

I.—*Anniversary Address on the State of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, from 1831 to 1860.*

[*Monday, 9th December 1861.*]

By DAVID LAING, Esq., Vice-President, and Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.

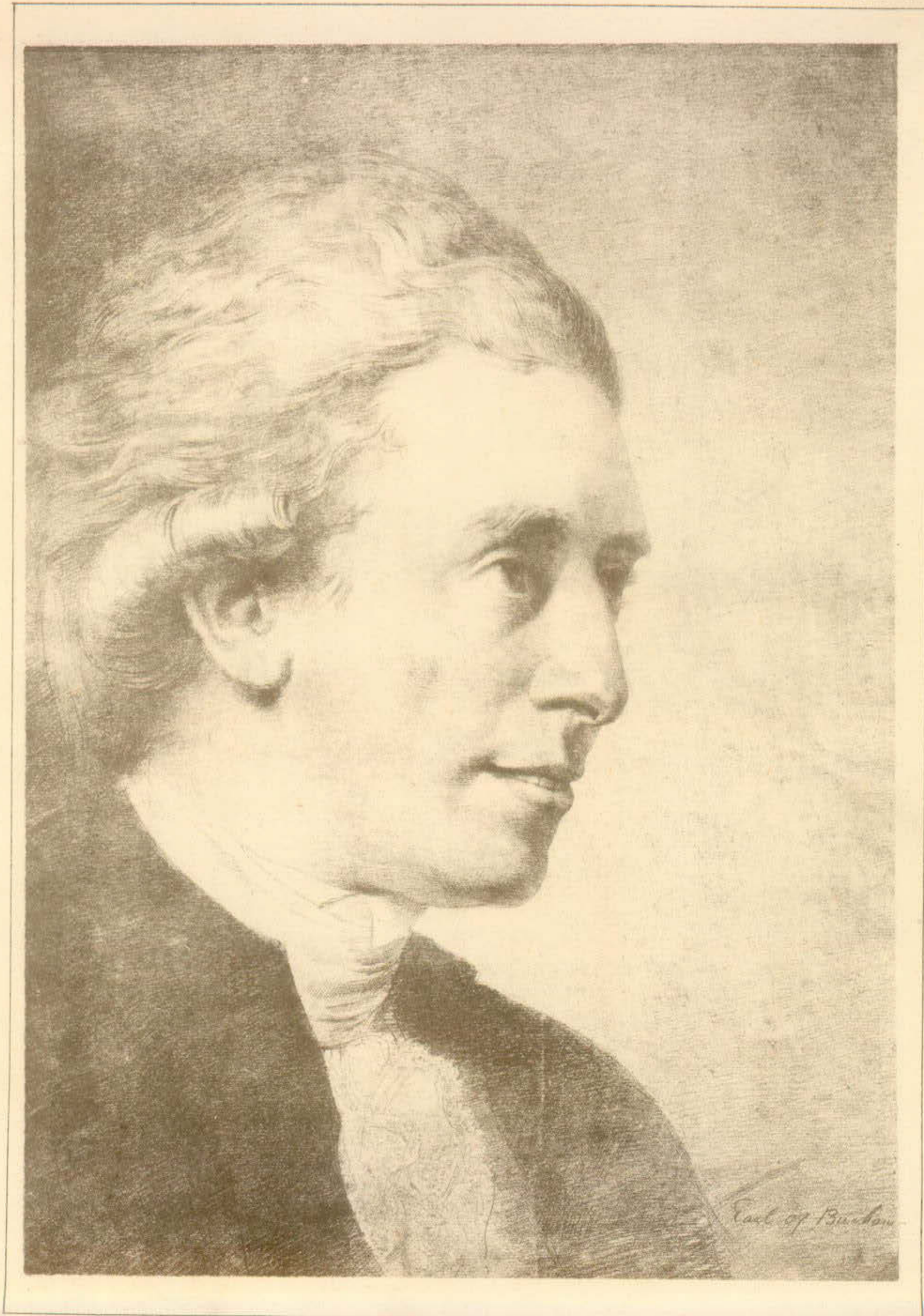
Of late years, it has become customary in this and other Societies for the retiring Vice-President to give an Address at the opening of a new session. This duty has accordingly now devolved upon me.

The History of the Society has, on more than one occasion, been the subject of such an address, but usually confined to its bright side—the increasing number of new members, the value and importance of the communications read, the interesting articles collected in the Museum, and so on. I propose rather to exhibit the dark side of the picture, by calling your attention to the reverses the Society has had to experience during no inconsiderable part of its existence.

In 1782, Mr William Smellie published a detailed “Account of the Institution and Progress of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.” This was followed, in 1784, by Part Second of the same Account. After an interval of nearly half a century, there appeared in the Appendix to *Archæologia Scotica*, Vol. III., a continuation of this “Account of the Society,” as Part Third, from 1784 to 1830. It was the joint-production of the late Dr Hibbert-Ware and myself, founded upon a careful examination of the Society’s Minute Books; and was ordered to be printed, by a resolution of the Council, 14th March 1831. To serve as Part Fourth of these “Accounts,” I now beg to take a brief retrospect of the state of the Society during the last thirty years, having some reference also to the earlier period of its history. Nor do I imagine it will be deemed unbecoming on this, the EIGHTIETH of its Anniversary Meetings, to present some brief memorials of former associates who gave their honorary and efficient services in the successive management of the Society’s affairs.

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was founded by DAVID, EARL OF BUCHAN, on the 14th of November 1780. The earlier meetings were held in his Lordship's house in St Andrew Square; and the Society commenced, and was carried on for a time, with such signal success, that it was resolved, in the month of May 1782, to apply to the Crown for a Royal Charter of Incorporation. A formidable opposition to such a grant was made by two public bodies in Edinburgh, as recorded in the various letters and memorials which fill nearly the whole of Part Second of Smellie's History in 1784. The Lord Advocate (the Right Hon. Henry Dundas) refused to entertain the selfish arguments that were employed to defeat the application of the Society, and on the 29th of March 1783, the Royal Warrant passed the Privy Seal, and the Charter was extended under the Great Seal on the 5th of May thereafter, the officers of Chancery refusing all fees. By this deed the reigning Sovereign is declared to be PATRON OF THE SOCIETY OF THE ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

The annual addresses of the Earl of Buchan furnish the surest indications of the actual state of the Society. Smellie's Account in 1782 held out the prospect of continued success; yet within a few years, after the novelty of the Institution had ceased to be an attraction, a great change took place, owing chiefly to the want of funds to complete the purchase of a house for the Society, from the increasing unpaid subscriptions of many of the Fellows. These arrears in 1787 had accumulated to L.247, 16s., yet Lord Buchan, in November following, still said, "I cannot think that a country growing in wealth and elegance will suffer a Society to languish for support whose institution has a direct tendency to illustrate that country, and to do honour to those who advance its prosperity." Matters, however, did not improve, the evil being increased by a protracted discussion on the subject of an alleged promise by the Founder of an annual donation of L.20. It would have been more becoming for the Fellows to have left such a claim to his Lordship's own convenience or liberality, and to have bestirred themselves in the common cause, without resorting to the extraordinary step of virtually excluding the Earl of Buchan from a Society of which he was the founder, and had been the chief support. But so it was. At a meeting held on the 14th of December 1790, by a bare majority, which consisted of the votes of only six members, this actually took place. The Account of the Society, published in 1831, contains all that is necessary to be stated re-



THE EARL OF BUCHAN.

specting this most ungracious and unfortunate proceeding. But a short notice of his Lordship, as the Founder of the Society, may now be given.

DAVID STEUART ERSKINE, EARL OF BUCHAN, was the eldest surviving son of Henry David, tenth Earl of Buchan, by the daughter of Sir James Steuart, of Goodtrees, Solicitor-General for Scotland in the reign of Queen Anne. He was born June 1st 1742, O.S. As Lord Cardross, he was educated at the University of Glasgow, and having attended the Drawing Academy within the walls of the College, he acquired a knowledge and taste for the Fine Arts, along with some skill in drawing, which formed a distinctive feature in his character. On leaving College he entered the army, but never rose higher than the rank of a lieutenant, and in virtue of this commission he continued to draw half-pay for nearly sixty years. Lord Cardross succeeded to the earldom on the death of his father, 1st December 1767. By prudent management and economical habits, he was enabled to retrieve the fortunes of the family¹ he represented, and to assist in the liberal education of his younger brothers, the Hon. Henry Erskine and the Hon. Thomas Erskine, both of whom raised themselves to distinction in the legal profession, the latter becoming Lord High Chancellor of England. The effect of the privations to which Lord Buchan thus submitted, was to induce parsimonious habits which stuck to him through life; and these, joined with his extraordinary personal vanity, and his pretensions to be a leading patron of the Fine Arts and of Science, laid him open to much undeserved ridicule. This he treated very lightly. His self-deception, indeed, was so complete and unconscious, that, as an American traveller shrewdly remarked, Lord Buchan had a fancy to attribute to himself whatever had been said or done by any of his ancestors.

One of his favourite schemes in connexion with this Society was to establish a gallery of original portraits of illustrious and learned Scotsmen, under the high-sounding title of THE TEMPLE OF CALEDONIAN FAME; but the process of selecting those thought worthy of admission, and the successive ballotings, had such a scheme been practicable, were simply ridiculous. At the bank of the River Tweed, on his own property of Dryburgh, he erected a

¹ In one of his Addresses (1781) to the Society he did not hesitate to speak of himself as one of the poorest Peers in Scotland."

huge colossal figure, as a statue of the patriot Chieftain, Sir William Wallace.¹ He devoted a large hall within the ruins of Dryburgh Abbey (destroyed, along with Kelso, Melrose, and other religious houses and castles, not by John Knox and the Reformers in 1559, but by the English forces in 1545), to serve as a "Temple of Glory," consisting of fragmentary stones piled against the walls, ornamented by interlacing circular arches, and a series of brackets, bearing a number of plaster busts and casts of eminent men. For many years at Ednam, the poet's birth-place, he held an annual festival on the birth-day of the author of "The Seasons," to which we are indebted for the beautiful ode by Burns to Thomson's memory. In short, all his schemes were of a patriotic cast; and his own works displayed greater ambition in their design than happiness in the execution, as exemplified in his biographies of Napier of Merchiston, Fletcher of Salton, and of James Thomson. In 1818, he published the first volume of his "Anonymous and Fugitive Pieces," chiefly contributed to "The Bee," a periodical edited by Dr. James Anderson. No second volume appeared, as the first proved a losing concern to the publisher. He was in the habit of transmitting, from time to time, portions of his correspondence to one or two well-known literary friends to form a *depôt*,² as he called it, of literary correspondence, to be materials, as he fancied, for a great national work on "The Earl of Buchan and his Times;" but he forgot the necessity of leaving instructions, or of providing funds to defray the expenses of such a publication, and thus it happened, in the course of time, that these *depôts* were broken up, and the letters unfortunately dispersed.³

The Society of Antiquaries was indebted to its founder for an interesting set of portraits of many of the original members drawn in black lead, the size of life, by an ingenious artist, John Brown, a native of Edinburgh, who died 5th September 1787, at the early age of thirty-five. The names

¹ See Proceedings, vol. ii. p. 308.

² His old friend, Dr Robert Anderson, editor of "The British Poets," was the chief custodian of the Earl's Correspondence. In a note to the preface of the Bannatyne Club volume of Clerk of Eldin's Etchings, 1855 (p. xi.), I took notice of the fate of Lord Buchan's proposed *Commercium Epistolicum*, which certainly deserved to have been preserved in a Public Library.

