

AN

ACCOUNT

Of the Particular

Soliloquies and Covenant Engagements,

OF

Mrs. Janet Hamilton.

The deceased Lady of ALEX. GORDON
of EARLSTON

Upon several Diets, and at the several Places under-written, which were found in her Cabinet among her Papers, after her Death, at Earlston, Feb. 26. 1696, Being all written and subscribed with her own hand; and thought fit to be discovered, for the encouragement of others to the like duty.

Blacklock's Edition, 1761

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1730

Of the Parish

of the Parish of St. Andrew's
in the County of Middlesex

Covenant Engagements, &c.

Mrs. Janet Hamilton.

The 6th day of December 1687

Mrs Hamilton.

The first dated at

Blacknefs Castle, December, 1687:

O LCRD, I desire to blefs thy name for thy former loving kindness unto me in the time of my strait, in helping and standing by me when overcharged with affliction,

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and deserted of friends. What was I and my father's house? A poor insufficient creature, taken up with nothing but vanities of all sorts. O what moved a holy God ever to condescend to look upon me, and pass by so many much more worthy than poor undeserving me? O praises be unto thee, O Most High! O that were my tongue employed thro' time in magnifying the holy name of so merciful a God! May not I say that his mercies are over all his other works to me! May not I sit and admire his free love, first, in inclining my heart to love him and his people, and in casting my lot amongst the godly, and in bestowing a godly and kind husband unto me (when left destitute of father or mother); and that he did so care for me, as not to suffer me to enjoy the desires of my heart, but was at pains to hedge in my way with thorns; and his infinite love suffered me to sit at my ease, enjoying my pleasure in the day of Zion's calamity.

And preparing the way by smaller trials for greater, thou didst, in thine infinite love and wisdom, and at first cast me into the hottest flames of the furnace, lest I should not have been able to stand, but in fright fainted and turned back: but, O praise, praise be to him that inhabits eternity! that condescended so far to me a worm, as sweetly to

train me up, alluioing me and speaking comfortably to me at my first entry into the wilderness. Thou caused thy word to be to my soul as the honey and the honey-comb. Thou madst me sit under thy shadow with great delight, and thy fruit was sweet to my taste. So that many a time that, which to on-lookers was sad, was sweet to me. The Lord did so support and feast me in his banqueting house, that I was made to reioice in the midst of my tribulations.

Likewise thou didst not suffer me to go on with those that were indifferent in Christ's matters, but with thy rod thou didst raise such a zeal and love on my spirit, and so filled my mouth with arguments that I could not see any thing like defection from, or wrong done to, any of thy truths, without resenting, testifying, and contending against it. Thou so far changed my heart, which was proud and haughty, much disdainig the converse of the poor,—that thou helped me to be denied to great folk and to thereproach I suffered on that were godly in the land dear of the poor that were godly in the land dear unto me: and I hope they shall be so, while they keep in God's way—he having passed by the great ones, and honoured the poor, making them boldly to testify for him; and those whom he honours, I desire (thro' grace) to

And when thou didst (for the trial of my
 faith and patience) throw me in very hot
 flames of affliction, having all discouragements
 from the world that a poor thing could
 be trusted with; and that which was sorest
 to me, not having that measure of sense of
 thy presence as sometimes before; but O
 that condescendence! O that fatherly love!
 that didst not suffer me to sink in this storm,
 which was lightly looked on by the most
 part; few to sympathize with me, but many
 thinking it their duty to add to my affliction.
 O praises! praises be to thee, who at that
 time helped me to sit silent, bearing thy indignation
 patiently, because I sinned against thee; yet
 thy mercies did not fail towards me, but
 thou didst in this extremity support me, and
 did, by restraining grace, bind me in, not
 giving me liberty to seek sinful deliverances.
 O Lord, continue in thy love in keeping me
 in thy way, that I may have reason to set up
 my Ebednezzar, and to say, Hitherto the
 Lord hath helped me. O thou that hast begun
 this good work, perfect it, that I may
 praise thy holy name thro' time and all eternity.
 And now, O Lord, out of the sense
 of all these thy loving kindness towards thy
 poor handmaid, I desire in thy strength to
 renew former engagements, and solemnly a-
 new to enter into covenant with thee. O

