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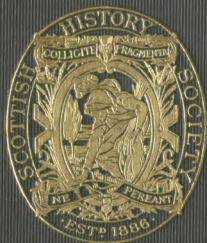
WARRENDER  
LETTERS  
1715

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WARRENDER LETTERS

1985









*Sir George Warrender*  
*from the picture in the City Chambers. Edinburgh*

*Annan, Glasgow ph. 20.*

# WARRENDER LETTERS

CORRESPONDENCE OF SIR GEORGE WARRENDER BT.  
LORD PROVOST OF EDINBURGH, AND MEMBER OF  
PARLIAMENT FOR THE CITY, WITH RELATIVE PAPERS

1715

Transcribed by

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PH.D., KEEPER OF THE BURGH RECORDS OF EDINBURGH

Edited with an Introduction and Notes by

WILLIAM KIRK DICKSON

LL.D., ADVOCATE



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## PREFACE

THE Letters printed in this volume are preserved in the archives of the City of Edinburgh. Most of them are either written by or addressed to Sir George Warrender, who was Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1713 to 1715, and who in 1715 became Member of Parliament for the City. They are all either originals or contemporary copies. They were tied up in a bundle marked 'Letters relating to the Rebellion of 1715,' and they all fall within that year. The most important subject with which they deal is the Jacobite Rising, but they also give us many side-lights on Edinburgh affairs, national politics, and the personages of the time.

The Letters have been transcribed by Miss Marguerite Wood, Keeper of the Burgh Records, who recognised their exceptional interest. Miss Wood has placed her transcript at the disposal of the Scottish History Society.

The Letters are now printed by permission of the Magistrates and Council, who have also granted permission to reproduce as a frontispiece to the volume the portrait of Sir George Warrender which in 1930 was presented to the City by his descendant, Sir Victor Warrender, Bt., M.P.

In the Introduction I have indicated the historical background, and I have added to the Letters a few notes, chiefly biographical.

I desire to express my thanks to Miss Wood, to whom I am indebted for much information derived from the

Minutes of the Town Council, and to Miss Margaret Warrender, for permission to quote freely from her *Walks near Edinburgh*. My thanks are also due to the ever-helpful staff of the National Library of Scotland.

W. K. D.

8 GLOUCESTER PLACE,  
EDINBURGH, *July 9, 1935.*

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## INTRODUCTION

### I. GEORGE WARRENDER

SIR GEORGE WARRENDER OF LOCHEND, East Lothian, and Bruntsfield, Edinburgh, who became Lord Provost in 1713, is a notable figure in the history of Edinburgh. He was a successful merchant, an efficient Town Councillor, Bailie, and Lord Provost, and an active Member of Parliament for the City. He was a convinced and zealous Whig, and when the Jacobite Rising came in 1715 he played his part manfully on the side of King George. He founded a distinguished Edinburgh family.

He was of French descent; according to the tradition of the family his ancestor, a De Warende, came from Picardy in the train of Mary of Guise. The following account of his career is taken from Wotton's *Baronetage* (ed. 1771, vol. iii. p. 79):

'The father of Sir George Warrender, of Lochend, Bart., was, George, who dying, left his son an infant.

'His mother was Margaret Cunninghame, a relation of Sir David Cunningham's, of Milnraig, Bart. of Scotland, and by her mother descended of the family of McDowal, of Frewch.

'Sir George was put out to business as a merchant, and came to be a very considerable dealer in foreign trade, before the late Revolution, and by his industry in that way, he acquired, with a fair character, an handsome estate.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This paragraph is quoted in G. E. C.'s *Complete Baronetage* as being 'ex inform. of the 2d Baronet.' The British Museum Catalogue notes a copy of the edition of 1741 'with copious MS. notes, by J. G. Nichols.'



‘ At the time of the happy Revolution, he struck in with that party that stood for religion and liberty ; and as all his life long he had been attached to the true interest of his country, he came early to be distinguished amongst his fellow citizens of Edinburgh, and did advance through the several offices in the magistracy of that city, till he was called to serve as lord provost, or mayor of Edinburgh, and had the honour to represent the city in the first parliament of King George 1.

‘ Sir George came to the provost’s chair, the last year of Queen Anne, and being firm to the Hanover succession, did all in his station to oppose the violent spirit that then ran so high ; and on the fifth of August, when King George 1. was proclaimed in Edinburgh, he, as chief magistrate, and high sheriff in the place, discharged that part of his office with the most sincere affection, in proclaiming the King.

‘ It is above taken notice of, that he represented the city of Edinburgh in parliament, and the time he served was from the year 1715, to the time of his death, at London, in March 1721-2 when attending that service. He is buried in the dissenting ground in Bunhill fields.

‘ Sir George, as he had appeared zealous for the interest of his country, in the year 1715, the time of that unnatural rebellion, and opposed the rebels being admitted into the city, when the attempt was made on it and the castle, and all along strenuously asserted the Hanover succession ; it was for these, and his other services to his country, and to his King, he had the honour of his patent from King George 1. anno 1715, June 2.

‘ Sir George was twice married, first, to Margaret Lawrie, a worthy merchant’s daughter in the city ; of this marriage were the present Sir John Warrender, and one daughter. Sir George’s second wife, was Grissel Blair, daughter of Hugh Blair, merchant, and one of the

magistrates of Edinburgh; by this marriage he had George Warrender, of Bruntsfield, Esq.; David, of Edinburgh, and Hugh, a counsellor at law, in the Temple, London: the daughters were, Jane, married to Mr Archibald Stewart, advocate, son to Sir Thomas Stewart, of Coltness, Bart., who had a son, Thomas, and one daughter. Sir George had four other daughters of this marriage.

‘Sir John Warrender, of Lochend, his eldest son and successor, the present baronet, married Henrietta Johnston, daughter of Sir Patrick Johnston, late lord-provost, or mayor of Edinburgh, and member of the last Scots parliament, for sundry sessions, from anno 1703, to 1706, when the union was concluded betwixt the two kingdoms; and he was one of the commissioners nominated for, and did attend, that treaty of union, and was a member of the first British parliament.’

The Warrender family has served the country well since Sir George’s time. The third baronet, Sir Patrick, was King’s Remembrancer and Member of Parliament for Haddington; the fourth, Sir George, was a Lord of the Admiralty and a Member of the Board of Control; the seventh, Vice-Admiral Sir George Warrender, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., commanded the Second Battle Squadron from 1912 to 1915 and became Commander-in-Chief at Plymouth. The present head of the house, Sir Victor Warrender, has sat in the House of Commons since 1923, has been a Junior Lord of the Treasury and Comptroller of the Household, and is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty.

The estate of Lochend in East Lothian, near Dunbar, was bought by George Warrender from Sir Robert Sinclair of Longformacus in 1708.

Bruntsfield House was bought by him in 1695. It is a well-known Edinburgh landmark. An interesting

account of it is given by Miss Margaret Warrender in her *Walks near Edinburgh*, which she allows me to quote.

‘ Bruntisfield is the last of the old houses in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh which is still inhabited by its owners.<sup>1</sup> Merchiston Castle and the Grange are let; the Wrytshouses has long disappeared; but Bruntisfield, in spite of recent additions and alterations, still preserves much of the character of the semi-fortified mansion, with protecting outworks, which centuries ago frowned over the Boroughmuir. Its antiquity is even more apparent inside than outside, from the thickness of the walls, the diversities of the levels, and the steep little turret stairs.

‘ The earliest owners of Bruntisfield appear to have been the Lauders of Haltoun (or Hatton, as it is now called). In 1452 we find James II. granting a charter to his consort, Queen Marie, “for the very sincere affection which he bears towards her,” of the lands of Haltoun, the Plat, Weschal, Nortoun, Broumysfelde (Bruntisfield), the North Row of Rathow, and the rents of Gogar, belonging to the king by the forfeiture of the late “William de Laudre of Haltoun.” The Lauders seem to have been shortly after restored, for in 1490 King James IV. granted a charter to “Sir Alexander Lawdre of Haltoun of the lands of Broumsfield.” The same Sir Alexander, seven years later (1497), assigned “Brounisfield, with its mansion-house, garden and herbarium (or park), to his son Alexander Lawder,” who in James IV.’s confirmation of the charter (1506) is quaintly styled “the king’s familiar,” and who held these lands of his father by the yearly payment of a red rose. Bruntisfield appears to have been considered a suitable appanage for the heir-apparent of Haltoun, for in August 1586 we find James VI. con-

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<sup>1</sup> Written in 1895. Pilrig is one old house still inhabited by its owners.

firming a charter of Sir William Lauder granting these lands to his eldest son Alexander.

‘ Soon after this (in 1603) Bruntisfield passed away from the Lauders, being sold by Alexander Lauder to John Fairlie, probably a cadet of the family of Braid. He apparently altered and added to the house, as it would seem from the date 1605, which, with the initials I.F.—E.W., is over some of the windows. The original house was of much older date, as we have evidence that a mansion-house stood here in 1457.

‘ In 1695, William Fairlie sold Bruntisfield to George Warrender, afterwards Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and created a baronet in 1715. . . . By degrees he acquired other lands lying contiguous to Bruntisfield, by purchase from Rigg of Riggsland, Biggar of Whitehouse, and Dick of Grange; and these form the property of Bruntisfield as it now stands.

‘ The Lauders of Haltoun became extinct in the seventeenth century, and their representation devolved on the Maitland family by the marriage of Elizabeth Lauder, the heiress of Haltoun, with Charles, third Earl of Lauderdale. That descent we have inherited through my father’s mother, Lady Julian Maitland; so that, after a lapse of nearly three hundred years, the descendants of the original possessors inhabit the old house again.

‘ After the purchase of Bruntisfield by George Warrender, it remained for nearly a hundred years in possession of the younger branch of the family, which came to an end in 1820 by the death of Hugh Warrender, an old bachelor, who was Crown Agent for Scotland. He was succeeded by his cousin, my grand-uncle, the Right Hon. Sir George Warrender, M.P., who on taking possession discovered the existence of a secret room. The house was then thickly covered with ivy. Lee, the Royal Academician, and an architect that Sir George had brought down from

London with him, were the first to suspect its existence, from finding more windows outside than they could account for. The old woman who had charge of the house denied for a long time any knowledge of such a room; but, frightened by Sir George's threats, she at length showed them the narrow entrance, that was concealed behind a piece of tapestry. This was torn down, and the door forced open, and a room was found, just as it had been left by some former occupant,—the ashes still in the grate. Whether, as one story said, it had been used as a hiding-place in troubled times,—or whether, according to another legend, it had been the room of a dearly loved child of the house, after whose death it had been hurriedly shut up, never to be entered again by the broken-hearted parents,—there are now no means of knowing; but the blood-stains on the floor point to some darker tragedy, and a tradition still lingers, that not long after the discovery of the room, a skeleton was found buried below the windows. It is still known as the Ghost-room, though nothing has been seen, at least for many years.'<sup>1</sup>

From the Town Council Minutes it appears that Warrender was made a burgess and guild brother by right of his wife Margaret, daughter of Thomas Lawrie, merchant, on March 16, 1681. On September 24, 1690, he is elected a merchant councillor. From that time onward he attends the Council regularly and takes an active part in its business. On November 12, 1690, he is appointed Captain of the Orange Colours (1st Company of Train-bands) and on the 15th, Bailie of the Butter Market. In 1692 he is one of the assessors to the Town's Commissioners to the General Assembly. On October 4, 1692, he is appointed Treasurer, to which office he is re-elected in the following year. On October 2, 1695, he becomes

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<sup>1</sup> *Walks near Edinburgh* (2nd edition, Edinburgh, 1895), pp. 10-17.

Second Bailie. In 1699 he makes a generous gift to the town. Under King James VII. he had been fined for nonconformity. On September 18, 1699, there appears in the Minutes :

' A List of such of the persons fyned for not conformity in the late Government who having recovered a Decreit against the Good Town for repayment of the said fynes have gifted the same or pairt thereof to the Maiden Hospital. . . .

George Warrender one of the present baillies his whole fyne being	£450
George Home of Kello Lord Provost of Edr. his whole fine	£250
Sir Gilbert Elliot, one of the Clerks to his Maties Privy Councill as a pairt	£250
Sir Arch. Muir, late Provost of Edr. his whole fyne	£100'

(and others)

In 1703 we find Warrender First Bailie. In 1704 Bailie Warrender has a seat in the Old Kirk, for which he paid £12. In 1708 he is Dean of Guild. At last, on October 6, 1713, he becomes Lord Provost.

Queen Anne died on August 1, 1714, and on August 5 King George I. was proclaimed at the Cross of Edinburgh by the Provost and the Sheriff. The proclamation produced a dispute about ceremonial which has been repeated in modern times.

' Mr Thomas Rig, Deputy Sheriff of Midlothian, alleged that he ought to be upon the Cross in conjunction with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and there read the proclamation when the Deput Lyon was proclaiming, the Lord Provost refused the same as being prejudicial to the interest of the good town and ane encroachment on their right and privilege, but allowed to him the use

of the cross after he was done with the said proclamation. The Duke of Montrose decided in favour of the Provost. Subsequent to the proclamation when the Lord Provost read the words to the Lyon depute, and after he had withdrawn, Mr Thomas Rig read the proclamation to the Lyon Depute, who proclaimed it for the second time. Thereafter in the town house the nobility were received by the Lord Provost and drank the King's health.'

As the law then stood, Parliament had to be dissolved within six months of the demise of the Crown. Anne's last Parliament was accordingly dissolved in January 1715. At the General Election which took place in February Warrender was elected Member of Parliament for Edinburgh.

In the days of the Scottish Parliament Edinburgh returned two members, who according to the old law required to be freemen of the burgh. After the Union of 1707 the city was represented in Parliament by one member, chosen by the Town Council.

The proceedings in connection with Warrender's election are recorded in the Council Minutes. They present a curious picture of a burgh election in the eighteenth century, and are of sufficient interest to be quoted at some length.

*18th February 1715.*

Precept for electing a burges to serve in the ensuing parliament.

George Warrender, Lord Provost, proposed himself :

'May it please your honours, I have signified my inclinations to serve the good town as their Member of Parliament and acquainted the Magistrats and Council therof a great while agoe. I have right to stand candidate for this Honor as haveing right to my freedom of the good toun by serveing as an apprentice to a Merchant

there also by Marrieing two wyfes, daughters to Burgesses, and since the late happie Revolution I have served the good toun in all capacities as a Magistrat and have now the honnour to be present Lord Provost thereof.

‘And in caice of my being elected I heirby obleidge myself, health permitting, to attend the house of Commons dureing all the Sessions of this Parliament upon my own proper charges and expenses, without pretence to any gratuity or reward from the good toun.

‘And whereas there hath ane offer been made that in case of not attendance to subject to the payment of fyve hundred pounds sterling for the use of the poor of the good toun recoverable by the Kirk thesaurer, which is altogether unprecedented and was never demanded or granted by any member of Parliament in Brittain, yet to take off all impression that the samen may make upon the Councill and shew that I will not be outdone by any in my fidelity and care for the good toun, I heirby make the same offer for attending the severall sessions of this Parliament (health allowing). . . . And if any opportunity may offer in a Parliamentarie way of procureing advantages to the good toun I shall alwayes be readie to contribut my utmost endeavours to accomplish the samen and that freely without any manner of gratuity or reward on that accompt.

‘And lykwayes I firmlie promise to stand to the utmost of my power for the preservation of our happy constitution both of Church and State together with the good touns interest in all my actions as their representative in Parliament and to behave myself with all due regard to such instructions or representations agreeable thereto as shall be sent me by your honours and your successors in office, in testimonie whereof I have written and subscryved this and the preceding page with my hand at Edinburgh this 19th day of February 1715.’



Bailie John Campbell offered his services in much the same words, without any qualification as to the lawfulness of the fine for non-attendance.

Mr James Smith of Whythill, mason burghess of Edinburgh, offered his services, stating that, since they now might have only one representative, it seemed agreeable to their former constitution that the Town should be represented alternately by a merchant and a tradesman. He is willing to yield his pretensions should the Council desire to choose another tradesman.

*21st February 1715.*

Bailie John Duncan gave in a protest for Bailie John Campbell against 'undue practices used and particularly by threatening and promiseing rewards to some of the electors for obtaining of votes for electing George Warrender of Lochend . . . or any other person to represent the good toun. . . .'

John Dunbar, Deacon Convener, protested that, in the event of there being a 'controverted' election, the contending parties shall be liable themselves for any appeal to Parliament. He also protested that Warrender was disqualified, because he had met the Town Council and electors to persuade them to vote for him, had entertained them to meat and drink and either paid for it, caused another to pay on his account, or got the Town Treasurer to pay.

Bailie Duncan protested against the right of Treasurer John Forrest and Warrender to vote because of 'undue practices.' Forrest had used threats and promises on behalf of Warrender, particularly to James Brounhill, deacon of the wrights, that the toun's work would be taken away from him.

He also protested that William Barclay, deacon of the

bonnet-makers, might not vote, because he had a pension from the Town, and was presumed to be under the influence of the Lord Provost, and had been threatened that if he did not vote for the Lord Provost his pension would cease.

Barclay immediately declared 'upon the word of an honest man' that he was neither threatened nor promised anything by the Lord Provost or in his name.

Treasurer Forrest protested against Deacon James Brounhill's voting, because he had been threatened by a certain nobleman to be turned out of his employment unless he voted for Bailie Campbell.

Thereafter it was put to the vote whether the Lord Provost or Bailie Campbell should be elected, and the former was elected by a majority of four votes.

Bailie Duncan protested that there were no objections against Bailie Campbell and his fourteen voters and that there were objections against George Warrender and his voters, and that therefore the electors should either return Campbell or return them both till the matter be settled by the House of Commons.

*23rd February 1715.*

Robert Craig, Dean of Guild, answered the foregoing protests.

- (1) To Bailie Campbell's desire to be admitted to the Council, during the election, he answered that Campbell did not bear office on the Council and therefore was not qualified to appear.
- (2) To Deacon Dunbar that he did not doubt, in a controverted election, that the Council would take steps to justify their proceedings.
- (3) To Dunbar's second protest, that there was no law forbidding a candidate meeting with any other burgesses in a tavern and to pay for what they might call for, unless reward or promise

of reward was given to the electors. But that the Lord Provost's meeting was only one of the ordinary meetings among magistrates and nothing was said about the election.

- (4) To Bailie Duncan, he answered that Forrest disclaimed any unwarrantable persuasions to Brounhill and that the threat not to use him in town work was empty since it did not depend on the Treasurer to say whether he should be employed, but on the magistrates.
- (5) To Bailie Duncan he answered again that the deacon of bonnetmakers could not be prevented from voting without a manifest encroachment on the privileges of the Incorporation and of the Town.
- (6) He also answered that the protests against Warrender's supporters were frivolous and that there was no reason for making a double return.

James Wilkie, deacon of the tailors, for himself and on behalf of John Campbell, John Duncan and John Dunbar, protested that George Warrender's election was not legal in that he had not made sufficient answers at the time to the charge of bribery brought against him.

*25th February 1715.*

Bailie George Lawson answered James Wilkie's protest. The act anent treating is an English act, and, as such, by the treaty of Union, not applicable to Scotland.

He also protested that it was customary to submit to the majority in such matters, and accused those who opposed the election of having preconcerted that opposition.

Deacon Wilkie's protests are invalidated 'in respect it is known that he signed ane Address that was sent to London about two or three years agoe inconsistent with the present constitution and so he was an avowed enemy to the Succession.'

He refuted the accusation that the Provost had used the common good to treat the electors, quoting that the Provost 'blissed God that he did not vaillow any small charge that he was at on the affairs of the good toun without regaird or view he had to the election as ane member of parliament,' reminding them that it had been the Provost's custom to invite the magistrates and members to a glass of wine at his own expense, to maintain a good understanding anent public affairs and the peace of the place, and that last year, in critical times, when the Protestant succession was in danger, by the Provost's prudence and the harmony of the magistrates, the peace of the city had been preserved.

Bailie Duncan reported on the past accounts of three months, October to January, and (1) incidents by Treasurer, (2) public treats, (3) treats to Royal burghs were passed.

*4th March 1715.*

'The Lord Provost asked all the members of Council who were present in Mr Hirdman's house with his Lo<sup>p</sup> on Saturday the nynteen day of February last whether there was any mention made of the election of a representative for the good toun in the ensueing parliament or any thing in relation to it, who all answered Negative Whereupon the Lord Provost took instruments. . . .'

*25th March 1715.*

Bailie Duncan answered George Lawson's protests, but the Lord Provost was already away.

Among other answers :

'It is enough for us to observe that the protester acknowledges the provost did entertain them two nights before the election out of his own pocket. As to the import of this for voyding the Election the honnourable the House of Commons are the only Judges.'

‘Wee are not to derogate from the Lord Provost’s prudent manadgement last year which was indeed a very criticall tyme, this his conduct justifies our good endeavours to have him stay at home to take care of the peace of the place seing the Clouds are not altogether dissipated. This wee are of oppinion would have added to my lord Provosts honnour and contributed to the good of the toun especially if it is considered that Baillie Campbell is a man capable of manadging the touns affairs at London, and would have been generally acceptable to the toun council if the provost had not opposed him.’

## II. WARRENDER IN PARLIAMENT

Parliament met on the 17th of March. Warrender reached London on the 23rd,<sup>1</sup> and took his seat on the 24th. On the 26th he writes to the Magistrates, giving his first impressions of the House of Commons. He was present when ‘they divided upon their Address to his Majesty, 138 for reconsidering it and 244 for approving it. And yesterday,’ he continues, ‘the House attended the Speaker to wait upon His Majesty with their address, when I also waited upon the Speaker with the rest to waite upon his Majesty, where His Majesty received their address very graciously, the Prince and Princess sitting by the King. The Torries argued much against the Address and the Whiggs for it.’

I am sure that Warrender thoroughly enjoyed his change of scene. One has only to look at his portrait—the eyes and mouth, the comfortable chin, the effulgent periwig, the beautiful lace *jabot*<sup>2</sup>—to see that here is a man

<sup>1</sup> The journey to London was a serious matter in those days. So late as 1754 the stage-coach took from twelve to sixteen days on the road.

<sup>2</sup> I am assured on expert authority that the lace is Venetian point, and that it must have been very expensive.

who savours the amenities of life. Now, in 1715 the amenities of life were not abundant in Edinburgh. The years which followed the Union were lean years. The evils prophesied by the opponents of the Union seemed to be coming, and there was as yet no sign of the revival of material prosperity and the awakening of intellectual life which were to come in the next generation. Warrender himself speaks of 'our decaying City,' and in writing to him the Magistrates refer to 'our low and sinking state.'

'No wonder,' says Mr H. G. Graham, 'the Union was specially unpopular in Edinburgh, for it deprived the city of national dignity, carried from citizens their fashions, and spoiled their trade. A gloom fell over the Scots capital: society was dull, business was duller still, the lodgings once filled with persons of quality were left empty—many decayed from want of tenants, some fell almost into ruin. For many a year there was little social life, scanty intellectual culture, and few traces of business enterprise. Gaiety and amusement were indulged in only under the censure of the Church and the depressing air of that gloomy piety which held undisputed and fuller sway when the influence of rank and fashion no longer exerted to counteract it.'<sup>1</sup>

From this dismal setting Warrender migrated to the London of Addison and Steele, the Parliament of Stanhope and Walpole. He enjoyed the pageant of London life, and seems to have had a very friendly reception. He sees much fine company. On May 4 he dines with the Speaker, Spencer Compton, 'who drank prosperity to the Town and Magistrates.' 'I must own,' he says, 'that both Scottis and English ministry have been very Discreet<sup>2</sup> to me, and Construct very favourably of the Magistrates.' He goes

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<sup>1</sup> Graham, *Social Life of Scotland in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. 1900, i. 82.

<sup>2</sup> 'Discreet' is used in its old Scots sense of 'polite.'

to Court, and 'when I kissed His Majesty's hand and also the Prince and Princesses I was very favourably looked on by all.' He is at Court again on the King's birthday, May 28, and afterwards dines with 'severalls of our Scotts Nobility.' Two days later he dines with 'E: of Clare a nobleman of £36000 sterl. per annum, where was present D: of Montrose, D: Roxburgh, Gen: Stanhop, Mr Walepole, Mr Baillie, Sir David Dalrymple, Mr Cockburn, Mr John Montgomerie etc. That Lord drank the prosperity of the Good Town and was very pleasant.' The friendly host was Thomas Pelham-Holles, who on the accession of George I. had been created Earl of Clare. He is better known to history as the Duke of Newcastle, which dignity he attained in August 1715.

On June 2 Warrender was created a baronet.

The political scene was full of interest. The Elector of Hanover had been proclaimed as King George I. without opposition. Bolingbroke had been dismissed from office, and Lord Townshend had become Secretary of State. The new King landed at Greenwich on September 18, 1714. Among the ministerial appointments made by him were those of James Stanhope as second Secretary of State and of Robert Walpole as Paymaster-General, a position which within a year he was to exchange for that of First Lord of the Treasury. Stanhope had a brilliant military career behind him, which had ended disastrously at Brihuega in 1710. After two years as a prisoner of war he returned to England in 1712, and thenceforward devoted himself entirely to politics.<sup>1</sup> Walpole had been recognised as a Whig leader since 1703, and was to become

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<sup>1</sup> For the political events of the time see Lord Mahon's *History of England from the Peace of Utrecht*, vol. i., and Boyer's *Political State of Great Britain* (London, 1711-40), vols. ix. and x. *passim*. Stanhope's life has been excellently written by Professor Basil Williams (Clarendon Press, 1932).

the chief figure of English politics for a generation. His achievement has recently been recalled to memory in Mr F. S. Oliver's fine book—alas, unfinished—*The Endless Adventure*. One remembers a famous passage in Thackeray's *Four Georges*—‘But for Sir Robert Walpole, we should have had the Pretender back again. But for his obstinate love of peace we should have had wars, which the nation was not strong enough nor united enough to endure. But for his resolute counsels and good-humoured resistance, we might have had German despots attempting a Hanoverian regimen over us: we should have had revolt, commotion, want, and tyrannous misrule, in place of a quarter of a century of peace, freedom and material prosperity, such as the country never enjoyed, until that corrupter of parliaments, that dissolute tipsy cynic, that courageous lover of peace and liberty, that great citizen, patriot and statesman governed it. . . . He gave Englishmen no conquests, but he gave them peace and ease and freedom; the Three per Cents nearly at par; and wheat at five and six and twenty shillings a quarter.’

The General Election of 1715 resulted in a large Whig majority, and when Warrender took his seat Stanhope and Walpole were the leaders of the House, and the Whigs had entered on their forty years of power.

The chief business of the Session was the impeachment of Queen Anne's Tory Ministers. The story of the last four years of the Queen's reign, of the Bolingbroke-Oxford administration, of the Treaty of Utrecht, and of the subsequent impeachments, has been told and discussed in many volumes, and as Mr Oliver has said, ‘we may look for agreement between the various sects of Christendom almost as soon as for an accepted verdict on the career and character of Bolingbroke.’ These high matters lie outside our scope, and one only notes the chief incidents



of the impeachments as they passed before the eyes of George Warrender.

The Address of the House of Commons in answer to the King's speech, moved by Walpole, contained the following passage: 'It is with just resentment that we observe that the Pretender still resides in Lorraine; and that he has the presumption, by declarations from thence, to stir up your Majesty's subjects to rebellion. But that which raises the utmost indignation of your Commons is, that it appears therein that his hopes were built upon the measures that had been taken for some time past in Great Britain. It shall be our business to trace out those measures whereon he placed his hopes, and to bring the authors of them to condign punishment.' Stanhope, in the course of the debate on the Address, assured the House that the Government meant business, and intended to proceed with the impeachments.

Oxford composedly awaited the storm. Bolingbroke professed philosophic indifference, but on March 31 Warrender writes, 'This day there was a motion made in the House of Commons by the Comptroller That My Lord Bullenbrock was fled to France and its reported arrived at Calis on Sabbath last.' As Thackeray put it, 'the philosopher bolted, and took that magnificent head of his out of the ugly reach of the axe.'<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 'Being priz'd that on the 25th day of March Mr Prior was arrived from France, and would certainly discover all that he knew: the Viscount went off in Disguise to Dover, as a Servant to la Vigne one of the French King's Messengers where he embarked for France, on Sunday the 27th, and landed that same day at Calais. When he embarked at Dover he left a letter directed to a Friend; Wherein he endeavour'd to justify his sudden Departure from his Native Country: Pretending that he had certain and repeated Informations, by such as were in the Secret of Affairs, That a Resolution was taken, by those who have Power to Execute it, to pursue him to the Scaffold; That his blood was to be the Cement of a new Alliance,' etc. Rae, *History of the Late Rebellion*, p. 132. The letter, to Lord Lansdowne, is printed in Somers' *Tracts* (Scott's edition, 1815), vol. xiii. p. 626. See also the *Political State*, ix. 226.

On April 9 Stanhope laid before the House all available papers relating to the negotiations which had led up to the recent peace with France, and moved that they should be remitted to a Committee of Secreey of twenty-one persons, to be chosen by ballot. The Committee was appointed with Walpole as chairman. Their report was presented on June 9. Warrender, writing to the Magistrates on June 11, describes the discussion. 'The report,' he says, 'contains many Black facts of the Late Ministry with Respect to the late Peace made with France, and the copies of the original papers are in an Appendix, and both Report and Appendix are ordained to be Printed. . . .' 'Thereafter,' he continues, 'Mr Robert Walepole Pecess of the Secret Committee Impeached Henry Viscount of Bollengbroke, Late Secretary of State, for High Treason, other high Crymes and Misdemeaners, which he evinced from plain avouchers. Thereafter Lord Conaway and Sir David Dalrymple Impeached Robert Earle of Oxford Late Thesaurer of high Treason and other High Crymes and Misdemeaners, and then the House Deferred their further proceeding on the Report of the Secret Committee untill Fryday nixt. But appointed the members of the Secret Committee betwixt and then to draw up Artieles of Impeachments against these two Peers, and then the House adjurned till tomorrow morning.' In the same letter he reports the arrest of 'Thomas Harley, Cousin of the E: of Oxford and Mr Mathew Prior, Late Resident for the Queen in France.' On June 23 he reports the further resolutions to impeach the Duke of Ormonde and Lord Strafford. 'I send you,' he says, 'the Report of the Secret Committee that was twiee read in the House of Commons. There is an Appendix of 24 sheets since come out which I would have also now sent you but it is too Large. It contains the Extracts of the princippall Letters etc. anent the Treaty of Peace

referred to from the Report. There is an Order from the House for sending both in one Book to each Corporation that returns a Member of Parliament, whereby you may have one sent you. But I choosed to send you the Copie given my self as member, and shall buy one for my own use. After you have read the Report, allow Mr Carstares, the Professor and Mr Mitchell to read it.' On June 30 he sends 'five packets with the Appendix to the Report of the Secret Committee directing them severally to the four Baillies and Dean of Gild each of you one. . . . You'l please allow Mr Carstares to read the Report of the Secret Committee and the Appendix.' A further batch of papers is sent on July 2. On July 12 he reports the impeachment of Oxford in the House of Lords. On Saturday, July 9, 'about Five of the Clock the Lords received the Impeachment, and read every article of it in his hearing, and to which he made some short answers. They satt till Two of the Clock Sunday morning. The Earle being indisposed with the Gravell They allowed his Lady, two Physitians, and two of his own Servants, and put them under Custody of the Black Rod untill this day when he is again to appear before the Lords. . . . The E. of Oxford appeared this day at the Bar of the House of Lords and in respect of his great Indisposition by the Gravell and others They appointed him to goe to the Tower on Saturday morning nixt, and to be under the Custody of the Black Rod till then, and further allowed him untill this day moneth to give in answers to the articles of Impeachment against him.'

Warrender has nothing further to say about the impeachments, except that on July 26 he writes that 'Its this day reported that the Duke of Ormond is arrived in France.'

Ormonde and Bolingbroke were attainted. The proceedings against Strafford were dropped, and in July 1717 the impeachment against Oxford was dismissed.

Ormonde took part, not effectively, in the Jacobite affairs of 1715 and 1719, and spent his old age peacefully at Avignon. Bolingbroke in July 1715 became Secretary of State to Prince James Stuart, 'James III. and VIII.,' from which employment he was dismissed after James returned from Scotland in February 1716. The experience cured him of Jacobitism. 'May my arm rot off if I ever use my pen or my sword in their service again!' he wrote. In 1723 he obtained a pardon. He afterwards returned to England. He was to play no further part in public life, but he was to write *The Idea of a Patriot King* and to inspire Pope's *Essay on Man*. In the *Letter to Sir William Wyndham* he has left us an unforgettable picture of the exiled Court: 'I found a multitude of people at work, and everyone doing what seemed good in his own eyes; no subordination, no order, no concert. . . . Care and hope sat on every busy Irish face. Those who could read and write had letters to show, and those who had not yet arrived to this pitch of erudition had their secrets to whisper. No sex was excluded from this ministry. Fanny Oglethorpe, whom you must have seen in England, kept her corner in it, and Olive Trant was the great wheel of our machine.'<sup>1</sup> Lord Stair, the Ambassador in Paris, wrote to Horace Walpole—'old' Horace, Sir Robert's brother—'I believe all poor Harry's fault was that he could not play his part with a grave enough face; he could not help laughing now and then at such kings and queens.'<sup>2</sup>

The more immediate interest of Warrender's letters lies in their references to Scottish, and in particular to Edinburgh, affairs. The chief personages in Scottish politics with whom he was brought into contact were the

<sup>1</sup> Bolingbroke's *Works*, i. 34.

<sup>2</sup> Macknight, *Life of Bolingbroke*, p. 488.

Duke of Montrose, Secretary of State for Scotland; the Lord Advocate, Sir David Dalrymple; George Baillie of Jerviswoode; and the Lord Justice-Clerk, Sir Adam Cockburn of Ormiston.

James Graham, 4th Marquis and 1st Duke of Montrose, was the great-grandson of the Great Marquis. Under Queen Anne he was High Admiral of Scotland and President of the Council. He steadily supported the Union and the Protestant Succession, and in 1707 he was advanced to the dignity of a Duke. He was one of the sixteen representative Peers chosen by the last Scottish Parliament, and was re-chosen at the General Election for the British Parliament in 1708. After the accession of King George I. he was appointed one of the principal Secretaries of State in room of the Jacobite Earl of Mar, and also Keeper of the Signet. As Secretary he had, along with the Lord Justice-General (Lord Hly, afterwards 3rd Duke of Argyll) and Lord Justice-Clerk Cockburn, the chief part in the civil administration of Scotland during the Rising of 1715. He did much to mitigate the severity of the proceedings against the Jacobites.