³ See Proceedings, vol. i. p. 257.

of the portraits were not marked on the drawings, but most of them were identified about half a century ago.¹

I have perhaps dwelt too long on the Founder, but with all his fantastic notions and harmless failings he was a kind-hearted, loveable person. You never heard him speak ill of any one; and I cannot but think that his memory ought to be always cherished with respect by this Society. Having paid a short visit to Dryburgh towards the close of his life, I found him as cheerful as ever, fond of his little jokes, and his own importance (in his own eyes) not a whit lessened. I merely add, that the Earl of Buchan died at his beautiful seat of Dryburgh Abbey, on the 19th of April 1829, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. Within less than three years and a half (on the 26th of September 1832) the portals of the Abbey were again opened to receive the mortal remains of a more illustrious man, the Author of "Waverley," within the burial aisle of his ancestors, the Haliburtons of Newmains. At the Public Meeting held at Edinburgh, in honour of Sir Walter Scott, October 5th, 1832, it was eloquently said, "At the time when the people of England proudly hoped that his remains might be interred in one of their great minsters or abbeys—they hoped that his bones might lie in St Paul's or Westminster—and, if such a funeral had been, truly might it have been said that never

"To these chambers, where the mighty rest,
Since their foundation, came a nobler guest."

But it was right that his dust should be mingled with the sacred soil of his fatherland—it was fitting he should die among those scenes which he had ennobled—it was natural that the shadow of his own woods should mingle with the gloom that fell over his dying couch—and more affecting to my mind, as I am sure to yours, than any public funeral, celebrated with whatever pomp, was his funeral within the sacred shades of Dryburgh."²

Reverting to the History of the Society, the effects of the ungracious proceedings towards its founder soon became very apparent. Having lost its mainspring or chief motive power, there was no one of sufficient en-

¹ As a specimen of these heads, that of the first two Secretaries, JAMES CUMMYNG and WILLIAM SMELLIE, somewhat reduced, will be given in the present volume.

² Speech of Professor Wilson: Edinburgh Newspapers, October 6, 1832.

thusiasm or influence to take his place, and it continued to drag on a useless, or at most a merely nominal existence. Were we, indeed, left to judge alone from that useful record the Edinburgh Almanack, we might conclude otherwise. There, for instance, one year after another, sixty years ago, we find, what may be called a solemn and imposing array of Office-Bearers,—a noble duke as “president,” five “vice-presidents,” the stated number of “councillors,” “curators,” a “cashier, a “treasurer,” “four censors,” and various “secretaries.” Yet all this time the Society was virtually dead!

Before adverting further to this sad state of affairs, I shall give a list of the chief Office-Bearers, with occasional biographical notices or recollections.

I.—THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY.

JOHN EARL OF BUTE, K.G., from the institution of the Society in 1780 till his death in March 1792.

JAMES DUKE OF MONTROSE, from 1792 till the remodelling of the Society in 1813. His Grace survived till 1836.

LAWRENCE LORD DUNDAS, from 1813 till 1818. His Lordship, who was created Earl of Zetland in 1838, died the year following.

FRANCIS LORD GRAY, of Gray and Kinfauns, from 1819 to 1822. His Lordship survived till 1842.

THOMAS EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE; elected in 1823.

The election of his Lordship as PRESIDENT was a compliment no less honourable to the Society than it was to a nobleman to whom Archæology and the study of the Fine Arts owed no common obligation. On his appointment in 1799 as Ambassador Extraordinary in Turkey, he set out with the intention of employing artists to make drawings and accurate measurements of the chief Grecian architectural monuments, with casts of works of sculpture. It was only upon finding how open these remains of art were to destruction by the barbarity of the Turks, that, upon obtaining full power to that effect, he resolved to remove many of the original sculptures, thus anticipating what, there is every reason to believe, the French would without scruple have done on the first favourable opportunity. Under ordinary circumstances, and in peaceful times, in a country not subjected to the dominion of barbarians, the spoliation of such a building as the Parthenon at Athens, even in its state of ruin from the bombardment of the Venetians in 1687, would have

deserved all the abuse that was heaped upon Lord Elgin at the time; but his exertions proved the means of preserving the more precious remains, and of enriching this country with relics of Grecian art in its highest state of perfection. It was not until 1816 that his Lordship's collections were permanently secured to the British nation by a Parliamentary grant of £35,000, in remuneration for actual expenses incurred by his Lordship, as such works could not be estimated by mere money value; and being deposited in the British Museum as "The Elgin Marbles," they form the basis of one of the noblest collections of Ancient Sculpture in the world.

The state of his Lordship's health, and his frequent residence abroad, prevented him giving his personal attendance at ordinary meetings, but he continued till the last to take a cordial interest in the Society. He died at Paris, 14th November 1841, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

JAMES EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.T., the present Earl, was chosen President, 30th November 1841, and continued for three years. That another change was then made, was owing to the circumstance that Lord Elgin having devoted himself to diplomatic and political life, his unavoidable absence from Scotland as Governor-General of Jamaica, deprived the Society of his influence at a time when such would have been of the greatest importance. I need not tell the present meeting of the high and important situations which his Lordship has since occupied, and of the success which has followed his footsteps in both the western and eastern hemispheres.¹

JOHN, the present MARQUESS OF BREADALBANE, was elected President in 1844. He still holds the office to the signal benefit of the Society,² and has enriched the Museum by many important donations.

II.—THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

A full list of the members who successively filled the office of Vice-Presidents, or Chairmen of the ordinary meetings, from the year 1780 to 1830, and also from 1830 to 1850, may be found in the *Archæologia*, Vols. III. and IV. This list is here continued from 1851 to 1860. According to the

¹ The Earl of Elgin, K.T., died in India, 20th November 1863.

² The Marquess of Breadalbane, K.T., died at Lausanne, 8th September 1867.

Rules, the senior retires at the end of the third year at the anniversary meeting, on the 30th of November.

HENRY HOME DRUMMOND, of Blair-Drummond, Esq., 1851.

HON. LORD MURRAY, 1851, 1852.

WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., 1851, 1852, 1835.

WILLIAM FORBES SKENE, Esq., 1852, 1853, 1854.

PATRICK CHALMERS, of Aldbar, Esq., 1853 (having died in 1854, in his room was elected).

WILLIAM LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., 1854, 1855.

ARCHIBALD T. BOYLE, Esq., 1854, 1855, 1856.

HON. LORD MURRAY, 1855, 1856, 1857.

COSMO INNES, Esq., 1856, 1857, 1858.

HON. LORD NEAVES, 1857, 1858, 1859.

Professor JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D., 1858, 1859, 1860.

DAVID LAING, Esq., 1859, 1860.

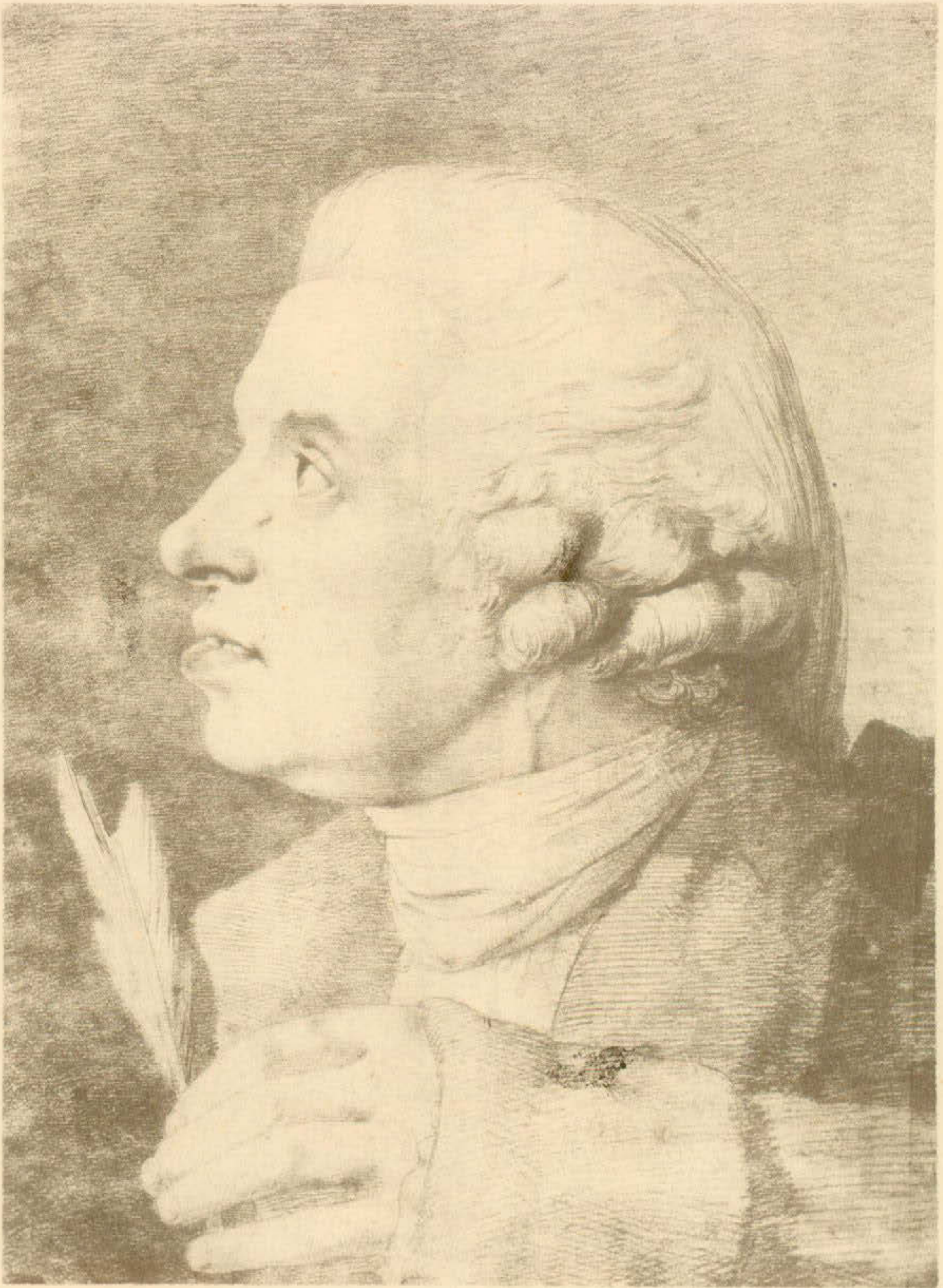
JAMES T. GIBSON CRAIG, Esq., 1860.

It may be mentioned in this place, that two volumes of the original correspondence connected with the Society for the years 1780, 1781, and 1782, carefully arranged by the Secretary, James Cummyng, were recovered a few years ago, from which some interesting illustrations of its earlier proceedings might be gleaned. This work, however, I shall leave to others, having no intention at present to enter minutely into the history of the Society. My design, as already stated, being rather to collect and preserve detached notices of those Office-Bearers who, during the fourscore years of its existence, have had the chief share in managing the affairs of the Society. In 1830, when the Account of the Society to that date was prepared, the members alluded to, with a very few exceptions, were still alive, and any personal sketches would therefore have been unsuitable.

Great changes have since occurred, and I shall now proceed to notice the deceased members who have in succession filled respectively the office of Secretaries, Treasurers, and Curators.

III.—THE SECRETARIES.

Mr JAMES CUMMYNG, the first Secretary, was Herald Painter and Keeper of Records in the Lyon Court, Edinburgh. From his own private letters and



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papers it appears that he was connected with a branch of the Cummyngs of Altyr; and that his grandfather having joined Montrose and the Royalists, materially injured his fortunes. James Cummyng was born 20th July 1732. He served an apprenticeship with Mr Norie, house painter, a freeman of the Incorporation of St. Mary's Chapel, who was much employed in painting and decorating the interiors of houses with landscapes and arabesque ornaments. A fellow-apprentice was Alexander Runciman, the historical painter. Cummyng's peculiar bent lay in heraldic painting, and in or before 1771 he was appointed Clerk and Keeper of the Register of the Lyon Court. This office he continued to hold during the rest of his life. Cummyng died in Chessell's Buildings, at the head of Canongate, on the 22d January 1793. He was intimate with Sir Alexander Dick, Sir John Dalrymple, Sir Robert Douglas, Runciman the painter, Fergusson the poet, David Herd, and most of the Edinburgh worthies of the time, more especially with those who belonged to a social club known as the "Knights of the Cape."¹

MR WILLIAM SMELLIE, printer in Edinburgh, one of the original Fellows, was elected Secretary, in February following 1793. He was an ingenious and able man, who had distinguished himself as the translator of Buffon's "Natural History, with Notes and Observations," Edinb. 1781-1785, 9 vols. 8vo, and the author of the "Philosophy of Natural History," 2 vols. 4to. His chief care was to excite the members to form a museum of Natural History; but this class of objects, originally included as part of the Society's Museum, was, by subsequent changes, excluded, as not harmonising with archæological collections and pursuits. He died at Edinburgh, the 24th of June 1795, aged 54 years, and was interred in Greyfriars Churchyard, with a Latin inscription commemorating his learning.² *Memoirs of his Life, Writings, and Correspondence*, by Robert Kerr, in 2 vols., afterwards appeared in 1811.³

MR ALEXANDER SMELLIE, who had acted for a short time as Assistant, became his father's successor as Secretary in July 1795, and was thus entitled to retain the use of the Society's house in the Castle Hill, as will

¹ See a further notice of Cummyng and of his private papers in Appendix No. I.

