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The

Aberdeen

Printers.

1620-1736.

Part IV.

I sent Eaban, porter in St Andrew, grant more to
 since received from Simon Grogan, the sum of 20 £
 for the remaining the terms of Martin 1620. and the
 term of registration 1621. In the next grant into me by the
 terms and compell of the said City: Therefore, I say, I
 must thankfully discharge the said forsaids, and Simon
 the said forsaids, of the two terms forsaids, of,

13th 12 March 1622

By me Edward Eaban

THE
ABERDEEN PRINTERS

Edward Raban to James Nicol

1620—1736

BY
J. P. EDMOND

ABERDEEN
J. & J. P. EDMOND & SPARK
1886.

A.275132

*250 Copies printed on Small Paper, and
25 Copies printed on Large Paper.*

Small Paper, No.....07.....

P R E F A C E.

IT is impossible for me adequately to thank the kind friends who have aided me in my work, and I feel that any expression of gratitude on my part is a poor return for their services.

My best thanks are due to the owners of the several works described, for the use of their valuable possessions, particularly to Mr. Chalmers of Westburn, Mr. Alexander Walker, Merchant, Aberdeen, Dr. Webster of Edgehill, and Mr. Arthur D. Morice, Advocate in Aberdeen.

I sincerely thank the Keeper of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh, the Librarians of the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and St. Andrews, of the Signet and New College Libraries, Edinburgh, for their courtesy in aiding me in my researches. I am greatly indebted to Mr. John Young, Jr., Assistant-Librarian of the University of Glasgow, for the careful collations of works in the

Library there. Many of the most valuable additions and corrections were supplied by him. From the officials of the British Museum, especially Dr. Garnett and Mr. J. P. Anderson, I have always received the greatest attention. During my short stay in Oxford, the Librarian and Assistant-Librarians of the Bodleian did everything in their power to help me. To the late Mr. Henry Bradshaw, Librarian of the University of Cambridge, I owe more than I can find words to express. Encouragement at the commencement, direction while in progress, and commendation bestowed in unmeasured terms—all this I received from the friend whose opinion I valued above all others.

I most cordially thank Mr. A. M. Munro, City Chamberlain's Office, for the numerous references and transcriptions from the Council Registers and Account Books of the Burgh of Aberdeen. Many particulars regarding our early printers could not have been recovered by me without his valuable assistance. I am indebted to Mr. P. J. Anderson for many interesting facts in connection with the Theses, and for extracts from the records of the University of Aberdeen. I have to thank Mrs. Robertson for permission

to use the information contained in the MS. *Biographia Abredonensis*, written by her husband, the late Dr. Joseph Robertson. The extracts from that source are duly acknowledged throughout the work. I am also indebted to my friend Mr. A. W. Robertson, Public Librarian, Aberdeen, who has read the proofs, and given me many valuable suggestions. The vast resources of the Library at Haigh Hall were most generously placed at my service by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, and many valuable bibliographical works were lent by him.

In conclusion, I thank everyone who has given me the smallest scrap of information about the Aberdeen Printers, and the products of their press.

J. P. EDMOND.

64, BON-ACCORD STREET,
ABERDEEN.

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THE ABERDEEN PRINTERS.

CHAPTER I.

EDWARD RABAN.

A HISTORY of Scotch printing in general would be out of place in a work such as this, which only treats of the rise and progress of the art in one of the towns in the kingdom. Nevertheless, it will be useful, for comparison of dates, to state the leading facts of the introduction of the typographic art into the northern half of the kingdom.

Briefly, they are these:—In 1507, King James V. granted a licence to Chepman and Myllar, and they continued to print so far as is known until 1510. Other printers followed in regular succession, except for a period of about 26 years, during which our knowledge is at fault. Thomas Davidson, who printed in 1541, was succeeded by John Scot, who first extended the privilege of a press to the Scottish provinces, by introducing printing to St. Andrews in the year 1552. Then followed Robert Lekpreuik, who was the first printer in Stirling, Thomas Bassandyne, Alexander Arbuthnot, John Ross, Henry Charteris, Thomas Vau-

trollier, and Robert Waldegrave, bringing us to the commencement of the seventeenth century. By that time the press had grown a power in Scotland, and the single line of succession of printers a thing of the past.

Although St. Andrews and Stirling thus early appear as places whence books were issued, yet the reasons for this are to be found in the exigencies of the times ; and it was really not until the seventeenth century that printing spread to the provinces of Scotland.

That Aberdeen received the boon of a press so late as 1622 has often appeared strange to many. But if we consider the rude state of the country, the extreme poverty of the people, the difficulties of carriage, and the small chance of being able widely to disseminate the products of the press, we rather have reason to feel astonishment at the enterprise and activity of its first printer, Edward Raban.

It is very much to be regretted that the facts connected with Raban's life are very few, and to many they must appear unimportant. It may be well to premise that nothing here has been conjectured, but that instead, the bare facts of the case, so far as they have been ascertained, are set forth in all their simplicity.

Upon the authority of the Parson of Rothiemay,* we are informed that Edward Raban was an Englishman by birth ; and, had we been disposed to doubt this source, the matter is at once set at rest by the imprint of one of his own books, in which he styles himself

* Gordon's Scots Affairs, Vol. III., p. 238.

Edwardus Rabanus, *Anglus*. * Like so many more of his countrymen who followed the same profession, he came north in search of a suitable field in which to exercise his craft. The first town he stayed in was Edinburgh, where, in 1620, he printed at the sign of the A. B. C., in a house at the Cowgate Port. Here he printed, so far as has been yet discovered, only one book, a theological treatise by Archibald Symson, Minister at Dalkeith, a writer who revels in unfolding hidden meanings in the sacred number seven. †

Raban cannot have continued long in Edinburgh, for in the same year, 1620, he removed to St. Andrews. It is very much to be regretted that the municipal records of this ancient city are very deficient—those for the years during which Raban worked there are lost.

The University of St. Andrews appointed him as their printer, ‡ and we would naturally expect to have some notice of the appointment in their books. But a search in their archives has been fruitless, no mention being made of him or of any other printer; indeed, before that period and for long after, the minutes are confined to strictly academical matters.

In St. Andrews he placed the same sign over his printing office as in Edinburgh. The house in which he worked we have been unable to identify, but the imprint of one of his books states that it was in the South Street of that ancient and beautiful city. §

* See page 201.

† See pages 1, 185.

‡ See pages 2-7.

§ See page 2.

There is little to narrate about his career in St. Andrews. In 1621 he executed some work for Dr. Robert Baron, who continued a patron to the last; and who, in all likelihood, exercised considerable influence in bringing about Raban's removal to Aberdeen. His residence in St. Andrews cannot have exceeded two years, for he printed in Aberdeen the King's College Thesis, which was to be disputed on the 22nd July, 1622.

It will always be a matter of uncertainty whether the authorities of the Town or of the University first invited Raban to settle in Aberdeen. We have already hinted that Dr. Baron may have been concerned, he having removed to Aberdeen, and having much influence with both the University and City authorities; but, Bishop Patrick Forbes, a prelate, enlightened and learned in advance of his day—despite his persecutions for witchcraft—must also have been a very active agent in the transaction.

Kennedy states that Sir Paul Menzies, on behalf of the Town and Bishop Patrick Forbes, obtained a patent from King James I. for a printer to exercise his calling in Aberdeen,* but we regret to say that we can find no confirmation of this statement.

The bishop's action in the matter is celebrated by Andrew Strachan, in his *Panegyricus Inauguralis*, in the following glowing terms:—

* Kennedy's Annals of Aberdeen, Vol. 1., p. 175.

* "Antistes noster [Patricius Forbesius] . . . cum cerneret prælum esse Bibliothecæ Φυρενθήριον, divinam illam et Jovis cerebro dignam Artem Typographicam, (quæ nunquam ante saltus Caledoniæ et juga Grampia salutarat) huc tanquam de Cœlo devocavit : atque hâc prærogativâ effert se Academia nostra super alias omnes nostrates. In tantis frigoribus nec prælum sudare cessat, idque haud absque operæ pretio. Non solum enim excuduntur hic Libri, qui omnium Scholarum usibus deserviunt ; sed etiam ii, qui cùm genium habeant, nostris scholis earumque rectoribus ornamento sunt : id que Typis splendidis, qui lucem illustrissimarum Regionum ferre possunt."†

The bishop remained Raban's friend until the death of the former in 1635, when his decease was mourned by his printer in verses to which we shall allude later on.

The earliest notice we have of Raban in Aberdeen is his appointment by the Town Council as their printer on the 20th November, 1622, when a salary of forty pounds Scots was ordered to be paid to him yearly, and every scholar attending the Grammar School had to pay him eightpence quarterly, which sum was to be collected with the school fees. It will be seen from the minutes of the meeting that the benefits of this bargain were not one-sided :—

20th November 1622.

The Samyn day The Prowest baillies and Counsall upon dyvers gude considerationnes moveing thame and namelie In respect of the ease to all townes bairnes quha are at the scholes of this burgh in the pryces of their books to witt a third penny downe of ilk book quhilk they wer wont to pay for the same abefoir, Gives and grantis to Eduard Raban

* "Our bishop [Patrick Forbes] . . . when he perceived the printing-press to be a nursery of the Library, fetched hither as if from heaven, the art of printing, an art divine and worthy the brain of Jupiter, (which never before had greeted the forests of Caledonia and the Grampian mountains) : and by this privilege our Academy is exalted above all others in this country. Nor mid the rigours of the region does the printing press cease to toil, or toil without reward for its work. For not only are Books issued here which are useful to all Scholars ; but also those which while they have talent are a distinction to our schools and to their rectors : and that in a splendour of Type, which can bear the light of the most illustrious Regions."

† Andrew Strachan's *Panegyricus Inauguralis*, Aberdoniis, 1631, p. 37.

printer induellar in this burghe Ane pensioun of fourtie pundis yeirlye to be payit to him induring the will and plesure of the Counsall allenerlie and na longer be the Dean of gild of the burghe for the time at tua termes in the yeir Witsonday and Martimas in Wynter be equall portionnes The first yearis payment begynnand at the feast of Martimas Imlie bygaine in this instant yeir of god Jaj vi^c and tuantie tua yeirs And forder it is thocht expedient that during the counsallis Will everie schollar at the Grammer schole musick and Inglishe schooles sall give aucht pennyes quarterlie to the prynter to be payit with their scholage to the Maister of Schole And he to mak payment of ilk scholaris aucht pennyes to the prynter, and to the effect the counsall may be certifiet of the ease foirsaid in the pryces of thair bairnes books It is ordainit that a tabill salbe maid of all suche bukes as ar requisite for the bairnes both in the grammer schole and Inglishe schole and the said tabill to be printed and put on a brod and a copie yairof to be fixit in the clerkis chalmer and ane uther in Daid Mailings bueth quha sellis the bookes and the third tabill to be affixit in ilk schole.*

His appointment as printer to the University seems to have been simultaneous with his coming to Aberdeen, for, in the imprint of a book printed in the same year, he bears the honourable title "Universitatis Typographus."†

The sign under which he printed was changed on his removal to Aberdeen. The "A. B. C." which we found over his printing house in Edinburgh and St. Andrews, gave place to the more pretentious sign of "The Townes Armes," and this continued to be the sign-board of the Aberdeen printers for at least one hundred years.

One of Raban's earliest friends in his new home was the bookseller, David Melvill (the Daid Mailing of the pension minute), who appears to have befriended him from first to last. Many of the books, especially

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LI., p. 20.

† See page 9.

those belonging to what might be called popular literature, were printed for Melvill, who, although not the first bookseller in Aberdeen, as was long imagined, may have been the only one at that period. This trade connection was formed at once, for Melvill's name is found on several books dated 1622, the books being either printed for, or at the expense of, the bookseller. The friendship existing between them is further evidenced by the terms on which Raban rented his house from the Town's authorities. Melvill's position as a burgess must have been of the greatest assistance to the new comer, and we may well believe, from what we know of Raban's subsequent history, that without his cautioner it would have been often impossible for him to carry on his trade in the town.

The house occupied by Raban as a printing office was on the north side of Castle Street, and was a two-storied edifice. It is described as the "toun's foir hous aboue the meill mercat," and is also spoken of as a new house. Although we cannot positively assert that Raban's occupancy of this house began immediately on his coming to the town, yet, we find his friend David Melvill paying for rent in the same year.* His tenancy of the "new foir hous," at all events, commenced during the second year of his residence in Aberdeen.

Dean of Gild's Accounts, 1622-23.

Discharge.

Item to Daud Melvill for ane yeirs mail of the prenters hous according to ane act of counsall. 10 lib.

The Town Council, at their meeting on the 14th February, 1623, entered into an agreement with Raban, Melvill appearing as his cautioner, and both parties signed the minute, which is as follows :—

“ 14th February, 1623.

The said day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, settis, and in asse-
dationn lattis, to Eduard Raban, printer, the tounes new foir hous lyand
on the north syid of the Castellgett aboue the meill mercat, for the space
of ane yeire, viz., fra Witsonday nixt to cum Jaj. vic. and tuantie-thrie
yearis, quhilk salbe and begyn his entrie thairto till Witsonday nixt
thairefter, in the yeare of God Jaj vic. and tuantie-four yearis, reseruand
the lauch hous thair of quhair the meill mercat standis for the tounes vse,
quhilk is nowayis comprehendit wnder this sett, and that for payment of
the soume of fourtie pundis money to the tounes thesaurer, viz., tuantie
pundis at Witsonday nixt at his entrie, and wther tuantie pundis at
Martimes nixt thaireftir; lykeas, the said Edward as principall, and
David Meluill, burges of this burghe, as cautionar for him, become actit,
coniunctlie and seuerallie, to pay the said soume of fourtie pundis to the
tounes thesaurer at the termes aboue writtin, and to leave the said foir
hous in als gude estate at the said Edwardis removeing thairfra as the
samen salbe fund at his entrie thairwith, and for this effect ane inventar
is ordainit to be maid at his entrie of the haill plenischeing within the
said hous, and the said Eduard become actit to releive his said cationar.

EDWARD RABAN.

DAVID MELUILL.” *

That he continued to occupy this house during the whole of his career as a printer, may be seen from the entries in the Town's Accounts for the various years ; †

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. L., pp. 562-563.

† We have copied the following entries from Extracts from the Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, Miscellany of the Spalding Club, Vol. V., pp. 144-164 :—

Discharge, 1624-25.

Item, the comptar aucht to be dischargeit of the soume of fourtie pundis conteinit in his charge for the mail of the townes hous occupeit be Eduard Raban, printer, becaus the said hous mail is assignit to him in pensoun during the counsallis plesor, 40 lib.

Discharge, 1637-1638.

Item, the comptar aucht to be dischargeit of the soume of fourtie pundis money, quhairwith he charget himself abefoir, for the mail and duetie of Eduard Raban, printer, his foirland, occupeit be him for the termes of Martimas, 1637, and Witsonday, 1638, 40 lib.

and, that he enjoyed the same emoluments as printer to the Town and to the University, there is abundance of evidence in the Registers of the former, and in the Theses printed for the latter.

Of Raban's domestic relations up to the year 1627, we should have remained in perfect ignorance but for an entry in the Kirk and Bridge Works Accounts, dated 11th January, 1627. There we are told that "the same day Jeanett Jhonstoun spous to Edward Raban, printer bureit gratis." With this we must rest content, happy to have gleaned even this much.

That his relations with his superiors were always smooth, is not to be expected; not even in those old times could repairs be got executed without haggling and bargaining. The new house in the Castlegate had fallen into dis-repair. Ten years had left their traces on the building. The seams of the masonry were all open, and wet percolated the walls of the printer's dwelling. A petition to the owners of the property was considered at a meeting on 2nd May, 1632, when the guardians of the Town's interests drove a somewhat hard bargain with their tenant:—

2d May, 1632.

The said day The mgrattis and Counsall Ordanes George Moreson Deane of Gild to cause poynt with lyme the townes hous occupiet be

Discharge, 1640-1641.

Item, the comptar aucht to be dischargit of the sowme of fourtie punds, whair with he chairgit him self abefoir, for the maill and duetie of Eduard Raban, printer, his foirland, occupeit be him the termes of Martimes, 1640, and Witsonday, 1641, becaus the same is assignet to him be the toun for his service, 40 lib.

Discharge, 1644-1645.

Item, ye comptar oght to be dischargit of the soume of fourtie punds, for Eduard Raban's house maill quhilk he occupyes, 40 lib.

Eduard raban and quhat expenss he deburses thair wpoun salbe allowit in his comptis Becaus the said Eduard hes promiseit be his supplicatioun that sa lange as he occupies the said hous he sall not crave the same to be poyntit be the toune hereftir. *

More substantial and encouraging recognitions of his services were made to the printer on the 19th June of the following year. On that day he was granted, by the Town Council, "ane hundreth and allevin pundis . . . for printing of ane buik dedicat be Doctour Barron to the counsall, and also for printing of some poiesies writtin by Mr. David Wedderburn and Mr. George Robertson." †

A passing glimpse of Raban is obtained in the Family Register of Andrew Melvin, whom we believe to be brother of David Melvill the bookseller. This Register forms part of a small quarto manuscript, now in the possession of John Anderson, Esq., London. It appears to have been used as a common-place book, and contains many curious proverbs, poems, alphabets, &c. Andrew Melvin's fifth child is thus entered, the printer being one of the god-parents :—

"Thomas was borne the 25 day of Novembere the zeir of god 1634 being the 15 day of the moone on ane Tuysday, his godfatheres were, Thomas Cargill, Thomas Andersone Alexr Gray reader, Edwart Raben printer, His godmotheres were Margrat Huisone Spous to Mr. Wm Couper, Isobell Petrie Spous to Jhone broune, cristane ross Spous to Robert Melving creistan galloway Spous to robert Annan Isobel Hendersone Spous to patrick Walker."

But a more interesting fact is disclosed in the next entry, for we see from it that Raban did not remain

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LII¹, p. 53.

† Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LIII¹, p. 115.

an inconsolable widower, but, that previous to April, 1637, he had married a second time, his wife being Janet Ealhous, or Ailhous. The birth and baptism of this sixth child of Andrew Melvin is entered as follows in his Register:—

“Robert was borne the 17 day of Apryll 1637 being the 3 day of the moone on ane Mononday, His godfatheres were Robert Paull Robert Straqn Wm Reid Jhon Anderson sone to Gilbert Andersone Skipper His godmotheres were [blank in original] Spous to Jon Wobster, Margreat Straqn, Spous to the foresaid Wm Reid, Janet Ealhous Spous to edward raben printer, Isobell Melving dochter to david melving my brothere.”

The life that Raban led must have been an industrious one, as is evidenced by the number of publications that came from his press; and, although we know that he received some assistance in discharging his duties as printer, yet, as his servant is generally spoken of in the singular, we have every reason to believe that with the help of one workman the printing establishment was conducted. In the year 1638 Raban printed a curious treatise, of which he was the author, called “The Glorie of Man, Consisting in the Excellencie and perfection of Woman,” of which we have elsewhere given some particulars.* Here we shall briefly indicate the nature of its contents. In the Epistle Dedicatorie we are told that the work was written “to vindicate and deliver myself from the imputation of Sarcastick, bitter, too loose & liberall speeches, agaynst the most noble worthie and transcendant sexe of Women, (which some knowing their own imperfect weaknesse may apprehend to be calumnies and detractive to the whole sexe) I here

make humble Oblation and with all Reverence present unto your Ladships Honorable Hands this little Treatise as a part of my studie in my wearisome Journie, this half-yeare by-past, in forraygne Countreys, Which indeed Madame I aimed for your La: the last new-years-day if distresse of weather and contrarie winds, had not hindered. But, through the mercie of God, your La: Servant being safelie arrived, I desire no more but that this Abortive may shelter itself . . . not doubting but that it shall so plead for me that by a just judgement of all your La: most glorious, noble and gracious sexe, I shall be pronounced guiltlesse quyte & free from all Aspersion, and imputation, unjustlie heretofore layd to my charge . . .”

From the above it will be seen that Raban was absent from Aberdeen during the latter part of the year 1637, and the beginning of the year 1638; but, whether the journey was undertaken for the purpose of obtaining new type or other plant, or owing to the troubles then raging, we cannot say. The writer enumerates the “Authors from whom this little Treatise hath its originall beside the holie Scriptures and Chronicles of all nations and in all languages”; they are in number fifty-three. This would indicate a large amount of reading, and the command of a considerable collection of books. There is very little originality in the book, for it is chiefly composed of quotations from various writers, grouped into chapters, of which the titles are as follows:—

- Chap. I.—Of the creation of Woman and her Perfection.
- Chap. II.—Of the fayre and goodlie Priviledges granted and given unto Women even from the Beginning.
- Chap. III.—Of the excellencie of Women whom God hath made the first Mothers of Vertue and Instrumentall Finders out of the most excellent and needful things in the world.
- Chap. IV.—Of the Valiantnesse, Boldnesse and courage of Women and of their notorious Battells; fame surpassing the engine or courage of Man.
- Chap. V.—Of sundrie good Women who wittilie and valiantly have cleansed whole Countreys and Congregations of Cruell Tyrants and Heretickes.
- Chap. VI.—Of the wonderfull goodnesse of God towards' Man, which he hath wrought by Religious Women. And how by a woman Britayne first received the Christian Fayth.
- Chap. VII.—Of the Wisdome, learning discipline and good manners wherein Women have proven farre more excellent and perfect than Man.
- Chap. VIII.—Of women who have not only surpassed Men in poesie, but also overthrew the learned Doctors and Philosophers in disputation.
- Chap. IX.—Of the chastitie Modestie and Temperancie in Women both Wyves and Mayds; to the example of luxurious vitious and libidinous Men.
- Chap. X.—Of the great and wonderfull Wisdome in Women: to the high Glorie of God, and great Benefit of Man.
- Chap. XI.—Of the constant steadfastnesse in Women not onlie suffering cruell Tormentes but also Horrid Death for the Testimonie of Jesus Christ.

If we except the addresses of the Printer to the Reader at the end of Archibald Symson's "*Heptameron*," and David Browne's "*New Invention intituled Calligraphia*," which we have printed at length in another place,* there is no other evidence of Raban's authorship as a prose writer. As a poetical contributor to Bishop Patrick Forbes's "*Funerals*," we have already spoken of him; and, although we do not at all think that the "*Regrate*" is his only work in that way, yet, as there

* See pages 4, 6-7.

is no other piece to which he signs his name, we here present it to the reader :—

RABAN'S REGRATE,

For the present loss of his very good Lord, Patron,
and Master,

PATRICKE FORBES,

Bishop of Aberdeen, Baron of Corse
and Oneill,

Who, most peaceablie and Godlie, departed hence to a better lyfe, upon
Easter-Even, about three A'Clocke in the morning, at his pallace in
Olde Aberdene, adjacent to the Cathedrall Church, in the seventy-first
yære of his honourable age, and the seventeenth yære of his Godlie
Government. March 28, Anno 1635.

Beholde ! Alace ! here lyeth ONE,

Who, on this Earth, Compare had none.

A Learned Patron, Wyse, and Grave.

A Consull good. What would you have.

Chiefe Orator of Scotland's North.

The World cannot afford his Worth.

A Prelate, and a Pastor good ;

Who, in due tyme, gave Heavenlie food,

At Morne, at Noone, and Evening tyde,

Unto his Flocke, sweet JESUS Bryde,

The Poore, with Meat, Hee fed also,

None hungrie from his house did goe.

A Crosse into His Badge Hee bore,

And follow'd CHRIST, who went before,

But halfe a day, for to prepare

For Corse, with Him, an Heavenly Share.

Then, Death ! Where is thy sting ? Let see.

And grave ! Where is thy Victorie ?

Your Honour in the Dust is spred :

Patricke now reygnes with CHRIST, his Head.

Death's but a passage to convoy

Such Sayncts into their Master's joy.

The LORD prepare us, lesse, and more,

To follow Him : Hee's gone before.

Good Sirs, I am behind the rest,

I doe confesse, for want of Skill ;

But not a whit behind the best,

To shew th' affection of good Will.

EDWARD RABAN, Master Printer,
The first in Aberdene.

In the bibliographical portion of this book considerable quotations have been made from the Almanacs printed by Raban, and it is generally supposed that these were written by him, as well as printed. We fear that he has little credit by either his prose or his verse, although the quaint conceits of the latter have tempted us to preserve what of it we could recover.

From the writing of such verses as the "Regrate" to imprisonment, there is a wide step, but we are bound to state the fact that, on Christmas Eve, 1639, Edward Raban and his wife, with another couple, were put in ward for a broil in which they had been mixed up. The case came before the Town's Magistrate on the last day of the year, when they were found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment or a fine; but the old records had better speak for themselves:—

Vltimo Decembris 1639

Raban Main
and their wyfes
convict and
Unlawit

In pns. of M^r. Robert Farqūhar baillie Edvard Rabane and Ailhous his spoūs Thomas Maine and Jeane Touche his Spoūs convict and pūtt in amerciament of cōūrt be the depositiōū of sindrie witness admittit suorne and examined for Injuring and dinging of utheris ūpoūn the tūentie foūrt of december Last ūnder selence of night to forbearers For the quhilk the Coūnsall ordains baith the said pairties first the men and nixt the wemen to be Comittit to waird thairin to remaine tūentie foūre hoūres or then ilk pairtie to redeme thame selffis be payment of feftie foūre shillingis to the deane of gild Tandem the said Edvard Raban dischairgit of his vnlaw of ane rex Dol^{er} for considerations moveing the Coūnsell and Tūentie merks givin to him be the Deane of gild in compleit payment of his qūartering moneyes. *

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LII², p. 1749.