Sir David Dalrymple of Hailes was the fifth son of Lord President Stair. He was admitted Advocate in 1688, and was created a Baronet in 1700. He was one of the Union Commissioners, and sat in the first Parliament of Great Britain as member for the Haddington burghs. Appointed Lord Advocate in 1709, he was dismissed in 1711 (after the affair of the Faculty of Advocates and the Jacobite medal) and was re-appointed in 1714. He opposed the re-introduction of church patronage, and was in favour of leniency to the Jacobite prisoners after the '15. In 1720 he was appointed an Auditor of the Exchequer, and died in the following year.

George Baillie of Jerviswoode, born in 1664, was the son of Robert Baillic, who was executed in 1684. He was

exiled in Holland and returned at the Revolution, when his estate was restored. Under Queen Anne he was Treasurer-Depute and a member of the Scots Privy Council. After the Union he was a Commissioner of Trade. On the accession of George I. he was made a Lord of the Admiralty and afterwards a Lord of the Treasury. He resigned in 1725, and died in 1738. According to Lockhart he 'was morose, proud and severe, but of a profound solid judgment, and by far the most significant man of all his party, to whom he was a kind of dictator.'<sup>1</sup>

Sir Adam Cockburn of Ormiston was born in 1656. He was Lord Justice-Clerk from 1692 to 1699, from 1705 to 1710, and again from 1714 till his death in 1735. He was a violent Whig. Dr James Houstoun in his *Memoirs* says of him: 'Of all the Party Lord Ormiston was the most busy, and very zealous in *suppressing* the *Rebellion*, and *Oppressing* the Rebels; so that he became universally hated in *Scotland*, where they called him, *the Curse of Scotland*; and when the Ladies were at cards, playing the *Nine of Diamonds*, (commonly called *the Curse of Scotland*)<sup>2</sup> they called it, *the Justice Clerk*. He was indeed of a hot Temper, and violent in all his Measures.'<sup>3</sup> According to Lockhart, 'He was a zealous Revolutioner and a bigotted Presbyterian, which recommended him to King William. He was a man of good understanding and wanted not abundance of application to business, but of so hot, virulent, turbulent, and domineering a temper, that he was uneasy even to his own party. Of all that were concerned in the Government there was none equalled

<sup>1</sup> *Lockhart Papers*, i. 95.

<sup>2</sup> Why was the nine of diamonds called the Curse of Scotland? Various explanations have been offered. I believe the true one is that the nine diamonds were supposed to resemble the arms of Dalrymple: Or, on a saltire azure, nine lozenges of the first. That eminent family was not popular in Scotland just after Glencoe.

<sup>3</sup> *Houston's Works* (London, 1753), p. 92.

him in vindictive persecution of all that he thought enemies to the established government of either Church or State, having upon that score regard for neither sex, age, nor quality, but Jehu-like drove always most furiously on, and by these means preserved his interest at Court, serving as a scarecrow to terrify others.'<sup>1</sup>

Lord Mahon says with regard to Scotland and the Union: 'Never did a treaty produce more ultimate advantage to a nation; never was any received with such general and thorough hatred.' The times were bad; a great many people had grievances; and everybody who had a grievance put it down to the Union. Among the trading classes in the towns the chief grievances were those of the new fiscal system. New commissioners of customs and excise had been appointed, many of them Englishmen with subordinates trained in English methods. A Court of Exchequer on the English principle had been established. Throughout the country Justices of the Peace on the English model had been appointed, whose functions frequently clashed with the old local jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup> The taxes were greatly increased, and there was endless friction in the collection of them. All this led to much smuggling, which was regarded with abundant toleration by public opinion. A great many Scotsmen were of the opinion of Andrew Fairservice: 'It's a merc spoiling o' the Egyptians, pair auld Scotland suffered aneugh by thae blackguard loons o' excisemen and gaugers, that hae come down on her like locusts since the sad and sorrowfu' Union; it's the part of a kind son to bring her a soup o' something that will keep up her auld heart, and that will they nill they, the ill-faar'd thieves.'

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<sup>1</sup> *Lockhart Papers*, i. 107.

<sup>2</sup> See the Introduction to *The Minutes of the Justices of the Peace for Lanarkshire 1707-1723*, edited by Charles A. Malcolm, Ph.D. (Scottish History Society, 1931.)

The letters to Warrender from the Magistrates are full of local troubles with the revenue officials—seizures of goods, searching of shops, grievances of local coasting skippers, disputes as to jurisdiction with the county justices. The searching of shops was specially resented. ‘This searching of merchants’ shops ocasiones such a clamor throw the wholl toun that really you cannot believe of what dangerous consequence its likely to prove to this place and wee are very much reflected upon by the neighbourhood and the peace of the place much indangered.’ From time to time Warrender is asked to use his good offices with the powers in London. He is always for conciliation and common sense. ‘Its my humble oppinion that you keep a good understanding with Baron Maitland and Baron Clerk’—the Barons of Exchequer—‘and als much as possible prevent their writing up heir.’ ‘I hope you will lay your selves out to the outmost to suppress mobbs, and which if the Captains of the toun gaird keep on their duty, they can easily prevent.’ He has no sympathy for smuggling. ‘It is my private oppinion that the Importing of prohibite or uncustomed goods will tend to Ruine at length, and is very discouradging to fair Traders.’

I have quoted Andrew Fairservice on the fiscal aspect of the Union. The political case against it was put in a nutshell, once for all, by Mrs Howden in *The Heart of Midlothian*. ‘I dinna ken muckle about the law, but I ken, when we had a king, and a chancellor, and parliament-men o’ our ain, we could aye peeble them wi’ stanes when they werena’ gude bairns—But naebody’s nails can reach the length o’ Lunnon.’ There was a certain John Dunbar, Deacon of the Skinners, and Convener of the Trades of Edinburgh, who was of Mrs Howden’s way of thinking. On April 26 the Magistrates write to Warrender that ‘the Conveener acquainted us that to-



morrow or next Council day he designs to propose to the Council that the touns assessors have orders for drawing ane address to his Majestie in as loyal terms as possible, but that the substance of the address be for a dissolution of the Union, of which we found it an duty to acquaint you that so you may advise with several representatives of the burrows in parliament and give us your advyce without loss of time, for we are affrayed it will not be in our power to prevent it.' Warrender's reply was prompt and emphatic. After seeing some of the other burgh members he writes on May 5: 'All that I have spoke with do think it most unseasonable, while the Parliament are just now about to prosecute some of the late Ministry, and are of the opinion it will not only deprive us of any favour from the Court or Parliament that we might reasonably expect, but so far offend the Court as to threaten to remove the Session from us, and I understand Glasgow would petition for it, and perhaps by their interest obtain it—the Consequences of which I dread to think of.' 'Endeavour to shun Extremes,' he adds, 'and consider the need we have of Favour'—very sound advice to local authorities. Two days later he writes: 'The more I advise as to the Address with people here, the more I find myself obleidged to tell you that it will be of very ill consequence in generall, and particularly to the Town of Edinburgh. It will be unacceptable to the King, for it falls in with the very wishes and aims of his Enemies at a more critical time than people are aware of. It cannot be acceptable to the Plurality in either House of Parliament at present, nor are the Parties so near a Balance that our Country can cast the Scale, if they were united, a thing rather to be wished than hoped for.' Warrender's wisdom prevailed. On May 14 the Magistrates write: 'We have shown your letters to the Convener and we doubt not now but he will

be prevailed upon not to fight for the addressing as he designed, until matters be better settled above.'

Dunbar was evidently a person suspected by authority. A little later we find him up against the formidable Lord Justice-Clerk. The Justice-Clerk desired the Magistrates to administer to Dunbar the Oath of Abjuration. They made difficulties about doing so, whereupon they were formally required 'under form of instrument' to tender the oath. The oath was tendered and refused. The Magistrates then submitted to the Duke of Montrose, the Secretary of State, a request that they should be exempted from giving a certificate of the refusal to the Lords of Session—a request which brought upon them a snub from the Duke. 'I am hereby to inform you,' he said, 'that the Complying with your desire in that point would really impart nothing less than the dispensing with an Act of Parliament; from whence you will easily force the Consequences to be such, as His Majesty can by no means yield to.'

References in the letters to the conduct of Edinburgh business in London are sometimes quite modern in their suggestion. The Town Council had bought from Lord Balmerino the superiority of the district of Calton. They wished to obtain a Crown Charter erecting the new acquisition into a Burgh of Barony, and with this end in view a 'Signature'<sup>1</sup> was prepared and sent to Warrender in London for perusal by the Lord Advocate. Warrender does his best to capture that elusive functionary, but he has his difficulties. On May 19 he writes: 'I have trysted to wait upon Sir David Dalrymple to-morrow morning

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<sup>1</sup> Every Crown grant formerly proceeded upon a *Signature*—a writ deriving its name from its bearing the Sovereign's signature or other equivalent Royal Warrant. The signature was a writ framed and indorsed by a Writer to the Signet. It contained the whole clauses of the charter desired, for which it formed the warrant. The old procedure is detailed in Menzies's *Conveyancing* (ed. 1900), pp. 837 *et seq.*

for the perusal of the Signature last sent me.' On the 31st 'Sir David Dalrymple is obleidged so closely to attend the Secret Committee that he has not had time to peruse the Signature I left with him.' On June 4, 'As for the Signature, as I wrote you in my last I every day call for it from Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Advocate, who is still taken up with the Secret Committee, and has little time allowed him for anything else. I have thrice treated him at my Lodging with Mr Baird and other agreeable Company with a variety of Wynes.' On June 11 comes a heart-felt utterance: 'I have spoke to the Lord Advocate for his revising the Signature you sent me, which he keeps by him but says he has no time. Advise me what charges you allow me to be at in prosecuting it, or in particular to the Advocate for his Interest and revising it, and I shall give you a true Accompt of my Debursements therein, for if you think Business can be done here without money and much attendance you little consider the people and this place. Your answer to this last is per your next expected.' On the 16th the Magistrates write, 'For answer to yours relating to the Debursements you may necessarily be put to on the town's Affairs your Lo: may know that it is impossible for us or the Councill of Edinburgh to know the extent of what may be necessary to be laid out. Your Lo: can best judge, therefore it is our opinion that your Lo: needs no scruple to lay out what may be truly necessary to my Lord Advocate or others for promoting the true Interest of the Good Town not doubting but that the Council will give warrant to the Thesaurer to repay your Lo: what may be so laid out when you shall advise thereof.' On June 18 Warrender writes 'Sir David Dalrymple has not yet perused the last Signature you sent me, though I importune him dayly. Therefore your Answer to my last with respect thereto being, Lawyers' Lamps cannot burn without Oyle.' On the 23rd the lamp is still

obstinate: 'I waited two hours this morning in Sir David Dalrymple's Lodgings, he having yesterday trusted me, yet notwithstanding I could not prevail with him to read the Signature he being indisposed.' We hear no more of the signature; adverse influences may have delayed its progress. This is suggested in Letter 18. Apparently the matter was indefinitely postponed, as the desired Charter was not granted till 1725.

During the summer of 1715 two Edinburgh appeal cases in which Warrender was specially interested were decided by the House of Lords. One of them concerned Heriot's Hospital, *Heriot's Hospital v. Hepburn* (Robertson's Appeal Cases, p. 118). Robert Hepburn of Bearford owned the lands of Lochbank, of which the Governors of Heriot's Hospital were the feudal superiors. As Hepburn now claimed to hold his lands of the Crown, the Governors brought an action of declarator of non-entry against him in the Court of Session. They lost their case, and took it to the House of Lords. On June 2, 1715, the House reversed the judgment of the Court of Session. Sir David Dalrymple was senior counsel for the Appellants. 'On Thursday last,' writes Warrender on June 4, 'which was the day appointed by the House of Lords for hearing the Appeal by Heriot's Hospital, I bestirred myself the day before and that morning to wait on all the Scots Members at their respective Houses, and as many of the English Lords as I knew, and delivered them the printed Case and Information. I attended the members also at their entering the Door of the House, and stood by the Lawyers all the time of Pleading in the view of all the members, and it was determined in favours of the Hospital without a Division. Thereafter I took our Friends present to dyne with me, where we drank prosperity to the Magistrates and Council as Gubernators and Feofies of Heriot's Hospital.'

The other case, *The Butchers of Edinburgh v. The Magistrates and Candlemakers of Edinburgh* (Robertson's Appeal Cases, p. 124) directly concerned the Magistrates as such. They had claimed the right to impose certain restrictions on the preparation and sale of tallow by the Edinburgh butchers, and to compel the butchers to sell their tallow to the Edinburgh candlemakers, at a price to be fixed by the Magistrates and Town Council. The butchers resisted, and fought the Magistrates in the Court of Session, which decided in favour of the Magistrates. This decision was reversed by the House of Lords on June 29, 1715.

Another item of Scottish business in which Warrender was personally interested was the matter of the 'Yule Vacance.' The story of the Yule Vacance, the Christmas Vacation of the Court of Session, is a curious by-path of Scottish religious history.

In the Act founding the College of Justice, in 1532, provision is made for a vacation from the Eve of St Thomas before Yule till the morn of the Epiphany. The question was much disputed after the Reformation. In 1621 it was enacted that every minister is to commemorate the day of the birth of Christ and to rebuke superstitious observances and licentious profanation of that day. In 1639, when the Covenant was in its glory, the General Assembly petitioned for the abrogation of the vacation, and in the following year 'the Kirk being purged of the superstitious observance of days' the Yule Vacance was abolished by statute (1640, c. 7). It was restored after the Restoration, the period being from December 24 till January 1 (1661, c. 199). Under King James VII. it was lengthened, the period being now from December 20 to January 10 (1686, c. 7). After the Revolution it was again abolished, as 'a great interruption to the course of justice' (1690, c. 52). Twenty-one years later, just after the restoration of Church Patronage, the vacation

was restored by an Act of the British Parliament (10 Anne c. 13). This was regarded in Scotland as a bitter grievance, and in the Parliament of 1715 Sir David Dalrymple introduced a bill to repeal the Act of Anne, which bill became law as 1 Geo. I. c. 28. In modern times Presbyterian Scotland is quite reconciled to the Yule Vacancee.

On April 9, in a letter to the Magistrates, Warrender mentions that he has been with Mr Baillie of Jerviswoode, then at the Admiralty, who 'had received a Letter from B. Gordon and James Marjoribanks informing that Swedish Privateers were upon our Coast, taking our ships at the mouth of the Firth and craving that an English Friggat might be sent down to cruise on our Coast, which is granted accordingly by them upon my concurring with the Gentlemen's Petition.'

The trouble with Sweden is described by Tindal. 'On the 18th of May (1715) Sir John Norris, with a Squadron of twenty men of war and a fleet of Merchant ships under his convoy, sailed from the Nore to the Baltic, in order to protect the trade of His Majesty's subjects in those seas. The violent proceedings of the King of Sweden in rejecting the treaty of Neutrality concerted by England and Holland, and other Members of the Grand Alliance, . . . and in causing the ships of all Nations whatsoever without distinction, trading to the Baltic, to be seized and confiscated, even some years before King George's Accession to the Throne, obliged, at last, the King and the States-General, after having made proper instances for redress to no purpose, to use their fleets for the protection of their subjects in their navigation and commerce to those parts. The British and Dutch Ministers had jointly, or separately, made these instances in the most earnest manner, by variety of memorials delivered yearly to the King or Senate of Sweden, so long as from the year 1710,

without being able to obtain the least satisfaction. The last memorial of Mr Jackson, the English Resident at the Court of Sweden, before the English squadron was sent, was presented to the Senate at Stockholm, January 14, 1714-15, complaining that the loss of the English Merchants from the Swedish cruisers amounted to 65,449*l.* sterling. . . . In short, tho' the Dutch, as well as the British Ministers, made repeated complaints of those seizures, the King of Sweden was so far from regarding them, that he issued out new orders to his men of war and privateers, to seize and confiscate all ships, that traded with any place conquered by his enemies; and these orders were so very strict, and clogged with such terms on all Merchant-ships, as in a manner rendered the trade of the Baltic impracticable, without a sufficient force to convoy the Merchant-ships, that traded thither.'<sup>1</sup>

H.M.S. *Glasgow*, Captain William Lloyd, was despatched to the east coast of Scotland. In the subsequent correspondence there are many references to the Swedish ships, letters to and from the Admiralty, orders to naval officers in Scottish waters, correspondence with the magistrates of the maritime burghs, instructions to merchant-ships about joining up with convoys and so forth—all recalling recent history. It is interesting to note that the Secretary of the Admiralty with whom Warrender corresponded was Josiah Burchett, who began life as clerk to Samuel Pepys. He was Secretary from 1698 to 1742. He was the author of *Memoirs of Transactions at Sea during the War with France, 1688-1697* (8vo., London, 1703) and of *A Complete History of the most Remarkable Transactions at Sea from the earliest Accounts of Time to the last War with France* (folio, London, 1720). He died in 1746.

Warrender was much interested in the condition of the

<sup>1</sup> Tindal's *Continuation of Rapin's History* (ed. 1751), ii. 423. See also Laird Clowes's *History of the Royal Navy*, iii. 26.

Town Guard, the historic military force of the Good Town, of which he was *ex officio* the commanding officer. This body is probably best known to the modern reader from its appearance in *The Heart of Midlothian*. 'The corps,' says Sir Walter, 'is, or perhaps we should rather say *was*, a body of about one hundred and twenty soldiers, divided into three companies, and regularly armed, clothed, and embodied. They were chiefly veterans who enlisted in this corps, having the benefit of working at their trades when they were off duty. These men had the charge of preserving public order, repressing riots and street robberies, acting in short as an armed police, and attending on all public occasions where confusion or popular disturbance might be expected.' On March 24 the Magistrates write to Warrender that a motion has been made in the Town Council for clothing the Guard against the King's Birthday—would he advise? There are financial difficulties. On the 31st he writes: 'As to the Town Guard, in consideration of the difficulty the Stentmasters found in imposing the money for their payment, I thought to have diminished the Number of Sentinells<sup>1</sup> after 1st April or 1st May and then their Clothing would have been a smaller Charge.' He suggests that 'whoever Clothes them must ly out of it for two years time at least, after Lammas next.' On April 6 the Town Council appoint a Committee to consider the condition of the Town Guard in respect to number and clothing, and to receive offers for clothing and report. The appointment of the Committee is duly reported to Warrender in London, and 'it is hoped that the guaird will be clothed to your satisfaction.' On the 8th it is decided that the Guard, not having had new clothes for two years, are to be re-clothed for the King's Birthday. The Treasurer, John Forrest,

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<sup>1</sup> Private soldiers.



is to do it as a private merchant, engaging to purchase the clothing with ready money from his private stock, under charge of a Committee, receiving a profit of 20 per cent. The Committee are to see that the expense of the clothing, including the 20 per cent., does not exceed the money retained for the purpose. On the 15th the number of the corps is reduced to 72. On the 14th Warrender had written, 'As to the clothing the Guard, except you diminish the number of Sentinels to 60 or thereby the Charge will be too heavie for the Town under the present Circumstances.' The problem of numbers solved itself. In July, in view of the outbreak of the Jacobite trouble, the number is raised to 112—the additional recruits to be clothed like the others. On September 9 there is noted a payment of £3684 Scots for clothing.

The letters addressed to the Lord Provost by the Magistrates give us glimpses of doings in Edinburgh. On May 28 there is a great celebration of the King's Birthday, the first birthday since the accession. Bailie Duncan writes :

'My Lord, the magestrats and Councill have been this day signalizing his Maj<sup>es</sup> birthday with great joy, being Honoured with the presence of the Earls of Rothes, Mortoun, Haddingtoun, Lauderdaill and severall other peers, Lords of the Session, General Weightman, Commissioners of the Customs and Exceise and many other Gentlemen, And are just now drinking a health to the prosperity of the King Prince Princess and Royall Familie, not forgetting your Lo<sup>p</sup> and the good Toun. . . .

'My Lord, Generall Weightman (after the solemnity was over at the Cross and after the nobility and gentry were entertained by the magestrats in the Borrow room in the same manner your Lo<sup>p</sup> entertained them on the Coronatione day) hade ordered severall dragoons and other foot souldiers to walk up the streets of Edinburgh in

a most decent maner, and the magestrats and Council being in Brouns, the Generall was pleased to call them, and distinguished the companies as they passed by to the magestrats, and earnestly intreated the magestrats to come to his solemnity he was to have att the Abbay, which the magestrats agreed to, and just now the magestrats designe to go to the abbey with their whyt roods, attended by the Councill and Capts. of the train bands, for everie bodie here seems joyfull and are hearty on haveing the occasione to solemnise this day.'

It appears from the Council Minutes that there was a parade of the train-bands of the Good Town, Canongate and Leith. The town is to be illuminated, but 'the throwing of squibs, fireballs, and stones is forbidden.'

The Royal Company of Archers, the King's Body-guard for Scotland, is an ancient and famous Scottish institution, which has its headquarters in Edinburgh. The Company was at this time in a prosperous condition. Its first march through Edinburgh in military formation had taken place in the preceding year, on June 14, 1714, when, as the Archers' Minutes record, they 'marched from the Parliament Close in good order down through the streets of Edinr. and Canongate to the Palace of Hollyrood House, and received from the respective guards they past by the usual honors that are due to any of her Majesties forces, and from thence went in coach to the Links of Leith, to shoot for the silver arrow set out by the town of Edr.'

On June 13, 1715, the Royal Company again paraded to shoot for the Silver Arrow. What happened is recorded in a letter from the Magistrates to the Lord Provost written on the 14th :

'Yesterday the company of Archers to the number of about 110 went down to Leith in very good order as they did the last year and some of the Magistrates waited on them at Leith after dinner and delivered to My Lord

Wecms<sup>1</sup> who had gained the prize the last year the Complement that My Lord Dean of Gild had prepared for him, which his Lordship accepted off and drank your Lordships health and prosperity to the Good Toun etc. Generall Wightman who was with him invited all the Company to the play at night, and accordingly the Archers marched up to the play house, but We hear there happened some disorder among them which as we are informed was thus, Sir Tho: Dalziel being there, called to the musick to play a Spring to the memory of the D: of Hamilton but receiving no answer he then called for the Spring the King shall enjoy his own again, which was played, and at the end thereof some Ladys began to clap their hands which was also followed by severall of the Archers, whereupon the Generall ordered his aide du camp to beat the musick which he did and this occasioned a generall hissing of both sexes, through the house, then the aide du camp stood up and said if any was offended at what he did he would give them Satisfaction and told them where he lived, and we likewise hear the Generall did shew a great deal of resentment at this treatment but in what termes we cannot acquaint you. After which the Archers marched up the toun and lodged their Colours & then some of them went to taverns & sat up late but we hear not of any further abuse they committed or any thing that hath followed upon what happened in the playhouse.<sup>2</sup>

Sir James Balfour Paul, the historian of the Royal Company, has described the parade of 1715. One hundred and twelve members attended, and each paid ten shillings towards the expenses. They were marshalled in six divisions, commanded by the respective officers, and attended by music. They entertained at dinner 'a great

<sup>1</sup> David 4th Earl of Wemyss became Captain-General of the Royal Company in 1715, in succession to the Earl of Cromartie.

number of persons of distinction.' The 'play-house' to which they went seems to have been the tennis-court at Holyrood fitted up for the occasion. Sir James adds: 'The dinner bill amounted to £40 : 15s. sterling, which in our days would be considered as a very moderate expenditure for a public dinner of over a hundred guests. No doubt, however, the feast was both ample and hospitable; and considering the manners of the times, it is quite open to question whether the ranks of the gallant archers were quite so regular on the return march as they were at starting from the burgh room in the morning.'<sup>1</sup>

A letter of July 19 mentions that 'yesternight about sex a clock there was an unlucky affair happened.' The incident is thus recorded in Chambers's *Domestic Annals*: 'Mr James Houston, son of the deceased Sir Patrick Houston of that Ilk, was walking on a piece of pavement called the Plainstones, near the Cross, when Sir John Shaw of Greenock came up with a friend, and the two gentlemen, designedly or not, slightly jostled each other. Mr Houston put his hand to his sword, but had not time to draw it before Sir John fell a-beating him about the head and shoulders with his cane, which, however, flying out of his hand he instantly took to his sword, and before the bystanders could interfere passed it twice through Mr Houston's body. It was at first thought the man was slain outright, but he was surviving in a sickly state in the ensuing January, when he raised a criminal prosecution against the knight of Greenock and succeeded in obtaining from him a solatium to the amount of five hundred pounds.'<sup>2</sup>

On July 20 Warrender writes with startling news:

<sup>1</sup> Balfour Paul, *History of the Royal Company of Archers* (Edinburgh, 1875), p. 59.

<sup>2</sup> *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, iii. 402.

‘This day His Majestie has signified from the Throne to both Houses of Parliament that he is certainly informed from Paris by an Express that the Pretender is coming to invade Britain, and may be ready in fifteen days to land in Britain with a considerable army.’ Henceforward the letters are chiefly concerned with war.

### III. THE JACOBITE RISING

At the time of the death of Queen Anne there was a great deal of Jacobite feeling in England, but it soon ceased to be a serious political force. The triumph of the Whigs was amazing and complete. ‘No son,’ says Lord Mahon, ‘with the most undisputed title, and in the most loyal times, ever succeeded his father with more apparent unanimity and quiet, than now a foreign and unknown prince was hailed as King of England.’<sup>1</sup> The story of the momentous Privy Council at Kensington on July 30, 1714, has been often told, and readers of history know Bolingbroke’s letter to Swift—‘What a world is this, and how does Fortune banter us!’ The Whig cause triumphed, as causes do triumph, because it was led by able and resolute men, who knew their own minds, and who, when the moment of opportunity came, acted promptly and decisively, while their opponents, divided and irresolute, missed the tide. It was not necessarily because the Whigs had the better cause, certainly not because they had the better candidate. Nobody was enthusiastic about George of Hanover, an elderly German, with his ignorance of English, and his two ugly German mistresses. As to the Stuart candidate—‘If the Pretender was not less French than the Elector was German,

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<sup>1</sup> Among the Peers who signed the Proclamation of King George were Bolingbroke, Ormonde and Mar.

his habits were not repulsive, and he had the manners of a gentleman.’<sup>1</sup> But, after all, George stood for two things that the country wanted, constitutional monarchy and the Protestant succession. After he was fairly in the saddle people soon accepted the accomplished fact. Nobody wanted a civil war, and most Englishmen had no desire for a Restoration accomplished by a Scotch or French invasion. The ordinary man wanted what he always wants, peace in his own time and a reasonable measure of material prosperity. He thought that he might get both from the Whigs, and he did. When Ormonde appeared off the Devonshire coast in the autumn of 1715 he found no signs of a rising, and went back to France, and in 1718 we find Lord Stair writing about ‘our Jacobites . . . who upon the whole matter, I believe, are much better disposed to drink the Pretender’s health than to fight for him.’<sup>2</sup>

Jacobitism in Scotland was a different matter. The widespread discontent with the Union had been fully exploited. The repeal of the Union was set in the forefront of the Jacobite programme. ‘The late unhappy Union,’ said Mar’s proclamation in 1715, ‘which was brought about by the mistaken notions of some and the ruinous and selfish designs of others, has proved so far from lessening and healing the difference between His Majesty’s subjects of England and Scotland that it has widened and increased them. . . . Nor can any way be found out to relieve us, and restore our ancient and independent constitution, but by the restoring our rightful and natural king, who has the only undoubted right to reign over us.’ Every Scot who had a grievance—the people who hated the Excise, the people who hated the Puritanical

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Paul, *Queen Anne*, p. 53.

<sup>2</sup> In a private letter to James Craggs, then Secretary of State, March 20, 1718. *Craggs Papers*, Stowe MSS. (British Museum), 247, f. 96.

tyranny of the Kirk, the persecuted Episcopalians,<sup>1</sup> even the Cameronians—were encouraged to look for redress to the King over the Water. Then there was the eternal question of the Highlands. Among the Highland clans, and in the north-eastern counties—Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine—there was, as the event showed, abundant fighting material. If the military command had been in the hands of Berwick, instead of in those of the untrustworthy and incapable Mar, and if the Old Chevalier had possessed something of the enterprising spirit and inspiring personality of his son, the Fifteen might have had a different ending.

The letter to the Magistrates in which Warrender announced the imminence of invasion contained instructions for the security of the City. ‘I hope,’ he says, ‘you will augment the Town Guards to 112 men authorised by Act of Parliament, and these of the very best men can be had, as also of the best affected of the trainbands may be taken and listed, and any disaffected officers changed. Your firemen with axes under their respective masters may keep guard in some parts of the town if needed. Keep a correspondence with Gen. Wightman and the honest neighbours will strengthen your hands. It is believed the Design is upon this place, but at the same time the Jacks will make a stir and commotion in Scotland. Do everything to strengthen yourselves and prevent any disturbances within the town. You want neither arms nor ammunition. But trust none but true men.’

On July 20 the Duke of Montrose writes to the Magis-

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<sup>1</sup> They were persecuted. See, for example, the case of *Greenshields v. The Magistrates of Edinburgh*, Robertson's Appeal Cases, p. 12. James Greenshields, an Episcopal clergyman, was imprisoned by sentence of the magistrates, at the instance of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, for exercising his functions notwithstanding the prohibition of the Presbytery. He was in jail for seven months. The proceedings against him were reversed by the House of Lords on March 1, 1711.

trates intimating the invasion and exhorting them to 'care and vigilance.' Warrender writes by every post, with further instructions, and information as to the measures being taken by Government, including the introduction of 'ane Act for Dispensing for this time with the Habeas Scopus<sup>1</sup> acts of England and Scotland.' He suggests that the Magistrates should get into communication with the other Royal Burghs. One notes a characteristic touch—'Glasgow will strive to outbrave us in mustering their Train Bands, but by the Moderator's Diligence and the honest Neighbours concurrence we may do much to equal our Neighbours.'

The Lord Provost returned to Edinburgh early in August. On the 12th he appeared in the Town Council and reported 'that he was desired by the Duke of Montrose, the Principal Secretary of State, to repair to Edinburgh in order to take the utmost precaution to preserve the peace of this City, in the time of an invasion threatened from abroad and of an insurrection at home, because it was judged His Lordship's presence would be of greater importance at Edinburgh in such a juncture than it would be in the Parliament.'

The letters now deal with the military defence of the City, with the preservation of order, with the naval protection of the adjacent coasts, and with the concerting of measures with the other burghs. The general history of the Rising lies outside our scope. The civic measures of defence are recorded in the Minutes of the Town Council, and are summarised in Maitland's *History of Edinburgh*.<sup>2</sup>

'On July 25, 1715,' he says, 'John Duncan, one of the Bailiffs of Edinburgh, acquainted the Common Council that he had received a letter from the Duke of Montrose,

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.*

<sup>2</sup> *The History of Edinburgh from its Foundation to the Present Time*, by William Maitland, F.R.S. (Edinburgh, 1753), p. 117.



one of the principal Secretaries of State, and another from the Lord Provost then at London, acquainting him that the King had signified to the Parliament, that the Pretender intended to invade his Dominions wherefore they recommended to the Magistrates to take particular Care of the Peace of the City. The Common Council being summoned on this Occasion, to deliberate upon the present Situation of Affairs, forthwith resolved to put the City into a good State of Defence : To which End, they ordered forty Men to be added to the Town Guard, appointed a Committee of Safety for providing against all Dangers, ordered one or more Companies of the Trained-bands to keep Guard in the lower Council House, and caused a Number of Arms from the City Armoury to be distributed amongst certain of the Citizens, who on this Occasion were to be trained in military Exercises.

‘ And just after, ordered four hundred men to be raised for preserving the Peace in Edinburgh, to be allowed Sixpence Sterling per Day, each Drummer Eight Pence, and Captains One Guinea weekly, for the Space of forty Days ; to be commanded by the Provost, and such Officers as the Magistrates should think proper to appoint. And to enable the Inhabitants of Leith to defend that Town, ordered one hundred Stands of Arms to be lent them out of the Town’s Armoury. And the Commissioners of the Customs having, at the Desire of the Lord Provost, fitted out divers Sloops to cruise in the Firth of Forth, to prevent the Rebels crossing from the County of Fife ; they were likewise supplied with small Arms from the Town’s Armoury, wherewith they performed good Service by taking divers Boats full of men, commanded by Brigadier Mackintosh.

‘ And as a further Security to Edinburgh, ordered the Sluice of the Nord Loch to be shut for raising the Water therein ; made several Trenches or Ditches, erected divers

Forts, walled up some of the Gates and fortified others, repaired the Parapet of the Town Wall, laid in great Store of Provisions, and did every Thing necessary to defend themselves in case of an Attack. Of all which the Lord Provost acquainted the King by Letters. These and other Measures entered into by the Edinburghers were so acceptable to the Government, that the Lord Townshend, one of the Principal Secretaries of State, soon after wrote the following Letter to the Lord Provost.' Townshend's letter is printed in the present volume (No. 101 *infra*, page 91).

'The Expence that the Edinburghers were put to on this Occasion,' continues Maitland, 'amounting to the sum of One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six Pounds sixteen shillings and eight Pence Sterling; it was paid by the Government *anno* 1721.'

The most interesting of Warrender's letters is one which was sent in duplicate to Stanhope and Townshend on September 10, reporting the Jacobite attempt to capture Edinburgh Castle, and the measures taken in consequence (No. 99, page 88). The standard of King James VIII. had been raised at Braemar on September 6. A daring scheme was planned to seize the Castle, and the attempt was made on the night of the 8th. This was the most important event which took place in Edinburgh during the Rising, and had it been successful might have changed the whole result of the enterprise.

The story is told in Rae's *History of the Rebellion*.<sup>1</sup>

'In the Mean Time while the Rebels were gathering in the North, a Conspiracy was form'd to surprize the Castle of Edinburgh, on the Eight of September 1715, betwixt 11 and 12 at Night, by Mounting the Walls, on the West

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<sup>1</sup> *The History of the Late Rebellion; Rais'd against His Majesty King George by the Friends of the Popish Pretender. . . .* By a Lover of the Prosperity and Peace of Great Britain [Peter Rae]. Dumfries, 1718.

side of the Castle, not far from the Sally-Port, by Ladders made of Ropes, provided for that Purpose, by Direction of the Lord Drummond a Papist; which were to be pull'd up by Lines to be let down from within, and fixed to a large Piece of Wood and fasten'd with Anchors within the Castle-Wall, by some Soldiers of the Garrison, whom one Mr Arthur, formerly an Ensign in the Castle, and afterwards in the Scotch-Guards, had engag'd in this Conspiracy, by giving them Money and Promise of Preference; The principal Traitor, William Ainsley, a Serjeant, who hath since been hang'd for his Villany, had the Promise of a Lieutenant's Place, and James Thomson and John Holland, two single Centinels, had received, the one 8 Guineas and the other four, with a Promise of a better Reward, if the Design should succeed, And it hath since appear'd, by their own Confession, That the Numbers engag'd in this attempt were about Eighty, besides Officers, whereof about the one Half were Highlanders; or (as a late Writer says) No less than Ninety choice Men, pick'd out for the Enterprize, all Gentlemen; and that each of 'em was to have 100 Pounds Sterling, and a Commission in the Army, if the Attempt had succeeded: That the Lord Drummond was to be Governour of the Castle, as being the Contriver of the Design, and that upon the Success of it, the Conspirators were to fire three Rounds of the Artillery in the Castle; which by the Communication of Fires to be kindled at convenient Distances, was to be a Signal to the Earl of Mar, immediately to March towards Edinburgh with his Rebel Forces, to make themselves Masters of that important City and Castle.

