king was also petitioned to the same effect; but, little susceptible of humane emotions, and too much engrossed with his vicious pleasures to lend a favourable ear to a widow's plaint, he

also refused to grant her desire.

“I am a king,  
And wherefore should the clamorous voice of woe  
Intrude upon mine ears.”

Little did he know, alas! that before six weeks elapsed, he would be smitten by the relentless hand of death in the midst of his debaucheries, and summoned to give in his account before the Judge of all. The mutilated members of the martyr lay in the thieves' hole about twenty days, till the rats were like to fall upon them; after which they were sent to the several places on the tolbooths of which they were to be fixed, according to the sentence; and there, it would seem, they continued till the Revolution, when, it is probable, the conscience-stricken persecutors, dreading retaliation from the persecuted Presbyterians, upon the introduction of a new order of things, took them down, as they took down the heads, arms, and legs of other martyrs, which, with equal barbarity, they had exposed on the gates of the capital, and on the tolbooths of the principal towns.

*[Fountainhall's Historical Notices, vol. ii., p. 595. Wodrow's Analecta, vol iii., pp. 78-80.]*

Of Lady Graden we meet with no additional notices during the persecution. She, however, lived to see the Stuarts expelled from the British throne, and to rejoice in the deliverance which was effected by the Prince of Orange. She also saw the descendants of Baillie raised to situations of high honour and trust under the new government, and, what was still better, adorning their high stations by the Christian virtues which distinguished their martyred father, and proving public blessings to their country in their day and generation. She died in Edinburgh, previous to the 11th of September 1707. [*“The testament-dative and inventory of the debts and sums of money pertaining and addebted to umquhill Helen Johnston, relict of the deceased Mr. George Home of Graden, the time of her decease, who deceased within the city of Edinburgh,” is registered 11th September 1707. – Commissary Records of Edinburgh.*]