² Brown's "Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions," p. 193. Edinb. 1867.

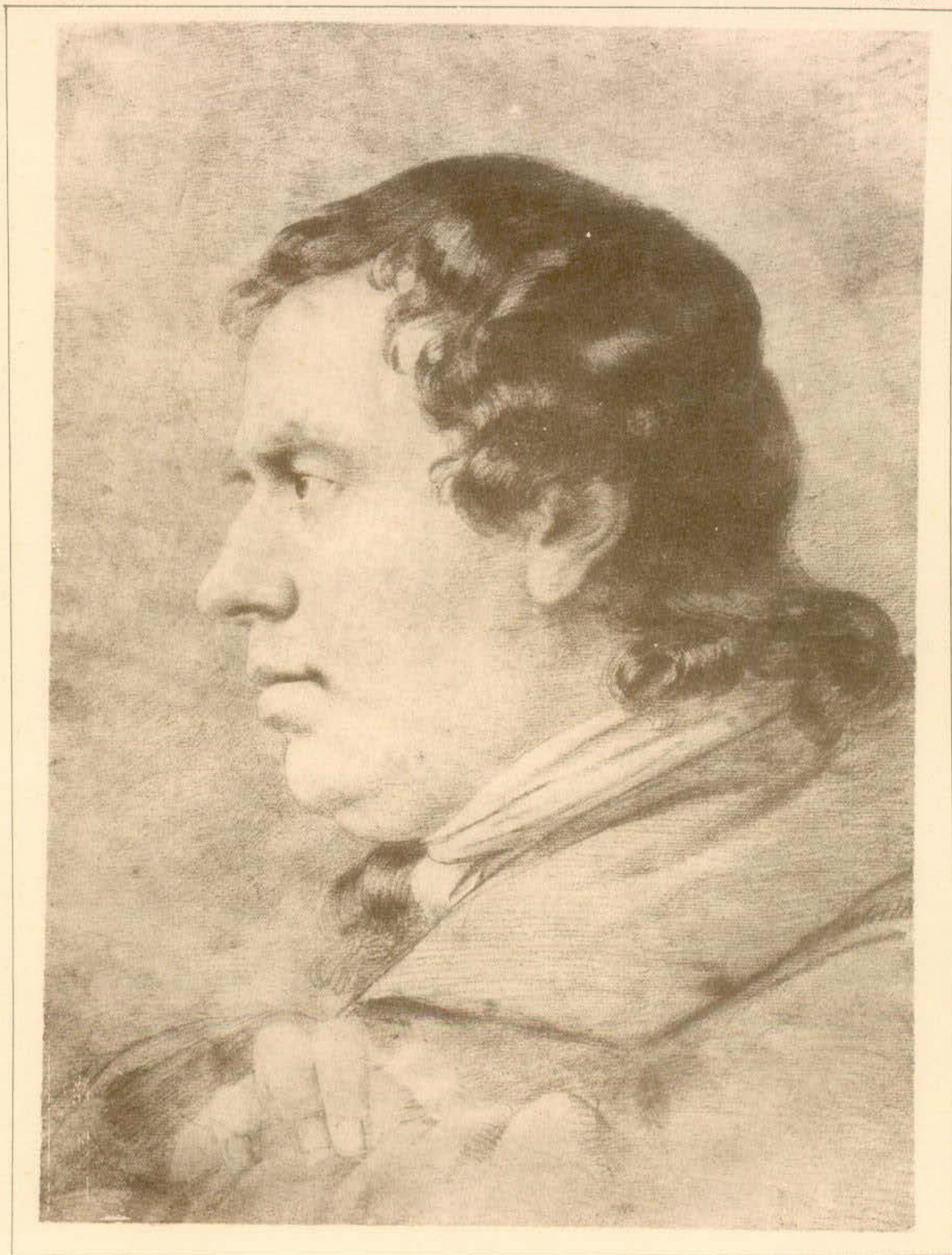
³ See Appendix, No. II.

be noticed under the head of Curators of the Museum. He also carried on business as a printer; but during the long time he held the office of Secretary, the Society fell into a most lamentable state of inefficiency, as may be seen from Part III. of the Account of the Society in 1830. From the Society's Minutes, for instance, we find that between March 20, 1804, and December 12, 1807, or upwards of three years, only one solitary communication recorded. In 1805, nothing appeared; and in 1806, the paper referred to, entitled "Observations on the History and Language of the Pehts," was read at meetings held January 21, continued February 11, July 8, and concluded September 2. We might have thought the subject would be exhausted, as it is held that only *three words* of the Pictish language have reached our days; but it served also for the session of 1807, as "An Appendix" to the same paper.¹

In the Society's library there is a printed address by the Earl of Buchan to the Americans in Edinburgh on the return of the birthday of Washington (with whom his lordship claimed kindred), February 22d, 1811. On the fly-leaf is written, "TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF THE ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND FROM ITS ORIGINAL FOUNDER, WITH WISHES FOR ITS EFFICACIOUS REVIVAL." The revival did take place a few years later when the Rev. Dr Jamieson was appointed Joint-Secretary, in December 1813. This at least was the first step to rouse the Society to new activity. His name is so well known that a very brief notice of him only is required.

JOHN JAMIESON, D.D., was born at Glasgow on the 3d of May 1759, where his father was one of the early Secession ministers. He himself was educated at that University with a view to the ministry in the branch of the Presbyterian Secession Church known as Antiburghers. He was licensed by the Associate Synod in July 1779, and was first settled at Forfar. On receiving a call from the congregation of Nicolson Street, he came to Edinburgh in 1797, where he continued to officiate till near the close of his life. His predilection for literary and antiquarian pursuits early manifested itself, without however allowing these to interfere with his ministerial

¹ Transactions of the Society, vol. ii. p. 134. Ten years later, in 1817, another learned Etymologist, devoted two meetings to "Remarks on these Observations." *Ib.* p. 251. Also, vol. iii. Appendix, pp. 168, 170.



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duties. It is here sufficient to mention that the work by which he is best known, his "Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language," was completed in 1810, to which were added two supplementary volumes in 1825. His "Historical Account of the Ancient Culdees of Iona," 1811, is another work displaying considerable research and erudition. Some of his theories may be and have been controverted. I rather prefer to say that his labours, while acting as Secretary of this Society between 1813 and 1819, were of great service in contributing to its revival. Dr Jamieson died at Edinburgh on the 12th of July 1838, and was interred in the burial-ground of St Cuthbert's. Those who were personally acquainted with him could not but esteem him for his learning, sincere piety, and his social and other estimable qualities.

Mr JOHN DILLON became Secretary upon Dr Jamieson's resignation in November 1819. He was the son of a tradesman in Glasgow, and born in 1756; but came to Edinburgh in early life, where he practised as a solicitor; and was selected to act as the prisoner's agent in the important trial of David Downie, who was tried and condemned for high treason in September 1794. When the "Society of Solicitors in Supreme Courts" was incorporated in 1797, Mr Dillon was one of the original members. When the Record commissioners directed their attention to the existing Records of Scotland, Mr Dillon was engaged in preparing and completing, as sub-editor, the very useful abridgment of the "Retours," or Services of Heirs, prior to the Union with England in 1707, printed at Edinburgh 1811-1816, in 3 vols. folio. At the end of two years he resigned the secretaryship of this Society upon his appointment as one of the Sheriff-substitutes of Glasgow. In the duties of this most laborious office he gave great satisfaction, but the state of his health compelled him to retire in the course of a few years.¹ He died at Glasgow in 1831; his wife, who was the grand-daughter of George Crawford, the genealogist, surviving him only three days. Mr Dillon was acute, accurate in research, a good classical scholar, and familiar with old writings. He contributed in 1819 to the Society's Transactions,

¹ I remember one evening calling on Mr Dillon at Glasgow, and found him half buried among a mass of Sheriff-Court processes which he had to examine, and which he said was enough to drive any one distracted. I heartily condoled with him, as such occupation was by no means to be envied.

among other papers, a valuable dissertation on the Norwegian Expedition, or Battle of Largs, in the year 1263.

Mr THOMAS KINNEAR, the eldest son of one of the wealthy families of bankers of that name in Edinburgh, next supplied the vacant office in 1822. He required, however, other aid than that of a merely nominal colleague, and such a new arrangement was made in the following year. He himself was intelligent, and of a liberal mind, and distinguishing himself by his skill in banking transactions he was induced to settle in London, in 1826, as a wider field of enterprise. He died there in the prime of life in the year 1830.

Dr SAMUEL HIBBERT, who undertook, in 1823, the task of providing communications to the ordinary meetings, was descended from one of the old Manchester families, and was born in 1782. He entered the First Royal Lancashire Militia, in which he held a lieutenant's commission for six or seven years. His natural taste for scientific inquiries brought him to Edinburgh to study medicine at the University, where he took his degree of M.D. in 1817. He became a Fellow of most of the learned Societies in this city, to which he always entertained the greatest partiality, looking upon it as his home. His most important work was "A Description of the Shetland Islands," published in 1822. The obligations the Society of Antiquaries was under to him for his enthusiastic and devoted labours cannot be sufficiently acknowledged. Having resolved to spend a few years on the Continent, partly in the pursuit of his scientific studies, and the education of his family, he resigned the secretaryship in May 1827. After returning to England, he cherished the hope of making Edinburgh his permanent residence; and in many letters to myself he never failed in expressing the deep interest he felt in the Society, and his earnest desire to resume his labours, more especially when he saw it had fallen upon evil days. At a late period of life he assumed the name of Ware, as nearest male representative of Sir James Ware, the distinguished Irish antiquary. Dr Hibbert died at his seat in Cheshire, 30th December 1849, in the 67th year of his age.¹

¹ See Appendix, No. III.

Mr JOHN ANDERSON was joined with Dr Hibbert as Assistant Secretary in 1826, and with Mr Drummond Hay in 1827. He was the eldest son of Mr Peter Anderson, solicitor, Inverness, and was born in August 1798 ; and being educated under his maternal uncle, Dr Robert Thomson, Kensington, after passing through the Literary and Law Classes at the University of Edinburgh, he was admitted Writer to the Signet in 1821. Four years later he published an interesting volume, entitled " Historical Account of the Family of Frisel or Fraser, particularly Fraser of Lovat, with original correspondence of Simon Lord Lovat." Edinburgh, 1825, 4to. He was afterwards employed on the Lovat peerage and other cases connected with Highland genealogies and the restoration of attainted Scottish titles. In 1835 he left Edinburgh, on his appointment as a stipendiary magistrate in St Vincent, West Indies, where he died in consequence of a fall from his horse, 21st September 1839.

