V.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES OF ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL, IN THE CASTLE OF EDINBURGH. BY JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

I feel some regret that Dr Daniel Wilson, in the interesting notice of the chapels of St Margaret and St Mary within the Castle of Edinburgh, was unable to incorporate the information regarding the chapel of St Margaret which I was fortunate enough to discover in a roll of what may be called the usurpation period of 1335–7, when Edward III. was in possession of the Lothians by grant of Edward Balliol. The third volume of the Calendar containing this roll, or rather rolls (for there are two), was not, however, published till after Dr Wilson's paper was read, of course even longer after it was composed, but had I known he was engaged on it, I should have been inclined to communicate the new information. However, this note will supplement his paper to some extent. Dr Wilson (p. 300) says there is no evidence of the chapel being called St Margaret's "till the latter half of the fourteenth century, when the name of St Margaret's chapel first appears in the Exchequer Rolls;" but then, as will be seen, "references are more frequent to the chapel and the chaplains of St Mary in the Castle of Edinburgh." There is evidence, however, as to both—certainly to the "great chapel," which I take to be St Mary's—as early as September 1335. In the Compotus of Sir Thomas Roscelin, the English sheriff of Edinburgh, it is said that a kitchen was made

under the great chapel, besides "broddes" provided for it, and a chamber
called "le contynghous," and 140 "bordes" of Eastland timber for its roof.
In the indenture\(^1\) by which Sir Thomas delivered over the castle to his
successor Sir John Stirling, it is said "that there is no dwelling (habit-
acioun) within the said castle, save a chapel, a little unroofed (a poy
descoverte), a little ‘pentice’ above the chapel, and a new stable quite
unroofed, except about a quarter,” &c. The castle, in fact, seems to
have been a ruin when the English regained it; but the new warden at
once set to work to rebuild it in November 1335, the operations lasting
more than a year. His Comptus\(^2\) contains many references to the “great
chapel,” the dedication of which is nowhere mentioned. It was thoroughly
roofed with timber, and turned into a granary, the smaller chapel being
probably considered sufficient for the spiritual necessities of the garrison.
Regarding the latter I give this entry of June 1336\(^3\):—“Magistro Johanni
vitreario pro fabrica iiiij fenestrarum vitrearum, positarum in capella
Sancte Margarete, et pro factura unius gurgitis de plumbo super magnam
capellam, xxiii s.” On looking at Sir Henry Dryden’s plan of St Margaret’s
chapel (p. 295), it will be seen there are five windows. Perhaps only
four required renewal, as the east window may have escaped damage,
from its position over the altar.

One cannot fail to share Dr Wilson’s wish that no stone of this most
historic building may be touched by the restorer’s hand. The irregularity
of its shape, traced by the practised hand of Sir Henry Dryden, attests its
antiquity. It is truly remarkable that, notwithstanding its exposed site
on the highest point of the Castle rock, it should have survived the ruin
that has befallen the surrounding buildings. \textit{Esto perpetua}, be its
motto.

\(^1\) Calendar, vol. iii. p. 216. \(^2\) Ibid., p. 347. \(^3\) P. 355.