



CASTLE STREET, ABERDEEN.

ANTIQUARIAN GLEANINGS

FROM

ABERDEENSHIRE RECORDS.

COMPILED BY

GAVIN TURREFF.

"DAYS O' AULD LANGSYNE."

"WHATEVER MAKES THE PAST, THE DISTANT, OR THE FUTURE PREDOMINATE
OVER THE PRESENT, ADVANCES US IN THE DIGNITY OF
THINKING BRINGS."—DR. JOHNSON.

SECOND EDITION—REVISED AND ENLARGED.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE following selections are taken from the Publications of the Spalding Club, and from various other sources. The First Edition was published in 1859, and, having been exhausted a considerable time ago, the Compiler has been induced to offer the selections anew to the Public, revised, re-arranged, and considerably enlarged.

Although part of the volume may, perhaps, appear to be merely of local interest, yet the graphic details given with reference to the state of Scottish society and morals during the last three centuries, will no doubt prove interesting to those perusing it as illustrative of fleeting life and manners.

An Engraving of Irvine's View of Castle Street is given for a Frontispiece, as having been the scene of so many of the events described in the volume. The older citizens will recognise the portraits of several well-known characters, whose appearance must have been familiar to them in their youthful days.*

OLD ABERDEEN, *July*, 1871.

* See an interesting volume, by Mr. James Rettie, "entitled "Aberdeen Fifty Years ago," containing much interesting matter, as well as many engravings.

THE Scottish language has a fine Doric sound. When spoken by a woman, it is incomparably the most romantic and melodious language to which I ever listened.—*Robert Hall*.

THE Scotch is not to be considered as a Provincial Dialect—the vehicle only of rustic vulgarity and rude local humour. It is the language of a whole country, long an independent kingdom, and still separate in laws, character, and manners. It is by no means peculiar to the vulgar; but is the common speech of the whole nation in early life, and, with many of its most exalted and accomplished individuals, throughout their whole existence; and, though it be true, that in later times, it has been in some measure laid aside by the more ambitious and aspiring of the present generation, it is still recollected even by them as the familiar language of their childhood and of those who were the earliest objects of their love and veneration. It is an ignorant, as well as an illiberal, prejudice to confound it with the barbarous dialects of Yorkshire and Devon.—*Lord Jeffrey*.

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ANTIQUARIAN GLEANINGS.

A DESCRIPTION OF BOTHE TOUNS OF ABERDEENE,
BY JAMES GORDON, PARSON OF ROTHEMAY.

[A MAP, drawn by the author, and engraved at Holland at the Magistrates' expense, accompanied this description. It is stated in the Council Records that "Master James Gordon, minister at Rothemay, had bein at great paines in draughting it upon ane meikle cairt; which he delivered to the councill weill done." On the 10th of October, 1661, and in recompense for which, he received "a silver piece or cup of twenty ounces, and a silk hat for himself, and ane silk gown for his bed-fellow."]

The citie of Aberdeen is situated in the north of Scotland, upon the east cost theroff, which is washed with the German Sea; and it exceeds not onlie the rest of the tounes of the north of Scotland, bot lykewayes any citie quhatsumever of that same latitude, for greatnes, bewtie, and frequencie of trading. At Aberdeen the pole is elevated 57.10 m., and albeit the commone geographers ascrive to it a more northerlie latitude, yet it hes been observed often, by the exact observations of the learnit mathematician, Mr. William More, citizen of Aberdeen and professor. The feilds nixt to the gaites of the citie are fruitfull of corns, such as oats, beir, quheat, etc., and abounds with pastures; bot any wher after yow pas a myll without the tounne, the countrey is barran lyke, the hills craigy, the plains full of marreshes and mosses the feilds are covered with heather or pebble stons, the corne feilds mixt with thes bot few. The air is temperat and healthful about it: and it may be that the citizens owe the acutenes of their witts therunto, and their civill inclinations, the lyke not easie to be fund under so northerlie climats, damped for the most part with air of a grosse

consistance. However, it is sure that Aberdeen is reputed (and not without just cause), the seminarie of so many quho ather are or have been remarkable for wisdome, learning, gallantrie, breeding, and civill conversatione.

Under the name of Aberdeen two touns are comprehendit, New Aberdeen and Old Aberdeen. The first is situated upon the north bank of the river Dee, and owght rather to be called Aberdee. Some (bot poets onlie) give it the name Devan, as the oldest name. The old toun, which justlie owght to be called Aberdon, is the other, and is situated hard by the river Done. New Aberdeen is a burgh royall (as they call them), and hes the freedome of a citie; but Old Aberdeene, since it can not show the lyke, owght rather to be called a villedge or a Dorpe then a toun or citie.

Some affirme that the word Aberdeen being Irish, signifies in our languadge the Deans building or work; bot falslie, ffor it is a composit word, and in the old Britnish language signifies nothing bot the enterance wher the river Dee disambogues into the sea; Aber, in their language, signifieing a rivers mouth; Dee implies a blak river, or such blaknes as is proper to water. Hence we see the name of Dee to be commone to some other rivers in Brittane and Ireland, besyde this river. It may be that ther is too much spoken concerning the reasone of its name, yet I sie no reasone quhy any should irracionallie goe seek for its derivacione amongst the Hebrew radicall words, which a certaine pedant, quho hes added a descriptione to the mappe of Edinburgh, did not long agoe, and most ridiculouslie, deryving the name of Edinburgh from ane Hebrew radix, cheatts his reader, filling up paper with trifling grammatications, in stead of a just descriptione: wheroff I desyre the reader to take notice; for that description of his is in print, and subjoynt to a mappe of Edinburgh, which I published some yeirs agoe; and all quho peruse it, take for granted that it is my work, quhilst thus I am not onlie abused, bot evne the cheefest and most flourishig citie of Scotland is exposit to be laughed at by such ane unworthie impertinent description.

Non knowes who the first inhabitants of Aberdeen wer, nor quhat age it was built in. The Roman eagles flew not that lenth: Mearnes and the Grangebeen Hills, which end at the mouth of Dee, over against Aberdeen, wes the march and boundarie of the Romane conquests. The first mention that we find of Aberdeen is in ye days of Gregory, King of the Scots. This King, (iff Hector Boetius, the Scottish analist, say trueth), began to reigne about ye yeer of Christ 876, who did erect Aberdeen into a burgh royall, which befor was accompted no

more than a countrey villedge. The old name wes not changed. He lykwayes gave unto the Church of Aberdeen many lands and priviledges; bot quhat that church wes, or what the priviledges and lands were, Boes hes forgotten to tell, or probablie could not tell. Thes wer afterward augmented by Williame, King of Scotland, quho began to reigne 1165. This King is said to have kept his court some tyme at Aberdeen, and to have built a pallace (such as it wes) ther, which, in his lifetyme, he gave away to the Monks of the Order of the Holy Trinitie, that it might be ther convent thereafter in all tyme following. Lykwayes, Alexander, the second of that name, King of Scotland, who began to reigne Anno Chr. [1214], coming to Aberdeen with one of his sisters, called Issobell, who, befor his coming thither, wes bot newlie come from England, did lykwayes enlarge Aberdeen with many immunityes. David and Malcome, Kings of Scotland, are said to have done the lyke before Alexanders tyme. Whether any other of the Scotish Kings did sojourne at Aberdeen any long time, it is uncertaine; yet this is sure, that all the Kings of Scotland quho followed by successione, did ather ratifie the old priviledges of Aberdeen, or gave them some new ones, evne to this present tyme, so that it may be treulie said, that (Edinburgh onlie excepted) there is no citie in Scotland which enjoys larger immunityes. Nor is ther wealth [onlie] increased by ther treading at sea, which they have lailie learnit, or by ther land revenews, or by ther salmond fishing; but evne the quholl market townes, villedges and hamlets of the shyres and countrey neerest neighbouring to Aberdeine (Kintore and Inuerurie excepted) are so far subject to thame that, without the licence of Aberdeen, they dare nather tradde in merchandice ather by sea or land. Besyde their salmond fishing, ther belongs many lands heretably to the citie, which are called ordinarlie the townes freedome or commontie, under which name the territory of Aberdeen stretcheth it self four myles westward into the province or countey of Marre, in which county the city it self standeth. All that tract of ground wes gifted thame long since by the Kings of Scotland.

The citie of Aberdene hes felt severall changes since it wes builded; for, first, in the yeir 1333, David Bruisse being King of Scotland at that tyme, thretty English ships, who had been lent as ayds to Edward Balioll, came befor Aberdeen in the night tyme, and heving sett a party of souldiers armed a shore, thes did enter the toune so unexpectedlie, the citizens dreaming of no such surprise, that many of the touns men being killed, they did burne the toune. The fyre raged for sex quholl dayes

therafter (a sad sight to the beholders). Notwithstanding, the Englishes did preserve all the churches and religious houses, having sett guards to keep them from taking fyre. Therafter, the toune beginning to be repaired, was called, for that cause, New Aberdeen.

In the lait yeires, quhilst the civill warrs did overrun all, ther wes no citie in Scotland which did suffer more hurt than Aberdeen did, nor oftener, ather censing, quartering, plundering burning, or slaughtering the inhabitants; for the most part it wes still garrisoned, and quhoever for the time commanded the neirest part of ye countrey, or was master of ye feilds, it wes their fashione to impose taxes upon Aberdeen, or for to cause them advance as much pay to the souldiers, or affoord free quarter to thame, as they thought fitt to requyre: and not seldome wer the inhabitants opprest and rifed by the insolent souldiers, quhilst such as commanded in cheef took transient quarters ther; whence it came to passe that the citie, which flourished in wealth and trade, wes miserablie impoverished, and the generous citizens, afflicted by daylie calamities, and unworthie roberies, did lose their hearts in some meassur. The Marqueis of Montrose his pairty mostlie Irishes, did no small hurt to the toune in anno 1644, September the 14, having killed many of the citizens, and by plundering of the toune. Thereafter the Marqueis of Huntlie, upon a tyme, having been provoked by a party of the Aberdeens garrison (quho wer covenanters), ther infall into his quarters in the night tyme, having followed thame clos at the heels, the very nixt morning did soddanlie beleguer the citie, and, after a few houres storming the toune, he took it by force, and made all the garrison prissoners, except such as wer killed in the storme. The citie thus attayned, after ane hours licence to his souldiers to plunder it, he causit sound a retreat to thame all, and quensh the fire which had been cast into the toune: in which actione not one tounes man wes killed, and the most part hade all ther goods and houses preserved saffe and intire. Yet nather did the blood shed therein by Montrose, nor a few houses burnt or rifed therin by Huntlyes souldiers, so much harme the citie, as twentie and three yeires continuall sufferings, whereby it hes been oppressed; for quhat thes two did is a light matter compared with all that.

In former tymes, K. Robert Bruce made Aberdeen famous, by gayning his first victory over the Englishes, not far from thence, after his coming home from England, Anno Ch: [1306] In the last age, viz. in the year 1571, Adame Gordone of Auchindoune, brother to the Erie of Huntly, did heir obtaine

a victorie over the Lord Forbes and his followers; nor did Anchindoune compell any tounes-[man] that day to be assisting to his party: Wherin George Buchanan hes notoriously belyed this Anchindoune, out of that malice which (in favors of the Erle of Murray) he did bear to the Erle of Huntlie. In the way which goes from Aberdeen towards the Bridge of Dee, ther is ane inconsiderable stone standing up by the way syde, called the Crabe stone, from whence that fight took its name. Lykways, in the year 1644 above mentioned, that same stone wes watered againe with the blood of the covenanters and citizens lykways, they having then beine compellit by ther garrisons to take armes and joyne with them against Montrose, quho wes marching straight for the toun; that by this ther obedience, or by ther blood, the Aberdeens men might attone the wrath of the Covenanters, against quhome voluntarlie they had taken up armes, Anno 1639, under the command of James Erle of Aboyne, Huntlyes second sonne, and, in little more than four days space, had two severall tymes stood in armes against the Covenanters, first at Stoneheaven, thereafter at the Bridge of Dee; in both which conflicts they were worsted, together with ther generall, Aboyne. For Montrose, then generall of the Covenanter pairty, first having compellit Aboyne to retire from Stonhyve, did imediatlie thereafter gaine the passe of the Bridge of Dee by force, so that, for feare, many of the inhabitants at that tyme wer glade to leave the toun open to Montrose discretion, ther being none able to keepe him out any longer.

Lykeweyes, long before that time, the Aberdeen's mens gallantrie wes remarkable at the bloody fight of Harlaw, which fell out Anno Ch: [1411]. Alexander Stewart, Erle of Marre, being generall, wher ther gallantrie was secunded with better successe than it wes in our tymes; for in that fight their curragious Provost, Robert Davison,* wes killed, and the

* His body was brought to the town by his surviving companions-in-arms, and entombed in the north wall of St. Nicholas Church, before the Altar of St. Ann, which had been founded by his father many years before near the Great Arch of the Steeple. The place of his sepulture was marked by the following inscription in the wall of the Old Church:—

SIR ROBERT DAVIDSON,
SLAIN AT HARLAW.

Equus Auratus.

When the nave of this fabric fell to ruins about the year 1740, the remains of the body were discovered, with a small crimson cap covering the head.

Among many other barons, Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum was slain.

Aberdeins men, quho wer partakers of the victorie, returnit home triumphantlie, with ther cullores displayed. That verie ensigne which they hade at Harlaw wes to be seen in our tyme, and not losed till their unhappie encounter with Montrose, Anno 1644.

Aberdein lykewayes hes proved a nurcerie and seminary to many learnit or warlike, of quhome not a few hade their birth or ther extraction ther. Of which number the most remarkable are Doctor Williame Forbes, sometyme Bishop of Edinburgh, borne at Aberdeen, and minister ther; Doctor Robert Barrone, Professor of Divinitie lately in Aberdein; Dr. John Forbes of Corse, Professor of Theologie; Doctor William Leslie, the most learnit primar of the Kings Colledge; Doctor Alexander Scrogy, preacher, of Old Aberdeen; Doctor James Sybbald, minister, first at Aberdeen, then at Dubline; Doctor Robert Howie, Professor of Divinity not long since in the Theologie Colledge of St. Andrews; Doctor Alexander Ros, borne at Aberdeen a divyne, a poet, and historian, quho lived and died laillie in England.

Learned juris-consults:—Sir John Skeen, some tyme Clerk Register of the Kingdome of Scotland; Mr. Thomas Nicolson, a learnit jurisconsult; Mr. Williame Andersone, jurisconsult and mathematician and philosopher; Mr. James Robertstone, laillie Doctor of the Lawes in Burdeaux and publict professor; Alexander Irwing of Lenturk, a learnit jurisconsult; Mr. James Forbes of Corsindae, Doctor of the Lawes, living at this tyme in France; Mr. Robert Burnet of Crimond, Lord of the Sessione, a gentleman learnit in law, divinitie, and history. Next, for humanists, philosophes, mathematicians, or historians:—Johne Leslie, in the former tymes Bischope of Ros, quho wrott the hystorie of Scotland; Mr. David Wedderburne, the learnit grammarian and humanist; Mr. Thomas Reid, secretary for the Latine tongue to K. James the 6.; Mr. Gilbert Gray, principall of the Marishall colledge, and professor of philosophie ther; Mr. Patrik Gray, mathematician; D. Williame Gray, Doctor of Medicine, and not long agoe professor of philosophie in the colledge of Orang, in France; Mr. Johne Johnstone, professor of divinity in St. Andrews, and a poet; and the most learnit mathematician, Mr. Alexander Andersone, borne at Aberdeen; Robert Gordon of Straloch, mathematician, and poet, and geographer. Next for mediciners:—Doctor Duncan Liddell, borne

in this battle. His body was buried on the field, where, in ancient times, a cairn marked the place of interment. It was long known by the name of Drum's Cairn.—*Kennedy, vol. I. p. 51.*

at Aberdeine, a most learnt mathematician, theologe and philosoph; Doctor James Cargill, borne at Aberdeen; Doctor Gilbert Jack, not long agoe professor of philosophie in the University of Leyden, in Holland, borne in Aberdeen; Doctor Arthur Johnstoune, mediciner in ordiner to two Kings, James and Charles, and the most renounced Latine poet of his nation in our dayes; Doctor William Johnstoune, laitlie professor of the Mathematick in the Marichall colledge of New Aberdeen; Doctor Williame Gordone, laitlie professor of medicine in the Kings Colledge of Old Aberdeen; Patrik and Robert Dunnes, both Aberdeins men borne; Doctor Alexander Reid, laitlie professor of chirurgerie in Londone; Mr. Thomas Burnet, quho lived in England laitlie; Doctor Williame Davisone, presentlie mediciner to the King of Polland.

For land souldiers, Ker, Urrie, Chalmer, and Johnstoune, and ther tounsman, Sir John Straquhane, knighted by King Charles the First for his notable service done at sea in the lait warres, who yet liveth; all thes borne at Aberdeen. I shall take licence to subjoyne to thes, two uthers borne ther: The first was David Andersone, the most skilful mechanick that lived in Scotland in his tyme, and George Jamesone, one of King Charles the Firsts paynters, quho wes the first man quho made the excellencie of the airt of painting knowne in the north of Scotland.

There are in Aberdeen also some remarkable families and surnames proper to the citie, quho for many descents do retayne ther prediccors surnames, titles and armes, and oftentimes doe againe attayne to the offices and honours which ther prediccors bare. The most eminent among thes are the Chambers, Menzies, Cullens, Collinsons, Lawsons, Grayes, Rutherfoords, and Leslies. Bot since the citie hes growne in greatness, by frequent and prosperous trading at sea, many other surnames have been endenized citizens, quho are cadets of gentlemens houses, who, since they became burgeses, have left ther posteritie in a wealthy conditione.

Aberdeen, when first founded, seems to have been situated at the brink of the firth of Dee, in the low ground, and not to have taken up all that suburbe which is now called the Green; which may be proved by the convent of the Trinitie friers, and is said to have been the pallace of King Williame. Situated it is upon the verie edge of the water, and not farre thence, the ruins of the old tolbooth is to be seen at the posterne gate of the Laird of Pitfoddells house opening towards the shore. In progress of tyme, it seems that the citizens, by little and little, did fill the small hills adjoyning with the buildings. In our

age, the most considerable part of the citie standeth upon them. Thes are thrie in number. The most northerlie and the highest of the thrie is the Gallowgate-hill, most orderlie callit the Windmilne-hill, because of the wind milne situated upon the tope theroff. The next is called the Castell-hill, from the castell which stood sometymes upon a pairt of it. The third is called St. Katharins-hill, from a chappell bearing that name of old standing upon the top of it. The citie itself is situated betuixt thes thrie, or at least the best pairt of it; the swelling of thes hills hardlie to be decerned by such as walk along the streets, yit theyr hight is verie apparent to such as dwell in the suburbs, or to such as are without the toune. It is easie to conjecture that the closes, lanes, and streets, have not been at the first building chaulked out or designed by any geometrical rule. The buildings of the toune are of stone and lyme, rigged above, covered with slaits, mostlie of three or four stories high, some of them higher. The streets are all neatlie paved with flint stone, or a gray kinde of hard stone not unlike to flint. The dwelling houses are cleanlie and bewtiful and neat, both within and without, and the syde that looks to the street mostlie adorned with galleries of timber, which they call forstaires. Many houses have ther gardings and orcheyards adjoyning; every garding hes its posterne, and thes are planted with all sorts of trees which the climat will suffer to grow; so that the quholl toune, to such as draw neer it upon some sydes of it, looks as if it stood in a garding or litle wood. The unevne ground that the toune is situated upon makes it quyrt incapable of walls or ditches or bastions, according to the moderne invention of fortificacions; yet during the time of the civill warre, twyce, bot in vayne, it wes attempted to be fortified, or rather intrenshed about. At both tymes, scarce wer the works perfytted, when they wer throwne doune againe by the command of such as for the tyme seized the toune.

Upon the west syde of the toune, at a small distance, there is a litle green swelling hill to be seen, corruptlie called the Woman-hill, bot more properlie the Woollman-hill, because it is affirmed that in old tymes the sellers of wooll quho came from the neirest parts about the toune took ther stand ther upon mercat dayes. Under the verie hill there runs a spring of water, and another veyne of the same water in the midst of the channell of a litle brook, running close under the foot of that hill; yit it is easilie distinguished, both by its taste and colour, from the waters of the brook. This spring is known by the name of the wall of Spee, borrowed from, or so called, I

suppose, because it resembles in its taste and vertues the waters of Spaa in the bishoprick of Leige or Linchland, which is distant some 8 mylles from the citie of Tungres. Yet in some things they differ; for Spaa in Aberdeen is actuallie cold, but that of Tungres is hott when it is touched. In other things (iff Plinius may be beleived, quho descrievs the waters of Liedge, lib. 31, cap. 2) it seems they differ not much. His words are as followeth:—the citie of the Tungrieans hes a wall wher many bubbles doe distill, tasted like the ore of iron, which is not perceaved till the end of the draught one leave to drink. This water purgeth the body, cureth tertiane fevers, and the stone in the bladder.—Doctor Williame Barclay, an Aberdeins mediciner in our age, did wreat a tractat concerning the natur of the wall of Spaa besyde Aberdeen; such as wold know more thereof may peruse that treatise extant in print. Next to the well of Spaa hard by it, ther is a four squair feild, which of old served for a theatre, since made a gardyne for pleasur by the industrie and expense of George Jameson, ane ingenious paynter, quho did sett up therin ane timber hous paynted all over with his owne hand.

The street which is called the Gallowgait, is hemmed in upon the west by a large fenny marrish, commonlie called the Loch, a fenne or puddle rather. Ther comes a brook into the marish, which bruik is kept in by dammes and bulwarkes. This brook encompasseth the loch, and drenaheth it: Nor knew the citizens of old any easier or better way for to bring in that water to the citie, which serveth three milns and the posterns neerest to it. The reassone is not knowne why the street neerest to it is called the Gallowgait, except it wer perchance for the neighbourhood of some geibet, being since removed thence, or probablie because theives might be led through that street to ther executione, albeit at this tyme such use to goe out at the port, which for that cause is called the Justice or Thiefs port.

Neerest to the Gallowgate Street is the Broadgait, or rather Broad Street, which took its name of old from its great breidth whereas at that tyme it and the parallel lane made up bot one street, albeit now the interjected row of building makes them two distinct streets. Bot the reassone quhye the gestraw aither (by ane ambiguous Scottish word) hes been called after strangers lodging ther, or after spirits, can not be easilie conjectured. The Gray freer church is most remarkable in the Broad Street, which pairteth the Colledge Marshall from the street. This church is builded of assler, or squair hewed stone. It was accomplished about the year 1500, at the charges of B.

Gavine Dunbar, bishope of Aberdeen at that tyme, and by him gifted to the convent of the Grey friers hard by. It wes hardly preserved from being rasit to the ground in the year 1560; and had not been that the Grey friers, upon the twentie three of Januarie that yeir, did resigne ther church, ther convent, and all the precinct, by a publict instrument, into the hands of the tounsmen, gifting all to them, undoubtedlie it hade undergone the destructione which so many brave churches and religious houses fell under at that tyme; bot the citizens hindered its ruine, and afterwarde, by ane act of counsell, ordaynt that the church and all, should be kept up and enteir upon the publict charges. It stood waist for many yeirs after that, and unrepaired. The citizens began to reedifie it, Anno 1634, and hade farre advancit the worke, Doctor Williame Guilde, late minister of Aberdein, contributing thereto, by causing glase all its great windows, which are many in number; bot, in the yeirs following, when all things were shaken loose, the soulders made use of it almost continuallie for a court de garde. In the year 1593, Sept^r the fourt, the tounsmen, by a publict deed, gave away the bulding of the convent itself to the richt honorable George, erle Marishall of Scotland; bot upon conditione that he would erect a philosophie colledge ther. Nor did Marishall declyne to doe so, for that same very yeir he foundit ane academie ther, whoes priviledges he procured to be ratified by the most illustrious Prince James the 6th his letters patent for that effect. Lykwayes, for yeirly payment of the professors theroff, he gifted unto it the revenues of the convents of the Blacke freirs and Carmelite freirs of Aberdeen, which at that tyme wer his, and also supplied that with some of his own meins, for making up a competent livelihood to thame. Since it wes founded, the yeirly revenue of that colledge is not a little increscit by the liberall mortifications of severall gentlemen, schollars, or citizens of Aberdeen, off quhome the cheefest are Sir Alexander Irwing of Drum, Anno 1630; Sir Thomas Crombey of Kemney, borne in Aberdeen; Docter James Cargill; Mr. Johne Johnstone, divinitie professor in St. Andrews; Docter Duncan Liddell; Docter Alexander Reid; Docter Williame Guild; Dr. Alexander Rosse; Mr. Patrick Coupland; David Chamberline. Mr. Thomas Reid gave them ane compleit bibliothek, and mortified ane yeirly stipend to ane quho should be the bibliothekar or keeper theroff. Since which tyme ther library is much improved by the additione of many volumes gifted by others, and adorned with many mathematical instruments.

Doctor Robert Howey was first principall heer; then Doctor

William Forbes; after him Mr. Gilbert Gray, to quhome succeeded Doctor Patrick Dun; and finalie, Mr. William Moir, professor of the mathematicks ther. Also heir did the most learnit Doctor Robert Barrone professe divinitie. Heer lykeways did Doctor William Johnstone professe mathematick. First when it was foundit, it hade no dependence upon the University of Aberdeene, and wes little more than a philosophie school, till the illustrious Prince Charles the First, in the year 1641, licenced it to be made a member of the Universitie, and causit bothe to be called after his owne name, King Charles's University. This colledge, which at first the Earle Marshall, after his awne name, called the Marshall Colledge, besyde the library keeper, hes bot sevne masters and professors, the professor of divinity, the professor of mathematick, three readers of philosophie, of quhom one is to be the principall, a reader of the Greek language, and a professor of humanity.

After the Broadgait Street follows the street called the Castellgait, the passage betuixt thame being a short narrow lane called the Huckster Wynde. The Castellgait Street is a squair about 100 walking passes in breadth and twyce as much in lenth; nor can Scotland show such ane other. It is the mercat place, and gives room abundantlie to the weeklie mercat, which is made up by the confluence of the country people dwelling neer about the toun. The touns hous or tolbuith taketh up ane corner of the street; builded it wes anno 1191, and not long since enlarged and adorned with a towre and high spire covered with lead, wher they have ther commone bell and prisone. The tolbuith serveth for a publict meeting place of the citzens and of the gentlemen of the shyre. The citzens keep ther publict records therin. It is lykways ther counsell hous; and in severall rooms theroff, the high shirreff or his depts and the citie magistrats doe administer justice daylie. In it lykeways are prissons for severall sorts of delinquents. This tolbuith is famous for Marie Queen of Scotland her presence, quho after Huntlie was brock at Curriche, did from a window theroff behold the beheading of Johnne Gordone of Findlater (son to the Erle of Huntlie killit upon the feild bot 2 days befor or therby), not without tears; the Erle of Murray, her naturall brother, having ordered his executione of his prissoner against her will, quho durst not controll it at that tyme. The most remarkable amongst the rest of the buildings of this street are the houses of the Earle Marishall and Laird of Pitfoddells over against the tolbuith. In this street stand lykeways the two mercat croces. The high croce befor the tolbooth, called also the flesh croce, by reassone of the shambles

and flesh mercat besyde it; lykewayes it serves for publick proclamations heir intimated; lykewayes it is at this crosse that the citizens doe performe all their solemnities upon their festivall dayes. The other lesser crosse is callit the fish crosse, at which ther is a daylie fish mercat kept. Upon the north syde of the Castellgate ther is to be seen amongst the gardings a certaine obscure and scarcelie now decernible ruine or fundatione of a small building, overgrown with briars and thorns, which sumtyme belongit to the Friers or Reed Freers Templars. No farther accompt can be givene theroff; for at this tyme the very ruines are almost ruinated. The way lyeth to the Castelhill through ather of two ports or gates. It is sandie soyle, the toppe of it flatt, not much higher than the street. The syde of it neerest the shore verie steepe, as all the gairdings of the street are which overlook the haven. There is another litle hill almost one with the Castelhill, called the Heading Hill, because that in the narrow lane that pairth thes two hills, murtherers are sumtymes beheaded, or at least have been. Both thes hills at a distance seeme to be bot one hill. The Kings of Scotland built a castell upon the Castellhill; to quhat purpose it is not easie to conjectur, being that there is no water to be found about, tho never so deepe digged; which the Englishes litle fand to be true. That castell, after it hade stood ther for sumtyme, was taken by the tounsmen; the Englishes, who held a garrison ther, ather killit or chasit away; and leas at any tyme thereafter it should prove a yock upon the tounsmens necks, they rased it to the ground, and in place theroff builded a chappell, which they dedicated (according to the fashione of the tymes) to St. Niniane; hoping by that meins that the hill being converted to a holy use, it wold be unlauffull for any to attempt to imploy it againe to a profayne use any more. The chappell remayneth as yit vode: upon the end of which that looketh to the sea, and neerest the shore, ther wes of old a beacone, which by night might direct saillers into the harbory. That night beacon is extinguished and neglected long agoe. In the yeer 1654, St. Niniane could not keep his chappell and his hill from being enclosed with a sponce built with lyme and stone to a great hight by the Englishes, once more masters theroff. Yet that worke stood not fullie 5 yeeres after it was perfytted, untill by the commandment of the most illustrious George Duke of Albemarle, in the end of the yeir 1659, it was slighted, and the tounes garrison removed, to the great joy and ease off all the citizens.

Ther is a Lane that leadeth from the Castellgate Street to the key or wharfe, called the Exchequer Rue, becaus that long

agoe the Kings exchequer did sit ther, the many yeirs agoe since removed to Edinburgh. It may be that some old silver peices of monie (laitlie extant) coyned at Aberdeen, with this inscriptions upon one of the syds, VERBS ABERDEE, may be some proof of this; however, at this time, that verie name of the lane is almost worne out of fashione, and pairtlie forgotten.

There are two other streets, which through two gates goe downward from the Broad Street to the great church. The one of them is called the Upper Kirk gate or street, the other the Nether kirk gate or street. The church, called of old St. Nicholas Church, is mostlie builded of ashler, covered with lead; the steeple lykewayes obeliskwayes, rysing up verie high, covered over also with lead, doeth abundantlie supplie the low situation of the church itself. There is no church so neat and bewtifull to be seen in Scotland; and albeit it be past 500 yeirs since it begane to be builded, yit all thinges about it look so fyne and sound, that it seems to be bot newle builded. Off old it was divydit into thrie distinct churches, the greatest called the Old Kirk, the secund the New Kirk, the third, a vaulted church, called for that cause, both then and now, the Lady of Pittye her Vault. It supporteth the east end of the New Church, the floor theroff, levelled out of the slopping churchyard, makes the doore threshold no lower than the churchyard itselfe, neither doth the arched rooffe thereof raise that pairt of the New Church floor bot 3 steps or greeses higher then the rest of the floor, and thes so artificiallic contryved, that they tend to the greater bewtifieing of the church above. Bothe churches above are supported with two rowes of stone pillars, having large rooms behind the pillars. Ther rooffs are selid with wainscot. The Old Church began to be builded by the citizens about the yeir 1060, the fabrick augmented by litle, and litle, and enriched with gifts dedicated therunto. There hangs in its steeple thrie great bells; thes at everie half hour by helpe of the clocke repeat thrie perfect distinct musicall notes, *fa, sol, la*. Two of thes bells, as also the great clock, wer gifted to that church by Williame Leith of Barns, provost of Aberdeen about the year 1313. The cheefest citizens have their proper buriall places in thes churches, as some noble and gentle men have theirs also, as the Lords of Forbes, first of that name, the Knights of Drum, Irwings, and the familie off Pitfoddells, Menzies's. Lykewayes, that learnit man, Doctor Duncan Liddell lyes buired in the Old Church; his tombe stone, covered with brasse, with ane inscription suteable to his worth engraved therupon. The New Church was not begun to be builded till the the yeir 1478, and not

finished before the year 1493, upon the cities charges, as the Old Kirk at first was. In the year 1560, it went neer to have been overthrowne, had not the citizens taken arms and gwarded it, and withstood the attempt of the congregatiōne lords. In our tyme, the vaulted or Low church serves for no other use bot for laying up lead and uther materialls necessarie for keeping up the fabrick of the church. At that tyme that the Pope his power was banished out of Aberdein, the utensils of both churches wer valued and told by publict proclamatiōne, and rated at 142 pundis Scotis money; and Patrick Menzies, then the citie thesaurer, made countable for them, or that rate and pryce for them, albeit some of the tounsmen did protest publictly that such money should not be brought into the commone good, and took instrument therupon. Yit afterward, the next year, Maj 8, they fell upon a new resolution, for to imploy that money upon publict works, and for armes and ammunition. In the tyme of poperie ther wer no lesse than thretty alters and alterages, to everie of which belonged sett revenues, all to be seen in thes thrie churches, each of them dedicated to a severall Sanct (as thes of the Roman Church use). Bot I suppose it wold be tedious to all, and offensive to many, to sett doune ther severall names, since the least mark or footstep of any of thes alters is not extant at this tyme. Both churches, which now are parted by a wall, are adorned with galleries, pewes, and dasks of wainscot, both bewtifull and commodious, and severalls of them gilded. The quholl fabrick is encompassed with a large church court, planted about with great ash trees.

Upon the wall of the churchyard standeth the musick schooll; and hard by is the grammar schooll. The masters stipends are yeerlie paid out of the commone good. D. Patrick Dun, lait principall of the Marishall Colledge, did mortifie the villedge and lands of Ferrihill to the grammar schooll, that by the yeerlie revenue theroff, four under masters (Doctors they call them) might be yeerlie enterteened.

Next to the Grammar School stood the Convent of the Blackfreirs. Its circuit in all took up that parcell of ground that lyeth betuixt the Grammar Schooll and the Woolmanhill, evne to the edge of the loch; and it is to be seen enclosed as yit with ane high wall of stone and lyme, bot now much defaced and broken doune in severall places. That Convent of the Dominicans, together with their church, was so industriously razed, Januarij 4, 1560, that now ther is nothing of that building to be seen. True it is that some privat citizens have raised up goodlie houses out of its robberies.

Hard by the east end of the New Church is situated the Beidhouse or touns hospitall, pairted from the church by a small lane interjected betuixt thame. The use of that hospitall is for maintainance of a certaine number of burgess, or guild bretheren as they call them, quho become depauperat. Off old ther stood a chappel ther, dedicated to Sainct Thomes. Next to it eastward, stands another hospitall, which the dyers societie of Aberdein have very laitleie erected for the use of ther societie. St. Katrins hill is compassed about with buildings, gardings, and a street, not to be seen within the toun, for the houses within the gates overtop it or equal its height. Yit it overlooks all the suburbe called the Green, and to such as stand upon the top of it, gives a full prospect of St. Nicholas Church, the firth and river of Dee, the villedge of Torrie, pairt of the sea cost, and of the nearest hills and corne feilds which ly westward of the citie. It took its name long since from a chappell which stood upon the top of it, which was dedicated to St. Katherine, builded by the then constable of Aberdeen, anno 1242 The founders name is forgotten, and the chappell itself long agoe rased to the grund.

The bruike called the Den Burne runs beneath the west syde of the citie; upon the brink quhairoff [near] a litle stone bridge, at that pairt wher the brooke entereth the river Dee, the Carmelites of old had a convent, whoes church and quholl precinct of building wer levelled with the ground, that very day that the rest of the churches and convents of New Aberdeen wer destroyed. Ther remayneth theroff now onlie ane kilne, which standeth in the outmost south corner of the citie, known this day by the name of the Freer Kilne.

The Trinitie Church standeth upon the water syde. Besyde it, is the Tradsmens of Aberdeens Hospitall. First, it was King Williames dwelling place, and it was a convent to the Trinitie Freers, quho were drivene from thence long agoe. The societies of the tradsmen of Aberdeen began to repair the ruinous church and buildings thereof, anno 1630, at ther expenses; towards which Doctor William Guild did contribute a considerable sowme, and severallie mortified ane livelihood to ane quho should be a constant catechist at that church.

After you have gone eastward a litle thorough a street, the quay or wharfe is next to be seen. Builded it wes anno 1526, Gilbert Menzies, of Findone being provost. It was enlarged and repaired afterwards. In the yeir 1662, Patrik Menzies, then thesaurer, with the citizens consent, did bestow upon that work the price of the utensils of St. Nicholas Church. Anno 1634, the citizens causit build a weghhous or packhous upon

the keyhead, which serves lykewayes for a custome hous. From thence the key runs downwards towards the villedge of Futtie no fewer than 500 walking passes, and it joins with Futtie; a work of many yeires, oft times broken off. It is facit upon every syd with dry stone, and filled up in the middle with sande. It was finished at last in the year 1659 with much labour, by meins quhairoff it hes come to passe that a large quantitie of ground, which before was daylie at every tyde [overflowed], and wes a pairt of the firth, the sea being now kept quyt off, is become a fertile corne feild.

At the end of the new key or peer standeth the villedge of Futtie, and runs doune about 400 walking passes upon the syde of the firth till it meet with the river Dee itself. It is inhabited by fishermen and mariners for the most pairt. Befor it ships doe ly, and lykewayes heir is a docke for building or repairing of ships. It is a paroshen by it self, and hes its owne parosh church, builded upon the expenses of the citizens of Aberdeen, anno 1598, then called St. Clements Chappell. The churchyard not long since wes builded and enclosit with a goodlie wall of lyme and stone by a citizen of Aberdeen.

Beyond Futtie lyes the fisher boate heavne; and after that, towards the promontorie called the Sandenese, there is to be seen a grosse bulk of a building vaulted and flatted above (the Block-hous they call it), begun to be builded anno 1518, for guarding the entrie of the harborie from pirats and algarads; and cannon wer planted ther for that purpose; or at least that from thence the motions of pirats might be tymouslie foreseen. This rough piece of work wes finished anno 1542; in which yer lykewayes the mouthe of the river Dee wes locked with cheans of irone and masts of ships crossing the river, not to be opened bot at the citizens pleasur. Over against the Block-house, upon the other side of the river Dee, ther wes lykewayes a little watch-tower builded upon the high ground, and a bell hanged up therin (the ruins of this bellhous yit to be seen). It wes appoynted that a centinell should be sett ther at all tymes, who should ring the bell upon the discoverie of any ship approaching; bot this divyce is layde by, long since as useles, and the Block-hous itself not made use off bot in the tyme of great alarms, and when forrayne incursions are feared, at quich times commanded pairties of the citizens keepe garde ther by turnes. Upon the south syde of the water mouth of Dee there is a promontory called the girdlenesse, which extendeth itself eastward by the lenthe of a Scottish myll into the sea called the German Sea. This is the eastmost poynt of the Grangeben Hills, which from thence run towards

Glasgow, and divyde Scotland in two pairts with ther great and vast wyndings and turnings of many hills, woods, rocks, and deserts.

The entrie into the harbory is somequhat dangerous by reasone of a sand bed, comonelic called the Barre, that crooes, the mouth of the harbory into the sea; nor dare any ventur but expert pillots quho can guyde the way, and have the help of the wind and tyde. Once entered, the harborie will conteene many and great ships. Men of warre and merchand ships of greatest syze and burthen ly at Torrie in the verie channell of the river Dee. Lesser vessells goe up to Futtie, or by help of the tyde at high water goe up to the citie, and ly close all along the peer, wher they ather unloade ther goods or take in ther fraught. The river mouth, utherwayes narrow enewgh, is yit more contracted by a bulwark or peer made up ther of dry stone and great timber. Within the harborie at high water it looks lyke a great firth, bot at low water it is dry all over. Ther are some inshes within the harborie, of small worth, not overflowed by the tyde, upon which stand some corfe houses or lodgings belonging to the salmond fishers, for laying up their salmond. The salmond are taken all along the river over against the citie, ordinerlie in great abundance at a low water. Thes are accounted in France (wher they are mostlie sold) the best in Scotland; and for the salmond the citizens yeirlic draw a considerable soume of money. As for the most pairt of the fyrth, it is not to be crossit to and againe bot by quherries, cock boats, or fisher boats.

Vpon the east syd of the citie and of Futtie ther lyes many fair feilds, fruitfull of corns, quheat, bear, oats, pease, and pot hearbs and roots. Thes are marched by the feilds near the sea syde called the Lynks. The most remarkable amongst thes is the fair plaine called the Queens Links, the reasone of the name unknown. The Lynks extend themselves almost betuixt the two rivers of Done and Dee. Heer the inhabitants recreate themselves with severall kynds of exercises, such as foot ball, goffe, bowlling, and archerie. Heer lykewayes they walk for ther health. Nixt to thes is the sea shore, plaine and sandie, wher at low water ther is bounds for horse races no less than two mylls of lenth.

Such as goe out at the Gallowgaite Port toward Old Aberdeen, half way almost, may see the place wher of old stooed the lepers hospitall, called the Seick Hous, hard by the way syd, to which ther was a chappell adjoyned, dedicated to St. Anna, quhome the papists account patronesse of the leapers. The citizens licencit one Mr. Alexander Gallaway, then person of

Kinkell, for to build that chappell anno 1519. Now both the buildings are gone, and scarce is the name knowne to many.

Two mylls from Aberdene, towards the south-west, standeth the Bridge of Dee. It hes 8 pyks and 7 arches, all buildit of ashler stone, the greatest and brawest bridge now to be seen in Scotland, built at first at the cost of Williame Elphingstoune, bishope of Aberdene, about the yeer 1518. After his death, his exequitor, Bishope Gavine Dunbar, oversaw the worke, the bridge being finished anno 1527. Gavine Dunbar did mortifie the lands of the villedge of Ardlar to the citie of Aberdeen for upholding the bridge. Neere to the bridge stood of old lykewayes a chappell dedicated to Mary as tutelar to this bridge; bot her chappell is long since taken away, yit the bridge is yit standing extant.

The government of this citie, by the lettres patent of the Kings of Scotland, is to be by a provost chosine out amongst the citizens, to quhome are conjoyned four baillies, a thesaurer, and deane of gyld, and a certaine number of the citizens, quho make up the touns counsell. Such as beare thes offices for the tyme have onlie the power to choose the new ones quho are to succeed thame. Thus all the worthiest citizens have hope and encouragement in ther course for to attayne unto the most honorable preferrements. And befor now, sundrie well borne gentlemen have been provosts of Aberdeen, amongst quhome the Lairds of Pitfoddells often and with great applause; and ther [are] not a few of the best of the citizens quho are joynt with that familie by consanguinity and affinitie, and esteemed it ane honour to be so. Nay, and in the yeer 1545, George Gordone, Erle of Huntlie, the most powerfull of any in the north of Scotland, sought to be provost, and wes chosen, not without protestatione against his electione by many, as ane incroachment upon ther liberties; which moved him presentlie to resigne it againe in favor of Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddells. The familie of Huntlie lykewayes, in the yeer 1462, did enter into a league, offensive and defensive, with the toune of Aberdeen, to last for ten yeirs.

Many of the citizens trade in merchandize. The commodities and staple wair which they carie out for the most pairt, salmond, course woolling cloath callit playding, linning cloath, stockines, skins, and hyds, and all that the countrey yeilds. Thes they vent in Norroway, Swethland, Denmark, Pole, Germany, Holland, Flanders, France, Spayne, and England: for they trade in all thes countreys, and bring home forreyne commodities thence. Lykewayes, the cities of Aberdeen (and Air) have this speciall priviledge alone amongst all the touns

of Scotland, that no tradesman or artisan can be burges, or exercise forrayne trad; which hes often been the occasione of great stryff betuixt the burgesses and tradesmen, and sometymes hes come to bloodshed; the tradesmen seeking in vaine for to be made partakers of that priviledge, and to be endenized, and the burgesses obstinatlie manteening ther old priviledge and richt.

The armes of the citie are ane escutcheone or a feild gules charged with thrie castells argent, enclosit with a double tressor counter flowred with flower de luces argent, supported with twa leopards tanny, the motto Bonaccord, a French word signifieng concord amongst the citizens. Thes armes wer granted to Aberdeen by David Bruce, King of Scotland, after that they hade regained the Castell from the Englishes, which they hade constantlie kept garrisoned from the tyme of Edward Longshanks, quho is said to have builded it, or repaired it rather. Ther leader in this atchievement wes one Kennedy of Kearmuick; for which service his posteritie wer honored with the title and dignity of Constables of Aberdeen; though that title and dignity be now prescryved.

I have now subjoynd the prospect of Aberdeen to the mappe theroff; the lyke quhairoff I did at such tyme as I had occasione to descryve Edinburgh, adding two litle prospects to its mappe: quhairoff I thought it necessar also to admonish the reader; for the cutter of that draught hes both abusit the buyer and me; for having enlargit the two prospects of Edinburgh, thereby to make the draughts sell the deirer, he hes falsified both the prospects by that meins, so that nather of thame looks lyke the cotypes, and, which is worse, not lyke to the two syds of the citie of Edinburgh, being misshapped according to his owne fancies.

OLD ABERDEENE, OR ABERDONE,

Is ane English or Italiane myll distant from New Aberdeen, towards the northe. The distance betuixt the twa corses of the two touns is reckoned justlie a large Scottish myll. Old Aberdeen is enclosed with litle hills, pleasant corne feilds, very fruitfull, and with pastures mixed amongst the plowghed feilds. It hes no freedome of a burgh royall, being at best bot a burgh of barronie; scarce can a pedlar sett up a schope ther without the licence of New Aberdeene. It may rather be called a countrey villedge or market toun than a citie. It is said to have been first builded by King Ewen 2nd of that name, King of the Scots, anno [mundi, 3894] bot without any good proof.

That which gave it any ryse at first, seems to have been the removall of the bishops sea from Mortlich (wher ther is yet a parosh church, within a myll of Balveny Castell) to this place. The letters patents of King David, or the copyes theroff, are yit to be seen, by which he giveth the villedge of Old Aberdeen to the bischope of Aberdeene. Alexander the first of that name, King of Scotland, anno 1122, did actually remove the bishops sea hither. The building of the colledge gave a second occasione to its growthe. The river Done toucheth upon the northmost pairt of Old Aberdene. It is lykewayes weell knowne for its salmond ther taken in abundance. In Done lykewayes are found pearle, which are esteemed both for colour, shape and quantitie. They are found in a kinde of shell fish called the horse muskle. Old Aberdeen takes its name from the river Done.

Above the wynding turne of the river Done standeth the great church called Macher Church. It wes once Cathedrall, now onlie ther parish church. It is builded of ashler stone, very great and high and statelie. It began to be builded at first by Henrie Cheyne, bischope of Aberdeen, anno 1320. The work was delayed by his banishment, the cause quairoff wes that he had joyned in the rebellione with his uncle, John Cuming, Erie of Buchan. Alexander Kininmont, 3^d bischope of Aberdeene, promovit the building anno 1333; which yeer the Englishes having turned in to Aberdeen, did lykewayes miserablie plunder this bischope and his channons. Afterwards, Henrie Lichtounne, bischope of Aberdeen, raisit the walls to ther just hicht, and builded the two stone steeples or spires that are yit to be seen upon the west pairt of the church. Anno 1440, Bischope Ingrahame Lyndsay, his successor, did set one the rooff upon the church, and causit pave the floore of the church. Laitlie, Bischope Williame Elphingstounne builded the great steeple or tour thereof, and did put into that steeple as many bells as wegghed 12,000 pund weght, and covered both church and steeple with leade. Bischope Gavine Dumbarre, quho wes bischope immediatlie after B. Elphingstounne, builded the south ile of the church of ashler also. This church hes two row off stone pillars, a crosse church, and thrie steeples; the greatest is supported in the midle of the church by four great pillars, which are arched above. Nor wes the furnitur of the church les costlie then the church itself, having crucifixes, chaleses, and uther utensils, all made of silver, some of thame of pure gold, set with many great and costlie precious stones. The weght of all this wes verie great; and then for the apperrell usit by the popish bishops and churchmen, they wer

all ather of silk or velvett, or broydered with gold or silver, and thes lykeweyes in great varietie. It will hardlie be believed what the weght of the plaite amounted to, were it not that an old M. S. yit extant, which conteens the particular accompt of all that belongit to that church, puts it out of all doubt. To this church lykeweyes belonged a bibliothec; bot about the year 1560 all wes taken away, or distroyed, or embaseld; the bibliothec then burned, and no book spared, wher any reid letter wes to be seene. The spire of the great steeple wes then uncovered, as the church was, and not many yeers afterwards, was overthrowne by the violence of a great storme of wind. The queere of the church was rased to the very fundatione. At this day it is bot the carkase of the former church, covered with slates; yit the inhabitants doe hardlie keep it up unruinated altogether. Besyd the toombes of B. Lightoune and B. Dumbarre, to be seene as yit in this church, the familie of Huntlie have ane hereditary buriall place in this church, the quich hes been lailie againe made remarkable by the toombe of the noble and valorous George Lord Gordone, eldest sone to the lait Marqueis of Huntlie, quho fell in the feild of victorie at Alfoard, Julij 2. 1645.

Upon the west end of Machar Church, in the street interjected, stands the hospitall, founded by B. Gavine Dumbar for the manetinance of 12 poore men; the revenues theroff much diminished in our dayes; and the old men quho live ther are litle better than beggars. The Bischope of Aberdeins pallace of old cloist up a syde of the churchyearde. It was large and fair; its buildings and gardings, and its quholl circuit, all enclosit with a strong wall divyding it from the neighbour buildings. B. Alexander Kininmonth builded it; but presentlie, except the garding, there scarce remayns one stone of it untaken away. Anno 1639, B. Adame Ballandine, then bischope of Aberdeene, wes glade to abandon it, and leave it as a prey to the Covenanters souldiers, quho at that tyme rifled and spoyled it, leaving nothing bot bare walls. Anno 1655, the Englishes took away the stones of the walls, having compelled all the neighbouring shyres fox to transport them to the Castellhill of New Aberdeine. The rubbish or stones which they left behinde them wer caryed doune to the King's College, anno 1657, to ther new worke. Nixt to the bischopes hous stood the chaplan's chambers, so called of old. Thes doe enclose a large square court, now in part ruined. A part of that which mayne ther wes bought in our tyme by D. Johne Forbes, of Corse; and albeit he was thrust out of his place by the Covenanters in anno 1640, yit did he mortifie his hous ther to such

as should be professors of divinity after him, who keep it as yet.

Also the channons who made up the chapter of Aberdeen, had ther severall lodgings about the great church, most of them now ruinous. One of thes for many yeirs past was infested by evill spirits, and being abandoned was lykeways rased by the Englishes, and the stoness theroff taken away. Another of thes lodgings, which standeth neerest to the port called the Chanrie Port or the Clunyes Port, wes laitlie enlarged by the additione of a brave gallerie, adorned with varietie of paynting, as also with a gairding, the goodliest and the greatest in Aberdeen, by the industrie of Sir Alexander Gordone of Clunie, anno 1622. All of them are possest by privat men, since the channons (as smelling too much of poperie) wer casheired.

The Kings Colledge of Aberdeene, situated at the south ende of Old Aberdene, is conspicuouse beyonde the rest of the buildings. Scotland does not boast of the edefice of any colledge more statelie or bewtifull. It is all covered with lead about, except one quarter, which is purposelie slaited; the church and great tower or steeple both builded of ashler: all the church windows of old wer of paynted glas; and ther remayns as yet a pairt of that ancient braverie. In this church W^m Elphingstone lyes buryed, his tombe stone of black towich stone; the upper pairt upheld of old by thretteine statues of brasse; his statua of brasse lying betuixt the two stons: all thes robbed and sold long agoe. Ther are two bells (of ten in that steeple) which are of a greater weght, each of them then any in Scotland besyde. Above a double arche crossed of ston ther standeth a crowne royall octangular supported with aight pillers; upon the toppe of the crowne a stone globe; above it a double crosse gilded; intimating as it wer by such a bearing, that it is the Kings Colledge. It was everthrowne anno 1631 by a furious tempest, bot quicklie afterwards restored in a better forme and conditione by the directione of Patrick Forbes of Corse, then bischope of Aberdeen; Dr. Williame Gordone overseing the work, and solliciting everie quher for assistance therunto, which wes contributed considerablie by the noblemen and gentlemen dwelling in the countrey and neerest shyres. The librarie or bibliothek is joyned unto the church, at first replinished with many goodlie volumes, bot since ather robbed, or embasled, or purloyned by unfaythfull keepers. At this tyme, by the liberalitie of severall donors, it begins to be replenished of new, and accresceth daylie. Under it hard by, is ther cabinet or jewell hous as they call it, wherin are layd ther patents and registers and publict records. Ther was much pretious stuff layde up ther of old, besyde all this,

but long agoe robbed by theeves who brack in violentie ther. Next stooede the Chapterhous, now turned to a privat schooll. The commone Schooll and Colledge Hall above it take up a quholl syde of the base court. Ther parlour is fair and bewtiful within. The southe syde hes upon everie corner two half round towers with leaden spires. In the year 1657, the square of the quholl edifice began to be closed and compleitted by the additione of a new building, which ryses up above the rest, platformed and railed above; the quholl worke builded according to the forme and rule of architectur workmanlyke. The masters and members of the colledge attempted this new worke in a troublesome tyme, by the encurragement of the active subprincipall, Mr. Patrik Sandilands. For compleitting this worke, everie of the masters consented willinglie to contribute a pairt of ther yeirly lyveliehoods; and lykewayes, as far as the povertie of the tymes would suffer, amongst so many cassis and impositions, many of the nobility and gentrie of the countrie about, gave in contributions. The lyke did almost the quholl ministers of the provinces of Aberdeen, Murray, Rosse. Since the happie return of Charles the 2nd, anno 1660, Dr. Andrew Moore, ther learnit professor of medicine, solicited so diligentialie at court, that he obtend a warrand from the Exchequer to pay as much as was necessar to finish this new worke. The quholl fundatione of this colledge, being builded in a marrish ground, is underlayde with great rafters of oak, which behoved to be great coast and travell. And that the reader once for all may observe it, ther is no church or bridge builded in or about Aberdeen of squair frie stone, of which the stones are not brought thither by sea, from the quarries near the firth of Forthe, or from the coast of Murray. Lykewayes, the inhabitants of Aberdeene are necessitat to bring from afarre by sea, the slaites, timber, and lyme. Bot to returne to our purpose. At the entrie of the Colledge standeth the Grammar Schooll. About the Colledge, at some distance, are the severall professors houses, some of them ruinous, uthers quyt demolisht, a few of them kept in their first integritie. The Colledge began to be builded anno 1500 [4^{to} nonas], of Appryle, which is testified by ane old inscriptioun upon the frontispece of the church. It was built upon the expenses of the most worthie Bischope William Elphingstone; and twelve yeirs thereafter, all the worke was finished by Gavine Dunbar, quhome he left exequitor. James, the fourth of that name, King of Scotland, undertooke the protectione of it, and caused it to be called the Kings Colledge. Pope Alexander the 6th and Julius the 2^d, prodigall of that which they could not witholde, gave unto it

priviledges equall with the Universitie of Paris and Bononia. Thes priviledges it enjoys to this day, not upon that accompt, bot by the grant of the Kings of Scotland and Acts of Parliament. The founder at first appoynted that ther should be 42 members in this universitie, all which were to have ther severall maintainances. Four of thes wer to be professors of divinitie, a reader of Hebrew, a professor of the civill law, and another professor of the canon law, a reader of medicine, and ane humanist, a musiciane, quho wes to be Cantor or publict singer, besyde cuirists and bursers, 12 in number, thrie readers of philosophie, and one for the Greek tongue. The dignity of Chancelar he appoynted for to belong ever after to his successors, Bischops of Aberdeen; and a Rector to be yeerlie chosen. Bot some of thes have failed since, and uthers are changed from the first institutione of the fundator. Laitlie ther hes been a new profession of theologie erected by B. Patrik Forbes of Corse, and a mantinance appoynted for him. The revenue of the Universitie at first wes verie great, but quicklie after, it was diminisht. In our tyme it wes much improved. Since it wes builded, it hes sent out and bene the nurserie of many brave spirits and men eminent for ther learning. It is famous for Mr. Hector Boetius, its first principall, quho wes borne at Dundee, ane of the wreiters of the Scotish Historie. Doctor William Leslie, a man of great and profounde learning, wes primar theroff not long agoe. Here lykewayes the learnit Doctor John Forbes of Corse wes professor of divinitie.

At some litle distance from the Colledge, towards the sowthe, stood the parish church of Old Aberdeen, called Sanct Mary of the Snow, its fundatione now scarce knowne. Quo first builded it, few can tell. A litle beyond it, beneth the high way to New Aberdeene, ther stood a church called the Spittall Church, which hade St. Peter for its tutelar Sainct. It is lykeways rasit, and its fundator and the reassone of its being placed ther not knowne now.

It remayns onile now for to speake concerning the Bridge of Done, distant about four or 500 passes from Old Aberdeene northerlie. It consists bot of one arche, bot that verie large and high, scarclie to be equalled, most part of it builded of ashler, the two pyks theroff foundit so upon two rocks as that they easilie breake the streame of the river, one of them receiving it in a bosome, befor it meet with the bridge. Such as see it wold think that nature hade shaped that place for a bridge. From the bridge, Done runs now straight eastward towards the sea. Yit it is recorded that of old the river of Done did enter into the sea under the broad hill of the Lynks, takeing a great

turne that way; and it is affirmed that the long narrow loch called Cannowsweets Pott, which lyeth along a pairt of the Lynks, was a pairt of the channell of Done, which did run along that way. Lykewayes the oldest mappes of Scotland descryve the river of Done fetching such a compas as is spoken of. No man can certainly tell who builded the bridge of Done. The commone and most probable reporte is that the renowned Prince Robert Bruisse, King of Scotland, at such time as he banished B. Henrie Cheyne from his sea, and drave him out of Scotland beyde, did command for to sequester the bishopes yeerlie revenue to be employed towards pious uses, and that this bridge (which is lyke to be true) was builded with a pairt of that revenue. And let it suffice to have given this short accompt of all that is most remarkable in and about bothe cities of Aberdein.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN IN 1685, BY ALEXANDER SKENE OF NEWTYLE, ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES OF THE CITY.

ABERDEEN is pleasantly situated upon three hills, which are all joined together by easy descents; so as in the middle of the streets they are scarcely discernible. It is of circuit about 2141 double spaces, through which six gates enter. Being built as it presently stands, it is difficult to be fortified in the ordinary and regular way of fortification, though it hath been divers times attempted in this our age, since the late troubles began.

In the beginning of the late troubles, it was able to set forth eight hundred men in good array, and military furniture, to the fields, well trained for service, when called thereto.

It being situated between the rivers Dee and Don, is said by George Buchanan to be *piscater salmonum nobilis*—that is, excellent or famous for salmon fishing. As for the accomodations and ornaments of our city, we have an indifferent good entry to our harbour for ships, especially since that great stone, Craig Metellan, was raised up out of the mouth of the river Dee and transported out of the current thereof, so that now ships can incur no damage; which was done by the renowned art and industry of that ingenious and virtuous citizen, David Anderson;—as also by that considerable bulwark the Magistrates of late years caused erect at the mouth of the south side of the river, extending up the shore such a great length; so

that very great ships may enter and be safely preserved when they are in without hazard.

It will not be improper here to insert the following information for the benefit of seamen or strangers who may have occasion to come by sea to Aberdeen, which skilful mariners have observed, and been at pains to set about at the Magistrates' desire, which is as follows:—

A ship coming from the south, bound for the road and harbour of Aberdeen, a mile to the southward of the road, you will see a bay with a country church standing in the middle thereof, called the Kirk of Nigg; to the northward lieth the Girdleness or Aberdeen-ness, which, when ye come by, come no nearer the same than a long cable length, and, so soon as you come by it, you will see two sharp spire steeples; which steeples you must run to the northward until you open the westmost steeple a sail-breadth northward to the eastmost; there you may anchor on nine or ten fathoms water, where you may ride with southerly, northerly, or westerly winds. As for the harbour in the entry thereof, there is a bar wherin at low water there is scarce on it two feet water. On the south side of the bar stands a beacon, which in the incoming you must leave in your larbord side a ship's breadth free thereof, where commonly the best of the channel doth run. From the beacon to the eastward, even to the Girdleness, is all rocks. At spring tides there will be thereon fifteen feet water. At neep tides there will be no more than nine or ten feet. But I shall not advise a stranger to seek that harbour without a pilot, because it is a pilot's fair way; and, as soon as you come to the road, you can always have a boat for piloting you into the harbour. The nearest rake of the said harbour is north-east and south-west, and, when you are within the said harbour, you lie land-locked for all winds; but at low water our ships lie dry on very good ground.

Aberdeen hath ever had, since the time of Popery, a great and fair fabric containing two great and spacious churches for public worship; the greatest towards the west is called the Old Church, the lesser towards the east is called the New Church, with a stately spire or steeple. The churches and steeple are covered beautifully with lead, and within finished neatly with good desks and galleries of excellent workmanship of wainscot, and great and large lights and windows.

In the steeple are three great and harmonious bells, in sound each descending below another, and these three bells strike twenty-four strokes at every half-hour in a sweet and pleasant concord; the great clock having four fair horologues with conspicuous figures clearly gilded, one to every airth—viz.,

south, north, east, and west, for use to every part of the city and suburbs. These bells being rung for convening to public worship on Sabbath days. There is but one bell rung first, at the second two bells, and at the third three bells, which make a grave and melodious melody.

Also, there is another fabric in the midst of the city of a large length, called the Greyfriars Church, with a little spire or steeple called a bell, which is always rung for convening to all public lessons in the College.

Also, another fabric, called the Trinity Church, with a little steeple lately repaired by the Trades. There is a chapel at the Castlehill, called St. Ninian's. It had wont to be employed for the Commissary Court, and the rest of it for the common use of the city affairs. But now the Bishop hath taken back that Court to the Old Town, as being his privilege.

There is a smaller fabric built by the citizens for the inhabitants of the village of Futtie, appointed for catechising that people, which since hath had a minister to preach, though not as a distinct parish; all the citizens and that people being under one session or consistorial for discipline.

There is a great Town-house in the market-place, called the Tolbooth, which hath a fair and spacious room for the courts of judicature to sit in; such as the head-courts of the shire and city, with the Sheriff and Baillie Courts; above which there is a magazine or storehouse for warlike ammunition, &c. It hath also another large stately room where the Magistrates and Town Council convene, under which is the low Council-house where the Dean of Guild and his Assessors meet for affairs peculiar to the Brethren of the Guild; as also the Commissioners of the Shire for cess or such like common concerns; together with another room called the Clerk's Chamber, which hath accommodation for clerks and writers. Upon the east end thereof there is an high tower with two battlements, upon which is erected a high and stately spire or steeple covered with lead, under which there is a great clock and bell, and under the same are several rooms for prisoners, both high and low.

There is also a large and high house called the Pack-house and Weigh-house, wherein are a great many rooms for merchant wares of all sorts, near to the shore—the shore being, as is said, of late years greatly enlarged; so that it is a pleasant and considerable walk from the city to go to the farthest end thereof, which leads, to the fields and towards the harbour mouth.

The Market place is larger than in any town of the kingdom,

being 124 double spaces in length, and about a third part thereof in breadth, where it is narrowest; so that two regiments of foot soldiers may be drawn up in rank and file.

There is one of the stateliest bridges in the kingdom over the Dee, of seven arches of a like and equal largeness, within two short miles of the city; and there is another, north the city, of as high and great arch, over the river Don, both which are maintained by the city upon proper rents mortified for the same use.

In the middle of the city there is a Philosophy College, the houses whereof were purchased by the city in consideration that George Earl Marischal, grandfather to the present Earl, out of his zeal to the public good and his respect to the city of Aberdeen, did mortify public rents for the the Principal and four Regents of the said College, and now hath a public Professor of School Divinity, who teacheth a public lesson two days every week during the sitting of the College; also, a Professor of Mathematics, who, upon other two days every week, teacheth lessons. There are also lessons of arithmetic and geometry, taught by the masters thereunto appointed by that renowned, famous, and learned physician Dr. Duncan Liddel, who mortified a considerable rent to the Professor of Mathematics and six Mathematical and Philosophical Bursars for six years. There are many sums of money mortified to said College since the erection thereof, whereto the Town Council of Aberdeen are worthy Patrons; so that it appears there hath been more charity extended within these 120 years, since the reformation of religion from Popish idolatry and superstition, than hath been in all the ages before which our town accounts of mortified monies for schools, colleges, hospitals, guild box, common poor, &c. can evidence. This College hath a copious library, which was at first plenished by the city of Aberdeen, who took all their books they had laid up in the upper room above their session-house and transmitted them to their own library in the College for the uses of all concerned; and Dr. Reid, Secretary in the Latin tongue to King Charles the First, left a salary to the keeper of the said library, which library hath been augmented in its books by several mortifiers, as by the said Dr. Reid, the forementioned Dr. Liddell, who mortified about 2000 merks worth of books, and twenty merks yearly to buy Mathematical books and instruments, and Dr. Wm. Johnston, Physician and Professor of Mathematics here, and by Dr. Patrick Dunn, a learned physician, Principal of this College.

Also, there is a Grammar School, which hath a chief master and three teaching masters under him, to whom the said Dr.

Dunn mortified 1200 merks of yearly rent, by which the city is disburdened of what they paid yearly to the former masters thereof.

We have a School for Music, which was taught of old by very eminent musicians in this city. There wants no opportunity in this city for youth, both male and female, to learn any manner of good and commendable skill in such things as may best qualify them.

There are four hospitals in this city, one for decayed brethren of guild; a second for indigent widows and virgins of brethren of guild, lately purchased by a sum of money mortified by Dame Marian Douglas, daughter to the some time Earl of Buchan, and late Lady Drum, for the honour the Magistrates and city conferred on her deceased husband at his burial in Aberdeen in 1632—the rents whereof were augmented by a considerable sum mortified to this hospital by James Milne Elder, merchant, who also mortified 100 pounds yearly to two Philosophical Bursars in this College, with 500 merks to this Kirk-Session.

A third hospital for tradesmen, founded and built by the deceased Dr. Wm. Guild, some time preacher in Aberdeen, and lately Principal of the King's College in the Oldtown. This hospital hath a spacious comely room, where the deacon or convener courts meet.

A fourth hospital for Litsters, the rent whereof was mortified by Archibald Bean, Litster, by which they have built a goodly house with a stately entry. The use of this rent is for the benefit of decayed Litsters, their wives, children and servants; several of whose daughters have been provided with suitable portions out of the same rent, and thereby honestly married.

There are eight mills belonging to the city, and lands thereunto pertaining; whereof a new mill is built of stone and lime, at the south entry of the city, which may be of excellent use if carefully kept. There are two water mills within the suburbs of the city, and five near by in the adjacent territories belonging to the city.

We have a choice medicinal spring, called the Well of Spa, at the Woolmanhill, built with hewn stone, very specific for gout, gravel, colic, and dropsy, as the late Dr Wm. Barclay, physician, did learnedly describe, 1615, which is now reprinted when the well was rebuilt, 1670, the copies whereof the Dean of Guild hath in his custody, to which every person concerned to know its virtues and how to use the same, is referred.

DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEENSHIRE, BY SIR SAMUEL
FORBES OF FOVERAN.*

THERE being hitherto no Description of this Shire, the purpose is, either to afford materialls which may be put in better forme by a more skillfull hand ; or to describe it so as the ingenious, still desirous of knowledge, but not having occasion to travell, may see its lineaments as in a mapp, or its image as in a mirrour : And, it being morally impossible for any not to wish the place, where he drew his early and innocent breath, to be beautified as a garden, it appears not unfit, for the reader's greater contentment, that this Description be variegated with remarkeable events, at the places where they happened, and congruous remarks thereupon, and with the origin and vicissitude of families, as far as is known.

This shire is situated in the fifty-first degree and some minutes of northern latitude ; and so is about eleven hundred Dutch leagues, or seventeen hundred French leagues, or three thousand four hundred miles, from the middle of the land ; and in . . . degree of longitude.

The countreys conterminous to Aberdeenshire are Merns, to the south ; Angus to the southwest ; and, to the east, for a tract of thirty miles, it hath the German ocean ; keeping the opposite or western shore of Norway at sixty leagues distant from it.

As Scotland is divided into shires, so Aberdeenshire is subdivided into several tracts of land, known by different names—viz., Marr, Formartine, Buchan, and Garioch.

Marr, lying between the rivers Dee and Don, hath about two miles of sea coast ; and those rivers are no where above eight miles distant from one another.

* This gentleman, descended of the ancient family of Forbes of Tolquhon, was born in Edinburgh in the summer of the year 1653. He inherited the barony of Foveran from his father. In the year 1700, he was created a knight baronet ; and he died on the 16th of July, 1717, leaving a son, Alexander, who succeeded him in the title, and died about the year 1758.

The "Description of Aberdeenshire" affords sufficient evidence in itself that it was not written before the close of the eventful year 1715 ; and, as the author died within eighteen months of that period, we may, perhaps, safely enough conjecture that he left his work in the same imperfect state in which it has reached us. It would appear, indeed, from the Manuscript in the British Museum, that he had abruptly broken away from the labour of describing the county generally, to enter on the more congenial task of expatiating on the history of his own parish of Foveran, and of recording the multitudinous devices with which his pedantry had adorned his Mansion-House of Tillyery.

Formartine, situate between Don and Ithan, hath eight miles of sea coast; and for its western boundary it hath Garioch.

Buchan, lying benorth Ithan, hath twenty miles of sea coast; Formartine to the west; and, near Turref, is watered by the river Doern.

Garioch hath its limits mark'd out by hills, and comes no where near the sea, but is well watered by two rivulets; Gadie loosing itself in Urie; and Urie augmenting Don, near the royal burrough of Inverurie.

These four districts gave antient titles of dignity to some powerfull families, which in progress of time have undergone severall vicissitudes and change of names.

The country of Mar gave the title of an Earle to some of the name of Mar; and then to the Douglasses; and next to the Stewarts of the Royal Family; and, for some short time, to Cochran, who paid dear for the dignity and his court favour, being hang'd over the bridge [of Lander]; and, since Queen Mary's reign, gives title to Areskines.

Formartine gave designation to the Prestones of Formartine, who having enjoyed it before surnames were in use, and since the partition of lands upon the overthrow of the Pictish kingdom, the lands of Sir Henry Prestone came to the Forbeses, and to the Meldrums, by his two daughters and heirs portioners, about three hundred years ago. The continuance of the consanguinity and of the descent from, and lineall succession to, the Prestones of Formartine though changed in name, is certain and well instructed by charters in the hands of Tolquhon, and of another of the same family; but the so early origin of the Prestones of Formartine being traditionary, and thereby credible, and its credibility supported by the circumstances of times and things, yet, what the Roman historian said of seven hundred years' tradition, *Quis enim rem tam veterem pro certo affirmet?* may be also said here, and the credibility of the tradition as well believ'd as his history.

Buchan gave antient title of dignity to the Cummins, Earles of Buchan; thereafter to the Stewarts of the Royal Family; and then to the Douglasses; and since the time of King James the Sixth, to the Areskines; whose collateral heir male, the Lord Cardross, succeeding to the bare and naked title, is attoning for the errors of his kindred by a more decent, a wiser, and more thrifty conduct of life.

Garioch hath borne the name of a Lordship to the Marrs, to the Bruces, to the Stewarts, and also to the Areskines.

But the most natural and most intelligible division of Aberdeenshire being by rivers, this Description shall be prosecute

according to the course of these rivers, and according to the coast of the sea; which kindly receives their superfluous waters, and thankfully repays that tribute, by returning great plenty of delicate fishes into those rivers again. The rivers are Dee, Don, Ithan, and Ugie: also Doveran touches a part of Aberdeenshire, and falls into the Murray Furth near the town of Banf.

The southmost of these rivers is Dee; and, there being two other rivers of the same name in Britain, one in Galloway, and another making the north boundary of Wales, both falling into the Irish Sea, though all these three rivers be certainly of unequal age, yet they have not received their names at one time; but, as men increas'd, and remov'd from one to another to find new seats, the name of the river of their earliest acquaintance hath been given to that upon whose banks the removers planted themselves, and there they got their new residence and rest. However it be, the river Dee, divideing Aberdeenshire from The Merns, hath its source in Bremarr, forty miles westward from the city of Aberdeen; runs rapidly over pebble stones, and thereby its foords more dangerous after rains; admits of little valley ground on either side; allows no creives for salmond, nor damms for bringing its water to milns; but, again, it compenses, or makes amends, for those smaller losses, by the beauty of its numerous woods, and by the profit it affords in plenty of the best of salmond.

From its source in Bremarr it runs by a parish of that name, a montanous place, affording more woods and pasture than corn field; but what corns it yields is of a good kind and soon ripened, by reason of the summer warmness; which advantage would be abated to its inhabitants by the longer and snowy winters, were it not that they have plenty of fewell, both black turff and burnwood.

The natives of this parish speak two languages—the antient Scottish, and the more modern English. It formerly belonged to the Earles of Marr, whose title of property is turn'd to that of superiority, gentlemen of the name of Farquharson becoming proprietors.

The Farquharsons, descended of Invercauld, are a branch of the M'Intoshes: M'Intoshe, a younger son of the Thain of Fife, who married the heiress of the Clan Chattan: the Clan Chattan, a branch of the name of Keith, which, transplanted to Scotland from the ancient Chatti in Germany on the territory of the Landgrave of Hess, is now the surname of the Earl of Marischall.

Invercauld by the female descent, is also of M'Intosh, of Barclay of Gartley I know no more: enquire.

Following the current of Dee, you come to the parishes of

Crathie and Glenmuick, called also by the name of Strathdee; a mountainous place as Bremarr, and speaking two languages. The proprietors are Gordon of Abergeldie and Farquharson of Inverray. Abergeldie was a son of the Earl of Huntley: it lately fell to ane heiress, and keeps the name. The house is a convenient castle building, pleasantly situate, as amongst Scottish mountains; hath much wood and some valley: this last a rarity on that river. The corns here are also good. The origin of Inverray is already accounted for.

Dee runs now to the parishes of Glentaner (well known for its fir-wood) and Birss (remarkable for the slavish condition of its indwellers), and, below Aboyn, to the parish of Kincardine Oneill, where the country becomes less mountainous, and growing scarcer of wood, hath more cornfield; a very warm soil ripening grain as soon, if not sooner, than any part of Scotland.

This parish is a parsonage; the parson hath several superiorities of lands and teyndis. The church hath been pretty large; the village convenient for travellers, who are numerous, by reason of the great highrode south and north. It hath a weekly mercat, and a much frequented yearly fair called Bartholomew's, belonging to the Lord Forbes. The river had need of a bridge.

The proprietors of Kincardine were Strachens, at present Forbeses.

From the parish of Kincardine Oneill, Dee runs to that of Banchrie, where stands the house of Crathess, the seat and residence of Sir Alexander Burnet of Leyes; a family of good antiquity, and well descended by the female blood, as of the Viscount of Arbuthnot. the antientest of the neighbouring shire of The Merns, and of the Earl Mareschals family.

The house of Crathess is well built, well planted with natural and artificial wood; the gardens produce delicate fruit; the soil is warm, the victual substantial and weighty, Sir Thomas entred with a faire and free estate, by the assistance of a kindlie tutor; had ample casualties from the government; yet left his affairs diffculted to his son Sir Alexander, whose commendation 't will be to retrieve the incumbrances.

The family of Leyes hath produced younger sons or branches very eminent and conspicuous: Mr. Robert Burnet of Cremond, a good and learn'd man, and a most just judge, the noblest of commendacions: Whose sons Sir Thomas Burnet, a learn'd doctor of medicine, and sincerely and seriously pious; also Dr. Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, a most elegant and powerfull preacher; very frank and very plain in manners; uncurious of politeness save in the pulpit, harangues of Parliament, and in the stile of his writings; which are not a few, and like to live

as long as the reform'd religion lives in Britain—that is, to doomsday. After all these just grounds of praise, and that his contempt of riches is now evident, having had fair opportunities to amass vast wealth to himself and children (but he made a more disinterested use of those occasions, the patrimonies of his sons and daughters being very moderate; his bounties to others whilst he liv'd and when he dy'd being ample); yet so freakish are too many men that nothing of him, but some less popular opinions and his plain undissembled fashions, hath raised against him a numerous train of maligners. However it be, this testimony will be received as due to a countryman undenyably great and learn'd, and for ought known to the writer as undenyably good. The English author of the Theory of the Earth may likewise be of the family of Leyes. These lands of Crathes, in this parish of upper Banchry, lying benorth Dee, are [properly situate] in Aberdeenshire; but, as to jurisdiction, are in the shire of Merns or Kincardine, annexed thereto by Act of Parliament, on account that the lairds of Leyes had other lands and another residence in The Merns.

The next parish, watered by the river Dee, is Dalmaock, belonging to the laird of Drum, enjoying ane antient estate, having had ample wealth, and possessions in Angus, Banfshire, and Buchan; all his lands are good, yielding grain of great weight. One of the progenitors of this family was armour bearer to King Robert Bruce, who gave him for arms a devise which represented that gallant King to the life, and must be acknowledged, in this more subtile age, to have been ingeniously thought and figured. The body of the devise was a hollin or lawrell branch; the word, or life of that body, was, *Sub sole, sub umbra, virens*; and nothing could be more apposite to that noble King's case. The Irvines of Drum, it seems, for filling up the shield, paint three separate branches, to which the word does not so well correspond and agree; nor is the metaphor so just. Another of this family was one of the hostages for King James the first; and one of them will be mentioned in the account of the Battle of Harlaw in Garioch. And that laird of Drum, who lived in our grandfather's time, can in no wise be omitted; for his benignity and ample bounty to the poor deserves to be remembered and prais'd. He liv'd decently; was a plain man, nicknamed *Little Breeches*; increased in wealth; bequeath'd lands for maintenance of poor widows, poor maids, and for the education of several children at schools, and of young men to be taught philosophy and theology.