'This dangerous Design, tho' kept Secret among the Conspirators till but a short Time before 'twas to have taken effect, was happily prevented by the Care and Vigilance of that worthy Gentleman, Sir Adam Cockburn

of Ormistoun, Lord Justice Clerk. 'Tis reported that Mr Arthur had communicate the Matter to his Brother, Doctor Arthur, a Physician in Edinburgh, whom he had but then engag'd into the Jacobite Measures, and that this Gentleman having appear'd very melancholy all that Day before the Attempt was to be made, on the Thoughts of the sudden Revolution that was at hand, his Lady importun'd him till she got into the Secret, and that Evening about ten a Clock, sent a Servant, with an un-sign'd Letter to my Lord Justice Clerk: But whether his Lordship had his Intelligence from this, or some other Hand, I cannot be positive, since he has not thought fit to make it publick. However so soon as he came to the Knowledge of it, he sent an Express to Lieutenant Colonel Stuart, Deputy Governour of the Castle: And that it was but a little before, that my Lord had the Information appears, in that the Gates were shut, and it was near Eleven a Clock when the Person that carry'd it came up, who being challeng'd by the Centries, was let in, when he had told 'em he had an Express for the Governour. Whether he had dropt anything of the Secret to the Port-Guard, or they had only Suspicion of some more than ordinary Danger, which brought an Express at that Hour of the Night, I know not; however they instantly planted their Men in three several Posts, viz. The North and South Flankers and the fore Wall of the Low Guard, in order to make the best Defence they could. By this Time the Conspirators rendezvouz'd at the Foot of the Castle-Wall, with all things ready for the Attempt, and Thomson and Holland were waiting to assist them within. The Governour having received the above Express, 'tis said, he order'd the Officers under him to double their Guards and make diligent Rounds, but it seems that he either went to Bed, or otherwise faill'd of his Duty, and acted not vigorously enough upon this Occasion, or suitable to the

Danger ; for which he was deprived of his Post, and in a short Time after committed Prisoner in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh. But to return to the Story of the Castle ; the Garrison being thus alarm'd, and as Lieutenant Lindsey, with a Party, was marching down to the Sally-Port, where the Attempt was design'd to be made, the above-mentioned Traitors had let down a Rope, which being fixed to the Top of one of the Ladders, they were actually pulling it up, in order to fix it for the Assalians to mount, but, observing the Approach of the Party, they threw over the Ropes, and so let the Ladders fall : Upon which, the Centries having heard the Noise, one of 'em fired, and the Conspirators fled and dispers'd. But a Party of the Town Guard, which, at the Request of my Lord Justice Clerk, the Lord Provost had sent out with Major James Aikman, to Patrol about the Castle, coming up, upon this Alarm, they found one Captain M'lean, formerly an Officer of King James the Seventh, sprawling on the Ground, and bruis'd by a Fall from the Precipice, whom they secur'd, with Alexander Ramsey and George Boswel Writers in Edinburgh, and one Lesly, formerly Page to the Dutchess of Gordon. They likewise found the Ladder, with a Dozen of Firelocks and Carabines, which the Conspirators had thrown away, in order to make their Escape the better.

‘ And thus, by the good Providence of God, their Design was happily frustrated ; which, if it had succeeded, would certainly have been of very ill Consequence to his Majesty's Affairs in Scotland : For by that Means the Rebels had not only been Masters of the Castle, the strongest Fort in the Nation, with Abundance of Arms and Ammunition to furnish those who would fight for the Pretender, and vast Sums of Money to pay them ; but could also have commanded the City of Edinburgh, and kept a Communication betwixt their Friends in the North and those

in the South. And beside, the Royal Army wou'd have been hereby depriv'd of Military Stores, which they afterwards found necessary, to oppose this Rebellion.'<sup>1</sup>

There is an account of the attempt on the Castle in the malicious *Memoirs* of the Master of Sinclair.<sup>2</sup> Of the conspirators he says: 'They were so far from carrying on their affairs privately, that a gentleman who was not concerned told me that he was in a house that evening where eighteen of them were drinking, and heard the hostess say that they were powdering their hair to go to the attack of the Castle.'

A contemporary news-letter gives us a grim picture of the end of Sergeant Ainslie.

'Edinburgh, December 24, 1716.—This day Angely [Ainslie] a corporell in the Castle that was seduced by Liftenant Thomas Arthowr to betray that fort September was a year, is made a public example of. The Council of war sat upon that affair and he was apointed to be hanged over the Castle wall this Monday. He seemd to be very penitent and calld for assistance of ministers. He confesd all his temptation was nine guineas in hand, quherof he gave one to Thomson and ane other to Holland his two accomplices. He was to have 100 more and a commission if it succeeded. Arthour used art besyd to seduce those miserable wretches. . . . It is not yet determined what will be done with Thomson and Holland<sup>3</sup> but Angely now hangs by the neck in a reid coat over the Castle wall near the posterne gate. To the west side of that round in the wall there was a gallows erected on the top of the wall, at the place they were to scale. One part of that gallows projects over, that the malefactor

<sup>1</sup> Rae, pp. 198-200.

<sup>2</sup> *Memoirs of the Insurrection in Scotland in 1715*, by John Master of Sinclair . . . with Notes by Sir Walter Scott. (Abbotsford Club, 1858.)

<sup>3</sup> They were pardoned.

may hang quite without the wall. He is to hang there for a fortnight. He is the only man we have seen suffer here for that unnaturall rebellion, and none can be said to have deserved better.'<sup>1</sup>

Warrender's tenure of office as Lord Provost came to an end on October 4, when his old rival for the seat in Parliament, Bailie John Campbell, was elected as his successor. In those days a new Provost entered on office as from the date of his election, and a few letters from and to 'the Lord Provost' after that date which are included in our bundle, may be taken as written by or addressed to Campbell.

In October Edinburgh narrowly escaped serious trouble.

The insurrection in the North was running its course. Recruits flocked to James's standard. When Mar marched south he was joined by some 500 of the Atholl men. By the time he reached Dunkeld his army numbered about 2000. On September 14 Colonel John Hay, Lord Kinnoull's brother, entered Perth with 200 horse and proclaimed King James VIII. Mar himself with the main body of his army arrived on the 28th. Recruits kept coming in from the north. By the end of September the force amounted to some 5000 men.

Mar spent more than six weeks at Perth. In the meantime the Jacobites in the south had risen. On October 11 a party under Lords Kenmure and Carnwath gathered near Lochmaben. They effected a junction with the Northumberland men, who had risen under Derwentwater and Forster, and the conjoined forces marched to and occupied Kelso.

The Jacobites in the south were separated from the army at Perth by the strong garrison under the Duke of

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<sup>1</sup> *News-Letters of 1715-16*, edited by A. Francis Stewart, Advocate. Printed from Original Papers in the possession of C. E. S. Chambers (Edinburgh, 1910), p. 152.

Argyll at Stirling, then as always the key of the Highlands, and by the naval patrol designed to prevent any crossing of the Firth of Forth. Mar, however, decided to reinforce them if possible. Preparations were made for embarking 2500 men, under William Mackintosh of Borlum,<sup>1</sup> in boats at Pittenweem, Crail, Elie and the other small ports on the Fifeshire coast.

Burntisland was in Jacobite hands, and preparations were made there as if for some expedition, in order to induce the naval force in the Firth to concentrate there. On the nights of the 12th and 13th of October Mackintosh carried out his crossing. The King's ships captured one boat and turned back some others, but about 1600 men effected a landing at North Berwick, Aberlady, Gullane and other places on the coast of East Lothian. They at once concentrated at Haddington. Their object was to march southward to join Kenmure's force, but the temptation of a raid on Edinburgh was too great. They were only seventeen miles from Edinburgh; Argyll at Stirling was thirty-six miles away; and there were many Jacobites in the city. But the Lord Provost acted effectively. He called out the City Guard, the trainbands and the volunteers, told them off to their action stations, and sent an urgent express to Argyll for a reinforcement of regulars. Argyll arrived just in time. When he reached Edinburgh the Jacobites were at Jock's Lodge.

On finding that he was too late, Mackintosh turned aside to Leith, where he occupied the old Cromwellian citadel, and planted the ramparts with guns from ships in the harbour. On October 15 Argyll marched down

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<sup>1</sup> 'Brigadier Mackintosh.' His life has been the subject of an interesting monograph, *Brigadier Mackintosh of Borlum, Jacobite Hero and Martyr*, by A. M. Mackintosh (Nairn, 1918). The Brigadier died in 1743, after long imprisonment in Edinburgh Castle.



with about 1100 men and summoned him to surrender. He received a defiant answer, says Rae, 'as to surrendering they laughed at it . . . and if he thought he was able to force them he might try his hand.' Argyll had no guns; the Jacobites were strongly posted; and an immediate assault must have been attended by very heavy loss. Argyll accordingly withdrew to prepare a serious attack for the following day. That night, however, the Jacobites evacuated the citadel. At low tide they marched off along the sands towards Musselburgh. About two in the morning they reached Seton House. On the 19th they marched south, joined Kenmure at Kelso on the 22nd, and afterwards accompanied him on the march into England which ended in the defeat and surrender at Preston.

When Argyll returned to Stirling he received the thanks of the Edinburgh Town Council. He was asked to leave behind him an adequate force for the defence of the town if necessary, and it is noted in the Council Minutes (October 17) that he offered to leave 100 Dragoons with their officers, 150 of his best foot and Lord Polwarth's regiment of trained militia, at the disposal of the Lord Provost, 'which he doubted not with the assistance of the good neighbours noblemen and gentlemen voluntiers in the Citie both horse and foot together with the horse militia of Mid and East Lothians would be sufficient for their defence against any enemie that could attack them. But if contrair to expectation the enemie should returne with any formidable number of forces the Good Town might assure themselves of his speedy assistance.'

The battle of Sheriffmuir was fought on November 13. As we know, both sides claimed the victory.

'There's some say that we wan,  
Some say that they wan,  
Some say that nane wan at a', man.'

If the battle was tactically a drawn fight, its strategical result was beyond doubt. It definitely put an end to the possibility of Mar's marching to the south. Mar returned to Perth, and afterwards the whole enterprise drifted to disaster.

Prince James landed at Peterhead on December 22, and made a public entry into Perth on January 6, 1716. The arrival of poor 'Mr Melancholy' did not do much to inspire his followers. 'If he was disappointed in us,' says one of them, 'we were tenfold more so in him. We saw nothing in him that looked like spirit.'<sup>1</sup> On January 29 Argyll was ready to advance, and left Stirling. On the 31st the Jacobites marched out of Perth, leaving their guns behind them, crossed the Tay upon the ice, and took the road towards Dundee. On the same day they were followed by James and Mar. On February 4 James and Mar went on board a French ship, the *Maria Theresa* of St Malo, which was waiting for them at Montrose, and sailed for France. Then the army melted away. Argyll returned to Edinburgh on February 27, and a few days later left for London.

In Edinburgh, on March 3, says Maitland, 'The Rebellion being happily over, the Town Council caused the Gates to be unwalled, the new Trenches to be levelled, and the Barricadoes to be removed.'

Sir Walter Scott, writing to Lockhart in 1828, speaks of his own Jacobitism as 'belonging to the fancy rather than the feelings.'<sup>2</sup> Most of us have some share of that Jacobitism of the fancy. The romance and the heroisms

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<sup>1</sup> *A True Account of the Proceedings at Perth, by a Rebel.* (London, 1716.) Attributed by Chambers and Maidment (apparently in error) to the Master of Sinclair.

<sup>2</sup> Lockhart printed 'than the reason,' but Sir Walter wrote 'feelings.' The original letter is in the National Library of Scotland, MS. 859, f. 53.

of the Forty-five have coloured, as with sunset light upon the hills of Moidart, the whole Jacobite story. He would be a dull creature indeed whose blood did not stir to the memories of the White Cockade, to the story of the Prince in the heather, to the names of Lochiel and of Flora Macdonald.

But when one comes to the realities of politics—‘the history of the world is the judgment of the world.’ At the bar of that tribunal the decision has gone in favour of the cause which George Warrender supported. It is two hundred and twenty years since Lord Provost Warrender proclaimed King George I. at the Cross of Edinburgh. In this summer of 1935, amid the ruins of many dynasties, the nation has been celebrating with undivided allegiance the Jubilee of King George V., reigning prosperously, in the eighth generation of uninterrupted sovereignty, in terms of the Act of Settlement. *Stet fortuna domus.*

## WARRENDER LETTERS

### 1. THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH TO THE LORD PROVOST, GEORGE WARRENDER OF LOCHEND.

Edinburgh, 24th March 1715.

MY LORD,—Wee found it our dewty to acquaint you that since your absence wee have hade tuo meetings with the Commissioners of the Customes in relatione to the abuse done to Collector Graham, and in their presence Capt. Murray and Mr Aikenhead were examined who agreed in their declaration that it was half an hour after 4 in the morning befor the port opened or the guaird was called for. But Serjant Baird being also examined he seemed confewsed in his declaratione tho he agreed as to the hour but acknowledged that much about that time he saw some cairts goe by the guaird with some litle casks thereon and acknowledged that Thomas Dick gave a crown to the guaird about 10 aclock that day but could not tell for what cause and therfor we desyre your Lo<sup>p</sup> to give your advice in that matter.

The Commissioners still insist upon our being obleidged to grant concurrence to the constables, and wee have hitherto granted the same and some days agoe ther being a concurrence granted for searching for some soap a great moab gathered together, carried of the seazur and beat the officers constables and city guaird and by what we can learn ther was no disturbance till the guaird was called for. Concurrence being also demanded for searching a particular press in Mr Brimor a merchant his shop for Hollands the Custome house officer made use of the said concurrence for the wholl goods in the shop and inventaried most part particularly severall pices of Hollands and calligoes part wherof were cutt pices, took away part and obleidged him to give bond for his appearance before the Barroun This searching of merchants shops ocasiones such a clamor

throw the wholl toun that really you cannot beleive of what dangerous consequence its likely to prove to this place and wee are very much reflected upon by the neighbourhood and the peace of the place much indangered. Wee therfor found it our dewty to call Sir Patrick Home<sup>1</sup> Mr Kennedy,<sup>2</sup> Mr Elphistoun<sup>3</sup> and Mr Fergusone the touns assessors and laid some queries befor them and craved their oppinion in law but they positively declined to give their oppinion on the English laws. Since which time the merchants here have given in a memoriall to us which please receive inclosed. And now the Collector at Leith hes stoped all victuall peat and coall barks in that harbour and will obleidge them to gett permits and cokats<sup>4</sup> from the port they come from and to subject them selfs at the port of Leith to such clearances of ships from fforeign ports. Upon which there was a petitione given in to us complaining of that as a very great hardship and which followed will prove fatall to Leith for the trouble and expens in procureing thes will be such as will putt a stop to all their trade of bringing victuall peats and coals doun the water. These masters of barks receaving their loading severall myles distant from any Custome house and there being no officer attending thes parts where commonly they load wherby the Government can reap no advantage and the poor masters of barks putt to great expens and loss of time and tyde.

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<sup>1</sup> Sir Patrick Home of Lumsden, Berwickshire, second son of Sir John Home of Renton, Lord Justice-Clerk; admitted Advocate 1667; appointed one of the City Assessors 1689; Solicitor-General under William III.; Baronet of Nova Scotia 1697; collected decisions; died 1723.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Kennedy of Dunure, son of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill; admitted Advocate 1696; Lord Advocate, March to October 1714; Assessor 1714; M.P. for Ayr Burghs 1720-21; Baron of Exchequer 1721; died 1754.

<sup>3</sup> John Elphinstone, eldest son of Sir James Elphinstone, Bt., of Logie, Aberdeenshire; admitted Advocate 1699; Sheriff of Aberdeenshire; Assessor 1705; succeeded to baronetcy, 1722; died 1732.

<sup>4</sup> *Cocket*, a document sealed by the officers of the custom-house, and delivered to merchants as a certificate that their merchandise has been duly entered and has paid duty.

Baillie Jeffry was desyred be us to meett and speak to the collector on that head who went and comuned with him and he at B. Jeffry's desyre allowed all the barks then in the harbour to goe out but affirmed that for the futur they behoved to have permits to show the Custome house whence they come, upon which wee found it necessar to apply to Barron Scroup<sup>1</sup> and to lay all thes our hardships befor him who seemed much to simpathize with our straits and promised befor his departur from this place to speak with some Commissioners and did say that he thought it hard that any goods publictly exposed to seall in retailleurs shops should be lyable to seazur. However that of the searching and that of the stoping victuall peat and coall barks if not prevented will trewly prove fatall to this place and therfor wee earnestly entreat that without delay you will please make inquiry into the customes and laws of England in relation to these matters and that you will please meet and commune with Barroun Scroup on thir subjects how soon he comes to London.

My Lord a motion being made in council for cloathing the city guaird against the King's birthday we thought fitt to acquaint your Lo<sup>p</sup> therwith and to desyre your advice therin it being thought necessar they be cloathed against that day. We give our most humble dewty to your Lo<sup>p</sup> and are in all sincerity etc :

To George Warrender of Lochend, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

## 2. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

[London], 26th March 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I came heir on Wedensday night the 23rd current & nixt day went to the House when they divided upon their Address to His Majesty, 138 for reconsidering it and 244 for approving it. And yesterday the House attended the Speaker to waite upon His Majestie with their

<sup>1</sup> John Scrope, Esq., was appointed a Baron of Exchequer on the constitution of the new Scottish Court of Exchequer after the Union. He held office till 1724, when he became Secretary to the Treasury. He died in 1752.

address, when I also waited upon the Speaker with the rest to waite upon His Majesty, where His Majesty received their address very graciously the Prince and Princess sitting by the King. The Torries argued much against the Address and the Whiggs for it. But Gen: Stanhope & Mr Walepole<sup>1</sup> spake closely to it. Heir inclosed I doe send you the Address from the Lords and also from the Commons.

The House are to read Petitions against Elections this day and on Munday are to goe upon the State of the Nation. You may order a Burges Ticket finely gilded to the speaker The Honourable Spencer Compton<sup>2</sup> (as last year) which I shall take occasion to Deliver him. I wish to heir that all goes well in Councill and no Complaints from the Board of Customes, which they might transmitt to this place to our prejudice. I am in all sincerity

Gentlemen

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

GEO: WARRENDER.

### 3. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 31st March 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 26th to which refers, since which I am favoured with yours of the 24th. I have bein calling for Barron Scrupe but he is not yet come to toun. Its my humble oppinion that you keep a good understanding with Barron Maitland<sup>3</sup> and Barron

<sup>1</sup> Stanhope and Walpole were now the Whig leaders of the House. See Introduction, p. xxxiii.

<sup>2</sup> Spencer Compton, third son of the 3rd Earl of Northampton, Speaker of the House of Commons 1715-27; Earl of Wilmington 1730; K.G.; Lord Privy Seal under Walpole; First Lord of the Treasury 1742; died 1743. He was the Speaker who when a member desired that order might be kept, for he had a right to be heard, replied, 'No, sir, you have a right to speak, but the House have a right to judge whether they will hear you.'

<sup>3</sup> Alexander Maitland of Pitrichie. Alexander Arbuthnott, third son of Robert 2nd Viscount Arbuthnott, married Jean, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Maitland of Pitrichie. She succeeded her brother in that estate in 1704, when her husband assumed the name and arms of Maitland. He was admitted Advocate in 1697, was Provost of Bervie and M.P. for that burgh 1702-4, and was appointed a Baron of Exchequer after the Union. He died in 1721.

Clerk, and als much as possible prevent their writeing up heir. I have read both petitions viz. from the Merchants and also from the skippers of Barks etc and when I have informed my self of the practise heir shall write you more fully. I hope you will lay your selves out to the outmost to suppress mobbs, and which If the Captains of the toun gaird keep on their duty, they can easily prevent. I know you will also take advice of the Dean of Gild & Old Magistrates for suppressing of Mobbs, and also with Respect to giveing orders about searching in the Terms of Law. As to the Toun Guard in considderation of the difficulty the Stentmasters<sup>1</sup> found in imposeing the money for their payment, I thought to have Deminished the Number of Sentinells after 1st April or 1st May and then their Cloathing would have bein a Smaller Charge. You wou'd restrict the charge of Cloathing to the retention, and that it doe not exceed that sune that whoever Cloaths them most ly out of it for two years time at Least, after Lambas nixt. Advise me if I shall consult the Atturney Generale<sup>2</sup> upon these hardships you write me off, which may cost 10 or 12 guineas at least.

This day There was a motion made in the House of Commons by the Comptroller That My Lord Bullenbrock was fled to France and its reported arrived at Calis on Sabbath Last.<sup>3</sup> The House have Addressed His Majesty for laying papers and avouchers before them of all Transactions by the late ministry to the Queens Death and it is Credibly Reported that Facts will be made very Cleirly appear, even under the hands of Severals therein Concerned, of which you'll heir more very quickly. Baillie Campbells petition is not to be brought to the Bar as was reported, But is referred to the Committee of Elections in Common Cours with others, But cannot come in this Session. Please Receive the two last votes of the House. I add not but Believe me, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The stentmasters were the officials appointed to fix the amount of tax payable by the inhabitants of the town.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Edward Northey, Attorney-General 1701 to 1707, and again from 1710 to 1718; M.P. for Tiverton; died 1723.

<sup>3</sup> See Introduction, p. xxxiv.



## 4. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE LORD PROVOST.

[Edinburgh] 2nd April 1715.

MY LORD,—On the 24 last past the magestrats wrot you fully in relatione to the officers of his Majesty's Customes craveing frequent warrants for searching shops and others and of a disturbance that therby hapned and als of our applying our self to Barroun Scroup who promised to speak with some of the Commissioners theranent and anent that of stoping the victuall coall and peat barks and now we are advised he wrot to you anent both and the Commissioners designe as we are informed to comply till his return for which the magestrats desyre you may give him thanks.

Since that time ther's been severall applicationes made for searching privat cellars and searches made but no seazur found which makes us beleive that the informationes comes from some malicious people of our neighbourhead.

The Magestrats have been honoured with yours of the 26 past and thanks you for the news therin contained and have ordered the Speakers burges ticket accordingly inclosed in a peaper apairt direct for your Lo<sup>p</sup>.

My Lord I am direct by the magistrats to aquaint you that some time agoe applicatione was made to us be some of the commissioners of Excise that they would lay informationes befor us anent the severall branches of the renew comitted to ther charge (malt tax excepted) and after adviseing among our selfes and with severall others we thought fitt to comply and accordingly the informationes being laid we gave warrant for citing several persones befor us difficient in payment of the saids fonds. But on Thursday last Sir Wm Baird,<sup>1</sup> Mr James Baird & Midletoun come to me and pretended that this might be prejudiciall to the intrest of the neighbourhead & wholl country in respect that if ever we began to act in any point they might impose upon us the malt tax notwithstanding of the promise I told I hade gott from the Commissioners and they would have hade us to delay sitting notwithstanding of the orders

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Baird of Newbyth, died 1737.

given for citing untill a meeting were had betwixt some of the Gentlemen of the Shyre and the magestrats and desyred me to communicat this to my bretheren and also to take advice of some of the touns assessors theranent which accordingly I did, and the magestrats and assessors were unanimously of the oppinion that ther could be no danger of keeping the court, and that we might well enough rely on the promise received and the rather because if they had mind to have done it they could have demanded it long ere now knowing we daily act as Justices of the peace, and the magestrats and assessors thought we could not omitt to sitt in respect we saw that it was not the shunning the malt tax that thes gentlemen drove at only but a doubting of our power to medle in thes affairs which is yet a greater lenth than their old pretence of ane accumulative jurisdiction, for Sir Wm Baird was pleased to tell me that the Justices commissione led them to sitt on thes affairs, to which I answered that I thought that ane incroachment on the touns priviledge and that the touns Charter was older than their commission. So that yesterday the magestratts kept the court and gave their sentences to the satisfacione of the neighbourhead of the toun and commissioners and we hope also to your Lo<sup>p</sup>. The Commissioners of the Excise are very sensible of the good service we did to the Crown and have this day given accompt therof to the Lords of Thesaurie, But lest this may meet your Lo<sup>p</sup> by Mr Baird who as wee are informed hes gott letters theranent the magestrats thought fitt to transmitt you coppies of tuo memorials in relatione to the magistrats ryght of being Justices drawn by tuo of the most famous and eminent lawers that was in their time, wherby the touns ryght evidently appears.

I must only ad that since Barron Scroups letter to the commissioners Mr Boughton the secretary come to me from them and aquainted me that they would be easie about Capt Murray and Mr Aikenhead and lykewayes told me the commissioners desyred that the magestrats would give the constables a generall order for searching when applicatione was made for preventing trouble to the

magestrats but we did not think it proper to grant them for fear of worse consequences. This I found my self bound in dewty to acquaint your Lo<sup>p</sup> of and the magestrats and I give our best humble dewty to you etc.

#### 5. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 7th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—Since mine of the 31st March I have had non from you. Barron Scrupe is not yet come to Toun but is expected toomorrow or nixt day when I incline to wait on him so soon as he comes. I have taken occasion to speak with severals of the most Inteligent Merchants of the City who have had their goods seized by Customehouse officers even several moneths after they have bein come ashoar which commonly happens to be prohibited goods or such as pay a very high duty, But by the merchants makeing his application to the Board of Customes They Compound the Matter without bringing it befor the Exchequer. I truely regrate our Neighbours Losses But it is my private oppinion That the Importing of prohibite or uncustomed goods will tend to Ruine at Length and is very Discouradging to fair Traders.

The Earl of Rothes<sup>1</sup> is to be Commissioner to the Assembly.

I thought to have Recovered from Mr John Montgomerie of Wreas servant a Signature was given him seven years agoe to have gote finished at London but it is Miscarried. So that If you please may Cause Comisser Campbell abridge ane other Signature for a privative Shirriffship

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<sup>1</sup> John Leslie, 8th Earl of Rothes. He took an active part on the Government side in the '15, and commanded the Volunteer Horse at Sherifmuir. He died in 1722. Lockhart says of him that he 'had not, that I know of, one good property to recommend him, being false to a great degree, a contemner of honour and engagements, extremely ambitious, ridiculous, vain, and conceited (tho' of very ordinary parts and accomplishments), extravagantly proud, and scandalously mercenary.' *Lockhart Papers*, i. 95. The well-known Papers of George Lockhart of Carnwath (London, 1817) contain vivid portraits of most of the Scots politicians of this period, written from the extreme Jacobite point of view.

which most be perused by Sir David Dallrymple<sup>1</sup> when he comes up. You may glance it over when you send it. I shall yet write you more fully of the Customes & Practise of England.

The Land Tax bill hes bein Read once, for 2s. the pound in England and four moneths Cess in Scotland and this day is Remitted to a Committee of the whole House.

This day Mr James Murray,<sup>2</sup> who was Returned member for Elgin and that district of Burrowes was found not duely Elected and Mr John Campbell,<sup>3</sup> Mamor's son, is ordered to be filled up in his Roum and the Clerk of the Croun to ammend the write accordingly. B. Campbell's petition against my election was read in the Committee of Ellections and is appointed to be heird on the 23rd June nixt.—I am etc.

#### 6. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

7th April 1715.

MY LORD,—Since my last to you of the 2d current the magestrats are honoured with yours of the 31 last, and are resolved to follow your advise anent searches suppressing of moabs and keeping a good correspondence with the Barrons.

I yesterday laid your Lo<sup>ps</sup> letter anent the cloathing befor the Councill who have appointed a Committy to consider on that matter, and its hoped that the guaird will be cloathed to your satisfacione and that the charges therof shall not exceed the retentione and the termes of payment shall be as the arrears comes payable. The Comitty have also hade under consideratione the weighty

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, p. xxxviii.

<sup>2</sup> The Hon. James Murray, second son of the 5th Viscount Stormont and brother of Lord Mansfield. He was admitted Advocate in 1710, fought on the Jacobite side in the '15, and afterwards went to France. He was one of the plenipotentiaries for negotiating the marriage between Prince James Stuart and Clementina Sobieska. James created him titular Earl of Dunbar. He died at Avignon in 1770, aged 80.

<sup>3</sup> John Campbell, afterwards Lieut.-General; commanded the Scots Greys; succeeded his uncle as 4th Duke of Argyll 1761; died 1770.

burthen the neighbourhead ly under in paying the guaird, but are as yet difficulted in thinking upon the deminutione of the number till matters be better settled here. However the magestrats desyre your Lo<sup>p</sup> advice therin you lying nearer the fountain and helm of affairs and therby being a better judge.

My Lord by my last I aquainted your Lo<sup>p</sup> anent a difference that was like to arrise betwixt the Gentlemen of the shyre and magestrats annent the touns priviledges occasioned by the magestrats compliyanse with the earnest desyre of the commissioners of his Maj<sup>ties</sup> Excise in keeping a court annent the revenews of the Croun under their management. And this day I understand that severall gentlemen of the shyre have mett and have ordered Mr Baird to be aquainted therwith and at the same tyme recommended Commissioner Campbell to wait on the magestrats to desyre a meeting of the magestrats with thes gentlemen, but the magestrats have delayed their making anie appointment with them till your Lo<sup>ps</sup> mind be known therin which they expect you'll please transmit. It now evidently appears that their designe is to wrest that priviledge of the magestrats acting as Justices of the peace out of their hands in which wee think the magestrats are sufficiently founded in law as all the touns lawiers have heretofor found, and particularly Sir Geo: Lockhart<sup>1</sup> and Sir James Steuart<sup>2</sup> as by their tua oppiniones appears I last sent you. We are of oppinion that your Lo<sup>p</sup> doe consult the Kings actorney Generall both in relatione to our priviledges of justices and haveing power to keep courts in relatione to the revenews of the Croun and also in relatione to our being obleidged to give warrant to the Constables for searching of shops houses and sellars when applicatione is made together with that of the victuall coall and peat barks being oblcidged to gett cockets from the Custome house, and that your Lo<sup>p</sup> will lay thes

<sup>1</sup> Sir George Lockhart, Lord President 1685, as Lord Carnwath; shot by John Chiesly of Dalry 1689.

<sup>2</sup> Sir James Stewart; Solicitor-General 1709; M.P. for Edinburgh 1713-15; died 1727.

oppinions of the tuo lawiers with the tuo representations befor the actorney Generall and gett his oppinion in wryting signed to be transmitted to us, Wee being all here for the time in peace give our most humble dewty to you etc.

#### 7. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 9th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I am favoured with Baillie Duncans in your name of the 2nd Curr<sup>t</sup>. I purpose waiting on Barron Scrupe so soon as he comes heir (but is not yet come) and to acknowledge his favour to you. I have not yet Received the B. Ticket for the Speaker. I approve of your practise in officiating as Justices of the Peace within your presincts against Brewers etc. But I hope you'l be Cautious to meddle with the Malt Tax. Both B: Scrupe and Sir David Dalrymple is expected heir this night.

I was yeisterday & this day with Mr Baillie of Jerriswood who had received a Letter from B: Gordon & James Marjoribanks Informing that Sweds Privateers were upon our Coast Taking our ships at the mouth of the Firth and Craveing that ane English Friggat might be sent down to Cruse on our Coast, which is Granted accordingly by them upon my Concurring with the Gentlemen's Petition, and the orders will be sent to B. Duncan in my absence. You wou'd tell these two gentlemen that Regularly they might have written to me, the Admiralty Inclining only to Correspond with the Provost of Edinburgh or the eldest Baillie with Respect to Concerns of the Admiralty in North Brittain. I cou'd have wished you had advised me what people were Taken up upon Suspicion for stamping paper Being the people heir generally Belive that I should have the best Information of all Things done in and about Edinburgh.

This day Secretary Stanhop Laid before the House of Commons 14 volums of Books Being the Transactions of the Qucens Ministers in the Last four years of Her Govern-

ment, and which is remitt to a Committee of Secrecy of 21 in number To be named by Billoting on Munday Morning nixt. Yeisternight I attended on the Committee of Ellections, where the Ellection for Windsor was Tryed and the Two Torrie Sitting Members found not duely Ellected. I am etc.

8. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
LORD PROVOST OR CHIEF CIVIL MAGISTRATE.

Admiralty Office, 9th April 1715.

SIR,—I this day read to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a letter from several gentlemen of the city of Edenbrogh, to Mr Bayley one of the members of this Board, relating to the trade bound to the Sound, and am comanded by their Lordships to desire, that you will recommend it to the Owners and Maisters of the Ships, to get them in a readiness to sail as soon as may be and the Glasgow,<sup>1</sup> a ship of 24 Guns, now ordered to Leith, will be ordered to bring them to Yarmouth Roads, that there they may joyn the Convoy; And (as is desired) when the Convoy comes from the Sound, care will be taken to see the North Britain Trade into the Frith of Edenbrogh. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

I desire the favour of you that you will inform me what time the Trade may be ready.

9. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE LORD  
PROVOST OR CHIEF CIVIL MAGISTRATE.

Admiralty Office, 13th April 1715.

SIR,—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having ordered, that the Convoy to the Ships trading to Norway,

<sup>1</sup> The *Glasgow* was a 5th rate of 284 tons. *New List of all the Ships and Vessels of Her Majesties Royal Navy* . . . 1710. Her Captain, William Lloyd, was drowned by the capsizing of his boat at Harwich in 1723. Charnock, *Biographia Navalis*, iv. 46.

shall depart from the Nore with the first fair wind after the 16th of this month; their Lordships command me to send you this notice thereof, and they desire that the Trade bound thither from your Port, may be ready at Leith, to proceed out with the Frigett that will be sent before to call upon them. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

#### 10. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 14th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I am favoured with yours of the 7th and have been Thrice or four times at Barron Scrupes Loading to wait on him Knowing the Importance of Keeping up a Good understanding with him, and finding him this morning. He shewed me the Principall Letter By the Commissioners of the Board to him dated 29th March 1715 whereof I send you the Copie as per other Syde, which was for answer to one of his to them of the 23rd Ditto. As to the Cloathing the Guard except you Diminish the number of Sentinels to 60 or thereby the Charge will be too heavie for the Toun under its present Circumstances. I shall be very sory of any new Difference Betwixt you and the Gentlemen of the shyre and which our Friend heir desires you to be aware of. I wish you did meet with the Gentlemen of the Shyre and keep up a Good understanding with them als far as possible.

