



March 10, 1910

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THE
CHRONICLE OF PERTH;
A REGISTER
OF
REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,
CHIEFLY CONNECTED WITH THAT CITY,
FROM THE YEAR 1210 TO 1668.

PRINTED AT EDINBURGH:
M.DCCC.XXXI.

PRESENTED
TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE MAITLAND CLUB,
AS THE CONTRIBUTION
OF
JAMES MAIDMENT.



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M.DCCC.XXXI.

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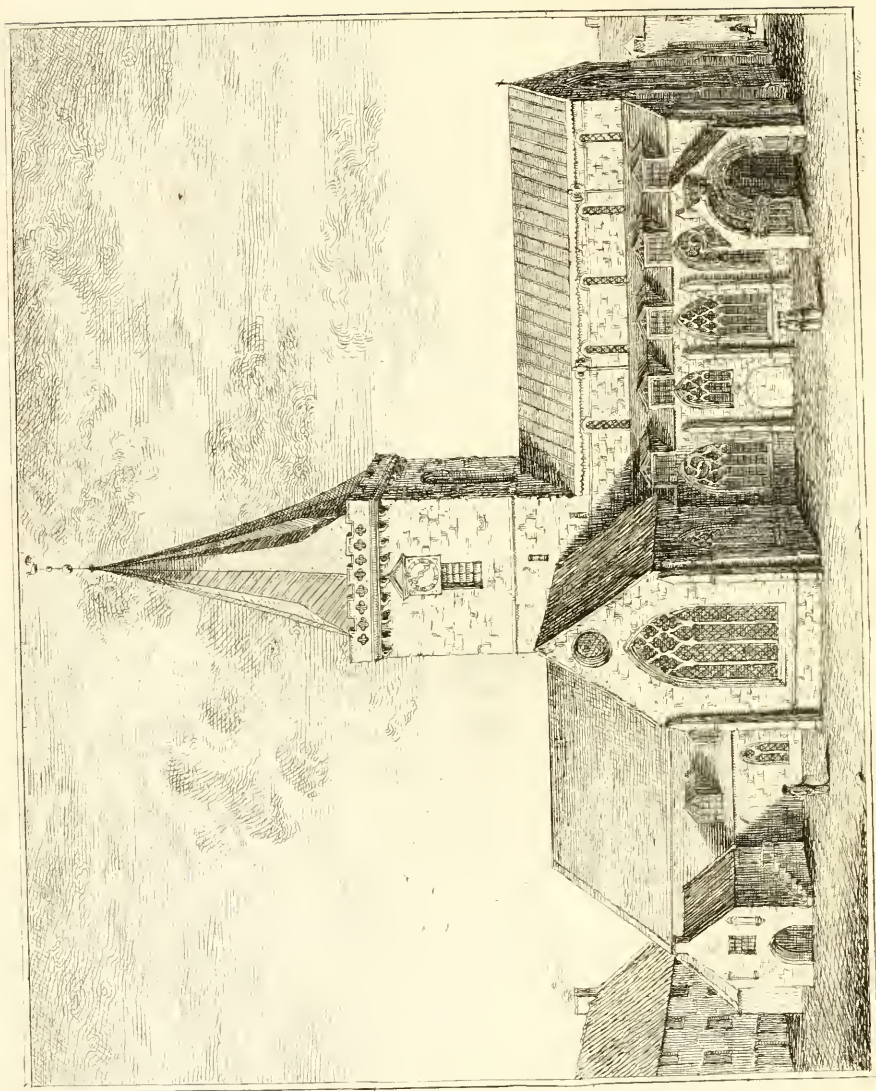
THE CHRONICLE OF PERTH has been printed from a Manuscript purchased by the Faculty of Advocates at a sale of books which had belonged to the late Rev. James Scott, author of the *Lives of the Scottish Reformers*, and of a valuable *Dissertation upon the Gowrie Conspiracy*. Although usually designated as “*Mercer’s Chronicle*,” there seems no sufficient authority for its being so denominated, as, from internal evidence, the MS. must have been written at different intervals, and by different persons.

John Mercer, who, for a considerable time, was Town-Clerk of Perth, unquestionably appears to have been the possessor of the volume containing this Chronicle, as towards the end of it a few entries, principally of deaths, occur in his hand-writing ; but beyond this portion, he seems to have had no further title to the authorship.

Part of the volume has apparently been used as a register of burials. This portion, however, has been mutilated ; a circumstance to be less regretted, as the names still preserved are of no particular interest.

In printing the Chronicle, the Editor has carefully adhered to the text ; and the only extent to which he deemed it expedient to interfere, was in removing the contractions, and altering the arrangement ; and as the chronological order had been entirely disregarded, the writers having evidently noted down their information without any regard to dates, the latter change appeared to be indispensably necessary. It is also proper to mention, that in one or two instances some mistakes have crept into the MS. ; but as the Editor had no means of correcting them beyond conjectural emendation, he thought it most prudent to leave them as they were.

Mr Scott's transcripts of the Kirk Session Records of Perth having also been purchased by the Faculty of Advocates, a few extracts have been printed in the Appendix, as illustrative of the habits and customs of the citizens of Perth, and as furnishing a fair estimate of the state of society during the period to which they refer. The Editor has also added an Examination of the supposed Royal descent of John Earl of Gowrie, from Queen Margaret, the widow of James the IV. and sister of Henry the VIII., which, he ventures to think, will, from the documents referred to, be deemed conclusive. As the execution of Lord Sanquhar, whose principal residence was in Perth, is referred to in the Chronicle, perhaps the Notice relative to it may not be devoid of interest.



THE CHRONICLE OF PERTH.

KING William wes the lxxxij King of Scottis : quha fowndit the burgh of perth, in the geir of God 1210 geiris, and gaiff findrie privileges to the famen. He rang xlix geiris, deceiflit at friviling, in the geir of God 1214 geiris, buried in aberbrothok.

Vpoun 12 day of May 1363 geiris, Alexander abercumbie off murthlie fet ane tak to Jhone merſer, burgess of perth, of the lands of vbny within the baronie of murthlie, cum heriotis, marchetis, et merchiamentis, for the ſpace of aucht geiris, for the foume of flourtie pundis Sterling money, for releiff of the baronie of murthlie, payit ad fabricationem pontis de perthe.

The foundation of the Charterhouſe beſide perth, be King James the firſt in anno 1430 geiris, quha deceiflit in anno 1436, on the xx day of februar, and his quene Joanna foundatrix thereof, deceiflit in July 1445 geiris.

flowden was in September, on the lettir lady day in anno 1513 geiris. The duik of albanie was governor to King James the firſt, in anno 1514 geiris.

Concord maid at perth betuix hwntlie and erroll, the fifth day of December 1519 ȝeiris.

Roslyne more in September 1523 ȝeiris.

The deir Symmer 1525 ȝeiris quhen the bow of maill gaiff 26 shillings 8 pennies, Alexander blair than provest of perth.

The Seage of Tamtallown the xi of October 1528 ȝeiris.

The execution of andro Cars be ane affyle in perth, the tent day of februar 1528 ȝeiris.

Mallochis peft in perth in September 1537 ȝeiris, Jhone denyng than provest.

Quene Margaret mother to King James the fyft, deceifit on Sanct munokis day in Methwen 1541 ȝeiris, buriet in the Charter hous befyde perth, the kings majestie, nobilitie, and barronis being present.

Gilbert moncreiffis execution 1542 ȝeiris.

Faulay at hallowmes 1541 ȝeiris.

King James the fyft deceifit on the 25 day of November 1542 ȝeiris, on Sanct Katharenis day.

Solen Mos at anderfmes 1542 ȝeiris.

Quene Marie dochter to James the fyft, borne in Striviling the 8 day of [december] in anno 1542 ȝeiris.

The execution of James hunter, Robert lambe, James ronaldfone, and his spoufe, at perth in Januar in Sanct pawlis day, 1543 ȝeiris.

The conflict, or battell of the brig of tay, on the magdalene day the 22 day of Julij 1544.

David beattoun, cardinall, flane in his chieff hous in Sanct Andrews the 29 day of Majj 1546.

Pinkie on the lattir lady day the 3 of September 1547 ȝeiris.

Quene Marie past to france in auguft 1548 ȝeiris : in july preceding come to Scotland six thousand frenche men of wear.

The reformation of the Charter hous & freiris beside perth, the 10 day of May 1560 ȝeiris.

The bwrnyng of Scone, on twyfday efter midfomer day the 27 of Junii 1560 ȝeiris.

The queens marriage, with our Soverane King James the Saxt father 1565 ȝeiris.

King James the Saxtis happie birth, the 19th day of Junij 1566 ȝeiris and coranatioun at Striviling 1567.

The Katt harrow in perth the 22 day of maij 1567.

The down falling of the bridge of almond, the 23 day of November 1567 ȝeiris.

The Queenis passing furth of lochlewin, on Sondag the [2] of Maij 1568 ȝeiris.

The read of langfyde befȳde Glasquhow, on the [13] day of Maij 1568 ȝeiris.

The read at beger, the 16th day of Junij 1568 ȝeiris.

The gude Regent is slauchtered at lynlythgow the 23 day of Jannuar 1569 [70].

The vynnnyng of dumbarton, wn the day of merche 1570 ȝeiris.

The parliament haldin in the Cannogeit, the 14 day of Maij 1571 ȝeiris. Regent the erle of lennox, and his slauchter at Striviling the feird day of September 1571 ȝeiris.

The departure of the erle of mar regent [October] 1572 ȝeiris.

The elecion of the erle of mortoun regent at Edinburgh in November 1572 ȝeiris. The execution of the Archbishop of Sanct Androis.

The randering of the castell of edinburgh, grange being capitane thereof on the 28 day of Maij 1573 ȝeiris. His executioun, his brotheris, mosman, cokie on the thrid day of August 1573 eiris.

The first down falling of twa bowis of the brig of tay, and off lewis wark, be innundatioun of Water, on the 20 day of december 1573 ȝeiris at midnyght.

The departour of the erle off athoil in apryle 1579 ȝeiris.

The randering of hamilton & draffin, in apryle 1579 ȝeiris.

The marriage betwixt the erle of athoill and the erle of gouries dochter [24 Januar] 1579.

The entrie of the Worthie and nobill King James the Saxt within perth the 28 day of Maij 1580.

Mr John row departed, minifter at perth in the [15]80 ȝeir of God [October 16.]

Mr Patrick galloway minifter, admitted thairto 25 of apryle 1581 ȝeiris; he tuik his woyage to be minifter to his maieftie the 11 of februar 1589 ȝeiris.

The erle of Morton regent, beheadit at edinburgh.

The dounfalling of fyve bows of the brig of tay, on the 14 day of Januar 1582 ȝeiris.

The Juftice air halden at perth, be King James the Saxt the 6 of Julij 1582 ȝeiris.

Peft in perth the 24 day of September 1584 ȝeiris, continewit to Auguft 1585 ȝeiris quharin at the plefore of God, departed this lyff, fourteen hundred and twenty feven perfons ȝoung and auld therby.

The entrie of the erllis of Mar and Angus in Striviling, againft his maieftie, at palm Sondie 1585.

His Sacred maiefties marriage in denmark be my lord marifchall, ambaffador, the 20 day of Auguft 1589.

Thair arryval at leithe the firft of May 1590 and crownit Quene the 17th of the fame monethe. Her entrie to perth the 23 of Junii 1591.*

A plague among the beftiall 1590.

The admiffione of Mr Johne malcolme to be minifter at perth, be impositione of the handis of Mr William rynde, Mr Archibald moncrieff,

* Another entry of a similar nature occurs towards the foot of the page: "King James the Saxt his blessed arryval at leyth with his nobill quene Anna dochter to the King of Denmark the first of May 1590 yeiris."

Mr Alexander Young and Mr John abercrombie, and there after tuik the bailies counfall and elders be the hand. Mr Patrick Galloway preachit that day. He deceifit minifter of perth wpone the Sext day of October in anno 1634 geiris, fua he was minifter , buried the 8 day thereafter. He taucht on Sondag befor none the 28 of September preceding in eodem anno, his executouris cravit ane an, bot gott nane, he was ane nakit flipendiar.

June 1592. The read of faulkland be the erll of bothwall quha af-faileit the King. The toun of perth went down for his defence in feir of weir.

Wpoun the 16th of Auguft 1592 geiris, the laird of clackmannan tuik william inglis, decone of the hammermen, and Jhone baftlie, decone of the wrechtis, comyng from dundie, captives into his hows of galkenhall. The toun of perth mair raifchellie na vyllie, onvilling to abyde the indignitie, that famen nicht with all diligence pafit to the faid galkenhall in arnes, releivit thair nechbours, and brocht the lard with thame to perth. They vair thereafter agreit vpoun the townis large cherges. The lard remaint, not being a frie man in [15] 93 geiris.

The clerk of perth, fir henrie elder, departit this lyfe being eighty two geiris of age the first of November 1592.

Henrie frederik prince of Scotland borne in Streviling, the [19] day of [februar] 1593 [—4] geiris.

Jhone erle of athoill, deceifit in perth, on the penult day of Auguft 1594 geiris. Conwoyt honorable to dunkeld and buried there the 11 of September thereafter. The Quenes maieftie being in perth, in william hallis chamber, beneath the croce, beholding the convoy of the corps.

Mr Williame couper admittit minifter at perth the fyft of October 1585, be impofition of the handis of Mr william rynd, Archibald moncrief, and James herring. Mr Patrick galloway preachit. [His] flipend onlie firft four hundred merks and twenty poundis with his hous maill. And

wpone the fourt day of October 1612 zeiris he wes maid and consecrat biſhop of galloway at Glaſgow. The firſt of November 1615, he wes tranſportet fra perth to the chappel royal efter he had been 30 zeiris miniſter at perth, and upon the 25th of februar 1618, he departit this Lyffe, and it was thocht for greiff that the wyffes of edinburgh com in to him, and ſchewe to him his awin bukis aganes frieris bukis.

Elizabeth princeſs off Scotland borne in dunfermling, the 10 of auguſt 1596 zeiris.

Ane great number of witlhes brint, through all the partis of this realme in June 1597 zeiris.

Ane earthquak the 23 of Julij 1597 zeiris.

The peſt in leithe and edinburgh in Auguſt 1597.

Ane truble betuix certaine of the Servands of the drummonds, and Oliver Young, than ane of the bailgies of perth within the hie gait of the ſaid burgh, quhan the greateſt number of the perſewaris leap the tounis valls, and ſo few number of them as remainit come to the tolbuith on ſetterday the 27 Auguſt 1597 zeiris. The agrement was made in the fourth inch, on wedenſday the firſt day off September thereafter following.

December 17. 1597. The uproar betuix the King and the kirk.

The eclips of the ſone on ſetterday, callit the mirk ſetterday 25. februar 1597 [—8] at half hour to 10 in the morning.

March 21. 1597 [—8.] The countes of montrois, dame Jeane drummond, convoyed through perth to aberuthven.

Apryll 5. 1598. The duck of holſtein, brother to the quene, come to perth, and receivit a banquet fra the toun be his majeſties direction, and conwoyt be 100 hors men of the town, to aberuthen, and receawit be Tullibardin.

April 16. Being gude fryday, Henrie adamſone dene of gilde flaine be Thomas peblis and wes buried on peax [paſch?] day. The execution

of Thomas peblis for the slauchter of the said unquhile henrie, on tuyf-day the penult of May 1598 at the mercat croce.

— 17. The erllis of huntlie and hamilton wer maid marquessis.

Sept. 9. The Witches brunt in the southe inche betuix the buttis, callit Jonet Robertfone, Marioun M'Cauv's and beffie Irland.

The fische mercat wes remowit fra ye schoar hed, to the fourth yait port be act of counfall.

The quhyte blafitt in anno 1598.

Nov. The toun began to repair the new kirk in wallis and wandows.

Jan. 9. 1598 [—9]. The tounne begane thair voluntar contributioun, for reparatioun of the brige of perth, and left in august 1600.

Feb. 16. The slauchter of william hey, sone to the gudeman of gourdie, in andro gibis hous in the kirkgait, be the laird of craighall retray, and his complices, Thomas Lafreis chyrurgione wes thair quha sufferit for it.

1599. Mr Patrick stewart brother to my lord Innermay, wes excommunicat for papistrie and defectioun fra the fayth.

Nov. 21. The young laird of balthiok, and mr william Row, minister at Kynnoull, and Laurence blair, wer tane captiwe by my lord fanquhar at kinrofs, [quho] careit thame to fanquhar, and detenit thame thair fixtene dayis.

Dec. — The new calculatiounne and change of the geir of god, wes published to begin on the first of Januar, and not on the xxv day of marche, as it wes of befor.

Ane great dead amongis the pepill in anno 1599.

May 20. 1600. The erll of gowrie come to perth, efter fewin geiris peregrination in other cuntreis.

June 28. The execution of david drummond, for the slauchter of george ramlayis man, the first justice court that ewer John erll of gowrie held efter his returne.

Aug. 5. The slauchter of John erll of gowrie, and mr Alexander his

brother, in the erllis awin ludgeing in perth, be John ramfay and dochter herreis, his majesties feruandis. Praifit be god ye king wes laiff fra yair intendit treafone aganes his facred perfone. The toun knew nothing till the comoun bell rang.

The toun of dundie being aduerteifit, come all wp in armes to have spoilgeit the burgh of perth, bot praifit be god, the king knew the toun of perthis part to be fure.

Mr Thomas cranftoun, george craigingelt and John barron, feruantis to the erll of gowrie, wes hangit at the croce of perth for airt and pairt of the confpiracie.

Sep. 30. Ther wes bonefyres fett furth in perth, and all partis of the cuntrie, for his maiesties deliuerance from that treafone, and preiching appointit euerie Tuyfday, in euerie burgh.

Oct. 31. The corpis of the erll of gowrie, and his brother, wer tranfportit to edinburgh, to the parliament to be hauldin the first of november, and war forfaitit the xi of november.

John Ramfay wes knychtit of west barnes, and hew hereis of cowfland.

Sir Thomas erklyne maid lord dirltoun.

Andro henderfone fett to libertie and receiuit his office of chalmerlaine.

Nov. 19. The Duk charlis borne at dumfermling 1600 and baptizat in the chappell royall the 22 December in eodem anno.

April 15. 1601. The Kingis majestie come to perth, and wes maid burges at the mercat croce. Thair wes ane punfcheone of wyne fett thair and all drucken out. He reffavit the banquet fra the toun, and fubfcrivit the gilde buik with his awin hand, *Jacobus rex, parcere fubjectis, et debellare fuperbos.*

The execution of mr william balfour, John Johnftoun, couper in perth, james murray, henry cook, for theft committit be thame in duncane robertfones hous.

They wer hangit at the croce 22 apryll 1601.

Sep. 22. Thair fell a reik of the tymer bridge of Tay with tua men, ane horſs, and ane lead. On of the men wes gottin ſaiff agane with the horſs and the lead. Bot the other man callit Lamb, drownit in the water.

Nov. 1. 1602. Henrie balneavis, and william Jak, maid thair repentance in thair awn feattis on ſabbath eftir ſermone, for making lybell againes mr william couper, miniſter, and henrie elder, clerk, “as King David wes ane fair ſanct to the croun, ſo is mr william cowper and the clerk to this poore toun.” Ane act of counſal aganes thame, that nane of them ſould beare office or gett honourable place in the toun thair-
eftir.

Dec. 29. 1603 [1602?] Oliver Young bailzie deceiſit.

Thurſday 24 March 1603. The quene of Ingland departit, and king James the ſext proclaimit King therefter. Ane bone fyre fett furth in all Scotland.

Tuyſday April 5. The kings majeſtie tuik Jorney to Ingland to receive ge croun.

— 9. Proclamatioun ſummoning all the Mcgregors to compere and underly the law, for the ſlauchter of the laird of luſſe, and the men of dumbartane.

Wednesday June 1. The quene, prince, and princes, tak journey to Ingland.

July 12. The laird of Ballandene quha wes ſlaine in dundie, wes bureit in the kirk of Perth, be eift the counſal hous door under a blew ſtone of the Ryne.

— 26. His majeſtie wes crownit King of Ingland, france, and Ireland at Weſtminſter, bone fyres fett furth heir in all partis.

Great peſtilence in England, and ſpecialie in london and the ſowth of Scotland, from June to februar.

Dec. 26. The execution of Andro Jackfone for the slauchter of Thomas hey in clathbeny.

Jan. 24. 1604. The stepill of stane fell.

— 20. The Laird of Mcgregor was hangit at Edinburgh, and eleven of his onhappie kin. They hang all night upon the gallous.

March 27. The touns burrow mure wes sawin with eattis.

April —. A mels laid in george bofwallis ludgeing. My lord Inchaffray duelling thair. The ladie oliphant present, [&] her twa sifers. Alexander mbrak burgels of perth present. The Priest wes abercrombie To his name.

June 15. The men of black ruthven and huntingtower, cwift turffis on our burrow muir, at command of the comptroller, Sir David murray, Capitane of his Maiesties guaird, and our provest for the tyme. The toun raifs aucht hundred men in armis, and putt thame off. Angus Cairdney deit of the appoplexie thair. No ma harme, be great apearance of skayth.

July 3. Ane parliament hauldin at perth, be John erll of montrois, viceroy. The hail nobilitie wer present. The town mustart fourteen hundred men in armes and gude ecupadge. At this parliament the comptroller, Sir david murray, wes made Lord of Scone. His Knightis [were] Sir Andro balfour, and Sir Johne monerieff of Kynmonthe.

Morton bure the fuord, Argyle the septer, Angus the crown, and the Great feall be the mafter of montrois.

— 17. A great intestine discention in Dundee. The principale parteis oppofeitis, mr alexander wedderburn clerk, and Robert fletcher baillie.

March 4. 1605. My Lord Drummond maid erll of perth, aganes the quhilk, perthe protestit, and wer miscontent. My lord home, erll of Jedevart. My lord fywie, erll of dunfermeling.

This 3eir great pestilence in Leith, edinburgh, and fundrie places.

July 17. John myln and his men enterit to the bridge work.

Aug. 9. The Laird of auldies ludgeing, beneath the croce, fell on ane Setterday at nycht.

Nov. 5. The powder treafone done at london wes mercifullie detectit, and his maistie and his bairnis, with the hail effates of the land, by gods preventing mercie faiffit. This wes done aganes his maistie be the papistis in Ingland for the religioun.

July 1. 1606. Ane parliament haldin at perth be John erll of mon-trois viceroy. Kathanes buir the fuord, Argyle the septer, Angus the crown. My lord flemying maid erll of Wigton. Glames erll of King-horne. Tullibardin maid erll. My lord new bottell maid erll of Luthiane.

This parliament was riddin be the nobilitie, all in robbis of read scarlet, and facit with quhyte furris, and the bilhoppis in blak.