honour. Praise be to thee, whose care of me was such, that it was ministers who were valiant for Christ that he sent in my way; such as did not flatter me in my sin, but faithfully and freely did hold out in the gospel what was sin and what was duty, and sealed the same with their blood. How didst thou encourage me with many sweet answers of prayers, to confirm me in thy love. Thou didst help me in the days of thy love to me, to make a full resignation of all that was mine unto thee. When I was put out of all, stripped bare and destitute, not knowing of shelter to me and my poor babes, how calmly and quietly didst thou help me to go under it! so that I was made to fear that it was stupidity, and not supporting grace. And such was thy love, that even in that thou would not let me go without reproof; for there was a friend suffered to wrong me in a business, and the Lord withdrew, and then I was as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke; I could not get it borne, until I mourned for my folly, in thinking that nature could do any thing in me without assisting grace: then he helped me to make a full resignation anew of all that was mine, and to look beyond all earthly portions unto that noble inheritance which thou hast purchased with thine own blood, and gave me a full contentedness in all my sufferings, both from friends and foes.

Lord, help me to go sincerely about it, and let thy presence go along with the duty.

O Lord, I here desire to enter solemnly into covenant with thee, taking thee for my Lord and Master, accepting thee on thy own terms taking thee for my King, Priest, and Prophet; and in my station, thro' thy grace, to stand by truth, and cheerfully to take on thy yoke and follow thee. Lord, thou knowest my weakness: I desire to believe that thou wilt be a present help, in the day of need, to me, according to thy promise; and I, in the faith of this, do go on:—I here give my hearty consent to thy coming and taking possession of my soul, and to thy casting out of all there that stands in opposition to thee. Come, Lord Jesus, subdue all my corruptions, and bring them under my feet, that I may be thro' thee a conqueror over them. I desire here to take thee for my All, to be ruled and governed by thee, acquiescing to whatsoever shall be thy way of dealing with me. Give me thyself, and this shall be all my desire: I desire to enter my protestation at the throne of grace, against all principalities and powers in me that stand out against thee, and will endeavour, in thy strength, to war against them, for they reign as tyrants not having consent. Whatever I have been, I dare here accept of the offer of peace thro'

Christ, and do make a sure covenant with thee this day never to be reversed, hoping thou wilt make all forthcoming unto me, both on thy part and mine.—I desire here to own all the contraverted truths that are founded on thy holy word; which word I desire to be my rule, and to confess me before men, that thou mayest confess me before the Father Lord, give me in that hour, if I shall be brought before great ones for thy names sake, I desire to adhere to all the articles of the Covenants, National and Solemn League, to which I am engaged; only I disown the king's part of it, he having unkinged himself by the breach of Covenants, and by making our land a land of graven images, that was so solemnly given up to God: I desire in weakness to adhere to it, altho' burnt by the hand of the hangman, and now buried by those that better things were expected of. O Lord, I desire to close all, by giving myself up to thee, and all mine. Accept Lord Jesus Christ, and help to perform, and own me as thy covenanted child, protesting humbly, and failing on my part (against which I resolve as thou knowest) shall not make void this covenant. I have accepted of thy offer upon thy own terms, and will henceforth wait for what is good, that when thou comest I may rejoice in thee

crying, This is my Gott, I have waited for
him. As witness my hand at Blackheath
Candle.

December,

Sic subscribitur,

JANET HAMILTON.

Covenant Engagement,

&c. &c.

The second dated at

Earlston, January, 1691.

LORD, thou knowest my former engagement which past betwixt my soul and thee, when I entered into covenant with thee (to my soul's great comfort) in the sweet Castle of Blackness.—I giving myself up unto thee promising to be for the in my, station adhering to thy sacred scriptures, and to our noble work of reformation, which was then the head of my sufferings, and for which I had lost the favour of my relations and christian friends, whose untenderness to me made me sit solitary, eating the bread of adversity, and drinking the water of affliction; killed all the day long with sore and heavy reproaches; few or none to sympathize with me but thyself, who sweetned all my trials with the soul comforting consolation of thy Holy Spirit; such contentedness thou gave

me in thy sweets cross, that I never knew what it was for to weary.—I at that time engaged to endure what ingredients thou shouldst put in my cup to drink, and to drink cheerfully and submissively.—Such was thy love to me, that thou brought me from under the feet of that cruel enemy, without wronging truth; and hast letten me see, that I have nothing to boast of.—it being nothing in me but ever free grace that perfected strength in the weakness. O that I had the tongue of the learned, that I might shew all thy praises! It was not I, but thou who magnified thy power, in carrying a poor weak thing thro' such depths, and suffered great ones to stagger and fall in the way.—Thy word was made out in making use of the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.—Thou hast made thy infinite love to carry thro' a poor finite creature.

