

in the cathedral church of Hereford,' 1723. 4. 'A Course of Sermons on the Lord's Prayer, preach'd at the Rolls' [Oxford? 1740], 8vo; edited from the author's manuscripts by his relative Thomas Bisse, M.A., chaplain of All Souls College, Oxford. He was also the author of 'Microscopium,' a Latin poem, printed in 'Musarum Anglicanarum Analecta' (London, 1721), i. 266-79.

There is a portrait of him, engraved by Vertue from a painting by T. Hill.

[Nichols's Lit. Anecd. i. 120, 130, 139, 186, 193, 236, 328, 385, 392; Noble's Continuation of Granger, iii. 100; Gent. Mag. i. 174; Cat. of Oxford Graduates (1851), 62; Le Neve's Fasti (Hardy), i. 493, 499.] T. C.

BISSET, CHARLES, M.D. (1717-1791), physician and military engineer, was son of a lawyer of that name of some local repute for his attainments in Latin and in Scots law, and was born at Glenalbert, near Dunkeld, Perthshire, in 1717. He studied medicine at Edinburgh, and in 1740 was appointed second surgeon of the military hospital, Jamaica. He afterwards served on board Admiral Vernon's fleet, by some accounts as a naval surgeon, and by others as surgeon of one of the marine regiments subsequently disbanded. After spending five years in the West Indies and America he returned home in ill-health in 1745. In May 1746 he obtained an ensigncy in the 42nd Highlanders, then commanded by Lord John Murray, with which corps he served in the unsuccessful descent on the French coast near L'Orient in September the same year. After wintering with his regiment at Limerick, he accompanied it to the Low Countries, where it was first engaged at Sandberg, near Hulst, in Dutch Flanders, in April 1747. A military sketch of this affair, and another of the defences of Bergen-op-Zoom, drawn by him, having been submitted by Lord John Murray to the Duke of Cumberland, Bisset was ordered to the latter fortress to prepare reports of the progress of the siege. For his brave and skilful performance of this duty he was recommended by the Duke of Cumberland for the post of engineer-extraordinary in the brigade of engineers attached to the army, in which capacity he served with credit during the remainder of the war. At the peace of 1748 the engineer brigade was broken up, and Bisset was placed on half-pay as a lieutenant of the reduced additional companies of Lord John Murray's Highlanders, under which heading his name appeared in the annual army lists up to his death. After travelling in France he published his 'Theory and Construction of For-

tifications,' with plans, 4to (London, 1751). He subsequently reverted to the medical profession, and went into practice at the village of Skelton, near Cleveland, Yorkshire, where he continued during the rest of his life. When war threatened in 1755, he published his 'Treatise on Scurvy, with remarks on Scorbutic Ulcers,' 8vo (dedicated to the lords of the admiralty); and in 1762 he brought out 'An Essay on the Medical Constitution of Great Britain, to which is added Observations on the Weather and the Diseases which appeared during the period from 1st January 1758 to the summer solstice of 1760. Together with an account of the Throat Distemper and Miliary Fever which were epidemic in 1760' (London, 8vo). This work, to which was also appended a paper on the properties of bearsfoot (hellebore) as a vermifuge, was translated into German by J. G. Moeller (Breslau, 1779). In 1766 the university of St. Andrews conferred on Bisset the degree of doctor of medicine, and the same year he published 'Medical Essays and Observations' (Newcastle-on-Tyne, 8vo), of which a German translation by Moeller was published in 1781, and an Italian one about 1790. Bisset wrote several minor works on medical subjects, and is stated to have likewise published a small treatise on naval tactics and some political essays. A manuscript treatise by him on 'Permanent and Temporary Fortifications and the Attack and Defence of Temporary Defensive Works,' which is dedicated to George, prince of Wales, and dated 1778, is preserved in the British Museum (*Add. MS.* 19695). Bisset presented to the Leeds Infirmary a manuscript of observations for his 'Medical Constitution of Great Britain,' extending over 700 pages, all traces of which are now lost (information supplied by Leeds Philosophical Society). A copy of Cullen's 'First Lines of Practice of Physic,' with numerous manuscript notes by him, is preserved in the library of the London Medical Society. An interesting medical correspondence between Drs. Bisset and Lettson is published in Pettigrew's 'Memoirs and Correspondence of Dr. Lettson.' Bisset, who is described as thin in person and of weakly habit, had a very extensive country practice in which he amassed an ample fortune. He died at Knayton, near Thirsk, on 14 June 1791, in his seventy-fifth year.