At this tyme thair fell ane pley betuix the erll of eglinton and the erll of glencairn. It lastit fra sewin, till ten houris at nycht, with great skayth. Ane man of glencairnis wes flaine. The toun rails in arms, and patt [down?] the assailters to thair great commendation.

Aug. 9. The foirland of andro Ray, next to James drummond's land tuik fyre, and brunt all ane.

The same nycht there wes blude fyre, and the pest come in, quhilk continewit till May thereafter.

Feb. 21. 1607. The trie bridge wes tane away, betuix twelve and ane on ane Sunday in tyme of denner.

March 2. Thair rais ane great extraordinarie winde, that blew the lead of the steipill, to mr John malcolmes back gett, callit the bischope murrayes hous.

April 8. Ane Synodall assemblee hauldin in the new kirk of perth. My lord of Scone come in and dischairgit thame, and threw ower the tablis amongis thame, and pat thame furth of the kirk, quha git held

yair assemblie at the kirk door, with ioy that the peopill wer so weil affectit to thame. Mr hary lewingstone was moderator.

Sept. 28. The read of carpow, quher the hail inhabitants of newburgh came out in armes aganes our bailleis and counfall that wer fingill on our part. Thair wes fundrie hurt on both fydes. Thomas Cobraithe wes flaine to tham in the newburgh.

Dec. 1. There wes ane continuall frost from that day foresaid till the 21st of marche, and passage upone the yce over Tay all the tyme, and passage ower and ower at the mil of Errol.

April 8. 1608. Patrick eviot, brother germane to the laird of balhouffie, wes murtherit in blelok, be his wyfe Janet Rofs, quha wes air to the lairdschip of craigie and of Kynfawnis both. He wes schote with ane gun in his bed sleiping be James M'nair. Thairefter they wer both Taikin and execute, and brint efter they wer hangit, in the playfield of perth the 17th may 1608. His head and arm patt wp on the Castell gaivill port.

Aug. 29. 1608. The pest come to perth, and continewit till may thereafter 1609, quherin deit gOUNG and auld 500 perfonen.

Oct. 24. William erll of angus, and frances erll of erroll, excommunicat for papistrie.

Nov. 8. Ane earth quak at 9 hours at ewin that schoak the tolboth the battell end, that thair fell many stonis aff it.

June 5. 1609. The great wind blew down the stanes of the mantil wall of the kirk, in tyme of Sermone, and terrifeit the peopell.

Oct. 2. In ane parliament haldin at edinburgh, It wes ordenit that ilk burgh shuld have provestes within thaimfelfis, actual tradismen.—So the burgh of perth chusit James adamstone provest, and wes continewit 3 geiris.

Feb. 20. 1610. Being Fastings ewin, mr william rynde, master of

the grammar school, departit this life when putting on his cloathes in the morning.

June 1611. My lord oliphant biggit ane dame to bring in water to ane miln at Dupline wpon erne, And quhen it wes perfyted, the erll of Tullibardin with his friendis in the nycht dang all down.

July 2. 1611. Mr william Cowper minifter, marreit with grizzell anderfone, dochter to Robert anderfone.

May 19. 1612. Ane missiue [came to the Lord of Scone] from Edinburt concerning ane most vile fact comittit be the Lord Sanquhair and his men.

“ After our verie harttie commendationis to your gud Lordship, the Kings Maiestie hauing verie iust caus of offence at this vyld and detestable fact, committit be the Lord Sanquhair, and his tua men, in ther murther of the Master of the fenle schoole by whom he formarie Lost his awin eie, It hes pleasit his maiestie to giue command and direction, that inuentorie be mad of all and quhatueur belongeth unto him in this kingdome, and that the famin be put wnder arrestment, to be furthcomeand to his Maiestie, and it is his maiesties pleasure that your Lordshiipe salbe burdenit with the execution of this direction within the shirefdome of Perth, Therefor these are to request you, that immediatlie after the refett heiroff, you address yowrsel to the burgh of Perth, and therr call unto you the Prowest and Baylzeis, and goe altogidder to the saidis Lordis Ludging in Perth, cause the doris thairoff be mad patent and oppin, and thair tak ane perfit and exact count and inuentorie of the baill gudis, geir, plenishing, hingings, filuer-work, and quhat else is within the said house, or in anie vther part of the burgh pertaining to the said Lord, and put the same in Lockfast housis, and Rowmes, wnder verie sure custodie and keiping, sua that the same may be furthcumand to his maiestie at all occasions as accordis. As also that ye tak not of all and quhatfumeuer fermes and dewties deu unto the said

Lord in that shyre, commanding the persons in whose hands the famine
 ar, To keip and reteine the famine for his maiesties wfe, and that you
 report unto his Maiesties Councill a not of all that yow fall find heirin,
 And recommending this to yowre care and diligence, as a poynt highlie
 touching his Maieftie, and recommending yowr gud Lordship to godis
 protection. We rest,

Your Lordship's

very assured good freind,

AL[EXANDER] CANCELL^s,

Edinburgh, May 19. 1612.

MARRE. KINGORNE.

LOTHIANE.

ABERCORNE."

May 22. 1612. My lord of Scone tuik Inuentar of my lord San-
 quharis hous, for slauchter of ane Inglis fencer.

June 30. My lord Sanquhar with twa gentillmen with him, hangit
 at londone for the said slauchter.

Nov. 7. Prince henrie depairtit this lyfe at Londoun of ane mychtie
 fewer, thocht to be poyfonit, to the great greefe of all trew subiectis.

1612. Fra mychaelmes to that tyme great dearth. The wiētual at
 10 lib. the boll.

Feb. 14. 1613. The princeſs of britane wes married to the compt
 palatine.

Dec. 12. The four commoun mylnes, the south and north Inches,
 and haill fiſhingis belonging to the toun of perthe, ſet to takifmen, mer-
 chantis, and craftifinen, for xix ȝeiris to the 1631 ȝeir of god, for the
 defraying the 40,000 merk of debt.

Jan. 1. 1614. Her grace [the princeſs palatine] wes happilie deli-
 uered to her huſband of ane man chyld. God ſend him his grace.
 Bone fyris, ringing of the bellis, with other paſtyme. Efter hearing
 of gods vord, and thanks geving therfor, within perth the 18 day of
 Januar infant.

— My lord maxwell wes execute in edinburgh, for slauchter of the laird of Johnstoun and breking waird.

— Vpone fetterday the xxij day of Januar 1614, the north west pend and bow of the brige of erne fell down, being eveill biggit fra the begynning, fillit onlie with clay and geard, and but ony blind pend as the brig of tay hes bene in the famen manner foundeit. The burgh and fehyr with all diligence caufit david Jak, and dauid Millie, craftmen, put up the famen with tymber vark.

Vpoun twyfday the first day of merche 1614 geiris, be half hour to fax in the mornying, ane earthquhak haid in divers places.

Vpon thursfday thereafter, the 3 of Merche 1614, ane other earthquhak at xii houris in the nicht haid baith in land brwch.

— 1614. being wedingfday at v houris at evin, dauid maxtoun burges of perth, on the lang calfy foirnent the dowcat, cuming from huntingtour, in ane apoplexy fal down, na companie with him, at the plefor off god, depairtit this lyff but ony fpetch, brocht in to his awin ludgeing, and bureit on the morne eftir.

April 25. 1614. Ane millive [came] from Sanct Androis concerning the minislerie of perth, [viz.]

“ Richt honorable and louing brethren, After remembrance of my dewtie to yow all, Ze ar not ignorant that the place of your minislerie formarie posselled be my Lord Bishop of Galloway is now vacand, and the care of the prouision therof lyeth chiefly vpon me. And thairfore, being bound in conscience and straited with loue and affection towards yow, I have thought gud to request yow, that ze wald tak that matter to heart, and aduise vpon the man whom ze wald haue to supplie his rowme; for I haue conferred with his Lordship, and I find be him that he is indifferentlie disposed to see his rowme staicked with some godlie learned man that best may serue you. I haue no vther intention but to admitt to that minislerie, the man, whom efter aduice ze find

fittest for yow, and think not be anie tergiuerfation to escape the planting of ane other man, and that with all diligence; assure yourselfe that neither the Kings Maiestie, (who must haue his royall consent in your planting,) neither I, your ordinar, nor my Lord of Galloway, ane conscience and reuerend prelat, will suffer you longer to be desolate of ane pastour. Thus I both request and requyre you, that ge send your commissionars to our Synod, quhilke is to be holden heir vpon twelfday and Wednesday nixt, that ordour may be tane of your prouision. Inioye your priuledge in gods name, as the second burgh both of the kingdome and diocy: and ge fall find me to assist you be my Councill and autoritie to my vttermoſt, to obtaine aither ane, vpon whom ge fall sett your eye, and to haue ane tyk of March, of quhilke ge may mak choice. Loue maks me to writt thus, and the conscience of my calling maks me to be thus peremptorie. I send my harttie salutations to yow all, and to the gud communitie. The grace of our Lord Jesus christ be with you all. Amen. I rest

your very louing and Kynd Brother,

SANCTANDROIS."

" Sanctandros Castle, }
26 Apryl 1614." }

In the toun of dundee, vpoun thursday night the xxix off December 1614 geiris, Mr James row, minister at Kilspindie, and Mr Robert Rynd, minister at Langforgown, lyand both in ane bed within the dwelling hous of ————— and baith being veill quhen they lay down, wer founde vpon the morning efter, both deid.

Vpon the — day of Januar 1615 geiris, being thursday, the Vatter of tay, be veittis and sleit, vaxit so great, that it coverit haill our north inche, the mortoun haugh, and almaiſt all the south inche. [It] continewit fra thursday in the morning, to the morne thereafter. Men rowing with boats in the same northe inche, taking forth scheip that war in perrell of drowning.

Vpoun twyfyld the x of januar 1615. adame schoir, wretour to our lowerane lords signet, departit this lyff, and vas bureit the samen day.

Feb. 21. This geir preceding, the frost was lang luikit for before it came. Quhen it came, it continewit fa lang, that the vater of tay being all froin aboue and beneath the brig, that thair vas daylie passage aboue the brig next the north inche bayth for hors and men, and beneith the brig fornent the erle of arrols ludging and the schoir, for men. [It] continewit fa quhill the twentie fyve day of februar, that the cobellaris quha rowit on the vater being therby prejudgit of their comoditie, in the nicht tyme brak the ice at the entrie, and stayd the passage. Vpoun fastingis ewin being the xxj of februar, ther was tua puncheonis of burdeous vyne careit, fting on ling, on mennis schoulderis on the vater of tay on the ice, at the mideis of the north inche, the veight of the puncheon, and the beraris estimat to three scoir twelve stane veight.

The erle of Orkney convicted for treason deit in edinburgh, beheaded at the marcat croce vpoun ye [6] day of [februar.]

Vpon monandey at nicht the vj day of merche, ane vehement snaw came on. [It] leftit all the nicht, and continewit to vedensday thereafter, al quhilk tyme, be xij houris in the day it begowth of new, and continewit so vehement, nicht and day, to the — of merche, that during the haill tyme, mixtit with frostis, na travell or litill passage vas ther aither for hors or men; on the quhilk wedensday, diveris hors and men perischit and deit.

Vpoun the sevint day of Maij, great snaw and frost, quhairby na traveil for hors nor men.

The archbischope of sanct androis, called mr george gladstanes, departit this lyff within the citie of sanctandrois, upon the [2] day of [May], and vas honerablie bureit in the aulde colledge kirke, vpoun the — day of — thereafter: at the quhilk buriall the bischope of galloway, mr william cowper, maid the funerall fermone.

Vpoun the fext day of maij 1615, willame moncreiff of that ilk, at his awin hands, but consent or knowlege of the burgh of perth, and alledging richt to ane fisching of the freirtoun, callit helloch hoill belyde the fisching of perth, callit the veill off waitt, pat in some staikis of trie, in the litill inche, fornent the lands of freirtoun, quhilks staiks the coun-fall and magistrats of perth, immediately as it came to ther knowlege, pullit vp, hewit in peices, and toist down the water of tay, quharupoun the town and the laird raft law fouretie aganes vtheris.

Vpoun the ——— day of ——— 1615, Alexander Jackfone of vatterie bwittis, haveing flane ane nychtbour of his, and being apprehendit therfor be the laird of inchmertene, [he] was, upoun the morne thereafter, brocht to perth, deliverit to the sheriff deput, and committit to the irones within the tolbuith of perth. The said alexanders friends purchest ane letter frome the councill, charging the provost and bailgeis of perth, upoun his awin charges to transport him to edinburgh, to suffer tryell for the said factis befor the iustice. Quha being transportit ther, [he wes] convictit be ane assyse and headit.

The corps of fir harrie lyndefay, gounger of carristoun, brocht fra striveling to perth in ane coishe, within ane caik of leid. [It] remainit all nicht within the south porche door of the kirk; quhilk was the xv day of June 1615. The magistratis of perth, counsall, [and] communitie, met thame on fute at pathewlis, and convoyit thame to the town. The morne thereafter, the magistrates of perth, and ane guid nowmer off the inhabitants of the town on hors, convoyit the corps to cowper in angus. My lord of fcone, than provost, with quhome they raid. The corps was convoyit in the coishe throw the vater of tay at the haid of the northe inche.

1616. Great povertie of touns, and great dearth.

Feb. 21. 1617. Mr John Guthrie admitted minister at perth, be the bishopis of sanct androis and glasgow, within the kirk of perth. Doc-

tor william Barclay preachit: and wes transportit thairfra to be minister of edinburgh in anno 16[21], and thairefter consecrat bishope of Murray.

May 16. 1617. The Kingis maiesty returnit from Ingland, to wrlite his kynde and natiwe kingdome of Scotland, and come to edinburgh, with great solemnitie, ressaunt be the toun at the west port, be the prouest, baillies, and council, being all in blak gownes, and ane speiche deliuerit to him. He red down the hie streit to the abbay, with great plouff. He ressaunt propynes from the burgh. He wes ressaunt vith — men in the toun in gude sort, with partizen stalffis, to serwe as his maiesties guaird. Thus he wes wrlt in all burrowis quher he came, as perth, Dundie, striwiling, brechene, glasgow, linlythgow, drumfries, couper of fyff. He road north to mure rowmond, and stayit in Kynard x days at his sport in hunting.

April 15. 1618. Elizabeth ruthuen, countes of montroifs, wes buried at aberruthuen.

June 20. Vpoun midlomer day, the xx of June 1618 geiris, at tua efternone, — Toschoch of monivaird zounger, slaine in the south geit of perth, be laurence bruce zounger of cultemalundis, his brother, and diuers thair affociatis. The tua that was with monyvaird, the ane deidlie hurt, bot deit not, the uther his richt hand clene struken fra him. This done in ane moment of tyme, all the committaris therof eschewit out of the town befor any of the tounis men hard of ony sliche thing.

Aug. 25. Thair wes ane generall assemblie haldin at perthe, anent the sacrament of the supper, and kneilling, and the fywe articles, that wes aggreit to.

Aug. 29. Mr John guthrie, on ane fonday efter the efternones sermone, mareit the maister of Sanquhar with Sir Robert Swiftis dochter, ane Inglis knyght in zorkschyre. Nather of the parteis exceedit 13 geiris of age.

Sep. 2. Mr Thomas rofs, minifter at cargill, went to court, and thair for fum infamous writtingis and railling aganes the scottis natioun, werie onnaturallie, he being on of the fones of the hous of craigie, quherof he was not wyfs, he wes headit in edinburgh, quarterit, and put wpon the portis.*

Vpoun tuyfday at ix houris in the morning, the —— day of feptember 1618 geiris, in the kirk of Glammis, ane nobill lord, my lord hey, eldest fone to the potent lord, frances erle of errol, was married with lady anna Lyoun, onlie dochter to the lait deceiffit erle of Kinghorne. [They] returnit fra the kirk, to the place of glamis with their nobill freinds on ather fyde. The feist continewit ane gude fpace, with great cheir, and all forts of pafstyme and merrenes.

Nov. A great blazeing ftar fene in the east 14 days.

Dec. 25. Gule approwit, and command gewin to hold it holie; quhillk day mr John guthrie at perth preachit thair, being fryday.

[March 2. 1619.] The quenes maieftie departit this lyfe, and wes buried the 29 of apryle. [May 13.]

—— 28. The facrament of the fupper gewin on peace day by Mr Johne guthrie, minifter, out of his awin hand, to all the peopill, and thay reflaivit it on thair kneis.

Aug. 2. The brig of almond biggit, and compleit over.

Oct. 2. Thair wes ane lugeing all brunt in the fouth fyde of the hie gait of perth, pertening to constantene Malice. The fyre crewell to behold.

Maj 9. 1621. [Mr John Guthrie receivit] ane miffive from edinburgh, viz.

* The following entry relative to the same matter, occurs a few pages farther on: "In September 1618, Mr thomas ros, sone to the lard of craigie, wes for vretting at oxford in England againes the scottis natioun, being sent to scotland be schip, convicted be ane assyse, his richt hand first struken aff, and thirefter beheadit."

“ Richt honorable Sir,

The loue and affection that we did euer cary towards you, and comfort which we hoped to enioie be your ministrie amongst ws, were the first motives that mooued ws to mak chois of yow to be our pastor; and nocht onlie these, quha wer magistratis for the tyme, but the whole people wer caried with the lyk affection and hope. That expectation is so fixed in our mynd, that we are still resolu'd to become suitoris at your handis, that ye might be pleased accept upon yow that our calling, which we are perswaded hes proceidit onlie off god, and off the instinct off his holie spirit, for neuer was ther anie called by a people with more uniformitie of mynd, nor with so great applause, as ye haue beene by ws. Nether hes greater expectation of comfort beene imprinted into the hartis of people, then that quhilke is expected by the people be your ministrie. Since then our hail hopes does depend upon yow, let ws not find yow in this our strait, refractarie to godis calling; bot as we all as it were with ane mynd, hes mad choise of yow to be our pastor, so it wald pleise yow to meet ws with the lyk sympathie off affection, and to embrace this our calling that we may be once mad happie be yow in injoying our long looked for desyres. We doe not think it fitting to contend with him quhom we wald haue our pastor, and by whose ministrie we expect so great comfort, but we will rather flee to your awin bountie and charitie, most earnestlie entreating yow, that ye wald be pleased to accept wpon yow that burden quhilk our necessitie nor ws to cease from our farder importunities; assuring yow, that quhat kindness or contentment can be expected or desyred of ane gud people towardis ther pastour, yow shall neuer find inlaiking in ws towardis yow. We also wnderstand by the Archbishop of Sanctandros, that ye had offered to him to come hither, bot that ye wald not bring with yow your familie; we hop for better at your handis, and that ye will tak vp ane vther course, seing it fall be vnpleasent both to yow

and ws : but to the end we might knaw your mynd, we haue directed John byiris, our dean of guild, and william nemo, twa of our number, to entreat with yow thirament, whom ye may be pleased to trust in our behalfe : And we hope that netheir ye nor nane of your familie shall haue iust cause to repent thair change. So expecting your answer be writ with these our commissionaris, and hoping to mett with the lyk loue and affectioun as that which you fall find in ws, We commit yow to god, and restis,

your most louing and affectionat friends,

The Prouest Baylies and Councill of Edinburgh.

D. AIKENHEAD, Prouest.

JOHN MAKNACHTE, Baylzie.

WILLIAM DICK, Baillie.

HARY MORESONE, Baillie.

Edinburgh, the nynt of May 1621."

Oct. 14. 1621. Thair wes fliche ane inundatione of vater, as the lyke in no manes remembrance wes sene, both in reguaird of the hiche ryfing in the west side, as also of the sudane coming of it, being fetter-day all day wating efter.

Befoir xii of the cloke [of] the nycht, all the peopill in the castell gawill and west port, wer wat in thair beddis, and wakened with water to the waist in their floores. It semit the windowis of heavin and fountaines of the deep wer opponit. It carried away the ellewin bow brig of Tay. It wes within ane fute in hicht from the croce of perth. It tuike down the gawill of the tolbuith. It carried away all louis-work, being of admirabill strenght and structur. This it did to the common streit of the toun by diuers and many particular menes losses. The peopill of the Castel gawill had died, about iij hundred foules, gif a boatt hed not bene borne be men from the spey tour to it.

God lett ws newir lie the ellik of it againe. It contynwit funday all day. The wind and weit increassit. No passage be any port, zit we being humblit all that week with fasting and prayer. Tuyfs preaching everie day. God hard ws that the water decreassit, glorie be to his majestie. Many maid wovwes for thair saiftie, xii * abstinence and thankfulness.

This zeir [1621] a great fkairftie of cornes wes throw all the kingdome, and that be the ewill harwest and inwndatioun that happnit, and [would] have bene greater, [if] abundance of eforane victuall hed not cum in, zit it gaiff 12 lib, 20 merk, the bow bear, and peas meall, 16 merks.

March 3. 1622. Mr John Robertfone admittit minifter at perth, be impositioun of handis of Alexander bischope of dunkell. Miniftris, Johne malcolme, Niniane drumond, Robert murray and Alexander bannewis, and deposit on the 25 maij 1655.

June. Thair come in ane great dunkirk schip to Leith, chassit be the hollande vachteris, quher in the road of leithe, they hed ane great fecht and many men flaine, fra xij at nicht till four in the morning, and this schip wes burnit be the hollanderis a zeir thairefter, quha stayit and keipit her in.

June 22. Alexander erll of dumfermeling, chancellor of Scotland, departit this lyfe in Pinkey, with the lowe of all the kingdome, ane honest testimony of all nobillis and wtheris, buried in dalgeatie on the nynt of July thairefter.

July 18. George the thrid fone to the baillie of erroll, being clerk register, wes maid chancellor of Scotland be his maiesties gift vnder the great fail.

In this zeir [1622] about the haruest and efter, Thair wes fuche ane wuiverfall feiknes in all the cuntrie as the ellyke hes not bene hard of.

* Sic in MS.

Bot specialle in this burgh, that no familie in all the citie wes frie of this vilitatioun. Thair wes also great mortalitie amongs the poore.

Feb. 23. 1623. Prince Charlis tuik his journey from londoun to Spaine throw france. He past with fyve allanerlie in his companie, and in october thairefter, he returnit from Spayne, to the great contentmentis of all the kingdome, and bone fyres wer sett furth throch out all the cuntrie.

In geir [1623] deit within sextene weekis, james adamfone, quha wes provest, mr henrie andersone, quha wes bailzie, david libbald, william williamfone, James bannewis, quha hed bene baillies, Andro andersone, quha wes bailzie that fame geir.

Thair wes this harvest tyme ane great mortalitie and dearthe that x or xij deit ordinarlie euerie day, from midfomer to mychaelmas, within this burgh.

— Lowfwark wes boundit in stane, for bbuilding quherof, the kingis majestie payit 2000 merks. This burgh payit 1000 lib. The laird of Balhouffie fould have payit iij hundred merks, as git restand.