The house of Drum is ane old Gothic building, has good gardens, and is surrounded with wood and artificial planting. The

late Drum, failing his sons, of two different marriages, made an entail of his estate to a gentleman of his name who married his daughter; who is a grandchild of the family of Huntley. They are also descended of the Scrimzeors of Didup, and of the Lord Forbes's family.

Next to Dalmaock, on Dee side, lyes the Parish of Peterculter, where, on an eminence southward, is the house and residence of Sir Alexander Cumming of Coulter; a new building, bare of planting. The Cummins of Coulter are, unquestionably, a small remain of the Cummins, Earles of Buchan, who were once the powerfulest ever Scotland saw. Buchanan, in vita Alexandri III.; "Omnium prope rerum potestas, penes Cuminiurum factionem erat. Hi, cum publicum patrimonium in suam rem verterent, imbecilliores opprimerent, nobilium quosdam suae libidini adversos, ac liberius de statu regni loqui ausos, conflictis criminibus circumvenirent, ac bona damnatorum in fiscum redacta, ipsi, a Rege (cui tum imperabant potius quam parebant), accepta invaderent, conventu ordinum habito, tractatum praecipue de Anglo placando, ne tam periculoso tempore aliquid attentaret. Id quo facilius fieret, affinitate conjungendum esse. Haec ratio commodior Cuminiurum inimicis visa est, ad eorum potentiam infringendam, quam si eos aperte appugnarent." And again, in vita Roberti Brussii: "Sed, cum totam gentem Cuminiam, cujus familiae potentiam nulla unquam ante, neque postea in Scotia aequavit, haberet inimicam."

You are now brought near Aberdeen, which shall be succinctly describ'd.

The City of Aberdeen, named Devana by Ptolmey; a very antient village; endued with Royall priviledges by King Gregory about the year 877; encreast by the frequent progresses of our Kings, and by a more frequent residence of King William, and adorn'd with his palace; taken in by Edward Langshanks; plunder'd and set on fire by the English on the approach of William Wallace returning hastily southward to fight their army; the castle left unretaken, the garrison cut off by a combination of the citizens, the watchword BON-ACCORD; burnt to ashes in John Balliol's time; was rebuilt in the reign of Robert Bruce, and now stands on three hills or riseing grounds; the Castle hill, at the south east; and Gallowhill, at north west; and St. Katren's hill, near the centre of the town: Which is entred into by five¹ ports, pretty well kept; two from the south east of the Castle hill; two from the south descent of St. Katherine's hill;

¹ The writer has overlooked one of the ports, apparently that of the Upperkirgate.

and one from the north west of the Gallowhill. Although the situation of the city taketh several rising grounds, yet it is easy to walk the streets; whereof there are eight, and several lanes. One of which streets,¹ from the mentioned north west port, is of a pretty good length; and is continued by another.² not fully so long, but of a greater breadth, and almost in a straight line; and which, by two small lanes,³ terminates in an oblong square,⁴ beautified with two antient Gothick buildings,⁵ a curious structure of a Cross, the Town House, and a fountain playing in various figures of water works. These three streets ly in a paralell line to the adjacent sea, on the east; and make the full length of the town about paces. As to the breadth, it hath one street,⁶ and a lane⁷ drawn in length with the former, and lying at the south side of it; from the head of which street there is another,⁸ turning obliquely to the south, and leading to the churches of the town, and terminates near the Woollenhill; where there is a medicinal fountain, dignified with the name of the famous Spaw of Germany. From the end of the last mention'd straight street there runs another⁹ southward, and obliquely, leading also to the town churches, and terminates in a pretty broad street, lying flatt, and called the Green, the seat of the antient city; where the river Dee receives a small rivulett, called the Denburn, covered with a bridge of three arches.

From the end of the last mention'd lane¹⁰ there lyes a street,¹¹ turning also obliquely southward, and leading first through a short lane¹² to the Cross, and next, as St. Katren's hill declines leading through a pretty broad lane¹³ to the harbour, and terminates at a little kirk,¹⁴ and the adjoyning palace of King William. By this situation of the town, most of its houses have the conveniency, or beauty, of a garden belonging to them; and all the gardens of one street¹⁵ have a small rivulet¹⁶ running in a straight line with their walls upon one hand, and beautified, on the opposite side, by a thick plantation of the profitable willow; and then, entering the town, vaulted and built above, waters some gardens, and, besides other advantages, affords the conveniency of two corn milns, one upon one side of the Town's Hospital; and then falls into the river Dee, near King William's

¹ The Gallowgate.

² The Broadgate.

³ The Huxter Raw, and the Narrow Wynd. ⁴ The Castlegate.

⁵ Probably Pitfoddel's Lodging, and Marischal's Hall, are referred to.

⁶ The Broadgate.

⁷ The Ghaist Raw.

⁸ The Upperkirkgate and Schoolhill.

⁹ The Netherkirkgate.

¹⁰ The Ghaist Raw.

¹¹ The Ship Raw.

¹² The Exchequer Wynd or Raw.

¹³ The Shore Brae.

¹⁴ The Trinity Kirk.

¹⁵ The Gallowgate.

¹⁶ The Loch.

palace. The rivulets mentioned having formerly supply'd the town, there hath been, of late,¹ a very delicate pure and light water brought into it, from a well called by the name of Cardan, and affords such plenty that every street hath convenient cisterns or fountains, and every house is well furnished for all uses, with a delightfull drink to the sober, and with a healthfull, to those of a warmer blood.

We have walked the streets, seen the cisterns, spoken of the gardens. Let us now look on the houses; and they are rather convenient for lodging, than stately to the sight, and the best of them are within closes or squares; and, therefore, let us go to its hills, take the air, and view the adjoining country and neighbouring sea; and from that to its harbour and remoter walks.

It hath been told that the hills are three, whereof two² have given their sides of easiest ascent to be built on. The third³ is entirely within the town, and is the highest, and hath severall well kept gardens stretching to the top of it; which top could be more embellished by the owners of those gardens. However, St. Katren here offers to the beholders the amusing sight of the river Dee, and its beautifull bridge, the monument of a Bishop's piety.

The Gallowhill could afford a walk convenient for the inhabitants of its street; but, at present, it gives a full and fair prospect over some fruitfull fields called the King's Meadows eastward to the sea; and, northward, pleases the eye with the sight of Old Aberdeen, its church and college, and of the neighbouring river Don.

The third hill is called the Castle hill, where stood the ancient Castle whereof now nothing is to be seen, but some subterraneous vaults; but, instead of the old, there are the walls of a modern square fort, both high and entire, save in two places. And this hill affords two agreeable walks, one lower, and well gravelled, at the foot of the walls; the other higher, and green, on the top of the terras: from both these walks there is a fair view of a large open field, cultivate like a garden, and producing the best of herbs and roots; as also a view of the shipping and harbour, of the anchoring road, and of the eastern point of the Grampian mountain.

But, being now upon this Castle hill, let us recreate a little, and hear the relation of a very early and yet continuing custom of the citizens, who usually go, every Sunday after sermon,

¹ About the year 1707.

² The Castle Hill; and the Gallow or Port Hill, of old called the Windmill Hill, and Hedownis Hill.

³ St. Katherine's Hill,

streight from the church to this walk; few or none knowing any other ground for their so doing, but that of ane immemorial practice, whereas it was at first enjoyn'd by the churchmen of the time. The occasion was this. The English garrison being surpriz'd and mostly cut off by a combination of their landlords, the churchmen of those days enjoyned, that all the citizens should every Sunday go to the chappell of the Castle, and pray for the souls of those soldiers they'd slain, without giving them due or even military warning to fight or die. And thus the custom of going every Sunday to the Castle hill has continued for a tract of upwards of four hundred years, though the observance of praying be obliterate and abolished. Lest these few words should raise spleen in the biggot, or a jealousie even of the unknown writer, he doth affirm, upon the sacredness of truth, that he heartily disdains all the artificiall and avaritious projects of popery, but, again, finds neither harm nor hazard in thinking that the article, "Communion of Saints," may import a mutual concern betwixt the departed and those who stay a while behind; and, further, that serious remembrance of the dead, according to the primitive mode, may contribute to the nourishing our belief of immortality, and to the preventing the unmanly and ridiculous distrust of it.

If what is last said displease, as out of the rode of a Description, yet may it be admitted as suteable to the purpose and promise of giving contentment to the reader, by variegating the dryness of a bare and barren Description.

But to proceed. The hill having given us a sight of the harbour, let us walk to it, which we will find of great breadth and length, at full sea; and which affords a most safe station to ships from all winds and tempests; and is so capricious that, about sixty years ago, a fair meadow of ground,¹ formerly within the flood mark, was gained by making a long and broad terras, flanked in both sides with large and square stones; and the harbour thereby nothing intrenched upon, but bettered. And this terras gives the citizens the warmest and driest walk in winter, and the coolest and most beautifull in summer; having the water and ships, on one hand, and a very flowery meadow, planted with willows, on the other; and, likewise, leads to another agreeable more solitary walk, called the Carpet Walk, from the softness and thickness of the wreathed green moss with which it is overspread.

It might be reckoned a piece of ingratitude in one to have had his harmless youthfull pastimes here, yet to forgett or not

¹ Between Virginia Street and the Regent Quay.

to mention, what is adjoining to this Carpett Walk. It is a smooth dry field,¹ stretching in length almost betwixt the mouths of the two rivers Dee and Don; and sheltered, on the sea side, by a mighty number of downs, covered with a strong greenish plant called *best*; and beautified, on the city side, with a well cultivated ground surrounded with a plantation of willows. The one end of which field affords a healthfull summer recreation of short bowls; and the other end the like healthfull winter recreation of the gowif ball; and, all the year round, a pasture for fattening of mutton, and bringing forth early lambs: so carefull hath nature been that the inhabitants of this city should have a convenient intermixture of profit and pleasure.

Let us hear, next, what the art and industry of the citizens has done.

The trade of this city consists mostly in export, and that of most valuable goods; the import being small, as to a country almost self sufficient, and needing but little: iron from the Baltick: timber and tarr from Norway: Whereas its export is woolen and linnen cloth, stockings of great fineness,² grain, oatmeal plenty of sea and river fishes, all well and skillfully cured; besides salt beef, pork, tallow, and furs.

No city in Scotland sent to the sea ships and cargoes of greater value, and brought home more money in returns: so that the loss of one ship brings more dammage to Aberdeen than the loss of ten ships would do to other towns.

The beauty, the pleasures, the profits, of this city, are mentioned: its piety comes next to be considered. The churches here are fairly built of cut stone brought from a distance; curiously leaded on the roof, and cleanly and carefully kept within; not dark as in Italy, but lightsome as if their walls were glass.

Though many worthy men ly buried in the church and churchyard, yet there are but few monuments at their graves.

¹ The Links.

² A writer on the trade of Scotland in the last century commemorates "the fine pair of Stockings [of Shetland wool] made a present of to Marshal Keith by the Magistrates of Aberdeen, and from him to the Empress of Russia, valued at five guineas."—*Lock's Essays on the Trade and Fisheries of Scotland*, vol. i., pp. 170, 171. *Edinb.* 1778. 12mo. An author, quoted by Kennedy, adds that they were knitted by a lady in town, of such fineness that, although of the largest size, they could easily be drawn through an ordinary thumb ring." The same writer informs us that "The Earl of Aberdeen, in 1707, purchased a pair of the same kind of Stockings in the town, for which he paid one guinea. About the year 1733, Lady Mary Drummond, daughter of the Duke of Perth, had spun, from Scottish wool, three pairs of knitted gloves or mits, which were estimated at three guineas each pair."—*Kennedy's Annals of Aberdeen*, vol. ii., p. 199, note. *Lond.* 1818. 4to.

Perhaps they have not affected to become great by being buried ; but have rather despised such remembrances, as knowing that, *Quandoquidem data sunt ipsis quoque fata sepulchris.*

Nor hath the city affected great state, but rather a convenient accommodation for the poor : whereof a good number, of both sexes and ages, are well entertained. The publick hospitals are two : one for decayed merchants, another for the trades.

All the ministers of this city have still had the reputation of being eminent preachers, and very exemplary for their piety and a strict regularity of manners ; and continuing so without interruption to this day, from the first reforming minister, Adam Hariot : Who had been a friar of the order of St. Augustine, and was one of the ten or twelve preachers who, in the year 1560, were sent and settled to propogate the reformed religion over all Scotland. And, as this first was a good and learned man, so all who succeeded him have been since ; and some of them have left monuments of their learning, famed over all Christendome : Dr. William Forbes, minister of this city, and the first Bishop of Edinburgh : and Dr. Baron, minister and professor of theologie here : of both whom ane ingenious poet hath left this epigram :

De Gulielmo Forbesio et Roberto Baronio, Theologis Abredonensibus.

Nil quod Forbesio, Christi dum pascit ovile,
Nil quod Baronio comparet, orbis habet.
Eloquio sunt ambo pares : discrimen in uno est ;
Quo lubet, hic mentes pellicit, ille rapit.

Dr. William Forbes, in his book entituled, "Considerationes Modestae et Pacificae," by yielding a little to his adversaries, hath uncontestably overcome them : It is true they again overcame his son, called Seigneur Thomasio, who, for being an excellent secretary to Cardinal Barbarini, advanc'd no farther.

Dr. Baron managed a religious war with Turnbull, of which Dr. Arthur Johnston has the following epigram :—

De diatriba Roberti Baronii D. Theologi aduersus Trumbullium.

En sacra Baronius movet et Trumbullius arma,
Pene sub Icaris natus uterque rotis.
Ambo sacerdotes, divinae Palladis ambo
Artibus, et calami dexteritate pares.
Hoc discrimen habes ; magno molimine causam
Hic agit Ausonii Praesulis, ille Dei.

Baron hath written metaphysicks, highly and justly esteemed in forreign universities. They are not so laboriously large as those of Swarez, but as exact and subtile.

As Baron managed the above war with Turnbull, so did his successor, Mr. John Menzies, manage the like with Father Cosne, and hath left two writings on the subject, "Papismus Lucifugus," and "Roma Mendax." He could have oblig'd the learn'd abroad by publishing his writings in a more universall language, which he spoke elegantly and as fluently as his mother tongue; but the man's modesty thought it without his sphere to guard others than those of Great Britain from errors.

Also, Mr. John Barclay, a very good man and good preacher here, hath published a poem called "The Dream," wherein he paints Popery in such true colours, and so natively, as discovers its darkness, and imprints the idea of its fowlness and avarice.

The authors of "The Replies and Duplies" were the Doctors of Aberdeen. Though these, there writings, were much and deservedly esteemed, yet they made no proselytes of kirkmen.

They who turn'd them out, and succeeded them, wanted not learning and judgment to influence; and the name of Mr. Andrew Cant is like to live long here. He was, certainly, a man blameless in his morals, and judicious; and his pictures, carefully kept by some, show him to have been capable of forming projects, and of promoting what he projected: there being a sedateness and vigour in his looks. Complexion contributes to form parties: and, when once formed and earnestly maintained, what was originally complexion does really, though unawares, become a principle, and takes the name of conscience or religion.

This place hath given famous physicians, mathematicians, poets, painters:

The Doctors Johnstouns, Arthur and Willam, both of them sufficiently skilled and successful in medicine: Also, Dr. Liddell, who published an accurate writing in his professed science, but not like to live long, through the fault of the printer.

The Gregories, known to all the learn'd world for profound skill in mathematicks, were natives of this shire; and their mathematical genius is reckoned to have sprung from a citizen here David Anderson, of whom they are descended by the mother; and whose mechanical genius perform'd such things as got for him the name of "*Davie do all things.*"

Dr. Arthur Johnstoun, already nam'd, was an excellent poet. He paraphrased the Psalms of David and the Song of Solomon, and wrote many recreating poems: of whom Gruterus says,

Emicuit solio maiestas digna Prophetæ,
Sparsit Apollineas cum Buchananus opes:
Nunc agili Ionston vrget vestigia plectro,
Et vegeta scriptor cum brevitate placet.

Also, David Wedderburn, teacher of the Grammer School here, and author of a Grammer, entertains [with him] an alternate song, who, speaking of Buchanan, had said,

Credere fas non est, numina posse mori;

to which Wedderburn replies,

*Si, Ionstone, tibi est Buchananus numen, ab Arcto,
Scotia, te nato, numina plura dedit.*

Also, Mr. John Forbes, Professor of Humanity, and Master of the [Grammar] School, was capable of great performances in poetrie, if he had applied. There are of his poems extant, worthy of preserving: what he did of that kind was as easy to him as Ovid, who said of himself,

*Sponte sua numeros carmen veniebat ad aptos,
Et quod tentabam dicere, versus erat.*

There are pieces of [George] Jameson's painting of great value, some carried over to France and Italy, and esteem'd there.

Music here is much in vogue, and many citizens sing charmingly. The well known Abel was a native of this place, and his kindred are known by the name Eball: and, it is said, there are others as good as he.

The citizens here have been reckoned courteous and liberal, it having been said of them,

*Hospita gens haec est et comis et aemula Divûm,
Quaeque regunt alios, huic famulantur opes.*

Having spoken of the men, it would be a crime not to name the gentler sex. They brought us into the world, and kindly and carefully nourished us. The women of this town are virtuous, sober, frugal, and industrious; never going abroad but to perform the offices of benignity and friendship; never seen from the windows; still employing themselves diligently about the needs of the family. And it is but just to say of them that they deserve to be praised for much more than the only virtue which Anacreon ascribes to the women of his town—to wit, beauty:

*Γυναῖξιν—οὐκ ἔρ' εἶχεν
τί οὖν δίδωσι;—κάλλος.*

They have also modesty, chastity, piety, without which beauty becomes the object of contempt, and not a title of praise; and, thus, since all kind of virtue is *a la mode* here amongst the women, they who, in this city, are not virtuous, are really out of fashion.

Cetera desiderantur.

The following is from Robertson's "Book of Bon-Accord":

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Aberdeen, probably did not contain one private mansion which was not built of timber. In 1545, a stone edifice was considered a mark of the greatest opulence; and, in defying Thomas Menzies of Pitfodds, one of the inhabitants said "he did not care for all his power or his stane house." In 1661, we are told by Mr. Gordon "that the buildings of the toune are of stone and lime, rigged above, and covered with slates, mostlie of three or foure stories hight, some of them higher. The streets are all neatlie paved with flint-stone, or a gray kinde of stone not unlike to flint. The dwelling-houses are cleanlie and beautiful, and neat both within and without, and the syde that looks to the street mostlie adorned with galleries of timber which they call fore-staires." In 1658, Richard Franck describes the buildings of the city as framed of stone and timber, facing the sea, and fronting the pleasant harbour; the streets also are large and spacious. But these flattering representations can hardly be reconciled with several well-authenticated facts. In 1716, on the occasion of a destructive fire at the Gallowgatehead, the Magistrates found it necessary to forbid any person within the town or suburbs to thatch his house with heath or straw, under the penalty of fifty merks Scots. And so late as 1741, the houses on the west side of the second street in the burgh, the Broadgate, were constructed of wood, with stake and rice chimnies. In that year the Council enacted that the outside walls of houses should be constructed wholly of stone or brick, and the roofs covered with slate or tile, and prohibited every person from building outside walls with wood, chimnies with lath and plaister, or covering houses with turf, heath, or straw. But few of the wooden erections once so common now remain. Two may be seen in the Gallowgate, Nos. 43 and 68. It may be remarked that the paucity of ancient mansions shows the frail materials of which the dwellings in general were constructed. We have equal reason to conclude that Gordon and Franck

have not a little exaggerated the neatness and cleanliness of the houses and the streets. The former speaks of forestairs as ornaments; but we know that, when it was wished to invest the burgh with an appearance of gaity, these ornaments were studiously concealed by tapestry, and the few specimens which still exist in the town are remarkable for their deformity and inconvenience. That they were dangerous the following extracts, which occur in Spalding, may suffice to show:—"SATURDAY, 10th September, 1642.—George Thomsone, maister masone, suddantlie fell over Thomas Thomsone his stair; and with the fall became senseless and speechless, and departed this life upon the Thursday. About the same time, Thomas Urquhart, chirurgion in Aberdeen (being drunk) fell over William Watson's stair in the Netherkirkgate, about seven hours and immediatly departed this life." That the streets were, with few exceptions, narrow and filthy the reader need hardly be informed; he will have seen in the preceding pages that only on occasions of great solemnity were the middings or dunghills removed, and swine prevented from roaming at large.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF THE BURGH
OF ABERDEEN FROM 1581 TO 1650.**

The secund day of January, boycht at the command of provest, baillies and counsal, ane barrel salmon, quhilk was sent to the clerk of register for his travell in the tounes efferis, payt for the sam,	£18 0 0
Item, payt to the skypper of the boitt to delyver the said barrell free at Leyth,	0 6 8
Item, payt to the boy of the boitt to bring the barrell to the boitt frae Torrie schoir,	0 1 0
For the hyre of five horsse to the baillie, clerk, and officeris to ryd up Dee and Don upon the 1st of October, 1596, for trying of the slayers of black fische,	1 13 4
Item, the 29th April, for tua horsse to the bishop and his man, to ryd to Gycht and Inverugie, for procuring piece betwixt the lairds of Gycht and Benholm, at command of the provest and baillies,	4 0 0
Item, for the stage playaris support that night thaye	

plaid to the town,	£3 0 0
Item, for Tom Masone and Gilbert Willox effir- nonis drink, quhen thay tuik measour of the windois of the toubouthe,	0 4 0
Item, to ane poist to carrye letteris to Newburgh, Peterhead, and Fraserburgh, that thai suld nocht suffer the boitt suspect of the pest to enter in thair harbeoris,	0 16 0
Item, to ane boye to gang to Boighill to Robt. Menzie, baillie, to caus him cum and accept his office,	0 3 4
Item, to another boye to gang to Schedockisleye to Thomas Forbes, baillie, to caus him cum and accept his office,	0 1 0
Item, given to Cristan Lawsoun for the bankett maid be the provest, baillies, and sindry honest men to Mr. Robt. Bruce,	16 3 4
Item, ane ither day send sewin pynts of wyne to Mr. Robert Bruce his house to denner and supper with the baillies,	2 16 0
Item, the 1st of Julii, for a collation with Mr. Robt. Bruce wyiff in her ain hous with the baillies, in wyne and succour,	4 0 0
Item, for thecking the grammer school with hedder,	38 5 6
Item, John Cruickshank furneist tua unces tubacco and tua dozen pypis,	2 8 0
Item, to Gilbert Anderson for pulder gevin tu the youthis,	20 0 0
Item, for tubacco given to Gilbert Hervie,	0 8 0
Item, for ane dussene of silver spoones to Mr. Robt. Barroun, minister, to his first hous, in token of the townes love to him,	61 10 0
Item, spent in Skipper Anderson's hous, when Mr. Thos. Graye and Andrew Meldrum gewo to the toun seassing of the four riggs to the kirk of Futtie,	5 0 0
Item, for tarre to tarre the women's plaids,	0 8 0
Item, for ayle, tubacco, and pypis to the hiche counsail hous,	0 10 0
Item, to Patrick Leslie, skinner, for wool and ane skin to give to Edward Raban, to print the papers that is printed on the bristis of thes that stand on the scaffold,	0 16 0
Deburst fyftie-fyivepund ten s. to Robt. Walker for casten threttie-seven thousand feall to cover	

the graves of thaim that died in the infectiounne,
and war buried among the sandis.

Item, upon the penult day of Marche, 1603, conforme to an ordenance of counsall of that dait, spent at the mercat croce on wyne, spycerie, and glasses for decking and hinging of the croce the tyme of the solemnitie maid upon the day forsaid be the inhabitants of this burgh for the glaid tydings that his Majesty was proclaimit and declairit King of England, and for the efternoon and supper in Marion Cullenis, and for the wyne that come to the croce after supper, conform to the particular account producit hereto,	£58	16	8
Item, for the wyne and spycerie given to the ladye Countess of Marr and her dochteris, and sindrie noble men that accompanyt thame to the tounes counsal hous,	86	6	8
Item, for nine elnes and a quarter of black carseyis, at 40s., to cover the drum heidis at the buriall of the Laird of Drum, and for gryt preinis thairto,	18	16	0
Item, to Mr. Andro Cant, when he went to the generall assemblie,	66	13	4
Item, to a man who wyted on Mr. Andro Cant's guds at the shoer,	0	13	4

Folowis the chargis and expensis maid upon the four pirattis, viz.—Andro Brown, Robert Laird, Johne Jackston, and Robt. Breull, quha wer execut within this burgh for the stealin of a ship of Danskin furth of the herbrie of Bruntiland in December, 1596:—

Item, for threteinne horsse to carie and convey the said four pirattis to Dunnotter,	8	13	4
Item, for our supper at our hame-cumming in Alex. Forbes' house,	4	0	0
Item, for makin a gallows to hing the said pirattis, and for garroun naillis and workmanship,	1	18	4
Item, for careing of the gallows to the block house, laying of gryt stones upon the brandering therof, and setting of it,	0	10	0
Item, to Johne Justice, for the execution of the said pirattis,	1	6	8

Item, the 23d day of May, 1597, gevin to Gilbert Bairnis, be vertew of ane ordinance of counsall for sustentatioun of the witches in praisin fra the 16th of Marche, 1596, to the 23d of May nixt, thairefter debursit be him upon their ordinar chargis,	£50 18 4
Item, to Alex. Reid, smythe, for twa pair of sheekills to the witches in the stepill,	1 12 0
Item, to Thomas Dickson, in recompence of his halbert broken at the execusion of the witches,	1 10 0
Item, to Johne Justice, for burning upon the cheik of four several persons suspect of withcraft, and banischet,	1 6 8
Item, gevin to Alex. Home, for maekin off joggis, stepills, and lockis to the witches during the hail tyme foirsaid,	2 6 8
Christian Mitchell, Bessie Thom, Isobell Barroun.	
Item, the 9th of March, 1596, for ane boll and a half of collis to burn the said witches,	1 10 0
Item, for threttie-five loads of peattis,	3 10 0
Item, for six tar barrellis,	2 0 0
Item, for tua win* barrellis,	0 8 0
Item, for a stalk, dressing and setting of it,	0 16 8
Item, for aucht fadime of towis,	0 8 0
Item, for careing of the coillis, peats, and barrellis,	0 8 0
Item, to Johne Justice, for his fie,	1 0 0
Item, the tent of Marche, bocht be the comptar, and laid in be him in the sellir in the chappel in the Castell Hill, ane chalder of collis, price thairof, with the bering and metting of the same,	16 4 0
The sowme of the hail chargis and expensis maid on the witches extendis to	£177 17 4
Item, to Mareone Cullen for wyne and meitt brocht to the Towbuthe to the provost, Commissaris, and Judges, sitting thair for pacefying of the trubill that fell out betuix the Kethis and Forbesis,	1 6 8
Item, to the post that brocht hame thrie lodes of quhyt breid fra Edinburght, Donde, and Brechin, to try the Baxteris with,	0 6 8
Item, to the warkmen for careing the mekill kist	
*Well dried.	

furth of the Sessione-House to the Counsell-Housse,	0	3	4
Item, for meitt and drink in Torrye to Nicol Manis' sone, being chargit nocht to cum to Aberdene for feir he had the plag, and to the ferry man,	0	2	0
Item, to ane boye that past throw this towne to proclaim abstinence fra flesche,	0	1	4
Item, for thrie burding of hedder to burne Margrette Burnett's hous with in the Greene, being suspect to be infeckit,	0	4	0
Item, for ane lawing to the auld Bailleis, at command of Williane Gray and Alex. Jaffray, Bailleis,	6	13	4
Item, for my horss hyr to Montrois, to spaik the myller and to desyr him to com heir and repair our wynd myll,	1	16	0
Item, the 22d December, for repairing the Grammer Schole, the thak thairof being blain aff.			
Item, for a tree to be lathe, and ane deale to be ane vindew,	1	3	4
Item, to Alex. Rollandis wyiff, for ane quart of wyne and ane breid, quhilk was careit to the Bow Brig at command of the Magistrats, at the gude nicht taking with sum strangeris of Edinburgh,	0	18	0
Item, to Mr. Alex. Forbes, for ane poesie presented to the Prowest on the praise of the towne,	13	6	8
Item, to Mr. Wm. Cargill, for sum poesie dedicat be him to the Counsell,	10	0	0
Item, given to the pyper when we raid the landemeris,	0	12	0
Item, to Mr. Wm. Cargill, to cause print certain verse in Latin in commendationne of my Lord Mercheall for erecking the new College in Aberdene, at the Counsellis' command,	3	0	0
Item, to his Majestes' footman, quha brocht ane letter to the Provost, Baillies, and Counsell,	1	10	0
Item, given to Patrik Walker, for the uptakin of the psalme in the new kirk, according to ane act of Counsell,	3	6	8
Item, be vertew of ane ordinance of Counsell, given to John Nicolsoune, for the mail of his new biggit hous at the burn heid takin in sett to be ane sang schole quhill Witsunday next, thairefter as the said act beirs,	12	0	0

Item, to twa strangers—the ane ane Grecian, the uther ane Caldean—remanent in this burgh, be the Counsall,	10	0	0
Item, for wyne spent at the ressaiving of umquhill Dr. Liddell's Books, quhilk were left be him to the New College of this burgh,	8	0	0
Item, for the wyne and pearis spent at the heiring and subscriyving of this compt,	8	4	0
Item, for a poynt of wyne, and the pertinents spent at the taching saising be the toune of Johnne Fraseris hous, in the Greyne, quhair the myd mylne is biggit,	1	4	0
Item, at command of the Magistrattis and Counsel, given to Mr. Robert Barron, for defraying of the chargis maid be him in printing of the sermon dedicat to the toun, when he wes Laureate Doctir in Dwinity, and to gratifie him in some measure for his dedicatioun,	66	13	4
Item, for wyne and spycerie spent in the Counsall-House, at the return of my Lord Marqueis of Huntlie from Londone, his ladye and children being present,	77	7	4
Item, spent in Elspet Cullen's the day of the ryding of the toun's land-marches,	11	16	0
Item, given to the Erles Marsheall and Montrose their sojourns, at command of the Magistrattis and adwyse of the whole toune, to saiff the toune from ploundering at that time,	6666	13	4
21st June,—Deburst to the Erie of Mersheall and Montrose sojourns, at command of the Baillies, and with adwyse of the whole toune, for saving the toune from ploundering at the intacking of the Brig of Dee,	4000	0	0
For wyne, pearies, beire, all, and tubacco, spendit at the elections of the Magistrattis and Counsall in Sept. 1650, fourtie-five pounds aughteen shillin.			
For wyne, tubacco, breid, pairis, and confections, at the makin of Sir Wm. Lokard, burgis,	17	14	0
The comptter dischargis himself off twenty-ane pounds twelf shillings and 4d. for wyne, beir, sill, pyps, and tubacco, peyit be order of the Magistrattis at the election, 1651.			
Item, for saillis to the wynd myln, and ane steel bruish thereto,	34	10	

Item, for dyochtyng of the Nederkirkgate, ...	£0	1	0
Item, for taking away of ane gryt mydding of red ¹ forgane ² the Grayfreirs on the hie gate,...	1	9	6
Item, gevin for a barrel of salmon, quhilik was sent to Master John Skene, clerk of register, be direction of the Provost, Baillies, and Counsall,	30	0	0
Item, for ane peck of salt to pickell the same,	6	6	8
Item, to my Lord Merschillis nureis quhen as the toune was invited to be his gossips, ane dubill angell,	12	13	4
Item, to James Anderson for making the calsay clean anent the Clerk's chamber, ...	1	4	0
Alexander Harthill, be order, for premiums to the bairnis,	2	8	0
For printeing off Dr. Dunnis book be order of Counsal, and for the paper thereof, ...	279	18	4

His Majesties chargis at his last being in Aberdene, payit be order as follows³ :—

Imprimis, to Patrik Murray, baxter,	80	0	0
To Patrik More, barbrie,	113	16	6
Alex. Johnstone, Glasser,	20	0	0
John Edmistoune,	8	0	0
Andro Wastone, flescher,	148	10	0
Alex. Ramsay for wyne,	21	9	0
Andrew Gray,	27	0	0
Thos. Cowie,	135	8	4
Jas. Robertson,	42	6	8
Gawin Mill,	12	10	0
John Ray,	23	4	0
David Young for sail,	35	10	0
Robt. Merser,	55	0	0
Coals and wood,	88	0	0

¹ The ooze in the bottom of a pool.

² Opposite.

³ Charles landed at speymouth on Monday the 4th July, 1650, and took up his abode in Bog of Gight, now Gordon Castle. He thence passed to Strathbogie, and, on Thursday the 7th, accompanied by his mistress, arrived in Aberdeen, where he was received with the greatest loyalty, though, says one of his attendants, "very few persons of quality were admitted to him, being most either malignants or engagers. He was lodged in a merchant's house, opposite to the Tolbooth, on which was affixed one of the hands of the most incomparable Montross." Charles, though he remained in the town little more than a day, was entertained at an expense of more than a thousand pounds Scots. His gallantries gave great offence to the stern Covenanters, and a Committee was appointed to rebuke the "Merry Monarch." Charles revisited the city on 26th February, 1651.—*Robertson's Book of Ben-Accord*.

Deane of Guild's compt,	£16	2	4
For carrying coalls and other necessaries to the			
Kingis houss,	6	12	0
Item, to Wm. Sheddeway for aplis and leekis,	13	6	8
To David Young for spiceries,	6	6	8
To aone of the Kingis servants,	4	0	0
— <i>Spalding Club Miscellany.</i>			

EXTRACTS FROM THE TOWN'S RECORDS.

BISHOP GAWIN DUNBAR, Bischoip of Aberdene, departitt the 16th day of Marche, 1531 yeirs.

John Ewyne, burgis of Aberdene, was convickyt of fals coynze, and hangyit, his heid cuttit frae his body, the 26th day of August, 1574 yeirs.

Maister Adam Heriott, fyrst minister of the trew word of God, departitt the 28th day of August, 1574 yeirs.

On Wednesday the 13th day of November, 1577 yeirs, was sene at ewin ane blaisin starn, quhilk staid in the wast, and continywat that nycht, to the gryt ademeratione of the pepill.

The kyngis graice comye to Dunnottar the 18th day of June, the yeir of God 1580 yeirs, and the fyrst time that I Walter Cullen, reder of Aberdene,* sehit his graice was the 20th of the said monett of June, 1580 yeirs, and that at the woid of Fetteresso, he beand at the huntis with sertaine of his lordis, and thairefter past to Dunnottar, fair I beheld his graice at supar, quhilk he paist to his chalmer.

Gilbert Menzes, prowest of Aberdene, departitt the 27th day of September, 1543 yeirs.

Johne Watson, belman of Aberdene, departitt the 13th day of August, 1575 yeirs.

Edward Reid, warkman in Aberdene, departitt the sext day of April, 1576 yeirs.

Johne Geiddy, sometyme ane gray freir in Aberdene, departitt the 20th day of November, 1575 yeirs.

Jannett Gardin, mydwife in Aberdene, departitt the 13th day of March 1575 yeirs.

Maister Theophelus Stuartt, maister of the gramer skwill of Ald Aberdene, departitt the 20th day of March, 1576 yeirs.

Maister John Fulsurd, sumtyme ane quhitt freir in Aberdene, and servant to Thomas Menzis, prowest, departitt the

* This register was kept by Walter Cullen, who was appointed reder of Aberdeen in 1570.

20th day of May, 1576 yeirs.

James Sawng, traiveler in Aberdene, departitt the saxt day of Julii, 1576 yeirs.

Wilyem Gordon, bischop of Aberdene, departitt the saxt day of Aguiust, 1577 yeirs,

John Cassie, pyper departitt in Aberdene the 27th day of Fabruar, 1582 yeirs.

Rechart Myll, hayngman in Aberdene, departitt the 18th of Fabruar, 1584.

Ane lipar boy in the Lipar Howiss of Aberdene, departitt the 18th day of Julii, 1589 yeirs.

Meggye Emsly, puir woman in Aberdene, departitt the 22d Fabruar, 1574 yeirs.

John Keyth of Claishriack was crwilly slain in Aberden, at the Justice Portt, by Wilyem Gordone of Genycht, the 2d day of December, 1587 yeirs.

Alexander Menzes, yowngar son to Gilbert Menzes, prowest of Aberdene, was slaine by Wilyem Forbes of Portlethen, at the Loich of Loirston, and departitt the 16th day of May, 1580 yeirs.

Lowrane Innes, pwir skollir in Aberdene, departit the 23d day of October, 1581 yeirs.

Maister Alexander Arbuthnoitt, prinsepel of the College of Aberdene, and person of Loge, departitt the 16th day of October, 1583 yeirs, and was burrit in the pariss kirk of Aberdene afor the pulpit.

John Wschartt, cordinar, departit the 18th day of Merche, 1588 yeirs, quha was slayne be James Paterson, hangman of Aberdene, and the said James hangyt and his heid set on the Portt thairfor.

The 16th day of April, 1590 yeirs, the schip of Aberdene callit the colas, departitt of the roid of Aberden furnoist be the town to pas to Denmark for convoy of the kyngis grace hame to Scotland, Alexander Forbes, bailye and commissianar for the tyme, and David Endiache in his compane, with 20 merrenaris, furnist with artalare and oder nesesaris.

The lard of Meldrum quha was slayne be the Maister of Forbes in the prowestis howiss in Aberdene, departit the penult day of Januar, 1526 yeris.

Gilbert Menzis prowest of Aberdene's howiss towik fyir and breint the 24th day of Aguiust, 1529 yeris.

Wilyem Straiguhen, stabeler in Aberdene, sittan in his howiss the lowift fell on him and felt him, and he departit the 12th day of Anguist, 1578 yeris.

Walter Innes, serwand to the lard of Glenkindy, was slayne

in Aberdene be ane John Jaik and his bruder callit James Jaik, dwellan in Buchan, and deitt in Aberdene the 8th day of July, 1582.

Alexander Setton, young lard of Meldrum, was slayne be William Kyng of Barrack, and his bruder David Kyng and his complexis, at Barrack the 20th day of Agnist, 1590 yeris.

Alexander Keyth of Ochorsk was slayne in Aberdene be the gudeman of Babithan, John Chalmers, and departit the 7th day of June, 1584 yeris.

James Philip, sumytime marenar in Aberdene, was slayne be David Robertson, tailowyr in Aberden, and departit the 3d day of Agnist, 1584 yeris.

Alexander Innes, lard of Crome, was slayne in Martin Howesome's howis be the lard of Invermarky, the 13th of April, 1580 yeris.

The twente-saxt day of April, 1572 yeris, Maister Robert Gordone, bruder to my Lord Huntly, was schoytt with ane dayg in the heid be Willeim Gordone of Letterfure, and that in James Gordon's pleise of Creyen.

Adam Donaldson, a sawister, was conwikit be ane assyse for the slauchter of John Tawis, and was heidit the 25th day of May, 1577 yeris.

William Gill, son to Matthew Gwill, armorar in Aberdene, was slayne be John Leslie, son to James Leslie, burgis of Aberdene, and departitt the 12th day of November, 1584 yeris.

—*Spalding Club Miscellany.*

TRIALS FOR WITCHCRAFT.

It appears, from the records of the Dean of Guild, that in one year no less than twenty-three women and one man were burned in Aberdeen for their supposed share in witchcraft. The public curiosity seems to have grown with the increased frequency of these exhibitions, as one of the items of the expense in the execution of Margaret Clerk or Bean is "for caring of four sparris to withstand the press of the people, quhairf there was tua broken."

On the 21st September, 1597, the Provost, Baillies, and Council, considering the faithfulness shown by William Dunn, the Dean of Guild, in the discharge of his duty, "and besides this, his extraordinarie takin panis in the burning of the gryt numer of the witches brunt this yeir, and on the four pirattis,

and bigging of the port on the brig of Dee, repairing of the grey freris kirk and stepill thair of, and theirby hes bene abstractit fra hes tred of merchandise continewallie sin he wes electit in the said office. Theirfor, in recompens of his extraordinarie panis, and in satisfaction their of (not to induce any preparative to Deanes of Guild to crave a recompence heirafter), but to incurage ithers to travel also diligentie in the discharge of thair office, grantit and assignit to him the sum of £47 3s. 4d. owin be him of the rest of his account of the unlawis of the persones convict for slaying of black fische, and dischargit him their of be their presentis for ever."

DITTAY AGAINST THOMAS LEYIS FOR WITCHCRAFT.

Follows the particular dittay and accusation gevin in aganis Thomas Leyis sone to John Leyis, stabler, for his beinge ane commoun witch and sorcerar, using the tred and craft thair of be persuasin of the Dewill, as followis:—

Imprimis, upon Hallowein last bypast, at twelff houris at even or thairby, thow the said Thomas Leyis, accompaneit with umquhil Janett Wischert, Isobel Coker, Isobell Monteithe, Kathren Mitchell, relict of umquhill Charles Dun, litster, sorceraris and witches, with ane gryt number of ither witches, cam to the mercat and fish cross of Aberdene, under the conduct and gyding of the dewill, present with you all in company, playing before you on his kynd of instruments. Ye all dansit about baythe the said crosse and the meill mercate ane lang space of tym; in the quhilk dewill's dans thow, the said Thomas, was foremost and led the ring, and dang the said Kathren Mitchell, because she spoilt your dans, and ran nocht sa fast about as the rest. Testifeit be the said Kathren Mitchell, quha was present with thee at the tym foresaid, dansin with the dewill.

The court of Justiciarie haulden in the tolbeith of Aberdene, the 23d of Feb., 1596, be Alexander Rutherford, provost; Alexander Cullen and Alexander Jaffray, baillies; justices in that part lafullie constitutit to the effect underwritten. The court lafullie fensit and affirmit; *nomina assis*—Thomas Finnie; William Thomson; Robert Stewart; James Stewart, elder; William Marr, elder; William Skene; Robert Donaldson; Alexander Thomson, mariner; John Ferguson, elder; Patrick Moresoun; Edward Donaldson; Patrick Hunter; David Castell; John Robertson, flescher; Gilbert Mackie, staibler Duncan Donaldson; Patrick Donaldson; John Robertson, elder; Thomas Douglas; John Firtrie; and Alexander Ewyn.

The said Thomas Leyis, son to John Leyis, stabler in Aberdeen, was accusit as a common notorious witch, in using of witchcraft and sorcerie these dyvers years bygone, as at gryt lenth is contenit in his dittay; quhilk, being denyit be the said Thomas, was referrit to the knaledge of the assis above written, chosn, sworn, and admittit.

James Stewart chosen chancellor.

The hail assis, in ane voco for the maist pairt (except thrie—to wit, Thomas Douglas, Patrick Hunter, and Wm. Marr), be the mouth of James Stewart, chancellor, convicts and fyllis Thomas Leyis in the first poynt, that he was the ringleader of the dance on Hallowein last about the croce, and in either speciall poynts, and as a notorious witch be oppen voce and common fame.

The following statement, extracted from the Town's accounts, shows the expenses* incurred in burning the above-named individuals—

THOMAS LEYS.

Item, the 23d Feb., 1597, for peattis, tar barrellis, fir, and coallis, to burn the said Thomas, and to Jon Justice for his fie in executing him,	£2 13 4
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JANET WISCHEET AND ISOBEL COCKER.

Item, for twenty loads of peattis to burn them,	£2 0 0
Item, for ane boll of coallis,	1 4 0
Item, for four tar barrellis,	1 6 8
Item, for fir and win* barrellis,	0 16 8
Item, for a staik, and dressing of it,	0 16 0
Item, for four fadomes of towis,	4 0 0
Item, for carsing the peattis, coallis, and barrellis to the hill	0 13 4
Item, to Jon Justice for their execution,	0 13 4
Item, for tralling Monteithe through the streits of the toun in ane cart, quha hangit herself in prison, and eirding (burying) of her,	0 10 0

6th January, 1603.

The quhilk day, anent the desyre of the Marques of Huntlie

* Well dried.

desyring the Presbyterie to tak tryell of the
 sultares with them, and to send to his Lordsh
 with the names of sic as were maist meitt to p
 assyse and tryell of them. The Presbyterie, for ob
 to, ordanit every minister within their precinct to
 till and privie inquisition therein—vis., ilk minister,
 his elderis that fearis God and are maist zealous of his
 ilk particular kirk respectie, tak the aithes of the inh
 within their charge, quhat they know of witches and con
 with them, and wreitt their depositions, and return the sa
 the Presbyterie, with the names of sic as are metest to be a
 scours to them, that the same may be sent to the Marques w
 all hastie expedition, conform to the desyre of his Lordship.
 lettre, and his Lordship may charge them.

Of these trials a very ingenious use has been made by Charles Knight in his life of Shakspeare, and in the chapter which he has devoted to the inquiry, "Did Shakspeare visit Scotland? The conclusion there arrived at is that Shakspeare probably formed one of "the King's servantis quha playis come-deis and staige playis," and who visited Aberdeen in October, 1601; that the story of Macbeth might have been suggested to him upon Scottish ground; that the accuracy displayed in the local descriptions and allusions might have been derived from a rapid personal observation, and that some of the peculiarities of his witchcraft imagery might have been formed in Scottish superstitions, and more especially those which must have been rife at Aberdeen at the period when the trials in question took place, a few years previous to the period of Shakspeare's supposed visit.—*Spalding Club Miscellany and Records of the Presbytery of Aberdeen.*

ABERDEEN DEAN OF GUILD ACCOUNTS.

THE original record, from which we give these extracts, is unique. It is composed of a number of sheets of foolscap size, on which letters had been written to several of the Aberdeen Magistrates.

Paper having been scarce and dear, the worthy Deans of Guild, as a point of economy, folded these letters so that the blank parts of the paper could be made available for an account-book of the Guildry Funds—charge and discharge—on separate pages, ruled for money entries.

The compt off ye deantie of gild off aberdein, from michaelmas 1626, to michaelmas 1627—George Rickert, dean of gild for ye tyme:—

Discharge and Exoneratio.

Item—at ye saluting of doctor forbes at his home-cuming,	24	14	0
Item—gevin for sustening a poor bodie in ye hall,	0	6	0
Item—peyit for ane commission anent ye witches,	6	13	4
For a barrow to carie ye cripple witches,	0	6	0
To Robt. buchan for ye twa drums broght out of England be him,	62	14	6
To Mr. Alex. forbes for ane poesie presentit to ye provest on ye praise of aberdein,	13	6	8
To ane pair frenchman,	13	6	8
Wyne and spicerie to ye erle Enzie,	7	16	0
Spent wt Mr. brys, Englishman,	9	6	8
to Alex. ramsy debursit be him for interteining ye witches,	142	3	4
To Mr. andro clerk for his pains in wrytting ye dittays on ye witches, and sitting as clerk in ye commission,	6	13	4
To Mr. Wm. Cargill for some poesie, dedicat be him to ye counsell,	10	0	0
a curtesie to my lord marischall,	13	5	8
a curtesie to my lord Erskyne,	13	5	4
wyne to ye bischop Murray,	5	2	0
To ye piper,	0	12	0
To ane man distressit,	3	6	8
10 quarters reid karsey to drummer	5	16	8
ribbons and macking,	1	6	0
<hr/>			
Charge of ye gild box silver of aberdein frae michaelmas 1626 to michaelmas 1627: George Rickart, dean of gild;—			
From george morisone, frilie gevin be himself efter a voyage,	20	0	0
mair—fra alex. Dodson after his return fra his flanders voyage,	10	0	0
mair— from Mr. matho Lumsden efter his returne from his English voyage,	13	6	8
mair— from Mr. rob farquhar geven be him at his returne from germanie,	20	0	0
* * * * *			

The Compt of the deanrie of gild of abdn., fra
michaelmas 1629 to michaelmes 1630—Mr. rob-
ert farquhar being dean of gild, conteining
charge and discharge as follows:—

Curtessie to ye Erle Murray and his ladye,	... £13	4	0
At ye macking Montrois burges,	24	12 0
ane lock to ye Joggis,	0	4 0
for paidling and dichting clarkis chalmer,	0	2 8
workmen helping Jon Davidson at buriall of Drum,	2	15 8
To Scurgie for burying Hardie ye wiche,	1	4 0
for towis to harle her throw ye towne,	0	6 0
To the post for the newis of prince, his birth,	4	0 0
2 quarters wyne at ye croce to ye youthes,	1	12 0
To george paton for heilling wiseman's head,	6	13 4

—*Aberdeen Journal.*

EXTRACTS FROM FASTI ABERDONENSES.

ACCOUNTS KEPT BY PRINCIPAL ROW OF KING'S COLLEGE, OLD
ABERDEEN, FROM 1652 TO 1661.

Item, for divets, strae, and thecking to the kitchen,	£11	0	0
For fourteen books to the Bibliothek, bought at London by Dr. More,	66	14 0
For six loads of peatts to W. S.,	1	0 0
Twelve loads to W. S.,	2	0 0
For watching the coalls, waiting on them 'twixt the touns, and careing them up,	0	12 0
To manie several distressed persons asking collec- tions,	8	19 8
To a silver spoon,	5	9 6
Twelve thrave of strae for thecking of laigh houses, belonging to the medicinar and chaplaine's chambers,	3	12 0
To Gilbert Dennis to meet with other three masons to appryse the stons of the fort in the New Town,	1	1 0
To a boy for twyse under night going betwixt the touns about the 400 merks converted,	0	6 0
To Smith Forsy for mending the saills of the knock,	1	10 0
For cleaning the kitchen lum and the master's lum,	1	7 4
To mending the tongue of the great bell,	0	6 0

Eight fathoms of towes to the great bell, ...	£1	0	0
Item, when the rector came here first and was received, for wyn, suggar, bear, tobacco, ...	1	13	0
Item, for a pint of March aill and tobacco, the B. of Rosse being in the Colledge, ...	0	6	8
Item, for a key to the studie at my door, the first being carried away by Simon M'Kenzie, ...	0	3	4
Item, to Elspet Lumsden for a compt when the Earl of Kaithness was in the colledge, for wyn, suggar, bear, &c., ...	0	5	4
To Forsyth for righting the knock, ...	0	5	0
Spent with some colledge friends of the Synod, ...	0	6	0
A courtesie to the New Town Ministers and Masters, ...	0	5	0
To Smith Forsyth for ordering and rectifying the little bells, ...	0	18	0
For twelve fathoms of towes to the little musical bells, ...	0	18	0
To Sir Anthony Cleveland, starving through want, ...	0	12	0
Item, when the Earl of Mar was in the colledge for seck, French wyn, bear, tobacco, pyps, bred, &c. ...	11	3	0
Item, when the bishop came first to the colledge, ...	1	7	0
Item, at the first sederunt of the visitation, for seck, French wyn, bred, tobacco, pyps, candle, ...	5	6	0
Item, when the B. lady, sons, and daughters, came first to the colledge, for seck, suggar, and aill, ...	2	8	0
Item, one afternoon, at a sederunt amongst ourselves, for bear, &c., ...	0	8	0
Item, for aill at a meeting amongst ourselves, ...	0	4	0
Item, at agreement betwixt the New Town scollars and ours, for wyn, suggar, aill, tobacco, and pyps, ...	3	9	0
Item, for seck, French wyn, suggar, tobacco, and pyps, when my Lord Torpichen was in the colledge, ...	4	11	6
Item, for drink to ourselves at a meeting, ...	0	4	0
Item, when Mr. Alex. Cant's wife came with her son to the colledge, ...	0	9	0
For washing with glewed lym, shell lym, som rooms in the humanists mans, and for setting the chimney with lym, and for colouring grey the chimney, ...	2	8	0
A courtesie to Col. Charles Fairfax and his officers, ...	8	2	0

At the King's Colledge, 14th February, 1685.

The sad newes having come of the death of his Sacred Majesty Charles the Second of blessed memorie, and of the Proclamation of our present Gracious Sovereign James the Seventh, it was appointed by the Principal and Masters that, morrow being Sunday, the public gates of the Colledge should be all coloured black, and the Colledge loft in the Church should be all covered with black cloth, in testimony of our sorrow and mourning for the death of our dear and Gracious Sovereign; as also that, on Monday, there should be no lessons, but public expressions of our joy and thanks for the Proclamation of our present Gracious King by ringing of bells, bonfires, and other usual solemnities in such cases; all which was done accordingly.

*At the King's Colledge, 2d September, 1700, convened the
Principal and remanent Masters.*

Monr. Gelly, a French founder, made the following propositions for recasting the bells of the steeple:—*1st*, That the Colledge, upon their proper charges, shall break down the said bells and delyver to him the metall. *2d*, The said Mr. Gelly engages out of two parts of the said metall to cast for the Colledge use five or six good and sufficient musical bells according to the proportions and dimensions that he shall give in to the Masters before breaking down of the said bells. *3d*, For his own proper charges and expenses, he demands the remaining third part of the metall, for which he engageth to be at the whole charge and expense of founding, and to deliver back to the Masters of the said Colledge a good and sufficient chime or peal of five or six musical bells; and if, when they are finished, they be not sufficient or do not answer, then is he to ask nothing for his pains. *4th*, He requires that the Masters should furnish him, upon their own expenses, a convenient house wherein he may found these said bells; which proposals being ripely advised and considered by the Masters, and they having sufficient information of the said Mr. Gelly, his capacity and skill in this art, and that it were not possible to get the said bells recasten so easily elsewhere, it was unanimously resolved that, for a tryall, the two bells hinging next to the eight hour bell be broken, and that out of them he be allowed to cast one, and that as quickly as may be; and, if this answer our expectation, then may we proceed to the terms foregoing by piecemeal to break down the rest, and give the said Mr. Gelly suitable encouragement.

8th September, 1701.

Mr. George Cheyne allowed to be graduate doctor in medicine, because he is not only our own countryman, and at present not rich, but is recommended by the ablest and most learned physicians in Edinburgh as one of the best mathematicians in Europe; and for his skill in medicine he hath given a sufficient indication of that by his learned tractat *de febribus*, which hath made him famous abroad as well as at home; and he being just now going to England upon invitation of some of the members of the Royal Society.

3d August, 1702.

Representation being made of the damage which Baillie Knight's house had sustained by founding the bells in it, it was unanimously agreed that the Colledge give twenty merks to Mr. Gelly, the founder for repairing the said damages.

23d October, 1738.

It being represented to the University that the want of an accomplished gentlewoman for teaching white and coloured seam was an occasion of several gentleman's sons being kept from the Colledge, the parents having to send them where they might have suitable education for their daughters also; and that one Mrs. Cuthbert, now residing in this town, had given sufficient proof of her capacity and diligence, the University judged it reasonable to advance her twelve pounds Scots out of the revenue belonging to the Colledge for the ensuing year,

EXTRACTS FROM A HOUSEHOLD BOOK OF THE
FAMILY OF ERROL, KEPT FROM THE YEAR 1650 TO
1660.

THE following extract contains an account of the Earl of Errol's expenditure upon his way to Scoone, where he was to officiate as Lord High Constable at the Coronation of King Charles the Second:—

Dischaing beginning the 24th Dec. 1650.

Dec. 24.—Item, for a grit bitt to yur Lo: pownie, at £0 13 4

	Item to Jas. Morrison, Cordiner, at Peterhead, for a pair of blak walking boots to yur Lordship ...	£12	0	0
	Item, to him for a pair of shoes to your Lo: at ...	3	0	0
	Item to his son in drink-money, ...	0	18	0
Dec. 25.—	To William Fraser in Kintore for supper and breakfast, and for corne and stra one night, according to his bill,	10	6	4
	Item, to his servants, ...	0	18	0
Dec. 27.—	Item, given to my Lord Fraser's servants, at Muchalls, your Lo: being there one night, ...	8	5	0
	Item, to the stable groom there, ...	1	10	0
	Item to Kinmundie's man when he brought his masters horse to your Lo: ...	0	12	0
	Item for supper and breakfast at Fettercarne, in Harie Balfouris, ...	7	0	0
	Item for corne and stra for 7 horse one night there, ...	5	4	0
	Item, to the servants in drink-money, ...	0	18	0
Dec. 29.—	Item to the kirk box at Forfar, ...	0	12	0
	Item, to the beddal there, ...	0	12	0
	Item, to the poor there, ...	0	6	0
Dec. 30.—	Item, to the servants at Brighton, your Lo: being there two nights, ...	5	8	0
	Item, for aill at Forfar between sermons, ...	0	10	0
	Item, for fraught of horse and men at Perth, ...	1	4	0
	Item, to a pint of aill to James M'Kinge, that was sent before, ...	0	2	0
	Item, for 8 whyte battons to your Lo: and friends at the coronacioun, ...	5	8	0
	Item, that day for fraught of horse and men to Scoone and from it, ...	0	18	0
	Item, for seck, sugar and aill, in your Lo: chamber the first night, ...	1	6	0
1651.				
Jan. 2.—	Item, given to his Majestie's footmen, ...	8	14	0
	Item, to 5 of his Majestie's trumpeters, ...	12	0	0
	Item, to his Majestie's Coachman, ...	2	18	0
	Item, to blind Edward the songster, ...	0	12	0
Jan. 5.—	Item, to the poor, ...	0	6	0
Jan. 7.—	Item to a poor boy, ...	0	2	0

	Item, for bread and aill the night that Roxb: and Erskin suppit with your Lo:	£1	6	0
	Item, for fleshes frae Effie Murray's that night, conform to her bill, ...	9	12	0
	Item to John Mackrath, barber, for trimming your Lo: 3 times at Perth, ...	6	8	0
Jan. 13.—	Item to the man that helpit on with your Lo: robes at Perth and Scoone, ...	0	12	0
	Item, to Androw Kid, Merchand at Perth, according to his subjoinct accompts, ...	552	0	0
	Item to the kirk box at Perth, ...	0	12	0
	Item, to Peter Littlejohn, taylour, conferz to his accompt at Perth, ...	55	1	0
	Item, to him to pay Walter Younge, for ane gold hat-band, wying twa uns and 10 drops, at 10 pound the uns gude,	27	10	0
	Item, to your Lo: dyet for several times at Effie Murray's and David Jack's, paid by Alex. Hay,	10	18	0
	Item to a Minstrel at Effie Murray's, at your Lo: direction,	1	4	0
	Item, to the poor that day,	0	7	0
	Item for bread and drink at your Lo: collacioun, ane morning the time your Lo: was at Perth,	2	7	4
	Item, given at your Lo: direction to Edward the fooll,	2	18	0
	Item, to a blind man at Brighton,	0	6	0
	Item, to the poor at Forfar,	0	6	0
Jan. 16.—	Item, for supper and breakfast at Brechin,	7	6	0
	Item, in drink-money to the servants,	1	4	0
	Item, to a boy for his help at brig of Leipie	0	3	4
Jan. 17.—	Item, for supper, breakfast, and seck, at Drum Leithie ane night,	12	16	0
	Item, for corne and stra to 7 horse there,	4	8	0
	Item, for a shoe to the black pownie,	0	5	0
	Item, to the servants there,	0	18	0
	Item, to the poor there,	0	6	0
	Item, for supper and breakfast at Susanna Hayes,	11	2	0
	Item, to the servants there	1	4	0
	Item, to the poor at Foveran,	0	6	0
	Item, to Robert Hay, boatman,	0	12	0

Jan. 19.—Item, to the kirk box at Cruden, ...	£0 12 0
Jan. 20.—Item, to a post with a Letter to Crimomogate,	0 6 0
Jan. 22.—Item, to Kimmundie's man when he took back his master's horse your Lo: had south,	1 10 0

—*Aberdeen Chronicle*, 1806.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COUNCIL REGISTER OF THE
BURGH OF ABERDEEN.

13th December, 1444.

It is ordanit and statute for the commoune gude and quiet of this toune, and for stancheing of trespassours and rebellours agayne the law, that all the indwellaris and inhabitantes of this burgh sall assist to the alderman and officiaris of this burgh to manteigne the law and punyce trespassouris but fauour; and quhasa dois the contrair sall be haldin rebell agayne the toune, and that the gudemen of the toun sal write to the King vnder the commoune seell to be punyst be him, and all sic rebellours sal be excludit fra al takes, profites, office, and worschip of this toun.

21st Aprile, 1452.

The xxi dai of Aprile, the yher of Grace j^m iij^c fiftee and twa, the maste parte of the hale communitie of this burgh delirerit and consentit all with ane assent, that, because of perile apperand, the toune salbe stryngthnit and fortifiit with walles and strynthes in all gudeli haste; and, because this may nought be devisit and done with mony persounes, the aldermane sall chese certane weel set persounes to passe with him aboute the toune, and devise quhat maner of stryngthning sal be made, and in quhat places, and how the coste salbe tane and made. And quhatsumeuer thing the forsaides persounes devises, ordanis, and does, ther sal naman contrar agayne call na agaynstand, vndir pane that thai sall demaryt as brekaris of commoune ordinance without remysioune, and the alderman, in presence of the sam-myn communitie, hes chosin to pass with him thir persounes vndirwrittin, that is to say, the dene of the gilde Duncane of Clat, John Scrogs the son, Richard Kyntor, John Howison, and Wat Giffard, with otheris werkman, quhilkis plesis them to haue with thaim.

14th July, 1463. .

The xiiij day of Julij, the yer lxiii, it is ordanyit be the altherman and the consaile that Dauy Patrikson, burges of the saide burgh, for the rebellione done be him to the altherman, fyrst, that he sall ramayne in the tolbutth on to the morne, at the wil of the altherman and the consaile; and thar efter, on the Sonday next to cum, the saide Dauy sall cum bar fute, with his gowne louse, and a candill of a punde of wax in his hande, to Saint Nicholace kirk in the tyme of the hee messe, and offir that candill thar to the altar, and aske the altherman and his consaile forgifnes, for the luf of God, and neur to do sic thyng again; and syne thar efter the said Dauy, fra that day furth, sal gyf oukly for the hale yeir, a pynt of wyne to the kirke for his said rebellione, and to the fulfilling of this, the saide Dauy is oblist and sworne, be the fath of his body, in presens of the altherman and his consaile.

18th July, 1463.

[Letter to the Earl of Huntly and others, excusing the Town from joining them.]

Hee and myghty lordis, I recomwande me humbly on to your lordschippis with all humilytie and seruice. Pleyse your lordschippis to wit, that I hafe ressauyt certan credens of youris, be your skwyar Alex. of Lesly, chargeand me and the tone to be at you this Monunday at evine at the Cabbrach. My lordis, I hafe callit the nichburis of our tone and schawin thaim your credens, the quhilk nichburis ar wele set at all thair gudely poweris to pleyse your lordschippis with thair seruice, in alsfer as thai may, beseeking your lordschippis ye will nocht be displeysit that thai may nocht come to this hasty tryst, efter his credens, for in gud fathe, we hafe na hors, na may get none to cum, because of the warnyng of the cuntre of gentilmen, to cum to your lordschippis at this tryst. And forthir, my lordis, we ar chargit be oure souerane lord to kepe oure toune, for he is sickerly informyt of a flot of Inglisemen to cum for the destruction of our tone, and of vtheris within this realme, for the quhilkis we beseke yow to hafe us excusit, as our great traist is in your singular lordschippis, the quhilkis Allmichty God conserue at your hee and myhty nobill hartis desairis. Writtyn, vnder my signet, at Aberdon, this last Monunday the xviii day of July.

27th February, 1471.

The penult day of Februar, the yer of God lxxi, because that the office of belmanschip of this burgh was vacand, the alderman

gerd Johne Sclater pas with the bel throu the towne, to charge the comunitie to cum to the tolbuthe, for the chesing of a belman that war maist habit and profitable for the towne. And with the consent of the alderman, balzeis, consail, and comunitie of the towne that war present in the tyme efter the passing of the bel, Androw Murray, masowne, com in presence of thaim al and profferit to gif for that office of belmanschip, for his tyme, yerly, to the common proffite of the towne, fyve markis, and to do all vthir deuteis and service to the towne that ony vthir belman did of before; the alderman in the tyme inquirand gif ony vthir man wald gif mare, and fand na man that wald gif samekil. And furthwith, that beand done, the alderman, in the name of the towne and of the communitie, deliuerit til the said Andro the bel, and chesit him for all the daies of his life common belman, with consent of the ballyeis, consale, and communitie, beand present for the tyme, as said is. Heratour, the said Andro is oblist to byde and to remayn at Sanct Nicholace wark, and al vthir common warkis, for his tyme, for sicklike fee as he may haif in vthir places.

30th May, 1476.

James, be the grace of God king of Scottis, til the alderman, balzeis, consale, and communitie of our burgh of Aberdene, greeting: Forsamekil as our derest bruthir, Johne Earle of Marr, reparis and residis diuerse tymes quietly in oure said burgh of Aberdene, oure wil is, and we exhort and praise you, and also straitlie commandis and chargis that, in al tymes tocum, ye assist to our said bruthir, and, for the souerite and keeping of his person, ye redely rise with him quhat tyme he chargis you, in the actionis and querrellis that he happenis to haue ado within our said burgh, for we haue gevin him speciale charge and command to supple and defend you in oure absence agane ony persons that wald oppress or iniure you in ony wise. And this on na wise ye leue vndone, as ye wil haue singulare thank of ws, and vndir al paine and charge that efter may follow. Geuin vnder our priuie seil, at Edinburgh the xix day of Aprile, and of our regne the xvi yer. James R.

15th September, 1477.

Item, the same day, it is ordanit and decretitit be the alderman and consale, for the wphalding of diuine seruise, daily to be made in the qweyr and kirk of Aberden, that Wilyam Yong, one of the clerkis, sal haue the quarter of the Galowgate til his fee for this instant, and Richard Boyl the quarter of the Castelgate, and quhilk of the said quarteris is better than vther to be made

... be the ayult, of the alderman and consale, and Adam Strach, the Schipraw, with the Grene, and Andro Ettale, the ferd clerc, sal hafe the Gaistraw, with the Sculehil.

4th May, 1484.

The 4th day of May, anno 1484, Maistre Johne Gray, mason, was resaut be the alderman, baillies, consale, and communitie of the burgh of Aberdene, in maistre of wark, to the bigging of Sanct Neolace wark, quhilk has takin upon him to be continuale labourand and diligent for the vbringing of the said wark, and to do al car concerning the said wark that accordis til a maister of wark, baith in labouring of his awyn persoun, devysing, be seyng and ourseyng of vtheris masons and warkmen that sal be vnder him, for al the dais of his lif, to the finale completing and ending of the said wark, at al his possibilitie and power, the best wyse that he can. For ye quhilkis thingis to be done he has, in presence of the baillies, counsale, and communitie forsaidis, gevin the great bodely aith, to be lele and trew to the said wark for all the dais of his life, vnto the completing and ending of the same. And the said master of wark sal labour him self, and ger vtheris masons and warkmen vndar him labour daily and continually, efter the act of parliament thairupon. For the quhilkis labouris and seruice, to be done be the said Maister of wark, the saidis alderman, baillies, counsale, and communitie, has promittit to gif yerly to the said maister of wark, for his fie, twenty pundis and five merkis, til a propyne in al costage endurand all the dais that he has to lif, quhil the said wark be complete. And the day of his entra to the said wark the day of this present write. And this said some of £23 16s. 8d. yerly, to be pait til him at four termes in the yere, proporcionaly, as thai and he sal accord best thairupon.

1st February, 1484.

The first dai of Februar, the yer of God 1484, it is ordanit and decretit be the alderman and counsale, that the talyeours and al utheris craftismen within the toune, sal, in tyme to cum, beyr thare takynis of thare craft apon thare beristis, and thare best aray on Canddilmes day at the Offerand; and quha that contervinis, and dois nocht, sal tyne thare fredum for a yer.

31st May, 1488

The samyne day, the aldirman and consale forsaid, with advise of the curat and collectour, ande part of the communitie, ande vtheris chaplannis, for the vphauldin ande augmentatione of devyne seruice in the queir of Abirdene, hes gevin and

grauntit to Sandy Vocat the prayour bell, with alle fredomes, comoditeis, asiamentis, profitis, ande deviteis, aacht and wont. The said Alexander ryngand the said bel daily, at the houris of twelf at noone and sex at evyne, as vse is, for al Cristyne saulis, ande doing servise in the queir at his gudly possibilitie.

16th June, 1490.

The said day, it was deliuerit be a sworne assise, David Mar forspekar, that Christane Lilburne sall cum in presence of the alderman, balyeis, and the hale court, and on her kneis ask Schir Johne Streweling forgifnes for the strublande of him vnder silence of nycht, openly glammerand him, saiaud scho said ger banys the said Schir John out of this toune, quhilk the said Schir Johne wald nocht half sastenit for j^c crounis, and atour for part of assithment of the said blasfemmy, the said Cristian sall cum on Sunday nixt to the his altar in Sanct Nicholes kirk, and proffer j lib. of wax in hir hand to the said Schir Jehne, at his mestim, in presons of the hail pepill, at the will of the said Schir John; and atour gif the said Cristian beis convictit in tim to cum for strublande of the said Schir Johne, or of ony vtheris famous personis, the said Cristian sall pay to Sanct Nicholes warkis x merkis, at the will of the alderman, and the counsaile of the toune, and of the party, the said x mercis vnforgiffin, to-gidder with ane sufficient amendis till the party.

3d February, 1496.

The saide day, it was deliuerit be the alderman and consale present for the tyme, for the gret offense committit be Williame Belty agains Thomas Waus, that the said William sall offir and present his crag to the goyf, and his knyf in his hand, thar to stand at the wil of the said Thomas; and atour the said William salcum one Sunday that next comis, in the tyme of hie messe, in lynning claithis, bare lege, fute, and hede, with ane louse govne, and j candill of ane pond of wax in his hande, and his dravn knyf in his tother hand, offering the candill to haly kirk, and the knyf to the said Thomas, in takin of repentance of the said offence, asking the said Thomas and his frendis on his kneyes forgyvnes; and atour the said William sall pay half ane stane of wax to the haly blud licht; and atour, gyf euer the said Williame committis any offense or strubulance to the said Thomas, or ony vtheris famouse personis in tym to cum, and beis conuikit thairintill, he sall pay tene pundis to Sanct Nicholes wark vnforgevin; and to the fulfilling and keping of the deliuerance, the saide Williame and Thomas was oblist be the *faithis of thar bodies thar hands vphaldin.*

7th June, 1497.

The saide day, William Stray, litster, Thomas Robertsons, Johne Munk, Johne Litstar, Andro Murray elder, and for him David Murray, Robert Themdsale, and Edward Top, ilk ane of thame in ane amerciament of the court, because thai failzeit in the waching of the tone be thaim and thar seruandis, efter the tenour of the ak maid thairapone abefor, for the quhilkis ilkane of the saide persones sale pay to the halie blud licht j lib. of wax; Androw Murray, d. stane, and Johne Litstar, his mache ij. lib.; and that thai pay the wax or thai pass out of the tol-buith, and ijs ilkan persone to the balzeis for their wnlaw, and thar seruandis to be put in the goif, thar to reman quhile vij houris efter noone, and nocht to be lousit out of the goif quhile the said hour, for nay request.

4th July, 1497.

The saide day, it was statut and ordanit, gif the Inglismen propose to lande one the northt partis of the havyne, that al manere of men, with thar cartis of weir, with horsis, gunrye, artailserie, and ail vther defensabile wapinnis, be redy, and pass to resist thame for the saiftie of our cathedral kirk, my lord of Aberdenis palace, aur maisteris the chanonis, and ther familiaris and habitaciones.

14th July, 1497.

The saide day, it was statut and ordanit be the alderman and consale that the balzeis sal wairne the wache nychtlie, as thai wile ansner to the kinge and the toune; and the seriandis to be redy at thair commavnde. And Thomas Leslie sal warne the wache the first v nycht, Robert Culane the secunde v nychtis, Andro Culan the third v nychtis, and Thomas Fyf the last v nychtis. And that ale the saide personis sall waik personalie, and put nay man to waik for thame, vndir the panys contentit in our soueran lordis letteris directit thairapone, that is to say. of tynsel land, lyae, and gudis.

The xiiij day of July, the yer forsaide, it was statut and ordanit be the alderman and consale, for the sayfty of the toune, that thir peronis vndir writtin sal be hedes of the wache, in the first the xij nycht of July:

The alderman, the xij nycht of July.
Alexr. Menzes, the xiiij nycht.
Robert Blinsel, the xv nycht.
Alexr. Chamer, the xvj nycht.

David Menzeis, the xvij nycht.
 Alexr. Rede, the xvij nycht.
 Thomas Prat, the xix nycht.
 Ionhne of Culan, the xx nycht.
 Iohne Colisone, the xxi nycht.
 Iohne Wormet, the xxij nycht.
 Iohne Knollis, the xxij nycht.
 Andro Murray elder, the xxiiij nycht.
 Alexr. Gray, the xxv nycht.
 William Futhes, the xxvj nycht.
 Iohne Blak, the xxvij nycht.
 Alexr. Mar, the xxviiij nycht.
 David Mathesone, the xxix nycht.
 James Colisone, the xxx nycht.
 Andro Cullane zonger, the last nycht.
 William Porter, the first nycht of August.
 Robert Crag, the second nycht of August.

24th November, 1505.

The said day, Philip Belman, be his avin toung graunt, was in ane amerciament of the court for the sellinge of ane apill for ane penny, quhar he nicht haue saule thre for ane penny.

8th May, 1508.

The said day, it was statut and ordanit be the alderman, baillies, and consale, that all personis that are abill within this burgh sall be reddy with thair arrayment maid in grene and yallow, bowis, arrowis, brass, and all uther convenient thingis according thairto, to pass with Robyne Huyd and Litile Johnne, all tymes convenent tharto, quhen thai be requirit be the saidis Robyne and Litile Johnne, efter the tenor of the statuts and proclamatioun maid be the proveistis, baillis, and counsail; and gif ony of the said personis happenis to failye in ony poynt befor writyne sall pay fourty shillings unforgiven, and sall nocht bruik noir joiss, tak, fisching, nor land of the said burgh.

17th November, 1508.

The said day, the prouest, bailyeis, counsail, and communitie of the said burgh, representand the hail body of the samyne, warnit be the hand bell, ale in ane voice considerand, riplie avisit, for the auld rit and lovable consuetud of the said burgh, vsit and perseruit all tymes bigane, past memor of man, in honor of thar gloriuis patron Sanct Nicholaice, statut and ordanit, that all personis, burges, nichtbouris, and inhabitaris,

burghes sonnys, habill to ryd, to decor and honor the towne in thar array conveyant therto, sall rid with Robert Huyd and Litile Johne, quhilk was callit, in yers bipast, Abbat and Prior of Bonaccord, one every Sanct Nicholes day, throw the towne, as use and wont has bene, quhen thai war warnit be the said Robert Huyde or Litile Johne, or ony ane of theme; and gif ony man haffand takis of wattris, fischeingis, landis, or ony pensioun or proffit of the toune, habill to rid, beand warnit be the saidis Robert Huyd or Litile Johne forsaid, and will nocht ryd, and beis convict tharintill be ane suorne assiss of the said burgh, sall tyne thar takis, pensiounis, and profitis that thai haue of the said burgh, and salbe secludit, removit, and utterlie expellit fra ale takis, pensionis, profitis, quhatsumever thai haue of the said burgh, in tyme to cum; without resonnable causis schawin and propinit to the prouest, bullyeis, counsall, Robene and Litile Johne, obefoir, and be considert be thame to be lauchfull impediment and excuss quharthrow thai mycht not ryd: and the personis havand na takis of the said burgh, beand warnit be the said Robert Huyd or Litile Johnne, and will not rid, sall pay xx shilling to Sanct Nicholas werk, and viij sh. to the bailleis unlaw vnforgevin.

30th January, 1510.

The said day, it was fundin be the auld lovabile consuetud and ryt of the burgh, that, in the honor of God and the Blissit Virgin Mary, the craftsmen of the samyn, in thar best array, kepit and decorit the processiou, on Candilmes day yerlie; quhilk auld and louabile consuetud the prouest, baillies, and consale riplie avisit, ratefeit, and approvit the said ryt; and atour, statut and ordanit that the saidis craftsmen and thar successoris sale perpetualie in tyme to cum, observe and keipe the said procession als honourably as thai can; and thai sale in order to the Offering in the Play, pas tua and ij togidr socialie; in the first the flesshoris, barbouris, baxturis, cordinaris, skineris, coupairis, wrichtis, hat makars bonat makars togidr, walcaris, litstaris, wobstaris, tailyeouris, goldsmiths, blaksmiths and hemermen: and the craftsmen sale furnyss the Pageants; the cordinaris the Messing; wobstaris and walcaris Symeon; the smythis goldsmithis, ij Kingis of Cullane; the litstaris, the Emperour; the masons, the Thrie Knichtis; the tailyors, Our Lady Sanct Brid, and Sanct Elene; and the skynners, the Tua Bischopis; and tua of ilke craft to pass with the pageant that thai furnyss to keip their gear; and gif ony persone or persons happinis to fayle and brek ony poynt befor writin, and beis

convict tharof, sale pay xl sh, to Sanct Nicholas werk, and the bailyeis unlaw unforgevin : ande to the observing and keping of the samyn ale the said craftsmen waa oblist, be thar hands up-haldin.

25th January, 1512.

The said day, the prouest, bailyeis, and counsalle present for the tyme, ratefeit and approvit the actis maid obefoir, that every craft within this towne, sall haue a pair of torcheiss, honestlie maid of four pund of wax, to decoir and worship the sacrament one Corpus Xti day, and at the Fest of Pesche, at the Resurrexioun, at Youle, and at all vther tymes, quhen neid is to the honor of the town; and ordainns all frie and unfre to loit and scat, and pay thair part tharto, as thai are extenit to, be the deknys of thair craftis.

30th April, 1511.

The said day, it was statut and ordanit be the prouest, bailzeis, and counsall for the tyme, for the clenging of the toune agane the quenys cumming, that the belman pas throw all the hail toune, and command and chairg all maner of personis, that has ony myddingis apone the forgait befor thair yetts and daioris, to devoid, red, and cleng the samyn, betuix this and Sunday, vnder the pane of xl s. vnforgiven of the faltars, and them that reds nocht the samyn. And atour comandit the four officiaris to tak with ilkane of thame twa witnes, and pas through their quarteris of the toune, and ger devoid and red the heygait of al swyne cruffis being apone the forget, betuix this and Sunday, vnder the pane of escheting of the swyne of thame that holds the said cruffis, atour the said tyme, and ane amerciamment of viii. s. vnforgiven.

