

## SPECIMENS OF ANCIENT PAGEANTRY.

**AFTER** the restoration of Charles II., and the overthrow of the Covenanted Church, an Act was promulged and rigorously enforced for celebrating the King's birth-day as a holiday. The people of Linlithgow, on only the second recurrence of this day, ingloriously distinguished themselves by demonstrations of wild and outrageous debauch in lieu of loyalty, and by revolting and shameless displays of contempt for the ecclesiastical principles which both they and their fathers had solemnly sworn to uphold. A hideous compound of frolic and drunkenness and religious ceremony was got up in the way of pageantry. Bonfires were kindled at the corners of the streets; the beautiful Gothic fountain in the centre of the town spouted from its many mouths French and Spanish wines; a table covered with comfits, for the refectation of the Earl of Linlithgow and the magistrates, was spread out in the open area before the council-house; and an elaborate and profane structure, intended to burlesque and ridicule the Covenanters, was erected at the cross, and stuffed with combustibles and fire-works for a grand pyrotechnic explosion.

The chief parts of this structure were four pillars, a surmounting arch, pieces of rude statuary, and scrolls of legends. On one side of the arch stood the statue of a hag, having the Covenant in her hand, with the superscription, "A glorious Reformation;" on the other stood the figure of a Whig, with the Remonstrance in his hand, inscribed, "No association with malignants;" and above the keystone stood the figure of Satan, in the form of an angel of light, with a label issuing from his mouth, "Stand to the cause." On the pillar beneath the Covenant were painted distaffs, reels, and stools of repentance; and on that beneath the Remonstrance were figured horse-collars, wooden dishes, and spoons. Within the arch, on the one side, was represented a Committee of Estates, with the legend, "Act for delivering up the King;" and on the other a Commission of the Kirk, with the inscription, "Act of the West Kirk." From the middle of the arch was suspended a tablet containing the following litany,—

" From Covenanters, with uplifted hands,  
 From Remonstrators, with associate bands,  
 From such Committees as governed this nation,  
 From Kirk Commissions and their Protestation,  
 Good Lord deliver us."

On the back of the arch was a figure of Rebellion under the guise of Religion, in an attitude of devotion, with her eyes turned up to heaven, holding in her right hand Rutherford's "Lex Rex," and in her left "The Causes of God's Wrath;" around her lay public documents of kirk and state with anti-popish and covenanting protestations and declarations; and above her was the inscription, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft." The Earl of Linlithgow and the magistrates seated themselves at the table; the curate sung a psalm and repeated a short prayer; the company took some of the comfits from the table, and scattered the rest among the crowd;

the principal persons formally drank to the King's health; and the structure of pillars and arch and statuary and inscriptions took fire at the touch of a blazing torch, and exploded in a maze of pyrotechny, and evolved two angelic figures bearing a tablet with the inscription,

“ Great Britain's monarch on this day was born,  
 And to his kingdom happily restored—  
 The Queen's arrived—the mitre now is worn—  
 Let us rejoice, this day is from the Lord.  
 Fly hence all traitors, who did mar our peace—  
 Fly hence schismatics, who our church did rent—  
 Fly covenanting, remonstrating race—  
 Let us rejoice that God this day hath sent.”

The Earl and the magistrates then withdrew to the palace; a large bonfire was lighted in the palace-court; a carousal of toast-drinking was performed within the palace-apartments; and the magistrates, by way of finale to the disgusting and wicked carnival, walked in procession through the town and saluted all the chief inhabitants.

This same town of Linlithgow was the scene of a ridiculous pageant in honour of the poet-king of Scotland. In 1617, James VI., when on his visit to Scotland, made a public entry into Linlithgow; and at his approach to the town, he was met by James Wiseman, the burgh pedagogue, enclosed in a plaster figure resembling a lion, and was addressed by him in the following doggerel speech:—

“ Thrice royal sir, here do I you beseech,  
 Who art a lion, to hear a lion's speech;  
 A miracle! for since the days of Æsop,  
 No lion, till those days, a voice dared raise up,  
 To such a majesty! Then, king of men,  
 The king of beasts speaks to thee from his den,

Who, though he now enclosed be in plaister,  
When he was free, was Lithgow's wise schoolmaster."