But in the mean time I shall not ommitt according to your desire to Consult the attorny Generall in relation to our priviledges as Justices and also annent our being obleidged to grant warrant to the Constables for searching Shops, Houses, and Cellers, when application is made together with that of the victuall coall and peat Barks being obleidged to get Cockets from the Customehouse, and when I have gotte his oppinion shall advise you thereof. You may aquaint the merchants that there are two friggats of war appointed to sail down the Length of Hull for Convoy of ships into the Baltick, and also other two



Ships of war to Convoy Brittish ships to Norroway, which will be ready in a fournights time to sail for these places.

This day Mr Hambden Reported from the Committee of Ellections for the Burrow of Maldon in the County of Essex that John Cummings & Thomas Bramston sitting members are not duely Ellected and that Sir William Joliff Knt. and Samuel Tuffnel Esqr. Petitioners are duely Ellected, the Last two are wiggs. The House is adjurned to Munday come a 7 Night, and most of the members will retein into the Country for these few days. The atturny Generall haveing already gone into the Country for his pleasure, and its Like you may not heir from me for some days until I can procure the atturny Generall's oppinion with respect to what you desire to be informed of. I am etc.

[The enclosed copy of the Customhouse officials' letter states that they will not enforce the order for Cockets pending action by the Exchequer.]

#### 11. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 14th April 1715.

MY LORD,—Since the last to you of the 7th instant the Magestrats are honoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of dait the 7 and 9th instant, and in answer to that of the 7th Commissioner Campbell is provyding that signatur and when ready shall be sent you.

The majestrats are very well satisfied that you approve of the officiating of Justices. The burges ticket was delivered Mr Blair to be sent you on the 4th instant.

As for Baillie Gordon and Mr Marjoribanks wryting to Jerviswood, trewly it was not made known to any of the magestrats. However upon receipt of your Lo<sup>ps</sup> and one other from Mr Birchet the magestrats were pleased to send for Baillie Gordon and some other of the merchants who come and waited upon the magestrats and after com-

municating your letter to them Baillie Gordon did say that what they wrot was only in relatione to their privat affairs and did not think it needfull to trouble your Lo<sup>p</sup>. However that the neighbouring burrows may be dewly apprysed of the Convoys comeing up to Leith in order to receive the trade under convoy to the Sound I have wrote letters to the respective maritim burrows and have also put a publict advertisment in the Currant <sup>1</sup> adviseing that all ships designing for the Sound be at Leith roads against the first of May nixt.

As to thes taken up upon suspicione for stamping peaper the majestrats would have wrot to you theranent hade they been concerned in their examinatione. But thos suspect were taken up by order of my Lord Justice Clerk and privatly examined be his Lo<sup>p</sup> my Lord Advocat and Barron Scroup, and no doubt your Lo<sup>p</sup> hes gotten a fuller accompt from my Lord advocat therof than wee can give you at this time.

My Lord I thought fitt to acquaint you that Bavié cam by an order from the Lord Register to Robert Seton craving ane extract of that proces raised at the Kirk thesaurer and the fiscalls instance against Mr Robert Freebairn <sup>2</sup> James Grant Thomas Lyell & others in relatione to their profanatione of the Lords day at Edinburgh in February 1714 which the majestrats found could not be refused, the design of craveing that extract is beleived to be in oppositione of Mr Ro<sup>t</sup> Freebairns gift of Kings printer and Bavié told it was so.

The neighbourhead are all in peace and quiet for the time and the majestrats and I give our most humble dewty to your Lo<sup>p</sup> etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The first Edinburgh *Courant* was started in 1705. For an account of the various papers which have appeared under that name see the Rev. W. J. Couper's *Edinburgh Periodical Press*, 1908.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Freebairn, printer and bookseller, was a son of David Freebairn, Bishop of Edinburgh. He was in 1711 appointed King's Printer. During the Rising of 1715 he printed for the Jacobites at Perth. He died in 1747. See *The Pretender's Printer*, by the Rev. W. J. Couper, *Scottish Historical Review*, January 1918. See pages 33, *note*, and 34.

12. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE MAGISTRATES OF  
THE MARITIME BURGHS.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 14th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I have this day a letter from the secretary of the Admiralty advising that his Maj<sup>es</sup> ship the Glasgow is ordered for this coast in order to carie from Leith to Yarmouth roads all ships bound for the Sound and there to joyn a greater convoy and that care will be taken to see the North Brittain trade in to the firth of Edinburgh at their return. And therfor I found it my dewty (in my Lord Provosts absence) to acquaint you that you may intimat this to your neighbourhead that all ships bound for the Sound be sent up to Leith roads at furdest betwixt and the first day of May nixt against what time the convoy will be ready to receive them. I am etc.

13. BAILIE DUNCAN TO JOSIAS BURCHET, SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

[Edinburgh, 14th April 1715.]

HONOURED SIR,—I am favoured with yours of the 9th instant in absence of the Lord Provost and accordingly have written to the majestrats of all the maritim Brughes desyreing them to have ther trade bound for the Sound in readines at the port of Leith against the first day of May nixt and have lykewayes put ane advertisement in

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<sup>1</sup> This was sent to Dunbar, North Berwick, Burntisland, Kinghorn, Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Pittenweem, Anstruther Easter and Wester, Crail, St Andrews, Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverkeithing, Queensferry, Kilrenny and Culross. The following advertisement was inserted in the *Courant*: The Right Hon. the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral have ordered his Mage<sup>s</sup> ship the Glasgow of 24 guns to Leith in order to receive under convoy all ships bound to the Sound and to carie them to Yarmouth to joyn the convoy, and care is also to be taken for seeing the North Brittain trade in their return into the firth of Edinburgh.

These are therfor to advertise all merchants, masters of ships, and others concerned to be in Leith roads with such ships (as are bound for the Sound) against the first of May nixt.

the Currant for that effect. So that I doubt not but the trade in this place bound thence will be in readines against that time and therfor it is hoped His Maj<sup>es</sup> ship designed convoy will be here. I am etc.

14. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE CHIEF  
MAGISTRATE OF EDINBURGH.

Admiralty Office, 16th April 1715.

SIR,—The Lords Comissioners of the Admiralty having been informed from Edenbrough, that a Swedish Privatier lies at the Mouth of the Frith, to search all outward bound Vessels, I am commanded by their Lordships to send you a Copy of the Order they have sent by the Kings Command, to the Capt: of the Glasgow, order'd thither, to seize the said Privatier ; But in regard, he is first order'd to apply himself to you for an Account of the said Privatier, I am to desire that you will give him all the Advice and Assistance you can, towards the enabling him the better to comply with their Lordships Orders. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

You will please to cause the Enclosed order to be delivered to the Captain.

*Enclosure in No. 14.*

By the Commissioners for Executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland,

Whereas we have been informed by a letter under the hands of several Persons at Edinburgh dated the 1st of this Month, that there was then a Suedish Privateer lying in the Mouth of that Fryth, which visited all ships outward Bound, to see if they could find any Documents on board that may give them any Pretentions to alledge they are contrary to that King's Late Edict, which they think is such that it is impossible to observe it duly. And the same having been communicated to the King, his Majesty hath signified his pleasure, that if the said Intelligence be such

as that Credit can be given to it, Orders should be sent to the Commander of the Frigate we are sending to that Part of Great Britain that he seize the aforesaid Privateer, and bring her into Port, and give an Account to Us of his Proceedings therein, and what he shall further learn; And Whereas We have ordered his Majesty's Ship under your Command to the Mouth of the Frith of Edinburgh, you are hereby required and directed to inform yourself from the Magistrates of that city, whether the aforesaid Swedish Privateer doth still continue to search the outward Bound ships, and if so you are in Pursuance of his Majesty's Commands to seize her, and bring her into Port, and deliver her, without any Imbezlement into the Custody of the Customhouse Officers at Edinburgh or Leith till further order; And you are to give us a particular account of what you do herein, and of what Observations you shall make as to the former Proceedings of the said Privateer. Given under our hands etc.

To Capt. Loyd Commander of his Majesty's Ship Glasgow.

15. THE MAGISTRATES OF ABERDEEN TO BAILIE DUNCAN.

Aberdeen, 18th April 1715.

MUCH HONOURED,—Wee received yours advysing that his Majesties ship the Glasgow is ordered for this coast to carry from Leith to Yarmouth all ships bound for the Sound, there to joyne a greater convoy. Wee thank you for your advertisement and shall acquaint our Merchants thereof. But our Merchants are afraid to ventur ther ships to Leith road becaus ther is a Swedish ship lyeing here, and who hes been upon this coast this two or three dayes bygone being a privateer, And therfor wee intreat that the said Cruiser may be sent to this coast for carrying up to Leith any ships from Inverness, this place or Montrose that intend for the Sound. Wee remaine etc.

ROBERT STEWART.

GEO: FORDYCE.

16. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE MAGISTRATES OF  
THE MARITIME BURGHS.

Edinburgh, 19th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—The Lords Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admirall of Great Brittain Haveing aquainted the majestrats that ther's a convoy to the ships trading to Norway to depart from the Nore the first fair wind after the 16 instant and have therfor desyred that the trade bound thither from this part may be in readiness at Leith, I therfor found it my dewty to acquaint you that the Merchants and ship masters in your toun may be dewly apprysed therof and that they will please order such ships as ar bound for Norway to be here at the Road of Leith without loss of time in order to proceed under convoy. I am etc.

17. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO  
BAILIE DUNCAN.

Admiralty Office, 20th April 1715.

SIR,—I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 14 instant and am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you that the Convoy bound to Norway will sail from the Nore with the first fair wind. I am etc.

## 18. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 21st April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—Since my last of the 14th Curr<sup>t</sup> am this day favoured with one from B: Duncan of that date. When I wrote you on the 9th my thoughts of your acting as Justices against the Brewers, I could not have all the Consequences I now forsie so fully under my view, For as I wrote you last a good understanding at this time Especially with the Gentlemen of the Shyre is to be Cultevate, and I now sie perfectly that they are all mightily alarmed at the Magistrates Judgeing the Brewers to that Degree, that the most Judicious and those who used to be

Friendly to the Toun have advised their Constituant heir to stope any signature of Shirriffship etc the Toun may Demand or any gift may be asked for the Toun, and my anxiety for the prosperity of the good Toun hes been so much at heart with me, that I had ground to hope to have obtained favour in what I cou'd have demanded for the Toun Beeing when I kissed His Majesty's hand and also the Prince & Princesses I was very favourably Looked on by all.

I cou'd truely have wished you had advised with me befor you acted in these matters, that are at this time so very unseasonable, when all our Hopes Resolved in a Good harmony with the Shyre, While all of you cou'd not but know, what was under my view for the Toun, and which is over Impracticable without a good understanding with the Shyre. You know the Proverb. Its not good wakening etc. I advise your haveing a good understanding with my Lord Arneston <sup>1</sup> & Sir James Dallrymple <sup>2</sup> whom I found all ways Friendly to the Toun. But they need not be let know, what I now write you. I am consulting the atturny Generall annent these thrie particulars you desired, and have bein some days upon it and some time next week shall send you his oppinion in writeing. The House of Commons adjurned from Thursday the 14th to Munday the 25th Curr<sup>t</sup> So that wee have no news. My Love & Service to all friends in Counsell. I am etc.

19. BAILIE DUNCAN TO FIVE PERSONS <sup>3</sup> ANENT THE  
PRIVATEER.

Edinburgh, 22nd April 1715.

SIR,—I received ane letter from Mr Burchert Secretary to the Commissioners of Admiraltie of the date the 16th

<sup>1</sup> Robert Dundas of Arniston, appointed an ordinary Lord of Session 1689, as Lord Arniston; father of Lord President Dundas; died 1726.

<sup>2</sup> The Hon. Sir James Dalrymple of Borthwick, second son of Lord President Stair; admitted Advocate 1675; one of the Commissaries of Edinburgh and afterwards one of the Principal Clerks of Session; Baronet 1698; died 1719.

<sup>3</sup> Sent to: Mr Henry Craford, merchant in Crail; Mr Ro<sup>t</sup>. Nairn, skipper in Elie; Mr Wm. Hall, merchant in Dunbar; Mr Robert Mathie, merchant in Prestonpans; Bailie Graham in Anstruther.

instant signifieing that they were informed of some Swedish privateers cruizing in the mouth of the Forth boarding all shipes outward bound and demanding their clearances anent which the Commissioners of Admiralty desyres to be truely and particularly inform'd. Wherfor and so that I may be truely and fully inform'd heirin have writt to severall portes and particularly to you that you wold be pleased to inform your selfe in this matter and give me per first Ane true Accompt therof with what else may occur from tyme to tyme in order that I may advyse the Commissioners of Admiralty who are resolved to take all proper methods for securing the trade I am etc.

20. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 23 April 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Since my last to you of dait the 21st instant <sup>1</sup> please know that I am adviced by the majestrats of Aberdeen of a Swedish ship lying ther and are therfor afrayd to ventur ther ships to Leith roads without convoy—a coppie of which letter receave inclosed. Its hoped the Lords Commissioners will order his Maj<sup>s</sup> ship the Glasgow to proceed that lenth in order to bring from thence to Leith roads such of the trade as are bound for the Sound or Norway. I am etc.

21. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 23rd April 1715.

MY LORD,—We were honoured with yours of the 14th current and are very glad you have mett with Barron Scroup and are perfectly well pleased with Barron Scroups wryting to the Comissioners and ther ansuer, for we find the good effects therof no applicationes being made to us for some time past, But we still are of oppinion that your Lo<sup>p</sup> may consult the actorney Generall upon the severall heads mentioned in our last and that you'll please still

<sup>1</sup> An acknowledgment of Burchett's letter of 16th April.



informe your self as to the custome of searching in England.

My Lord your Lo<sup>ps</sup> oppinion anent diminishing the number of the City Guaird was taken under the Councils consideratione and they have ordered the number of sentinells efter the first of May to be 72 and the cloathing is ordered accordingly, which the present thesaurer hes ingadged to doe as a privat merchant at the sight of a Comitty so that it may not exceed the retentione.

Wee are also sorie that the Gentlemen of the Shyre should have taken umbrage at what wee did but are confident when it is rightly weighed non of our friends with you will condemn us, for as we aquainted your Lo<sup>p</sup> befor, the Comissioners of Excyse gave us full assurance that no informatione should be given in anent the malt tax, and considering our circumstances with the Government we did not think it fitt to deny a piece of service which was so advantagious to the Kings intrest and earnestly intreated by them.

We have had severall letters from Mr Burchet adviseing of convoyes to be sent here for the Sound and Norway trade but by his of the 16 instant he adviseth of the Lords Comissioners being informed of a Swedish privateer being in the mouth of our firth for searching all outward bound vessels and that the Capt. of the Glasgow who is ordered here hes gott directiones theranent, and after my wryting to the respective maritime burrows are advised from the magestrats of Aberdeen of that Swedish ship being on their coast, so that they dare not attempt to bring up their trade to Leith roads for fear of the said privateer, of which we have advised Mr Burchet, and sent him a coppie of Aberdeens letter, and things here continue peaceable at present. Wee give our most humble dewty to you and beleive etc.

## 22. THE MAGISTRATES OF DUNBAR TO BAILIE DUNCAN.

Dunbar, 25th April 1715.

SIR,—We are favoured with three of yours of the 14, 19 & 22 currant, and returne you hearty thanks for your

care in advising us the needfull anent the convoy appointed for Norway and the East seas. As to Suedish privatiers cruising of the mouth of the Forth, boarding all ships outward bound and demanding clearance from them, we know nothing about that further than a flying report but when any thing certain concerning that matter come to our knowledge, shall not fail to communicate the same to you. We kindly salute you etc.

J<sup>o</sup> FERGUSON.

ROBERT HALL.

### 23. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 26th April 1715.

MY LORD,—We are honoured with yours of the 21st currant wherby we understand some Gentlemen of the shyre are mightily allarmed in our judging in the affair betwixt the Croun and the Brewars and others and pretend that they are advised by their constituents on that consideration to appear against the toun.

We are heartily sorie that any of thes worthy Gentlemen should misconstruct our serveing the Croun whill our soe doeing is neither disadvantage to the shyre nor prejudiciall to our neighbourhead whom we allenarly judge, And as we formerly advised your Lo<sup>d</sup> we not only advised with the old majestrats and some of the Councill bot with our assessors befor we complied with the desyre of the Commissioners of his Maje<sup>s</sup> Exceyse in the affair; Who have allready by a joint letter direct to the thesaurie of Great Brittain acknowledged the good services therby done be us to the Croun, so that we cannot but think it strange if that which we have done for the Intrest of his Majestie shall be made use of as ane handle to obstruct the bounty of the Government to the Good Toun.

My Lord wee most take the freedome to mind your Lo<sup>d</sup> that some Who are not freinds to the toun have never as yet wanted some handle or other to make use off for obstructing the touns intrest but wee conceave ther's as litle weight in this as in any they could have used, for if

our serveing the Government be one good argument against us wee know not what will be one argument for us. However your Lo<sup>p</sup> may be assured we shall use our outmost endeavours to preserve a good understanding with the Gentlemen of the shyre and shall on all occasions shun every thing that may give just ground of offence.

My Lord, the Conveener aquainted us that tomorrow or nixt Council day he designs to propose to the Council that the touns assessors have orders for Drawing ane addres to his Majestie in als loyall terms as possible but that the substance of the addres be for a disolucione of the unione, off which we found it our dewty to acquaint you that so you may advise with severall representatives of the burrows in parliament and give us your advyee without loss of time for we are affrayed it will not be in our power to prevent it. We give our humble dewty to your Lo<sup>p</sup> and are etc.

24. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

Admiralty Office, 26th April 1715.

SIR,—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that the Squadron appointed Convoy to the Trade bound to the Baltick, will sayle from the Buoy of the Nore the first opportunity of Wind and Weather after the fifth day of May next, and therefore I am to desire that the Trade from the Ports in North Britain may be soe gott together in the Frith of Edenburgh, as that they may be ready in all respects to come out when called for, in order to joyn the convoy, for that it is not to be expected they can loose time by staying for them. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

25. THE MAGISTRATES OF ABERDEEN TO BAILIE DUNCAN.

Aberdeen, 29th April 1715.

MUCH HONOURED,—Our Provost recieved your last letter acquainting that there was a convoy ordered by the government for conveying ships to Norway, whereof he

advertised the merchants. There is a ship to sail from this place this night or the morrow's morning for Leith designed for the Sound; And in caice by contrary winds or otherways she shall not reach Leith for two or three days, Wee intreat ye may prevaill with the convoy to wait dureing that time till the ship come up, Wee give you hearty thanks for your kindness anent the forsaid advertisements; and shall be ready to resent<sup>1</sup> the same when occasion offers as becometh etc.

ROBERT STEWART.

JOHN DEANS.

JAMES ROBERTSON.

26. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

Admiralty Office, 29th April 1715.

SIR,—I have received and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 23rd inst: and in answer thereto do acquaint you, that orders are here inclosed to Capt: Loyd Commander of the Glasgow to bring under his Convoy from Aberdeen to the mouth of the Frith of Edinburgh all Trade bound thither, and particularly such as shall be design'd for Norway or the Baltick, which I desire you'l cause to be delivered to him as soon as possible may be and am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

27. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 30th April 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Capt. Wm Loyd Commander of his Majesties ship Glasgow arrived in Leith roads Thursday last and imediately thereafter I transmitted him yours with the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty their orders and this day he came & waited on the majestrats.

Since which time I am favoured with yours of the

<sup>1</sup> *Resent*, reciprocate.

26 current and I doubt not but all the Trade bound for the Sound may be in readines to sail on Tuesday nixt, and so hopes they shall come in dew time to proceed with the convoy. I am etc.

## 28. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 30th April 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 21st Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs since which am favoured with yours of the 23rd Curr<sup>t</sup>: which have communicate to Sir David Dalrymple who is Importuned by the Gentlemen of the Shyre and is not pleased with your answer and upon communing with him at full Length, freely said that without concert with the Gentlemen of the Shyre no favour can be asked for the Toun. Its presumable that they will oppose us in what wee may ask, and from former long experience I wou'd have at this time Especially bein cautious of giveing them any umbradge.

The Land tax of 4 months Cess with  $\frac{1}{6}$  part of Retention <sup>1</sup> hes had a Second Reading in our House, and Sir William Johnston <sup>2</sup> & I have gote Sir David to draw an act about the Yool vaccance Restricting it to [ ] days <sup>3</sup> which wee expect may be a week, Thomas Smith <sup>4</sup> & I is for thrie days only. I was advised from a good hand that Alexander Dalziel is seased and Imprisoned at Aberdeen.

By the nixt post I hope to send you the atturny Generall's answer to the queries proposed. I wish a good understanding betwixt the Gentlemen of the Shyre and you Especially at this Juncture for Differences at this time are Dreadfully ominous. For I can freely overlook any Neglect put upon

<sup>1</sup> The House went into Committee on the Land Tax Bill on April 27. The amendments were reported to the House on May 2. *Journals of the House of Commons*, 1715.

<sup>2</sup> Sir William Johnstone of Westerhall, 2nd Baronet; M.P. for Dumfriesshire; died 1727.

<sup>3</sup> Yule Vacance. See Introduction, p. xlvi.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Smith, Dean of Guild of the City of Glasgow; M.P. for Glasgow Burghs; died 1715.

me of Late provideing you cou'd harmoniously seek the weelfare of our decaying City and heartily concur with me in everything for its good, I was indeed Thesaurer when the first gift was procured, and if I can procure any favour to the Toun I will use my Endeavours in Sincerity without flattery and I stand very fair both with Scotts and English members & some are so Zealous as to express their offence at the Counsell that they think Maltreated me, as they were informed befor I came up. But I doe my outmost to take that umbradge inteirly off, by adviseing them of a perfect understanding & good Harmony amongst ourselves, and I cannot but with pleasure & gratitude Remember the good Harmony among the Magistrates in opposeing the Late addressing, and which is also Remembered heir. I am etc.

29. BAILIE DUNCAN TO CAPTAIN LLOYD,  
H.M.S. GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, 4th May 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—I thought it not unfit to acquaint you that I have received a letter from the Magistrats of Aberdeen the copy wherof is on the other page By which it seems there is but one ship comeing from thence, which is on the way, if not already come up, which you may please consider when you read your orders,<sup>1</sup> And doe therein as you think may be most proper. I ad no further but that I am etc.

30. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 5th May 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 30th ultimo since which yours of the 26th Adviseing the Conveeners proposing to the Magistrates, their calling for their assessors to draw ane Address to His Majestie for Dissolution of the Union, and your desireing my speaking with the Members that Represent our Burrows heir, which I have accordingly

<sup>1</sup> Bailie Duncan on 5th May acknowledged receipt of the orders from the Admiralty dated 29th April.

done at two or thrie severall times as I cou'd have the opportunity of six or seven at a time, All that I have spoke with doe think it most unseasonable, while the Parliament are Just now about to prosecute some of the Late Ministry, and are of the oppinion it will not only deprive us of any favour from the Court or Parliament that wee might reasonably expect, but so far offend the Court as to threaten to Remove the Session from us and I understand Glasgow would Petition for it, and perhapps by their Interest obtain it, The Consequences of which I dread to think of. Yeisterday I had the honour to dyne with the Speaker who drank prosperity to the Toun and Magistrates and was very fond of the Complement of the B. Ticket given him, and I most own that both Scottis and English ministry have been very Discreet<sup>1</sup> to me and Construct very favourably of the Magistrates. I have at Length obtained the Soliciter Generalls<sup>2</sup> answer to the thrie queries you desired his oppinion of which cost me Seven pounds fourteen shillings Sterl: per Receipt Besides my spending and Coach hyre with the atturny at severall times. Heir also the oppinion of Sir John Hollis & Sir James Montague & Sir Peter King anent your being Justices of Peace. I hope you shall with great prudence & Discretion improve these helps for our Direction, But Endeavour to shun Extrems, and to Consider the need wee have of favour. There is Leave given to Sir David Dalrymple to bring in a bill for abridging the Yool vaccance which I hope may be shortned to a week. I referr you to the votes for Parliamentary proceedings Committees are taken up whole rights about Ellections. Wishing you all prosperity Believe me etc.

### 31. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 7th May 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 5th Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs. The more I advise as to the address with people

<sup>1</sup> *Discreet*, polite.

<sup>2</sup> The Solicitor-General was Sir Nicholas Lechmere.

here the more I find myself obleidged to tell you that it will be of very ill consequence in generall, and particularly to the Toun of Edinburgh, It will be unexceptable <sup>1</sup> to the King for it falls in with the very wishes and aims of his Enemies at a more critical time then people are aware of, It cannot be acceptable to the plurality in Either Houses of Parliament at present nor are the parties so near a Balance, that our Country can cast the Seale, if they were united, a thing rather to be wished then hoped for. I doe not Doubt that the prudent management of the Councilll which overcame the attempts of the Address some months agoe, will Still be able to doe it, since there is no question, the same Zeall remains. You may assure our Friends, that the members from Scotland will ommitt no occasion wherein they can apprehend that part of the Nation is Concerned Either in our Religious or Civill Concerns, But if any thing be now unseasonably done It will Disable your Friends from Serving their Country. This is what I have further to Say to you, upon that head, which with Kind Respects to your Selves & whole Councilll I remain etc.

### 32. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 7th May 1715.

MY LORD,—Being honoured with yours of the 30th past Wee thought fitt to call the old Magistrats together in order to have their advice a second tyme yesterday and your Lo. letter read that affair which seems to give much umbradge to some of the Gentlemen of the Shyre, and some uneasiness to your Lo. was fully considered and it was the opinion of all and every one present (save one) That the Magistrats complying with the desyre of the Commissioners of exeyse as formerly represented to your Lo. was not only good service done to his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, But also to the neighbourhead, especially considering the touns previledge is mantained, which some endeavour to wrest out of our hands notwithstanding the touns Rights are well founded in law, and gave it as their opinion that wee could not

<sup>1</sup> *Sic.* Unacceptable.



decline to continue to sitt as judges in so far as concerns the particulars formerly communicat to your Lo: only it was agreed to desist durezza the sitting of the assembly

Your Lo may be pleased to remember that some of the Gentlemen of the Shyre have several tymes and particularie within these four years contended for jurisdiction [and some of them pretend the Magistrats of Edinburgh cannot sitt as Justices of peace without them, and have on former occasions without any shadow or ground opposed the touns intrest and]<sup>1</sup> appeared against the towns intrest for no other reason, but because our predicesors have mantained the touns previledges (tho to our greif they have been to much ineroachd upon) and your Lo. may easily see the cause is still the same, and if the confirmation of the touns previledges and obtaining other favours of his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and government can be procured upon no other conditions, but by yeilding some of the most valuable and well established previledges the toun has for gratifying of a very small number of the Gentlemen of the Shyre, it's neither what wec nor our predicesors have thought our selfs able to account for, However wee are fully satisfied that there are many worthy Gentlemen in the Shyre who will by no means grudge His Ma<sup>ties</sup> bounty to the toun and particularie the confirmation of the touns just previledges which is neither derogatory to the honour nor intrest of the shyre. Yesternight wee mett with Commissar Cample and compared the draught of a signature which is very much compendized, and had been severall tymes under consideration and compared with our charters at the sight of Sir Pat. Home which is by this post transmitt to your Lo. being with a memorandum Designed particularie for your Lo. use Relative to the said signature to which wee hope by your Lo. intrest and dilligence his Ma<sup>ties</sup> hand will be obtained to your Lo: immortall honour and great satisfaction of etc.

My Lord Wee long for a particular answer to that part of our last relating to the Conveeners proposal, The

<sup>1</sup> Erased in MS.

R. Mr Carstairs <sup>1</sup> was almost unanimously chosen Moderator to the Generall Assembly.

### 33. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 14th May.

MY LORD,—Our last to you was of the 7 instant to which refers, since which wee are favoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of the 5 and 7 eurrant the former bringing along the actorney Generalls answers to the three questiones as also ane coppie of Sir John Hollies Sir James Malagie <sup>2</sup> and Sir Pat. Kings advice, and designed to have answered the same sooner had not the assembly and death of Baillie Duncans brother in law Ro<sup>b</sup> Eliot diverted us, we have shown your letters to the conveener and wee doubt not now but he will be prevailed upon not to fight for the addressing as he designed untill matters be better settled above.

My Lord we have perused Sir Edward Northys answers to the three questions and are satisfied as to the first that retaillers shops ought not to be searched in the manner they were, and find the 2nd is very clear that the Barks within the firth ought not to be troubled with cockets or clearanees, But are sorrie to find him so uncertain as to the matter of our jurisdictione altho we think his reasone vane yet therby wee see it hes been a wrong stope in procureing the wryts to be sent and directed after the manner and is what hes allwayes been complained on and therfor earnestly entreats your Lo<sup>p</sup> to consider on a proper methode for obtaining the wryts to be transmitted and direct immediatly as in other county touns in England for the future, But are very glad to see the other three lawiers agree with the most eminent of our Lawiers as to our jurisdictione.

The assembly have gone on very agreecably as yet and did unanimously depose tuo brothers of the name of

<sup>1</sup> William Carstares, the famous 'Cardinal Carstares,' William III.'s chief adviser in Scottish affairs; Principal of the University of Edinburgh 1703-15; Minister of Greyfriars; Moderator of the General Assembly 1705, 1708, 1711, 1715; died 1715.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic.* Montague.

Maillan for not observing the thanksgiving day for King Georges accession to the throne and not praying for him in express termes, ther are still tuo affairs that seem troublesome to them viz that betwixt Mr Webster and Mr Simpstone<sup>1</sup> and ane other about the representing ther grievances but its hoped both thes will be amicably taken up, and the assembly its beleived will rise Tuesday nixt. Mr Heart hes passed from his appeal.

My Lord The Councill have made ane agreement with Mr Ro<sup>t</sup> Freebairn & have sett to him the grass yaird and house therin for 21 years commencing from Witsunday first for which he is to pay 400 m. yearly and is to putt and keep the house in repair upon his charges and we have reserved the grasing of the touns horses benefeit of the stable for the horses and feild for the stones and restricted him that it shall only be made use of for a dwelling and printing house and the benefit of the reparatiene and melioratiene is to redound to the toun after expireing of the tack. And we hope your Lo<sup>p</sup> will aprove of this sceing

<sup>1</sup> This was a famous heresy hunt. 'Rumours had got afloat that John Simson, Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, was teaching Arminianism. This was polluting the stream at the fountain-head. The Presbytery of Glasgow, where Simson appears to have been liked, did not meddle with the matter; but Mr Webster, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, zealous for the purity of doctrine, brought the reports which were in circulation before the Assembly of 1714, and was instructed by it to table his complaint before the Presbytery of Glasgow, of which Simson was a member. He did so, and the Professor of Divinity gave in answers to his charges. The whole matter was again brought up before the Assembly which met in 1715, when it excited a good deal of debate; but finally a committee of thirty ministers and six elders was appointed to investigate the truth of the charges, with instructions as to how they were to proceed. They were to separate the alleged heretical profanations into three classes: those which were contrary to the Word of God and Confession; those which were controverted by orthodox divines, and not determined by the Confession; and those which were not clearly contained in the Scriptures or in the writings of orthodox divines. They were to ask Mr Simson what he denied, and what he was anxious to qualify. They were to allow both parties to lead proof, and to distinguish between things taught by Mr Simson in the school and things emitted by him in private conversation.' Cunningham's *Church History of Scotland*, ed. 1882, ii. 246. And so forth—the whole story may be read in Cunningham. Simson was finally suspended from all ecclesiastical functions in 1729. He died in 1740.

it hes stood so long wast and no benefeit made to the toun therby and that the rooff was turning inteirly ruinous. We give our humble dewty to your Lo<sup>p</sup> etc.

#### 34. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 19th May 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My Last to you was the 5th & 7th Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs. I heir Mr Freebairn Petitioned for the House in Grayfreir yeard.<sup>1</sup> I doe hope the Councill will not goe into it without aquainting me with what propositions he makes, The Expense of a Letter Costs nothing, nor can I belive that the Councill will so far Neglect me as not to advise with me in a matter of that Consequence, for I have a proposition to Lay befor the Councill with Respect to that House of far greater Consequence and usefullness to the Toun which shall be Communicate at my Return being very agreeable to the terms of first destination and will be to the honour of the Magistrates, I have trysted to wait upon Sir David Dalrymple too morrow morning for the perusal of the Signature last sent me.

All Petitions against sitting members are now Laid aside and no more to be Insisted on for this Session of Parliament.

The House have given £700,000 sterl: to the Civill List that is for defraying the Charge of the Prince's Family.

<sup>1</sup> The Town Council Minutes record on May 13, 1715, a Petition by Mr Robert Freebairn, King's Printer, for the house in the New Grayfriars belonging to the town. Bailie John Cleghorn reported from the Committee appointed to consider the matter that they approved the granting of 'the grass yeard commonly called the New Grayfriars with the lairge house therin called Bedlam bounded thus, viz. with the new inclosure for a Burial ground on the west, the Grayfrier church yard on the North with the town wall on the east and south parts for 21 years, excepting from the same the ground of the South-east turrett of the Town wall, which was appointed to be a court house for Easter and Wester Portsburgh, and excepting the stable for the town's horses and house possessed by the Town's servant and loft above the same, and excepting the field for holding stones for the Town's use, and reserving also pasture for two of the Town's horses in the grassyard, and reserving power to the Town Council to enclose a part of the grass yard for an additional burial ground.' . . . The tack was granted on May 27.

The Report from the Secret Committee is to be brought in to the House next week, The House is taken up about ways and means. I am etc.

35. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 28th May 1715.

The magestrats being favoured with yours of the 19 currant refers you to their last of the 14 instant giving a full accompt of the Councils transactiones with Mr Freebairn and sett of that House in New Grayfriars with the yaird thair of, which they hope will not be disagreeable to your Lo<sup>p</sup> if that affair be dewly considered. The magestrats only desyre your Lo<sup>p</sup> to remember that since the building of that house it has yeilded nothing to the toun, and the rooff was become almost ruinous, and the magestrats & councill (being nowayes acquainted with any better project) reckoned it good service done to the toun to gett such ane bargain concluded in the termes represented by the last to your Lo<sup>p</sup>, neither had the magestrats time or opportunity to have advised you therof sooner other wayes they had done it being heartily willing to putt all the respect upon and shew all the reguaird to your Lo<sup>p</sup> that could be desyred, so that the tack was signed last Council day it not being in the Council's power to recall what had been deliberately agreed too.

My Lord the magestrats and Council desyre me in their name heartily to congratulat your Lo<sup>p</sup> upon the Honour deservedly conferred on you by his Majestie King George.<sup>1</sup> And doe not doubt but your Lo<sup>p</sup> will be eminently instrumentall to procure His Majesties hand to the touns signature sent you.