Sep. 21. This geir the counfall being met in the counfall hous, wes fand the toun to be 20,000 merkis in debt, and ten geir of the tak of the mylnes, Inches, and fischingis to run.

Oct. 5. henrie elder clerk depairtit this lyfe and wes buried on fonday thairefter, and on mononday the day of october, being the election day, John merfer admittit clerk but ony oppositioun.

1623-4. This geir wes suche ane frost, that the ellyke hes not bene fene in our dayis, for from mertymes to the 30 of Januar, thair wes passage over the Tay wpon the ice. And thaireftir dissolvit and freislit agane to the 23d of february, that ellewin cairtis with 21 puncheonis of wyne came over wpon the yce from dundie heir.

Jan. 24. 1624. Thair wes ane great fyre in dumfermling, that brunt almaist the haill toun in four houris space. Thairefter wpon thair

lupplication voluntar contribution wes grantit thame throchout the kingdome. Thair wes collectit [in Perth ?] aboue lxx merkis.

May 10. 1624. Thair wes ane justice court haldin at perth, be fir george hey, chancellor, fir alexander colwill, justice deput, The erll of murray, The erll of perth, [lord] wyems, quherin many comperit and wer clengit be affyse, onlie 3 hangit, M'gregoris.

Sept. 18. Ane millive direct from Edinburgh concerning the Con-ferwatorie.

“ Richt honorabill and loving nichtbouris,

Efter owr hairtie and maist affectionat commendatioune, fforfamekill as we wnderstand, be ane letter direct from Mr Patrik Hamiltoun, of his maiesties gracious acceptance of the last letter written to his Maiesty be the commissioners of the Burrowis, convenitt heir in August last, Anent the mater of confervatorie, and withall, that his Maiestie hes signified his pleasure anent him, Which is, that in respect of James Dowglas aige and his maiestie many seruices, that he will nocht spair him, and thairfore desiring yat he nicht with ane guid leave returne, We haue thocht fitt to giff *Ȝ*ow notice heiroy, and becaus the mater doth so concerne the haill burrowis in publict and ilk man in private, and that thaire remaines good hopes that his maiestie will not altogidder resett the suit of sa monie his guid subiectis ; leif anie neglect be imputed to us in the carriage of the busines, if we suld suffer the same to desert, the advantagis being great to the pretendantis, the present titulars estate with the season of the *ȝ*eir confidderit, We have ordaned ane particular conventioun of burrowis to be halden heir, upon the last of September instant, Of the quhilk number, *ȝ*e are to be ane ;— To confidder upon the best expedient to prosequit that effaire to the guid of the burrowis, and to take such course thairin as may tend to the settling of that place to thair contentment ; We ar thairfore earnestlie to entreat *ȝ*ow to send *ȝ*our commissioners fullie instructed to vote,

reafone, and contende, anent all things concerning ye fame, or whiche falbe thocht fitteft for the guid thair of, and fwa expecting thame, we reft your loving brethren, the proveft, and baillies of Edinburgh, fubfcriyved be Mr Johne Hay our comoun clerk at our command, Edinburgh the 18 of September 1624.

To the richt honorabill our loving freindis and nichtbouris, the Proveft, baillies, and Counfall of the burgh of Perth, Thefe."

Oct. 26. Robert abroche, ane makgregor, ane grait lymer, quha haid been ains or twyfs forgewen and remittit be his maieftie for his oppreffion wpone hovp of amendment, zit he continewit fill in his knaueries. And after thair wes mekill fearching maid for him in the hielandis, and all his freindis chargit to apprehend, come to perth this day, being twyfday, ane preaching day, efter fermone, and fell down on his kneis, and ane tow about his neck, and offerit his fuord be the point to the chancellor of Scotland, quha refuffit to accept of it, and commanded the bailleis to ward him, lyke as they instantly wardit him, and patt baith his feit on the gade quher he remanit.

Nov. 30. The peft come to edinburgh be ane paull, and wes *
and death of tua of his childerene,
and ane ftranger ludgit in his hous callit Paull, quha hed brocht money with the infectioun from danfkyne; wpone the quibilk the felfione raifs, and the chancellor and his familie come to perthe, thrie dayis thairefter.

Dec. 14. Sir andro murray of baluaird departit this lyfe in edinburgh, his corpis brocht to falkland, and buried in arngolk.

Feb. 11. 1625. Ane miffive direct frome Edinburgh, concerning the confervatorie and factourie in Flanders.

" Richt honorabill and loveing nichtbouris,

After our maift hartlie commendatiounes, Wheras the commiffioners of burowis convened at this our burgh the 13 day of July laft, anent the

* This blank occurs in MS.

commiffioun giwin to thame be the commiffioners of burrowis, in thair laft generall conventioun haldin at Lynlithgow, for taking ordor with the factouris in Flanders, they then continewed this dyet to the fyftene day of Merche nixt, and gaiwe ordor for warning of the faid factouris for compeirance heir the faid day ; and feing that your burghe was one of the faid number to quhome the faid mater was concredeit, we thairfore, be thir presentis, hes thocht guid to put yow in remembrance of the faid appointment, and to require yow to fend your commiffioners fufficientlie inftructed for decyding of quhat complainte falbe giwin in againft the faids factours, and for prewenting of all farder mifordour amangs theme, and all wther greaweances the merchantis may fufteine in thair defalt ; and if anie of your nichtbouris hes fufteined anie hurt or wrong be thame, that ye bring theme with yow inftructed for preiving of the fame. And lyikwayes we doe intreat yow, to inftruct yowr commiffioners with the beft reallounes yow haue, for infifting with the lordis of his maiefties moft honorabill privie counfall, in the mater of importatioun of Wiētual wpon the ald accustomit dewties. And laftlie, fince that it hes pleafit his maieftie to confer wpon Mr Patrick Drummond, the rewerfioun of the place of the conferwatorie, efter the prefent titulars deceis, we, efter report maid be Mr Johnne hay, quhome we employed to deale with his maieftie in the faid mater of the proceedings therin, and wnderftanding his maiefties will be his letters anent the faid Maifter Patrick, enterit in conditiones with him, and fand him plaufible to all we could reaſonablie craiwe of him in your names ; we will thairfor requyre yow, as on quhome that mater does much concerne, to fend your commiffioners fufficientlie inftructed, to meitt at this owr burghe the faid fyftene day of marche nixt, for finall fatling with him, and fetting downe fuch wther conditiones as yow fall think fitteft for the weale of yowr eftait. So not troubling yow farther, bot committing the premiffes to yowr care and diligence, we bid yow

hairtlie fareweill, (sic subscribitur,) yowr lowing freindis and nichtbouris, the prowest, baillies, and counfall of Edinburgh, subfcryweing be Mr Alexander guthrie, ovr commoun clerk, at our command.

A. GUTHRIE.

Edinburgh, the 11th day of februar 1625.

To the richt honorabill, our lowing freinds and nichtbouris, the prowest, baillies, and counfall of the burgh of Perth, These."

27th March. Being fonday, King James the sext departit this lyfe, in England, at Londoun, being 59 ȝeir of his age and regne of Scotland, and 22 of England, france, and Irland; he wes ane learned, and religious, wyfs prince.

7th May. He wes bureit at westminster with great pomp, and the funerailis celebrat with 5000 mwrneris in blak, the Inglis and scottis nobilitie mairching all according to thair qualitie and degrie. The erll of mortoun buir the scottis pinfill. The ȝoung king wes cheiff mourner. The Duck of lennox, and marquis of hamiltoun, wer nixt the coffin. Charles the first, sone to king James the sext, wes proclaimit king at Londone the 27 day of marche, and in edinburgh the last day of the said moneth, in the said ȝeir of god 1625.

June 12. The queene come to England from france to dower, and wes personallie married to king charles; and thairefter, the packit cuming to edinburgh the 21 of the said moneth, bone fyres wer set furth, and great mirth and schoteing from the castell. Thomas Crombie, burges of perthe, being summonit to wnderly the law for allegit flauchter of ane william blair, ane westland gentelman, quha notwithstanding hed done the samyn negligentie to him selfe, being of intention to have strucken the said Thomas with ane qubinger, he hurt himselfe in the arme, quherof he died within 20 dayis thairefter. And the said Thomas compeirit with 80 burgesles of perth, besydes 5 erlls, 6 lordis,

and 26 barones, wpone the burgh of perthis defyre to bak him, wes clengit and freid thairfra.

July. Thair wes this ȝeir ane great pest at london, so that thair deit within the citie 12,000 in a weik.

Dec. 28. Ane wapoun schaweing in perth : upon this tyme tua new enfengeis maid be the toun. Adame paterfone, thesaurer.

Robert arnot and Patrick Pitcarne, capitaneis, beararis of the enfengeis, John anderfone.

Feb. 8. 1626. John crychtoun of kinwed, wes buried at the kirk of kinclewin.

Aug. 7. 1626. [Here follows a missive] To the richt honorabill our loveing friendis and nichtbouris, the prouest, bailȝies, and counsell of the burghes of perth :—

“ Richt honorabill and loveing freindis, our commendatiounes rememberit, forfamekill as the lordis of his maiesties counsell of warre, be thair letter direct to me of the daitt the secund day of August instant, hes signifiet to me that they being constitut be his maiestie, to forlie that this, his ancient kingdome, be weill and substantioulle provydit and furneschit, with sufficient guid airmis, and that the home bringing of airmis properly concernis the borrowis of his Realme, and that thairfor they thocht meit to mak the first offer thairof to the saidis burrowis, and thairfor willit ws to conveine the commissionaris of the said burrowis, wpone the Tuentie tua day of this instant, to consult gif they wald wndertak that chairge, and wpone quhat termes and conditionis, and quhat prices and Rate they wald furneis the subiectis, and siclyk to deliberate wpone all wther expediencis in the said seruice, We have thairfor conform to the said letter, thocht fitt to appoynt ane generall convention of borrowis to meitt at this burgh the twentie ane day of this instant, to the effect abowe specifit, and thairfor we will and requyre ȝow to send ȝour commissioner sufficientlie instructed, to resoun, vote,

and conclude thairanent; and further forfamekill as thair is ane late proclamatioun maid anent the grievance, quhairin thair is sum particulars, neirlie concernyng the whole borrowis of this Realme, and als that since the agent of the borrowis at Court hes demittit his plaice, and that thair publick effaires doe require that thay haue ane agent resident at Court, quhome they may intrust with thair effairis, and to quhome thay may direct thair letters, to negotiat such buisness as thay fall have with his maiestie at anie tyme thairefter, we have thocht guid to recommend the same to your wyfe consideratioune, and accordinglye that you wald send your commissioners sufficientlie instructed to vote, reffoun, and conclude theranent. We intreat you that ye wald wyllie think wpon these effaires, and tak such course as may be for the publick guid; for our awin partis, we fall contribute our best endewoires to that which may procure the same; gif wther wayis you neglect these ordinar courses which may tend to the publick guid, and which hes beine so resolvit wpon by your predeceffours, we feare the event fall prove that things ar not so providentlie caryed as the publick necessitie requireth. We haue resoluit not to be wanting to you, nor our selffis, nather in our adwyffe, nor anie wther thing within the compass of our powar, quherof as we have ever gewin evident demonstratioun in all thir publick adoes, so do we intend to keip the same tennor in all time cuming, assuring ourselffis that ye will gif us the lyk retribution, wtherwayis necessitie will enforce everie man to prowye for his awin priuate interest: fwa remitting these particulars to your wyfe consideration, and willing you wald send your commissioner sufficientlie instructed for keiping of the said conventioun, as you tender the weill of the borrowis, wnder the paine of xx punds ilk burrow, in caice of failure, we bid you hastily fareweill, and restis your loveing freindis and nichtbouris, the Provest and baillies of Edinburgh, subscrybeing be Mr John Hay, our commoun Clerk at our command. Sic subscribitur J. HAY."

1626. Sir George hay chancellor wes hardlie accufit befor the king at londone, one diueris poyntis be my lord merfeall, and his confederatis, bot wes freed at laft, efter thrie quarteris of ane ȝeir remaining at court.

John erll of montroifs departit at kincardin, and wes buriet at aberuthuen the 3 of Januar 1627.

1627. Thair wes ane warrand from the kingis majestie, and his counfall, for lifting in Scotland 9000 men to go to ferwe vnder the king of denmark, in the germane warres for renewing of the palatinat and bohemia, quher thair wes many forcit, as beggaris, idill men, and but competent meanes to leive wpon, vnder the conduct of the erll of midfdaill, my lord spyunny, and the laird of murthill Sincklar, as colonellis.

Thair wes this same ȝeir, 2000 gentilmen, landit men, baronis, lordis, and wtheris of gude forte, leawentit from Scotland, vnder the erll of mortoun, for helping to take the Ile of [Rhee] or fanctmertenes in france. They failled from leith the 17 october 1627. Bot the Ile wes recoverit be the frenche fra the Inglis.

Oct. 6. 1628. Thair wes ane justice court, or air, hauldin heir at perth, be william erll of monteithe as justice general, quherto wer 25 scott indytit and panellit. They wer gentlie wlet and dimissit wpone caution to compeir the next court. Thair wer certane of our nychbouris burgesfes citat. Our Prowest being crownar producit our gift, and releiuit thame, and Tuk protestatioun quhilk wes extractit.

The same tyme andro willone being deane of gilde, wer enterit my lord Kilcruich the Justice, sir John hay, and his brother, and wtheris burgellis.

Oct. 6. 1629. Ane iustice air haulden at perth be Sir george auchinlek of balmano, and mr [Alexander Seton] of kilcruich, justices deput. Sir Thomas houp the kingis advocat being presenf, quherto wer sumonit

and compeirit about 200 men, sum fynit, and sum fet frie, according as probatioun aith of the partie. Thair wes 97 perfonis of this burgh inditit, quha wer referrit to our awin censure wpone produetioun and lycht of our charter quhilk wes productit, and documentis tane thair-upone, and fand ws crownearis within our felffis. As also the lordis acknowlegit the fynes to pertene to ws, and tuk the proveft, baillies, and dene of gilde, oblist to wplift the same and applie [them] to sum gude wfs.

Thair wer diueris foirftallaris within the sheriffdome, callit and conuenit befor the iustices, and our charter gewen be king Robert the thrid, being productit anent the punifching of foirftallaris, quhilk being sene, and confiderit, (and finding that Androu willsone dene of gilde in ane gilde court, hauldin the fext of may preceeding hed conwiēt) [They] sufferit thame to pas frie from the censure, acknowledging that we be our gift haid power fo to do, and that the onlawes of all foirftallaris within the sheriffdome, did appertene to this burgh quherfoeur, or be quabatsumewir judge they sould be conwiēt, as at this tyme they did. Quhervpone, instrumētis wer taikin and extractit, extant among the tounes wreittis.

May 1630. The quenes maiestie delyverit of ane man chyd, quha wes baptizit at loundoun, charlis, the 27 of June. In this may wer v fetterdays, v moundayis, Tua changes of the mone, tua eclipses of the sone, ane wther of the mone, all in our horizone. Thair wer no ambassadors present at the baptisme of the prince, nor forraners except our awin cuntrie nobillis, such as the duk of Lennox, the marques of hamiltoun, the maior of loundoun.

July 1630. The fynes that wer gottin fra our nychbouris at the preceeding iustice air, wer bestowit on the redding of the rwynes of the fallen brig of Tay, bigging of croyis for saistie of the toun and inches from the wiolence of the water; and on the bigging of the fron

of fyne stane, aillair wark, at mounkis tour, on the tounes expens, and for casting of the dok for crewis and boattis, in the winter tyme from danger.

In this fame geir george hey chancellor of Scotland, wicount of dupline, did big ane twriet, or somerhous wpone the head of the rome of monkis tour on the tounes comoun wall, for his plesure, with ouerfycht of the toun, and tollerance, zit I think they gaue no tollerance be writ.

July 1631. Thair wes ane great counfall day haldin at perth with ane conventioun of the burrowis, Andro wilfone commissiouner.

Sep. David wicount of stormont departed this lyfe at Scone, and wes bureit in his awin buriall [place] thair, with great solempnitie.

June 1632. Mr John row wes admittit master of the gramer scole, be the provest, baillies, and counfall, without consent or woatt of ony wtheris; quha affixit ane edict and declaratioun in latine, ane oration de lingua, de fermone. The ministeris and presbyterie prest to have tryd him, but we would not admit it, for the quhilk thair wes much outcrying in the pulpett.

[15] King charlis come to edinburgh, his entrie wes with great solempnitie and diveris brawe schawis: he wes crownit in halyrudhous the 18 day of June, and [went] thairto from the castell, with great pomp, accompanyt with the whole nobilitie in thair robes. The 20 day, the parliament red. Andro Wilfon wes commissiounar, both to the burrowis and the parliament. At this parliament mr John guthrie bischop of murray preichit before his majestie in sanct Jeillis kirk, with the furlpes on him, and the englishe service red at the Latrone be Inglis men.

Therefter wpone the 8 of July his majesty come to perth, and wes weil receavit with Ten scoir of men for guard, all in quhyte doublattis, and red breikis, with partiganes. Mr william bell deliuerit him a

ſpeeche. Mr william wiſchart miniſter at leithe preichit in our kirk to his maieſtie.

Thair wes ane fuord dance dancit to his majeſtie the morne efter his cunying, wpone ane iland maid of Tymer, wpone the water of Tay, and certaine wersis ſpokin to his maieſtie be ane boy, repreſenting the perſone of the Riwer of Tay, and ſum conference in his maieſties praiſe betuix Tay and another repreſenting perth, made be Andro wiſſone baillie.

Oct. 4. 1634. Auld mr william row miniſter at forgond depairtit.

Oct. 31. Mr Joſephe Lawrie admittit miniſter of perth, be impolition of handis of miniſtris, niniane Drummond and John robertſone, and be the prowefſt, baillies, and counfall of perthe,—mr niniane Drummond preachit. His ſtipend agreit on xij hundred lx merks.

In Januar 1635 from the 26 day thair of, till the 16 day of februar, thair fell furth ſuche ane hudge ſnow, That men nor women could not walke wpone our ſtreitis. It wes ten quarter or Tua ellis heiche, throw all the toun. Tay wes 30 dayis frozen ower. Thair wes ane faſt appointed and thair came a gentill thow, bleſſed be God. Thair wes great ſkairſtie of wiſtuall, and elding mylnis gaed not, and thair wes no paſſage nor travelling to bring ony in. At that tyme aill wes waid ſkant. They knokit malt in knocking ſtones.

Aug. 19. Chancellor Hay buried in kirk of kinnoul, Mr James ffoullar maid fermon.

July 22. 1636. Andro gray, proneſt, departit this lyfe of ane ſewar of fywe dayis ſpace, and wes buried the ſaboth thirefter with great grieff of all, both toun and cuntrie. The bellis of the ſleipill rang all the tyme fra the corporis wes liſtit till the moulis wer turnit on him in his grawe. [He] leiwit not ane full yeir proueft.

Andro Wiſſone baillie departit this lyfe on fonday, the 3 day of September 1637 3eiris, of ane heiche fywer about nyne hours at nycht, and

wes buried on Tuyſday thairefter. At the lifting of the corpis, the bellis of the ſtepill rang quhill he wes putt in his grawe. He wes 14 ȝeiris baillie and deane of gilde, but intromiſſioun. He deit with greit grieve of the toun and countray. Mr John Robertſone maid his fune-rall fermone.

— 5. Mr Robert lawrie admittit reader and wptaker of the pſalmes, be the proueft, baillies, and counſall, without conſent of the miniſteris and elderis. Mr Johne robertſone, miniſter, being preſent diſſentit thairfra, and departit, and wald haue hed the full conſent not onlie of the miniſteris and elderis, but alſo of the Archbiſhop of Sanctandrois. George biſſet diſſentit to his admiſſioun as elder, and efter conſentit as counſellor. Mr Joſephe lawrie his father compeirit not, becaus his collige mr John reſuſlit, ȝit willing.

Therefter the proueft, alexander peblis, paſt with the counſall to the latrone, and patt mr robert in poſſeſſioun of bayth the places, and deliuerit to him the bybell and pſalme buk in his hands.

Dec. 27. John drummond, deacone of the ſkynners, departit this lyfe, inteſtat, fuddanelie, and buried on fryday the 29 of december.

Wpone ſonday the 31 of Januar 1638, — butter of gournok mareit with — blair, ſecond dochter to fir Thomas blair of balthyok, knycht, in the kirk of Kynnoul, be Mr Thomas halyburtoun, miniſter at kyn-noul, being anes proclaimit that ſame day. The feaſt held in charles Rollokis hous in the vater gait: the laird duelt thair for the tyme.

Wpone ſonday the fourt day of februar 1638, in the kirk of glamis, ane nobill lord, [Henry] Lord car, onlie ſone to the erll of roxburghe, wes mareit with dame margaret hay, onlie dochter to umquhill willame erll of erroll: [they] returnit fra the kirk of glameis with thair nobill freinds on ather fyde. The feaſt continewit ane gude ſpace, with great ſolempnitie, and paſtyme and mirrines.

Wpone the ſext of februar, being faſtingis ewin, on ane Tuyſday,

1638, the maister of madertie, callit [David] drumond, wes mareit with — creichtoun, eldest dochter of unquhill Johne crychtoun of Kinved, in the kirk of perth, be fewin houris in the morning, but proclamatioun or warrant from the bischopis, be mr Josephe lawrie, minister at perth. The marriage held in the erll of errollis ludgeing in the water gait of perthe.

In februar 1638, the 8 or nynt day thairof, the fessioun fat down at friviling, and continewit till the — day of —. Se may gels gif the toun of edinburgh wes angrie or not.

Thair wes ane proclamatioun maid be found of trumpets at the croce of friviling, for reffauing of the seruice buik, and protestatioun tane be the erll of home and my lord lyndefay, at the croce of friuiling and at the counfell tabill. And lykwais proclamatioun maid be the lyon horrellis for reffaving the same on the 22 of februar, at the croce of edinburgh; quhilk wes impedit be fewin erlls and nyne lordis.

Feb. 23. — faconer, spoufe to alexander lindfay of ewelyke, depairtit this lyf, and wes bureit at the kirk of killspindie the first day of marche 1638.

March 11, 12, 13. The confessioun of the fayth and band of the covenant, wes subscrivit be the prouest, baillies, counfall, deaconis, and haill inhabitantis of perth, and gentrie resident thairin, by findrie nobillmen, barrones, commissiounaris of burrowis, and wtheris, that subscryvit at edinburgh.

— 25. This wes publicklye red befor none on peax day, being the xxv day of marche 1638, be mr Robert lawrie reader. Mr Johne robertsone preachit, being ane fast, and the haill kirk and congregatioun tarie fuorne thairto, be wphaulding of thair hands. Item.—On fonday thereftir, being the first of Apryll 1638, the communion wes giwen be the ministers in the auld maner, be the minister and elderis: the minister at the litill tabell, and the elderis at the tua^r burdis, being

peopill at both fydes therof, euerie ane tuk the bread first off the plait with ther awin hand, and fine the coup. Nota.—george biffett and I bure the bread, gregor johnstoun, and patrick dundie, the coupis, this geir.