"This," sarcastically remarks Chambers in his *Gazetteer of Scotland*, "may look ineffably ridiculous; but when people were accustomed to hear the familiar pedantic character of James emblemized by court-flattery as a lion, they might well be excused for such an anomalous masquerade as a schoolmaster in the guise of the same animal. In truth there could not have been a more apt emblem of the King himself, who was neither more nor less at any time than a pedagogue enclosed within a plaster-cast of majesty."

James, in the course of the same visit to Scotland, processed into a number of other chief burghs; and was received in each with a theatrical pomp and a fulsome adulation substantially similar to those of the Linlithgow schoolmaster's address, and framed according to the instruction of missives which were previously despatched to the burgh magistrates from James's secret council, and which were written probably by his own dictation, and certainly at his own request and in terms of his own wishes. One of these missives, sent to the magistrates of Perth, says, "The Kingis Majestie being desyrous that in the speçiall burrowis of this kingdome quhilk his Majesty intendis, God willing, to visite the tyme of his being heir, such shewiss of ornament, cumliness, and civilitie may be sene as may gif unto his Majestie contentment, and may make the strangeris that ar to accompany his Majestie persave and see that the countrie is not sa barine of formalitie, ordour, and civilitie, as they ignorantlie apprehend,—His Majestie has thairfoir commandit, that at his first entre in the said burrowis at the port thairof, the chief and principal inhabitants in the town, in thair most comlie, civill, and formal ordour, sall attend his Majestie, and that ane speche sall be maid unto his Majestie be some person (nocht being of the ministeris of the town) in name of the hail town, congratu-

lateing his Majestie's coming to the town, and making his Majestie hartlie welcome, and that this speche be deliverit in sensible, ticht, and gude language, as alswa that at the principal portis of the town quhairat his Majestie is to enter, his Majestie's armes be engraven and sett up both within and without, and that they be overgilt in the best fassoun." And a second missive to the same parties on the same occasion instructs them that the engraving to be set up "moist contene the armes of baith kingdoms," and that the legends of it "moist be drawn in fair letteres of gold," and enjoins in reference to the speech to be delivered, "Zou sall inform him whome you are to trust with that matter, that first in name of the town he mak his Majestie welcome, and then in sensible and gude language he sall sett forth his Majestie's awin praise, by innumerable comfortis and blessings, quhilk this countrey has haid baith in kirk and policie under his Majestie's most happie government, and lait go far as modestie may permitt, he sall speik to the praise of the town, both anent the antiquitie theair of, the services done by the saim to the crown and estait, the willingness of the present inhabitants be thair best endeavours to serve his Majestie in all and everie, by and in thair possibilitie, without ony private respect or consideratione, and the constant and firme resolutione of the town to contineu in all dewtifull obedience to his Majestie and his royal progenie and successouris in all tyme coming." Instructions were received also that the King should be provided with a propin at his entry into the city, that the magistrates when coming out to meet him should be dressed in black gowns, that the town-officers should have clothes of red Fleming, and that "the skinners should provide for the sword dance, the baxters for the Egyptian dance, and the schoolmasters and the bairns gud dance to his Majestie." The magistrates got up all these things and many more; and put up the royal arms in different places, both in painting and in statuary; and caused the dancers and other perform-

ers to practise and rehearse long and laboriously so as to do their part in the most finished style of mountebankism;—and, when the King arrived, they charmed him with many “shewiss of ornament, cumliness, and civilitie,” to his heart’s content; and crammed him up to the chin with most fulsome flatteries and adulations, such as scarcely any stomach but his own could have endured; and gave him not only all the gilded speech, with words “ticht and gude,” which he wanted, but served up to him in addition four bombastic panegyrics, in the form of Latin poetry, from the mouths of four different citizens.