4th May, 1511.

The said day, the prouest, bailzeis, counsall, and communitie of the said burgh warnit be the handbell and the officiaris opinly throw the hail towne, gatherit, and circualy inquerit, be Normond of Lesly and Gilbert Prestoun, officiaris, all in one voice, concordand, grantit, and frely consentit to rassave oure soverane lady the queyne,* als honorable as ony burgh of Scotland, except Edinburgh allanarlie, and to mak als large expensis thereapone as the prouest and counsall diuiss, for the honour of the towne and plesour of his gud grace. And for the money to

* Margaret, the Queen of James IV.

furniss and mak the expensiss heresapone, the hail towne, representande the body of the samyne, grantit, consentit, and ordanit certaine commissaris, that is to say, the prouest, Sir Johnne Rutherford, Johnne Colison, Johnne of Mar, James Collisoun, Johnne of Cullan, and Androu Cullane, to set certaine takix fischeings, and landis of thar commonte for the termes to be thought expedient be the said commissaris, for the sowme of ii^c lib., under or abuf, as thai think expedient, to provid the said propin allanerly; and ordanit ane commissioun to be maid to the said commissaris, and selit with thar commone seill. Alsua thai ordand assedationis to be maid and diuisit be the said commissaris, to the personis takaris of the said landis and watteris, to be selit with thar commone selis, for the termes that the said commissaris happinnis to set the samyn. Apoun the quhilkis the prouest askit instrument of me, Sir Johnne Sterueling, notar publict, befor Sir Thomas Bynne, Sir Daui Leis, Sir Thomas Wright, and Sir Daui Lyel, and the said commissioun and assedationis to be maid one the seuerast wiss to burges, induellaris of the said burgh.

The said day, the provest, bailzeis, counsall, and communitie, commandit, and ordanit all pynouris, haffand hors, within this brough, to enter tomorne at the nixt, and clenge the toune of all myddingis, and no labour to be done be thame quhill the toune be clengit, and ordanit the officiaris to warne the said pynouris to enter tharto.

These notices of her Majesty's visit derive additional interest when taken in connection with the following admirable description of the Queen's entry to the town on this occasion, given by our great national poet Dunbar, who seems to have been a spectator of this event;—

The Queenis Reception at Aberdein.

BLETH ABERDEIN, thow beriall of all tounis,
 The lamp of bewtie, bountie, and blythnes;
 Unto the heaven [ascendit] thy renown is,
 Off vertew, wisdom, and of worthines;
 He nottit is thy name of nobilnes,
 In to the Cumming of Our Lustie Quein,
 The wall of welth, guid cheir and mirrines,
 Be blyth, and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

And first Hurr met the burgess of the toun,
 Richelle arrayit as become thame to be,
 Of quhom they chesit four men of renoun,
 In gounes of velvet, young, abill, and lustie,
 To beir the pall of velvet cramase

Abone Hir held, as the custome has bein ;
 Gryt was the sound of the arterie ;
 Be blyth, and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

Ane fair processoun mett hir at the Port,
 In a cap of gold and silk, full pleassantlie,
 Syne at her Entrie, with many fair disport,
 Reesavit hir on streittis lustlie ;
 Quhair first the Salutation honorabill
 Of the sweitt Virgin, guddie myocht be seine ;
 The sound of mentrallis blawing to the sky ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

And syne thou gart the Orient kingis thrie
 Offer to Chryst, with benyng reverence,
 Gold, sence, and mir, with all humillitie,
 Schawand him King with most magnificence ;
 Syne quhow the Angill, with sword of violence,
 Furth of the joy of Paradise putt clein
 Adame and Eve for inobedience ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

And syne the Bruce, that evir was hold in stour,
 Thow gart as Roy cum rydand under croun,
 Richt awfull, strang, and large of portratour,
 As nobill, dreidfull, michtie camploun ;
 The [nobill Stewarts] syne, of great renoun,
 Thow gart upspring, with branches new and greine,
 Sae glorioualle, quhilk glaided all the toun ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

Syne come thair four and twentie madinis ying,
 All claid in greine of marvelous bewtie,
 With hair detressit, as threidis of Gold did hing,
 With quhyt hattis all browderit rycht bravelie,
 Playand on timberallis, and syngand rycht swettlie ;
 That seimile sort, in ordour weill besein,
 Did meet the QUEEN, her saluand reverentlie ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

The streittis war all hung with tapestrie,
 Great was the press of peopill dwelt about,
 And pleasant padyheanes playit prettelle ;
 The legeiss all did to thair Lady loutt,
 Quha was convoyed with ane royall routt
 Off gryt barrounes and lustie ladyis [schene] ;
 Welcome, our QUEEN ! the commons gaif ane schout ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

At Hir cumming great was the mirth and joy.
 For at thar Croce abundantlie rane wyne ;
 Untill hir ludgeing the toun did her convoy ;
 Hir for to tret they sett thair haill ingyne,
 Ane riche present thay did till hir propine ;
 Ane costle coup that large thing wald contene,
 Coverit and full of cunseit gold rycht fyne ;
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

O potent PARCESS, pleasant, and preclair,
 Great cause Thow hes to thank this nobill toun,
 That for to do The honour, did nocht spair
 Thair getr, riches, substance, and persoun,
 The to reesave on maist fair fasoun ;
 The for to pleis they socht all way and mein ;
 Thairfoir, as lang as QUARR thou beiris Croun,
 Be thankfull to this burgh of Aberdein.

26th February, 1512.

The said day, Philp Clerk, belman, be his avine tong graunt, was in amerciament of the court, for passing with the commone hand bell throw the tounne, but charge of the pronest and bailzeis, and of the botismene that brocht certane oysteris her to sell, and warnit ale men that wald by of tham [to] cum, and thai suld [have] j^c for iiij d., quhair thai sellit tham for vi d. j^c; for the quhilkis he was ordanit, be the assyse be the consale of the towne present for the tyme, that the said belman suld syt done one his kneis and ask the awnaris of the said oysteris forgiwnes, and his crag to be put in the goyf at thar wyle. And gif euere he passe throw the tounne in tyme to cum in siclik caise, but charge of the pronost and bailzeis, his crag salbe put in the gof, and stand xxiiij houris, and salbe secludit of that office for ale the dais of his lyve.

30th December, 1513.

The said day, it was statut and ordanit be the provest, bailzeis, counsaill, and communitie, that all outburges sall come and mak personall residence within this burgh, within twenty dais heirefter, vnder the paine of tinsale of thair fredome; and that na man duelland within this burgh mak him to remuif furtht of the samyn, vnder the pain of tinsail of his fredome for euer, and for all that he has of the towne.

12th May, 1514.

The said day, it was statut and ordanit be the prouest, counsaill, and communitie of this burgh, for resisting of our suld inemeis of England, that thar be warnyt nychtly aucht able men, furnyst with wapins, to waicht and keip the toun and the cost syid, iiij at Sanct Fethakis, bezond the wattir, and vther four at the Cunnynger hillis; and at thai haue rady with them fyr and stuf to mak blaise, to warne thar marowis gif thai sal hapin se ony salis one the cost, ilkane to wther. To the giding of the quhilkis thair salbe warnyt, be the officiar of the quarter, a principall man, quhilk salbe ane of thir personis vnder writtin, that

is to say, in the crukit quarter Duncane Collisone, quhilk sall begin and walk this nycht, William Porter, Alexander Gray, William Schesem, Thome Craufurd, James Colisone, Schir John Ruthirfuird, Alexr. Rudirfurd, William Wormet, and Johne Arthour; in the evin quarter, Iohne Collisone, Iohnne Cullen, Androw Cullen, Gawane Murray, David Andersone, Mathow Brancht, Johnne Andersone, Johnne Murray senior, Walter Cullen, Androw Fif, Johnne of Murray songer, Androw Litstar, Scharlis Stevensone, and David Kintor; in Futhy quarter, Johne Blak, Johne Kintor, David Fynnies, Patrik Schirnsid, Thome Waus, William Rolland, Gilbert Menzeis, prouest, Johne Mar, and David Steuart; and in the Grein quarter, Alexander Malisone, Thomas Chamer, Patrik Lesly, George Bisset, Gilbert Litstar, and Androw Stratoun. And one of the saidis personis that is warnit be the officiar sall nychtlie compeir at aucht houris on the castell hill, with the bailzie and officiar of the quarter, and ryng the bell of the schappell, quhilk sall be callit the waicht bell, and thar sall exeme the said aucht personis warnit to waicht for that nycht gif thai be abill and conuenient thairfoir, and gif thai find ony unable of the said personis thar, thai sall fee ane able man, and gif him for his lanbour ane Inglis grot, one thar expenssis that sendis sic unable men for tham. And the said aucht personis to be ordourit and sytnat be the said principall man, quhilk sal walk with tham in propyr persone. And quha of the said personis that remoffis and passis away fra the said waicht, or the sown rying, salbe banist the toun for yeir and day.

16th June, 1514.

It is statut and ordanit be the prouest, baillies, consail, and hail bodie of the tounn, that the taxt set for the byggyn of thair blokhous, cartis, and the gunneris heir, be incontinent paid, and that euery baillie sall pass throucht his quarter to euery persone awand thair taxt that thai stentit to, and requyr payment thairof. And quha that failles onpait within xxiij houris, sall pay, for the ferst tyme, viij s. to the baillies for ane vnlaw vnforgevin; and for the secund tyme, thai being requyrit, the vnlaw to be doublit; and for the third tyme, thar gudis to be eschit, and our sourane lordis letteris put to execution thairpoun.

7th September, 1521.

The said day, the balseis chargit all and sindry inhabetaris of thar towe of Futy, in general and in speciall, that thai nor man

of tham tak one hand to pull, gader, nor away tak nane of the mussillis, nor kokillis now begingin to gader one ane now skap at the northt watter, besyd the Cunningar hillis, for yeir and day, that the forsaied skap be perfectly growing, vndir the pane of banising the towne for yeir and day oneforgevin.

28th April, 1522.

The said day, thir personis vnder writtin has tayne on thame to furness certane cartis, to the carting of the townis artalzery, that thai may be reddy in tyme of neid, eftir the suld rit and constitioun of the guyd town, that is to say, the provest, a cart; the four baillies, a cart; Gilbert Menzeis, a cart; James Collisone and David Andersone, a cart; Johnne Mar, a cart; Johnne Blak, George and Gamen Murra, and Johnne Andersone, a cart; Johnne Murray, Alexr. Gray, William Chesolme, and Andro Stratoun, a cart.

And inlikwise the provest and baillies hes chargit thir craftis vnder written, of thair awin consent, to performe and furneiss, as efter followis: The litstar craft, a cart; the baxter craft, a cart; the flesseris, a cart; the cordinaris, a cart; the tailzeouris, a cart; the hammermen, a cart; walkaris and wobstaris, a cart; and to mak and performe the samyn within viij dayis, under the peyne of xl s. vnforgevin.

The said day, it was statut, and ordanit, with consent and assent of the hail bodie of the toun, that quhome it salhappin to be absent fra thair next wapinschawe, to be haldin on Furisday the first day of May next to cum, to be haldin the Womanhill, at ix houris in the morning, at thai sal pay xl s. vnforgevin; and quhatsumeur personis that beis fund in ony borrowit geir the said day, othir jak, splent, knapskaw, or ony other geir, the samyn to be eschit be the provest, and to pay the baillies vnlaw vnforgevin.

27th November, 1523.

The said day, Master Johne Merschel, master of the grammar skull of Abirden, grantit in jugment that he had offendit to his masteris of the towne, and besoucht tham to pardone him, and confessit thaim that he haid the schoull of thame, and suld hald the samyn ilk as his predicessouris haid downe in tyme bigane; and the prouest, in nayme of the haile toune, ressaunt him thankfully, permittand to be him a gud master in tyme cuning,

he being than a gud seruand, as accordis him to do.*

14th August, 1525.

James, be the grace of God king of Scottis, to our shireff of Aberdene and his deputis, and to our louittis Schyr Jhone Ruderfurd, knycht, and Thomas Menzeis of Petfothellis, oure shireffis in that pairt, coniunctlie and seueralie, specialie constitut, greting: Forsamekill as it is humelie meynit and schewin to ws be ane reuerend fader in God, and our traist consalour, Gawyne bischop of Aberdene, that quhare syndrie strangearis and otheris within his diocesy of Aberdene, has bukis of that heretik Luthyr, and favoris his arorys and fals opinionys incontar oure act of Parliament laitlie maid in our last Parliament: oure will is heirfor, and we charge you straitlie, and commandis that incontinent thir our lettres seyne, ye publis the said act at all places neydfull, and tak inquisitione gif ony persons be fundin within the sayde diocesy of Aberdene that hes sic bukys, or fauoris sic arorys of the said Luthyr; and that ye confiak thair gudis and inbryng the samyn to our wse and profit, efter the forme of the said act, as ye will ansuer tharapoun: the quhilk to do, we comyt to yow, coniunctlie and seuerallie, oure full power be thir our letters, delieuring thame be yow deulie execut and indorsit agane to the berar. Gwin vnder our signet, at Edinburgh the sevint day of August, and of our regne the xii yeyr.

Ex deliberatione dominorum consilii.

J. Chepman.

In the parlyament haldyne at Edinburgh the xvii day of Julij, the yer of God ane thousand, v^c and xxv yeris, the quhilk day it was statut and ordanit that forsamekle as the dampnable opinzeons of herecy are spred in diuerse contreis be the heretik Luther, and his disciples; and this realme and legis hes fermly persistit in the halie faith sen the samyn was first ressaute be thame,

* The first indication at Aberdeen of the new opinions manifested itself in Mr. John Marshall, Master of the Grammar School, about the year 1521. He was summoned to appear before the Provost to answer for his contempt of the Church, for being deficient in due subordination to it, and for the doctrines which he promulgated. Marshall, with the boldness of Knox and his colleagues, scrupled not to tell the Provost, that he held the school of the Magistrates, was ready to contribute his services to the citizens, and zealous to promote the education of their children; but that he did not consider himself amenable to the Court of Rome, whose authority he contemned. For these spiritual errors and other transgressions against the Church, he found it necessary, however, two years afterwards, to express to the Magistrates his contrition, which probably saved him from the dreadful punishment which generally awaited its enemies.—*Kennedy.*

and nevir, as yit, admittit ony opinzounes contrar the Christian faith, bot evyr has beyne cleyne of all sic filth and vice, therfor, that na manner of persone strengear, nor other that hapnys to arrife with thair schippys within ony port of this realme, bring with thame ony bukys or verkys of the saide Lutheris, his disciplis or seruandis, desput or rehers his hereseys or opunzeounes, bot gyfe it be to the confusione thair of, vndyr the paine of escheting of thair schippis and gudis, and putting of thair personnys in presone. And that this act be publist and proclamit out throw this realme, at all portis and burrowis of the samyn, sa that thai may allege na ignorance thair of. Extractum de libro actorum parliamenti per me Gawinum Episcopum Abirdonensem clericum rotulorum registri ac consilii supremi domini nostri sub meis signo et subscriptione manualibus.

13th January, 1527.

The said day, the haille townn beand gaderit and conuenit within the tolbuith for the maist pairt, the prouest exponit and schew to thame quhow that the kingis grace with his lordis of counsaill ar to cum incontinent to this guid townn, to the haldin of ane justice ayre. Quhairfor he chargit all and sundry the nycthours of the said guid townn, thatt nayne of thame satt thair luggenis and husis to na maner of man quhill the kingis suriouris cum, that the townn may knaw quhat lordis and men of guid cumis with him, and thairefter the luggenis and innis ma be sett to thame, be the awiss of the prowest and consall, to ilk man efter his awin estat. And alsuay chargit the stabillaris that thai graitht thair stabillis in the honestest fasaun thai can; and that thai haue corne and fodder to sell to furniss the said stabillis sa mony horses as thai will ressaue. And in likewiss he chargit the baxteris, flescharis, and brostaris to furneiss and decoir the said townn, ilk ane for thair awin craft, as wald ansuer to the guid townn thairin; and gif thai war negligent in ony thing, thai suld nocht say it was his falt, because he warnit thame in dew tyme, one the whilk he desirit instrumentis witness, Andro Cullane, Thomas Menzeis, Iohne Collisone elder, Maister Andro Tulidef, and Alexander Rutherfurd, with wtheris, duerss and sundry, acta in pretorio.

1st April, 1527.

The said day, the haille townne, all in ane voce, thankit gretly thar lord and bischop of Aberden for the great plesour and profite done to thame in biging of the brig of Dee, and of the gret offeris promittit to thame be his lordschip, for the vphald of

the samyn, and ressaunt glaidly the saidis offeret, and promest to ane rycht worschipful clerk, Maister Alexander Hay, parson of Turref, and commissar generall to the said lord, to awise with the said offeris to their lawday efter Pesche, and then to give a finell ansuir to the said lord.

3d June, 1527.

This is the ansuer of the tovvn of Abirden gevin to my lord of Abirdene anent the brig of Dee.

My lord, we your seruandis, pronest, bailzeis, consull, and comunite of Abirdene, hes ressaunt your l[ordschippis] guid mynd, exposit to vs be your commissar, Maister Alexander Hay, persoun of Turref, touching of your l[ordschippis] brig of Dee, fundit, biget, and endit one your grit, hie, and exhorbitand expensis, for the perpetuall commond weill of the cuntra and of ws; of the quhilkis guid deid and mynd God eternal revard yow, for we ma nocht; and quhar your lordschip desiris ws and our successouris to be bundin to the ouphaldin of the said brig, it beand completit one your expensis, in the maist souer wise cane be devisit be wisemen and men of craft in all thingis necessaris; and at your lordschip will infest ws and our successouris in your landis of Ardlar, to be haldin of yow and your successouris in few, we ar hartlie contentit of the same, makand ws souer thair of be the pape, the prince, your chartour, and all wther handis necessar, for we desyir na inconuenient, bot to be maid souer; quhilk we vnderstand is your l[ordschippis] guid mynd. Nochtwithstanding, gif your l[ordschip] may eialie infest ws in one of your landis liand mair ewnse to ws, or interchange the saidis landis wtheris haiffand landis liand mair ewnse to ws, lik as Rudrestoun, or ony vther sik lik, it var profetable for the conseruacioun of your said l[ordschippis] vark, and plesand, and ewnse; quhilk we refer hail to your l[ordschippis] plesour, besaikand yow to labour the same gif ye ma guidlie. And atour, we considerand the mony guid turnis done be your l[ordschippis] within your diocy to your cathedral and vther places, and vnderstanden at your l[ordschippis] hes na kyrk within your diocy appropriat to your mitar except our mother kyrk, we vald exort your l[ordschippis] to help to sum notable turne to be done thairto; to the quhilk we sall put our handis in the largeist forme be the sycht of your l[ordschippis], that sum remembrance ma remain thairin of yow, lik as is mony of your reuerend predecessouris, Bischop Thomas Spens, and Bischop Wm. Elphinstoun. In this cause, and all wtheris, referrand us to your l[ordschippis] plesour, to the quhilkis we ar gritle indettit, as knowis the grit God eternal, quhome mot conserue your l[ordschippis] in sawill

and body at your noble desyir.

Your [lordschipis] seruandis,
Prouest, bailzeis, consail, and communitie of your
burcht of Abirdene.

21st December, 1527.

The said day, it was devisit and thoct expedient be the provost, baillies, and counsall of this guid town, that thar be takin ii tovnis of the best of the new wynniss, and put in ane seller be thame self, to propin the kingis grace at his fyrst cumming to this burcht, and the laif of the lordis of his consaill, as for wax and wyn geir according thairto, tha continow quhill thai be forthyr avisit quhat sall be done in all sic thingis tuiching the saidis propinis.

27th July, 1529.

It is statut alikwyse, that na maner of nyctbour, within this towne duelland, herbery nor luge ony maner of strangear, of quhat degre or faculte thai be, except thai cum to the prouest or bailze and ask and vptene leif to luge the samyn.

And in likwise if thai sall happin, ony maner of person, to be seik in this gude towne, that thai send incontinent and auertise the provest and balzeis thairof, and that na maner of persone enter in this toune bot at the said portis, quhillkis salbe stekit at nyne houris at ewin, and opynnit at four houris in the mornying during the symmer sesson; and quha sa hapynniss to be fundin in the calsay after ix houris, that ar nocht at the vatchis of honest conuersatioun, that they be takin and put in prisone quhill on the morne thay be deliurit to the prouest and counsall.

And that all thir statutis aboue writtin be inviolably kept, vnder the pane of banesing of the towne, and ane byrne jrne to be put vpon thair chekis that brekis ony of the saidis statutis, na request to be heard in the contrar.

27th July, 1530.

The said day, the towne haile beand warnit be the officiaris of the samyn to compeir within thair tolbuyth, for gude reule to be made to euade this contagious pestilence rengand in the contre, and they, conuenit for the maist part, statut and ordanit all in ane voce, as eftir followis: in the first, that ther be alanerlie thre portis kept opyn in this gude towne, that is to say, the northeist port of the Castlehill, the port of the Owerkirkgate,

and the port of the Netherkirkgait, and that thair be put to eury port twa honest, treu, hable men to watche the samyn on day licht, ilkane abilzeit with jak and knapscall dense, aix or halbart, the quhilk sall stope eury stranger quhill they haue leif of the provest and baillies : and inlikwyse that thair salbe sex vther hable honest men to walk this gude towne ouerye nicht in all the partis of the samyn, that na strangearis nor gangerallis cum within the samyn and to quietlye auert quhair they heir noyis of strangearis or seiknes, and to auert the prouest and bailzes thairof ; and that euryie nyctbour within this tovne duelland byg his awin bak dyk and cloise himself, and gif he faylzeis thairin, the baillies to cause it to be done on his large expensis, and all other waistis and opynnys to be closit on the townis expensis, and ordanis the master of wark to do the samyn in continent, and the expensis to be allowit in his comptis.

16th April, 1531.

The said day, Sandris Knollis exponit to the baillies and comonite, present for the tyme, how that he was chosin by the prouest, counsall, and pairt of the commonitie, as thai allegit, to be ane of the lords of Bonacord for this instant zear, to the quhilk office he was not able, as he allegit, for diuerse caussis ; and, because he was not present at the said election ; ane other, because there were mony others mair abil for sic office in the toune, and had greater profite therof ; thridly, because he had the kings lettres dischargand him of all sic thingis ; nocht the less, he was yet redy to except the said office, gif the toun wald gif him the suld fee quhilk thai had wont to pay for the samyn, and other wiss nocht, protestand quhat beis done be the toune heirintill turn him to na progiteis.

13th January, 1532.

Item, the hale tovn being conuenit as said is, all in ane voce, dischargit all thair singlaris in thair queir, that hes feis of thame and thair commond guid, fray the purificacioun of our lady, callit Candilmess, nixt cumis, and of all proffetis tha haue of thame, for thair demeritis bigane done to God and tham, during the tovnis will, except Sir Andro Coupar, that is an agit man, and hes bene ald seruand to the tovn, on the quhilkis the provest tuik instrument.

20th February, 1532.

The said day, the hail counsals, with ane pairt of the comonite, present for the tyme, thoct expedient and ordint, cou-

siderint the grit apperand wer and truble apperand to be be our suld ennemeis of England, and for sanetie and defense of the guid tovne, that thair be ane blokhousie bigit on the sand ness of stane and lyme, contening xxxvi fuit of lynth, xvij fuit of breid, and vj fuit thick in the wall; of heicht, as beis thoct expedient be the masteris of vark, with gunhollis and duiris of aistlar; and ordinit Thomas Menzeis and Alexr. Gray to agre with masonis, with the auisse of the consale, for the biging of the same in all guidlie haist; and ordinit Dauid Andersoun, Master Andro Tulidef, Alexr. Rutherford, and Duncane Mar, coadiutouris and masteris of wark to the biging of the same.

7th April, 1532.

The said day, the hail counsale, present for the tyme, comandit and ordinit Gilbert Menzeis, thair pronest, considering the grit veir and truble now apperand, for defence of this guid tovvnn, to writ away incontinent to Leith or Edinburgh, and by the tovvnn tua barrell of guid powldar, quhat euer it cost, laboring all wais the best chaip se mycht get it, and gif his obligatioun theairone for payment of the same, and quhat euer he promittit tharfor, tha suld releif him at his dai of paiment; and ordinit him send ane boy away therfor with his writingis on thair expensis; and ordinit ane act to be maid heirupon in our court buik.

30th September, 1532.

The said day, our souerane lordis letteris direct to the provest and bailzeis for vappinschawingis, war red opinlie in iugment, in presens of the hail tovvnn, and the provest chargit all personis within this fredom and tovvnn to conuein on the Vomanhill the xv day of October instant nixt cumis, furnist with vappiniss and harness, conforme to the said letteris, vnder the panis contenit in the samyn.

21st October, 1532.

The said day, the consalle statutis and ordanis that, fra thin-furtht, na maner of persoun cast fall or devat in the tovvnis Linkis and Insche, nor beir ony sand fra their Castelhill nor Vomanhill, under the pane of banesing of tham of the tovvnn that beis conuik heiroy; and causit opin proclamatioun to be maid heirupoun at the merkat corce, that na man suld allege ignorance on the samyn.

10th January, 1535.

The said day, the counsale, present for the tyme, commandit

and ordinit thair prouest, Andro Cullane, to send thair tofbuith knok in Flanderis, and cause mend the same, and gif it can nocht be mendit, to by thame ane new knok on the tovnis expensis.

20th April, 1535.

The said day, it is thocht expedient and ordanit be the consale, that all the yoving able men within this guid [tovin], haue thair grene cottis; and agit men, honest cottis, efferand to thame; and obey and decor the Lordis of Bonaccord, conform to the suld lovable vse of this guid tovn, under the painis of braking of commands and statutis of the guid tovin, that beis conuickit tharof, and to be punest conform tharto.

12th January, 1536.

The said day, the prouest and counsals present for the tyme ordinit Andro Cullane to writ for the man that makis the tovnis knok, and cause him cum hame with the samyn, and set hir oup on the tovnis expensis; and quhat expensis he makis thairon he salbe thankfullie paid of same agane.

23d July, 1537.

Item, the prouest and conseill findis and delieuris, that Androw Cullane aucht to be thankfully payit of the expensis mayd be hyme on the hame bringing and bying of the knok out of Flanderis, at thair commandis. And gyf the said Androw can find or get ane competent pryce for the said knok, thai ordane hym to sell the same, be the awyse of the prouest and conseill, to the vtilitie and profeyit of this gud toun.

13th October, 1537.

The sayd day, the consell dewysit and ordanit that thair suld be fyw merkis gewin to frier Alexander Lyndsay for the completing of thair knok, quhilk thai ordane to be takin oup of the rediest of thair mailis of Done.

14th February, 1538.

The said day, Thom Dauidson was conuickit and put in americiament of court, for the hawely and malicious strublyng and mysperonyng of Jonat Barbour, his moder of law, to forbeir in tym cumyng, and amend as law will. And the prouest and balzes ordanis hym to cum on Sunday nixt cumis, in tym of hiemes, with ane wax candill of ane lib., and thair, hair heid,

to sit downe on his kneis and besek the prouest and gud men of the towne to request his gud moder forsaide to forgyf hym, and to reuok the saidis vordis he said on her, and that thai var verray false, and said bot in his ire and crabitnes; and, gif euer he did the lyk in tyme cuming, to pay fywe merkis to Sanct Nicolaus wark on forgyfin, togidder with the expenssis of court: and that wes gewin for dome be the mouth of Johne Scheras, dempster of court for the tym. And the said Jonat Barbour wes maid quyt of all strublens of the said Dauidsons; and that wes gewin for dome siclyk, be said Dempster.

25th February, 1538.

The said day, the halzes and consall present for the tyme commandit and chargit all their nichtbouris within this towne, that thai nor nane of their seruandis cast their assis nor fulze on the gait within the portis of this towne in tyme cuming, wnder the pane of viij s. for thair wnlaw; and als chargit thaim to tak away thair myddingis quhilkis hee muk on the gait betuix this and Freday nixt cumis, and failzeing thairof, that ony persone that pleissis to tak away the same bot ony perrell. And gif ony be fundin castand or layng thair asse on the gait in tym cuming, that it selbe lesum to ony man fyndand thar doying the same to tak away thair pannis or lumiss and present the same to the halzes for thair wnlaw.

25th May, 1538.

The said day, the prouest, bailzies, and counsell, present for the tyme, ordanit and chargit Robert Arthur, and John Arthur youngar, sonis to John Arthur, to cum the morne within the queyre of Sanct Nicholace keyrke, in tyme of the hemes, barheyd, ilk one of thame with ane candill of wax of ane pound in thair hand, and syt downe on their kneis and besek the prouest, in the townis name, to forgyf thame for the strublens don thairto be thame, in tyme of thair solace and play; and in lykwyss to besek the said prouest and guid men of the towne to mak request to the lordis of Bonacord to forgyf thame the falt and strublens done to them; and gif thai, or ony of thame, commits ony sic like falt, to pay v merkis to Sanct Nicholace wark, the committar tharof on forgewin.

19th May, 1539.

The said day, Ellene Rannaldsons wes convict of hir awin toung grant maid in jugment, for the oppynyng of nychtbouris durris with wrang keyis, and steling as of their stuff, wnder th-

lence of nycht; and als Elspet Meldrum, hir modir, wes convict for the braking of our souerane lordis vard, vnder silens of nycht, siclyk; quhairfor ilkane of thaim vas put in amerciamment of court, to forbeir in tyme cuming, and amend as law will; and the consall and balzes present for the tyme ordanit thame to be banist of this gud towne thairfor for euer; and gif euer ony of thame var fundin within this toune, ane hait irne to be laid on thair cheyk. And that wes gyffin for dome, be the moucht of John Scherar, dempstar of the court for tyme. And als the balzes passit to the mercat croce, with thair clark and officiar, and thair, be oppin proclamatioun, banyst the saidis personis, as said is, for thair demeritis.

2nd June, 1539.

The said day, the prowest and balzes consentis and ordanis, wytht the awse of the hayll towne, that thair be ane cassay makar feyt and conducit for daly wagis, to mak, reforme, and mend all the streyttis and calsayis of the said burght, and to gett ane dayse mett of euerik nychtbour thair tyme about, sa lang as he beis making the said calsayis, with ane penne of euerik housse haldar within this burght, to be gewin corresponding ilk day to his wagis.

13th June, 1539.

The said day, the provest, balzes, and hail consall present for the tyme, weill gadderit within thair consal hous of thair tolbuith of Abirdene, all in ane voce feitt and conducit John Collisone zonger, son to vmquhill James Collisone, thair weill belnffit nychtbour, quhom God assolze, and ordanis thair dene of gild to ansur him of ten merkis yeirly vsuall money of Scotland, at twa vsuall termes in the yeir, Mertimes and Vytsonday, be ewynly portionis, and that for his guid, leil, and trew seruice, and continuall residence to be maid within thair parroche kirk in mess, mattynnis, and ewingsang, and all vther devyne seruice, festuall day and feriall day, quhill God and thay provyd him to a largear fee, efter his gud bering and conditionis, quhilk they belef selbe better wortht in tyme cumying.

15th September, 1539.

The said day, the prowest, balzes, and maist parte of the consall, beyng presently convenit, to the effect wnder wrytin, within the consal hous of the tolbuith of Abirdene, hawand respect to the trubulous passagis now beyng presently within this

realme, throw occasioun of the contagious infeckand pest, callit the boiche, quhilk ryngis in diuerse partis of the same now instantly: Thai, efter detfull consultatioun and consideratioun, beyng riply and at gryt lynth awysit, all in ane voice statut and ordanit, that the balzes pas euery ane of thame throw thair awin quarter, within the boundis of the hailtoun, and cerse, vesy, and se all maner of codderaris, vagaboundis, and purr boddeis, quhilkis ar nocht natiue of this toun borne, that hes nocht to leif gudly on their awin, and command and charge thame and ilkane of thaim that thai incontinent remoit thaim selfis, thair gudis, gif thai ony heff, furth of this toun, within xlvij houris efter thai be chargit be thame tharito, vnder the payne of layng of ane hait irne on thair cheik; and gif thai failze and disobeyis the same, thai ordane that the balzes lay the said irne on thair cheik. And inlykwyse thai ordane that the belman pas throcht all the stretis and vyndis of this toun, commanding and charging, in the kingis name, and townis, provest, and balzes of the same, that no induellar within the toun, of quhat degre that euer thai be of, tak on hand to hous nor harbore na maner of strangear, vagabound, nor codderar, without licence and leif askit and obtainit be thame of the provest and balzes. And gif ony ane of thame failzeis heirintill, that it ma be verfeit on thaim, the deoris thair of to be banyst of the toun for yeir and day; and this statut aboue vrytin to be inuicably obseruit and kept within this burgh, and oppynly proclamit at the mercat croce.

13th October, 1539.

The said day, it was statut and ordanit be the provest, balzes, and hailtoun consall, all in ane voce, that because of the gryt multitude of strangearis that ar of new cumin to this burgh till remane in the same, quhilkis hes nocht of thair awin to leif apoun, quharfore thai ordane that the balzes pas throcht thair quarteris, and tak inquisitioun and knowlege of euery persone duelland within this toun, quha is lauchtfull nychtbour, and quhat thai hef to leif upoun, and quhow and quharbe thai leif, and gif thai be sufficient to remane within burght; and thai that ar on sufficient nychtbouris, and fundin nocht lauchtfull be ane vnsuspect and condigne assise, that thai be remowit and expellit of the towne within xlvij houris nixt efter thai be chargit thairto; and quha that beis fundin within this toun thairefter, thai ordane ane hait irne to be laid on their cheik for thair inobediens, and than to be put out of the toun. And thai ordane that na cautioun selbe tane of sic on abill personis in tyme cumyng, noder be provest nor balze, for na request or supplicatioun that may be maid thairfor, &c.

30th August, 1548.

The sayd day, the hail towne being warnit be thair officiaris and the hand bell, and conuenit, for the maist partt, within the tolbutht, representand the hail body of the towne, it was exponit to thaim be Thomas Menzes of Pittodellis, comptroller to the quenis grace, thair prowest, how he is send heir be our maister the governour, to inquyr the nychtbouris of this burght, gif thai vald fortify and menteyne his autorite agains certane conspiraturis, and to wyt thair myndis in that behalf, sua that he may defend thame and thair liberteis and fredomis in tyme cuming; and thai being openlie requirit heirto, grantit, all in ane voce, hane allegiand nor sayand in the contrar, to serf him at thair wtter power at all tym, and to defend and mentaine his autorite sa far as is in thame; on the quhilk the said comptroller tuk act and instrument.

19th October, 1548.

The sayd day, the counsell ordanis to byg and mend all the porttis of this towne, and ane new port of stane to be maid in the Nedderkirkgett, quhar the ald port wes, and to be lockit nichtlie fra x houris furtht, and to be wachit and keypit be the four quarteris of this burght, and balze therof, ilkane thair tyme about; and that euerie nychtbour keyp his awin bak yett, and ansaer thairfor, that nane gett entres thairat, wnder the payne of tynsell of their fredome. And ordanit Alexr. Ruthirfurd, den of gild, to be maister of vark thairto, and to begin and end the samin with diligens and all competent haist, for certane canassis mowing thame, of the quhilk thai ar laillie aduertisit.

31st April, 1544.

The sayd day, the hail towne being warnyt be the hand bell passand throw all the rewis of the towne, and conuenit, for the maist part, within the tolbuyth, consentit, all in ane voce, to the ordinans of counsell anens the munitionis to be maid for defens of this guid towne fra the Inglismen, and to the getting of the money for furnessing and compleyting thair of in all thingis, as is content in the act abowne wrytin, quhilk act and ordinaas thai ratifit, apprewytt, and affermytt in jugment.

21st October, 1544.

The said day, the balzeis commandit and ordinit all four the officiaris, in jugment to pas throcht all the rewis and streitis of

the townn, als oft as neid beis, and vey and seik all caik baxteris that bakis ony cakis to sell, and tak all thair girdilis thai apprehend baikand siclik cakis, and present the said girdilis to thame, and verely that thai tuik the same frai caik baxteris, baikand caikis to sell, and thai sall haue the said escheit to thaim for thair travell; and causit the officiaris suer the gryt aith to exerce the same lellie and trowlie, without feid or fauour, and to present the saidis girdilis as oft as thai could apprehend thame.

1st December, 1544.

The said day, Maister Johnne Gordoun allegit in iugement that he hed ane commissioun of his maister, the liutenentis, to tak cognitioun vpoun the hinging of the image of Sant Franceis, and quhome he fand calpabile thairof, to put thame in the balzes handis in keiping, on to the tyme that justice wer don vpoun thame therfor as the law requirit; and that he, be vertu thairof, hed takin cognitioun in the said mater; and that it wes verelyt and knawin to him that Thomas Branche and Thomas Cussing wes tua of thame that wes hingaris of the said image, and therfor deliuerit thame in iugement to the ballies forsaid, and requirit thame, in the liutenentis name, to keip thame in ferme securite and ward, quhill justice mycht be done on thame therfor, be the said leutenent or his deputis, as thai wald ansuer the leutenent thairupon; and thairefter the said balzes requirit all the four officiaris in iugement to intromett with the said tua personis, and deliuerit thame to the said officiaris in iugement, and requirit thame to keip the said personis in ward in the tolbuyth, as thai wald ansuer to thame and the toune thairupon; and gif thai misterit ony mair help, thai sald be supportit as thai misterit and requirit; on the quhilkis thai tuik instrumentis and actis of court.

15th June, 1545.

The said day, the hail townn beyng varnit be thair hand bell passand throw all the stretis of the guid townn, on the quhill the berar thairof maid faith in iugement, and conuenit within their tolbuith for the maist pairt, representand the hail body of the townn, tha being circualie inquirit be Alexr. Rudirfurd, ane of the bailies of the said burgh, consentit, all in ane voce, na maner of persone opponand nor sayand in the contrar, and for thame and thair successouris, statut and ordinit that all maner of schip and schipis that hapnis to cum to this guid townn to sell be strangeris, be bocht be the provest and baillies,

or the maist pairt of thame for the tyme, with ane pairt of the counsale of the said burgh for the tyme; and gif the prouest beis absent, be the bailzes and counsale present for the tyme, or maist pairt thairof, and be nane vthers; and howeuer the said schip or schipis hapnnes to be bocht be thame for the time, euery burgez of gild of the said burgh to haue his pairt thairof, efferand to his estait of the same price; and quhat brother of gild refusis to tak his part of the said schip or schipis, sua bocht as said is, for the common veill, baith of guid and evill proffeit and disproffeit, efferand to his estait, he being lawfullie requirit thairto, sall tyne his fredome and all proffat he hes of the said burgh frathinfurth, his refusale beyng provin and verefit, and he conukit thairof.

19th February, 1546.

The said day, the bailzeis assignit Monunday nixt efter the law day efter Pasche nixt cumis, gif it be lauchtfull, and fallzeing thairof the nixt lauchfull day thaireftir, to the prior and conuent of the freris predicatouris of the said burgh, to exhibit and produce afor thame peremptourlie in iugment thair rychtis, gif ony they haue, quhy tha aucht not to cum to the townis millis within the burgh with thair cornis that grovis vpon thair croftis, lyand on the north est syid of the said burgh, and pay thair multuris thairfor, as wther nyctbouris dois, at the instance of John Brabaner, takisman of the said millis persevand the same, with intimatioun and the produce na thing therfor to evaid the same, the said day, thai will decerne thame simpliciter to feche their said cornis to the said millis, and grynd thame thairat, and pay multuris thairfor, as wther nyctbouris dois, conforme to the statut of the guid tovn maid thairvpoun, in presens of the said priour and freir John Myln, desirand the same in the name of the said freris.

18th May, 1546.

The said day, the counsale present for the tyme, denisit and ordanit the bailzeis, and certane of the counsale with thame, to pas this day at tua efternoone to the kirk yard, and thair exerce and vey all the begaris within this burgh, and considerd quhay is natiue within the toune, and quhay nocht, and sa mony as tha find natiue, and admittis, to gif thame the townis takyn, as tha sall think expedient; and ordinit all vther begaris to be chargit to dewoid the towne within twenty four hours nixt efter thair charge, vnder the pane of laying ane hait irne on their cheik, and quhay that dissebeis, the said ~~xiiiij~~ houris

being passit, the said pane to be execut on thame; and als ordinit dekyannis to be chosin for giding and rewling of the said begaris efteruart, as salbe deuisit be the counsale, and als ordinit that all personis within this townn, havand ony landis and houssis to sett, that tha sett nane in tymmes cuming to na maner of personis, but to them that tha answer for as sufficient nychtbouris; and gif ony of the said tenentis committis ony crymes of resetting of geir, or vnlauchfull personis, the ownaris of the said landis to ausuer tharfor, sa far as tha ar insufficient tenantis; and ordinis oppin proclamatioun to be maid heirwpoun at the mercat corce in generale, and als the hand bell to pas throw the townn thairwpoun.

6th August, 1546.

The said day, it is statut and ordinit be the bailzeis, counsale, and comunitie of this guid townn, tha being varnit, &c., for the commond veill of the same, and evading sa far as tha ma fray the contagius pest now latly rising of new in certane partis of this realme, that all maner of mendicantis and beggaris within this townne dewoyd the same, except sa mony as is licent to remane be the bailzeis and counsale, and hes the townis taking, within xxiiij houris nixt efter the tuelt hour of this day, vnder the pane of burning of thame with ane hett jrne one the cheik that beis fundin within this townn efter the said xxiiij houris; and thaireftir tha beand brint that remanis and contempnis the said charge to dewyid the said townn within vther xxiiij houris, vnder the pane of deid, viz. hanging or drowning. And als that na maner of nychtbouris within this burgh ressaue nor harbour na maner of mendicantis nor begaris, strangeris, without speciale licence of the bailzeis or ane of thame thairto, vnder the said paine; and gif ony siclik cumis to this townn, that tha remane nocht aboun xxiiij houris within the same, vnder the said pane. And als that the bailzies, pas with certane honest nychtbouris with thame, this instant day efter nowne, throcht all the partis and rewis of this guid town, and vesy the same, and remove and expell all mendicantis and begaris of the same that ar nocht licent to remane, and charge thame to remove vnder the panes forsaid. And als that na maner of personis of botis nor crayaris that hapnis to cum out of the south partis be ressauit, nor licent, nor tholit to cum out of thair crayaris nor botis, nor ressauit in ony lugings nor houssis within this guid town, nor yit na metis nor drinkis nor wther necessaris ministrat to thame, nor yit that na personis mell with tham in na sort, without speciale

licence of the bailseis, or aue of thame at the lest, had thairto, vnder the said panis. And als that thair be ane honest seruand man at every port of this guid towne ilk day, to keip the same frathinfurth quhill the town be forder anisit, as tha sall ressaue directioun of the bailseis thairto, and enery nyctbour of the guid toun to furneis the same thair tyme about, as it fallis, and tha varnit thairto, and also ordinit oppin proclamatiounn to be maid heirof at the mercat corce.

18th April, 1547.

The said day, it is deuist and ordinit be the bailseis and counsale, for keiping of the glassin vindokis of thair kirk, and the sklatis of thair luge; that quhatsaumener personis, yovng men, seruandis, barnis, or craftismen, brakis ony of the said vyndokis of the kirk or queir, or solatis, that thair faderis or maisteris sall ansuer therfor, and reforme and mend the same agane on thair avin expensis; on the quhilk David Andersoun, maister of the kirk wark, tuik act of court.

9th April, 1548.

The said day, the haill toynn beyng convenit in their heid court, all in ane voce grantit and gaif the keiping of thair blokhousie to Gilbert Menzeis, sone and apperand air to Thomas Menzeis of Petfoddellis, quhilk accepit the same on him, and oblegit him to keip the same leilie and treulie, the toynn gevand him seruandis and expensis to thame to wait thairupoun, and for himself he desirit nor vald haue na thing, bot as the toynn efterwart plesit revard him, and nemmit Andro Buk, Thomas Cristale, Alexr. Rattray, Gibbe Menzeis, and Andro Durty, quhilk the toynn admittit; and the counsale ordinit enery ane of the said five personis to haue iiij lib. in the moneth, during the tovnis vill, and thai to wait and keip the said blokhousie bayth day and nyct, as the said Gilbert commandis thame; and ordinit Walter Cullane and Andro Losoun, ressauneris of the tovnis doubill gressummis, to deliuer the said Gilbert twenty lib. monethly, to be distribuit to the said personis, during the tovnis vill, for thair vagis, and to begyne paiement thairof incontinent.

16th April, 1548.

Item, the counsale ordinis Thomas Cristale to haue iiij lib. in the moneth, with his bouis mail fra, and als Andro Buk to

haue *liij* in the moneth, with his house maill fre, during the space of thre moneth to cum, for their guid and trew service to be done be thame as gunnaris, for defence of the guid tovvnn, and wther besines concerning the same, during the said thre moneth, and conduct thame, to the effect forsaid, for the said *vagis*, during the said thre moneth.

22d August, 1548.

The said day, the hail tovvnn beyng varnit, &c., it was denit and ordinit be thame, all in ane voce, that becaus the hail tovvnn consentit to ane taxatioun, for licence to the tovvnn to remane at hayme from the army and oist, ordinit to haue conuent on Glaudsmwir, besid Haddintoun, the *xx* day of August instant, quhilk compositioun was maid for *xxii^{ss}* lib. Scottis mune, and the same taxit and stentit on the inhabitantis of the said tovvnn and fredome thair of, of thair avin consent, that the will nocht pay thair pairt of the said taxatioun, as tha ar stentit with diligence, that the bailzeis pund and distrenze the rediest of their guidis and geir, quhair euer tha may apprehend the same, and apprise and sell the same, four pennis worth for ane d., and mak paiement of the said tax; and at the said bailzeis sall nocht be indettit to ansuer nane of the said personis for the guidis and geir pundit, and apprisit, and sellit be thame for the causis forsaid, in maner abou writin, in na tymes cuming.

15th October, 1548.

The said day, the counsale, present for the tyme, ordinit ane punctioun of guid wyne to be frely proponit and gevin to Robert Carnegie and Maister Thomas Mariorebankis, one the tovnis expensis, and that for their guid dedis and plesouris done to the guid towne in their besines diuerse tymes bigane; and als ordinit that the prouest and bailzeis, with certane wther men of guid of the said tovvnn, pas to tham and thank thame of their guid dedis and plesouris forsaid, and offer thame sic humaniteis therfor as tha think expedient, and ordinit the said punctioun of wyne to be paid with the rediest of the tovnis mone that ma be gottin in.

17th October, 1549.

Item, that na maner of persoun within this tovvnn, of quhat degre that euer tha be, pas to vessy, speik, or commond with ony inclusit personis, or ony felkis in the linkis, or ministres

thame ony wyueris or necessaris, without tha haue licence of the prouest, or ane balzie tharto, and ane officiar of the townn with thame, vnder the paine of including of thame with the same personis to quhom tha pas.

Item, that the personis that hapnis to be put to the linkis that ar seruandis, that thair maisters sall susteine them in the linkis, gif tha haue geir to sustein thame vpoun.

16th December, 1549.

The said day, Alexr. Jaffray, John Foullis, Charle Dauesoun, Duncane Colle, George Andersoun, and Jonat Ancroft, baxstaris, tha and ilk ane of thame is conuikit be the sorne assise aboun writin, for the brakin of commond ordinance and statutis of this guid tovne, in selling of breid of quhit of less prise thame the statutis maid thairwpoun, and of insufficient stuf, quherfor ilk ane of thame is in americiament of the court, and that is given for dovme. And the bailzeis ordinit the officiaris to pas incontinent and pund every ane of thame therfor, and als thame all in iugment to keip the said statutis, and to baik and sell xiiij vnce of guid, clein, dry, and veill bakin fresche stuf for ij d., and to haue breid rady at all tyme to serue the tovne sa lang as tha haue stuf, vnder the pane of eschaeting of the hail braid fundin with thame for the tyme.

14th April, 1552.

The said day, the counsell, all in ane voce, havand respect and consideratioun that the lordis of Bonnacord in tymes by-gane hase maid our mony gryt, sumpteous, and superfleous banketing induring the tyme of thair regnn, and specialie in May, quhilks wes thocht nother profitabill nor godlie, and did hurt to sundry young men that were elekit in the said office, becaus the last eleckit did aye pretent to surmont in their pre-decessouris in their ryteous and sumpteous banketing and the caus principal and gud institutioun thair of, quhilk wes in halding of the gud toun in glaidnes and blythnes, witht danssis, farsis, playis, and gamis, in tymes convenient, ne-cleckit and abusit; and thairfor ordinis that in tyme cummin all sic sumpteous banketing be laid down aluterlie except thre sobir and honest, vizt., upoun the senze day, the first Sunday of May, and ane [] upoun Tuisday efter Pesche day, and na honest man to pass to ony of thair banketis except on the said thre dais allanerlie; and in ane place of the forsaid superfleous banketing to be had and maid yeirly to generall

plais, or ane at the lest, with danssis and gammes usit and wont; and quha soner refusis to accept the said office in tyme cuming, beand eleckit thairto be the toun, to tyne his freedom, priuelege, takis, and profit he hes or ma haf of the toun, and neuer to be admittit frathinfurtht to office, honour, nor dingnate.

24th March, 1544.

The said day, the four baillies and the maist pairt of the counsell being conwenit in the cheptour of Sanct Nicolace kirk of Aberdene, the saidis baillies exponit, in presens of the said counsell, quhow thai were chargit laity, vpon the xxij day of Merche instant, be Thomas Nicolsoune, schiref in that pairt, be vertew of our souerane ladyis letteris, gewin be deliuerance of the lordis of counsell, directit thairwpon, to tak and apprehend Johnne Chalmer, burges of the said burgh, quha presently, as is allegit, is in ane fury and raige of wodnes, and dailie molestand and perturband this tonne and the inhabitantis thairof, and to fesin and keip him in jrnis, gyf neid war, the said Johne, quhill he com to his awin wit, lyk as in the saidis letteris at mair lynth is contenit, and desyrit the consultatioune and adwysment of the said counsell thairanent, with thair concurrence and assistance, gif thai think the same ressonable to be done; quhilk consell, all in ane voce, except Gilbert Collisoune, eftir ripe advysement, declarit and thoct expedient that the saidis baillies suld tak and apprehend the said John Chalmer, and put him in custodie in stark lokfast hows, with vyttaris and vaychearis to awyt and keip him fra doing of skayth and forther perturbatioune, and thaireftir, gyf neid were, to fesin and keip him in irinis quhile he returne to his wit, and offerit to assist and concur with the saidis ballies to execute the same in caice ony wald resist the doing thairof, and that for eschewing appeirand skaith, danger, harme, and inconvenientis to be done to the said Johnne in tyme cumyng.

14th June, 1555.

The said day, Jonatt Portar and Jonett Bailzert, hir seruand, war convickt in judgement, be the dispositiones of diuerse famosse witnes, for the defaming and myspersoning of James Andersone and Elspett Baldy, his spowse, with veray ewill and injurious langaige, vnwordy of heiring. Quhairfor thay, and ilkane of thame, war in amerciamant of court, and the bailzies forsaid ordanit the saidis Portar and Bailzeirt, hir seruand, to

cum one Sunday nixt cumis, within Sanct Nicholace parochie kirk, in tyme of the his mess, with ane candill of wax in thair hand, and sit doune on thair kneis in the queir, afoir the guid men of the toune, and aske the said James and his spows forgyfnes, and thair to revock the vordis said be thame vpoune him and his said spowse fals and vntrewe, and request the guid men of the toune to cause thame be forgewin; and gyf euer the said Jonett Bailzert beis foundin in the making of sic offensis in tyme cuming, and beis convict thairfor, to be banist of this guid toune.

12th August, 1555.

The said day, the hail counsell statut and ordanit that the baxteris of this guid toune sall baik and sell twenty tua vnce of quhyt breid, sufficient stuf, and weill bakin, for four penneis, and twenty aucht vnce of ry breid, sufficient stuf, and weill bakin, for four d.; and that na breid be sauld be thame quhill thai be considerit and vesit be ane of the baillies; and quhow-sone the breid beis takin out of the owne, that ane of the baillies salbe aduertist and requirit to do the same; and that na baxter sall baik ony breid vpoune Settirday befor tua eftir none; and quha beis fundin cumand in the contrar heirop, the hail bakin stuf beand fundin and gottin in his possessioun to be escheit and delt: and gyf ony baxter hawand stuf beis fundin wantand baikin breid, and nocht vsand his craft to serf the toune and nightbouris therof in contemptioun of this ordinance, the sam beand knawin and vnderstand, the hail victuall and stuf beand fundin in his possessioun to be escheit and delt to the puir folkis. And this statut to induir and haf stryngth quhill the fest of Michaelmas nixt cumis, and further induiring the counsellis will.

4th October, 1555.

The said day, the counsell hawand consideratiounes that Sir Robert Bynne, cheplane and singar to thair queir, is vesit be the hand of God with infirmitie in his ene, quhairthrow he is becum blynd, and that he maid gude and continnell seruice in the times bigan, sa lang as he was habill. Thairfor, thai all in ane voce consentis and assentis that he haf his suld fee, that is to say, aucht markis wsnail money of Scotland, togidder with his clerkship, quhilkis he had for his fee and seruice abefor, for all the dais of his lif, but ony impediment or gane calling. And forther, that the nobill and honest men of the toune support him of thair awin guidnes, at thair

plesour and discretiounne, quhill God restoir him to his sycht and habilite.

Item, it is statut and ordanit, with consent of the hail craft of cordonaris, that na schone be sauld darrer bot the best dowbill scholit schone for men xxxii penneis, mennis singill solit schone tua s.; wemmenis dowbill solit schone ii s., thair singill solit schone xvij d. and xvj d.; barnis schone for xii d., x d., and viij d., efferand to thair quantitie and aige, wnder paine of escheiting of all schone beand in the possessioun of the braker of this present statut.

Item, that euerie craft within this guid toune haf ane visitour amang thame selfis, chosin euerie yeir anis, quha sall accept the same, and be suorne therto befor the prouest and baillies in judgement, to se that all statutis and ordinans maid one the craftismen of this guid toune be obseruit and keipit; and that, in tyme cuming, thair be na craftismen maid fre man to vse his craft, except he haf seruit as prentise under ane maister thre yeiris, and be found sufficient and qualifeit in his craft to be ane maister.

Item, it is statut and ordanit, with consent of the hail baxteris, beand convenit, that nane of thame pass in the contry to by quhit, of darrer prices bot as tha ma keip and obserf the statut and ordinance gewin thame be the counsale for this present yeir; and also that nane of the saidis baxteris by quhit attour his nychtbouris heyd: that is to say, quhair his nychtbour hes bene to mak ony bying or bergane of quhyt, and bidden ony money thairfor, that his nychtbour bid na mair nor is offerit, nor mak him to by thair, wnder the pane of fourty s. for the first falt, and tynsell of fredome for yeir and day for the second falt, gif he beis convickit for the same.

Item, that na tailzeour sell ony clayth bot allanerly maid breikis and boxis of tartane or grose claith and lynningis for cleything; and gif ony tailzeour dois in the contrar, to be punist therfor, as forstalleris and regrataris of this guid towne.

2nd January, 1556.

The said day, the hail toun, being convenit within the tol-buicht, thocht neidfull and expedient to big ane brig vpoun the Den burne, at the south-wast entre of the toune, as thair cum thairto fra the brig of Dee; and ordanis Maister Robert

Lumisden, maister of wark of the brig of Dee, to big the said brig of tua bowis, sufficiently with stane and lyme, with the reddiest of the money that he hes of the mailis of Ardlar, and to by stanis, lyme, and all materiallis neidfull therto; and quhat he debursis on the biging of the said brig to be thankfully allowit to him in his nixt compt; vpoun the quhilkis the said Mr. Robert desyrit act of court, in presens of the hailtoun forsaid.

28th November, 1557.

The said day, the counsall ordanis ane wryting to be maid and send to the toune of Dundy, that thai cum nocht heir with thair cremary and merchandoyce at Sanct Nicolace day, becaus it is nocht fair, bot aganis the prevelege and infetment of the toune, sua that thai mak nocht traweill heir; and to be stoppit, with certificatioun that thai sall nocht be sufferit; and thai to be permittit at the fairis, proclamit, and na wther wais.

4th January, 1559.

The said day, the hailtoun being warnit, &c., it wes expont to thame be the baillies, be the speche of Daid Mar, and of the baillies forsaid, and thesaurar of this guid toune, eleckit for this present yeir, quhow that certane strangeairis, and sum nichtbours and induellaris of this burght, hes enterit to the blak freiris and quhyt freiris of this town, and spulzeit thair places, and takin away the gere and gudis of the samen, witht the tymmar wark and insicht, togidder with the leid of the kirkis, and now ar enterit upoun the ruiffis of the kirkis and biggings, and takand away the sklayttis, tymmir, and stanis thairof, applyand the same to their awin particular uses; and inquirit the toune gif thai thocht it expedient to preserue the saidis tymmir, sklattis, and stanis, and the samen to be intromittit and applyit to the commond warkis of the toune, for the comond weill and utilitie thairof, togidder with the croftis, landis, and emolimentis that belangit the saidis freiris, and the profyttis thairof to be applyit to the commond weill of the toune, and specially for the furthsettin of Goddis glory, and his trew word and prechours thairof, and that the toune ma be the more habill to concur and assist for the defence of the libertie of the realme, expelling of strangeris, and suppressing of ydolatrie, and requyrit thaim opiny to declair thair myndis, and conclud quhat thai thocht expedient to be done heirintill. Quhilkis all in ane voce, that war present, except Gilbert Collisone, consentit and assentit that the said

Dauid Mar, balze and thesaurar of the toun, suld intromet with the saidis sklayttis, tymmer, and stanis, in name and behalfe of the toun, and siclyk to intromet, eir, labour, and occupy the croftis that belangit the saidis freirs, or sett the sam to lauboraris in tack and assedatioune in the townis name, and the hail profittis of the sam to be applyit in the townis uses, for the commond weill thairof, furth setting of Goddis glorie, and mentening of his word, and defens of the liberte of the realme; and that no particular persone nor personis be sufferit to intromett with the same, nor na part thairof, frathefurtht; and ordanis publict proclamationis to be maid opinly at the mercat cors, heirupone as effeirs, and oblist thaim releif the said Dauid Mar of all dangeir and damage that ma follow heirupone.

8th January, 1559.

The sayd day, Dauid Mar, balze and thesaurar of this gud toun, electyt for this instant yeir, exponit to the hail toune opynlie in judgement, quhow thai obefor thoct expedient, and deysyt that the sklayttis, tymmir, and stanis of the blak freirs and the quhit freirs that ar in place onspoulzet, suld be intromettit witht be him, and applyit to the commound warkis of the toune, upoun the quhilks he culd nocht continewally await, quharthrow thair wald inlayk mekill thairof, without diligent attendance war takin thairto, and requyrit the toune to cheis four personis to awayt on the doun taking and keyping of the samen on the towniss expensiss, quhilt thai all thoct expedient to be done; and alsua ordanit the said thesaurer to intromett with the croftiss and howssis belangand to the saidis freirs, and apply the mailis and profyttis thairof in the use of the toun, for the commound weyll thairof.

The said day, Gilbert Menzes, youngar, procurator, for Thomas Menzes of Petfodellis, prouest of this gud toune, his father, and for him self, Gilbert Menzes, eldar, Maister Thomas Menzes, Gilbert Collisone, Alexr. Chawmer, and Symon Burnat, dissentit to the doun taking of the said religiows places, and applying of ony part in the townis effeirs, becaus the same is contrar the mynd of the autorite and manifest tressoune; and protestit for tham selfis and thair adherentis, that quhat dangeir and damage cumis thair throw on this burght and inhabitants thairof, that thai be skaythles and mair no prejudice, bot that the committaris of the cryme ansuer for the deid.

The said day, the ballies protestit in judgement that the protestatioun aboune wrytin be of na effect nor valor, becaus the saids personis maid no resistance at the begynning, nor requyrit the ballies to concur with thaim for resisting, and protestit gif ony accusatioune cumis for the distroing of ony kirk or place in tym cuming, that all thai quhom thai ma proff to haf intromettit witht ony part tharof be accusabill for the same, and ansuer thairfor as participant thairof, nochtwithstanding ony protestatioun maid be thaim in the contrar, be ressoun the provest is principall of the toun, and maid no resistens, nor yit did requyr thaim to concur witht hym thairto as thai allegit.

The said day, the hail toun ordanis the four personis, quhilkis war nominat be the counsell obefor, that is to say, Gilbert Collison. Maister George Myddiltoun, Gilbert Menzes, eldar, and Gilbert Malysoun, to intromett and resayf in thair keiping the chalices, siluer wark, and ornaments of their proche kirk, quhill the toun consultit quhat war expedient to be done thairwitht, to be warnit to compeir befor the toun on Fredday nixt, cumis in thair gild court, to exhibit the said siluer wark, and restoir the same to the toun, to be applyit in the uses of the toun, for the commoud weill thairof, witht dew intimatioune, gif thai compeirit nocht, the baillies, with the adwiss of the toun, wald decerne heirintill, for the weill of the toun, as thai thocht expedient, and presentlie warnit in judgement *apud acta* Gilbert Menzes, Gilbert Collisone, and Gilbert Malison, personlie to compeir the said day, with certificatioune as effeiris.

12th January, 1559.

The said day, Daud Mar, balze and thesaurar of this guid toun, in name and behalf of the hail toun, being conuenit in thair gild court, desyrit Gilbert Menzes, eldar, Gilbert Collison, Maister George Myddiltoun, and Gilbert Malysoun, quhilkis war eleckit and nominat be the counsell obefor to intromett and keyp the siluer wark and ornamentis of thair proche kirk obefor, to restoir and deliuer the same to the toun, that thai mycht do thairwitht as thai thocht expedient for the commoud weill of the toun; quhilkis personis confessit and grantit that thai resauit be deliuerans of the counsell the siluer wark, kapis, and ornamentis of the said proche kirk in keyping, contentit in ane inuitor subscriyvit be Maister Robert Lumysden and be Maister Johnn Kennedy, scrib of the toun, and gyff the

counsell, in semlabill way conuenit, wald decerne thaim to restoir the same to thame quhom fra thai resauit the cuir and keiping thairof, thai offerit thaim glaidlie to obey the ordinans of the counsell; and the prowest and ballies ordanit the hail counsell to be warnyt to be conuenit in the counsell hous the morne at nyne hours, to consult and conclud in the premisses, and warnyt so mony of the counsell as war present in judgement, with intimatioun as effers.

The said day, Thomas Menzes, prowest, exponent opinlie in judgement, in presens of the hail toune, quhow in thair last heid court, haldin the viij day of Januar instant, he being absent of the toune excersing his lesum bessenes, quhilk necessite of tym requyrit him to do, the ballies and maist part of the toune hes maid certane publict ordinances contrar the commound weill of this burght, and repugnand to the will of the authorite, specialy anent the dvne taking of the religiows places, and applying of the sklayttis, tymmir, and stanis thairof in the commound usis of the toune, and siclik to bestow and employ the townis commound guid on the sustentatioune of certane prechers; quhilkis ordinances, as he allegit, ar direct contrar the commound weill of this guid toune, and contrarius to the will of the authorite: first, in respect that the begynning of the said distructioun and dissipatioun of the saidis places wes done be certan particular personis, sum extraneers and sum dwelling within the toune, quharof the hail commuite wes nocht participant, bot for the maist part war innocent and fre of the said cryme: and gyff the ballies and toune wald continew and compleit the distructioun begun by wthers, and employ the residew of the saidis places in the townis usis, the hail toun wald be reput art and part, and participant of the said crym, and stand wnder the accusatioune of the authorite thairfor, to the gryt hurt, damage, and detriment of this burght, and the puir innocent burgessis thairof; secundlie, the sayds prechers war tollerat be permissioun of the authorite, quhar and quhow thai plesit, quhill the tent day of Januar instant, be ane contract and appunctment maid betuix the quenis grace and the principalis of the congregatioune, eftir the said tent day is dissoluit and expyrit, and that the toune sucht nocht to mak expenssis on the sustentatioun of precheors, bot the bischop sucht to mak the same, and find us sufficient precheors quha resauis his duety thairfor, and sua to employ the townis commound gude in sic waiss is contrar the commound weill of the toune, and sucht nocht to be allowit to the auditors of the townis compts; thairfor the said Thomas

Menzes, prowest, for himself and his adherentis, dissentit to all distructioun and dissipatioun of the saids kirks and places, and applying of the same or ony pairt thair of in the uses of the toune, and siclik of employing or bestowing of the townis commound gud or ony part thair of on the saids precheors; and he, as prowest, inhibit David Mar, thesaurar, to delieur ony money or mak expenssis on the said precheors of the emoluments of the toune; and protestit solemply that he and his adherentis be nocht reput art, part, nor participant of the saidis crymes, nor incur danger, damage, nor skayth thair for in tym cuming; upon the quhilks he tuk act and instrument, in presens of the hail toune.

13th January, 1559.

The said day, the hail toune, being conuenit togider in the counsell hous (except Patre Menzes being absent), all in ane voce, denyait and ordanit that Gilbert Menzes eldar, Gilbert Collison, Maister George Myddiltoune, and Gilbert Malyson, keipars of the siluar wark, kaipis and ornamentis of the proche kirk, quhilk thai resauit in keyping obefor be deliuerans of the provest and counsell, to restoir the samen agane to saids prowest and counsell, quha of new nominat Maister Patre Ruderfurd, Alexr. Knowis, Johnne Lowsoun, and Gilbert Malyson to haf the keiping of the said siluar wark and ornamentis, conform to the inuitour subscriwit obefor; quhilkis personis acceptit the cuir and keyping thair of on thaim, ay and quhill thai be decernit be the provest and counsell to restoir the same, and band and obleist thaim, and ilka of thaim, thair airs, executors, and assignais, conjunctlie and severalie, to restoir the same, conforme to the inuitour, at the ordinans of the prowest and counsell, quhen thai think tyme, and obleissis thaim to gif ane just inuitour of thair resait, subscriwit witht their handis, quhilks being deliuerit to thaim, the said four first keiparis ar discharged thair of be the counsell frathynfurtht.

We, Maister Patre Ruderfurd, Alexr. Knowis, Johnne Lowson, and Gilbert Malyson, burgessis of Abirdene, grantis to haf resawit, be the handis of Gilbert Menzeis eldar, Gilbert Collison, Maister George Myddiltoune, and the said Gilbert Malyson, burgessis of the said burght, at command and ordinans of the prowest and hail counsell, the gryt eucharist chalices and siluar wark, togidder witht the kappis and ornamentis wnder specifit of Sanct Nicolas kirk of Abirdene, in keyping; quhilk we obleissis ws to restoir to the saidis prowest

and counsell, conuenit in samebill maner as thai war be thar ordinans quhen thai require us thairfor, to the quhilk we bind and obleissis our airs, executoris, and assignais, coniunctlie and seueralie, leyte and treuly, but fraud or gyill. Heir followis the inuitor of the said siluer wark and ornamentis:— Item, imprimis, the eucharyst, of four pound and two unce of siluer; item, ane chalice of our lady of pity in the wowlit, nyntene unce; item, our lady chalice of the sowth yill, nyntene vnce and ane quart vnce; item, Sanct Peteris chalice, fyftene vnce and ane half vnce; item, tuo pair of censuris, of tretty aucht vnce, togidder witht four crowattis and ane litell schip of saxtene vnce and ane half; item, ane chalice of Sanct Johnne the Ewangelist, thretty vnce and ane half vnce; item, the hospitall chalice, sewintene vnce and ane half; item, our lady chalice of brig cheppell, twenty vnce; item, Sanct Duthakis chalice, twelf vnce and ane quarter vnce; item, Sanct Nicolas chalice, thretty nyne vnce and ane half vnce; item, Sanct Clementis chalice, tene vnce and ane quart vnce; item, the Ruid chalice, saxten vnce, all of siluer; item, ane keipe, ane chesabill, witht two tynnakillis, haill furnist with reid veluet, flourit and indentit with gold; item, ane kaip of fyne claytht of gold; item, ane kaip of claytht of gold, fresit with reid veluott; item, ane kaip and chesapill, witht tynnakillis, haill furnist of gold, fresit on grene veluott; item, two keipis of reid veluott, orpheist with gold. At Abd., the xv day of Januar, the yeir of God ane thowsand fywe hundredtht fyfty and nyne yeirs, befor thir witnes: Maister Thomas Menzeis, Alexr. Chawmer, William Robertson, goldsmycht, Wm. Barclay, Sir Johnne Collison, David Collison, Sir William Walcar, and Maister Johnne Kennedy, notar publict, witht vder diuerss.

23rd January, 1559.

The said day, the counsell concludit, all in ane voce, to wphald and menteyne the gray freirs place within this burght, and to suffer no hurt, violence, nor destructioun be don thairto, to defend the samon at thair witer pover fra all destructioun and iniur, of quhatsumeuer persone or personis, and ordanit the thesaurar to produce four honest personis to remane thairin and awayt diligently thairupon on the townis expenssis, becaus the saids freirs hes resignit all thair tytill and interes of the said place in fauors of the toune, to be wnder thair menteinans and protectione, on distroyit or castin doun; and conforme to the counsellis ordinance, thai ordane to gyf ansuer to my Lord Huntlyis missiue bill send to the prowest and ballies.

29th December, 1559.

The said day, the hail toun being warnit, &c., it wes opinlie exponit and declarit to thame be Thomas Menzes, thair prowest, quhow he is suirly aduertisit that certane nychtbours of the Mernis men and Angouss men, conuenit in congregatiounne, ar to be in this toun this present day to destroy and cast doune the kirkis and religiows places thairof, under colour and pretence of godlie reformatiounne; and becaus this toun hes no directiounne of the autorite of Scotland to assist and concur with thaim in that purpos, bot the same is express contrar the will and mynd of the autorite, and thairthrow is manifest tressoun, the said prowest, inquit the ballies and hayll [] quhat wald be thair part thairin, and gif thai wald concur with him and his assistars for resisting thairof, sua that eftirward this toun sucht incur na indignatiounne of the autorite, nor be reput culpabill and participant of the said cryme, and protestit solemptlie gif thai wald nocht concur with him and his adherentis to the effect forsaied, that the accusatioun and participatioun of the said cryme cum on thaim quha will nocht assist to him. Upoun the quhilk aduertisment, requisitiounne, and protestatiounne the said Thomas Menzes, prowest, tuk act of court and instrument, in presens of the hail toun; and in the meyntym, thir personis following, Gilbert Menzes, eldar, Gilbert Menzes, youngar, Mayster Thomas Menzes, Gilbert Collison, Maister George Myddiltounne, Walter Cullane, eldar, Alexr. Chawmer, Androw Lesly, and Androw Buk, adherit to the said protestatioun, and protestit ilka for thaim selfis, in semblable maner, and tuk acts and instruments respectiue thairupone.*

* The Papal jurisdiction being at length, by law, abolished in Scotland, the Protestant Church began to assume a regular form of government. Its principles, as contained in the Confession of Faith, had obtained the sanction of public authority; and the care of parochial duty was committed to ministers of the newly-established religion. About this time, Mr. Adam Heriot was appointed minister at Aberdeen by the General Assembly, which met at Edinburgh. His stipend was fixed at £200, which he received from the revenues of the town; but the Magistrates presented to him annually a suit of black clothes, and other necessaries, to the value of £30, besides a donation of £10 in money, in name of house rent. This learned divine being the first Protestant clergyman established in Aberdeen, some account of his life may not be deemed foreign to the present work. He was originally a friar of the order of St. Austin, and lived in the Abbey of St. Andrews. His reputation for the learning cultivated among divines in that age was early known; and he was regarded as an eloquent preacher. Having renounced the errors of Popery, and embraced the reformed religion, he joined the congregation at Edinburgh; and in the distribution of ministers of the gospel among the royal boroughs, was appointed to Aberdeen, where he continued until the time of his death.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY THE PROVOST.

30th September, 1560.

By the lewing Lord, the eternal God, quha [made] hevyn and erth and all thing of nocht, and maid men to his awin jmage and similitud, to be just and trew in all promises according to his godlie will, quha also serchis and knowis the hartis and thochtis of men, and hes promesit to revenge falsat and to reward the treuth, I do heir promise and suer in his presens and his holy angellis, that I sall lelie and treulie, after my wit and power, dewly exerce the office of provestry of this burght for the space of this yeir nixt following, and sall do equall justice both to puir and rechee, without feid or favour, nor sall nocht spair to exerce the same justice for luff, hatrent,

which happened upon the 28th August, 1574. The citizens of all ranks highly esteemed him for his distinguished humanity, probity, and worth. He died of an apoplexy, in the sixtieth year of his age, and was buried in the quire of Saint Nicholas Church. In his ministerial charge he was succeeded by a no less worthy character, Mr. John Craig, who had been the colleague of Mr. John Knox for the space of nine years. In the year 1579 Mr. Craig resigned his charge at Aberdeen, on receiving the appointment of Chaplain to the King. During his ministry Episcopacy was established in the Church of Scotland, in consequence of the agreement which had taken place in a convention, composed of the leading men among the clergy and the Committee of the Privy Council; and which had obtained, under certain qualifications, the sanction of the General Assembly. We are informed that David Cunningham was installed, in Saint Nicholas Church, as the first Protestant Bishop of Aberdeen, in the month of November, 1577, by Adamson, Archbishop of St. Andrews, and that Mr. Craig assisted at his inauguration, as one of the collaterals.—*Kennedy.*

A small tablet, with an inscription in Latin, to the memory of his wife, was removed from the north wall of the Old East Church, and placed on the east wall of Drum's Aisle. The following is a translation of the inscription:—

"In this grave is deposited the body of Effemie Scheves, a pious and discreet woman, a native of the province of Fife, who was formerly the dutiful wife of Mr. Adam Heriot, preacher of the merits of Jesus Christ, at Aberdeen; the soul of which Effemie was raised to Heaven in virtue of the blood of Jesus Christ, in the 3d day of February, 1568, about eight o'clock in the evening. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'"
—*Courage's Survey of Aberdeen.*

In the Town's Accounts for 1569 we find the two following items:—

Item for ane garment and haille stand of claythes to Mr.	
Adam Herreot, at the Town's command,	£28 0 0
Item, Adam Herreot himself, his servand, and his horse,	
for the space of nine owkis (weeks) ellis (already)	
bigane (past),	25 0 0

wynning, tynsell, nor na wther thing ma happin, bot sall treulie sett furtht and meyntene the same, and libertie and priuilege of this burgh, for the commound weill and profytt therof, and also sall mentene and furthsett the fayth and religioun of Jesus Cryst at my wtter power, and sall be innemy to all thaim that resistis and ganestandis the samen. Also I sell assyst, concur, fortify, and furthsett all thingis ordanit and concludit to be done be the nobile consell of this guid toune in all thingis concerning the auansment of Goddis glory and the libertie and fredome of this burght and communitie thairof, in equite and justice, as my wit, wnderstanding, puisans, and power will serwe me to do, at the will and plesure of God; quhilk I awow and promise to obserwe in presens of God and this congregatioun.

6th January, 1561.

The said day, the hail toun beand lauchtfully warnit to this day, to heir and se the siluer wark, brasin wark, keippis and ornaments, of thair parroche kirk ropit, and the same to be sauld and disopnit to thame that vill offer maist for the same; and the money gottin for the samyn to be applawdit to the commound weill and necessar adoiois of this guid toun. Quhillkis being ropit conforme to the invitour registrat in the buikis obofeir diuerse tymes be oppin proclamatioun, and dieurse and sindry offeraris for the same lauchfull tym of day being bidden, and detful ordour vsit in sic caissis, being obseruit, the grytest sovme offerit for the same wes ane hundreth fourtie tua pound be Patrik Menzeis for the keippis, xxi s. for ilk vnce of siluer, xvj s. for ilk stane of brass, extending in the hail to the sovme of fyw hundreth xl lib. money of Scotland. Quhair for the hail toun consentit and assentit to deliuer the said siluer wark, keippis, bres, and ornamentis, continit in the invitour forsaid, to the said Patrik of the proces forsaid; and ordanis the money thairof to be deliuerit to the thesaurar to be applyit for the commound weill and necessar adoiois of this guid toun, as the hail communitie sall think expedient.

The said day, Gilbert Menzes and Gilbert Collysonne dissentit to the said roiping, selling, and disposicioun, for thame selffis and their adherans, lyk as thai haue discentit and protestit in sic caicis ewer obofeir, as thai alleigit, and tuk act of court tharwpon.

16th March, 1561.

The baillies ordanis Hector Dolloquhy, quha wes convickt

obefoir for the striking and bluid drawing of Elpsett Irving, to cum vpoun Sondag nixt cumis to the Sanct Nicolace kirk, and ther, in the presens of God and his holy congregatioun, ask the said Elspet forgifnes, and to revoik the injurious wordis said be him as fals and vntrew, and to sett caution, that gif ewer he beis fundyn in sic offens in tym cuming, to be baneist furth of this guid toune.

18th April, 1561.

The said day, the hail towne, being convenit for the maist pairt be sound of the hand bell, ordanit David Mar, thesaurar of this guid towne, to reseawe and vptak the maillis, fermis, proffittis, and dewiteis of the freiris croftis, to be applyit to the townis vtilite and proffitt, aye and quhill he be dischargit; and Gilbert Menzeis and Gilbert Collisoune disassentit thairto, lyk as thai haue done in all sic actionis concerning the introumissionoun of geir belanging to the kirk, and protestit that thai be dischargit therof.

12th January, 1562.