Nov. 21. Ane generall assemblie halden at glasgow. The Marques of hamiltoun commiffioner for the king, quha depairtit befor the assemblie raifs.

Thomas durhame commiffioner for perth.

In merche 1639, ane great conflict on the sea betuix the spanis nawie, contening in number fourtie shipis, going for assistance of the toun of Aberdene and the north partis, and the hollanders being bot in number ——. The Spanis nawie wes altogidder defeatt, at the pleifoure of god.

Aug. 12. A new frie generall assemblie inditit be his majestie, and hauldin this same day at edinburgh; my lord Traquair, thesaurer, principall commiffionar for his majestie; quherin the episcopall government is abiurit,—the fywe articles of perth, and fundrie wtheris novations. Patrick dundie commiffionar for this toun.

Parliament riddin at edinburgh wpon the last day of august 1639: Traquair, the commiffionar for the king, continewit. Robert anderfon commiffioner for this burgh of perth.

Oct. 1639. In october 1639, thair come in to the vastis of Ingland ane greatt nawie, the ellyke hath not bene sene in thir partis past memorie [of] man, about the number of ane hundreth schippis, callit the holie lige, consistin of the Spanis Galeons and from the pope. Ther intencion, god knavis, na question to have landit wpone this kingdome. Zit, at the plesour of god, they wer defeatt be the hollanders, quherin ther wer greatt skayth done be ather of the parteis, zit nothing done to the hollanders, in reguaird of the defeatt gewin be thame to the holie lige.*

* No entries appear for several years.

Wpon the third day of februar 1643, being about four houris in the mornyng, Ifobell wentoun, reliēt of wmqhill Johne creichtoun of kinved, depairtit this lyfe, and wes buried in the kirk of perth, wnder the scollaris feat, nixt auldies buriall. Wpone the 8 of februar, payit thair foir one hundred pounds, quilk wes ordainit be the counfall and lessioun to by ane coup to the communion.

Laurence oliphant of condie depairtit this lyff in edinburgh, and bureit in the kirk of fortewiot, wpon the 16 day of februar 1643.

Wpone the — day of februar 1643, my lord Car, quha mareit the erll of errollis onlie dochter, depairtit in edinburgh in nycht tyme, efter ane great drink, leawing behind him onlie Tua dochteris, and his Ladie great with chylde.

O&t. 12. — pattoun, fone to eduard pattoun, maried with — beattoun.

Nov. 5. The new couenent, read, sworne, and subscryvit be the toun of perthe, be standing wp, and euerie man wphalding thair hands. The women also wer mowit to stande and fueir.

July 4. 1644. Ane great battell struckin on marstoun mwre, in Ingland, neir the cite of York, betuix prince Rupert, sifter fone to king charlis, assistit be his majesties forceis on the [one] part, and be my lord generall fairfalk for the parliament of Ingland, and my lord manchester, and be generall leslie for scotland; quherin it wes thocht that the parliament, and scotis forceis and armes, prewaillit mychtilie, and pat prince Rupert to the flicht: quhat number wes killit I knawe not.

It wes thocht thair wes threttie thousand and ewerie fyde.

— 16. York wes randerit be the erll of newcastell and generall king, quha wer for the king, wpone fuir quarteris, and vairie gude conditiones, to fairfolk and generall Leslie: bot fairfolk and manchester gat the keeping thairof; and the scotis gat nane, except ane monethes pay, or thairby.

Thairefter my lord almond, lewetenent generall of scotland, and generall leslie, laid sedge to newcastell for intaking thairof.

— 25. Murdoche, servitour to James finyth, headit at the croce, for the slauchter of ——— muckrobie, fewitour to James grahame in drumfyde.

Wpone the first of September 1644, being sonday, thair wes ane great conflict, betuix James marques of montroifs, for the scotis forceis wnder his auctoritie, befyde Tibbermuir, on the mures therof, and befyde landerran and the burrow mure, being assist be the athoill men of sir John drumond, lord perthis second sone, and some of the marques awind friendis, and be ane Mr Alexander makconell, brother to the erll of antrim, with xij hundred men of eirshes, expert fouldiours, estimat in number all to Thrie Thoufand men on the ane part; and be the haill sheriffdomes of perth, fyff, and wtheris and haill burrowes of fyffe, nobill men and gentrie thairoff, estimat to the number of Sex thousand, weil armit, [and] by Thrie hundreth excellent hors, my lord elcho wes crownear. They were foir, to on with montroifs.

The battell begane about Tuelff houris, or aue, efternone, and lestit not half ane hour, quhen the fyff people, both fute and hors, fled beaftlie, did nower discharge all togidder ance, 3ea, not ane Third therof. Thair wer killed in sleing, aboue viij hundred men of gude account and gentill men, and sex peice of cannon of the fyff men tane.

The speciall gentillmen that wer killit, namit*

This same nycht, about nyne hours at ewin, The toun wes renderit to the marquis wpone quarteris, bot prejudice of the couenantis, To be frie of plundering, and to leawe as the kingis loyall subiectis: his companie quarterit here frie, fra sonday at nycht, mononday, and Tuis-

* A blank occurs in the MS. for the names.

day, many, woddenlay, and Thurfsday; he himself remainit quhill woddenlay.

It wes ane dear quartering to this burgh, and to the countrie about.

He tuke with him about viij hundred fyffe men, that came into this toun on fonda y at nycht: they wer wardit in the kirk.

Sep. 10. The erll of Lanthianeis regiment cam to this burgh, and quarterit frelie two dayis; himself came with thame.

— 11. The marqueis of Argyll come to this burgh, with great armeis with him, stayit quhill fetterday thairefter, the xiiij thairof. The toun wes greatlie damnefeit in thair meanes, and the cuntrie about.

Culrois company stayit heir 7 or 8 dayis, wpone thair awin expenfes. The laird of m'gregour, with * ——— men, remainit heir als long.

Thair come * ——— furth of dumbartane and the lennox, and remainit heir.

Sep. 13. Fryday. The Toun of aberdene tane in be montrois, great blude skeild on both fydes. God help it, and mend it, in his awin gude tyme.

— 19. M'gregour and his companey went furth of this burgh to * ———

Sep. 28. Setterday. My lord maitlands regiment come to perth for kepeing of the toun, and stayit quhill the xx of marche 1643, both they and craufurds regiment.

Dec. 16. monday at night. My Lord Lindfayis regiment came to Perth being in number aucht hunder, and stayit quhill monday the 23 of december, and we quarterit [thame] in the southgait, and west side of the watergait; at quhilk tyme both this regiment and my lord Maitlands regiment went furth of perth, and left behind tham tua hundreth men, viz. ane hundreth of my lord Lindfayis, quhairof C— Moncreif wes

Capitane, and the other hundreth of my lord maitlandis quhairof C—
Cunninghame wes Capitane.

Jan. 8. 1645. Maitlandis regiment come bak to perthe agane.

— 9. Lyndefayis regiment come to perthe agane. The foieuris
begane to gett tua peckis of maill ilk ane of thame weiklie.

Fra the 28 of September 1644 ane foieur of maitlandis regiment,
John perfone his name, wes quarterit with me, Till the viij of Januar
1645.

The regiment ferywener wes quarterit with me, callit David Staker,
fra the secund of December 1644, Till the nynt of Januar 1645.

Capitane frances wauchop and his man wes quarterit with me fra
the viij of Januar 1645, Till the 22 of marche in eodem anno 1645
gratis.

Feb. 11. Capitane wachope went to couper with a hundred men.

March 15. Setterday at night. He come bak with his man to my
hous.

— 22. Bothe maitlandis regiment and crawfuirdes regiment went
furth of perth, with lewtenant generall baillie and my lord crawforde,
towards angous and dundie.

— Anc number of my lord murrayis regiment come to perth,
the foieuris being hieland simpill bodeis, naikit, extending in number
to 250 men.

— 31. The chancelleiris regiment come to perth in number viij
hundred men :

And went furth thair of on Thursday thairefter the third of apryle
1645.

April 2. My lord cassilis regiment come to perth and depairtit
thairfra, the morne thairefter the 3d of aprill 1645, being in number
viij hundred men.

— 4. Thair came bak to perth of commandit men of this regiment

vij score men quherof quarterit in my quarter ——— with three men that came in of the shyre.

Oct. 2. Thair come to perth ane regiment of men extending to 400 men, quherof pitfcottie fould have bene Crownar and ane willame hamiltoun wes maior. The maist part difalentit that Pitfcottie should have bene thair crownear : and remanit heir till the 19 and 20 day of december.

—— 20. James campbell, Commiffioner, aberwquhill, mareit with jeane campbell, wmqhill mungo murray off laweris eldeft dochter in the kirk of perth, be mr george halyburtoun, minifter thair.

Dec. 13. Kennwris regiment came to perth betuix 11 and 12 houris at nycht being Saturday, in number 400 men :

And depairtit furth therof the xix of December instant.

—— 18. Cowpairs regiment came to perth in number —— quherof Lumbisdaill wes Lewtenant colonell and flayit quhill the —— and went out the 10 march being tuyfday, to kincairne.

—— 19. Lawrence merfär of mekilhour buriet honourable in his awin buriall place, within the kirk of perth, being fryday.

March 10. 1646. Colonell Lyell his men came to perth in number 300 men, and went out the 19th day of march.

The fame day Cowparis men came bak efter the hous of kincairne wes takin in be middletoun, and brunt.

The fame tyme the hous of Abererquhill brunt be the m'gregour.

Friday, July 18. Thair wes ane horrible thunder quhilk begane in perth at 5 houris at nicht and laffit till 2 in the morning.

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Penultimo aprilis 1654. Generall monk come to Stirling, being chieff commander of the Inglish army.

Friday, May 12. This day Cromwall wes proclamit my lord protector of the thrie natiouns of England, Scotland, and Irland, with great

lōlemnitie wpone ane stage of tymer richt beneath the court of guard, being hungin with tapestrie, being present thairon Collonell william daniell gouvernour of perth, The maier, ane Inglis capitaine of hors, John miln maister of wark for the mafones, Andrew butter present provest, william reoche baillie, Andro read, Robert arnot, henrie Jacksone, glover, mr Johne nairne, slieriff deputt, mr william ord, slieriff clerk, with diueris wtheris.

The act of gras, and sum wtheris paperis, also red be Patrick rofs, and henrie broun, notaris: Proclamed be andro henerie, baxter, be found of Trumpetis.

Ane troupe of hors, and some troups of drawgounis, stude beneath the court of guard foiranent the stage; and eftir the proclamatioun endit, gaif fyre thryfe.

The haill fute regiment [that] stude in armes aboute the meane guard, gaif fyre. Cannonis wer shote, and bonefyres set furth that nycht be the garifone.

Dec. 1655. Being mononday, the greatest storme, both be sea and land, that euer wes seen or red, quherby all the harberies on the coast wer castin down, and many ships and men cast away. At this tyme mr John reoch, sone to william reoch, baillie, and william murray, wer casten away comeing from london.

May 6. 1656. The great hous in the citidail in the fouthie inche of perth, totalie burnt, with moche gude prouisions thairintill, ane wn-quhencheabill fyre,—how it came wncertaine.

The first and secund sondays of may 1656, the communion gewin in perth be mr william coling, and mr george haliburtoun.

June 19. Willame spence mareit with catharene forbes, in the kirk of perth, with great solempnitie; the feast held in my ladie stormontis.

July 17. John campbell of knockhill, mareit with margaret Pitcarne.

Francis Schairp mareit with Jeane Reoch, william reochis dochter.

March 2. 1657. Mr william lindfay of kilspindie departit, and buried the 3d thairof.

— 20. George wilfone, laite baillie, depairtit, and buried 21.

— 29. Robert Jakfone, present baillie, departit on fonda, betuix 2 and 3 efternone, and bureit the penult, being monenday.

June 4. Henrie Jackfone, millar, fone to James Jackfone, miller, bureit.

— 9. Patrik gall, maltman, depairtit, quha maried — kullis lifter, buried 10 thairof.

Nov. 22. William wilfone, fone to androw wilfone, at the bridge of ern, mariet with — grant, dochter to androw grant of balhagillis.

Jan. 7. 1658. Gilbert, erle of erroll, maried with my lord Carnegies dochter, fouthefkes oy.

The fame day, alexander Bayne maried with the fheriff clerk of coupars dochter, litilzohn.

Lord Richard proclaimit proteétour of Ingland, Scotland, and Irland, and dominions thairto belonging, be founding of Trumpettis on ane flare beneath the court of gaird, and wther great folempnitie.

Oét. 14. Betuix fex and fewin houris in the morning, Andro Read, merechant, burges of perth, wes drownit in the milnleid, aboue the over miln, betuix the but and the miln, and fundin aboue the ouere miln. That fame day the provinciall affemblye satt [at] perth. Buried that fame day, at thrie houris in the efter none.

— 22. Capitane furde, brother in law to Colonell william daniell, gouvernour of perth, about ellewin houris befoire noone, nane being present, except doctour beattoun and the collonellis eldest dochter, being fitting in ane chair foiranent the fyre, efter taking of ane coup of beargong to breakfast, sattled presentlie down to ground, and depairtit presentlie, but any words spyking, Being of mynde efter fum phylic : He haid immediatelie bene in the guarding, walking a litell befoir.

January 30. 1659. — Hunter of balgay depairtit in perth, being refident thairin tua geiris or thairby, and tranſportit be water to Dundie, to be buried in his awin buriall place thair, being ane Dundie man borne.

Thurſday, Jan. 3. 1660. Ane willame Imrie, tailgeor, brother to matthew wilſones wyfe, being diftraçtit, did hang himſelf in the nycht, in ane towall, at alexander wilſone hous, his ſiſter ſone, in the water gate.

Dec. 12. Wedneſday, parliament fat down in edinburgh, midiltoun, wiſeroy.

Dec. 25. Mr John fyfe, miniſter at foullis, gule day, and buried the 25 thairof.

January 15. 1661. Rebecca aiſſoun, ſpous to Mr harie chaip, advocat, depairtit, and buried the 16. wedenſday.

March 25. Andro grant, elder of balhagillis, married with Janet Gray.

June 20. Mr John malcolme ſone to mr John malcolme, miniſter, depairtit, buried 21. fryday.

Nov. 11. Mr John Murray, miniſter at methven, depairtit in his awin hous at methven. Mr Hew Ramſay ſuccedit to him be com-miſſioner middletouns moyen.

Nov. 20. William Auchinlek wes married with Ifobell Grahame, dochter to Orckill.

February 6. 1662. The quhilk day, Crownar keath, brother to the erll of Marſhall, mareit with dame marie hey, dochter to the late erll of Kynnoull, being preſent the erllis of marſchell and mortoun, with many gentrie.

— 10. The erll of mortoun, Crownar keath, his brother, war maid burgeſſis, with mony vther gentillmen.

— 11, being Tuyſday. — Chapman of Lentrodie, buried at the —

The nynt of June 1662, at v houris in the morning, being Monon-day, Andro blair of Corbur mareit with margaret Threipland in Kin-noull, be mr James oliphant.

June 11. 1662. John erll of perth, of the age of iiij score ȝeiris and mair, depairtit at Drymen, and buried wpone the ———.

Dec. 18. Mr harie chaip of ormstoun, advocat, baillie of perth, depairtit, and buried on the 20th day thairof, being fetterday.

[Sometime in] 1662. John grame of balgoun depairtit, and buried in the kirk of methuen.

The laft weik of februar 1663, tua boat men brocht to the fchoir of perth some wyne of mr William ardis, and depairtit, being chokit with reik in thair awin boat beneath. The laft of the tua buried the laft of this moneth, in the gray freiris.

Feb. 27. 1663. Johne bennet, in the muretoun, betuix fywe and sex houris in the afternoone, beneath the murtoun wes drownit in the vater of Tay. The bell went feuerall tymes about for him; and wes buried the first of marche, being fondon, efter the preaching in the efternoone.

—— 21. Margaret hamiltoun, spous to Mr Alexander hamiltoun, minifter at Tibermuir, depairtit; and buried on the twentie fyft thair-of, being weddenfday.

March 24. Johne narne, fone to mr John narne of Muckarfie.

—— 28. Dougall Grame, fone naturall to the Marqueis of Montrois, burnt in James ȝounger baxteris.

April 15. Wodenfday, katerene ogilvey, spous to Mr James Malcolme, minifter at Airlie, [depairtit.]

June 22. ———, spous to Mr James Auchinleck, minifter at perthe, depairtit.

Aug. 24. Alexander Lindfay, elder of ewelyk, depairtit thair on mononday, and buried on fryday thairefter.

Oct. 17. James Dykes, deane of gild the preceding tua ȝeiris, depairtit at 5 hours at night, being fetterday, and buried on mononday the nyetene october 1663, in the gray freiris.

Oct. 10, 1664. Mr Geo: halyburtoun demitted his office of the ministrerie at Perth.

Dec. 10. David Jakfon, baillie, depairtit, being fetterday, about viij in the mornynge, and buried the ellevent day thairefter, being fonday.

January 1665. Mr Robert Young, minister at dumbarnie, depofit be [the] Archbishop of St Andrews.

Last of Februar 1665. Mr henrie oliphant, minister at kinuoul, buried at kirk of Kinnoull; [he] depairtit on saturday 25th thereof.

April 5. About fywe houris at ewin, George bifhop of dunkell depairtit in his awin hous in perth, and wes buried on the xvij aprill, in the commoun buriall place callit the gray freire; honorablie convoyit with his friendis about the toun. The bells wer rung all tyme, began at ten houris; mr william Annane, minister at edinburgh, maid fermen, began at tua houris.

16. Sonday. Mr william Annane maid fermen befor noone, and Mr mungo law maid fermoun in the efternoon on the pfalme, being his first fermone.

May 28. Mr Mungo law maid fermone on the pfalme, in the efternoone.

June 1. Mr Mungow law admittit minister at perth; Mr Harie guthrie, minister at Kilspindie, maid fermone.

July 9. Janet mercer, my fifter, being fonday, buried, reliēt of John home, elder, depairtit on saturday the 8 day.

The fewtentene of november. Mr John paterfone of benchillis, lait prouest of perth, depairtit at benchillis, and brocht in vpone the 18th thairof, being fetterday, and putt in the west kirk, and buried on Mononday the tuentie of november 1665.

Nynetene day of november, being foday, Ifobell peblis, reliēt of Mr walter Stewart, minifter at blair in athoil, depairtit.

June 20. 1666. Fryday. Laurence oliphant of bachiltoun buried in aberdalgie, in efternoone.

May 15. 1667. Wedenfday. Ane capitaine boyd, of the commiffioners liwe guaird, buried in the gray freiris ; deid of fchott of ane bullet in his knee, committed be ane boy of the guard, fervitour to ane capitaine of the company. The boy fufferit thairfoir.

March 5. Mr Hary Auchinlek buried ; the bellis rung.

June 1. At xij houris, Mr James foullar, minifter at Kynfaunis, depairtit.

Auguft 8. Johne Tuyes, notar, mareit with Thomas narnes dochter.

— 10. Setterday. The ladie durie, the wicount of Stormonts fifter david murray, convoyit fra perth quher fcho depairtit, to the kirk of arnegofk, quhair fcho wes buried, ane confiderable number of tounne men convoyit her thair.

Nov. 30. Margaret elder fpous to mr Johne liddell, minifter at fcune, buried at fcune at the weft kirk door the 1ft December.

Dec. 6. Dame anna douglas countefs of Kinnoull, buried in her hufbands tomb betuixt — and — houris at nycht, [fhe] deit of ane gude report.

— 17. At thrie houris in the morning James merfer my fone depairtit, and wes buried on Thurfday thairefter being the nyneteen day thereof.

Jan. 19. 1668. Andro grant Jonger of balhagillis depairtit thair, and buried on the —

April 7. Mr william lyndfay, minifter at — transportit thairfra : Admitted this day : mr william Barclay made fermon, the — chapter of Ifay, — vers. Many of the prefbeterie wer prefent.

EXTRACTS FROM THE KIRK SESSION RECORDS OF PERTH.

MAY 1577. Compeared Marion Whyte, and confesses her Fornication with John Swenton, and the second fault, and submits herself to the discipline of the kirk, and civil punishment.

Compeared John Swentoun, alleged father to the bairn, who being demanded gif he has had carnall deall with Marion Whyte, within 9 months bygone or thereby; he denied that he had any carnall deall with her within this 2 years bygone; and therefore the said Marion referred to his conscience to sweare gif he had carnall deall with her or no by the [space] foresaid. The assembly [Session] assigns to the said John, monday next, to give forth his aith thereupon, either negative or affirmative.

May 27. 1577. Compeared John Swentoun, and refused to give his oath upon the contents of the last act, and therefore the assembly ordains the kirk to proceed against him by admonitions: under the pain of censures of the kirk to depone his aith, either negative or affirmative, conform to the last act concerning the fornication, confessed by Marjory Whyte committed with him, to whom she is with bairn, as she has confessed and alledges presently.

June 20. 1577. Compeared John Swentown, and confesses his fornication with Marion Whyte, and the second fault, and submits himself to the discipline of the kirk, and the civil punishment, conform to the order; and is ordained to compear before the assembly on Monday the 7th of July, to receive his directions for his second fault of fornication.

July 1. 1577. Because certain inhabitants of this town, as well against the express command of the civil magistrate, as against the ministers prohibitions in the pulpit, have played Corpus Christi's play,* upon Thursday the Sixth day of June last, whilk day was wont to be called Corpus Christi's day, to the great slander of the church of God, and dishonour to this hail town; and because the said Play is idolatrous, superstitious, and also slanderous, as well by reason of the sixth day,

* * * * * * * * *

December 9. 1577. Because that Thomas Paterfon and Katherine Culbert contracted marriage, and the said Katherine will not accomplish the same; therefore (the Session) desires the baillies to puint John Wood who was cautioner for the said Katherine for ten pounds, according to the act.

December 16. 1578. Gilbert Robertfon, William Morton, Thomas Rollock, Thomas Jack, John M'Baith, confess that they have transgressed an act made in the assembly of ministers and elders, and ratified by the provost and baillies, in that they superstitiously passed about the town on St Obert's Even, disguised, in piping and dancing, and torches

* This perhaps may have been one of the well known mysteries, regularly played at Coventry by the Mendicant Friars on Corpus Christi day. One of these still exists in MS. in the Cottonian Library, marked Vespasianus, D. viii. The conclusion of this entry is wanting in the record.

† The editor has not been able to find any Saint of this name. The only Saint's day occurring upon the 16th of December, is that of St. Bean, thus noticed in the Martyrology, "Aberdone in Hibernia Sancti Beani Episcopi." Martyrologium Romanum,

bearing : for the whilk they submit themselves to the discipline of the kirk.