Mr EDWARD WILLIAM AURIOL DRUMMOND HAY, soon after taking up his residence in Edinburgh, joined the Society on 8th March 1824. His father, the Rev. Dr E. Auriol Hay Drummond, Dean of Bocking, and Rector of Hadleigh, was the fifth son of Robert Drummond, Archbishop of York, the brother of Thomas, seventh Earl of Kinnoull. Mr Drummond Hay was born the 4th of April 1785, and was educated at Christ's Church, Oxford, where he took his degree of B.A. 4th June 1806. On leaving the University he entered the army, and in 1808 held a commission as lieutenant, and in 1812 as captain in the 61st and 73d Regiments. He served in the Peninsula, in France, and in the Low Countries, was on the staff as *aide-de-camp* to Major-General Robertson of Lude, and was present at the battle of Waterloo. By means of his classical education and his residence abroad, he acquired a complete mastery over several modern European languages, and was in every sense a most accomplished scholar. In 1822 he published a Dissertation, in the form of a letter to the Committee of the Essex and Colchester General Hospital, on a remarkable piece of Roman sculpture, representing the Theban Sphynx, discovered in excavating the foundation of that hospital at Colchester. The immediate cause of his taking up his residence in Edinburgh was an appointment by his cousin, the present Earl of Kinnoull, Lord Lyon (to whom at one period he was presumptive heir), to be Principal Keeper of Records in the Lyon Court. He then became a Fellow of this Society, and consented to act as interim

Secretary in May 1827, until the annual meeting in November following, when he was formally installed as General Secretary in the room of Dr Hibbert.

It is pleasing to call to remembrance the Society meetings during the two years in which Mr Drummond Hay acted as Secretary. The rooms were crowded with visitors, attracted by his enthusiasm, varied acquirements, and personal influence. The only regret felt was his own departure to another and distant quarter of the globe, and here I may quote part of the newspapers' report of his address (at the close of the meeting on the 8th May 1829), when he intimated his resignation of the secretaryship, in consequence of his appointment to be Consul-General to the Barbary States:—

“ MR DRUMMOND HAY now craved permission to be indulged, as he had already been at the end of the two preceding Sessions, during which he had held the office of Secretary, in saying a few parting words on the close of the present. He congratulated the Society on its flourishing condition, on its steady yet rapid progress, and on its reputation. He noticed not merely the valuable addition to the number of its Fellows during the last year, but the peculiar lustre it could not fail to derive from the eminent names which had been recently added to the roll of its Honorary and Corresponding Members. The Society had not only extended itself at home, but would appear to have been raised very materially in character among the learned in various parts of Europe. . . . He was going to the Pillars of Hercules, the *ne plus ultra*, looking from the East, of ancient times; but they all knew now that there was no *ne plus ultra* for science; and assuredly there could be no limit so distant, as to cause him to forget that he was a Fellow of this Society, whose interest it would ever be one of his warmest wishes to promote, and that he could never look back with so much pleasure nor with so much pride to any office he had ever filled, since he entered public life, as to that of Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

“ Sir HENRY JARDINE, V.-P., was certain that the retirement of Mr Hay from the office which he had filled in a manner so honourable to himself, and so useful to the Society, would be felt by the Society as a great—almost an irreparable loss. His efforts and exertions, during the two years in which he had held the office of Secretary, had been unceasing to promote its interests on every occasion. . . . The good wishes of every member of the Society would, he was sure, follow Mr Hay to his new situation, which

there was no doubt he would fill satisfactorily both to himself and to his country. He had left a bright example to those who were to come behind him, which Sir Henry trusted would be followed by every member as far as lay in his power. Sir Henry Jardine concluded by announcing, that it was proposed by a number of the Fellows, and the proposal met with his hearty concurrence, that the Society should testify their sense of Mr Hay's valuable services by giving him a public dinner—and that, after communicating with Mr Hay, the dinner had been fixed to take place on Monday the 25th current, in Barry's Hotel, at six o'clock; and a committee was then appointed to make the necessary arrangements."

The dinner accordingly took place in Barry's Hotel, on the 25th of that month; and, notwithstanding the short interval, there was a large and enthusiastic assemblage, Sir Henry Jardine in the chair, Mr Skene of Rubislaw, croupier; and among the members present, were Sir Walter Scott, Lord Meadowbank, Mr Thomas Thomson, D.C.R., and Mr P. F. Tytler.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that Mr Drummond Hay entered upon the duties of his new situation with all his usual energy; but it was remarked, that the great mental excitement and physical exertion in such a climate during the protracted negotiations for the settlement of political differences between France and the Barbary States, hastened the termination of his life. He died at Tangiers on the 1st of March 1845, in the 60th year of his age. His letters to his Edinburgh friends contained frequent expressions of the interest he felt in the Society; in proof of this, it is gratifying to record the bequest Mr Drummond Hay made to the Society of his extensive and valuable cabinet of ancient coins and medals, chiefly Roman, consisting of 13 gold, 500 imperial silver, 90 consular, and upwards of 2000 brass, besides a great number of gold and silver coins of other nations.

Mr DONALD GREGORY, elected a Fellow in 1825, was, upon Mr Drummond Hay's resignation, made General Secretary, having for two previous years been Assistant. He was a younger son of Dr James Gregory, one of the distinguished medical professors in our University, the representative of a family eminent for hereditary talent, and was born at Edinburgh 25th December 1803. Mr Gregory, in conducting the affairs of the Society, was

active and indefatigable, still continuing to be a most diligent and accurate investigator of the early history of Scotland. His communications to the *Archæologia Scotica*, especially his "Inquiry into the Earlier History of the Clan Gregor" in 1830, and his "History of the Western Highlands and Isles of Scotland, from A.D. 1493 to A.D. 1625," published in 1836, will remain as permanent memorials of his research and impartiality, being founded upon original documents, and a thorough examination of public records. Mr Gregory was unfortunately cut off in the prime of life in October 1836, at a time when it was understood he had an immediate prospect of obtaining a somewhat lucrative appointment as a reward of his labours.

MR WILLIAM FORBES SKENE, to whom the Society still looks up for important historical contributions, had been for a short time Mr Gregory's colleague, and became his successor as Secretary, holding the office about three years (1836 to 1838), having part of the time the advantage of Mr Joseph Robertson's aid as assistant.—It may not be out of place to add that, through the united exertions of Mr Skene and Mr Gregory, a society was instituted under the name of THE IONA CLUB, for illustrating the history of the Highlands and Isles of Scotland; and I am happy to say that, by a private arrangement, Mr Gregory's MS. collections, as a memorial of his antiquarian pursuits, will soon be deposited in the Society's Library. The publication from these papers of an additional volume of the *Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis* was announced a few years ago, but laid aside for want of sufficient encouragement. A new scheme for accomplishing this object by reviving the Club for a limited period, was also unfortunately frustrated by the death of Sir John Archibald Murray, one of our Vice-Presidents, about two years ago.¹

It happened that no previous arrangements had been matured for supplying the vacancy occasioned by Mr Skene's resignation as Secretary. At the anniversary meeting for the election of office-bearers, on the 30th November 1838, there was but a small attendance, and one of the older members who

¹ One of the Lords of Session, and for several years M.P. when holding the office of Lord Advocate. He succeeded to the family estate of Henderland in 1854, on the death of his elder brother. Lord Murray died in 1859.

filled the chair, to the general surprise, moved that Mr ALEXANDER SMELLIE be again appointed, and no other candidate being proposed, it was held as approved. I have no wish to say anything on the subject, but truth compels me to add, that at a time when redoubled zeal and activity on the part of a new Secretary were essential, a greater misfortune could scarcely have occurred than by such an appointment. Was it indeed at all likely, that the Secretary in his old age, after a lapse of so many years, would be found any more capable than before of maintaining the reputation and usefulness of the Society.¹

Mr JOSEPH ROBERTSON, who had acted as Assistant Secretary in 1837, still continued for the session 1838. Leaving Edinburgh as his place of residence, a heavy share of the burden, in this nearly hopeless condition, devolved upon myself (in addition to my other duties), for the two Sessions 1839 and 1840, in order to keep the Society from becoming quite dormant.

In the following sessions 1841 and 1842, JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D., undertook the office of Assistant Secretary, to the evident advantage of the Society.

At the close of the session 1842, Dr Cormack leaving Edinburgh to follow his professional career in London, Mr WILLIAM B. D. D. TURNBULL, Advocate, became Acting Secretary. He entered upon his official duties with all his wonted enthusiasm, and was the medium of carrying out the arrangements when the Society was under the necessity of removing from the Royal Institution Building in 1844. The Society having begun to recover something like vitality, it was found that Mr Turnbull, with all his energetic zeal, required to have the aid of a colleague qualified to undertake a share of the duties. For this purpose the General Secretary was persuaded finally to retire (with the title of *Emeritus*) in 1847; and Mr DANIEL WILSON, who had recently joined the Society, took charge of the meetings, while Mr Turnbull remained as Secretary for Correspondence.

It would be quite inexcusable were I to pass over in silence the varied services of DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., as Acting Secretary, having by his devoted zeal and activity contributed greatly to the prosperity of the Society. His

¹ Alexander Smellie, Esq., died at his house Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh, 28th October 1849. He had been elected in the class of Associated Artists so early as the year 1791.

exertions in negotiating with the Board of Manufactures for the arrangements which afterwards were happily completed, and his securing the goodwill and aid of Mr Joseph Hume, M.P., on behalf of an institution of a national character, were very important. Nor should we forget the excellent Synopsis of the Museum, which was published in 1849; and his maturing the plan and commencing the series of Proceedings from 30th November 1851, and since carried on, if I may be permitted to say so, to the lasting benefit of the Society.¹ Dr Wilson having obtained the appointment of Professor of English Literature in University College, Toronto, before sailing for Canada, his friends in the Society, and others, Mr Sheriff Gordon presiding, entertained him at dinner in Barry's Hotel, Granton, 19th August 1853; and this occasion was taken to present him with a piece of plate as a testimony of their respect. In further acknowledgment of his services, on the first vacancy, 30th November 1853, he was elected one of the Society's Twenty-five Honorary Members.

The subsequent changes in this office may be stated in a few words. Upon Mr Turnbull's leaving Edinburgh,² on going to the English Bar, in May 1851, JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., in November following was elected Secretary for Correspondence, and still continues in that office. Another change was rendered necessary, when, in room of Dr Daniel Wilson, Mr ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, A.R.S.A., and Director of the Department of Ornament in the School of Art, Edinburgh, officiated as Acting Secretary for the session 1854. His other duties necessarily prevented him from giving full attention to the affairs of the Society.³

Mr JOHN STUART, of Aberdeen, Secretary of the Spalding Club, having come to reside in Edinburgh, and joined the Society in 1853, accepted the office of General Secretary in November 1855, its duties being quite congenial to his own pursuits. I need not say to this meeting how much the Society have been indebted to him for its continued prosperity.

¹ The labour of editing, &c., the subsequent Annual parts of the "Proceedings" has since devolved on Dr John Alexander Smith and myself.

² See a brief notice of Mr Turnbull, Appendix No. IV.

³ Mr Christie was born at Edinburgh in 1807; and died on the 5th of May 1860.

IV.—SECRETARIES FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

This office falls next to be noticed, but will not detain us long. The original scheme of the Society provided not only a Foreign Secretary, but a Latin Secretary, a French Secretary, and a Gaelic Secretary. In 1815, these, the Censors, and some other offices being superseded, the Rev. ALEXANDER BRUNTON, D.D., was appointed sole Secretary for Foreign Correspondence. It involved no serious duties, nor required any assistant, although Mr Turnbull nominally was Assistant from 1838 to 1842.

Dr Brunton, a native of Edinburgh, was ordained minister of the parish of Bolton in 1797. He was translated to Edinburgh, first in 1803 to the church of New Greyfriars, and in 1809 to the Tron Church. Without resigning his parochial charge, in 1813 he was elected Professor of Oriental Languages, holding at the same time in conjunction the office of Principal Librarian to the University; and received the degree of D.D. 17th December 1813. In the latter part of his life (in 1847) he resigned his Professorship, residing mostly out of Edinburgh, until his death on 9th February 1854, aged 82.

In November 1852, when relieved of the onerous duties connected with the Society's financial matters, I was elected Joint Foreign Secretary; and two years later, on Dr Brunton's death, I became Foreign Secretary in November following, having for a colleague the Belgian Consul, my friend Mr JOHN M. MITCHELL.¹ We have to acknowledge that neither of us are greatly oppressed with the work, yet it is by no means unimportant, in forming new relations and keeping up the interchange of Transactions and other works with foreign libraries and societies.

V.—THE TREASURERS.