The Perth people of a period sixteen years later performed pretty nearly the same fooleries, on occasion of Charles I. visiting Scotland to receive the Scottish crown; and as “the skinners sword dance” seems to have been the most remarkable of the “shewiss” both then and at the visit of James, a particular account of it which has come down on record may here be quoted. “His Majesty’s chair being set upon the wall of the garden of his lodging next to the Tay, whereupon was a flat stage of timber, clad about with birks, upon the which, for his Majesty’s welcome and entry, thirteen of our brethren of this our calling of glovers, with green caps, strings, red ribbons, white shoes, with bells about their legs, shering rapers in their hands, and all other abulzement, danced our sword dance with many difficult knots and allafallajessa, five being under and five above upon their shoulders, three of them dancing through their feet, drink of wine, and breaking glasses about them, which was acted without hurt or skaith to any,—which drew into great charges and expenses, amounting to the sum of three hundred and fifty merks.” On occasion of Charles’s visit, also, two tailors performed the ineffable absurdity of personating the city and the river, and performing in that capacity a thing which its contrivers called a poetic comedy.

One of the most elaborate pieces of pageantry on record

came off at Stirling Castle, in the latter part of August, 1594, on occasion of the baptism of Prince Henry, the infant son of James VI.; and a minute account of it, written at the time, and printed at London in 1603, is still extant,—“whereby,” says a Note on the title-page, “a brief view of the greatness and splendour of the kingdom is shown, as well as what figure a great many ancient families then made, as doth appear by the recital of the names of the Lords and Barons present at the solemnity.” We shall present to our readers as much of this curious tractate as describes the pastimes which preceded the baptism and the banquet which followed,—and, in order to make it read smoothly, we shall modernize the spelling; but we shall suppress its account of the preliminary gathering of the ambassadors and the nobles as too prolix and formal for our pages,—and shall omit its description of the baptism itself, and of the pomps and processions which accompanied it, as a revolting and profane intermixture of theatrical display with religious ceremony.

“The King’s Majesty committed the charge of the affair to the Lord of Lindores and M. William Fowler, who by their travels, diligence, and invention, brought it to that perfection, which the shortness of time and other considerations could permit; so they having consulted together, concluded that those exercises that were to be used for decoration of that solemnity, were to be divided both in field pastimes, with martial and heroical exploits, and in household, with rare shows and singular inventions; the field to be used at two several days,—the first to be of three Turks, three Christian Knights of Malta, three Amazons, and three Moors. But by reason of the absence, or at least, the uncertain presence of the three last gentlemen, who should have sustained these personages, it was thought good, that the number of that mask, should consist of nine actors, nine pages, and nine lackeys, who coming from sundry parts and at divers times, together with the diversity of their apparel, should bring some

novelty to the beholders. The place most expedient for this action, was the valley, near the Castle, which being prepared for that purpose, both with carrier and scaffold, after the coming of the Queen's Majesty, with her honourable and gallant ladies, together with the honourable ambassadors, the field being beset by the brave youngsters of Edinburgh, with their hackbuts, during the whole time of that pastime. Then three Christians entered the field with sound of trumpet, who were the King's Majesty, the Earl of Mar, and Thomas Erskine, gentlemen of his Majesty's chamber, who made up this number. A little after followed three apparelled like Turks, very gorgeously attired; and these were the Duke of Lennox, the Lord Home, and Sir Robert Ker of Cessford, knight. Last of all, came in three Amazons in women's attire, very sumptuously clad; and these were the Lord of Lindores, the Lord of Buccleuch, and the Abbot of Holyroodhouse. So all these persons being present, and at their entry, making their reverence to the Queen's Majesty, ambassadors and ladies, having their pages riding upon their led horses, and on their left arms, bearing their master's device. The King's Majesty was a lion's head with open eyes, which signifies after a mystic and hieroglyphic sense, fortitude and vigilance; the words were, *Timeat et primus et ultimus orbis*. The second was a dog's collar, all beset with iron pikes; the words were these, *Offendit et defendit*. The third of that Christian army, was a windmill, with its spokes unmoving, winds unblowing on every side, with these words, *Ni sperat immota*. The second faction did carry these: A hart half in fire, and half in frost: on the one part Cupid's torch, and on the other Jupiter's thunder, with these words, *Hinc amor, inde metus*. The other page a zodiac, and in the same, the moon far opposite to the sun, with these words, *Quo remotior, lucidior*; that is to say, the farther the fairer. The third of this party carried, painted, four coach wheels, the hindmost following the foremost, and yet never overtaking them, with these words,