My Lord the magestrats and Council have been this day signalizing his Maj<sup>es</sup> birthday with great joy being Honoured with the presence of the Earls of Rothes, Mortoun, Haddingtoun, Lauderdaill and severall other peers, Lords of the Session, General Weightman, Commissioners of the Customes and Exceise and many other

<sup>1</sup> Warrender's baronetcy was dated June 2, 1715.

Gentlemen, And are just now drinking a health to the prosperity of the King Prince Princess and Royall Familie not forgetting your Lo<sup>p</sup> and the good Toun. I am etc.

*P.S.*—My Lord, Generall Weightman<sup>1</sup> (after the solemnity was over at the Cross and after the nobility and gentry were entertained by the magistrats in the Borrow roon the same manner your Lo<sup>p</sup> entertained them on the Coronatione day) had ordered severall dragoons and other foot souldiers to to walk up the streets of Edinburgh in a most decent maner and the magistrats and Council being in Brouns the Generall was pleased to call them and distinguished the companies as they passed by to the magistrats and earnestly intreated the magistrats to come to his solemnity he was to have att the Abbay, which the magistrats agreed to and just now the magistrats designe to go to the abbey with their whyt roods attended by the Council and Cpts. of the train bands for everie bodie here seems joyfull and are hearty on haveing the occasione to solemnise this day.

### 36. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 31st May 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My Last to you was the 19th Curr<sup>t</sup>: to which Referrs. Since which I have bein favoured with yours of the 14th Curr<sup>t</sup>: John Knox hes wrote to me twice desiring my favour of a Bursary on Buchannans Mortification in favours of his nephew Mr John Charters which If non of that name be puting in for I desire you may prefer his said Nephew.

The Proceedings of the Secret Committee is now finished and are to be Laid fore the House too morrow or Thursday nixt, and the House is upon ways & means, to find out the sums applicable for Support of the Government. The bill for shortning of the yeirlic vaccance will be

<sup>1</sup> Major-General Joseph Wightman, served in Flanders and Spain; Commander-in-Chief in Scotland 1712; commanded the centre of the Hanoverian troops at Sheriffmuir; afterwards Governor of Kinsale; died 1722.

Reported this day by the Committee, and thereafter sent up to the House of Lords for their approbation, and since writing the above this Last bill hes bein Read and approven, and ordered to be Ingrossed. The Recess is from the 24th December to the 1st January both Exclusive being 7 days. Sir David Dalrymple is obleidged so Closely to attend the Secret Committee that he hes not had time to Peruse the Signature I left with him. I waited on the Court on Saturday being the Kings birthday, where I saw His Majesty the Prince & Princess, and dyned with severalls of our Scotts Nobility that day, and was that day Invited to dyn on Nixt Munday with E: of Clare a nobleman of £36000 ster<sup>l</sup> per annum where was present D: of Montrose, D: Roxburgh, Gen: Stanhop, Mr Walepole, Mr Baillie, Sir David Dalrymple, Mr Cockburn, Mr John Montgomerie etc. That Lord drank the prosperity of the Good Toun & was very pleasant. I expect your answer to my last. I am etc.

### 37. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 4th June 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 31st Ultimo to which Refers, Since which have one from Baillie Duncan of the 28th Ditto, advising me that the Magistrates had signed the Tack to Mr Robert Freebairn of the House and yeard though I previously Dissuaded from it for many weighty Reasons. As for the Signature as I wrote you in my Last I every day call for it from Sir David Dallrymple Lord Advocate who is still taken up with the Secret Committee, and hes Little time allowed him for anything Else. I have thrice Treated him at my Loadging with Mr Baird & other agreeable Company with variety of wynes. On Thursday Last the Secret Committee made a Motion in the house when They would be pleased to have the Report of said Committee Laid befor them, which was now prepared for them, The House appointed Thursday nixt to receive said Report and appointed all the members to attend under the severest Certification. They adjurned them-

selves yeisterday to Wedensday nixt, The King yeisterday Touched the Malt Tax bill and another bill against Mutiny and Dissertion, And as I Last advised the bill annent abridging the yeirlie vaccance is read a third time & ordered to be Engrossed, which commences from 24th December to the 1st of Janwary both Exclusive. On Thursday last being the 2nd Curr<sup>t</sup> which was the day appointed by the House of Lords for hearing the Appeal by Heriots Hospittall ag<sup>t</sup> Beerford, I bestired myself the day befor and that morning to wait on all the Scotts members at their Respective Houses and als many of the English Lords as I knew and Delivered them the printed Case and Information, I attended the members also at their entering the Door of the House, and stood by the Lawyers all the time of Pleading in the view of all the members, and it was determined in favours of the Hospittall without a Devison. Thereafter I took our Friends Present to Dyne with me where we drank prosperity to the Magistrates & Counsell as Gubernators and Feofies of Heriots Hospittall. I approve of your haveing Solemnised the Kings Birthday with all the Splendure and Gaiety. Believe me etc.

### 38. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 11th June 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My Last to you was the 4th Curr<sup>t</sup>. to which Referrs. I then advised you that the Secret Committee's report was appointed to be received on Thursday Last, and accordingly was by Mr Walepole Preece of that Committee then read in the House. It Contains many Black facts of the Late Ministry with Respect to the Late Peace, made with France and the Copies of the originall papers are in ane appendix, and both Report and Appendix are ordained to be Printed. Yeisterday it was again Read by the Clerk of the House But befor first Reading by Mr Walepole, He previously by order of the Committee desired the Speaker might Issue out his warrant to the Serjant at armes for apprehending of two persons and



keeping them in Custody untill they be Examined by the Secret Committee.

It was proposed that they should proceed to ane Impeachment against some persons Named in the Report presently or on Munday, Thursday nixt or Munday come a 7 Night. The speaker after a Long Debate stated the vote to Deferr till Munday come a 7 Night or Not, upon a Devision of the House Carried in the Negative 280 No's to 160 yeas.

Thereafter Mr Robert Walepole Pecess of the Secret Committee Impeached Henry Viscount of Bollengbroke Late Secretary of State for High Treason, other high Crymes and Misdemeaners, which he evinced from plain avouchers. Thereafter Lord Conaway<sup>1</sup> & Sir David Dalrymple Impeached Robert Earle of Oxford Late Thesaurer of High Treason and other high Crymes & Misdemeaners and then the House Deferred their further proceeding on the Report of Secret Committee untill Fryday nixt But appointed the members of the Secret Committee betwixt and then to draw up articles of Impeachments against these two Peers, betwixt and then, and then the House adjurned till too Morrow Morning.

I have spoke to Lord Advocate for his Reviseing the Signature you sent me, which he keeps by him but says he hes no time. Advise me what charges you allow me to be at in prosecuting it, or in particular to the Advocate for his Interest and Reviseing it, and I shall give you a true accompt of my Debursements therein for If you think Business can be done heir without money and much attendance you Little Consider the people and this place. Your answer to this Last is per your nixt expected.

The two persons taken in Custody are Thomas Harley Cusine of the E: of Oxford and Mr Mathew Prior<sup>2</sup> Late Recident for the Queen in France which with my humble duty to all my Constituants I am etc.

<sup>1</sup> Francis Seymour Conway, 1st Baron Conway, died February 3, 1732. He married Charlotte Shorter, Robert Walpole's sister-in-law, and was the father of the 1st Marquis of Hertford.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Prior, the poet and diplomatist. He went to Paris in 1711 to negotiate peace. The Treaty of Utrecht was called 'Matt's Peace.'

## 39. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 11th June 1715.

MY LORD,—We found it our dewty to acquaint your Lo<sup>d</sup> of our proceedings on the 10th instant <sup>1</sup> for preventing any disorders that might have happened, We mett at the councill chamber in the evening and appointed the three Captains of the toun guaird to give dew attendance all that night and the wholl guaird was then on guaird, who were sent throw the City by turns in patrolls all night over, The 16 Captains haill lieutenants and ensigns waited on in the borrow room the Constables in the Councill house and wee and they by turns went also throw the City. We cannot say ther was any abuse comitted Or great disturbance made but some of the meanest sort of people were found walking up and down the streets Crying hossas, some few wherof have been taken up, and after tryell fyned be us four wherof are putt in the tollbooth till they implement our sentence, on quherof is Livt. David Bosswall late in Brigadeer James Douglas his reg<sup>t</sup> And on Alexander Stewart a highland man being found by the Constables walking upon the streets with a drawn sword in his hand Crying he was for King James, and a pre-cognitione being taken against him we are at my Lord Justice Clerks desyre to remitt him to the Lords of Justiciary this being the neidfull we are in all sincerity etc.

## 40. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 14th June 1715.

MY LORD,—Yesterday the company of Archers <sup>2</sup> to the number of about 110 went down to Leith in very good order as they did the last year and some of the Magistrates waited on them at Leith after dinner and delivered to My Lord Weems who had gained the prize the last year the Complement that My Lord Dean of Gild had prepared for

<sup>1</sup> Birthday of Prince James Stuart.

<sup>2</sup> See Introduction, p. li.

him which his Lordship accepted off and drank your Lordships health and prosperity to the Good Toun etc. Generall Wightman who was with him invited all the Company to the play at night and accordingly the Archers marched up to the play house but We hear there happened some disorder among them which as we are informed was thus, Sir Tho: Dalziel being there, called to the musick to play a Spring to the memory of the D: of Hamilton but receiving no answer he then called for the Spring the King shall enjoy his own again, which was played, and at the end thereof some Ladys began to clap their hands which was also followed by severall of the Archers, whereupon the Generall ordered his aide du camp to beat the musick which he did and this occasioned a generall hissing of both sexes, through the house, then the aide du camp stood up and said if any was offended at what he did he would give them Satisfaction and told them where he lived and we likewise hear the Generall did shew a great deal of resentment at this treatment but in what termes we cannot acquaint you. After which the Archers marched up the toun and lodged their Colours & then some of them went to taverns & sat up late but we hear not of any further abuse they committed or any thing that hath followed upon what happened in the playhouse.

My Lord Baillie Duncan waited yesternight upon the Lord Justice Clerk anent Stewart the Highland man mentioned in our last and at the same time took occasion to acquaint his Lordship that there were severall paragraphs in the written news letters which had insinuationes to the prejudice of the Government & asked his advice whither or not the said letter might be Suppressed in the publick houses here. His Lordships advice was that we might double out some of these paragraphs and send them up to your Lordship that your Lordship might shew them to the Government for its beleived that he dares not write such papers to be seen at London, have therefore caused transcribe some paragraphs viz. one from his letter of date the 31 of May and same from another letter dated the 9th June which we have herewith inclosed. The writer

of the letter is one William Wye in Johnstons Court. We hope your Lordship will not fail in giving us advice from time to time. We are etc.

The paragraph in the letter dated 31 May 1715 runs thus—We have an account from Abingdon that great disturbances happened there on Saturday & Sunday last & that some of the meeting houses there were damaged. We doubt not but there will be mighty outcries of more ryotts & tumults, meanwhile there was a long debate yesterday in the house of Lords for inserting a clause in the Mutiniers bill that his Majesty call in what forces he pleases from abroad when occasion shall require which was at last carried upon a division 91 against 35 to be part of the bill which their Lordships passed this day.

Its true by the next letter he owns this to be a mistake.

These of the 9th June 1715 runs thus—

They are busie in all parts of this city in giving the abjuration oath to the train bands and in one or two places they have the Common prayer as we are informed in their bibles they were to swear them by. Its feared they are not a few which would willingly have that abjured too. In the meantime people are in expectation that the friends of the pretender will be more publick in their rejoicings tomorrow for celebrating the anniversary of his birthday than ever & of some disorder that may be committed. The Butchers who went to Brentford to rescue one of their tribe from being whiped through the mercat place effected their design, they had cockads of green bughes in their hatts & before they began their enterprize cryed out high church, Ormond, Bullingbroke etc. In a little time they were joind by a great many of the Country people and as soon as their man was tyed to the Cart & the Executioner going to do his office they rescued him by cutting the rope & carrying him off without having had one or two lashes at the most. And after he had given some accompt of the doors of the house of Commons being locked when the report of Secret Committee was making he adds that a gang of 300 persons armed with clubbs & staffs headed

by men well habited came into the new palace yeard crying out an Ormond, but a large detachment of guairds lay ready in Scotland yeard to quell any disturbance that may happen. We have had for this night or two past papers of the pretenders declaratione posted at some publick places about Westminster.

#### 41. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 16th June 1715.

MY LORD,—Being honored with yours of the 11 instant containing a particular Account of that affair comitted to the Secrett Comittie as laid befor the parliament ffor which we return your Lo: our hearty thanks.

ffor answer to yours Relating to the debursements yow may necessarily be putt too on the touns Affairs your Lo: may know that it is impossible for us or the Council of Edinburgh to know the extent of what may be Necessar to be laid out. Your Lo: can best Judge Therfor it is our opinion that your Lo: needs not scruple to lay out what may be truely necessar to my Lord Advocatt or Others for promotting the true Interest of the Good Town not doubting but that the Council will give warrant to the Thesaurer to repay your Lo: what may be so laid out when you shall advise therof.

We are with all Respects, etc.

#### 42. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 18th June 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 11th Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs, Since which have B: Duncans of the 7th and yours of the 9th & 11th. As to the first I have never Concerned my self nor will not being no deed of mine haveing never wrote to any upon that subject. As to the second shall observe what you advise, Though B. Campbell is of another opinion & says the Magistrates is not Concerned in that affair. As to the Last I am very weill pleased with the account you give me of your Care and

vigilance for the Peace of the place, and doe Recommend to you the keeping of the peace of the place by Exerting your authority ag<sup>t</sup> the Disturbers thereof to the outmost in prosecuting of the Delinquants.

Yeisterday the House Conveened But the Printed Report of the Secret Committee not being ready They adjurned the Consideration of that Report to Tewsdays nixt, when the House after Mature Consideration, will have the Subject of that Report under their Consideration. Sir David Dalrymple has not yet perused the Last Signature you sent me though I Importune him dayly Therefor your answer to my Last with Respect thereto Being Lawyers Lamps Cannot burn without Oyle. For preventing of additionall annualrent on the Neighbourhood It may be adviseable with all Conveniency to Nominate stent masters for Imposinge the Land Tax and Guard money and if D: Gild Craige shou'd Decline being Moderator thereto B: Oseburn is now so thorowly versant therein that I hope he will not decline to be Moderator thereof If Chosen by the Councill. I was yeisterday Introduced by the Duke of Montrose to Kiss His Majesty's hand (Duke of Roxburgh being by) when I acknowledged His Majesty's favour for his Patent Creating me a Knight Barronet of Great Brittain, the Patent being sent to My Loadgings two days befor. I add not but Believe me etc.

#### 43. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 23rd June 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My Last to you was the 18th Curr<sup>t</sup> to which refers. I waited two hours this morning in Sir David Dallrymples Loadgings He having yeisterday Trysted me yet notwithstanding I could not prevail with him to Read the Signature He being Indisposed.

He desired my writinge to you for a Bursary to Mr Patrick Duchall his Sons Governour, which he most be preferred to the first vaccancy. Since my Last have yours of the 14th with the Remarks therein from Wyc his Letter

which have Communicate to the D: of Montrose who advises me to write you that when you have occasion of the Like observe from these or other news Letters to acquaint the Justice Clerk therewith and to whom he hes wrote to Examine his Correspondants Judicially that there may be so much better proof against the writter heir. I have this day yours of the 16th which I shall observe.

On Tewsday Last the House proceeded to consider further the Report of the Secret Committee, and Reported that the House will Impeach James Duke of Ormond of High Treason & other high Crymes and Misdemeanours, and then ordered that it be Referred to the Committee of Secrecy to draw up articles of Impeachment & prepare Evidence against Him the said James Duke of Ormond And yeisterday Considered further of the said Report and Resolved that the House doe Impeach Thomas Earle of Straford of High Crymes and Misdemeanours and Referred to the Committee of Secrecy to draw up articles of Impeachment & prepare Evidence against Thomas Earle of Straford. Upon the Devision of the House upon Tewsday last for Impeaching D: of Ormond after Long Debates yeas 238 Noes 187. But yeisternight upon the Devision of the House for Impeaching Thomas Earle of Straford yeas 278 Noes 100. The further Consideration of said Report of Secret Committee is Deferred to Wednesday nixt. I send you the Report of the Secret Committee that was twice read in the House of Commons. There is ane Appendix of 24 sheets since come out which I would have also now sent you but is too Large. It Contains the Extracts of the principall Letters etc anent the Treaty of Peace Referred to from the Report. There is ane order of the House for sending both in one Book to each Corporation that Returns a member of Parliament whereby you may have one sent you, But I choosed to send you the Copie given my self as member, and shall buy one for my own use. After you have read the Report, allow Mr Carstares, the Professor and Mr Mitchell to read it. Belive me etc.

## 44. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 23rd June 1715.

MY LORD,—Yesterday we received a letter from the commissioners of the board of Customes of which we have sent your Lo<sup>p</sup> inclosed ane exact double as also ane attested duplicat of a letter from ane M<sup>c</sup>naughton to them which gave rise to theirs, We called both present and old Magistrats together who were all of oppinion that it was more proper to make a verball return then to committ the same to writting seing their letter was in a dialect unusuall for us to recieve and accordingly sent our Clerk in our name to acquaint them that the Magistrats having allwise endeavoured to cultivat a good understanding with them did not expect they would have written to them in such a strane having never declined to do them justice upon all occasions and particularly in the affair of Mr Murray complained off, they thought they had received such satisfaction as they did acquiesce in, and that we should likewise in the present complaint be willing to do them all justice as the affair shall appear to us and accordingly this afternoon we convened the persons concerned therein before us designing to give them both despatch and justice and took a precognition wherof we send your Lo<sup>p</sup> likewise inclosed a duplicat, by which your Lo<sup>p</sup> will see that there are severall things alleadged in the said M<sup>c</sup>naughtons letter to the Commissioners false in fact, notwithstanding your Lo<sup>p</sup> will easily perceive that the Commissioners foresaid by their letters have past a sentance against the officer of the guaird and require the Magistrats to put it in execution with a threatning in caice of failyie tho' there was no legall tryall in the matter but what is before mentioned they concluding wholly upon M<sup>c</sup>naughtons letter and his comerads assertion who were never brought before us. This matter having taken air for any thing we know by those who belong to the Custome office the most and best of the Neighbourhead have become uneasy so we hope your Lo<sup>p</sup> will satisfie the Government that the Magistrats have



not been wanting on all occasions and particularly with relatione to the Customes and Exceise. We doubt not your Lo<sup>p</sup> will use your endeavours to obviat any misrepresentatione may be given of the affair. We are etc.

#### 45. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 25th June 1715.

MY LORD,—By a letter signed by Baillie Duncan in our name dated the 10th instant Wee formerly acquainted your Lordship That my Lord Justice Clerk had desyred us to administrat the oath of abjuration to John Dunbar In respect none of us did suspect him to be either dissaffected or dangerous to his Majestie or government, and that we had had severall Remarkable proofs of his loyalty and good affection to his Majestie we conceived we had no just ground in law to requyre him to take the said oath being fully satisfied his scrouples were such as have oblidged many of the firmest freinds to the government to refuse the same. Therefor we did use our endeavors with his Lordship to drop this affair being persuaded that the pushing thereof would not (so far as appeared to us) tend to the interest of the government, but rather might be a mean to promote adressing for a dissolution of the union not only here but throw the nation (which wee have used our joynt endeavors to prevent because of the present circumstance of things) For your Lordship knows the generality of people will readily conclude that the Conveener is thus dealt with because of his proposing to address being pusht to it by many tho as wee formerly Advysed your Lordship he hath sometye agoe not only voluntarily laid it asyde himself but had prevailed with others to lay it asyde untill a fitter season. However my Lord Justice Clerk was pleased on Thursday last to give in a prayer under his Lordships hand Declairing he suspected the said Jo: Dunbar to be a person dangerous to his Majesties government and Requyred us under form of instrument to tender the said oath to the said John Dunbar which demand was complyd with. And that your Lordship

may not only be fully informed of this matter yourself but be also able to inform his Grace the Duke of Montrose his Majesties Secretary of State thereof please receive inclosed ane principall Duplicat of our act in this affair subscribed by us.

My Lord wee found our selffs bound in deuty to acquaint your Lordship that this has occasioned very much talking amongst persons of all ranks in this place & not a few appear much trubled on that account and know not how far it may occasion inconveniences in the event. Therefor its our humble opinion your Lordship may be pleased to apply yourself to his Grace the Duke of Montrose & beseech his Grace to lay the matter before his Majestie if so be his Majestie may be pleased to order us not to give in a certificat to the Lords of Session but to let the matter fall which wee are satisfied would be accepted as a new proof of his gracious Majesties great clemencie & royall goodnes by not a few of his best & most loving subjects. Having by this post transmitt to His Grace the Duke of Montrose ane copie of the inclosed act Wee are etc.

*P.S.*—My Lord we had almost forgott to acquaint your Lo: that on Wedensday last befor yours came to hand the Stent Masters were chosen & B. Neilson for moderator, Jo: Ferguson merchant in place of B. Osburn, Deacon Lennox in place of the Conveener & Capt. Elphingston in place of Deacon Anderson Deceast, the rest are continued.

46. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE DUKE OF MONTROSE,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh, 25th June 1715.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—Wee presume to send your Grace the inclosed copie of our act as Justices of peace within the city of Edinburgh & priviledges thereof By which your Grace will perceiv that the oath of abjuration has been tendred by us to John Dunbar Glover present Conveener of the Trads (a person known to us to be well affected to his Majestie & government) being

requyred so to doe under form of instrument by his Majesties Justice Clerk who declairs himself to be of ane other opinion, but upon what grounds we know not, neither is it proper for us to enquire.

However wee beg leave to acquaint your Grace that this occasiond much talking amongst the generality of people And wee are affrayed that these that are enimies will catch advantage thereby. And therefor wee with all earnestnes & humility beg of your Grace to lay this affair befor his most gracious Majesty and procure his Majesties order forbidding us to give or at least dispensing with our not giving any certificat to the Lords of Councill & Session of his refusall seing it will plainly appear to your Grace by the inclosed duplicat that the said John Dumbar is well affected to his Majestie & government & has evidenced the same by his takeing the oath of alledgeance & many other wayes, his scruples being such as to the oath of abjuration As have oblidge many others of his Majesties firm friends not to take the same.

Your Grace may be pleased to know that our tender Regaird for his Majesties Government made us presume to give you this truble which wee hope your Grace according to your wonted goodnes will forgive & belive us to be etc.

47. WILL: SIMSON TO MR JAMES MUIREHEAD,  
AUTHOR OF THE EDINBURGH CURRANT.

Aberdeen, 29th June 1715.

SIR,—Please know that my Lord and Lady Marquess of Seaforth<sup>1</sup> came heer on the 27th instant in their Coatch with six handsom horses, and Lodged all night heer, The next day they were Entertained wery handsomely in the Marisshell Colledge by the masters therof and from thence

<sup>1</sup> William Mackenzie, 5th Earl of Seaforth, succeeded to the peerage in 1701. He was out in the '15, fought at Sheriffmuir, escaped to France, and was included in the Act of Attainder of 1716. He took part in the Jacobite attempt of 1719, and was wounded at Glenshiel. He afterwards made his peace with the Government, and was in 1736 freed by Act of Parliament from all disabilities under his attainder. He died in 1740.

proceeded on their journey to the Kings Colledge wher they wer also Entertained very Gentilie by the masters therof and were convoyed some myles out of Toun by severall Gentlemen and burgeis of this City.

Sir if ther be no other Account of this come to your hand, Please Insert the above, beeing the desyre of a freind, and let me know what ye take for your pains which shall be ordered you by

Sir etc.

WILL: SIMSON.

#### 48. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 30th June 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 23rd Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs, Therein sent you the Report of Secret Committee in four packets directed to you since which have yours of the 23rd with the papers therein advised, which have shoven to Sir David Dalrymple & Sir Richard Onslo Chancellor of the Exchequer heir, and also to Mr Cruickshanks which last is Coming down to Scotland to Enjoy his office about the Custome Bourd, and being a prudent man he may be ane Instrument of making them more Easie. Sir Richard promises to acquaint me If any Information come against the Magistrates I hope you had made the first Complaint to Barron Scrupe and shoven him the Commissioners Letter, and also the affidavits or precognition taken: Baillie Jaffrey is very gracious with Barron Scrupe whom you may take along with you to him, The Barron was very Kind and Civill to me heir, and I hope will be so to you, There hes bein Nothing worth writeing in our House since my last, But that wee Expect dayly the articles of Impeachment against the four persons Impeached to be Laid befor our House and untill that wee forbear taking under Consideration the further Report of the Secret Committee. I this night send you Five packets with the Appendix to the Report of the Secret Committee Directing them severally to the four Baillies & Dean of Gild each of you one. The House of Lords have Reversed the Lords of Sessions Decree was in favours of the Candle-

makers now in favour of the Butchers. Though in compliance with your desire I concurred with the Candle-makers attorney hier and stood by the Council and heird the debate. You'l please allow Mr Carstares to read the Report of the Secret Committee and the Appendix. I am etc.

49. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 2nd July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 30th June to which Referrs, and theirwith also four packets more Directed each to one of the Bailies with that to the Magistrates, the five containing the whole appendix to the Report of the Secret Committee which I sent you in four packets all Directed to the Magistrates. Since which have yours of the 25th June which did a Little Surprise me, I have bein thrice in Coach to have waited on the Duke of Montrose but did not find him. But I spoke with a member of Parliament in the Lobie who told me he had seen the Magistrates Letter to Montrose, which he termed a Lybelling of the Justice Clerk which he thought very imprudent, and might be ill taken by the Government hier, and said they were Informed that Baillie Campbell while old Bailie had obleidged the same person some years agoe to Remove out of the Council on his Refuseing to take the said oath of abjuration, Though that was never Exagorate ag<sup>t</sup> Baillie Campbell as now is done against the Justice Clerk anc officer of State. I shall Endeavour betwixt and nixt post to wait on the Duke of Montrose and lay before him what you advise me

I approve of your choice of the Moderator Stent Master & the others as also of your members Chosen to Represent you in the Convention of the Royall Burrows. I am etc.

50. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 5th July 1715.

MY LORD,—Yours of the 23rd & 30th past wee received & together with the Report of the Secret Committie &

appendix, for which we return your Lordship hearty thanks. Wee shall be glade to hear that there is some thing effectually done by my Lord Advocat in that affair you have laid befor him. We shall take care to provyde Mr Patrick Duchall his Lordships sons governor in a bursery as soon as occasion shall offer. As to what your Lordship advyseth anent Wy's letter you will see by ours of the 14th that Baillie Duncan did communicat our observes on the said letter to the Lord Justice Clerk, who advysed to communicat the same to his Grace the Duke of Montrose, who might give such orders thereanent as his Grace should think fitt, and the Lord Justice Clerk being in use to Read Wyes letter it will be neidles for us to make our observes on the same His Lordship being a better Judge of what may be unwarrantably wrote by the Author.

This day the Convention of burrows mett who elected Baillie Duncan as their preces. Baillie Oliphant & Baillie Watson Commissioners for Dundee (with some others of the Magistrates of that toun) were pannells befor the Lords of Justiciary for drinking the Pretenders health under the title of K. James the eight and Cursing the King. The Assise have returned their verdict this day whereby B: Oliphant is found guilty of cursing the King & he & the said B: Watson & others are found guilty airt & part of drinking the Pretenders health under the title of K: James the eight. But the Lords delayed passing their interloquitor thereupon till Munday nixt. In the mean tyme being under baill they take their place in the Convention. Expecting your Lordships answer to ours of the 25 past with your conveniency We are etc.

#### 51. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 5th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 2nd Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs. Since which non from you. I yeisterday waited on the Duke of Montrose, who told me he had ordered to translate your letter into French that He might lay it befor the King but all this Requires time. B. Lawson

writes me that some people suggests that I was concerned in the Conveeners prosecution which I in sincerity tell you I was not Directly nor Indirectly. The articles of Impeachments is to be read in the House this week, and as I am Informed upon Thursday nixt. Thereafter the House will have under Consideration the further Report of the Secret Committee, and wee doe apprehend this may be a Long Session If they shall goe through that Report at this time. Advise me If you have represented to Barron Scrupe the affair of Capt. Dumbreak & what answer you received from him. I doe Indeed advise your keeping a good understanding with him, which if you doe the Board will not be uneasie to you. The Chief Barron though some what harsh in Discoursing any thing wherein there may be a Jealousie of fraud, yet is fair in the Main. I wish no Representations from the Board come up hither. I am etc.

#### 52. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 7th July 1715.

MY LORD,—We are Honoured with yours of the 2d Currant which Refers to on of the 30th last to which wee wrot you ane answer on the 5th instant Informing your Lo: of the meeting of the Conventione and that Baillie Oliphant Commissioner for the toun of Dundee and Baillie Watson his assessor took their places in the Convention notwithstanding of the verdict of the assise given in against them. But the Conventione takeing that affair to consideratione have this day expelled them the house unanimously.

My Lord Wee are surprised to Find by yours that any should have told your Lo<sup>p</sup> that haveing seen our letter to his Grace the duke of Montrose, He should have termed it a lybellling of my Lord Justice Clerk. We are fully satisfied that if that persone had fairly considered what we wrot He could have putt no such constructione upon it ours being designed allenerly to informe his Grace of the trew state of that affair which we thought our selfs

bound in dewty to doe on severall accounts whill at the same time we shewed a just respect for His Majestys Justice Clerk and shall still endeavour so to doe. As to what your Lo<sup>p</sup> suggests about Baillic Campbells former practise to the Conveener it is what we are not to vindicat only this is to be observed that Baillic Campbells proposall was that the wholl Council should take the oath without singleing out any on persone, Neither was that oath at that time or at any time befor now tendered to the Conveener these that were then in the Government of the City as well as these now being fully satisfied of the Conveeners good affectione to the protestant successione and Interest. This being the neidfull we conclude ourselffs in all Sincerity etc.

53. THE DUKE OF MONTROSE TO THE MAGISTRATES.

Whitehall, 9th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received your Letter of the 25th June, signed by three of your Number, being a Narrative of what pass'd upon tendering the Oath of Abjuration to John Dunbar Deacon Conveener of the Trades of Edinburgh, together with your Act of Sederunt as Justices of the Peace, in relation to that matter.

In answer to that part of your Letter, wherein you desire, That I would lay this affair before the King, and procure His Majesty's forbidding you to give or at least dispensing with your not giving any Certificate to the Lords of Council and Session, of the said Dunbar's refusal of the said Oath; I am hereby to Inform You That the Complying with your desire in that point would really import nothing less than the dispensing with an Act of Parliament; from whence you will easily foresee the Consequences to be such, as His Majesty can by no means yield to.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most humble Servant

MONTROSE.



## 54. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 12th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—Since my Last two of the 2d and 5th July I am favoured with yours of the 5th Curr<sup>t</sup> advising your Receipt of mine of the 23rd and 30th past with the Report of the Secret Committee and appendix. Since which the House have approven of the 16 articles of Impeachment Exhibite against Robert Earle of Oxford And on Saturday Last being the 9th Curr<sup>t</sup> They appointed Lord Conningsby to carrie the said articles to the Lords, and to Impeach the said Earle as you will read in the votes of the 9th Curr<sup>t</sup>. About five of the Clock that night the Lords Received the Impeachment, and read every article of it in his hearing, and to which he made some short answers. They satt till two of the Clock Sunday morning, The Earle being Indisposed with the Gravell They allowed his Lady two Physitians and two of his own Servants, & put them under Custody of the black rod untill this day when he is again to appear befor the Lords. Wee Long to heir the Interloquirer of the Lords of Justiciary upon these Jacobits you advise me off.

The E. of Oxford appeared this day at the Bar of the House of Lords & in Respect of his great Indisposition by the Gravell & others They appointed him to goe to the Tower on Saturday morning nixt and to be under the Custody of the Black Rod till then, and further allowed him untill this day moneth to give in answers to the articles of Impeachment against him. I am etc.

## 55. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 14th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 12th to which Referrs. Since which have yours of the 7th what I wrote you on the 2nd was fact, what the person Communed with me of your haveing Lybelled the Justice Clerk ane officer of State, and I most be so free to tell you I never sie that

Letter you wrote to the Duke of Montrose which you should have sent me a Copie of as hes bein practised ever since the Revolution which consists with my own Knowledge, and I doubt not hes bein the Immemorial practise of the good Toun to their Representative which some of you could not be Ignorant of, and therfor you'l pardon me to Impute it to a Neglect of me rather as any thing Else. I had occasion to be this day with Sir Patrick Johnston<sup>1</sup> who was Provost when B: Campbell Required Deacon Dunbar allenerly to take the oath of abjuration, and not the whole Councill as you advise me for I was not then upon the Councill. He further Informed me that there were no addresses nor Letters sent to any Secretary of State but what were sent to him Directly to be Delivered to the Secretary and a Copie thereof a part for his perusale, and it happened so unluckily at this time when the Signature you sent me I had taken up from the Lord Advocate, and put into the Duke of Montrose hands to be perused by him. You may Judge how unseasonable it is to have Difference with My Lord Justice Clerk who is uneversally known to be firm to the present Government.

Yesterday the atturny Generall presented to the House ane bill or Act against Tumults and Mobbs,<sup>2</sup> which was twice Read in the House and is Remitt to a Committee of the whole House on Friday nixtt and Sir Richard Onslow Chancellor of the Exchequer<sup>3</sup> upon Reading thereof rose up in his place and said he had Letters from the Bourd of Customes in Scotland, Representing that there was great Mobbs Raised in Deforcing the Customhouse officers from seasing of uncustomed and prohibited goods there, and Desired that act might be extended for preventing such abuses. Mr Culleford Commissioner of the Customes a Gentleman of years and good Experience and is this week

<sup>1</sup> Sir Patrick Johnston, Lord Provost of Edinburgh 1700-2, 1704-6, and 1708-10; M.P. for Edinburgh 1702.

<sup>2</sup> The Riot Act, 'An Act for Preventing Tumults and Riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing the Rioters' (1 Geo. 1. c. 5).

<sup>3</sup> Sir Richard Onslow, Speaker 1708-10; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1714-15; created Baron Onslow 1716; died 1717.

gone down to Scotland, I desire your waiting on him and give him his Burges Ticket at a glass of wine and make him your Friend, Mr Cruickshanks our good Friend hes advised me to write you this. This Gentleman being a meer stranger in Scotland will keep a good understanding betwixt the Bourd and you, Last winter Convention I hope will make this very Easie. When anything of moment occurs heir I shall advise you. I am etc.

56. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 14th July 1715.

MY LORD,—We are Honoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of the 5 instant, and have nothing extraordinar to acquaint you of since our last in answer to yours save only the persuit intented befor the Barrons against Cap<sup>t</sup> Dunbraick is taken away amicably by the intercession of the magestrats. We have used all possible means to keep a good correspondence with the Barrons and particularly with Barron Scroup, and shall not be wanting for the futur so to do. We are etc.

57. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 19th July 1715.

MY LORD,—Since our last to you of the 14th we are honoured with two from your Lo<sup>p</sup> one of the 12th and one of the 14th curr<sup>t</sup> by which we understand your Lo<sup>p</sup> takes exception at our not transmitting our letters to his Grace the D: of Montrose to your Lo<sup>p</sup> or at least a copy quherof we are sorry for having given no occasion for any mistake intentionally: if your Lo<sup>p</sup> will consider that our letter to you concerning that affair relating to Mr Dunbar did contain ane account of that affair at large and at the same time we advised your Lo<sup>p</sup> of our transmitting to his Grace the D: of Montrose an cobby of our act as Justices of peace we could not doubt but your Lo<sup>p</sup> would have had opportunity of seeing his Graces letter & to have sent your Lo<sup>p</sup> a cobby we conceave to be alltogether needles in regard

that to his Grace contained but a very short account of that affair and as said is your Lo<sup>ps</sup> was full; we could heartily wish your Lo<sup>p</sup> may see that letter & in that caice we are perswaded you will not be of that Gentses: oppinion who has communed with your Lo<sup>p</sup> upon that affair.

My Lord we shall take a seasonable opportunity to wait upon Mr Culleford & make him burges as your Lo<sup>p</sup> desires & do him what other friendly offices lyes in our way and return your Lo<sup>p</sup> thanks for your good advice as also for your news. There's nothing of moment to advise your Lop. off save that this afternoon that affair at the instance of severalls of the inhabitants of the toun of Kirkealdy against the Magistrats anent the last two elections was debate and the Magistrats have lost the whole points debated & the Lords are to be on the rest of that affair tomorrow forenoon.

Yesternight about sex a clock there was an unlucky affair happened. Sir Jo: Shaw having mett with one Mr Houstoun a brother of Sir Ja: Houstoun it happened that Sir John as is informed drew upon Mr Houstoun & struck him over the head with his sword which oblidged Mr Houstoun to draw but as Mr Houstoun informes he received two wounds ane above his right pap & another in the belly before he was master of his own sword. This was done opposite to the Luckenbooths in little more than a moments time & Sir John immediatly retereid by the stair of the Writters court & past through a gate to Mary King's Closs & so he made his escape; Mr Houstoun is yet alive but his wounds are said to be mortall by his physicians.<sup>1</sup> We heartily wish it may not prove so, We are etc.

#### 58. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, [20th] July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—This day His Majestie hes signified from the Throne to both Housses of Parliament that hee hes certainly Informed from Paris by ane Expres that the

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, p. liii.

Pretender is coming to Invade Brittan & maybe ready in Fifteen dayes to land in Brittan with a Considerable army. The French Fleet that was takeing Majorca and returned to France by which hee takes occasion to Invade this Island. Upon which the House of Commons have so acted on his Majestie with their resolve Promising to stand by him with their lives & fortouns in deffence of his Majestie and the preservation of their Religion & propertie and Forces are raiseing both to serve by sea and Land & the House have resolved nemine contradicente to give such Fonds for this effect as may enable the King to goe on vigorously in his armament. I hope you will augment the Toun guards to ane hundreth and twelf men authorised by act of Parliament, & these of the very best men can be had, as also the best affected of the trainbands may be taken & listed, & any dissafected officers changed. Your firemen with axes under their respective masters may keep guard in some parts of the toun if needed. Keep a Correspondence with Gen: Weightman & the honest neighbours will strengthen your hands. It is beleived the Designe is upon this place But at the samen tyme the Jacks will make a stir and commotion in Scotland. Doe everything to Strengthen your selves & prevent any disturbances within the toun. You want neither armes nor amunition. But trust non but true men. This I write you from the Court in great heast takeing occasion of the express & by tomorrow night more fully. I am etc.

59. THE DUKE OF MONTROSE TO THE MAGISTRATES.

Whitehall, 20th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—The King having received certain Intelligence of an Invasion intended to be made by the Pretender, I am directed to take this first opportunity of giving you notice thereof, that you may exert your care & Vigilance upon this occasion, and use such further Precautions as you shall Judge necessary for Preventing any attempts of

that kind, and for Preserving the publick peace within the bounds of your Jurisdiction.

His Majesty having this day Communicated to his Parliament the advices he had received, the House of Lords immediatly took his Ma<sup>ties</sup> speech into their Consideration and unanimously voted an address of thanks, and the Commons unanimously Resolved to desire his Majesty forthwith to give orders for Fitting out such a number of ships as may be necessary for guarding the Sea Coasts and to issue out Commissions for Raising a sufficient Number of Land Forces for the Defence of the Kingdom, and to assure His Majesty that they will without loss of time Enable His Ma<sup>ty</sup> to make provision for the same, and accordingly His Majesty was waited on this evening by the whole House with the said Resolution.

The vigour and Unanimity which has appeared in these Resolutions of Supporting his Ma<sup>ty</sup> will undoubtedly give spirit to his freinds, and I doubt not but your zeal for his Ma<sup>ts</sup> person & government will likewise Engage you to do every thing that is incumbent upon you in your Stations. I am etc.

MONTROSE.

#### 60. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 21st July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was yeesternight by the Express with which the Duke of Montrose told me he wrote you, to both which I referr you, Since which have yours of the 14th Curr<sup>t</sup> adviseing me that you had taken up the Difference betwixt Cap<sup>t</sup> Dumbreak and the Board which I am weill pleased with, and that you keep a good understanding with Barron Scrupe.

Yeesternight late the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London waited upon His Majesty in their Robes and promised to Lend His Majesty one Million Sterling money on this occasion and to stand by His Majesty with their Lives and Fortouns against the Pretender and his adhearants, And as is Reported too day the Bank of England and South Sea Company betwixt them are to make the like proffer.

This day ane act for further securing His Majesty and the Established Government had a first Reading.

As also ane act for Dispencing for this time with the Habeas Scopus<sup>1</sup> acts of England and Scotland, and allowing the King to secure such persons as He suspected and to sease upon all horses above £5 ster<sup>1</sup> value except mears with foal.

And too morrow the House are to have Estimates Laid before them for Sea and Land Service.

I think it were not Improper that you advised the neighbour Burrows such as are best affected with what the Duke of Montrose advised you. I hope the Moderator Stent master will Consider the Guard money Effeiring to what guard you raise, be sure to raise Good men tho should do it more gradually. Glasgow will strive to outbrave us in mustering Their Train bands, but by the Moderators Diligence and the honest Neighbours Concurrance we may doe much to Equall our Neighbours. I Received B: Duncans Letter wherein he advises he had wrote to Mr Burchet. But when I spoke Mr Baillie and Shewed him Baillie Duncans Letter, he asked me If I had a copie of that to Mr Burchet which I replied I had not, and said further after twice reading the Letter sent me he did not understand it, But the truth is they cannot spair Ships at this Juncture.

When I hear any further advices annent the designed Invasion I shall not be wanting to write you every post, And am very hopefull the Magistrates will not Leave on Stone unturn'd for securing the Government and preserveing the Peace of the place. Heir Inclosed His Majestys Speech. The Lords have also this day gone up with their address to His Majesty which if this night Printed shall send you. If you please may advise with the old Magistrates, being in multitude of Councillors there is safety. Its expected that there will be 13 or 14 Reigments of Dragoons and 7 Reigments of foot newly raised. I am etc.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sic.* By the 'Habeas Corpus Act of Scotland' Sir George means the Scots 'Act for preventing wrongous Imprisonment and against undue Delays in Tryals,' of 1701.

61. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF LEITH.

Admiralty Office, 21st July 1715.

SIR,—I send you herewith an order from my Lords Comm<sup>rs</sup> of the Admiralty to Cap<sup>t</sup> Haddock<sup>1</sup> of His Ma<sup>ties</sup> Ship *Port Mahon* appointed to cruize between St Abbs Head & Buchaness upon the Owters etc which I am to desire you will cause to be deliverd to him as soon as possible, it being of very great importance to His Ma<sup>ties</sup> service, and you will please to give me notice of the receipt and delivery thereof I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

## 62. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 23rd July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 20th & 21st Curr<sup>t</sup> to which refers. I hope you will not be wanting all of you in your Stations to preserve the Peace of the place. The Lords hes this day read and approven the act from House of Commons for Dispensing with the two acts of Habeus Scopus untill Janwary nixt<sup>2</sup> allowing His Majesty to sease or apprehend any Suspect persons and to secure Horses above £5 sterl: pryce, and that act is this day Touched by His Majesty. There is four Companys of foot to be Raised and added to the 3d Reigment of foot Guards Commanded by Gen<sup>l</sup> Caddogen.<sup>3</sup> Beside there is to be Raised new of additionall forces 3000 Dragoons and 4000

<sup>1</sup> Captain William Haddock, who commanded the frigate *Port Mahon*, came of a well-known naval family. He served with distinction under Sir George Byng in the action with the Spanish fleet off Cape Passaro in 1719. He died in the West Indies in 1726. Charnock, iv. 44.

<sup>2</sup> The Act was: 'An Act to impower his Majesty to receive and detain such Persons as his Majesty shall suspect are conspiring against his Person and Government' (1 Geo. I. c. 8).

<sup>3</sup> General William Cadogan, Quartermaster-General to Marlborough 1701-11, and to Ormonde 1712, second in command against the Jacobites in 1715; Baron Cadogan 1716, and Earl Cadogan 1718; negotiated the Quadruple Alliance 1718; Commander-in-Chief 1722; died 1726.



foot, and the Estimate thereof Laid befor the House which they are Resolved to provide fonds for. I desire you may call the Constables and Enjoyn them to goe through the Respective Bounds, and take up a List of strangers come to Toun, and in particular to visite all Stablers in and about the Toun and suburbs and Notice all horses above £5 ster<sup>11</sup> pryce and that you ordain all Loadgers of Strangers to give up their Loadgers names rightly to the Guard under a Certification or penalty. Keep a Good understanding with the Generall and with the weill affected in the Country, and the weill affected Country Burrows particularly, Glasgow, Stirling and Dunbar etc. It is reported heir that the Duke of Ormond is gone to France. The standing Forces heir are to be purged of suspected officers and Sentinels and are this day to Encamp at Hydepark in Tents. Severalls of our weillwishers heir have spoke with me and advised me that this were the best season to bill the Parliament for the Imposition on ale for 6d. per Barrell or the Like, and Sir David & Thomas Smith & Sir William Johnston have promised me their assistance. It is good Striking Iron while Its warm. you may Consider for what years and to give gratuity accordingly. I am very Desirous to doe what is possible for the Good Toun. Glasgow hes Eight years of theirs to Run, Nevertheless They are Resolved to seek a prorogation. I am Informed it may Cost me two years purchase. Advise with your selves with as much Secrecy as you please, and your answer per first is Expected by etc.

### 63. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 24th July 1715.

MY LORD,—Wee were Honoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> by the express this morning about 6 of the cloack and immediatly after the receipt therof wee called severall of the members of the Councill, and have resolved to take all necessary precautions for preserveing the peace & quiet of this city, as we Bliss God all are in peace & quiet at this present, We have ordered a Council to be called tomorrow be 7 acloak

in the morning in order for raising more men for the City guaird as your Lo<sup>p</sup> desyred and the constables are ordered to goe throw the respective bounds to take up a list of all strangers names. Your Lo<sup>p</sup> may beleive everything necessarie shall be done for preservecing the peace and a good understanding kept with the Generall as desyred by etc.

64. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE DUKE OF MONTROSE.

Edinburgh, 24th July 1715.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—Wee are honoured with yours of the 20th instant this morning advyseing of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> being informed of the pretenders design to invade Brittain and of the Resolutions of both houses of Parliament theranent, for which advyce wee render your Grace our hearty thanks and assure your Grace that our utmost endeavours shall be used to preserve the peace of this place and prevent all insults from Jacobites and such as are enimies to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and Government. We are etc.

65. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 26th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was of the 23rd, 21st and 20th to all which I Referr you. Since have yours of the 19th And heartily recommend a good harmonie in Councill, and the strengthning each others hands in Defence of the Good Town and preservecing the Peace of the place and following my advice so far as shall be for common safety in this Juncture. I shewed the Secretary what I had recomended to your Care, with which he was very weill pleased, and told me he had wrote himself to you and Glasgow. I cannot be so rude as to call for a sight of the Lord Secretarys Letters. I am sorry for that unluckie Accident of Sir John Shaws. It is Reported that the Duke of Ormond is gone off, and Its thought that the Packets from France are Stoped on the French Syde. Its this day Reported that the Duke of Ormond is arrived in France.

This day the act for the further Securing of His Majestys person & Government was read a third time, and ordered to be Ingressed, to which act there is a Clause added promising a Reward of £100,000 to any person or persons that shall apprehend the Pretender dead or allive in Great Brittain or Ireland, and a Pardon to the Apprehender.

There was also this day a motion made by Gen<sup>l</sup> Stanhope, That all the officers that have now but half pay should have whole pay, and that the King shou'd be adrest accordingly. There was a Motion also by Generall Ross, That the most adviseable and Expeditious way to Increase our Forces to augment both the Troups of Dragoons & Reigments of foot by Dubbleing the Number of Sentinells. The motion was Relished by the House, But thought it not proper to prescribe Rules to the King But leave it to His Majesty. There was Letters from France to Mr Hervil French Resident heir But non from My Lord Stairs to His Majesty nor any officer of State Neither any from France to the Dutch Ambassadors here, which creates various thoughts here. I am etc.

#### 66. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 26th July 1715.

MY LORD,—Since our last to you of the 24 all things here continue as yet peaceable Blissed be God, and we were yesternight Honoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of the 21 instant and heartily thank your Lo<sup>d</sup> for the news therin contained. We are glad to hear that the City of London give such evidences of their zeall to the King and his Government, and that the Parliament are going on for securing his Maj<sup>es</sup> Government and peace of Brittain. We shall be carefull to keep a good correspondence with the neighbouring borrows & shall not be wanting to advise with the old magestrats & other members of Councill as we have done hitherto.

My Lord yesterday morning be 7 acloak the Councill mett and unanimously agreed that 40 men should be immediatly listed and cloathed for the City guard which

makes in all 112 sentinells and this day fornoon 27 of the said number were accordingly listed.

The constables went yesterday morning by our order throw the severall bounds and took up a list of all the lodgers & the horses and armes but wee find nothing extraordiner in either and by a proclamacione of our Councill all the inhabitants of this City are ordered from time to time to give in to the captains of the city guaird a list of the new lodgers and their horses. The magestrats have also ordered one of the companies of the train bands to keep guaird every night in the laich Councill house and if need be we shall augment that guaird by putting tuo or more companies on as occasion shall require. This with our most humble deuty to your Lo<sup>p</sup> is the neidfull from etc.

[With this letter is the fragment of another which may have been sent at the same time, but is undated, as follows:]

#### 67. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

MY LORD,—Wee doubt not but this may be ane oppertune time for obtaining a favour from the Parliament and if your Lo<sup>p</sup> thought it adviseable to obtain ane act Impowring the Magestrats and Counsel and the stent masters to be chosen by them to impose tuo per cent upon land rent for ane additional aid to the mentinance of our City guaird who upon many occasiones have been very servisable in keeping the quiet and peace of this City, and have been aiding to quell many disorders within the same. And the Landlords or heritors within the Citty are in all respects as much benefyted by the guard as any others of the nighbourhood and especially in the case of fyre this would be no grate burden on the landlords yet would be a mean to ease many of the poor of the people bot this we leave to your Lo<sup>ps</sup> consideration and manadgement. We are in the mean tyme hopefull your Lo<sup>p</sup> will gett the signature past which would be a very incuradging token of our gracious Kings favour and bounty. Wee are with the outmost respect etc.

68. BAILIE DUNCAN TO THE ROYAL BURGHS.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 26th July 1715.

MUCH HONOURED GENTLEMEN,—No doubt My Lord Justice Clerk has advised you of His Ma<sup>ties</sup> having laid before both houses of parliament the designe of ane Invasione by the pretender upon Brittain and the vigorous resolutions of both houses of parliament to which we can add Nothing. But that we have advice by last post that the City of London, Bank, South Sea, and East India Companies have made offer to lend his Majestie Considerable sumes of money to the value of near four millions Sterling for enableing his Majestie to Equip a fleet and raise ane armie suitable for the occasione.

Gentlemen, A good Correspondence amongst the Royall borrows being on this occasione absolutly necessarie Its hoped you'll advise us from time to time what occures with you as we shall not fail to doe the like that Joint measures may be taken for the preservacione of our comon Intrest & peace of the Country. I am etc.

69. JOHN AIRD, PROVOST OF GLASGOW, TO  
BAILIE DUNCAN.

Glasgow, 27th July 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Since we had the notice of the design of ane invasion by the pretender we made it our business to have a Correspondence kept up between us and our neighbouring burghs to the westward and these in the west highlands, and with our neighbouring burgh of Stirling, and shall not fail to advyse your good toun from tyme to tyme of what occurs here with us. And it is all our Concern that Joynt measures may be taken for the preservation of our Common interest and peace of the Country.

We had the news by ane express sent us Sabath night last and the nixt day took account of the whole powder

<sup>1</sup> This letter was sent to Stirling, Perth, Dumfries, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dunbar, Dundee, Montrose, Inverness, Crail, Elgin and St Andrews.

flints & other ammunitiōne in our toun and discharged the disposing therof to any untill the magistrats were acquainted of it, and lykwise our sadlers & armorers & gunsmiths we took account what they had upon hand, and ordered them to dispose upon nothing to any person till the magistrats were noticed therof, and the same day the Captains of our trainbands were ordered to go throw their whole Companies and requyre the Inhabitants to have their arms ready and clean against the nixt day In order to be viewed, and accordingly yesterday our whole toun appeared in their arms in very good order and was upon their head my self in arms. I am etc.

JOHN AIRD.

70. THE MAGISTRATES NEW AND OLD TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Edin: 28th July 1715.

MY LORD,—We are Honoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of the 23d Instant. By our last to you of the 26th your Lo<sup>p</sup> will perceivē these things recomēded to us are allready performed, And this day the Councill have ordered the wholl train bands of this City to march out to Brunsfild Links tomorrow in order to have their arms viewed that such as are well affected & cannot supply themselves with sufficient arms may be supplied as the Councill shall think fitt & the wholl trainbands of both City and suburbs are ordered to march out to the forsaid place Munday nixt.

My Lord, The Councill have this day mett and approven of ane Address to his Majestie which is hereby transmitt you to be presented be your Lo<sup>p</sup> to his Majestie together with a Coppie therof for your Lo<sup>ps</sup> privat use which wee hope will not be unacceptable.

My Lord, What you wrot in relatione to the imposition on ale being dewly considered by us It is our Joint opinione that your Lo<sup>p</sup> In conjunction with your good freinds may be pleased to use your outmost endeavour to obtain ane perpetuall grant of ane Impositiōne of 6d upon each English barrell of ale which may be annexed to the

Touns Common good and applyed for payment of the touns debts and enabling us to pay our ministers stipends, And supply the City with water, which your Lo<sup>p</sup> knows cannot be done in our loe & sinking state without the bounty of the Government. And considereing that 6d. per barrell is some less than the half of what we now Enjoy the Inhabitants would be both willing & able to pay the same but if a perpetuall grant cannot be obtained your Lo<sup>p</sup> may endeavour to obtain it for three Nyneteen years or att least for the longest terme you possibly Can. As for what gratuity may be necessar In such a Caice we must leave to your Lo<sup>ps</sup> prudent consideratione for we Reckone the gratuity will be in some measure proportioned to the grant that may be obtained. So your Lo<sup>p</sup> may advise us what you are lickly to obtain for the good Toun & what gratuity will be Expected.

Wee take the freedom again to mind your Lo<sup>p</sup> that this may not be ane Improper season for obtaining the touns signatur past as also the act of Parliament for shortning the yuill vaccance finished which is not only expected by the good Toun but by the wholl natione tho there hes been litle heard of it for some time past. In the mean time wee heartily & Jointly concur to doe everything in our power for promoting his Majesty's intrest & suppressing that of his enemies and are etc.

#### 71. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES.

London, 28th July 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—My last to you was the 26th Curr<sup>t</sup> to which Referrs, since which am this day favoured with yours of the 24th Curr<sup>t</sup> by the Express which I instantly Communicate to the Duke of Montrose to show your vigilance, and Readiness to serve the Government. He told me he had Received one from your selves to the same purpose. Yeisterday there was a motion in the House for Raising a part & not all of the Malitia which meets with some opposition from the Touns.

Yeisterday I spoke to Mr Baillie of Jerviswood, and also

with Sir John Jennings, Commissioners of the Admiralty for Convoys to the Sound. They answered me very Discreetly<sup>1</sup> but Cou'd not be positive therein untill they sie the Event of this Threatned Invasion, There is Letters This day from My Lord Stairs<sup>2</sup> givinge ane account that the preparations in France for the Intended Invasion is going on very vigorously. I had this day Trysted the Scotts members with my Lord Advocate with respect to these Clauses Recommended by the Burrows, and the members with My Lord Advocate are Just now at my chambers Drinking prosperity to the Magistrates and Good Toun and other Burrows, which with kind respects is from etc.

## 72. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 30th July 1715.

MY LORD,—Since our last to you of the 28 instant Nothing hes happned here extraordinar all being for the time in peace and quietness and as we wrot your Lo<sup>p</sup> the trainbands were in Brunfield links yesterday and the men and armes revewed be some of the magistrats, some armes were found sufficient and many otherwayes. Munday nixt they are to make a new appearance at the same place.

<sup>1</sup> *Discreetly*, politely.

<sup>2</sup> John Dalrymple, 2nd Earl of Stair, grandson of Lord President Stair, was British Ambassador at Paris from 1715 to 1720. He was always well informed about the Jacobite plans, as his despatches in the Record Office abundantly show. Jacobite secrets were not well kept. On July 23, 1715, Bolingbroke writes from Paris to Prince James: 'I soon found a general expectation gone abroad that your Majesty was to undertake somewhat immediately; and I was not a little concerned to hear, in two or three places, and among women over their tea, that arms were provided and ships got ready; but I confess I was struck with concern when I knew in such a manner as is to be depended upon, and as I beg your Majesty to depend upon, that the factor of Lawrence (King George) knew of the little armament, and had sent advices of it home; that the Court in Maryland (England) were in the resolution of conniving till the enterprise should be gone upon, and made no doubt, by this means, of crushing the whole at once; that ships are cruising on the coast, and that they are under private orders to observe, and even to search, when that shall appear necessary, all vessels which pass.' Stuart Papers, quoted by Mahon, *History of England*, vol. i., Appendix, p. ix.



The post not being come in we have nothing further to trouble your Lo<sup>p</sup> with but that we are etc.

*P.S.*—My Lord since wryting the above we are informed that a small vessel arrived at Enverkeithing and some of the Custome house officers haveing gone aboard they found some suits of fyne scarlet cloaths and some fine silk neight-gowns with some powder and lead and non being on board save the master and tuo boyes who not giving particular accompt of them selfs were secured by order of the magistrats but my Lord Justice Clerk had not heard of it untill we communicat the same to him though we are advised the commissioners of the customes had an express for the same this morning.

73. WILLIAM AUSTIN, PROVOST OF PERTH, TO THE  
MAGISTRATES.

Perth, 30th July 1715.

MUCH HONOURED,—We were favoured with yours of the 26th curreant and in answer be pleased to know that we were advised of the contents thereof from My Lord Justice Clerk and thanks his Lo<sup>p</sup> and you for the pains ye take in the Intrest of the Government. We are Satisfied that a good Correspondence among the royal burrows at this Juncture be kept up Wherein we shall not be wanting That Joynt measures may be taken for the preservation of the Common Interest and peace of the Country.

Sir, by this I take occasion to tell you that as yet there are no appearances of any motions in the Highlands in so far as I can learn, And I'm hopefull that if any should be so inconsiderat as to forget their duetie to his Majestie King George there is reason to beleive their Endeavours will be very vain and fruitless. His Grace the Duke of Athol<sup>1</sup> has honoured us with his Letter bearing that there

<sup>1</sup> John Murray, 1st Duke of Atholl. He had been Secretary of State for Scotland under William III. and Lord Privy Seal under Queen Anne. He was suspected of Jacobitism, but in August 1715 was made Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire. He was the father of two famous Jacobites, Lord Tullibardine, who raised Prince Charles's standard at Glenfinnan in 1745, and Lord George Murray.

is nothing yet about him or on the North hand but quietness. And his Grace is so much in the Intrest of the Government and concern'd for our Safety that he has given us assurance that on our desire he will send us 300 or more of his men to be intirely under our Command. We are very much indebted to his Grace for his frank offer of friendship But because we know his men will ever be usefull above the hand with himself we are very tender of taking them from him if the Government wou'd supply us with some of the Regular forces and arms. We hope ye will assist us as far as ye can this way And as any thing of Consequence occurs to us Ye shall be advised of it by

Much honoured

Your etc.

W. AUSTIN pro:

#### 74. THE PROVOST OF DUMFRIES TO BAILIE DUNCAN.

Dumfries, 1st August 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—I am favoured with youres of the 26th July and in observance off what yow desyre wee shall not omitt to Advise yow off occurrences in our pairtes. Wee have upon the alarming news at this Juncture taken a list of our fensable men. There is about 300 wee can Arme with what belongs to our Magazine & what is in privat persons hands, wee keep about 60 or 70 each day upon garde.

Wee are Credible Informed that Armed Horsemen ride through our Countrey In the night tyme about 20 or 30 in a bodie together wee can not learn who they are butt some sayes They are dissafected persons who for fear of the Countrey dare not keep there own houses.

The Governor off Carlyle with whom we Corespond Each post wrytes to me off the 30th last that he had Certaine Advyce That severall papists are Come from Their pairtes Into our Countrey wee shall use our Endeavoures to Gett what Information possable wee can and transmitt the samen to yow I am etc,

ROB<sup>T</sup> CORBETT.

## 75. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 2nd August 1715.

MY LORD,—We are favoured with your Lo<sup>ps</sup> of the 28 July and since our last to you of the 30th Nothing has hapned worthy of wryting save that yesterday the train bands of this City Canongat and Leith appeared in very good order and were Randiwouzed in Brunnsfield Links and dismissed in great peace and quietnes. The Bells of this City began at the usuall hours to ring and continued till eight att Night. We are advised from the magistrats of Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness that all things continue peaceable there and are advised that in Galloway and Nidsdail a great many people are in readines to show their zeall to His Majestic King George being well armed and frequently Randivouzing.

My Lord On Twesday last the 26 last ther came a letter from Secretary Burchet to the Chief Magistrat of Leith bringing inclosed ane order to Cap<sup>t</sup> Haddock of the Portmahon who was then acruising and so Baillie Jeffrey to whose hands the letter came gott not the same delivered till yesternight which you may communicat to Mr Burchet. We think it very strange that he should wreat to the mages-trats of Leith and not to the Chief Magistrat of Edinburgh, as the Commissioners of Admiralty have been in use to doe and therfor recommends to your Lo<sup>p</sup> to speak with Mr Baillie of Jerviswood or such other of the Commissioners as your Lo<sup>p</sup> pleases that orders be transmitt to the Chief Magistrat of the City as formerly. This being the neidfull we conclude etc

## 76. THE PROVOST OF ABERDEEN TO THE MAGISTRATES.

Aberdeen, 3rd August 1715.

MUCH HONOURED,—Gentlemen, yours of the 26 past came to hand: I should have mett with you before I came from Edinburgh bot this flying packet which brought the account of the Kings acquainting the parlement of the

preparations mead by the pretender brought me a letter from the D. of Montross which occasioned my taking post for this.

Since I came here I have sent severall spies towards the hillands and finds that all the disaffected hillands are in readiness to gather together in armes upon 6 hours advertisement bot non of them as yett in actuall armes: I shall not fail to acquaint you of anything extraordinar occurs and shall expect the same from you which is the present from etc.

ROB<sup>T</sup>. STEWART.

77. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 3rd August 1715.

MY LORD,—Wee amongst others of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> good subjects being most sensible of the great danger wee are threatned with by the pretender and his abatters and considering how much wee owe to so good and great a King as his Ma<sup>tie</sup> King George have this night signed ane association of which please receive the inclosed copy. Wee took the opportunity to transmitt this by ane expres sent off purposely to acquaint his Ma<sup>tie</sup> of the design in order to have his approbation thereof. The Lo: president and other Lo: of the Session in town have been advysed and have agreed to sign it when mett in a body which they design shall be very soon and in the mean tyme those in toun have payed in the fourth part of what they will subscribe for. We are hopeful this will be no bad service done to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and Government. The post being not yet come and all being peaceable here at the tyme We are etc.

78. THE MAGISTRATES OF INVERNESS TO BAILIE DUNCAN.

Inverness, 5th August 1715.

MUCH HONOURED,—Wee received your kind favour of 26th July the 1st instant advising that the Justice Clerk was to writ to us annent his Majesties Declaration to the Parliment about the designed invasion and the vigorus resolutions of both houses of Parliment to obviat and

dissappoint the same. Wee are as yet favoured with no letter from my Lord Justice Clerk which would have been most acceptable to us, in the meantime wee are verie much of your oppinion that at this juncture there be a good Correspondence kept amongst the Royall Borrowes by adviseing on another from time to time of what occurs for preservation of our common interest and Peace of the Countrie.

On the first notice of the Designed Invasion wee mustered our Burgers and whole inhabitants and have inspected all there Armes and done everie thing els needfull for the security and defence of our brugh, and have dabled our gaurds each night for our security against the insults of such are disafected to his Majestie and the present Government (if anie such should happen) as God forbid. Att present for ought wee know the Highlanders in our neighbourhead are verie quiet and all is verie peaceable here and if anie thing of Moment occurs wee shall not fail to acquaint you per first. In the meantime are glad to hear My Lord Oraries<sup>1</sup> Regiment of fozaliers are ordered here and Wee remain etc.

W. DUFF, provost.

ALEX<sup>R</sup> STUART, baillie.

JOHN STEUART, B.

#### 79. THE MAGISTRATES TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh, 5th August 1715.

MY LORD,—The bearer Capt. Ronalds son to the deceast Duncan Ronald wryter to the Signet who was born and bred in this place with other three capt. of my Lord Shannons Reg<sup>t</sup> are suspended upon the account of some disafectione to the government And Haveing advise from severall well affected persones to the present government that he hes been allwayes most dewtifull to the present settlement and our sovereign King George, and for our own pairts we never heard him charged with the least

<sup>1</sup> The Earl of Orrery's regiment had just been recalled from Ireland.

disafectiōne therto Therfor we intreat your Lo<sup>d</sup> to give him all the assistance you can to gett his suspensiōne taken off and that you will please give him all the good caracters that his merit deserves and in so doeing obleidge etc.

80. THE MAGISTRATES TO HENRY CUNNINGHAM  
OF BUCHAN, M.P.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 9th August 1715.

SIR,—We are informed that Capt. Ronald of My Lord Shannons Regiment, son to Duncan Ronald writer to the Signet has had the misfortune to be suspended among some other officers upon suspicion of being disaffected to the Government and hoping that the Information against him is groundless We thought it our duty upon account of his fathers known loyalty zeall and good affection to the late happie Revolution and of his own good behaviour here where he was born and lived most of his tyme to do him all the justice in our power. And therefore we thought it proper to acquaint you we never heard the least information of his being disaffected to his Majesty King George or the present happy settlement and that we have been informed from severall well affected people here who have had occasion frequently to converse with him that he is perfectly well affected and intreat the favour of you to represent him as such to the ministry and give him all the good character his Merit deserves in order to the removing the suspension and this shall be taken as ane singular obligatiōne done to etc.

81. THE LORD PROVOST TO SECRETARY STANHOPE.

Edinburgh, 23rd August 1715.

MY LORD,—I presume to give your Lo<sup>d</sup> a hint of the reports here upon a surmize of the Pretenders being at sea and designed to land in our North Cuntrey. Some

<sup>1</sup> Henry Cunningham of Boquhan, M.P. for the Stirling Burghs, afterwards Governor of Jamaica, died 1736.

Noblemen and abundance of gentry are gone North to what ends is uncertain. However both in that cuntry are well provyded with men armes horses and ammunitiōne, and the Jacks are trewly the superior in number. All precautiōne imaginable is taken here for preserveing the peace and quiet of the Government but his Majesties standing forces here are but few in Number upon such a criticall junctur.

My Lord, ther being but one of his Majesties ships of war on this statione I immediatly efter receaving informatiōne of the pretenders being at sea sent ane expres to the Commander and desyred he might proceed to the Northward and to cruise about the coast of Aberdeen for some dayes and upon appearance of any ship or ships to give me timely notice and that he might call at the ports of Aberdeen and Monros<sup>1</sup> for informatiōne and accordingly this night he is to proceed.

I Heartily wish your Lo<sup>p</sup> would recommend it to the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty to take some care of our coast for at present it is exposed to the enemie for want of ships of war. This I found myself bound in dewty to communicat to your Lo<sup>p</sup> and please beleive I am etc.

82. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN HADDOCK,<sup>2</sup>  
ROYAL NAVY.

Edinburgh, 23rd August 1715.

SIR,—Some ships being seen off the North coast, I doe, after adviseing with thos now in the Government in this place think it for the intrest and service of the Government that you goe acruising And therfor I doe desyre that you will without loss of time immediatly proceed with his Majesties ship Portmahon under your command the lenth of Aberdeen and to cruise on that coast and therabouts for some dayes and that you will please if any ship or ships

<sup>1</sup> Montrose.

<sup>2</sup> Captain Haddock answered this by a note, dated 3 p.m. stating that he was sailing that afternoon.

appear that from time to time you'll give me timely notice by sending your longboat to the magistrats of the next sea-port town with what accompts you to be forwarded by express to me, and that you will please call at the magistrats of Aberdeen and Monros for information and in so doing etc.

83. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 23rd August 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Ther being severall accounts in this place of the Pretenders being at sea and of his designed landing in the North coast after adviseing with those of the Government here ; I wrote to Capt. Haddock commander of his majisties ship Portmahon desyring that he might immediatly without loss of time proceed to the Northward with his Ma<sup>ties</sup> ship under his command the lenth of Aberdeen and there to cruise for some dayes about that coast and that upon the appearance of any ship or ships he might give me timely notice and that he might call at the magistrats of that part and Montrose for informatione, and this afternoon transmitted the same to him by express and he by his return promises immediatly to comply, for present we are in quiet, and all imaginable care is taken here for preserving of the peace and quiet of the Government, But it is the generall oppinion of every bodie here that our coast is left too much naked and exposed to the enemie for want of some ships of war which if possible I wish the Lords Commissioners will please prevent by ordering such cruisers here as they shall think convenient but this I leave to the wisdom of their Lo<sup>ds</sup>. I desire you<sup>ll</sup> communicat this to them.