The printer's lot had fallen in troublous times. Next year, 1640, the General Assembly met at Aberdeen, and many things savouring of prelacy and popery had to be enquired into. Raban was commanded to appear before the Assembly to answer for a very curious charge. Several years previous to this (possibly in 1633) he had printed a Psalm Book with the Book of Common Order, or Presbyterian Liturgy, which was usually appended to the Psalter. He was accused of wilfully "manking" or shortening the prayer at the end of the book, and it was suggested that he had done this at the suggestion, or by instruction, of one of the Aberdeen ministers who were so strongly suspected of holding unsound or anti-covenanting views.* The printer pleaded that it was simply for lack of paper that he had curtailed the prayer, humbly asked pardon of the Assembly, and was dismissed with a caution. The parson of Rothiemay narrates the circumstance in his usual quaint and graphic manner:—

"The printer, Edward Raban, ane Englishman, was called upon ; . . . it was objected that he had manked ane common prayer in a new editione of the psalm booke, which some yeares befor he had printed in a large octavo. It was a forme of ane evning prayer, whence he had tackne of the conclusion for want of paper, it being the closure of the last sheete of the booke. Ther wer other coppys of that prayer readde, and they wold needs have the printer confesse that he had throwne away all that clause out of designe, or by warrant of some of the ministers of

* In the Journal of the Glasgow Assembly held in 1638, printed in the Records of the Kirk, it is recorded that, during the discussion on the Articles of Perth, "as some things were cited out of the treatise before the Psalme Booke, printed at Aberdeen, 1625, where prayer is made against hyreling Papists, that God would confound them, In these that are printed at Aberdeen, Papists are left out ; In ane uther prayer, these words, 'the Romish Idol,' are left out ;

"Then Doctor Guild, in Aberdene, desyred that the printer might make account of it, who had bein the occasion of that."—Records of the Kirk, p. 169.

Aberdeen. The printer protested solemnly that what he did was of himself, and was done for want of paper; and simply that if they wer offended, he craved them humble pardone; that he could instance that, except in that copy, he had never omitted to print the conclusion of that evning prayer in any other editione of the psalmes In meeter, and should never omitte it againe. So after a rebooke for his rashnesse in curtailing a prayer, he gott licence to be gone, without further censure.”*

Nor was this the only circumstance connected with Aberdeen printing which occurred during that Assembly's session. In 1636 the celebrated book of Canons had been printed under Dr. Robert Baron's supervision at Raban's press. The selection of Aberdeen for the production of this national work is easily accounted for. Dr. Baron was very high in favour with the King and Archbishop Laud, and was entrusted by them with the duty of editing this work, which, it was hoped, would bring about a better state of discipline in the Scottish Church. The troubled state of Scotland in general, and the great disaffection to the Episcopal Church in the capital, made it of importance that the work should be quietly carried through. This could best be accomplished by Baron's old friend the printer in his own town, and accordingly the work was executed by Raban. Dr. Baron had been taken to his rest before the Assembly met at Aberdeen, but his widow did not escape from this inquisitorial gathering. Gordon says that they gave orders to take the poor woman prisoner, and bring her to Aberdeen,

“Whither she was no sooner come but she must delyver the key of her husbands librarye, that it might be searched for manuscripts and letters. Some letters wer founde wrytne by the Bishopp of Rosse,

* Gordon's Scots Affairs, Vol. 111., pages 238-239.

concerninge the printing of the Booke of Canons, and a timber peece of *tailly du pierre*, whereupon was cut the Kings armes, to be printed into the frontispiece of that booke."*

The *tailly du pierre*, or woodblock, is printed on the back of the titlepage of the "Canons," and is a well executed piece of woodcutting.

Spalding narrates the same circumstance, with this interesting addition, that letters were found containing orders that Raban should print in the Book of Common Order some passages of Arminianism, and it is probably on this account that the printer was brought up on the charge of "manking" the prayers.

1640.

Forder, vmquhill Doctor Barronis wyf wes, by command of this assemblie, he ane rate of mvskiteris brocht out of hir awin hous in Strylay, with hir husbandis preiching paperis; quhilke being sein be the assemblie, wes not found sound. Thair wes also brocht thair ane missive letter direct be the archibischop of Canterburie to the said vmquhill Doctor Barron, with tua vther missives, direct to him and vmquhill Mr. Alexr Ross, fra the bischop of Ross, all tending to the mantenans of Armenianisme, promesing thairfor rewaird, and with all willing thame to caus Raban imprint in the book of commoun prayer sum passages of Armenianisme; quhilkis paperis and letteris thay careit with thame, and sufferit the gentil woman to go.†

Financial difficulties appear to have fallen upon the printer about this time, for, in one of the Registers in the Town House of Aberdeen, under date 31st March, 1641, the following entry appears, signed by him:—

The said day in presence of William Forbes baillie compired Eduard Raban printer in Abër and grantit and confest him restand auchtand to Mr Thomas Gray late baillie of the said brugh Thrie score pundis usuall

* Gordon's Scots Affairs, Vol. III., pages 237-238.

† Spalding's Troubles, Vol. 1., p. 312.

The sundry day Solenne vengence and murther of 43 seers
 The regnes 43 seers combat and put in a murtherment of count for 3 murther
 and of 43 and 43 seers to 43 of 43 seers of 43 of 43
 combat & vengence blood to be 43 in 43 and 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers and 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers for payment of 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers and of 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers to 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers count and 43 of 43 seers

The sundry day in presence of William 43 of 43
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 and 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers to 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers

43 of 43 seers
 43 of 43 seers

43 of 43 seers 43 of 43 seers

Scotes moy for paper ust & receavet be him from the said Mr Thomas. Quhilk sowme the said Eduard acts publest him to pay to the said Mr Thomas within terme of Law.

W. Forbes baillie

Edward Raban *

This is one of the two known signatures of Raban; the other being appended to the lease of the printing office.

In 1643 the first mention occurs of Raban having another place of business, besides the printing office in the Castle-gate, above the Meal-market. At that date, and until the close of his career, he advertised that his books are "to be sold at his Shop at the end of the Broad-gate," he having in all probability taken over the "bueith" of David Melvill, whose death occurred early in 1643.† Both of these tenements were rented by his successors over a very long period; certainly, until 1736, and possibly later.

The death of his old friend, David Melvill, must have embarrassed the printer. It would appear from the subjoined minute that Raban, not being able to fulfil his obligation to the Town for the sum of 500 merks Scots, his cautioner's son, Robert Melvill, had to satisfy the Council by selling a certain quantity of his father's books to pay the debt.‡

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LIII², p. 798.

† The entry of his funeral in the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts is as follows:—
"1643, Feby. 8, David Meluill, burges."

‡ 11 June 1645. The quhilk day, anent the supplication gevin in to the provest, haillies, and counsell be Robert Melvill, sone to vmquhill David Melvill, stationer, burges of this burgh, makand mention that quhair his said vmquhill father being bot ane cautioner for Edward Raban, printer, of this burgh, for payment to the maister of mortified moneys of this burgh, off the principall soume of fyue hundreth merkis Scots money, yit be his owne consent befor his death allowit that suche ane number of bookes should be gevin to thair honors of the counsell for satisfactioun of the said soume: lykeas

& for Photographic copy of another, see beginning of 11
volume, with note 20 Apr. 1911.

There is very little known of the last years of Raban's life. We cannot even fill up the blank by stating that his press was busily occupied as in former years. The number of publications known which bear his imprint, after David Melvill's death, are so few, that the consideration is forced upon us whether or not the press stood idle during the greater part of the time between 1645 and 1649. The unsettled state of the country is shown by the very suggestive entry in the Burgh Accounts, where Raban receives "wool and ane skinn . . . to print the papers that is prined on the bristis of thes that stand on the scaffold."*

Former accounts of Aberdeen's first printer have always stated that Raban died in 1649, immediately

it pleasit thair worships of the counsall to geue the credit of the selling thair of to the supplicant, vpon suche pryces thair of, and ay and till they wer sold, without any definite tyme, becaus the supplicant culd not tak vpon him to be comptable for the moneyes and pryces thair of, but according as the occasioun sould serve that the bookes wer bocht be severall persones wha pleasit to buy, quhilk incertantie nicht postpon the full payment many years, and that not throw any fault in the supplicant, becaus he never barganed vtherwayes bot to give payment as he sould receave, beseikand, thairfor, the counsell to tak to their consideration how moir certanelie and shortlie their worships might be satisfied, if it wald pleas thame to consider of the supplicants gude offer, which was, that he might be imployit for ruleing of the klokis and bells within this burghe, ay and quhill the tyme that the payment, which is termlied for such a work, may exhaust the full soume of the bookes quhilk as yit is to the foir, and wald be a most sure and certane payment to the toun, and that within a definit tyme; quhairas the other course hes not, nor cannot, have any definit course or certane tyme, as at mair lenth is contenit in the said supplication: Quhilk being red, sein, and considerit be the said counsell, and thay tharwith ryplie, and at lenth advysed, the saids provest, baillies, and counsall nominats and appoints the said Robert to enter presentlie with the keiping and ruleing of the tounes commoun klokis, towit, the tolbuith klok, the klok of the kirk, and colledge kirk; as lykewayes appoints him to ring the touns commoun bell in the tolbuith at fyve hoiffes in the morneing, and nyn houres at even, and ilk Wedinsday at aucht houres in the morneing; and also ilk Thursday at twa houres efternoon, to the dean of gild court; and ordanes the fie dew to him thairfor to be allowit in payment of the tua hundreth and sewintie aucht punds fyftein s. four d., restand be the said Robert to the said maister of mortified moneyes, conforme to the desyre of the said Robert his supplication; and if he sall be fund deficient, to be removed vpon his first fault; and the counsell ordanes the superplus of the foirsaid soume that sall be restand be him the tyme of his removeall to be payit be the said Robert within sex moneths efter his removeing, notwithstanding he wes not obleist abefoir for payment of the same till the bookes deliuerit to him sould have been first sold; lykeas the said Robert being personallie present, acceptit the said charge in and vpon him, and promist to doe ane honest duetie thairin, and instantlie receavet from Alex. Willox, lait ruler of the saids klokis and bells, the key of the barress and steeple of the Grayfreir Kirk, quhilk opens also the doore of the klok, and the key that the Grayfreir Kirk doore, *Item*, the key of the kirk doore of Sanct Nicolas Kirk, with ane key for ye doores of the lauch and high tolbuith.—Vol. LIII¹., pp. 42-43.

* See page 80.

before his successor's appointment. This has now been finally disposed of by the discovery, in the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts, of the entry of his burial, "1658 Dec. 6, Edward Rabein at Wast dyk." This implies that on his death the printer's remains were treated with every respect ; for the spot indicated, the west wall of St. Nicholas Churchyard, is the place of sepulture of many of the most honoured citizens of Aberdeen.

There is very scanty material from which to form an estimate of Raban's character. Thoroughly practical and plain spoken he certainly was, if we are to judge from his business-like address to the reader at the end of Browne's *Calligraphia*, * to which allusion has already been made. His reasons for fixing the price of the book at six shillings sterling are stated with courtesy and straightforwardness. The address on "faults" at the conclusion of Symson's *Heptameron*, † where the reader is requested "to auoyde partialitie, judge charitable, and correct diligentlie," is both quaint and concise. His sense of humour is abundantly evidenced by the quaint conceits of his *Almanacs*. But further testimony of his eccentricity is afforded in the extraordinary title, "*Laird of Letters*," assumed by him on the imprint of Elizabeth Melvill's *Godly Dream*, ‡ respecting which Beloe observes, "perhaps no printer or publisher, before or since, has assumed so strange and singular a title as Mr. Raban, who scruples not to style himself '*Laird of Letters*.'"

* See pages 6-7.

† See page 4.

‡ See pages 76, 205.

One custom of the period during which Raban lived was the payment of a sum of money, termed *drinksilver*, on the completion of work, over and above the usual payment. There are several entries in the Burgh Accounts of money spent in this way. One states that Edward Raban and his servant received in *drinksilver* one pound six shillings and eight pence,* and at least once he received six shillings and eight pence to drink "at the setting of the press."† But nothing can be deduced from these entries to prove that Raban's was a dissolute life, for, in those days, the city purse was opened for such disbursements upon the slightest excuse, and no business of importance seems to have been transacted without a merry-making.

The restrictions exercised by Raban's patrons, the City and University, must have contributed to his difficulties in his declining years. The unhappy condition of Scotland at that time, when nearly every house was divided against itself, must have pressed hard on the printer, and rendered his course by no means a clear one. Archbishop Laud's decree on printing had been anticipated in the capital of the north-east of Scotland. By this decree, of his Star Chamber Courts, passed in July, 1637, Laud provided that no book or pamphlet should be printed in England without a license from him or the Bishop

* Discharge, 1641-2. Item to Eduard Rabin his servand, in drinksiluer 1 lib. 6s. 8d. Miscellany of the Spalding Club, Vol. V., p. 106.

† See page 74.

of London; or, if printed at Oxford or Cambridge, without a license from the Chancellors or Vice-Chancellors of those Universities. But it is possible that Laud received the hint from the Old Aberdeen University, for in 1634 that body had requested the king's assent to certain articles, one clause of which was, "that all printers and stationers within the said Diocies [Aberdeen] be subject to the jurisdiction off the said Universitie and be sworn thereto and accounted supposto thereof." *

Whether Raban resigned, or was ejected from his office of printer to the Town and University, still remains unsolved. The City records are silent on the subject; no mention of his name is found in the registers after the minute relating to the appointment of his successor. His name occurs, however, in the Burgh Accounts for 1651-1652, where the expenditure is noted "of four marks, for the maill of ane staible in Rabin's closs, becaus the same is downe." We might conjecture from this that his long residence had caused the close or court where his printing office stood to be called by his name, but whether he continued to reside in the "closs" is not known. †

* Extract from "Instructions for Dr. Gordoun that he represent to the Kings most sacred Majestie these articles from his Maj. Universitie in Old Aberdeen." Signed, "John Forbes D and professor of Divinitie and for the tyme Rector of the Universitie. Old Aberdeen, 31 July 1634."

The Instructions are in three parts:—I. Grievances; II. Priviledges; III. "Our humble supplication to his sacred Majestie upon the former motives."

III., § 12 runs:—"That all printers and stationers within the said Diocies [Aberdeen] be subject to the jurisdiction off the said Universitie and be sworn thereto and accounted supposto thereof."

† In the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts for 1679, Feby. 3rd., the funeral of "Janet Ailhous servant to Alex. Toasch," is recorded. This may have been Raban's second wife.

A printer of the same name, who worked in Grenoble, Orange, and Nîmes, has sometimes been mistaken by French bibliographers and others for Edward Raban, the first Aberdeen printer. The death of the latter in 1658 renders their identity impossible. The French Raban resided at Nîmes after that date, for some of his works printed there are dated 1660 and 1662. He then returned to Orange, where books were printed by him, dated 1674, 1676, 1678 and 1681.* These facts have only to be mentioned to prevent this question being again opened up. That any relationship existed between the naturalised Scotchman and his French namesake, we have not been able to establish.

Some remarks on the quality of Raban's printing may perhaps be looked for. His arrangement of title-pages is often very commendable, and the judicious use of woodcuts and ornamental borders delights the eye of the booklover. In other respects his work has all the unevenness and irregularity of second-rate printers of that period. His proofs must have often been very carelessly revised, as may be seen by the numerous errors in the pagination. Nothing larger than small quarto, of the size termed pot, is known as having been printed by him, if we except a few broad-sheets. With all their faults his books have been eagerly searched for by collectors; the extreme rarity of many of the works of popular literature printed by him being a recognised fact.

* Brunet. *Manuel du Libraire*. Supplément. Tome 11., p. 361.

CHAPTER II.

JAMES BROWN.

SO very little is known of James Brown that it may be told almost in a single sentence. In the minutes of his appointment he is called the lawful son of William Browne, the Parish Minister of Innernochtie or Strathdon, in the Presbytery of Alford. Hew Scott says that William Brown removed from Glenbucket, and was admitted to the charge of Innernochtie, prior to the 24th of March, 1618, and was still incumbent on the 20th of November, 1633.* The precise terms of James Brown's appointment are as follows:—

9th Jany., 1650.

The said day the provost baillies and counsell Receavit and admittit James Browne Lawll sone to Mr Wm Browne Minister at Innernochtie printer of this brugh in place of edvard Raban during the counsellis pleasr allenarlie And to the Lyk casualtie and benefite off the towne as the said edvard Raban haid the tyme bygaine. †

His work is inferior to Raban's in many respects. The greyness of the ink, and absence of good taste in the composition, have made his books far less desirable possessions than those of his predecessor. No book of the proportions of Raban's octavo Psalter, or Forbes's Funerals, has been discovered with Brown's imprint.

* Scott's Fasti, Vol. III., Part II., p. 563.

† Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LIII., p. 255.

If we except his official work as printer to the Town and University, the remaining books that issued from his press are very few.

Brown held the office of printer to the Town and University until his death in 1661. We are again indebted to the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts for the notice of his burial, which is thus recorded:—
“1661, July 16, James Broune printer at the west dyke.”

For a short time there appears to have been a locum tenens in the printing office. A small treatise by James Leslie, noticed at page 99, and at greater length at page 214 of this work, is the only evidence that can be brought forward to support this assertion. It has no printer's name on the titlepage. At the conclusion of the address to the reader, the author apologises for the youth and unskilfulness of the printer. This apology could never apply to Brown after having held office for eleven years. The initials F. U. are printed within a woodcut at the top of the first page of the text, and these may possibly be the first letters of the printer's name.

CHAPTER III.

JOHN FORBES and JOHN FORBES, YOUNGER.

IT may be clearly seen from several entries in the treasurer's accounts for the Burgh of Aberdeen, that the elder Forbes, who is often designated Stationer, was in Aberdeen prior to his appointment as Brown's successor. The earliest to which we can point is for 1656-1657, when a payment to Forbes is ordered of "the somme of fourscoir sexteine pund, which he advancit to Mr. Robert Patrie at Londone upon his ticket." Another mention of him in the Council Register has given rise to strange surmises. We allude to the act of council on the 29th of July, 1657, appointing "ane weekly diurnall to be sellit for the vse of the inhabitants, and John Forbes, stationer, to furnish the samen weekly."* Can this have been the earliest newspaper published in Aberdeen?

Brown does not appear to have carried on the business of stationer or bookseller conjointly with that of printer, as his predecessor Raban did during the latter part of his career in Aberdeen. None of the books printed by Brown state that they are to be sold at his shop in the Broad-gate, as in the case of so many of those bearing the names of his successors, the two Forbeses; and, the fact of the elder Forbes being in

* See pages 91-92.

business as a stationer so early as 1657, inclines one to think that he may have succeeded Raban in that capacity, when Brown was appointed printer. That Forbes and Brown had intromissions—one supplying the paper, and the other executing the printing—has been assumed in the case of the “Weekly Diurnalls.” But if any doubt should exist of such an arrangement, it is dispelled by the very exactly-worded statement by the treasurer of the town of Aberdeen in his accounts for 1660-1661, where payment is ordered to be made to Brown for printing Paterson’s and Menzies’ Sermons, * to Forbes for paper, and to James Miller, bookbinder, for binding the same. †

When the office of printer became vacant by the death of James Brown, John Forbes, Stationer, and his son John Forbes, who, from the first, is styled printer, made application for the appointment. Their chief difficulty appears to have been in settling with Brown’s widow, Agnes Rutherford. They complain in their petition to the council that they had purchased the printing material at a “dear rate”; and they ask for the same privileges as were held by the Town’s printers in the past. The request was granted, and an order given for the repair of the printing house, “in the roof, walls, windows, or any other parts where needful.”

* See pages 96-97.

† 1660-61. *Treasurer’s Accounts.*

Item to wmqll James Broun printer for printing of Mr Jon Paterson and Mr John Mengzes thir Sermons being one off the Solamnatie dayes 50 lb.

Item to John Forbes be precept for peaper to print Mr John Paterson and Mr John Mengzes their Sermons aforsaid 41 lbs. 14s. 6d.

Item to James Miller bookbinder for binding off Mr Jon Paterson and Mr John Mengzes Sermons aforsaid 44 lb. 2s.

23 April 1662.

The Said day anent the Supplicationoun givin in to the counsell be John Forbes Stationer burgess of Aberdein and John Forbes printer his sone Shewing that qr according to the counsellis order they haid altho at ane dear rate aggried wth agnes rutherforn relict of James broune printer for the tips & press belonging to hir and haid sufficient securitie therfor so that now they wer withall conveyent diligence to invest themselues with the said Employment of printing And being considerd that ther ho^r wold not be wanting to bestow vpon them the courtesies and fauors that others befor of that Employment haid within this brugh Thairfor Humbly desyring that the counsell wold emite and grant act of admission and their fauors for goeing about the said employment With full power and libertie possess and Injoy the said printing hous with all priuileges and liberties belonging therevnto As also declair emitte ane Act in fauors of the supplicants that sieing they wer necessitat to buy at ane dear rate the old tips and press from the said relict of the said James broune that any who suld succedd in the said employment suld be lyable befor ther admission to the samen to buy and satisfie such tips and press as suld belong to them according to the worth yrof and that they wold declair that non suld have the libertie of printing within this br^ut. but the sd Jon and his said sone so long as they suld be able and qualifd for the sd service as in the supplicatione wes containt The Counsell Haneing hard seine and considerit the supplicationoun and haneing tackin the same to consideration They have given and grantit and does give and grant to the supplicant and his said sone the libertie and priuilege of printing within thir br^ut. wt all and sundrie dues and casualties they may aqr and gaine therby with the libertie and priuiledg of the printing hous and dwelling hous in the north syd of the castellgait of this br^ut. destinat and appointit be the toune of Abd. for that effect and that according as the same wes possest and Injoyit be the deceast James broune last printer So long as the said John and his sone sall sufficientlie serve and doe duetie in the sd employment And also declairs and Inacts that dureing the said Jon and said sone ther abilitie to doe sufficient service that non other sall haue the priuiledg of printing within this br^ut or liberties of the samen And that at the said John or his sd sons deceass or at the entrie of ane other printer throw yr Inabilitie that the entrant printer sall haue no libertie or priuiledg of printing withing this br^ut. till frist he satisfie pay for sufficiently secure the said Jon Forbes and his sone for such tips press as they sall haue in the sd printing hous belonging to them according to the worth therof which sall be cognositt wpone by skilfull indifferent men within this br^ut. too to be chosin be each partie and further ordains the deane of gild to repair the said printing hous in the rooff walls windows or ony other parts yqr neidfull. *

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LIV., pp. 364-365.

One of the earliest books printed by Forbes after his appointment was the well-known and highly-prized "Cantus, Songs and Fancies." Of this remarkable book much has been already written, and, in what we add here, we shall confine our remarks to the personal interest Forbes had in the undertaking. We attribute the authorship and conception of the work to the elder Forbes, and consider that the only share his son had in it was as a partner in the printing business. Three editions of the "Cantus" appeared, viz., in 1662, 1666, and 1682; the last after the death of the author. When the book first appeared, the Town Council of Aberdeen rewarded Forbes with one hundred merks Scots, in acknowledgment of his dedication of the work to them. In the dedication prefixed to the edition of 1666, Forbes mentions that of 1662, which he calls his "first-born," and, in very inflated language, again offers his book to the rulers of his native city. He pays the Council the very singular compliment of forming a bench "of as many Musicians as Magistrates." The address appears worthy of preservation in a foot-note, on account of its quaintness. *

** Dedication to Forbes's Cantus, 1666.*

UNTO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

GILBERT GRAY, Lord Provost.

ROBERT FORBES

ALEXANDER ALEXANDER

JOHN BURNET

THOMAS MITCHELL

WALTER ROBERTSON Dean of Guild,

ROBERT SKENE Treasurer,

} Baillies.