On the retirement of Mr SCOTT MONCRIEFF, who held this office from 1808 to 1825, his successor was THOMAS ALLAN, Esq., banker. Mr Moncrieff, at a later period of life, assumed the name of Welwood on succeeding as heir of entail to the valuable estates of Garvock and Pitliver, in the neighbourhood of Dunfermline, where he died in 1854, at an advanced age.

¹ A short notice of Mr Mitchell will be given in Appendix No. V.

Mr Allan was a member of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, and was known in the scientific world by a useful work on Mineralogical Nomenclature, published in 1814. As proprietor of the *Caledonian Mercury* newspaper, he also carried on the business of a printer. He acquired by purchase from Count Law de Lauriston, at Paris, the beautiful estate of Lauriston, near Edinburgh.¹

After Mr Allan's decease in 1833, the Secretary and Assistant Curator acted for two years, in 1834 and 1835, as Interim Treasurers.

In an evil hour for myself, in the winter of 1836, I was in some measure forced to accept the vacant office of Treasurer. The labours and anxieties attendant upon it I have no wish to keep in remembrance, although, when I come to mention the subsequent negotiations, the subject cannot be altogether passed over in silence.

After discharging its duties for fifteen years, I was happily released in November 1852 from an office for which I had no predilection, on finding a most efficient successor in Mr THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, and I trust the Society will long continue to enjoy the benefit of his services.

VI.—THE CURATORS OF THE MUSEUM.

Before proceeding to mention the names of those Fellows who for the last forty years have filled the office of Curators, it may be well to bring into one point of view the several localities of the Society's Museum where the ordinary meetings were held, from the year 1781 to the present time.

(1.) HOUSE IN THE COWGATE, 1781-1787.

The flourishing prospects of the Society, and the liberal donations at the outset began to accumulate rapidly, and made the Founder think himself justified in concluding a bargain for a house, evidently well suited at the time, for the purpose. It was situated in the Cowgate, between the Meal-market and the Old Fishmarket Close, to the south of the Royal Bank, and

¹ Thomas Allan, Esq. of Lauriston, banker, died at Linden Hall, near Morpeth, on the 12th September 1833. In the newspaper notices of his death it is said,—“Mr Allan was one of those active and public-spirited citizens whose loss will be deeply felt by the community, being a zealous and disinterested promoter of all undertakings or institutions which were calculated to promote the general good.” Mr Allan was born at Edinburgh, 17th July 1777.

entered from the Cowgate. It had originally been the Post-Office ; and in Kincaid's large Plan of Edinburgh, dated 1784, it is distinctly marked "The Antiquarian Society Hall," standing by itself in an open piece of ground on each side. In the "History of Edinburgh," by Alexander Kincaid, p. 117, Edin. 1787, 12mo, the account of the Society and its objects ends with this paragraph,—“The hall wherein they deposit their antiquities is in the Cowgate, upon the west side of the Fishmarket, and shown to strangers by Mr James Cummyng, the Secretary.” The price was L.1000 ; but after two years, of that sum only L.425 had actually been paid.

The state of the Society's funds, instead, therefore, of improving, unfortunately compelled the members to dispose of the property to disadvantage, having been resold in January 1787 for L.765.

(2). HOUSE IN CHESSEL'S BUILDINGS, 1788-1793.

A lease of a flat or part of a house, entering from a common stair, the windows looking out on the Canongate, was taken for three years at the annual rent of L.31, 10s. Here the Secretary, James Cummyng, lived, and from want of sufficient accommodation, we are informed that the Society's collections had got mixed with his own, and at his death in January 1793, many of the Society's articles, it is alleged, were lost or claimed as private property by his widow and her relations. At this time there were nominally at least four Curators, and immediately upon the Secretary's death, no time was lost by Mr Smellie, who became his successor, and others, in carrying off for safety the collection of coins and other articles of value that belonged to the Society. In justice to Cummyng's memory, I would add, that the expression used in Part III. p. xi., "*the loss of no inconsiderable part of the Museum,*" after his death, was used unadvisedly. I can discover no precise evidence that such was the case. He himself, I am persuaded, was thoroughly honest, and deserved well of the Society, although the Founder occasionally complained of his negligence, while his widow and her friends endeavoured to establish a heavy claim against the Society for unremunerated services. That various articles may have been lost or abstracted is probable enough, the wonder rather is that any such losses should have been inconsiderable in the frequent fittings or removals ; while the articles at a later period are described "as heaped together, rendering them utterly useless as a museum, either to members or the public."

(3.) HOUSE IN GOSFORD'S CLOSE, 1793-1795.

A lease of a house belonging to Mr Home Rigg at the foot of Gosford's Close, Lawnmarket, was taken in February 1793, and occupied by the new Secretary. The rent was L.55. In the "Travellers' Companion to Edinburgh, 1794," we accordingly find the above statement thus altered, "The hall of the Antiquarian Society wherein they deposit their antiquities is in Gosford's Close, Lawnmarket, and shown to strangers by Mr William Smellie, the Secretary." The Secretary having thus a personal interest in the accommodation afforded, took an early occasion to make an advantageous bargain for better premises elsewhere; but which he himself was not destined long to occupy, as he died in June 1795.

(4.) HOUSE ON THE CASTLE HILL, 1795-1814.

This house, situated on the south side of the Castle Hill (nearly opposite the present Reservoir), had formerly belonged to Dr Alexander Webster, one of the ministers of Edinburgh. It was bought from the trustees of the deceased Mr James Rae, surgeon. The price was L.630; including the benefit of a share in the Edinburgh Friendly Insurance. The Antiquarian Society having no tangible funds for the purchase-money, and for extinguishing other debts, was enabled to borrow the sum of L.800 from the Company, upon a personal bond, signed by Sir James Stirling, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir William Millar of Glenlee, and six other members, 20th November 1794. Thus, along with an excellent house occupied by the Secretary, a local habitation for the Museum and Library was secured for the next twenty years.

According to the Society's Minutes, July 4th, 1795, the younger Smellie was elected his father's successor, and he continued to retain possession of this house, "with the same allowance which the late Secretary had, viz., the use of the Society's house and Ten pounds *per annum* for coals and candles." Again, on the 5th December of that year, "the meetings resolved that, as soon as the effects of the Society were properly arranged, the Museum shall be opened for three hours one day in the week, when any member of the Society shall have it in his power to bring any friends he pleases to view the antiquities belonging to the Society."

Whether any such arrangements took place, or to what extent, I cannot say. In the "History of Edinburgh, 1804," and "Stark's Picture of Edin-

burgh, 1806," the Society and its Museum are passed over in silence; and practically, instead of to the Castle Hill, they might as well have been transported to the *Ultima Thule* of ancient writers, wherever that place may chance to be situated. Each successive year at this time apparently left the Society in a still more hopeless state.

The abstract of the Society's affairs, laid before the anniversary meeting on the 19th December 1810, showed "the sum due amounted to L.916, 19s. 9d. The Preses stated, that the Society had no means of paying the interest on the above-mentioned sums, and the public burdens on the house, except the annual sum of L.1, 1s. each, *paid by a few ordinary members*, and L.4 per annum, received from the Edinburgh Friendly Insurance. No wonder, therefore, that it was found necessary to sell the house; and in moving to another quarter, it was thought that apartments in the New Town would be at once more convenient for the members, without recognising the necessity of providing house accommodation for the Secretary.

(5.) HOUSE, No. 42 GEORGE STREET, 1813-1825.

For this purpose, an agreement was made with the Royal Society, 20th March 1813, to take a lease of the upper flat of No. 42 George Street, at the annual rent of L.40. The access by a common stair, not well lighted, was no recommendation; but if the Royal Society were content to occupy the flat above the shop of Urquhart the perfumer, the inference would seem to be that the one Society was not much more flourishing than the other. In regard to the Antiquaries, the removal to a new locality led to some internal changes, which proved ere long very beneficial. The articles belonging to the Society, when carried to the new apartments, were stowed away for a time as a confused mass. One of the rooms had glass-cases, probably brought from the Castle Hill, and Mr SKENE of Rubislaw, who had joined the Society in May 1818, accepted the curatorship of the Museum in 1819. He accordingly set himself to this important task, while another member, Mr John Dillon, undertook to arrange the books and manuscripts, and by daily labour for a period of six months, the various articles were at length classified and arranged, bringing order out of confusion, and thus rendering the Museum and Library accessible at least to members. This I state from personal recollections; as before I had the honour to be elected a Fellow, I obtained, not without some difficulty, the privilege of examining the unbound and unar-

ranged mass of Hawthornden papers, and, under certain restrictions, of transcribing portions for an object which after all came to nothing.

(6.) IN THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, 1826-1844.

The arrangements by which the Society in 1826 secured a hall or gallery and apartments in the Royal Institution building, have already been noticed, or stated at greater length in the printed Account, Part III. At the time of removal, Mr Skene, with the aid of Mr A. Macdonald, superintended all the re-arrangements in a most successful manner. In 1844 the Society, as an acknowledgment of Mr Skene's long and important services (1819-1837), elected him as one of the twenty-five Honorary Members. This gentleman still survives at the patriarchal age of 86.¹

(7.) HOUSE, No. 24 GEORGE STREET.

Mr Skene having resigned the curatorship in 1837, Mr ALEXANDER MACDONALD, who had long been assistant, and Mr ROBERT FRAZER, were elected Joint-Curators. The great zeal and assiduity which both of them displayed in the arrangement and conservation of the Museum, when its late removal to No. 24 George Street became necessary, cannot but be fresh in the recollection of the members. Mr Macdonald, who had previously for many years been employed, under Mr Thomas Thomson, Depute-Clerk-Register, on the Public Records of Scotland printed by authority of the Record Commissioners, was appointed Principal Keeper of the Register of Déeds and Probative Writs in 1836. His failing health had for some time been only too obvious to his friends. He was advised to seek the benefit of a change of scene, and for that purpose he repaired to the south of England, but with so little advantage, that he soon hurried back, and, a day or two after his return to his native city, he expired on the 23d of December 1850, aged about 59.

Mr Frazer, who came to Edinburgh from Fife about the year 1795, was first employed as clerk to Alexander Gardner, goldsmith, in Parliament Close, and afterwards commenced business on his own account as a working jeweller. To gratify his personal tastes, he formed a small museum, arranged

¹ James Skene, Esq., of Rubislaw, passed advocate in 1797. He was an early and intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott. His latter years were spent at Oxford, where, at Frewen Hall, he died in the 90th year of his age, 27th March 1864.

with neatness, and visited by strangers. He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1828; and having retired from business as a jeweller, lapidary, and seal engraver, in 1844, he devoted most of his time in looking after the Society's Museum, anticipating its speedy removal to the present building; but after a short illness, he died at his residence, No. 1 Brighton Crescent, Portobello, 9th December 1858, aged 76.

Nor ought we to overlook the similar services of their successors who have acted as Joint-Curators, namely,—

Mr JAMES DRUMMOND, R.S.A., 1851–1853.

Mr ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, A.R.S.A., 1854.

Mr BARRON GRAHAME of Morphie, 1855–1860.

Mr JAMES JOHNSTON, 1858–1860.

About this time also the services of an extra Curator became requisite to take the responsible charge of the Society's Numismatic collections. Mr William Ferguson, writer to the Signet, whose knowledge especially of Scottish coinage was extensively known, had previously devoted much time to arrange the Society's collections. Mr Lindsay of Cork, in his important work on the Coinage of Scotland, 1845, acknowledged that to Mr Ferguson he was "in the highest degree indebted for a great extent of most valuable information, &c., and that his numerous contributions added most materially to the efficiency and interest of this work."¹

Another Fellow of the Society, and one of the Vice-Presidents, William Waring Hay Newton, of Newton, Esq., also materially assisted in such arrangements;² but the first special appointment in this department was that of WILLIAM HENRY SCOTT, a native of Edinburgh, elected in 1851. He took his degree of M.D. in 1853, and was no less distinguished for his great skill as a numismatist, than for his extraordinary knowledge of Oriental

¹ At this time Mr Ferguson had not joined the Society; he only became a Fellow in 1844, and died 15th March 1849, aged 62.

