

HISTORY
OF
SCOTLAND.

By PATRICK FRASER TYTLER, Esq.

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P R E F A C E.

THE principal sources from which this Volume of the History of Scotland has been written, are the same as those indicated in the Preface to Volume Seventh; but the Author has also had the advantage of consulting a valuable collection of original letters and papers, illustrating the reign of James the Sixth, which has been most liberally communicated to him by the Right Honourable Sir George Warrender, Bart. These letters have contributed some important facts to this Volume; and promise to be of still greater service to the next, in the lights which they throw on the concluding portion of this History.

Amongst them are several secret and confidential letters of Queen Elizabeth to James the Sixth, which contain much that is char-

acteristic of this extraordinary woman, and are written wholly in her own hand. The Volumes containing these materials are quoted in the text as the Warrender MSS., and were consulted by Dr Robertson, who has described them, in his Preface to the History of Scotland, "as a very valuable collection of Original Papers, in two large Volumes, communicated by Sir Alexander Dick."

The Author has also to acknowledge the kindness of his friend, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, in placing in his hands three folio Volumes, containing chiefly the Original Letters of Sir Robert Bowes, who acted so prominent a part in the history of this period, and to whose vigorous and graphic details frequent reference has been made in this Volume.

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