*Quo magis insequor.* The last three pages, bare in their targets, these impresses following, a crown, an eye, and a portcullis : the crown betokening the power of God, the eye his providence, and the portcullis his protection ; with these words, which were composed in *anagram*, of Walterus Scotus, the laird of Buccleuch's name, *Clausus tutus ero.* The second page of this party, carried on his targe, the portraiture of an hand, holding an eel by the tail, alluding to the uncertainty of persons, or of times, with these words, *Ut frustra, sic patienter.* The last was this, a fire in sight of the sun, burning, and not perceived, with this sentence, *Oblector lumine victus.* And every lackey, carrying in his hand his master's lance, they began their pastime by running at the ring and glove : the laws whereof were these,—first, that all the persons of this pastime compear masked, and in such order as they came into the field, so to run out all their courses ; secondly, that none use any other ring, but that which is put up, and use no other lance, but that which they have brought for themselves ; thirdly, he that twice touches the ring, or stirs it, wins as much as if he carried away the ring ; fourthly, he that lets his lance fall out of his hand, is deprived of all the rest of his courses ; fifthly, that every one run with loose reins, and with as much speed as his horse has ; sixthly, that none after his race, in uptaking of his horse, lay his lance upon his shoulder, under the pain of loss of that which he has done in his course ; seventhly, he that carrieth not his lance under his arm, loses his course ; eighthly, that none until his three courses be ended, change his horse, if he be not hurt, or upon some other consideration moved to change him. These laws being seen and approved by the actors, the Queen's Majesty signified unto them, that he who did run best, should have for his reward, a fair and a rich ring of diamonds ; and he also, who on that same side, had best fortune in running, he should be acknowledged with another as fair as the first. The proof hereof being made, the victory fell

to the Duke of Lennox, who bringing it to his side and party, had the praise and prize adjudged to himself. Thus the first day's pastime was ended, with great contentment to the beholders, and commendation of the persons enterprisers.

"The second day's pastime was extended, by reason that the artisans were employed in other business, who should have followed forth that invention given them; and seeing the grace of that exercise consisted in embossery, and the craftsmen apt for the same, otherwise and necessarily busied, it was left off; which, if it had been brought to effect, this country had not seen nor practised a more rare; for what by the bravery and strange apparel of the persons themselves, and by the divers shapes of the beasts that should have been born and brought there in sight, had been commendable and wonderful, by reason that such beasts, as lion, elephant, hart, unicorn, and the griffon, together with the camel, hydra, crocodile, and dragon, carrying their riders, had carried also with it by the newness of that invention, great contentment and commendation of that exercise. But I say, some arising lets impeached this invention; and all things were cast off, that might have farther decored this solemnity, through other urgent occasions.

"After the baptism was over, the King and Queen's Majesties, with the ambassadors, addressed themselves to the banquet in the great hall, about eight of the clock at night. The King and Queen's Majesties were placed in the midst of the table, and on the King's right hand were set the English ambassadors, the Earl of Sussex, and Mr. Robert Bowes, next them sat the ambassador from the Duke of Brunswick, and the ambassador from the Duke of Magdeburgh. On the King's left hand, next to the Queen's Majesty, sat the ambassador of Denmark, and ambassadors from the states of Holland and Zealand. Betwixt every one of their seats was left a good space. On the east and west side of the hall were placed two very long tables, where were set certain noblemen,