[Gent. Mag. lxi. i. p. 598, ii. p. 965 (particulars stated to be taken from memoranda in possession of Mrs. Bisset); Cannon's Hist. Record 42nd Highlanders; Watts's Cat. Printed Books; Rose's Biog. Dict. vol. iv.; Brit. Mus. Cat.] H. M. C.

BISSET, JAMES (1762?-1832), artist, publisher, and writer of verse, was born in the city of Perth about 1762. He received his early education at a dame's school, where the fee for him and his sister together was a penny a week, with 'a peat for firing every Monday morning during winter.' His love of art and literature received its first impulse from the perusal of several copies of the 'Gentleman's Magazine' and some old books with prints, the whole being purchased in early childhood at an old bookstall for a dollar given him by General Elliot, then on a visit to Perth. From his ninth year he began regularly to take in the magazine by the help of pocket-money supplied by an indulgent uncle. At the age of fifteen he became an artist's apprentice at Birmingham. In the 'Birmingham Directory' of 1785 his name appears as miniature painter, Newmarket, and in that of 1797 as fancy painter, New Street. In the latter premises he established a museum and shop for the sale of curiosities. He was also a coiner of medals, and was permitted to use the designation 'medallist to his majesty.' On the title-page of one of his books he advertises medallions of their majesties and of several leading statesmen, and a medal commemorating the death and victory of Nelson. He had great facility in composing amusing and grandiloquent verses on the topics of the day so as to hit the popular fancy, and, while he obtained a considerable profit from their sale, they served to attract customers to his 'museum' and to advertise his medals. Among his earlier volumes of verse were 'The Orphan Boy,' 'Flights of Fancy,' 'Theatrum Oceani,' 'Songs of Peace,' 1802, and 'The Patriotic Clarion, or Britain's Call to Glory, original Songs written on the threatened Invasion,' 1803. The last was dedicated by permission to the Duke of York, and the presentation copy to George III with Bisset's inscription is in the British Museum. The work, however, by which he will be longest remembered, and one quite unique in its kind, is his 'Poetic Survey round Birmingham, with a Brief Description of the different Curiosities and Manufactures of the place, accompanied with a magnificent Directory, with the names and professions, &c. superbly engraved in emblematic plates,' 1800. From the preface we learn that the charge for engraving single addresses in a general plate in the Directory was ten shillings and sixpence, and for half a plate ten guineas, and that various designs were inserted at one and two guineas each. 'Thus,' it is added with amusing naïveté, 'every gentleman had an opportunity of having his address inserted in the work at whatever price