The said day, Thomas Menzeis exponit to the consell that he is suirle informit that the quenis grace is to cum to the north partis to vesy the same, betuix this and Peace nixt to cum, or thairby, and that it is nocht onknawin to thame of her grace honorabill resauing at her first entry, and precely propynis giffin to hir grace, in Edinburght and Dunde, and vther townis that hir grace hes veseit, and inquirit thame quhat thai thoocht expedient to be done thairanent. Quha all in ane voce dewisit and ordanit the sowme of twa thousand merkis to be vplifit for the preparatioun and decoration of the toun, and to be propynit to hir grace, as vise hes bene in tymes bypast to be done to kingis and princes of this realme at their first entre, with consultation to be had quhair the said sowme may be best casalie collekit and gottyn.

25th November, 1562.

The said day, Thomas Menzeis, prowest, and Maister George Myddiltoun, bailze, decernit and ordanit Margrat Forbes, seruant to Maister Robert Andersone, quha is convickt for the strubling, stryking, and bluid drawing of Elizabeth Wood, to pay and recompens the barbour for the curing and leyching of the said Elizabeth, and to gif her also for ane pecuniall pane £1 6s. 8d. Scottis money. And attour to compeir on Sondag

nixt cumis, immediatlie efter the preching, within the parroche kirk, and thair, in presens of the congregatioun, ask God and the party offendit forgifnes, with a contreit and penitent mynd; and gif ewer sche committis sic offence in tym cuming, to be baneist of this toune for ewer; and the said Maister Robert Andersone, hir maister, is becumin souertie and caution for fulfilling of the premisses, in presence of the prowest and bailies.

15th March, 1563.

The baillies chargit Elizabeth Annand, spouse to Johnne Maitland, to pay Francis Degley, barbour, twentie s. Scottis money, for the laubouris bestowit be him vpon the said Elizabeths dochter, in heling and mending of hir ein, within terme of law.

15th November, 1574.

The said day, the hail communitie being warnit to this day, conduit Johnne Cowpar to pas euerie day in the morning at four houris, and euerie nicht at viii. houris at ewyne, throw all the rewis of the toune playand upon the almany quhissil, with ane servand with him playand on the tabroune, quhairby the craftismen thair servandis and all utheris laboriouss folkis being warnit and excitat, may pas to thair labouris and fra thair labouris, in dew and conuenient tyme; and ordanis the said Johnne to haff for his stipend and fee yeirlie tua s. of euerie burgess man, and xviii. d. of euerie free craftisman, at four termes in the yeir, Candelmes, the ruid day, Lammes day, and Hallow day, and the first terme to begyn at Candilmes nixt to cum, and that upon his guid seruice induring the consellis will.

13th May, 1580.

The said day, the hail toune being lauchtfullie warnit, &c., it wes exponit to thame be Gilbert Mengzes of Petfoddellis, thair prowest, quhow that he hes gottin aduertisment fra Edinburght in ureit, that our maister the Kingis Maiestie (quhome God preserve) is to cum shortlie to visie the north partis of this realme, and specialie this burght; and that it is nocht unknowin to thame of the rait and lowabill consentud of this realme in all tyme bigane; and that at quhatsumeuir tyme his grace progenitouris Kyngis of Scotland of gud memorie happynnit to visie and repair to the maist honorabill burrowis of this realme, that at the time of thair first entrie and presentatioun of thame selfis thairunto, thai used to re-

ceive thair said Souerane Lord and Kyng witht willing and glaid hartis, schawing significatioun thairof at thair urthermaist power to receive and glaid the Kingis Maiestie with farsceis, playeis, historeis, antikis, and sic uther decoratioun as was thoct expedient for the tyme; and also, to propyne thair graces witht ane honorabille propyne of gold, waks and spyce, and uther prouision, to the furneing of his graces hous; and speciallie this burght was euir radie to do sic decoratioun and plese at the first entre of thair Prince and Kyng at thair urthermaist power according to thair substance and facultie, and inquiryt at the communitie, being conuenit be lauchtfull warnyng as said is, for the maist part to the effect under wretin, gif thai wald do the lyk now as thair predecessouris burgessis and inhabitantis of this burght did obofor, gif it happinit our said Maister the Kingis Grace to hald furth his purpous in visiting this his Graces pur towne, of the quhilkis thai all in ane voice bot contradictioun war glad, content, and consentit thairto, and for preparatioun of the premisses consentit to collect, lift, and gadder, ane taxatioun of the sowme of thrie thowsand markis usuall monee of this realme, and for setting of the said stent and taxatioun, nominat and chesit the personis under wretin; that is to say, Robert Mengzes, Alexander Rutherford, ballies; John Lawsonne, Androw Hunter, Alexander Forbes, &c., stentaris and texaris, quha war sworne the gryt aicht to stent the samen upon the nychtbouris and inhabitantis of this burght, ilk ane conforme to his substance and facultie, according to thair conscience, knowlege, and understanding.

29th March, 1585.

The said day, the provest, balyeis, and counsall of this burght, haueing consideratioun that the payment of the fuir of thair paroche kirk is oft tymes opinit and brokin throw the buriall to the gryt expenssis of the reformatioun thairof, and als of the desyir and supplicatioun of dyueris personis quha desyris the bodeis of thair departit freindis to be bureit in the said kirk, swa that throw the multitude of deid bodeis bureit thairin few places is to be fund thairintill but grein grauis, albeit the kirkyard be ane honorabill place of buriall gif thai wald content thairwitht, thairfoir the saidis provest, balyeis, and counsall all in ane voce, thoct expedient and concludit that the bodeis of na persoun past tuentie yeiris of aige be bureit in the said kirk, without payment of thre pundis of money or thai be bureit, and of bairnis xx. s. to be payit to the maister of the kirk wark, for the quhilk he sallbe obleist and

astrectit to ansuir yeirlie in his compt, and that but preindice of sik fundationis as ar preuilegit personis to the said maister of kirk wark, to causis ane officiar als oft as neid beiss point and distrenze for the said dewtie, ordainand the officiaris to be radye, and ansuir and obey the said maister of kirk wark, anent poiding, for contenting of this present act.

8th January, 1592.

The said day, the prouest, balleis, and consall, wnderstanding that the burghis of Edinburgh, Dundye, Perth, and wtheris townis be south this burgh, perceaving the gryt disordour and confusioun that presentlie now regnis within the haill realme, trubill and calamiteis quhairwith the same is presentlie grevit, and cheiflie the persecutioun, intentit and deusyt to hawe bene put in practeis be the enemies of Chrystis treu evangel, aganis the ministrie and professouris theirow within the burrowis, hes for thair awin safetyes cans, and for publick quyetes within the saidis burrowis, causit thair townis to be nichtlie walkit and watchit be the citizenis and inhabitantis of the samen, that na disordour sall enter theirin, na strangearis and extranearis resort and repair theirto, quheirof the magistrattis of the samen suld nocht be aduerteist and forsene, and that this burgh is situat in sic ane pairt of the cuntre, be itself alane far distant fra ony wther townis, hes not only wpon the occasionis aboue rehersit, bot lykwayis be resson of the gryt disordour now within thir north pairtis quhair the barbarous and crewell helandmen ar brokin lowas, hes wait gryt crewelteis and rasit hudge hardschippis, quhilk is ane mater that tuichis this burgh and inhabitantis thairof, lyand sa neir hand to the hielandis, it being ane oppin toun; for thir caussis, thochot meit and expedient, deusyt and ordanit, with consent of the haill toun convenit this day in thair heid court, that this burgh, as the remanent burrowis be south the samen sall be nichtlie watchit and walkit during the space that sall be thocht expedient be the prouest, balleis, and counsall, the portis thairof made fast and nichtlie lockit, the catbandis nichtlie festinit, and that ilk nichtbour and inhabitant of this burgh sall hawe, keip and wphald thair bak dykis and bak yettis fast and sufficient, and that the said nichtlie wache sal be of sic a numer of the inhabitantis thairof as sall be thocht meit and expedient be the baillie of the quarter, ilk persone, inhabitant of this burgh, being warnit to the wache to cum theirto to the gaird hous at the tyme appoyntit, in armour, jack, steil bonat, spair, halbert, or lang gun, and remane for that night in the

wache, at sic places of the toune as he sall be appoyntit be the baillie of the quarter, to [] houris in the morning, and quhasoeuer sal be absent fra the wache, being warnit theirt, or not remain thereat during the tyme appoyntit, to incur the wnlaw of tuentie s. on forgiffin.

31st January, 1592.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, and consall, electit, nominat, and chesit Daud Cargill, to be watter baillie quhill Michaelmes nixt cummis, quhom thay ordanit to attend wpon the herbrie and schoir of this burgh, that na channell, stanes, sand, nor any uther thing be cassin in the trink of the watter, or within the fluid merk, out of schippis, craris, or bottis, and that the skipperis or awneris of the schippis or craris cumming to the samen fra the south or north partis of this realme, or fra ony foran cuntreis, present to the said watter baillie or to the magistrattis of this burght, the just entrie of the gudis, geir, and merchandrie in the saidis schippis, craris, or boittis, with the names of the merchandis and awneris of the samen: as alsua, the skipperis of all craris or boittis passing out of this herbrie to wther partis to do the lyk, to the effect, that forbiddin gudis and wnfremenis gudis may be knowin, and that all shippis, craris, or boittis, cumming to the herbrie of this burgh with coillis, lyme, sklattis, or wther common necessaris, to be sauld, that the samen sal be distributit to the nightbouris of this burgh be the discretioun of the baillie and magistrattis, for sic paynis as is agreit on with the skipperis or awneris of the samen, and that na persone quhatsumeuer frie nor onfrie, presume to tak ony proffeit or commoditie on coillis, lyme, sklaitt, or other common necessaris in tyme cuming, according to the ordinance maid thairanent obefoir, wnder the payne of [] s. to be incurrit be the contravenar of this statut.

21st February, 1592.

The said day, the prouest, bailleis, and consall, &c., deuyisit and ordanit that thair salbe propynit to his majesties hous at his graces cumming to this burght, ane punsheoun of auld Burdeaux vyne, gif it may be had for money, and gif not, ane last of the best and fynest aill that may be gottin within this burght, together with the spicerie eftir following; that is to say, four pound weycht of pepper, half pund of measis, four unces of safrone, half pund of cannele, fourtene pund of suckour, tua dussone buistis of confeittis, ane dossone buistis of

scorchettis, ane dussoun buistis of succour almondis. ane dussone buistis of confectionis, and ane chalder of coillis, and the deane of gild and thesaurer sall deburse and pay for the samen, of the reddiest of the accidentis that is in thair handis, or ather of thame, quhilk salbe allowit to thame in their comptis, nochtwithstanding of the ordinance of counsall maid obefoir, ordaining that all frie syluer that sall happin the said thesaurer and deane of gild to receawe be ressonne of thair offices (the kingis and townis pensioneris being alwayis first payit), to be employit for payment of the annuell rent of his majesties tocher of the Martomes terme last bypast and Witsonday terme to cum, quhairanent the prouest, bailleis, and consall dispensis be ressonne of the present necessitie, and that the custume is, that ever the kingis and princes of this realme at thair cumming to this burgh, hes bene in all tyme bygane propnyit with vyne and spycerie.

22nd February, 1593.

The said day, the consall folowing the exampill of the townis of Edinburcht, Perth, Dundy, and Montroiss, quhilkis laillie within thir thrie or four dayis, for that it hes plesit God to grant to his Majestie ane sone, a prince to this realme and cuntrie, had maid sum solemnitie according to the ancient custume maid at birth of princes of this realme, in signe and token of thair joyful hartis, be bigging of fyris, praying and thanking God for the benefitt, be singing of psalmes throu the hail rewis and streittis of the tounis, drinking wyne at the croces thairoff, and uthervayes liberally bestowing of the spyceries, ordanit the lyk forme and ordour to be within this burght on Sunday nixt, the xxiiii. of this instant, immediatlie folowing the eftir nune sermone, and ane tabill to be coverit at the mercat croce of the samen, for the magistrattis and bayth the consallis, with tua bunnis of Inglis beir, to be placed and run at the said mercat croce, the vyne to be liberallie drunkin in sic a ressonabill quantitie as the deane of gild sall deuyse, four dussoun buistis of skorchettis, confecttis, and confectionis to be placed on the said tabill, and cassin amongis the pepill, with glassis to be brokin; and ordanis Johnne Tilliedaffe, deane of gild to prouyd the samen and mak expensis thairupoun, quhilk salbe allowit to him in his comptis.

30th September, 1594.

The said day, the counsell having consideration that Johnne Collyson, quha is electit prouest of this burght for the year to

cum, hes his present duelling in Torrie, and that for his diligent avating on the said office, he may transport himself, wyff, bairnis, and famelie, to this burgh, and duell theirin during the tyme of his office, and be ressoun he hes nocht a ludging of his awin within this burght, ordanit Alex^r Ewyn, deane of gild, to prouyd for ane ludging to him, quhair the same may be maist commodiouslie had for maill, with all convenient diligence, to the effect the said prouest may haue his residence and duelling within this toun, and that the maill of the said ludging salbe payit be the deane of gild of the reddiest of the accidentis and casualiteis belanging to the toun, quhilk sal happin him to receave be vertew of his office, quhilk salbe allowit to him in his comptis.

17th September, 1595.

The said day, it was thocht meitt and expedient be the prouest, baillies, and consall, that preserving and keping of the meall that cummis to the mercatt of this burght to be sauld, fra rayn and wynd. and to the effect the same may be the mair commodiouslie mett without-skayth, als weill to the sel-laris as to the byeris, that thair be commoun hallis maid of tymber coverit aboue with deallis, and opening on bayth sydis, vpon the eist end of the tolbuith, fra the north cheik of the tolbuith dur direct eist or theirby, toward the place quhair the malt mercatt standis, and that be the aduysse of David Anderson, David Cargill, and sic vtheris of the consall as sall be adionit to thame, upon the townis expenssis be the dean of gild or thessaurer, and the expenssis to be debursit be thame theiron to be allowit to thame in thair comptis, and of ilk lead or seck of meill sic ane dentie to be exactit of the awner their- of, as sall be dueysit heireftir be the consall, and the saidis hallis to be rowpit yeirlic.

24th December, 1595.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, and consall, considering that the chief burrowis of this realme hes houssis belanging to the burght callit the townis houssis, quhilkis servis for a wreting buith to thair commoun clerk, and a hous for keping of thair buikis and registeris, and aduysing of the processes dependand betuixt nichtbour and nichtbour befor the prouest and baillies, and that maist ewous to the tolbuith of the burght; and that Maister Thomas Mollysone, commoun clerk of this burgh, is to remove at Witsunday nixt fra the chalmer and wreting house presentlie occupit be him, quhilk was occu-

peit obefor be vrnquhill Maister Johnne Kennedy, commound clerk, dyvers and sindrie yeris, lyand on the north syd of the Castelgett of this burght, quhilk was ever callit the clerkis chalmer, a place knawin to the haille inhabitantis and vtheris as maist convenient for that purpose, being sa neir the tolbuyth of this burght, to sie and prouyd for ane hous quhair the same may be maist commodiously and convenientlie had narrest to the tolbuith of this burght, quhilk langer the said Maister Thomas can nocht possaid nor occupie, be reasone the same is disponit heretablie be the proprietor, and the byer therof man enter theirto at the said terme; theirfor ordanit the thesaurer of this burght to sie and prouyd for ane hous, quhair the same may be maist commodiouslie and convenientlie had narrest to the tolbuyth, to be ane vreting buyth to the said M^r Thomas, thair servitour and clerk, and to be ane hous for keping of the townis buikis and registeris, and aduysing of proceses, that the prouest and baillies may have recours thervnto to that effect, as ane meit hous for the same, and that the thesaurer sall pay the mail thereof yeirlie, vnto the tyme the town and counsall prouyd for ane hous of thair awin to the effect forsaide, the mail of the quhilk yeirlie sall be allowit to the said thesaurer in his comptis.

2nd September, 1596.

The said day, anent the supplicatioun presentit to the prouest, baillies, and counsall, be Maister Quintine Prestoun, professor of phisick, craving at thame the libertie and benefit in respect of his debilitie, being sumquhat stricken in aige, and sua not abill to accomplishe the dentie without ane coadiutor, to interteine ane apothecar and his apothecarie chop, for the better furnesing of this burght and of the cuntrie, of all sort of physical and chirurgicall mendicamentis, as the said supplicatioun at lenth proportis, quhairwyth the counsall being aduysit, and reasoning theiranent at lenth, findis the desyre theirof reasonable; and theirfor gawe and grantit, and be thir presentis gevis and grantis libertie and licence to the said Mr. Quintine, to interteine ane apothecar with his apothecarie chop, to the effect aboue specifeit, during the will of the counsall and the said Mr. Quintines guid behaviour, allanerlie.

The quhilk day, the counsall considering that thair is a gryt resort of the inhabitantis of this burght, bayth men and women, daylie to ane Johnne Gordone, alias Williamsone, presentlie *detenit* in captivitie in the kirk wolt, as a manifest and oppia

witche, quha continewallie, quhill he was laitlie apprehendit and tane, gawe himself out as a dum man, and speris at the said Johne dyvers and sindrie thingis werray preiudiciall to the commoun pepill, quha hes bene, and is yit, daylie seducit and deludit be him, to the gryt dishonour of God, theirfor ordanit proclamatioun to be maid the morne, be the drum passand throw the hail rewis of the toune, that na inhabitant within this burght presvme nor tak vpon hand to confer to, nor speak with, the said Johne in tyme cumming in any sort, certifeing sic as sal be fund and notit conferring with him, sall be causit mak publict repentance in sack cloth, besyd the danger of the kingis lawis to be execut on thame with all rigour, conforme to the actis of parliament; and siclyk ordanis ane commissioun to be send for to his Maiestie, to be direct to the schireff, for sitting and haulding justice on him, conforme to the lawis of this realme, for his withecraft.

14th September, 1596.

The quhilk day, the hail toune, baith frie and vnfrie, being lawfullie warnit to this day be the hand bell passand throw the hail rewis of the toun, wherwpoun the berar maid fayth, and convening for the maist part within the tolbuith, representand the hail bodie, it was exponit and declarit to thame be Thomas Mengzeis, prouest, that it wes the voit, consent, and ordinance of bayth the consallis of this burght, suld and new sessionis therof, that the toun salbe deuydit in tua seuerall halffis, to vit, the Evin Quarter and Futtie Quarter, with the four round tabillis, for the ane halff, and the Grene and Crukit Quarteris, for the vther halff, quhill the Grey Frier Kirk, callit the Midtoun Kirk, suld be repairit, quhilk is ordanit to be done with all convenient diligence, and than the toun to be deuydit agane in thrie partages and parochinis, and as it suld fall be lott, the ane halff to repair to the auld kirk, and the vther to the new kirk, and preiching to be on the Sabboth day, alsweill eftir none as afoir none, in bayth the saidis kirkis, and on the tua ordinar vlk preiching dayes, preiching to be the ane day in the new kirk, and the vther day in the auld kirk, quhill the said third kirk be repairit, and than the toun to be deuydit in thrie parochinis as said is; and theirfor inquiryt of the toun, convenit as said is, gif they wald consent and assent theirvnto, es to ane mater and actioun bayth godlie and profitabill, quhilk desire the toun, assemblit as said is, thocht bayth godlie and reasonable, and willinglie assentit to the ordinance of the saidis counsallis and sessionis, na man saying in the contrar,

and for effectuating therof, the persones and inhabitantis of the saidis Evin and Futtie Quarteris, and four round tabillis, convent, nominat the said Thomas Mengzeis, prouest, to draw the lott for thame, quhilk of the saidis kirkis, and quhiddir the bischop or Mr. Peter Blakburne, minister, suld fall to thame; and the persones of the Crukit and Grene Quarteris chesit Alexander Rutherford to draw the lott for thame, quhilk of the saidis kirkis and ministeries suld fall to thame; according to the quhilk nominatioun, the saidis Thomas Mengzeis and Alexander Rutherford, drawing the lottis, the said new kirk with the said Mr. Peter Blakburne, fell to the said Evin and Futtie Quarteris and four round tabillis, and the suld kirk with the bischop fell be lott to the said Grene and Crukit Quarteris; and heirefter the toun was exhortit be the prouest and minister to keip thair awin paroche kirkis on the Sabbath day, bayth afoir and efternone, and to be subject to the discipline of thair awin kirkis and ministrie, as is fallin to thame be lott, quhilk in the name and fear of God thay promiseist so to do, quhairvpon the said Thomas Mengzeis, prouest, and the said Mr. Peter Blakburne tuik act of court and instrument.

20th September, 1596.

The samen day, the prouest, baillies, and counsall ordanis David Cargill, dean of gild, to gif to Alex^r Tailzeour, alias Checkum, the townis commoun poist, ane garment and luiffay, of Scottis blew, having the townis armes on the schulder, and the expenssis to be maid be the said dean of gild theiron, ordanis the same to be allowit to him in his comptis.

28th January, 1596.

The said day, the consall ordanit Thomas Rany and his wyff to be tackin and careit throcht the strettis of the toun, bund to ane cart, with ane croun of paper on ilk ane of thair heidis, contening this circumscription in gryt letteris, *for thift and ressett of thift*, and thairefter to be perpetuallie banisist this burght, and this to be done the morne.

18th February, 1596.

The said day, the consall considering that malefactoris and enorme persones, theiffes, and ressetteraris, in tymes bygane hes past vnpunischit, efter they have bene convict of odious crymes and offences, sum meriting death, vtheris banisichement,

scourging, burning, and tormenting, be the schiref, prouest, and baillies of this burght, ather of thame according to their awin power and jurisdiction, for laik and want of ane persone to execut the sentence pronouncit aganis the offendar and malefactour, quhom to find it wes difficill, be reasoune of the hard intrating and vssing of sic as hes bene sic officemen and executouris in tymes bygane, be sum of the nichtbouris and inhabitantis of this burght, of the meanest and simplest sort, without knowledge, in offending of the said executour and officeman, ather be word or deid, sum calling him hangman, with many gryter opprobrious appellationis, hounding him aff the toun, casting stanes at him, and vtherwayes injuring of him be way of deid, quhairby the executour hes bene forcit to leaue the toun and desert his office, hes theirfor chosin Johne Justice to be executour of the sentences of baneisment, scourging, tormenting, or vtherwayes punisching of malefactouris be the prouest and baillies, quha lykewayes salbe executour of the sentences and domes pronouncit be the schireff aganis persones condampnit to die or be scourgit; and to the effect he may execut his office the better without offence, ordanit proclamation to be maid at the mercatt croce of the burght, that na nichtbour theirof, man nor woman, young nor auld, tak vpon hand or presome to offend the said Johne Justice, ather be word or deid, in forme aboue rehersit, or any maner of way that may cause him desert his office, certifeing sic as salbe fund to contravene the same, salbe puneschit with all regour as the consall sall denyse, and that his hous salbe in the little hous vnder the tolbuyth stair, the dur theirof to be reparit, and ane lok to be put theron.

4th May, 1597.

The said day, it being vnderstand to the prouest, baillies, and counsall, that the burrowis of Edinburght, Perth, Dundee, and vtheris weill reformit and governit townis of this realme, hes commodious and convenient houssis, callit the townis hous or commoun clerkis chalmer of the burght, maist ewous and neir to the tolbuyth and hous of justice, quhairvnto the magistrattis of the burght, and oftymes the counsall of the samyn, frequentlie reparis, for aduysing of the proces and actionis depending befor the magistrattis, consulting and deliberating oftymes vpon the effaris of the burght, and for sighting of the townis registeris and court buikis their put, kepit, and placit, and that the clerkis chalmer of this burght, presentlie occupait be him, and quhilk was occupait obefair be his predicesouris.

thir dyvers yeris bygane, for the quhilk thair is yeirlie payit out of the commoun gude be the thesaurer twentie four pundis, is now becom ruynous, navayes decent nor cumlie to the prouest, baillies, and counsall to repair theirvnto, to the effect aboue specifeit, nather yit sure nor sufficient to keip the registeris and court buikis of this burght, in that Mr. Thomas Mollisoun, commoun clerk theirof, be reasoun of the insufficiencye of the said hous, is compellit to keip the said registeris and buikis in his awin duelling hous, theirfor the saidis prouest, baillies, and counsall, folowing the exampill of the saidis burrowis, findis it meit and expedient that thair salbe ane hous biggit of tymmer, on the wast gavill of the tolbuyth, tua stair hicht, and [] futtis in breid, the laichest of the saidis tua stairis to be the wretting hous for the clerk of this burght, his deputtis and servandis, and to keip the registeris, buikis, and proces, with ane studie in the end theirof for the clerk himself, out of the quhilk laichest stair, thair salbe ane dur to enter to the counsalhous, and the hichest stair to be ane hous quhairin the prouest and baillies sall adyise the proces, and the counsall, as occasioun salbe offered, consult and deliberat vpon the effaris of the toun, and vnder the lachest of the saidis stairis, ane convenient place for the flescheris to hing and put out thair fleschis to be sauld, and keping and preserving the same from rayn and wadder; and their the commoun clerkis chalmer of this burght to be biggit, with commodious and convenient lichtis and passage theirvnto, as a place maist commodious theirfor, and ordanis the same to be done with sic convenient tyme, as the necessitie of the gryter effaris of this burght will permit, and with the reddiest of the commoun rent and patrimonie of the samen, that salbe in the thesaureris handis, and with the accidentis that sall fall to the dean of gild for the tyme, and the expenssis to be maid theirvpon be the saidis thesaurer and dean of gild to be allowit thame in thair comptis. Persones of counsall present—Alexander Rutherford, prouest; Maister Patrik Cheyne, Maister Alex' Cullen, George Knowis, Alex' Jaffray, baillies; Alex' Cullen, David Fergusson, Maister Gilbert Gray, Patrik Forbes, Walter Collysoun, Andro Scherar, William Dwn, Alex' Burnett, Alex' Kempt, John Layng, George Elphinstoun, saidler, and Andro Watsoun, wricht.

11th January, 1597.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, auld and new counsallis, remembering that thair was ane act and ordinance maid obefoir vpon the fourt day of May last bypast, in this instant yeir of

God, fourscoir seventeins yeiris, ordaning ane hous to be biggit of tymmer on the west gavill of the tolbuyth of this burght, tua stair hicht, and ten futtis in breid, to be the commoun clerkis chalmer of this burght, and ane house for avysing of the proces compending befor the prouest and bailleis of this burght, and that inrespect that the chalmer than occupiet, and as yit occupieit be Mr. Thomas Mollisoun, commoun clerk, is auld and ruynous, and alwayes vncumlie to the prouest and baillies to repair into, as at mair lenth was contentit in the said act, theirfor ratifeit, affermit, and approvit the said act and ordinance in all poyntis ; and ordanit David Cargill, present dean of gild, with all convenient diligence, to by tymmer and materiallis for bigging of the said hous, vpon the said wast gavill of the said tolbuyth, and to enter to the bigging of the same, quhowsone the wadder will permit, to be biggit in forme and maner specefeit in the said former act, and the expenssis to be maid be the said dean of gild theirvpon, the consall ordanis the same to be allowit to him in his comptis.

25th January, 1597.

The quhilk day, the prouest, bailleis, and counsell, vpon the supplicatioun presentit to thame be David Andersone, yonger, bering that he hade devysit ane instrument, of his awin ingyne, to draw and mak dyellis or sone horolages, and that he wes willing to mak ane on the fairwall of the said burgh, quhilk suld schaw houris verie justlie be the sone, with euery moneth of the yer, the longest, schortest, and equinoctiall dayis ; and quhen the same suld be perfytit and endit, he wald refer his recompance for his panis and labouris to the guid discretioun of the prouest, bailleis, and counsell, and at their plesour ; quhilk being red in counsell, and consideret advysedlie, thocht the desyr of the said supplicatioun resonable, and allowit of the said Daudis intentioun, ordering him to proceed in the perfyting, ending, and vpputting of ane dyell or sone horolage one the tolbuyth, on sic pairt thairoff as salbe thocht meit and expedient ; and thaireftir the said David to be recompensit for his pane and verk, according to the dignitie and suffiience thairof, be the guid discretioun and consideratioun of the prouest, bailleis, and counsell.

24th April, 1598.

The said day, the prouest and bailleis ratefeis and approvis the act and statut maid obofor that na burgess of gild of this burght sall wear bleu bonattis, wnder the pane of ane unlaw of

fyve pundis, and intimat the said ordinance to the town convenit this day.

4th October, 1598.

Folowis the statutes maid and sett down this day be the prouest, baillies, and counsall of the burgh of Abirden, to be kepit and observit be the inhabitantis theirof, subject thervnto, efter the forme and tenour of the same, in all poyntis, quhill the feist of Michaelmes nixt to cum, vnder the panis thairin contenit.

In the first, the prouest, baillies, and counsall ratefeis, affermes, and approves the gude and godlie statute maid obefoir be thair predecessoris, anent the keeping of the sermons on the Sabboth and vnk dayes, bering that all maisteris of houshouldis within this burght sall repair to thair parochie kirkis, keip and obserne the sermons on the Sabboth day, als weill efternone as afoirnone, and also the sermons on the vnk dayes, and not depairt theirfra vnto the end theirof, vnder the panis folowing, to be vpliftit of the contravenaris, sa oft as they be noted and convict for thair absence fra the said sermons ; that is to say, of everie houshalder, burges of gild, or his wyff, remaning fra the sermons on the Sabboth day, threttene s. four d. ; and of everie frie craftsman or his wyff remaning fra the sermons on the Sabboth day, sex s. viii. d. ; and everie burges of gild for his remaning fra the sermons on the vnk dayes, sex s. viii. d. ; and everie craftsman for his remaning fra the sermons on the vnk dayes, thrie s. four d. ; and that everie husband and maister of houshald salbe answerabill for his wyff, incace of her absence frae the sermons, and pay the vnlaw incurrit be hir theirfor ; and everie craftsman to be answerabill for his servandis and prenteissis, that they sall keep the sermons on the Sabboth day, vnder the pane of ane vnlaw of thrie s. four d., to be incurrit be the maister for his servand or prenteis, that beis absent on the Sabboth day ; and lykwayes, folowing the exampill of vther weill reformit congregationis of this realme, statutis and ordanis that the wyffs of all burgessis of gild, and of the maist honest and substantialis craftsmen of this burght, sall sitt in the middest and bodie of the kirk in tyme of sermone, in all tyme cumming, and not in the syd ilis, nor behind pilleris, to the effect thay may the mair easilie sie and hear the delyverer and preicher of the word ; and siclyk ordanis, that the wemen of the rankis for-said, sall repair to the kirk, everie ane of thame having ane clock, as the maist decent and cumlie vtter garment, and not

with playdis as hes bene frequentlie visit ; and that everie ane of thame lykvayes sall have stullis, sa monie as may commodiouslie hawe the same, according to the decent forme observit in all reformit burrowis, and congregations of this realme ; and that the brether of gild salbe answerabill for thair servandis anent the keping of the kirk on the Sabbath day.

14th March, 1598.

The prayer to be said vpon the day of the electioun of the magistrattis of Abirdene befor the electioun theirf.

Eternall and everhering God, quha hes created mankynd to societie, in the quhilk thou that is the God of order and haittis confusioun, hes appoynted sum to rewill and governe, and vthers to be governed, and for this caus he hes sett down in thy word the nottis and markis of sic as thou hes appoynted to beir government, lyk as of thy gryt mercie thou hes gathered us to be ane of the famous and honorabill burghtis in this kingdome, and hes reservit to ws this libertie, yeirlie to chels our counsall and magistrattis, we besech the for thy Chrystis sake, seing we are presentlie assembled for that purpos, be present in the middist of ws, furneis ws with spirituall wisdom, and direct our hartis in sic sort, that all coreupt affectionis being removed, we may cheice bayth to be counsell and magistrattis for the yeir to cum, of our brethrene fering God, men of knowledge, haitteris of avarice, and men of courage and actioun, that all our proceedingis heirin may tend to thy glorie, to the weill of the haill inhabitantis of this burght, and we may have a gude testimonie of conscience befor the. Grant ws, deir Father, theas our requestis, for Chryst thy Sonnes saik, in quhais name we pray to the as he hes teichit ws.

Our Father quhilk art in heaven, &c. &c.

12th July, 1599.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, and counsall ordanis David Fergusson, thesaurer, to deburse and pay to Mr. George Greir, minister, the soume of fourtie pundis money, for macking of his expenssis in cumming to this towne from Edinburgh, at the desire of the counsall, to the effect the inhabitantis of this burght might hear his doctrine, and for macking of his expenssis bak agane to Edinburgh, quhilk salbe allowit to the said thesaurer in his comptis ; and lykvayes ordanis Mr. Peter Blakburne, minister, to be rememberit for the interteneing of the said Mr. George this ten or xii. dayes past in the said Mr. Peteris hous.

19th January, 1599.

The said day, in presence of Alex^r Rutherford, provost, comperit Thomas Lorne in the Overtoun of Dyce, foramekill as the said Thomas hes bene accusit of hering of spreittis, and wavering oftentymes fra his wyff, bairnis, and famelie, be the space of sevin vikis, nocht knawin to thame nor to any vther persoun quhair he hes bene during the said space, thairfor the said Thomas faythfullie band and oblegit himself, that in case in ony tyme heireftir he be fund passing away from his wyff, bairnis, and famelie, in sic sort, by hir knowlege, and except he mak hir or vtheris his freyndis forsene of his avay passing, and of the erand, to quhat place and to quhome, that in that case he sall be content, but ony forder tryall, to suffer the death as ane giltie persoun, dealer with spreittis.

22^d May, 1600.

The quhillk day, the prowest and baillies, vpoun dyverse and sindrie complayntis maid and gewin in befor thame, aganis the inhabitantis of the fischaris of Futtie, for the vrangous and vnjust away tacking and cutting of the towis and cordellis of schippis, boittis, and craris, cuming to the heavin of this burgh, to the gryt hurt and henderance of sic strangeris as repairs to the samen, and siclyk of the towis and cordellis pertening to the maisteris of the saidis boittis of Futtie: for remeid thairof, hes statute and ordanit that gif ony inhabitant of the said toune of Futtie, man or woman, sall be found or apprehendit in the vrangous cutting, melling, and intronetting with ony towis, cordellis, or vtheris guidis or gear furth of schippis, craris, or boittis, repairing to the herbrie of this burght, or fra the nichtbouris boittis within the said towne of Futtie, that the persoun convict thairof, and found giltie of the same, efter his lauchfull convictioun, sall be bund to ane staik within the floode merk during the space of thre houris, quhill the water flow round about him, and thairefter the persoun sa convict sall be tane and scourgit throche the haill towne, and thairefter baneist of the burght of Aberdeine, fredome of the samen, and of the said toune of Futtie, for euer.

22^d September, 1601.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, counsall, and auditouris of the townis comptis, remembering the labouris and travellis takin be Maister Thomas Cargill, maister of the Grammer

School of this burght, in macking of ane treatise in latin congratulating his Majestie's delyuerie, for his Grace's preseruation fra the lait conspiracie attemptit aganis his hienes persoun, be umquhill the Erll of Gowrie, conteining sum commemoratioun of this burghis antiquitie and privilegis, grantit thairunto be his Majestie's predicessouris, quhilk he dedicat to this burght, thairfor ordanit the sowme of tuentie pundis to be gevin to the said Mr. Thomas, for gratefeing of his panis takin in the said mater, to be payit to him be Alex^r Burnett, maister of the impost, &c.

9th October, 1601.

The samen day, the prouest, bailleis, and counsall ordanis the sowme of threttie-tua merkis to be gevin to the kingis ser-vandis presentlie in this burght, quha playes comedies and staige playes, be reasoun thay ar recommendit be his majestie's speciall letter, and hes played sum of thair comedies in this burght, and ordanis the said sowme to be payit.

7th April, 1602.

The quhilk day, anent the supplicatioun gevin in this day to the prouest, baillies, and counsell be Marjorie Vrqhart, berand that scho hes bene ane auld inhabitant within this burght, and now by the providens of God becom agit and weak, and throw cours of natur nocht liklie to leve lange, albeit thir mony yeris scho haid nocht mekill geir to sustene hirself one, yit navayes burdenable to the toun nor counsell, desyring therfor quhen it suld please God to call hir fra this lyff, scho may hawe hir bodye and banes bureit within the sowth yle of the new kirk thairoff, and that frelie of thair guidnes, becaus his executouris wald nocht hawe mekill geir to pay for hir buriall: quhilk supplicatioun they found ressonabill, and ordanit hir to hawe hir buriall place within the said yle, but payment of ony dewtie therfor to the maister of kirk, quhairanent thir presentis sall be his varrand.

4th August, 1602.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, and counsall, considering that the act of his Majestie's parliament, maid in the moneth of November, the yeir of God j^m and sex hundreth yeris, the fyft day of August is appoyntit to be kept yeirlie in all tyme cumming for publict preitching and solemne thankisgeving to God for the mervellous delywerie quhilk his Maiestie ressauit fra

the horrible murthour attemptit aganis his hienes, be vinqhill the Erll of Gowrie, and Mr. Alex' Ruthven, his bruther, vpon the fyft day of August, the year of God j^m and sex hundreth yeris; thairfor ordanis the hail inhabitantis of this burght, baith men and wemen, to be warnit be the drum passand throw the hail rewis of the towne, to keip the sermonis the morne in the paroche kirk of this burgh, bayth afoir and efter none, and ordanis the mercat croce to be hung, and the wyne and spycerie to be drunken and spent thairat, and a numer of glasses to be brockin and cassin, in signe and token of thair reiosing hartis, for his Maiestie's preservation, and ordanis the thesaurer to furneis the wyne, spycerie, and glassis, in sic quantitie, and in sic decent and cumlie maner, as may stand with the townis honour, and the expenssis to be debursait be the said thesaurer thairon, to be allowit to him in his comptis.

30th March, 1603.

The quhill day, the prouest, baillies, and counsall, having this day resawit suir intelligence, be the declaratioun of James Chalmer, one of his Maiestie's domestickis, that the Quene of England depairtit this present lyff vpon the tuentie fourt day of Marche instant, and that immediatlie thairefter, vpon the samen day, his Maiestie, our Kyng and Souerane, wes proclamit and declarit Kyng of England, as richteous air and successour thairof to hir Maiestie, boith be hir Maiestie's awin letter will and testament, as also be the nobilitie and counsall of England; thairfor inrespect of thir glaid tydingis, hes thoct meit and expedient to signifie and devulgat the same to the hail people, that all the inhabitantis of this burght may prais God for his gracious and mervellous providence in the wark forsaid, and for this effect ordanis the hail towne to be warnit, be sound of trumpet and drum, to assemble instantlie in thair paroche kirke, and thair gif thankis and prais to God for the forsaid glad tydingis of his Maiestie's preferment, successioun, and electioun to the kingdome of England; and efter the ending of thankisgeving, and of the exhortatioun, ordanis bone-fyris to be sett on throcht all the streittis of the towne, the hail bellis to ring, the croce to be deckit and hung, the wyne and spycerie to be spent abundantlie thairat, a numer of glassis to be cassin, and the hail youthis of the towne to tak thair hagbuttis and accompanie thair magistrattis throcht the hail rewis of the towne, pas the tyme in schuting thair muskattis and hagbutis till lait at nicht, the townis hail mvntioun and artailerie to be chargit and schott, and all godlie mirrines and pastyme

visit, that may expres the joy and glaidnes of the hartis of the people, and ordanis the deane of gild and thesaurer to furneis the wyne, spycerie, and glassis, to the erand forsaid, in all decent and cumlie forme, and the expenssis to be debursit be thame thairon, the counsall ordanis the same to be allowit in their comptis.

1st May, 1605.

The said day, the auld and new counsallis findis it expedient, devysit, and ordanit, that the hous callit the kirk ludge at the north vest end of the kirkyard be betit and repairit sufficientlie be David Andersoun, maister of kirkwark, in all convenient diligence, and that the same he devydit in thrie houssis, to the effect the same may serne for haulding of the sangschool, and the twa Inglis schoollis, teichit be the twa reidaris, or for ony vther vse the counsall sall think expedient, it being alwayes expreslie provydit, that albeit the counsall at the present appointis the forsaid ludge for haulding of the saidis schoollis, yet the towne sall navayes be bund to find any schooll to any maister quhatsumever that teichis Ingliche, induring the will and plesure of the counsall, seeing the tounne ar onlie obleist to find a grammer schooll and ane sang schooll and navayes to find ony Ingliche schoollis, sa that it sall be lesum to the consall to remove the saidis Inglis schooll furth of the pairt forsaid quhen they sall think expedient, and the expenssis to be disbursit be the said maister of wark in repairing of the said kirk ludge, the counsall ordanis the same to be allowit to him in his comptis.

26th February, 1606.

The samyn day, anent the bill gewin in be Alexr. Davidson, tymber man in Sanct Androis, mackand mentioun that he hes agreit with the honest men that hes bocht the Wod of Drum for als meekill tymber as will big ane bark, quhilk bark he intendis, God willing, to big within this towne, and becaus the kirkyard of the Trinitie Freris, quhilk is filthilie abusit be mid-dingis, is the maist meit and convenient place for bigging of the said bark, he humblie desyred for sic service as he might do to the towne, that he may hawe licence and guidwill of that rowme for bigging of the said bark, seing the tymber is redie in ane flott to cum to this burght, how sone the watter growis, as at mair lenth was contenit in his said bill; quhairanent the prouest, baillies, and counsall advysing, they fund the desire thairof verie reasonable, and grantit and gawe licence to the

said Alexr. Daudsoun to big hiz schip in the pairt forsaid, viz., in the said Trinitie Freris kirkyard, conforme to the desyre of the said supplicatioun, and for that effect ordanis all these quho hes laid middingis in the said kirkyaird or thairabout, to remove and tak away the same within aught dayes nixt efter the dait hereof, vnder the pane of ane vnlaw of fyue merkis, to be vplifted of the persone failzeand, and ordanis intimatioun to be maid heirof to these quho hes the saidis middingis at the pairt forsaid.

10th March, 1606.

The said day, publicatioune and intimatioune wes maid be Abraham Cuik, belman, passand throw the hail streitis and rewis of the toune, at command of the prouest and baillies therof, that na inhabitant of this burght, man nor woman, presume nor tak vpon hand to eat onie flesche during the tyme of Lent, nather yit on Wednesday, Fryday, nor Seterday thair-etter, in na tyme cuming, vnder the panes contenit in his Maiestie's actis and proclamatiounes maid thiaranent; and that na fleschar nor bucheour within this burght presume to sell onie flesche duering the tyme of Lentrone; and that na tavernar nor hostilar within the samen mak onie flesche reddie during the said tyme of Lentrone, nather yit on Wednesday, Friday, nor Seterday, in na tyme thairefter, vnder the panes contenit in the saidis actis and proclamatiounes; and lykwayes, that all persones haweand onie middingis, stanes, or red of houssis, on the streitis or getis of this toune, to remove and put the same away, within fourtineaucht houris, vnder the pane of fourtie schillings to be vpliftit of the contravenar, awner of the said midding and red, to be payit to the deane of gild efter lawful couvictioune.

26th December, 1606.

The said day, the prouest, baillies, and counsell, considering that the festering of monie and gryt vices, and sundrie abuses and enormities quhilk hes bene commitit within this burght, be persones of all sortis in tyme bygane, has bene the selling and venting of wyne, aill, and beir, be the hostilaris and tavernaris at all houris of the nycht, to the gryt dishonour of this burgh, againes all civill ordour within all vther well-governit common weillis, for remeid thairof, hes statute and ordaneit, with consent of the hail toune this day convenit, that it sall not be lesum to onie hostilar, tavernar, orvinter of wyne, aill, or beir, to sell or vent onie wyne, aill, or beir, fra ten houris at nicht

furth, at the quhilk hour nichtlie the colledge bell within this burghe sall ring, efter the ringing quhairof, gif onie persone, man or woman, salbe fand or apprehendit gangand vpon the streitis or calsayes of this burghes, except sic persones as salbe knawin and tryit be the magistratis to haif necessarie eirandis, that the tavernar and hostilar selling wyne, aill, or beir, efter the said hour of ten of the nicht, and ringing of the said ten hour bell, being tryit and convict thairfor, sall incur and be adjudgit in ane vnlaw of fyve pundis, efter convictioun, *toties quoties*; and, lykwayes, that it suld nawayes be lesum to onie tavernar, or hostilar, to sell onie wyne, aill, or beir, in tyme of preiching, or prayeris on the Sabboth day, under the pane of fyve pundis, to be payit to the deane of gild efter lawfull convictioun, *toties quoties*.

7th October, 1607.

The quhilk day, anent the humble supplicatioun gevin in to the prowest, baillies, and counsall be Edward Diggens, Englishman, craveing libertie to teache the youthe within this burghe in wretting and arithmetik, for the space of thrie moneths allanerlie nixt efter the dait heirof, promiseing in that space at farest to leirne the youthe a sufficient habite of a legible hand, they resorting to him four hours at least in the day, and to teache the poore for Godis sake, and the ritche for reasone, and nothing to be payit except they be profited, as at gryit lenth wes contenit in his said supplicatioun, quhairwith the counsell being advysit, and having sene sufficient and famous testimoniallis fra Glasgow, Dumfreis, and dyvers utheris pairtis, not onlie of the saidis Edwardis guid lyif and conversatioun, bot also of his fruitfull and profitable travellis amongis thame, in instructing of thair youthe to wreit fair and perfyitlie, and haveing sene also dyvers examplaris and paperis of his hand wreit, findis him verie qualifiet to teache the youth in writing, and thairfoir be thir presentis grantis libertie and licence to the said Edward to tak vp a wretting schoole in this burghe, for instructing of the youth in writing and arithmetik allanerlie, nixt efter the date heirof, provyding that he teiche his scolleris onlie to wreit and in arithmetik, and no vtherwayes, and that the scolleris exceed the aige of ten yeiris.

9th August, 1609.

The said day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, vnderstanding that be reasoun of diverse complainttis, gewin in aganis the bairnis and scoleris of the gramer and sang schoollis of

this burgh, for trubling and striking of the scrwandis of diverse nightbouris within the samyn, vsing of gryt disorder and enormities thairin and about the burgh, for avoiding thair of, ordanit Maister David Wedderburne, maister of the gramer schooll, and Patrik Davidsoun, maister of the sang scholl, and al vtheris succeeding to be maisteris of the said schoollis, that they resseue nor admit na man sone, dwelling to landward, to thair saidis schoollis in tyme cuming, quhill the parent of the barne, or sum vther freind or burgess of this burgh, cum, in presens of ane of the baillies therof, and find cautione and sourtie actit in the tounis buikis, that the said barne and scoller sall nawais repyne to the ordour and discipline of the maister, nor yet trublie be way of ded, man nor woman, maister or serwand within this burgh, or outwith the same, sa lang as thay remaine scoleris in ony of the saidis tua schollis, vnder the palmer of the saidis maisteris, vnder the pane of fourtie pundis, less or mair, according to the gravetie of the falt, and habitie of the parent of the scholer offending.

4th December, 1612.

The said day, the provest, baillies, new and auld counsallis, with the bishop and ministrie, being convenit in the counsallous, and aduysing quhat punishement salbe infictit vpon the schollaris of the gramer schooll, sang schooll, and writting schooll of this burght, quha notwithstanding that thay had found cautione befor, that nane of thame sould tack the schooll nor repyne to the discipline of thair maisteris in tyme comeing, ilkane vnder the paine of twentie pundis, yit not obstant thair of, thay vpon the first day of December instant, had tackin the sang scuill, keippit and hauldin the same, with hagbuttis, pistollis, swordis, and lang wapyannis, till yesterday at efter nowne, that the magistratis wer compelit, be resson of the great insolencies, ryottis, and oppressionis, committit be the saidis schollaris, to tack and apprehend thame perforce out of the said school, and committ ane number of thame to waird within the tolbuith of this burgh, quhill ordour sould be put to thame for thair saidis insolencies: efter reasuring and mature deliberatione, takin in the said mater, thay all in ane voyce fand, vottit, concludit, and ordanit, that the cautionaris of euerie ane of the saids schollaris that hes takin the scuill salbe callit and convenit befor the prouest and baillies of this burgh, to heir and sie thameselfis decernit to haue incurrit the said pane and vnlaw of twentie pundis for ilk schollar, that hes contravenit the said act of cautionarie,

and decreit recoverit aganis thame thairfor, and the said paine to be precisie vplifit of ilkane of the cautionaris, and applyit to the common weill of this burgh, and repairing of skaithes and losse sustanit be this burght and nichtbouris thairof, be the tacking of the said scuill; and lykwayis, concludit and ordanit, that sa mony of the schollaris that has tackin the scuill, viz.: Alexander Gordoune, sone to Mr. Willeame Gordeune of Tulhigrieg; Alexander Gordoune, sone of James Gordoune of Lis-moir; Johnne Innes, sone to Alexander Innes of Coltis; Hew Cummyng, brother to the Laird of Culter; John Johnstoun, sone to Robert Johnstoun at Kayesmyline; Willeame Frasyr, sone to [] Frasyr off []; Thomas and George Gordounes, brother to the Laird of Chuny; Willeame Chalmer, sone to [] Chalmer of Balnacraig; Willeame Settoun, sone to vmqhill Mr. Alexander Settoun; Johnne Forbes, sone to the pryoir of Monymusk; Willeame Leslie, sone to vmqhill George Leslie, burges of Abirdene; Johnne Irving, sone to vmqhill Gilbert Irving of Collairlie; James Ogilvy, sone to Willeame Ogilvy of Baldewy; Alexander Cruickschank, sone to Patrik Cruickschank in Ardiffrie; Alexr. Norie, sone to vmqhill Willeame Norie of that ilk; Alexander Forbes, sone to Alexr. Forbes of Feingzes; Johnne Meldrum, sone to [] Meldrum of []; James Camball, sone to the Commissar of Inverness; Alexander Irving, sone to Willeame Irving in the Hirne; Robert Farquharson, sone to Johnne Farquharson of Inverchald; salbe presently excludit and put furth of all the scuillis of this burgh, and nevir ane of them to be admittit nor ressaut in ony schuill or colledge of this burgh in any tyme hereafter; and that caitoun be found be ilkane of the saidis rebellious schollaris, that this burgh, and the hail inhabitantis thairof, salbe harmles and skaithles of thame, and ilkane of thame, and on nawayis to be trublit nor molestit in thair bodies or goodis, be any of the saidis schollaris, in any tyme comeing, vtherwayis nor be ordour of law, vnder the paine of fourtie pundis to be payit for ilkane of the saidis schollaris contraveinand the premisses.

“Conforme” to this “ordinance” sundry securities were entered into; and, further—

The said day, the provest, bailles, and counsall reasoning anent the ordour to be taken be the maistris of schullis of this burgh, for repressing and stencheing in tyme comeing of the insolencies and disordouris that falls out almaist yeirlie within this burgh, be tacking of the schuill about the superstitious tyms of Yuil, quhilk hes cheiflie proceedit be the slacknes of

the maisteris in exercoising discipline on thair schollaris, con-
tenewis the downesetting of the sad ordour till the counsall be
forder aduysit, and in the meantime Gilbert Leslie, maister of
the writting scuill, being present, promessit for his pairt to be
comptabill and answerabill to the magistrattis and counsall for
all his schollaris that ar presentlie within his scuill, that they
sall keip and observe guid ordour, and be obedient to the dis-
cipline in tyme cumeing, and to refound sick indemnitie and
skayth as the tounne sall ressaue be any of his present schol-
laris, and as for sick schollaris as sal happin him heirefter to
ressaue in his scuill, he promessit nocht to ressaue any within
the samen frae this day furthe, till first they find cautionn, in
sick forme as salbe injoynt to thame be the counsall, vnder
the paine of deprivation of him of his office, inace he failse
heiron.

31st July, 1616.

The quhilk day, the hailtoun being conuenit this day
within the tolbuith, conforme to the warning maid to thame
for that effect be the hand bell, Thomas Mengzeis, prowest,
exponit and declarit to thame that his Maiestie haid indicted a
nationall assemblee to be haldin at this burgh, the thretteine
day of August nixt to cum, quhairat thair wald be a gryte re-
sort of peopill of all estates within this kingdome, alsweill of
the biscoppis and clergie, as of erles, lordis, barronis, and com-
missioneris of burrowis, thairfoir desyrit the nychtbouris,
conuenit as said is, to prepar thair houssis with all sort of
victuallis and furniture necessar for interteanement of his
Maiestie's liegis repairing to the said conuentionn, and that
ewerie inhabitant of this burght keip the calsie and straitt
cleine of any kynd of middingis, read, or stanes befoir thair
yettis, stairis, and dwelling housses, and hald the same cleine
and read during the hailt tyme of the said conuentionn, ilk
persone failzeing theirin to incur the vnlaw of fywe poundis ;
as also, that ewerie nichtbour, according to his awin degrie, be
honestlie appariellit during the tyme of the said assemblee,
and that thair wyffis repair to the kirk and streitis with clokis,
and not with playddis, as they ar frequentlie in vse to do.

18th February, 1617.

The quhilk day, Thomas Meingzeis, prowest, intimat to the
toun, conuenit this day be the handbell, ane missiue letter di-
rect to the magistrattis of this burght, from the lordis of his
Maiesties priue counsall, quhilk letter wes oppinlie red in

presence of the haill toune, convenit as said is, quhairof the tenour followis: To our richt traist freyndis, the prowest and baillies of Aberdeine: after our werie hartie commendationis, whereas, the Kingis Maiestie, at his comeing to this kingdome (God willing), this approcheing spring, will have occasioun to remayne some certane space about Munrewmonth for his sport and game, it is lyke aneugh that if the necessitie of his princellie effeiris and adois will not suffer him to come forder uorthe, that yitt divers of his tryne and followaris, especiallie noblemen and vtheris of rank and qualitie, out of thair curiositie to visite the principall pairtis and cheiff burrowis of this kingdome, will tak purpos to come to that toune, whilk being one amongis the best of accompt in this cuntrie, his Maiestie is so muche the more carefull that all thingis be so ordourlie preparit thair, that nather may thair appeir ony markis of incivilitie nor tackynnis of penurie and scant amongis you; and thairfoir, by his Maiesties expres command and directioun, we ar to recommend you that the ludgings in your toune be preparit in the most handsome, civile, and comelie order that can be, with good bedding, weele washine and weele smellit naprie, and with good cleine and cleir weshell, and of sufficient lairgenes, that thair be sufficient provision of vineris for men and horse, that your streets and vennels be kept clene, and that no filthe nor middingis be seine vpon the same; and in speciall, that the commoun way betuixt your toune and the Auldtoun be kept clene, and that you giwe present ordour for remoweing and halding of all middingis at the same, becaus the same is not onlie his Maiesties hie way to the Auldtoun, whair the consistorie sittis, and whairvnto all the memberis of that judicatorie, and pairtyis haueing to do thair, doeth daylie repair, bot the strangeris whilks will repair to your towne at that tyme, will be curious to see the colledge, churche, and otheris monumentis in the Auldtoun; and last, during that aboade of the strangeris amongis yow, thair be no beggaris seene vpon your streitis, nor about your portis, and recommending all thir premissas to your consideratioun and performance, as speciall pointis concerning the credite and reputatioun of your towne, besydis his Maiesties singular contentment and plesure, we bid you hartelie fareweele. From Edinburgh, the xvi. day of Januar, 1617, your werie assuiered goode freyndis, Al. Cancellarius, Binning, Scone, George Hay, G. Murray. Quhilk letter being opinlie red, the said Thomas Mengzeis, prowest, desyrit the towne, convenit as said is, to conforme thame selfis to the desyre thairof in all thingis, as suld be particularis injoynt to thame be thair magistrattis, quha promiseist obedience *thairto in every poynt as they salbe commandit.*

11th March, 1618.

The quhilk day, anent the supplicatioun giuen in be John Davidsons, eldest lauchfull sone to Johne Davidsons, maltman, burgis of this burght, makand mentioun that sen the tyme he come frome the musick schoole, he hes bestowit his tyme in seruice with his maister, Thomas Mylne, virginall macker, quhome he hes seruit sein yeiris as prenteis, and thrie yeiris sensyne as a feit servand, as his indenture and discharge thairwpoun proportis, and now hauing learned the said calling, and being purposed (God willing) to dwell and mak his residence in this his natiue toun, he thairfoir desyrit the counsall to admitt him frieman for vsing and exercising his said calling, and to respect his meane estate, in that he hes not present moyen to pay for his friedome, as at mair length wes contentit in his said supplicatioun, quhairwith the counsell being adwysit, and hauing seine and considerit his maisterstick, exhibite befoir thame, to witt, a pair of virginallis, and thairwith considering that the said calling is not vnder a deacone, being bot latlie put in practice within this burght be the said Thomas Mylne his maister, quha compeirand personallie befoir the counsall, gawe his approbatioun to the said maisterstick as sufficient warkmanship, thairfoir the counsall hes admittit and resaued the said Johne Davidsons, frieman of this burght, to vse and exerce the said calling, in macking of virginallis allanarlie, and na forder, and that *gratis* without payment of any composition, in respect he is a burges sone, not hauen moyen to pay for his friedome, and the said Johne gawe his aythe according to the forme.

30th September, 1618.

The said day, inrespect the townis commoun knockis, to witt, the kirk knock, tolbuyth knock, and college knock, ar out of all frame and ordour, and ar nocht sufficient and abill to serve the towne, pairtlie becaus they ar auld and worne, and pairtlie for want of skilfull men to attend thame, heirfoir it is thoct meit that the magistrattis wreitt southe with all diligence, and try quhair the best knockmacker may be had, and caus bring him vpoun the tounis chargis to this burght, and visite the knockis thairof, that sic of thame as may be mendit be accordingly done, and sic as will not mend, be maid new as soone as the same can be convenientlie gottin done, and Robert Alexander, thesaurar, to deburse heiron as he salbe directit be the magistrattis, quhilkis debursementis salbe allowit to him in his comptis.

10th February, 1620.

The quhilk day, anent the petition ginen in to the prowest, baillies, and counsall, be Mr. David Wedderburne, maister of the grammer schoole of this burgh, makand mentioum that quhairis thair wisdomes exactis a dewtie of him on the ane pairt, so it will not offend thame on the vther pairt that he be particular in regrating his estate, the trenth quhair of is, he hes not ane stipend quhilk may encourage ane honest man to walk in sic a toillsum calling with chearfulness; the multitude of schooles everiequhair, the burdine of a familie, unknowin to him of befor, the darch of the tyme, so cutteth away any litle thing that is gottin; that or the two pairt of the quarter be expired, he seis evidently no correspondensé betuixt his extraordinar paynis and the ordinar reward; thairfoir that it wald plais thair wisdomes, with quhat affectioun they wald wishe this wark to stand and go forward, to sie alsó with the samie affectioun how be honest meanes the work may be so vnder proppet, that without difficulties and lettis ane honest man may bear out that heavie panes quhilk must be vndertakin for the faithfull discharge of that calling; and for this effect, and in regard of his bypast service, and for the good pruff of his travellis quhilk hes been presentlie gewin befor the visitouris of the schooles, they will sie thet in suin mesure he may live as vther scholaris in vther professiounis, as at mair length was contentit in the said petition; quhilk being red in counsall, and thairwith the prowest, baillies, new and auld counsallis, being maturelie adwyseit, efter gude deliberatioun, they find, for the reasonis aboue mentionat, the said Mr. David his present prouisioun for his seruicé and charge foirsaid, not to be correspondent to the weyght and burdine of his labouris; and thairfoir, for suppliment and helpe of his means, whereas at the present he hes onlie ten schillingis in the quarter of everie townis bairne for his salarie and scholage, they ordain him to have thrietteime schillingis four pennies quarterlie in all tyme cumeing for everie tounis bairne, quhilk salarie of thirettein schillingis four pennies for ilk tounis bairne, togidder with the said Mr. David, his present stipend of fourscoir pundis peyit to him yeirlie be the toun out of thair commoun gude, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, declairis to be in full satisfactioun of all stipend, scholage, or any other benefit quhatsumeur the said Mr. David may craue of the toun, or of the tounis bairnis, for his service as maister of thair grammer schoole in ony tyme cumeing.

16th February, 1620.

The samen day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, appoyntis Frayday, weiklie, in the morning, immediatly eftir the ending of the morning prayeris, for teaching the lessoun of humanitie in the college of this burght, and till farder adwyisement, ordanis the ane weik rethorick to be teachit, and the vther weik humanitie, out of sic select authoris as salbe inioyned, to begin on Frayday the tuentie-fyift of Februar instant, an dane edict to be servit for that effect on Sunday nixt, both at the kirk of this burght, and the Auldoun kirk and college.

6th June, 1621.

The said day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall considering the inciull forme of behaweur of a great manye women in this burght, of gude qualitie, quha resortis both to kirk and mercat with thair playddis about thair headis, and be thair exampill the meaner sort of women vses the samen forme of incivilitie, quhilk gewis offence to strangeris and occasioun to thame to speik reprochefullie of all women generallie within this burght; for remeid quhairof, it is statute and ordanit that na women within this burght of quhatsumeur rank, qualitie, or degrie they be of, presvme or tak vpoun hand to resort to kirk or mercat with thair playddis about thair heidis, vndir the paines following, to be exactit of the contravenar without faour, *toties quoties*: viz. xiii. sh. iiij. d. of the wyiff of ilk burges of gild, and sex sh. aucht d. of ilk craftisman, and this act to be intimat out of the pulpit of baith the kirkis on Sunday nixt, and thaireftir to hawe effect and executioun in tyme comeing.

2d October, 1622.

The quhilk day, it is statute be the prowest, baillies, and counsall, convenit in the counsall hous, gif it sall happin any of thame to be absent frome counsall vpoun the ordinar counsall day at the ordinar hour of meeting, quhilk is Wedinsday everie weik at aucht houris in the morning, immediatlie eftir the ending of the morning prayeris, or at any vther extraordinar tyme when they salbe personallie warnit be ane officer to come te counsall, that the counsallour absent without ane lauchfull excuse of seiknes or absence aff the toun, sall pay for ilk dayis absence, quhither it be on the ordinar counsall day, or at any vther extraordinar tyme quhen he salbe lauchfullie warnit, twelff schillingis, money vnforgewin; and farder, it is statute and ordanit that secreice be kept of all matteris treated and

voted in counsall, so that nane sall oppin nor reveill to any whasoever, except to a counsallour, what has been ather reasoned or voted be any member of the counsall, bot all suche matteris salbe kept cloise and secret, and heirwith the prowest, baillies, hail counsall, and clerkis, hes bund thame selfis be thair sworn aytheis.

20th October, 1623.

The quhilk day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, haveing this day received suire adverteisment that our hopefull Prince, Charles, his Maesties deare and onlie sone is haplie returnit (all praise be given to God) frome Spayne, quhair he hes remanit these sevin or aucht monethis bygaine; thairfoir, in respect of these gude tydingis, ordanis to signife and divulgat the same to the hail people, that all the inhabitantis of this burghe may praise God for his saiff and happie returne; and for this effect, ordainis the toune to be warnit be sound of trumpet at the croce, and be the drumme passand throw the hail streitis of the towne, to assemble thamselffis instantlie in thair parochie kirk, and thair to give thankis and prais to God for the said glad tydingis, and eftir ending of the exhortatioun, ordainis bone fyris to be put on throw all the streitis of the tou, the hail bellis to ring, the croce to be deekit and hung, twa peice of wyne, ane of quhyt and ane wther of claret, to be rwn thairat, with the succour and spyce in abundance, a number of gassis to be cassin, and the hail youthis of the toune to tak thair muskattis and accompanye thair magistrattis throw the hailrewis of the toun, pass the tyme schuiting thair muskatis till it be nicht, and all godlie mirrienes and pastyme vseit that may expres the joy and gladnes of the hartis of the people, and ordainis the deane of gild and thesaurer to furneis wyne, succour, and glassis, to the erand foirsaid, as is aboue devyised, and the expens to be debursit thairon, the counsall ordainis to be allowit to thame in thair comptis.

18th February, 1624.

The quhilk day, the prowest, baillies, and counsall, considering the great abuse laitlie croppin in within this burghe, be macking and haweing of superflous and costlie banqueting at the baptizeing of bairnes, and be convocating of great numberis of people, both men and wemen, thairwnto, and haveing and vseing all sort of succouris, confectiones, spyceries, and desert, brocht frome forane partis, besyid great superfluitie of vennisone, and wyld meat of all sortis, expreslie prohibited be his

Maiesties lawes and actis of Parliament; and withall, vsing of excessive and extraordinarie drinking and scolling, to the offence of God, the hurt of mennis bodies and goodes, and bringing in of evill example to the sclander of the toune, namelie, in sic a calamitous tyme when as God is visitand the whole land with darrth and famyne, and mony poore anes dieing and starveing at dykkes and wndir staires for cauld and hunger; for repressing and stancheing of the quhilk abuse and disordour, it is statute and ordanit, that no inhabitant within this burghe of quhatsoeuir rank, qualitie, or degrie they be of, sall at any time heireftir invite any mae persones to be gossippis or cummeris to any of thair bairnes, bot four gossippis, and four cummeris at the maist, and that thair salbe bot sex wemen at the maist invited, or employed to convoy the bairne to and fra the kirk, nather yit sall thairbe any mae persones invited to any denner, supper, or eftirnoones drink at a baptisme, bot sex men and sex wemen at the most; and withall, ordanis, that nane presume to have at thair banquettis any kind of succour, spyceries, droggis, or confectiones brocht frome pairtis beyond sea, nather yit any kynd of wyld meat, or bakin meat at thair baptismes, nor fit to wae at any tyme any excessive drinking, or scolling, or to vrge thair nichtbouris to waught or scole farder nor thair plesour, wnder the pane of fourtie pundis money, to be incurrit be ilk persone contravenand in any of the poyntis abone prohibited, *toties quoties*, and to be payit to the deane of gild, and applyed wpoun the tounes commoun effairis, and ordainis this act to be intimat publictlye frome pulpitt in both the kirks of this burghe, that nane pretend ignorance thairof.

EXTRACTS FROM SPALDING'S HISTORY OF THE
TROUBLES IN SCOTLAND.

THE BURNING OF THE HOUSE OF FRENDDRAUGHT.

1630.

UPON the first of January 1630, the laird of Frendraught and his complices fell in a trouble with William Gordon of Rothemay and his complices, where the said William was unhappily slain, being a gallant gentleman, and on Frendraught's side was slain George Gordon, brother to James Gordon of Lesmoir, and divers others were hurt on both sides. The marquis of Huntly, and some well-set friends settled this feud, and

Frendraught ordained to pay to the lady relict of Rothemay and the heirs, fifty thousand merks in composition of the slaughter, whilk as was said was truly paid.

Upon the 27th of September 1630, the laird of Frendraught having in his company Robert Crichtoun of Candlan, and James Lesly, son to John Lesly of Pitcaple, with some other servants, the said Robert, after some speeches, shoots the said James Lesly through the arm. They were parted, and he convoyed to Pitcaple, and the other Frendraught shot out of his company.

Likeas Frendraught, upon the 5th of October, held conference with the earl of Murray in Elgin, and upon the morn he came to the Bog of Gight, where the marquis made him welcome. Pitcaple louns on about thirty horse in jack and spear (hearing of Frendraught's being in the bog), upon Thursday the 7th of October, and came to the marquis, who before his coming had discreetly directed Frendraught to confer with his lady. Pitcaple heavily complains of the hurt his son had got in Frendraught's company, and rashly avowed to be revenged before he went home. The marquis alleged Frendraught had done no wrong, and dissuaded him from any trouble. Pitcaple displeas'd with the marquis, suddenly went to horse, and that same day rides his own ways, leaving Frendraught behind him in the Bog, to whom the marquis revealed what conference was betwixt him and Pitcaple, and held him all that night, and would not let him go. Upon the morn, being Friday, and a night of October, the marquis caused Frendraught to breakfast lovingly and kindly; after breakfast, the marquis directs his dear son, viscount of Aboyn, with some servants, to convoy Frendraught home to his own house, if Pitcaple was laid for him by the way; John Gordon, eldest son of the late slain Rothemay, happened to be in the Bog, who would also go with Aboyn; they ride on without interruption to the place of Frendraught, or sight of Pitcaple by the way. Aboyn took his leave from the laird, but upon no condition he and his lady would not suffer him to go, nor none that was with him that night, but earnestly urged him (though against his will), to bide. They were well entertained, supped merrily, and went to bed joyfully. The viscount was laid in an bed in the Old Tower going off the hall, and standing upon a vault, wherein there was an round hole, devised of old, just under Aboyn's bed. Robert Gordon, born in Sutherland, his servitor, and English Will his page, were both laid beside him in the same chamber; the laird of Rothemay, with some servants beside him, was laid in an upper chamber just above Aboyn's chamber, and in

another room above that chamber, was laid George Chalmers of Noth and George Gordon another of the viscount's servants; with them also was laid captain Rollock, then in Frendraught's own company. Thus all being at rest, about midnight, that dolorous tower took fire in so sudden and furious manner, yea and in an clap, that the noble viscount, the laird of Rothemay, English Will, Colonel Ivat, another of Aboyn's servants, and other two, being six in number, were cruelly burnt and tormented to the death without help or relief. The laird of Frendraught, his lady, and haill household, looking on, without moving or striving to deliver them from the fury of this fearful fire, as was reported. Robert Gordon, called Sutherland Robert, being in the viscount's chamber, escaped this fire with the life. George Chalmers and captain Rollock, being in the third room, escaped also this fire, and as was said, Aboyn might have saved himself also, if he would have gone out of doors, which he would not do, but suddenly ran up stairs to Rothemay's chamber, and wakened him to rise; and as he is wakening him, the timber passage and lofting of the chamber hastily takes fire, so that none of them could win down stairs again, so they turned to a window looking to the close, where they piteously cried, many time, help, help! for God's cause! The laird and the lady, with their servants, all seeing and hearing the woeful crying, made no help nor manner of helping, which they perceiving, cried oftentimes mercy at God's hands for their sins, syne clasped in other's arms, and cheerfully suffered their martyrdom. Thus died this noble viscount, of singular expectation, Rothemay a brave youth, and the rest, by this doleful fire never enough to be deplored, to the great grief and sorrow of their kin, parents, and haill common people, especially to the noble marquis, who for his good will got this reward. No man can express the dolour of him and his lady, nor yet the grief of the viscount's own dear lady, when it came to her ears, which she kept to her dying day, disdainig after the company of man in her lifetime, following the love of the turtle-dove.

How soon the marquis gets word, he directs some friends to take up their ashes and burnt bones, which they could get, and as they could be kent, to put ilk one's ashes and bones in an chest, being six chests in the haill, which, with great sorrow and care was had to the kirk of Garntullie, and there buried. In the mean time the marquis writes to the lord Gordon, then dwelling in Inverness, of the accident. It is reported that, upon the morn after this woeful fire, the lady Frendraught, daughter to the earl of Sutherland, and near cousin to the mar-

quis, busked in a white plaid, and riding on a small nag, having a boy leading her horse, without any more in her company, in this pitiful manner she came weeping and mourning to the Bog, desiring entry to speak with my lord, but this was refused, so she returned back to her own house the same gate she came, comfortless.

The lord Gordon, upon the receipt of the marquis's letter, came hastily to the Bog, conveyed William, with whose sister the viscount was married, and many other friends, who after serious consideration, concluded this fearful fire could not come by chance, sloth, or accident, but that it was plotted and devised of set purpose, as ye may hereafter see, whereof Fren-draught, his lady, and servants and friends, one or other was upon the knowledge; so thir friends dissolves, and the marquis would not revenge himself by way of deed, but seek the laws with all diligence, whereunto he had more than reason.

Now there was a gentleman called John Meldrum, who some time served the laird of Fren-draught, and got not good payment of his fee, as he alleged, whereat he was discontent. This Meldrum thereafter married with Pitcaple's sister, and the hurting of James Lesly made this grief the greater, and bred some suspicion of the raising of this fire; whereupon he, with one John Toasch, servitor to Fren-draught, and an young woman called —— Wood, daughter to the laird of Colpany, all suspected persons to be either airt and part, or on the counsel of this fire, one or other of them, were apprehended and warded in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh. This young gentle-woman was first accused before the lords of session, and sharply examined. She stands to her innocence, and denies all; she is therefore put into the boots, and cruelly tortured, yet confesses nothing, whereupon she is set to liberty, as an innocent, but the other two men are kept in strait ward, where I will leave them till afterwards.

1631

Ye heard before how the marquis of Huntly was curious in trying of the woeful fire of Fren-draught. He resolves, by advice of his friends, to complain to the secret council, who went with his lady and virgin daughters, upon the eleventh of March, frae the Bog, by chariot, well accompanied by his friends. How soon he came to Edinburgh, he declared before the council, this fearful fire, and his irrecoverable loss, desiring their aid and assistance to try the authors of this work, for still the marquis himself had Fren-draught in suspicion of this fire, that he was the forger and deviser thereof. The lords of

council admired at the marquis' declaration, and all lamented his pitiful case, whilk could not be well tryed; however, after consultation, the lords send a commission to the bishops of Aberdeen and Murray, the lord Carnegie and Crowner Bruce, to go to the place of Frendraught, and there ingeniously to try how the tower took fire, whether accidentally or of purpose, or if it proceeded from fire within the house, or if fire was put in at the slits or windows by men's hands, or done by any other engine. Thir four commissioners, upon the 13th of April, convened at Frendraught, where the lord Gordon, the lord Ogilvie, the lord Deskford, with sundry barons and gentlemen, met them; they went in and circumspectly looked round about them, up and down, within and without, and at last all in one voice concluded, and wrote to the council, that this fire could not be raised without the house, except by force of engine of war, neither came the same by accident, negligence, or sloth, but of set purpose this fire was raised by men's hands within the vaults or chambers of said tower. After this conclusion, the commissioners and all the rest takes their leave, and all this time the marquis bade in Edinburgh till the commissioners returned with their answer, which howsooon the marquis heard, he returned home again with his suspicion more and more encreased against the laird of Frendraught.

Upon Saturday the 16th of July, the high and mighty lord Francis earl of Errol is in his own place of the bounds departed this life, and was buried within the church of Slains, upon the night, convoyed quietly with his own domestics and country friends with torch light. It was his will to have no gorgeous burial, nor to convocate his noble friends with making great charges and expences, but to be buried quietly, and such expences as should be wared prodigally upon his burial, to give the same to the poor. This was a truly noble man, of a great and courageous spirit, who had great troubles in his time, which he stoutly and honourably still carried, and now in favour died in peace with God and man, and a loyal subject to the king, to the great grief of his kin and friends.

1633.

His majesty gone to London, the lady marchioness and lady Aboyne stay behind him in Edinburgh, using all the means they could, for trial of the fire of Frendraught. At last she causes put John Meldrum and John Toash, who, ye heard before, were warded in the tolbooth of Edinburgh, to trial. And first

the Lords, upon the 2d and 3d days of August, began to accuse he said John Meldrum what he knew anent the said fire; and therewith examined him upon certain speeches, whilk he, as was alleged, had spoken concerning that purpose. He utterly denied all; and what he said was written. Thereafter the lords begins another day to re-examine him, could find no light; yet found him varying frae his first declaration in some circumstances, and therefore the lords shortly refers him to the trial of an assize, where he was convicted and condemned to be hanged to the death at the cross of Edinburgh; his head to be stricken frae his shoulders, and his body demeaned and quartered, and set up on exemplary places of the town; in example of others to do the like. He was executed upon the — day of August, and died without any certain and real confession, as was said, anent this doleful fire.

1635.

In the month of June, there was seen in the river of Don a monster having a head like to a great mastiff dog, and hands, arms, and paps like a man, and the paps seemed to be white; it had hair on the head, and its hinder parts was seen sometimes above the water, whilk seemed clubbish, short legged and short footed, with a tail. This monster was seen body-like swimming above the water about ten hours in the morning, and continued all day visible, swimming above and beneath the bridge, without any fear. The town's people of both Aberdeens came out in great multitudes to see this monster: some threw stones, some shot guns and pistols, and the salmon fishers rowed cobbles with nets to catch it, but all in vain. It never sinked nor feared, but would duck under water, snorting and bullering, terrible to the hearers. It remained two days, and was seen no more; but it appears this monster came for no good token to noble Aberdeen, for sore was the samen oppressed with great troubles that fell on the land.

1638.

Word comes to the marquis of Huntly that his lady was very sick within the laird of Oluny's lodgings in Old Aberdeen, where she was dwelling for the time; he hasted him home, but before he came she was dead. Great lamentation was made for this matchless lady; she departed upon Thursday the 14th of June, about midnight; the marquis comes not till Sunday thereafter; caused shortly convoy down her corps out of said lodging to the college kirk, with some company and

torch light, where her corps lay till the 26th of June thereafter. Her corps was transported upon the night frae the college to the chapel upon the Castle-hill of New Aberdeen, and upon the 28th of June, about twelve hours of the day, she was lifted, and at her lifting the town of Aberdeen caused shoot the hail ordnances. She is convoyed with multitudes of people in honourable manner, having her corps carried upon the bearers of a coach, and led by horses under a mourning pall, and buried in St. John the Evangelist's Isle (or Bishop Leighton's Isle) on the north side of St. Machar's kirk, with great mourning and lamentation. He made choice of this burial place, and left the ancient burial place of his forbears and famous father within the south isle of the cathedral of Elgin, and bought this isle frae the bishop, ministers, and elders of Old Aberdeen, to remain a burial place for him and his posterity, and quhilk he resolved to re-edify for that effect. Upon the morrow, after her burial, the marquis, in high melancholy, lifted his household, and flitted hastily to Strathboggie, having ten children of singular erudition with him.

Upon the 20th day of July, the marquis of Montrose, the lord Couper, the master of Forbes, the laird of Leys, the laird of Morphie, Mr. Alexander Henderson, minister at Leuchars in Fife, Mr. David Dickson, minister at Irvine, and Mr. Andrew Cant, minister at Pitsligo, as commissioners for the Covenanters, came altogether to New Aberdeen. The provost and baillies courteously salute them at their lodging, offer them a treat of wine, according to their laudable custom, for their welcome; but this their courteous answer was disdainfully refused, saying they would drink none with them, till first the covenant was subscribed; whereat the provost and baillies were somewhat offended, and suddenly took their leave; caused deal the wine in the bead-house among the poor men, whilk they had so disdainfully refused, whereof the like was never done to Aberdeen in no man's memory.