ladies of honour, and counsellors of Scotland, and with them the noblemen and gentlemen of England, Denmark, Germany, and Flanders. And betwixt every nobleman and gentleman stranger was placed a lady of honour, or gentleman. Now, being thus in a very honourable and comely order set, and after a while, having well refreshed themselves with the first service, which was very sumptuous, there came into the sight of them all a Black-Moor, drawing (as it seemed to the beholders) a triumphal chariot, (and before it, the melodious noise of trumpets and hautboys,) which chariot entered the hall. The motion of the whole frame (which was twelve feet long and seven feet broad) was so artificial within itself, that it appeared to be drawn in only by the strength of a Moor, who was very richly attired; his traces were great chains of pure gold. Upon this chariot was finely and artificially devised a sumptuous covered table, decked with all sorts of exquisite delicacies and dainties, of pastry, fruits, and confections. About the table were placed six gallant dames, who represented a silent comedy, three of them clothed in Argentine satin, and three in crimson satin; all these six garments were enriched with togue and tinsel of pure gold and silver, every one of them having a crown or garland on their heads, very richly decked with feathers, pearls, and jewels, upon their loose hair, in antique form. In the first front stood Dame Ceres, with a sickle in her right hand, and a handful of corn in the other, and upon the utmost part of her thigh was written this sentence, *Fundent uberes omnia campi*; which is to say, The plenteous fields shall afford all things. Over against Ceres stood Fecundity, with some bushes of chesbolls, which, under an hieroglyphic sense, represent broodiness with this device, *Felix prole divum*; and on the other side of her habit, *Crescant in mille*: the first importing that this country is blessed by the child of the goddess, and the second alluding to the King and the Queen's Majesties, that their generations may grow into thousands.

Next, on the other side, was placed Faith, having in her hands a basin, and in the same two hands joined together, with this sentence, *Boni alumna conjugii*, the fortress and nurse of a blessed marriage. Over against Faith stood Concord, with a golden tasse in her left hand, and the horn of abundance in her right hand, with this sentence, *Plene beant te numina sinu*, the heavenly powers do bless thee with a full bosom. The next place was occupied by Liberality, who having in her right hand two crowns, and in her left two sceptres, with this device, *Me comite plura quam dabis, accipies*; that is to say, having me thy follower, thou shalt receive more than thou shalt give. And the last was Perseverance, having in her right hand a staff, and on her left shoulder an anchor, with this device, *Nec dubias res mutant, nec secunda*, neither doubtful nor more prosperous things shall change your state. This chariot, which should have been drawn in by a lion, (but because his presence might have brought some fear to the nearest, or that the sight of the lights and torches might have commoved his tameness,) it was thought meet that the Moor should supply that room; and so he in outward show pressed to draw that forward, which by a secret convoy was brought to the prince's table, and the whole dessert was delivered by Ceres, Fecundity, Faith, Concord, Liberality, and Perseverance, to the earls, lords, and barons that were stewards.

“ Presently after the returning of the chariot entered a most sumptuous, artificial, and well-proportioned ship; the length of her keel was eighteen feet, and her breadth eight feet; from her bottom to her highest flag was forty feet; the sea she stood upon was twenty-four feet long, with breadth convenient; her motion was so artificially devised within herself, that none could perceive what brought her in. The sea under was lively counterfeited, with all colours; on her foresterne was placed Neptune, having in his hand his trident, and on his head a crown; his apparel was all of Indian cloth

of silver and silk, which bore this inscription, *Junxi atque reduxi*, which in sense imports, that as he joined them, so he reduced their majesties. Then Thetis with her mace, goddess of the sea, with this device, *Nunquam abero et tutum semper te littore sistam*, which signifies, that by her presence, she always shall be careful to bring them into a safe shore and harbour. Then Triton, with his whelk trumpet, was next to her, with this device, *Velis, votis, ventis*—By sails, by vows, by winds. Round about the ship were all the marine people, as Syrens (above the middle as women, and under as fishes), and these were Parthenhope, Ligea, and Leucosia, who accommodating their gestures to the voice of the musicians, repeated this verse, *Unus eris nobis cantandus semper in orbe*. And all the same was decorated with the riches of the seas, as pearls, corals, shells, and metals, very rare and excellent. The hull of this ship was curiously painted; and her galleries, whereupon stood the most part of the banquet in crystalline glass, gilt with gold and azure. Her masts were red; her tackling and cordage was silk of the same colour, with golden pulleys. Her ordnance was thirty-six pieces of brass, bravely mounted, and her anchors silver-gilt. And all her sails were double of white taffeta. And in her foresail a ship compass, regarding the north star, with this sentence, *Quascunque per undas*; which is to say, through whatsoever seas or waves the King's Majesty intends his course, and project of any arising action, Neptune, as god of the sea, shall be favourable to his proceedings. On the main-sail was painted the armouries of Scotland and Denmark, with this device, competent in the person of the Prince of Scotland, *En quæ divisa beatos efficiunt collecta tenes*; that is to say, Behold (O Prince!), what doth make these kingdoms severally blessed jointly, O Prince of hope, thou holdest and hast together. Her tops were all armed with taffeties of his Majesty's colours, gold and jewels, and all her flags and streamers suitable to the same. Her mariners were in number six,