he pleased; and by paying for the engraving it has enabled the author to lay a magnificent work before the public for only five shillings, which otherwise would cost nearly fifty.' A second edition of the Directory appeared in 1808, with several additional plates, but without 'The Poetic Survey.' In 1804 he published 'Critical Essays on the Dramatic Essays of the Young Roscius.' In 1813 he removed to Leamington, where he had opened a museum, newsroom, and picture gallery in the preceding year. A 'Picturesque Guide to Leamington,' enlivened by stray scraps of verse, was published by him in 1814; 'Variorum, or Momentary and Miscellaneous Effusions,' 1823; and 'Comic Strictures on Birmingham's Fine Arts and Conversaciones, by an Old Townsman,' 1829. His verses also appeared occasionally in the 'Gentleman's Magazine.' He boasted that he had sold over 100,000 of his different works, and that many had reached the fifteenth and sixteenth editions. He died on 17 Aug. 1832, and was buried at Leamington, where a monument was erected by his friends to his memory. By his enterprise and public spirit he secured himself an honourable place in the annals both of Birmingham and Leamington. Widely known from his superficial eccentricities, he won general esteem by his amiability and good humour, while his social gifts rendered him highly popular among his own friends. In Birmingham he belonged to the Minerva Club, consisting of twelve members, nicknamed 'The Apostles,' whose meetings at the Leicester Arms to discuss political subjects may be regarded as the small beginnings of the political gatherings for which Birmingham is now so famous. A picture of the members was painted by Eckstein, a Prussian artist, to which Bisset, as the oldest surviving member, fell heir. Bisset's collection of pictures, which included several celebrated paintings, as well as some pieces by himself, were sold by auction after his death.

[Gent. Mag. cii. pt. ii. pp. 648-50; Langford's Century of Birmingham Life, ii. 118-22; Dent's Old and New Birmingham, pp. 212-13, 289-92.]
T. F. H.

BISSET, JAMES, D.D. (1795-1872), scholar, was son of George Bisset and Mary Adamson, his wife. He was born 20 April 1795 in the parish of Udny in Aberdeenshire, where his father was parish schoolmaster and head master of a private academy and boarding-school. James was the second son of a numerous family, one of whom became vicar of Pontefract, another incumbent of Upholland in Wigan, and a third attained

the rank of colonel in the East India Company's service. He was well trained by his father, and then proceeded to Marischal College and University, Aberdeen. At the early age of seventeen, in consequence of the death of his father, he was obliged to assume all the responsibilities of school teaching, and of educating his younger brothers and sisters. Like his father he developed remarkable teaching ability, and his private school became celebrated. Many of the local gentry were educated by him, and not a few of his pupils became men of mark, among them being Sir James Outram and Canon Robertson, the ecclesiastical historian. He was aided by very able assistants; Dr. James Melvin, afterwards rector of Aberdeen Grammar School, and Dr. Adam Thom, sometime recorder of Hudson's Bay Company, were both members of his staff. He qualified himself for the ministry of the church of Scotland, studying divinity at Aberdeen and Edinburgh. In 1826 he became minister of the small parish of Bourtrie, Aberdeenshire. The duties of his limited parochial charge left him leisure to continue his philological studies, as well as to educate his children. He was twice married: (1) in 1829 to Mary Bannerman, eldest daughter of Rev. Robert Sessel of Inverurie; (2) in 1840 to Elizabeth Sinclair, daughter of Rev. William Smith of Bowes. He had issue by both. In 1851 the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the university of Aberdeen.

Bisset became an ardent politician on what was designated the 'constitutional side,' and ecclesiastically was a prominent figure in the prolonged conflict within and without the church courts which terminated in the founding of the free church of Scotland. Bisset did not support the secession headed by Chalmers and Candlish and Guthrie. In 1862 he was chosen moderator of the general assembly of the church of Scotland. His repute as a scholar was unsustained by any publication of permanent value. He died on 8 Sept. 1872.

[Obituary notices; letters from son and son-in-law and other members of the family.] A. B. G.

BISSET, SIR JOHN (1777-1854), commissary-general, served in the commissariat at home from 1795 to 1800, in Germany from May 1800 to June 1802, at home from 1802 to 1806, in South America in 1806-7, and at the Scheldt in 1809. He was appointed commissary-general in Spain in 1811, and had charge of the commissariat of the Duke of Wellington's army at one of the most important periods of the Peninsular war, before and after the battle of Salamanca. Bisset,

who was made a knight-bachelor and knight-commander of the Guelphic order in 1830, was the author of a small work entitled 'Memoranda regarding the Duties of the Commissariat on Field Service abroad' (London, 1846). He was made K.C.B. in 1850. He died at Perth, N.B., on 3 April 1854.