Sir I am informed by the magistrats that dureing my absence there was a letter sent by you to the magistrats of Leith bringing along orders to Capt. Haddock. I told them that I beleived it might flow from some of your clerks not knowing the directione for those of Leith are only deputed by Edinburgh and therfor shall expect that the Lords Commissioners will continue the samen directione. This being the neidfull, I am.



84. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES  
OF GLASGOW, ETC.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 25th August 1715.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN,—Some dayes agoe we being allarmed here with the Pretenders being at sea and designed to land in the North wee were much affrayed of the bad consequences that might have followed But yesternights poast brought us advice of the King of France death and of his Nominating the Duke of Orleans to be Regent dureing the Dauphins minority which appears to be very trew by the repeated advices therof from France to London and thence here. It is lykewayes rumoured and beleived there that there's ane imbargoe putt upon all shiping at Havre-degras upon account of the Kings death <sup>2</sup> so that I hope ther's less fear to be hade to the Pretenders landing especially seeing that besydes what forces wee have allready in North Brittain the three reg<sup>ts</sup> lately arrived from Irland are to be recruited and made up to 50 men in each companie. Ther's one reg<sup>t</sup> of dragoons now the lenth of Berwick and expected here in a day or tuo and Grants officers are bussie recruiting making up his reg<sup>t</sup> conform to the new establishment.

The Magistrats and I desyre that you will please correspond with us and lett us know from time to time of any thing may happen with you in favour of the Pretender as we shall be sure to doe the lyke with you, for the Government above have and are takeing all precautions imaginable

<sup>1</sup> Sent to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Perth and Dumfries.

<sup>2</sup> Louis XIV died on Aug. 21, O.S. (Sept. 1, N.S.), 1715. The Regent Orleans did not continue his support to the Stuart cause, but from the beginning cultivated the friendship of King George's Government. The Jacobites had succeeded in fitting out a considerable fleet at Havre, St Malo, and other French ports, on board of which were a large quantity of military stores, and over 1800 men. Stair knew all about these preparations (see p. 69 *supra*, note 2), and represented to the Regent that to permit the sailing of these ships would be a breach of the Treaty of Utrecht, and would be regarded by England as an unfriendly act. They were stopped by the French naval authorities.

for preventing his landing and preserveing of the peace and quiet of Brittain so that I hope our fears may be in some measure abated. This I found myself bound in dewty to communicat to you etc.

85. THE LORD PROVOST TO SECRETARY STANHOPE.

Edinburgh, 26th August 1715.

MY LORD,—Since my last to your Lo<sup>p</sup> of the 23 Currant Wee have had severall repeated accompts from the north of Scotland particularly from that place called the Brae of Mar that severall of our peers and Gentlemen have had frequent Councils with the Earle of Mar and are now drawing to a bodie and talk of forming a Camp, so that we have good reasone to conclude that Nothing less than a sudden insurrectione is intended in favour of the Pretender. The well affected in thes pairts are in a great consternatione being threatnd by the enemies of the Government and alltogether in a defences conditione.

The Magistrats of this place shall take all immaginable precautiones to secure the peace of the City against any that may be among our selfs but in caice ther happen ane incursion from the Highland Clans or others in the north it is to be feared that we shall not be able to stand our ground; Wherfor it is earnestly intreated your Lo<sup>p</sup> will be pleased seriously to recommend our caice to his Majistie and send us such a number of standing forces as may secure us from being over run by theemie. I am etc.

86. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Admiralty Office, 27th August 1715.

MY LORD,—Some days since I received a letter from your Lordship relating to a Convoy to the fishing vessels, belonging to North Britain, into the Baltick; and I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,

to desire you will let me know, for their Lordships information, what Convoy it is that is thus desired; For if any of his Majesty's Ships should be appointed for this service, and are to see the Vessels to the Ports whereunto they are bound in the Baltick, and stay for them untill such time as they shall have sold their Loading, to convoy them back again, they will not only be exposed to a Winter's Voyage, but possibly be frozen up. Besides as it is uncertain what number of Ships of War, or Privatiers, the Swedes may have in those Seas, so it is not known what Interruption they may give to the Trade; and Consequently what force may be sufficient to protect it. I am etc.

87. BAILIE JEFFREY TO THE SECRETARY OF THE  
ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 30th August 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—I received yours of the 22nd and 26th currant each bringing along ane order from the Lords Commissioners of Admiralty to Cap<sup>t</sup> Haddock, which I shall be carefull to deliver upon his return to Leith, But just now he is on a cruise to the North by order of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh as his Lo<sup>p</sup> advised you by his of the 23rd and is every day expected here. I am etc.

88. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Admiralty Office, 30th August 1715.

MY LORD,—I have recieved and communicated to my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 23rd instant, and in answer thereto am to acquaint you that I hope, before this comes to your Lords<sup>ps</sup> hand, two more Frigats will be arrived on the Coast, and that they will very suddenly be followed by another. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

89. THE LORD PROVOST TO MR. JAMES ROBERTSON,  
BAILIE OF DUNDEE.

Edinburgh, 31st August 1715.

SIR,—I am just now favoured with yours of date the 30th currant for which I return you hearty thanks. I communicat the same to My Lord Justice Clerk who this morning received ane express from London the contents of which I sent you here inclosed in print which you must make publick for the satisfacione of your neighbourhead, by which it appears that the Pretender was not com off the 1st of Sept<sup>r</sup> new steile. Please keep up a good Correspondence with me and advise me from time to time what happens with you and in your pairts, as I shall be ready to doe to you on the lyke occasione. I am etc.

90. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES  
OF DUNDEE, ETC.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 2nd September 1715.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN,—Haveing certain informatione from London that about 12 days agoe a pink and Catch <sup>2</sup> sailed from Havredegrass load with ammunitiōne and armes bound for Scotland it is beleived ther landing is designed in your pairts And therfor I found it my dewty to advertize you therof that you may take speciall notice if such appear on your coast and if possible that seizur be made therof.

Capt. Haddock Commander of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> ship Portmachon is this afternoon to sail to the Norward and is to be joynd be ane other of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> ships of war for the aforsaid service, who is to call at you and the neighbouring borrows for informatione. Pray therfor be not wanting to informe your selffs as much as possible concerning thes vessells

<sup>1</sup> Sent to Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen and Fraserburgh.

<sup>2</sup> A pink and a ketch. A pink was a small flat-bottomed vessel with a narrow stern.

and advise him therof as also of the commosiones at the Brae of Mar <sup>1</sup> so far as you can learn. Of which I also hope youll acquaint the magistrats here from time to time and if any thing extraordinar occur in this place I shall not be wanting to acquaint you. I am etc.

91. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 3rd September 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—I am favoured with yours of the 27th ultimo upon receipt of which I called severalls of our merchants in this place and communicat the same to them, and find that a great pairt of our Trade here bound into the Baltick are already sailed, and just now the rest are ready and will be off in a few dayes, so that its belived that a Convoy cannot well reach them, But the Merchants here much complain that their trade should [be] exposed to the hazard of the enimies when others [are] protected.

I have advyce from Aberdeen, Dundee and other places that the confluence of Nobility and Gentry still continues at and about the Brae of Mar and that ane invasion is yet expected and to be feard there and ane insurrection from the North but I hope the neighbourhead will now be a litle easier by the ships of war now come upon this station. The Royall Ann Gelly and Pearell <sup>2</sup> haveing come up here this day and Capt. Steuart <sup>3</sup> haveing waited on me he informes he designes to sail tomorrow morning & I shall be sure to give him all the intelligence I can. I am etc.

<sup>1</sup> The Jacobite standard was raised at Braemar on September 6.

<sup>2</sup> The *Royal Anne* galley of 511 tons, 40 guns, was built at Woolwich in 1709. The *Pearl* was a 5th rate of 42 guns, built at Rotherhithe in 1708. *New List of Ships and Vessels*, 1710.

<sup>3</sup> Captain James Stewart was after nearly thirty-four years' service promoted rear-admiral of the blue in 1742. He became vice-admiral in 1743, was second in command of the fleet sent to Lisbon in 1744, was promoted admiral of the white in 1747, and became Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet in 1751. He died in 1757. Charnock, iv. 19.

92. ROBERT TULLOCH, CLERK OF FORRES, TO  
HIS SON ALEXANDER.

Forres, 4th Sepr. 1715.

LO: SON,—I wrote to you formerly that I am suspended from the clerkship of Forres because at the Laird of Altyr and Tannachies desire I proclaimed Ja: as K. <sup>1</sup> The same wes done be James ffraser shireff clerk of Morray at the cross of Elgin in a more solemn maner then at Fforres and he not suspended. But the Laird of Brodie our provost is afrayed to sit with me till he be advised if there be any hazart. Therefor I would have you to adwyse with Lodovick Brodie yranent and if you can get a lyne from him to the Laird of Brodie that may be favourable for me send me the same open. Ffor the truth is I am not able to subsist if I be not reponed.

The Lairds of Altyr and Tannachie took jurnay on

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<sup>1</sup> Sheriff Rampini, in his *History of Moray and Nairn*, describes this incident. He gives the date of the proclamation as September 14. 'The Rising of 1715 never seriously endangered the loyalty of either Moray or Nairn. A few of the gentry in both counties were induced to join it. . . . Amongst those who espoused the cause of the Old Pretender, none was more enthusiastic than the Laird of Altyre. Whether he was acting on his own or by superior authority does not appear, but on September 14, 1715, he sent a party of Highlanders to the house of Robert Tulloch, town clerk of Forres, who wakened him out of his sleep, dragged him from his chamber, and forced him to proclaim James VIII. at the town cross of the burgh. For this he was promptly suspended by the town council. But on May 1, 1716, he presented a petition to the council, fortified with the depositions of witnesses, praying for reinstatement in his office on the ground that he had been compelled to act "contrair to his inclination." The eloquent appeal which he made on that occasion is not yet forgotten. He pled the penury to which he had been reduced by the loss of his office, his previous faithfulness in the discharge of his duties, the fact that the town was then in the possession of the rebels, his well-known loyalty to King George, his alarm at being "waukened" in the middle of the night, and his sufferings in being "trailled by force" to the cross "as if he had been ane malefactor." "'Twas ill arguing," he said, "with a Highlander's dirk at yer throat." It is satisfactory to think that his eloquence was successful, and that the council "in one voice reponed him" on his taking the Abjuration and the other oaths appointed by law.' Rampini, *Moray and Nairn*, 1897, p. 211.

Sunday last to joyn with the Earle of Mar. I cannot tell what to do with Peter for he is lost with me. Send me Roberts and your adwyce concerning him. Which is all at present from

your affectionat father

Ro: TULLOCH.

Alexander Tulloh servitor  
to Mr John Innes mer<sup>t</sup> in Edinburgh.  
(sent be Alex. Lawsonsone.)

93. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART,  
ROYAL NAVY.

Edinburgh, 5th September 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—The Commissioners of the Customes and I haveing this morning been together and I haveing also been with Generall Whitham,<sup>1</sup> it is resolved and agreed to be the Commissioners that all their collectors sub-collectors and other officers be authorized to search all ships, vessells and boats that may happen to arrive in any port harbour or creick & to secure all armes that may be found on board and passengers till they give accompt of themselfs and that they are from time to time to correspond and give intelligence to you as commander or some other of the Captains and thes off to you if near at hand or if otherwayes advices will be sent to the poast house of Aberdeen, Monross, Frazerburgh and Cromerty where you may (as occasion offers) call for the same, It is Generall Whithams oppinion and myne with some others of the Government here that in caice you or the other Capts under your command be in want of provisions dureing your Cruise that you will please supply your selfs in the North or send off boats to Leith for what you want but that you keep to sea with His Ma<sup>ties</sup> ships under your command for fear of easterly winds wherby you may happen to be blocked up and detained within this firth.

<sup>1</sup> Lieut.-General Whitham commanded the Hanoverian left at Sheriffmuir.

If you please to correspond with me I shall be sure to advise you from time to time what happens in this place. Lett me lykeweyes know wher I shall direct for you. This being the neidfull I am etc.

94. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE COMMISSIONERS  
OF CUSTOMS.

Edinburgh, 5th September 1715.

MUCH HONOURED GENTLEMEN,—The Lords Commissioners of admiralty haveing for the safty of our coast ordered 4 of his Maties. ships of war to proceed to the Norrard viz. The Royal Ann Gelly Cap<sup>t</sup> James Steuart Commander, the Pearle Cap<sup>t</sup> Charles Pooll Commander,<sup>1</sup> Queenborrow Cap<sup>t</sup> Kendall Commander,<sup>2</sup> and Portmachon Cap<sup>t</sup> Haddock Commander, who are to be carefull in searching every ship or vessel that they can meet with and to secure such whom they have reason to suspect, But as Cap<sup>t</sup> Steuart their commodoer advised me on Saturday last that many small pinks or vessells might slip in to severall creichs and harbours wher his Maties ships could not adventur It is therfor suggested that it may prove for the intrest of the service & Government that all Collectors Subcollectors and other of his Maties custome house officers be strictly directed and injoynd to search all ships vessells and boats that may happen to arrive in any port harbour or crick and to secure all armes that may be found on board and passengers till they give acompt of themselves and that they may from time to time be ordered to correspond and give intelligence to the commodoer or some other of the Capts who are still to be cruising on the North Coast and who are to call frequently at Aberdeen and Monrose for intelligence as also who are to correspond with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for the time being.

<sup>1</sup> Captain Charles Poole, afterwards Captain of the *Newport*, died 1738. Charnock, iv. 50.

<sup>2</sup> Captain Charles Kendal was appointed to the *Queenborough* frigate on July 26, 1715. He afterwards commanded the *Weymouth*, 50 guns, in which he served under Sir Charles Wager in the Baltic and at Gibraltar. He died in 1743.



95. THE LORD PROVOST AND MAGISTRATES TO  
GENERAL WHITHAM.

Edinburgh, 5th September 1715.

SIR,—Being advysed of your designed Removeall of all his Maties. forces from this place to Stirling we found it our duty to acquaint you that notwithstanding of all the precautions wee have taken for preserving the peace by leavieing more men then ordinary yet we are affrayed it may prove ineffectuall if you remove from us this Regement that now lyes in the suburbs, ffor it is to be feared that this being the metropolis of No. Brittain where are all the seats of Judicatur, besyds the money of the nation in the Excheq<sup>r</sup>, Excyse, Custome house and Bank, if any thing occur may be in very great danger unless Supported by a Regular force, for the continuance of one Regement of Regular forces will not only very much animat the minds of his Maties. good freinds, But will also much discourage those of his enimies. And therefor wee doe earnestly intreat that you will please continue the Regement now lying in the suburbs which wee hope will be of service done to the Government and in so doing much Oblidge

Sir, your most obliged and humble servants.

96. ALEXANDER LAWSON TO MR. ROBERT SETON,  
WRITER IN EDINBURGH.

Leith, 5th September 1715,  
a little after 8 p.m.

SIR,—Just now I had a letter directed for Capt. Steuart comander of the Royall Ann Gelie who sailed above a hower ago so that no boat cane overtake hir shee having the wind roome shall keep the saming till she return and deliver it cairfullie is all but that I am etc

ALEX<sup>R</sup> LAWSONE.

97. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 6th September 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Since my last to you of the 3rd instant I received yours of the 30th ultimo and the two frigates you wreat off are all ready gone to sea. Yesterday morning before they sailed I found it for the interest of the service to meet with the Commissioners of the Customs here where we consented that all collectors subcollectors and other his Maties' customs house officers be strictly directed & enjoined to search all ships vessels and boats that may happen to arrive in any port harbour or creek whatsoever and to secure all armes that may be found on board and passengers till they gave account of them selves & that they be ordered to correspond & give intelligence to the Comodoer or some other of the Capts and to transmit the same to the post houses of Monros, Aberdeen or Frazerburgh, and for that end the Commissioners dismiss an express to all the Northern sea port towns and I advised Capt. Steuart thereof by letter. I am etc.

98. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Admiralty Office, 7th September 1715.

MY LORD,—The inclosed Letter for Capt. Haddock of His Maties. Ship the Port Mahon being of great importance to the Service, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to recommend it to your Lordsps care and to desire you will please to cause it to be delivered to him as soon as possible; or to the Captain of either of His Maties. Ships named in the margin [Royal Ann Galley, Pearl], appointed to join the Port Mahon in her Station between St Abb's head and Buchaness, as opportunity may be present. I am etc.

J. BURCHETT.

99. THE LORD PROVOST TO SECRETARY STANHOPE  
AND LORD TOWNSHEND <sup>1</sup> (a copy each).

Edinburgh, 10th September 1715.

MY LORD,—Ther being a surmise of ane insurrectione in this place on the 5th instant I went and waited on Generall Whittam and earnestly intreated that he might continue in our suburbs the reg<sup>t</sup> commanded be My Lord Shannon all the other regular force being then removed from this place and thereafter the magistrats and I wrot to him for that effect but he then told he hade express orders from the Government for their removeall, And they being removed our City and suburbs was then left destitute of all regular force and hade not save our old City guard and a new additionall strenth levieing on the City charge for our defence so that on Thursday night being the 8 about 10 of the cloack my Lord Justice Clerk haveing communicat to me the designed enterprise of our enemie by assault on the Castle of Edinburgh, immediatly thereafter I doubled our City Guaird haveing then no regular force near to protect us and contrair to the constitutione of the guaird did then betwixt 11 and 12 att night, for the present exigence, order Major James Aikman who is on of the principall officers of our new levy makeing be the City, and who is a gentleman known to be well affected to the Government, to have under his command ane detachment of men from the principall guaird, and who marched under his command to the West port, and from thence towards the sally port of the Castle, where they found ane lader made with ropes haveing ane anchor at the head of it, with which the enemie designed to scale the walls. That pairty of the Guaird was in a very litle thereafter reinforced by a stronger detachment under the command of Capts. Dumbraick, Syme and Murray the three Capts. of the City guaird, four of the Conspirators who were concerned in the

<sup>1</sup> Charles Townshend, 2nd Viscount Townshend, who married Walpole's sister, became Secretary of State for the Northern Department on the accession of King George I.

plott were seized and several firelocks and pistols charged with double ball, all poisoned, with some bagonets and broad swords which were left behind be the conspirators in the retreat. The guaird continued patrolling round the Castle till about 6 of the cloak Fridays morning.

These four persones seised being carried to our City guaird the magistrats and I mett earlie yesterday morning and made it our chief studie to support the peace and quiet of the Government of the place and called them befor us and I in presence of My Lord Justice Clerk took the declarationes, ane Coppie of which (I transmitt you here inclosed) together with ane Coppie of the declaratione of some others taken be the magistrats in relatione to one W<sup>m</sup> Corsons haveing listed 2 men for the service of King James the 8 as he termed it, to which refers you.

The magistrats and I also about 12 of the cloack ordered a [drum ?] to be beat throw the City Ordering all masters and mistresses of families children and servants instantly to repair to their respective lodgeings houses and chambers under the severest penalties, and in the mean time ordered all the ports of the City to be shut up and apointed the hail constables of the City tuo by tuo, with some of the City guaird in armes, to goe along with them and there made strict search throw the wholl City for men horses and armes that might be found. But the Conspirators being frustrat of their designe all such as knew them selfs to be in danger as suspect persones hade removed from the place in the night time, or early in the morning, after the disappointment they mett with so that we found litle, save on papist prist with his trinkets etc and on Graham a stabler latly come here who hade intertained some of the conspirators that night, whom wee immediatly imprisoned in our tollbooth with the other persones seised.

The Magistrats and I shall be als vigilant as possible in making a full discovery of this matter, But I wish your Lo<sup>p</sup> will with possible dilligence order some regular forces for the security of the Government, for hade not I given detachments of our city guaird on that immediat exigence and service the Conspirators hade been masters of the

Castle and wee hade then been reduced to the extreemest danger, and by this the Government of the City taken out of our hands and lodged in the hands of our enemies who very soon would have made them selfs masters of all the Castle stores, moneys in the Exceise and Custome house and bank, and therby been able to strenthen them selfs against the Government. This I found my self bound in deuty to communicat to your Lo<sup>p</sup> to be laid befor his Ma<sup>tie</sup>. I am etc.

100. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 13th September 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Yours of the 7 instant bringing along tuo letters to Capt. Haddock I received yesternight about 5 and immediatly transmitted the same to Aberdeen to be by the magistrats therof forwarded to on or other of the Capts. of the Portmachon, Royall Ann Gelly or Pearle, who should first appear on the coast they being cruising there for the time.

The accompts we have from the North gives us great grounds of fear of ane insurrectione from that place, it being informed that the Earle of Mar with some other of the nobility and gentry assembled together have 500 horse and 2000 foot allready in a bodie and by this time it is expected they may have severall thousands joyned them, and letters from the North bear they are marching towards Perth and designe to be there tomorrow morning.

Blissd be God ther principall designe misgave in surprising our Castle here, their plot and designes have been very deep laid in so far as that they hade men armes laders and other instruments ready, and actually mett and conveened for that effect on the 8 instant at or about 11 at night and hade not notice been given ane hour or tuo befor the designed attack was made to some in this place, and that I sent ane detachment of the City guaird, the Castle had certainly been surprized and taken and in that

caice this City and yea the Government hade been in very bad circumstances this day. We have seased the lader and severall of the conspirators armes which we have put in our magasin. We in this place doe what can be done for the preservacione of the peace and quiet of the Government and have guairds every night in all corners of the city. This at present is the neidfull from etc.

101. LORD TOWNSHEND TO THE LORD PROVOST.

15th September 1715.

MY LORD,—I receiv'd yesterday morning by the flying pacquett your letter of the 10th which I have laid before his Majesty who does very much approve of your Lo<sup>p</sup> and the other Magistrates of the Cities zeal and diligence on the occasion of the attempt to surprize the Castle of Edinburgh, and of the prudent measures you took to defeat the same. I know not what reason General Whetham had for removing Lord Shannons regiment but there was a necessitie of leaving that matter entirely to the discretion of the Commander in Chief, who can best judge what forces may be spared in this juncture from other services, and as the Duke of Argyle is now with you his Grace will undoubtedly have all possible regard to the securitie of your Citie, which is certainly on many accounts of very great consequence, but if the Circumstances of his Maj<sup>ty</sup>s service will not allow of his Graces detaching any of the forces for Edinburgh, I am directed to tell your Lo<sup>p</sup> that if you will augment the ordinary Town Guard to 200 men more then their present Complement, his Maj<sup>ty</sup> will order the defraying the expense of the additional 200 men so long as it shall be thought necessary for the securitie of the place, that they be kept on foot, for which I shall procure the necessary directions, as soon as your Lo<sup>p</sup> letts me know what resolutions are taken upon this. I am with great truth etc.

TOWNSHEND.

102. THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Admiralty Office, 17th September 1715.

MY LORD,—The enclosed letters for the Captains of the ships named in the margine, [Royall Ann Gally, Pearle, Port Mahon] being of very great importance to His Majestys service, I am commanded by my Lords Comm<sup>rs</sup> of the Admiralty to recommend them to your Lordship's care, and to desire you will please to cause them to be delivered to them as soon as possible ; or if any one of the said Ships shall be in Leith Roads, or elsewhere within your reach, I am to desire you will send them all off to him, and lett me know how you dispose of them, to which I have only in command from their Lords<sup>ps</sup> to desire your care to deliver the Letter that comes herewith for the Captain of the Queenbrough as soon as she shall come within your reach. I am etc.

103. THE LORD PROVOST TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Edinburgh, 17th September 1715.

MY LORD,—Haveing advice that the toun of Perth was yesterday surprisid by the enemie the magistrats of this place are takeing all imaginable precaution for their safty by the City guaird New levie and inhabitants. No regular forces being left us I was much affrayed least the prisoners here should have been attackt some dayes agoe for which I applyed to His Grace the Duke of Argyle for a liberty of transporting 9 persones taken up on the accompt of the attack made on the Castle, who on the 15 instant gave orders for the commanding officer of the Castle to receive them and accordingly I caused a pairty of the City guaird carrie them up which was done without the least disturbance.

Ther shall be nothing wanting on the pairt of the magistracie here for the intrest of the Government and peace of the place but ane regular force is much wanted by reason of the many strangers that resort hither.

I am etc.

104. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE MAGISTRATES OF  
BURNTISLAND, KINGHORN, AND KIRKCALDY.

Edinburgh, 19th September 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—It being necessar for the better service of his Matie. and Government that none of the Passage boats big or small be suffered to land any men horse or passengers in any byports or creeks This is therfor earnestly desiring that you will give orders to all your Boatmen to land in no other place but att the port of Leith. Your care therein and answer is expected by etc.

105. THE LORD PROVOST TO LORD TOWNSHEND.

Edinburgh, 22nd September 1715.

MY LORD,—I received yours of the 15 instant yesterday. I cannot but acknowledge the honour your Lo<sup>d</sup> hes done me in intimating his Maties. approbation of what I in consert with the rest of the magistrats have done for his Maties service.

My Lord the support and security of his Maties. Government is what lyes very near our hartes, and ever since the intimation of the desyned invasion by a popish pretender on the on hand, And the actuall Rebellion and Insurrection of ane crewell and resolute partie att home on the other, It hes bein the cheiff care of the magistrats of this place in conjunction with me to exert our selves to the outmost of our power for the security and defence of his Maties Government And for that end have already added to our Citty guard above two hundred and fourty men upon pay besyds officers, (notwithstanding off the low Circumstances of the Citty) And thes by and attour about four hundred gentlemen & inhabitants who have listed them selves as voluntiers and doe dewty very closely and ane other company of our Trainbands who keep guard every night, And yett I most acknowledge to your Lo<sup>d</sup> all this is bott too little concidering our danger from the Enemys and strangers in absence of all his Maties forces. However



your Lo<sup>d</sup> may be assured I and the magistrats shall still continew to use our outmost endeavours and precaution to prevent the evill desynes of his Maties. enemys and to secure the peace of this City which is not of the least Importance especially att this tyme.

My Lord wee cannot fail to acknowledge his Maties. goodness in resolving to order the defraying of the charge of 200 adittionall men to our Guard which as said is are allready raised with a greater number besyds voluntiers bot considering how much your Lo<sup>d</sup> will be taken up with grater matters at this tyme we shall take some other occasion to wrytt your Lo<sup>d</sup> more fully.

Yesterday wee dissarmed all the Inhabitants that wee suspected to be dissaffected to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and government But wee have Reason to belive not a few had hid or sent off their armes before tho the search was made by surpnyse.

106. GENERAL WIGHTMAN TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Stirling, 25th September 1715.

MY LORD,—Tis His Grace the Duke of Argylls Posetive Orders that all Lord Kinnoles<sup>1</sup> Coach horses and any others that are his and two Coach horses that were left at Edenburg or at Leith bellonging to the Earle of Penmore<sup>2</sup> be forthwith sent to Stirling for his Majestys Service

I am etc.

J. WIGHTMAN.

107. COPY OF AN UNSIGNED LETTER FROM GLASGOW.

Glasgow, 26th September 1715.

SIR,—We have now in toun of well armed men about 800 viz: Kilmarnock 200, Irvine 100, Greenock 200, Paisly 150, Hamilton under Bailie Muirhead 60, Killiswinning and

<sup>1</sup> Kinnoull.

<sup>2</sup> Panmure.

Saltcoats 60, Air 100, which in all makes about 100 more than marched of our men to Stirling. Its said Greenock men are to march to the camp tomorrow and as many from Avendale are expected on Wednesday. These all quarter in toun and the Guairds are thus distributed. Killmarnock keep the bridge and Barrons port reinforced sometimes by Ruglen and Gorbals in the night time four nights 50 per night, Air and Paisly keep the tolbooth guaird four nights 40 per night. Greenock and Irvin keep the castle guaird reinforced by Calder people in the night time, Hamilton, Killiswinning and Stevenson keep the Glasgowgate port guaird reinforced nightly by Barrony and Munkland people. Our town companys keep the main guaird and west port with 150 men per night besides nine piquet guairds in the nine different quarters of the toun 12 men each who sit with their armes and correspond with the main guaird. Our sclaiters and wrights are formed in a society about sixty men and keep 10 men as a piquet nightly to be ready in case of fire, armed with hatchetts hammers ladders & ropes in which case (which God prevent) our armed men retire to the ports in case an Enemy take advantage of the fire and there stand to their armes. Besides this Hartfield and Mathew Crawford have gott about 30 in toun to sign to have horses ready with pistolls to scoure about the toun and bring intelligence in case of an attack and these horsemen Beginn allready to walk in their boots. So you see our people are very hearty.

This letter was so far finished forenoon this day and now at ten at night we have express from James Grahame (who sends no idle news) bearing that the Clanns are all on their march and to be at Glenorchy this night and have summoned Montrose men in Montcith to come to their Randevous under the pain of being ruined, So that now the storm is like to break on us. Expresses are just now sent to hasten in all the militia, without loss of time, an attack being very near from that Airth, whence allwayes we expected, We are this night in great consternation, I pray God avert our Ruin and interpose for our releif. This from—

108. THE LORD PROVOST TO JAMES CLELLAND,  
BARON BAILIE OF PORTSBURGH.

Edinburgh, 26th September 1715.

SIR,—You are desyred to order your Constables and Clerk of Court to goe through the respective bounds tomorrow morning be seven a cloack and to doe as above directed And you are to appoint the saidlers gunsmiths and sword cuttlers to attend the magistrats tomorrow be four a cloack as also your Clerk of Court with his report I am etc.

GEO: WARRENDER.

The directions were as follows :

Resolved that ane list of guns pistolls bayonets and swords in the hands of the gunsmiths and sword cutlers be taken up, as also ane exact list of saidles and other horse furnitur in the hands of the saidlers and other warlick provisions and this be done both in the town and suburbs at the same tyme.

Resolved that Robert Seton be ordained to seall the saidles with the towns seall, both such as are on hand and such as shall be made.

Resolved that all the saidlers gunsmiths and Sword slippers or Sword cutlers be called before the magistrats and depone upon oath what of the above goods they have sold these seven months past and to whom and if they be under contract to furnish such goods or were under contract and by whom the saids goods were bought or bespoke or carried off.

109. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE EIGHT PARISH  
MINISTERS OF EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, 26th September 1715.

REVEREND SIR,—You are desyred this night if possible to call your deacons together and desyre them to goe throw the severall Bounds in your paroch att on and the same time tomorrow and take up full and exact lists of

all the examinable persones now in your paroch and they must distinctly include all lodgers and strangers and must order all these who have lodgers or strangers or may hereafter have them to give ane accompt therof to the magistrates or Robert Seton att the Councill Chamber, And must condescend when they come and when they Remove under the penalty Contained in ane former proclamatione and let ane exact Mark be putt upon all papists als well women as men and other examinable persons. This I expect may be done tomorrow with the help of your former rolls and that report may be made. I am etc.

110. THE LORD PROVOST TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL  
PRESTON.

Edinburgh, 26th September 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Brigadeer Weightman haveing wrot me of yesterdays dait by his Grace the Duke of Argyles order that I send six coach Horses of my Lord Kinnouls and 2 of my Lord Penmores to Stirling, you'll therfor please order on of the officers bound for Stirling to receive them from me and grant receipt therfor and they shall be delivered accordingly. Your answer is this night expected by etc.

111. BRIGADIER-GENERAL PRESTON TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Edinburgh Castle, 27th September 1715.

MY LORD,—This Gentleman Cap<sup>t</sup> Jams Dalrimpell is a Cap<sup>t</sup> in Bregadier Grants Regiment and have recomended the care of thos horses you was pleased to mention to me last night he is redey to geive his recpt for them upon delivery bot I doe not beleive your Lo. can think he is to pey aney money for them so your Lo. mey tack your own misors and Believe me etc.

G. PRESTON.

Subjoined is Capt. Dalrymple's receipt for six coach horses, dated Sept: 27.

## 112. THE MAYOR OF BERWICK TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Berwick, 27th September 1715.

MY LORD,—There is a Gentleman of very great Worth and very zealous to this Government Mr W<sup>m</sup> Coatsworth of Gateshead neer New Castle has sent an Express to me to know the circumstances of the County of Northumberland in the places adjacent to us. He is also earnest with me to send an Express to Sterling to know the State of Affairs there in our Camp and to Learn what we can of the State of the Enemy which may be of great use to the Honest party in and about New Castle where they are often imposed upon by such Reports as the Jacobits spread amongst them.

He writes that the Lord Lewten<sup>t</sup> of the County of Northumberland is coming down to take care of the peace and security of the County.

There is a letter from Mr Coatsworth to your Lo<sup>p</sup> which I do inclose and must beg the favour of your Lordship to give a pass to the bearer Mr W<sup>m</sup> Robinson of this Town a very honest and trusty man to go to the Camp at Stirling.

If your Lo<sup>p</sup> will pleas to send letters with him to some of your correspondents at Sterling to give him the best intelligence which can be had there I do assure you it will be a good service done the Government and no use but a very Right one made of it.

I have it to aske that your Lo<sup>p</sup> will pardon this freedom in a person that has not the honour or happines of a personall acquaintance with you.

The Gentleman who brings your Lo<sup>p</sup> this will satisfy your Lo<sup>p</sup> of the sincerity of my intention in this in the service of K. Geo. and the Protestant succession. I am etc.

ANTONY COMPTON.

## 113. WILLIAM COTESWORTH OF GATESHEAD TO THE LORD PROVOST (enclosed in No. 112).

Gateshead, 26th September 1715.

MY LORD,—I need not tell you the dangerous Condition we are come into by the Restless malice of our enimies.

We think all Honest men ought at this Juncture to exert themselves in the Support of our present happy Government: we are a Club of us who have sent messengers throughout these Counties to enquire of our friends what appearance the enimie makes and it is on this account we have sent this messenger with letters to your City. I have taken the freedom to write to your L<sup>d</sup>ship to beg you will favour me with an account of the state of publick matters in Relation to the Rebels, whether you think they are formidable and how you find your people disposed to oppose them. This messenger or one to be hired at your City has orders to proceed to the Camp with proper passes.

The disaffection of many among us Gives us great disturbance but we are Resolved to venter all in defence of the present Government. Our Lord Leiutenant will be here in 3 or 4 days when we hope there will be a meeting of Gentlemen that will strike Terroure into the enimies of the Government that are among us. I heartily Congratulate your Ldship on your late happy deliverance and pray for your preservation and prosperity & beg leave to be etc.

W<sup>M</sup>. COTESWORTH.

114. THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY<sup>1</sup> TO THE LAIRDS OF  
ACHLOYNE AND KNOCKESPACK.

Gordon Castle, 28th September 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—The present expedition being undertaken by a great number of honest and brave men who have for motive their Loyalty to the King; their love to their Country, and the good of their posterity I cannot doubt but that you will chearfully contribute your best endeavours in so good a cause. I doe therfor Recommend to you to raise your men and provide them with arms, and Loan for nine days, to join with Me in My March which

<sup>1</sup> Alexander Gordon, Marquis of Huntly, brought in 2300 men to the Jacobite forces at Perth, and fought at Sheriffmuir. He afterwards submitted to Government, and was for some time imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but no further proceedings were taken against him. In 1716 he succeeded his father as 2nd Duke of Gordon. He died in 1728.