² Mr Waring Hay had been a Fellow since 1814. At a later period, on succeeding to the estate, he assumed the name of Newton. He died in 1860, and bequeathed, with other relics, several rare gold and silver coins, selected from his own cabinet, which he ascertained were not in the Society's collections. (See Proceedings, 2d July 1860, vol. iii. p. 480.)

and other languages. The Society and his friends had to deplore his loss in 1855 at the early age of twenty-four.¹

After these notices of the Curators and earlier localities of the Museum, I shall briefly advert to the subsequent state of the Society. The first meeting in the new apartments in the Royal Institution buildings was held on the 11th December 1826, when an excellent report on the state of the Society was read by Mr Skene, the Curator. It was printed at the time, and published in the *Archæologia*. The accommodation provided for the Society consisted of the upper suite of rooms on the western side of the present building, immediately above the Royal Society's apartments, and had the advantage of a hall or gallery lighted from the roof. The rent paid was L.100. The taxes, chiefly local, averaged nearly L.20.

So long as the Society continued to flourish, no difficulty was experienced in paying rent, taxes, and the ordinary expenses of attendants required chiefly in connexion with the Museum, which was open to the public, free of charge, by tickets of admission signed by a Fellow. At this time, the Society's funds enabled the Council, in 1828, to resume the publication of the *Transactions*, by the issue of Vol. III. Part. 1; and in February 1831, while continuing the series, it was resolved to prepare an annual part for the members. The suggestion was also adopted to change the title of "*Transactions*" (following the example of the London Society of Antiquaries) to that of "*ARCHÆOLOGIA SCOTICA*," when Part 2, with its large Appendix, completed that volume. Vol. IV. Part 1, was issued in the same year, and Part 2 in 1833. An interval of no less than twenty-four years had to elapse before the Society was enabled to complete that volume.

It so happened in the course of a few years, partly occasioned by the frequent changes in the management, that a gradual but most perceptible alteration for the worse began to creep on. The printing of the *Archæologia* had to be abandoned; the ordinary meetings were not so regularly held and but poorly attended; several of the Fellows resigned or had their names struck off the roll on account of arrears; and so few candidates for admission were coming forward that, from 1834 to 1839, only six new members were elected, notwithstanding the admission fees and annual payments had been

¹ The members have reason to congratulate the Society in having had, since 1864, such an excellent successor to Dr W. H. Scott as Mr GEORGE SIM, the present Curator of Coins.

reduced, and exemptions from any further demands were authorised, after a definite period of payment. Neither were applications neglected to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures, for a reduction of rent, and memorials to the Lords of H. M. Treasury, craving a small annual grant for the purpose of maintaining the Museum for the public benefit. It was all in vain. The Lords of the Treasury replied, they could not recommend Her Majesty to propose any annual grant to Parliament; and the Honourable the Board intimated, that it was not in their power to give any reduction of rent, as the amount formed a necessary part of their estimated expenditure. To make matters still more unpropitious, the Board strictly prohibited the Society from the benefit of sub-letting their hall for occasional meetings of some scientific societies, which had averaged from L.30 to L.40 per annum. The consequence was that, as Treasurer, I was left with scarcely any available funds to pay the half-yearly rent.

I have no desire to exaggerate the difficult position in which the Society was placed in the years 1839 to 1844 with heavy debts, and no sufficient income to meet the ordinary expenses, and no active Secretary to render assistance even in his own department. A reference to the Treasurer's accounts and the Society's Minutes would at least fully warrant all I have stated. It is not an agreeable subject to dwell upon, but it is proper to have the facts recorded to make us more sensible of the advantages resulting from subsequent arrangements, which happily secured the favourable position which the Society now occupies.

At the time to which I have referred, it was necessary to look matters boldly in the face, and to consider whether any means could be devised to avert the threatened calamity. In February 1843 the first step taken was, with constrained humility, to look out for premises at a rent more commensurate with the Society's crippled resources, and to crave time for paying up the arrears. To render matters still more desperate, in consequence of that old established Company, the Edinburgh Friendly Insurance, coming to a close, intimation was received that the balance of L.200 still due on the bond granted by the Society in 1794, on which interest had for this lengthened period been regularly paid, now required to be cancelled. In this emergency, it happened that Mr Turnbull, who had become acting Secretary, submitted to the Council a proposal on the part of the Life Assurance Company, then rebuilding their premises in George Street,

that their upper apartments, with a large hall lighted from the roof, would be altered and fitted up to suit the Society's Museum, if a lease of the same were taken for twenty years. The rent proposed was L.60 per annum for the first ten years, to be increased to L.65 during the ten years following. These terms, in a kind of desperation, were accepted, although our lease of the Royal Institution buildings had still some years to run. The sanction of the Honourable Board of Manufactures was therefore required, and in preferring this request, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the secretary, in reply, on the 9th of March 1843, stated that the Board was quite willing to cancel the existing lease at Whitsunday, provided the full arrears were paid, or the amplest security given for payment.

In July 1844, when the new premises in George Street were about ready for the Society, the Council, on craving permission from the Board to have the articles in the Museum removed, were told most distinctly, if not in such precise words, that the property of the Society would be arrested and sold off, if necessary, in order to pay the accumulating arrears. Had the Society stood out, and quietly left the Board to take the responsible charge of the Museum, it is very possible that exemption might have been allowed in their desire to be rid of unprofitable tenants, and in order to obtain possession of the apartments for their drawing school. I am glad, however, to be able, for the credit of the Society, to state that we retired with honour, and paid the last shilling that was due.

It may naturally be asked, how was this accomplished? The plan devised may be stated in a very few words. The Life Assurance Company were willing, if the Society accepted the proposed lease, to grant a loan of L.400 upon sufficient security, this sum to be repaid, including calculated interest, in half-yearly instalments for the period of eight years, on the principle of a self-redeeming annuity. About the same time I was, by an accidental circumstance, able to establish a claim for arrears against the executors of a wealthy member in connexion with the purchase of the Society's house in the Castle Hill, including the share of the Edinburgh Friendly Insurance attached to it. I have also to state that the venerable judge, Sir William Millar, of Glenlee, the last survivor, and the representative of another of the eight members who had become security for the bond,¹

¹ The father of Lord Glenlee, Thomas Miller, was promoted, in 1766, to be Lord Justice-

handsomely offered to contribute their proportion of the balance, provided the said bond should be cancelled. Hitherto the Treasurer had to advance the funds necessary for ordinary purposes out of his own pocket, and as this was not always convenient and tended to confuse the Society's accounts, it seemed more advisable to have from one of the banks a cash credit account for a limited amount. This I obtained from the Commercial Bank upon my own personal security. Another negotiation, which proved successful, was to claim exemption from local taxation, in terms of a recent Act of Parliament for the benefit of learned Societies. By personal applications also to a few noblemen and others, urging the duty of contributing towards the support of a National Institution, several new members were induced to come forward, till at length, by the united exertions of active office-bearers, as already stated, many of the difficulties which had pressed so heavily for some years on the progress of the Society were overcome, the obligations incurred were gradually extinguished, and available means secured for commencing a new series of "Proceedings" for 1851: in short, the Society once more rose to fresh life and activity.

The Museum and apartments in No. 24 George Street eventually proved, however, less commodious than had been anticipated, and the access by a long staircase was not very convenient. Yet the public gladly availed themselves of free access, and the liberality of throwing the Museum open two or three days each week to the public had no small effect in increasing a kindly feeling towards the Society.

During the period of upwards of thirty years, between 1826 and 1858, whether the Society was in a prosperous state or the reverse, it had been felt and acknowledged, (notwithstanding the honorary services of the Curators and other Office-Bearers), to be a grievous burden to incur the whole expense of maintaining a Museum of Archæology for the public benefit,

Clerk; in January 1788 succeeded as Lord President, and was created a Baronet 19th February that year; but did not long enjoy this honour, as he died on the 27th September 1789. His son, William, who then succeeded to the title, was born 12th August 1755, passed Advocate in 1777, and was raised to the Bench, as Lord Glenlee, in May 1795. When styled William Miller, junior, of Glenlee, Esq., advocate, he became a Fellow of the Society, June 5th, 1781. He resigned his seat on the Bench in 1840, and died 9th May 1845, having continued a Fellow of the Society for 64 years.

² See Account of the Society, Part Third, p. xv.

while in London and Dublin these were liberally supported by Government. Any such aid at this time, after our previous experience, seemed to be utterly hopeless. At length, however, some circumstances connected with the establishment of a National Picture Gallery opened up a prospect that a beneficial arrangement might yet be effected in that quarter.

(8.) THE ROYAL INSTITUTION BUILDINGS, 1859.

It would be quite unnecessary to give any detailed statement of the negotiations already alluded to, which were renewed with the Honourable The Board of Manufactures and the Treasury. The result was, in the Society obtaining power to transfer its Museum to the central hall or galleries of the present building. The basis of this arrangement was, that the Society of Antiquaries should make over to Government all their collections, to be maintained as a National Collection of Antiquities in Edinburgh, under the exclusive charge and direction of the Society as formerly; the Treasury on their part undertaking to provide, in one of the public buildings, sufficient and free accommodation for the Museum, with rooms for the Society holding its ordinary meetings. This arrangement was completed, after personal inspection and conferences with the Council, by JAMES WILSON, Esq., Secretary of the Treasury. The Treasury Minute prepared by that gentleman, dated 25th February 1858, approved of the estimated expense for repairing and adapting the portion of the Institution building set apart for this purpose, which included handsome glass-cases, &c., for classifying and exhibiting the articles in the Museum and Library, amounting to L.2032, 7s. 10d. This was accordingly submitted to Parliament, and the sum voted, with an additional annual grant of L.300 to be paid by the Board, in order to provide "a proper staff of officers to manage and take charge of this Museum."

The first meeting in the new premises was held on the 14th June 1859, and it was truly gratifying to find ourselves again located within these walls under such propitious circumstances, although the Museum and Library had then been only partially removed and not arranged. The Society was no less fortunate in sub-letting to suitable tenants, without loss, the old premises in No. 24 George Street, as the lease does not expire till May 1864.

The advantages gained by these arrangements soon became apparent. The Fellows could never regard the Museum in the light of private property which they might dispose off to their personal benefit ; but being established and held by the Society, as it were, in trust for the public, the actual deed of conveyance has virtually made no difference in other respects ; and the Society is now enabled to expend its increased resources on the proper objects of the Institution. The late Lord Murray, as Vice-President, on the 30th November 1852, in an eloquent address,¹ after mentioning the resumption of the printed Proceedings of the Society, in annual parts, says :

“ I feel assured that a Society conducted with the liberal research and generous public spirit which characterizes the proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, cannot fail to be of use to Scotland. In the exertions to establish a National Museum of Antiquities, and to preserve a record of discoveries, valuable from the light they are calculated to throw on our ancient history, it is successfully aiming at a great public good.

“ In all these respects, I feel assured that this Society is destined to render important services, both directly and indirectly ; directly, by its own labours, researches, and preservation of antiquities illustrative of the various departments of archæological science ; and indirectly, by the influence of its example, and the spirit of intelligent research it is calculated to incite and to keep alive.”

The Society now happily realizes those expectations, and exhibits a new and brighter phase in its career, having gentlemen as Office-Bearers fully qualified and disposed for carrying on its affairs in a liberal spirit, its funds relieved from former burdens, the printing of the “ Proceedings ” steadily continuing, and an active share taken when necessary for encouraging and aiding explorations in various parts of the country, and also in using its influence to ensure the preservation of ancient remains throughout the land. As a National Museum of Antiquities it secures from the Exchequer valuable articles of *Treasure Trove*, and occasional purchases are made of articles of special interest to increase the value and importance of the Collection ; all these being matters the Society could not possibly have achieved when struggling, as it were, for its own existence. Nor ought I on this occasion to omit the name of the Keeper of the Museum, Mr

¹ See Proceedings, vol. I. p. 98.

William M'Culloch,¹ when I add, that the manner in which the various articles have been grouped and arranged, is highly creditable alike to the Keeper and to the Curators.