And to the rest of the Honorable Counsel of the City of ABERDENE

RIGHT HONORABLE,

A few years ago, that I might approve my self no less an observant *Citizen*, than a provident *Parent*, being invited by the desires of some, allured by the kindness of others, and encouraged by the expectation and good hopes of the usefulness of the thing it self

When the "Cantus" was printed for the third time in 1682, certain verses were added. In the first two, Forbes addressess the Magistrates of Aberdeen as follows :—

Considering well, your *HONORS* hath
Much Zeal, and perfect Love
To Graces all, Who by much Faith,
Obtains all Things above :

to the *Place* ; I did lay down my *First-born* as a fondling, at the feet of *Your Honorable Bench*, solemnly engaging, that as it received its being from *BON-ACCORD*, and its growth from *Your Goodness*, so it should period its stature with *Your Pleasure*. This *Promise* hath pressed me, that my *Press* might always bear the *Impress of Your Vertues*; and express (though in a smal type) my thankfulness, according to the laudable custom of *Votaries* in all *Ages*, after a few years growth, to represent the same to *Your Sanctuary*, that it may be *confirmed* in *Your favor*. For that I may confess ingenuously when I looked deliberately on this my first *Mephisheth*, I offered the same as an object of pity, being so mank and main in its chiefest parts, like a pittiful *Embleme of Orpheus* teared by the *Thracian* women, its vigor seemed to wither, its tender hands to dry up, and whole body to vanish in a consumption ; had I not called a *Tynous Counsel* of the most *Expert* in this *Place*, who diligently turning over their old *Records*, and rifling the labors of their *Ancestors*, unanimously and so chearfully did contribute all their pains, that now being freed of all the noxious humors that were preying on its vitals, its wants are made up, defects supplied, its dried hands received moisture, and strength diffused so thorow the whole limbs, that it dare show it self to the *Publick* on its own leggs, if *Your Wisdoms* command ; yea, run to the *Schools* to warble the *Anthems of Your Liberality*. Seeing it is natural to children to lisp out first their Parents names, why should it be singular ? If it did so when on the Nurse breasts, why not in the flower and prime of its youth ? Though it be silent, it hath a voice, and could sing its own pedegree, and the fruitfulness of its Mother Science ; yea, with *Strabo*, *Pindarus*, *Plutarch*, *Aristotle*, and all Antiquity demonstrate, how much brutes, as well as men, are born obsequious subjects to this *Queen*, whose charming Melody was only able to enchant *Barbaritie*, civilize *Savages*, secure *Societies*, and so give matter to the significant *Apologues of Amphion*, *Linus*, *Orpheus*, and the building of the *Theban* walls, were it not the fear of being tedious, it would not be afraid to assert with *Divine Plato*, and his Followers, that the *Heavenly Soul* by which the *Vnivers* is animate, doth owe its *Origen* to this *Lady* ; and narrate how much the great *Solon*, that *Son of Greece*, bestowed on his Nephew, for teaching him one *Saphick Tune* : and how much pains the wise *Socrates*, though full of years, did greedily bestow upon the Lute ; and how much that greatest Captain, and Magistrat of *Athens* *Themistocles*, after he had accomplished himself in all Vertue, and most of Arts, was dashed with the sharp *Sarcasme* of a fellow Magistrat : How can he keep men in Harmonie, and people in Concord, who hath not learned as yet to tune a *Citeron* ? It were no difficultie to show how much the Ancients used this *Science*, as a remedy and amulet against all Fascinations : As the *Harp of David*, to alley the fury of *Saul* ; and the greatest auxillarie also in time of Battle, so that the famous *Stratonicus* did discern the courage of his Souldiers, by the musical and saliant motion of their Bodies ; and therefore, bearing a *Citeron* in his *Ensigne*, did adde this motto, *Adversus male canentes Cythera* ; as if none deserved Victory and Triumph but *Musicians*.

And now, seeing it hath pleased Providence in *Your Wisdoms Persons*, to bless the *Bench of BON-ACCORD* with such an Harmonious Consort, of as many *Musitians* as *Magistrats*, that all under *Your Magistracie* may descant on *Your Labors*, and Posteritie sing *Your Praises* to coming *Ages* : Admit this *Poor Present* to *Your Acceptance* ; its *Breath* and *Being* depends on *Your Brow*, being willing to receive its Sentence from the same, whether it shal be smothered in the *Birth*, or view the *Publick* under *Your Patrocinie* : However, that the best Blessings and Out-hearing of the *ALMIGHTY*, may accompany *Your Wisdoms* in all *Your Honorable Designs*, Shall be the dayly Prayer of

YOUR HONORS

Own Servant,

John Forbes.

For Harmonie in *BON-ACCORD*,
 Hath been this Place Intent ;
 Yea, Grace Divine, and Musick fine,
 Your *PERSONS* still present.

The remaining verses eulogise the reigning monarch,
 King Charles II., "the Rod of Vice and Vertues
 Recompence !"

GOD SAVE KING CHARLES.

To SCOTLAND'S, ENGLAND'S, FRANCE and IRELAND'S KING :
 Great EMPEROUR of EUROPE'S Greatest ISLES :
MONARCH of Hearts and Arts, and every Thing
 Beneath *BOOTES*, many Thousand Myles :
 Upon whose HEAD, Honor and Fortune smyles :
 About whose Brows, clusters of Crowns do spring :
 Whose Faith Him Champion of the *FAITH* En-styles :
 Whose *WISDOM'S* Fame o're all the World doth Reign.
 Long live KING CHARLES in all *MAGNIFICENCE*,
 The Rod of *Vice*, and *VERTUES* Recompence.

The dedication in the third edition is entirely new. Not content with the flattery heaped upon the Town Council in the previous edition, the author launches out in praise of Aberdeen and its rulers in most unmeasured terms. He speaks of Aberdeen as "the Sanctuary of Sciences, the Manse of the Muses, and Nurserie of all Arts." In support of the fame of the city for Music, he calls to witness "the confluence of all sorts of persons, . . . who of design have come (much like that of the Queen of Sheba) to hear the sweet chearful Psalms, and heavenly melody of famous Bon-Accord." He repeats his compliment that there were "as many Musitians as Magistrats," and finally he prays "that Bon-Accord may resemble Heaven, in an Harmonious

Concord." One personal allusion made in this dedication we have been unable to interpret. The writer, referring to Aberdeen, says, "he owes his native birth-right to this famous place, (since 1576)." The only suggestion we can make is, that 1576 may have been the date of his ancestors' settling in this city. Forbes again received from the Council a sum of money, one hundred pounds Scots, in acknowledgment of his dedication. *

* *Dedication to Forbes's Cantus, 1682.*

UNTO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
SIR GEORGE SKENE of FINTRAY, Lord Provost,
ALEXANDER ALEXANDER }
GILBERT MOLYSON } Baillies.
WALTER ROBERTSON }
ANDREW MITCHELL }
ALEXANDER WALKER, Dean of Gild,
ALEXANDER ANDERSON, Treasurer.

And to the Rest of the Honorable Counsell of the City of ABERDEEN.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

Your *HONORS* Servant, Having had the Good Opportunity some Years ago, at two severall Occasions, to present Your *Hs.* Worthy Predecessors with Patronage of this *Musick-Book*, of which two Impressions there are few extant: And he being again (of New) invited by the earnest Desires of some, yea, allured by the Kindness of others, and encouraged by the Expectation, and good Hopes of the Usefulness and Profitableness of the Book itself; not onely to this Famous *CITY*, but also to all Lovers of *Musick* within this *Nation*, hath (according to his very bound Duty) presented Your *Hs.* with the Patronage of this *Third Edition*: Especially, seeing it hath ever been the chief Honor, and singular Praise of this Famous *CITY*, to be the Sanctuary of *Sciences*, the Manse of the *Muses* and Nurserie of all *Arts*: So that under Your (and Your *Hs.* Worthie Predecessors) prudent Patrocinie, vigilant Care, and Fatherly Inspection, so little a Plate of Ground hath yeelded very many Plants of Renown, who have alwayes Flowrished as Trees of delight both in Church and State throughout all the Corners of GREAT-BRITAIN: Yea, whose Excellency hath ever been so eminent, that to have been born or bred in *ABERDEEN*, hath been a great Argument and Ground, to procure promotion for any, to Places of any Profession else where: Yea, the Fame of the *CITY* for its admirable Knowledge in this Divine *Science*, and many other fine Enduements, hath almost Overspread whole EUROPE: witness the great Confluence of all sorts of Persons from each Part of the same, who of design have come (much like that of the *Queen of Sheba*) to hear the sweet chearful *Psalms*, and Heavenly *Melody* of Famous *BON-ACCORD*, whose hearts have been ravished with the Harmonious *Concord* thereof: If then, the ALMIGHTY hath bestowed such a Grand Blessing upon the Same, sure the Heavenly and Divine Use will much more redound to our Eternall Comfort, if with our Voices we joyn our Hearts when we sing in His Holy Place.

Venerable *Bede* writeth, that no Science but *Musick* may enter into the Doores of the Church: And see how much the Royall *Psalmist*, Holy *King David* is taken up in singing Praises to his Creator, for you shall seldom meet Him, without an *Instrument* in his Hand, and a *Psalme* in his Mouth: having Dedicated Fifty-three Holy *Meeters* or *Psalms* to his Chief Musician *Ieduthum*, to compose *Musick* to them: Yea, he was one in whom the Spirit of God delighted to dwell, for no Evil Spirit will abide to tarry where *Musick* and *Harmony* are Lodged, as when *David* played before *Saul*, the Evil Spirit departed immediately. And *Luther* speaking of the Power of *Musick*, saith, *Scimus Musicam Dæmonibus etiam invisam & intolerabilem esse. We know that Musick is most Dreadfull and Intolerable to the Devils.* And *St. Augustine* sayeth,

Several questions present themselves for solution in connection with a statement made in the address which Forbes prefixed to the third edition of the Cantus. Speaking to lovers of music, he says, "I must confess, the work as to the Musick is not mine, but for Printing and Publishing hereof, I am still ready . . . to improve my Talent." It will be observed from the titlepages of the first and second editions that Thomas Davidson, master of the music-school, was to a certain extent the

that *Musick is the Gift of GOD, and a Representation or Admonition of the sweet Consent and Harmony which his Wisdom hath made in the Creation and Administration of the World*: And therefore its First and Chiefest Use is, for his Own blessed Service and Praise; And next, for the Solace of Men, which as it is agreeable unto Nature, so it is allowed by *GOD*, as a Temporall Blessing, to Recreate and Cheer men after long Study and weary Labour in their Vocations: As the Scripture sayeth, *Eccles. 4. 20. Wine and Musick rejoyceth the Heart.*

— *Nam Musica mæsta medicina Mentis.*

And we read of one who doth report, that he saw a *Lyon in London* leave his Meat, to hear *Musick*. Yea, may we not behold the Birds of the Ayre, those pretty winged *Choresters*, how at the approach of the day do they warble forth their Makers Praise? amongst which, observe the little *Lark*, who by a Natural Instinct doth very often mount up to the Sky, as high as her Wings will bear her, and there warbles out her Melody as long as her strength enableth her; and then descends to her Flock, who presently sends up another sweet singing *Chorister* to supply this Divine Service. If then these Irrationall Creatures, so naturally Love and are delighted with *Musick*, how much more should Rationall Man, who is endued with Knowledge and Understanding? The *Philosopher* says, not to be *Animal Musicum* is not to be *Animal Rationale*. And the *Italian Proverb* is, *GOD Loves not him, whom he hath not made to Love Musick.*

But were there not a fear of too much tediousness in this Discourse, It might be asserted with Divine *Plato* and his Followers, that the Heavenly *Soul* by which the *Vniverse* is Animate, doth owe its *Origin* to this *Lady*, and Narrated how much the great *Solon*, that *Sun of Greece*, bestowed on his *Nephew*, for teaching him one *Saphick-Tune*: And how much pains the wise *Socrates*, (though full of Years,) did greedily bestow upon the *Lute*. Yea, *History* tells us, that the Ancient *Brittains* of this *Island*, had *Musicians* before they had Books. *Alfred* a *Saxon King*, was well skilled in all manner of Learning, but in his knowledge of *Musick* took most delight. But to come nearer home, *K. Edward the sixth in England*, was a great Lover and Encourager of *Musick*: Yea, *Queen Elizabeth* was not onely a Lover of this *Divine Science*, but also a good proficient therein: And *K. James* of Blessed *Memorie* did extoll *Musick* so much, that he granted his Letters Patents to the *Musicians in London* for an Incorporation. And not onely did he love and esteem this *Divine Science* in others, but his own Excellency in the same (among other Royall Enduments worthie of so great a King) made him Famous and Admired in that Age, (and will do while Time shall endure) especially his dexterous Skill upon the Melodious *Harp*, wherein [and in all other Royall Vertues] he traced the Steps of that Sweet-Singer of *Israel*. To this purpose, I cannot pass the Elaborat Testimony of the Famous *Du-Bartas*; who, when he hath deservedly Extolled those Holy Songs of *K. David*, and his Skill on the *Harp* maketh a Close thus, Englished by *Ioshua Sylvester*,

Gross Vulgar, hence; with hands profanely-vile,
So holy things presume not to defile,
Touch not these sacred stops, these silver strings:
This Kingly Harp is onely meet for Kings.
And so behold, towards the farther North,
Ah see, I see upon the Banks of FORTH

author of the book.* It has been thought probable that the "brief Introduction to Musick" was his share of the work, and that the selection of the songs and music was made by John Forbes the elder. If the address mentioned above was written by the latter, then our supposition is wrong. But this edition was not printed until after the death of John Forbes, stationer, and his son John Forbes, printer, may have

(Whose force-full stream runs smoothly serpentine)
A Valiant, Learned, and Religious King,
Whose sacred Art retuneth excellent
This rarely-sweet celestiall Instrument :
And *David's* Truchman, rightly doth resound
(At the Worlds end) his eloquence renown'd.
Dumbartans *Clyde* stands still to hear his voice :
Stone-rowling *Tay* seems thereat to rejoyce :
The trembling *Cyclads*, in great *Lummond-Lake*,
After his sound their lusty gambols shake :
The (Trees-brood) Bar-geese, mid th' *Hebridian* wave,
Unto his Tune their far flown wings do wave :
And I my Self in my pyde *Pleid* a slop,
With Tune-skild foot after his Harp doth hop.

Nor was his late *Sacred* *Magestie*, and *Blessed* *Martyr*, *K. CHARLES the First*, behind any in the Promotion of this *Science* : of whose *Vertues* and *Pietie*, [by the Infinite Mercy of the Almighty GOD] this *Kingdom* now enjoys a living Example in his *Gracious SON*, Our *Dread Sovereign*, *K. CHARLES the Second*, By the Grace of GOD, KING of GREAT-BRITAIN, FRANCE and IRELAND, Defender of the Ancient and True Apostolick FAITH, &c. Who hath brought all things to their Ancient Order, and put an end to all *Dismall Discords*, yea, string'd the Hearts of Britain with true *Loyaltie*.

And now, seeing it hath pleased *Divine Providence*, in the PERSONS of *Your Honorable Wisdoms*, to Bless the *Bench* of *Famous BON-ACCORD*, with such a Harmonious Heavenly Consort, of as many Musicians as MAGISTRATS : He hath therefore made bold to Present *Your Hs.* with this present *Edition*, solemnly Engaging, that as It received Its first *Origin* (under the *Patrocinie* of *Your Hs.* Worthie Predecessors) from BON-ACCORD, and Its present Growth from *Your Goodness*, so It should Period Its Statute with *Your Pleasure* : That so, *Your Hs.* Obedient Servant, who hath still made it His resolute Purpose, and constant Resolution, to sail all Winds, and scruce up the weak Parts which GOD and Nature hath bestowed upon Him : that so, at least, with the *Ephesian Bee*, He might Contribute His little Wax, and silly Bumb, to the Hyve of *Famous BON-ACCORDS Common-well*, seeing He owes His Native Birth-Right to this *Famous Place*, (since, 1576) which Obligation, doth greatly incite Him to serve *Your Hs.* (as *Your Own* most Obsequious Servant) all the days of His Lyfe. He shall not weary *Your Hs.* Patience, Admit then this poor *Present* to *Your Hs.* Favourable Acceptance, It's *Breath* and *Being* depends on *Your Brow*, to receive Its *Sentence* from the Same, whether It shall be smothered in the *Birth*, or view the Publick under *Your Hs.* *Patrocinie* : However, that the best Blessings and Out-bearings of the ALMIGHTY may still Accompany *Your Wisdoms* in all *Your Honorable Designs* and *Enterprises* ; And that BON-ACCORD may resemble Heaven, in an Harmonious CONCORD, Shall be the DAILY PRAYER of

YOUR HONORS

Most Obedient
and Faithfull Servant,
John Forbes.

* See pages 101, 106.

added that address. This is rendered the more likely if we consider the manner in which it concludes; Forbes promises another publication of a similar kind, but, so far as we know, he failed to fulfil this intention.*

A considerable part of the income of the Aberdeen printers of that date came from the profit derived from the sale of their Almanacs or Prognostications. These Almanacs had become famous,† and were copied and re-issued by other printers in a most unscrupulous manner. A chapman named Alexander Gray brought one thousand of these Prognostications to Aberdeen. This caused such annoyance to Forbes that he complained to the magistrates. The Town Council passed

Address to the Reader, Forbes's Cantus, 1682.

To all Ingenious and true Lovers of Musick.

Courteous Reader,

The two former *Impressions* of this *Musick-Book*, finding so generall Acceptance, hath Encouraged Me, to adventure upon the Printing of this *Third Edition*: In which, I have not only made it my care, to amend some Defects, which were into the former *Impressions*, But indeed, to new Modell the whole, by adding a considerable number of excellent choise *Italian Songs*, and *English-Ayres*, all in three Parts, (*viz.*) two *Trebbles* and a *Bass*, which were never Printed with the former *Impressions*, and that for the severall humours of all Persons, *Male* and *Female*, *Old* and *Young*: wherefore (I may truly say) this *Musick-Book* as it is now Published (for such sweet *Harmonious Songs*) hath never been Extant in this *Nation*. You have also herewith Printed, for the Encouragement of Young Beginners in *Vocall Musick*, the Print of the Hand, for teaching the *Gam* thereon, with the *Scale of the Gam*, and Parts thereof: As also, a full Exposition of the *Gam* and *Clieffs*, *Moods*, *Degrees*, *Concords*, and *Discords*, &c., and that into a plain and brief manner, for every ones Capacity. I must confess, the Work as to the *Musick* is not mine, but for Printing, and Publishing hereof, I am still ready and most willing in my Generation to improve my *Talent*, and *Parts*, (which the ALMIGHTY, of His Infinite Goodness hath been pleased to bestow upon Me,) both for the Good of this *CITY* and of My *Countrey*: Therefore, if these My *Labours* prove Pleasant and Delightfull, by Your favourable Acceptance, the same shall incite Me very shortly to Publish abroad, severall other *Musicall Songs* and *Ayres* of various *Kynds*, both *Catches*, and *Parts-Songs*, which are not readily to be found within this *Kingdom*, with a brief and plain Introduction to *Musick* conform to each severall Book, all very pleasant for every humour, yea, harmfull to None. And that all my painfull Labours may tend for this *City* and my *Countries* Good, shall be the hearty PRAYER and earnest DESYRE of

Your Servant

John Forbes.

† "The Aberdeen Almanac was long the only work of the kind in Scotland; and as such, acquired a sort of proverbial celebrity. The password of pious Mr. Thomas Turnbull, in the novel of Red Gauntlet, 'A plague on all Aberdeen Almanacs,' will readily occur to the reader."—*Book of Bow-Accord*, p. 12.

See Oliver & Boyd's Almanac, 1838, pp. 454-455, for a History of Scotch Almanacs.

an act, prohibiting the introduction of any little books or pamphlets, which Forbes could afford to sell at a fair value, and they censured Gray for his conduct.

30 October 1667. The said day, anent the supplicatione given in to the counsell be John Forbes, younger, printer in the said burgh, mentioning that wher ane great part of his calling and imployment was takine from him by merchands and chopmen, who brocht from the south pamphlets and litle books, which he could affoord at as easie ane rait as they did sell the samen, and particularlie that Alexander Gray, chopman, had latlie brocht home about ane thousand *prognostications* which he could have furnished at ane more easie rait; and seeing the saids books ware ane great part of his lyvliehood, and that he therby was disenabled to pay the merchands the paper he did buy wpon the accompt of his imployment for the creadit of the toune; therfor desyreing the counsell to be pleasit to consider the premisses, and to emitte ane act for restraining the lyke in tyme comeing, and to impose such censure wpon the former contraveiners as they sould find expedient, seing ther predecessors had done the same before, and that it had been the laudable custome of this burgh in all tyme hygone to exempt ther printer from all taxationes and publict burdines relateing to his imployment, that they wold be pleasit to grant him the lyke favour, seing he was most willing to doe all service his predecessors had before done, as in the supplicatione was conteinit: The counsell haveing hard and considerit the same, and being advyseit therwith, ordaines that no merchant or chopman, or other persone whatsumever within this burgh, sall bring hom or sell any pamphlets or litle books qlk the petitioner can affoord, he alwayes selling the same at ane ordinarie valow, and that under such penaltie and censure as the counsell sall appoynt; and ordaines intimatione heirop to be made be the drume thorow the toune; And as for the said Alexander Gray, ordaines him to be conveynit befor the magistratis and rebookit, and ordaineit to forbear the lyke in tyme comeing, with certificatione of greater censure; and anent the taxationes and publict impositiones, declares the petitioner free therof in all and everie thing his predecessors of his imployment war liberat of the same. *

Some years after the event we have just recorded a more serious difficulty befell the Aberdeen printers. Andrew Anderson, who had first exercised his craft as

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LV., p. 66-67.

a printer in Glasgow, and afterwards in Edinburgh, joined with the printers in the latter city to apply for a patent, to be taken out in his name, by which they were to be vested with the office of King's printer. Their application was successful, and in the year 1671 they obtained the patent. By virtue of this privilege, no printer in the kingdom was allowed to print any book, however small or unimportant, without first receiving permission from Anderson. Neither did these Edinburgh printers allow their patent to remain a dead-letter, for they prosecuted all the other Scotch printers for disregarding their rights and privileges. Forbes appears to have taken vigorous steps to resist this oppressive suit. On the 7th of February, 1622, the Edinburgh printers wrote a letter to the Magistrates of Aberdeen, in which they abandon the action against Forbes. They also dispense with their privilege, so far as Forbes or any other person licensed by the Magistrates, the Bishop, or the Clergy of Aberdeen, are concerned. The letter is engrossed in the Minutes of the Town Council, but without any further information about this curious transaction.

7th February, 1672.

Follows the letter from societie of printers in Edinburghe to the Toune of Aberdein direct to the Provest anent John Forbes printer in this Brughe.

My Lord Provest Ther hes bein ane misrepresentatione of ane gift grantit by his Majestie to me and my partners in qch I am allowed the priviledge of being printer for the kingdome insinuating that I haue ingroased all prenting and selling of books in my owne hands contrar to the libertie of prenters and booksellers if they hade any and to extorse the leidges with exorbitant pryces and to discharge Importing of books

for publick or privat vse all which is false and ane lie for ther wes never such thing intendit by me or my partners against any man who hes served to the art of printing or to any bookseller they behavcing themselues regularlie to the laws of the kingdome and being frie of all impeachmente vpon his majesties honor or prerogatives Therfor my lord witt ye me to dispens with my brother John Forbes notwithstanding of that gift to print all the coppies that sall occur or come to his hands from your lo^p or any other particular persone within or without the Citie of Aberdein being licentiatt by your lo^p. My Lord Bishope or inferior clergie excepting such books as I haue prented besyde me or efter intimatione such as I am to print all these premiss are condiscendit vpon by your printer and me with consent of my partners and for mor verifikatione of my consent yrunto lett thir presents be insert in your Touns books therin to stand ad futuram rei memoriam Without doubt it hes coast your printer much expenss in attending this bussines But two lyns from your lo^p might haue saufit his travell which hes been so plyed by him that no rest could be allowed to me or my partners till we hade fullie aggried And this wes without prejudice to the priviledges of the Citie colladges or printer of Aberdein I owe and desyre to be craved debtor to your lo^p. and Toune of Aberdein for my service and respects I am my Lord your must humble servant Sic subscribitur Andro Andersone David French James Glen Thomas Brown George Swintoun. *

During the whole of the period, from the appointment of Forbes as printer until the year 1674, it has been impossible to dissociate the events in the life of the father from those in that of his son. A line of demarcation at the year 1667 has been drawn in the bibliographical portion of this book, separating the books printed by the elder Forbes and his son, from those bearing the name of the latter alone. But we do not think that the father ceased to be a partner in the business until very shortly before his death. It must be remembered that it was, properly speaking, the son who was the printer; his father retaining his old designation of Stationer until the last.

On the 10th of June, 1674, John Forbes, printer, laid a petition before the Town Council, asking their assistance in a financial difficulty with his father. The minute is of the greatest interest and importance, as showing the salary paid by the Colleges to the printers at that time. Forbes states it to be "about threescoir punds . . . yeirlie." The Council, after consideration, granted the printer's request, and accepted the proffered security of types, presses, and salary from the Colleges.

10 June 1674.

The said day anent the petitione given in to the councell Be John Forbes printer Showing that where he was resting to John Forbes his father about Sevin hundreth merkes mo^s. for which he was distrest with captione and that his father was resting to the Thesaurie of this brughe about the lyke somme for prin^{ll}. and @ rents at whitsonday last for which ther was securitie of ane fairland in the Shipraw belonging to him Therfor desyring the Councell that they wold be pleased to liberat his father of the somme and repone him to his right of his said Land in the Shipraw and that they wold accept the petitioner his band for the said somme payable be sevaral proportiones at two hundreth merkes at whitsonday yearlie beginning the first termes payment at whitsonday nixt to come And for ther securitie theranent The petitioner and Margaret Cuthbert his spous should assigne the thesaurer of the said brughe for ther vse to all his printing typs and presses in the printing hous and to ane contract betuixt the masters and members of both colledges and him for about Threescoire punds money payable be them to him yeirlie as printer Ay and while the said somme suld be payit As in his petitione was conteinit The Provost Baillies and Councell aforsaid haveing hard and considerit the said petitione They grant the petitioners desyre above mentioned and ordaines the thesaurer with advyce and assistance of the magistrats to accept from the sd petitioner and his said spous Band for the somme of fyve hundreth and fourtie punds which they find is the somme resting be the petitioners father at whitsonday last for prin^{ll}. and @ rents bearing @ rents and failzie from the said terme payable be proportions of tuo hundreth merks at whitsonday yearlie Ay and whill the same wer payit beginning the first termes payment at whitsonday next And to get assignatione and dispositione for securitie therof to the saids typs and presses and deliverie yrof under Instrument As also to get assignatione to the

foresaid contracts with forsd Colledges And to caus Intimat the same And upon receipt of the foresaid band and Right to dispoñe to the said John Forbes father to the said petitioner his said Land in the shipraw And to grant the same lauffullie redeemit be payment of the somms resting be him to the toune And to deliver up to his band and dispositione with seasine theron (if any be) with any other writes they have therupon Anent all which premiss thir pnttis to be Warrant. *

The elder Forbes had a son named Alexander, who entered the church, and of whom mention has been made in another place. † The following interesting particulars regarding Alexander Forbes and his descendants have been gleaned for us by Arthur D. Morice, Esq., Advocate in Aberdeen, from Scot's Fasti, Maidment's Catalogue of Scottish Writers, and Johnston's Memoir of James Young and Rachel Cruickshank. The last quotation is valuable, as it gives information about descendants in direct line from John Forbes, Stationer, the last of whom died as lately as 1857.

PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD.

Parish of Kearn (now annexed to Auchindoir).

1678. Alexander Forbes, son of John F., merchant and stationer in Aberdeen, descended from the ancient family of Pitsligo; passed trials before the Presbytery, was recommended 19 Dec., 1677, for ordination, and inst. 13 Jany., after trans. to Fintray, Abdn., after 23rd March, 1681. He died there 14 March, 1693, in 16th ministry; having marr^d. in Jany., 1678, Jean, daugh. of Cap^t. James Forbes, Greenlands; she died in Summer 1740, and had issue William, James, and Anna, who marr^d. William Forbes, afterwards of Badiefurrow.—[Presb. Reg. Maidment's *Catalogue of Scottish Writers*.] H. Scot's Fasti, Part 6, p. 549.

PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.

Parish of Fintray.

1682. Alexander Forbes, trans. from Kearn, adm. prior to 15th Aug^t., died in 1691 in 3^d min., "a young man most expert in mathematics." Publication "De Rota Arithmetica."—[Presb. Reg. MS. Acc^t. of Min., 1689. Maidment's *Catalogue of Scottish Writers*.] *Ibid.*, Part 6, p. 502.

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LV., p. 576.

† See page 152.

Account of the Learned Men and Writers in Aberdeen.

Mr. Alexander Forbess, of the noble Family of Pitsligo, born in Abdn., a young man and Expertissimus in Mathematicks, and dyed Minister of the gospell at Fintray, near the River Don.—This is copied from one of Wodrow's MSS. in the Advocates' Library, and printed in Maidment's *Catalogue of Scottish Writers*, Edinburgh, T. Stevenson, 1833, p. 118.

Mr. Alexander Forbes, Son to John Forbes, a merchant and Stationer in Aberdeen, wrote a little tract, *De Rota Arithmetica*, dedicate to the Valiant Prince James, Duke of Buccleugh and Monmouth.—*Ibid.*, p. 124.

Maidment says the above quoted Catalogue of the Aberdeen Writers was

“not unlikely procured from Sir Robt. Sibbald,” and that it is in the handwriting of Wodrow, and “inaccurately transcribed.”

The Compiler apparently thought there were two Alex. Forbes's.

Wm. Forbes of Badiefurrow, who married Anna, d. of the Rev. Alexander Forbes, had an only daughter Jean, who married William Johnston, Pewterer in Abdn., and Convener of the Incorporated Trades, one of the Craig branch of the Caskieben Johnstons.

Wm. Johnston and Jean Forbes had a son, James Johnston of Badiefurrow, who sold that place (now called Manar). He had three daughters, who lived and died unmarried at Calsayseat, at the end of George St.—Split the Winds.—See Mr. Alexander Johnston's *James Young and Rachel Cruickshank*, Appendix, p. lxi., Note z.

On the 2nd of December, 1675, the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts contain the record of the burial of “John Forbes, Stationer, in the kirkyard.” His son, the printer, appears to have been a shifty man, and ready to work for all parties who could remunerate him. But he felt the weight of a magisterial censure in the spring of the year 1676, having undertaken to print a book for the Quakers, who, at that unhappy period, were the objects of very severe disabilities. One, Gilbert Black, a baillie of the city, in his zeal for orthodoxy, went to the printing house and seized a portion of the book. The Council not only approved of this act, but

in addition they recommended that one of their number should acquaint the bishop with what had happened. We do not know if the matter went any further, but we fully believe that the Quakers' book was in due time printed and circulated.*

One more instance is on record of the printer having been rebuked by the Aberdeen Magistrates and Council. In the year 1683 he printed a pamphlet which gave offence to some members of the medical faculty in the burgh. A complaint was lodged, and the printer was called to appear before the Magistrates, and rebuked for the offence of having printed the treatise without any authority. They warned him not to print any book or pamphlet in future without first receiving the Council's permission, which would be granted if, after due examination, the work was approved of.†

The difficulties in dealing with the piratical printers do not appear to have been overcome. Every year added to the loss and disappointment of Forbes, who saw his Almanacs, the most profitable source of his income, copied and reprinted with most bare-faced impudence. The great numbers of these Prognostications printed by Forbes must have tempted the less favoured brethren of his profession. It is said that he generally sold 50,000 copies annually of his Almanacs, at the price of a *plack*, or one-third of an English penny, for each copy.‡ Agnes Campbell, the king's printer in Edinburgh, and Robert Saunders, printer

* See page 122.

† See page 134.

‡ Fountainhall's Dec., Vol. 1., p. 273.

in Glasgow, infringed Forbes's copyright, and affixed their names to the Prognostications published by them. This gave Forbes an opportunity of prosecuting his opponents, and early in 1684 he complained to the lords of the privy council. The suit was successful, and the offending parties were warned to respect Forbes's privileges in the future.

"Edinburgh, 28th of February, 1684.—The Lords of his Majesty's right honourable Privy Council having considered the lybel and complaint persued by John Forbes, printer in Aberdeen, against Agnes Campbell, his Majesty's printer, and Patrick Tailzie, now her spouse, for his interest; and Robert Sanders, printer in Glasgow; for an injury done him in reprinting the Almanack in Aberdeen, printed by him; and the said Robert Sanders, not only reprinting thereof, but counterfeiting and affixing the Arms of Aberdeen thereto; with the Defender's answer to the complaint, and Report of a Committee of their number, to whom the consideration of that affair was remitted; Do find that the said John Forbes hath been in use and possession of printing yearly an Almanack, as printer to the town and university of Aberdeen: and, therefore, allows and authorises him to continue to print the said Aberdeen Almanack, as he hath formerly been in use to do: and discharges the said Agnes Campbell, Robert Sanders, or any other printers in this kingdom, to reprint the same, at any time, or to affix the Town of Aberdeen's Arms thereto, in all time coming, as they will be answerable. Extracted by me

*"Sic. Sub. WILL. PATERSON, Cls. Sti. Consilii."**

That any error should be found in his Prognostications, touched Forbes in one of his tenderest points. The errors were doubtless many and great if we are to judge from instances that have come under our observation. In the year 1683, James Paterson, "Mathematician," in an Almanac printed at Edinburgh, fell foul of Forbes, and abused him and his Aberdeen Almanacs in a rhyme, which is sufficiently amusing to warrant its preservation.

* Fountainhall's Dec., Vol. I., p. 273.

From *Aberdene* there came these two last years
Some Almanacks, or rather *Jock* the Liers ;
Whose Author doth no lesse to gain renown,
But carpeth still against our ancient Town :
Saying we counterfeit his Almanack,
Whose value truly is not worth a plack :
Because each year his errors doth increase,
Whereas he ought each year to make them lesse.
He names not those who doth such practice use,
But for one's fault a City will abuse :
Therefore I blame him who doth Art disgrace,
Not knowing where he doth his errors place.
The tys of his Eclipse each year before
Three digits was, I never saw it more,
Except this year, he says that we shall see
The Sun eclipsed after he set shall be.
The Sun doth set ten minuts before four
At *Aberdene*, which is near half an hour
Before his Eclipse fall at *Aberdene*,
A Prodigie, the like was never seen !
I think his ten digits he may well call
Total, because I'm sure it will not fall
At such a time as he to us doth name,
Therefore I think he therin may think shame :
When as it shall be seen two hours before,
I do not erre, although I had said more :
When his begins, by right it should near end,
Therefore you may by mine his errors mend.
More of his errors I yet will to you show,
So that the vulgar may it clearly know :
The first quarter in *August* this last year,
On Saturday he did make to appear,
Whereas on Wednesday the Change did fall before,
Making that Quarter four dayes, little more :
By which account the Moon comes soon to age,
Or else in haste hath run in a great rage.
When she upholds such men who think no shame
To publish errors in their Countrey's name ;
Being a Kingdom wherein she hath most might,
Under the Sign wherein she takes delight.
Also he errs again in his Tide Table
At *Lcith*, as if the Moon were not so able
To rule the Tides here, as at *Aberdene* :
Likewise he errs this year for Hallow-even,

Saying it falls upon the Munday night,
 When Hallow-day on Thursday falls by right,
 Then Hallow-even should on the Wednesday fall,
 He errs in this, he errs almost in all
 His Almanacks : by mine his errors mend,
 I say no more, I think it time to end.

Forbes did not quietly submit to such abuse, but in very indignant language replied to Paterson. His defence, which is found at the conclusion of the “Mariner’s Everlasting Almanack,” is a most curious mixture of angry invective and scorn for his enemy. It is interesting also on account of the complaints against Campbell and Saunders, who were soon to receive a censure from the privy council.

For without any just ground, or provocation given, James Paterson did most ignorantly Rhyme against me, into his Almanack for the year 1683, and likewise into his Almanack for the year 1684 : making a great noise, concerning the mistake of two dayes for Hallow-Even, altho Hallow-Day was exactly right, both for the day of the Week, and day of the Moneth ; for all the World knoweth Hallow Even to fall upon the night before Hallow-Day. But his Errors are more gross, making the Flood of Noah in his Chronologie, in all his Almanacks three hundred years short : A very beastly Error, besides other gross Errors, which I forbear at this occasion any more to mention. . . . Truly I am heartily sorry that both Mathematician and Printers are so evil Principled in the Grounds of Christianity . . . and for my own part, I do declare it to the whole World, I hate such unrighteous and base Practises. For Agnes Campbell Spouse to Patrick Telfer, hath caused Counterfit and Re-print my Almanacks into her printing-house these severall years bygone, sometimes Entituling them by *Aberdeens Almanack*, and other times, according to *Forbesses Almanack*, besides she hath for the ensuing year 1684, caused Print an Almanack as it were set fourth at Aberdeen, and Printed in Aberdeen, which is a most notorious untrueth : impudently affixing thereto, some Lynes in the End, of Dogrell Rhyme, whereby she would have me to patronise her base Execrations ; as tho I, (contrary to Christianity and the good Conduct of Nature,) should wish any man for any cause to hang himself . . .

And as for Robert Sanders, Printer in Glasgow, he hath not onely inserted a notorious Untrueth into all his Almanacks these diverse years bygone, (saying set forth at Aberdeen, as if the Famous Colledge of Glasgow had not so much Mathematicks as to set forth ane yearly Almanack, which in him was no great Act of Prudence,) but also, contrare to the Good and Iust Lawes of this Ancient Kingdom, he hath caused Counterfit the City of Aberdeen's Armes, and affixed them upon his most Erronious, and Uncorrected Almanack, for the year 1684: whereof I am ashamed to speak, that such an Almanack should be published in this Kingdom; as may be seen into the Termly Quarters and Aspects, &c., tending much to the Discredit of the Famous City of Glasgow: not deserving to be called their Printer, *Consideratis, Considerandis.* *

In the Poll Book for Aberdeen, made up in 1696, the printer and his family are entered as follows:—

John Forbes Printer Stock under 5000 Merks for himselfe and wife
Margrat Marjorie Jean and John his children a servant Bathia Downie
16 merks yeirly - £4 17 4†

A passing glimpse of Forbes and of old customs is given us in an entry in Marischal College Accounts for the year November, 1698, to November, 1699. The practice of giving drinkmoney to the workmen has been already touched on, but here we have the College authorities providing some kind of entertainment to Forbes and themselves at the transaction of a little bit of business.

"Item spent with John Forbes printer when wee gave in our Supplicatione to the press	-	0	6	0
Item to Peter Thomson, bookbinder for cutting ym. being 3 quares	-	0	6	0
Item to John Forbes printer for printing them conform to his Accot.	-	5	4	0
Item drinkmoney to his man	-	0	7	0"‡

* Forbes's Mariner's Everlasting Almanack, 1683. [1685.]

† List of Pollable Persons within the Shire of Aberdeen, 1696. 2 vols. Aberdeen, 1844. 40. Vol. II., p. 622.

‡ The only other entry in the Marischal College Records relating to printing, so far as we have been able to discover, is the following, taken from the Accounts for the year October, 1697, to October, 1698:—

"Item to John Forbes printer for printing the petition to the burrows 4 19 0"

See page 230 of this work.

In bringing this notice of Forbes's life to a close, it may be interesting to mention, that the Kirk and Bridge Work Accounts contain several entries that relate to his family. It will be observed that the burials noted below all refer, without doubt, to the children of the younger Forbes, except the earliest, in which the parent is styled stationer, which designation we have seen was generally given to his father.

1668, April 5, Johne forbes stationer his child.

1672, March 31, John Forbes printer ane child in churchyard.

1677, Augt. 24, John Forbes printer ane child. k.y^d.

1678, Sept. 17, John Forbes printer ane chyld under arme.

Forbes's own death occurred in 1704, previous to the printing of a Thesis which was to be disputed on the 14th of December. In the imprint of that book he is called "the late John Forbes." * He was survived by his widow, Margaret Cuthbord, and a daughter named Margaret, the former of whom succeeded him as printer. Her admission to the office took place on the 7th of February, 1705. The Council Register narrates that "the said day Margaret Cuthboord relict of the deceased John Forbes printer wes admitted to succeed her husband in the said office as on her bill and conform to the contract with her deceased husband." †

It will be seen in the next chapter that this arrangement did not hold good for a very long period.

* See page 154.

† Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LVIII., p. 3.

CHAPTER IV.

JAMES NICOL.

WE have reached a most uninteresting and uneventful period in the history of Aberdeen printing. From the death of John Forbes the younger, to the year 1711, the labours of the press appear to have been confined to the official publications connected with the Town and University. No book of general interest, except the "*Bourignonism Displayed*,"* was printed in Aberdeen, so far as we can ascertain, during the six years prior to Nicol's appointment. The quality of the work had declined, and we regret to say that no improvement was apparent during Nicol's tenure of office.

Nicol, prior to the year 1710, had married Margaret Forbes, the daughter of the former printer. On the 6th of December, 1710, Forbes's widow petitioned the Town Council to admit her daughter and Nicol, her son-in-law, as successors to her in the printing business. The minute of Council commences with a very long preamble containing the petition, and concludes as follows :—

The saids provost baillies and counsell haveing heard seen and considered the sd. petition and being at length rypely and weell advised therewith They gave and granted and hereby gives and grants to the sds. petitioners the liberty and priviledge of printing within this burgh with

* See page 158.

all other immunitys and priviledges conteint in the above narrated act of counsell conform thereto in all poynts and that dureing the saids petitioners ther good service and serveing the leidges with good tys and paper and with sufficient servants as also they granted to the saids petitioners the priviledge of the said printing and dwelling hous in the north syde of the Castlegate of this burgh maill free destinat and appoynted be the town of Abdn. for yt. effect. *

There is only one incident which we have been able to recover in the career of Nicol as printer. The rebellion of 1715 found Aberdeen with a Magistracy true to the reigning monarch. But by a blunder on the part of the executive, the town was left defenceless. On the 28th September it was taken possession of by the Earl Marischal, who proclaimed the Pretender. The Hanoverian Magistrates left the appointment of their successors entirely in the hands of the Jacobite faction, who, on the same day as the Earl Marischal arrived, elected a Council of their way of thinking. This Magistracy was devoted to the Stuart family, and did what was in its power to assist in recovering for them the crown they had lost. The head-quarters of the army, which was to contend with the forces of the House of Hanover, was stationed at Perth. The Earl of Mar, the Commander-in-chief, felt the want of a press to print proclamations, and sent a requisition for one to the loyal Aberdeen Magistrates. The Council, recognising the fact that the press and types belonged to Nicol, gave orders to the treasurer to grant an obligation to the printer for the return of his property in as good order as when it was sent. They also made

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LVIII., pp. 215-216.

provision for horses and carriages to transport the press and types to Perth, and were not unmindful of proper packing cases. The minute is signed by Provost Patrick Bannerman, a staunch adherent of the House of Stuart.

20 October 1715.

The said day, the provost produced an order subscribed by the Earle of Marr, commander-in-chiefe of his Majesties forces in Scotland, daited at Perth the fourteenth of October instant, directed to the magistrats of Aberdeen, ordering them furthwith to deliver to Robert Drummond, servant to Mr Robert Freebairne, the best printing press, with such typs, utensills, and other materialls as Mr Drummond should choise and find necessary, and to see them paiked up in good order, and to provyde horsse and proper carriages for transporting them to Perth, or where the army should be at the tyme ; after reading of which order, the provost held out that seeing the said press, typs, and other utensills, did not belong to the town, but to James Nicoll, printer, it wes just and reaseonable that he should be secured for redelivery thereof, or the value of the same, and that the thesaurer should advance what money is requisit for making boxes and others for holding the same, and for transporting all to Perth, which being considered be the counsell they approved of sending of the said press, typs, and utensills thereof to Perth, or where the army shall be, and appoynts the thesaurer to grant ane oblidgeement to the said James Nicoll for returneing the forsaid press, typs, and utensills to him in also good condition as they wer received, and makeing up any deterioration thereof, or paying him the value of the same ; as also appoynts the thesaurer to pay what charges shall be debursed for makeing boxes and other carriages for transporting the said press to Perth, or where the army shall be, and for men and horss hyre, and expenses in carrying the same there ; and the saids expenses to be allowed to the thesaurer in the first end of the accompts ; and the counsell will consider, when the printing press is returned, what loss the said James Nicoll sustains throw the want thereof. Pat. Bannerman, provost. *

No immediate steps appear to have been taken to carry out the wishes of the Earl of Mar. Indeed, we are doubtful if Nicol's press ever left Aberdeen. The next notice of this matter we can find is the resolution

* Aberdeen Council Register Vol. LVIII., pp. 426-427.

of the Town Council at a meeting held on the 4th of November. On that day they order the treasurer to borrow a sum of money from the master of Kirk and Bridge Works to defray the expenses of sending the press, and also to pay for three hundred Lochaber axes which the Town had been requested to furnish.

4 November 1715.

The said day, the counsell takeing to ther consideration that the Right Honorable the Earle of Marr, commander-in-cheife of his Majesties forces in Scotland, had ordered the town to make three hundered Lochabar axes for the use of his Majesties forces, and to send the same to the camp at Perth, or where the army shall be for the tyme; and that the said Earle of Marr had ordered the towne to send one of the printing presses to the said camp: therfor the magistrats and counsell appoynted James Gelly, thesaurer, to borrow the sowme of from Thomas Shand, master of kirk and bridges works of Aberdeen, for paying the saids Lochabar axes, and defraying the expenses in transporting the same and the said printing press to Perth, or where the army shall be for the tyme. Pat. Bannerman, provost. *

No later mention of Nicol's press occurs in the minutes of the Town Council until the time of his retirement in 1736. A passing glimpse of him is to be found in an act, dated the 21st of April, 1732, in which the master of Kirk Work is ordered to build a desk for Nicol, "in the north side of the new church, without the pillars, betwixt the two pillars on the west side of the pulpit." The rent to be paid for the pew is fixed at three pounds Scots money. †

Nicol appears to have voluntarily retired from the printing business. The reasons for his doing so are unknown to us. In the deed of demission he states

* Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LVIII., pp. 436-437

† Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LX., p. 268.

that it was for "onerous causes, good respects, and considerations." It will be seen that he still occupied the printing house, and enjoyed the same privileges as his predecessors in office. The Council, at their meeting on the 6th of May, 1736, received Nicol's resignation, an abbreviated copy of which is subjoined.

6, May 1736.

The said Day there was presented to the Council a Dimission and Renunciation from James Nicol Printer to the Town, of his office of being Printer to the Town and University of Aberdeen, Which being read in Council they accepted thereof, and declared his said office vaccant, and appointed his Dimission to be Recorded in the Council book, Whereof the tenor follows. Be it known to all men by thir presents Me James Nicol Printer to the town and University of Aberdeen ffor certain onerous causes good respects and considerations moveing me, To have Resigned and Demitted, Likeas I hereby for me my heirs and assigneys, Resign and Demitt, all right and title which I have or can pretend to have to the said office of Printer, either be vertue of Acts of Town Council in my favours, or any other manner of way whatsoever, As also I hereby for me and my forsaid, Renounce, Discharge and overgive all right and title I have to the possession of the Printing house, In virtue of the saids Acts or other ways, And that to and in favour of the Provost Baillies and Council of Aberdeen and their successors in office, with full power to them, To Elect, nominate and Choose any person they think proper to succeed me in the forsaid office of Printer, from and after the term of Whitsunday next, and to grant Acts and Presentations in their favours, and with power to such a person to be elected by them To enter to the possession of the said printing house at the said term, and to bruik and enjoy the same as fully and freely in all respects after the said term of Whitsunday next, as I might have done myself before granting hereof, but any deed of wrong whatsoever, and I oblige me to warrand this present Demission and Renunciation to be good valid & effectual at all hands and against all deadly, Consenting to the registration hereof in the books of Council and Session or others competent, Therein to remain for preservation, And if need be, that all execution necessary may pass hereon in form as effects, . . . *

^a Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LX., p. 427.

The remainder of Nicol's life is a blank to us. No particulars can be gleaned of his career after his retirement. In the Treasurer's Accounts of the burgh for the years 1735-36, there is an entry which relates to Nicol, but with that exception our knowledge is at fault. *

In bringing this short history to a conclusion, it appears fitting to give a few particulars about the successor of Nicol. The same day on which the latter resigned, James Chalmers, the son of James Chalmers, Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, Aberdeen, made application to the Council to be appointed printer to the town. Chalmers states in his petition that he served his apprenticeship to James Nicol, and that he afterwards went to London, where he stayed a considerable time. † The request was granted, and with this began a new and a better race of printers, whose descendants are still in our midst. About the same time, for the precise date cannot be ascertained, Chalmers forwarded a petition to the authorities of Marischal College, begging them to continue their patronage to him which had been enjoyed by former printers. The document is interesting, and needs no apology.

Unto the Honoured George Skene of Skene Esquire, Rector of the Marishall College and University of Aberdeen, and to the Dean of Faculty and Assessors of the Rectoral Court

[~] 1735-36.

Item paid to James Nicol late Printer for some timber work that had been put up by him in the Printer's house as per appretiation and warrand £31.

† Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LX., p. 428.

thereof, And unto the Very Reverend Master John Osborn Principal of the said University, and the Professors, Masters and remanent Members of the same.

The Petition of James Chalmers, Printer in Aberdeen

Humbly Sheweth

That, by a Contract or Agreement past betwixt your Predecessors and the deceas'd John Forbes Printer to your University my Predecessor, there was a yearly Sallary of the sum of Twenty pound scots money appointed to him as your Printer, which was collected yearly from the students and punctually paid to him, And by the said agreement he obliged himself to print the publick Theses of Your University at the Rate of Ten Merks scots for each sheet, the students furnishing him with the paper. That as now I have succeeded him and his Heirs in the said office as your Printer, As the Encouraging men of my Profession tends greatly to the advancement of Learning, And as you and your Predecessors were always remarkable that way, So it is humbly hoped you will continue with me the same Sallary and Encouragement which you gave to the said John Forbes, And I shall endeavour always to serve you as faithfully and sufficiently as him or any other of my Predecessors.

May you therefore be pleased to consider the premises, and grant the Desire of this my Petition, by allowing me the same Sallary of Twenty pound scots yearly to be collected from the Students as formerly, and paid in yearly to the Regent who teaches the Magistrand Class or to the Procurator along with the Chamber Rents, as you shall think most fitt, that I may receive the same from them, And I hereby oblige myself to print all your publick Theses at the rate of Ten Merks scots for each sheet, you or the Students always furnishing me with paper. As also to print gratis all your Advertisements and other publick Papers which anyway concern your University, You likewise furnishing me with paper, and providing the same do not exceed one sheet.

JA. CHALMERS. *

We must now bring this account of the Aberdeen printers to a close, deeply sensible of its imperfections. It has always been a cause of regret to us, that this work was not undertaken by abler hands, and at an earlier date. Valuable material has been lost, and

* From the original preserved in the Charter Chest of Marischal College, Aberdeen.

traditions have died out, which might have vastly added to the interest of the book. If Dr. Joseph Robertson had carried out his intention of writing some such book as this, Aberdeen would have possessed a history of its printers and their works, replete with interest, and more worthy of the subject than this poor effort.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

EDWARD RABAN.

1620 (*Edinburgh*).

SYMSON, ARCHIBALD. Christes | Testament |
vnfolded: | Or, | Seauen Godlie and learned | Sermons,
on our Lords | seauen last words, spo- | ken on the
Crosse. | By M. A. Symson, Minister of the | Gospel
at Dalkeith. | [Woodcut of Fox.]