How often have I been made to stand and wonder and admire free love; knowing my own weakness, and the many infirmities I am liable to, by a body of sin and death: such was thy love, that thou gave me such courage, that neither the flattering of friends nor the threats of enemies would move me to do any thing to truth's disadvantage! Such was thy love to me! O thy sweet cross! thy yoke was made easy to me, and thy burden light. O that any should fear at thy soul-

instructing rods! How many lessons of
 Christianity are to be learned under thy rod!
 So much comfort and consolation is to be
 found quietly and calmly acquiescing to
 his will, that I may say, I shall never have
 such contentedness, were I to be inheritor of
 the whole world, as I had under the sweet
 cross of Christ. O praises! praises to him
 who made it so!—But with what a heavy
 heart did I come out of that Castle of Black-
 ness! The Lord did give me such a sight of
 the intricate dispensations that the Church
 was to meet with, by the coming of the Prince
 of Orange, that instead of being compassed a-
 bout with sones of deliverance, it was attend-
 ed with great heaviness: I could take plea-
 sure in nothing, but mourning over the sad
 thing; I saw coming on the Church, When
 others were rejoicing, I durst not make
 mention of my disconsolate case. When they
 spake preferment to my family, it was as
 a sword to my heart. I cried, and the Lord
 heard me in that; and instead of that, he
 gave me the assurance of the salvation of my
 dear child William, and gave me full sub-
 mission to his sickness, which I could never
 win to before—accompanied with many
 sweet melting days, which was to me an in-
 expressible mercy. Oh, then! what did I
 see next? The work of God betrayed, not
 by enemies, nor by that party only that had
 sitten at their ease, but by those ministers and

the greatitide we have shewn him for all his loving kindness to us in the wilderness! Is this for his feeding, cloathing, and preserving in despite of enemies! Is this all we have rendered to him—to run as so many sheep out of a fold, every one to what he could win at, without ever looking and considering what was their duty to do in such a time for Christ and his cause! O! wrath is gone out ag:st us! Plague upon plague is the portion for professors of this generation! O Lord, I fear I, and many others, have been building upon a sandy foundation; suffering more out of an expectation of a temporal delivery, than out of love to Christ and his cause! the event of the sufferings of Scotland speaks out the truth of this,—the light whereof has made my heart to trouble. Therefore, O Lord, I desire that you wouldst uncover the deceit of my heart in this, with a true sence of it upon my spirit; that I may mourn in secret places for it. O! give me thy assisting grace and helping hand in this reeling, fainting and failing time, that I may be helped, in singleness and uprightings of heart, and in sincerity without hypocrisy or guile, to lay that foundation stone right which is Jesus Christ. O come and give thy consent to this covenant and bargain this day: let thy presence show thy satisfaction in it, that I may win to the faith—that not only I have covenanted with thee, but that thou hast condescended in thy

ple that had jeopard'd their lives in the
 places of the fields taking cheerfully
 spoiling of their goods ;—these are they
 have buried the work of the Lord, sad-
 ened the hearts of their poor affliction breth-
 ren, buried the Covenant and the Reforma-
 tion work, which was the glory of our land.

Seeing all this with the home-coming to
 my house, which I thought I never would
 enjoy again till Christ had been restor'd
 to his rights ; for, O Lord, thou knowest
 what I desired not delivery till it had come
 from Zion's : I say, this cast me into a great
 affliction. Lord, thou knewest my burden ; it
 was not hid from thee, and it is all my comfort.
 In the depths of the intricate dispensations I
 have been try'd with since I came out of
 the forehead Castle ! If it were not that my
 house and Zion's is somewhat levelled alike,
 I should sink beneath the stream ; but,
 the cup which my father had given me, shall
 I not drink it ? Lord, help me, that I weary
 not before it be at an end