January 11. 1578-[1579.] It is also thought meet that the assembly make their supplication also to the Council upon Thursday, touching the walkars, that no walkar perk their webbs as in times past upon Gray Friars Walls.

The whilk day John Swentown master of the Sang School of this town, expounded to the assembly of the minister and elders, that he had great travel in teaching the youth of this town in music, and in taking up of the Psalms, and that the council of the town had made him title of gift to the annuals of the Gray Fraternity altars within this town : yet notwithstanding he was contented to submit himself to the assembly of the kirk herein, and receive of benevolence what they pleased to bestow upon him induring his travel and good service,—and because the assembly was willing to gratify the said John for his good service ; therefore they willed him to discharge any right he had or pretended to the said altarage, and to receive of benevolence as they would bestow upon him. In respect whereof, the said John willingly by thir presents has renuded, and presently renudes and overgives, all right title of gift he has, or may have, to the said altarage of the Gray Fraternity, given to him by the council of this town, or any other ways, with all letters or executorialls raised thereupon. In respect whereof, the said assembly

Antwerpiae 1635, p. 439. Upon referring to Dempster, vol. I. p. 66, 78. [Bannatyne Club Edition,] two Saints occur with names so similar that there is good reason for supposing they are the same person, S. Beanus, and S. Boeanus, as he fixes both their festivals on the 16th December, while in the Martyrology there is only one Saint day of that date. It is very probable that this is a mistake of Dempster, arising from the slight variation in the spelling. It is a singular instance of the little knowledge foreign scholars had of Scotland when the compiler of the Martyrology places Aberdeen in Ireland !

of the elders is content, that the said John Swentown intromit with their annuals of their said altarge, induring the space of the year to come, and same also induring their wills, and according to his good service: providing always that he make no assignees to the uplifting of the said annuals, but only to take them up by himself; and to this effect the assembly ordains the master of the hospitality to assist in the uplifting of the same as said is.

May 25. 1579. The Assembly ordains the Baillies to put Helen — upon the Cross Head for the space of an hour, and to pay half ane mark to the poor before she come down, and that for the flandering of Thomas Brown.

Thomas Malcom is convicted before the assembly, to have called Thomas Brown “loun carll,” for the whilk the assembly ordains him to be put in the Tolbooth, there to remain two hours, and to pay 6s. 8d. to the poor.

— 2. 1580. Ordains an act to be made by the Minister, concerning discharging of all passing to the Draggon Hole, superstitiously, and the same to be published on Thursday next out of the Pulpit, and thereafter to be given to the Baillies, and proclaimed at the Mercat cross.

THE ACT.

Because that the Assembly of Minister and Elders understand, that the resorting to the Draggon Hole, as well by young men as women, with their piping, and drums striking before them, through the Town, has raised no small slander to this Congregation, not without suspicion of filthiness after to follow thereupon; for avoiding whereof in times coming, the said Assembly, with consent of the Magistrates of this Town, has statute and ordained, that no person hereafter of this Congregation, neither man nor woman, resort nor repair hereafter, to the said Drag-

gon Hole, * as they have done in times bygone, namely, in the month of May; neither pass through the Town, with piping and striking of drums, as heretofore they have done, under the pain of twenty shillings to the poor to every person, as well man as woman that [contravene] hereof; and also to make their public repentance upon ane Sabbath Day in presence of the people: and this ordinance to be published at the Mercat cross upon Saturday next, as also in the Pulpit by the Minister, on Thursday and Sunday next to come, that none hereafter pretend ignorance hereof.

The said act was published the sixth day of May at the Mercat cross, as also from the Pulpit.

March 8. 1580. [1581.] Ordains Constantine Malis and Hobbell Elder, to make their public repentance upon Sunday next, and further pay four pounds to the poor; because that in time of their public humiliation and fasting, they passed up at once to their feasting and solemnizing of marriage, contrary to all good order.

May 8. 1581. It is ordained, that whosoever joins carnally together, betwixt the giving up of their banns before the kirk, and accomplishment of their marriage, shall pay forty shillings to the poor, and make their public humiliation before the Pulpit, upon the Sunday before marriage.

July 31. It is ordained by the hail Assembly, that every flyter convicted flyting, shall pay half mark to the poor, stand upon the Cross Head, and make public repentance for satisfaction of the kirk and party.

Nov. 20. 1581. Ordains all possessors of altarages to put up their lights in the kirk, and to put up on the Sunday, ane twa penny candle, and the baillies to cause this to be done by sound of bell through the town, under the pain of not answering of their annuals.

* The Draggoun's Hole is a large cave in the rock of the Hill of Kinnoul, of very difficult and dangerous access.—(SCOTT.)

Upon the 21st day of this instant of February anno 1581-[1582,] Maige Mertyne being put in the Tower aboon the north kirk door, for concealing and hiding of the truth, in the action of M^cWalter being adulterer with Maige Paterfon, as was alleged before Duncan M^cGregor, elder for the present, Andrew Blythman, kirkmaster, and John Ronaldson, officer, she depones that Maige Paterfon sent her about M^cWalter to his own house, desiring her to bring him to her mothers house, that the said Maige Paterfon and he might forgadder there ; but she would not, but brought him to the said Maiges fathers house, and he being brought there, after that they had drunken out the ale that was left over Maiges fathers supper, they sent her [Maige Mertyne] about another pint of ale ; and she being gone to the door, Maige Paterfon being naked, her father sleeping, M^cWalter with her put out the light ; and in the meantime, she heard the said Maige Paterfon say to M^cWalter, that “ the morn they would tholle miekle shame for the thing they were “ doing ;” and she said, “ that they should tholle miekle shame for it “ on the morne.” In the meantime M^cWalters wife came [in,] and when Maige Paterfon saw her, she put M^cWalter up a trap to a loft, and his wife perceiving that, trailled him down the trap, and fell to the said Maige [Paterfon,] and raive her face and her luggs, and so there was sic tumult amongst them, that Alexander Maiges wife came furth with her maiden, and Henry with a cruife in his hand to see the matter.

April 16. 1582. Ordains James Sym to give the witch in the tolbooth 8 doits in the day.

May 19. 1582. Compears Isabell Paterfon, and confesses her fornication with Walter Chalmer, dwelling with the Prior of the Charter-House ; she is ordained to be put in the ward of the fornicators, above the North Kirk door.

November 20. 1582. Ordains James Sym to make three locks to the Crofs Head.

Ordains John Ronaldson having fornicators, to put every one of them in ane fundry house in time coming, to give them but bread and small drink ; to let none of them come to the nether window, and when they come to the Cross Head, that they be fast locked in the irons two hours, their curchies off, their heads and their faces bare, without an plaid or any other covering, under the pain of tinfel of his office.

December 3. 1582. Whilk day the friends of William Farn, who drowned himself at the head of the South Inch, in the water of Tay, coming to the minister and elders, convened together for the time in their Revestry, and desiring licence at the assembly, to bury the said William in the Gray Friars, which is the burial appointed for the faithful that depart in the fear of God ; the assembly answered with one voice, that they would not suffer him to be brought through the town in day light, neither yet to be buried amongst the faithful, in the place appointed for their burial ; but ordains that he be buried in the Little Inch that is within the water, and this to have the strength of an act, to all such like persons in all time coming, and assuring all, that gif any contravene the same, the dead shall be taken up again, and the contraveners hereof shall make their repentance in the seat, and thereafter shall pay £ 10 to one of the deacons, that they may distribute it to the poor.

February 15. 1584 [1585]. Compeared Robert Anderson, alias Card, and confessed his incest with Margaret Black, his wife's daughter, who is ordained to make his repentance therefor, and find caution for an hundred [possibly merks,] that he shall continue therein, who found William Anderson and Chrystie Whyte cautioners, to obey whatsoever punishment the kirk should enjoin to him.

May 24. 1585. It was statute and ordained, that hereafter induring the time of the plague, no banquets should be at marriages, and no persons should resort to bridals under the pain of ten pounds, to be

paid by ilk one that contravenes the fame ; and 40 pounds to be paid by them that call more than four on the fide to the banquet, or bridal, induring the peft.

July 5. 1585. Forafmeikle as Thomas Smith confefled his triple fornication with three fundry women, and now having the laft woman with bairn again, it is ordained that he fhall be warded, fhaven, and doukit [in a puddle of water], according to the aët of Parliament.

Oct. 11. 1585. Forafmeikle as George ——— and Elfpeth Cudbert were both apprehended in naked bed together, in filthy fornication, upon the tenth of this infant, being the firft Sunday of the holy communion, and of public faft and humiliation, appointed by the kirk to be holily obferved, that God of his mercy might remove this miferable plague from this town, and all other towns within this country ; and likewise that the forefaid perfons have been both put forth in the lodges, as fufpected of the fame ficknefs, from the whilk God has preferved them to this hour : neverthelefs they have, without fear of God, filthily committed the forefaid vice of fornication ; therefore the haill feffion ordains the forenamed perfons fhall be carted backward through the town, from the faid Elfpeth's houfe, where they were apprehended, having paper hats on their heads, on Saturday next, at ten hours before noon, and thereafter that they be locked faft in the front on the Crofs Head, and there ftand till three afternoon ; and thereafter to be warded till Sunday, at what time the officers fhall convoy them with their paper hats, to the public feat of repentance, that there they may confefs their offence, and afk God and the congregation forgivenefs for the slander they gave, and evil example to others to commit the like : and this aët to ftrike upon all fuch perfons whom the watch apprehends in fornication in time of the common humiliation, or any other time in time coming, that vice may be rooted out of this town, and God may blefs it.

November 7. 1587. Appoints an faft to begin on Saturday next,

and to continue while Sunday eight days thereafter at even, with great humiliation and prayer to God, that it would please him to remove the plague of the pest from the towns of Edinburgh, Leith, &c. and to preserve us therefrom ; as also to preserve us from the pest of the foul, whilk is Papistry ignorance, maintained presently by these Jesuites and Papists now come in, who press to bring men under the thralldom of idolatry and ignorance, and from the true knowledge of Christ our Saviour, revealed to us in his word, and to embrace their superstitious rites and ceremonies, from the whilk the Lord preserve us ! And ordains this to be notified from the pulpit on Thursday next, that none incur ignorance hereof, that every one may address them to fasting, to prayer, and humiliation at the time appointed.

December 11. 1587. Ordains these baxters that on Saturday last at even, played St Oberts play, to be warded wherever they be apprehended, ay and while, they give their obedience for satisfaction of the kirk and congregation.

February 26. 1587 [1588.] Ordains the master of the Hospital to make an book of ten quair of paper, to contain and hold the compts of the Hospital yearly.

March 4. 1587 [1588.] Whilk day William Fleming being called before the Assembly, for resetting, giving lodging, entertainment, and convoying of the Laird of Fentrie,* an enemy to God and religion, an avowed papist and Jesuite, excommunicate for the same, and common trafficker for the subversion of the true religion, whilk was against the command of God, and expressly against the rule of his word, and likewise against the acts made by the Kings Majesty, and assemblies general and particular, especially against the act of our assembly published from the pulpit and cross of this burgh : Being herefore accused, answered,

* David Grahame of Fentrie, afterwards executed at Edinburgh the 15th February 1592, for treason.

that neither for contempt of God, nor no good rule or act made by the King or kirk, he did the same, but rather of negligence, because he was in company of the Earl of Huntly, and was received under his connivance ; confessing the same to have been an fault, promises never to do the like in time coming,—and in case he be found to contravene in time coming, the penalty in the act contained to strike on him, all excuse being put aside ; whilk fault the minister and elders oversee at present, in hopes of amendment.

Nov. 11. 1588. For as meikle considering the great slander that arises of young women taking up houses, and dwelling together as codrois, and common receivers of honest mens servants and their gear ; it is ordained, that no honest man shall let them an house, without the advice of one of the baillies and elders publicly to be allowed, under the pain of the house mail to be given to the poor. The persons as codrois taking up house, to be holden and repute as fornicators and entertainers of bordels, and punished as such.

December 7. 1588. Ordains Andrew Anderson, webster, to pay ten shillings, because the Sabbath day was broken in his house, by his wife, in warping an web thereon ; and his wife to put herself in the repentance feat on Sunday next for the same.

June 3. 1589. The minister and elders gave licence to play the play,* with condition that neither swearing, banning, nor no scurrility be in it, to the offence of the religion which we profess, and an evil example to others :—and in case any be in the same, or any person add any of the same, by the Register of Play itself, ordains him to be ward-ed, and make his public repentance.

August 11. 1589. Whilk day Nichol [Ronaldson,] belman, being called and accused for not ringing the curfew and workman bells, at eight hours at even and four hours in the morning, according to the

* Probably Corpus Christi play.

custom and use ; answered, that David Mar had taken away the tow to the brig of Earn. Therefore ordains Robert Anderfon and James Adamfon, to intimate the fame to the council, to caufe the faid David hing up the bell tows againe, as good and fufficient as they were, when he took them down.

O^c. 21. 1589. For as meikle as Jean Thornton is an excommunicate perfon, and fhould not be holden in the company of good Chriftians that fear God, much lefs to be entertained in bed and board within any honeft godly man's houfe, to the great slander of God, his word, kirk, and this congregation. It is ordained that all the baillies, Robert Anderfon, Oliver Young, Henry Balneaves, and Andrew Mercer, with Adam Anderfon, and Conftantine Malice, two of the Elders, pafs to Thomas Monipenny prefently, and intimate to him the kirks will, that is to fay, that he feperate and put out of his houfe the faid Jean Thornton, under the pain of excommunication, and the faid baillies and elders to report the diligence on Monday next, and no other to receive [her] under the pain of excommunication. *

Nov. 2. 1589. Forafmeikle as this day was alligned to certain honeft neighbours of Tirlappie to be prefent, and of their confcience to declare whether it was true, that ——— Guddal, fpoufe to Richard Watfon, was a witch, as John Watfon there alleged, or what evil likelihood they faw in her. Walter Watfon, John —, George Scott,

* Jean Thornton was wife to Oliver Peebles, who was a useful elder in the church, and much esteemed in his time. Some years before she had accused the Dean of Guild, Henry Adamson, as having been guilty with her of the sin of adultery. He denied the charge, nor was it proven by the witnesses brought by Oliver Peebles. She was punished according to her own confession, and becoming afterwards more abandoned, was at last excommunicated. Henry Adamson, Dean of Guild, was some years after this stabbed by Thomas Peebles ; who perhaps was a son of Oliver Peebles by his wife Jean Thornton.—(SCOTT.)

James Scott, being enquired severally as they would answer to God, what they kend,—altogether agreed in one, but [without] contradiction, that they saw never such things into her whereby they might suspect her of the same,—but that she was an honest poor woman, who wrought honestly for her living, without whose help her husband Richard Watson would have been dead, who was an old aged man. Therefore the minister and elders ordain the act of slander to be put in execution against the said John Watson, and Helen Watson, his daughter. *

April 27. 1590. David Billy promised to make an ladder to the prayer-tolling, for an merk.

July 20. 1590. Ordains Patrick Fleming, David Billy, and Alexander Puller, to buy timber to make an substantial ladder to the cock-flool.

June 21. 1591. Ordains for keeping order in the kirk at the Queens Majestys entry, Robert Mathew, Walter Gray, John Pitcairn, James Mercer, Andrew Wilson, elders, to have the oversight and keeping of the door, that no tumult be made.

June 28. 1591. This day the hail town being occupied in their preparations for the Queens Majestys entry in the town, the assembly was not holden.

December 20. 1591. Compears Walter Murray in Craigie, and confesses his incest with Isobel Gibson, oye to Isobel Anderson his first wife, and submits him to the will of the kirk. Ordains him to be present himself, before the presbytery on Wednesday next. Ewin Rynd cautioner of his prefence before the Presbytery, under the pain of ten pounds.

Compears Thomas Harlow and Janet Grant his wife, and being

* A very proper sentence, and much to the credit of the good sense of the kirk session. It is the more remarkable, as at that period any proof, however slight or trivial, was sufficient to establish witchcraft.

accused as special refetters, entertainers, and receivers of idle beggars, thieves, and such other unlawful persons; but especially now of new, besides placing and putting together in beds, unmarried and unlawful persons: they confessed the same,—therefore the session ordains him and his said wife on Sunday next, to make their repentance; and in case they be found hereafter to receive such persons in lodging, then to be banished the town.

December 27. 1591. For as meikle as it is ungodly and unhoneft to abuse the kirkwalls and kirk yard, by piffing on the walls thereof, and otherwife againft godlinefs and honefty using the fame, feeing it is a place wherein the defunct corpfie lies below and is buried: Ordains that none abuse the fame in manner forefaid, under the pain [of] two pennies whenever they be apprehended; and this to be intimated on Sunday next from the pulpit.

February 21. 1591 [1592.] This day compeared John Pitfcottie, apparent [heir] of Loncarty, Finlay Errol, fervitor to the Laird of Balhoufie, [with feveral other persons named in the Register,] and confessed that on the Sunday of the faft, in the time of preaching in the afternoon, they were playing at the foot ball in the meadow inch of the muirtoun, and that the fame was an offence. Therefore they were ordained on Sunday next to make their repentance for breach of the fabbath.

April 17. 1592. Ordains Adam Adamfon and Patrick Blaír baillies, that on Monday next they fpeak the council, that an mufician be had for uptaking of the Pfalms in the kirk.

January 29. 1592-1593. The Lady Endernytie being called, and accused for abfenting herfelf, and the reft of her family from the hearing of the word on the Sabbath, compears and confefles, that fhe does it not, neither in contempt of the word, or of the minifter, but only by reafon

of her sickness, and promises when she shall be well in health, to repair more frequently to the kirk, and hearing of the word.

Compears Henry Adamson, and being enquired if he knew any thing concerning the conspiracy made by the Earl of Angus, confesses he knew nothing ; and being accused for riding on the Sabbath day, confesses the same, and promises not to do the like hereafter.

March 19. 1593. Compear Mr George Ruthven, Andrew Brown, Thomas Lathreels, and John Meling, chirurgions, and being enquired if they or any one of them had any persons under cure for the present who had the goir, answered all in one voice they had none ; and further, at the request and command of the minister and elders, promised that if they shall have any such persons under their cure in time coming, they should reveal it to the minister and elders for avoiding of contamination, which must ensue unto others by their company with persons in such a disease.

December 24. [marked September in the Register by mistake] 1593. Ordains to count and reckon with John Pitcairns wife for the entertainment of an German scholar,* and they to be answerable to her for his expences and entertainment ; and likewise ordains at his departure two crowns of gold to be given him, the one to be advanced by Mr George Ruthven, the other by John Jack.

January 7. 1593-[1594]. Because that the scholars in time of preaching, by their tumults and running through the kirk, and likewise by their clattering and fighting, do trouble both the teacher and the hearers, therefore Oliver Peebles and Patrick Blair, elders, are ordained to propone to the baillies and council the next day of their convention, that an seat and place may be biggit for the scholars in some commodious place of the kirk, where they may hear and learn without troubling either the minister in teaching, or the auditory in hearing.

* He is afterwards said to have been a minister sometime in Denmark. (SCOTT.)

February 24. 1593 [1594]. Forasmeikle as fundry, both men and women, in time of preaching on the Sunday in the forenoon, rise up at the chap of eleven hours, and depart away without the blessing, or giving of thanks unto God; therefore for slaying and repressing of this great enormity in all time coming, which is very slanderous, the minister and elders ordain the visitors, both baillies and elders, to keep both the kirk doors, and suffer none to depart out of the kirk, before the blessing, except they be sick and evil at ease.

September 22. 1595. The Session ordains the masters of the hospital to give an poor boy, called Alexander Martine, ten merks, to help him to an pack for winning of his living.

December 29. 1595. Compears John Spence, who broke the Sabbath by absenting himself from the hearing of the word; as also [accused for] his unreverent behaviour to the minister and baillies being visiting the families, and therefore ordains him to be committed to ward, while he be humbled, and find caution to do his duty.

Mr George Ruthven, chirurgion, gives in a bill of complaint upon Archibald Steidman, declaring that the said Archibald had profaned the Sabbath fundry and diverse times, by shaving and polling, gentlemen and strangers on the Lord's day, as James Stewart of Achmadoes, the Laird of Reidhall, and John Windiegates, hatour to his Majesty. The said Archibald being accused and tryed, is found guilty of the breach of the Lord's Sabbath; and therefore the Session ordains him the next Sabbath, to compear in the place of public repentance, and to declare his repentance for the foresaid offence.

November 21. 1597. Compeared Mr William Rynd, master of the school, and complained that he and his tenants were molested by daily reek and smoke coming furth of that house, sometimes possessed by James Stewart; and farther declared, that his own lodging and tenement was in danger of burning, because that the nether house under

his land wanted an chimney ; and therefore craves, that the Sessìon would stay and inhibit any fire to be in the said house in time coming ; and that the door that is in the midst, may be fluken up, that the chimney which is in the south house may serve for both the houses. The Sessìon agreed to his desire, and ordains the master of the hospital with all diligence, to cause fluke up the door that is in the midst of the said house, and there be no fire kindled again in the north house in time coming.

Nov. 23. The Sessìon ordains the magistrates to travel with his Majesty, to obtain a commission to execute James Robertson, forcerer, who long had been detained in ward.

Jan. 9. 1597-[8]. The Laird of Lawers compeared the last Sabbath, *pro quarto*, in the place of public repentance [for adultery].

July 31. Andrew Robertson, chirurgion, accused of breaking the Sabbath, by poling and rasing the Laird of ———, declared he did it quietly at the request of the gentleman without outgoeing. The Sessìon found him guilty, and ordained him privately to declare his repentance before them, and to abstain in future.

December 25. The Sessìon ordanes a book to be made, into the which the haill rental of the hospital shall be written.

Jan. 22. 1598 [9.] William Blyth being enquired why Gilbert Car resorted to his house, answered, that he was a common host and entertainer of strangers who resided there ; and that Gilbert came to his house as other strangers to get lodgings and entertainment upon his reasonable expences. Being enquired why he suffered Janet Kelt his servant to lie in the booth with Gilbert Car, [or shop in which were two beds, in one of which Janet Kelt lay with a young lass of her masters, and in the other Gilbert Car,] answered it was of no evil intention, but because he had no room in his house, and he caused his daughter to lie nightly with his own servant. The sessìon thinks this

daughter to lie nightly with his own servant. The session thinks this doing to be suspicious, and that he has not done the duty of a Christian master to his servant, but has done so far as in him lay to make her a harlot; therefore ordains him next Sabbath to declare his repentance publicly, in presence of the hail congregation.