Printed at Edinbvrgh, by Edward | Raban: dwelling
at the Cowgate | Port, at the signe of A B C. 1620. |
With Licence. |

See page 1. 8°. Black Letter. A—M in eights. Without pagination. A 1^r Title, A 1² blank, A 2—3, pp. [4], Dedication "To the right Christian, Noble, and vertuous Ladie, Anna, Covntesse of Morton, &c.," A 4—5¹, pp. [3], To the Reader, A 5²—6¹, pp. [2], Verses of "Commendation of this Booke to the Reader," signed M. I. Adamson, A 6² is blank. The foregoing six leaves in Roman and Italic type. A 7¹—M 6², pp. [176], The First Word, &c., in Black Letter. The running head lines are Christs first Word, | Vpon the Crosse, | &c., in various founts—Roman Caps, Italic Caps, and Italic Upper and Lowercase. M 7¹, one page, "Faults escaped in printing, which the discreet Reader will easily pardon: and if neede bee, amende with his Penne," M 7²—8² blank. In addition to the woodcut of the Fox, the large woodcut *Fleur de Lys* occurs once on C 2² complete, and on M 6² the upper half only. On A 6¹ is an oval, ornamental cut, and numerous top and tail pieces made up from ornamental borders are found throughout the book. Dr. David Laing's copy, formerly Geo. Chalmers' copy.

British Museum, C. 37. b. 20.

1620 (*St. Andrews*).

TILENUS, DANIEL. Parænesis ad Scotos, &c.
1620.

See page 3. A 1^r is covered with woodcut devices identical with E 8^o,
A 1^s blank.

*University Library, Glasgow.**

1621 (*St. Andrews*).

BARON, ROBERT. Philosophia Theologiae ancil-
lans, &c. 1621.

See page 3. The blank leaf occurs after "Exercitatio prima . . ." and "Index Articulorum . . ." precedes the Dedication to John, Abp. of St. Andrews. This is the proper folding of the leaves.

University Library, Glasgow.

1622 (*Aberdeen*).

DUNBAR, WILLIAM. The Merrie Historie of the
Thrie Friers of Berwicke. 1622.

See page 8. The merie historie of the *twæ* Friers of Berwic, 1622. Pinkerton's *Early Scottish Poetry*, who gives as his authority, "Bagford MS. Collections on Printing," British Museum.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 97.†

It is curious to note that the source from which so many quoted the inaccurate title of this work is none other than the notorious John Bagford. I have examined his MS. Collections in the British Museum, and find it stated there exactly as Dr. Joseph Robertson gives it in the *Book of Bon-Accord*, p. 55.

* For the numerous descriptions of books in the University Library, Glasgow, I am indebted to John Young, Jr., Esq., Assistant Librarian there.

† The late Dr. Joseph Robertson left a large collection of valuable material, beautifully written, in three volumes, titled "Biographia Abredonensis." I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Robertson for permission to make use of her husband's writings on Aberdeen printing and authors.

TABLE of Books. 1622.

It is ordainit that a tabill salbe maid of all suche bukes as ar requisite for the bairnes both in the grammer schole and Inglishe schole and the said tabill to be printed.

Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LI., p. 20.

TILENUS, DANIEL. De Disciplina. 1622.

See page 9. This was the work of Daniel Tilenus, born 4th Feb., 1563, at Goldberg, in Silesia; died at Paris, 1st August, 1633. He was Professor of Theology at Sedan. "Il adressa aux Écossais un discours dans lequel il avança que l'on avait fait un changement trop considérable dans la religion des Presbyteriens"—Biogr. Universelle, tome xlv. p. 52. This discourse was presented to the King of England, who ordered it to be printed, and invited the author to this country; but, being accused of heresy at London, he did not come. He was a voluminous writer, and an eloquent.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 49.

1623.

ALMANAC. A New | Prognostication, | For the
yeare of our Lord | God 1623. | Being the third after
Leape-yeare. | Serving most fitlie for the King- | dome
of Scotland, and | all the partes of North | Britane,
&c. | [Woodcut of large *Fleur de Lys*.]

Aberdene, | Printed by Edward Raban, For | David
Melvill. 1623. |

See pp. 10-12. From a tracing made in 1841 by Norval Clyne, Esq., Advocate in Aberdeen, from a copy bound up along with the Aberdeen Almanacs for 1624 and 1625, and Edinburgh Almanacs for the five preceding years, viz. :—1618-1622.

GRAY, GILBERT. An Oration.

Aberdene, Printed by Edward Raban. 1623.

Mr. Gilbert Gray was Principal of Marischall Colledge. He was a most eloquent and learned man. He wrote ane Oration which is to be seen. It was printed by Edward Raban.

Catalogue of Scottish Writers, p. 115.

“Mr. Gilbert Gray principall of ye new college wes verie honorabillie bureit in ye new kirk in his umqhle fatheris grave the 29 december 1614.”

Register of Burials.

He was Principal from 1598 to 1614. Kennedy's Annals of Aberdeen, II., 118.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 52.

Dr. Knight, in his MS. Collections relating to Marischal College, says the Oration was printed by Raban in 1623.

LACHRYMÆ ACAD. MARISCHALL. 1623.

See page 13. *Erratum*—For A—C 1, two leaves each, read A—C 1, four leaves each, and in next two lines—for 10, read 18.

SPENCER, JOHN. Grammaticale Bellum, &c. 1623.

See page 15. The author of this work is Andreas Guarna Salernitanus.

*Communicated by John Young, Jr., Esq.,
Glasgow University Library.*

VIVES, J. L. Ad Sapientiam introductio. 1623.

See page 15. F 12¹ is blank, except for the border lines, F 12² blank.

University Library, Glasgow.

1624.

ALMANAC. Gabriel Friends | Prognostication |
For the Yeere of God 1624, | Beeing Leape-Yeare |
Serving most fitlie for the whole Kingdome | of Scot-
land. | [Woodcut of Arms of the City of Aberdeen.]

Aberdene, | ¶ Imprinted by Edward Raban, | for
David Melvill, 1624. |

See page 15. From a tracing by Norval Clyne, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen, made in 1841. The following extracts were also made by Mr. Clyne, being warning remarks on the character of the several seasons :—

WINTER.

This quarter causeth him to wake with an hungry Bellie, who slept securely in Summer : and him to sleepe full warmly who was busie in harvest. Therefore we sluggards, who have neglected the last Summer, let us not doe so the next.

SPRING.

Many tennants shall leave their habitations voyde to their greedie Landlords. Some stryfe amongst noblemen ; and great losse unto cautioners and creditors, by their vaine-glorious and desperate debtors. Many shall be to seeke at the Tearmes of payment, and sundry take their leave without Farewell.

SUMMER.

Manie Robberies and much Piracie, will be committed in this quarter, by leude and dissolute persons, for whome mee thinkes I heare the Gallowes continuallie groaning.

God prevent the Witches.

HARVEST.

Also the diseases of this quarter are not a few, such as burning agues, hote Feavers, and paines at the Stomacke, but at this time, and for ever, I commit thee to the wholesome hand of God, and to the cure of the skilfull Physician. *Where is he?*

GUILD, WILLIAM. Three Rare Monuments, &c.
1624.

See page 16. *Collation.* (A 1 wanting), A 2¹ Title, A 2² blank, A 3—B 3¹, pp. 6-21 (p. 6 is on A 3²), The Epistle Dedicatorie “To the truelie Noble, and right honourable, William, Earle Marshall of Scotland, Lord Keyth and Altrie, &c.,” B 3² To the Reader (signed Walter Forbes), B 4, pp. 23-24, Bertrams Lyfe, B 5—G 6, pp. 23-108, Bertrams Treatise, G 7—H 2, pp. 109-116, Bertrams Pvrging, H 3—I 7¹, pp. 117-141, Ælfrics Sermon, I 7², p. 142, woodcut of Scottish Arms, I 8—K 3, pp. 143-150, Rabanvs Discovrse, K 4¹ woodcut of Scottish Arms, K 4² woodcut devices.

In the transcript of the title two bars have been omitted, viz., in the third line, “(written 800 yeares agoe),” | and line six, “(preached 627 yeares agoe :)” |

University Library, Glasgow.

1625.

ALMANAC. A Prognostication, | For this yeare
of our Redemption 1625 : | Beeing the next after
Leape-year | Serving for the whole Kingdome of
Scot- | land, but most especiallie, and ac- | ding (*sic*)
to Rabans bound duetie, for the | Latitude and
Meridian of the | Honourable Citie of | Aberdene. |
[Arms of the City of Aberdeen, with initials E. R.,
one at each side.]

Imprinted at Aberdene, by Edward | Raban, for
David Melvill, 1625. |

See page 18. From a tracing made in 1841 by Norval Clyne, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen. Mr. Clyne copied the Almanac in its entirety, and through his courtesy I am enabled to give some extracts.

The title is followed by “A briefe and just Computation of Tyme, &c.,” “The Common Notes, and mooveable Feasts, &c.,” and a statement of

the division of the year into months, &c. In this last is the well-known quatrain :—

Thirtie dayes hath September,
April, June, and November :
Februarie hath twentie and eight alone
All the rest have thirtie dayes and one.

The four seasons of the year are next treated of, with verses applicable to each quarter :—

WINTER.

The Prince of Planets, to the lowest Line,
From his Meridian Course doth now decline ;
And Flora's faire and partie-colour'd Coat,
Now misregarded, is roll'd up to rot,
And in this cold sharpe season of the Yeare,
Plants, Herbs, and Trees unpleasant all appeare.
And grosse raw Rheums, phlegmaticall and colde
This Quarters constitution best unfolde.

SPRING.

While Phœbus, Phlegon, and Pyrrhous plyes
His wing-hoov'd horses, to re-scall the skyes :
And up Heavens Hill hee by degrees them dryves,
Inferiour faded things again revyves.
Plants, Fruits and Flowrs, all Fosters of the Earth
Rebourgeon blythlie, and renew their birth.
This Season best (by Nature moist and hote)
In youthfull yeares and sanguine natures note.

SUMMER.

The Sunne now mounted to the highest staves,
And makes us shortest nights, and longest Dayes :
Whose neare-by verticall rebatted beame
Rypes, burns, and blasts the blades, with heat extreame.
The Plants are parch'd, the ground doth gagg, so drye,
Fish in the floods, Frogs in the fields doe frye.
Cholericke humours, & full strength, alwayes
The heate of Summers Season best displayes.

HARVEST.

The Sunnes declyning course, and lower Gate,
Prepares the Harvest with a temprate heate.

Pomona's spoyl'd, and Ceres poll'd and shorne :
 The Meadowes mowne, made balde, as they were borne.
 And now the Earth with increase doth restore,
 For Man and Beast whatere shée got before.
 Mens melancholicke humours, hote and drye,
 With weake olde age, the Harv'st and Fall descrye.

The Eclipses that fall within the year are then set forth, followed by "A Declaration of Casualties likely to fall out." In the latter the writer claims Pope Joanna as his "native countrey woman." The changes of the Moon in each month, with predictions on the weather, and "All the principall Faïres of fayre Scotland," occupy the remainder of the Prognostication, concluding with the address to the chapmen by the printer, which I have already given on a preceding page (18).

PSALMS. 1625.

See pp. 19 and 23. There is now lying before me an edition of the version of the Psalms by Sternhold and Hopkins, "together with the Tunes diligently revised and amended by the most expert Musicians in Aberdene," printed at Aberdeen by Raban in 1625.

Book of Bon-Accord, Joseph Robertson, p. 124.

The above extract places it almost beyond doubt that Raban printed an edition of the Psalms in 1625. The notes by me at page 19, and by Mr. Quaritch's Cataloguer at page 23, are consequently misleading.

I had written the above note before receiving confirmatory evidence from Mr. John Young, Jr., of Glasgow University Library.

The following collation Mr. Young made independently of anything that I had written; and, so far as can be seen, the copy (imperfect also) in the Bodleian described at pp. 30-31, is identical with the one collated by Mr. Young. It will be observed, however, that Mr. Young designates the Euing copy 24°, whereas the Bodleian was certainly 16°:—

PSALMS. The Psalms in Meeter. 1625.

24°. *Collation.* Eight leaves + ¶, ¶¶ + A—Ff in eights. (1 Title? *wanting*), 2—7, Kalendar, 8—¶¶ 3² Prayers—The Order of Baptisme—The Administration of the Lord's Supper—The Forme of Marriage, ¶¶ 4—A 3¹ the Common Tunes, A 3² Doxologies, A 4—Dd 7¹ Psalms in prose and metre (the prose in the margins), Dd 7²—Ff 2¹ The Ten Commandments—a Prayer—the Lord's Prayer—Veni Creator—Nunc dimittis—the Twelve Articles of Christian belief—the humble sute of a Sinner—

the Lamentation of a Sinner—Magnificat—the Complaint of a Sinner—the Lamentation, Ff 2¹—3¹ Table of the Psalms, Ff 3²—8 Prayers. Colophon at foot of Ff 8² :—Aberdene, | Printed by mee Edward Raban. 1625. |

Besides the tunes at the beginning, there are tunes printed with a considerable number of the Psalms in their order.

Euing Musical Library, Anderson's College, Glasgow.

1626.

PSALMS. The | Psalmes | Of David | In Scottish metre, | With a perfect Table for | xxiiij, years to come, and | an exact Kalendar | for ever. | Also, Morning & Euening prayer, | together with many others. |

Anno 1626 | Aberdene, | Printed by Edward Raban, | for David Melvill. |

24°. Twelve leaves + A—L 8 in twelves. *Collation.* 1¹ Title, 1² Table of Moveable Feasts, 2—7, pp. [12], Callendar, 8—11, pp. [8], Prayers, 12¹ Second Title, within borders, as follows :—

The | Psalmes | Of David | in metre, | As they are sung in | the Churches of | Scotland. |

Printed in Aberdene, | By Edward Raban, for | David Melvil. 1626. | 12° blank, A—L 5° Psalms, L 6—7¹ Hymns, L 7²—8° Prayers. There is no paging.

Alexander Young, Esq., Glasgow.

1627.

GUILD, WILLIAM. A Compend | Of the Controversies | of Religion, | Wherin Trueth is confirmed, and Errour convinced, | By Authoritie of Scripture, | Witnessing of Antiquitie, and | Confession of Partie: | Most necessarie for all, in this | Backe-slyding

Age. | By W. G. Minister of God's Word. | [Quotation from St. Jerome.]

Aberdene, | Printed by Edward Ra- | ban. 1627. |

12°. ¶, six leaves + A—I in twelves. ¶ 1 blank, ¶ 2¹ Title, within borders, ¶ 2² blank, ¶ 3—5¹, pp. 6-9 (page 6 on 3²), Dedication to the Countess of Einzie, ¶ 5²—6², pp. 11-12 (page 11 on 6¹), To the Reader, A—I 5², pp. 14-214 (page 14 on A 1²), Compend, &c., I 6—7¹, pp. 216-217 (page 216 on I 6²), Errata, I 7² is blank, I 8¹—11² (not paged), Table of the Contents, I 12 is blank.

See page 100, where this was in error attributed to James Brown's press. Watt gives no date or printer's name.

James Chalmers, Esq. of Westburn.

LAWES of all the Schooles. 1627.

9 May 1627. The quhilk day . . . it is appointed that the lawes of all the schooles shall be imprinted and publiclie affixt in everie scole, that nather maister nor scoller pretend ignorance thairroff.

*Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Aberdeen,
1625-1642, p. 14.*

1629.

FORBES, JOHN. Irenicum, &c. 1629.

See pp. 29-30, and 58. Three copies, two of which are the same as the copy described; the other differs in having page 151 correctly numbered; pp. 326-7 are correctly numbered in all three.

The so-called second edition is an instance of the too common trick of publishers putting a new dated titlepage to an old book. With the exception of the title, the two editions are identical, even to the Errata.

University Library, Glasgow.

PSALMS. Psalms (English), "with the Common Tunes in foure parts, by the most expert Musicians in Aberdene."

Aberdeene: E. Raban, 1629.

24°. Lent by David Laing, Esq.

Caxton Celebration Catalogue, 1877, p. 161.

PSALMS. The CL. | Psalmes | Of the Princelie Prophet | David, | In English Metre, | According as they are sung in the Chvrch | of Scotland. | With manie Godlie Prayers, as well for Morning and Evening, | as also before and after Sermons, and the Holie | Commvnion ; and for everie p̃erson : | with a perfect Table of the Psalms. | Psal. c. 1. 2. [Quoted. Woodcut of Arms of the City of Aberdeen.]

Printed in Aberdene, by Edward Raban, | For David Melvill. Anno Domini 1629. |

4°. A—L 2 in fours. A 1 Title, verso blank, A 2—L 2² Psalmes of David. The title is printed within a broad woodcut border, with Hebrew letters at the top. The Psalms are printed in double columns, separated by a woodcut pattern. There is no music.

See page 30, where I quote from Hazlitt's Notes and Collections, 2nd Series.

James Chalmers, Esq. of Westburn.

STRACHAN, ANDREW. Propositiones, | & | Problemata Philosophica, | De quibus A.P.D.O.M. | Publica & solennis συζήτησις instituetur, | Ad diem vicesimum Ivl̃ii, | Horis pomeridianis, | In publico Academiæ Regiæ Aberdonensis auditorio ; | Respondentibus Magisterii Philosophici Candidatis. | Præsides Andrea Strachano. | [Motto, and Thistle woodcut.]

Aberdoniæ, | Excudebat Edvardvs Rabanvs, | Anno Domini 1629. |

4°. Titlepage only. Within woodcut border. Dedication to James Sandilands on verso.

*British Museum, Harleian MSS., 5938, 14.
Bagford Collections.*

VIRGILIUS. Pvbl. | Virgilii | Maronis | Poemata,
 | Cum optimis, quæ nunc exstant, & fide dig- | nissimis
 exemplaribus collata & correctæ. | Quibus brevissimæ
 exiisdem exemplaribus excerptæ | annotationes, in
 margine adscripta sunt | Rerum & verborum memora-
 bilium amplissimus index. | [Woodcut of Griffin.]

Aberdoniæ, | Excudit Edvardus Rabanus, | Im-
 pensis Davidis Melvil. 1629. | Cvm Privilegio. |

8°. A—Ii in eights. A 1 Title, within woodcut borders, verso blank,
 A 2—Ii 8 Virgilii Poemata. The pagination commences on A 2², marked
 page 4, to Ii 7¹, page 509; the remaining three pages are not numbered.
 Colophon on verso of Ii 8:—"Aberdoniæ, | Excudebat Edvardus
 Rabanus, | Anno Domini, | 1629." |

James Chalmers, Esq. of Westburn.

1630.

TYMME, THOMAS. A Silver Watch-bell, the
 sound whereof is able (by the Grace of God) to win
 the most profane worldling, and careles liver (if there
 be but the least sparke of Grace remayning in him) to
 become a true Christian indeed: that in the ende he
 may obtayne everlasting salvation. Whereunto is
 adjoynd a Treatise of the holy Sacrament of the
 Lord's Supper, in part augmented. By Thomas
 Tymme. The seventeenth Impression.

Printed in Aberdene, by Edward Raban, for David
 Melvill. 1630.

12°. pp. 288. Black Letter. Prettily Printed. It is divided into
 twelve chapters.

“Tymme or Timme, Thomas, Minister,” appears as a pretty voluminous author in Watt’s *Bibliotheca Britannica*, where the present work is thus noticed :—“A Silver Watch-bell to waken all Estates from the drowsy sleep of Sin, &c. Lond. (without date) 8°.” Besides the works noticed by Watt, may be mentioned “Gueuarra’s Dispraise of the Courtier’s Life, done out of French by Sir Francis Briant, Knt., with apt notes by T. Timme, Imp. by W. Norton, 1575.” 18°. Black Letter, dedicated to John, Lord Russel.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson’s MS. Biographia
Abredonensis, III., 101-102.*

1631.

BIBLE. Printed by Raban, Aberdeen, 1631.

Size, $6\frac{5}{8} \times 3\frac{7}{8}$ in. ; 36 lines to the page ; Black Letter. (A fragment, James I., 26—Sig. N.n. 2, to the end.)

From Mr. Euing’s MS. Catalogue. But unfortunately the book is lost. Probably there was a colophon from which Mr. Euing could ascribe it to Raban. If the sheets are in eights or twelves this must be a fragment of a whole Bible, and not of the New Testament merely.

*Communicated by John Young, Jr., Esq.,
University Library, Glasgow.*

[LABEL.] This Bible is given to the Hos- | pitall
of ABERDENE, by *Gilbert* | *Hervie*, elder, Burges of
the sayd | BURGH, *May* 18. 1631. |

A label, measuring 8×3 cm., affixed at the foot of the page on Hervie’s Bible. See *The Toun’s Great Bible, Privately Printed*, 1885, for an account of Gilbert Hervie and his gift.

Town House, Aberdeen.

STANBRIDGE, JOHN. Vocabvla | Magistri
Stanbrigii, | Ab infinitis quibus antea scatebant

mendis | repurgata, observatâ interim (quoad ejus
 fieri | potuit) carminis ratione, & meliusculè | etiam
 correcta, studio & industria | Thomæ Newtoni |
 Cestresbvrii. | [Woodcut (oval).]

Aberdoniæ, | Excudebat Edwardvs Rabanvs | Im-
 pensis Davidis Melvill, 1631. |

8°. Titlepage only. Text commences on verso.

*British Museum, Harleian MSS., 5938, 50.
 Bagford Collections.*

1633.

PSALMS. The Psalms . . . With the whole Forme
 of Discipline, &c. 1633.

See pp. 47-48. Compare Gordon's *Scol's Affairs*, Vol. III., pp. 235-239, and Spalding's *History of the Troubles*, Vol. I., p. 312. (Spalding Club Edition.)

Bailie, who gives a History of the Aberdeen Assembly, alludes to this matter thus :—"Poor Barron, otherwise an ornament of our nation, we find has been much *in multis* the Canterburian way. Great Knavery and direct intercourse with his Grace we found among them, and yet all was hid from us that they could." (Bailie, I., 195.)

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
 Abredonensis, I., pp. 17-18.*

WEDDERBURNE, DAVID. Institutiones gram-
 maticæ. 1633.

See page 49. K 4, pp. 135-136, De incremento verborum—Accessio secunda—Tituli præcipuarum constructionum—Errata.

University Library, Glasgow.

1634.

LEECH, DAVID. Positiones Nonnullæ logicæ et philosophicæ Quarum *σύζητησις πειρασική* D.D.O.M. instituetur, In Acroaterio Abredonensis Academiæ Maximo, Ad [16] diem Julii, horis antemeridianis, respondentibus aliquot Adoloscensibus, Curriculum Philosophicum emensis, et hac vice cum laureâ emit-tendis. Præsides Davide Leochæo.

Aberdoniis, Excudebat Edwardus Rabanus, 1634.

4°. pp. 20 (but incomplete). The dedication is "Alexandro Brodæo Domino de eodem, Antiquæ et florentissimæ Brodæorum familiæ Primo-genito et Heredi, qualiacunque hæc quadrimi laboris Spicelegia, in grati animi tesseram submitte D. Adoloscens Magisterii Candidati." It is subscribed by sixteen students.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, II., 293.

See page 50, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue.

PSALMS. Psalms of David with Prayers, &c.
Aberdene, Edward Raban. 1634.

Sale Catalogue of Dr. Lee's Library, Part I., 3341, February-March, 1842.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, III., 254.

1635.

LEECH, DAVID. Positiones Nonnullæ Philosophicæ Quarum *σύζητησις πείρασική*, A.D.O.M. Instituetur, In Acroaterio Academiæ Regiæ Abredon.

Maximo ; Ad diem Julii, horis antemeridianis, respondentibus aliquot Adolescentibus, Curriculum Philosophicum emensis et hac vice cum laurea emit-tendis. Præside Davide Leochæo.

Aberdoniis, Imprimebat Edwardus Rabanus, Anno Domini 1635.

4°. pp. 24. It is dedicated to the R. Father in Christ, Adam, formerly Bishop of Dunkeld, and Dean of the Chapel Royal, now Bishop of Aberdeen, one of his Majesty's Council, and laird of Kin-nouchar, "D.D. Joan. Forbesii Magnifici et prudentissimi Rectoris nostri." It is subscribed by eleven students.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, II., 295.

See page 56, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue.

1636.

CANONS and Constitutions, &c. 1636.

See pp. 57-58. Two copies—in one the correction at foot of E 1^r is made as described ; in the other the mistake remains—"It shall bee . . ." A 1 is blank.

University Library, Glasgow.

FORBES, JOHN. Irenicum, &c. 1636.

See page 58. See note to edition of 1629 at page 194.

LEECH, DAVID. Positiones Nonnullæ Philoso-phicæ, Quarum σύζησις πειρασικη A.D.O.M. Insti-tuetur ; In Acroaterio Acad. Regiæ Aberdon. Maximo: Ad diem Julii, horis antemeridianis respondentibus

aliquot Adolescentibus, Curriculum Philosophicum emensis, et hac vice cum laurea emittendis. Præsides Davide Leocæo. [Woodcut of College Arms.]

Aberdoniæ | Imprimebat Edwardus Rabanus Anglicus, | Almæ Academiae Typographus, 1636. |

4^o. pp. 32. It is dedicated to Sir Henry Goodrick, Englishman, of Ribston, Baronet, whose son had been of the course in the College. It is subscribed by fourteen students.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, II., 301.

See page 58, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue.

WHOLE Forme of Discipline, &c. 1636.

See page 59. In an old Catalogue of this University Library, dated 1791, occurs the entry as Watt gives it, but on referring to the book, I find that the date ought to have been 1633 (that of the Psalms of which it is a part); and Watt, being a Glasgow man, would probably see this Catalogue, and copy the misdated entry from it.