appareled all in changeable Spanish taffeties, and her pilot in cloth of gold. He alone stood at the helm, who only moved and governed the whole frame, both the ship and her burden very artificially. The musicians within the same were fourteen, all appareled in taffeties of his Majesty's colours, besides Arion with his harp. Being thus prepared, at the sound of trumpets she approached, and at the next sound of Triton's whelk trumpet, together with the master's whistle, she made sail till she came to the table, discharging the ordinance in her stern by the way. But because this device carried some moral meaning with it, it shall not be impertinent to this purpose to discover what is meant and propined thereby:—The King's Majesty having undertaken in such a desperate time to sail to Norway, and, like a new Jason, to bring his Queen, our gracious lady, to this kingdom, being detained and stopped by the conspiracies of witches and such devilish dragons, thought it very meet to follow forth this his own invention, that as Neptune (speaking poetically, and by such fictions as the like interludes and actions are accustomed to be decorated withal) joined the King to the Queen; so after this conjunction, he brought their Majesties as happily thither; and now at this her blessed delivery, did bring such things as the sea affords, to decorate this festival time withal; which immediately were delivered to the stewards forth of the galleries of this ship, out of crystalline glass, very curiously painted with gold and azure, all sorts of fishes; as herrings, whittings, flukes, oysters, buckeyes, lampets, partans, lobsters, crabs, spout-fish, clams; with other infinite things made of sugar, and most lively represented in their own shape. And whilst the ship was unloading, Arion sitting upon the galley nose, which resembled the form of a dolphin fish, played upon his harp; then began her music in green holly hautboys in five parts. After that followed viols with voices in plain counterpoint, to the nature of these hexameter verses—

Undique convenient, quot Reges nomine Christi  
 Gaudent, hucque suas maturent cogere vires.  
 Viribus hos, O Rex, opibusque ante iveris omnes  
 Quisque suam iam posse velit tibi cedere sortem.  
 Regna, viros, aurum, quæ te fecere potentem.  
 Omnia conjugi decorant hæc pignora chari:  
 Anna precor felix multos feliciter annos,  
 Vive, resume novas, atque annuus anni  
 Lustar eat, redeatque; novo tibi partus ab ortu.  
 Cresce Puer, sacri mens numinis imbibar imbres,  
 Semper uterque parens de te nova gaudia captet.  
 Scotia, quæ quondam multis tenebrosa vocata est  
 Lumina magna nitent in te superantia cælum,  
 Lux Verbi, et Rex, et Princeps diademata Regni.

After which ensued a still noise of recorders and flutes; and for the fourth, a general concert of the best instruments. So this interlude drawing near to an end, in the very last courses was discovered this sentence likewise, *Submissus adorat oceanus*; inferring, that the ocean sea, by offering the shapes of her treasure, humbly adored and honoured the sitters. And when in this time all the banquet was done, after thanks being given, there was sung with most delicate dulce voices, and sweet harmony in seven parts, the hundred and twenty-eighth psalm, with fourteen voices. And that being done, at the sound of Triton's whelk trumpet, and the pilot's whistle, she weighed anchor, made sail, and with noise of hautboys and trumpets retired, and then discharged the rest of her ordnance, to the great admiration of the beholders.

“ After all which pastime and sport, with merry and joyful repast, the King and Queen's Majesties, after their offices of honour and respect, place being prepared for the revels, and the persons appointed for the same discharging themselves sufficiently, their Majesties and ambassadors went to another hall, most richly and magnificently hung with rich

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tapestry, where for the collation a most rare, sumptuous, and prince-like dessert was prepared; which being ended, after taking leave and good night, they departed about three of the clock in the morning to the night's rest."