April 9. 1599. Compeared James Young, [town] officer, being warned to this [day;] who being accused for profaning of the holy Sabbath, by absenting himself from the hearing of the word, both before and after noon, and being beastly drunk, persuing George M'Gregor through the streets publicly with an drawn sword, to the great dishonour of God, and slander of this congregation,—[he] confesses the same. George Horn's wife declares, that on the Sabbath was eight days, James Young, with John Murray, came to her house and craved drink, and when she refused, he drew out his sword and said he should shew her another guise, except she gave him drink; and so being boasted, and knowing the disposition of the man, she furnished drink to him while twelve hours; and when he was desired to go home to his own house, he went into a cellar, against her will, and drank while the sermon afternoon was ended, and was so beastly drunken, that he knew not what he did. The Session ordains him to come the next Sabbath to the kirk door, barefoot, and in linen clothes, and stand from the second unto the third bell, and thereafter come to the place of public repentance, and there declare his repentance publicly, in presence of this congregation.

Because that George Horn's wife, furnished drink to James Young and his companion, as she alleged against her will, and that the cause of her being at home in time of sermon was sickness, and a disease in her dad, the Session desired her to declare on her conscience that it was so indeed; which she did.

July 2. 1599. Thomas Ritchie confesses that he was drunken, for

the which he was forry, and promifes to be more temperate in time coming; and in cafe he fhall be found drunken at any time hereafter, he is content to pay five pounds, to be employed to the ufe of the poor.

November 19. Compears James Maxton, being warned to this day; and being accufed for profaning of the Sabbath, by abfenting himfelf from the hearing of the word, and telling of filver at home with certain Highland men; confefles that he being in the kirk, was fent for by fome Highlandmen, who delivered to him a certain fum of money, to be kept by him while their returning back. The Seflion finds him by this his doing to be a profaner of the Sabbath himfelf, and alfo an occafion of profaning the Sabbath to others, whom he fhould have taught; and therefore ordains him to pay the penalty, according to the A&t of Parliament.

John Gardner, James Barman, Laurence Chalmer, and Laurence Cudbert, young boys, confefs that they were playing at the golf in the North Inch, in time of the preaching afternoon on the Sabbath. The Seflion rebuke them, and admonifh them to refort to the hearing of the word diligently on the Sabbath in time coming, which they promifed to do.

December 10. Compears Donald Thomfon, with Grizel Robertson, and confefled promife of marriage one to another. They were admonifhed to accomplifh their marriage within forty days, and to keep their bodies clean while the day of their marriage, which they promifed to do. Further, becaufe the faid Grizel is in the houfe with the faid Donald, the Seflion ordains them to feparate themfelves, and remain in fundry houfes while the day of their marriage. For fulfilling of the premiffes they have found caution, viz. Patrick Bruce for the man, and John Elder for the woman, under the penalty of ten pounds, to be employed to the ufe of the poor.

May 12. 1600. Patrick Gall, Finlay Eviott, John Bennet, Laurence

Robertson, and Patrick Auchinleck, confesses that their servants spread muck on the Sabbath was eight days, after the afternoon preaching. The Session thinks them to be profaners of the Lord's sabbath, and their doing slanderous; and therefore ordains them to declare their repentance privily, and pay a penalty, to be employed to the use of the poor.

Dec. 1. The visitors report that the Sabbath was profaned by all the taverners, except John Pitcairn and Henry Balneaves, and that strangers and mercat folks were found drinking in all the taverns. The Session ordains them to be summoned and censured, for their profanation of the Lord's day.

April 13. 1601. George Murray, accused for suffering of ale to be sold in time of preaching on the Sabbath in his house, answered that he was in the kirk himself, and his wife also; but his servant came, and brought his wife out of the kirk to an daughter of Tullibardines, to give her some cloths which she had of hers in custody, and in the mean time caused fill drink to the said gentlewoman, and her servants with her.* The Session understanding the like offence has not fallen out of before in his time, admonished him to keep good order in time coming, and not to suffer either ale or wine to be sold in his house, in time of preaching on the Sabbath hereafter, which he promised to do.

January 11. 1602. The visitors report that good order was kept the last Sabbath, except that they found some young boys playing at the foot ball in the Inch, who were corrected by the magistrate.

Janet Syme confesses her sin of fornication, committed with John Barrie, a cripple, at Midsummer last, in John M'Duffs house, whose servant she was for the time: and being strictly urged, if any other had carnal dealing with her, or was her bairns father, declared on her con-

* A strange instance of the habits and manners of the time—the daughter of the Earl of Tullibardine drinking ale in the forenoon!

science, that none other was the father of her bairn, but the said John Barrie: and likewise, the said John Barrie confesses he had carnal dealing with the said woman at the time aforesaid. The Session understanding that they are both poor bodies, having nothing either to pay in penalty, or to entertain themselves in ward, neither yet counted of public repentance, [not counted objects of church discipline] therefore ordains them to be put in ward, while Saturday, on their expences, and then to be taken out by Archibald Steidman, and John Jack, officers, and presented to the magistrates, that they may be carted about the town together, and thereafter to be banished.

November 2. The Session ordains the Master of the Hospital, with all diligence to cause make an common mort kist, whereby the dead corpses of the poor ones may be honestly carried unto the burial.

August 1. 1603. Because that Elspit Grant dwells by herself, keeping an house for whoredom, and has fallen before in the sin of adultery, and lately in fornication, and that, after she had declared her repentance, has received harlots into her house, making her house as it were a Bordel, and a common receptacle of loose and debauched persons, therefore the Session ordains her presently to be put in ward, there to remain while she find caution to remove out of the town.

January 2. 1604. The visitors report that good order was kept the last Sabbath, except that they found some young boys playing at the gowf in the North Inch, in the time of preaching afternoon, who were warned then by the officers, to compear before the Session this day.

Compears Robert Robertson, William Stenis, Andrew Donaldson, Alexander Niving, Adam Paul, Robert Meling: all warned to this day, who were convicted of profaning the Lord's Sabbath, by absenting themselves from hearing of the word, and playing at the gowf, in time of preaching; and therefore the Session ordained, first, Robert Robert-

fon, who was ringleader to the rest, to pay an merk to the poor, and secondly, ordains him and the rest to compear the next Sabbath, into the place of public repentance, in presence of the whole congregation.

April 23. The Sesslion ordains intimation to be made by the minifters the next Sabbath publicly out of the pulpit, for a contribution to be made, for the support of the town of Geneva.

May 7. Alifon Henderfon was convicted of absenting herself, this year from the examinations, and communion, and therefore was rebuked.

David Chapman was convicted of profaning the Sabbath by going to Ruthven, to see profane and lascivious dancing, and absenting himself from the hearing of the word, and therefore was rebuked.

July 16. Whilk day anent the complaint given in by an noble lady, Dame Mary Ruthven, Countess of Athol, upon Mr William Cowper minister at Perth, touching the contracting by him of Mrs Dorothie Stewart her eldest daughter, with William Murray, master of Tullibardine without the advice and consent of the said noble lady, and her honourable friends, as the complaint given in thereupon at length bears, which being read and the said Mr William Cowper made answer thereto, and removed ; the Sesslion all in one voice finds the said Mr William's proceedings orderly done, and has allowed and approven the same.

September 3. It was reported that there was a number of young women and lasses, after supper in the evening, [of the Sabbath] found under flairs, dancing, finging, and knocking upon doors, who were warned to this day.

Compeared Agnes Anderfon, Agnes Murray, Elfpeth Rofs, Kirtstian Paterfon, Janet Low, Beatrice Clink, Helen Blyth, all warned to this day, and confessed that they profaned the Lords Sabbath, by lascivious finging, and dancing, at even, under flairs, for the which they were

forry, and promised never to commit the like. The Session shaply rebuked them, and desired the magistrates to put them in ward.

October 3. Whilk day, in presence of the baillies, ministers, and elders of the burgh of Perth convened within the revestry of the said burgh, William Hay, lister, burgess of Perth, being accused upon the uttering by him yesternight, in John Stewarts fore chamber, of certain vile, slanderous, and abominable speeches, against Mr William Cowper minister of Christs Evangell, at the said burgh, to wit, "That the said Mr William was an false common thief, and that he should [have] been hanged, and were it not the said William Hay, he had been hanged, and yet he should have him hanged; who would not? and who would take his part? and that he should improve him in the Scriptures." Thir slanderous speeches uttered before Patrick Fleming, merchant, William Robertson, notar, John Robertson, merchant, Thomas Fleming, son to the said Patrick, John Gall, and James Marshall, merchants; whereto the said William Robertson answered, "Mowis [jest] or earnest," whereto the said William replied, "earnest," and bad the said William Robertson take it as he thought it. To the which, he [William Robertson] replied again that "he lied like a knave." Thereafter the said William Hay drew an whingar and pressed to have stricken the said William Robertson, and called him an common thief. Farther, being accused, if he said "Mr William Cowper was passing to England to London, and ere he came home, would wear an surplice and an four nocket bonnet." All thir particular heads above written the said William Hay being accused upon, but granted, that it was in mowis that he spake anent Mr Williams hanging; and farther denied that he called him common thief, and also denied that he said, he should improve him in the Scriptures: But only said, that Mr William shewed no pity to the poor man that was in ward; and the said Patrick Fleming, John Robertson, John Gall, and James Marshall, being called,

sworn and admitted in presence of the said William Hay, to testify the verity in the said matter, nothing being objected against them; and each one of them being severally examined, deponed that they heard the former slanderous and abominable speeches uttered by the said William Hay against the said Mr William [Cowper] and William Robertson. Farther, the said baillies declared that this day in the morning, before eight hours, when this matter came to their knowledge, they took purpose to take and apprehend the said William and put him in ward: and having apprehended him within his own dwelling house, and accused him upon the said slanderous speeches, they heard him answer and say, that he spake such speeches, but in mowis. The Session [resolves] to be advised upon the premises with the presbetry.*

October 29. Because that Mr John Weims, sometime musician, was very faithful and diligent in his services, during the time of his life, and now being taken away by death, has left behind him an poor widow, and an young infant. Therefore the Session has ordained, and by thir presents ordains Patrick Fleming, master of the hospital, to give to his wife and bairn, four score of pounds, of the first and readiest duties appertaining to the hospital, which shall be thankful allowed to him in his accompts of the hospital.

November 5. The Session ordains the masters of the hospital to furnish an new gown of black cloth, to Mr Patrick Johnston, teacher of the youth in the grammar school.

September 23. 1605. Because that the sins of fornication and adultery, do encrease more and more among us, to the great offence and dishonour of God, and slander of this congregation; therefore, for repressing of thir sins, the Session ordains a more public place of repentance to be biggit, with all diligence, and in it certain degrees, that

* The presbytery records prior to 1618 not being extant, it does not appear what advice was given.

therein fornicators and adulterers may be distinguished, and better discerned, both by their place and habit.

October 21. Mr James Young, musician, declared in presence of the Session, that he was contented to accept the office of taking up of the psalm, publickly into the kirk at preaching and prayers, and instructing of the youth in the art of music. The Session promised to him yearly, induring his service in the said office, the sum of four score pounds, with his chalmers meall, and this to be paid by the masters of the hospital, termly or quarterly, as the said Mr James shall require it.

January 12. 1607. This day being assigned to Mr William Cowper, to prove by witnesses the slanderous speeches uttered by Robert Keir against his preaching. Compeared Robert Fleming, warned to this day; and Robert Keir being enquired if he had any thing to say against Robert Fleming, why he should not be witness in the matter and cause foresaid? answered he had nothing. Robert Fleming being admitted and sworn, declared, that when he came to Robert Weir, as treasurer, and desired him to pay for the minister's coals, he answered, "Mr William preached against me the last day. Let him preach against me the next day. The devil a penny I will pay for coals." The Session called the said Robert, and desired him to confess his offence, which he refused to do; and therefore the Session remitted him to the Presbytery.

March 28. 1608. The visitors report, that good order was kept the last Sabbath, except that some craftsmen were playing at the foot ball in the South Inch, after the afternoon's preaching, who were warned to compare before the Session.

[The Session remitted them to the magistrates, to be punished according to the act of Parliament.]

May 9. Because that Patrick Fleming has departed this life, therefore the whole Session, with one consent, has nominated and chosen John Brown to succeed him.

February 13. 1609. Compeared Andrew Johnston, and Janet Cunningham, his spouse, James Jackson, and ——— Stobie, his spouse, David Jackson, and Helen Hynd, all warned to this day; and being enquired, why they went out disguised about the town on Tuesday last Ives, at ten and eleven hours at even, with swords and staves, troubling and molesting their neighbours on the street whom they met? answered, that after they had all supped together, they had resolved to go about the town, of no evil purpose or intention, but of merriness; and denied that they molested any. They being removed, it was certainly found that they were disguised, namely, Andrew Johnston's wife having her hair hanging down, and a black hat upon her head. Her husband, Andrew Johnston, with a sword into his hand. David Jackson having a mutch upon his head, and a woman's gown, as Constantine Malice, Baillie, and sundry others declared,—and that they hurted and molested sundry persons. The Session finds their doings to be slanderous, and that because the pestilence yet continues amongst us: and all their persons lately come in from the fields, where the botch and boyll was on their person: and has ordained them to be condignly punished; first, to be put in ward presently, there to remain alltogether while the Sabbath; and next, because their fault is public and notorious, to come all together the next Sabbath, in linen cloaths, to the place of public repentance, their to confess their heinous offence, and to be rebuked as dissolute and licentious persons, in presence of the whole congregation.

June 18. 1610. Compeared Alexander Crichton, who was convicted by his own confession, of haunting and frequenting the company of Robert Crichton, excommunicate Papist, eating and drinking with him in taverns, and walking on the street: therefore the Session ordained him to declare his repentance publickly the next Sabbath, in his own seat.

October 20. 1611. Because Janet Lockhart has taken upon her the office of a midwife at her own hand, without tryall upon her skill, and

without licence, and has conspired with others to conceal the sin of adultery, and other wickedness, therefore the Session ordained her to be rebuked publicly by the minister the next Sabbath, and to be inhibit from meddling with the office of an midwife in time coming.*

November 4. 1611. Compeared Margaret Rutherford and Elfpeth Gloag, midwives, who gave their oath of fidelity, to be faithful and honest in their calling: and farther, it was enjoined to them, under the pain of discharging them their office, that they should not help any woman suspected of whoredom, and who was not married to an husband, except that first they got their confession, with a solemn oath, to whom the bairn appertained, and who was the bairn's father. Which they promised to do, with a solemn oath and extension of the hand, in presence of the whole Session.

Nov. 11. Compeared James Ferguson, who declared that he was out of the kirk on Sunday was a fifteen days, in time of preaching before noon; and was in Walter Youngs house, where he saw John Firskine, and Hugh Firskine playing at dice, and the said John Firskine won fourteen merks from the other, and that they drank an quart of wine at the dinner, where Walter Young, goodman of the house, was present.

Compeared Walter Young [who was a baker,] and being enquired how he, being a deacon of the kirk, suffered such enormities and profaneness to be in his house, as dicing and drinking, in time of

* She had privately delivered a gentlewoman of a bastard child, and concealed it. The woman in whose house the child was born, laid her hand upon the child's mouth, with a purpose to smother it: But Janet Lockhart made her desist, by saying that she would go instantly, and awaken the whole town, if she were to do such an action. The woman in whose house the gentlewoman had gone to be delivered, gave the child afterwards in a private manner to a nurse, and received money for the nurse privately from the father, who was a married man. Janet Lockhart made the gentlewoman declare who was the child's father, before she would give her assistance in her labour. (SCOTT.)

preaching on the Lord's day? Answered he knew no such thing, because he was into the kirk himself, and his wife remained at home. He was desired to present his wife before the Session. He answered he would answer for her himself, and so menaced the beadle of the kirk; and therefore the Session requested the magistrates to put him in ward, there to remain while he should be better humbled.

July 6. 1612. The visitors report that good order was kept the last Sabbath, except that they found Iobell Murdoch drinking with an Highland man in time of preaching, for which she was committed at the command of the magistrates to ward.

April 10. 1615. Peter Simpson and Margaret Liddel ratified before the Session their promise of marriage, to be solemnized conform to the ordinance of the kirk, and thereupon consigned two cups of gold.

February 1. 1616. Patrick Crombie, conform to citation having compeared, and being accused, that he usurping authority and command over the common beggars, they resorted to him from all parts to this parish, to the planting of many beggars of other parishes, to have their abiding here within this congregation, who denied the same simpliciter, and is ordained to compare the next Monday for farther trial to be taken thereanent.

— 5. Compeared the foresaid Patrick Crombie, and being examined anent his foresaid usurpation, denied the same simpliciter, yet was verified by honest reporters, the great resort of common beggars to the Muirtown to him. The Session ordain request to be made to the Laird of Muirton, to remove the said Patrick furth of his ground, and that he have no residence within this parish.

June 24. John Tenender, [session] officer, is ordained to have his red staff in the kirk on the Sabbath days, therewith to waken sleepers, and to remove greeting bairns furth of the kirk.

February 20. 1617. The Session has appointed David Sibbald to

be master of work to the reparation of decayed parts of the steeple, and to receive furth of an chest containing the Hospital writs, the sum of twenty pounds, left over the last collection, lifted for reparation of the kirk, and help to repair the said steeple therewith.

March 3. The Session thinks it very expedient, that the council and they concur, for providing an musician, for taking up of the psalms in the kirk, and for teaching of an music school.

— 14. Forasmikle as Mr Thomas Garvie, musician, this long time bygone has not been apt nor habill to discharge his office, in taking up of the psalms in the kirk at preaching and prayers, whose place Mr Henry Adamson * has supplied, and is very well thought of by the Session; they request him to continue therein, while further deliberation be taken thereanent.

April 7. Ordains an chair of stone to be bigged in an public part by the masters of Hospitals, for setting of flyters and slanderers therein, and the same to be paid of the first casualties occurs.

Forasmikle as Mr John Guthrie, minister, having produced before the Session, an testificate of the Lords of Council, shewing that John Mortoun, skipper in Leith, and twenty-seven persons of his kippage, with his ship and goods, were taken perforce by the Turks gallies; and in the combat betwixt them seven of his kippage were slain, and the remaining twenty-one were taken to Argier in Barbary, and were relieved by finding William Phrissila, factor for Englishmen in Argier, cautioner for them, to pay an certain great sum of money for their ransom, extending to one thousand three hundred and twenty-nine pounds Sterling money, containing also an supplication directed to all Assemblies, Sessions, &c. to extend their charity, to help to pay the said ran-

* The above Mr Henry Adamson rendered his name famous in Perth, by his Poem concerning the History and Antiquities of Perth.—(SCOTT.) It was printed at Edinburgh College, 1638, 4to.

fom for the relief of the said cautioner, because he has been very favourable to sundry Scottishmen in the like case of before, in due consideration thereof, the Session ordains an voluntary contribution, the next convenient Sabbath as shall be appointed by them for that effect.

April 21. Ordains admonition to be made the next Sabbath, that none of the congregation pass to the well of Huntingtower on the Sabbath days, and likeways that no dancing be under stairs on the Sabbath day.

May 12. Conform to citation, compeared James Blyth, and was admonished to abstain from excess of drinking, wherewith he has been found oftentimes spotted, and from night walking. Promised so to do under the pain of ten pounds, toties quoties, he contravenes.

Forasmeikle as Mr Henry Adamson having moved him to the Session, that he has supplied the place of Mr Thomas Garvie, in taking up of the psalms a long time bygone; and that Mr John Adamson, his brother, had written for him some matter tending to his behoof, therefore desires the Session either to appoint him to the said cure, seeing that the said Mr Thomas is not habill therefore; and that otherwife he will not serve longer in his stead. The Session finding the said Mr Henry's propositions reasonable, and that he is qualified for serving the said cure, for their part are willing he be provided thereto; and have requested John Anderston and William Williamson, bailties, to expone the same to the Council, and to report their answer thereanent the next Monday, wherethro' the said Mr Henry may be orderly placed in the said service both by Council and Session.

May 26. In respect of the literature and qualifications of Mr Henry Adamson, for taking up the psalms at preaching and prayers, at the kirk of Perth, and his lawful admision thereto, and to hold an music school, the Session provides and ordains him to have yearly therefor, from WhitSunday next, in name of his stipend, the sum of

two hundred merks money of this realm, to be payed by the masters of the hospital, present and to come, yearly, at two terms in the year, Whitsunday and Martinmas, by equal proportions.

August 25. Forasmeikle as delation being made of James Stewart, hangman, his vicious life, and of the cruelty and oppression used by him against poor weak persons, therefore it is ordained that the same be intimated to the Council, that they and the Session may take order thereanent.

October 30. It being reported to the Session, that ——— Henderson supposed to be bereft of her wits, is but counterfeit and feigned therein; and that under colour thereof, she makes vantage, and abuses her body in harlotry; therefore the Session has concluded that she be expelled of the town; and for that effect, John Tenender, officer, has received command of Robert Lethem, baillie.

May 4. 1618. Conform to citation, compeared Iobell Garvey, servitrix to Margaret Alexander, widow, and Margaret Lamb, daughter-in-law to George Thomson, who being asked if they were at the well in bank of Huntingtour the last Sabbath, and if they drank thereof, and what they left at it? answered, that they drank thereof; and that each of them lost an prin [pin] thereat. Whilk was found an point of idolatry, in putting the well in God's room. The form of their censure continued while the rest, whom they have given were present with them, compear.*

December 28. Thomas [Baxter] being asked if he be now resolved to confess the truth, if he had carnal deall with Agnes Black, which she has already confessed,—he constantly denied as of before. Being humbled on his knees, and being taught to pray in this manner, viz. “ Lord be merciful to me, and inspire me with thy grace, where-

* They were each fined six shillings, and made on their knees to declare their repentance, and they would not do the like again.

“ through I may be moved to confess the truth in the said matter of “ slander, to the glory of God, and my own salvation :” thereafter having risen on his feet, and being required to confess the truth as he wilheth the salvation of his own soul ; yet for all that, he stood at an obstinate denial. And being asked if he would, by his great oath upon the salvation and condemnation of his soul, purge himself thereanent ? He said he would, and thereupon a book being holden to him, to try if he would lay his hand thereon ; as he was extending furth his hand thereto, the minister withdrew the book from him, and would not suffer him to swear. The Session knowing him by all good appearance, to be guilty of said crime, notwithstanding of his denial, ordain him to be committed to ward induring their will, to know if that will bring him to confession, and ordains Patrick Murray and his wife, his dilaters, to be warned to the morn to declare so far as they know of the said slander.

December 28. Forasmeikle as dilation being made, that Katherine Graham, an coddroch huffy, kepted an house by herself, and that an highland fallow resorted to her when he pleased, and thereupon, conform to citation, having compeared and brought with her two young children. Being asked who is the father of them ? answered Donald M'Challan, highlander, and that the eldest of them was procreate betwixt them six years since, within this parish, and that she had satisfied the kirk therefore, and the other was procreate betwixt them in the highlands. Denies that he had to do with her at Perth at no time since the birth of her youngest child ; and because she is a stranger and an coddroch, she is ordained to dispatch herself out of the town, betwixt this and Candlemas, under such pains as they will enjoin to her.