Would it not affect any soul that ever had
 love to Christ, to see the sad fruit of a
 personal delivery ;—every one running out
 of the furnace after the world, and after his
 rights and privileges, without being
 concern'd to enquire how Christ invested him
 with his rights and prerogatives. Oh ! is this

infinite love to covenant with me, and ha
 made it sure for every thing.—Now, Lord,
 desire to enter into covenant with thee th
 day, in opposition to all the corruptions
 a body of sin and death that I am masters
 with.—I desire, in thy sight, to protest a
 gainst all things in me, or in my family, th
 is not like thee ;—and this day, to invit
 thee back to my house on any terms,—an
 do not break us with thy long absence.—
 Come, Lord Jesus, and take up thy dwellin
 amongst us.—We are a heartless compan
 without thee.—Come to the heads, and te
 us what is duty, and our duty ; and pu
 work in our hands. Art thou passing by us
 as one that hath no more work for us to do
 O Lord, I cannot think upon this ; let no
 our iniquities put a stop in thy way : com
 over the mountains of opposition, and put u
 to duty, and keep us at duty and dwell with
 us. I invite thee to come to my poor babes
 let them be of the little children that thou
 suffers to come unto thee. Salvation to him
 that appears to be near his close : let him
 have mercy in, and thro', a compleat Medi
 ator Christ; let thy sympathy and free love
 be extended towards him —he being one of
 thy sufferers wanting the administration of
 thy Sacrament of Baptism, because of the
 unfaithfulness of ministers. Lord, thou
 knowest, that it was not in contempt of thy
 holy ordinance that it was wanting ; but we

ould not, in our station, shew in a more eminent way our dislike to the injuries done to thee. O Lord, unfaithful ministers: all their treachery is well known unto thee. Lord, break the snres, and let thy poor flock escape; and hasten the day when my rids shall feed beside the shepherd's tents. I invite thee this day to every soul within my family; let the work of grace be amongst them all,—every one encouraging another in the way of duty: that we may be a little sanctuary for thee to dwell in.—I invite thee, O Lord, this day, to return to poor covenanted Scotland; altho' she has broken covenant with thee, yet thou must not give up with her. Remember thy former loving kindness to her, and, for thine own name's sake, return, return, and deliver. Are not enemies rejoicing, that they have gotten of the sons and daughters of Zion to help them to lay on the grave-stone, to hold down the work? Are not enemies crying, Where is the covenanted God of Scotland,—and saying, If this work had been of God, it would have stood; So that all the blood of thy people, and the cause of God for which they suffered, is now buried, with the mockery of some and joy of others. But thou, who art the lion of the tribe of Judah, rouse up thyself, and let it be known to all nations, that the covenanted God of Scotland lives and reigns! O that the resurrection of thy buried

and put forth their hands to iniquity.—I desire this day to covenant with thee, in opposition to all the power civil and ecclesiastic, that has eaten out the life of Christianity, and stands in opposition to thee and thy precious truths.—and engage never to own them, till they be for thee. This I engage, in the strength of the Lord.

I adhere to all the truths of the Old and New Testaments; and to all the testimonies of thy people (given by them) for carrying on thy work.—I desire to adhere to the now buried Covenants, and to all the work of reformation which is founded upon thy word. Lord, help a poor weak insufficient creature to hold by this vow; and in paying vows unto thee I do this day give up my dear husband unto thee, and all my children; that thou mayest make them for thee, and employ them in thy service—be the hazard what it will.

O Lord, take them off my hand, that they may be marked in thy love in that day when thou goest thro' the land with the devouring sword; let them get their souls for a prey, and be found within the bounds of the everlasting covenant. This is all my desire—grace in exercise be their portion.

ark were more glorious than ever! Let
 on's walls be built again so that she may
 beautiful as Tirza, comely as Jerusalem,
 as the moon clear as the sun and terri-
 ble as an army with banners;—so that her
 enemies may tremble; and her children, who
 for a long time have been mourning over her
 desolation, may rejoice in her comely order,
 and be compassed about with songs.—I invite
 thee to the poor betrayed scattered societies
 of Scotland, that thou art now justly com-
 mending with. The marks of thy displeasure
 are evidently to be seen in every meeting; an
 absent God in every piece of duty; love and
 tenderness much gone; heart-burnings and
 unbelief; a practical work among the most part, or
 making any progress in the way of Christi-
 nity: Is not all this come upon us, because
 our God is not amongst us! O that thou, O
 Lord, wouldest return and make known for
 what thou are contending, and remove their
 spiritual plagues, and let thy Spirit be poured
 out among the sinners in Zion, and let them
 again behold the King's face in peace.—I de-
 sire to invite thee to every afflicted and wearied
 soul that is lost and like to faint on the dark
 mountains passing thro' dark steps, and none
 to speak comfortably unto them, but every
 one adding grief to grief. Lord, appear thou
 for their help, and shorten these days for the
 elect's sake, lest they faint under the burden.