Upon the morn, being Sunday, these three covenanting ministers intended to preach, but the town's ministers kept them therefrae, and preached themselves in their own pulpits. They, seeing themselves disappointed, go to the earl Marischal's Close, where the lady Pitsligo was then dwelling, a rank puritan; and the said Mr. Alexander Henderson preached first, next Mr. David Dickson, and lastly Mr. Andrew Cant, all on the said Sunday; and diverse people flocked into the said close to hear thir preachers, and see this novelty. It is said this Mr. Henderson read, after his sermon, certain articles

proponed by the divines of Aberdeen, amongst which was alleged, they could not subscribe this covenant without the king's command, whereunto he made such answers as pleased him best.

1689.

Upon Friday the 24th day of May, the earl Marischall's men of Mar, Skene, and Kintore, the lord Fraser, the master of Forbes, their kin, friends, and followers, with diverse other barons, came into Aberdeen, about two thousand men; there were about two hundred of the master of Forbes and laird of Craigievar's men quartered in Old Aberdeen; their entertainment was small, and they paid as little for it. Many of this company went and brake up the bishop's gates; set on good fires of his peats standing within the close; they masterfully brake up the hail doors and windows of this stately house; they brake down beds, boards, cap ambries, glass windows, took out the iron stenchens, brake off the locks, and what they could get carried with them, and sold for little or nothing; but they got none of the bishop's plenishing worth noticing, because it was all convoyed away out of the way before their coming. Thus is this stately palace pitifully abused by thir rascals, followers and soldiers of the master of Forbes and Craigievar, albeit the bishop of Aberdeen was uncle to the said master of Forbes, being his father's brother upon the mother's side, but no respect was had to blood in thir miserable days.

THE BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE OF DEE.

Upon Monday the 17th June, the earl Marischall, seeing the lord Aboyn returning back again to Aberdeen, gathers his forces, writes to the earl of Montrose, and the said Monday comes forward to Tollohill, where he encamps. More friends came to him, such as the said earl of Montrose, and earl of Kinghorn, who came indeed.

The lord of Aboyn, advertised of this gathering, upon Tuesday the 18th of June, about ten hours, goes to array his soldiers, and such as he got also out of both Aberdeens; and resolves to stop their coming to the town, by keeping of the bridge of Dee. They carried out their four brazen pieces, which did little skaith. Lieutenant Crowner Johnston mans the bridge, fortified the port upon the south end of the same, and caused close it up strongly with fail and thatch to hold

out the shot of the cartow. He had about a hundred brave musketeers, whereof fifty was still in service by turns.

Upon the same Tuesday, the earls of Montrose and Kinghorn comes frae the south, the lord Fraser, the master of Forbes, with diverse barons and gentlemen, comes frae the north to the earl Marischall; they were estimate altogether about two thousand men on foot, and three hundred horse. The lord Aboyn's was of no less number, and more brave horsemen, lying about the bridge of Dee, but few footmen. This Thursday, the earl Marischall and the rest goes to array and marches forward frae Tollohill to the bridge. They begin to shoot their cartow at the same, whilk was very fearful, being a quarter cannon, having her ball of twenty pound weight; but courageous Johnston manfully defended the same with brave musketeers that came out of both Aberdeens, who gave fire so abundantly upon the enemies' musketeers that they were of them praised and admired for their brave service. Thus the baill day, they on the one side pursuing the bridge with cannon and musket, and on the other side they are defending with muskets and their four brazen pieces (which did little service), yet no skaith on our side, except a townsman, called John Forbes, was pitifully slain, and William Gordon of Gordon's Mill was rashly shot in the foot, both Anticovenanters. Thus, night being come, both parties left off and set their watches, attending the coming of the morning.

Upon Wednesday the 19th of June, the town's folk, about fifty musketeers, foolishly left the bridge, with about the like number to keep the samen, and went convoying the corps of the foresaid John Forbes to be buried in the town, whilk was very unwisely done, and to the tinsell of the bridge. In the meantime, a new assault was given: courageous Johnston placed his few soldiers (as he did first) in the bounds of the bridge so commodiously, as they defended themselves very stoutly and manfully with little loss.

The confederate lords, seeing they had come no speed, devises a pretty slight to draw the horsemen frae the bridge (being about the number of nine score brave gentlemen, albeit they had no footmen, except James Grant's company, and the town's men of both Aberdeens, because they had scattered at Cowie as ye have heard, and was quickly gathering again, but came not in time to the defence of the bridge), better horsed and more in number than they were of good horses, therefore they stringed up their horse company on the other side of the water of Dee, making shew to enter the water and come *through the same*, and pursue the lord Aboyn this side of the

water, which was far from their mind, and over hastily believed by Aboyn; whereupon he rides up the water side to meet their horsemen at their coming through the water, and leaves the bridge foolishly with brave Johnston and about fifty musketeers only, who wonderfully stood out and defended the samen, albeit cruelly charged with cartow and musket-shot in great abundance which was more fearfully renewed; whereas the lord Aboyn was marching up the water side. At last brave Johnston is unhappily hurt in the thigh or leg by the buffet of a stone thrown out of the bridge by the violence of a shot, so that he could do no more service. He hastily calls for a horse, and says to his soldiers, "Do for yourselves, and haste you to the town;" whereupon they all, with himself, took to flight. Then followed in certain captains, and quickly took in the bridge peaceably and cast out their colours. The lord Aboyn, seeing the horsemen stay upon the other side of the water, and not coming through the water as they seemed to intend, and withal seeing their colours upon the bridge, takes the flight shamefully without stroke of sword, or any other kind of vassalage, for he and his horsemen lay under banks and braes saving themselves from the cartow, and beheld Aberdeen's men defend the bridge, which was lost by the incoming of the soldiers to John Forbes' burial, and by the lord Aboyn's leaving of the samen, and chiefly by the unhappy hurt which brave Johnston received. Our Aberdeen's men were praised even of their very enemies for their sure and ready fire. There was slain of townsmen the foresaid John Forbes, Patrick Gray, David Johnston, Thomas Davidson, and some others hurt and wounded; among the rest Seaton of Pitmedden, a gentleman, was suddenly shot riding up the water-side with the lord Aboyn; and on the other side, a brave gentleman, called — Ramsay, brother to the laird of Balmain, and some others hurt and wounded. The bridge was unfortunately taken in upon the 19th of June, about four afternoon, whereas support was coming that same night of Aboyn's friends; but hearing of the winning of the bridge, came no further than Legatsden, syne dispersed and scattered.

Aboyn takes the flight; takes the laird of Pury Ogilvie and Pury Fotheringham out of Aberdeen, his own prisoners, whom he had taken before, and sends them back to the lords safe and sound, freely without ransom. Few followed the chase, so that Aboyn, his friends and followers, got no skaith.

The confederate lords meddle with the marquis' four brazen pieces, and with their own two cartows came to Aberdeen with sound of trumpet, displayed colours, and tucking of drums.

As the army marched the hail Covenanters was blyth, and the royalists as sorrowful at this sight, who for plain fear fled the town, with their wives and children in their arms, and carried on their backs, weeping and mourning most pitifully, straying here and there, not knowing where to go. Thus were they so distressed for the love they had to the king, and now for following Aboyn.

Their nobles take in the town, meddle with the keys of the ports, kirks, and tolbooth, quarter their soldiers and set watches, and send for the town's people that had fled, charging them by tuck of drum to return to their houses, promising they should get no wrong; whereupon some returned, others would not, but hid themselves here and there in the country.

There were some footmen of this army who had free quarters in the Oldtown at this time, and all the Covenanters now proudly crop the cawsy, glad at the incoming of this army. After quartering in both Aberdeens, the soldiers made search for such musketeers as served against them at the bridge of Dee, and found about forty-eight cavaliers, brave men, whom they caused bind by the gardies with tows, in disgraceful manner, and brought to the tolbooth, where that night they got neither meat, drink, fire, nor candle, nor bed, and watched the tolbooth for that effect.

Upon Thursday the 20th of June, the nobles went and took up the corps of Pitmedden and Ramsay; and both were buried in the kirk of Aberdeen by their own friends with lamentation. There was a dead volley shot by the soldiers for their own man Ramsay at the Old Kirk door; where William Erskine, brother to the laird of Pittodrie, was suddenly shot dead through the head, standing among the rest, whereof never word nor trial was gotten, whilk was thought marvellous, but indeed he was a wilful malicious Covenanter.

Thereafter the nobles, in a council of war (hearing for certainty of a treaty past betwixt the king and his subjects at Berwick, whereof they had knowledge before the intaking of the bridge), fines Aberdeen in six thousand merks, which was presently paid, looses the town's men's gardies, who were knit two and two together, sets them to liberty upon the same Thursday; the town was saved from plundering upon payment of this sum.

Upon the morn, the 21st of June, orders was given for transporting south the two cartows and marquis of Huntly's four brazen field-pieces, delivered the town's keys to the magistrates, and marches the same day south again; whereupon

the rest of the honest men and women who had fled, returned gladly to their own houses in Aberdeen.

Ye heard before of lieutenant Crowner Johnston, how he was hurt at the bridge of Dee; he now recovers his health, ships himself, wife and goods privately, and to the king goes he, who was graciously received, as he well deserved, for his stout service at the said bridge of Dee.

About this time, Mr. James Sandilands began to teach the canon laws in the College of Old Aberdeen, as he was restricted and limited by the General Assembly, viz., to teach only upon teinds, testaments, and matrimony, and to handle no further of the canon laws but these three heads. Moyan (though he had enemies in the college) bare him through to be canonist in form foresaid, for the whilk he got yearly payment of about six hundred merks for teaching an unprofitable lesson when he pleased, anes in the week, or anes in the month as he liked best; for the whilk he was never found fault with, and he had few auditors except the regents and some students, who thought they tint their lessons idly to hear him, and that the gear wared upon him was ill bestowed and lost. However, he was carried through by moyan to be canonist. Strange! to see a man admitted to teach the laws, who was never out of the country, studying and learning them! but he got quit of the canonistry, and was chosen to be civilist afterwards.

1640.

Upon Saturday the 27th of June, two hundred men with their commanders past out of Aberdeen. They plundered the lairds of Balbithan, Hedderwick, and Lethentie; they brake up the laird of Newton Gordon's yetts and doors of Newton; they spoilzied what they could get unput aside, but finding little they barbarously brake down beds, boards, ambries, and plenishing within the house, syne plundered out of and about these bounds, twelve horses frae the poor tenants. They plundered also the laird of Drum's grounds, himself lying warded in Edinburgh, and took frae his tenants about eighteen horse. They also took an honest man within the same ground, called James Irvine, *alias* Scalpie; and siclike Mr. Andrew Logie, minister at Rain; Mr. John Cheyne, minister at Kintore; Mr. William Leith, minister at Kinkell; Mr. William Strachan, minister at Daviot; and Mr. Samuel Walker, minister at Montkeggy. Thir five ministers were taken as outstanders; they got no liberty to ride upon horses, but were compelled to go on

foot with thir soldiers, who together with their prey of horse and goods, returned back to Aberdeen upon Wednesday the first of July: thus was this poor country brought in great misery by thir and the like oppressions, without warrant of law or justice, and expressly contrary to his Majesty's former proclamations.

The Presbytery of Aberdeen gave order on this Thursday [15th Oct.] to remove doctor Guild frae his ministry in New Aberdeen, and to enter himself to the principality of the college of Old Aberdeen, according to his election. He obeyed, and entered home that samen day. The first work that he began to do was, he employed masons to cast down the walls of the Snow Kirk, and transport the stones to big up the college-yard dykes, and to employ the hewn work to the decayed windows within the college, wherewith many Oldtown people murmured, the samen being sometime the parish kirk of Old Aberdeen, within the whilk their friends and forefathers were buried.

Upon the 24th of December, John Leith of Harthill sat down in Provost Lesly's desk in the kirk of Aberdeen. The provost coming to his seat, and seeing him there, was offended, and caused the officers put him out very pridefully. He being a baron, and chief of a clan, gave him some evil talk, for which he was presently warded in the tolbooth of Aberdeen, where he lay long unrelieved.

Ye heard before, how the goodman of Harthill was warded in New Aberdeen. Now, looking out at the tolbooth windows, he railed out against some honest men walking anent the tolbooth, whereupon they fettered him fast, that he should not come near the window; and fastened his foot in a chain, giving him liberty to walk up and down, but not near the tolbooth windows; besides, he was tormented with hunger, for he got not his fill of food, whilk bred in him a sort of madness, without regard to his place or person. Now somewhat sickly, he is straitly kept for a little offence.

About this time, both Aberdeens were commanded, under pain of plundering, to lead peats to the master of Forbes' lodging in New Aberdeen, without payment; grievous to the people, being in the top of harvest.

Sunday the 8th of November, Mr. James Willox preached in Old Aberdeen; after sermon, he read out some acts of the committee, forbidding apprentices to leave their service without

order, and setting down prices upon leather; whereupon followed shortly a strict command, charging the hail cordiners in both Aberdeens to make single soled shoes to the master of Forbes' soldiers. No remead; it was obeyed, but little payment gotten for the leather, and none at all for the workmanship.

The same very Sunday, after sermons, the laird of Haddo pursued the laird of Craigievar (both being come frae sermon), anent the bishop's stile, with a rod in his hand, whilk he quickly defended with another; but they are parted without blood. But Craigievar, apprehending himself to be behind, challenged Haddo daily, who answered him again, but it turned to nothing; yet irreconcilable malice remained in the breast of Craigievar.

1641.

Now the papists are straitly put out in all places, without respect, within the kingdom; among the rest the lady Dowager of Huntly, a noble, worthy, and honourable lady, is put at by the kirk to renounce her religion, and conform in severe manner. This lady, born in France, brought up in the Roman religion all her days, and of great age, would not now (her one foot being in the grave, as the saying is,) alter her religion, but rather made choice to leave the kingdom; whilk she was forced to do for all her kindred's moyan and friendship that she could make. Thus resolutely she settles her estate, rents, and living; leaves, with woe heart, her stately building of the Bog, beautified with many yards, parks, and pleasures, closes up the gates, and takes journey, with about sixteen horse; and, upon Saturday the 26th of June, she came to Aberdeen, lodged in Mr. Alexander Reid's house, and, on Monday thereafter, she rides frae Aberdeen towards Edinburgh. A strange thing to see a worthy lady of seventy years of age to be put to such travel and trouble, being a widow, her eldest son, the lord Marquis, being out of the kingdom, her other children dispersed and spread, and albeit nobly born, yet left helpless and comfortless, and so put at by the kirk, that she behoved to go, or else abide excommunication, and thereby lose her estate and living, whilk was she loath to do. She left her grandson Charles, son to the Marquis, being but a bairn, with Robert Gordon, baillie of Enzie, to be entertained by him, when she came frae the Bog; and she also sent another of his bairns, called lady Mary, to Anne, countess of Perth, her own eldest sister, to remain with her. These things done, she comes

to Aberdeen; frae that she rides to Edinburgh, where she remains till about the end of September, without help or remead; syne rides directly to Berwick, there to remain during her pleasure. It is said she had store of gold and jewels with her. Afterwards she goes to France. She had about three hundred thousand merks in gold and money with her by and attour silver plate, which did little good to the distressed estate of that noble house.

It is here to be noted, that no maws were seen in the lochs of New or Old Aberdeen, since the beginning of thir troubles, and coming of soldiers to Aberdeen, who before flockod and clocked in so great abundance, that it was pleasure to behold them flying above our heads, yea, and some made use of their eggs and birds; in like manner, few or no corbies were seen in either Aberdeens, at the water-side of Dee or Don, or the shore, where they went to flock abundantly for salmon gouries.

1642.

Upon Friday, Wednesday, and Saturday, thir three days weekly, Mr. Andrew Cant, Mr. John Oswald, and Mr. John Row, minister at Aberdeen, began their night-about, instead of evening prayers, to lecture lessons, chiefly brought in by this Cant; no honest person durst be absent from thir new-begun lectures, but were rebuked and cried out against, whereby they thought this service was thraldome on work days.

About the beginning of this month of June, Dr. Guild, principal, violently breaks down the inside plenishing within the bishop's house, which was left undestroyed before, such as beds and boards, &c., and caused transport them down to plenish the college chambers and other work; joists and greater timber he cut down; he tirmed the haill toofalls of the office-houses, such as bake-house, brew-house, byres, stables, yea, and of some toofall chambers also, and carried roof and slates away wherewith he roofed a song-school and slated the samen, within Bernard Innes' close, where never song-school was before. In the samen manner he dang down the walls of the Snow kirk to big the college dykes, as ye have heard before. Now he is demolishing the bishop's house; pitiful and lamentable to behold! kirks and stately buildings first to be casten down by ruffians and rascals, and next by churchmen, under colour of religion.

Tuesday, 28th of June, was a visitation of our Oldtown kirk by the brethren. The session was changed frae after the forenoon's sermon till after the afternoon's sermon, on ilk Sunday. The landward elders thought this burden heavy, to bide ilk forenoon and buy their dinner in the Oldtown, whilk was abiding them at home in their own house. It was ordained by this presbyterial visitation, that ilk master and mistress of families in town and country, within this parish, should come, with their bairns and servants, to the minister's catechising; noisome to country people to come all, close up their doors, and leave none at home to keep their houses, corns, cattle, and other goods! They ordained the back of the high altar in bishop Dunbar's isle, curiously wrought in wainscot, matchless in all the kirks of Scotland, to be dung down, as smelling of popery and idolatry; pitiful to behold! In the meantime, our minister, Mr. William Strachan, teaches powerfully and plainly the word of God, to the great good and comfort of all his auditors; he takes strict account of those that came not to the communion, and keep not the kirk; calls out the absents out of the pulpits, which drew in such a fair auditory, that the seats of the kirk were not able to hold them; for remeard whereof, he caused big up a loft athwart the body of the kirk, and entered the wrights thereto in November; likeas, with great pains and diligence he caused slate the hail body of the kirk in summer time with new lath, new slate, and other new materials, whilk was not so well done since the time it was first slated, after the lead was tirmed therefrae; the toofalls were not checked, because they might not be overtaken this season. This Mr. William Strachan was one of the best ministers that has been seen at this kirk for a long time by-gone; but the truth is, the back of the altar was violently pulled down by direction of Mr. William Strachan, only advised thereto by Dr. Guild, principal and moderator for the time, and had not the consent of the brethren thereto, as is said before; and by this glorious timber work of the said altar this new loft was adorned and beautified with gilt pieces and ornaments.

Ye heard before how the queen went over to Holland, in company with her daughter, with whom went John Strachan, skipper Strachan's son of our burrow of Aberdeen, who was born, bred, and brought up within the said town. This John Strachan is a brave mariner and stout cavalier: he got charge from his Majesty of one of the king's yachts, having twenty-four brazen pieces upon her, to follow the queen to Holland,

and to attend her service. Now the parliament seeing the king daily to stand out, and not to yield to their wills, and fearing this Strachan's employment was not for nought, they therefore sent to him where he was lying, and summoned him to return, with his ship and goods, back to the parliament, under pain of death. He answered his charge was frae his majesty, and when he commanded him, he should obey. The king gets word of this charge: whereupon he sends command, under the pain of hanging, that he the said John Strachan should give no obedience to any charge coming frae the parliament for that purpose, whilk he gladly obeyed. Then they summoned him a second time, and the king gave a second countermand; whereupon the parliament sends out four of the king's royal ships, two to ly at the mouth of the river Humber, and two to ly at the mouth of the river —; by one of which ways, they, by the Hollanders, were surely advised this Strachan behoved to go, and was hastily to come to England, But the parliamentarians resolved, before he came that length, to have him quick or dead; of all which Strachan has good intelligence, and resolves to take the sea. He had with him on shipboard the lord Digby and William Murray, who had gone over with the queen, and resolved now to return back with Strachan to England. Well, to the sea goes Strachan; two of the king's ships follow, betwixt whom there was some fight; the other two likewise follows, whilk Strachan espying, and finding himself unable to defend against them all four, made choice to take flight; and, being speedier under sail, for that she was of less burden than any of the other four, goes soundly and safely frae them by plain speed, for he was well acquainted with all the sands, creeks, and holes, upon the English coast, whereby he wisely took his advantage, and hastily run her ashore, where the great ships durst not follow. Well, he takes out his cannon and mounts them upon land; he plants his muskets so that no one pinnace nor boat durst come near his ship, albeit they were sent after him, but they were dung back again, both by cannon and musket; in the meantime, Strachan sent word to the king of his landing (who was within eighteen miles distance), who hastily sends a guard, conveys the lord Digby, William Murray, himself, and about other one hundred persons to his majesty. They took order with the cannon, muskets, and ammunition, and let the ship ly still there. There came in this ship great sums of money, by the queen's moyan as was said, together with arms for ten thousand men, ammunition, and cannon, whereof his majesty *was very joyful*; received Strachan (whom the parliament had

declared traitor for his disobedience), and for his brave service knighted him with his own hand, to the great honour of the burrow of Aberdeen, being one of our townsmen born.

Upon the 29th of August, Dr. Guild, at his own hand, caused brake down the great oaken joists within the bishop's house, and transported them therefrae for reparation of the college. Pitiful to see so glorious a building thus thrown down by despiteful soldiers, and then demolished by doctors of divinity! This Dr. Guild being principal, began to preach there, as ye have heard before, but about Lammass he began to weary, and left off any more preaching; wherest his auditors were nowise displeased, for they had no pleasure of his unsavoury sermons; the students wishing rather to be at their lessons, and the town's people at their work, than hearing him.

Upon Tuesday the 6th of September, Mr. John Gregory, minister at Drumoak, at the visitation of the kirk of New Aberdeen, taught most learnedly upon the fourth verse of the second chapter of the Colossians, and reprehended the order of our kirk, and new-brought in points. Mr. Andrew Cant, sitting beside the reader, as his use was, offended at this doctrine, quickly closed the reader's book, and laid down the glass before it was run, thinking the minister should the sooner made an end; but he beheld and preached half an hour longer than the time. Sermon being ended, the brethren conveen to their visitation, where Mr. Andrew Cant impugned this doctrine, desiring the said Mr. John to put the same in write. He answered, he would not only write, but print his preaching, if need so required, and abide by all that he had taught as orthodox doctrine. The brethren heard all, and had their own opinions, but without any more censure they dissolved, somewhat perturbed with Cant's curiosity. Upon Thursday, he railed out in his sermon against the said Mr. John Gregory's doctrine, and on Sunday likewise. At last, by mediation of the town's baillies, at a cup of wine, they two were agreed, and settled with small credit to Cant's business.

Saturday the 10th of September, George Thomson, master mason, new come frae Strathboggie to Aberdeen, suddenly fell over Thomas Thomson's stair, and with the fall became speechless and senseless, and departed this life upon the Thursday thereafter. An excellent mason, of singular device; he builded

sundry brave buildings; among the rest here-edified the steeple of the College kirk of Old Aberdeen.

Upon the 16th day of December, Dr. Guild and Mr. William Strachan yoked William Charles, wright in Aberdeen, to the down-taking of the back of the high altar, standing upon the east wall of bishop Gavin Dunbar's isle, as high nearly as the ceiling thereof, curiously wrought of fine wainscot, so that within Scotland there was not a better wrought piece. The craftsman would not put his hand to the down-taking thereof, till Mr. William Strachan, our minister, laid first hand thereto, which he did, and syne the work was begun; and, in taking down one of the three timber crowns, whilk they thought to have gotten down hail and unbroken, beyond their expectation it fell suddenly upon the kirk's great ladder, brake it in three pieces, and itself all in blades, and brake some pavement with the weight thereof; but the people were all safe.

Dr. Guild, principal and moderator, at this time refused to give play to the students at Yool-day, but they took it at their own hand, and the grammarians both, who at last by composition got eight days' play.

This year, Yooll-day fell upon Sunday. Our ministers, and ministers of Aberdeen, preached against all merriness, play, and pastime; and the night before, by tuck of drum through Aberdeen, the townsmen were commanded to keep themselves sober, and flee all superstitious keeping of days. Upon Monday, the bell went through the Oldtown, commanding all manner of men to open their booth-doors and go to work; but the students fell upon the bellman, and took the bell frae him, for giving such an unusual charge: so the people made good cheer and banqueting, according to their estates, and past their times, Monday and Tuesday both, for all thir threatenings.

It is said, Mr. Andrew Cant, sitting this same Yooll-day at afternoon's sermon, Mr. John Rue preaching in the Old kirk, hearing some noise in the kirkyard of bairns and people, he got up suddenly from his seat, sitting as he ordinarily used beside the reader; through the kirk and people goes he, and out at the door, to the great astonishment of the people in the Old Church; and when he came to the kirkyard the bairns fled, but he chased them into the New kirk, wherest the people there were offended; at last, he returned back to his own place, and

the people became settled and pacified, but wondered at his light behaviour.

1643

Mr. Andrew Cant used not oft the saying of the Lord's Prayer, either before or after sermons, as wont in that kirk, but had prayers extempore long enough; so the rest of the ministers of Aberdeen kept his custom. They brought in, upon ilk Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, afternoon lectures, taught by ilk minister, time about (in place of saying prayers ilk night before); the people is compelled to attend thir lectures, or then cried out against. None on the Sabbath-day durst come out of the Newtown to the Oldtown, especially in time of sermon, and to that effect the highways were watched ilk Sunday, and who were found were conveyened before their session, and severely punished with shame and derision. In time of preaching on week-days no merchant nor craftsmen's booth doors durst be opened, that the kirk might be the better kept by the masters and servants. The bairns of the grammar-school were forbidden to keep afternoon's sermons, but to keep the schools, where the masters should catechise them upon points of religion. Reading of Holy Scriptures and singing of psalms were discharged at lykewakes, by act of the town council of Aberdeen, by persuasion of this Cant and his fellows. The hand-bell should go and proclaim through the town who was dead; but tolling of kirk-bells at their burial was discharged; all brought in by this Cant, and followed by the magistrates of Aberdeen, as he commanded, or as he daily devised, to the grievous burden of the people, who had never seen the like orders; yet they could not get singing of psalms and reading at lykewakes altogether supprest.

Tuesday the 17th of January, Mr. Alexander Middleton, sub-principal in the college of Old Aberdeen, was married with _____ Gordon, daughter to Mr. Gordon at Kettock's Mill, contrary to the foundation of that college, forbidding marriage to any of the inward members serving therein. There was sundry gifts, cases, and coined gold, given by sundry sitters at this bridal, and some gave rings; but coined gold was not in use to be given here in Aberdeen at free bridals.

Upon the 2d day of February, being Candlemas-day, the bairns of the Oldtown grammar-school came up the gate with candles lighted in their hands, crying and rejoicing, blyth enough, and thus came up to the cross, and round about goes

diverse times, climbs to the head thereof, and set on a burning torch thereupon. I marvelled at this, being at such time, and whereof I had never seen the like: attour, they went down frae the cross, convoying John Keith, brother to the earl Marisohall, who was their king, to his lodging in the chancery, with lighted candles.

Upon Saturday the 1st of July, sir George Gordon of Haddo unhappily hurt Alexander Jaffray, late baillie, and John Jaffray their father at Broom-end, in coming frae the good-man of Brakay's burial, because the said Alexander Jaffray, being a baillie, had caused ward the said sir George's servant for hurting another fellow. This was no just quarrel, to pursue a judge for doing justice; however they gat some blood, but did no skaith. They parted, and Haddo immediately thereafter came to the town, and rode about the cross in contempt, but the Jaffrays were not yet come to town. The town thought evil of Haddo's behaviour, to ride so pridefully about the cross, after hurting of their baillie, and his brother, but this matter was otherwise handled, and laid upon a higher shelf, as may be seen afterwards.

Upon the — day of July, Adam Abercromby killed his wife's son, called George Leith, brother-german to the good-man of Harthill, and who also was married to the said Adam's own daughter. Thus, in a combat, the father-in-law slays the son-in-law, and wins away unpunished. Marvellous in those days, without respect of birth or blood, to see slaughter and bloodshed daily committed!

About the 4th of September, trial was gotten of some five or six hundred merks stolen out of Mr. John Ray, one of the regents of the Newtown's chest. It was found that Mr. Andrew Cant, the holy minister's son, drew the nails of the chest, and fastened the same with new nails, having another holy brother's son in his company, called Strachan, and student with himself, son to Mr. William Strachan, parson of Daviot. Their prodigal spending, drinking, and debauching, made it to be tried, after this regent had tane a boy of his, called Mathison, who kept his chamber, and tormented him most pitifully for the samen, being innocent, but the two rich fathers paid for their sons' theft. A great scandal to scholars, they being both students, and so the the matter was silenced; but if any other student had done the samen, Cant would have cried out against the samen maliciously in the pulpit, and seen them put to the

colleges yetts, whereta they without punition were creditably kept.

Ye heard of one Maxwell who was also accused of Brownisme ; a silly wheelwright to his calling. This man was sought for, and all men forbidden out of the pulpit to receipt him ; whilk was done by our minister, Mr. William Strachan, out of the pulpit, upon Sunday the 5th of February.

Upon the 14th of September, James Anderson, an honest burges of Aberdeen, caused bring to the kirk a bairn whilk his wife had new born, to be baptized, because it was weak, about two afternoon, and conveyed his gossips and comers, as the custom is. Then the father goes to the ministers to come and baptize his bairn, being weak, but ilk ane after other answered, they would not baptize till after the lecture was done. The bairn grows weaker ; the father goes again, but still refused ; at last the father causes ring the bell the sooner, to make them come to their lecture, but they sat still till the hour came ; but before the lecture was done, the silly infant deceases in the comers' arms at the pulpit foot, without benefit of baptism. The people fell all in murmuring and amazement at the doings of their ministers ; and the father and friends conveyed waxed wonderful sorrowful ; but Mr. John Oswald, who said the lecture, perceiving the bairn to be dead, said, since the bairn is dead in the kirk, cause bury it in the kirk ; whilk was instantly done, whereta sundry godly persons were not well content at this church government. In like manner, Thomas Blackhall, a burges of the town, caused bring his lawful bairn to the kirk to be baptized upon the 10th of April before, and held up the bairn in his own hand, as the custom is ; but Mr. Andrew Cant would not give the bairn baptism in the father's hand, till a gossip got the bairn in his hand, alledging he was a papist.

Upon Wednesday the 6th of December, Gilbert Breck, one of the town's officers, caused bring a bairn, born to him of his wife, called — Silver, to the lecture lesson, where Mr. John Rue, the minister, had taught, to be baptized ; but because this bairn was not brought to him when he was baptizing some other bairns, he would not give baptism to this young infant, whereupon the simple man was forced to bring back his child unbaptized frae the kirk to his own house. The wife lying in childbed, hearing her child was not baptized, was so angry, that she turned her face to the wall, and deceased immedi.

ately, through plain displeasure; and the bairn also ere the morn; and the mother and her bairn in her oxter were both buried together. Lamentable to see how the people are thus abused!

Monday the 25th of December, and good Yool-day, no work wrought in Old Aberdeen, nor yet upon St. James's day, nor Stephen's day, for all the thundering of the ministers could do against it; and upon the 27th of December, the Oldtown colle-gioners got eight days' play, whether the masters would or not.

1644.

Ye heard of the marquis of Argyll's coming to Drum, and of the earl Marischall's coming to him, and of the Irish regiment, whilk regiment lived upon the laird of Drum's victual and goods. The marquis shortly removed the two ladies, and shut them out at the yetts per force (albeit the young lady was his own sister's daughter) with two gray plaids about their heads. Their hail servants were also put to the yett, but the ladies came in upon twa wark naigs, in a pitiful manner, to New Aberdeen, and took their lodging in the goodwife of Auchluncart's lodging, then dwelling in the town. Then the Irish soldiers fell to and plundered the place of Drum, wherein was store of insight plenishing and timber work; they killed and destroyed the bestial, nolt, sheep, and kine, for their meat; they brake up girnels, where they had meal and malt. They found yerded in the yard of Drum a trunk filled with silver wark, plate, goldsmith's wark, jewels, chains, rings, and other ornaments of great worth, and estimate about twenty thousand pounds, whereof some was seen in Aberdeen. Thus thir ladies being removed with their servants, and all things plundered by the Irish rogues, then the marquis appointed a captain with fifty musketeers of thir people to keep this house, and left two pieces of ordnance also with them, where they lived upon the laird's girnels and goods while they were removed, and others put in their place. There was following this Irish regiment about fifty-one women, with some young children; thir women were quartered in Old Aberdeen; they got nothing but house-room, for they received weekly out of the girnels of Drum, ilk woman two pecks of meal, whereon they lived, and was punctually brought to the Oldtown and paid. They had a captain over them, to see them weekly paid, and that they did no wrong; so thir women remained in Old Aberdeen as long as the men staid in Drum, and when they removed therefrae, they

removed out of the Oldtown without doing any wrong. Thus is this ancient house of Drum oppressed, spoiled, and pitifully plundered, without any fault committed by the old laird thereof, but only for his two sons following the house of Huntly, and as was thought sore against his will also. Always this to be noted for the marquis of Argyll's first piece of service in this play, without love or respect of his sister's daughter, or the innocence of the old laird of Drum; where for a while I will leave him, doubtless in grief and distress.

About this time, captain Alexander Keith, brother to the earl Marischall, raised an horse troop, and sir William Forbes of Craigievar another horse troop, to attend this country; but sore was Old Aberdeen oppressed with the first troop, which came upon the last of July, had free quarters two days, and cut down the green growing bear to their horses; pitiful to behold!

Our ministers are become prideful, and great railers out of pulpit, without respect of persons; and so rigorous in their discipline, that the people could not bide their prideful behaviour, and none durst find fault with thir disorders.

Mr. William Raitt, one of our Oldtown baillies, brought in a drill-master to learn our poor bodies to handle their arms, who had more need to hold the plough, and win their living. The town was evil vexed; it was divided in three quarters, and ilk quarter went out with their baillies time about, and began the 3rd of September. This gouked gyse was begun by our baillie, to shew his love to the good cause, being a main Covenanter. The town was forced to pay their drill-master daily twenty-four shillings of fee, wherewith they greatly grudged; but it lasted not long. The baillies brought out of Aberdeen thirty-eight muskets, upon band to restore or pay the value of them, done chiefly by this Mr. William Raitt.

MONTROSE'S ATTACK ON ABERDEEN.

Upon Friday the 13th of September, about eleven hours, our army begins to march out of the town. Lieutenant Montrose writes a letter to the provost and baillies of Aberdeen, sends a drummer to tuck a parley, and a commissioner to deliver the letter, whilk bare a command and charge to render the town to him as lieutenant to his majesty, and in the king's name, whereby he might have peaceable entertainment to use his

majesty's proclamations, and sic orders as he thought fit; promising assurance that no more harm or prejudice should be done to the town, but to take their entertainment that night; otherwise if they would disobey, he desired them to remove old aged men, women, and children, out of the gate, and to stand to their peril. This letter was delivered to the provost; he convenes his council at the Bow Bridge, in Alexander Findlater's house, where the lord Burleigh, the lieutenant Arnot, Mr. James Baird, and some others was. They caused the commissioner and drummer drink heartily, and sends an answer (by the way, the drummer was unhappily slain). Montrose fand their answer was to stand out and defend themselves to the uttermost; and finding his drummer, against the law of nations, most inhumanly slain, he grew mad and furious and impatient, our army being upon their march when he was slain, about eleven hours, towards the Justice Mills. At the receipt of whilk answer, the lieutenant comes quickly, marching frae the Twa Mile Cross to meet us, charging his men to kill all, and pardon none.

Our cannon begins the play; our troopers pursue hastily; the enemy shot their cannon, and defend stoutly also with musketeers; the fight continues during the space of two hours; at last we take the flight; our troops upon horseback wan safely away, except sir William Forbes of Craigievar, and John Forbes of Largie, who were taken prisoners. There was little slaughter in the fight; but horrible was the slaughter in the flight fleeing back to the town, which was our townsmen's destruction; whereas if they had fled, and not come near the town, they might have been in better security, but being commanded by Patrick Leslie, provost, to take the town, they were undone. Yet himself and the prime covenanters being on horseback, wan away safely. The lieutenant follows the chase into Aberdeen, his men hewing and cutting all manner of men they could overtake within the town, upon the streets, or in their houses, or round about the town as our men were flying, with broad swords, without mercy or remead. Thir cruel Irishes, seeing a man well clad, would first turr him, to save his cloaths unspoiled, syne kill the man. We lost three pieces of cannon, with much good armour, besides the plundering of our town, houses, merchants' booths, and all, which was pitiful to see! The lord Burleigh, Mr. Alexander Jaffray, and his sons, Mr. Robert Farquhar, Walter Cochran, Mr. James Baird, advocate in Edinburgh, and diverse other Covenanters, wan away. Montrose follows the chase into the town, leaving the body of his army standing close unbroken while his return,

excepting such as fought the field. He had promised them the plundering of the town for their good service, but he stayed not, but returned back from Aberdeen to the camp this samen Friday at night, leaving the Irishes killing, robbing, and plundering of this town at their pleasure, and nothing was heard but pitiful howling, crying, and weeping, and mourning through all the streets.*

Upon this samen Tuesday, and 19th of November, the earl of Lothian's regiment, consisting of about five hundred musketeers and pioneers were quartered upon poor Old Aberdeen, and upon the morn were had to New Aberdeen, where they lay to the — day of —, as ye may see hereafter, without doing any good. Argyll ordained ilk soldier to get two pecks of meal, and twelve shillings of money weekly, and this to be brought in by the heritors of the country, and Aberdeen to furnish them coal, house-room, and candle only; the meal came in, but no monies, whilk the town of Aberdeen was compelled to pay, and a boll of meal came in out of every hundred merks rent; the country paid the rest. Then order was taken for sustaining the troopers' horse meat, and men's meat, in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff, estimate to be about one thousand horse, whilk was so grievous that the countrymen could not sustain them. Thir troopers were quartered freely through diverse parishes, some upon ilk landlord, and some on ilk plough of ground. There were three regiments of horse, one under sir Thomas Hacket, one under sir Patrick M'Gie, and one under lieutenant crowner Innes. There was quartered in Banff and Murray, the lord Gordon's regiment; and major Ramsay was general over the troopers in this sheriffdom, whilk was ordained to be quartered only within three presbyteries, viz., the presbytery of Aberdeen, Ellon, and Deer. Order was given, that ilk trooper should eat and drink at sixteen shillings ilk day, and his horse a peck of oats, with fodder; and if the trooper was not content with his cheer, to count for cake and pudding with the goodwife, and compel her to pay money for what he wanted. Thus is thir north parts grievously born down and wrecked by the estates and good Argyll.

Marvellous to see the king's lieges thus to be oppressed!
And Thomas Menzies fled the kingdom, with his wife and

* Spalding gives the names of 118 citizens who were slain in this engagement.

children, for his religion; yet his rents are disponed. Mr. Alexander Irvine flees the country, and sailing to France he is taken by the way and brought to Edinburgh, where he is warded in the tolbooth; yet his rents are disponed. His brother, Robert Irvine, durst not be seen; his rents are also disponed. The other gentlemen, for favouring the king and following the marquis of Huntly, as ye have heard, fled the kingdom, and durst not be seen, yet their rents are disponed to set up the losses of the king's enemies and unfriends, without the advice or authority of his majesty, but only set out by the estates of the land!

THE BATTLE OF CORRICHIE.

THE following ballad, which bears unquestionable marks of antiquity, appeared in "Ruddiman's Weekly Magazine" about the middle of last century. The circumstantial detail given, and the names of those that fell, differ considerably from the account given by Knox and our other historians. Knox expressly says that the Earl of Huntly, upon being taken, died without any wound, and gravely adds that he was, that same night, carried to Aberdeen that the prediction of his wife's witches might be fulfilled, who had said that he, the Earl, should be in Aberdeen the night after the battle without any wound in his body. "When my lady heard the news," says he, "she blamed her principal witch, called Janet, who stoutly defended herself (as the devil can do), and affirmed that she gave a true answer, albeit she spoke not all the truth, for she knew that he would be there dead, but that could not profit my lady. She was angry and sorry for a season; but the devil, the mass, and witches had great credit with her."

The tradition certainly prevails that Huntly was killed by Stuart of Inchbreck. It is said that the Earl's body was brought to Aberdeen the night after the battle, and that it was thrown on the pavement of the Tolbooth in the most unbecoming manner. Knox says that on the day after the discomfiture, the "Lady Forbes, among many others, came to see the body; and, seeing him lying upon the cold stones, having only upon him a doublet of canvas, a pair of Scots grey hose, and covered with an arras work, she said, 'There lieth he that yesterday in the morning was esteemed the wisest, the richest, and a man of the greatest power that was within Scotland.' And in truth she lied not; for in man's opinion,

under a prince, there was not such a one there, three hundred years in the realm, produced."

The Burn of Corrichie is about two miles and a half to the north of Banchory village.

THE BATTLE OF CORICHIE ON THE HILL OF FAIR.

Fought October 28, 1562.

Murn ye heighlands, and murn ye leighlands,
I trow ye hae meikle need;
For thi bonny burn o' Corichie,
His run this day wi' bleid.

Thi hopefu' laird of Finliter,
Erle Huntly's gallant son,
For thi love hi bare our beauteous Quine
His gar't fair Scotland mone.

Hi his braken his ward in Aberdene,
Throu dreid o' thi fause Murry;
And his gather't the gentle Gordone clan
An' his father auld Huntly.

Fain wid he tak our bonny guide Quine,
An' beare hir awa wi' him;
But Murry's slee wyles spoil't a' the sport,
An' reit him o' lyfe and lim.

Murry gar't rayse thi tardy Merns men,
An' Angis, an' mony ane mair;
Erle Morton, and the Byres Lord Linsay,
An' campit at thi Hill o' Fare.

Erle Huntlie came wi' Haddo Gordone,
An' countit ane thousan men;
But Murry had abien twal hunder.
Wi' sax score horsemen and ten.

They soundit thi bougills an' the trumpits,
An' marchit on in brave array;
Till the spiers an' the axes forgatherit,
An' than did begin thi fray.

Thi Gordones sae feroelie did fecht it,
Withouten terror or dreid,
That mony o' Murry's men lay gaspin,
An' dyit thi grund wi' theire bleid.

Then fause Murry feingit to flee them,
An' they pursuit at his backe,
Whan' thi haf o' thi Gordones desertit,
An' turnit wi' Murry in a crack.

Wi' hether i' thir bonnits they turnit,
The traiter Haddo o' thir heid,
An' slaid theire brithers an' their fatheris,
An' spoilit an' left them for deid.

Than Murry cried to tak the auld Gordone,
 An' mony ane ran wi' speid;
 But Stuart o' Inchbraik had him stickit,
 An' out gushit thi fat lurdane's bleid.

Than they teuk his twa sones quick and hale,
 An' bare them awa' to Aberdene;
 But sair did our guide Quine lament
 Thi waefu' chance that they were tane.

Erle Murry lost mony a gallant stout man,
 Thi hopefu' Laird o' Thornitane,
 Pitters's sons, an' Egli's far searrit Laird,
 An' mair to mi unkend, fell doune.

Erle Huntlie mist ten score o' his bra' men,
 Sum o' heigh an' sum o' leigh degree,
 Skeenis youngest son, thi pryde o' a' the clan,
 Was ther fun' dead, he widna flee.

This bloody fecht wis fercely fancht,
 Octobri's aught an' twinty day,
 Crystis' fyfteen hunder thriacore yeir
 An' twa will mark thi deidlie fray.

But now thi day maist waefu' came,
 That day the Quine did grite her fill,
 For Huntlie's gallant stalwart son,
 Wis heidit on thi heidin hill.

Fyve noble Gordones wi' him hangit were
 Upon the samer fatal playne;
 Crule Murry gar't the waefu' Quine luke out,
 And see hir lover an' luges slayne.

I wis our Quine had better frinds,
 I wis our countrie better peice,
 I wis our Lords widna discord,
 I wis our weirs at hame may cease.

EXTRACTS FROM OREM'S HISTORY OF OLD ABERDEEN.

COURTS OF OLD ABERDEEN.

THE old court-books of the said city being lost, the first now extant begins as follows:—

The court of Old Aberdeen, holden December 29, 1602 years; the said day the hail council and community of the town did elect and choose Sir Thomas Gordon of Cluny, knight, Provost of Old Aberdeen, and their Baillies, &c. for the ensuing year, *who accepted and gave their oaths de fidei administratione.*

The said court, March 8, 1603, statute and ordain by said Magistrates, That the common mercate be holden weekly on Monday, according to the fundamental charter; and that the merchants and craftsmen come to the cross with their merchandize, on the mercate day, at six hours in the morning, and continue twelve hours; ilk person disobeying under the pain of twenty shillings. But now the weekly mercate of this city is changed from Monday to Thursday, conform to Act of Parliament, discharging burghs of regality and barony from keeping mercates on Monday or Saturday; and has allowed to change them to any other day of the week, provided they pitch not the mercate-day of the royal burgh within four miles. But fleshers are excepted, who may keep flesh-mercates on those days prohibited.

The Magistrates of Old Aberdeen were chosen for anno 1604, and did February 2, statute and ordain, That none within said town brew or sell dearer ale than 12d. the pint; nor dearer beer than 14d.; under the penalty of 40s. for the first fault; £4 for the second; and £8 for the third; and this to endure the said Magistrates office, and will of the council. Item, the said day it is statuted and ordained, That every pound of candles should be sold for 3s. 4 pennies, under the pain of £4. Item, that none within this town shall sell drink after nine hours in the evening, under the pain of ten merks. Item, That none within this town shall sell milk dearer than eight pennies the pint.

The Magistrates of this town, the penult day of December, 1605, statuted and ordained, That no young man within this town play at cards or tables, who has no house or rent of his own; that no man receipt him, otherwise they shall pay 40s. *toties quoties*; and the young man who plays, shall pay 40s. *toties quoties*. For King James VI. made an Act against cards and dice.

The Magistrates, March 3, 1606, ordain, That no stranger-beggar be received within the town, under a penalty, and that for eschewing the present plague or pestilence; and it is statuted and ordained, That the beggars within the town shall compear within the kirk, at two hours in the afternoon, to receive their tokens; and such as compear not, to be banished the town. It is statuted and ordained the said day, by the Magistrates, with consent of the hail inhabitants of the town, That said town shall be divided into four parts, for shunning

said plague, and quarter-masters appointed thereto; and two brewers to be admitted allenary, in every quarter.

The Magistrates, November 28, 1606, ordain, That the hail inhabitants of the said town shall repair to the preaching in St. Machar's Kirk, on Sunday and Wednesday, under the pains following—viz., the goodman and goodwife of the house contravening, 6s. 8d.; and ilk servant, 2s. Scots.

The Magistrates, February 22, 1613, ordained, That whosoever he be that deforces the officers within said town, in execution of their office, and putting their decret in execution; ilk person, man or wife, deforcing, shall be put to the stocks the space of forty-eight hours, and pay £10 before they come out thereof.

Anno 1614, April 5, it was statuted and ordained, by the Magistrates of the town (the kirk being lately repaired), that whatsoever bairn or scholar be found within the kirk or kirk-yard, playing or casting stones on the kirk, or breaking windows, that the owner of the bairn, or master of the servant, shall pay 6s. 8d. Scots, *toties quoties*, and the vagabonds to be bound to the cross, and bridled thereat, and stand twenty-four hours bound.

Anno 1617, November 4, the Magistrates of this town appointed four several persons to go weekly through the town, and taste the drink; and when the same is found insufficient, to declare the same to the Baillies, that it may be confiscate to the poor folks.

Anno 1661, October 14, James Gordon of Seaton, William Johnston of Middleton, and Captain Arthur Forbes were chosen Baillies for the ensuing year; and at that time were chosen to be Councillors, Mr. George Gordon, Professor of Philosophy in King's College, son to the deceased Sir George Gordon of Haddo. Thereafter the said George Gordon applied himself to the study of the law, and was made president of the council of Scotland, and afterwards advanced by King Charles II. (in regard of his great parts and qualifications) to be High Chancellor of Scotland, and after that was made Earl of Aberdeen. To the said Mr. George Gordon were chosen Councillors in Old Aberdeen, Mr. Patrick Sandilands, Sub-Principal in said College; Mr. William Johnston, Professor of Philosophy; Thomas Gordon of Kathock's Mill; Patrick Gordon of

Boghole, &c., all Councillors in said city of Old Aberdeen for the year to come.

The said court, holden April 11, 1668, by Dr. Andrew Muir, Mr. Patrick Sandilands and William Forbes, Baillies; the said day it was statuted and ordained, that no person, nor any inhabitant within this town, go to Seaton, or any part about the town, to play at the bowls, at any time hereafter; whosoever shall do in the contrary hereof shall pay £5 Scots, *toties quoties*, for every contravention that shall be made against them. And a person was set to the Principal of the College to restrain the students from using said game, in respect of diverse inconveniences that shall happen out thereby.

Anno 1689, March 22, an Act was made by the Provost and Baillies of this town against washing at the channel within the chanry, or at Powie's Bridge, above the bridge, or on the common street, under the pain of 4s. to be paid to the treasurer, and 12s. to the officer, who is appointed to take the washing-tubs and cloaths while they be paid; and that for each transgression, *toties quoties*.

Anno 1689, the said Baillies made an Act anent exercising the inhabitants of Old Aberdeen in the discipline of war, that they should meet every day, except on the Sabbath-day, the number of twenty-four men, on the bowling-green in the College, at three o'clock in the afternoon; and John Keith, writer in Edinburgh, is desired by the said Baillies to exercise them.

Anno 1689, Mr. Patrick Gordon, humanist in the King's College, and Mr. James Keith, being Baillies in Old Aberdeen, for fear of an invasion from the Highlandmen, appointed nightly a guard of twenty-four men each night, by and attour the captains; and to begin at nine o'clock at night, and to continue till five in the morning.

Anno 1689, November 6, the said court holden by Mr. James Keith, Baillie; Forasmikle as there have been several complaints anent the deep draw-well in the deceased John Fraser's Close, it being level at the ground; and that children in the day-time and old persons in the night have fallen into it, by reason there was no mantling about the top of it; and though the Magistrates formerly had desired or ordered Marjory Irvine, relict of the deceased John Fraser, to build the said

well with mantling of timber above the ground, and that she had done nothing thereanent; therefore, for preventing any danger for the future, the said Baillie and Council order James Duguid, wright, to make the mantling of said well of his own timber, and order the said Marjory Irvine for one year's rent within the close, to pay for building of the same to the wright, certifying them that they shall have retention in their own hands, in the first end of their respective mails; and that the said disbursements shall be allowed them.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE KIRK-
SESSION AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN
FROM 1562 TO 1657.

THE said day anent the complaint given in be Elspet Dalgarno, spous to William Low, against the said William, her husband, not onlie for debarring her from his societie be the space of thir six vikes bygane, but also for dinging and hurting her on the face with a gryt key maist crewellie and unmercifullie on Friday last, quhairthrow he has almaist dung out ane of her eyne to the gryt effusion of her blood, as at gryter length was contenit in her complaint. The said William being personallie present, confessit the dinging of his wyff with a key the time forsaide, and he being chargit be the Magistrattis to find caution that he suld not put violent hands nor ding his wyff in tym coming, departit out of the Sessioun-house maist prouddie and contemptuoslie, unfund caution, who being instantlie broocht back agen be the authoritie of the Magistrat, and broocht to the acknowledging of his offence, cravit pardon most humblie thairfor, and fand instantlie James Mowat cautioner for him, that he suld not ding nor strik his wyff in tym cumming, and the said James being present, becam actit cautionar for the said William to the effect foresaid, and the said William becam actit to releve his said cautionar, and in the meintyme, till farder ordour be tane, he wes commandit to be put in prison in the stepell.

The samyn day the Session ordanit David Robertson, keeper of the kirk, to keep the key of the Sessioun-house dor himself, and to suffer nane to have acces to the prisoneris in the kirk wolt bot sic as ministeris meatt and drink into them twyis in the day allanerlie, and commandit the said David that nae pri-

soner be sufferit to come up to the Session-hous to abyd thairin, as he will be anserabil to the Magistrates and Sessicoun.

The said day, anent the delatioun given in to the Session against som young men and women of this citie for dansin thro the toun togidder this last vik the tym of the brydellie, the young men being cled in women's apparel, and the young women for dansin openlie with them thro the strettis with maskis on their faces, thairby passing the bounds of modestie and schamefastnes, quhilk oucht to be in young women, namlie, in a reformit citie. Quhilk matter being referrit to the provincial Assemblie, haldin in that burgh in this vik immediatlie by-gane, to be judgit be them what punishment suld be inflicted on suche offenderis in tym cumming, they fand, after reasoning and due consideration thairof, that if any man or woman be convict in the lyk monstrous behaviour in tym cumming, to wit, either men dansin in women's apparel, or women in men's apparel, or yett if women be fand dansin publiclie thro the strettis maskit and disgit in sic a wanton and unchaste form in companie with men, that the doers sall pay a pecunial penaltie to the pair according to the modification of the Session, as also mak their public repentance on the stuill for the first fault; and for the second fault sal mak their public repentance in sackcloth, conform to the said act of the provincial Assemblie sait doun thair-upon, quhilk act, if ordanit, to be intimat from the pulpit on Sunday next that nane pretend ignorance in tym cumming.

The samen day the Session finds that Marjorie Mearns, spouse to Alexander Moir Wobster, hes verie maliciouslie slanderit and injurit Margrat Measoun, relict of umquhile William Mitchell, officer, in saying she suld prove the said Margrat to be ane witche, and for spittin thryce in her face and casting fyre, and thairfor convicts the said Marjorie for the slander and injurie forsaid, and for takin away and satisfiein of the slander, ordanis the said Marjorie to mak a public satisfaction and amends on her knees before the pulpit in presens of the haill congregation in cravin God and the said Margrat quhome she has offendit pardon and forgiveness, and saying openlie in presens of the people, "Fals toung, ye leid."

The said day Thomas Gordon, tailyour, was admoneist and chargit be the Magistratt to enter in servis betwixt and this day aucht days, or then to remove himself aff the toun.

The said day Margrat Davidson, spouse to Andro Adam, was

adjudget in ane unlaw of fyve pounds, to be paid to the collector for directing her nurs with hir bairne to St. Fithak's well, and washing the bairne thairin, for recoverie of her health, and the said Margrat and her nurs were ordanit to acknowledge thair offence befor the sessioun for thair fault, and for leaving ane offering in the well.

The quhilk day the session, considering the abuse laitlie croppin in within this burgh, in that it is oom in custom that everie base servile man in the townne, when he has a bairne to be baptesed, invites twelf or sextene persones to be his gossopes and godfatheris to his bairne, whereas in former times the custom wes to invite only tua godfatheris at the most, and be occasion hereof if it fall out that be mair bairnes to be baptesed at one tyme nor ane, thair cannot be places gotten to the godfatheris to sit upon, besides that sundrie ither incommodities and skaffries fallis out be this abuse to the prejudice of dyvers honest men ; for remeid whereof it is statut and ordanit be the magistrates, ministeris, and elderis, that it shall not be lesume to any inhabitant within this burgh quhasoever to invite any mair persones to be godfatheris to thair bairne, in ony time comin, but tua or four at the most, lyk as the kirk officer is expresslie commandit and prohibitit that from henceforth he tak up nae mair names to be godfathers, nor give ony mair up to the redar but four at the most, under all hiest censure he may incur be the contrarie ; and this ordinance to be intimat out of the pulpit, that the people pretend no ignorance thereof.

The same day Janet Strathauchyer, spous of Patrick Walter, wes convict for misusing shamefullie of the said Patrick Walter, her husband, on Friday, at evin last, in the kirk, be banning him and using bitter execrations against him in presence of Mr. James Ross, minister ; as also, in her ain house, for pressing to have struck her husband, and for taking his sword in her hand and bosting him thairwith, as was clearlie verefeit be the said Mr. James Ross, and Mr. Richard Ross, redar ; in respect whairof the Magistrates and session ordanis the said Janett to be put in the joggis on ane mercat day, thairin to stand for the space of tua hours, and then to be carted thro the toun, and a croun of paper put on her head, with an inscription written on the same, bering the cause why she is carted ; and in the meantime ordanis her to be put in prison in the kirk volt, thairin to remain quhilk the foresaid ordinance be put to execution against the said Janett.

The said day the moderator exponit and declarit that it was hevylie complainit upon Mr. Richard Ross, minister at Dilmaok, that he was not sufficient nather in doctrine nor in his life and conversation, in so far as it was reportit of him that he passed to the pulpit to preich rashlie, without meditation, and that his doctrine was not for the comfort nor for the edifeing of sic ane notable congregation, and, thairfor, the said moderator exponit this as one of the kirkis grivis to the laird of Drum, exhorting him to assist the brethren presentlie to tak sic order with his minister as micht best satisfie the next Assembly, as also effectuat to himself and the parishioners a full contentment in tyme coming, being so notable a congregation, and for himself, laird almaist of the haill parochin, having his place of residence sae near his paroch kirk, quhair often times sundrie nobill men frae the south did repair, and thairfor, nae doubt, would desire on the Saboth till heir the Word; and the said laird of Drum offerit himself reddie to concur as he wes requerd. Quhairfor the moderator desired the laird with the elderis, to declare the truth concerning their minister, who being sworne, deponit as efter followis :—

John Irowing, beand sworne, deponit, that Mr. Robert Ross, thair minister, was somewhat edificative in his doctrine, and grantit that he passed sometimes, as he thoct, to the pulpit to teach without meditation, and deponit that he thoct that if he would occupy his book well that he might do better. Then he deponit that it was true that his minister drank sometimes in aill houses, as he heard be report.

Nicol Irowyiny, being sworn, deponit, that as towards his ministeris doctrine and qualification thereanent knows nathing, and deponit sence the last admonition he hes abstainit from drinking in aill houses.

George Symson, sworne, deponit, that his minister is not sic ane person as he is bruided, and as towards his doctrine, giff he would apply his mind constantlie to his studie, that he would teach meikle better nor he does.

Alexander Baxter, sworn, deponit, that as towards the minister's life he knows nathing thairof, because he lives far frae the kirk; as to his doctrine, deponit, that it is reasonable, and that he is very long or he begin the preaching.

The said day it is thoct expedient that ane baillie with twa of the sessioun pass thro the the toun every Sabbath-day, and nott sic as they find absent frae the sermones ather afore or efter none; and for that effect that they pas and serche sic

houses as they think maist meit, and pas athort the streits ; and chiefly that now, during the symmer seasonn, they attend, or caus ane attend, at the ferrie boat, and nott the names of sic as gang to Downie, that they may be punishit conform to the Act set donn aganis the brackaris of the Sabbath ; syclyke the sessioun appoyntes ordour to be tane with the absentis frae the sermones on the vik day, and their names notit and given up to the sessioun.

The said day in respeck it was delated to the sessioun that the ordinar officieres and servands of this burgh kepis not the sermones, but drinks both Sabbath-day and vik-day in time of sermon, to the great slander of the Gospel ; thairfor, it was devysit and ordainit be the magistrates and sessioun that the town's officieris in tyme of sermon, both on the Sabbath and vik dayes, sall stand ilk officier beside his own baillie, and not depart furth of the kirk till the end of the sermon, till they be directet be the provost or one of the baillies ; and in case of thair absens from the sermon without a lawfull and reasonable excuse, to pay 6s. and 8d. of penalty to the poore, *toties quoties*.

The said day ordanis the inhabitants of Futtie to be poyndit for thair absence this day fra the catechising.

The said day the sessioun ordanis captours and visitors to be placed be the four baillies everie Sabbath at the several parts after specefeit, for noting the names of those that pas out of the toun fra the sermones on the Sabbath—viz., ordanis the baillie of Futtie quarter to cans set a watch at the Blokhous for noting sic as gois ower at the ferrie boat ; the baillie of the Green quarter to set a watch at the Bow Brig for noting sic as gois to Ferryhill or to the Brig of Dee ; the baillie of the Crukit quarter to set a watch at the Womanhill ; and the baillie of the Ewin quarter to sett a watch at the Gallowgett for noting sic as pas to Auld Aberdene.

Patrick Bodie, tailyeur, confessit that he maid inquire at the Egiptianes for a gentill woman's gowne quhilk was stowne out of his buyth ; and therefore, in respect of his consultation with witches, the bishop and sessioun ordanis him to compeer before the pulpit on Sunday nixt, and thair, immediately efter sermon, before noon, sit down on his knees before the pulpit, and confes his offens in presens of the congregatioun, and crave *God and his congregation pardon*.

It is ordanit that no inhabitant within this burgh sall in ony time hereafter go to sermons in Futtie kirk on the Sabbath-day, bot that they resort to their ain parochie kirks within this burgh, and heir sermons within the same both befor and efter noone, under the pain of 6s. and 8d. to be uplifted of the contravenar, *toties quoties*, for the use of the poor.

Seing that bering of fals witnes is forbiddin be God, and the transgressors of this commandement to be puneisht with the deth; and also seeing that shlanders, railyeing, and backbyting of our nychtbouris name and fame, is fals witnes bering, gif the sam can nocht be justly porwin in dew tyme and place: Heirfor it is statut and ordained that all shlanderis, bacbytaris, and railyears, being convict of that crim, sall, for the first falt, ask God mercy and the party shlanderit, in presence of the congregation; and for the second falt, be put in the cukstuli, and say, *Toung, ye leid*; and, for the third falt, be baneist the town. All common sholds, flyttars, and bardis to be baneist the town, and nocht sufferit to remaine therein for na request.

It is ordaint that na disputation nir reasoning of the Scriptures be at dennar or supper or oppin table, quhair throw arises gryte contentioun and debate, and that na flyting nor chiding be at time of meit, under the payne of tua s. to the payr.

That the organis, with all expeditioun, be removit out of the end of the kirk, maid profect of to the use and support of the payr; and that the prestis stallis and bakkis of altaris be removit furth of the places quhar they now remaine, and situat in the parts of the kirk quhair men may be best easit be thame to heir the sermonis; and sic things that servis nocht for that use to be otherwis disposit or maid money of.

The same day, Janet Gill, John Andersoun, cordonar, and Janet Crystie, wife to John Robertsoun, flesher, ar unlawit ilk ane of them in the unlaw of thrie s. four d. for their absens frae the sermons on Sunday last.

The said day John Michel is ordaint to be put in kirk wolt, thairin to remain quhile he sett caution to adhear to Margratt Quhytt, his spous, and to intertene her as becums him.

The said day John Davidson, wricht, being warnit to this day for the secund term to answer to the complaint of his

wyffe; being callit, and not comperand, the Session, in respect of his contumacie, ordains him to be apprehendit, and put him in the stepill, quhill he obey their ordinance concerning his adhering to his wyffe, and his behaviour to her heirafter.

There sal be no swearing, banning, filthie speaking, or uncumlie behaviour in any families, meikle les on the streittis; the contravenaris to be scharplie punished with a palmer on the hand, or be a penaltie of money as they may be of habilitie.

James Riach haveing appearit in public, and it being observit by certain honest persones that he did mak ane moke of repentance by putting in of sneishin in his eyes to make them tear, and by laughing upon several persones in public. The saids persones having given notice thairrof, did appear before the Session this day, and gave evidence against him thairanent, and provit the same sufficientlie; as also, it was observit his own miscarriage in the Session. The matter was continued till the next day, that the same might be presentit to the Presbyterie. James was sentenced with the greater sentence of excommunication. On the 10th of December, he petitioned to be released from the sentence; and he was made to undergo public penance every Sunday, until the 16th of March, 1656, when he was absolved.

Isobel Robertson, servant to Peter Hill, baxter, to be cited the next day for her rayleing against Mr. Andrew Cant, minister, saying that, becaus the said Mr. Andrew Cant spaik against Yuill, he spaik like an old fool.

The Session this day considering the distress and povertie of Andro Meldrem, of the Moore of Fyvie, who has bein this long tym in ward within the wardhouse of this burgh, grantis threttie-tua pennis dailie to the said Andro, to continew with him for the space of a month from the date heirof, certefeing the said Andro that the Sessioun will not bestow forder on him for his interteanment, quho thairefter is ordanit to hing out a purs at the wardhouse window, for his better help and support.

The same day, whereas, against the decencie observet within all well reformat churches, many of the inhabitants of this burgh, both men and women, brings with them their dogges to the paroch kirk on the Lord's day, and uther dayes in the weik, in tyme of sermones and Divine service, whair throw and be

the barking and perturbation of these dogges, the people are aftin withdrawn from hearing of God's word, and often Divine service is interrupted, ane thing that is not comelie to be seen in the house of God, so it is not to be comported with in a civil burgh; for removing the quhilk abuse the magistrates, ministers, elders, and deacons of the Kirk Session of this burgh hes statut and ordanit, and be thir presentes, statutes and ordaines that no inhabitant whosoever within the same suffer thair dogges, whether they be mastives, currees, or messens, to follow them heireftir to the parochie kirk of this burgh on the Saboth day, nor no uther day in the weik, in tyme of sermones and public prayeris; certefyeing all these persones whose dogges sall be sein and knowin in the said kirkes the tymes foresaid, that they, and ilk ane of them, efter tryall and conviction, sall pay to the collector of the Kirk Session of that burgh the sowme of fourtie shillings Scots money for the use of the poor, *toties quoties*, by and attour that it shall be lesome to the scourgeris to fell their dogges. Quhilk ordinance is appoynted to be intimat to the inhabitants of this burgh be the reidaris the next Lord's day in both the churches, that none pretend ignorance heirop.

The said day Alexander Kay, being delatit to the Sessioun as ane common nichtwalker, carter, and dycer, and intertainer of playaris at carts and dyce in his hous, and being accusit thairof in presens of the Sessioun, the said Alexander was admoneist be thame to abstene and forbere in tyme cumming fra nicht walking, carting, and dycing, under the paines to be puneist conform to the discipline of the kirk. The same day Robert Cutheres, cordonar, and Thomas Hay, tincler, were admoneist be the Sessioun to abstene from their nicht walking and extraordinar drinking on the nicht, and that they navyse intyse nor persuade Alexander Smith, cordonar, in drinking, nor draw him out for that effect on the nicht in tyme cumming, under the paines to be puneist as nicht walkeris and drunkarts.

For keiping of guid order within families of Aberdene of bannings, swering, and blaspheming, it is concludit that thair salbe in every house a palmar, and the maister of the hous sall punish the swerar or bannar with the palmar gif he hes nocht geir, or in geir ewerie servant ane plack of his fie or than the dred of the palmar, and all utheris within his power with the ane or the uther, onder the pane of tinsall of his honestie, and this the officear sall trye and see be done, and the contempnar

of this ordinance to be punisheit be the magistratis and session.

The quhilk day anent the directioun gevin be the last Provinciall Assemblie to the said presbyterie to trye and examine Mr. Thomas Gordoun and Mr. Jhone Synclair petagogis to my Lord Gordoune and Master of Caitness in thair religioun and upbring of their lord and maister foir said, compeirit the said petagogis, and geff a confessioun of thair faithe and religioun professit presentlie within Scotland; and on thair conscience testifeit they saw never ane uther religioun within this realme nor out of the same, except that the said Mr. Jhonne declarit that he being in France be the space of tua yeiris or thairby culd nocht half the sight of the king thereof, and upon the information and convoy of ane familiar of his he saw the king at the messe quhairunto the said Mr. Johonn gaff na reverence, for his going thairto and was bott to get the sight of the king and nocht of the messe, quhilk he abhorris and detestis fra his hairt as he alledgeit and onlie professis and acknowledgeis this religioun in Scotland to be the true religioun unto the quhilk they sweir and subscriyvit the confessioun thair of in presens of the ministrie and presbitrie; and as to the instructioun off the saide lord and maister they declared that they teitchoit thame Grammer and oratrie and on the Sunday a lytill catechisme and redd to thame the New Testament, and exponit the samen to thame. In end they war allowit eftir triell, and ordenit to be verey carfull and diligent to treame thame up in that religioun quhilk they professit and hes suorne unto and that they micht the better bring thame up injoynt it to thame to reid and teitche thame the confessioun of Beza and the catechisme of Calvin and thairwith to reid ilk day tua chapteris of the Bible quhilk they promesit to do.

The said day certan personis chargit befor the Assemble for plaing, dansin, and singin off fylthe carrolles on Yeull Day, at evin, and on Sunday, at evin, thairefter; the quhilk personis com and grantit thair faut, and vas punist for the same (the names folowing, Jonet Troup, Elspet Mongumre, Mage Mair, Jonet Red, Nans Murray, Jonet Lyndsay, Marione Rait, Nans May, Isabell Cullen, Jonet Murray, Nans Dower, and Alexander Fydleris vyff, Andrew Buk's servand, Thomas Carton's, and an old voman callit Mage).

The said day Mage Moreson is decretit to pay 6s. 8d. to the

magistrat, and Andro Oathness is becomis caution for her repentance making quhen she is requirit, and that for the abusing of hir self in claything of hir with mennes clayes at the like [wake] of George Elmislyes wife.

The said day the sessioun decreit that gif Christian Fodrin-game, Isobel Freser, Burnett Rait, with their complices, tryit presentlie as dansares in mennes claythes, under silence of nycht, in hous and throcht the toun, beis fundin heirefter in the like falt, thai sall be debarrit fray al benefite of the kirk, and oppinlie proclamit in pulpit.

The samyn day the sessioun ordanis that all women of this burght, of honest reputatioun, quha ar of habilitie to have stullis sall everie ane of them have stullis in the kirk to sitt vpon in tyme of preaching and prayeris, conforme to the act of counsall maid thairanent, quhilk thay ordane to be done within fourtie dayes efter the dait heirop; and ordanis intimatioun to be maid herof, and of the remanent statutes aboue writin from the pulpit, and that the said fourtie dayes being bypast, the hail seattis for women afoir the daakis salbe takin away be the maister of kirkwark.

The samen day anent the bill of sclander gevin in be Jonett Adamsoun, relic of umquhill Patrik Straquhyn, aganis Katherine Kanzeacht, spouse to James Galloway, skletter, becaus the said Katherine is a common flyter and injurer of her nichtbouris, and hes bene verie oft hard befoir the sessioun; referis hir to the magistrattis to be put in the joggis for her flyting and evil toung, with certificatioun, gif scho be fund culpable heirefter, to be baneist.

The samen day the sessioun findis that James Murdo, baxter, hes sclanderit Isobell Horne, spouse to James Mylne, warkman, in saying to hir she was a witche karline, he shuld gar her feitt be hett, and convictis the said James of the said sklander; and in respect thairof ordanis the said James to mak her ane publict amendis and satisfiatioun on his kneis, publictlie befoir the pulpitt in presence of the congregatioun on ane Saboth day, or then publictlie in the sessioun hous befoir the ministris and sessioun, in the optioun of the said Isobell Horne, partie sclanderit, be confessing his offence and craving hir pardoun thairfor and professing he knawis nothing of hir bot honestie.

The quhilk day, efter incalling of God, Agnes Gray, spous to Archibald Boyd, compering in presence of the magistrattis and sessioun, wes accusit be the moderatour for debarring and stopping the said Archibald, hir husband, at his lait returning from Danskyn to this burt, vpon the penult day of July last by past, to enter within his awin hous, and haulding him violentlie at his awin dur, and navayes suffering him to enter within the same. The said Agnes confessit he wes hauldin at the dur be James Gordoun, sone to the gudeman of Laslie, scho not being within the hous for the tyme, bot affirmit and awowit maist peirtlie and impudentlie the same wes done be hir allowance and foirknaulege lyk as she opinlie awerit he shuld never be a husband to hir, and a blankatt shuld never cover thame ; in respect of quhais impudent and schameless behaviour being also very sklenderous, the magistrattis and sessioun ordanis the said Agnes to be presentlie committit in ward within the tolbooth of this burt, thairin to remane on bread and watter, ay and quhill sche be put to the triell of ane inquest of hir nichtbouris gif sche be a lawfull nichtbour or not, and ordanis the said James Gordoun to be cited to compeir befor thame the morne, immediatlie efter the ending of the morning prayeris.

Thair is sindrie that, coming to the sermone, abydes nocht till the same be endit, but some startis up in the middis thair of, and, being endit, the maist pairt removes and tarries nocht the last prayer and blessing, quhilk is ane gryte offence and abuse of Godis service and ewil exemple, quhairat the ministeris at thair teaching ar nocht litill greivit. For remedie it is concludit be the presbyterie, magistrattis, and sessioun that the officearis of the toune, with kirk officear, sall stand at the kirk dor during the tyme of divine service quha sall hald in and bring back sic as removis befor the tyme of divine service, except they be seik and may nocht endure sa lang ; and giff ony being stayat will nocht retire, bot deforcis the officearis, the kirk officear to note thair names and gif thame in wreit to the magistrattis to punisch as absentie, and deforcearis sic as contemnis this ordinance and sa to be double punischit.

The samyn day James Dun grantit that, at his being furth of the cuntrie, he hard mess, and tuke the sacrament thereat, and wes sworne to the religioun professit be the Paip at the *said James* being in Rome, and thairfor is injoyned to cum this

day aucht dayes and begin his repentance in sackcloth for his apostacie.

The samen day the magistrattis and sessioun ordanit intimatioun to be maid out of pulpitt, that na beggaris get any almes within this burgh, except sic as bearis the townis talkine; and intimatioun to be maid also heirof be the drum, that the towne may be purgeit of extranear beggeris, and that the townis awin pair may be the better helpit and susteanit.

Item, that young bairnis, quha ar not at the schoole, and ar not of sic aige and dispositioun as they can take thame selfis to ans seatt quhen they cum to the kirk, bot vaig throw the same heir and thear in tyme of sermone, and mak perturbatioun and disordour, be not sufferit to cum to the kirk in tyme of sermone, bot kept at hame, for eschewing of clamour and disorder in the kirk.

Thomas Maine compearit this day and enacted himself that he should frequent sermones; and in respect that the said Thomas declared befor the sessioun that he would never heare Mr Andro Cant preache, becaus he haid excommunicat his sonne, the sessioun thairfore appointed him to keepe the new kirk in the forenoone, and the old kirke in the efternoone, that he might haue no pretence of excuse why he did not frequent the ordinances; and the said Thomas vndertook so to doe.

Forsameikle as certaine personnes within the cite being suspect of poperie and dishaunters of ordinances affirme, quhen they or onie of them are inquyred after that they keepe the new kirke; the sessioun thairfor ordaines that one of their number sall keepe the new kirk Sabbathlie thair day about to see if such persons keep the said church as they alledge.

The said day Georg Meldrum reported that he haid attendit the new church yesterday, being the Lord's day, and did see none of the parsonnes suspect of poperie or dishaunters of ordinances in the said church, except William Andersonne and Thomas Moncur in the forenoone, and none at all afternoon. Walter Melwill appointed to attend the next day.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESBYTERY BOOK OF
STRATHBOGIE.

At Gartlay, 13th Julii, 1631.

CONVEINED moderator and brethrein. Mr. Alexander Innes taught Luce 22, v. 49.

Mr. William Read, minister, being removed, reportit weill of him, but regratit that he taxed the faults of the parochinars bitterli, and not in the language of the scripture, quherby the peple, insteade of being edified, wer moved to laughter and derisiois; and that he spendit over schort tyme in catechising his peple befor the communione, viz., four days in the Pasche week. The brethrein exhorted him to amend his defects, and to begine his examinatiounes at least seven weeks befor the tyme of the communione.

At Botari, Martii 28, 1633,

Jonet Abercrombi, spous to James Gordoun at the myln of Botari, and Agnes Jerret, spous to Adam Panton in Aucharn, being summond for not hearing of the word, not communicating thir diverse yeers bygain, for resorting to masses, and going in pilgrimage, setting on of bonfyres, and for other superstitious rites and ceremoneis, contrari to the law of God and statutes of this kingdome, as is mor at lenth contained in the principal summonds, execute be James Slorach, kirk officiar, Martii 22, they compeirit not. Ordainit to be summondit *pro 2^o*

At Innerkeithny, September 14, 1636.

Peter Wat summond to this daye for going in pilgrimage to the chappell beyond the water of Spey, compeared and confessed his fault. Ordained to make his repentance, and to paye four markes penaltye.

Agnes Jack sumonded to this daye for goeing in pilgrimage to the same chappell, compeared, and confessed that she went to the said chappell with ane diseased woman, but gave her great oath that she vsed no kynd of superstitious worahip. She is ordained to make her publike repentance, and to abstaine from the lyke in tyme comeing.

At Gartly, September 28, 1636.

George Gordoun, in Rynie, being cited befor the session of

Bynie for prophaneing the Sabbath, by gathering grozers in tyme of sermon, to make sale of them, appealed to the presbyterie, and compeared, and confessed that he was not at the sermon by reason of sicknes. He confessed also that he went with his children, after noone, into his yard and gathered grozers, but not in great for sale. Mr. Henry Rosse took him to prove, against the next meeting of the presbyterie after the synode, that he gathered these grozers, with his servants and children, in tyme of divyne service, and that in great, to make sale of them.

At Botary, January 11, 1637.

James Fraser, James Burnet, being sumounded to this daye to beare witness that George Gordoune, Rynie, did cause gather grozers for sale in tyme of sermon, *et supra*, at Gartly, September 28, 1636, compeared, and being admitted by the said George, wer sworne, and deponed thus: James Burnet deponed that he nevir saw George Gordoune gather any on the Sabbath for sale, and that he (being the said George servant) did never gather any, vnles it wer some few to fill his mouth. James Fraser deponed as James Burnet.

At Botary, March 29, 1637.