*Communicated by John Young, Jr., Esq.,
University Library, Glasgow.*

1637.

BROAD, WILLIAM. Bonvm Factvm. | De Hydrope | Theses, | Quas, | D.T.O.M.F. | Sub Rectoratu Magnifici & Clarissimi Viri, | D. Artvri Ionstoni, Medici Regii. | Ex decreto & autoritate facultatis Medicæ, in | celeberrima Academia Aberdonensi Regia. | Pro consequendis in sacra Medicina doctoralibus Privilegiis. | Præsides Patricio Dvnæo, M.D. | & Facultatis Medicæ Decano. | Publicè discutiendas proponit Gvlielmvs | Broad, Berwicensis. | Ad primum diem Iulii, 1637. Loco consueto. | Bona Verba Dicite. |

Aberdoniæ, | ¶ Imprimebat Edwardus Rabanus, |
Anno ut supra dictum. |

4°. Six leaves. [A 1^r] Title, [A 1^r] Dedication "Nobilissimo & illustrissimo Domino, Roberto, Comiti de Roxburgh . . ." signed by the author; B, C, two leaves each, "De Hydrope"; [D 1^r] Latin Verses on the author, by "Art. Ionstonivs" and "D. W.," [D 1^r] blank.

NOTE.—The first and last leaves have no signatures, but the second and fourth have signatures "B" and "C" respectively. Pages 8, 9, only are numbered (the title being thus p. 1).

University Library, Glasgow.

JOHNSTON, ARTHUR. Paraphrasis Psalmorum,
" &c. 1637.

See pp. 61-62. *Collation.* 1^r Title, within woodcut border, 1^r blank, 2^r Dedication "Ad Mariam Erskinam, Illustrissimam Comitissam Marescallanam, Epigramma," 2^r blank, 3 Ad lectorem, A 1—M 3^r Psalms, M 3^r—M 7^r Cantica Evangelica, &c., M 7^r blank.

University Library, Glasgow.

1638.

COVENANT. Answeres of some Brethren of the
Ministerie. 1638.

See p. 64. Two copies. (*British Museum title.*) Bar wanting in fourth line, after the word Aberdene; |

Collation. A 1^r Title, A 1^r To the Christian Reader, A 2^r—I 2^r, pp. 4-36 (p. 4 is on A 2^r), Answers. Page 18 is wrongly numbered "81" in both copies.

University Library, Glasgow.

LEECH, DAVID. Theses Philosophicæ, De quibus
A.D.O.M. In publico Academiæ Regiæ Aberdon.
Acroaterio διατριβῇ πείρασικῇ instituetur, Die Julii,
Anno 1638. Respondentibus Magisterii Philosophici
Candidatis. Præsides Davide Leochæo. [Here is inserted a Cut of the Arms of the College:—a pot of lilies, in the top centre of which a hand holding an

opened volume descends from a cloud. On the pot are three salmon, and below the whole, on an escroll—
 Ex biblioth | eca Colleg | ii regalis | Aberdone | nsis.]
 Aberdoniæ, Imprimebat Edwardus Rabanus.

4°. 24 pp. Hebrew types occur in this print. It is dedicated to the Rev^d. Wm. Guild, D.D., Minister of New Aberdene, Chaplain to King Charles, Dean of the Faculty of Theology in the King's College, Aberdeen. Mention is made of his gift of the Monastery of the Trinity Friars to the Trades: "Pigri et obesi Monachorum ventres ignaviam suam cupediis pascant." Mention is also made of his benefactions to the Grey Friar Church, the gate of Marischal College, and the Kirk of King Edward. Of his works are mentioned:—

Moses Retectus, qui legis Leviticæ typos, remoto velamine in propatulo luce visendos sistit.

Issachari Asinus sub onere gemens, quo Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ inopia laborantis ac tantum non depressa, vivis coloribus graphicè depingitur.

Epitome Controversiarum; quæ Pontificios inter et Evangelicos adeo animose et contentiose hodieque disceptantur:—quidque præ ceteris longe eminet, opus eruditissimum et elaboratissimum.

Antidota tripertitum Papismi, jam nunc sub prælo fervens, cujus impatienti desiderio ac expectatione, orbis hic noster Septentrionalis jam diu cruciatur.

His declamation against fishing on Sunday is next noticed: "cum zelo Divinus Dei accensis, prophanos diei Dominicæ temeratores, et (odiosissimum hominum genus) Dardananos, an nonæ flagellatores, malo publico natos, cœlestis eloquii fulmine percelleres, ac tantum non ad Tartara detruderes. Itaque meritissimo factum est, at serenissimus Rex noster Carolus in reverandum Sacellanorum suorum Collegium te cooptavit: et nunc nuper Academia Regia Aberdonensis facultatis Theologicæ summam præfecturam (quam Decanum nuncupant) in solenni et anniversaria Panegyri, consentientibus omnium electorum suffragiis, invito licet et restitanti, detulerit." It is subscribed by fourteen students.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Aberdonensis, II., 297-300.

See page 67, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue.

PSALMS. Psalmes of David in Metre, According to the Church of Scotland.

Aberdene, Edward Raban, 1638.

Sale Catalogue of Dr. Lee's Library, Part I., 3766, February-March, 1842.

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, III., 254.

1641.

WEDDERBURNE, DAVID. Sub obitum, &c.
1641.

See page 72. This is reprinted in Lauder's *Musæ Sacre*, Edinburgh, 1739, pp. xxviii.-xxix.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 120.

1643.

DECANUS, SAMUEL. Positiones Nonnullæ Physiologicæ de Coelo, Quas divino faventi numine, sub præsidio Clarissimi atque doctissimi viri M. Patricii Gordonii, Sacratioris Philosophicæ, in inclyta Academia Aberdonensi Regia, Professoris Salutissimi: Publicæ disquisitionis prælo, Die M. Jul. publicum solenne periculum subsequenti commissas, in maximo Academiæ dictæ Auditorio, propinquam nititur Samuel Decanus *Bohemus*.

Abredoniæ, Imprimebat Edv. Rabanus, 1643.

4°. pp. 16. It is dedicated "Zbiqueo à Goray Goraysky, Tervitarii Chelmensis Castellano," "Georgio à Rzeczyzca Rzeczyzcky," "Georgio à Kona Slupecky," Capitaneis—and to Dr. Guild, Rector of the College, "Jacobò Myleo, P. L. C. Ecclesiæ Belzycianæ antistiti," and "Stephano Siuellicio Gymnasii Belzycensis Rectori."

Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia Abredonensis, II., 305.

See page 73, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue, and mistake the author's surname.

GORDON, PATRICK. Theses Philosophicæ, quas A.P.D.O.M. Adoloscetes Magisterii Candidati, in Auditorio publico Academia Regiæ, Universitatis Aberdonensis Carolinæ, Ad XIV. Julii, horis Antemeridianis, Anno 1643, Sustinebunt. Præside Pat. Gordonio.

Aberdonensis Imprimebat Edvardus Rabanus, Universitatis et Urbis Typographus.

4°. pp. 20. It is dedicated to George, Marquis of Huntly, Earl of Enzie, Lord Gordon, Badenoch, &c. It is subscribed by fifteen students.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
Aberdonensis, II., 304.*

See page 73, where I quote from Dr. Laing's Sale Catalogue.

1644.

MELVILL, ELIZABETH. A Godly Dream, &c.
1644.

See page 76. "On the suggestion of my friend, Mr. George Chalmers, I give the following Poetical Tract a place in this collection: "A Godly Dream, &c. Aberdeen, Imprinted by E. Raban Laird of Letters, and are to be sold at his shop, at the end of the Broad gate 1644." There are two circumstances not a little remarkable of this publication. It was, as my friend Mr. Chalmers informs me, the first book printed at Aberdeen; and perhaps no printer or publisher, before or since, has assumed so strange and singular a title as Mr. Raban, who scruples not to style himself "Laird of Letters." This poem has been reprinted by Pinkerton. Pinkerton says the authoress was not the mother of Colvill the Poet. Ritson makes it clear that she was,—from Douglas's Peerage, p. 146. The First Edition was printed at Edinburgh, 1603."

[Anecdotes of Literature and Scarce Books, by Rev. William Beloe, London, 1807. 2 vols. 8°. Vol. II., pp. 95-98—where the poem is given.]

Biographia Aberdonensis, I., 122-3.

1649.

MIDDLETON, ALEXANDER. [Theses.] . . . nui Gord . . . quiti aurato, D. De Haddo. . . . ilectissimo quondam condiscipul . . . nunc vero mæcenati plurimum col . . . hasce philosophicas, quas A.D.O.M. ingenui aliquot . . . o Universitatis Aberdonensis, Curriculum Philosophicum emensi et hac vic . . . In publico Philosophantium cons . . . propugnaturi ad diem 2 Julii, 1649, hori . . . Præside Alexandro Middletono, D.D. CC.Q. . . . [Names of eighteen Candidates.] . . .

Aberdoniæ, Imprimebat Edvardu . . .

Fragments found in the binding of a copy of Andro' Hart's Bible.
24 May 1837. J. R.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
Aberdonensis, III., 233.*

Sine Anno.

HORN BOOK. [1622?]

See pp. 81-82. Dr. Laing's copy is now in the British Museum, but wrongly dated in the Catalogue [1620?] The press mark is C. 38. d. 9.

JAMES BROWN.

1650.

CAUSES OF A FAST. The | Causes | of a Publick
Fast, | and Humiliation, | To be kept with all conve- |
nient diligence : | By all the Members of this Kirk &
Kingdom | Of Scosland (*sic*). | Set down by the Com-
missioners | of the Generall Assemblie. |

Aberdene, | Imprinted by James Brown, | Anno
1650. |

See p. 83. 4°. A—C in twos. A 1^r Title, A 1^r blank, A 2^r—B 1^r,
pp. 4-6 (p. 4 is on A 2^r), Causes of a Fast, after the defeat, Sept. 3, 1650,
B 2^r—C 1^r, pp. 8-9 (p. 8 is on B 2^r), A Letter, to the Presbyteries, from
the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, C 1^r—C 2^r, pp. 11-12 (p. 11
is on C 2^r), A short Declaration and Warning, to all the Congregations of
the Kirk of Scotland ; from the Commiss. of the Generall Assemblie.

University Library, Glasgow.

1651.

ANSWER OF THE COMMISSION, &c. 1651.

See pp. 83-84. *Erratum*—Bar omitted, p. 84, l. 2, read : With | An
Answer | . . .

DOWGLAS, ROBERT. The Form, &c. 1651. 8vo.

See page 85. There was a cropped copy described as 12°. in the
Harleian Library.

LIDDEL, DUNCAN. Artis Conservandi Sanitatem,
Libri duo, &c. 1651.

See page 86.

"Mr Duncan Liddel Doctor of Phisik buriet 13 Decr 1613."

Register of Burials in Aberdeen.

This extract differs from Professor Stuart's account, who makes him to die on "December the 17th," and is supported herein by the inscription on Liddel's tomb.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
Abredonensis, I., 70.*

1656.

[REGULATIONS anent workmen's wages, prices of small commodities, weights and measures, and servants' fees.] *Commencement.* The Justices of peace having mett at Aberdene, the 23. day of June, . . . *End.* And ordaines these presents to be printed & published that none pretend ignorance. Aberdene, the Twentie sixt of Iune, 1656 years. Signed in the name and by order of the Court. Christopher Powell Cl. of the peace.

Broadsheet, 15 × 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1658.

ALMANAC. A New | Prognostication, | For the year of our Lord 1658. | Being the second after leap year. | Calculated, for the Latit. & Merid. of the Ho- | nourable Citie of Aberdene: Where the Pole | Artick

is elevated 57 degr. 30 min. according | to Argolus and Tychon. [Woodcut of Man with Globe, and quotations from Psal. 19 and 147, and Iob 38.]

Aberdene. | Imprinted by Iames Brown. |

8°. Eight leaves. In the copy examined, which was found in the binding of a book, only four leaves remain, viz. : First, Second, Seventh and Eighth. 1¹ Title, 1² Computation of Time, 2¹ The Common Notes and Moveable Feasts, with the first lines of Observations on the four quarters of the year at foot of the page, 2² Of Summer, Of Harvest, Of Winter, 3—6 are wanting, 7¹ List of Fairs in November and December, 7² The following quaint observations:—" In this year 1658 hearken, both *Old and Young*. The Astronomers say, That the Age of Man, is three score and twelue years, And, That Man is lyke but one whole year. For, you must take six years, for everie Moneth : As Ianuarie, or Februarie : And so of the rest. For, even as the year changeth, by the twelue Moneths, into twelue dyverse manners : So doeth Man change twelue tymes in his lyfe : By twelue Ages : And everie six tymes, six ; maketh thirtie six. And then Man is at the best, and the highest. And, twelue tymes six, maketh threescore, and twelue. And, this is the Age of Man. For, Hee is eyghteen years, Young : eyghteen years, Strong : eyghteen years, Wyse : and the other eyghteen years, Old." The rest of the page is taken up with a caution on the "Nyne Floods." 8¹ is filled with verses, which are continued half way down the next page:—

SOME CERTAIN CONVENIENT TYMES,

ANNO 1658.

Hee that marries all in haste ;
And then to rack doth go :
By knitting of himself too fast ;
Hee doth himself undo.

Wedding and Hanging the Destines dispatch ;
But Hanging seems to some the better match.

Poet and Pot differ but in a letter :
Which maks the Poet to loue the Pot the better.

The Barbar only lives by cutting hair,
And yet doth brag, that kings to him sit bare.
Me thinks hee should not boast and brag of it,
For hee must stand to beggars whil they sit.

The cheating hors-coper (that cunning mate)
 Doth with the Buyers thus equivocate,
 Claps on his hand, & swears he may not thryve
 If that his Gelding bee not under fyve.

Were some Women as little, as they are good ;
 A Peas-cod wold be them a gown & an hood.

Manie Women are toothless, that when they were young,
 Had both Teeth enough, and too much a Tongue.

* * * * *

But that their Tongues have worn their teeth away.
 Things that bee bitter, bitterer than gall,
 Physitians say, are alwayes physicall.
 Then womens tongues if into powder beaten,
 And in a Potion, or a Pill bee eaten.
 Nothing more bitter is. I therefore muse,
 That womens tongues in Physik they ne'er use.
 Theirs manie men, who live unquiet lives,
 Wold spare that bitter member of their wives.
 Then prove them Doctor, use them in a pil,
 Things oft help sik mē that do sound men kil.

The Almanac concludes with a notice of "a most pure Minerall Well at Peterhead ; Good for all Diseases, if it bee taken, and used, by the advyce of anie Skilfull Physitian, &c.," followed by a caution against Popery.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

SIBBALD, JAMES. *Diverse Select Sermons, &c.*
 1658.

See page 93. *Erratum*—In collation, line 3, for pp. 2-114, read pp. 2-184.

1659.

STRACHAN, JOHN. *Theses.* [King's College.]
 1659.

"At last the said Strachan was to graduate his scholars of the Magistrand class ; and after he had printed his theses, and distributed them, and the day appointed for the graduation in the common-school of the college, then Mr. Andrew Cant, minister in Aberdeen, and young Mr.

Andrew Cant, regent in Marischall's College, and the rest of the clergy, accused Mr. Strachan for his theses, and said he had set down Popish positions in them. But Mr. Strachan told them he would defend all that was inserted in the theses. . . . Before the dispute Mr. Strachan graduated his class; and the Earl of Aberdeen, who became chancellor of Scotland, was first graduated."

Oren's Old Aberdeen, Ed. of 1782, pp. 163-4.

1660.

DOWGLAS, WILLIAM. (Professor of Divinity in King's College, 1644-66.)

"He printed the following treatises at Aberdeen:—

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| [1. | as in <i>Aberdeen Printers,</i> | p. 88. |
| 2. | " " | p. 91. |
| 3. | " " | p. 93. |
| 4. | " " | p. 96.] |
| 5. | Oratio panegyrica, on the restoration of Ch. 2 ^d ,
read in the publick school of King's College,
14 June, 1660." | |

*From MS. Lists of several persons who have enjoyed offices
in the University and King's College of Aberdeen.
By Thomas Gordon, Regent, 1765-97.*

"Of Dr. William Douglas I know nothing more, than that he was professor of divinity in King's College, Aberdeen, and the author of several small treatises. I have only seen his Vindication of Universities which is written with great modesty and good sense. Its title is 'Academiarum Vindiciæ . . . Aberdoniæ, 1659.' 4°."

Bower's History of the Univ. of Edinburgh, I., 227.

For his reproof to Charles II., see Hume VII. 200; Kennedy II. 404; Sir Walter Scott's Poetical Works, II. 199, note.

1644-1666.

He held the Divinity Chair in Old Aberdeen College during this period. He was formerly Minister at Forgue. "Mr. Douglas," says Kennedy, "was eminent for learning and published the following treatises at Aberdeen:—I. Vindiciæ Veritatis, 1655; II. Vindiciæ Psalmodiæ

Ecclesiastico-Divinæ, 1657; III. Academiæ Vindiciæ, 1659; IV. A Synod Sermon, preached at Aberdeen, 18 April, 1659; V. Oratio Panegyrica on the Restoration of King Charles II., read in the public school of King's College, 14 June, 1660." Kennedy II., 404.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
Abredonensis, I., 117-118.*

1661.

LOGIE, ANDREW. Cum Bono Deo. | A | Remonstrance | To The | Godly Party. | Two maine Quæries, Which stand | much usefull for these our times. | The One is anent that, which made this wofull Diaphragma | or Dissepimentum, this Division twixt King, State and | Church; And this is Episcopacy. | The Other is anent that, which hath so pittifully rent our | Church in her self, & so stands maceries, paries intergerinus, or | intergerivus, The partition-Wall twixt our Protesters, the | Godly Party, (as they are pleased out of a more then a | Pharisaicall pride superciliously to arrogate this title to them- | selves) and the Assemblymen; So that it is turned questio- | nable with not a few with us to day, which of these two con- | trary Factions we should acknowledge for our true Represent- | tative Church, both these acclaiming in jure, this Title to thē- | selves. | And this is, If our Commission of Church did rightly deter- | mine anent the receiving in, into the bosome of their Army | of Nuncupative Malignants, in such a nick of time & exigence | of Affaires, or pronounced therein clave errante. Numero, If | that Engagement stood lawfull with the One, or

unlawfull with | the Other : | And | A Vindication of
Both, | By Andrew Logie sometime Arch-Deane of
Aberdene ; |

Penned by the Author, Ann. 1654, And printed
1661. |

See page 100. 4°. A—F 1 in fours. Without place of printing, but
Aberdeen. Colophon on F 1¹:—"Printed by James Brown, April,
1661." | *Collation.* A 1 Title, verso blank, A 2 (marked A)—F 1¹, pp.
2-39 (p. 2 is on A 2²), Of Episcopacy, F 1² is blank, A 3 and A 4 are
marked A 2 and A 3. The running headline is—Vindication of Epis-
copacy, | And the nick-named unlawfull Engagement. |

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

Sine Anno.

CANT, ANDREW. On the Titles of Our Blessed
Saviour.

Aberdene, Printed by James Brown.

"Mr. Andrew Cant. He wrote against the late learned Divines of
Aberdeen ; afterwards he was parson of St. Michal's church. He wrote
also on the Titles of our Blessed Saviour, which were printed by James
Brown, printer in Aberdeen."

Catalogue of Scottish Writers, p. 121.

F. U.

1661.

LESLIE, JAMES. Ὁ Ἀσκηρ (*sic*) Ὁρθρινὸς |
 Απολαμπει | Seu | Natalis Domini relucet, | refulget,
 | In Academiâ Marischallanâ Ca- | rolinæ Universi-
 tatis Aberdonensis, | Octavo Calendas Januarias, |
 M,D,C,LXI. | August. lib. 4. de trinit. Cap. 8. | Contra
 rationem nemo sobrius contra | scripturam nemo
 Christianus, contra Ecclesiam, | nemo pacificus, sen-
 serit. |

Aberdoniis, | Anno Ær. Christ. 1661. |

See page 99. 4°. Three leaves + A—E 1, two leaves each. 1 Title, within woodcut borders, verso blank, 2, pp. [2], Dedication to Earl Marischal, 3¹ Benevolo Lectori, with this note at foot of the page:—“Typographi pariter junioris imperiti tyrocinium prælo calente emissum excusetur,” 3² is blank, A—E 1¹, pp. [17], Oratio, E 1² is blank. There is no paging. At the top of A 1¹ is a woodcut, with the initials F. U. filling the space usually occupied by the printers’ initials. I am inclined to ascribe this to a printer (name unknown) who may have worked for a few months between Brown and John Forbes the Elder.

University Library, St. Andrews.

JOHN FORBES.

1662.

COVENANT. General Demands, &c. 1662.

See pp. 101, 103-104. Through the kindness of D. M. A. Chalmers, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen, I am enabled to print the following, copied from a MS. in his possession :—

PETITION of Mr. ROBERT FORBES Professor of Philosophy
in the University of Aberdeen

May it please Your Grace

In the beginning of the late troubles Anno 1637 Some covenanting Ministers being sent by some of their Associats from the South to Aberdein for advanceing the interest of the Covenanters y^r; Had some Quaeries moved ther to them concerning the most materiall poynts of that Covenant, by the Doctors of Theologie then at Aberdein, To wch these Ministers gave their first answeir And when the aforesaid Doctors replyed the covenanting Ministers wanted not their second answeris Vpon wch followed the Duplyes of the Doctors To which no answer as yet hath bein returned, And Because by the iniquity of the late tymes these books have bein almost destroyed and worne out of print, your Grace's petitioner haveing a perfyte copie of the Quæries, answeris first and secund replyes and duplyes intendeth for the publick good and information of the people of this Nation In order to the settling of the church government therein, To publish and cause reprint them. And seeing the charges and paines to be tacken in that work will be vast and above the reach of the petitioner's power

It is humbly desired that he alone for the space of ten yeirs to come may be licensed to cause print and publish the forsaide books and all uthers without a special licence from the petitioner prohibited to print cause print or sell them vnder such penalty as shall seem expedient to your Grace This is the humble desire of the humblest of your Grace's servants Mr. Robert Forbes professor of philosophy In Marischall Colledge of King Charles Vniversity of Aberdein

Edr. 12 July 1661

These doe licence the printing of the Queries of the Doctors of Aberden wth the ans^{rs} Replyis and Duplyes to Mr. Ro^t. Forbes & to discharge all persons q^t somever to print or vent them for Ten yeeres wth out his warrand

12 July 1661

Allowed in Parliament

Crafurd & Lindesay

Ther. 1 P D Par

1663.

BARON, ROBERT. De Discrimine Peccati, &c.
1663.

See page 103. Watt has probably made a mistake in the date for 1633, of which you have described a copy. The mistake may have occurred in the same way as that I suggested in regard to the Whole Forme of Discipline, 1636.

*Communicated by John Young, Jr., Esq.,
University Library, Glasgow.*

1664.

KEITH, GEORGE. Help in time of Need.
4to. Aberdein, 1664.

Dr. D. Laing's Sale Catalogue, Part I., No. 1920.

See pp. 104-106, where an edition, 1665, is described.

1665.

CICERO. M. Tullii | Ciceronis | Epistolarum |
Libri Quatuor: | Ab Ioanne Strumio, pue- | rilis
educationis causa selecti, & ad | castigatissima Cicer-
onis | exemplaria recens collati. | Quibus adjecta

est etiam difficiliorum locorum | brevis explanatio, ex
Francisci Junij, | Pauli Manutij, Simeonis Bosij |
Commentariis descripta. | Per I. R. |

Abredoniæ, | Excudebat Joannes Forbesius, | Anno
Dom. 1665. |

8°. A—L in fours. A 1^r Title, within borders, A 1² Dedication by the editor, John Rae (Joannes Rayus), to Patrick Galloway (Gallova) and John Hall, Pastors of the Church of Edinburgh, A 2^r—L 3² M. Tullii Ciceronis Epistolarum Selectarum, &c., L 4^r Tabula Nonarum, Iduum, & Calendarum perpetua, L 4² is blank. There is no paging.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

STRACHAN, PATRICK. Theses. 1665.

“At the Marischall College the first day of August 1665. The said day in presence of the Rector, Deane of faculty, Princel. and wholl Regents Mr Alexr. Pattone of Kynadie advocate in Abd. compeired personally in name of ane Right Noble and Potent Lord William Earle Marischall Lord Keith and Altrie. And being commissioneate did their produce ane pair of theses emitted, printed, published and distributed be Mr Patrick Strachn Regent of the sd College and did compleane that ther wer severall heterodox and profane theses contained theirin qlk became no good christiane nor civill mane to mantaine they altogether reflecting upon the fame of the Universitie, and being ane open floodget to murder, drunkennes and idolatrie contradictorie to the expresse word of god. Therfor desyred to know by what authoritie they wer emitted. . .”

*From a Volume in the Senatus Room of King's College,
lettered—“Marischal College Old Records, 1593-1721.”**

1666.

BROWN, ROBERT. Rudimentorum | Rhetori-
corum | Libri quinque. | —Auctore | Roberto Bruno |

* I am indebted to P. J. Anderson, Esq., for the numerous quotations from the Records of the University of Aberdeen.