I do this day solemnly enter into covenant
 with thee holding up my hands, vowing
 to be thine, giving up myself unto thee, clos-
 ing with thee in thine own terms, begging
 thee to come and put to thy seal to this great
 work: and I desire, that this covenant may
 be as a staff to hold me up from staggering on
 the dark mountains. Lord, help me to have
 a practice in sincerity, like our covenant
 with thee. O LORD, I do take the stones
 in the wall, and the timber of the house, to
 witnesses, that I have given up myself, and
 all mine, into thee, O Lord this day. As
 witness my hand.

At Earlston, Sic subscribitur,
 Jan, 1691.

JANET HAMILTON.

Covenant Engagements.

&c. &c.

The third dated at

Airds, June, 1695.

Out of the sense of my own weakness,
and the great falling away of this genera-
on, do desire to renew my covenant engage-
ments. The Lord has been kind unto me;
has not been a barren wilderness, nor a
d of drought in the day of famine—he
fed me in the green pastures. O for
ce to improve all thy loving kindness
which I desire to do only in thy strength. O
come! Accept of my weak performances,
up me to covenant aright with thee, and to
p covenant vows to thee! I do again give

up all that I have unto thee. I give up my
 dear sympathizing husband to thee : put
 work in his hand that may be for thy glory
 his soul's comfort and truth's advantage
 that we may rejoice in thee in the way of thy
 salvation. I likewise give up my dear brother
 unto thee ; his cause is known unto thee
 thou hast hitherto helped him, and I desire
 to believe thou wilt continue thy love. O
 Lord, thou hast given a little flock ; dear
 and precious Christ as thou hast given them
 unto me, I do freely and solemnly give them
 back unto thee, and desire that thou mayest
 dispose of them at thy pleasure ;—only, let
 grace be given to them, that they may be
 employed, in their stations, for thy glory—
 and be kept from the abomination of this
 time. Do with them, as to the world, as
 thou thinks fit,—only, convey grace down
 to their posterity ; let them be pleaders for
 thee as I have pleaded for them as the throne
 of grace : this is all my desire, and would be
 my comfort to see. O Lord, come this day
 and smile upon my poor gift, and accept of
 them. I solemnly stand to all my former en-
 gagements, and make a solemn resignation
 of myself unto thee, and desire to close with
 thee on thine own terms. O let to thy let
 to it, and condescend in thy love to let it be
 registrate in heaven that whatever may be
 my cause or trials. I may have a covenant

God to run to. Lord, keep me in thy way, and help me to stand by truth, I desire this day to protest against all the incroachments made on thy rights and Church privileges: and I desire to protest, this day, before thy throne, against the soul-mudering courses of ministers and people adopted: and I desire to protest against that horrid abomination of defiling the Lord's Table after such an ignominious manner.

Oh, poor Scotland! what shall be thy end? Wrath from on high, for your sacriligious abominations. I desire, this day, to adhere to all thy covenanted truths, founded on thy holy word.—I desire to mourn over any thing that is in me or mine, that is offensive in thy sight. O Lord, let us be wholly for thee, acting for thee with a perfect heart. I desire no longer to have a posterity than they are for thee. O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, come and be witnesses to this bargain, and cloie with me that desires to cloie with thee, any to be thy covenanted child. Here I take all the trees of the wood, and all the works of creation about me, to witness, that I have given all mine unto thee. not in my strength but in thine. O Lord Jehovah, to whom I desire

everlasting praises, that thou hast not suffered
my table to be empty, whilst others are de-
filing thine ! O praise & praise for ever be to
thee, As witness my hand.

At Airds, Sic subscribitur,
June, 1695.

JANET HAMILTON.

N. B. If any suspect this to be vitiate or
counterfeit, they may go to her husband,
who can shew them the principal, all written
and subscribed with her own hand.

FINIS.