I intend to begin in a few days, if your present circumstances doe necessarily hinder your going in persone, I recommend the raising and leading of the Men to Tillefour I expect your chearfull compliance in this matter and I am

Your affectionat Friend and Servant

HUNTLY.

Enclosed is a very small slip of paper with a list of names, as follows :

John Mackdonall, cutler, Robert Gillon, wigmaker, Geo. Paterson, flesher, James Broun, glover, Alex<sup>r</sup> Watt, tailor, James Donall, merchant, John Meldrum, servant to Alex<sup>r</sup> Gordon, Alex<sup>r</sup> Ferier, merchant, Geo. Johnston, wryter, John Mathieson, wryter, Walter Nuchall, merchant, Geo Barclay, son to Geo: Barclay, James Ferier, fisher, John Hamilton in Gubston, Walter Hamilton his son, Filpersy (?) elder, Filpersy (?) younger, James Michell in Firles, Jean Gordon.

115. CAPTAIN JAMES STEWART, ROYAL NAVY, TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Royal Ann Gally, at sea off Redhead,  
1st October 1715.

MY LORD,—I have had the honour of your Lordps. letter dated the 5th of last month and believe now its not in the Officers of Customes Power to give me or any of the ships cruising on this Coast any Intelligence for his Maj<sup>ties</sup> service, the Rebels having Impudently Proclaim'd the Pretender in all the Sea port Towns on this coast from Dundee to Cromerty, have turned out all the old and honest Magistrates and put in None but what are of the same Traiterous and Rebellious Principles of themselves, and now we cannot have any more Correspondence with the Towns on the Coast than if we were in an Enemies Country.

I thank your Lordship for your Advice and Opinion relating to Victualling the ships on the Coast, but that

Method is not practicable neither was it possible to be done, had not the Pretender been proclaimed in all the Towns on this Coast and we had a good Correspondence with them. Capt. Haddock of the Port Mahon going ashore to Aberdeen to get the best Intelligence there he cou'd was seiz'd and made a prisoner with all his boats crew for some time and they put it to the Vote whither he or his People should be Suffer'd to go off again or not, but it being Carried to send him off, he giving his word of honour that he had no letters or Messages for any of the old and honest Magistrates, wou'd not suffer an honest Man to speak with him; This comes by the Port Mahon who is in great Want of provisions by which desire your Lords<sup>p</sup> wou'd send me the best Accounts you have of the place the Pretender designs to land at or any other Persons, Arms or Ammunition for his Service. I Designe Constantly that one of the ships shall be Employ'd between me and Leith Firth for bringing me the Lords of the Admiralty's Orders and procuring from your Lordship the best Intelligence you can for his Maj<sup>ties</sup> service. I am etc. J. STEUART.

116. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPT. JAMES STEWART,  
COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL ANN.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—Yours of yesterdays dait I received, But befor receipt therof I had written a letter to Cap<sup>t</sup> Haddock or to any other Capt. or Commander of his Maties ships on this station which I sent to the mayor of Berwick to be sent off, of which I send you a Coppie And the Contents therof being so much for the present service I hope you'll take Caire to give the necessarie directiones for seiseing and disabling all such boats or vessells as may be thought fitt for transports from the other syde to this for we are certainly Informed that thes Rebels now designe as their last effort to make them selfs masters of all the boats in the other syde and to land some place in the east country here; I have just now again wrot to Capt. Haddock for perserving of that service but am





affrayed he by want of provisiones will not be in a conditione, I designe you'll please apoint one of the ships under your Command to cruise still within the mouth of the Firth here besydes that who cruises betwixt St Abbs Head and Ridhead, for ane attempt on this place may be of dangerous consequence, and one man of war within this firth will effectually prevent all ther designes that way. Your answer is expected and please advise me How to direct for you and I shall be the nixt Advise you of every-thing that happens here. I am etc.

117. CAPTAIN HADDOCK, ROYAL NAVY, TO THE  
LORD PROVOST.

Leith, 2nd October 1715, Five of the clock.

MY LORD,—This owns the receipt of yours wherein you advise to disable the boats between this place and Monross, as I shall be oblinded to make the utmost dispatch to get to sea again and keep my boat imploy'd in procureing Water and Provisions will hinder the expedition that's expected from me, if otherwayes imploy'd. Capt. Stewart being now between the Island of May and this place to whom I send tomorrow morning by the bearer who goes from Brunt Island by land to Leven from whence he will meet him, desire you'll please to intimate to him what you write to me by the bearer, who no doubt will endeavour to disable what vessells he can come att tho fear t'will be some difficulty for a boat to attempt meddling with vessells in a port where the inhabitants are enimys. I shall waite on you tomorrow & am etc.

W. HADDOCK.

I desire you'll please to let the bearer have a pass for the other side.

118. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

Edinburgh, 3rd October 1715, 2 p.m.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,—The inclosed comes by Express to informe your Grace of what happned att Bruntisland yesternight.

May it please your Grace It is informed that there are severall Hundred Herrin boats about the coast touns in Fyfe which are cappable to transport from thence to this syde above 3000 men in a few hours time, which occasioned me to wryt to Capts: Steuart and Haddock tuo of the Capts. of the men of war tho not under my direction to disable all boats and other vessels Capable for transports from Monros to Bruntisland & up the water of Tay tho I am affrayed they will not be in a condition to perform. But in particular I have ordered Capt. Haddock of the Portmachon to send off his Lieut: with his long boat to Bruntisland and to Bring from thence Capt. Hay and Mr Watt mentioned in Baillie Thomsons letter with both ther ships and boats crew and also to Bring from thence such other boats or ships as shall be found in that Harbour and Have just now gott Capt. Haddocks return promising Compliance.

May it please your Grace It would be very much for his Maties. service that the Earle of Rothes as Lieut: of Fyffe and admirall would give orders for sending to Leith all the Herrin boats now in Fyfe and such other boats as are fitt for transports for just now it is informed that each Herrin boat can with ease transport 50 men at on time and that the number therof are very great. Receave also inclosed some articles proposed be My Lord advocat to be considered. I am etc.

*Enclosure in No. 118.*

ARTICLES PROPOSED TO BE CONSIDERED.

Imprimis If it be not fitt to have four or fyve of the passage boats mounted with two or three patararoes<sup>1</sup> apiece, appoynted to cruise from Queensferry to the Mouth of the firth & to look into the severall ports & harbours and to see what preparation or boats are there and to follow such instructions for seasing or sinking of boats as shall be thought fitt.

<sup>1</sup> *Patararo*. Variant of Pedrero, 'a piece of ordnance originally for discharging stones, formerly also used to discharge broken iron, partridge shot, etc.; and for firing salutes.' *O.E.D.*

Item in the meantime till a resolution be taken as to this proposall Care shall be taken to make an estimate of the Charge and inquiry made what persons are fitt to be trusted, and if any resolution is taken for having such boats employed, directions would be given for advancing the necessary Charge, till directions can be had from the admiralty.

Item it is proposed that the great fishing boats on the coast of Fiffe which are capable to transport 20 men and upwards a peice be brought over to the south syde to Leith till the present dangers are over.

*Nota* the reason of these proposals is because of what happened yesternight & this morning at Bruntisland where a body of about 400 horse & 500 foot come and if the project had been laid and boats ordered to meet them, might have been brought over and have surprisid this place. Besides these cruizing boats will serve to interrupt the Correspondence with the rebels.

*Nota* That tho' the seamen upon the coast of Fiffe are generallie well affected yet all of them may be forced for hyre.

119. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN HADDOCK,  
ROYAL NAVY.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 3rd October 1715.

SIR,—Since my last to you Ther's a letter sent from on of the magistrats of Bruntisland to my Lord Justice Clerk the coppie wherof is above prefixt. I therfor desyre that you will immediatly send off some officer with your long boat to the toun of Bruntisland and Bring from thence Andrew Watt & Capt. Hay with such others of the crew as may be thought usefull to the Government in relation to a full discovery of what is contained in Baillie Thomsons letter and deliver them to the guaird att Leith to be sent to Edinburgh in order to examination. The magistrats

<sup>1</sup> Acknowledged by Captain Haddock on the same day. His lieutenant will be sent to Burntisland.

of Bruntisland will give you concurrence. Your compliance is expected by etc.

You are also desyred to bring in the ships & such other boats as may be fitt for transports to Leith harbour.

120. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART OR  
ANY OF THE CAPTAINS.

Edinburgh, 4th October 1715.<sup>1</sup>

GENTLEMEN,—By all the information we have the enimie are resolved to seize all the boats betwixt Bruntisland and Fyfenes in order to transport some forces to this side for supryseing the citie of Edinburgh and lykwayse to receive such of ther freinds as will joyne them. Therefore the exigence of the government requeir that ye sease all the boats whither ferrie botts fisher Boats or others above yoalls and that ye send them to Leith that ther saills ruders and oares may be seised and that in caise of resistance that you use all endeavour to compel them for his Maties. affaires does verie much requeir the exact executione of this I am etc.

121. THE LORD PROVOST TO WILLIAM JEFFREY,  
WATER BAILIE OF LEITH.

Edinburgh, 4th October 1715.<sup>1</sup>

SIR,—You are desyred immediatly to repair to Leith and ther to disable all ferrie boats and other boats now in the harbour of Leith by takeing doun ther masts and away taking ther ruders, saills and reicking and to cause them to be carried above the Bridge of Leith without loss of time, and you are to agree with such as are freinds to the government at Leith quhat els is necessary to be don on this present exigence of affairs. Your compliance is expected by etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council election of magistrates took place on October 4, when John Campbell was elected provost.

122. THE LORD PROVOST TO THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Edinburgh, 6th October 1715.

HONOURED SIR,—I have received yours of the 30th past with the letters to Capt. Steuart and the other Capts. now on this station which I immediatly transmitted to them by express and shall upon all occasions be ready to doe every thing that may contribut for his Maties. service. And in the mean time I offer it as my humble oppinion that what letters the Commissioners are to send to the men of War cruiseing on the Western Coast may be sent to the Provost of Glasgow to be forwarded by him to the Earle of Ilay who is now in Argileschyre or to the provost of Inveraray. I am etc.

123. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN BASSIT EDDS AND  
CAPTAIN BALLANTYNE, COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL  
GEORGE SLOOP.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 8th October 1715.

You are to attend the Royall Anne Galley, Captain James Stewart commander or, in his absence any other of the Commanders of his Majestys ships of Warr, now in the Forth, and obey such orders, as you shall receive from him, for visiting such Creeks or Ports, as you shall be directed, And to require the Magistrats in these places, that such ships, Barks, or Boats, as are in your orders and found within these Creeks or ports, may be sent off for Leith.

2° If the Magistrats can not be found, or refuse to send off the ships, boats or Barks, you are to obey the orders of the said Captain Stewart or any other of the Commanders of His Majesty's said ships of Warr, as to the using of force in unrigging, unmastig or taking the rudders from every such ship or Bark, and in burning and destroying such Boats, as shall not be sent to Leith, according to your desire.

3° You are to visitt all ships Barks and Boats passing from South to North, and North to South, within the Forth,

<sup>1</sup> Two copies, one to each Captain.

and when you are refused liberty to come aboard you are to give notice to the man of Warr by signalls to be agreed between the Capt. and you, and to use force especially against such ships or Barks and Boats as come from the North shore and (if you can) to take or sink them.

124. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART.

Edinburgh, 8th October 1715.

SIR,—I observe from yours of the 4th instant the dispositions you have made for intercepting the passage of all boats ships, or vessells from one side of the Forth to the other. His Majesty's service requires that all the ships Boats or vessells found in the Harbours, Creeks or Ports of the County of Fife, be brought over to Leith, or made unserviceable to the Rebels, by unrigging, unmastng, & taking away the Rudders of the ships or Barks, and Burning or destroying the Boats. In which service the bearer hereof Mr Basset Eds and Mr Coulthard commanders of the Customhouse sloops, are instructed to obey your orders, or any other of the commanders of His Majestys ships of Warr, under whose command you place them. Lest it be found necessary to use force in this service, my next Will bring you an order from the Lieutenant or Deputy lieutenants of the County of Fife, to that purpose. Having received certain information that a body of Highlanders are advanced into Fife and have entered the town of Burntisland, their is reason to apprehend the Rebels desigin to embark thence. I have therefore written to Captain Pool to have a strict eye upon that harbour, which I hope you will excuse in the present exigence of affairs, being otherway disposed to have written to you alone, as Commadore. For the same reason & Because the Rebels seem to have no design of embarking from Tay or St Andrews, His Majestys service requires that you change your station & assist in preventing a Descent from Fife, by the service above mentioned, or Cruising within the Forth, if the bringing off or destroying the Boats be found unpracticable. I sent you yesterday a pacquet from

the Admiralty & the Duke of Argyle, which I hope is come to hand and acknowledged the receipt of yours. That this service, or any other wherein you are employed will be strenuously gone about, is not doubted by etc.

125. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN POOLE,  
COMMANDER OF THE PEARL.

[Edinburgh, 10th October 1715.]

SIR,—The bearer hereof Mr Beilby is indeed bound from Newcastle to Cromerty to load herrings in the common course of merchandize. His fraughter is a very honorable gentleman and my very good freind. You are to act, in detaining and dismissing him according to your instructions. If you detain him it is reasonable he have a certificat of his detainment. I am etc.

126. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART.

Edinburgh, 13th October 1715.

SIR,—I have had nothing new since parting there is a letter from Kirkcaldie confirming the account we had of the Enemys marching towards Methell and Ellie where they have a great number of boats & that they had pressed all the seamen they could get in Fyfe and made them swear alleigance to their King; No doubt this is in order that they may be assisting to them in transporting their men to this side. Therfor it is thought very fitt for his Majesty's service (there being now four ships of warr in the Forth) that you should have other tuo with your self to cruize as near to the places where the Rebels are as possible & that you have all the sloops with you, to see if possible the boats could be disabled or brought off. My Lord Advocat sent the letter he read to you yesterday by express to the Admiralty & by a letter I have this day from the D. of Argyle, he promises to write to their Lo<sup>ps</sup> once this day. I shall be glad to hear what accounts you have of the Enemies motion and your oppinion of their transporting themselves to this side which I think does not want its difficulties whilst so many men of warr are in their view. I am etc.

## 127. CAPTAIN HADDOCK TO THE LORD PROVOST.

[H.M.S.] Port Mahon, Queensferry,  
13th October 1715, 6 p.m.

MY LORD,—I am just now come to Anchor again here from Borrowstouness and have brought Ten large Boats with me from thence which on occasion would have transported twelve hundred Men, and by what I can perceive of the Inhabitants there, would have favoured any opportunity for the Rebels. I am pleased in telling you there is neither boat or Bark on either side from that Place here and the two yawls we have left at Borrowstouness which we could not have time to bring away I have disabled by knocking their Bottoms out. I shall tomorrow on my way doune with these I have with me, call at my Lord Murray's for his two and compleat my Musketo Fleet.

We must attribute this days service to Baily Hill who has in particular exerted himself. I am etc.

W. HADDOCK.

## 128. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART.

Edinburgh, 14th October 1715.

SIR,—The bearer hereof John Ballfour master of the Margaret of Kirkcaldie informes me that you imprest four of his men just as he arrived from Norraway, the detaining of which will be a very great loss to him. I therefore desyre the favour that you will please return them to him provyding it be not prejudiciall to the service and the doing therof will very much obleidge etc.

129. ROBERT CORBETT, PROVOST OF DUMFRIES,  
TO THE LORD PROVOST.

14th October 1715.

MY LORD,—I thought it my duty to acquaint your Lop. of the rebellion begun in these parts. Yesterday a body of them under the command of the Earles of Carnwath, Wintone, and the viscount of Kenmure extending to the



number of seven score men armed with firelocks and each man 2 pistols advanced within two miles of this place to attack us. But upon the notice of our numbers and the brisknes of the people here they made a retreat. The Marquess of Annandale and great numbers of the Country are here. We know not what the event may be but they as we understand by Spyes continew their resolutions to seise upon us. We understand that they are this night at Lochmaben. They have made prisoners Baily Paterson of this place with Mr Johnston our postmaster and one Mr Hunter ane Chyrurgeon whom we are obliged to have exchanged with three of their party who were seised here as suspected persons and whom the Viscount Kenmure sent in word upon parole to releeve upon releasing his friends here. They are not as yet come hither so that we expect a distinct account from them. What the event of these matters may be we know not But we shall as matters fall owt continew to advise your Lo<sup>ps</sup>

I am with my most profound respects

My Lord Provost your Lordships

most obedient humble servant

Dumfries

ROB<sup>T</sup> CORBETT.

14 October 1715.

130. CAPTAIN HADDOCK TO THE LORD PROVOST.

[H.M.S.] Port Mahon, [16th] October 1715,  
Sunday, 3 p.m.

MY LORD,—I have been very impatient to hear from you since I heard the Rebels had got Leith and notwithstanding the earnest desires of the Inhabitants at the Ferry I thought it proper to come down here to intercept any more Rebels that might attempt joyning. The Boats there I have sunk and there being none on the other side that way think there can be no danger from that part. Last Night just before dark I saw the Chester on the other side Inskeith, and shall imediatly go to her and communicate what you write. We may be up again before Noon and contribute to the reduction of the Rebels and

Rogues of Leith. I am glad to hear Capt. Steuart has hooked in some of them at the May which certainly will require a ship or two on that Service, and dont doubt but the Chester and myself will be sufficient for the Cittadell. I heartily wish Success to the Duke of Argyll which I reckon will put an end to all their hopes. I am etc

W. HADDOCK.

I have expected all this Night to intercept some of them in their attempt to fly over again, as they are Masters of a number of Boats believe that may be their last attempt.

131. THE MAGISTRATES OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER  
TO THE LORD PROVOST.

Anstruther Easter, 20th October 1715.

RIGHT HONORABLE,—Upon the 12th Current Came in to this Town Between 10 and 1500 foot and horse, hailed down our boats & Compelled all sorts of people to go in the boats. A boat belonging to one Elias Le Blance wherin was Donald Mcgrigor, Andrew Dickson and James Trant fishermen, Robert Rattrey and James Martine weavers, William Edmiston, Coupar, George Mores and Robert Willson, Land labourers, with Arthur Bruce blacksmith; were taken on board a Man of Warr called the Bell afterwards as we are informed put on board the Royall Ann Galley.

This being the Truth; Wee shall not doubt your Lo<sup>ps</sup> having these poor men returned to their family's here And we are etc.

JAMES GRAHAM  
JOHN LAW SENIOR  
W<sup>M</sup> BURN.

132. THE LORD PROVOST AND LORD JUSTICE-CLERK TO  
THE COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE.

Edinburgh, 21st October 1715.

GENTLEMEN,—The Captains of the men of war cruising in the firth have told us of the strait they are in for want

of provisions and haveing no Credit here, wee are of opinion that it is for his Maties service you supply them at this junctur takeing their Bills on the admiralty for what sumes they shall Need the exigence of the Government requires your speedy Compliance with this and this we make our earnest and humble desyre etc.

### 133. THE LORD PROVOST TO CAPTAIN STEWART.<sup>1</sup>

Edinburgh, 28th October 1715.

SIR,—Whereas I am certainly informed that yesterday severall boats & boates load with provisiones and wyne haveing be vertue of passes from me proceeded from Leith in order to the Camp at Stirling one wherof was seized by tuo boats coming from Dunibirsell who fired severall sharp shot upon them, and att last carried that load with wyne into the Rebels at Bruntisland, And it being much for the service that the other barks & boats load with provisiones be saffly conducted to Stirling as soon as possible I therefor desyre that you will please give orders to one or tuo of the small sloops now putt under your directione to proceed without loss of time as a convoy with thes barks and boats and that they see them out of danger of being seized by the Rebels In doeing therof you will much obleidge etc.

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<sup>1</sup> A second letter of the same date to Capt. Stewart varies the opening paragraph: 'I haveing given severall passes to masters of barks and boats load with provisiones for the camp at Stirling and they haveing gone out of Leith Harbour yesterday There cum tuo small boats or yoals from Dunnybirsle in quest of them and after firing severall shott seased one of the boats load with wyne & carried her into the Rebels at Bruntisland and obleidged the rest to return to Leith, I doe therfor think it much for the service of the Government that you without loss of time proceed with his Maties ship under your command als near to Bruntisland as possibly you can and there use your outmost endeavours to disposes the Rebels of that garrison and [by firing upon the Castle and town till at least you] \* gett that boat or bark sua seased with the Liquors and the other tuo boats sent over to Leith. I likewayes desyre . . .'

\* Erased in MS.

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## REPORT OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY was held on Saturday, 8th December 1934, in Dowell's Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh—Principal Sir Robert Rait, C.B.E., LL.D., President of the Society, in the Chair.

The Report of the Council was as follows :—

It is with great regret that the Council have to record the heavy loss which they and the Society have sustained by the death, on 26th February 1934, of Lord Sands, Chairman of the Council. Lord Sands joined the Society in 1913 and was elected to the Council in 1922. In December 1930 he became Chairman of the Council in succession to Dr. MacLehose, and from that time till his death he presided over its deliberations with an assiduity, a tact, and a ripe judgment that won him the esteem and confidence of all its members.

The Council have elected Dr. W. K. Dickson as their Chairman in succession to the late Lord Sands.

Since the last report the *Miscellany, Volume V*, has been issued to members, as well as the *Highland Papers, Volume IV*, on which Sheriff Macphail was engaged at the time of his death. To the latter volume a biographical sketch of the editor has been contributed as an introduction by Dr. W. K. Dickson.

Of the two volumes for the year 1933-34, the *Scottish Supplications to Rome, 1418-1422*, edited by the Rev. and Hon. E. R. Lindsay and Dr. Annie I. Cameron, will be in the hands of members before the Annual Meeting of the Society. This calendar of documents contained in the Vatican archives has been compiled with the scholarly care to be expected from the editors, and will prove invaluable to students both of the ecclesiastical and the political history of the years which followed the end of the Papal Schism and preceded the return of James I. from captivity. The other volume, *Early Correspondence of Robert Wodrow*, is partly in proof, but has been delayed by the editor's discovery of additional matter, which will ultimately enhance its value when completed.

For 1934-35 the Council propose to publish *A Commentary on the Rule of St. Augustine by Robertus Richardinus*, under the editorship of Dr. G. G. Coulton. This sixteenth-century work, as explained in the last report, describes monastic conditions in Scotland on the eve of the Reformation. The other volume for the year will be edited by Dr. Dickson from the Letters of Sir George Warrender, Lord Provost of Edinburgh and M.P. for the city. The letters, which are the property of the Edinburgh Corporation, relate chiefly to the Jacobite rising of 1715, the preparations for defence and the effect upon the inhabitants.

For a future year Dr. Alan O. Anderson is preparing a new edition of the *Holyrood Chronicle*. The Rev. Dr. Easson and Mr. Angus MacDonald are engaged in editing the *Inchcolm Charters*, upon which the late Professor Hunter Marshall was working at the time of his death. Dr. Annie I. Cameron is at work on a transcript of *Bagimont's Roll* for the next Miscellany Volume. Miss M. McArthur will contribute a *Survey of the Loch Tay Region* from papers in the Register House. Another volume will be *The Burgh Accounts of Ayr, 1535-1624*, to be edited by Dr. G. S. Pryde.

Two years ago the Council, in calling attention to the state of the Scottish records, urged the resumption of the former custom of publishing an annual report thereon. Such reports are officially issued in England and Northern Ireland. The Council note with concern that nothing has yet been done to restore the former practice in Scotland, and so to remove a disability which affects students of our national archives.

Mr. Evan M. Barron and Mr. R. C. Reid retire from the Council by rotation, and the third vacancy is caused by the election of Dr. Dickson as Chairman. The Council recommend the re-election of Mr. Barron and Mr. Reid, and the election of Mr. Thomas Innes of Learney in place of Dr. Dickson.

During the year the Society has lost 32 members by death or resignation, while 7 new members have joined—a net decrease of 25, leaving the total membership (including 133 libraries) at 554.

An abstract of the accounts is appended, showing a credit balance at the close of the year of £637, 3s. 3d.

Dr. W. K. Dickson, Chairman of the Council, in moving the adoption of the Report, referred to the loss the Society had sustained through the death of Lord Sands, who had been a member for some twenty years and Chairman of the Council for four years.

Dr. Dickson pointed out that, thanks to the liberal and enlightened policy of recent Popes, and especially the present Pope, the great and ancient Vatican Library was now accessible to students. His Holiness was an old librarian, he said, and therefore his interest in the Library was a personal one. It had been an immense advantage to historical study in Europe that that great collection had at last been made available to students. One of the three volumes published

last year by the Society consisted entirely of Vatican documents, and both the others contained documents drawn from the same source.

Mr. R. L. Mackie seconded, and the Report was adopted.

The President, in speaking to the Report, began by mentioning the following works on Scottish History which had been published during the year—first the Society's own volumes: *Highland Papers*, Vol. IV., by the late Sheriff Macphail; and *Scottish Supplications to Rome*, by Father E. R. Lindsay and Miss Annie I. Cameron. Others were: *Ancient Monuments Commission, Fife; War of Independence* (new edition), by Evan M. Barron; *Cromwell*, by John Buchan; *Wigtown Parish Records* (for private circulation), by the Marquis of Bute; *Apostolic Camera and Scottish Benefices (1418-88)*, by A. I. Cameron; *Sasines of Argyle*, Vol. II, by H. Campbell; *Records of the Carruthers Family*, by A. S. Carruthers and R. C. Reid; *Translation of Craig's 'Jus Feudale,'* by Lord President Clyde; *Letters of George Dempster*, by Fergusson; *Economic History*, by I. F. Grant; *St. Andrew of Scotland*, by R. K. Hannay; *Mystics of the North East* (Third Spalding Club), by G. D. Henderson; *History of Logan Family*, by G. J. N. Logan Home; *Scots Heraldry*, by T. Innes of Learney; *Place Names of Scotland* (new edition), by J. B. Johnstone; *Robert the Bruce*, by E. Linklater; *Mary Queen of Scots* (new edition), by E. Linklater; *Loch Family History*, by Colonel Loch; *Records of Trades Houses of Glasgow, 1713-77*, by H. Lumsden; *Robert the Bruce*, by A. Mure Mackenzie; *Lovat of the '45*, by W. C. Mackenzie; *Bibliography of Scottish Church History*, by M. B. Macgregor; *Scotland the Nation*, by R. Masson; *Alyth Parish Church*, by J. Meikle; *David Hay Fleming*, by H. M. Paton; *Scotland*, by Sir R. S. Rait and G. Pryde; *Wade in Scotland*, by J. B. Salmond; *Jacobites of Aberdeen and Banffshire in the '15*, by A. and H. Tayler; *Ramillies*

*and the Union*, by G. M. Trevelyan; *Some Fraser Pedigrees*, by D. Warrand.

Proceeding to the subject of his address—‘Dr. Johnson and Scotland’—Sir Robert asked if Johnson really disliked Scotland and Scotsmen, and, if he did, what was the sin of the offending nation? Scotland certainly supplied Johnson with some of his best sayings, as when, in answer to a lamentation that ‘Old England is lost,’ he retorted, ‘Sir, it is not so much to be lamented that old England is lost as that the Scotch have found it.’ That, perhaps, was not better than George Brudenell’s comment upon Lord Bute’s short ministry—‘The trouble is there is a Scotchman got into the Treasury, and they can’t get him out.’ But Johnson might well have been grateful to Scotland for the conversational openings which it gave him. There was no need to enlarge upon the unpopularity of Scotsmen in England, or, at all events, in London, in Johnson’s day, but the root of that ill-will lay in an English superstition that all the inhabitants of North Britain were Jacobites, disguised or avowed. Johnson could not dislike Scotland on that account, for he defined a Jacobite as one who could be neither an Atheist nor a Deist, whereas, he said, Whiggism was a negation of all principle.

Chronology, which was so often the enemy of paradoxes, prevented him from arguing that James Boswell was the real cause of Johnson’s dislike of Scotsmen—the whimsical but potent dislike of a useful friend who, in our modern jargon, got on one’s nerves. The friend to whom Johnson said, ‘Sir, you have but two topicks, yourself and me. I am sick of both,’ might well explain an imperfect sympathy with the country from which that friend could not help coming, but the dislike existed before Johnson had the good fortune of meeting Boswell. At all events, Boswell said so.

Did Boswell know that Johnson’s prejudice against Scotsmen originated in, and was maintained by, impatience with



his own tiresome ways? Was he, therefore, concerned to mislead his readers, in the first place by suggesting that the dislike was of old standing, and in the second place by representing Johnson as frequently asserting that Boswell was free from the faults of ordinary Scotsmen?

He was going to resist the temptation of arguing in that way, though it would be possible to construct a specious case. After all, it was easy to believe that a somewhat malicious sense of humour led Johnson to insert in his Dictionary the famous entry under the word 'oats,' which, by the way, Boswell, when visiting Lichfield in the company of his 'illustrious friend,' discovered to be the food of the inhabitants of Johnson's birthplace. We knew that Johnson as a boy had oatmeal porridge for breakfast, and in the island of Col he remarked that he had been fond of dry oatmeal. If Johnson's definition implied disloyalty to his boyish tastes, it was perhaps evidence of an antipathy dating from a period before Johnson met Boswell. He really liked Boswell, but the latter frequently tried his patience, and occasionally provoked him to grossly ill-mannered explosions of temper, unconsciously stimulating and encouraging whatever dislike already existed. Of this antipathy he was prepared to accept the twofold explanation which is given by Boswell himself.

Boswell pointed out, in the first place, that in his early London life Johnson came into contact, and into competition, with men whom he (Boswell) described as 'the worst part of the Scotch nation, the needy adventurers, many of whom he thought were advanced above their merits by means which he did not approve.' Rightly or wrongly, Johnson was convinced that the Scots were engaged in a conspiracy to boost each other, if one might use modern American slang. Scottish persistence in mutual commendation was a constant irritant to Johnson.

The other point in Boswell's explanation needed no com-

ment. It was that Johnson 'treated Scotland no worse than he did even his best friends, whose characters he used to give as they appeared to him both in light and shade.'

Sir Robert went on to express the opinion that Johnson, before he met Boswell, did have a prejudice against the Scots, and that that prejudice was constantly fed by the irritation which Boswell inspired and by his habit of leading the conversation to Scotland and Scotsmen. Nearly all Boswell's references to Scotland and Scotsmen were a challenge to Johnson, who rarely failed to indulge himself by an easy triumph over 'Bozzy,' and sarcasms at the expense of Scotland became a habit.

Then the President discussed Johnson's visit to Scotland in 1773 and the publication two years later of *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland*. On the whole, it seemed to him, Dr. Johnson wrote his narrative without any prejudice against the Highlanders and with but little prejudice against the Lowlanders. He shared the general belief, predominant both in England and in Scotland until our own day, that there was in the Highlands much less of what we call civilisation than actually existed. Johnson was astonished at what he found. It might have been irritating that such things surprised Johnson, but they would have surprised any other Englishman of his day and not a few Scotsmen. That, in the constant company of Boswell, who, as we knew, gave not infrequent cause of irritation, Johnson preserved such power of appreciation as he did was a tribute to his essential kindness and a proof that no real prejudice against Scotland vitiated his judgment.

After describing the weather during Johnson's visit to Scotland, Sir Robert said that a visitor with no pre-existing prejudice against a country where it rained thirty-three days out of thirty-eight, and where the only possible methods of transport exposed the traveller to the inclemency of the

weather, might well have indulged in some of the familiar and not always undeserved jeers at the Scottish climate. And the absence of eulogies on the grandeur of the Coolins might be explained by a doubt whether Johnson ever saw them. Finally he mentioned Johnson's references to the weather, and added, 'If there was not heroism—and Johnson never once said, like Boswell, "I was wet to the skin," or showed any trace of self-pity—there was certainly magnanimity in an English traveller. "Not a cruel climate," he said when our weather was at its worst.'

On the motion of Mr. John A. Inglis, K.C., Sir Robert Rait was thanked for his address and for presiding at the meeting.

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT of CHARGE and DISCHARGE  
of the INTROMISSIONS of the HONORARY  
TREASURER for the year from 1st November  
1933 to 1st November 1934.

CHARGE.

I. Funds as at close of last Account—		
1. Sum on Deposit Receipt with the Bank of Scotland, 103 George Street, Edinburgh	£995	7 4
2. Balance at Credit of Account Current with Do. do. . . . .	41	17 3
	<u>£1,037</u>	<u>4 7</u>
<i>Less</i> —Due to Messrs. T. & A. Constable Ltd.	203	3 6
		<u>£834 1 1</u>
II. Subscriptions received—		
1. Members . . . . .	£374	17 0
2. Libraries . . . . .	77	14 0
	<u>452</u>	<u>11 0</u>
III. Past Publications sold to Members . . . . .	6	6 9
IV. Interest on Deposit Receipt and on Savings Account . . . . .	2	18 5
Sum of the Charge . . . . .	<u>£1,295</u>	<u>17 3</u>

DISCHARGE.

I. Cost of Publications . . . . .	£642	3 9
II. Income Tax on untaxed Interest . . . . .	4	7 6
Carry forward . . . . .	<u>£646</u>	<u>11 3</u>

	Brought forward . . . . .	£646 11 3	
III.	Miscellaneous Payments . . . . .	12 2 9	
IV.	Funds as at close of this Account—		
1.	Sum on Deposit Receipt with the Bank of Scotland, 103 George Street, Edinburgh . . . . .	£826 19 1	
2.	Balance at Credit of Savings Account with Do. do. . . . .	200 17 0	
3.	Balance at Credit of Account Current with Do. do. . . . .	56 9 11	
		<hr/>	
		£1,084 6 0	
	<i>Less</i> —Due to Messrs. T. & A. Constable Ltd. . . . .	447 2 9	
		<hr/>	
		637 3 3	
	Sum of the Discharge equal to the Charge	<hr/>	
		£1,295 17 3	

EDINBURGH, 12th November 1934.—I have examined the Accounts of the Honorary Treasurer of the Scottish History Society for the year from 1st November 1933 to 1st November 1934, and I find the same to be correctly stated and sufficiently vouched, closing with a Balance on Deposit Receipt with the Bank of Scotland, 103 George Street, Edinburgh, of £826, 19s. 1d.; a Balance at credit of Savings Account with the Bank of £200, 17s.; and a Balance at credit of the Society's Account current with the Bank of £56, 9s. 11d.

JOHN A. INGLIS.  
*Auditor.*

# Scottish History Society

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