[War Office Records; Report Select Comm. on Army and Ordnance Expenditure (Commissariat), 1850; Perth Advertiser, April 1854.]

H. M. C.

BISSET, BISSAT, or BISSART, PETER (d. 1568), professor of canon law in the university of Bologna, Italy, was a native of the county of Fife, and a descendant by a previous marriage of Sir Thomas Bisset, who after his marriage with the Countess Isabel, daughter and heiress of Duncan MacDuff, earl of Fife, received a charter from David II granting him the earldom, but left no issue by her. After completing his studies in grammar and philosophy at the university of St. Andrews, Bisset attended the classes of law at the university of Paris. Proceeding to Italy he received the degree of LL.D. from the university of Bologna, where he afterwards became professor of civil law. Tanner (*Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica*, 102), on the authority of Dempster (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*, ii. 95), states that he flourished in 1401, a palpable error. He assigns to him, also on the authority of Dempster, 'De Irregularitate liber unus,' and 'Lectiones Seriales liber unus,' and to a Petrus Bizarrus, who flourished in 1565, 'Orationes aliquot et poemata.' This Petrus Bizarrus he conjectures to have been possibly identical with Pietro Bizari [q.v.], called also Petrus Perusinus, but in reality Bizarrus here is a misspelt form of Bissartus, and Peter Bisset, the author of 'De Irregularitate,' is identical with the author of 'Orationes aliquot et Poemata.' Both works were included in the volume entitled 'Patricii Bissarti Opera omnia, viz. Poemata, Orationes, Lectiones Seriales, et Liber de Irregularitate,' published at Venice in 1565. Bisset died in the latter part of 1568.

[Dempster's *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Scotorum*, ii. 95; Tanner's *Bibl. Brit.* 102; Mackenzie's *Lives of Scottish Writers*, iii. 99, 101; Chambers's *Biog. Dict. of Eminent Scotsmen*, i. 129; *Notes and Queries*, 5th series, vi. 389-90.]

T. F. H.

BISSET, ROBERT, LL.D. (1759-1805), biographer and historian, born in 1759, was master of an academy in Sloane Street, Chelsea. He published, in 1796, a 'Sketch

of Democracy,' 8vo, the aim of which was to show, by a survey of the democratic states of ancient times, that democracy is a vicious form of government. His next work was a 'Life of Edmund Burke, comprehending an impartial account of his Literary and Poetical Efforts, and a Sketch of the Conduct and Character of his most eminent Associates, Coadjutors, and Opponents,' 1798, 8vo. In 1800 he published a novel, entitled 'Douglas, or the Highlander,' 4 vols. 12mo. Another novel, entitled 'Modern Literature,' 3 vols, 12mo, appeared in 1804; and in the same year he published his 'History of George III to the Termination of the late War,' in six volumes, 8vo. He died in 1805, and his death is said to have been caused by 'chagrin under embarrassed circumstances.' An edition of the 'Spectator,' in eight volumes, was edited by Bisset in 1796. Two anonymous tracts in the library of the British Museum, (1) 'A Defence of the Slave Trade,' 1804, 8vo, (2) 'Essays on the Negro Slave Trade,' 8vo (1805?), are attributed, in manuscript notes on the title-pages, to Bisset.

[Gent. Mag. lxxv. 494; Watt's Bibl. Brit.]

A. H. B.

BISSET, WILLIAM (*d.* 1747), clergyman and pamphleteer, was a native of Middlesex. His father was, he says, a royalist, but was not rewarded for his devotion to the crown. After passing some years as a scholar of Westminster, he went in 1687 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1690. Having taken orders, he was for some time in charge of the parish of Iver. While there he married a wife who brought him some money. On this he set up a coach, which gave his enemies occasion to make many sneers at his foolish ostentation in the pamphlet war he afterwards engaged in. He defended himself by declaring that he bought this 'leathern conveniency' in order to enable himself to fulfil an engagement to preach three times a week in a neighbouring parish. During this period of his life he appears to have been industrious in his clerical work. He became rector of Whiston in 1697. Having been elected elder brother of St. Catherine's Collegiate Church in 1699, he resided much in London, leaving his wife and children at Whiston. As a low churchman and a whig he was much offended at Dr. Sacheverell's sermon at St. Paul's on 5 Nov. 1709, and at once preached and published a reply to it. He followed up this attack by a pamphlet entitled 'The Modern Fanatick,' which appeared in 1710. This pamphlet called forth many replies, and among them