Patrik Wilsonne sumounded, *apud acta*, to answeere, this daye anent his night drinking, compeared. Mr. Joseph Brodye, to prove his allegances against him, produced witnesses, namely, James Morisone, George Wilsonne, Johne Wilsonne, who, being all admitted and sworne, deponed as after followes: James Morisone deponed, that he continued drinking till cockcrowe, and that he and his companye dranke eleven pyntes aill; moreover, the said James deponed that in his drunkennes he stroke James Troup, messinger, with his hand, and that he rayled against some gentlemen in the parish. George Wilsonne deponed that he left Patrik Wilsonne and his companye drinking after cockcrowe, and that he strake and rayled, *et supra*. Johne Wilsonne deponed that the said Patrik was ouercome with drinke, and that he drank after cockcrowe. The brethren ordained the said Patrik to stand in sackcloth tuo Sabbaths, and to paye four markes penaltye.

At Botary, Apryl 12, 1637.

Issobell Malcolme, parishoness of Botarye, sumounded to this daye for chawming, compeared, and confessed that she had

been in vse of charmeing this twenty yeeres, and, being requyred to name some of these whome she had charmed, she named Jeane Rudderfuid, spouse to James Gordoune, in Torrisoyle, and [] Innes, spouse to Johne Ogilvye of Miltonne; she confessed that she had charmed both these gentlewomen for the bairne bed; and siclyke, she confessed that she had charmed ane chyldes sore eye in Bade, within the parish of Ruven. The censure of the said Issobell was continued in hope that she should be found yet more guiltye. The moderator, Mr. Robert Jameson, reported that, he hearing that she vsed charmeing, he raised her from the table, she having a purpose to communicat.

At Botary, January 8, 1640.

Christane Rind and Thomas Duff, summonsed for sending for Issobell Malcolme in Glasse, supposed to be a witch, for consulting with her, and receiving charmes and directiones from her. The said Christane compeared not. Ordained to be summonsed *pro secundo*.

At Botarie, Junii 15, 1642.

The said day, Mr. Robert Jamesone reported that he hade given John Matman, murtherer of Walter Boyne, his second admonition to the censures of excommunicatioun, and that he remayned as yet werie obstinate, and was vseing all meanes to elude the censures of the presbyterie, and hade imbarcked some of good note in that busines, to beare him out in his wickednes, and disturbe the said Mr. Robert his peace, alledging that he was sought out of splene. Nether wold he pay ony pecuniall mulct, to be employed *ad pios usus ecclesias*. In case that the kirk wold refuse his repentance, he wold take instrument of his offer, and then no minister within the presbyterie durst excommunicate him. The ministrie and ruling elderis this day present, considering the said John to be a wicked and ewill disposed persone, quho hade no true signes of repentance; and also that, besyde the slaughter of Walter Boyne, he was guiltye of the murther of umquhill George Wyseman, in Drumdelgie, for the quhich he hade nether made nor offered any satisfacioun to the partie nor to the church, but was lying under proces (befor the civill judge), yet wndiscussed, wpon suspensiones raised at the said John his instance; and siclyke, that he had bound Jeane Davidsons, daughter to Alexander Davidsons, webster, to a post, and hade brydled her without ony just caus, and to the gryt effusion of her blood, quho lay *bedfast* a yeir thereafter; and also, out of his drunken humour,

he frequentlie vsed to brydle his owne wyffe; and that he regarded nether admonitioun nor church censre, bot plainlie affirmed that he wold doe nothing bot that quhilk his maister commanded him to doe. In consideration of the premisses, the brethren finding them self bund in conscience, as likwayes be the lawis and statutes of this kirk and kingdome, to advertise the magistrate in the caus of bluid, quhilk cryes for wengeance wpon the haill land quher the same is shed, without punishment; and also finding themselfis bund by the statutes of this kirk to excommunicate such offenderis, quho intendes to elude the severitie of justice be ony meanes quhatsoever besyde the tryall of their innocencie, and that such persones are not to be admittit to the societie of the church until such tyme as ether the magistrate punish according to the law, or els pardon the cryme; and also quhill the offender give sufficient signes of repentance, least, admitting impenitent persones to the samen, God should be therby mocked, and highlie offended with such as admittis them thervnto. Therfor the whole presbyterie, with one consent, discharged the said Mr. Robert ether to receive penaltie or repentance from the said John Matman wntil the tyme that he wer ether declared innocent of the said crymes be a lawfull assysse befor the civil judge, and had also satisfied the partie, and obtained a lettre of Slaynes from all haveing interest, as also the supreme magistrates pardon and remissione for the said slaughteris and crymes; and withall ordained the said Mr. Robert to pronounce the sentence of excommunicationne against him, and to dilate him to the civill judge, that order may be taken heirwith.

At Inverkeithnie, 17th August, 1642.

The said day, the brethren fand also the fabrik of the kirk well repaired, windowes well glazed, dores and pulpit covered with greene, be contributioun for the maist of the Laird of Frendraught, quha hade given also a pulpit cloth, tuo cupis, vorth aught score lbs. for the communion, and hade erectit communion tables on his owin expenses.

At Rynie, 1^o Septembris, 1642.

Mr. Henry Ros, minister, being removed, and the elderis being suorne what they knew concerning the said Mr. Henry, or quhat might inable him in his ministrie, being posit, they deponed, on their oath, all in one woyce, that concerning his literature he was werie weake, and gave them litle or no confort in his ministrie; bot, as concerning his life, he was

mendit, and was blameles now in his conversatioun. The said Mr. Henry regratit that the parochianeris frequentit not the church, nor assistit him in discipline, bot despysit him, and that they hade no discipline, no seassone since Februaire last.

At Abercherdour, 11th July, 1648.

Mr. Richard Maitland, and thes that ver sent with him to the lady of Frendraught, reported that shoe promised to heir the vord, and desyred a tyme for further resolutionne. The bretherin thought meet that hir minister with Joseph Brodie scould yet speak hir, and sie if shoe vould be a daylie hearer, and keip familie vorship with ye rest of the familie, then to giue hir some short space, quhilk if shoe refused, the process to goe on against hir.

Att Botarie, 24th Januarii, 1649.

The said day, Mr. John Reidfurd reported that, after sermon, out of the pulpit, he did gie the Lady Frendraught the first publict admonition the last day of December, 1648; and, vpon the seventh day of Januar, after sermon, he had giuen the Lady Frendraught the second publict admonition. Ordained to proceed.

Att Botarie, 7th February, 1649.

The said day, Mr. John Reidfurd reported by his letter, that, vpon the twenty-eighth of Jannar, he had giuen the Lady Frendraught the third and last publict admonition, and vpon the fourth February, 1649, he had giuen the forsaied lady the first prayer. Ordained to proceed.

Att Botarie, 28th Martii, 1649.

The said day, Mr. Johne Reidfurd reported that he had giuen the Lady Frendraught the third and last prayer, after sermon, out of the pulpit, the twenty-fifth Martii; and lykvyis, he had summondit the said Lady Frendraught to compeir befor the presbyterie, at Botarie, the 28th Martii, ther to heir and sie the process revised and allowed that the sentence of excommunicatioun may be pronounced, or then to alledge ane reasonable cause vhy the samen scould not be done; vith certificatioun, if shoe compeir not, the forsaied sentence vould be decerned to be pronounced against hir. Immediatlie thereafter being called, compeired not. The processe ordained to be extract

against the next day and subscribed, [that] the sentence might be pronounced.

At Rothemay, 29th September, 1640.

Mr. Johne Reidfurd being posed what diligence he had used to the Lady Frendraught, reported, shee had hard three sermons, and so, as he thought, shee intended to continow ane hearer. The brethren, considering her long continued contumacie and delay of her process, by heiring a sermon now and then, thought not that kynd of heiring satisfactorie, quherfor Mr. Robert Watson, and Mr. Robert Irving, ver ordained to goe with Mr. Johne Reidfurd, and requyre the said Lady to subscribe the Covenant, quherby she might testife her conformitie with the kirk of Scotland, quhilk, if shee refused, the said Mr. Johne was ordained to pronounce the sentence of excommunication against hir before the Provinciaall Assemblie, as he vould be answerable therto.

At Botrusnie, 5th Junij, 1650.

Mr. Johne Reidfurd reported, the Lady Frendraught had subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant, and abjured Poprie in the severall headis and articles in the National Covenant.

At Botarie, October 27th, 1652.

The brethren sent from the presbytrie to speak the Ladie Rothemay, younger, and the Ladie Kinardie, anent their falling away to poprie, reported, that the Lady Rothemay promised to communicate hir scruples to hir owne minister, and to conferre with him; and that the Lady Kinardie was obstinate, declaring hirselfe to be none of our church, and shee would neither hear hirselfe nor suffer hir daughters to heare; professing, moreover, that shee repented of her former repentance more than of anie sinne that ever shee committed, and thought that shee had reason to repent all her lyfe time for subscribing the Nationall Covenant and Solemn League and Covenant. They reported also, that Janet Williamson and Janet Knows, two professed papists, were kept by the said Ladie, within the familie, contrary to her husbands mynd. It was ordained that shee should be summoned against the next day, to answer for hir perjurie and apostacie; and recommended to Mr. Jhon Reidfurd to proceed against the two women, and mak report to the presbytrie.

At Botarie, Apryl 27, 1653.

Mr. John Reidfurd advertised the presbytrie of the Ladie Kinardie hir returne from Edinburgh. He was ordaind to cause summond her to the next day, for her apostacie to poperie.

At Botarie, 25th May, 1653.

Mr. John Reidfurd reported that Dame Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, was not sumonded to this day, according to the ordinance of the presbytrie, and that in respect the officer who should have summonded her was sick. The ordinance was renewed.

At Botarie June 8, 1653.

Dame Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, being summonded to this day, called, compeird not, ordained to be sumonded *pro 3^o*.

At Innerkeithnie, 31st August, 1653.

The said day, ther was presented a letter from Patrik Lord Oliphant and Dam Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, the tenor quheroff follows:—"Right Reverend, please seing by order from yow, the ministers of Abercherder and Inverkeithnie ar going on in processe against ws, quherfor it is our humble desire to yow that ye wold be pleased to giue direction that the processe may be continued till we haue some competent tyme for our resolution in a busines which so neirlie concerns ws; and if we sall not then resolue to giue obedience to quhat ye sall command ws, we sall desire no further delay thereafter. So, referring the tyme and this our request to your charitable consideration, we commend ws heartilie to yow, and rest your verie assured to serve yow. *Sic subscribitur*, Oliphant. E. Gordone."

At Botarie, 28th September, 1653.

Mr. William Kinenmont, Mr. John Reidfurd, and Mr. Robert Irving, who were sent to speak with Patrick Lord Oliphant and Dam Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, reported they had done so, with small hope of gaining them. The tyme granted to them the last day now being neir spent, and they not compeiring to giue obedience, Mr. John Reidfurd and Mr. Robert Irving was ordained to get their ansueirs in writ *respective*,

and to bring them to the brethren of the presbytrie at the synod ; which, if not sufficient then, to go on in processe against them befor the next day of meeting.

At Botarie, 26th Octobris, 1653.

The said day, Mr. John Reidfurd reported that, in respect Dam Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, was continued by the Synode, vpon her letter of request for that effect, to this day of meeting for declaration of her mynd in relation to poperie, he had delayed the processe, and hade intimat that vnto her. The presbytrie, finding that neither she, nor any in her name, came to offer obedience, ordaind the said Mr. John to go on with the processe against her ; as also, against Agnes Hebron and Janet Williamson.

At Botarie, 1st March, 1654.

The said day, Dame Elizabeth Gordon, Ladie Kinardie, Agnes Hebron, and Janet Williamson, being sumonded to compeir to hear and see the processe against them revised, *etc.*, was called, but non of them compeiring, the presbytrie ordained the sentence of excommunication to be pronounced against them the next Lords day, the fifth of March, for ther apostacie to poperie, perjurie, *etc.*, and this ordinance to be sent under the clerks hand to Mr. John Reidfurd, which was done.

Inverkeithney, 5th October, 1657.

Compeired, George Thomson and Elspet Gray, and being accused for drinking in Isobel Leitch's house in tym of divine service ; lykas, the said George went out at the back syde of the house at his own wyffe's coming to the door ; they both confessed their drinking in tym of divine service, and the said George his going out at the back of the house. The brethren ordained them both for thair drinking in tym of divine service to pay ilk ane of them four merkis of penaltie, and to sitte on the stool of repentance two Sundays, or then to redeem themselves be standing in joggis and brankis.

The said Isobel Leitch, lykeways, in whose house the persons above nominat was resett, was declared to be a perjured woman and a wyld scald, quho resett all sorts of infamous persons in her house, and sold ayle to them both day and nicht. The brethren ordains her to find caution to keep guid ordour in tymes coming, or then not to be resident in the parochie from Whitsunday furth.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

IN 1525, three lairds of the Garioch—Scam of Meldrum, Lealie of Wardhouse, and Lealie of Balquhain—instigated by an Aberdonian Coriolanus, called John Collison, Senior, sometime Provost, made a *Cossack* highly characteristic of the age. Under cloud of night they entered the city at the head of fourscore spearmen, and commenced an attack upon the citizens, who flew to arms, and gave their invaders battle. The fight was obstinate and bloody, but victory at length declared for the town; eighty of the inhabitants were killed or wounded, and the precautions taken to avoid the recurrence of such an assault show how much it was dreaded. It was ordered that the Ports of the burgh should be repaired, and the vennels, "back dykes," and "waste places" built up; that by night there should be a watch kept by sixteen persons; that by day sentinels should be placed on the steeples of the Church and Tolbooth to give the alarm, by ringing the bell on the appearance of horsemen approaching the city; that two additional gunners should be engaged for the artillery; that the young and able men of the town should be supplied with culverins, cross-bows, hand-bows, and shooting pieces; that wappenshaws should be held weekly; and finally, that a complaint on the lairds be made to the King and Council. No repetition of the onslaught, however, was made, and two years thereafter it is recorded that one of the assailants, "the laird of Meldrum, quha was slayne be the maister of Forbes in the provest's howiss in Aberdene, departitt the penult day of Januar, the year of God 1527 years."—*Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord*.

PROVOST JAFFRAY'S INTERVIEW WITH KING CHARLES THE
SECOND.

In the year 1649, I, being then a member of Parliament for the town of Aberdeen, was sent into Holland with the Earl of Cassilis, Lord Brodie, and Lord Libbertone, to treat with and bring home our young king. I shall spare to mention many things for shortness; only by the way I must observe this, that having gone there in the simplicity of our hearts, and minding what we conceived to be our duty, it pleased the Lord to bring us safely off without any snare or entanglement. But being again sent there by the Parliament in the year 1650 for that same business, we did sinfully both entangle and engage the nation and ourselves and that poor young prince to whom we were sent—making him sign and swear a covenant

which we knew, from clear demonstrable reasons, that he hated in his heart. Yet, finding that upon these terms only he could be admitted to rule over us (all other means having then failed him,) he sinfully complied with what we most sinfully pressed upon him—where, I must confess, to my apprehension, our sin was more than his. I spoke of it to the king himself, desiring him not to subscribe the covenant if in his conscience he was not satisfied, and yet went on to close the treaty with him, who I knew so well had for his own ends done it against his heart. But I may say, so did I desire him to do it against mine, so weak and inconstant was I; being overcome with the example and advice of others—gracious and holy men—that were there, whom in this I too simply and implicitly followed—choosing rather to suspect myself in my judgment to be wrong than theirs.—*Jaffray's Diary.*

In 1604, an Act was passed by the Magistrates of "Auld Aberdene," regulating the price of ale under certain penalties, as is now customary in fixing the assise of bread; and in the year 1617, they created certain municipal offices, for the filling of which, we suspect, there must have been a very keen competition. The worthy Magistrates "appointed four several persons to go weekly through the town and *taste the drink*, and when the same is found insufficient, to declare the same to the bailies, that it may be confiscate to the *poor folks*." They also enacted that "none within the town should sell drink after nine hours in the evening;" and, some years afterwards, it was judiciously ordained that no person "should sell ale or any other liquor to *students* after eight o'clock at night, under the failzie of £4 Scots, *toties quoties*." In 1606, it was ordained that the whole inhabitants of the town "should repair to the preaching in St. Machar's kirk on Sunday and Wednesday, under the following pains, viz.—The goodman and the goodwife of the house contravening, 6s. 8d. Scots." And in 1614, it was enacted that "whatsoever bairn or scholar be found casting stones in the kirk, or breaking windows, the owner of the bairn, or the master of the servant, shall pay 6s. 8d. Scots, *toties quoties*, and the *vagabonds to be bound to the cross, and bridled thereat, and stand 24 hours bound*." A signal instance of loyalty to King Charles the Second was exhibited in 1668, by the good people of the Auld Town. The Militia having been ordered out for his Majesty's service, "there were four militiamen and the fourth part of a horse put forth for the town of Old Aberdeen. The men were well mounted with cloaths and armour, and the *leader of the horse was Lady Kigie who had a lodging in the Chan-*

onry, and a hamnet (half-net) upon Don."—*Aberdeen Observer*, 1830.

In the year 1351, William de Leith, Provost of Aberdeen, presented to the church a magnificent donation of two large bells—the one called the *Laurence* and the other *Maria*—which he purchased at his own expense. Tradition reports that he had killed Catanach, one of the baillies, in a quarrel, at Barkmill, on the west side of the town, where a cairn remained for ages pointing out the place where the body was buried; and, as an expiation for the crime, he presented to the church the bell called the *Laurence*, which is four feet in diameter at the mouth, and three feet and a half high.

In ancient times it was never allowed to be rung or tolled but on the occasion of the anniversaries of the deaths of Fyfe, Roull, and Davidson, who were eminently distinguished as the successive chief magistrates of the town.—*Kennedy*.

In the year 1580, it was found requisite to pass an Act of Council ordering the scholars at the Aberdeen Grammar School, on their entry, to find caution, under the penalty of £10, for their good behaviour, and for paying due obedience to the Magistrates and to their masters.

In the year 1612, the pupils (many of whom were the sons or relatives of the gentry in the country), repining at the severity of the Rector's discipline, became mutinous, and determined to resent it at their own hands. Having armed themselves with hagbuts, pistols, and other offensive weapons, they took possession of the Song School, and were threatening to commit acts of outrage, when the Magistrates were obliged to interpose their authority to prevent it. The ringleaders of this juvenile insurrection were apprehended and sent to prison; and twenty-one of the most prominent insurgents were expelled, under the direction of the Magistrates, not only from the Grammar School, but from all the other schools of the town. This exertion of authority speedily quelled the insurrection, and restored tranquility to the School.—*Ibid*.

In the middle of the fifteenth century Aberdeen had its common clock or *horologe* upon the Tolbooth; and in the beginning of the subsequent century, a similar clock was placed on the church. In 1467, a person was appointed by the Town Council manager of the horologe with an annual salary of £2 for his services; but in the beginning of the sixteenth century there was *not* a mechanic in the town capable to execute the ordinary

repairs which these clooks required. The^horologe on the Tolbooth having become defective, was sent to Flanders, in order to be repaired; and at the distance of twelve months it was returned, probably not much improved by what had been done to it; for *Friar Alexander Lindsay* was afterwards employed to make certain improvements upon it, for which he was to be allowed five merks, provided the clock was made to strike correctly.—*Ibid.*

Item it was ordainit be the aldirmen and counsale, that Thome Gray, tailour, for the strublanche done in the kirk, and for nicht walking and other demerits done be him and his complices, that he sal cum in lynnyne clathis this next Sunday, in time of the hie mass, with ane candill of 2 lbs. of wax in his hand, bair fute and bair heid, with a lousse gounne, and offer the samin candill to Sanct Nicholess at the hie alter of the samyn; and attour the said Thomas sal pay 10s. to Sanct Nicholess werk or he pass out of the tolbut; and gif ever he be connuickit of nicht waking, or sic demerits bigan, he sal be banyst out of the toune, incontinent but ony process; and in likuiss, gif ony seruitor of his be fundin connuickit in sic faltis or nicht waking in tyme cumyne, he and they sal be banyst out of the toune but ony delay.—*Burgh Records*, 1486.

A LEARNED ABERDONIAN.

Alexander Anderson, a native of Aberdeen, taught Mathematics in Paris in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and was, "for his abilities in the mathematical sciences, accounted the profoundliest principled of any man of his time. In his studies, he plied hardest the equations of Algebra, the speculations of the irrational lines, the proportions of irregular bodies, and sections of the cone. He was excellently well skilled in the theory of the planets, and astronomy; the optics, catoptricks, dioptricks; the orthographical, stereographical, schenographical projections; in cosmography, geography, trigonometry, and geodesie; in the staticks, music and all other parts and pendicles, sciences, faculties, or arts of, or belonging to, the disciplines mathematical in generals, or any portion thereof, in its essence or dependencies. Having a body too weak to sustain the vehement intensiveness of so high a spirit, he died young [probably in 1620]."—*Sir T. Urquhart's Tracts*, pp. 111, 112.

PSALMODY.

The fame of this ancient city of Bon-Accord for its admir-

able knowledge in this divine science (music), and many other fine endowments, hath almost overspread the whole of 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 cheerful Psalms and heavenly melody of famous Bon-Accord.—*From a Preface by Thomas Davidson to a Collection of Tunes, Published at Aberdeen, by John Forbes, and Sold at his Printing-house, above the Mealmarket, at the Sign of the Town's Arms, 1662.*

He describes the Town Council as follows:—"Their honourable wisdoms, the Lord Provost, Baillies, and Town Council are a harmonious heavenly concert of as many musicians as Magistrates."

An English traveller, in 1656, thus wrote of the Aberdeen Psalmody:—"Here you shall have such order and decorum of song-devotion in the church as you will admire to hear—though not regulated by a canter or quirester, but only by an insipid parochial clerk, that never attempts farther in the mathematics of music than to complete the parishioners to sing a Psalm tune."

James the Sixth conceived it necessary, before making a progress to the northern part of his dominions, to dispatch a letter to the Magistrates, intimating his intention "to pay a visit to the chief burghs of the kingdom, particularly Aberdeen; which, being among the best, his Majesty was so much the more anxious that all things be so orderly provided there, that there appear no marks of incivility, or token of penury and scant; and therefore recommending that lodgings be prepared in the most handsome, civil, and courtly manner, with good bedding, well washed and well smelled *napperie*, clear and clean vessels, of sufficient largeness, plenty of provisions and vivers; the streets to be kept clear of *beggars* and *mid-dings*." Even after these precautionary injunctions, the learned monarch, though he advanced as far as to Dunnotter, within sixteen miles of the city, did not venture to put the purity of the citizens' *napperie* to the proof, contenting himself with ordering an advanced guard of his attendants to make trial of the hospitality of the Brave Town. These gallants were welcomed with due respect, and being greeted with the ancient courtesy of a Cup of Bon-Accord, were admitted Burgesses of Guild. Of the nineteen retainers of the Court who were thus honoured, it may be remarked that the only one whose fame has reached modern times, is ARCHIE ARMSTRONG—the King's Jester.—*Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.*

In the year 1500, the Council enacted "that Johne and Robert thair commone Menstralis sal have reasonable diets throw the nichtbouris of the toune; and gif ony persone refus to resave thame to thair dietis it sal be lesum [lawful] to thame to gif [give] to the said menstralis xij d. in the day baith for meit drynk and wagis, for simpile folks." We learn that they were despatched to Holyrood to attend the marriage of James IV. with the Princess Margaret of England in 1503; and that for this gay occasion they were provided with silver badges on which the arms of the city were engraved. In 1512, the fine imposed upon those who did not admit them to their tables was increased to two shillings to be paid to the Mintrels, and eight shillings to be applied to the public use. In 1534, it was ordained that they should receive, in addition to their day's subsistence, xvj d. from their entertainer, if he were a burgess, or xij d. if he were a crafzman. At this time they were in the habit of passing "thro all the rewis and streittis of the guid town at five hours in the morning, and betwixt aught and nyn at even." In 1545, their number was increased to three, and they were appointed to "play thre partia." After this date few notices occur of the Minstrels under that name, which possess much interest. In 1566, John Cowper received a pension of six merks a-year "for his service to be done to the towne in tyme cumming in playing upon the swesche [drum] als weill in tyme of war as in tyme of peace, and sport, and play." In 1574, the same individual was ordered to "pas everie day in the mornyng at four houris, and everie nyght at eight hours at even, throw all the rewis of the toune, playand upon the Almanj Quhissil [German whistle], with ane servand with him playand on the Tabourine, quharby the craftismen, their servandis, and all uther labourious folkis, being warnit and excitat, may pas to thair labouris, and fra thair labouris, in due and convenient tyme." The Sweschman or drummer was provided with "ane garment of reid English *stamming*." In addition to these performers, the city, from a remote age, possessed a Bellman, and a common Piper; but the latter officer was removed about the middle of the seventeenth century. In 1630, the Council "for dyvers respectis and considerationis moving thame, dischargeit Thomas Wobstar, thair common Pyper, of all goeing throw the towne at nicht, or in the morning, in tym coming with his pyp; as being ane incivill forme to be usit within sic a famous burgh, and being often fund fault with als weill be sundrie nichtbouris of the town as be strangerie."

Many years previous to this date municipal ordinances had proscribed the Highland costume among the wealthy and respectable citizens. The first of these enactments which I have traced is dated in 1576; and after that period almost every year witnessed a repetition of the decree. In 1580, it was ordained "that na mennis wyffis weir ane plaid in kirk, merkat, or gett, except thai be harlottes and suspect personis." In 1611, the ancient statutes were renewed by an Act, the preamble of which states "that thair hes bene divers guid lawis maid that na burgess of gild sould wear ony plaids or blew bonnets within this burgh, under the pane of fyve pundis, quhilk statutes hes not tane thair dew execution be reason of the impunitie of the transgressoures; that divers and sundrie merchandis burgesses of gild hes worn and weris plaidis and blew bonattis to the gryt dishonour of this burgh; and that gryt many of thame passing south to Edinburgh, Dundie, and uther ciuill townis, uses and weiris plaidis and blew bonattis within the said townis, as giff they war landwart men or comoun postis, and not merchandis nor burgesses of gild." Such was the respect in which the Celtic garb was held by civilized Scotsmen in the seventeenth century!—at the same time superfluous expense in dress was rigorously restrained. In 1594, female servants were prohibited from wearing ruffs, or curtchess of lawn and cambric, or red hoods, under the penalty of having the same taken from them and trampled in the gutter or kennel.—*Ibid.*

The formation of the city armoury began in the seventeenth century. It was the duty of the burgesses to "scoot, lot, wake, and ward" for defence of the burgh, and they were required by municipal ordinances to provide themselves with good and sufficient arms. At a weapon-schawing, or military muster, held in 1522, on the Woolmanhill (where a *palcion* or pavilion was pitched), we find that they had spears five ells and a half in length, bows and quivers of arrows, and long two-handed swords; for defence they wore targets, knapscaws or bonnets, *jacks* or corslets, and *splents* to cover the thighs, all of steel, highly polished. In 1612, it was enacted, "that all personis that sall happin heirefter to be admittit burgesses of gild or free craftsmen of this burgh, sall compeir in presence of the counsall, haveing ane compleit stand of armour, quha sall give thair aithes that the said armour belangis to thame thameselfis as thair awin proper geir." It was shortly afterwards ordered that instead of this obligation, every brother of *guild should, on his admission, present to the town a musket*

and bandelier, and that every trades' burgess should furnish a pike. In 1676, these duties being converted into payments in coin, there arose a fund entitled "Arms-Money," from the proceeds of which the present collection of firelocks is kept in repair.—*Ibid.*

LETTER WRITTEN BY LORD CRIMOND.

The following is a translation of part of a letter written in Latin by Lord Crimond, father of Bishop Burnett, one of the Lords of Session, who, after his retirement from the Bench, took up his residence in Aberdeen. The letter is addressed to Robert Gordon of Straloch, and is dated at Aberdeen the 16th December, 1652. It is to be found in the Miscellany published by the Spalding Club :—

" There are two reasons in particular that made me answer your letter so tardily ; one, and that, too, the principal, is the amount of business with which I am almost overwhelmed, and which cuts up all my leisure time into small fragments. For if there be any one in the whole city at law with another, he has recourse to me, either to act as an arbiter, and so put an end to the dispute (not a very easy matter in this unjust and perverse generation), or one of the litigants asks me to give a judicial decision ; and generally both parties come to find out my opinion on such a point in law after I have given a decision, and when I am disposed frankly to express my opinion and to deceive nobody. And, to tell the truth, this city is in great distress from the scarcity of lawyers, there being only three or four, and a dubious and slippery confidence is placed in the two who have the principal business ; for they have not tasted even with the edges of their lips the knotty points in law, and some of them they do not even understand, and in these, being only accustomed to the ordinary *formulae*, they sometimes commit gross and shameful blunders. I feel ashamed (seeing that we belong to the same profession) that such statements should be made without the possibility of refutation. I answer frankly, and without taking any fee, all the citizens who call on me, whatever be the nature of their business ; and in this way I have become quite unpopular with my brethren, and I give myself such an amount of trouble that I have scarcely time to take my food. Your own son was an eye-witness of this state of matters ; for I was hardly permitted to enjoy his conversation for half an hour for the crowd of callers."

EXTRACTS FROM AN ABERDEEN ALMANAC, PUBLISHED IN 1625, BY EDWARD RABAN.

A PROGNOSTICATION for this year of our redemption 1625, being the next year after Leap Year, serving for the whole Kingdom of Scotland; but especially, and according to Raban's bounden dutie, for the latitude and meridian of the honorable Citie of Aberdene. Printed at Aberdene by Edward Raban for David Melville. 1625. Bon-Accord, insignia urbis, Aberdonie.

Some ither accidents, with the date of that yeare wherein everie of them fell out—

The Battell of Brechin was foughten anno 1443.

James II. slayne at Roxburgh, 1460.

James III. slayne, 1488.

Battell of Flowden; James IV. slayne, 1572.

Battell of Pinkie, 1547.

Battell of Craibstone, 1571.

The Rede of the Bridge of Dee, 1589.

Now, it must be understood that the year containeth twelve months fiftie and two weeks and one day which maketh altogether three hundred three score and five, and six hours; and, to know justlie how many days everie moneth hath, even for your memorie's cause, I have here set it down unto you in metre—

Thirtie days hath September,
April, June, and November;
February hath twenty and eight alone;
All the rest have thirty days and one.

A declaration of such casualties as are likelie to fall out in this present year 1625, even by the testimonies of the most learned Copernicus and Erra Pater, and other expert philosophical astronomers, whose praise my natural style cannot so much as once begin to show forth. Then sithence my diligence is bestowed in perusing their tedious volumes and remarking their approved observations, why may not I also give a proof what happilie I have reaped, craving only the reader's patience and charitable censure.

Listen, then, your itching ears, and put on your spectacles, ye sand blind. To begin—This winter shall be very temperate, more rain than snow, and greater winds than wished,

and too little frost; yea, some unkindlie, sowtrie, warm-like days, threatening to thunder, as Copernicus observeth. About the hinder-end of harvest, witchcraft shall flourish, but make an ill trade. The herring fang shall be prosperous, and other fishes in great abundance. I speake not of the salmond. Many old people shall die this year 1625. Uncouth sickness shall grieve both young and old, and especially the megrim and the fluxes among the servile sort; so that the laird shall bee fayne to put hand to the ploughe and ladie mistress to the sickle. Monsieur Medicus his skill shall fayle, and a merrie greedie man shall say in his sicknesse that he was not so curious to make him quit of his malady as his money. Now, Erra Pater affirmeth that great murmurations and rumours of warres shall indeed be heard of, but few battells foughten. Four eclipses will happen this year, two of the sun and two of the moon; the second of the moon the 6th Sept. about noon, but will appeare very little or not at all appeare unto us; therefore, I refer it to our antipodeans, unto whom is greater evil portended than to us. Blessed be the God of the spheres.

The Almanac, after a list of the fairs in Scotland, concludes as follows:—

Thus fare yee well yee Chapmen, full merrie may ye make;
for without Chapmen there could be no merchants. But who-
soever will procure deacon amongst you, I request to let mee
have a copie of those fayres in more perfect order against the
next year, that all confusion may be eschewed for your advan-
tage, while as yee have the printer at command.

Ever your owne

RABAN.*

* In the beginning of 1622, encouraged by the influence of Bishop Patrick Forbes, and of the Magistrates, EDWARD RABAN left St. Andrews, and established his Press on the north side of the Castlegate, in a new house belonging to the Council, of which the lower part was used as a meal market. In that year he printed, among other books, a treatise, "De Disciplina Ecclesiastica," and the tale of "The Twae Freirs of Berwick." Raban was not only a printer, but an author, and has left compositions behind him, both in prose and in verse. "The Glorie of Man consisting in the Excellence and Perfection of Woman," published in 1638, was written, he tells us, "to vindicate and deliver myself from the imputation of Sarcastick, bitter, too loose and liberall speeches agaynst the most noble, worthie, and transcendant sexe of Women." Contemporary with this "Master Printer, the first in Aberdeen," was David Melville, perhaps the first bookseller of whom the town can boast. It was probably after his death that Raban opened a shop at the end of the Broadgate, under the quaint style of "The Laird of Letters." This

FASHIONABLE LIFE IN ABERDEEN AT THE END OF
LAST CENTURY.

WE have had great doings here all this week. The town has been full of nobility and gentry. Monday, a great dinner at Alexander Masson's, Queen Street; a ball and supper at Wilkie's at night; and so on alternately. There is sundry of the company gone. The Duchess of Gordon still remains, who is at the head of the whole company, who pay their *devoirs* to her. Colonel Lennox and Lady Charlotte are here; Lord Saltoun; the Earl of Peterborough; a Mr. Bisset, his brother-in-law; the Master of Forbes; Sir Wm. Forbes; the Countess of Kintore. They had been all gone before now, but they waited for the motions of the Duchess going away. Every day the company have been engaged in the Links at wicket. The Duchess of Gordon and Lady Charlotte Lennox all the time

Caxton of Aberdeen seems to have died in 1649, and I regret that I cannot point out to the lover of literature the spot where his bones are interred.—*Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.*

Raban wrote the following verses on the death of Bishop Forbes:—

RABAN'S REGRATE

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

PATRICK FORBES,

Bishop of Aberdeen, Baron of Corse and Oneill; who most peaceable and godlie departed hence to a better lyfe, vpon Easter-Even about 3 a'clocke in the morning, at his Palace in Olde Aberdene, adjacent to the Cathedral Church, in the 71 yeare of his honorable age, and the 17 yeare of his godlie government.

March 28, Anno 1635.

Behold, alas! here lyeth one
Who on this earth compare had none;
A learned patron, wyse and grave,
A consull good. What would you haue?
Chiefe orator of Scotland's north.
The world can not afford his vvorth.
A prelate and a pastor good,
Who in due tyme gaue heavenlie food,
At morne, at noone, and ev'ning tyde,
Vnto his flocks—sweet Iesus bryde;
The poor with meate hee fed also,
None hungrie from his house did goe.

A crosse into his badge hee bore,
And followed CHRIST, who went before;
But halfe a day, for to prepare
For Corse with Him an heavenlie share,

from twelve o'clock till five o'clock afternoon. Many ladies in their coaches, besides the gentlemen on horseback leaping over a five-barred gate. I suppose a great sum will be spent: and that at the public fare, and for private lodgings, I never remember such a full town before. Colonel Lennox is a genteel man, and Lady Charlotte Lennox looks very well. The Duchess has a cheerful countenance, and full of vivacity. No quarrels have happened amongst them, altho' they have been much intoxicated before the company broke up at four, five, and six o'clock in the morning.—*Extract from a Private Letter, 9th October, 1789.*

THE WELL OF SPA.

“O gallant spring, of fountains king,
Blest from the heavens above!

* * * * *
The sun at night sets in thy sight,
And last with thee is seen;
Long more then reign of fountains king,
Brave nymph of Aberdene.”—*Moir.*

In those happy times, when provosts wore *pesmantit breeks*—when baillies were buried with a brave volley of musketeers—the Well of Spa was in much higher repute than it is now, or has been for many years past. So little is it now regarded, that some apology may perhaps be expected for obtruding such a subject on the attention of your fashionable readers. But those who have any reverence for the wisdom of our forefathers will not be inclined to view with contempt my humble endeavour to draw their notice to a fountain whose virtues

Then, death, where is thy sting? Let see,
And, graue, where is thy victorie?
Your honour in the dust is spred;
Patrickke now reynes with Christ his Head,
Death's but a passage to convoy
Such sayncts into their Master's ioy.
The Lord prepare us, lesse and more,
To follow him; hee's gone before.

Good Sirs, I am bihind the rest,
I do confesse, for want of skill;
But not a whit behind the best
To shew th' affection of good will.

EDWARD BABAN, Master Printer, the first in Aberdene.

have been treated by men of science, and celebrated by gifted bards of the olden time. The poet whose words I have quoted above would be sadly disappointed if he could now look up and witness the chilling neglect to which the favourite nymph is consigned; and if his heart did not break with sorrow, he would certainly seat himself on the Infirmary dyke, and sing a woful monody on the folly and fickleness of man. I would cheerfully send you the whole of this delectable composition, if I were not afraid of encroaching too far on the space which you may think proper to set apart for this subject; but if this article should be the means of bringing the Well of Spa once more into repute, I shall endeavour to get the poem printed, as Falstaff says, "in a ballad by itself." It may be sufficient to mention at present that its author has converted what is now Jack's Brae and Short Loanings into "Parnassus' forked mount," and that he has conjured up the three Graces, Apollo, and the nine Muses, with a due accompaniment of Phoenixes, silver wands, Titan's beams, and "the music sweet of Greece," to do honour to this celebrated Well.

How long it may be since the medicinal virtues of the Well of Spa were first discovered I am altogether unable to say. It is, however, certain that two or three centuries ago they were in a very high degree of estimation. The earliest information I have seen respecting it mentions that, "by reason of its many excellent qualities, sealed by many notable experiences in sickly persons, it was adorned with a long white stone, which conveyed the waters from the spring, with the portraiture of six apostles hewn upon either side thereof."

The well continued in this state till about two hundred years ago, when, being "verie old and worne, a virtuous citizen, George Jamieson (the celebrated painter), did build it of new, and put a tomb of hewn stone over it, because of the many proofs he had of it in his own person in curing him of the stone." Soon afterwards, however, "a violent torrent of waters falling into that stream did suddenly overturn it and buried the spring in the ruins, so much of the hill having fallen therewith. It is worthy of observing that this was the year our late troubles did begin, and seemed to be an ill omen both to our city and country." Kennedy says that the well remained in this situation until the year 1670, when the spring again made its appearance. But it does not seem that it did so until it had been "digged for at the solicitous desire of some diseased citizens, who did find renewed experiences of its powerful virtues in the cure of tormenting gravels, deadly colics, and desperate hydropsies."

In the year 1615, Dr. Wm. Barclay, an eminent physician, published a very learned tract on the virtues of the Well of Spa, which is well worthy of attention. In the appendix he gives an account of several extraordinary cures which had been effected by the Well of Spa water. In this pamphlet he expresses his abhorrence for "barbarous apothecaries, Highland leeches, impostors and montebanks, mercurial mediciners, rubbers with quick-silver, and all those who can give no reason for their calling."

The persons whose cures are here mentioned were all living witnesses of their truth when Dr. Barclay's treatise was published, and of the authenticity of the statement there is no reason to doubt.

"Mr. Forbes, Sheriff-Depute of Aberdene, some few years ago, being vehemently tormented with a colicke, whereof he could have no cure by any prescribed means to abate the violence thereof, so that there was nothing looked for but death shortly to ensue; after all other means, this, as the last, was suggested to him, and he by drinking liberally of this water, was not only eased of his pain, but in a few hours perfectly cured. This gentleman being subject to relapse into his disease, finds sudden relief by the use of this water.

"Charles Robertson, late baillie in Aberdeen, being often subject to the pains of the gravel, was not long since sore afflicted, and being advised to drink of our Well of Spa waters by a person who had found the virtues of them, did drink a large draught or two thereof, and verie quickly got ease of all his pain. And upon assault from this disease, upon his address to this remedie, through God's blessing, finds deliverance.

"Margaret Reid, relict of Patrick Gellie, merchant in Aberdeen, having fallen into a deadly hydropsie, and having used several remedies by her physician's advice, at last the Doctor, having seen but a little before this book written by Dr. Barclay, advised her to drink of the Well of Spa for quenching her violent drowth, &c. It was so blessed of God for her good that in a few days she was perfectly cured.

"Mr. Kennedy, younger, Sheriff-Clerk, was exceedingly tormented with a desperate colicke, which was of that sort they call *Iliaca Passio*. After the use of several remedies prescribed by the physician, and no cure obtained, all his relations coming to see him die, himself did call earnestly for this water of our Well of Spa, and drank a goodly quantitie there-

of, and shortly, through the favor of God, it wrought so well that in short space he was cured."—*Aberdeen Chronicle*, 22nd March, 1823.

A DESCRIPTION OF ABERDEEN IN 1745.

ABOUT a mile before you come to the city there is a stately stone bridge, consisting of seven arches, with watch-tower, built by Gavin Dunbar, Bishop of Aberdeen. You then travel along the bank of this river, and have a most pleasant prospect of New Aberdeen. I had met with one of the townsmen at Dundee, who gave me directions to his house, where I put up my horse for the present; otherwise, I should have been at a loss to have found an inn (which they call change houses), there being but one sign in the town to notify such a house, although there are a great many public-houses in the place. But I was in great want of forage, as I always before maintained my horse at my own expense; but here there was nothing of that kind to be had at an inn, all the forage being ordered into magazines, and none to be delivered out without a proper order. I (not being incorporated to any particular regiment) was obliged to apply to his Royal Highness (although very unwilling to give the Duke that trouble), who ordered me to make application to Colonel Napier, who was Adjutant-General, from whom I received an order to the Commissary of Forage, which was transmitted into a general order to receive forage at any place in Scotland where the army had a magazine.

New Aberdeen is situated near the sea, and is the capital of the Sherifdom of Aberdeen, the seat of the Sheriff for trying causes and much exceeds the cities of the rest of the north in bigness, trade, and beauty. The air is very wholesome, and the inhabitants well bred. There are great quantities of salmon caught here, which the proprietors pickle and export to London. There is likewise plenty of all sorts of white fish. The streets are well paved, and the houses built with stone and slate, and are generally four storeys high. The town consists of three or four good streets—that called Broad Street is the principal, and is really a fine street of stately houses. There is likewise a fine market place, called Castle Street, which is very spacious, in the middle of which stands an ancient and curious Cross, with many antique figures round the upper part of it; and a little higher is a very useful conduit, as there is in every street, where there is

a constant resort of people for water to them. Opposite to the Market Cross is the Tolbooth, which serves for a prison and staadt-house. I had occasion to be at all the three different places in one day with a rebel prisoner that I had taken. There are three churches—viz., the College Church, an ancient building; likewise the old and new churches adjoining each other, both large buildings. The new church is in very good order, but that part called the old church the roof is fallen some part of it, and out of repair. However, it serves for a magazine to keep our straw and unthreshed corn in. In the churchyard along the walls stood about three hundred horses that belonged to our train of artillery picquetted. Here they remained night and day, notwithstanding the severity of the weather. For some days before we marched, there were scandalous written libels dropped about the town by the rebel party. I happened to find one of them in the lane going out of Broad Street to the Duke's quarters,* where I carried it, the substance of which was to admonish our soldiers of the danger that attended us in the pursuit of the rebels.

There are two Episcopal meeting-houses, one of which is very handsome, having a neat organ and many other ornaments. The other was likely to be attainted of treason, but I do not know how it fared. But there were two other Episcopal meeting-houses that our soldiers burnt; but with good husbandry and frugality not consuming the pile at once, as was often the case—the wood being industriously reserved to heat our baker's ovens. What gave me the most concern was that so many of the handsomest Scots ladies were attendants at these meeting-houses, but their agreeable accomplishments were a sufficient protection from the resentment of well-bred men; as for their pretty gentlemen, we could manage well enough when we met with them.

The greatest ornament of the city is its College, called the Marischalian Academy, being founded by George Keith, Earl of Marischal, in the year 1593. The city of Aberdeen hath been very much adorned with several additional buildings. Besides a primary Professor, who is called the Principal, it has four Professors of Philosophy, one of Divinity, and one of the Mathematics, and there is lately added a Professor of Physic. It has also a very good library founded by the city, enlarged by gifts of several learned men, and well furnished with Mathematical Instruments. This College, with that of the Old Town, make up one University, called the University of King Charles the

* Now the Victoria Lodging-House,

Second, I happened to get acquainted with the keeper of the library, who gave me this account of it.

The city is built upon three hills, but the greatest part is upon the highest, at the head of which stands an old castle mostly in ruins; but it likewise served for a magazine to keep our hay and corn in. The other parts of the town is spread out upon the plain, from whence there is an easy access by an ascent every way, except that side next the river. There had formerly been a mint here, as appears by silver coins, stamped with this inscription, "Urbis Aberdonis," which are still preserved in the closets of the curious.

At the west end of this city there is a little round hill, at the foot of which rises a fountain of clear water, and in the middle another spring bubbles up, called the Aberdeen Spa. It is said to come near the Spa water in the Bishopric of Liege both in taste and quality, particularly concerning which Dr. Wm. Barclay writes a treatise.

The manufacture here is chiefly stockings all round the adjacent country; and every morning the women bring in loads to sell about the town to merchants, who have them scoured for exportation to London, Hamburg, and Holland. They are generally all white from the maker, and knit most plainly; some are ribbed, and a great many with squares, which greatly please the Dutch. They make stockings here in common from one shilling a pair to one guinea and a half, and some are so fine as to sell for five guineas the pair.

They have an exportation of pork, which they pickle and pack up in barrels, and send to the Dutch for victualling their East India ships. The Aberdeen pork has the reputation of being the best cured in Europe for keeping on long voyages.

Old Aberdeen is a mile from the new city, and consists of one long street, and a College more noted than that of the New Town. This Old Town was formerly the bishop's seat, and has a cathedral, commonly called St. Machar's—a large and stately structure, which was anciently much more magnificent. It suffered greatly at the time of the Reformation, but more since the Revolution. The windows of this church were formerly very remarkable for the stained glass, and something of its ancient splendour still remains. The steeple, besides other bells, has two of a very extraordinary bigness. The chief ornament of this town is the College, consisting of a fine square, with a good pump in the middle of it, and makes a grand appearance at a distance. It was founded by Bishop Elphinstone in the year 1500, and the greatest part was built by him; but King James the IV. taking the patronage upon himself, it was called King's

College. A bull was procured from Pope Alexander the VI. in 1510, endowing it with ample privileges as those of Paris and Bononia. There is in the College a Principal, a Sub-Principal, three Regents, or Professors of Philosophy, a Professor of Humanity, a Professor of Divinity, a Doctor of Physic, a Professor of Oriental Tongues, a Professor of the Civil Law, and a Professor of Mathematics.

The river Don is remarkable for the abundance of salmon and trout taken in it. The bridge is famous for its extent, being only one arch over that large river, and is reckoned a curious piece of workmanship. This immense arch of stone is sprung from two rocks, one on each side, which serves as an abutment to the arch; so that it may be said to have a foundation co-equal with nature, and will last as long. This bridge has been remarkable to travellers, but more so at this time, for we had taken a rebel spy, who was hanged on a tree close to this bridge, with this writing fixed on his breast, "A rebel spy," which, of consequence, would hinder crows from building nests on that tree for a season.*

This town being pleasantly situated, I used to ride out here, after taking a turn to the sea-side over the Links—being green fields (so called) running along the shore to the Block-house Fort, planted with cannon, at the mouth of the river Dee, which commands the entrance of that river, along the banks of which it is very pleasant, and is much frequented by people walking or riding—to observe the ships in the river, it being about a mile from New Aberdeen to the Block-house. There are several houses all the way inhabited by fishermen, ale-sellers, &c.—*From a History of the Rebellion in Scotland in 1745, by James Ray, of Whitehaven, Volunteer under his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.*

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF THE REV. JOHN
BISSET, ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF ABERDEEN,
KEPT BY HIM DURING THE REBELLION
OF 1745.

1st November.

I NEVER saw so many bonfires, nor so much encouraged, as on

* On Saturday evening, two rebels were brought in from Strathbogie. The one, a spy, was hanged at the Bridge of Don, on a branch of a tree, with a paper on his breast bearing his crime for the terror of others. His name is Daniel Campbell, from Argyle, a stupid fellow.—*The Diary of the Rev. John Bisset.*

Wednesday, by the young people, and I behoved to have one at my gate, with such a covered table as became the youth. The cries through all the streets that afternoon and evening were "King George for ever!" Down with the Popish Pretender! Back to Rome with him!" This with many men throughout the town firing guns and pistols, and a convention of them on Castle Street, before the place where Stonywood was drinking, did, in the open street, drink all the loyal healths with a discharge of such arms as they had.

22d November.

Poor Chalmers the printer is from home, not yet able to walk on his strained leg he got jumping a window to escape the ruffians Saturday was eight days. This last night they have committed great outrages in his house, breaking open an outer door when not let in, setting fire to an inner door, and when let in scattering his types, searching his house, burning papers, and breaking presses and drawers.

28th November.

The Masters of the Grammar School now continue praying *nominatim* for King George, excepting the old doctor, who was lately, in his own conceited opinion, on the road to heaven with such full assurance. I hear he has been bullying some of the rest, as a man not to be put out of his measures. Whatever be the issue of matters presently in dependance, I shall not expect to see good days unless the churches and schools be purged of such miscreants.

20th December.

I saw about 300 this forenoon under arms at the Heading Hill. About forty came in afterwards, and 140 went to the Old Town. They had on their wallets and pocks in a posture of marching; and between eleven and twelve no orders were given for the rejoicing, this being the young Pretender's birth-day; but either upon intelligence that Lowdon was not to be here this night, or, as others say, that a great rout from the south, of French and others, are to be up with them to resist Lowdon, they went to quarters and ordered the bells to be rung.

28d December.

This night our guard was very vigilant in the streets and at *the ports*, so that I hear some were taken up by the guard be.

fore nine, but civilly enough used. I was told that they had five ship's cannon planted at the Cross before the Guard-house—that one of the guard either drew or threatened to draw his sword to Baillie Nicol for looking in about them between sun and sky. I myself, much about that time, passed through their cannon, and looked as narrowly as I could both to their men and the position of their cannon, but met with no incivility. They knew I fight with other weapons, and, indeed, I had no curiosity in the matter, but I behaved to pass that way.

20th January.

All the news I am able to have for this day is, that it being Prince Frederick's birthday, the young people, students, &c., rang the college and church bells at the usual times on rejoicing days, had bonfires, and in crowds huzzaed through the streets till about nine at night; after which, I am told, crowds of Jacobites made disturbances through the streets, but came not my length.

22d January,

I hear for certain that, on Tuesday night, a good number of men broke Principal Chalmers' gate, broke in upon his house, threatening to kill him if they had found him—broke not only the glass, but the timber frames of his windows, and were terribly rude in his house. What do I owe to the Divine preservation, that notwithstanding of my continued freedom, unless it was the breaking of my street window on their rejoicings for the battle of Prestonpans, I never met with a wry look nor a rude word from any one.

8th February.

I am informed by an eye witness that, after five o'clock, there came up the Netherkirkgate above a dozen of horse finely accoutred. There was riding in the middle a young gentleman upon a fine gelding, and wrapped in a scarlet cloak. All his attendants had their swords drawn, but no sword in his hand. Before rode one well mounted, with a French horn. Immediately before him, with drawn swords, rode some bareheaded; at some distance behind, a boy, richly mounted, beating a bass drum; and one lodges at Kirkhill, with trusty guards, and none get in without a pass. It is easy to guess who this is.*

* This could not have been Prince Charles, as he marched northward by the Highland road.

If I believe some accounts, we have this night 2000 foot and 500 horse ; but I believe we are not altogether so many. This night Mr. Ogilvie has got two officers to quarter with him, and I hear some got billets on the Principal. Some of them merely sought a billet on me, but I have not as yet got any of them, though I know not how soon, especially if more come. Principal Osborn has also got lodgers.

My wife was made uneasy yesternight by a story that one of the Life Guards was swearing that he would shoot me in the pulpit. You may think that I would not be very easy when one of the Life Guards came in the time of my lecture, and, not pleased with sundry seats, moved about till planted opposite to and very near the pulpit. But the gentleman behaved decently, as did some other of their officers.

10th February.

This day two Life Guardsmen were billeted upon me. They got a share of our dinner. It seems that one of them was not pleased with the expressions of loyalty he observed with old and young in my house, so that after dinner I saw him no more ; but the other came in at tea time and stayed in all that night, and would have been a guard to my house if any attack had been made upon it. I was never more moved with compassion to one than to this sweet youth, a gentleman's son near Dumfries, I believe drawn into this measure by bad influence, and since their retreat from England. After all the arguments I could use, I hung upon him as if he had been my own. He became very grave and thoughtful at night at parting. I know not if I shall see him this day. I protest we were both nigh shedding tears ; so passionately I love him, and he took it in such good part whatever I spoke, and said he would never forget it. He was my hearer on the Sabbath, and was settled in another quarter, but was resolved to have a billet on me whatever his accommodation should be. O that the Lord may touch the heart of the sweet youth, that he may change his course.

I had a visit from another Life Guardsman, who all deny that the Pretender is here, and say that the person taken for him is Lord John Drummond ; but I alledged that the respects then paid him were more than his due, and I could not understand how the Life Guardsmen should be here, if their master was not. But I could get no more from them.

28th February.

I was invited yesterday to wait on the Duke, with the min-

isters of the two towns and the two Colleges; but when I found that the message was only sent for access to the Colleges, I did not choose to go with them this day at eleven o'clock; nor did I go with the Synod, but told Mr. Windham, the Master of the Ceremonies, that I had reasons for being alone. He promised to introduce me to the Duke, but wished I would come with the Synod. I told him I would not. I went in alone into the drawing-room, where the Duke was in the middle. Provost Aberdeen did me the favour to reach his hand to Mr. Windham, who, telling the Duke who asked who I was, I made up to his hand. He came forward a step, stretched it out, I kissed it, made my speech, and retired back till I heard the Moderator express himself in a few words, after which they came in one by one to kiss his hand, and then retired.

This day we have got three more regiments—Howard's, Price's, and Munro's.

8th April.

This day the Duke marched hence—men, artillery, and baggage; two regiments the Inverury road, and all the rest with the Duke the Oldmeldrum road. May the Lord prosper and preserve his valuable life. Some men are left here, and more are expected, lodging in Gordon's Hospital, fortified with ramparts and palisades.

Provosts Cruickshank, Chalmers, Aberdeen, John and Alexander Robertson, Morison, Baillies Mowat, Gordon, and Bernet, Andrew Logie, the Consulter, and Convener Aldjoe, are left our Governors, and one Captain Cresby is left Commandant.

9th April.

You have heard that Gordon's Hospital is garrisoned. A well is made in the close, ramparts and palisades are made about it; so that they may defend themselves against a good body of rebels, should they be attacked. If any parties of them come here, which God forbid, though I am not without fears of it, it is like I must seek for another lodging, lest if the rebels attack the fort they possess my house as one rampart to them, or lest for preventing that the governor of the fortification be obliged to demolish mine and some other houses.—*Spalding Club Miscellany.*

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND IN ABERDEEN.

THE Duke of Cumberland arrived in Aberdeen on the 27th February, 1746, and was welcomed in the Schoolhill by a deputation of the Magistrates, who conducted him to his lodgings in the Guestrow through streets lined with the burghesses and citizens. It was at first proposed that his Royal Highness should reside in the Marischal College, but the apartments having been pronounced unfit for his accommodation, he took up his abode in the house of Mr. Alexander Thomson, Advocate. He occupied this mansion for six weeks, during which time he made use of every kind of provisions found in the house—coals, candles, ales, or other liquors in the cellars, and the milk of his (Mr. Thomson's) cow; bed and table linen, which were very much spoiled and abused; he broke up a press, in which Mrs. Thomson had lodged a considerable quantity of sugars, and whereof he took every grain weight. When about to march from Aberdeen, he left six guineas to the three servants of the house, but did not make the least compliment or requital to Mr. Thomson for the so long and free use of his house, furniture, and provisions, nor so much as call for his landlord or landlady to return them thanks. Perhaps an excuse for this rude and boorish demeanour might be found in the cares and anxieties which troubled the ducal mind; but apology was superfluous for the amiable thefts of one of the gallant officers of his suite. The well-known General Hawley having obtained possession of the dwelling of Mrs. Gordon of Hallhead, on the understanding that everything was to be locked up, sent a messenger on the morning after his entry demanding all the keys. "My answer," says Mrs. Gordon, "was that my maid was gone to market, and that as soon as she returned she should carry them to him; but before she did return I received a second message that he would have them that minute, or he would break open all the locks. I then sent him the keys by his messenger." In the evening the lady was waited on by Major Wolfe, who informed her that, "though her loyalty was unsuspected, by the Duke of Cumberland and General Hawley's order, she was deprived of everything except the clothes upon her back." The officer having politely added "that he would use his interest with his Royal Highness to obtain for her any particular thing she could have a mind to," "I then desired," she continues, "to have my tea; but the Major told me it was very good, and that tea was scarce in the army, so he did not believe I could

have it. The same answer was made me when I asked for my chocolate. I mentioned several other things, particularly my china. That, he told me, there was a great deal of it very pretty, and that they were fond of China themselves: but, as they had no ladies travelling with them, I might, perhaps, have some of it." Mrs. Gordon represented her grievances to the Duke by a petition. But, though assured that everything should be restored to her—"when I sent," she says, "for a pair of breeches for my son, for a little tea for myself, for a bottle of ale, for some flour to make bread because there was none to be bought in the town, all was refused me." But the magnanimous Hawley was not content with the unrestrained use of the chattels. "On the eve of his departure, he packed up," says the lady, "every bit of china I had, all my bedding and table linen, every book, my repeating clock, my worked screen, every rag of my husband's clothes, the very hat, breeches, night-gown, shoes, and what shirts there was of the child's, twelve tea-spoons, strainer and tongs, the japanned board on which the chocolate and coffee cups stood, and put them on board of a ship in the night time." The best tea equipage was directed to the Duke of Cumberland, at St. James', and the set of coloured table china was directed in the same manner. The rest of the things were directed to General Hawley. "In short," says the lady, "a house so plundered, I believe, was never heard of. It is not £600 would make up my loss; nor have I at this time a single table-cloth, napkin, or towel, tea-cup, glass, or any one conveniency."

After these heroic actions, the Duke departed from Aberdeen on the 8th of April, leaving behind him a garrison of 200 men, who were stationed in Gordon's Hospital, which was fortified by a ditch and rampart, and dignified with the title of Fort Cumberland. On the extinction of the rebellion, the Magistrates presented the freedom of the town to the victor of Culloden, "to whom they paid," says Kennedy, "many high compliments on his bravery and good conduct."—*Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.*

THE REV. DR. CALAMY IN ABERDEEN.

1709.

THE next day, we carried provisions with us, being to pass through a poor country, and came at night to Aberdeen.

There are two towns of that name, Old Aberdeen and New, a mile distant from each other. One stands upon the Don, and the other upon the Dee. We went first to the New Town. Upon entering, and all the way as we passed to our inn, I could not but observe a very different look and carriage of the people from what I had taken notice of in any town before. They seemed to lower upon us, and gnashed their teeth, and gave many signs of wrath and indignation, at which I was surprised, not having room for the least guess or conjecture at the cause. I begged Professor Cumin, when we came to our inn, to go out as our spy, make inquiry, and try if he could discover the occasion of the uneasiness and disturbance of the people, which was so visible. He had observed the same, and readily went forth. At his return, he informed us that the people had been informed that the French prophets, and their associates and abettors, were going about that part of the country, and had threatened them with a visit; and they looked on us as a part of their company, and were thereupon very much disposed to insult us. He, at the same time, told us he had taken effectual care to satisfy the populace as to their great mistake, and to convince them we were a very different sort of persons; so that he had no doubt but we were safe, and might be very easy. We afterwards met with the utmost civility during the whole of our stay, and found this one of the politest towns in North Britain.

Salmon, with us so dear, is here extremely cheap. Being so informed, I was for making a trial; and, accordingly, bought in the common market as good a salmon, for twelve pence, as one need desire to see. I told our landlady the price of it, as thinking I had enough in conscience for my money. She told me I was imposed on, and that, if she had gone to market, they would not have had the face to have asked her above two groats for the very same fish, and very probably might have taken sixpence.

The next day, we saw the Marischal College, where Princes Anderson and Professor Smith (both afterwards ejected at the visitation of the College, for being in the interest of the Pretender) were exceedingly civil. The latter presented me with several things he had printed. We were much pleased with the pictures of men of letters in their long gallery; and afterwards took a view of the town, and were everywhere treated with abundance of respect.

The day following, we were invited to Old Aberdeen, where stands King's College, which has produced a number of learned men; but we found the building greatly decayed. The mas-

fers gave us an invitation to eat some salmon in perfection, out of the Don, where they had a property. We bore them company to the river's side, where was a little hut or booth; in one part a room with a fire, and in another a room for company. Some persons employed caught several fine salmon, and threw them directly into a pond, intending, when they had a number, to pick out some of the best to dress. As the fish were swimming about in this pond, dogs were sent in amongst them, who sometimes endeavoured to catch them in their teeth. The fish would, ever and anon, turn, and either give them a flap with their tails, or bite them with their mouths, which set them a howling, and gave an odd sort of diversion to the standers-by. My relating which passage has sometimes occasioned diversion. I have happened to fall in the company of gentlemen that were lovers of sport, whom I have asked whether they ever saw salmon hunted by dogs, as I had done? Of which they could form no notion, till I explained the matter. At length some fish were chosen out for dressing. These were immediately put into the kettle, and set upon the table with no other sauce than a little salt and vinegar, or some of the liquor in which they were boiled. The taste was indeed so rich and luscious that, had we had such sauce as is usual with us, we should have been in no small danger of a surfeit. I thought it not unneedful, therefore, to caution the young ones with me to eat but sparingly, for fear of the consequences. We had some excellent French claret, which the gentlemen had taken care to send thither for that purpose, to wash our fish down.

Before I left my inn in the morning, I was given to understand that the Masters of the College intended that afternoon to confer a degree upon me, in form and with solemnity, in their chapel. That I might not be deficient in due respect, I bespoke a supper, to be ready that evening, for the entertainment of the Masters and all the servants of the College, leaving it entirely to the landlady to provide what she thought proper and handsome, and that would be agreeable upon such an occasion, reckoning there would be near half a hundred persons present.

When we returned, after dinner, from the river to the College, we were carried into the Chapel, where Dr. Middleton, who was then Principal, and had been Dean of that Diocese in Episcopal times, in a most respectful manner officiated in conferring on me the degree of D.D. Professor Cumin (who bore me company from Edinburgh) at the same time took the degree of Doctor of Laws. After viewing the Library, which is uset

very large, but lately improved by Dr. Fraser, who has lived so long, and is so well known, in England, having a place many years in Chelsea College, we adjourned to our inn, where there was an handsome supper provided, with which the gentlemen seemed well pleased.

The next morning, after thanks returned for all civilities received, we returned to New Aberdeen, which is a well-built town, and has a pretty trade, both for salmon and the finest knit worsted stockings any where to be met with. I heard of some of five guineas a pair, the beauty of which is best seen through glasses. Those of two guineas a pair were very common. We there waited upon the Provost, at his desire, and received burgess tickets, which were got ready for us; were treated very civilly, and at length left the town, the inhabitants of which beheld us in quite another manner than at our first entrance. Though we could get as many oats as we desired, there was no hay to be had upon any terms; and our beasts could not, like those of that country, take up with straw.—*Calamy's Life and Times*.*

THE REV. GEORGE WHITEFIELD IN ABERDEEN.

1741.

WHITEFIELD was invited by the minister of one of the kirks in the city, but the minister's co-pastor had prepossessed the Magistrates against him; so that, when he arrived, they refused to let him preach in the kirkyard. They had, however, sufficient curiosity to attend when he officiated in his friend's pulpit; the congregation was very large, and, in Whitefield's words, "light and life flew all around." In the afternoon, it was the other pastor's turn. He began his prayers as usual, but, in the midst of them, he named Whitefield by name, whom he knew to be then present, and entreated the Lord to forgive the dishonour that had been put upon him when that man was permitted to preach in the pulpit. Not satisfied with this he renewed the attack in his sermon, reminded the congregation that this person was a curate of the Church of England, and quoted some passages from his printed sermons, which, he said, were grossly Arminian. "The most of the congregation,"

* Dr. Calamy was an eminent Dissenting minister in Westminster, and died in 1732.

says Whitefield, "seemed surprised and chagrined, and especially his good-natured colleague, who, immediately after the sermon, without consulting me in the least, stood up and gave notice that Mr. Whitefield would preach in about half an hour. The interval being so short, the Magistrates remained in the session-house, and the congregation present waited, big with expectation of hearing my resentment. At the time appointed I went up, and took no other notice of the good man's ill-timed zeal than to prove, in some part of my discourses, that, if the good old gentleman had seen some of my later writings, wherein I had corrected several of my former mistakes, he would not have expressed himself in such strong terms. The people, being thus diverted from controversy with man, were deeply impressed with what they heard from the Word of God. All was hushed and more than solemn; and, on the morrow, the Magistrates sent for me, expressed themselves quite concerned at the treatment I had met with, and begged that I would accept of the Freedom of the City."*—*From Southey's Life of Wesley.*

THE REV. JOHN WESLEY IN ABERDEEN.

1761.

WE rode on through Montrose to Stonehaven. Here Mr. Memes met us, and, on Saturday morning, brought us to his own house at Aberdeen.

In the afternoon, I sent to the Principal and Regent to desire leave to preach in the College Close. This was readily granted, but, as it began to rain, I was desired to go into the

* Whitefield's burgess ticket was as follows:—

"Aberdoniæ decimo quarto die mensis Octobris 1741. Quo die Reverendus vir magister Georgius Whitefield verbe divini prece receptus et admissus fuit in municipem et fratrem Guildæ. Juris Scoti Burgi propter singularem favorem et benevolentiam quibus dicti magistratus illum amplectuntur."

The individual who attacked Whitefield was the Rev. John Bisset, a man of rather a fiery temperament. His colleague was the Rev. James Ogilvy, of whom Wesley in his journal says—"A more open-hearted friendly man I never saw."

Garrick, Hume, Chesterfield, Bolingbroke, and Franklin, all felt the power of Whitefield's eloquence. Bolingbroke said that "he had the most commanding eloquence he ever heard in any person," and Hume declared that "it was worth going twenty miles to hear him."

hall. I suppose this is full a hundred feet long, and seated all round. The congregation was large, notwithstanding the rain, and full as large at five in the morning.

Sunday, May 3.—I heard two useful sermons at the kirk, one preached by the Principal of the College,* the other by the Divinity Professor.† A huge multitude afterwards gathered together in the College Close, and all that could hear seemed to receive the truth in love. I then added about twenty to the little society, "Fair Blossoms." But how many of them will bring forth fruit!

Monday, May 4.—We had another large congregation at five. Before noon, twenty more came to me desiring to cast in their lot with us, appearing to be cut to the heart. About noon, I took a walk to the King's College in Old Aberdeen. It has three sides of a square, handsomely built, not unlike Queen's College in Oxford. Going up to see the hall, we found a large company of ladies, with several gentlemen. They looked and spoke to one another. After which one of the gentlemen took courage and came to me. He said, "We came last night to the College Close, but could not hear, and should be extremely obliged if you would give us a short discourse here." I knew not what God might have to do, and so began without delay on "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself." I believe the word was not lost. It fell as dew on the tender grass. In the afternoon, I was walking in the Library of Marischal College, when the Principal, the Divinity Professor came to me, and the latter invited me to his lodgings, where I spent an hour very agreeably. In the evening, the eagerness of the people made them ready to trample each other under foot. It was some time before they were still enough to hear, but then they devoured every word. After preaching, Sir Archibald Grant, whom business had called to town, sent and desired to speak to me. I could not, but promised, with God's leave, to wait upon him on my return from Edinburgh.

May 5.—I accepted the Principal's invitation, and spent an hour with him in his house. I observed no stiffness at all, but the easy good breeding of a man of sense and learning. I suppose both he and all the Professors, with some of the Magistrates, attended in the evening.

May 6.—We dined at Mr. Ogilvy's, one of the ministers between whom the city is divided. A more open-hearted friendly man I know not that I ever saw; and, indeed, I have

* Principal George Campbell.

† Rev. Alexander Gerard.

scarce seen such a set of ministers in any town of Great Britain. I returned at half an hour after six. I stood in the College Close, and proclaimed Christ crucified. My voice was so strengthened that all could hear. All were earnestly attentive. I have now cast my bread upon the waters; may I find it again after many days!

May 7.—Leaving nearly ninety members in the Society, I rode over to Sir Archibald Grant's, near Monymusk, about twenty miles north-west from Aberdeen. It lies in a fruitful and pleasant valley, much of which is owing to Sir Archibald's improvements, who has ploughed up abundance of waste ground and planted some millions of trees. His stately old house is surrounded by gardens and rows of trees, with a clear river on one side; and, about a mile from his house, he has laid out a small valley into walks and gardens, on one side of which the river runs. On each side rises a steep mountain—one rocky and bare, the other covered with trees, row above row, to the very top. About six, we went to the church. It was pretty well filled with such persons as we did not look for so near the Highlands. But, if we were surprised at their appearance, we were much more so at their singing. Thirty or forty sang an anthem after sermon with such voices as well as judgment that I doubt whether they could have been excelled at any Cathedral in England.

1764.

I rode over to Sir Archibald Grant's. It is surprising to see how the country between is improved even within these three years. On every side the wild dreary moors are ploughed up and covered with rising corn; even the ground near Sir Archibald's, in particular, is as well cultivated as most in England. About seven, I preached. The kirk was well filled, though upon short notice. Certainly this is a nation "swift to hear and slow to speak," though not "slow to wrath."

1772.

I rested at Aberdeen. I went in the morning to the English Church (St. Paul's Chapel). Here, likewise, I could not but admire the exemplary decency of the congregation. This was the more remarkable, because so miserable a reader I never heard before. Listening with all attention, I understood but one single word, "Balak," in the First Lesson, and one ~~more~~.

“begat,” was all I could possibly distinguish in the Second. Is there no man of spirit belonging to this congregation? Why is such a burlesque on public worship suffered? Would it not be far better to pay the gentleman for doing nothing than for doing mischief by bringing a scandal on religion?

1784.

I went to Newburgh, a small fishing town fifteen miles north of Aberdeen. Here is at present, according to its bigness, the liveliest society in the kingdom. I preached in a kind of square to a multitude of people, and the whole congregation appeared to be moved, and ready prepared for the Lord.—*Wesley's Journal*.

DR. JOHNSON IN ABERDEEN.

A FEW days ago, arrived in this place, Dr. Samuel Johnson, author of the English Dictionary, Rambler, Idler, &c., together with James Boswell, Esq.—*Aberdeen Journal*, 6th September, 1773.

BOSWELL'S ACCOUNT OF THEIR VISIT TO ABERDEEN.

We came to Aberdeen at half an hour past eleven. The New Inn, we were told, was full. This was comfortless. The waiter, however, asked if one of our names was Boswell, and brought me a letter left at the inn; it was one from Mr. Thrale, enclosing one to Dr. Johnson. Finding who I was, we were told that they would contrive to lodge us by putting us for a night into a room with two beds. The waiter said to me, in the broad, strong Aberdeenshire dialect, “I thought I knew you by your likeness to your father.” My father puts up at the New Inn when on his circuit. Little was said to-night. I was to sleep in a little press-bed in Dr. Johnson's room. I had it wheeled out into the dining-room, and there I lay very well.

Sunday, August 22.—I sent a message to Professor Thomas Gordon, who came and breakfasted with us. He had secured seats for us at the English Chapel. We found a respectable congregation, and an admirable organ well played by Mr. Tait. We walked down to the shore. He received a card from Sir Alex. Gordon, who had been his acquaintance twenty years ago in London. Dr. Johnson rejoiced to hear of him, and

begged he would come and dine with us. I was much pleased to see the kindness with which Dr. Johnson received his old friend, Sir Alexander, a gentleman of good family, Lismore, but who had not the estate. The King's College here made him Professor of Medicine, which affords him a decent subsistence. He told us that the value of the stockings exported from Aberdeen was, in peace, £100,000, and amounted, in time of war, to £170,000. Dr. Johnson asked what made the difference? Here we had a proof of the comparative sagacity of the two Professors. Sir Alexander answered, "Because there is more occasion for them in war." Professor Thomas Gordon answered, "Because the Germans, who are our great rivals in the manufacture of stockings, are otherwise employed in time of war." Johnson—"Sir, you have a very good solution."

At dinner, Dr. Johnson ate several platefuls of Scotch broth with barley and pease in it, and seemed very fond of the dish. I said, "You never ate it before." Johnson—"No, sir; but I don't care how soon I eat it again." My cousin, Miss Dallas, formerly of Inverness, was married to Mr. Riddoch, one of the ministers of the English Chapel here. He was ill and confined to his room, but she sent us a kind invitation to tea, which we all accepted. She was the same lively, sensible, cheerful woman as ever. Dr. Johnson here threw out some jokes against Scotland. He said, "You go first to Aberdeen, then to Enbru (the Scottish pronunciation of Edinbrugh), then to Newcastle, to be polished by the colliers, then to York, and then to London;" and he laid hold of a little girl, Stuart Dallas, niece to Mrs. Riddoch, and, representing himself as a giant, said he would take her with him, telling her in a hollow voice that he lived in a cave, and had a bed in the rock, and she should have a little bed cut opposite to it.

Principal Campbell, Sir Alexander Gordon, Professor Gordon, and Professor Ross, visited us in the morning, as did Dr. Gerrard, who had come six miles from the country on purpose. We went and saw the Marischal College; and, at one o'clock, we waited on the Magistrates in the Town-hall, as they had invited us in order to present Dr. Johnson with the Freedom of the Town, which Provost Jopp did with a very good grace. Dr. Johnson was much pleased with this mark of attention, and received it very politely. There was a pretty numerous company assembled. It was striking to hear all of them drinking, "Dr. Johnson! Dr. Johnson!" in the Town-hall of Aberdeen, and then to see him with his burges ticket or diploma in his hat, which he wore as he walked along the street, according to the

usual custom.* It gave me great satisfaction to observe the regard and indeed, fondness too, which everybody had for my father.

Professor Gordon, and I walked over to the old College, which Dr. Johnson had seen by this time. I stepped into the Chapel and looked at the tomb of the founder, Bishop Elphinstone, of whom I shall have occasion to write in my history of James IV. of Scotland, the patron of my family.

We dined at Sir Alexander Gordon's. The Provost, Professor Ross, Professor Dunbar, Professor Thomas Gordon, were there. After dinner, came in Dr. Gerrard, Professor Leslie, Professor M'Leod. We had little or no conversation in the morning, now we were but barren. The Professors seemed afraid to speak.

We sauntered after dinner, in Sir Alexander's garden, and saw his little grotto, which is hung with pieces of poetry written in a fair hand.

We visited two booksellers' shops, and could not find Arthur Johnston's poems. We went and sat near an hour at Mr. Riddoch's. He could not tell distinctly how much education at the College here costs, which disgusted Dr. Johnson. I had pledged myself that we should go to the inn, and not stay supper. They pressed us, but he was resolute. I saw Mr. Riddoch did not please him. He said to me afterwards, "Sir, he has no vigour in his talk." But my friend should have considered that he himself was not in good humour; so that it was not easy to talk to his satisfaction. We sat contentedly at our inn. He then became merry, and observed how little we had either heard or said at Aberdeen; that the Aberdonians had not started a single mawkin (the Scotch word for hare) for us to pursue.

Tuesday, August 24.—We set out about eight in the morning, and breakfasted at Ellon. The landlady said to me, "Is not this the great Doctor that is going about through the country?" I said "Yes." "Ay," said she, "we heard of him. I made an errand into the room on purpose to see him. There's

* Dr. Johnson's burgess-ticket was in these words—"Aberdoniæ, vigesimo tertio die mensis Augusti, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo septuagesimo tertio, in presentia honorabilium virorum, Jacobi Jopp, armigeri, præpositi, Adami Duff, Gulielmi Young, Georgii Marr, et Gulielmi Forbes, Balivorum, Gulielmi Rairie Decandi guldæ, et Joannis Nicoll Thesaurarii dicti burgi. Quo die vir generosus et doctrina clarus, Samuel Johnson, LL.D., receptus et admisus fuit in municipes et fratres guldæ præfati burgi de Aberdeen. In deditissimi amoris et affectus ac eximie observantiæ teaseram, quibus dicti Magistratus eum amplectuntur. Extractum per me,

ALEX. CARRERIE,

something great in his appearance: it is a pleasure to have such a man in one's house; a man who does so much good. If I had thought of it, I would have shown him a child of mine who has had a lump on his throat for some time." "But," said I, "he is not a doctor of physic." "Is he an oculist?" said the landlord. "No," said I, "he is only a very learned man."—LANDLORD: "They say he is the greatest man in England, except Lord Mansfield." Dr. Johnson was highly entertained with this, and I do think he was pleased, too. He said, "I like the exception; to have called me the greatest man in England would have been an unmeaning compliment; but the exception marked that the praise was in earnest; and, in Scotland, the exception must be Lord Mansfield—or Sir John Pringle."

We had received a polite invitation to Slains Castle. We arrived there just at three o'clock, as the bell for dinner was ringing. Though, from its being just on the North-east Ocean, no trees will grow here, Lord Errol has done all that can be done. He has cultivated his fields so as to bear rich crops of every kind, and he has made an excellent kitchen-garden, with a hot-house. I had never seen any of the family; but there had been a card of invitation written by the Honourable Charles Boyd, the Earl's brother. We were conducted into the house, and at the dining-room door were met by that gentlemen, whom both of us first took to be Lord Errol; but he soon corrected our mistake. My Lord was gone to dine in the neighbourhood, at an entertainment given by Mr. Irvine of Drum. Lady Errol received us politely, and was very attentive to us during the time of dinner. There was nobody at table but her Ladyship, Mr. Boyd, and some of the children, their governor and governess. Mr. Boyd put Dr. Johnson in mind of having dined with him at Cumming, the Quaker's, along with a Mr. Hall and Miss Williams; this was a bond of connection between them. For me, Mr. Boyd's acquaintance with my father was enough. After dinner Lady Errol favoured us with a sight of her young family, whom she made stand up in a row. There were six daughters and two sons. It was a very pleasing sight.