August 23. 1619. Forasmeikle as William Marshall, an auld doytet man, has confessed his adultery with Janet Ramsay, and because that his compearance publickly in sackcloth at the kirk door and repentance stool, would be an reproach to the town ; therefore it is thought expe-

dient that he be put in ward, and detained therein, ay and while, he willingly consent to be banished this town for ever.

September 13. 1619. Forasmeikle as Mr John Guthry, minister, having made an great regret of Thomas Young, in that he has not only uttered speeches against him and his ministry, but also that he has met him divers times since on the causay, and would not discharge that civil duty of salutation, as becomes him to his pastor; and also that immediately heretofore, as he was coming to the Session, meeting him in the northmost of the kirk vennels, that the said Thomas, in manner of provocation, to tempt his pastor by his want of particular duty, passed by him without using any kind of reverence; wherewith the Session were highly offended, that he should have so far misregarded his pastor, and provoked him to ire, and therefore ordains him to be cited to compare before them the morrow after the sermon, to underly condign censure for his said offences.

September 14. Conform to citation, compeared Thomas Young, who being accused for uttering speeches, and his misbehaviour against Mr John Guthry, his pastor; and being asked what speeches he spake to John Guthry, the pastor's son? answered, that he said to him, "that it was not the duty of the pastor, to charge his people with "witchcraft, forcery, turning of the riddell, and to utter calumnies "against his flock." This he had spoken in general, and no ways mentioned the said Mr John his name, which John Guthry had taken very highly, as he had since found no courteous dealing of him; and having yesterday entered unawares the minister's way, meaning no ways to offend him, but he suddenly past by. Being enquired, if he had any opinion that the minister had at any time grieved or offended him in word or deed? answered negatively. Declared that he is sorry for that in any sort he had said or done, which may offend the minister in word or deed. The said Mr John, in presence of the Session, having admo-

nished the said Thomas Young, earnestly dealt with the Magistrates and Session present, to inflict no punishment on the said Thomas, but to pass by his offence, in hope of his honest and Christian behaviour hereafter, which, at his earnest entreaty, was granted.

June 5. Forasmuch as delation being made that John Brown, gardner, permits men to play at the alye bowlls in my Lord Sanquhars yard the time of the sermons on the Sabbath days, therefore he is warned to compare the morrow, for taking convenient order with him thereanent.

June 12. Whilk day Thomas Crombie, baillie, presented Alexander Wilson in Muirton, who is accused for his great insolency and misbehaviour, in that he, upon an Sabbath day at night, betwixt ten and eleven hours, pressed to misuse Giles Laing, in her returning from conveying of Thomas Leisks wife home to her house; terrifieng Robert Robertson's daughter; strugling with Mathew Cheap's servant in the kirk yard; and that having entered within the kirk he rung the common bell, thereby putting the baill town under fear either of fire or sword. His offences being so great, he is committed while the morrow, that after the sermon, both Council and Session deliberate upon his punishment.

July 5. Compeared Janet Mar, spouse of John Patoun, sometime in Pitmurthly, and now in Balnebreich, and confessed the sin of adultery, committed by her with Harry Schaw of Pitmurthly, and that he ravished her, against her will in his barn, when she was getting straw to fill her bairns cradle. He steeked the door, and wrestling with her, she got a grip of his durk, almost drew out the same; and he thrusting it in again, bled her hand, and made a great wound into it. This was committed seven years since, or thereby. She being demanded by the brethren, how was the slander raised, now lying so long hid? she answered that the said Harry himself revealed it to one Catharine Weymes, his harlot, who bore him two bairns in fornication; the said Catherine

Weymes told the fame to Grizzel Saunders, the spouse of John Gregor in Pitmurthly, and the said Grizzel Saunders revealed the fame to her husband, who will have her to make her repentance for the fame. She promises to obey in making her repentance, for removing of the slander.

12. July. Harry Schaw ordained to be summoned.

19. — Mr William Young, minister at Rogorton, reports that John Bennet, beadle of Rogorton, summoned Harry Schaw, but he declined appearing, upon the ground that being in debt within burgh he durst not compare. Commission was then granted to Mr John Straquhan, minister at St Martins, and Mr David Weymes, minister at Sone, to try him, and to report.

These two clergymen repeatedly reported there inability to get Schaw before them.

13. day of September. Mr William Young complains, that upon Thursday the 7th September instant, being among the flocks of his own glebe, in an solitary and quiet place, called the How of the Park, at his meditations in quiet and sober manner, looking for no evil to have been done or said to him by any person or persons, but to have lived under God's peace, and our sovereign Lord's,—in the mean time, the said Harry Schaw of Pitmurthly, having conceived an deadly hatred against him for reporting the adultery, of set purpose, provision, and forethought felony, violently invaded and pursued him of his life, having in his hand a rung, with a long dirk, or else a dagger; and the said Mr William Young seeing him in a rage, and threatening of his life, ran away, the said Harry following him a great space, and crying, "Thief, thy feet shall not bear thee from me." The said Mr William Young being an aged man, and fearing he should have felled him with the rung, cried many times, "God's mercy." The said Harry overtaking him, called him "traitor," and asked him what he said of him to the Presbytery? And when Mr William answered he might speir

at Mr John Straquhan his good friend, the said Harry Schaw commanded him to swear, that he should never speak of him again to the Presbytery, or by the blood of Jesus he should presently die. He with great difficulty was stayed from farther troubling of him, by some poor men that came from shearing of their corns. Immediately thereafter, the said Harry made vaunt of his doing to his own shearers, and openly declared, that he had caused the minister swear, and cry many times, "God's mercy."

The Presbytery ordain information to be sent to the Archbishop of St Androis, to raise a summons against Schaw before the High Commiffion.

O^ct. 18. Schaw appeared, and confessed the assault; upon which he was ordained to make his public repentance in the kirk of Rogorton, one day in linen cloaths, and there openly confess he did the minister wrong, and that on Sunday next. Mr John Guthry was instructed to ride to Rogorton, teach there on the Sunday, receive the said repentance, and confront Schaw with Janet Mar as to the alledged adultery.

— 25. Mr John Guthry reports, that Schaw obeyed the ordinance enjoined; but upon the charge of adultery he would not confess, but denied, and offered his oath.

Nov. 1. He failed to compear, upon the ground of sickness; but upon the 8th of that month, in linen cloaths, and humbly on his knees, he confessed the adultery, and promised to satisfy the kirk.

Nov. 21. Andrew Ross,* in name of Mr Robert Ross, sometime of Craigie, his brother, produced the latter's supplication, shewing his present misery, and divers diseases wherewith he is vexed, and craving support. Three pounds were taken out of the thesaury, and delivered to the said Andrew to give his brother.

Dec. 5. Compeared John Lamb, and is accused for profaning the

* A brother of the unfortunate Thomas Ross executed for the pasquil against the Scots.

Sabbath, in playing at the leads with his complices, the time of the afternoon's fermon, the last Sabbath. He having used many speeches to cloke his fault, was at last brought to a simple confession. Being humbled on his knees therefore, he declared his repentance, and payed thirteen shillings of penalty; and acts him not to do the like hereafter, under the pain of ten pounds, toties quoties, he contravenes.

Dec. 9. — This day Mr Henry Adamson, and Katharine Buchanan, accomplished their marriage.

Jan. 1. 1621. George Dickson verbally complained he was abused by Francie Scott, — Thomson, alias Billieald, and certain other their sociates, young profest knaves, by casting of their bonnets at him in the kirk this day. The session ordained them to be apprehended.

Jan. 2. Thomson only was apprehended, and taken to the grammar school, and scourged with Saint Bartholomew's taws.

Jan. 8. Compeared Robert Young, skinner, who being accused for profaning of the Sabbath day, in playing at the leads with his sociates, answered that John Lamb, skinner, his master, caused him bear his lead stones, and play with him, and that the said John having been drinking in James Myln's house, and playing at the dice with Alexander Gilbert, mafon, all night until three hours in the morning, at his furthcoming the said John most shamefully abused, struck, and dung him down, and left him for dead. Having declared his repentance, he was forgiven, upon a promise not to do the like again, under the penalty of forty shilling, and to pay twenty shillings to the poor, for his penalty, between this and Whitfunday.

Jan. 9. John Lamb appeared, and admitted the charge; admonished to amend, which he promised to do.

Jan. 25. John Hynde, webster, brought out of ward before the Session, and was accused for uttering of disdainful speech against Mr John Guthrie, minister, in saying, "that he would be unlikely to

“ come in the pulpit, and that he wanted the webster’s handy work.” He answered, that in his rough humour after drink, he spoke it, and that it was otherwise taken and trapped. On his knees he declared himself very sorry for speaking such like speeches, and offered him in the Session’s will, to underly such punishment as they should enjoin. He is committed to ward till they resolve thereanent. [Nothing farther was done.]

May 18. The Session as yet suspends Mr Henry Adamson from exercising his office of public reading till such time as they deliberated thereanent, and find fit time to re-enter him.*

June 18. Mr Patrick Rynd, minister at Dron, verbally complained upon Patrick Crie, that he had blasphemed and slandered him, and his daughter, in saying “ You have lain with my wife, and would you now break my head ; gang over to Sandy Meaffons daughters, and ask them what Currie Wachter had ado with your daughter.” Crie denied, but the matter was proved against him ; the Presbytery refused to interfere until a regular bill of complaint was preferred.

July 19. Three pounds delivered to Patrick Pitcairns wife, in part payment of six pounds for the price of a board cloath lent to the communion tables, the last time of the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, which was stolen.

— 30. David Sibbald declared he had caused John Jamieson and David Allan mend the tongue of the preaching bell, and that they craved therefor eight pounds, but he would not agree thereto ; the Session gave ten merks.

* Mr Henry Adamson was very penitent, and had satisfied for his fault, which he had fallen into before marriage, but which of late had only become public. His aged father James Adamson had been called in the beginning to attend the Session, and declare what had become of his servant woman Maige Runsiman, and who it was that was reputed to be the father of the child. (SCOTT.) After a rebuke he was re-admitted upon the 1st of June 1621.

Nov. 27. Adam Paterfon complained upon certain coddrochis in Dionyfius Conqueror, Notar, his clofs, who dwell in laigh cellars wanting chimneys; wherethro' he and his family are not only abufed with the fmoke and reek afcending up thro' the loftings of the houfes, but alfo are in perils, and put in hazard of the burning of their lands. He beſides reports, that men at very ſuſpicious times refort even in the night time, to certaine of the coddrochis, and that they are reſetters of that, which unfaithful ſervants ſteal furth of their maſters houſes. Whereupon the council and ſeſſion think it expedient the ſaid coddrochis be removed, and that the ſaid Dionyfius be ordained to remove them, and not to ſet his houſes to any that will kindle Ingle therein that want chimneis.*

Dec. 3. Forafimeikle as dilatation being made, that Janet Watſon holds an houſe by herſelf where ſhe may give occaſion of ſlander, therefore Patrick Pitcairn, elder, is ordained to admoniſh her in the ſeſſion's name, either to marry, or then paſs to ſervice, otherwiſe that ſhe will not be ſuffered to dwell by herſelf.

— 10. Robert Allan ſmith fined 13s. 4d. for ſhoeing horſes on a Sunday.

Jan. 15. 1622. Three pounds given to Archibald Steidman for candle furniſhed to the lanthorn at the kirk door this winter quarter.

— 24. Violet Gardener compeared, accuſed of profaning the Lord's ſanctuary in flyting with Janet White immediately after their private prayers; ſhe answered that the ſaid Janet had abuſed her with vile words, and that ſhe forbore the ſaid Janet.†

March 4. Compeared James Turnbull, accuſed of relapſe in adultery with Violet Henderſon. He confeſſed, but alledged in excuſe, that Beſſie Pringle, with whom he was joined lawfully in marriage,

* In a note, Scott obſerves that this order was not obeyed.

† "She was ſubſequentialy humbled on her knees to declare repentance, and was fined."

had, without any lawful cause, deserted from him by the space of twenty-two years.

The Session ordained letters to be directed to Mr Thomas Glas minister at Cappoch, to cause Bessie to confront her husband, in order that it might be ascertained whose fault it was that they did not cohabit together.

He afterwards satisfied as an adulterer.

— 11. Margaret Melling apprehended for stiffening ruffs and overlays on a Sunday. She denied the charge, stating she was merely laying up some overlays. Being sickly and near the time of her birth, she was admonished on her knees to keep the Sabbath day.

March 11. Compared Doctor Patrick Hay, doctor of medicine, and confessed his sin of fornication with Helen Cathrow, who, on his knees, declared his repentance, and for his exemption from the ward and Cross Head, paid a double angell, and promised to compare on the stool for declaration of his public repentance when it shall be required.

— 25. John Thomson and John Robertson are enjoined, that on the Sabbath days, they remove the beggars that stand in the kirkgate, kirkwyndes, and at the kirk doors,—and if the beggars will not be removed for them, to give up their names to the Session, that they may take order with them.

— 26. Janet Brown, who had confessed she was with bairn to Alexander Chapman, having no money to redeem her from ward, or the Cross Head, was committed to the Tower.

April 1. Conform to a supplication given in by James Gibson, ringer of the bells before the Session, craving a coat, breiks, shanks, and shoes, to his marriage day, and for the more decent discharge of his service on the days of the celebration of the Lord's supper; his suit was granted, and David Sibbald master of the hospital ordained to furnish the same to him.

— 9. Which day John Fleming, baillie, resolving with the Session what form of punishment shall be enjoined to John Keir's wife for putting violent hands on him, and for wounding him in the head with a pair of taings,—it is concluded that she, on the next mercat day, pass barefooted, holding up the same taings, in her right hand, above her head thro' the streets of the town.

April 25. Compeared William Paterfon, and on his knees declared his repentance for raiklefs swearing on the street “by the wounds of the body of our Saviour.”

June 13. Given for reparation of that part of the kirk, which was demolished by the down falling of stones of the pend beside the tower, four pounds four shillings.

July 15. Various persons punished for passing to Scoon on a Sunday.

Aug. 19. Persons craving the benefit of marriage, are ordained to compear the night before the solemnization, and give their purgation if they have had carnal deall before the time or not.

Sept. 3. Forasmikle as of before the Session ordained John Thomson to give hospitality to the young little one his oye, and he promised so to do; and that otherwise, if he did not, he was premonished, that an half merk of his weekly wage should be withdrawn from him, and given to them that would give his oye hospitality; and because that he has neglected to do as was enjoined, and contrary to natural pity, has suffered the young thing to be under stairs, and it has been seen lying objected to wind and weet; therefore the Session ordain that the said John be answered, but half an merk weekly of his wage in time coming, and the other half thereof to be given to Janet Gardner to sustain his oye.

Aug. 15. Upon supplication made to the Session for the Lady

Craigie, the Session continues and oversees her abiding here, being great with child, and but lately come here for the space of eight days.

Sept. 16. The Session ordains the Lady Craigie to obtain Mr William Black, minister at Dumbarry, his testimonial, that she has satisfied the kirk for her fornication, otherwise that she have no longer residence within Perth.

Nov. 11. Several wrights delated, as having made mort kifts for the dead on the Sabbath day. They promised to have in time coming coffins by them ready made both for young and old.

— 12. A baker and his servants are humbled on their knees, and fined for having baken on the Sabbath day, some manschots for my Lord Chancellors supper, [altho at his Lordships special request.]

Jan. 27. 1623. Twelve shillings allowed as the price of a new key for the lock of the north kirk door.

March 31. Sixteen shillings of weekly salary to James Gibbon, ringer of the bells.

April 15. Margaret Hormcleuch suspected of forcery, being warned to compear this day before the Session, and not compearing, is ordained therefor to be warded.

May 5. She compeared, accused, if Robert Chrysties daughter at the miln of Huntingtour came to her with meal and beef to seek help to their cow. She denied this. Being asked if she heard that certain years syne Patrick Patons wife her cows milk was taken from her by forcery? She also denied this. Asked if a poor woman that lodged with her a certain space, sought health to her sick bairn for Gods cause. She confessed that she answered, " Let them give her health that took it from her bairn." She was committed to ward in the tower till she be tried for forcery.

June 2. Compeared Henry Balneaves, alledging that Margaret Hormcleuch rests to him of bypast maill, ten pounds, and offered the

cow to Mr Sibbald for payment thereof, which he refused to accept, and desires the said Henry, to satisfy him of the furnishing made by him to the said Margaret, and to furnish her in time coming, and to bruick the cow ; which the said Henry refused to do, but is content to satisfy him for his bypast furnishing, and to meet thereupon after prayers this night.

The Session appoint Michael Baxter and Isobell Lamb to the four shillings which Isabell Haldane has, equally betwixt them, and continue it with the said Isabell Haldane* during her warding.

July 3. Thomas Wilfon accused for disperfoning of Mr Henry Adamfon, reader, “ That if he were not in the place of a reader, he “ would thraw his nose,” with other contemptible speeches. The said Thomas replied, that the said Henry began first to blaspheme him, and to call him “ deboifhed dyvour,” which he would take in hand to prove by Walter Balneaves and John Bloffon. The Session think it expedient the parties be reconciled, and becaufe the said Thomas’s offence is thought to be greateft, the Session ordain the said Thomas to crave the said Mr Henry’s pardon, which he did, and they took each other by the hand.

— 21. Thirty shillings paid for a tow to the preaching bell.

— 24. Janet Barry accused for confultation with witches in seeking health at them, as at the devil and his instruments, to her bairn. Denies, she knew the women to be witches of whom she fought means of health to her bairn. She acknowledges her offence againft God and the congregation. She was afterwards ordained to stand in white sheets under the bell strings the next Sabbath before noon, there to confess her said offence, and declare her repentance, and to pay before Sunday twenty merks to the use of the poor. Six of these merks paid to Mr

* She was one of the witches. (SCOTT.)

Archibald, in part payment of what he delivered on account of Hormfclench. The rest put in the Thesfaurey.

Aug. 11. Conform to citation, compeared Janet Jackson, and is accused for consulting with witches, and following their advice for health to her bairn, in that she employed unquhill Ifabell Haldane, to go silent to the well of Ruthven, and silent back again with water to wash her bairn. The said Janet confesses that the said Ifobell brought the water, and washed her bairn therewith, and that the said Ifabell did it unemployed by her, and that she put her bairn thro' an cake made of nine curries [pickles] of meal gotten from women, married maidens, and that it is an common practice used for curing bairns of the cake mark. She is ordained to compear the next Thursday, to sustain censure anent the premises.

Compeared Duncan Tawis and his wife, and are accused of passing to Black Ruthven to Janet, Witch, to seek help to their bairn. They confessed their going there ; but that they knew not she was an witch, but that the bruit went that she could help bairns who had gotten an dint of ill wind. They are ordained to compear at the next warning.

Compeared Grizel Hefpline, and is accused for seeking help at Margaret Hormfclench, for the remeid of her disease, which she could not deny. Continues her censure thereanent, till farther advertisement and compearance.

August 19. Conform to citation, compeared Peter Gardner, baxter, and is accused for profaning of the Lord's day, in holding of his booth open to sell bread, as namely the last Sabbath day aforenoon. Answered that it was without his knowledge, and that the like shall not be done by him, nor none of his hereafter. He is licentiate to take bread to his own house, to serve the necessities of neighbours, as they shall happen and require, but not openly in his booth ; which he promises to do according to the Session's injunction. Farther, he is ordained to shew

the will of the Session to John Henderson, deacon, thereanent, which he promises to do.

Conform to citation, compeared John Bog, and is accused for not resorting to God's service on the Sabbath days. Answered thereto, that when he may come, he does it. But by occasion of his sickness, he is lettit therefrom divers times, as neighbours know.

Secondly, Is accused for not communicating at the Lord's table with the rest of this congregation. Answered, that he did communicate yearly thereat, except the last time of the celebration thereof, that he in the meantime was deadly sick.

Thirdly, Is accused upon great slander risen of him, that his purse being stolen from him, he used devilish means to get intelligence thereof, the time of the last tempestuous winds, which did great hurt to the fruits of the earth. Answering thereto, he sat down on his knees, and with shedding of tears, abundantly purged himself thereanent, saying, that it was true that he wanted his money, which was stolen furth of his kist by thieves; that he purged his wife, daughter, and son-in-law thereanent, and besought God to strike him dead instantly to death, if ever he used any such indirect methods to get knowledge of his money; but that he wants it as yet; whereupon the Session, till farther tryal anent the premisses, remits him.

September 8. Conform to citation, compeared Alexander Lockhart, and is first accused for profaning of the Lord's day, in kindling ingill to his furnace on Sunday was fourteen days, about five hours at even. Answered, that it was after eight hours, and that if he had known it been offensive either to God, or man, he would not have done it till Monday, and promises not to commit the like hereafter.

Secondly, Is accused for that he accompanied Isabell Haldane in going silent at midnight to the water, and in bringing thereof silent, to wash Andrew Duncan's bairn, which smells of forcery and witchcraft, and of

infidelity to the living Lord. Answered, that whatsoever he did therein was of ignorance, and of no ill pretence. Submitting him in the Session's will thereanent, he is convicted in an penalty of four pounds.

Sept. 29. John Skinner convicted in a penalty of five merks, for roaring, going through the street with great shouting, and crying; when the tokens of God's indignation were upon the city, by famine among the poor, and great mortality of the people. He was fined five merks, and ordained to stand up in the taylor's seat on a Sunday before noon, and there in presence of the congregation declare his repentance.

Oct. 30. Compeared James Wilfon, Pyper, accused for playing on the great pype under silence of night, the time of the infolency used by John Skinner and his complices, to the offence of God and terrifying of neighbours, as tho' either fire or sword had been within the town. He answered, that they compelled him to play to them, and he promised never to do the like hereafter. Being humbled on his knees, he declared his repentance.

Nov. 12. No convention of bretheren, nor excercise, through the vehemency and tempest of the weather.

Dec. 9. Compeared Andrew Gall in Muirtown, accused of profaning the Lord's day the time of the afore and afternoon's sermon, the day of the marriage of John Bennet, with dancing and minstrelly, he and his colleagues. Being humbled on his knees, he declared his repentance therfor, and paid twenty shillings.

March 30. 1624. A woman slanderously reported of, endeavoured to excuse herself by saying, that men resorted to her house for washing and stiffing of their ruffs.

June 9. There is produced a supplication to the Presbytery from the burgh of Dumfermling, manifesting the lamentable ruin of that town by violence of fire, which happened on the twenty first day of May last, bypast, 1624, and desiring the brethren to move their people

to help them. The Presbytery ordains ilk brother to intimate the same to their parishioners the next Sunday, and prepare them to gather a collection to help them, and to make the same ready, and bring it in, the first Wednesday of July next to come.