one by Dr. W. King. A second part of 'The Modern Fanatick' appeared in Feb. 1711, and a third in May 1714. Cole, in his manuscript 'Athenæ Cantabrigienses,' says that he was 'almost a madman:' the character of the pamphlets put forth by both sides in this controversy is little proof of the sanity of any of the parties concerned in it. Bisset was the champion of an unpopular cause. He fought with courage, and bad as his weapons were, they were of much the same kind as those used against him. There is no reason to doubt the truth of his assertion that he was constantly mobbed and insulted, especially by Sacheverell's 'female prose-lytes.' He also declares that his life was attempted three times. He deserves credit for having raised an indignant protest against the cruel floggings then often inflicted on soldiers. A revolting and probably exaggerated account of the flogging of a man and his wife is given in the collective edition of the 'Fanatick' tracts. He was made chaplain to Queen Caroline. He died 7 Nov. 1747 (*Gent. Mag.*). He published: 1. 'Verses on the Revolution,' 1689, in poems of Cambridge scholars. 2. 'Plain English, a Sermon for the Reformation of Manners,' 8vo, 1704, which reached a sixth edition. 3. 'More Plain English, two more Sermons for,' &c., 1704. 4. 'Remarks on Dr. Sacheverell's Sermon at St. Paul's,' 4to, 1709. 5. 'Fair Warning, or a Taste of French Government at Home,' 1710. 6. 'The Modern Fanatick, with a Large and True Account of the Life, Actions, Endowments, &c., of Dr. S—l,' 8vo, 1710. 7. 'The Modern Fanatick, pt. ii., containing what is Necessary to clear all Matters of Fact, &c., with a Postscript,' 1711. 8. 'The Modern Fanatick, pt. iii., being a further Account of the famous Doctor and his Brother of like renown, with a Postscript,' 1714. In the collective edition of these pamphlets part i. is stated to be the eleventh edition: it is a reprint, with the correction of a few typographical errors, from the first edition; it was reprinted as a twelfth edition in 1715. 9. 'A Funeral Sermon on Mrs. Catesby,' 1727. 10. 'Verses composed for the Birthday of Queen Caroline,' fol., 1728.

[The Modern Fanatick, 1710–14; Vindication of the Rev. Dr. H. S. from the False, &c.; Cole's Athenæ, B. 145; Addit. MSS.; Welch's Alumni Westmon. 209; Nichols's Lit. Anecd. i. 32.]

W. H.

BISSET, WILLIAM, D.D. (1758–1834), Irish bishop, was a member of the ancient family of Bisset of Lessendrum, Drumblade,