The introductory and other addresses of the Earl of Buchan, as I have already said, show the actual state and progress of the Society at its commencement, and evince his clear, sagacious, and comprehensive views of what should be the leading objects of such an Institution. His Lordship was convinced that the acquisition of what is called a self-contained house, where all the effects of the Society might be preserved and exhibited, was indispensable. Encouraged by a donation of L.100 from the Marquess of Bute, L.50 from the Earl of Fife, L.50 from the Duke of Montrose, and other gentlemen, Lord Buchan authorised the purchase for L.1000 of a house from Colonel Campbell, which had lately been occupied as the General Post-Office. He cherished the idea "that some opulent lovers of their country, and such commendable pursuits" would have secured "a house for the use of the Society, wherein the Secretary would reside gratuitously, and where he would have the care of such books, records, and antiquities as would accrue to the undertaking." We have already seen what the results were in consequence of the Society being unable to retain possession of this large and commodious building, so well suited at that time for the formation of a National Museum of Antiquities.

It may be interesting to notice a little more in detail, some of the works which the Earl of Buchan enumerated as requiring the attention of members; most of which, however, have since been taken up and completed by other associations or individuals.

Statistical Reports on the various Parishes of Scotland, more especially in regard to remains of antiquity. Although only a secondary object in the noble undertaking accomplished by Sir John Sinclair, 1791-1799, and also in the new *Statistical Account of Scotland*, 1845, these were not overlooked, yet much still remains to be done. This perhaps might now be accomplished in the form of a Handbook, pointing out the objects of

¹ In the Appendix to Proceedings, (vol. vii. p. 535,) is a brief notice of Mr. M'Culloch, who died at Edinburgh May 22d, 1869, aged 54, as introductory to his valuable communication on the History of "The Maiden," in the Society's Museum.

antiquity that are known to exist in the several parishes throughout Scotland.

Chartularies of the Religious Houses in Scotland prior to the Reformation.—Of these important Registers, nearly all the principal ones that are preserved have since been printed for the members of the Bannatyne, Maitland, Spalding, or Abbotsford Clubs, in a style of elegance and accuracy, and at an expense which the Society of Antiquaries in all probability could never have attempted.

The Biography and Portraits of distinguished Scotsmen was another favourite scheme of Lord Buchan.—Various attempts have been made, to supply a collected series of engraved portraits, but the *Iconographia's* of Pinkerton, Smith, and others do not supply a work of this kind that is at all satisfactory. The expenses, however, of such an undertaking would be so great, as will likely preclude any attempt of the kind being made.—In the class of biography the most notable work is that by a much esteemed Fellow of the Society, Mr Robert Chambers, in the “Lives of Illustrious and Distinguished Scotsmen, from the Earliest Period to the present Time, arranged in Alphabetical Order, and forming a Scottish Biographical Dictionary.” Glasgow, 1834. 4 vols. 8vo.¹ A Supplement by the Rev. Thomas Thomson was added to a re-issue of these volumes in 1855: the book itself, which is known as having been written by different hands, would require much careful revision. Dr Irving’s “Lives of Scottish Writers,” 2 vols., 1839, also deserves special notice, as exhibiting the minute and scrupulous accuracy for which the learned author was remarkable. “Of the thirty-seven lives contained in this work (he says), twenty-seven had appeared in the seventh edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.” He adds, “It is almost superfluous to mention, that the present work has no claim to be considered as a general collection of the literary biography of Scotland.”

Of the Coins of Scotland.—The “View of the Coinage of Scotland,” by

¹ The publishers, Messrs Blackie & Son, of Glasgow, changed this title on the completion of the work in 1837 to the simpler form, “A Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen.”

Mr Lindsay, of Cork,¹ in 1845; dedicated to the Society, is in most respects very complete and satisfactory when compared with the posthumous work of Snelling in 1774, or the *Numismata Scotiæ* of Cardonnel in 1786.

The Sculptured Stones of Scotland.—The late Mr Chalmers of Aldbar, a liberal and accomplished member of this Society, in his splendid volume on the Sculptured Stones of the County of Angus, contributed to the Bannatyne Club in 1848, may be considered as first having set the example of devoting a separate work to this very interesting class of ancient remains. At an earlier date, in May 1831, Charles C. Petley, Esq., communicated to the Society “A short Account of some Carved Stones in Ross-shire,” with a series of outline sketches. These only appeared in the *Archæologia Scotica*, (vol. iv. p. 345), in 1857. The drawings of Sculptured Stones, intended for publication by Dr Hibbert, about 1832, unfortunately never appeared.² A more extended and complete work was undertaken for the Spalding Club, by the Secretary, John Stuart, Esq., in 1857, which deserves the highest praise for research and valuable illustrations.³ The series of Crosses and Monumental sculptured stones peculiar to the West coast and the adjacent Islands would require a supplemental volume, or rather a separate publication.

Of works in other branches of Antiquarian research, the following are deserving of notice:—

The Roman Antiquities of Scotland.—The best work of the kind is that founded upon the labours of Alexander Gordon, Horsley, and others of less note, by Robert Stuart, an intelligent bookseller of Glasgow, who died in 1848; at the early age of thirty-seven. Of this work, entitled, “*Caledonia Romana: a Descriptive Account of the Roman Antiquities of Scotland*,” a second edition, revised by Professor David Thomson, of King’s College, Aberdeen, appeared in 1852, 4to.

¹ John Lindsay, Esq., barrister-at-law, Cork, author of various Numismatic works, was deservedly elected an Honorary Member of this Society in 1845. He died at Cork, on the 31st December 1870.

² See his Letter on the Sculptured Stones of Scotland, in 1845, printed in *Arch. Scot.*, Vol. IV. p. 415. Also, Appendix No. III. p. 41, of the present Address.

³ A Second Volume, completing this important work, appeared in 1867.

The Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals, by Henry Laing, Seal Engraver, 1850, 4to. It is to be regretted, he has found but small encouragement to proceed with a second volume.¹

The Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland, by R. W. Billings, in 4 vols., 1845–1852. This well known work, so much esteemed for accurate and trustworthy delineations of picturesque buildings throughout Scotland, is accompanied with suitable letterpress descriptions. Occasionally, it is true, obtrusive walls are not represented, while carved stones, out of proportion to the buildings (for the purpose of architectural details), figure in the fore-ground, where they never happened to be visible.

Of the same class, but rather pictorial than antiquarian, are *The Border Antiquities of England and Scotland*, 1817, and more especially *The Provincial Antiquities and Picturesque Scenery of Scotland*, 1826; of Sir Walter Scott, illustrated with engravings in a first-rate style from paintings or drawings by several eminent artists.

Abundance of work, however, still remains to be undertaken, and were this a suitable occasion, it might be suggested, since most of our Book or Literary Clubs have terminated, whether a new scheme might not assume the name of THE SCOTTISH ANTIQUARIAN CLUB, and be advantageously engrafted on this Society. If such a scheme were taken up, it would be advisable that it should be under the management of a select committee of working members; the subscribers paying a fixed subscription; and as it ought not to be restricted to Fellows of the Society, the number of copies of the works issued should be regulated by the list of subscribers, and none printed for ordinary sale.

1. One of the first objects to be undertaken, perhaps, should be the minor *Chartularies*, or Collections of detached Charters of Religious Houses in Scotland, of which no Chartulary exists.²

2. The *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurers of Scotland*, prior to the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

¹ Mr Henry Laing was afterwards enabled to publish, by subscription, in a very handsome form, a "Supplemental Volume of the Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals, Royal, Baronial, Ecclesiastical, and Municipal." Edinburgh, 1866. 4to.

² The volume of Charters of the Isle of May, edited by Dr John Stuart, is the commencement of such a scheme, undertaken by the Society.

3. The *Records of the Royal Boroughs* of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, and other towns in Scotland.¹

4. A series of our older *Historical Writers*, collated with the best MSS., and printed separately, in a uniform size.²

5. The *Epistolæ Regum Scotorum*; and also a continuous chronological series of *Royal Letters and other State Papers* of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

6. *Geographical Illustrations of Scotland*, founded upon David Macpherson's work, but greatly enlarged. Had Mr George Chalmers completed his gigantic work, "Caledonia," he purposed to have included a complete Topographical Dictionary. His MS. collections were bought for the Advocates' Library.

These or similar works, it is evident, would require a number of labourers, willing and able, for carrying on such publications, which it might not be very easy to obtain. To conclude,—

In the Account of the Society, 1830 (p. 9), it was remarked, in reference to the early proceedings, "The events connected with the decline of a public institution are not always calculated for general exposure; but on the present occasion there exists no reason whatever for exercising a delicacy directed to their suppression. Prudence suggests nothing more than to avoid entering into details." This I have endeavoured to keep in view; although it was impossible to give a correct account of the Society without furnishing some details respecting the low state to which it was at more than one period reduced; while the difficulties it had to encounter should at least prove a warning for the future. It may also serve to vindicate the members from any charge of leaving unaccomplished objects that were to be expected had such an institution remained in a highly flourishing state.

It now only remains for me to express my grateful thanks for the honour done me at this time, and for the uniform kindness I have experienced in my humble endeavours to aid in the promotion of Archæological Science in one or other of its widely varied departments, during the long course of years I have been a Fellow of the Society.

¹ We are indebted to James D. Marwick, Esq., City Clerk, for the publication of some of these interesting Records, connected with Edinburgh, and other Royal Burghs.

² Such a series of the old Histories of Scotland is now in progress for subscribers.

APPENDIX.

NO. I.—MR JAMES CUMMYNG, *Secretary*.

The following unpublished verses by Robert Fergusson, the Scottish poet (who died in 1774), were evidently written for the Cape Club, and give a humorous description of Cummyng, who might well be called a singular character. The MS. is in the handwriting of David Herd, who became Sovereign of the Knights of the Cape,¹ having the designation of *Sir Scrape*. The Poet himself was styled *Sir Precentor*.

<p>Just now in fair Edina lives, That famous antient town, At a known place hight Black Fry's Wynd A Knight of old renown.</p> <p>A Druid's sacred form he bears With saucer eyes of fire ; An antique hat on's head he wears, Like Ramsay's the town cryer.</p> <p>Down in the Wynd his mansion stands, All gloomy dark within ; Here mangled books like blood and bones Strew'd in a giant's den ;</p> <p>Crude, indigested, half devour'd, On groaning shelves they'r thrown ; Such manuscripts no eye can read, No hand write but his own.</p> <p>No prophet he like Sydrophe's Can future times explore, But what has happened he can tell Five hundred years and more.</p> <p>A walking Alm'nack he appears, Step't from some mouldy wall ;</p>	<p>Worn out of use thro' dust and years, Like scutcheons in his hall.</p> <p>By rusty coins old kings he'll trace, And know their air and mein ; King Fergus he knows well by face, 'Tho' George he ne'er has seen.</p> <p>This wight th' outsides of Churches lov'd Almost unto a sin, Spires Gothic of more use he proved Than pulpits are within.</p> <p>Ye Jackdaws that are us'd to talk Like us of human race, When nigh you see J[ames] C[ummyng] walk, Loud chatter forth his praise.</p> <p>When e'er the fatal day shall come, For come, alas ! it must, When this good Knight must stay at home And turn to antique dust,</p> <p>The solemn Dirge ye Owls prepare, Ye bats more hoarsly skreak ; Croak all ye ravens round the bier, And all ye church mice squeak.</p>
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In the "Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century, by John Nichols, F.S.A.," vol iii. pp. 775, &c., are some letters of Joseph Ritson, the eminent antiquary, addressed to my father, Mr William Laing,

¹ The best account of the Cape Club will be found in Dr Daniel Wilson's Memorials of Edinburgh, vol. ii. p. 17.

bookseller, Canongate, Edinburgh. From these it appears that he had communicated an account of the death of James Cummyng, who resided in the Antiquarian Society's house, then in Chessels' Buildings, immediately adjoining his place of business. In reply, Ritson says—"Your narrative of the dying moments and last advice of poor Cumming is really so ludicrous, and so lamentable, that one does not know whether to laugh or cry. I hope you will take care that a piece of eloquence so interesting and important to society do not perish with its author. Suppose you were to draw it up as a communication for the next volume of 'Transactions of the Antiquaries of Scotland,' under the title of 'Cumming's Legacy, or a Dissertation &c. . . .' I was, however, really sorry to lose so worthy and respectable an acquaintance, whom I hoped to render a valuable correspondent. Apropos, are my ancient spurs, &c., deposited in the archives of the Society? But you have not told me, I observe, whether he ever got the parcel. I have no great expectations from his Library," &c.¹

In another letter, dated Gray's Inn, July 30th, 1793, he says:—"I wish very much to know, too, what is become of my King Charles's Spurs, &c., which I sent to Master Cumming for your Antiquarian Society, as I am apprehensive they have been knocked off with the rest of his old iron. Do be so good as give yourself the trouble to inquire into this matter, and tell me who is Jemmy's successor in the Secretaryship of the Society."