Dr. Johnson proposed our setting out. Mr. Boyd said he hoped we would stay all night; his brother would be at home in the evening, and would be very sorry if he missed us. Mr. Boyd was called out of the room. I was very desirous to stay in so comfortable a house, and I wished to see Lord Errol. Dr. Johnson, however, was right in resolving to go, if we were not asked again, as it is best to err on the safe side in such cases, and to be sure that one is quite welcome. To my great joy, when Mr. Boyd returned, he told Dr. Johnson that it was Lady

Errol who had called him out, and said that she would never let Dr. Johnson into the house again if he went away that night; and that she had ordered the coach to carry us to see a great curiosity on the coast, after which we should see the house. We cheerfully agreed.

Mr. Boyd was engaged in 1745-6, on the same side with many unfortunate mistaken noblemen and gentlemen. He escaped, and lay concealed for a year in the island of Arran, the ancient territory of the Boyds. He then went to France, and was about twenty years on the Continent. He married a French lady, and now lived very comfortably at Aberdeen, and was much at Slains Castle. He entertained us with great civility. He had a pompousness of formal plenitude in his conversation which I did not dislike. Dr. Johnson said "there was too much elaboration in his talk." It gave me pleasure to see him, a steady branch of the family, setting forth all its advantages with much zeal. He told us that Lady Errol was one of the most pious and sensible women in the island; had a good head, and as good a heart. He said she did not use force or fear in educating her children.—JOHNSON: "Sir, she is wrong; I would rather have the rod to be the general terror to all, to make them learn, than tell a child if you do thus or thus you will be more esteemed than your brothers or sisters. The rod produces an effect which terminates in itself. A child is afraid of being whipped, and gets his task, and there's an end on't; whereas, by exciting emulation, and comparisons of superiority, you lay the foundation of lasting mischief; you make brothers and sisters hate each other."

During Mr. Boyd's stay in Arran, he had found a chest of medical books, left by a surgeon there, and he read them till he acquired some skill in physic, in consequence of which he is often consulted by the poor. There were several here waiting for him as patients. We walked round the house till stopped by a cut made by the influx of the sea. The house is built quite upon the shore; the windows look upon the main ocean, and the King of Denmark is Lord Errol's nearest neighbour on the north-east.

We got immediately into the coach and drove to Dunbui, a rock near the shore, quite covered with sea-fowls; then to a circular basin of large extent, surrounded with tremendous rocks. On the quarter next the sea there is a high arch in the rock, which the force of the tempest has driven out. This place is called Buchan's Buller, or the Buller of Buchan, and the country people call it the Pot. Mr. Boyd said it was called so from the French *bouloir*. It may be more simply

traced from "boiler" in our own language. We walked round this monstrous cauldron. In some places the rock is very narrow, and on each side there is a sea deep enough for a man-of-war to ride in, so that it is somewhat horrid to move along. However, there is earth and grass upon the rock, and a kind of road marked out by the print of feet, so that one makes it out pretty safely; yet it alarmed me to see Dr. Johnson striding irregularly along. He insisted on taking a boat, and sailing into the Pot. We did so. He was stout, and wonderfully alert. The Buchan men all showing their teeth, and speaking with that sharp accent which distinguishes them, was to me a matter of curiosity. He was not sensible of the difference of pronunciation in the South and North of Scotland, which I wondered at.

As the entry into the Buller is so narrow that oars cannot be used as you go in, the method taken is to row very hard when you come near it, and give the boat such a rapidity of motion that it glides in. Dr. Johnson observed what an effect this scene would have had, were we entering into an unknown place. There are caves of considerable depth, I think, one on each side. The boatmen had never entered either of them far enough to know the size. Mr. Boyd told us that it is customary for the company at Peterhead Well to make parties, and come and dine in one of the caves here.

He told us that, as Slains is at a considerable distance from Aberdeen, Lord Errol, who has a very large family, resolved to have a surgeon of his own. With this view he educated one of his tenant's sons, who is now settled in a very neat house and farm just by, which we saw from the road. By the salary which the Earl allows him, and the practice which he has had, he is in very easy circumstances. He had kept an exact account of all that had been laid out on his education, and he came to his Lordship one day, and told him that he had arrived at a much higher situation than ever he expected; that he was now able to pay what his Lordship had advanced, and begged he would accept of it. The Earl was pleased with the generous gratitude and genteel offer of the man, but refused it.

When we returned to the house, we found coffee and tea in the drawing-room. Lady Errol was not there, being, as I supposed, engaged with her young family. There is a bow-window fronting the sea. Dr. Johnson repeated the ode, "Jam satis terris," while Mr. Boyd was with his patients. He spoke well in favour of entails, to preserve lines of men whom mankind are accustomed to reverence. His opinion

was, that so much land should be entailed as that families should never fall into contempt, and as much left free as to give them all the advantages of property in case of any emergency. "If," said he, "the nobility are suffered to sink into indigence, they of course become corrupt, they are ready to do whatever the king chooses, therefore it is fit that they should be kept from becoming poor, unless it is fixed that, when they fall below a certain standard of wealth, they should lose their peerages. We know the House of Peers have made noble stands, when the House of Commons durst not. The two last years of Parliament they dared not contradict the populace.

This room is ornamented with a number of fine prints, and with a whole-length picture of Lord Errol, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. This led Dr. Johnson and me to talk of our amiable and elegant friend, whose panegyric he concluded by saying, "Sir Joshua Reynolds, sir, is the most invulnerable man I know; the man with whom, if you should quarrel, you would find the most difficulty how to abuse."

Dr. Johnson observed the situation here was the noblest he had ever seen, better than Mount Edgumbe, reckoned the first in England; because, at Mount Edgumbe, the sea is bounded by land on the other side, and, though there is the grandeur of a fleet, there is also the impression of there being a dockyard, the circumstances of which are not agreeable. At Slains is an excellent old house. The noble owner has built of brick, along the square in the inside, a gallery, both on the first and second storey, the house being no higher; so that he has always a dry walk, and the rooms, to which formerly there was no approach but through each other, have now all separate entries from the gallery, which is hung with Hogarth's works and other prints. We went and sat awhile in the library. There is a valuable numerous collection. It was chiefly made by Mr. Falconer, husband to the late Countess of Errol, in her own right. This Earl has added a good many modern books.

About nine the Earl came home. Captain Gordon, of Park, was with him. His Lordship put Dr. Johnson in mind of their having dined together in London, along with Mr. Beauclerk. I was exceedingly pleased with Lord Errol. His dignified person and agreeable countenance, with the most unaffected affability, give me high satisfaction. From perhaps a weakness, or, as I rather hope, more fancy and warmth of feeling than is quite reasonable, my mind is ever impressed with admiration for persons of high birth, and I could with the most perfect honesty expatiate on Lord Errol's good qualities, but he stands in no need of my praise. His agreeable manners and

softness of address prevented that constraint which the idea of his being Lord High Constable of Scotland might otherwise have occasioned. He talked very easily and sensibly with his learned guest. I observed that Dr. Johnson, though he showed that respect to his Lordship which, from principle, he always does to high rank, yet, when they came to argument, maintained that manliness which becomes the force and vigour of his understanding. To show external deference to our superiors is proper; to seem to yield to them in opinion is meanness. The Earl said grace, both before and after supper, with much decency. He told us a story of a man who was executed at Perth some years ago for murdering a woman who was with child by him, and a former child he had by her. His hand was cut off; he was then pulled up, but the rope broke, and he was forced to lie an hour on the ground, till another rope was brought from Perth, the execution being in a wood at some distance, at the place where the murders were committed. "There," said my Lord, "I see the hand of Providence." I was really happy here. I saw in this nobleman the best dispositions and best principles; and I saw him, in my mind's eye, to be the representative of the ancient Boyds of Kilmarnock. I was afraid he might have urged drinking, as, I believe, he used formerly to do; but he drank port and water out of a large glass himself, and let us do as we pleased. He went with us to our rooms at night, said he took the visit very kindly, and told me my father and he were very old acquaintance, that I now knew the way to Slains, and he hoped to see me there again.

I had a most elegant room, but there was a fire in it which blazed, and the sea, to which my windows looked, roared, and the pillows were made of the feathers of some sea-fowl, which had to me a disagreeable smell; so that by all these causes I was kept awake a good while. I saw in imagination Lord Errol's father, Lord Kilmarnock, who was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1746, and I was somewhat dreary. But the thought did not last long, and I fell asleep.

Wednesday, August 25.—We got up between seven and eight, and found Mr. Boyd in the dining-room, with tea and coffee before him, to give us breakfast. We were in admirable humour. Lady Errol had given each of us a copy of an ode by Beattie on the birth of her son, Lord Hay. Mr. Boyd asked Dr. Johnson how he liked it? Dr. Johnson, who did not admire it, got off very well by taking it out and reading the second and third stanzas of it with much melody. This, without his saying a word, pleased Mr. Boyd. He observed,

however, to Dr. Johnson that the expression as to the family of Errol,

A thousand years have seen it shine,

compared with what went before, was an anti-climax, and that it would have been better.

Ages have seen, &c.

Dr. Johnson said, "So great a number as a thousand is better. *Dolus latet in universalibus*. Ages might be only two ages.* He talked of the advantage of keeping up the connexions of relationship, which produce much kindness. "Every man," said he, "who comes into the world has need of friends. If he has to get them for himself, half his life is spent before his merit is known. Relations are a man's ready friends, who support him. When a man is in real distress, he flies into the arms of his relations. An old lawyer, who had much experience in making wills, told me that, after people had deliberated long, and thought of many for their executors, they settled at last by fixing on their relations. This shows the universality of the principle."

I regretted the decay of respect for men of family, and that a nabob now would carry an election from them.—JOHNSON: "Why, sir, the nabob will carry it by means of his wealth, in a country where money is highly valued, as it must be where nothing can be had without money; but, if it comes to personal preference, the man of family will always carry it. There is generally a scoundrelism about a low man." Mr. Boyd said that was a good *ism*.

I said I believed mankind were happier in the ancient feudal state of subordination than they are in the modern state of independency.—JOHNSON: "To be sure, the chief was, but we must think of the number of individuals. That they were less happy seems plain; for the state from which all escape as soon as they can, and to which none return after they have left it, must be less happy; and this is the case with the state of dependence on a chief or great man."

I mentioned the happiness of the French in their subordi-

* Lord Errol, the courteous entertainer of the travellers, died June 3, 1778, aged fifty-two. Dr. Beattie, in communicating an account of his death to Mrs. Montagu, eulogises his character, and adds—"His stature was six feet four inches, and his proportions most exact. His countenance and deportment exhibited such a mixture of the sublime and the graceful as I have never seen united in any other man. He often put me in mind of an ancient hero; and I remember Dr. Samuel Johnson was positive that he resembled Homer's character of Sarpedon."

nation, by the reciprocal benevolence and attachment between the great and those in lower rank. Mr. Boyd gave us an instance of their gentlemanly spirit. An old Chevalier de Malthe, of ancient noblesse, but in low circumstances, was in a coffee-house at Paris, where was Julien, the great manufacturer, at the Gobelins, of the fine tapestry, so much distinguished both for the figures and the colours. The chevalier's carriage was very old. Says Julien, with a plebian insolence, "I think, sir, you had better have your carriage new painted." The chevalier looked at him with indignant contempt, and answered, "Well, sir, you may take it home and dye it!" All the coffee-house rejoiced at Julien's confusion.

We set out about nine. Dr. Johnson was curious to see one of those structures which northern antiquarians call a Druid's temple. I had a recollection of one at Strichen, which I had seen fifteen years ago; so we went four miles out of our road, after passing Old Deer, and went thither. Mr. Fraser, the proprietor, was at home, and showed it to us. But I had augmented it in my mind, for all that remains is two stones set up on end, with a long one laid upon them, as was usual, and one stone at a little distance from them. That stone was the capital one of the circle which surrounded what now remains. Mr. Fraser was very hospitable. There was a fair at Strichen, and he had several of his neighbours from it at dinner. One of them, Dr. Fraser, who had been in the army, remembered to have seen Dr. Johnson at a lecture on experimental philosophy at Litchfield. The Doctor recollected being at the Lecture, and he was surprised to find here somebody who knew him.

Mr. Fraser sent a servant to conduct us by a short passage into the high road. I observed to Dr. Johnson that I had a most disagreeable notion of the life of a country gentleman; that I left Mr. Fraser just now as one leaves a prisoner in a jail. Dr. Johnson said that I was right in thinking them unhappy, for they had not enough to keep their minds in motion.

GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER, THE DRAMATIST,
IN ABERDEEN.

1780-81.

In the autumn of the year 1780, an event occurred which produced a material revolution in my "May of life." The

Oxford Term was approaching, when, lo! it pleased my father that I should keep Oxford Term no more, nor enter London theatres for at least some seasons to come,—in short, he banished me to Scotland, and sent me to King's College, Old Aberdeen. On my arrival there, I was to be turned over to the *surveillance* of Professor Roderick Macleod (but not to dwell in his house), with whom arrangements had been made by epistolary correspondence. This was a just sentence, or rather a well-intended parental measure, to remove me from scenes of idleness and dissipation, which not only London, but even Christ Church presented to those who sought after them, and into which I had been rushing *con gusto*.

My father's financier and I started for Aberdeen in a hack post-chaise and pair. We left London at the fall of the leaf. For many a weary mile from Edinburgh to my seat of banishment the country grew more and more sterile in appearance, till from Stonehaven to Aberdeen it became naked desolation—a waste of peat, varied only by large masses of stone sticking up here and there in the bogs, and even in the middle of the road. I expected that my eyes would be relieved when we came to the parks, which they told me were within a few miles of Aberdeen; but, on reaching them, these parks proved to be a few fields of bad grass enclosed by stone hedges.

We had daylight enough, after reaching the New Inn at Aberdeen, to have gone about the town while dinner was dressing, but there came on a Scotch mist, which we had heard wets Englishmen to the skin; so we looked through the windows. In an open space before us stood a wet-through company, belonging to a Highland Regiment of Fencibles, dolefully drawn up in the drizzling rain, ankle-deep in mud, while the drone of a bag-pipe kept *Maggy Laundering* and *Lochaber no moring*, enough to drive its hearers melancholy mad.

On the morning immediately following, we walked from New to Old Aberdeen, that I might be consigned to Professor Roderick Macleod.

Sent down to Scotland as a delinquent to be reformed, I expected of course to be placed under a very rigid disciplinarian, and had pictured the Professor in my fancy as a starched, pedantic North Briton, the emblem of collegiate austerity. Honest Rory was just the reverse; he was a square-built person, of perhaps five feet eight, seemingly between fifty and sixty years of age, with a ruddy good-humoured countenance, and the manner and dress of a gentleman farmer. He shook me by the hand, and gave me a hearty welcome; and immedi-

ately turned to Jewett, and owned that he was rather sorry for my arrival, "For," said he, "a young Englishman breeds muckle harm to our lads frae the Highlands; he's allowed what I may ca' a little fortune, and sets unco bad examples of economy." He did not utter one word about College regulations and studies, but was anxious to settle me in comfortable apartments in the College, for which he told me I must wait; they were all with bare walls, and I must paper and furnish before I could inhabit them. In the meantime, he recommended my getting a lodging with a Mrs. Lowe, who lived in the cabin, one storey high, opposite to the College-gate. With full instructions from old Rory whither to proceed, we wished him a good morning, chose my apartments in the College, then to Mrs. Lowe, and hired her best room. Night arrived, and the landlady brought me up a tallow candle, which she said would make me cheerful. I looked round the whitewashed room—a truckle-bed stood in the corner of it—some square bits of peat smouldered in the fire-place, which had no grate;—the wind began to rise, the hail to pelt, and the curtainless window to rattle. I was wretched; I undressed myself, turned down my tallow candle for want of an extinguisher, and crept into bed.

The remission of discipline in King's College, where I dreaded the utmost severity, was extreme—indeed, towards a young Englishman, there was no discipline at all. At the commencement of term, an acute, frosty-faced, little Doctor Dunbar, a man of much erudition and great good nature, told me—instead of saying I was placed in the class over which he presided—that he hoped for the pleasure of seeing me at *lectures*. "On what may you lecture?" said I to the Doctor. "Greek," he answered, "and Mathematics." I declared Mathematics to be my utter aversion, and that I could never endure them at Oxford. "Hoot! hoot!" said the little Doctor, "gin you come aince to my lecture, ye'll find me mak' Mathematics sae entertaining that ye'll nae be able to keep awa'." I did attend this worthy man a few mornings (when he addressed himself pointedly to me in preference to all the other students), and then I totally deserted him. Mere boys pour in from the Highlands and other parts of the country, and sojourn here for five months annually, the remaining seven months being a period of uninterrupted vacation. They occupy almost unfurnished rooms, with bare walls, huddling two or three, and sometimes perhaps four, in a bed. The accommodation of my Scotch servant, who had a room and a *bed* to himself, exhibited a luxury which excited their envy.

In respect to Professor Roderick Macleod, as my quarterly allowance came through his hands, I visited him frequently; not merely to receive my payments, but sometimes to procure an advance, and sometimes to consult him on matters of expenditure—chiefly the purchase of apparel, in which he was always ready to be my agent, and chuckled when he heard that I had nick-named him “Professor of Economy.”

There is no accounting for the inconsistencies of mankind. Who could imagine that Rory Macleod, in the teeth of all his habits and professions, and on the verge of threescore, would have fallen into the extravagance of taking to his parsimonious bosom a young wife? Yet so it happened—yea, while he had three lads under his care to keep his doctrine alive in his mind, by giving him most abundant occasion for the exercise of his economical precepts; and then there were “rings, and things, and rich array” to be purchased for the bonny bride. The Sacrist of the College Chapel, who liquored his boots, rubbed down his Highland pony, and thrashed his walnut-tree, was to be superseded by a gawky in a green jacket and a red cape, who smeared whatever he touched, and broke a world of glass and crockery; in addition to Mause, who had for five-and-twenty years made her master’s bed and his barley-broth, and had been his maid of all work, a *femme de chambre* was to be hired to wait on young Mrs. Professor Macleod; then the house must be new painted, and (worst rub of all) partly new furnished; the bridegroom’s wardrobe, too (besides a new suit for the wedding), was to undergo a thorough scouring, that he might look gallant and gay, at least, during the honeymoon. I say nothing of the laugh among his neighbours, which was all at his expense.

On the day preceding the nuptials, some wag sent him the following three lines from Chaucer’s January and May:—

“Aviseth you, ye ben a man of age,
How that ye entred into mariage,
And namely with a young wif and a faire.”

But he despised squibs; he had anticipated the gossips’ talk, and said it would only be “a nine days’ wonder.”

Finding myself emancipated from all College studies, and having no further occasion for the scholastic gown, I had profited so far by old Rory’s lessons as to that, that this splendid *Toga* should not be entirely thrown away; I therefore ordered it to be metamorphosed into a coat of the newest London fashion known to a North British tailor, and persuaded my *two English companions*, who had similar cloaks, to follow my

example. In these fiery habiliments, we took our morning walks to New Aberdeen, to parade backwards and forwards in a wide square surface, in the centre of the town, called the Plain Stones—a kind of uncovered Exchange, where

“ Merchants most do congregate,”

appearing like three mad members of a hunt to the astonishment of all the sober citizens.

There was no mighty moral turpitude in this, but it exposed the laxity of government in King's College, when English boys were suffered to abandon their studies, and misuse their academical garb. It was also a piece of coxcombry (originating no doubt in myself), glaringly out of place in the midst of a commercial and corporate town; and particularly ill-timed, after I had recently received a very flattering mark of attention from the Chief Magistrate; for he it recorded that I had scarcely been a week in Old Aberdeen, when the Lord Provost of the New Town invited me to drink wine with him one evening in the Town-hall. There I found a numerous company assembled, and, taking my seat at a long table, was wedged in between two officers of a Fencible Regiment. The object of this meeting was soon declared to me by the Lord Provost, who drank my health, and presented me with the freedom of the city. My countrymen, Messrs. Earle and Persons, who had arrived in Scotland several months before me, had already experienced this civic courtesy. Bestowing upon three such raw subjects the same honour which had been conferred upon the celebrated Johnson, as a tribute to his learning, genius, and morality, can only be considered as an intended compliment to the English in general; it could not possibly have arisen from any respect for any meritorious qualities in the youthful individuals.

Since Aberdeen had always appeared to me a seat of exile and region of dullness, I did not anticipate the regret I experienced in the morning of my departure from it,—I could not help feeling a momentary pensiveness in quitting the old spot, and quitting it in all probability for ever. Shaking hands with honest Rory Macleod—who though too little of a disciplinarian, and too much of an economist, meant well, and had a truly kind heart—was a painful leave-taking.

While a member of King's College, I had voluntarily acquired a much larger portion of classical knowledge in two years (and a wee bit), than I had been compulsory taught in more than five times two at Marybone, Westminster, and Oxford.—*Colman's Random Records.*

Sir James Mackintosh and the Rev. Robert Hall were at

this period both students at King's College; and in the Biography of Robert Hall it is stated that, "in their joint studies, they read much of Xenophon and Herodotus, and more of Plato; and so well was all this known, that it was not uncommon as they went along for their class-fellows to point at them, and say—'There go Plato and Herodotus!' But the arena in which they met most frequently was that of morals and metaphysics, furnishing topics of most incessant disputation. After having sharpened their weapons by reading, they often repaired to the spacious sands upon the sea-shore, and still more frequently to the picturesque scenery on the banks of the Don above the Old Town, to discuss with eagerness the various subjects to which their attention had been directed.

ROBERT BURNS IN ABERDEEN

CAME to Aberdeen—met with Mr. Chalmers, printer a facetious fellow—Mr. Ross, a fine fellow, like Professor Tytler—Mr. Marshall, one of the *poetical minores*—Mr. Sheriffs, author of *Jamie and Bess*, a little decrepit body, with some abilities—Bishop Skinner, a nonjuror, son of the author of *Tullochgorum*, a man whose mild and venerable manner is the most marked of any in so young a man*—Professor Gordon, a good natured, jolly-looking Professor. Aberdeen a lazy town.—*Journal of Highland Tour in 1787.*

LORD BYRON IN ABERDEEN.

WHEN not quite five years old, young Byron was sent to a day school at Aberdeen, taught by Mr. Bowers, and remained there, with some interruption, during a twelvemonth, as appears by the following extract from the day book of the school:—

George Gordon Byron.
19th November, 1782.
19th November, 1793—paid one guinea

* The Bishop met Burns in the office of Mr. Chalmers, the printer, and had an hours' interesting conversation with him on various topics. The Bishop's father, on hearing of this interview, wrote a poetical epistle to Burns, commencing as follows:—

O happy hour for evermair,
That led my chil* up Chalmers' stair.
And gae him what he values sair—
 Sa braw a skance
Of Ayrshire's dainty poet there,
 By lucky chance.

* Child.

The terms of this school for reading were only five shillings a quarter, and it was evidently less with a view to the boy's advance in learning than as a cheap mode of keeping him quiet, that his mother had sent him to it. Of the progress of his infantine studies at Aberdeen, as well under Mr. Bowers as under the various other persons that instructed him, we have the following interesting particulars communicated by himself, in a sort of Journal which he once began, under the title of "My Dictionary," and which is preserved in one of his manuscript books.

"For several years of my earliest childhood, I was in that city, but have never revisited it since I was ten years old. I was sent, at five years old, or earlier, to a school kept by a Mr. Bowers. It was a school for both sexes. I learned little there except to repeat by rote the first lesson of monosyllables ("God made man," "Let us love him,") by hearing it often repeated, without acquiring a letter. Whenever proof was made of my progress at home, I repeated these words with the most rapid fluency; but, on turning over a new leaf, I continued to repeat them, so that the narrow boundries of my first year's accomplishments were detected, my ears boxed (which they did not deserve, seeing it was by ear only that I had acquired my letters), and my intellects consigned to a new preceptor. He was a very devout, clever little clergyman, named Ross, afterwards minister of one of the kirks (*East*, I think). Under him I made astonishing progress, and I recollect to this day his mild manners and good-natured pains-taking. The moment I could read, my grand passion was *History*, and why I know not. I was particularly taken with the battle near the Lake Regillus in the Roman History put into my hands the first. Four years ago, when standing on the heights of Tusculum, and looking down upon the little round lake that was once Regillus, and which dots the immense expanse below, I remembered my young enthusiasm and my old instructor. Afterwards I had a very serious, saturnine, but kind young man, named Paterson, for a tutor.* He was the son of my shoemaker, but a good scholar, as is common with the Scotch. He was a rigid Presbyterian also. With him I begun Latin in Ruddiman's Grammar, and continued till I went to the 'Grammar School' (*Scotice*, 'Schule;' *Aberdonice*, 'Squeel'), where I threaded all the classes to the *fourth*, when I was recalled to England (where I had been hatched) by the demise of my uncle. I acquired this hand-

* The late Rev. Dr. Paterson, Minister of the Parish Church of Montrose, who died lately (1871), upwards of ninety years of age, highly respected by all classes.

writing, which I can hardly read myself, under the fair copies of Mr. Duncan of the same city; I don't think he would plume himself much upon my progress. However, I wrote much better than I have ever done since. Haste and agitation of one kind or another have quite spoilt as pretty a scrawl as ever scratched over a frank. The Grammar School might consist of a hundred and fifty of all ages under age. It was divided into five classes, taught by four masters, the chief teaching the fourth and fifth himself. As in England, the fifth and sixth forms, and monitors, are heard by the head masters."

His love of solitary rambles, and his taste for exploring in all directions, led him not unfrequently so far as to excite serious apprehensions for his safety. While at Aberdeen, he used often to steal from home unperceived; sometimes he would find his way to the seaside; and once, after a long and anxious search, they found the adventurous little rover struggling in a sort of morass or marsh, from which he was unable to extricate himself.

By an accident which, it is said, occurred at the time of his birth, one of his feet was twisted out of its natural position, and this defect chiefly from the contrivances employed to remedy it) was a source of much pain and inconvenience to him during his early years. The expedients used at this period to restore the limb to shape were adopted by the advice, and under the direction, of the celebrated John Hunter, with whom Dr. Livingston of Aberdeen corresponded on the subject; and his nurse, to whom fell the task of putting on these machines or bandages at bed-time, would often, as she herself told my informant, sing him to sleep, or tell him stories or legends, in which, like most other children, he took great delight. She also taught him, while yet an infant, to repeat a number of the Psalms, and the first and twenty-third Psalms were among the earliest that he committed to memory. It is a remarkable fact, indeed, that, through the care of this respectable woman, who was herself of a very religious disposition, he attained a far earlier and more intimate acquaintance with the Sacred Writings than falls to the lot of most young people. In a letter which he wrote to Mr. Murray from Italy, in 1821, after requesting of that gentleman to send him, by the first opportunity, a Bible, he adds, "Don't forget this, for I am a great reader and admirer of those books, and had read them through and through before I was eight years old—that is to say, the Old Testament, for the New struck me as a task, but the other as a pleasure. I speak, as a boy, from the recollected impression of that period in Aberdeen in 1796."

The malformation of his foot was, even at his childish age, a *subject* on which he showed peculiar sensitiveness. I have been

told by a gentleman of Glasgow that the person who nursed his wife, and who still lives in the family, used often to join the nurse of Byron when they were out with their respective charges, and one day said to her, as they walked together, "What a pretty boy Byron is! what a pity he has such a leg!" On hearing this allusion to his infirmity, the child's eyes flashed with anger, and striking at her with a little whip which he held in his hand, he exclaimed impatiently, "Dinna speak of it." Sometimes, however, as in after life, he could talk indifferently and even jestingly of his lameness; and there being another little boy in the neighbourhood who had a similiar defect in one of his feet, Byron would say, laughingly, "Come and see the twa laddies with the twa club feet going up the Broad Street."*—*Moore's Life of Byron*.

SYSTEM OF KIDNAPPING.

BETWEEN the years 1740 and 1746, Aberdeen, in common with some other towns in Scotland, was disgraced by a barbarous traffic which consisted in kidnapping persons of both sexes, and transporting them to the American plantations, where they were sold as slaves for a limited period. The extent, the misery, and the horrors of this ignominious trade, and the reckless manner in which it was pursued, might surpass belief, were they not too clearly established by testimony which it is impossible to doubt. Copartneries were openly formed for carrying it on, and ships yearly left the port loaded with crowds of unhappy beings, of whom hardly one ever returned to his native land. The individuals engaged in this guilty commerce were men of note, of fortune, and in public office; among them were Baillie William Fordyce of Aquhorties; Walter Cochran, Town-Clerk-Depute; Alexander Mitchell of Colpna, and several others. The methods which they used to entrap their victims were as varied as they were infamous. Every art of deceit and seduction was employed; agents, drummers, pipers, and recruiting sergeants were dispersed throughout the town and shire to assail the unwary with bribes, alluring promises, intoxication, and still more disgraceful temptations. Parties of men patrolled the streets of the burgh like press-gangs, and, by open violence, seized on such boys as seemed fit for their purpose. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood dared not send their children into the town, and

* The house in which Byron lived is No. 64, Broad Street.

even trembled lest they should be snatched away from their homes. For in all parts of the county emissaries were abroad ; in the dead of night children were taken by force from the beds where they slept ; and the remote valleys of the Highlands, fifty miles distant from the city, were infested by ruffians who hunted their prey as beasts of the chase. A still darker feature remains to be noticed ; such was the scarcity of provisions at that time that the poor were tempted to sell their own offspring ; and in the accompt-books of one of the kidnapping companies which have been preserved, such entries occur as, "*To Robert Ross for listing his son, one shilling ;*" and "*To Maclean, for listing his brother, Donald, one shilling and sixpence.*" For the honour of humanity, it is to be hoped that such cases of depravity were very rare ; and, indeed, there are recorded too many instances of the heart-rending sufferings of parents in the loss of their children.

The persons thus kidnapped were of every character, sex, and age—men and women, half-grown lads, and boys not more than six years old. Once in the possession of their oppressors they were driven in flocks through the town like herds of sheep, under the care of a keeper armed with a whip ; or they were shut up in a barn in the Green, where a piper was hired to play to them, while they were freely supplied with cards in order to divert their thoughts from any attempt to escape. Nay, so unblushingly was this infamous commerce practised, that, when other receptacles overflowed, *the public work-house* was used as a place of incarceration ; and when this, too, failed, *the tolbooth* or *common prison* was appropriated, and numbers of individuals were detained in it for weeks together. "During their confinement" (to borrow the language of Mr. Maclaurin, afterwards Lord Dreghorn, who was counsel in the cause by which this traffic was exposed) "the parents and other relatives of those who had been enticed or forced away, flocked to Aberdeen in hopes of effecting their release—hopes which they would never have entertained, had they reflected that the Town-Clerk and one of the Baillies were deeply interested to thwart them. Accordingly, no solicitations or entreaties availed, and those who seemed too importunate were threatened themselves with banishment, imprisonment, and other distress. It will readily occur that it is much easier to imagine than describe the scenes which it is in proof ensued ; for nothing more piteous and moving can well be figured than to see fathers and mothers running frantic through the streets, crowding to the doors and windows of the houses where their children were incarcerated, and there giving them their bless-

ing, taking farewell of them for ever, and departing in anguish and despair, imprecating curses upon those who were the authors of their misery."

There are no means of ascertaining the exact number of the individuals thus kidnapped. One or two vessels, which sailed from the harbour in 1743, contained no fewer than sixty-nine persons; and when it is considered that the trade was carried on to an equal extent for nearly six years, it is impossible to estimate the number of unhappy beings carried off at less than SIX HUNDRED. Their condition in the land to which they were conveyed was truly miserable. They were sold to planters for a term of years, varying from five to seven. During this period of slavery they were treated with harshness and cruelty; they were whipped at the pleasure of their masters; if they deserted for thirty days, twelve months were added to their slavery. In a word, such was their wretchedness, says one who was an eye-witness to their sufferings, "that they were often forced to desperate measures, *and to make away with themselves.*"

At the present day, when the authority of the law is severely vindicated, and its protection interposed in behalf of the poorest subject, it may be matter of surprise to some that, for such grievous wrongs as have been narrated, no redress was sought or obtained. But in those times, it should be recollected that Scotland was but half civilized; and that the lower orders, upon whom these injuries were inflicted, were as ignorant of their rights as they were powerless to assert them. It is in evidence that many of those who endeavoured to procure the restoration of their children were menaced with *imprisonment* and *banishment*, and were so terrified at these impotent threats that they abandoned their attempts. And, as an instance of the manner in which the persons who conducted this disgraceful traffic had fenced themselves against punishment, it may be mentioned that, when a father, who had been robbed of his son, instituted an action for redress before the Lords of Session, *no officer in Aberdeen could be prevailed on to cite the parties to appear in court.**

It is consolatory to know that, although these traffickers in human blood succeeded in evading the vengeance of the law for a period of nearly twenty years, the arm of justice was at length raised to smite them. Among the youths whom they

* "None of the messengers in Aberdeen would execute the summons against Mr. Burnett, because they would not disoblige him for anything the deponent [witness] could give them." This estimable personage, Burnett, was commonly known by the name of "Bonny John."

carried off was one named Peter Williamson, "a rough, ragged, humle-headed, long, stowie, clever boy (by which is meant a growthie boy)." After many strange reverses of fortune, and many romantic adventures, by sea and land, in peace and war, in April, 1757, this individual was, at Plymouth, discharged (on account of a wound) from a regiment into which he had been drafted. With the sum of *six shillings*, with which he had been furnished to carry him home, he set out on his journey, and reached York, when he published a tract, entitled "*French and Indian Cruelty, exemplified in the Life and various Vicissitudes of Fortune of Peter Williamson, who was carried off from Aberdeen in his Infancy, and sold as a Slave in Pennsylvania.*" Such, it appears, was the sale of this work, that the author "began to think himself happy in having endured these misfortunes, a recital of which promised to put him in a more prosperous situation than he had ever hoped for; and, having thus procured a considerable subsistence, the desire of hearing some account of his parents induced him to travel to Aberdeen." Here he arrived in June, 1758, and exhibiting himself in the dress and arms of the American savages, his representations of their gestures and war-whoop were applauded by crowded houses, while his pamphlet met with a rapid and extensive circulation. His exposure of the system of Kidnapping, however, having incurred the wrath of the Magistrates, he was dragged before their august tribunal on the accusation of having issued "a scurrilous and infamous libel on the Corporation of the City of Aberdeen, and whole members thereof." Of this charge he was at once convicted; the obnoxious pages of his tract were ordered to be torn out, and "publicly burnt at the Market Cross, by the hands of the common hangman, the town-officers attending, and publishing the cause of the burning;" he was ordained to be incarcerated till he should sign a denial of the truth of his statements; he was subjected to a fine of ten shillings, and banished from the city. Williamson brought an action against the Corporation for these proceedings; and, on the 5th of February, 1762, the court unanimously awarded to him damages to the amount of £100, besides the expense of the litigation, about £80, "for which the Lords declare the defenders to be personally liable, and that the same shall be no burden upon the town of Aberdeen."* It was the intention of the officers of the Crown to institute a criminal prosecution against

* The worthy Magistrates, it appears, evaded the decree of the Court, and paid no part of the sums from their own pockets.—*Kennedy's Annals*, vol. i. p. 296

the parties engaged in the trade of kidnapping, but it unfortunately happened that the wretches were secured from punishment by a certain Act of Indemnity. They were, however, still responsible to Williamson; and, in an action which he raised against Baillie Fordyce and others, on the 3rd of December, 1768, he obtained a sum of £200 in name of damages, in addition to the costs of his litigation, which were modified to one hundred guineas.*—*Robertson's Book of Bon-Accord.*

EXTRACT FROM THE LIFE OF PETER WILLIAMSON.

THE AUTHOR'S BIRTH.

Know, therefore, that I was born in Hirnley, in the parish of Aboyne, and County of Aberdeen, North Britain, of not rich, yet of respectable parents, who supported me in the best manner they could, as long as they had the happiness of having me under their inspection; but fatally for me, and to their great grief, as it afterwards proved, I was sent to live with an aunt at Aberdeen. When under the years of pupilarity,

* This second action, which seems to have escaped Mr. Kennedy's researches, furnishes a striking proof of the scoundrelism of *Baillie Fordyce* and his associates in crime. Having obtained the temporary withdrawal of the process from the Court, in order that it might be submitted to friendly arbitration, the worthy defenders entered into a conspiracy to intoxicate the arbiter, and procure his signature to a decision in their favour. In this laudable design they were successful, but the judgment was set aside by the Supreme Court, 27th February, 1766. The arbiter was the Sheriff-Substitute of the County. On the day preceding that on which he gave his interlocutor he "was busy at hot punch about eleven o'clock forenoon;" having become "very drunk," at two o'clock he sat down to dinner, after which he "sate close drinking, as is the phrase in that part of the country, *helter-skelter*—that is, copiously and alternately—of different liquors, till eleven o'clock at night, when being dead drunk, he was conveyed home by his two maid-servants." On the morrow, shortly after nine o'clock, "a large doze of spirits, white wine, and punch was administered to him, with cooling draughts of porter from time to time." After dinner, he and two others "sat down to Ombre, drinking, at the same time, *helter-skelter*, a bottle and a half of Malaga, a mug of porter, two bottles of claret, a mutchkin and a half of rum made into punch." After these potations, the learned Sheriff gravely pronounced judgment, and retired to bed, where he lay all the next day (being Sunday) "dead drunk and speechless!" One of the witnesses speaks of having seen this sober judge "upon the bench, when he appeared to be *ree*, and as if he had been drunk the night before." It is remarked, in one of the pleadings, that the Sheriff's "mother died about the 4th of November, and there can be no doubt that *he would get a hearty doze at her burial!*"—*State of Process, Peter Williamson v. Fordyce, &c. 20th June, 1765.*

playing on the quay with others of my companions, being of a stout, robust constitution, I was taken notice of by two fellows belonging to a vessel in the harbour, employed (as the trade then was) by some worthy merchants of the town, in that villainous and execrable practice called kidnapping—that is, stealing young children from their parents, and selling them as slaves in the plantations abroad. Being marked out by these monsters of impiety as their prey, I was cajoled on board the ship by them, where I was no sooner got, than they conducted me between the decks to some others they had kidnapped in the same manner. At that time I had no sense of the fate that was destined for me, and spent the time in childish amusements with my fellow-sufferers in the steerage, being never suffered to go upon deck while the vessel lay in the harbour, which was until such a time as they had got in their lading, with a complement of unhappy youths for carrying on their wicked commerce.

When I arrived in Aberdeen in June, 1758, after having completed the period of my slavery, as related in the beginning of this narrative, no sooner had I offered this little work to sale in that town, which was then my only means of subsistence, than I was arraigned in a summary complaint at the instance of the Magistrates, before their own tribunal, and carried by three or four town officers to the bar of that tremendous court of judicature. The complaint exhibited against me contained in substance, “That I had been guilty of causing print, and of publishing and dispersing this scurrilous and infamous libel, reflecting greatly upon the character and reputation of the merchants in Aberdeen, and on the town in general, without any ground or reason; whereby the Corporation of the City, and whole members thereof, were greatly hurt and prejudiced: And that, therefore, I ought to be exemplarily punished in my person and goods; and that the said book, and whole copies thereof, ought to be seized and publicly burnt.” Such was the tenor of the complaint; and, instead of allowing me an opportunity of taking advice in time to prepare for my defence, I was hurried before them, and concussed by threats of imprisonment to make a declaration of a very extraordinary cast, and dictated by themselves, bearing, “That I had no ground for advancing and uttering the calumnies mentioned in my book against the merchants in Aberdeen, but the fancy I took in my younger years, which stuck in my memory, though I did not find I had reason so to do, nor did I believe these things to be true; and that I was willing to contradict, in a public manner, what I had so advanced.” &c.

After eliciting this declaration, the Magistrates, without adjournment, "appointed me to find caution to stand trial on the said complaint at any time when called for, and imprisoned till performance; and ordered all the copies of my book to be lodged in the Clerk's chamber." My books were accordingly seized, and myself committed to the custody of the town officers, who conducted me to jail, where I must have lain till next day had not my landlord bailed me out. Next forenoon, the Magistrates proceeded to sentence on their own complaint; and, accordingly, they "ordained the offensive leaves of all the copies of the said book to be cut out, and publicly burnt at the Market Cross by the hands of the common hangman, the town officers attending, and publishing the cause of the burning; and that I should give in a signed declaration of much the same tenor with the former, begging pardon of the Magistrates and merchants, in the most submissive manner, and desiring this my recantation to be inserted in the York newspapers, or any other newspapers they should think proper: And also ordained me to be incarcerated in the tolbooth till I granted the said declaration; and amerced me in ten shillings sterling, under the pain of imprisonment, and immediately after to remove out of town."

Such was the sentence of the Magistrates of Aberdeen against me, every particular of which was forthwith put in execution in the most rigorous manner.

Had these judges had the least reflection, they must have been conscious that, in every step of their procedure, they were committing the grossest abuse. The complaint was made by their order and direction, and served at their own instigation; by which means they were first the accusers and afterwards the condemners. The subject of it was so irrelevant that they must have been sensible they were prosecuting an innocent man, for relating the melancholy particulars of his life, which ought to have rendered him rather an object of their protection than of their malice. The facts he had set forth in his book, relating to the original of his misfortunes, were so flagrant that, had he sued for it, he was entitled for redress against the authors of his miseries from those very Magistrates who now have the cruelty to aggravate them, by inflicting additional hardships. To pretend ignorance is a very lame excuse. He must have been a very youthful Magistrate in 1758 who could not remember some circumstances of a public branch of trade carried in 1744; it is inconceivable that, of a whole bench of Magistrates, no less than six in number, not one was of an age capable of recollecting what had happened only fourteen years before; nor is it to be presumed

that, of almost all the inhabitants of Aberdeen, they alone, who had the best access to know the traffic of the town, should remain ignorant of a commerce which was carried on in the market places, on the high streets, and in the avenues of the town, in the most public manner. Neither of these suppositions will easily gain credit. The Magistrates are commonly of such an age, and ought to be men of such reflection, as to render the first impossible; and the second, for the reasons given above, is equally incredible. Every impartial person must, therefore, be persuaded that the Magistrates were not unacquainted with that illicit species of trade openly carried on in that city about the year 1744, and prior to that period. To prove that there was such an infamous traffic, I appeal to the depositions of several witnesses, some of whom shared in the calamity, by the loss of their children and other relations. These I have subjoined as they occur in the proof taken on my part.

DEPOSITIONS OF WITNESSES ON THE PART OF PETER
WILLIAMSON.

Alexander King depones—That he knew the deceased James Williamson, in Hirmley, in the parish of Aboyne; that the said James Williamson had a son named Peter Williamson, whom the deponent knew when he was a boy; and he, seeing the said Peter Williamson immediately at his emitting this deposition, he is very sure that he is the identical Peter Williamson whom he knew when he was a boy. Depones—That, some years before the Battle of Culloden, it was the general report of the country that, when the said Peter Williamson, the pursuer, was a little boy, going with a clipped head, he was taken at Aberdeen, and carried to Philadelphia, along with several other boys. Depones—That, about that time, the deponent had a conversation with the said James Williamson concerning his son Peter, who told the deponent several times that he came into Aberdeen seeking his son Peter, but they would not let him near hand him. Depones—That the said James Williamson told the deponent that his son Peter was in custody in a barn at Aberdeen, and they would not let him speak to him; and afterwards the said James Williamson told the deponent that the merchants of Aberdeen had carried away his son to Philadelphia, and sold him for a slave. Depones—That he heard in the country by report that John Elphinstone, merchant in Aberdeen, and one Black, a merchant there, whether James or George he does not remember, did deal in

that way of carrying away boys. And further depones—That the said James Williamson told him, the deponent, that his son Peter was carried away without his consent; and he saw the father shed many salt tears on that account.

John Wilson depones—That he knew and was well acquainted with James Williamson in Hirnley, and with all his children, particularly his son Peter Williamson. Depones—That the said Peter Williamson having gone to Aberdeen, as the deponent was informed, he was carried away therefrom to the plantations; and, when his father and friends missed him, they made search for him many ways in the country, but could not find him. And the said James Williamson went to Aberdeen in search of him; and, upon his return, he told the deponent that he had been at Aberdeen seeking his son Peter, but could not find him, and was informed that he was taken up at Aberdeen, and carried to the plantations. Depones—That he believes, when the said Peter Williamson was amissing, he was about eight or ten years of age, and was a stout boy; and the deponent seeing the said Peter Williamson immediately at emitting this deposition, he is sure that he is the identical person whom he knew before he went away, to be James Williamson's son, and was at the said Peter Williamson's baptism.

Francis Fraser of Findrack, Esq., depones—That, about twenty years ago, he knew the deceased James Williamson, living in Upper Balnacraig, in the parish of Lumphanay; and that he heard the said James Williamson lived formerly in Hirnley, in the parish of Aboyne. Depones—He knew several of the said James Williamson's children, and he heard it was the practice of some of the merchants of Aberdeen to kidnap young children, and send them to the plantations to be sold for slaves. Depones—He heard in the country that the said James Williamson, or his wife, had gone into Aberdeen, and one of their sons, called Peter Williamson, had followed; and that James Smith, saddler in Aberdeen, had picked up the said Peter; and the deponent heard he was either put in prison, or put on board a ship, till the ship sailed. Depones—It was the voice of the country that James Williamson and his wife regretted, or made a clamour for the loss of their son, not knowing what was become of him.

Robert Reid depones—That, to the best of his remembrance, he came to Aberdeen in the year 1740 to see his sister; that his sister proposed to the deponent to go to a barn to see the country boys who were going over to Philadelphia, and to carry home to their parents some accounts of them; that the

deponent accordingly went over, and heard music and a great noise in said barn, but the deponent refused to go in, because it occurred to him that he had heard in his own country that many boys had been decoyed by particular artifices of merchants (and he has heard John Burnett named) to go over to America. Depones—That he was told that the number of boys in said barn was between thirty and forty. Depones—That, some time after this, the deponent's mother refused to allow the deponent to go into Aberdeen, and mentioned, as the reason of this refusal, that the son of one Williamson, a tenant of Lord Aboyne's, in Hirnley, and who lived within two miles of her, was amissing.

William Jamieson depones—That, in spring 1741, and for some years before and after, the deponent resided with his family in the town of Oldmeldrum, which he reckons to be twelve computed miles from Aberdeen; that the deponent had a son named John, who was, in the spring 1741, between ten and eleven years of age; that, about that time, the said John, his son, having been amissing from his house, the deponent was informed by the neighbours in Oldmeldrum, the day after he was amissing, that they saw a man, whom they said was a servant to John Burnett, late merchant in Aberdeen, who was commonly called Bonny John, with the deponent's said son, and two other boys much about the same age, travelling towards Aberdeen; and that his son would be sent to the plantations; that, in two or three days after receiving this information, the deponent went to Aberdeen, where he found the said John Burnett, who told him he had several boys, but did not know whether the deponent's son was amongst them, but said that, though he was, the deponent would not get him back, because he was engaged with him; that the deponent upon this left Mr. Burnett, and went down about the shore, where he had been informed the boys were out getting the air; and, when he came there, he observed a great number of boys—he thinks about sixty—diverting themselves; and they were attended by a man who, the deponent was informed by the people of the town, was employed for that purpose by the said John Burnett; that this man had a horse-whip, and the deponent observed him striking the boys therewith when they went out of the crowd. Depones—That he observed his own son John amongst these boys, and called upon him; that the boy came up to him, and told him that he would willingly go home with him if he were allowed; that immediately upon this, the person who was Mr. Burnett's overseer came up and gave the boy a lash with the whip, and took him by the

shoulder and carried him amongst the rest, and immediately drove them off, and carried them to a barn, where the deponent saw them locked in by the forementioned overseer, who put the key in his pocket; that the place where the boys were standing when the deponent spoke with his son, as above deponed upon, was on the shore, and, the deponent thinks, as far distant from the forementioned barn as from the Writer's Court to the Nether Bow Port; that, when the boys were marching up to the barn, the deponent kept pace with the overseer, who followed immediately after the boys, entreating him to get liberty to speak to his son; who answered him, he should get liberty to speak to him by and by, when they were come to the barn; but, when they came there, the overseer locked the door as above mentioned, and refused the deponent access; that the deponent never saw his son after this; that the deponent, in passing through the town of Aberdeen, after his son was looked up from him, was told by several trades people, and others to whom he had told the story of his son, that it would be in vain for him to apply to the Magistrates to get his son liberated, because some of the Magistrates had a hand in these doings as well as the said John Burnett; upon which the deponent went home; that, in summer thereafter, the deponent came up to Edinburgh to take advice what he should do in this matter—being certainly informed by the voice of the country that the ship, on board which his son was put, had sailed for Maryland about a fortnight or so after that day when the deponent was at Aberdeen, and saw his son as before mentioned; that, after the deponent came up to Edinburgh, he was recommended to the deceased Mr. William Setton, Writer to the Signet, who gave him a libelled summons against the said John Burnett, before the Lords of Council and Session, for restitution of the deponent's son; that none of the messengers in Aberdeen would execute the summons against John Burnett, because they would not disoblige him for anything the deponent could give them, which obliged the deponent to send a messenger from Oldmeldrum to Aberdeen; that the deponent having insisted in this summons, the said John Burnett applied to the Earl of Aberdeen, who sent for the deponent's father, his tenant; and the deponent's father came and carried him to the House of Haddo, where the Earl and John Burnett were at that time; that at this meeting it was agreed that the said John Burnett should give the deponent his bond to restore his son to him, within the space of a twelvemonth, under the penalty of £50 sterling; that the deponent did not get the said bond, but that the Earl of Aberdeen promised that he

would cause John Burnett to grant the bond ; that the deponent thinks, to the best of his remembrance, this meeting was in the end of summer 1742 ; that shortly thereafter Lord Aberdeen died ; and that the deponent having enlisted as a soldier (no doubt trappaned by these worthy characters) was sent over to Flanders, where he served some years ; and, upon his return, John Burnett was become bankrupt, and had left the country ; and the deponent knows not whether his son be dead or alive, having never heard of him since he was carried from Aberdeen, and never got the bond before mentioned from John Burnett.

From these vouchers it appears that the trade of carrying off boys to the plantations in America, and selling them there as slaves, was carried on at Aberdeen so far down as the year 1744 with an amazing effrontery. It was not carried on in secret, or by stealth, but publicly and by open violence. The whole neighbouring country were alarmed at it. They would not allow their children to go to Aberdeen for fear of being kidnaped. When they kept them at home, emissaries were sent out by merchants, who took them by violence from their parents, and carried them off. If a child was amissing, it was immediately suspected he was kidnaped by the Aberdeen merchants ; and, upon inquiry, that was often found to be the case. And so little pains was taken to conceal them when in possession of the merchants, that they were driven in flocks through the town, under the inspection of a keeper, who overawed them with a whip, like so many sheep carrying to the slaughter. Not only were these flocks of unhappy children locked up in barns and places of private confinement, but even the tolbooth and public work-houses were made receptacles for them. Parties of worthless fellows, like press-gangs, were hired to patrol the streets, and seize by force such boys as seemed proper subjects for the slave-trade. The practice was but too general. The names of no less than fifteen merchants concerned in this trade are mentioned in the proof : and, when so many are singled out by the witnesses, it is hardly to be imagined it would be confined to these only, but that they must have omitted many who were either principals or abettors in carrying on this infamous traffic. Some of the witnesses deponed that it was the general opinion that the Magistrates themselves had a hand in it. But what exceeds every proof, and is equal to an acknowledgement, is that, from a book of accounts, recovered on leading the proof, recording the expense laid out on one cargo of these unfortunate objects, it appears that no less than sixty-nine boys and girls were car-

ried over to America along with me, all of whom suffered the same fate of being shipwrecked, and many of them that of being sold as slaves.

After such a demonstration of my veracity, and the maltreatment I had formerly suffered, the reader, it is believed, cannot but reflect with some degree of indignation on the iniquitous sentence of the Magistrates of Aberdeen, and commiserate the dismal situation I was reduced to in consequence of that tyrannical decision. Stript at once of my all, and of my only means of subsistence, branded with the character of a vagrant and impostor, and stigmatized as such in the *Aberdeen Journal*; banished from the capital in the county wherein I was born, and left to the mercy of the wide world, loaded with all the infamy that malice could invent;—what a deplorable situation this! I could not help considering myself in a more wretched state, to be reduced to submit to such barbarities in a civilized country, and the place of my nativity, than when a captive among the savage Indians, who boast not of humanity.

Conscious of my own integrity, and fired with resentment at the indignities poured upon me by this arbitrary decree, I was, by the advice and assistance of some worthy friends, induced to raise a process of oppression and damages against these my judges, before the Court of Session, the supreme tribunal of justice. And as the Lord Ordinary was pleased to allow both parties a proof at large, under the sanction of his authority, I ventured to revisit the city from which I had been formerly banished, where, in spite of all the disadvantages with which power, wealth, and influence could overwhelm me, I was enabled to lead such a proof as convinced that most honourable and impartial bench, to which I now appealed, that I had met with the highest injury and injustice, and induced them to decern a suitable redress. For the satisfaction of the reader, the substance of this process is subjoined as before mentioned.

On my arrival in America, luckily for me, I fell into the hands of one of my own countrymen, who had undergone the same fate himself, and who used me in a more tender manner than many of my companions in slavery had to boast of. No thanks, however, to my kidnappers; for, if the devil had come in the shape of a man to purchase us, with money enough in his pocket, it would have been as readily accepted as of the honestest and most humane man in the world.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE PROCESS BETWEEN PETER WILLIAMSON
AND THE MAGISTRATES OF ABERDEEN.

The case between the Magistrates of Aberdeen and me stands thus, without disguising the truth in any the most minute particular. I therefore appeal to the unbiassed judgment of the candid reader whether, after the unmerited maltreatment I suffered from the arbitrary proceedings of these Magistrates, merely for relating a simple but disagreeable fact; I say I submit it, whether I was not entitled to sue for redress from a higher tribunal. The motives or principles upon which they acted, in their irregular prosecution against me, in which they were both my accusers and judges, I shall not pretend to determine; but, from the proof before inserted, the reader will hardly be at a loss to form a conjecture. In order to ascertain the power of a magistracy, it is necessary to have recourse to the original institution of it. That liberty which the constitution of this country considers as its favourite object, is the result of the equipoise which our laws have established between the authority of the Magistrates and the rights of the people. As the relative duties of the society must be enforced by the Magistrate, and the compliance of the law exacted from the citizens by means of his authority, all the power that is necessary for these salutary purposes is vested in him; and, in the due execution of it, he is not only entitled to the protection of the law, but is an object of its veneration. Yet the same principles that have thus armed him with authority for the benefit of society, have wisely imposed upon him a restraint from abusing it. Sensible that authority improperly used may become the most dreadful instrument of oppression, the law has not only declared wilful malversation in office to be a crime, but to those who have suffered by the proceedings of Magistrates, whether through inattention or ignorance (for ignorance is never blameless in a Magistrate), it has given an action of oppression and damages, for the reparation of the injury the private party has suffered.

In this light did I consider the harsh sentence of the Magistrates of Aberdeen against me. Had they acted according to the established forms of all Courts of Justice, their proceedings would at least have had some colour of regularity, though their sentence would not have been less iniquitous. Why was I not complained of by a party having interest in the cause? Why was not the complaint served upon me, and I appointed to give in answers? Why were not the legal inducias, or days,

allowed me to prepare for my defence? All these forms were neglected or despised. The Magistrates themselves instigated the complaints—they proceeded to judge upon it without service—without allowing inducæ—and without answers. It is evident, therefore, they acted not as Magistrates, but as private oppressors.

Banished from the capital of the county wherein I was born, and stript of my all, I now bethought myself where or how to apply for redress. In this view I pursued my journey to Edinburgh; but ignorant of the law, and unacquainted with any of its members, equally destitute of money and friends, and labouring under the reflections which the calumnious advertisement published by the Magistrates threw on my character, I was utterly at a loss to whom or in what manner I should apply for direction. From this dilemma, however, I was soon relieved by the assistance of kind Providence, who threw me in the way of a gentleman versant in law—a gentleman of knowledge, character, and integrity, by whose advice I was conducted, and by whose interest I was supported, from the infancy to the conclusion of my process. On a fair relation of my grievances, the injuries I suffered appeared to him so flagrant that he did not hesitate a moment to declare his opinion, that I was not only entitled to ample damages from my persecutors, but that the Court of Session would find no difficulty to award these, with full costs of suit. It is unnecessary here to take up the readers' time in running over minutely the different steps of the process from the beginning. Suffice it to say, that a process of oppression and damages was commenced, at my instance, against the Magistrates of Aberdeen, wherein the Lord Ordinary allowed both parties a proof of the facts alleged on either side. And, accordingly, proof was taken in part at Edinburgh and partly at Aberdeen, of which the reader has seen a specimen in the preceding pages. I shall only observe here that my personal presence being necessary on this occasion at the last-mentioned place, I set out from Edinburgh to Aberdeen in September, 1760; and, though I had not the least knowledge of, or connection with, any single evidence I might bring, yet the trade of kidnapping was so flagrant in that country, and had left such an impression on the minds of the people, that I was under no difficulty to bring a complete proof of the practice by a number of persons who had suffered by it, being deprived of their children.

And here I cannot forbear doing justice to the conduct of the gentleman who was named as commissioner to take the depositions of the witnesses on the part of my opponents. During

the various steps of procedure in leading the proof, wherein I met with all the obstructions the malice of my enemies could throw in my way, he acted a most candid and ingenious part.

After a short dependence, the cause at last came to be advised in course before the Court of Session by memorials on the proof, when, after hearing the parties at the bar at full length, their Lordships were pleased, on the 22d February, 1762, to pronounce the following interlocutor:—

“The Lords having advised the state of the process, testimonies of the witnesses adduced, writs produced, with the memorials given in *hinc inde*, and having heard parties' procurators thereon; Find the libel relevant, and proven; and find the defenders, conjunctly and severally, liable to the pursuer in damages, and modify the same to the sum of £100 sterling, and decern; and find the defenders also, conjunctly and severally, liable to the pursuer in the expenses of this process, and of the extract of the decret, as the same shall be certified by the collector of the clerk's fees; for which the Lords declare the defenders to be personally liable, and that the same shall be no burden upon the town of Aberdeen. And ordain an account of said expenses to be given in; and ordain the account book mentioned in the state, and produced upon oath by Walter Cochrane, and signed by the Lord President of this date, to remain in the hands of the Clerk of this process, till further order of the Court.”

Against this interlocutor the Magistrates presented a reclaiming petition, craving either to be assoilzied from the process; or at least, that the damages awarded should be modified. To this petition is subjoined the following curious letter:—

COPY OF A LETTER FROM WILLIAM DAVIDSON AND JAMES JOFF,
LATE BAILLIES OF ABERDEEN, TO WALTER SCOTT, W.S.

ABERDEEN, February 4, 1764.

SIR,—We are sorry to find by yours of 30th past, that there is a sentence pronounced against us in Williamson's process, whereby we are decerned to pay him a very large sum out of our private pockets.

We think it necessary to inform you that our conduct and intentions, with regard to our sentence against him, have been entirely misunderstood. We can, with the greatest integrity, declare that, at the time of pronouncing that sentence, neither

of us knew, directly or indirectly, that Walter Cochrane, the depute clerk, was any way concerned in transporting boys to America, or that there ever was in being the book he produced in proof; that neither of us had ever any interest or concern in such trade; that we never knew, and did not believe, that any men and boys were ever transported from Aberdeen to America contrary to law; that we considered the paragraph in Williamson's book, respecting the merchants in Aberdeen, to be a very calumnious and reproachful aspersion on them which they did not deserve; that Williamson himself had the appearance of an idle stroller, and could give no account of himself, and had procured this pamphlet to be composed for him, of such shocking circumstances, in order the more easily to impose upon, and draw money from the credulous vulgar; and, upon the whole, that we had no motive or interest, either on our own account or any person whatever, or any prejudice against Williamson (having never seen nor heard of him) to induce us to pronounce the sentence against him; that we did it purely, as that we judged material justice to vindicate the character of those we believed to be innocent and were unjustly reflected upon; and that, whatever in the sentence appears to their Lordships to be either oppressive or illegal, proceeded entirely from error in judgement, and not from any sinister design; so that, however far the sentence has been wrong, we are ready most freely to make any declaration that may be necessary, that it proceeded from the most innocent intention.

Under these circumstances you will easily perceive how much we were surprised in reading yours, giving an account of the sentence against us; and how hard a thing it is to be decerned to pay a sum of money, as a fine, for doing what we considered to be our duty,—We are, &c.

W. DAVIDSON.
JAMES JOPP.

This letter, however, did not avail their cause. It was in vain to deny their being in the knowledge that such an illicit species of traffic was carried on by some of the merchants in Aberdeen, when it was done in so public a manner that the meanest residenter in the city observed it; when the *fama clamosa* of kidnapping overspread the whole country, so that the poor people, whose business led them frequently to town, were afraid to carry their children along with them, lest they should be picked up and transported to the plantations. In the end they insinuate that their sentence against me proceeded from an error in judgment, and not from any sinister design; and that they were willing to make any declaration

necessary to evince the innocency of their intentions. But if a sentence calculated for the suppression of truth, and to prevent the detection of a commerce the most illegal and most destructive to society, can be said to proceed from no sinister design, then every sentence that has a tendency to screen the guilty, and encourage those monsters who make a traffic of the persons and liberties of their fellow-creatures, must be accounted innocent. The whole of the procedure of the Magistrates against me appears to have been directed to this single end. From this view they first caused the whole impression of my book to be seized, and those offensive tell-truth leaves to be burned, that they might not revive the memory of this villainous trade, and rise in judgment against their brother merchants. *2nd*, In order to make the surer work of it, they extorted from me the declaration inserted p. 227, under the terror of imprisonment; and caused publish the same in the newspapers, in order to stigmatize my character, and brand me with the infamy of being an impostor and a liar. *And, lastly*, they banished me the city, lest I should retract my declaration, and have an opportunity to spread the truth of my former assertions. Their schemes, however, had an effect the very reverse of what they intended. Instead of suppressing the truth, their proceedings have proved the means of bringing it to light and confirming it by indubitable evidence, and so opening a scene of the grossest impiety, barbarity, and wickedness.

To the above reclaiming petition answers were given in on my part; and the Lords, after reconsidering the merits of the cause, were pleased to adhere to their former interlocutor.

Thus ended this process of oppression, carried on by a poor man against the Magistracy of one of the most opulent and most respectable burghs in Scotland.

It is the peculiar happiness of this land of liberty to be blessed with a supreme court, wherein justice is dispensed with an equal hand to the poor and rich—wherein the cause of the king and the beggar is weighed in the balance of equity and law, and divided in favour of him whose scale preponderates. Happy is that nation whose judges are men of integrity, uninfluenced by power, unbiassed by party, and untainted by corruption! Such become the guardians of the liberties and properties of the people, the protectors of the innocent, the scourges of the guilty, the supporters of the weak, and the terrors of the tyrant and oppressor. Such are the members of that honourable tribunal to which I appealed my cause, who redressed my grievances, and allowed

me such compensation for those acts of violence and oppression which I had suffered from my tyrannical persecutors, as they in their wisdom thought just and equitable. Nor must I omit to pay a tribute of gratitude to those worthy and learned gentlemen who appeared in my cause at the bar, and who nobly exerted themselves in opening up and displaying that scene of oppression and lawless persecution wherewith I had been harassed, and that without any prospect of fee or reward. In particular, I must acknowledge my obligations to that learned lawyer who was assigned me as counsel by their Lordships when my circumstances could not afford the price of a consultation. He generously embarked in my cause, and, by force of argument, law, and eloquence, exposed the injustice done me, and the weakness of my opponent's reasonings, in such a light that my plea became clear as noonday, and obvious to the meanest capacity.

I shall trouble the reader no farther on this subject; my chief intent of publishing the narrative of my process, being to warn gentlemen in power and station not to abuse them by a lawless exercise of their authority against the poor and innocent; for they may be assured that power will not sanctify oppression, nor will justice be hoodwinked by riches.

On the other hand, the weak and friendless need not despair of obtaining redress, though groaning under the yoke of tyranny; let them but have the resolution to apply to the College of Justice; Providence will throw friends in their way; their oppressors shall hide their heads; and the cruelties they have committed be retaliated upon them.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "ABERDEEN JOURNAL."

THE first number was published on 5th January, 1748, and the following is the only advertisement which appeared in it:—

ADVERTISEMENT.

That, on the 29th of last month, were amissing, Three Promissory Notes of the Aberdeen Company's—one for £10, and Two for Twenty Shillings each; and of the Bank of Scotland, Two for Twenty Shillings each.—Whoever brings them to the Publisher of this Paper shall have Two Guineas Reward, and no questions asked.

1748.

We hear that the wood of Glentanner is not yet extinguished, notwithstanding some hundreds of people are cutting and clearing away in order to stop it. It is reckoned that there are three miles of it consumed, and considerable damage done to the young trees. The two fellows that set it on fire are fled.

On Wednesday last, James Cumming, of Breda, Esq., was married to Miss Vera Chalmers, a most agreeable young lady, daughter to Provost Wm. Chalmers.

By order of Mr. David Dalrymple, Advocate, his Majesty's Sheriff-Depute for the Shire of Aberdeen.

That whereas, by the law now in force, it is provided that no man or boy in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, others than such as shall be employed as officers and soldiers in his Majesty's service, shall, from and after the 25th Dec., 1748, on any pretence whatsoever, wear or put on those parts of the Highland dress commonly called the *Plaid*, *Philibeg*, or *Kilt*, or any of them, under the penalty of imprisonment, without bail, during the space of six months; or (if judged fit to serve his Majesty as a soldier) of being delivered to any officer belonging to his Majesty's forces, to serve therein. And whereas such as shall, from and after the said 25th December, offend against the law in this respect will be prosecuted with all rigour. This public intimation is therefore made to render such transgressors of the law inexcusable.

1749.

On Friday, being the anniversary of Bishop Blaze, who invented the mystery and trade of wool-combing, 1463 years ago, it was observed here in the following manner, with the applause of the whole town:—The wool-combers, above thirty in number, being handsomely dressed, met at a tavern in the morning, chose Abraham Major to represent the Bishop. Francis Newman, captain; John Strong, lieutenant; and William Millar, ensign, adorned themselves with woollen sashes and cockades of orange and blue, and made a grand procession through the city in the following order:—The captain first, with an officer's pike in his hand; the bishop next, seated on a white horse, with a book in his right and

a loaded comb in his left hand, having two boys of the trade dressed in white leading his horse; the lieutenant in his proper place, and the ensign carrying the colours of party-coloured wool; the town's music and drums beating and playing by turns; and all the gentlemen combers marched two and two. They ended the forenoon's procession with an elegant dinner at the tavern where they set out, in company with the merchants who first encouraged and still employ them. After dinner, they walked in the same manner, with the gentlemen, their employers, in the front; the bishop on foot, his train supported by the two boys. Met again in the evening in the great room of the tavern, and spent the night in drinking many loyal healths, success to their employers, the ancient trade of wool-combing, and all the branches of the woollen manufacture.

On Saturday last, James Aberdein, having been convicted of his being guilty of cutting a young birch tree, which was growing in the enclosures of Hilton, by the Justices, they ordained the said James Aberdein to be returned back to prison in the Tolbooth of Aberdeen, and to remain for the space of four months, and to be publicly whipt through the town of Aberdeen by the hand of the common hangman, upon the last Friday of each of the said four months, between the hours of twelve and two, and thereafter to remain in prison till he find sufficient caution for his good behaviour for the space of two years.

We hear from London that George Turner of Wateridge-muir, Sheriff-Clerk for the County of Aberdeen, was last week married at St. Michael's, Cornhill, to Miss Peggy Cattnach of Aberdeen, a lady endowed with every amiable qualification.

By a private letter from London, we learn that Robert Udney, merchant there, son to Mr. James Udney, advocate in this place, was married at Oxford, on the 13th current, to Miss Hougham, an agreeable young lady with a fortune of £6000.

1750.

By order of the Honourable the Magistrates of Aberdeen.

Whereas, Miss Eleanora Grant was elected sewing mistress by the Magistrates and Town Council of Aberdeen, is now come to this city, and proposes to open her school in tea &c

twelve days, in Convener Auldjo's brick house in the head of the Upperkirkgate—these are, therefore, advertising all who incline to be taught any manner of needle-work, washing, clear-starching, and many other parts of education, fit for accomplishing a gentlewoman, that they can have access to enter to the said Miss Eleanora Grant's school in a fortnight hence, where they will be educate as above, and genteelly used by her and her doctrix. She also proposes to board such of the scholars as incline to lodge with her, and will be ready to commune with any person in relation to the board wages and school fees.

It may not be amiss to inform such of our readers as are, or may be, engaged in law-suits, that, as the Council House is now pulled down, in order to be rebuilt, the Sheriff and Commissary Courts are holden in the Synod House; so that they who have business with either, instead of waiting in the Castle-gate, may take a turn in the Churchyard.

On Tuesday last, Robert Gordon's Hospital was opened in presence of a Committee of the Managers, when fourteen boys were received, genteelly clothed, and are to be educated in terms of the Mortification. In a short time the number of boys is to be completed.

Last Thursday, Sitton Carr was married in this town to Miss Bell Forbes, daughter to the Hon. Sir Alexander Forbes of Foveran, a young lady of great beauty, and possessed of all the amiable virtues that can render happy the nuptial state.

On Wednesday, Robert Pirie, servant to the minister of the Cbrach, was brought to town, and imprisoned for wearing the philibeg.

Yesternight, was married here Mr. Walter Cochran, Depute Town-Clerk, to Miss Nelly Udny, daughter to James Udny, advocate, a young lady of distinguished merit and virtue.

Last Tuesday, Alex. Aberdein of Cairnbulg, late Provost of this city, was married at Montrose to Miss Nelly Carnegie, sister to Sir James Carnegie of Pitarrow, a young lady of celebrated beauty and distinguished merit.

1751.

Last week, a venerable well-meaning couple in the parish of Bellie, Banffshire, warmed with a feeble ray of their declining sun, in spite of old age and its attendants, boldly ventured on lawful wedlock. The man is ninety-six and the woman seventy years of age. The same week the contagion spread to the neighbourhood, where a man and a woman, both aged eighty-nine, followed the laudable and pious example.

1752.

On Tuesday last, being the first day of the annual fairs, revived by the City of Aberdeen, in order to encourage the same, the Magistrates and Council invited fifty or sixty burghers to ride the market along with them. Accordingly, they convened in Castle Street, at eleven o'clock of said day, when a detachment of about thirty young men were sent off to the Town-House for the City Standard, and, having joined the corps, the procession began through the town, preceded by the Town's officers and a band of music, and went on in good order to the market-place, being a mile and a half west of the town, where the market was proclaimed by sound of trumpet, amidst the acclamations of thousands. Afterwards the Magistrates invited the above gentlemen, and many other gentlemen and ladies who were in the fair, to an entertainment in a large tent prepared on purpose, and, after drinking his Majesty's health, the Royal Family, and a great many other healths, prosperity to the city, and success to the markets, they again mounted their horses and returned in the same good order to the city.

His Majesty's birth-day was observed in the most loyal manner by the Magistrates, Town Council, Masters of the College, and Professors of Old Aberdeen, and gentlemen of the College. From their wonted spirit of encouraging home manufacture, they drank nothing at their entertainment but punch made of whisky shrub.

As we have frequent solicitations from the country for information of the success of the operation of cutting for the stone, and, as the gentlemen at a distance are desirous to know the fate of those poor people whom they are pleased to recommend to the Infirmary, we take this opportunity of acquainting them that a young man of twenty-two, and a boy of twelve

years of age, were both cut for the stone in this Infirmary by Dr. Livingston, and, at present, are in a very promising way of speedy recovery ; and, on Thursday last, a gentleman, aged fifty-two, underwent the same operation in a private room, and is in a fair way of being well.

1753.

On Tuesday morning, James Miller was brought to the bar, and was sentenced to be hung on Friday the 16th November. The poor creature received his doom with sensible concern, and only begged of the Judges the benefit of light that he might read the Bible and other good books for the short time he had to live.

On Monday the 1st of October, came on the trial of James Smith, saddler, and late Deacon Convener of the Trades here, criminally pursued at the instance of Alexander Livingstone of Countesswells, late Provost of Aberdeen, charged with having injured Mr. Livingstone's character by saying publicly in the street that he was the principal cause of the high price of meal in 1752. After examining a great many witnesses, the jury was enclosed about ten o'clock at night, and, at the same hour next morning, gave in the following verdict :—" We all with one voice find it proven that Provost Livingstone concurred with the Town Council of Aberdeen in every measure taken by them for providing the city with meal, and that he retailed meal of his own cheaper than what it was given in town during the last year's dearth, and find the injurious expression uttered by the said James Smith in presence of John Copland, proven as libelled." His Lordship delayed passing sentence till next day ; but it was agreed before the Court sat down that the panel, James Smith, should beg Provost Livingstone's pardon at the bar, which he did accordingly, and was then dismissed *simpliciter*.

What was inserted in this paper of the 23d instant, as publisher of the *Aberdeen Journal*, I hereby acknowledge was rash and indiscreet for me in publishing and printing the same ; and I hereby declare that I am now satisfied that what was asserted with respect to the usage of the meal retailers by the rioters was a false representation of the true facts ; and that the paper given and printed by me in the paper of the 9th instant was an untrue account of the affair between Provost Livingstone and J. Smith, and printed by me in the *Journal*

of the 23d current, which was, by sentence of the Magistrates, yesterday publicly burned by the hands of the common hangman.

1755.

Last Sunday night, was married Dr. Alex. Rose, physician in this city, to Miss Nelly Middleton, daughter to the late Captain Alex. Middleton, Comptroller of the Customs at this port, and niece to Brigadier-General John Middleton of Seaton, a young lady of distinguished beauty and superlative merit.

On Thursday the 2d current, in the New Church of Aberdeen, there was given, before a very numerous congregation, a specimen of church music, as now performed in several parishes of this county, by a number of the parishioners of Kintore and Fintray, at the desire and in the presence of the Magistrates and many of the principal inhabitants of this city, when a variety of tunes were sung, some in three, others in four parts. The whole was carried on with great decency, and heard with the deepest attention by everybody present, who were greatly surprised to hear such numbers singing the different parts all in perfect harmony, and in perfect good time.

On Sunday, St. Nicholas Church, in this city, being now rebuilt, and neatly and elegantly furnished, the same was opened with divine worship. There was a numerous congregation, who seemed highly pleased with the accommodation and contrivance of the seats, and with the harmony of the church music as newly reformed.

1756.

The Provost having received letters on Tuesday last, there was a very hot press here for mariners and seafaring men, which was conducted with great secrecy, vigilance, and activity. The Provost having concerted the plan of operation with Colonel Lambert, commanding General Holmes' regiment, in the forenoon of that day parties were privately sent out to guard all the avenues leading to and from the town, as also the harbour mouth; and, immediately before the press began, guards were placed on all the ports of the town. A little after two o'clock, the Provost, Magistrates, Constables, and Town Sergeants, with the assistance of the military, and directed by Colonel Lambert, laid hold on every sailor and seafaring man that could be found within the harbour and

and, in less than an hour, there were about 100 taken into custody, and, after examination, thirty-five were committed to jail as fit for service. Since that time several more sailors have been apprehended, as also landsmen of base and dissolute lives; and, on Sunday last, were brought in from Peterhead, and committed to jail, six sailors, who were sent to town under a guard of General Holmes' regiment. There are now from forty to fifty in prison on the above account, and the press still continues.

That subscriptions for the newspapers at the Exchange Coffee-house, Aberdeen, is now opened for the year 1757; and, as it is the sincere intention of Mr. Wyllie to accommodate the gentlemen who have been so good hitherto as countenance his Coffee-house he proposes, for the amusement of their leisure hours, to add to his papers a Magazine, to lie on the table, and to be continued monthly for the year ensuing. The subscriptions and articles to be seen on the Coffee-room table; and the countenance and company of the former subscribers is expected by their most humble servant, ALEXANDER WYLLIE.

Whereas, it has been very long and too justly complained of in the City of Aberdeen, that gentlemen and others, who either travelled for pleasure, or were under the necessity of taking a journey upon business of the utmost importance, could not be served in the most expeditious method to accomplish their designs—these are to give notice that William Tillieray, at the Gallowgate-head, has furnished himself with a new close post-chaise, which he proposes to let with a sufficient driver and good horses, at the ordinary prices. He likewise keeps at all times, and to be got ready on an hour's warning, a set of good saddle and chaise horses. Any gentlemen or ladies who incline an airing in said chaise, a mile or two from town, are to pay 2s. It is therefore hoped that, as the said William Tillieray has been at such pains and expenses for the service of the public, he will meet with suitable encouragement.

KING'S COLLEGE, OLD ABERDEEN.

The Masters of the said College do earnestly recommend to parents, that their money expended upon their sons at the College may pass through the hands either of one of the Masters or of some other discreet person in town, so as the Masters may have access to see the account of their expense. And, to prevent any imposition on parents or others as to the

expense of education at the said College, it is hereby notified, that the whole necessary expense of a student during the session of seven months, exclusive of clothes, books, and pocket-money, amounts to between £9 and £10 at the second table, and £11 and £12 at the first.

On Thursday, died here, in the forty-sixth year of his age, as justly as universally lamented, the affectionate husband, tender parent, encouraging master, and warm and sincere friend, Alexander Aberdein of Cairnbulg, Esquire, late Provost in this city. When the mournful announcement was known, the flag at the Castle-hill and ships' colours in the harbour were hoisted in a drooping way, as is usual on account of any public loss, and remained so till yesterday, the day of interment. At one o'clock, the bells began to toll, and the minute-gun fired from St. Catherine's Hill, which continued till five, when the corpse was lifted. The pall was supported by six Provosts (the present Provost being one of the number), and placed on the right hand of the chief mourner. Thus attended and accompanied by a great many gentlemen of distinction in town and country, they proceeded to the Churchyard, when the interment was notified by a round of nine guns, which concluded the doleful ceremony.

