

XXXI.—*Notices of the Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, formerly in the Scottish College at Douay.*

Communicated to the Secretary by JOHN MENZIES of Pitfoddels, Esq.; and the Rev. JAMES GILLIS.

[*Read to the Society, 25th March 1833.*]

MR MENZIES returns respectful compliments to Mr Gregory. Of the two pictures of Queen Mary which are in Mr Menzies's house, there is only one which he considers as valuable. That one indeed is truly so, being, in Mr Menzies's decided opinion, an undoubtedly true representation of her: of the reasons for such opinion he will inform Mr Gregory, if he will take the trouble of calling on him. It is not however in Mr Menzies's power to allow the picture to be taken to the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, as it does not belong to him; but Mr Gregory, or any of the gentlemen of the Society, will be welcome to see it where it is.

York Place, 24th March [1833].

MY DEAR SIR,—The following is the extract from Mrs Curle's will relative to the picture of Queen Mary which you saw here this afternoon.

“ Traduction de l'Espagnol d'une partie du Testament de Dame Elisabeth Curle, du 24 Avril 1620.

“ En signe de cette fondation, je laisse audit Séminaire (Douai) un joiau d'or . . . qui renferme une petit portrait de la Reine Marie d'Ecosse, ma maitresse, chose que j'estime grandement, parce qu'elle me fut donnée par sa Majesté la matinée même qu'elle fut martyrisée; de plus, je laisse aussi un grand portrait de sa Majesté vetue comme elle estoit à son martyre; c'est à condition,” &c. &c.

The above is copied from a manuscript of the Rev. John Farquharson, President of the Scots College of Douay in 1793, who himself entrusted the

picture to the care of a niece of Martin of Douay, during the time of the reign of terror. *She* concealed it in a condemned chimney-vent, from whence it was removed by Mr Farquharson to the English Convent, Paris, where it remained till 1830, when the late Dr Paterson, Roman Catholic Bishop in Edinburgh, then at Paris, brought it over with him to Scotland. Dr Paterson was Vice-President of Douay College in 1793, and remembered the picture well.—I am, with respect,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

24 York Place,
25th March 1853.
Donald Gregory, Esq.,

JAS. GILLIS,
Catholic Clergyman.

[In connexion with these Notices, I may refer to the Mausoleum of Barbara Mowbray and Elizabeth Curle, in the Church of St Andrew, Antwerp. Over a Latin inscription, erected on one of the pillars of the south transept of that Church, commemorating these ladies, and their attachment to their Royal Mistress, there is placed a small circular portrait of Mary Queen of Scots. An account of this interesting monument, with an outline etching of the portrait, was published separately, under the following title: "Notice sur le Mausolée de Barbe Moubray et Elisabeth Curle, Dames d'Honneur de la Reine Marie Stuart, qui se voit dans l'église paroissiale de Saint André, à Anvers. Par C. P. Serrure, Conservateur des Archives de la Province de la Flandre Orientale." Gand, 1835, 8vo, pp. 10. A reprint of this tract is subjoined to the "Notice sur la Collection des Portraits de Marie Stuart appartenant au Prince Alexandre Labanoff, précédée d'un Résumé Chronologique." St Pétersbourg, 1856, royal 8vo.]