Præsbytero Scoto. | — Fungor vice cotis, acutum |
Reddere quæ ferrum valet exors ipsa secundi. |

Aberdoniæ, | Excudebat Joannes Forbesius. | Anno
Dom. M.DC.LXVI. |

A—I 6 in eights. [A 1¹] Title, [A 1²] blank, A 2¹—A 4¹ Epistola D. Jacobo Bardæo, Equiti ab Auchmedden nec non Consulibus Urbis Bamfiæ, A 4² Ad Eosdem Epigramma, [A 5¹—A 6¹] “Præceptore suo summopere observando Magistro Roberto Brownæo, Pastori Forglenensi, Magister Alexander Setonus Verbi Divini præco Bamfiensis, S. P. D.,” [A 6²—A 7²] “Reverendo in Christo Fratri, M. Al. Setono, Presbytero Bamfiensi, Salutem.” Signed “Gul. Burnetus. Dabam Coloniz 4. Kal. Maij 1666,” [A 8¹]—I 5 (pp. 1-124), Rudimenta, [I 6¹] Ad Lectorem, [I 6²] blank.

There is another copy here, but with a new titlepage, of which the subscription is as follows:—Edinburgi, | Impensis Davidis Trenchii, Bibliopolæ Edi- | nensis, Anno Dom. M.DC.LXVII. On the back of this title there are verses, “In elaboratissimam Bruni | Rhetoricam Encomiasticon,” signed “Jo. Boerus. | Datum ex Aúditorio | Nostro Dalkethi 17. | Calendas Martii, | 1667.”

In all other respects this edition is *identical* with the above, and Trench has thus merely given it a new leaf for the title. Forbes’s woodcut, with initials, is on p. 14 in both editions or issues.

University Library, Glasgow.

FORBES, JOHN. Cantus. 2nd Edition. 1666.

See pp. 106-107. A copy in the British Museum wants the last line on the titlepage, as given at p. 106—“And are to be sold at Edinburgh, by David Trench, Bookseller.” See the preceding entry for another of Forbes’s books printed for Trench.

1669.

*Communicated by John Young, Jr., Esq.,
University Library, Glasgow.*

1671.

[EXCISE AGREEMENT.] *Commencement.* Forso-
mickle as Collector of the Excise of
Aberdene, . . . *End.* In witness whereof, we have
subscribed thir presents, with our hands, at Aberdene
the day of 167 .

Town House, Aberdeen.

1672.

BARCLAY, ROBERT. A Seasonable Warning, and Serious Exhortation to, and Expostulation with the Inhabitants of Aberdeen, concerning this present

Dispensation and Day of God's living Visitation towards them. 1672.

4°. Half-sheet.

Catalogue of Friends' Books, Joseph Smith, Vol. I., p. 174.

1673.

GRAY, THOMAS. [Theses.] *Commencement*. Nobilissimo, Amplissimo, & Clarissimo, | Georgio, | Comiti Marischallo, etc. | *End.* Theses hasce Philosophicas A.P.D.O.M. Propugnabunt sub Præsidio Thomæ Graii, supra nominati juvenes | ex Collegio Marischallano Aberdonensi, hac vice, cum Magisteriali laureâ emittendi Iulii [10] Anno 1673. horis & loco solitis. | E Typographæo Ioannis Forbesii Junioris, Urbis & Universitatis Typothetæ, Anno Æræ Christianæ, M.DC.LXXIII. |

Folio Broadsheet, 23½ in. × 21 in. Printed on Satin, with Illuminated Border. MS. note on back—A Program for the Public Graduation 1673—presented by Mr. John Mair, Student of Physic—Sept^r. 1817.

Charter Chest, Marischal College. Documents, Regalia and Miscellaneous—Miscellaneous, No. 4. Knight's Inventory, p. 159.

1675.

BARCLAY, R., AND GEO. KEITH. A | True and Faithful | Accompt | Of | The most material Passages of | a Dispute betwixt some Students of Divini- | ty (so called) of the University of Aber- | dene, and the

People called Quakers; held | in Aberdene in Scotland,
in Alexander Harper | his Close (or Yard) before some
hundreds of | Witnesses, upon the fourteenth day of
the | second Month called April, 1675. There being |

Opponents	{	John Lesly.	}	Mast. of Art.
		Alexander Shirreff.		
		Paul Gellie.		

And Defendants upon the Quakers part. | Robert
Barclay, and George Keith. | Præsides for moderating
the meeting, | chosen by them, Andrew Thomsone
Advocate: | and by the Quakers, Alexander Skein,
som- | time a Magistrate of the City. | Published for
preventing misreports, | by Alexander Skein, John
Skein, Alexan- | der Harper, Thomas Merse, and
John Cowie. | To which is added, Robert Barclay's |
offer to the Preachers of Aberdene, renewed | and
re inforced. | Act. 4. 27. | [Quoted.]

London Printed, in the Year, 1675. |

See pp. 120-121. 8°. A—E4 in eights. A 1^r Title, verso blank, A2, pp. 3-4, The Epistle, A3—D3^r, pp. 5-53, The Dispute, D3^r—D7^r, pp. 54-62, R. B. His Offer to Jo. Menzies Professor of Divinity (so called) George Meldrum, Minister at Aberdeen, and William Michel catechist, at foot of Dee, D8—E4^r, pp. 63-71, A Postscript, signed G. K., E4^r is blank. Page 49 is marked 65, and page 52 is marked 68, 57 is marked 97. I have included this book as I have considerable doubts of its having been printed in London as the title says.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

HAY, ALEXANDER. Deo Opt. Max. Auspice. |
Duo | Antidota, | Nimirum | I. Theriacæ Andromachi
senior. | II. Mithridatii Damocratis. | Nunc Primum |

Aberdoniis. | Composita | In Conspectu & Consessu |
 Amplissimi Præfecti & Consulum ; | Censuræ | Doc-
 tissimorum Medicorum subjecta. | â | Magistro Alex-
 andro Hayo, | Aberdinensi Pharmacopœo. | Anno Æ.
 C. M.DC.LXXV. Mense Aprili. |

See page 119. 4°. 4 leaves, or 8 pp. not numbered. 1¹ Title, 1² Latin verses to the Author, with Arms of the City of Aberdeen at top of the page, and approbation of the Aberdeen Medical Doctors at foot of the page, 2—4, pp. [6], Antidota.

University Library, St. Andrews.

1676.

BARCLAY, R., AND G. KEITH. Quakerism Con-
 firmed, &c. 1676.

See page 121. *Erratum*—line 3 from foot, Quakerism Canvassed | should be Quakerism Convassed (*sic*). |

1678.

GARDEN, JAMES, 1611-97 (Professor of Divinity in
 King's College). Funeral Sermon on Professor Henry
 Scougal, his predecessor, who died 13th June, 1678.

The chair was vacant for over two years.

From Gordon's MS. Lists.

At this time (June, 1678), Garden was Minister of Balmerino, in the
 Presbytery of Cupar. Gordon does not definitely say that the Sermon
 was printed *in Aberdeen*, still I should think this likely, as till 1676
 Garden had been Minister of Maryculter.

1679.

TABLE. A Table of the Dues, payable to the
 Burgh of Aberdeen, | and the Tacks-Men, or Collectors

thereof, for the Pack- | House and Weigh-House: Made
and set down by the | Provest, Bailies, and Council of
the said | Burgh, upon the last day of May 1676. And
ordained | to be Printed, and fixed in publick Places,
to the effect, all | having interest, may have notice
thereof: And that no farther be exacted by the Up-
takers of the saids Dues, but | as hereafter followeth. |

Aberdeen, Printed by Iohn Forbes, Printer to the
Town, Anno 1679. |

Broadsheet, $12\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1680.

ADVERTISEMENT. Advertisement from a noble
and potent Earle, Iohn Earle of Errol, Lord | Hay and
Slaines; high Constable of Scotland, Sheriff-principall
of the | Sherifffdom of Aberdeen; Mr. William More
of Hilton, Advo- | cat, Sheriff-depute of the said
Shyre; and Andrew Skene younger, | of Pitmuckston,
Heritable Mair of Fee of the said Sherifffdom: To
the | several Mair-deputs within the samen. | *End.*
Given under our Hands at Aberdeen, | the twenty-
sixth day of August 1680. | Erroll. | Mr. William
More. | Andrew Skene. | For the Parish of |

Broadsheet, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1683.

ALMANAC. A New | Prognostication | For this
Year of Man's Redemption, 1683. | Being the third

after Bissextile or Leap Year. | Calculated exactly
according to Art, from diverse very famous | Authors,
for this our Ancient Kingdom of Scotland, but | more
especially for the Meridian of famous Bon-Accord,
whose Elevation is 57 Degr. 10 min. | By a painfull
Astronomer, and well-wisher to his Countrey. | [Wood-
cut of Arms of the City of Aberdeen, with four lines
of verse running from top to bottom along the right-
hand side of the cut.]

[*For this Year.*] No Almanacks are from ABERDEEN.

But where these ARMES are to be seen,
They haveing been our Badge of Old
For Loyaltie, and BON-ACCORD.

Thus, seeing they have very uncorrectly counterfit and
reprinted our | Almanacks at Edinburgh these two
years by past therefore I intreat | these Printers to
forbear such unrighteous Practices in times coming. |

FOR, Such never lives in true Societie,

Nor know they Friendship, Love or, Pietie.

By Iohn Forbes, Printer to Bon-Accord. |

8°. Eight leaves. Contains an advertisement of Forbes's Cantus,
3rd Edition.

James Chalmers, Esq. of Westburn.

FRASER, GEORGE. Thesis. [King's College.]

Aberdeen, 1683.

Anno 1683 Lauream Magisterialem adepti sunt, Promotore Georgio
Fraser, P.P., Juvenes quorum sequuntur nomina Maii 25 [one name],
Julii 10 [27 names]. Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 346.

SUFEREINCES for the Excyses Impositione.

Item for thertie sex pund payit to the printer for printing of Sufer-
einces for the excyses Impositione conforme to accompt is 36 0 0

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1683-84.

1684.

FORBES, ROBERT. Thesis. [King's College.]

Aberdeen, 1684.

Anno 1684, Julii 8, Lauream Magisterialem adepti sunt, Promotore
Roberto Forbesio, P.P. Juvenes quorum sequuntur nomina [25 names.]
Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 346.

1685.

SKENE, ALEXANDER. Memorialls, &c. 1685.

See pp. 136-137.

"1685. History of the toun by Mr Alexander Skene late Baillie,
twenty copies of, ordered for the toun's use."

Council Register, Vol. 57, p. 198. Kennedy's MS. Index.

He was Laird of Newtyle . . . He was Baillie for the first time,
1656, and filled office for a year; was again elected in 1658, apparently
for the last time. In 1670 he is styled "Alexander Skene of Newtyle,
late Baillie"—and evinced a philopoliteiacal inclination at that epocha.

*Extract from Dr. Joseph Robertson's MS. Biographia
Aberdonensis, I., 214.*

1686.

BLACK, WILLIAM. Theses, | Problemata & Para-
doxa | Philosophica: | Quæ, Laureæ Magisterialis
Candidati, in Col- | legio Regio Aberdonensi, ad diem

15 Julii, | A.P.D.O.M. publicè propugnabunt, | horis & loco solitis. | Arbitro Gulielmo Blak, | [Woodcut of Book-plate of King's College, and Motto.]

Abredeis Excudebat Ioannes Forbesius, | Urbis & Universitatis Typographus, | 14 Iunii, A. Æ. C. 1686. |

4°. Title + B—D 1, two leaves each. *Collation.* Title, within woodcut borders. Dedication to Alexander, Earl of Moray, on verso. B—D 1, pp. 1-10, Theses. The Dedication is signed by Black, and 34 Candidates.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

1689.

BARCLAY, JOHN. A description, &c. 1689.

See pages 138-139. Edinburgh, reprinted by T. Lumsden and J. Robertson, 1741. See Campbell's Introduction to History of Poetry in Scotland. An account of this poem occupies from p. 207 to p. 210.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 66.

1690.

ACT. Act | Anent Murthering of Children. | July 19th 1690. |

Broadsheet, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ + 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1694.

BLACK, WILLIAM. Thesis. [King's College.] Aberdeen, 1694.

21 Junii Anno 1694 Lauream Magisterialem adepti sunt, Promotore Magistro Gulielmo Blak, P.P. Juvenes quorum nomina sequuntur [42 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., pp. 350f.

1697.

FRASER, ALEXANDER. Thesis. [King's College.]
Aberdeen. 1697.

Hi sequentes Candidati Laureâ Magisteriali ornati sunt a Magistro Alexandro Fraser Philosophiæ Professore, 15 Junii [18 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 352.

PEACOCK, GEORGE. Theses Philosophicæ, | Quas
Collegii Marischallani, | Universitatis Carolinæ A-
bredonensis, Laureæ Ma- | gisterialis Candidati, |
A.P.D.O.M. ad | diem 3. Junii, horis | & loco solitis |
propugnabunt. | — Præsides Georgio Peacock. | — Cic.
de Nat. Deor. Lib. 2. [quoted.] |

Abredeis, Excudebat Joannes Forbesius, Urbis | &
Universitatis Typographus, Anno Dom. 1697. |

4°. A, four leaves. [A 1^r] Title, within woodcut border, [A 1^r], p. 2, Dedication to Sir David Ramsay, Bart. of Ballmain, and list of the 18 candidates, A 2^r—[A 4^r], pp. 3-8, Theses philosophicæ.

University Library, Glasgow.

VIRGILIUS. Quædam | P. Virgilii | Maronis
Epigrammata | Cum Moreto, | In Schedulam Tenui-
orum | gratiâ Collecta. | *In minimis prodesse juvat |*
cum maxima desint. |

Abredeis, | Excudebat Ioannes Forbesius | Urbis &
Universitatis | Typographus, Anno 1697. |

8°. Eight leaves. 1¹ Title, within a border, 1² Large woodcut of a Female seated, 2¹—8¹, pp. 3-15, Epigrammata, 8² Large woodcut of a Female standing.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

1699.

INFORMATION. Information For the New Colledge of Aberdeen, Against the Old Colledge. |

Folio. pp. 2. [1699.] With the MS. "Answers to the Memorandum for the New Colledge of Aberdeen, 1699," by King's College, about the division of the gift of £300.

Charter Chest of Marischal College. Bishop's Rents and Exchequer Payments, 5a. Knight's Inventory, p. 131.

REPRESENTATION. To all our Generous and Charitable Countrey- | Men within the Cities of Dantzick and | Konings-berg, and the Kingdom of | Poland. | The humble Representation of the Principall and Masters of the | Marischall Colledge of Aberdeen in Scotland. |

Folio. Broadsheet. Dated June 2^d, 1699.

Charter Chest of Marischal College. Buildings, 1644-1700. 3. Knight's Inventory, p. 135.

1700.

DISCHARGES FOR TAXATION.

These papers appear to have been printed every year after this date. The entries in the Accounts are as follows:—

1700-1	Item of Eight pund payed to John Forbes for printing the discharges to the last taxation	8 0 0
1701-2	Item of Eight pund ten, <i>as above</i>	8 10 0

1702-3	Item payed for printing the taxation discharge tuo sett & for paper yrto per acct & warrand	10	12	0
1703-4	It pyd to John Forbes for printing the taxation discharge and anc table of the packhous & weighhous dues as per accot & warrand	16	16	0
1704-5	Item to the Representatives of John Forbes for printing the Taxation discharges	10	0	0
1705-6	Item for printing taxation discharges	9	14	0
1706-7	It payed the Relict of John Forbes printer for printing . . . the discharges of the taxation	10	0	0
1707-8	Item paid to James Nicol for taxation and water discharges -	20	6	0
1708-9	Paid the following year	16	0	0
1710-11	Item for taxation discharges	20	0	0
1711-12	do. do.	16	0	0
1712-13	It. payed the Printer for printing 1200 discharges for taxatione the lyke number for the water and for 192 title pages to premiums and a sett to a cellar with programs . . . per accompt and warrand	24	9	0
1713-14	Item paid for printing the Discharges for taxation and well money . . . per accompt	21	8	6
1714-15	Taxation discharges	10	0	0
1715-16	Taxation discharges & paper	24	0	0
1716-17	Item paid to James Nicoll for taxation discharges . . .	30	4	0
1717-18	Taxation Discharges & paper -	22	16	0
1718-19	do.	22	0	0
1719-20	do.	22	0	0
1720-21	do.	21	0	0
1721-22	do.	23	0	0
1722-23	do.	23	0	0
1723-24	do.	23	0	0
1724-25	do.	23	0	0
1725-26	Item of Twenty nyne pound eighteen shilling Scots pay ^d to Jas Nicoll Printer for printing Taxation discharges . . .	29	18	0
1726-27	Item of twenty three pound Scots pay ^d to James Nicol printer for printing the discharges for the Taxation and well money and for paper thereto and drink money for his Servant as [£] accompt and warrand	23	0	0

One of the receipts for this year's Well Money, used for cash jottings, has been preserved in an Account Book in the Town House. It reads as follows :—

At <i>Aberdeen</i>	day of	172	Years
Received from			
the Sume of			Scots Money,
as Proportion of the Money imposed for defraying the charges &c. anent the Wells and Publick Lights of the Streets, conform to an Act of <i>Head Court</i> , from <i>Whitesunday 1726 to Whitesunday 1727</i> Years, I say by Me			
1727-28 Item pay ^d to James Nicol for printing the Discharges for the taxation and well money & for paper thereto		23	0 0
1728-29 Item paid James Nicol Printer do.		20	0 0
1729-30 Item paid James Nicol Printer do.		23	0 0
do. for printing Blank summondsess and blank charges of payment for the Taxation as per accompt		19	12 0
1730-31 Discharges for Taxation -		23	0 0
1731-32 do. -		23	0 0
1732-33 do. -		23	0 0
1733-34 do. -		23	0 0

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1700-1734.

PETITION. To The Right Honourable, | The Lord Præses and remanent Commissioners from the Royall | Burrow's of Scotland assembled at Aberdeen. | The Petition of the Principall and Masters of the Marischall Colledge. |

Folio Broadsheet. [1700.] Knight in a MS. note at the entry states : (N.B. £1200 Scots received.)

Charter Chest of Marischal College. Buildings, 1644-1700.
5. *Knight's Inventory, p. 135.*

SKENE, GEORGE. Thesis. [King's College.]
Aberdeen. 1700.

Hi sequentes Candidati Laureâ Magisteriali ornati sunt a Magistro Georgio Skene, Philosophiæ Professore 4^{to} die Aprilis, Anno 1700. [29 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 353.

1701.

SKENE, GEORGE. Thesis. [King's College.]
Aberdeen. 1701.

Hi sequentes Candidati Laureâ Magisteriali ornati sunt a Magistro Georgio Skene, Philosophiæ Professore, 3^o die Julii, Anno 1701, [25 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 353.

1702.

SMITH, WILLIAM. Oratio. 1702.

See page 151.

“1701. Graduation Oration by William Smith one of the Regents of the Marischal College ordered to be printed on the town's expenses, in respect the same contains a full account of the antiquity of the town and benefactors to the college.”—Council Register, Vol. 57, p. 800.

Biographia Abredonensis, I., 88.

1703.

TABLE of the packhous and weighhous dues.

It. pyd to John Forbes for printing . . . ane table of the packhous
and weighhous dues as per accot & warrand 16 16 0

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1703-4.

SUCCESSORS OF JOHN FORBES.

1705.

ANDERSON, GEORGE. (Professor of Divinity in King's College, 1704-11.) Thesis. De Predestinatione. [Circa 1705.]

From Gordon's MS. Lists.

BLACK, WILLIAM. Cogitata Nonnulla Philosophica. | Quæ | A.P.Q.D.O.M. | Laureæ Magisterialis Candidati | in Collegio Regio Aberdonensi | Eruditorum examini Subjicient | ad diem 2 Maij | A. Æ. C. | 1705. | H. L. Q. S. | — Præsides Gulielmo Blak, P.P. | [Woodcut, with the inscription, "Ex Bibliotheca Collegii Regalis Aberdonensis."] |

Abredeis, Excudebant Successores Joannis Forbesii | Urbis & Universitatis Typographi, 1705. |

4°. A, four leaves, B—C in twos. [A 1^r] Title, within woodcut borders, [A 1²], p. 2, Dedication to John Urquhart of Meldrum, and list of the 24 candidates, A 2^r—[C 2^r], pp. 3-15, Cogitata, [C 2²] blank.

University Library, Glasgow.

1706.

ACT. Act of the Iustices of Peace of the Shire of A | berdeen, Met at Aberdeen, the Thirteenth day of | June 1706 Years. |

Folio. pp. 2. n. p. n. d. [1706.]

Cornelius Walford, Esq., London.

FRASER, GEORGE. Thesis. [King's College.]
Aberdeen. 1706.

2^{do} Maii, Anno 1706, Lauream Magisterialem adepti sunt, Promotore Magistro Georgio Fraser Subprimario & P.P. Juvenes sequentes [25 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 355.

PROGRAMME. Professor of Mathematics' "Program." [Marischal College.]

Issued by the Magistrates in connection with an attempted ejection of Mr. George Liddell from the chair of Mathematics. Candidates are invited to come and dispute the post "*detur digniori*." Mr. Liddell, however, was reinstated.

Thomas Gordon's MS. Lists, &c.

The order for printing the "Program" was made on 8th May, 1706:—"The said Day The Counsell takeing to consideratione the frequent repeated malversses of Mr. George Liddell professor of matematicks in this burgh, his remissnes in his office, his frequently being Guiltie of scandalas and keepeing scandlous company together with his present confessione of fornicatione with Jean Bisset subscribed with his hand and produced in Counsell They Depose him of his office in all tyme comeing, And appoints ane program to be printed and served thereanent betwixt and 20 August next."

Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LVIII., p. 40.

1707.

TABLE. A Table, &c. 1707.

R

See page 157. It. payed the Relict of John Forbes printer for printing the table of the Bel customes 15 lbs.

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1706-7.

1709.

[ADVERTISEMENT.] *Commencement.* Præfectus Consules, | Reliquisque Senatus Abredonensis, | Bonarum artium studiosis. | [Advertise a competition for an undermastership in the Grammar School.] *End.* Dat. Abredoniæ 27 die Mensis Julii Anno | Domini 1709. Sub subscriptione Magistri | Alexandri Thomson secretarii nostri. | Al : Thomson. |

Folio. Broadsheet, $12\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

ADVERTISEMENT. Advertisement from the Justices of Peace of the | Shire of Aberdeen met at Aberdeen the Twenty second | of September One thousand seven hundred and nine | years. |

Folio. pp. 2. Regulations to prevent the introduction of the plague into Scotland.

Robert Dickson, Esq., Surgeon, Carnoustie.

1710.

PROPOSALS. Proposals | By | The Society in Scotland, for Propagating Christian Knowledge. | . . . *End.* Aberdeen, The Thirtieth of March One thousand seven hundred | and Ten, In presence of the above Committee. |

Folio. Broadsheet, 12×15 in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

JAMES NICOL.

1711.

ALMANAC. Gloria Deo in Excelsis | Good News from the Stars, 1711. | Or, Aberdeen's New | Prognostication | For the Year of Our Lord, 1711. | Being the Third after Bissextile or Leap-Year. | Calculated for the Latitude of the Famous City of Aberdeen, | having exactly 57 deg. 10 min, and may very well | serve for all the North part of Great Britain, | without any great or apparent Errour. | By a Well-wisher of the Mathematicks. | [Woodcut of Man with Globe.]

Aberdeen Printed, and Edinburgh Reprinted by | John Reid Junior, in Liberton's-wynd, 1711. |

8°. Eight leaves. In the absence of a genuine Aberdeen Prognostication of this date, the following particulars of this pirated reprint will be acceptable to readers. 1st Title, 1st Chronological Remarks, 2^d Eclipses, 2^d On the Seasons, 3—6 Prognostications for each Month, &c., 7th Tide Table, &c., 7th On the signs of the Zodiac, with a very curious woodcut, 8th Annual Rents, and Verses concluded on 8th. The Verses are as follows :—

O ! Lord, we pray it of thy Grace,
Let *Britain* flourish ay in Peace.
Expell these Dreadful Fumes of Wars,
Bind up our Breaches and our Jars.
Let Queen and People Thee attend,
And from the Mobbs do Us Defend.

So we conclude the Year with a few Lines in Verse.

Attend my Friends and you shall hear,
 What strange things shall fall out this Year ;
 A Mighty fight shall foughten be,
 Which many of your Eyes shall see,
 And many think it safer far,
 To look on than engage in War.
 The place as Constellations say,
 Is a plain Field beneath the *Tay*,
 The first *Platoons* on either side,
 Right boldly Battel will abide,
 But none of either shall return,
 Till they be brought unto their Urn.
 A Knight shall jump before his fall,
 And fright the Adverse General.
 But ah ! a Rogue with subtile Wheels
 Shall suddenly turn up his Heels.
 Two Myter'd Heads shall long contend,
 Their Monarch safely to defend,
 But he and they shall go to wrack,
 And be laid flat upon their back.
 King, Knights, and Men of meaner Rank,
 Shall all be buried in one stank,
 This Fight shall be surviv'd by none,
 But the Two Generals alone.
 The one insulting with great folly,
 The other vex'd with *Maggie Colly*,
 Yet ruminating in his Mind,
 To be revenged the next Campaign.
 A Salmond shall be caught in *Don*,
 Near Thirtie Foot beneath a Stone,
 A numerous Family shall be stifled,
 And their rich Habitation Riffled,
 Its plain in *August* by the Stars,
 This Tragedy will be in the *Carss*.
 GOD Save the *QUEEN*.

I have been at pains to describe this Almanac at considerable length, because, with the exception of a short advertisement of certain articles sold in Edinburgh, I believe it to be a literal reprint of Nicol's Prognostication for the same year. In this respect it agrees with an Edinburgh edition of the Almanac for 1683, in the library of Mr. Chalmers of Westburn.