July 12. John Davidson, scribe to the Session, shewed that he had extraordinary pains anent the depositions of the witches the last year, having wrote divers copies thereof, besides the booking of the same. Whereupon the Session ordain the Masters of Hospital, to discharge him of the annuals adepted forth of the lands sometime pertaining to Oliver Makison of the two terms last bypast.*

* * * * *

March 3. 1631. Compeared Isabell Hunter, lamentably declaring, that upon the first day of March instant, at ten hours at even, David Duff came into their house, and passed with a lighted candle to the chamber where her husband lies, and looked in his face, saying to him, "That the picture of death is in his face, and that if he lived three Sundays hereafter, he would live three hundred years." Whereat she being offended that he should give her husband such dull comfort, said to him, "David, are ye a witch, that ye can discern upon life and death, and time thereof?" He most slanderously answered, "You and your mother have witched him to lie pining in his bed till he die," with sundry other speeches, most slanderous, both against her husband, herself, and mother, and against John Conqueror and his spouse; using great perturbation in the house, and would not pass forth thereof, until he was put forth by violence; and after he was put forth, and the yett steiked, he would not refrain from speaking most slanderous speeches, and so that the said David had committed both oppression and the highest degree of slander against them.

* The volume of the Register from Oct. 17. 1624, till January 1631, is stated by Mr Scott to have been lost.

He compeared and confessed part of the charge, but excused himself upon the ground of his being overcome with drink. The whole charge being proved against him by the evidence of Matthew Lamb, and John Conqueror, he was ordained to be put in ward, until he pay a penalty conformable to his offences, one half to be applied to the use of the Session and the other half to the baillies use.

— 7. Compeared William Gillespie, adulterer, accused for his misbehaviour on the stool yesterday, in laughing, when he should rather have weeped. He excused himself, that a neighbour having nodded his head to him, moved him to smile only. He is admonished to behave himself in that place, as having an sorrowful heart for the sin of adultery, as he would procure the mercy of God.

— — Compeared James Brown, and James Burnman, and are accused for profaning the Lord's day on Sunday was twenty days, in playing, they and William Arnot, at dice and cards, the time of the afternoon's sermon. They denied the charge, and Brown promised to pay the Session twenty pounds, if the charge were proved against him, and Burnman, that if it was, he would be contented to be scourged through the town.

April 25. The Session ordain Mr Patrick Johnston and Robert Burrell to pass to Mr John Dorward, master of the grammar school, and shew him that it is the Session's will, that he admit not Sir John Ogilvy's sons to come within his school. [Sir John was a papist.]

— — Ferafineikle as there is a great bruit and rumour passing through this burgh, that certain wives were seen douking, and walking on the water, beside the Lady Bow about midnight; therefore the Session exhorts every elder within his own quarter, to try the names of the said wives, and the persons that saw them, that they may bear witness against them.

— 26. Five honest men's wives having compeared, it was laid to

their charge, that in the time of the afternoon's sermon, they had drunk aquavytie very extraordinarily.*

May 4. Gave to an poor woman, to buy a peck of aiken bark for scheiring of her child of a confirmed stone, six shillings.

— 16. Forafmeikle as the Session being informed of the great profanities that customably are used at Lykwalkis, by certain profane persons, that purposely resort thereto for that effect, and that they use to come at midnight to honest men's houses, when they are upon rest, and knock at their yetts, declaring that certain special friends belonging to them have taken an sudden sickness tending to death, putting these persons at whose yetts they report these things under great fear, and causing them in an suddentie to rise forth of their beds, to the visitation of those reported to be in the said sudden sickness, and find it but done in derision and mockery, tending to the offence of God and honest neighbours :—for restraining of such profanity in time coming, the Session have ordained that the council convene with them the next Session day, to settle an ordinance anent sobriety and godly exercises, to be used at Lykwalkis, and that profane persons be not admitted thereto in any time thereafter. [No act seems to have been made for this purpose.]

July 8. Fifteen shillings given by Andrew Bell, master of hospital, to an north land gentlewoman become frantic thro' tineing of her husband, burnt in the place of Frendraught.

— 26. Gilbert Henderfon was convicted of calling the Session "false lownes, false knaves, a turd for you all," and punished by a fine of L. 100, (to repair the vaults of the kirk,) besides declaring his repentance on his knees, craving forgiveness of God, and asking pardon of the Session,—which sentence he complied with.

* The greatest part of the above minute is much torn. It appears from this and other instances, that about this time the women of Perth frequently held gossiping clubs.

April 30. 1632. Forasmuikle as Dumie misbehaved himself the last Sabbath day in the kirk, using profaneness, and thereby making tumult and commotion, making the people to have an unreverent behaviour in God's house; therefore he is ordained to be dispatched [out] of the burgh, like as he was for the like misbehaviour, dispatched forth of the town of Edinburgh.

May 21. Compeared Laurence Boik, and Janet Black his spouse, accused for charming. They confessed that they would sometimes use some holy words for healing of fhotts and fores, which words are these,—

Thir sairis are risen thro' God's work,
And must be laid thro' God's help;
The mother Mary, and her dear Son,
Lay thir sairis that are begun.

Ordained to compear this day eight days. [Nothing further seems to have been done.]

Sept. 17. Disburfed at the command of the ministers, reported by Mr Archibald [Steedman, officer,] to an young man called Stewart, son to umquhil the Earl of Orkney, seven shillings. *

* This son, (who, had he been a bastard, would have been described as such,) is not noticed by the peerage writers. Douglas, in particular, states, that Earl Patrick, who was beheaded in October 1613, left no issue. What a melancholy proof of the instability of human greatness! The son of an Earl of Orkney, a descendant of James V. receiving seven shillings Scots, of alms, as a pauper, from the Kirk Session of Perth.

AN
EXAMINATION

OF THE

ALLEGED DESCENT OF JOHN EARL OF GOWRIE FROM
MARGARET QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, WIDOW OF
JAMES THE FOURTH.

THERE are probably few points in Scottish history involved in greater obscurity, than that mysterious event commonly denominated the Gowrie Conspiracy. Indebted as the public is to Mr Pitcairn, for his industry and research in collecting together all the particulars connected with that dreadful tragedy, I am by no means disposed to admit his assumption, that the result of his investigations has for ever put the question to rest. On the contrary, there are so many opposite statements to reconcile, so many improbabilities to remove, and so many apparent inconsistencies to explain, that whether the king or the subject was the conspirator, is, in my humble opinion, by no means clear.

It is not my intention to enter upon the merits of the controversy ; and the present enquiry has merely reference to an historical statement of Bishop Burnet, which has been recently adopted by the Rev. James Scott, as the foundation of a very ingenious theory, introduced by him in his valuable, though far from accurate account of the Gowrie family. *

* Edinburgh, 1818, royal 8vo.

Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter of Henry VII. born in the year 1489, was married first, 1503, to James IV. by whom she had James V. and next to Archibald the great Earl of Angus, by whom she had Lady Margaret Douglas, Countess of Lennox, and mother of Lord Darnley. Having divorced him, she afterwards married Henry Stewart, (second son of Lord Evandale,) the first Lord Methven. She died in 1541. The present enquiry relates to the alleged issue of the third marriage.

Bishop Burnet, from the general value of whose works I by no means wish to detract, in consequence of the few inaccuracies which may be found in them, states, that "Queen Margaret, after her divorce from "the Earl of Angus, married one Francis Stewart, and had by him a "son, who was made Lord Methven by King James V. In the patent, "he is called 'Frater noster uterinus.' He had only a daughter, who "was mother or grandmother to the Earl of Gowrie; so that by this, "he might be glad to put the King out of the way, that he might stand "nearest the succession to the crown of England."

Although the Bishop had been correct in his facts, his inference appears by no means warranted, as the Earl of Gowrie could have gained little by removing the King, so long as offspring of his Majesty existed; and it is well known, that besides Prince Henry, his daughter Elizabeth had been born, and that at the date of the conspiracy, the Queen was *enccinte*. The death of the King would consequently have been of little benefit, unless these insuperable bars to his Lordship's ambitious attempts could have been removed; and it is a remarkable fact connected with the controversy, that there is not the slightest evidence attempted to be adduced by the writers on the royal side of the question, that the Earl of Gowrie had taken measures to get possession of the Queen and her children; a step indispensibly necessary, if there had been any intention either to murder or confine the King.

On the other hand, Mr Scott arrives at a conclusion, quite opposed

to that of the Bishop. Assuming the descent from Queen Margaret, he very plausibly argues that it was the King's object to destroy the Earl, as from the favour his Lordship had found in the eyes of Queen Elizabeth, he might be a dangerous competitor for the English crown. This theory, however, is entirely fallacious; and a reference to the records, will at once shew the inaccuracy of Burnet, and the complete fallacy of the Earl's royal descent.

It is not disputed that Queen Margaret was the first wife of Henry Stewart, afterwards Lord Methven. The precise date of the marriage does not appear. It is stated in the Peerage, that she was married in March 1526. She had, however, previously cohabited with him for some time. Wood's Peerage,
vol. ii. p. 229.

Under the date of the 17th of July 1528, there is to be found a charter to Margaret Queen of Scotland, and Henry Stewart her spouse, and to the survivor of them, in conjunct fee, and to the heirs male lawfully procreated between them, or to be procreated, whom failing, to the King and his successors, granting and disposing, “pro carnali amore et favore quos erga prefatam carissimam matrem nostram habemus, et gerimus, ac pro bono, fidei, et gratuito servicio, nobis, per prefatum Henricum fratrem germanum consanguinei nostri Andreæ Domini Avondale impenso et impendendo, necnon pro nostri honoris exaltatione, totas et integras terras nostras, et dominium de Methven, cum castris molendinis, piscarijs, ac etiam terras et dominium de Balquhadder cum molendinis,” in the county of Perth, united and incorporated into the barony of Methven. This charter is dated at Stirling in the 15th year of the reign of King James V. In favour of Lord Methven and the Queen, various other grants occur in the Register. Register of the
Great Seal, lib.
xxii. No. 126.

Of this marriage, there appears to have been at least one son, whatever other children it may have produced; and although this fact

has been questioned by many writers, there does not seem to be any sufficient ground for the doubt. Bishop Lesley, in his History, in speaking of the battle of Pinkie, says, "In eo prælio Scoti octo millia defiderarunt, e quibus plurimi primæ nobilitatis principes, ac in primis Dominus Flemingus, Dominorum Levingstoni, Ogilvii, Aven-dalii, *Meffanii*, Ruthveni, et Rossii, filii heredes, quos *Magistros* vocamus, Lochinvarius Baro," &c. As Lesley was a contemporary, he may fairly be considered as the best possible authority; and as, on the one hand, it is admitted that the Queen was Lord Methven's first wife, and that she did not die until the year 1541, while it is proved, on the other hand, that a *Master* of Methven was killed at the battle of Pinkie upon the 16th of September 1547, the conclusion that he was the son of the Queen and Lord Methven, seems irrefutable.

Assuming that the Master of Methven was the son of the Queen, Mr Scott contends, that the Dorothea Stewart, whom it is matter of notoriety Lord Ruthven married, was his daughter. If this could be proved, it is obvious that, failing King James the VI. and his issue, John Earl of Gowrie would have been next heir to the English crown.

But the supposition is altogether erroneous. Dorothea Stewart was not the daughter of the master of Methven, but of his father: and it is a remarkable circumstance that this Lady was by birth *illegitimate*, in evidence of which assertion, reference may be made to the Privy Seal Record, where there is to be found, "*Legitimatio Henrici Stewart, Jonete Stewart, Margarete Stewart, et Dorotheie Stewart, bastardo-rum, filii et filiarum naturalium Henrici Domini Methven, inter ipsum et Jonetam Stewart, comitissam de Sutherland, procreatorum,*" dated at Edinburgh, 16 Sep. 1551.

This document establishes, that Henry Lord Methven had by Janet Stewart four *natural* children, a son, and three daughters, the youngest of whom was Dorothea; and that she was the Dorothea that married

William fourth Lord Ruthven, and afterwards the first Earl of Gowrie, is proved by certain proceedings in the Sheriff Court of Perthshire, for an abstract of which I am indebted to George Smythe, Esq. a member of this Club:—"4th June 1567. Removing at the instance of
 " Dame Janet Stewart, Lady Methven, liferentrix of the lands of
 " Bachilton, against George Oliphant pretended occupier thereof.—
 " Objected for the defence, that my Lord Ruthven is not a judge competent, because he married the pursuer's daughter, and therefore is
 " suspect. The Sheriff principal declined himself, 7th June 1567."

" Lady Methven, v. George Oliphant. The defender propones recusative against John Murray (of Cluthybeg) that he may not cognosce
 " in this cause, as judge incompetent; and that because he attingis in
 " affinity and consanguinity with my Lord Sheriff principal, who was
 " son to Patrick Lord Ruthven, quhilk Patrick was son to umquhill
 " William Lord Ruthven, quhais sifter Isabel, married to John Murray
 " of Wallace-ton, afterwards of Tibbermae, is the said John Murray's
 " mother, and that William Lord Ruthven is now married to the pursuer's dochter; and that my Lord Methven married the said William
 " Lord Ruthven's sifter.—Answered for the pursuer, that the objection
 " should be repelled, because there is no reckoning made justly, or in
 " consanguinity or affinity betwixt Janet Stewart principal pursuer,
 " and the said John Murray depute."

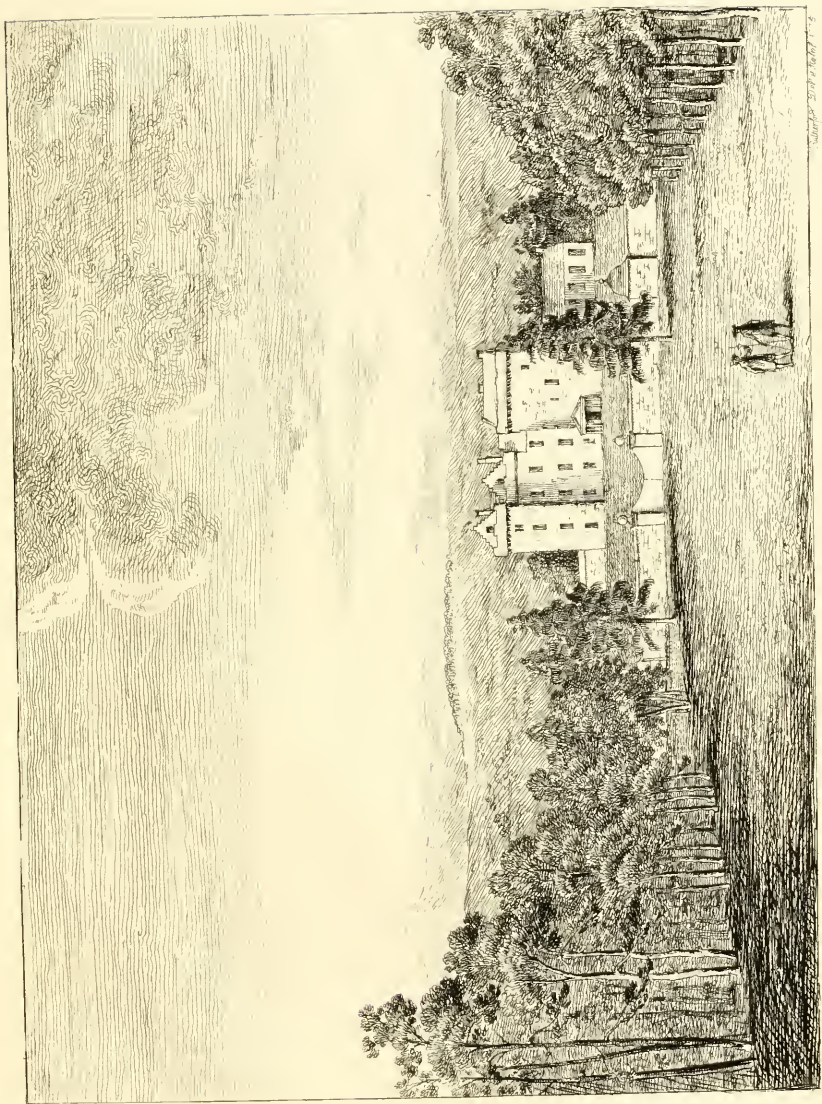
Dame Janet Stewart Lady Methven is thus proved to have been mother-in-law of Lord Ruthven; and as his wife was undoubtedly Dorothea Stewart, it may with perfect safety be affirmed that she was the identical Dorothea legitimated 16th Sept. 1551; consequently that John Earl of Gowrie's alleged descent from Queen Margaret is altogether imaginary. This singular mistake is a convincing proof of the extreme caution with which all traditionary reports should be received; for excepting the old rhyme referred to by Scott, the date of which

does not appear, the report is to be traced to the comparatively modern authority of Burnet, and of a Viscount Strathallan, who, in certain Memoirs of the Drummond family compiled in the year 1681, commits the additional blunder of calling Dorothea the immediate daughter of the Queen.

It is only by the aid of records and other authentic muniments, that history can ever be placed upon a solid foundation. It is, indeed, singular how many mistakes have in modern days been corrected by this authentic mode of investigation, and how many accredited facts have been proved to be entirely fictitious. In verity, there is much truth in the distich alleged by Calderwood to have been anciently painted on a chimney-piece in the castle of Ruthven, now called Huntingtower,* and which may not unappropriately be introduced here as concluding my observations:—

Vera diu latitant, sed longo temporis usu
Emergunt tandem quæ latuere diu.

* As the Gowrie family was so much connected with Perth, a print of Huntingtower has here been inserted, from a copperplate furnished by my friend Mr David Laing.



Rushmore Castle, now called Huntington

NOTICE

RELATIVE TO ROBERT LORD SANQUHAR.*

THE execution of Robert Crichton, Lord Sanquhar, for the murder of a fencing-master, named Turner, although an act of strict justice, created a considerable sensation at a period when rank and fortune were deemed sufficient to cover all enormities. The cause of the murder, and the facts connected with its perpetration, are too well known to admit of repetition ;† and I should not have deemed it necessary to trouble the reader with any commentary, had I not accidentally met with a very remarkable letter, which I thought might, without impropriety, be transferred from an old newspaper, where it reposes, to the present volume.

During the excitement produced by the trial of Earl Ferrers for the murder of his steward, there was much speculation whether he would be convicted, and if convicted, whether he would be executed ; and the public journals were filled with observations, principally, I am sorry to say, against him ; for, so far as I can see from the evidence, he was clearly affected with insanity. As the execution of a nobleman for felony was a very unusual occurrence, people began to search for parallel cases, when the sentence against Lord Sanquhar was brought to recollection, and a comparison between the two instituted,—although they did not admit of comparison, as the one murder was of the most ruffianly description, while the other, if not committed by a confirmed madman, was perpetrated by an individual evidently at the time labouring under insanity.

* Chronicle, p. 13.

† See Wood's Peerage, vol. i. p. 150.

Among other relative communications, the ensuing letter was addressed to the author of the *Edinburgh Chronicle*; and as the principal facts were derived from a member of the Hyndford family, and present an appearance of truth, it will be read with much interest.

To the author of the Edinburgh Chronicle.

SIR,

UPON reading the story of Robert Creighton, Lord Sanquhar, related in your paper, No. 145. a reflection naturally occurs to those who are acquainted with the history and character of James VI. How he who in Scotland pardoned treasons, even against his liberty and his person, as often almost as they were committed by the powerful and factious nobility, and who afterwards pardoned Somerset and his fiend-like wife for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, even after all the dreadful curses he had imprecated upon himself and his posterity, if he should ever forgive them; how he, I say, should be altogether inexorable to this young Lord, is an anecdote not unworthy of the public attention. It is indeed true, that Lord Sanquhar had taken a base and unjustifiable revenge upon a scoundrel who had insolently hurt him; but to this he had been spurred on by his French education, and by that unlucky question put to him by Henry IV. if the man who had put out his eye was alive? Every body knows that a blow given to a gentleman in France, can only be expiated by the death of him who gave it; and how much more provoking is the loss of an eye put out by a fencing-master? it being against all the known rules of those schools, to push at any part above the shoulder. This indeed sometimes happens among young beginners, but could never happen to a master but by design; and seems to have been done in revenge of my Lord's telling him that he pushed like a scholar. These circumstances seem no small allevia-

tions of his guilt. Add to this, that he was the lineal heir of the great Sir William Creighton, Chancellor to our lawgiver James I. and whose authority and abilities, joined to an intrepid courage, upheld the crown during the minority of his son James II. against the overgrown power of the family of Douglas. Him our elegant historian justly calls *manu et ingenio strenuus* ; and though his cutting off the Earl of Douglas and his brother in Edinburgh castle be equivocal, yet it is no more so than Cæsar's death in the senate, and the Duke of Guise's at Blois. However that be, his merits to the royal family were, it must be allowed, very great ; and that this young Lord had merit, appears by his enjoying (fatally indeed for him) the familiarity of the greatest, bravest prince, and the finest gentleman that reigned in that, or perhaps in any other age. All these things puzzled me a little, who have the honour to be descended of that noble race. And I was let into the secret by a person of quality, * who was himself related to that family, whose polite learning and curious knowledge of anecdotes of this nature were known to every body.

The story is this. When the Duke of Sully was sent over upon that famous embassy, of which he has given us an account in his letters, King James gave him the most solemn promises, that he would support Henry with all that vigour and gallant magnanimity with which the glorious Elizabeth had done ; and that he would enter into all the heroic schemes projected between them two, for breaking the power of the house of Austria, then so justly formidable to all Europe : but instead of all this, Sully was hardly out of England, when James made peace with Spain, and continued their dupe ever after. This entirely ruined his reputation in France. Numberless were the jokes, the sarcasms, and epigrams that were made upon him ; of which that famous one which begins, *Quand Elisabeth fut Roy*, was one. In the mean

* The Hon. William Carmichael.

time, at home, King James's flatterers called him the Solomon of the age. It happened, that one day Lord Sanquhar was in a merry company at Paris, when one of them said, it was no wonder he was called *Solomon*, since he was the son of David, alluding to the story of David Rizzio. This Lord Creighton did not relent, but joined in the laugh. James was told of this by some malicious whisperer; and this was the true reason of his letting him suffer death. So that he was really punished, not for killing one man, but for not killing another; for hearing a dull pun, which one should be apt to think was not worth minding, especially as it came from a Frenchman, in his own country; and besides, if my Lord had challenged the punster, he soon would have had the whole French court to have taken out, in the humour they were then in, and considering the rage of duelling, which then prevailed; and even at this time we are conscious how indecent freedoms we take with foreign Kings, and what a fine time a Frenchman would have, who should take upon him to repent all the vile insolent scurrilities that have been uttered against the King of France. But men of letters should remember that Memnon, the best of Darius's captains, hearing one day a soldier rail at Alexander, struck him with his pike, and told him, "You rascal, I hired you to fight against Alexander, and not to defame him."

I am, &c.

J. J. *

If the statement in this letter be correct, little credit seems due to his Majesty, on the score of inflexible justice; and it is indeed far from improbable that the murder of Turner was deemed by James a trivial matter, when put in competition with the charge of permitting the insinuation of the Frenchman to pass without notice.

* The name of the author I have been unable to ascertain.

