

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

LETTER A, page 4.

IN the present volume, the reader will find many references to the Accounts of the Great Chamberlains of Scotland. Two large quarto volumes of these accounts, which contain all that is yet printed, were politely communicated to me by Mr Thompson, the present Clerk Register, to whose learning and enthusiasm the legal antiquities of the country are under deep obligations. Neither of these volumes has as yet been published, as the Preface and Appendix to be subjoined to each is not yet printed; but when completed, the work will be one of the most valuable which has ever been presented to the student of the history and antiquities of his country. The accounts, indeed, are written in Latin, and, from the innumerable contractions, present themselves in a shape somewhat repulsive to the general reader; but they contain a mass of information upon the state of ancient Scotland, its early agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and upon the manners and habits of the people, which is in a high degree interesting and important. From the extreme minuteness of the details, and the perfect authenticity of the records, there is a freshness and a truth in the pictures which they present, nowhere else to be met with. As a corroboration of this remark, let us take the following specimen from the *Comptum Constabularii de Cardross*, vol. i. p. 37. 30th July, 1329.

Item computat in empcione 2 celdrarum frumenti 53 sh. 4 d. Et in empcione 40 celdrarum farine 40 lib. boll pro 15 d. Et in empcione 130 celd. et 8 boll. ordeï, et braseï ordeï, secundum

quod computans declarabit 166 lib. 11 solidi; videlicet 40 celdr. pro 40 lib. celdr. pro 20 solidis et 40 celdr. pro 44 lib. celdr. pro 22 solidis et 40 celdr. pro 46 lib. celdr. pro 23 solidis et 30 celdr. pro 36 lib. celdr. pro 24 solidis et 8 boll pro 11 solidis. . .

Item in empcione 77 martorum, 32 lib. In 7 martis emptis, 56 solidi. Et in empcione 20 martorum pro pastu, 100 solidi. Et pro 5 multonibus emptis, 7 solidi et 6 denarii. Et in 36 salmonibus salsis empt. 18 solidi.

Item pro uno reti empto pro piscibus majoribus et minoribus capiundis, 40 solidi. Item pro maremio empto pro scaffaldis faciendis pro opera novæ cameræ, 3 solidi.

Item in 6 petros crete empt. pro pictura nove Cameræ apud Cardross, 3 solidi. Et in 10 lib. stanni pro clavis ad reparacionem ipsius Cameræ dealbandis et pro vitreo opere fenestrarum ejusdem, 3 solidi et 4 denarii. Et pro 30 ponderibus bosci ad comburendum pro negociis operis vitrei dictæ cameræ, 2 solidi et 6 denarii. Item pro 1 celdr. calcis albe emptæ pro dealbacione dictæ cameræ, 8 solidi.

Item computat pro fabricatione 80 petrarum ferri pro navibus Domini Regis et Comitis Moraviæ, ac pro aliis negociis manerii de Cardross, 26 solidi et 8 denarii, videlicet pro qualibus petrarum 4 denarii. Item, levantibus mala Domini Regis per tres vices, 3 solidi. Item, pro duccione magnæ navis Domini Regis ab aqua in rivulum juxta manerium, ac pro actiliis ipsius navis cariatis, et portatis in manerium de Cardross, 3 solidi. Item, pro 200 plaustratis petarum in æstate anni 1328, 4 lib. Item, pro 200 plaustratis petarum, in omnibus custibus factis circa cariagium earundem usque ad Cardross in anno 1329, 4 lib. . . Item pro custodia 61 martorum interfectorum ut patet inferius per tres septimanas, 12 denarii. Item pro interfectione eorundem, 5 solidi. Item in portagio carcosiorum eorundem in lardarium, 12 denarii. Item Idem computat pro construccione unius porte juxta novam Cameram apud Cardross, 6 denarii. Item pro emendacione et tectura domus cujusdam pro falconibus ibidem cum construccione cujusdam sepis circa ipsam domum, 2 solidi.

Item in construccione cujusdam domus ad opus Culquhanorum Domini Regis ibidem, 10 solidi. Item computat Johanni filio

Gun pro negociis navium Domini Regis, 6 lib. 13 solidi et 4 denarii. Item computat 12 hominibus de Dumbar transeuntibus usque le Tarbart, pro magna nave Domini Regis reducenda, 28 solidi. Item in expensis hominum transeuncium cum Patricio stulto veniente de Anglia usque le Tarbart, 18 denarii.

Even within the small limits of this extract, it will be seen that much curious and interesting information is to be found. The prices of grain, and the quantities furnished for the consumption of the royal household at Cardross, (it will be recollected that Robert Bruce spent there the two last years of his life, 1328, 1329,) the prices of the provisions for the larder, which consisted of marts, sheep, salted salmon, and numerous other articles not in this extract, enable us to form a pretty correct idea of the mode of living at this time. From the next passage, we are not only able to glean some information as to the state of the necessary and ornamental arts, but we obtain, at the same time, an interesting view of the occupations of this great king during the last year of his life. We see him and his illustrious nephew, Randolph, employing their rural leisure in experiments in ship-building and navigation, although the circumstance, that one of the king's *great* ships could be hauled from the frith to the running stream (rivulum) beside the manor of Cardross, gives us a very contemptible idea of the size of these vessels. The house for the king's hawks, and the expenses paid for the journey of Patrick the Fool, from England to Tarbart, are examples of the entries in these records which throw light on the manners of the times. Of the obscure sentence regarding the house which was constructed "ad opus culquhanorum domini regis," I am unable to give any explanation; but innumerable other passages might be selected, which would prove the high interest and value of these accounts.

The first volume contains 543 pages, and its contents, as described in page 2, are as follows:

1. The preface to the volume, with an appendix.
2. Extracts from a roll of accounts in the reign of Alexander the Third, A.D. MCCLXIII.—MCCLXVI., and from a roll of accounts during the Interregnum, A.D. MCCLXXXVIII.—MCCXC. From the originals, now lost, by Thomas Earl of Hadington, clerk register in the reign of James the Sixth.

3. The accounts of the great Chamberlains of Scotland, and of the other officers of the Crown, now remaining in his Majesty's General Register House, arranged in the order of time, from the twentieth year of the reign of Robert the First, A.D. MCCCXXVI., to the death of David the Second, A.D. MCCCLXX.

The second volume extends to 679 pages. Its contents are as follows :

1. Preface to this volume.

2. The accounts of the Great Chamberlains of Scotland, and of the other officers of the Crown, now remaining in his Majesty's General Register House, arranged in the order of time, from the accession of Robert the Second, A.D. MCCCLXXI., to the death of Robert the Third, A.D. MCCCVI.

LETTER B, p. 10.

Death of Randolph.

Barbour, the metrical historian of Bruce, whose work is of the highest authority, informs us that Randolph was poisoned, without adding any particulars.

The lave sa weill mantenynt he,
 And held in pes sa the countre,
 That it wes nevir or his day
 Sa weill, as I herd auld men say.
Bot syne, allace ! pusoynt wes he ;
To see his dede was gret pite.—BARBOUR, p. 423.

Barbour is generally believed to have been born about 1316, and, according to Lord Hailes' conjecture, was fifteen years old at the period of the death of Randolph. I would ask, on what grounds are we entitled to set aside such an authority ?

Winton is supposed, by his able editor, M'Pherson, to have been born about the year 1350, (Preface to Winton's Chronicle, p. 19,) only eighteen years after the death of Randolph. He composed his Chronicle in his old age, having commenced it in 1420, and finished it in 1424. (Ibid. p. 22.) His account is as follows.