Mr. Chalmers also possesses a Prognostication for 1703, "Edinburgh Reprinted by John Reid, younger"; but, except the name, "Aberdeen's Almanack," it bears very little resemblance to the genuine prints.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

BLACK, WILLIAM. Thesis. [King's College.]
Aberdeen. 1711.

Hi sequentes, Promotore Magistro Gulielmo Blak, P.P. 2^{do} Maii, 1711. [22 names.] Inserta ex Thesi impressa.

Album (copy), King's College, Aberdeen, Vol. I., p. 356.

1712.

PROGRAMMES. "Programs for a Master to the Grammar Schooll."

It. payed the Printer for printing . . . programs for a Master to the Grammar Schooll per accompt and warrant

24 9 0

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1712-13.

SMITH, WILLIAM. Theses Philosophicæ, | Quas,
Propitio Summo Numine, | Generosi & Ingenui
Juvenes, Laureæ Magiste- | rialis Candidati, in Cele-
berrima | Academia Marischallana, | Universitatis
Carolinæ Abredonensis, Eruditorum | Subjicient Ex-
amini, ad Diem [] Aprilis, H. L. Q. S. | — Sub
Præsidio Gulielmi Smith P.P. | [Arms of Marischal
College, Aberdeen, followed by a Motto of 3½ lines.]

Abredeis Excudebant Successores Joannis For-
besii, | Urbis & Universitatis Typographi 1712. |

4°. Six leaves, without signature, but paged from 2 to 12. [P. 1], Title, within woodcut border; p. 2, List of 66 Candidates; pp. 3, 4, Dedication to John, Viscount Arbuthnot, and his brother (?) Robert Innes of Inverbervie (dated 6th April, 1712); pp. 5-12, Theses philosophicae.

University Library, Glasgow.

1713.

PROGRAMMES. "Programs for a Master to the Grammar Scholl."

Item paid for printing . . . programs for a Master to the Grammer Scholl per accompt	21 8 6
--	--------

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1713-14.

1714.

ADVERTISEMENT. Advertisement by Order of the Right Honourable the Justices of Peace | of the Shire of Aberdeen, met at their Quarter Session, the Thirty | day of October One thousand seven hundred and fourteen Years, | Collonell John Buchan Præses. |

Folio. pp. 4.

Town House, Aberdeen.

TABLE OF FEES. [Woodcut Arms of the City of Aberdeen.] A Table of Fees | To be Payed to the Collector of the Customs at Aberdeen, | Condescended to, and agreed betwixt the Magistrats and | Merchants of Aberdeen, and Captain Robert Erskin | Collector of

the Customs of Aberdeen, the Twenty Day | of May,
One Thousand seven Hundreth and Fourteen Years. |

Folio. Broadsheet, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

TWELVE TUNES. Twelve Tunes for the Church,
&c. 1714.

See pp. 163-164.

Item payed to James Nicoll printer for dedicating a Tune

book to the Magistrates & Councill

24 o o

It. to his Servants

1 16 o

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1713-14.

1715.

PETITION. (July 25, 1715.) | Petition | For | The
Magistrates of Aberdeen. | [Relates to the "Farming
the Seats" in the Churches.]

Folio. pp. 3. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1716.

INFORMATION. July 18th, 1716. | Information |
For Robert Stewart Provost of Aberdeen, and other
Merchants there, | Against | Captain Coilzier. | [Dis-
pute about the ship Joanna of Aberdeen, captured by
a French privateer.]

Folio. pp. 2. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1717.

ADVERTISEMENT [PROGRAMME.] "Programs"
for a Master in the Grammar School. 1717.

See pp. 168-169.

Item paid to James Nicoll for . . . programs 30 4 0

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1716-17.

ANSWERS. January 14, 1717. | Answers for the
Magistrates of Aberdeen, | To the Petition of the
Trades of the said Burgh. |

Folio. Broadsheet, $15\frac{5}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ in. It is signed by Jo. Horn.

Town House, Aberdeen.

PETITION. (January 23d, 1717.) | Unto the Right
Honourable, The Lords of Council and Session, | The
| Petition | Of | William Cruden present Baillie in
Aberdeen, George and Alexander Crudens his Sons, |
and John Cruden Merchant in Old-Deer. | [Action
raised by Jean Carnegy and her husband of Process of
Exhibition against the Crudens as Trustees of Andrew
Carnegy.]

Folio. pp. 2. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

PETITION. February 11, 1717. | Unto the Right
Honourable the Lords of | Council and Session. | The
Petition of | The Magistrates of Aberdeen, | Against |
The Trades thereof. |

Folio. pp. 2. Signed Jo. Horn.

Town House, Aberdeen.

PROGRAMME. Professor of Mathematics' "Program." [Marischal College.] Colin Maclaurin Elected 1717.

The Town Council, at their meeting on 11th Sept., 1717, ordered as follows:—"Considering that Mr. George Liddell Late professor of Mathematicks was deposed from his office By the Lords Commissioner's Appoyointed Lately by his Mejestie for Visiting the Colleges and Schools of Aberdein, Upon which the saids Magistrats and Counsell hade caused Emit programs for Supplieing the said Vacancy and had elected Mr. Charles Gregorie professor of Mathematicks in Saint Andrews and Mr. Alexr. Burnet Regent in the King's College of Aberdein as qualified persons To take tryall of any Candidats."

Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LVIII., p. 555.

1718.

ANSWERS. (29th January, 1718.) | Answers | Mr. Thomas Arbuthnot, Factor to the Estate of the late | Earl Marshal, | To | The Petition of Mr. John Gordon Minister at Oldeer. | [Process against the Factor for bygone partial Rests of the Minister's Stipend.]

Broadsheet, 12½ × 8 in. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

INFORMATION. December 22, 1718. | Information for William Wardrop, Alex- | ander Montgomery, and other Officers of the Cu- | stoms presently residing in Aberdeen; | Against | William Cruikshanks and Thomas Farquharson Trea- | surer and Collector of the Town's Taxation and Well-Money. | [The

Officers of the Customs refused to pay the Water Taxes.]

Folio. pp. 2. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

INFORMATION. December 29th, 1718. | Information | For | The Magistrates, Town-council, Burgesses, and hail other | Inhabitants of the Town of Aberdeen, | Against | William Wardrop and other Custom-house Officers | there. |

Folio. pp. 2. No place or printer's name.

Town House, Aberdeen.

INFORMATION. 15 July 1718. | Information | For | The Town of Aberdeen, | Against | Mr. Patrick Strachan and Mr. Gilbert Burnet. | [On the purchase of the Lands and Fishings of Ruthrieston.]

Folio. Two leaves, or four pages.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1719.

MEMORIAL. January 27, 1719. | Memorial | For | The Town of Aberdeen, | Against | Mr. Wardrop and others. | [On the refusal of the Customs-Officers to pay Water Taxes.]

Broadsheet, 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1720.

ADVERTISEMENT. Advertisement by the Honourable the Iustices of | Peace of the Shire of Aberdeen, met at Aber- | deen upon the Twenty first day of November, One | Thousand seven Hundred and Twenty Years. | *End.* By Robert Stewart Provost of Aberdeen Pre- | ses to the said meeting Subscribing. | Robert Stevvart P. |

Broadsheet, $13\frac{1}{4} \times 8$ in. On Quarantine regulations. It states "that that Infectious distemper the Plague, was certainly in the Isle of Man, and that the Town of Douglass was already blocked up on that account."

Town House, Aberdeen.

1721.

VERNER, DAVID. Dissertatio Philosophica, | de | Passionibus sive Affectibus, | Quam, | Favente Summo Numine, | In | Auditorio Publico Academiæ Novæ Abredonensis, | ad diem 11 Aprilis, H.L.Q.S. | Propugnabunt, David Verner Præses, | Et hi Candidati Laureâ Magisteriali con- | donandi. | [Names of thirty-nine students.]

Abredeis, Excudebat Jacobus Nicol, Urbis & | Universitatis Typographus, An. Dom. 1721. |

4^o. A, four leaves; B, two leaves. A 1¹ Title, 1², p. 2, Dedication to Adam Cockburn, Lord Ormeston, A 2—B 2, pp. 3-12, Dissertatio.

James Chalmers, Esq. of Westburn.

1722.

PETITION. February 16th, 1722. | Unto the
Right Honourable the Lords of Council and Session, |
The Petition of William Chalmers Master | of Mortifi-
cations in the Town of Aberdeen. | [Concerning a
Bond granted by Forbes of Monymusk for 2000 merks.]
End. According to Justice, &c. | Ja. Fergusson. |

Folio. One leaf, or two pages.

Town House, Aberdeen.

REMARKS. Remarks | On | A Letter and some
other Papers, lately | published by W. G. citizen of
Aberdeen, | in relation to Mr. Blackwell Professor | of
Divinity. |

Folio. pp. 5. ii. p. ii. d. [1722.]

Cornelius Walford, Esq., London.

1724.

ALMANAC. Aberdeen's | New | Almanack | Or
A New | Prognostication, | For the Year of Our Lord
1724 | Being the Leap Year. | Calculated exactly
according to Art, for the Benefit of the | Ancient
Kingdom of Scotland. Giving the exact | Account of
the Day and Hour of the New Moon, her | full Age
and Quarters, throughout the whole Year 1724 | With
the astonishing Eclipse of the Sun in May the 11th d: |
and of the Moon in October 21st Rising and setting

of the | Sun every 11th Day of the Month, according
to the lati- | tude of the 57 Degres: (*sic*) Also the
true length of the Day | and Night, and how many
Days the Month hath, with the | Disposition of the
Weather, and the whole Yearly Fairs. |

The *Sun's* eclips'd, the Moon depriv'd of Light
Both in this *Year*, and both within our *Sight*,
Sad *Prodromi* of *Slaughters* and *Exile*
And *Grand Mutations* in *Great Britains Isle* ;
But what these are let *Time* it self discry,
For *that* will speak the *Truth*, so may not I.

Printed For the Year 1724. |

8°. Eight leaves. This is one of the pseudo-Aberdeen Prognostications, and has neither Nicol's name as printer, nor Aberdeen as the place of printing. It has no engraving of the Arms of the City, which characterises the genuine Aberdeen Almanacs of this period. The contents are similar to those of Nicol's Almanacs, but there is no poetical conclusion.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

PETITION. January 23d, 1724. | Unto the Right
Honourable | The Lords of Council and Session, | The
Petition of the Magistrates of Aberdeen, and Masters
of the | College thereof, | Against the Minister and
Kirk-Session of King-Edwards. | [Katharine Rolland
in her Mortification allowed the Kirk-Session of King-
Edward an alternative—either to spend the money on
Bursaries, or on the poor of the parish. They chose
the former, and at this date wished to make a change,
which was resisted by the Magistrates.]

Folio. One leaf, or two pages.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1725.

ADVERTISEMENT. [Woodcut of Arms of the City of Aberdeen.] Præfectus, Consules, | Reliquisque Senatus Abredonensis | Bonarum Artium Studiosis. | *End.* Datum Abredoniæ quarto die | Mensis Januarii, Anno Domini, 1725 | sub subscriptione Magistri Alexandri | Thomson Secretarii Nostri. | Al. Thomson.

Folio. Broadsheet, $13 \times 8\frac{1}{4}$ in. Advertises a competition for an Under-Mastership of the Grammar School.

Town House, Aberdeen.

ALMANAC. An Almanack, | Or, Aberdeen's New Prognostication | for the Year of our Lord 1725, Being the first after Bissextile or Leap Year. | Calculated for the Latitude of the Famous City of Aberdeen, having exactly 57 deg. 10 min. and may very | well serve for all the North Part of Great Britain, without any great or apparent Error. | By a Well Wisher of the Mathematicks. | [Woodcut Arms of the City of Aberdeen at left-hand side of title, and two Mottoes and the Figure of Time at right-hand side.]

End. Aberdeen Printed & sold by James Nicol, Printer to the Town and University and in Edinburgh by John Paton Book-seller in the Parliament Closs 1725 Price 2 Pence. |

See pp. 178-179. Broadsheet, $19\frac{1}{2} \times 16$ in. Printed within lines. The title and imprint extend over the whole width of the page. For the first ten divisions, or pages, see p. 179, where an imperfect copy is

described. Division 11, Advertisement of Books and Medicines, with this notice :—"N.B. Notwithstanding all Magistrats in Burghs, and Distributors of Stamp Goods in their respective Districks are required and impowered by Act of Parliament, to sease al Haukers vending counterfite Almanacks in *Scotland*, yet there are great Quantitys under the name and Tittle of *Aberdeens* Almanacks publickly cryed, vended and sold in most Cities, Shipping Ports and Fairs, to the great loss of the Revenue, a cheat upon the Country, a horid Reflection and great loss to the Printer hereof, He printing none without Duty Stamp and *Aberdeens* Arms affixt to each. Therefore its intreated and hoped y^t the Persons in authority above named, will prevent the Revenues Loss, and Countrys abuse &c. by seasing such Counterfits and imprison such Haukers and Venders, and give them up to the Sherriffs of the Shires wherein they are seased, that they may be prosecute according to Law made thereanent &c."

Division 12 :—The Conclusion for this Year 1725.

I find, that by the Star-board Paw,
Of my familiar Friend *JACK STRAW*,
By Subterraneous fire, the Sea
In many parts burnt up shall be :
Which will an Embleme be of *Styx*,
Or *Etna*, when it plays it's tricks :
It shall at length be dry'd up quite,
Leaving some Ashes very white :
With which the Corps of thousands slain,
Shall be embalmed on the Main.

Many shall break their Mothers Bones,
A Pox on such unnatural Sons !
And some shall burn their Mother's Skin,
That longer Hair may grow therein,
And some her Intralls shall out-rive
And burn, to keep themselves alive.
In *BRITAIN* likewise this same Year,
Thousands of Men there shall appear,
Who never before did see this *Isle*,
But had been Neutral all this while :
(Sick sides will be in many places,
Before that they unvail their Faces)
Of language strange, yet we will find,
It understood by all Mankind,
Hereafter what these men will act,
I'll tell you when I tryst with *JACK*.

Many shall dye their hands in blood,
 This Year 'twixt *Findhorn* and the *Tweed*,
 And Maids to Agitations wedded,
 Shall have a *SUB*, to them preadded.
 Our Home-bred Jars will end per-force,
 E're *Saturn* thrice absolve his Course.
 I greet you well this Year my Friends,
 And thus my Almanack here ends.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

1726.

ANSWERS. 12 July, 1726. | Answers for Alexander Westland Dean of Gild of | Aberdeen, and William Cruden Collector of the Kirk-Session | of the said Burgh, | To the Petition of James Allardice Merchant in Aberdeen. | [Provost John Allardice, father of James, left £1000 Scots for pious uses within the Burgh; his son pleads that there is only a free Balance on his Estate of about £31 Scots.]

Folio. One leaf, or two pages.

Town House, Aberdeen.

[PROGRAMME.] [Woodcut Arms of the City of Aberdeen.] Præfectus, Consules, | Reliquisque Senatus Abredonensis, | Bonarum Artium Studiosis. | *End.* Datum Abredoniæ Vigesimo Tertio die Mensis | Martii Anno Domini 1726, sub subscriptione | Magistri Alexandri Thomson, Secretarii Nostri. | Al. Thomson. |

Folio. Broadsheet, 13 × 8 in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

The Town Council, at their meeting on 23rd March, 1726, ordered the "Programs" to be issued:—"The said Day The Magistrats and

Counsell taking into their consideration That Mr. Colin Melaurin his office as Professor of Mathematicks in this place was Vacant and at the Magistrats and Counsellis disposall as Patrons of the deceast Mr. Duncan Liddell It had alwayes (for the most part) been the custom of the Magistrats and Counsell since the forsaid Mortification was made To issue out Programs and to order them to be sent South and North Inviteing all qualified persons in the Mathematicks upon three Moneths advertisement to come to this place and undergo tryall Ordanis Programs to be printed and sent South and North Inviteing all qualified persons in the Mathematicks to come and undergo a tryall for the forsaid office."

Aberdeen Council Register, Vol. LIX., p. 240.

The payment for printing is recorded in the Accounts as follows :—
 "Item of Twenty nyne pound eighteen shilling Scots pay^d to Jas. Nicoll Printer for printing . . . Programs for the Vaccancy of the Professorship of Mathematicks and for paper . . . and to his servant for drink money as [£] accompt and warrant."

Accounts of the City of Aberdeen, 1725-26.

John Stewart was elected to the Chair.

PROPOSALS. Proposals | For setting on Foot a
 Compleat Course | of Experimental Philosophy in
 the | Marishal College of Aberdeen. |

Folio. Broadsheet. Dated at end, 1726.

*Charter Chest of Marischal College. Library. Philosophical
 Apparatus. 1. Knight's Inventory, p. 149.*

1727.

ABSTRACT. Abstract of Regulations contained
 in the late Act of Parliament, to be observed by the
 Spinners, | Weavers and Stamp-Masters, from and
 after the 1st. of November, 1727. | *End.* Edinburgh

Printed, and Aberdeen Re-printed by James Nicol,
Printer to the Town and University, 1727. |

Broadsheet, $17\frac{1}{8} \times 13\frac{3}{8}$ in. Printed in double column.

Town House, Aberdeen.

[OATH.] *Commencement.* I | Do hereby
Enact my Self in the Books . . . | *End.* I have
subscribed this Enactment judicially | in Presence of
of the Justices of Peace of the County | of
Aberdeen, Subscribing at the | Day of
17 Years. |

Folio. Broadsheet, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ in. Promising to maintain the quality
of the woollen goods. Without date, but 1729.

Town House, Aberdeen.

PETITION. July 21, 1729. | Petition for the
Magistrates and Town-Council | of Aberdeen. | [Dis-
pute between the Magistrates and Sir Alex. Ramsay
of Balmain, about "Power of electing a Professor of
Oriental Languages for Marischal College, and of a
Schoolmaster for the Parish of Birse."]

Folio. One leaf, or two pages.

Town House, Aberdeen.

Sir Alexander Ramsay's Answers, dated Dec. 11th, 1729, are in the
same collection. Folio. Two leaves, or four pages.

1730.

[OATH of "Brewers and Keepers of publick
Houses, Merchants, . . . not to keep, sell or import

any Brandy, Rum, Genever, Dantzick Waters, or other
 forreign Spirits whatsoever, contrary to Law.”] *Be-*
ginning. Whereas the Justices of Peace of the Shire
 of Aberdeen. . . . *End.* Subscribed this Enactment
 at the day of One
 Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Years.

Broadsheet, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 13 in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

VERNER, DAVID. Illustrissimis ac Perhonorificis
 | Optimeque de Republica Meritis, Viris; | D.D.
 Gulielmo Cruikshank Consuli. | Jacobo Moorison, |
 Joanni Gordon, | Gulielmo Mowat, | Hugoni Hay, }
 Prætoribus. | Alexandro Livingston, Ædili. | Alex-
 andro Robertson, Quæstori. | Cæterisque antiquissimæ
 ac nobilissimæ Civitatis Aberdoniæ Senatoribus, | Con-
 cordiæ Patronis Spectatissimis; Dissertationem hanc
 philosophicam, | De Finibus Bonorum & Benevolentia.
 | in devotissimæ Mentis, perpetuæque observantiæ
 Indicium, | D. D. C. Q. David Verner, Præses. | Et hi
 Magisterii in Artibus Candidati. | [Here follows a list
 of the 26 Candidates.] | Quam cum annexis, F.D.O.M.
 publice propugnabunt, in Ædibus Acade- | miæ
 Marischallanæ Aberdonensis, H. L. Q. S. ad diem
 16 Aprilis 1730. |

Abredæis, Excudebat Jacobus Nicol, Urbis & Uni-
 versitatis Typographus. An. Dom. 1730. |

4°. Six leaves (the fifth bears the signature B); paged from 2 to 12.
 Title (with border at top and bottom); pp. 2-12 Dissertatio (p. 12
 Annexa, and Erratum).

University Library, Glasgow.

1734.

MEMORIAL. February 21, 1734. | Memorial |
For | Mr. William Duff Professor of Philosophy | in
the Marishal-College of Aberdeen. |

Folio. pp. 2. Signed, Jo. Forbes.

Town House, Aberdeen.

PETITION. February 24, 1734. | Unto the Right
Honourable, the Lords of Council and Session, | The |
Petition and Complaint | Of | Mr. William Duff Pro-
fessor of Philosophy | in the Marishal-College of
Aberdeen. |

Folio. Broadsheet. Signed, Jo. Forbes.

Town House, Aberdeen.

ANSWERS. 25 Feb. 1734. | Answers for Mr.
Thomas Blackwell | Professor of Greek in the Mari-
shall College of | Aberdeen, | To the Bill of Advocation
presented for Mr. William Duff Professor of | Philo-
sophy in the said College. |

Folio. pp. 2. Signed, Ro. Craigie.

Town House, Aberdeen.

ANSWERS. July 23, 1734. | Answers | For | The
Principal and other Masters of the | Marishal College
of Aberdeen ; | To The | Petition and Complaint of
Mr. William Duff Profes- | sor of Philosophy in the
said College. |

Folio. pp. 2. Signed, Ro. Craigie.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1735.

ALMANAC. An Almanack: | Or, Aberdeen's New Prognostication, | for the Year of our Lord, M,DCC,XXXV, being the third after Bissextile or Leap-Year. | Calculated for the Latitude of the famous City of Aberdeen; being exactly 57 deg. 10 min. and | may very well serve for all the North of Great Britain, without any great or apparent Error. | By a Well-wisher of the Mathematics. | [Woodcut of the Arms of the City of Aberdeen at left-hand side, and three Mottoes, with woodcut of the Figure of Time, at right-hand side.]

End. Aberdeen: Printed and sold by James Nicol, Printer to the Town and University; and in Edinburgh, by John Paton, Book-seller in the Parliament Close, 1735. Price, two pence. |

Broadsheet, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ in. Printed within lines. The title and imprint extend over the entire width. Divided into four columns by lines, and again transversely, forming twelve pages or divisions. The first eight pages read down two-thirds of each column; and the last four read across. 1 Computation of Time, 2—8 Astronomical Notes, &c., for each month, with Annual Rents from 1633-1734, and the following verses on the stars:—

The Shining STARS, that shine in Heavens clear,
 GOD by his wondrous Art doth make appear:
 Vertues he puts into them, which affect
 The Lower Bodies, by their chang'd Aspect.

9 Eclipses, Moveable Feasts, Terms, &c., 10 Tide Table, 11 Advertisements, and Notice about Counterfeit Almanacs, 12 Conclusion for the Year 1735.

So Long as Man is on this Ball of Earth,
 He is expos'd to Danger here beneath,
 Therefore I wish, still to delivered be,
 From all those Persons stuff with Cruelty :
 From a Proud Husband, and a scolding Wife,
 From sharp Pointed Weapons, and a Murthering Knife ;
 From the conspiracy of all wicked Knaves,
 From brawling Servans, and a crew of Slaves ;
 And from the Place where Wolves and Foxes be,
 Vertue and Goodness still deliver me.

From the Mercy of some Jaylors,
 And the Reproach they put on Taylors ;
 From High-way Men that Rob us,
 From Morsels that will choak us ;
 From Ranters and great Eaters,
 From Desemblers, and Cheaters ;
 From stinking Fish, and rotten Eggs,
 From broken Shins, and gowty Leggs ;
 From a Pudden that hath no End,
 From a bad Wife that will not mend ;
 From Forraign Foes Invasions,
 And Country's Molestations ;
 From private Gain, by publick Loss,
 From comming home by Weeping Cross ;
 From all those Evils I say again,
 O ! Heavens deliver me, *Amen.*

VIVAT REX.

A. D. Morice, Esq., Aberdeen.

1736.

ACCOUNT. An Account of the | Erection | Of
 The | Marishal College and Uni- | versity in the City
 of Aberdeen. | Extracted from the Foundation-Charter
 and other Records, by Order and | Appointment of
 the Hon^{ble}. the Magistrates of Aberdeen, as having

spe- | cial Interest in the University and public
Library. |

Folio. pp. 4. [1736.]

*Charter Chest of Marischal College. Library. Stationers'
Hall Book 1^a. Knight's Inventory, p. 147.*

ADVERTISEMENT. Advertisement | From the
Honourable, the Provost, Baillies and Council of Aber-
deen, and from the Dean | of Gild of Aberdeen, with
consent of his Assessors of Court ; made at Aberdeen,
the | seventeenth Day of March, One thousand seven
hundred and thirty six Years. | [On the Cloth and
Stocking Trade. Regulations for Stamping the Goods.]

Broadsheet, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ \times 13 in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1661.

[ADVERTISEMENT.] Seeing, our Sovereign
Lord . . . | [Advertising two Annual Fairs to be
held at Old Aberdeen.] *End.* Extracted out of the
Register of the Court | Books of Old Aberdeen, the
10 of February, 1661 years. | God save the King. |
Printed and Published by Authority. |

Broadsheet, 12 + 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Town House, Aberdeen.

1681.

ACT. [Woodcut of Royal Arms.] Act | For a
voluntary Contribution towards the repairing | of the
Harbour of Rosehartie, | at the Bay of Pitsligo. |
Edinburgh, the twenty fourth of February, 1681. |
End. Extracted by me, | Will. Paterson. | Cler. Sci.
Concillii. |

Broadsheet, $11\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{8}$ in.*Town House, Aberdeen.*

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