1757.

Same day was married Thomas Forbes of Tillienought, Esq., to Miss Christian Cumming, eldest daughter of Geo. Cumming, Esq. of Pitullie, a most beautiful and agreeable young lady.

Whereas, at the General Meeting of the Commissioners of Supply for the County of Aberdeen in May last, a proposal was made by a person of distinction for recommending it to the publishers of both the Aberdeen newspapers to unite their said papers, and publish but one weekly, by which those in said county, who had occasion to advertise any subject for sale or otherwise, would save half the expense of the said advertisement; which proposal having been communicated to the publishers of both papers, and they, having a due regard to the interests of the county, have agreed to publish but one paper weekly from and after the 1st Tuesday of March next. And, as the publishers of the *Intelligencer* are from that time to have a concern in the *Aberdeen Journal*, the *Intelligencer* will not be published after the last Tuesday of February.

Last week, one of the landed gentlemen of this county took a method as uncommon as commendable to lower the price of meal. He sent in a quantity from his own giral to the common market; the ruling price at that time was 1s. per peck. The gentleman attended in person, and ordered it to be sold at 11½d. The market then fell to his price, on which he lowered it ½d. When the market came to 11d., he lowered another ½d., and so on, while his meal lasted, which for that time made the market very reasonable, and was of great service to the poor, who doubtless would be rendered extremely happy by a generous imitation of such a laudable and truly Christian example.

1758.

As Mr. Rocke observed an advertisement, last week, of a Concert for the benefit of the Poor House, that, without being advised of it, he was mentioned to perform on the Psaltery; he begs leave to give notice that he never performs on that instrument for any benefit but his own. But, as this is for the benefit of the Poor, and may be agreeable to the Magistrates, and other gentlemen whom Mr. Rocke is willing to oblige to the utmost of his power, he designs to perform on the Psaltery at the said Concert; but begs leave for the future to be excused from playing on that instrument on any occasion whatever.

By order of the Magistrates and Council of Aberdeen.

Whereas, the Magistrates of Aberdeen and Council had formerly advertised that they wanted a well-qualified and attested schoolmistress for teaching all manner of sewing and other things that young ladies are usually taught, in consequence of which they have received several recommendations on behalf of teachers at Edinburgh and elsewhere; and, having taken the whole under their serious consideration, they unanimously found that Miss Betty Forbes, of Edinburgh, had produced the most ample certificates and testimonials of her being the best qualified of all the candidates, and that she was unanimously elected schoolmistress of Aberdeen; and the Magistrates and Council foresaid do hereby certify that the said Miss Betty Forbes is well attested as a young woman of the strictest principles of virtue, honor, and honesty; that she has integrity and gentleness of manners, joined to the most rigid modesty and morals; that she teaches white seam and samplers; washing and dressing; coloured work of various sorts; Dresden work and Dresden marsailing; gum flowers; pongs.

in silver, silk, and enamel embroidery; shell-work; drawing patterns for sewing; painting flowers and water-colours, in silk and paper; illuminating prints; working fringes, tassels, jump-straps, watch and cane strings, cords and loopings of all sorts, with several other things of the like nature; and the said Miss Betty Forbes will set up a public school in Aberdeen precisely at Whitsunday next, if not sooner, as the Magistrates have wrote for the said Miss Betty Forbes to repair to Aberdeen directly. Therefore all ladies and gentlemen may depend upon having their children sufficiently taught at Aberdeen in all genteel parts of education.

1759.

Upon the 9th instant, were imprisoned here, by order of the Magistrates, Janet Shinney, Margaret Barrack, and Mary Duncan. Upon trial, they were convicted, by their own confessions, of being in the practice, for some time past, of stealing and resetting tea and sugar, and several other kinds of merchants' goods, from a merchant in town. And the Magistrates have sentenced them to be carried to the Market Cross of Aberdeen, on Thursday the 31st, at twelve o'clock at noon, and to be tied to a stake bareheaded for one hour by the executioner, with a rope about each of their necks, and a paper on their breasts denoting their crime; and to be removed to prison, and taken down again on Friday the 1st of June, at twelve o'clock, and to stand an hour at the Market Cross in the manner above mentioned; and thereafter to be transported through the whole streets of the town in a cart bareheaded (for the greater ignominy) with the executioner and tuck of drum, and to be banished the burgh and liberties in all time coming.

1760.

ADVERTISEMENT.

That the House of Tillynaught is to be set this year for Goats' Whey Quarters. Any person inclining to drink Goat's Whey may apply to George Chapman, tenant in Tillynaught, who keeps plenty of goats, and has plenty of pasture for them.

On Friday night last, there was a *mourning concert*, at the Concert Hall, on account of his late Majesty's death. There were upwards of 100 ladies, all in deep mourning, besides a

great number of gentlemen. There were anthems sung, and the music solemn and suitable to the occasion ; and the whole performance was reckoned by *connoisseurs* exquisitely good, and gave great satisfaction to the audience.

1761.

THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE THE THIRD.

Tuesday last, being the day appointed for the coronation of his Most Sacred Majesty George the Third and our Most Gracious Queen Charlotte, was celebrated here with the greatest demonstrations of joy ever witnessed.

At sun-rising, a great gun was fired, on which the flags on the Castle-hill and Block-house were hoisted, and immediately thereafter the whole ships in the harbour displayed their colours.

Between eleven and twelve forenoon, an anthem was performed in the Marischal College Hall by the gentlemen of the Music Society, assisted with other voices (the music composed by Mr. Peacock*), where were present a most brilliant company of ladies, the Magistrates and Council, the Earl of Buchan, Lord Forbes, Lord Prestongrange, and many gentlemen of distinction ; the Members of the University ; the Ministers of the City and Presbytery ; the Officers of the Military and of the Customs and Excise ; most of the principal citizens and several strangers—amounting in all to the number of about 500 person.

The audience was greatly delighted with the performance, being the best of the kind ever performed here.

From the Marischal College Hall, the Magistrates and Council, accompanied with the noblemen and gentlemen present at the entertainment, and, escorted by a party of General Pettitot's Regiment lying here, marched in procession down the Broadgate, and round the Castlegate—preceded by a band of

* Francis Peacock was one of the principal members of the Musical Society, and taught dancing in Aberdeen during the latter half of the last century and part of the present. He published a pretty large treatise on the art, which is still to be met with in old book-shops. Peacock's Close in Castle Street derives its name from his having built several houses in it, one of which he occupied. He was very hospitable, and the principal inhabitants of the town were often his guests. A few individuals who were his pupils are still living, and recollect upon him opening his balls when nearly eighty years of age. The ball used to commence at four o'clock in the afternoon, and sometimes continue till four o'clock next morning.

music, composed of drums, fifes, and French horns, performed by the gentlemen of the Music Society—to a theatre erected at the Cross, the tables of which were covered with carpets, and the rails with mazarine blue cloth, where the company drank to the health of his Majesty, Queen Charlotte, the Princess of Wales, and the Royal Family; at each of which healths there was a volley of small arms discharged by the military, and a round of great guns fired from the Castle-hill. Betwixt the healths several songs, adapted to the day, were sung upon the Cross, accompanied with martial music, and fruit and a great many medals were thrown over the theatre among the populace.

The ladies being invited to the Town-Hall were, immediately after the procession, along with the noblemen and gentlemen, entertained by the Magistrates and Council with music and sweetmeats; and, in the meantime, the different Corporations made processions in order round the Castlegate and all the streets in the town, and having the ensigns of their different employ displayed, which they continued to do most of the afternoon.

The wool-combers had cockades, sashes, and colours of wool dyed blue and orange; and the linen weavers, free by a late Act of Parliament, had a piece of fine Holland of their own manufacture, consisting of sixty yards, which they formed into a canopy, on the top of which was displayed a crown, which was properly supported during the whole of their procession, which, with the others, made a very handsome figure.

During the procession, and while the loyal healths were drunk in the theatre, a fountain at the Cross exhibited fine water-works, and set on the top thereof had an imperial crown, which moved briskly round, a laurel in its right hand and a *jet d'eau* in the left, and the angles in the fountain represented the sun, moon, and stars.

At five in the afternoon, the Magistrates and Council, along with the foresaid noblemen and gentlemen, repaired to the Town-Hall, where the healths of his Majesty, &c. were repeated, and a number of other loyal healths were also drunk, under the discharge of a volley of small arms from the military, and rounds of great guns from the Castle-hill.

The Convener and Corporation having invited the Magistrates and many of the noblemen and gentlemen to the Trades'-Hall, they repaired thither between seven and eight o'clock, where the foresaid loyal healths were repeated under the discharge of volleys at each from the military, and were saluted in going there and returning hence with sky rockets and other fire-

works played off from the top of the gate, which was finely illuminated and ornamented with several emblematical devices.

Between eight and nine at night, very curious fireworks were played off from the Cross, to the great entertainment of all the beholders. In the evening, there was an assembly in the Mason-Hall.

As we mentioned formerly in our paper that there had been no prisoners, either civil or criminal, within the jail of this city for several weeks past, we have now the pleasure to inform the public that there were no trials, either civil or criminal, before the Judges at their circuit here; and that, being invited by the Magistrates to take a glass in the Town-Hall, after the entertainment the Magistrates presented each of the Judges—the King's Advocate-Depute and the Justiciary Clerk—with a pair of white gloves, on account of their having had a maiden assize, which they accepted with great pleasure, and wished that both their successors and they might have frequent opportunities of meeting with the same present.

On Thursday, the first stone of a building designed for a hot-house was laid in the garden of Belville, near this place, belonging by lease to William Reid, gardener there. The master and fraternity of gardeners, with several others, gave them countenance and assistance at the ceremony, and afterwards drank his Majesty's health and several other toasts suitable to the occasion, such as the Magistrates of Aberdeen and several of the nobility and gentry of this and the neighbouring counties, who are patrons and promoters of this curious and laudable undertaking, which certainly merits the encouragement of the public, as it is intended to propagate and bring to perfection pine apples and several other delicious tropical fruits and valuable exotics, which the chilling asperity of our climate will not produce in the ordinary and natural way, even though assisted by the most favourable circumstances of soil and situation.

1763.

That the 5s Notes drawn by James More of Stoneywood on Robert Byres, at Edinburgh, continue to be paid by him as formerly. Any who want 20s. Notes may apply to Alexander Macraw, at Robert Mitchell's, vintner in Aberdeen.

1764.

Last week, a complaint was brought before the Magistrates,

at the instance of the Procurator-Fiscal, against Thomas Benzie, indweller of Aberdeen, commonly known by the name of

DOCTOR BENZIE,

for pretending to practice in physic and chirurgery within the city and liberties to the prejudice of the health and danger of the lives of the lieges, and particularly for imposing upon one John Low, from the parish of Fetteresso, who had come to town in order to be cut of a cancer on his lip in the Infirmary, whom Benzie persuaded that he would cut so well as to be in case to go home in a few days, that he cut the poor man's lip in such a manner that is impossible to prevent the deformity occasioned by the operation being improperly performed. The Magistrates having advised the complaint, with the proof adduced, the said Thomas Benzie's confession and declaration of the physicians, found that Benzie had greatly spoiled the said John Low's lip by ignorantly cutting the same, and likewise that he had been in the practice of performing other operations in surgery to the great danger and risk of the lieges; and, therefore, prohibited and discharged the said Thomas Benzie from exercising or practising in any part of physic and chirurgery within the city and liberties in time coming, under pain of being banished therefrom, and publicly disgraced upon conviction, and fined and amerced him in the sum of £5, to be paid to the Procurator-Fiscal for paying the expense of the prosecution in the first place—and the balance to be paid in to the cashier of the Infirmary for behoof thereof—and appointed the said Thomas Benzie to be imprisoned until payment of the said fine, and ordained the sentence to be published in the *Aberdeen Journal*; which fine was paid next day, and he was liberated accordingly.

1765.

BANK OFFICE,

EXCHANGE COFFEE-HOUSE, ABERDEEN.

ADVERTISEMENT

BY

ALEXANDER WYLLIE, VINTNER.

Whereas, a considerable number of 5s. Notes, accepted by me, dated the 10th day of June, 1763, were issued at this Office, which are probably dispersed in different parts of the country, &c.

great part of which have not as yet been presented for payment. This is, therefore, intimating to all persons who may be possessed of such Notes that they will be punctually paid at the Exchange Coffee-House here, on or before the 5th day of August next. The holders of such notes as are not presented before that time must blame themselves if they do not receive payment.

(Signed) ALEX. WYLLIE.

ABERDEEN, 12th June, 1766.

N.B.—All the Notes that are presented will be paid in Silver, as the persons concerned in this Bank do not pretend to impose upon the public by offering other Notes in exchange.

To be Sold, either jointly or separately, the Patronages of the Kirks of Slains, Aberluthnot, Marykirk, Auchindoir, New Machar, Newhills, Tullynessale, Glenmuick, Glengarden, and Abergarden, and the Patronage or Right of Presentation of the Two Ministers of the Kirk of Old Machar or Old Aberdeen, all belonging to the King's College of Aberdeen. Any person inclining to purchase may apply to Mr. Thomas Gordon, Professor of Humanity in the said College; Mr. Wm. Tytler, Clerk to the Signet; or Wm. Thom, Advocate in Aberdeen—any of whom will inform of particulars.

1766.

PETERHEAD, 27th August, 1766.

On Thursday next, at eleven o'clock forenoon, there is to be two horse races on the Links of the Old Kirkton of St. Fergus; the first for three guineas and a half, the second for a new saddle and a bridle. No horses but such as have long tails and have actually wrought this season will be admitted. Immediately after these there is to be two races of men; the first for a piece of English cloth for a coat, a bonnet, and a pair of shoes; the second for 10s. And two races of women, the first for a piece of check for a gown, some yards of linen, and a silk napkin; the second for 10s. There will be inputs on the spot for after races. The above prizes are given by the Honourable Company of Water Drinkers at Peterhead, one of whom is to be judge of the races, and he will take particular care that justice will be done to all who start.

Upon Friday the 13th instant, three of the criminals confined in prison here, having been taken out in order to be whipped through the streets of this city, in terms of the sentence of the Circuit Court of Justiciary, held at Aberdeen in May last; when the executioner began to whip them, an

audacious mob convocated on the streets in vast numbers; some of them were armed with stones, clubs, &c.; attacked, beat, and bruised several of the military who guarded the prisoners, and threw many stones, till at last they forcibly rescued the prisoners, and thereafter, the mob continuing still together, threw stones; and, notwithstanding the threats and persuasions of the Magistrates and their officers for a considerable space after, the Riot Act was ordered to be read by order of the Magistrates. These are, therefore, offering a Reward of Twenty Guineas to any person or persons who shall discover or apprehend one or more of the aforesaid criminals, so as they may be brought back and committed to the Tolbooth of Aberdeen, to undergo their sentence.

1768.

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE BRIDGE IN.
MARISCHAL STREET, 21ST MARCH, 1768.

On Tuesday last, the Foundation-Stone of the Bridge over Virginia Street was laid, the ceremonies whereof were as follows:—

The Brethren of the Lodge of St. Machar assembled at the Trinity Hall at eleven o'clock, and about one-half after twelve they went in solemn procession in the following order:—The military with drawn swords, entered apprentices, masons of the different Lodges, drums and fifes, gentlemen masons, arch masons, band of music, Stewards of the Lodge, &c., sword of Gustavus Adolphus carried by a gentleman mason, the book carried by a gentleman mason, the Master supported by two former Masters, gentlemen masons, and a detachment of the military.

How soon the Brethren came to the ground it was surrounded by them, none being allowed to enter the circle but the Provost and Magistrates. The Master, with the assistance of two operative Brethren, buried the stone and laid it in its bed (the inscription undermost). The stone is in the south-east corner of the south pillar of the bridge. The two vessels were successively presented to the Master, and he, according to an ancient ceremony, poured out the corn, wine, and oil on the stone, saying, "May the bountiful hand of Heaven ever supply this city with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and the other conveniences of life." This being succeeded by three huzzas, the Master said, "May the Grand Architect of the

Universe, as we have now laid this foundation-stone, of his kind Providence enable us to carry on and finish what we have begun, and may He be a guard to this place and the city in general, and preserve it from decay and ruin to the latest posterity."

"My Lord Provost and Magistrates,—In the public character I now hold at the head of my brethren of this ancient and honourable Society I presume to address you, and, in their name and for myself, I return you my most humble and hearty thanks for the honour you have done us in witnessing our laying this foundation-stone. May you and your successors be the happy instruments in forwarding this great and good work, as it will add greatly to the ornament of the city; and I hope it will be a lasting honour to you, and a means of transmitting your memories to the latest posterity.

"My Brethren and Fellow-Citizens,—We have now begun a work of no small importance, and I hope our brother, who is now at present magisterially engaged, as well as all those who shall hereafter engage in completing this plan, will so avail themselves as shall add to the honour of masonry in general; and I look upon it, my brethren, as a particularly good fortune to the Lodge of St. Machar of having the honour of laying this foundation-stone; and I wish the success of this good city may afford many the like opportunities, which must give satisfaction to every good man, and be a pleasure to every well-wisher of Bon-Accord."

The ceremony being over, the Provost and Magistrates took leave, and the Brethren returned to the Trinity Hall in the same order, escorted by the military. At the Hall gate the Brethren opened and received the Master with three huzzas, and paid him the compliments due to his rank. They then proceeded with the usual state into the Hall, where they were entertained in that elegant and harmonious manner usual among masons. During the whole ceremony the greatest regularity was observed, and, although many thousand spectators were present, no person received a hurt. On the stone was the following inscription:—"J. D., N. J., Mr. St. Mc. L., A.D. 1768, æra mas., 5768;" *i. e.*, Provost John Duncan, Ninian Johnston,* Master of St. Machar's Lodge, anno domini 1768, æra of masonry, 5768.

* Ninian Johnston was Master of Kirk Works in the year 1789, and, on the occasion of some repairs done to the East Church in that year, caused the following inscription to be painted on a board, and placed in the inside of the Church:—"NINIANUS JOHNSTON curavit reficiendum hanc sacramentem, 1789. MKW."

PETERHEAD RACES.

Saturday next is appointed for the Peterhead Races, where all noblemen, ladies, and gentlemen will be welcome. The water-drinkers have subscribed very amply for two races for women, two races for men, and two for horses. The Links of St. Fergus is the turf to be run upon, and all men, women, and horses that intend to run must appear at the Old Kirk of St. Fergus, at ten o'clock on Saturday. It is expected that there will be very fine sport, and the company will be very splendid.

Dinner on the table, at Mrs. Forbes's, at three o'clock, and assembly in the evening.

THE EARL OF ERROLL, and }
AL. GARDEN OF TROUP, Esq. } *Stewards.*

A couple at Huntly, one a maiden lady, aged near sixty, and the man near the same age, went to the church to be married. When they came to the joining of hands, the lady drew back and refused (virgin coyness, to be sure) to comply with that part of the ceremony. The minister and friends urged with her three full hours, but in vain. At last the bridegroom took her aside into a private room, and his arguments were so cogent that she suffered herself to be married in the usual manner.

1769.

His Majesty's birth-day was observed here, on Monday, with all possible demonstration of joy; and, there being no military in the town, at noon about fifty of the burgesses, all properly armed and accoutred, with drums beating and colours flying, paraded at the Cross, and fired three volleys. At six o'clock, the same burgesses, having again paraded opposite the Town-Hall, fired a volley at each of the loyal healths with surprising closeness and dexterity.

1770.

It appears by the following advertisement that Granite Polishing, now so extensively carried on in Aberdeen, was commenced as far back as 1770:—

COLIN ALLAN,
GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLER IN ABERDEEN,
TAKES this opportunity to return his general thanks to his friends for all former favors, and to solicit the continuance of

them, which he will endeavour to deserve by serving them genteely and regularly. He begs to acquaint them and the public in general, that he has established a Manufactory for Sawing and Polishing Granite Slabs, Tables, Chimney-pieces, &c. &c.; likewise, that he polishes to the highest perfection Marble Tables and Black Marble Grave-stones; likewise, grinds and silverizes Looking-glasses of any dimensions, and mends and new silvers old ones.

N.B.—As it has been found by repeated experience that our common hill stones are capable of receiving the highest polish, and are as beautifully variegated as any foreign marbles which are brought home at a great expense, it is hoped the scheme will meet with encouragement. It may be proper farther to observe that Tables of our own Stone are not liable to be spotted with wine, vinegar, &c., as marbles, our granite being proof against all acids, and is nothing inferior to Egyptian granite. Specimens of the above, of different colours, may be seen by applying to the said Colin Allan, who will punctually answer any letters from gentlemen in the country who are desirous of further particulars.*—December 3.

1771.

On Thursday last, was laid in Old Aberdeen the foundation-stone of an elegant house for Hugh M'Lean, Esq. of Coll, at which were present the Hon. Captain Charles Boyd, Provost, and the rest of the Magistrates, the Masters of the University, and Ministers, with several persons of distinction. The undertaker, A. Bannerman, delivered a suitable speech to the occasion.

1773.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE "ABERDEEN JOURNAL."

I observed in your last that the town of Dundee is provided with watchmen—an example worthy of imitation in every part of the kingdom. In the Eastern countries watchmen are called clapper-men, and at present in Glasgow men patrol the streets with a clapper or sort of rattle in their hands, which, although they make a noise loud enough to be heard, are not

* Mr. Allan died shortly after the date of this advertisement, and the trade lay dormant until about the year 1820, at which time the late Mr. Alexander Macdonald commenced it on a small scale, and by his skill and energy established a large and extensive business. Mr. Macdonald was succeeded in the trade by his son.

to be compared to the pleasure of hearing, when one happens to awaken in the night time, not only the hour, but the state of the weather. I beg leave to submit, with all proper deference to our worthy Magistrates, whether such an example might not be adopted here. Nine men might be sufficient, three to each of the quarters of the town; 4s. a-week would be sufficient gratification to them for patrolling the streets from ten at night to four in the morning in summer, and six in winter. These hints, I hope, you will give to the public through the channel of your paper, and oblige

A CONSTANT READER.

The death of Dr. John Gregory is matter of unfeigned and universal concern in this country. The Musical Society of Aberdeen, of which this excellent person was a zealous patron, and one of the first projectors, appointed a mourning concert to his memory, which was held in the Concert Hall on Friday last. The music, both vocal and instrumental, was judiciously chosen and well executed, and the whole was conducted with such propriety as did honour to the sensibility and taste not only of the performers, but of all the company, which was very numerous. This mournful solemnity was indeed in all respects worthy of the place which had the honour of the birth and education, and was long blessed with the residence, of this gentleman, of whom it is but justice to say that he was one of the most amiable and accomplished of his time.

1775.

The Magistrates of this city have of late fined several of the inhabitants for not attending the town-guard appointed for preserving the peace of the town in the night time, and as none of the military are expected in this place for some time, we hear that the Magistrates are resolved to insist on the whole of the inhabitants attending the town-guard when appointed in their turn, and to fine every person who shall be absent and not send a sufficient man in his place.

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW PIER,
12TH JUNE, 1775.

On Monday last, the foundation-stone of the New Pier was laid with great solemnity. About twelve, the Brethren of the Lodge of St. John, accompanied by the Magistrates and Council,

and a band of music of the gentlemen of the Musical Society, playing some marches, composed for the occasion by Mr. Barber, walked in procession from the Hall in the Castlegate to the Sandness, where they were received by an immense crowd of spectators. The stone was then laid with the usual ceremonies, amidst the loudest acclamations of joy from the spectators, and the repeated discharges of cannon from the Block-house and the vessels in the harbour; after which the procession returned, and the Magistrates and Council, and a number of the principal inhabitants, dined in the Town-Hall, and the masons in their Hall, and drank a cheerful glass to the completion of this noble undertaking.

To be Sold by Public Roup, on Saturday next, at One o'clock, in the Synod House,

THE Old Clock presently in the Church Steeple of Aberdeen.

N.B.—If not sold together, the largest Wheels, which are extremely fit for rope or twine spinners, will be sold separately.

1776.

We hear that the elegant new street leading from the Broadgate to the Mealmarket is named Queen Street, in honour of our gracious sovereign.

There is lately established at this place (Huntly), by the interest of Colonel Morris, a runner to Keith three times weekly, which opens a communication to the Keith country, instead of the Huntly letters being carried to Oldmeldrum, and round by the sea-coast, which was the means of retarding the correspondence very much.

1777.

A R A F F L E.

To be Ruffled for, within the Common School of the Marischal College, upon Thursday the 16th January,

A fine Mahogany Desk and Bookcase of very curious workmanship. Each entrant to pay 2s. 6d., and the Gainer a Guinea to the Exposer, in name of expenses.

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1778.

FOR LONDON,

*To Sail positively on Saturday next, the 7th November, wind
and weather serving,*

The Aberdeen Smack. Will lie a short time at London, and, if no convoy is appointed, will sail under cover of a fleet of colliers—the best convoy of any.

For particulars, apply to Captain Milne, at the foot of the Netherkirkgate; or to William Rait, Merchant, in Broadgate, Aberdeen.

1780.

ABERDEEN ALMANACK, 1780.

One particular in which we differ from some of our southern brethren we must, in justice to ourselves, observe, and to which we solicit the attention of the public. It is in the calculation of the new and full moons for this year. There will be found often a difference of half a day, sometimes a whole day or more, and which seldom comes nearer than six hours in our calculation of this necessary article. Which of us is in the right let a discerning public judge—that public which never fails to distinguish and encourage merit, and by whose word we stand or fall.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE "ABERDEEN JOURNAL."

I beg leave, through the channel of your paper, to ask a question of the publishers of the Scots Almanack. What is the reason of the remarkable difference between the Edinburgh and Aberdeen Almanacks, with regard to an eclipse which is to be at next full moon? The Edinburgh Almanacks declare it to be invisible, and the Aberdeen Almanack makes it a visible eclipse. Is the moon at that time set at Edinburgh though not at Aberdeen? Or does the small difference in latitude between Edinburgh and Aberdeen make so great a difference in an eclipse of the moon? Or do the publishers of the Edinburgh Almanacks expect that all who look into their Almanacks will be asleep at that hour, and that so the eclipse will be invisible to them? Or, on the other hand, are the publishers of the Aberdeen Almanack wrong? They take no notice of this difference, when, in the beginning of the year,

they published an advertisement pointing out the great disagreement between theirs and the other Almanacks, as to the changes, &c. of the moon. An answer is expected to some of the questions by your paper. The moon herself will answer the last.—I am, yours,
NOCTURNUS.

1781.

On the arrival at Gauling of the account of the acquittal of Lord George Gordon, a great number of the most respectable gentlemen and their tenants assembled on the 27th, erected a bonfire, drank the healths of the King, the Duke and Duchess of Gordon, Lord George, and all the friends of that noble family. At every health a half mutchkin of unmixed whisky was drunk by every person, accompanied by a volley of small arms.

At Glenbucket, Mr. Gordon and some other gentlemen in that neighbourhood, with above two hundred of their tenants, met at Tomintoul, where a large bonfire was erected, the town illumined, and several volleys fired, accompanied with the old Scottish martial music by Glenbucket's piper. Thereafter, there was a ball and entertainment at the public-house, where Glenbucket and many others of the name danced the reel called "The Gordons hae the guidin' o't," and the new reel composed for the occasion by Glenbucket's fiddler, and spent the evening in the most jovial manner.

1784.

The balloon mentioned in our last, which was sent off from the observatory of Marischal College under the direction of Professor Copland (being the first experiment made of this kind in Scotland), descended again at the House of Strichen a few minutes after one o'clock of the same day. The country people who observed it first descending from the clouds were greatly alarmed.

1785.

We are happy to inform the public that the Magistrates and Council have invested a committee of the citizens with full power to devise and carry into execution a plan for more effectually keeping the streets clean. The Committee have already repeatedly met on this business, so much connected with the convenience of the inhabitants, and have resolved that it shall

be conducted under their own superintendence, assisted by certain gentlemen in every district.

Several scavengers are already engaged, who are to be employed during the whole of every day, not only in collecting the dung, but in raking and sweeping the streets. The former regulations have been revised and considerably altered by the committee so as to render them more reasonably practicable, and, having been approved of and ratified in Council, the penalties annexed to transgressors will be rigorously exacted. If the committee are properly supported by the inhabitants (and it is surely every one's duty to lend his assistance), there can be little doubt that this necessary part of the police will be greatly improved. The gentlemen of the committee are George Moir of Scotstown, preses; Baillie Alexander Black; Baillie Burnett; Baillie Dingwall; Patrick Bannerman of Woodside; Mr. David Morice, sen.; Mr. Wm. Shepherd; and Mr. Ewen.

BURGH REFORM.

The Court was fuller than has been known on any occasion. Many burgesses were even crowded into the lobby, yet there was the greatest quietness and order observed. This, joined to the quiet and decorum of the general meetings held here of late, affords very abundant proof that popular assemblies are not by any means such dangerous things as has been by some so strongly asserted.

1787.

Notwithstanding all the laudable vigilance and attention of the Magistrates to prevent the forestalling of provisions for some Fridays past, scarcely an egg was to be seen. The scarcity, however, was ascribed to various causes without falling on the right one; for, on Tuesday last, the Magistrates, upon a special information that almost the whole had been bought up by one dealer from London, in the houses of stablers and otherwise on their way to the market, caused search this gentleman's hoard, when, to the astonishment of the public, the quantity found and bought up in the course of last week alone amounted, we are informed, to no less than 3,560 dozen or 42,720 eggs, the whole of which, with the proprietor, were immediately seized. After full hearing, the Magistrates fined the proprietor in forty pounds Scots as a forestaller; but, as he was a stranger, declined confiscating the eggs seized, which, on payment of the fine, he was allowed to get back.

On Friday last, the Magistrates, after a full trial, condemned a measure used by John Collie, gardener, as a peck for measuring the potatoes sold by him in our market to be broken down at the Cross by the hands of the common hangman, the town's drummer attending and proclaiming the name of the owner and cause of condemnation; which was that the measure was nearly deficient one-third of the standard, and the sentence was immediately executed amidst a great concourse of spectators. The Magistrates further fined Mr. Collie in £5 to the poor, and 50s. in name of expenses, and ordained him to be imprisoned till payment. He immediately paid the fine.

1788.

Yesterday, Patrick Young, condemned at the last Circuit of Aberdeen for breaking into a shop at Portsby, and stealing a considerable quantity of goods, but who made his escape before the day of execution, was brought to the bar. On a former day, he had denied his being the person, and his counsel contended that it was his privilege as a British subject to have his identity tried by a jury. The Counsel for the Crown, on the other hand, maintained that in such cases it was the practice for the Court to order the former sentence to be put into execution on a proof of the prisoner's identity. Two of the Judges—Lord Eskgrove and Lord Swinton—were of opinion that a jury was necessary; four of their Lordships—Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord Hailes, Lord Henderland, and Lord Stonefield—were of opinion that, as the prisoner had already been tried by a jury, the Court were competent to proceed without a jury to take proof of his identity. The Court, therefore, pronounced an interlocutor repelling the objections offered for the prisoner in bar of procedure.

This day, the Court met again, and, having examined Wm. Stewart, jun., writer in Edinburgh, who acted as a macer at the last Court at Aberdeen, and Alexander Guthrie, Circuit Clerk, who having both positively deponed to the identity of the said Peter or Patrick Young, their Lordships ordained him to be executed at Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 2d April next.

1790.

The population and extent of this place seems to be going on with increasing speed. The well-known field called Lochlands, on the west side of the Gallowgate, is now partly fenced out for building. It is to contain four principal streets—

George Street, Charlotte Street, St. Andrew Street, and John Street. George Street is already begun, and, from the spirit of improvement which so much prevails, there is little doubt but in a few years this will form a populous and elegant addition to Aberdeen. Indeed, it is almost the only quarter where the town can be extended to any great extent.

1794.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE ABERDEEN BARRACKS,
24TH JUNE, 1794.

On Tuesday last, the foundation-stone of the Barracks, to be built at the Castle-hill, was laid by the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, Grand Master of Scotland. At one o'clock, the Brethren of seven Lodges assembled in the Lodge Walk; the Lodge of Aberdeen and the Operative Lodge in the hall of the New Inn. About half-past one, the procession set out, the Junior Lodge first, the others in order of seniority. Opposite to the Town-House, the Magistrates and Council, and Mr. Allardyce, M.P. for the district, preceded by the Town-Sergeants with their halberts, fell into the procession immediately before the Grand Master and his officers, and the whole walked down Marischal Street, along the Quay, and up to the hill by the new road. So numerous was the attendance of the Brethren that, when the first of them reached the north-east of the Castle-wall, the last were on the Quay between Marischal Street and the new road. When the first Lodge reached the entry to the site of the Barracks, the whole stopped, formed into two lines, and the Grand Officers walked through them in the following order:—Mr. Samuel Gordon, carrying the constitution; Quarter-master Wilkie, carrying the Bible; the Rev. Mr. Ogilvie, Old Machar, Grand Chaplain; Major Leith, Grand Senior Warden; Colonel Hay, Grand Junior Warden; Major Erskine, Grand Secretary; Captain Gordon, Grand Treasurer; the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, Grand Master; Captain Mathieson and Captain Symmers, Grand Stewards.

On arriving at the Stone, the Grand Master, placing himself in the east and the Wardens in the west, and, having called up two of the architects—one belonging to the Aberdeen and the other to the Operative Lodge—he severally used the square, the plumb, the level, and the mallet.

Then the Grand Master, the Magistrates, and Mr. Allardyce, gave five guineas each, which were laid on the stone, as a present to the workmen.

The procession returned in the same order in which it set out, and, after walking through the North Street, Queen Street, and Broad Street, dissolved at the New Inn.

On this occasion there was the greatest concourse of people that has ever been known in this city. Wherever the procession passed, all the windows, balconies, and streets were crowded; but, notwithstanding the vast multitude, and the hazardous situation on the Castle-hill and the tops of the adjoining houses, to which many were led by their curiosity, the whole concluded without the smallest accident happening to any person.

The Grand Master and Officers, with a numerous company, dined in the Masonic Hall, and the Operative Lodge in the New Hall. After dinner, a deputation from the Operative Lodge waited on the Grand Master, who condescendingly returned the compliment by visiting them, accompanied by his Grand Officers, and the evening was spent in that decent and harmonious manner which is the characteristic of masons.

During the procession after the ceremony, the field-pieces on the Castle-hill were fired, and every vessel in the harbour displayed her colours.

1795.

CELEBRATION OF A KING'S BIRTH-DAY IN ABERDEEN IN 1795.

On Tuesday, the anniversary of his Majesty's birth-day was celebrated here, with every demonstration of joy. In the morning all the bells in the town were set a-ringing, and the flags displayed on the Castle-hill, the new battery, and from every vessel in the harbour. At one o'clock, a royal salute was fired by the field pieces in the parade, by the Volunteer Battery Company; after which the second battalion of the Breadalbane Fencibles fired three volleys. The Aberdeen Volunteers, who were drawn up in Gordon's Hospital gardens, marched from thence, attended by the band of the Aberdeenshire Fencible Regiment, to the parade, where they fired three volleys with the closeness and dexterity of veterans. The handsome and soldier-like appearance of this corps of patriotic armed citizens afforded the highest satisfaction to an immense crowd of spectators, and did equal honour to themselves and the military gentlemen under whose tuition they have been thus formed. After the firing was over, the servants of the several Incorporated Trades paraded the

streets. At four o'clock, the Volunteers partook of an elegant entertainment, given by the Magistrates and Council, in the New Inn. At six, the usual meeting in the Town-Hall was numerous and respectable. Each toast was accompanied by a volley from a detachment of the Breadalbane Fencibles, drawn up on the plainstones. The evening concluded with the finest display of fire-works on the Cross, which were given by the gentlemen volunteers, ever exhibited here. On the top of the unicorn on the Cross a Royal Crown was placed, and on each side "G. R." The streets and windows were more than usually crowded with all ranks of the citizens, yet the utmost order and decorum prevailed. Before twelve o'clock, every one had retired, and the streets were left in perfect tranquility.

1796.

On Tuesday, the 26th January, the Rev. Dr. Wm. Lawrence Brown, Professor of Divinity, Marischal College, was, by his Majesty's presentation, admitted in the usual manner to the office of the Principal of the said College, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. George Campbell. The gentleman last mentioned was present at the admission, and, by the cordial and hearty manner in which he concurred in the appointment and installation of his successor, afforded a new display of that elevated character, with which, to the distinguished benefit of the University and of the general interest of learning, he has held the office of Principal during a long period of thirty-six years. We understand that he retires with a very favourable mark of his Sovereign's approbation of his eminent merit and singular services in promoting the great causes of literature and religion.

DEATH OF PRINCIPAL CAMPBELL.

Died here, on the 6th April, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, George Campbell, D.D., F.R.S., Edinburgh, late Principal and professor of Divinity in the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, and one of the Ministers of Aberdeen.*

* The house in which Dr. Campbell lived is 40 Schoolhill. Dr. Beattie for some time lived in the adjoining house, but afterwards removed to a house in the Upperkirkgate, which is now the Vaccine Institution, where he died in 1803. Archbishop Whately referring to Principal Campbell's Treatise on "The Philosophy of Rhetoric," writes as follows:—"It were most unjust to leave unnoticed Dr. Campbell's "Philosophy of Rhetoric;" a work which does not enjoy indeed so high a degree of popular favour as Dr. Blair's but is incomparably superior to it, not only in depth of thought and ingenious original research, but also in practical utility to

1797.

THE ROYAL ABERDEEN VOLUNTEERS.

Last Saturday morning, there was held, in the Record Office, a meeting of the Royal Aberdeen Volunteers, to hear some despatches from the Duke of Portland, communicated by his Grace to the Duke of Gordon, Lord Lieutenant of the County, as well as communicated from General Hamilton to the Major Commandant; and to consider the most effectual means of discharging the duty they owe to the public, in case of any emergency which may render their services necessary.

To the credit of this respectable corps, hardly any one who has been in use to attend exercise and bear arms was absent. They unanimously resolved to hold themselves in readiness to attend any call of duty which they have, by the original terms of their association, undertaken to perform.

It was well observed that it was somewhat extraordinary that in Aberdeen, a city supposed to contain 20,000 inhabitants, so small a number should turn out in its defence; but it is still more strange that upwards of fifty names who had originally subscribed the terms of the association had never taken arms, and had never attended a single drill—that several of these had much more slender pleas of business and want of time than many gentlemen who gave (much to their credit) a uniform and regular attendance. Among these, too, might be found many who, although they eat the bread of the public, showed no inclination to assist in its defence; and, while they enjoyed the sweets of office, ungenerously left the task of preparation and duty to those who, by giving their disinterested services to the community, had no other object in view. Government, confident of the loyalty of the citizens of Aberdeen, had, as early as in the year 1759, sent 400 stand of arms, not surely to lie rusting in the store, but to be put into the hands of respectable citizens for common defence. Every burgess was bound by his oath to watch and ward; why, then, should not this solemn tie of obligation be enforced? and why, while the members of the present meeting had given a disinterested and uniform attendance

the Student. The title of Dr. Campbell's work has perhaps deterred many readers, who had concluded it to be more abstruse and less popular in its character than it really is. Amidst much, however, that is readily understood by any moderately intelligent reader, there is much also that calls for some exertion of thought, which the indolence of most readers refuses to bestow."

in duty for two years, should so many equally able and as, when there were obligations, equally binding, be excused? It was, therefore, moved that applications be made to the Magistrates that such burgesses as had not joined the Royal Aberdeen Volunteers be immediately called upon to receive arms, and qualify themselves to assist in discharging any public duty which the exigencies of the times and state of public affairs may require; and that such steps be immediately taken by the officers and standing committee of the corps as may facilitate the junction of such citizens as manifest a disposition to that honourable purpose.

Married at Torry, on Tuesday last, James Shepherd, barber and field preacher, aged twenty, to Miss Nelly Auld, Nigg, aged seventy-seven, three feet high, and deformed to the last degree of distortion. Though the day was very stormy and rough, yet so great was the public curiosity, that not only the ferry-boat but the whale-boats were employed the greater part of the day in conveying people across the river to witness so very extraordinary nuptials.

1801.

Intelligence having been received here yesterday that Mr. Barclay of Ury had gained his famous walking match, the inhabitants of the New Town of Stonehaven were so overjoyed that a large bonfire was kindled in the middle of the Square, and the health of their beloved and much-respected superior drunk with enthusiasm. The New Town was brilliantly illuminated on the occasion, which was instantly followed by the whole of the Old Town, as well as most of the houses in the country for some miles round.

The proposal of allowing the distillers to work after the beginning of January next has already had effect in this county. Vast quantities of grain have been bought for exportation to England and the south of Scotland, and the price has risen from 6s. to 7s. per boll. We trust, however, that a measure, pregnant with so fatal consequences to the health and morals of the people, will be abandoned, for the present at least.

On Saturday last, the Magistrates and Council of this city resolved to apply for a continuance of the prohibition against distilling of spirits from grain; and a memorial and petition,

signed by the Provost in name of the Council, was accordingly sent off to the Lords of the Treasury by the same post.*

THE LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF UNION BRIDGE.

Yesterday, the foundation-stone of Union Bridge over the Denburn, in the line of the new south entry, was laid by John Dingwall, Esq. of Ardo, Provost of the City, and Master of the Lodge of Aberdeen.

An immense concourse of Brethren and of the inhabitants of all sorts attended to witness the ceremony, which was conducted in such a manner as the importance of the event demanded.

At one o'clock, the procession set out from Castle Street by Broad Street, Schoolhill, and down the Denburn Walk, in the following order:—viz., the different Lodges, according to their seniority; the band of the Fifeshire Militia; the Principals and Professors of King's and Marischal Colleges, preceded by the Sacrists carrying the silver maces; a great muster of the principal inhabitants; the Magistrates and Council, and Trustees of the New Street; and the Lodge of Aberdeen.

When the procession arrived at the spot, the several Lodges opened up to the right and left, allowing the Magistrates and

* The following is a copy of the Petition:—

Unto the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, the Memorial and Petition of the Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the City of Aberdeen;

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That the Memorialists have lately been informed that it is the intention of Government again to permit the distillation of spirits from grain; they cannot help representing that such a measure, if adopted, will, they apprehend, not only be attended with the most injurious consequences to the mercantile and manufacturing interests of this part of the United Kingdom, but will also have an immediate tendency to raise the price of grain above a fixed and moderate level, and likewise have the worst influence on the health and morals of the lower classes of the people, a great part of whom have, by the high price of spirits, been entirely weaned from the pernicious habit of drinking them.

That the Memorialists, deeply impressed with that consideration, as well as with a sense of that duty they owe to their constituents, have been induced to prefer this Petition to your Lordships, praying that the prohibition against distilling spirits from any kind of corn or grain may still be continued, which they are satisfied will be attended with the most beneficial consequences, in promoting the interest and advantage of all ranks of the community, and of this part of the country in particular.

Signed in name, in presence, and by appointment of the said Magistrates and City Council, assembled at Aberdeen, the 14th day of November, in the year 1801.

(Signed) JA. HADDEN, Provost,

the Aberdeen Lodge to pass through to the site of the stone, and then formed a large circle—the whole being guarded by the corps of the Royal Aberdeen Light Infantry Volunteers, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dauney.

The vials, brass-plate, with the inscription and names of the present Trustees, were handed to the Depute-Master (Mr. Gavin Hadden) who placed them in the cavity of the stone prepared for the purpose.

Then Mr. Alex. Carnegie, Secretary and Clerk to the Trustees, spoke as follows:—My Lord Provost and gentlemen, having had the honour of being employed in conducting this great and important undertaking from its earliest beginning to the present hour, I cannot help now expressing the additional honour I feel conferred upon me in obeying the commands of my constituents by reading in the presence of this numerous and respectable meeting a copy of the inscription now deposited in the foundation-stone, for the purpose of transmitting to the latest posterity the remarkable and important transaction of this day—

“In the 41st year of the reign of our Most Gracious Sovereign George the Third, on the 7th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1801, and by the era of masonry, 5801, the Foundation-Stone of this Bridge (forming the first part of two streets now opening to the centre of the City of Aberdeen—that from the south to have the name Union, the other from the north, King Street) was laid by John Dingwall, Esq. of Ardo, Lord Provost of Aberdeen, and Master of St. John’s Lodge of Freemasons in that city. Mr. Charles Abercrombie, Engineer; Mr. David Hamilton, Architect.

“May the undertaking prosper by the blessing of Almighty God.

“This great and useful work was begun under the auspices, forwarded by the zeal, and brought to maturity by the unremitting perseverance of Thomas Leys, Esq. of Glasgoforest, late Provost of the same city.”

The Rev. Dr. Gordon, Chaplain to the Lodge, delivered a most appropriate prayer upon the stone being laid in its bed. The Master applied the square, level, and plumb, and, having given three knocks with the mallet, the Brethren, as well as the surrounding multitude, gave three hearty cheers, the band at the same time playing “God Save the King,” followed by a royal salute from the field-pieces attached to the Royal Aberdeen Light Infantry Volunteers.

Mr. Allardyce afterwards said—“My Lord Provost, having the honour to be a citizen and a Representative in Parliament of the City of Aberdeen, I take the liberty of congratulating

your Lordship on the commencement of this great work. Aberdeen has been long one of the most considerable of the towns of Scotland for arts, sciences, trade, manufactures, and commerce. It will now soon become one of the most beautiful and elegant towns in the kingdom. It is to the public spirit and zeal of your worthy predecessor in office, Provost Leys, and of yourself and colleagues, that the community are indebted for having given form and substance to this grand improvement, the promoters of which, with that consideration which has marked every part of their conduct, have bestowed their attention in giving appropriate names to the new streets. To commemorate an era of a long wished for event, which fortunately took place the first day of this year and century—the union of Great Britain and Ireland—the magnificent approach to the city by the south is to be distinguished by the name of Union Street. With that loyalty and love for the Constitution which have ever characterised Aberdeen men, and as a testimony of their happiness under a Government regulated by a King, Lords, and Commons, the great entry from the north is dedicated to the highest branch of that Constitution, and decorated with the name of King Street. May the inhabitants of Aberdeen long enjoy, with God's blessing, the comfort and convenience which this great addition to their present accommodation will so amply afford.

To which Provost Dingwall answered—“ Mr. Allardyce, I beg leave, for myself, and in name of my colleagues, to return you our best thanks for the polite and obliging notice you have been pleased to take on the present occasion of any service we may have had it in our power to render to this city and community, by bringing to maturity the great and useful improvement of which we have this day had the happiness to lay the foundation ; and we trust that it will greatly tend to promote the convenience and ornament of the city itself, as well as the accommodation of all its inhabitants and the public at large. I have only to add that it affords me the greatest pleasure to have the opportunity of offering to you the thanks of myself and colleagues, as well as of the whole community, for your able and zealous attention to every matter in Parliament wherein this city has been anywise concerned, particularly in forwarding and obtaining the Act by which this great and useful undertaking has been sanctioned by the Legislature. Before concluding, I cannot omit this opportunity of joining you (as I am sure all present will) in the just eulogium you have bestowed upon the exertions of my worthy predecessor, Mr. Leys, who has by his perseverance and zeal contributed

so essentially to bring this work to its present advanced state."

When the ceremony was concluded, the procession returned back in the same order, and dropped in Castle Street.

It is remarkable that it rained heavily all the morning, and cleared up entirely during the time of the procession and ceremony. But immediately after they had returned, the rain began with greater violence, and lasted all the evening. Is not this an auspicious omen?—*Abridged.*

1802.

RIOT BETWEEN THE ROSS AND CROMARTY RANGERS AND THE
CITIZENS OF ABERDEEN.

Friday last, the anniversary of his Majesty's birthday, was observed with the usual marks of joy. At twelve, three volleys were fired by the Ross and Cromarty Rangers in the barrack-yard, and the young men of the different incorporations made a procession through the town with their colours and the insignia of their different trades, and made a very showy appearance. At six o'clock, the Magistrates and principal inhabitants assembled in the Town-Hall, where the usual healths and other appropriate toasts were drunk, followed by repeated volleys of musketry by a detachment of the military drawn up on the Plainstones. Thus far the day was spent with that festivity which has long distinguished the inhabitants of this loyal city. But it now becomes our painful duty to relate the melancholy events of the evening, which led to consequences that we can never sufficiently deplore. An unfortunate affray took place between the boys in the street and some of the officers and privates of the Ross and Cromarty Rangers then on guard in Castle Street, who, being joined by the rest of the corps from the barracks, ran upon the people in the street with their arms in their hands, and began firing upon them with ball indiscriminately and in every direction, and some were even seen taking a deliberate aim at individuals. Many of the bullets went through windows and doors in the west end of Castle Street, and in the head of the Shiprow and Narrow Wynd, and others were found at a greater distance through the town. As far as we can learn, the following are the fatal consequences that ensued:—One man, a native of this place, and a private in the Rifle corps recruiting here, who was standing at a corner of the Plainstones, was shot through the

head, and instantly died on the spot. Thomas Milne, a mason; John Moir, a young boy, and only son of a widow; and William Gibb, apprentice to a barber—were all mortally wounded, and died next day; and ten more persons, as near as we can learn, were variously wounded.

Upon being informed of the unhappy affair, the Provost and Magistrates, with becoming spirit, instantly interfered, and the whole corps were ordered into barracks. A sufficient guard of armed citizens was immediately mounted to prevent all communication with the regiment, which, in the irritated state of the public mind, might have led to farther fatal consequences. An investigation into this lamentable affair was instantly set on foot by the Magistrates, and is now going on. But of the mass of evidence brought forward it would be highly improper of us to take particular notice. Several of the officers, also four sergeants and one private, are in custody to abide the result of the examination.

On Saturday, at twelve o'clock, an express was sent off to Edinburgh to the Commander-in-Chief. The person who carried it, with an alacrity which did him much credit, returned again by three o'clock on Monday morning with the necessary orders; and, yesterday morning, about one o'clock, the regiment marched out of town in dead silence, and without beat of drum, by the way of the Broad-hill and Old Town Links, on their route northward. At the Bridge of Don they formed into two divisions—one of which took the road to Oldmeldrum, and the other the road to Ellon.*

* In the city where this outrage took place, the public indignation was unbounded. The relations of three of the deceased—John Gibb, Daniel Ross, and Widow Moir—made an appeal to the public for aid in bringing to trial the men believed to have been guilty of the bloodshed—a right which the law of Scotland allows to private parties when the Public Prosecutor fails to bring forward a criminal charge. An address was put forward by others who sympathized with the relatives, and a public subscription was opened. It was agreed that the prosecution should be raised at the instance of Daniel Ross, wood-sawyer, for the murder of his son, John Ross, the rifleman. The Counsel engaged were Messrs. John Clerk (afterwards Lord Eldin), John Burnett, Adam Gillies (afterwards Lord Gillies), and William Rae. A warrant for re-committing the prisoners was procured, in consequence of which three of the sergeants and the private were apprehended, and imprisoned in Edinburgh; but Ensign Lanigan, who had gone to Ireland, could not be found; and Captain Macdonogh, who lived in Edinburgh, secreted himself, and in that situation was able to procure bail. In the meantime, Lanigan returned to Edinburgh, and was served with his indictment, but continued at large till the day of trial, when, on the advice, as was believed, of his Counsel (the Hon. Henry Erskine), he left the country, and was outlawed. This circumstance, taken in connection with others, led many to believe that a trial would have brought home a large share of the guilt to

1803.

We are happy to find the spirit of the country is up, and all ranks ready to come forward with energy and force in defence of the nation. Amongst other instances of the general display of loyalty on this occasion, we have to mention that the seafaring men of the fishing towns of Buckie and Collieston have come forward to the number of 135 in offering their services, with a degree of promptitude and zeal which does them great credit.

We hear that the heritors, tenants, and crofters of Monquhitter Parish (about twelve of the lower orders excepted) assembled, on the 19th, in Monquhitter Church. They unanimously expressed the utmost ardour to arm in defence of their country, and no less than 108 stout young men enrolled themselves to serve as volunteers. What a pity if the present military spirit shall be permitted to evaporate for want of arms! The use of all the horses and carts in the parish was cheerfully offered to forward the plans of government.

We learn from Huntly that, in less than forty-eight hours after notice was given to the inhabitants of the town and lordship of Huntly, 500 of the finest young fellows in the country

Lanigan; but no questions, in reference to his conduct, were allowed to be put in Court.

The trial came on before the High Court of Justiciary, on Thursday the 6th of January, 1803, when Colonel George Mackenzie, Captain Felix Bryan Macdonogh, and Sergeants Andrew Mackay and Alex. Sutherland, were placed at the bar, charged with the murder of John Ross. They all pleaded Not Guilty. Their Counsel were the Hon. Henry Erskine, Messrs. James Montgomery, Robert Hamilton, James Gordon, David Monnypenny, Henry D. Inglis, and Francis Horner. Special written defences for each of the panels were read to the Court. Mr. Horner, in a preliminary speech, explained the nature of the line of defence which was to be taken up, and remarks on his address were made by Mr. Rae and Mr. Burnett on the other side. The Court adjourned, and met again on Friday, when their Lordships, after some observations on the nature of the case, sustained the relevancy of the indictment, and evidence was then called for the prosecution. A great number of witnesses, many of them persons in the most respectable rank in the city, were examined; the hearing of the evidence having been adjourned till Saturday. Exculpatory evidence was also heard at great length. The Jury were addressed by Mr. Clerk for the prosecution in a speech of two hours and a half long, and the Hon. Henry Erskine replied for the prisoners. Lord Craig, as presiding Judge, summed up the evidence.

On Monday, the Court met again, when the Jury returned a unanimous verdict, finding Colonel Mackenzie and Captain Macdonogh Not Guilty, and the libel Not Proven against Sergeants Mackay and Sutherland. The Court accordingly pronounced an interlocutor, assailing the prisoners, and dismissing them from the bar.—*Black Calendar of Aberdeen.*

came forward and enrolled themselves to serve in defence of their country.

Mr. William Gordon, of the New Inn, has made a voluntary offer to Government of his personal services with thirty-seven horses, all his carriages of every description, and postboys, in case of an invasion.

Mr. William Campbell has made offer of twenty saddle and carriage horses, with his carriages, for the service of Government in case of an invasion.

On Tuesday se'ennight, Mr. Adams, of the Hotel, made the patriotic offer of all his horses, carriages, and servants, and his own personal service in case of an invasion.

DEATH OF DR. BEATTIE.

Died here, on the 18th August, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, James Beattie, LL.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic in Marischal College, well known in the literary world for his pious and elegant writings.

1806.

We are happy to learn that, on Saturday last, 5th February, a stance of 40 feet in front, on the south side of Union Street of this city, was purchased, by public roup, at an yearly feu-duty of £1 11s. 8d. per foot of front. This is the first stance in the street which has been offered to feu; and, immediately after the roup, 74 feet more next adjoining were purchased at the same rate of feu-duty.

HONORARY BURGESSES OF ABERDEEN.

The following are a few of the more distinguished names that appear on the roll:—

- 1709.—The Rev. Dr. CALAMY.
- 1741.—The Rev. GEORGE WHITEFIELD.
- 1746.—The DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.
- 1761.—Principal CAMPBELL.
- 1766.—Dr. BEATTIE.
- 1773.—Dr. JOHNSON.

- 1781.—GEORGE COLMAN, the Younger.
 1790.—Rev. JOHN SKINNER, the Poet.
 1794.—Professor JOHN HUNTER, of St. Andrews.
 1794.—Professor JOHN YOUNG, of Glasgow.
 1795.—Sir JOHN SINCLAIR.
 1796.—Mr. (afterwards Sir) WALTER SCOTT.
 1796.—Mr. JOHN RENNIE, the celebrated Engineer.
 1799.—Sir RALPH ABERCROMBIE.
 1800.—The DUKE OF MONTROSE.
 1800.—The EARL OF ABERDEEN.
 1806.—Sir DAVID BAIRD.
 1817.—Dr. OLINTHUS GREGORY.
 1817.—M. JEAN BAPTISTE BIOT.
 1817.—Sir JAMES M'GREGOR.
 1832.—Dr. JOHN ABERCROMBIE, Edinburgh.
 1834.—Lord BROUGHAM.
 1840.—The DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.
 1841.—GEORGE WALLACE, Esq. of Kelly.
 1844.—ROWLAND HILL, Esq.
 1848.—H. R. H. the PRINCE CONSORT.
 1849.—Sir ROBERT PEEL.
 1851.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM.
 1853.—The EARL OF CARLISLE.
 1854.—JOSEPH HUME, Esq., M.P.
 1858.—The EARL OF STANHOPE.
 1859.—The EARL OF AIRLIE.
 1859.—The Right Hon. EARL RUSSELL.

“THE VISITATION.”

TIME has been when this heading must have suggested to many a reader feelings which he may now perhaps have some difficulty in re-awakening. Men long accustomed to the world, in its most worldly sense, may be somewhat apt to forget that the rising race have a world of their own, too, and just as rife with enterprise, anxiety, and care, in its own way, as that in which your reverend signiors fret their hour.

With all the youthful disciples of our Public Schools, Wednesday fortnight was a very great day indeed. More especially used this to be the case with the Grammar School at the period to which our reminiscences extend, but of which the distance we care not much to confess—a silence in which a remnant of con-disciples will mayhap approvingly acquiesce. Be this as it may, in our day the Visitation of the Grammar

School was an occasion marked by a solemnity bordering on the awful. Its advent was looked forward to with much anxious forecast of its eventualities for at least three months previous to its actual arrival. As it approached, the anxiety felt by youthful aspirants to scholastic distinction increased to rather painful intensity. In the two junior classes, what keen competition to secure a seat within the honoured bounds of the first four "factions," before the places were stopped—when fixed was the fate of all! In the higher classes, what hoarding of "phrases!" what collation of "idioms!" what rivalry in daily "trial versions!" The day before the Visitation was a half-holiday—but most falsely so called, for its afternoon was one of painful preparation, and no trifling perturbation of spirit. No use *now* to count the hours to the great day—it came with to-morrow's sun! In vain the endeavour to beguile the moments of aching suspense by the ruling of version paper, the mending of pens, and the revisal of neglected lessons. All this brushing up of arms only served to keep up the anxiety connected with the approaching contest. Then there was such rigorous ablation of the person—that of Saturday was nothing to it! No wonder; had we not to pass muster before "authorities"—civic, clerical, and academic? At length the appointed hour of meeting on Wednesday approached. How many smartly arrayed, rosy little fellows did that morning behold, trudging rather pensively from all quarters towards the Schoolhill, bending under load unwonted of dictionaries, and grammars, and phrase books, that nothing might be wanting in such munitions of scholastic war. Manifold their conjecturing as to "the version;" serious the speculation as to the chances of individual failure or success. Some, with a modesty which became their idleness as much as their youth, would declare that they did not expect "a book." Others, whose experience had sought consolation under disappointment by reference to cases of neglected desert, ventured an opinion that they ought to get prizes; but they had their doubts about getting fair play. They had no friends—not they—in the Council. But the actual hour of meeting disperses the little groups of such speculators; each takes his seat in the "Public School;" the catalogue is called amid silence as universal as unwonted, and all is tip-toe expectation for the arrival of the Visitors. The whole school has undergone a lustration which carries something solemn with it, from its very rarity. The floors have actually been dusted over with clean sand, which gives additional impressiveness to the authoritative tread of the "Masters," as they pace to and fro.

And is not the Rector arrayed in his gown so grand?—just like a Professor—an indication of pomp and circumstance to be seen on such occasions only—a demonstration which impresses the “eeliegytes” with ideas of the dignity of “the seminary” which have ne’er before entered their little craniums, although, with the upper classes, it is rather the butt of daring witticism! But bold, indeed, are they who would hazard even a suppressed titter, whatever the provocation, at such a crisis; for the hour is come, and the men! It is heralded by the measured tread of the Town Sergeants, glimpses of whose red coats are caught through the windows, like flashes of lightning! What solemn courtesy in the greetings between Masters and Visitors—the former positively appearing bareheaded, which shows us, boys, that there *are* greater men in the world even than they, albeit that may avail us nought in sub-ferulary hour! The “dask” is completely filled with Visitors, the Provost presiding, but precentor-wise to the “knock!” The “dask” assumes in our eyes new importance—*miratur novos frondes*—and looks as though it were intended for better things than “burrie,” and all sorts of mad-cap pranks. Then the Rector delivers a speech—a Latin one! It sounds like a trial version. The great “version” is then given out. It is something about the Romans, or the Greeks, or the Carthaginians; Epaminondas, Turnus, king of the Rutuli, or at least Hamilcar—all familiar acquaintances of ours. Perhaps it is a plaguy passage from modern history—a thing by no means agreeable to our classical tastes; or it may smack somewhat of the marvellously philosophical, beginning with, “A certain author relates,” followed by the qualification, “but I know not whether it be true,” which is merely a trap for young grammarians; for it is of no earthly consequence whether the relation be true or not. Ah! the careful pen-scraping, distinctly audible in the hush of that awful hour! Is it not the commencement of a struggle on which is hung the chance, not of a “book” merely, but, tentatively, of a “buss?” The dictation ended, the competitors are left to their fate. Unassisted, they must fight it out. Some get through the business rather rapidly. On the painful labours of others, the shadows of that shortish day rather ominously fall—and the latest at length leave the school, and—*cetera divis*. Each has done his best, and a Porson could do no more.

In our day, the prize-books were given on the night of the day on which they were won. During the whole evening, the Schoolhill was in an uproar. It swarmed with groups of scholars comparing notes about their versions. Here and

there might be seen a "colleginer" laying down the law grammatical to a burooch of eager, inquiring juniors; squibs and crackers flew about in all directions; bells and knockers were compelled to vigorous exercise of their calling; shutters were exposed to wanton assault and battery. Old folks wondered what things would come to; that finishers of the law would have more work, was quite clear! The row at length was extinguished on the appearance, about ten o'clock, of the municipal authorities in darkling procession, guided by the leading lights of the sergeants, "two and two abreast" (although not "trumpeters!"), each bearing a lantern radiant with a couple of candles. Again, is the "dask" crowded with the honourable, the reverend, the learned. The well-powdered head of the Town-Clerk towers amid the full blaze of "fours in the pound!" He unrolls the scroll of fate. The names of the successful competitors are announced by him rather with the voice of one in authority than of a mere clerk. Each fortunate rogue bustles up in front, and receives (with a *raz*) from the Provost's own hand the much prized book—the honour acknowledged by a bow, bespeaking more gratefulness than gracefulness. Many, of course, are disappointed, but they soon forget their sorrow in the pastimes of the holiday week. So much of sketchy reminiscence of "auld langsyne." Who is insensible to the feelings which such retrospection suggests?—

Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,
 We love the play place of our early days;
 The scene is touching, and the heart is stone
 That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.
 The wall on which we tried our graving skill—
 The very name we carved subsisting still;
 The bench on which we sat, while deep employed,
 Though mangled, hacked, and hewed, yet not destroyed—
 The little ones, unbuttoned, glowing hot,
 Playing our games, and on the very spot,
 As happy as we once.
 The pleasing spectacle at once excites
 Such recollection of our own delights,
 That, viewing it, we seem almost to obtain
 Our innocent, sweet, simple years again.
 This fond attachment to the well-known place,
 Whence first we started into life's long race,
 Maintains its hold with such unflinching sway,
 We feel it e'en in age and at our latest day.

—Written by Mr. Ramsay.*

* Mr. Ramsay was Editor of the *Aberdeen Journal* for about 14 years, and died in 1870. A very interesting selection from his manuscripts, containing articles of local as well as general interest, has just been published by his literary executor, Mr. Alexander Walker.

The following graphic Sketches of a SCHOOLMISTRESS and of a BOOKSELLER'S ESTABLISHMENT, both of the Olden Time, are taken from an interesting Volume, published upwards of Thirty years ago, entitled "Aberdeen Worthies, by William Bannerman."

IN a very old house, next to that so long known as a public-house, situated in the close in Castle Street, known by the name of Stronach's Close, some fifty years ago, in an apartment up a stone-stair, entering immediately from the close, sat enthroned old Miss Bessy Gray, schoolmistress.

When I first made my appearance in Miss Bessy's school-room, I was so young as to be carried there—not that I could possibly learn anything, but that I might be in safe keeping. I can just recollect seeing the good old lady sitting in her elbow-chair, "with spectacles on nose," hearing her little scholars read their lessons. At this time she had an assistant—her niece and successor—the well-known Miss Bell Gray, who afterwards kept her school in a parlour in a house in Marischal Street, on the right-hand side near the top, and who, were she now living, would have the pleasure of seeing some of her scholars of that period ranking among the most respectable inhabitants of Aberdeen.

Miss Bell, in her most blooming days, had not been of a very captivating exterior. She was a woman about the middle size, rather thick built, a very full circumference of face, considerably pitted with the small-pox; her nostrils distended naturally, or from the practice of taking snuff; her black, round paper snuff-box, along with her *taws*, always upon her lap; and her grey piercing eyes gave a stern severity to the general expression of her otherwise very ordinary features. Her whole appearance was indeed well calculated to preserve decorum, and inspire a degree of awe in her little *subjects*. Miss Bell always bore a respectable character, and had as scholars all the younger branches of the families of the upper and middling ranks in that quarter of the town.* Her school-room was her only apartment; her bed (an old-fashioned bedstead) stood along by the back of the door; her chest of drawers, in the centre of the back of the room opposite the windows in front, flanked by a chair or two at each end; and she herself sat en-

* The late Sir Alexander Bannerman, Governor of Newfoundland, was one of her scholars.

throned beside the fire-place, at the upper end of the room, in an arm-chair, with a table before, in all the ideal consequence of an Eastern monarch;—her little subjects sitting indiscriminately on little stools in the area left in the middle of the room. Whether it proceeded from a want of taste or otherwise in Miss Bell, I cannot say, but there was neither *sampler*, print, nor ornament of any kind, hung against the wall to relieve the primitive plainness of the plasterer's finish; one article alone—but that an indispensable one—the usual nine by twelve inches Dutch looking-glass, so common at this period, graced the wall immediately above her drawers, to assist Miss Bell in the general arrangement of her toilet. A linnet in a cage was her only companion, and held a most important station in Miss Bell's establishment. Like other birds we have known, little Dickie had a knowledge of events past, present, and to come, and often saved Miss Bell a world of trouble in bringing to light high crimes and misdemeanours committed within her jurisdiction. Miss Bell was somewhat particular as to the manners of her scholars; for, on entering or leaving the school-room, we made our bow or courtesy, with "Your servant, ma'am." She must not, however, have been very particular as to our action suiting the word in this case; for the bows were only a sudden jerk or bob of the head forward, reaching to about an angle of twelve degrees from the perpendicular, and the gracefulness of the young ladies' courtesies was in perfect keeping with the bows of the young gentlemen.

Miss Bell, as was usual with all the profession at this period, kept her Candlemas in the following manner. On this grand occasion, Miss Bell appeared dressed in all her best: her dress possessing all that stiffness which stays and starch could give it, which had long been the fashion prior to this period, and was still partially retained by elderly ladies on high occasions. About ten o'clock, her little friends began to make their appearance, rigged out in their Sunday clothes, and, on entering the school-room, made their usual obeisance, walked up to Miss and presented their gift to her, and took their seats. When she thought that they had all made their appearance, Miss Bell proceeded to distribute her gifts in return. She first, with all becoming dignity, presented every scholar with an orange, and then gave a small paper parcel containing confections of several kinds. After allowing us some little time to nibble a little at the good things she had given us, she began to prepare for the grand solemnity.

And now had arrived the great and important moment, big

with the fate of coronets and crowns. With what anxiety did the little embryo kings, queens, princes, and princesses eye Miss Bell, as she took from her drawers the portentous emblems of their future greatness! The crown of Miss Bell, which had lain flat in her drawers from that day twelvemonth, was made of pasteboard of the usual shape, and had a sufficiency of jewels and gold-leaf on it to give it the necessary imposing effect in the eyes of those whom she delighted to honour. Having turned it over and over, both to add to her own consequence, as well as to get the corners into proper shape, she then, with all the gravity of an Archbishop of Canterbury, proceeded to confer her high honours on her little subjects. She first proceeded to invest with royalty those whose precious gifts had entitled them to this honour, by encircling their brows with her pasteboard crown individually, and pronouncing, with an audible voice, these mighty and ambition-stirring words—"I crown you King William!" "I crown you Queen Elizabeth!" &c., and so on till she made the requisite number of kings and queens. She then descended to create her princes and princesses of the blood royal; in the same manner made a few dukes and duchesses, to keep their majesties and the royal family in decent company; and wound up the ceremony by not leaving a single commoner in her whole dominion.

The little urchin who is sitting for her picture, with her grandmother's cap on, in Sir Joshua Reynolds' picture of "The Infant School of Painters," has just the look that each put on as Miss Bell, with the magical assistance of her pasteboard crown, conferred upon us the greatest of all honours. The august ceremony being concluded, the emblem of royalty was again, with all becoming solemnity, carefully deposited in Miss Bell's drawers. We were then dismissed from the Presence, and commanded to make our appearance again in the evening, at six o'clock, to finish this important day, by footing it away on "the light fantastic toe."

A chair placed on Miss Bell's bed formed the orchestra, which was usually filled by the well-known Benjie Anderson, fiddler. This position enabled Benjie to have plenty of elbow-room, and also placed him out of the way of the merry little dancers, who kept bobbing about altogether till about eight o'clock, when they were sent home to make way for the elder branches of the families and particular neighbours to enjoy themselves, and the merry dance was kept up until the maiden etiquette of Miss Bell's school rendered it necessary to close the hilarity of the Candlemas evening holiday, by

Benjie playing, in his best style, the well-known musical adieu—

“Guid nicht and joy be wi' you a'.”

Miss Bell had a particular manner of management in days of public executions, which, at the period I refer to, were rather frequent. Her motives were either that our young feelings might not have a chance of being hurt by seeing anything of the kind, or to prevent any accident in returning in the afternoon from getting in the crowd. However, we were kept in school all day, from ten o'clock in the morning till five in the afternoon. I cannot recollect how the victualling department was conducted, but no doubt we were all comfortably provided for.

If the worthy schoolmistress had lived at the present day, when the “schoolmaster is abroad,” she would probably have belonged to what is called the Conservative party. At the time of the French Revolution, she often expressed her fears of the dreadful consequences that might arise from the spread of French principles, and she never attempted to conceal her apprehension of French invasion. On some occasions, when her scholars had collected, she felt herself so much overcome with her fears that she was unable to proceed with her duties. Miss Bell, therefore, dismissed the school, after addressing her scholars in nearly the following terms:—“Go home every one of you, and tell your parents to look after you, for that is more than I can longer promise to do. These are awful times: the country is cursed with Deists and evil men, who wish to set themselves up against lawful authority.—(Davie! what do you mean by picking a hole in the chair cover.)—Tell your fathers and mothers to see if they can get some places in the country to send you to, that you may be out of harm's way. The French will be over, and there will be such scenes of burning and plundering, as the like was never before seen or heard tell of. I wouldna wonder if the 'Tree of Liberty' were planted at the Cross before twelve o'clock the morn. Go all your ways home, and God bless you, for I can teach you nae lessons the nicht.”

Miss Bell continued keeping her school for many years with respectability; but, I think, she had given it up some time before her death. She was enabled to close her useful career comfortably, in the most honourable of all ways, from the savings of the fruits of her industry.

MRS. THOMSON AND FAMILY.

Who among us that can number fifty or sixty summers having gone over their heads, and who have been born and brought up in Aberdeen, but recollects a small bookseller and stationer's shop, situated at the top of the *then* Narrow Wynd (now forming the line of Union Street), opposite the Plainstones? This little shop had nothing of the decorative style in its exterior either to recommend or attract notice. None of your large windows, either straight or circular, were thought necessary in those days to carry on the business of this little shop; yet, notwithstanding the unassuming appearance of its exterior, I will venture to affirm that, among all the booksellers' shops in Aberdeen, there was not one among the number so universally known to the youngsters there, either high or low, rich or poor, as was the *little shopie aside the Plainstones*. Who, also among the said class, but recollects the smart, active, cheerful little lady, who generally was to be found behind the counter in the said shop, as the acting manager of that department—Miss Christian Thomson. When I first knew this worthy family—and that was as soon as I could (by myself) toddle across from the one side of Huxter Row to the other, Mrs. Thomson's family-door being in that street—it consisted of Mrs. Thomson, her son James, and Misses Christian and Agnes, her daughters. This little shop should have been designated by some of these or such like sounding names, which establishments of this sort adopt at the present day, as "*The Royal Juvenile Depot and Library*," "*The Victoria Emporium for Children's Cheap Books*," &c.; for it was here where every youngster hurried to procure the favourite work which he long wished to have in his own possession. The shop had but one window—and that certainly for a shop was very small—and it was almost always literally covered from head to foot with the favourite school-boy authors of the day. Occasionally the lower panes with these well-known coarse, yet attractive, prints of their day—such as "*The Farm Yard on Fire*," "*The Mad Bull*," "*Hay-making*," "*Harvest Home*," &c. "price Twopence coloured: One Penny plain. Printed and Sold by Carrington & Bowles, 45, St. Paul's Churchyard." The prints of these homely subjects were, I have understood, to be found all over Europe, and, from the profits arising from their extensive sale, the children of the firm now live independent.

When these prints were not in the window, their place was

occupied by those esteemed works, "The History of King Pippin," "The Death of Cock Robin," &c.; "*with cuts and bound in gilt, price one penny.*" And above these were the larger volumes of "The History of Lothian Tom," "Wise Willie and Witty Eppie," "The Sayings, and Doings, and Witty Jests of George Buchanan," "Sir William Wallace." And in the poetical department were to be found "Chevy Chase," "The Cherry and the Slae," "Sir James the Rose," "The Dominie Deposed," "Ajax's Speech to the Grecian Knabs," &c.

When we went to the shop to make a purchase (the money being in our hand), we stepped boldly in. "Weel, my laddie," said Miss Kirsty, "fat is't you want?" "O, I want 'Lothian Tom,' or any other, as the case might be. "Is it in the window?" was the quiet reply. "O, ay; it's up there." "Just gang out then; chap wi' your finger on the window anent it, and I'll tak' it down to ye." The ceremony was readily and soon performed, and the long-wished-for work delivered into our hand by Miss Kirsty.

It may be easily supposed that it was not every trifling occurrence on the street that prevented us from hurrying home to run over the contents of our newly-acquired addition to our library. Miss Christian Thomson seemed as if nature intended her to have filled this or a similar situation in life. She was possessed of a strong masculine mind, which she had improved by much reading. She was allowed, by those gentlemen who professionally frequented the shop, to be no trifling adversary in a debate on most general subjects of the day. Miss Kirsty had, unfortunately, in her younger days received an injury in the spine, and the usual consequences followed as to her personal appearance; but her ready wit, her smart repartee, joined to her general information, were far more than enough to counterbalance her want of personal attractions, and she passed through life sincerely esteemed and respected by all who enjoyed the pleasure of her acquaintance.

While the stationery department was thus managed by Miss Kirsty, that of the binding was superintended by her brother. The binding shop was but a small apartment, with one window overlooking the Council Chamber door; yet, small as this apartment was, I have seen in it, besides Mr. Thomson and his two apprentices, half a dozen of the neighbours' children all stowed away in it, some in one corner, some in another. It was a matter of surprise to the neighbours how Mrs. Thomson's family could put up with the nuisance of so many

children running out and in to their house at their pleasure. There were only two standing orders of the house: the one—to be sure to shut the door behind you in going out or coming in; the other—to be sure to dicht your feet weel on the bass. If any of the children were amissing, the first inquiry after them was made at Mrs. Thomson's; and, if any apology was offered for the trouble given by the children, the reply was always to the same effect—viz.: "Tell Mrs. — that we are aye glad to see the poor things; we would think ourselves out o' the world a'thegither if they werna rinnin' out and in as usual."

It was the binding-shop, however, that was the great centre of attraction to us children, for Mr. James was a most successful auxiliary to us in all our little amusements. He could furnish us with paint—red, black, or yellow—to adorn and beautify the upper surface of our new *tap*. He could accommodate us with a piece of twine to tie on our new points on our *fummel-sticks*. He would also, on the promise of good behaviour, oblige us with a superior sort to be a string to our *peer* (spinning top); and, if the important affair of a *dragon* (paper kite) was on the *tapis*, his judgment was appealed to, to determine its size and shape, and, as was anticipated, the necessary material of paper and twine was also furnished by him. In fact, he seemed to enter into all our little enjoyments as one of ourselves; and I really think this worthy man felt little less pleasure in accommodating us than his little friends did in receiving his favours.

While this worthy family did everything in their power to contribute to the happiness of their little friends, and to their neighbours generally, they were also bright examples to those around them, in the performance of those relative duties which adorn the life of true Christians. They were ever ready to stretch out their hands to those who had none to help them; and the poor unfortunate individuals who were criminally confined in those noxious holes in the Tolbooth, were occasionally supplied by them with plain but wholesome food; and in every case of distress which came within their knowledge, their assistance was always ready.

The Thomson family was famous for possessing a beautiful and particularly small species of those spaniels generally known as "King Charles'" breed. They were remarkable for the inside of the mouth being black. In my childish days they had two females named Fanny and Sally, and yelping little curs they were. At an after period, when I went down to Aberdeen on a visit, I had, along with my mother,

the extreme pleasure of drinking tea with the kind friends of my childish days, the *two* Miss Thomsons, then retired from business. I had, at the sametime, the honour of receiving a puppy from them of the species alluded to, Miss Kirsty feelingly observing, that "the bit doggie would be a kind of keepsake and remembrance of Auld Langsyne, when perhaps she and her sister had *baith worn awa*'."

THE END.

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