near Huntly, in Aberdeenshire. His father was the Rev. Alexander Bisset, D.D., chancellor of Armagh, who died in 1782. William Bisset, who was born 27 Oct. 1758, was, like his father, educated at Westminster, where he was admitted a king's scholar in 1771, and at Christ Church, Oxford, to which he was elected a scholar in 1775, and where he took his degree of B.A. 4 Nov. 1779, and proceeded M.A. 7 Feb. 1782 (*Cat. Oxford Graduates*). He was presented in 1784 to the rectory of Dunbin, in the county of Louth, which he resigned upon his collation, 31 Jan. 1791, to the prebend of Loughgall, or Leval-leaglish, in the cathedral church of Armagh. In 1794 he became rector of Clonmore, and in 1804 was collated, 29 Sept., to the archdeaconry of Ross, in what had been, since 1583, the united episcopate of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. In 1807 he resigned his prebendal stall of Loughgall in order to become rector of Donoghmore, and was appointed, 1812, to the rectory of Loughgilly. All his preferments, with the exception of the archdeaconry of Ross, were within the diocese of Armagh. A few years afterwards he was appointed to the chancellorship of Armagh, to which he was collated on 23 August 1817, thus succeeding his father after an interval of twenty-five years. As his final preferment, Bisset was promoted by the Marquis of Wellesley, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, 1821-1828, to the bishopric of Raphoe. His patent was dated 5 June 1822. He administered the affairs of the diocese with general approval. On the death of Dr. Magee, archbishop of Dublin, 19 Aug. 1831, Bisset was pressed to become his successor, but he declined on the ground of increasing infirmities. He built several churches in his diocese, and expended a considerable sum of money on the improvement of the palace at Raphoe; and when the parliamentary grant was withdrawn from the Association for discountenancing Vice, his lordship supplied the loss. Bisset died 5 Sept. 1834, whilst on a visit to his nephew at Lessendrum. His clergy erected to his memory a monument in the cathedral, with an inscription by W. Archer Butler. At his death the see of Raphoe became annexed to that of Derry. The authorship of a 'Life of Edmund Burke,' London, 1798, was erroneously claimed for him, the real author being Robert Bisset, LL.D. [q. v.]

[Douglas's Baronage of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1798; New Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. xii. Edinburgh, 1844; Cotton's *Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ*; Cork Evening Herald, quoted in the Record, 15 Sept. 1834; Dublin Evening Mail, quoted in the St. James's Chronicle, 16 Sept. 1834.]

A. H. G.

BIX, ANGEL (*d.* 1695), Franciscan friar, after filling the office of confessor to the Poor Clares at Aire, and to the community at Princenhoff, Bruges, was sent to England, and became chaplain to the Spanish ambassador in London in the reign of James II. He died early in 1695 whilst guardian of his order at York. Bix preached 'A Sermon on the Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Preach'd before her majesty the queen-dowager in her chapel at Somerset House, upon Good Friday, 13 April 1688;' published by royal authority, London, 1688, 4to, and reprinted in 'A Select Collection of Catholick Sermons,' 2 vols., London, 1741.

[Dodd's Church Hist. iii. 491; Oliver's Hist. of the Catholic Religion in Cornwall, 545; Cat. of the Grenville Library; Lowndes's Bibl. Man., ed. Bohn, 2243.] T. C.

BIZARI, PIETRO (1530?-1586?), an Italian historian and poet, long resident in England, was born at Sassoferrato in Umbria, or, according to some writers, at Perugia, whence he is sometimes called PETRUS PERUSINUS. When young he went to Venice, but having adopted the reformed faith he left that city for England. He describes himself as 'an exile from Italy, his native country, by reason of his confession of the doctrine of the gospel' (*Original Letters relative to the English Reformation*, ed. Robinson [Parker Soc.], 339). He was patronised by the Earl of Bedford, and on 4 July 1549 was admitted a fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, by the royal commissioners for the visitation of the university, being incorporated there in the same degree which he had taken 'in partibus transmarinis' (BAKER, *Hist. of St. John's College*, ed. Mayor, i. 285 n). It does not appear how he disposed of himself during the reign of Queen Mary. If he left England he returned in the reign of Elizabeth, for in 1567 Bishop Jewel, at the instance of Archbishop Parker, gave him the prebend of Alton Pancras in the church of Sarum, worth 20*l.* a year (STRYPE, *Life of Abp. Parker*, 255 fol.) Failing in his expectations of receiving church preferment in this country, he obtained, in 1570, a license from secretary Cecil to go abroad, partly for the purpose of printing his own works, and partly to collect news of foreign affairs for the English government. He passed some time at Genoa, though at what precise period it is difficult to determine, for he appears to have led a very migratory life on the continent, and the various statements which have been made respecting his place of abode cannot be easily reconciled with one another. Passing to Germany he