At the sale of Cummyng's effects in 1793, a large lot of his manuscript letters and papers had been bought by my father, upon commission, for Mr George Chalmers, London. Singularly enough, nearly half a century later (in November 1842), at the sale of Mr Chalmers' library, it happened that, without knowing their contents, I sent a commission and obtained for no extravagant sum the chief portion if not the whole of these papers, tied up in the old blackened paper wrappers as if they had scarcely ever been examined. They were thus described in the sale catalogue:—

¹ There is clearly a mistake in the date of this letter which I cannot explain. In the original January 19th is distinctly enough written, and yet the date of Cummyng's decease beyond doubt was the 22d of that month:—"Died here, on Tuesday last (January 22d, 1793), Mr. James Cummyng, Keeper of the Lyon Records, and Secretary to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, whose character for ingenuity and erudition, is well known. His numerous acquaintance and correspondents will please accept this notification of his death."—*Edinburgh Advertiser*, Tuesday, January 29th, 1793.

- No. 1796. Autograph Letter of D. Herd, and various Letters and Papers from J. Cumming's collection.
- 1849. Various Poetical Pieces from J. Cumming's collection.
 - 1851. Letters and Papers from J. Cumming's collection.
 - 1852. Letters and Papers from J. Cumming's collection.

These lots proved to be of a very miscellaneous description, but several of the Letters were very interesting, and they furnished the particulars regarding his own connexions mentioned above at p. 7. There were also various letters addressed to his sister, Henrietta Cummyng, who was a kind of lady-governess to Lady Anne Lindsay (afterwards Barnard) and her younger sisters. In one of these letters, quoted in "Lives of the Lindsays," (1849), she entreats her brother James to furnish her with a detailed genealogical tree to show the gentility of their ancestors. Most of the letters that related to the Balcarres family I had the pleasure of giving to Lord Lindsay. His Lordship, I presume to think, has done Miss Henrietta scrimp justice, when he mentions her as "Miss C——," in terms that suggest her having continued as a dependent, hanging on the family to some indefinite period (vol. ii. p. 315); evidently not aware of her marriage, by special license, with Dr James Fordyce, an eminent dissenting minister in London, 2d May 1771. They finally took up their residence in Bath, where he died in 1796, aged 76, while his widow survived till the 10th of February 1823, having attained the advanced age of 89 years. (See Edinburgh Magazine, p. 256). This obituary notice probably first appeared in one of the English journals of the day, may be quoted.

"At Bath, 10th Feb. 1823, at the advanced age of 89 years, Mrs Henrietta Cummyng, relict of the late Dr James Fordyce, (author of the celebrated 'Sermons to Young Women'), and sister of the late Mr James Cummyng, secretary to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland. Distinguished in her early years for rare and splendid talents, genius, and brilliancy of wit, together with a piety, rectitude of thought, and simplicity of mind and manners seldom equalled, she engaged and secured the esteem and best affections of Dr Fordyce; and during a period of thirty years which they passed in mutual felicity, he found her the bright pattern of all he wished her sex to be."

I cannot imagine any one who could have pronounced such a high-

flown eulogy on Miss Henrietta, unless it were her old pupil, the authoress of "Auld Robin Gray," from the recollections of more than half-a-century. Lady Anne Barnard, born 1750, died at London, 6th May 1825, in her 74th year.

No. II.—MR WILLIAM SMELLIE, *Secretary.*

The inscription on his monument, erected by his son, which is mentioned at p. 9, taken from Brown's *Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions*, p. 193, Edinb. 1867, reads as follows:—

"*Infra sepultæ sunt reliquiæ GULIELMI SMELLIE, S. S. Reg. et Antiq. Soc., qui doctrinæ gloria principatum inter sui sæculi Typographos tenebat. Librum illum eximium, cui titulus 'The Philosophy of Natural History,' conscripsit protulitque in lucem; et Gallico in Anglicum sermonem cel. Buffonii opera vertit. Annos natus LIV. e vita excessit, die xxiv. Junij M.DCC.XCV.*"

In the "Proceedings," vol. v. p. 120, will be found a Memorandum respecting the existing portion of Mr Smellie's Correspondence, now in the possession of the Society, on which the two volumes of his *Memoirs* by Kerr were founded.

No. III.—DR HIBBERT WARE, *Secretary.*

[To the brief mention of my old and much valued friend Dr Hibbert, given above at p. 11, I beg to subjoin the following Obituary notice, which was written and communicated, at the request of his family, to one of our local newspapers.]

"SAMUEL HIBBERT WARE, M.D., an eminent antiquary and geologist, long connected with Edinburgh, died at Hale Barns, near Altringham, Cheshire, on the 30th December, in the 67th year of his age. He was the eldest son of Samuel Hibbert, Esq., of Clarendon House, Chorlton, in Lancashire, and was born in Manchester, 21st April 1782. His original destination, we believe, like that of two younger brothers, was the army; and he held for some time a commission in a militia regiment. Succeeding to an independent fortune, his natural inclination to scientific pursuits induced him

to pass through a regular course of medical study. He took his degree of M.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1817; the subject of his thesis was *De Vita Humana*. In the same year he made a voyage to Shetland, his attention having been directed to this quarter by the early mineralogical publications of Professor Jameson. He remained during that autumn no idle visitor, but, carefully exploring this interesting group of islands, now rendered by means of steam navigation so easily accessible to the summer tourist, Dr Hibbert produced as the fruits of this excursion the chromate of iron, which he had found in such masses, as to become an important discovery. He made, as he informs us, a second voyage to Shetland in the following summer, chiefly at Professor Jameson's instigation, in the view both of rendering his discovery of public benefit, and of completing his geological survey of the country. For this discovery the Society of Arts in London awarded to him, in 1820, the smaller or Isis gold medal. Two years later he published in a large volume in quarto, his "Description of the Shetland Islands, comprising an Account of their Geology, Scenery, Antiquities, and Superstitions." Having taken up his residence in this city, he became, in 1820, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and of other literary and scientific associations. Among the papers read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh was an Essay on Spectral Illusions. This gave rise to his volume containing "Sketches of the Philosophy of Apparitions; or, an Attempt to Trace such Illusions to their Physical Causes," published in 1824, and of which a second edition, corrected, appeared in 1825. As a member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (elected the 23d January 1821), he undertook the office of Secretary; and during the period from 1823 to 1827, he was eminently successful in contributing to revive the Society to a state of active usefulness. In acknowledgment of such services, the Society afterwards elected him an Honorary Member. Among various important archæological contributions, which might be specified, we may particularly refer to his papers on the Vitrified Forts, a subject of great difficulty, and on which the most conflicting sentiments had been entertained. The cause of his relinquishing his official connection with this Society, was an intention of visiting the Continent, and he spent two or three years chiefly in examining the volcanic districts of France and Italy, and the northern parts of Germany. On his return to Edinburgh, he embodied a portion of his observations in his "History of the Extinct Volcanos of the Basin of Neuwied, on

the Lower Rhine," 1832, 8vo. Another important contribution to geology was submitted to the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1833, and appeared in their Transactions, "On the Freshwater Limestone of Burdiehouse, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, belonging to the Carboniferous Group of Rocks." His attention was also directed to illustrating matters connected with his native city and county, more especially in his large and valuable History of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, in 1830. Also a curious volume, printed in 1845, for the Chetham Society, "Lancashire Memorials of the Rebellion in 1715." After his return from the Continent, Dr Hibbert made an extensive and protracted tour through Scotland, accompanied by Mrs Hibbert (his second wife), who executed a series of elaborate and beautiful drawings of the sculptured stones and Runic inscriptions that exist in Forfarshire, Ross-shire, and other parts of the kingdom. Had his health permitted, he proposed to have had these drawings engraved, accompanied with descriptions; but after a continued residence, first in the neighbourhood of York, and latterly at his seat near Altringhame, when he returned to Edinburgh three years ago to devote himself anew to Archæology, all his plans were frustrated by severe illness, and the complaint (bronchitis) of which he died, precluded him from being able to resume his labours. Dr Hibbert, by royal license dated 28th March 1837, assumed the surname and arms of Ware, as being the representative of the oldest branch of the family of Sir James Ware, the historian of Ireland. The ardour, success, and the very disinterested manner in which Dr Hibbert devoted the chief portion of his life to such pursuits, merit a more copious Memoir than is suited to the columns of this paper.—L."

NO. IV.—MR WILLIAM B. D. D. TURNBULL, *Secretary.*

WALTER TURNBULL, connected with a Roxburghshire family of that name, had in early life settled as a planter in Jamaica. On returning to this country, he married Robina Barclay, who survived her husband many years, he dying in 1819. Their only child, William, was born at Edinburgh, 6th February 1811. After completing the usual course of study, and passing the ordinary trials, he was admitted a Member of the Faculty

of Advocates in 1832. He never laid himself out for practice at the Bar, but devoted himself to literary, antiquarian, and genealogical investigations.

The success attending the Bannatyne Club in 1823 led to the formation of other literary associations, one of which was the Abbotsford Club, instituted in 1833. It was so named in honour of Sir Walter Scott, who himself, be it understood, would not listen to any such proposal in 1823, at the time he gave its name to the Bannatyne Club. When the latter Club came to a termination, there was printed a separate tract, entitled—

“ABBOTSFORD CLUB.—A List of the Members ; the Rules ; and a Catalogue of Books printed for the Abbotsford Club, since its institution in 1833. Edinburgh, 1866.” 4to, pp. 23. It contains the following notice :—

“The Abbotsford Club was instituted on the 20th of March 1833. The chief promoter of this scheme was the late Mr Turnbull, advocate. At the General Meeting for the election of office-bearers, on the 23d November 1833, John Hope, Esquire, Dean of Faculty (afterwards Right Hon. the Lord Justice-Clerk), was nominated as Vice-president, and in the following year elected President of the Club. Mr Turnbull was at that time appointed Secretary, and it was mainly owing to his enthusiastic zeal and unwearied exertions that the Club owed much of its success. It is unnecessary to give any minute details of its proceedings ; but from some private motives, the Secretary resigned his office on 9th November 1841, still remaining as a member.”

Had the works issued for the Abbotsford Club been more restricted to old poetical literature, in a convenient form, and greater labour bestowed in editing, the series might have proved a great success. There can, however, be no doubt that the Club has been the means of publishing several works, both historical and poetical, of no small importance.

One of Mr Turnbull's magnificent and favourite projects was a Monasticon for Scotland, to have been published by subscription. It was a scheme too great for any individual to undertake single-handed.

In 1852 Mr Turnbull removed to London in order to study for the English Bar, to which he was called as a member of Lincoln's Inn, on the 26th January 1856. He died at London on the 22d April 1863. See a biographical notice, including an account of Mr Turnbull's various publications and literary projects, in the “Herald and Genealogist,” by Mr Gough Nichols, for January 1864.

No. V.—MR JOHN M. MITCHELL, *Foreign Secretary.*

“JOHN M. MITCHELL, Esquire, Knight of the Order of Leopold, and Belgian Consul-General for Scotland, died at his residence, Mayville, Trinity, on the 24th April 1865.” He was the son of John Mitchell, Esq., Craigend, Stirlingshire, and was born at Grangemouth 26th September 1796.

Being intended for a merchant, he came to Leith in 1809, and served his apprenticeship to a corn-merchant. He had distinguished himself sufficiently in 1832 to be appointed Belgian Consul at Leith. For many years he was the head of the highly respected firm of Mitchell, Somerville, and Company, merchants, Leith; and, in 1859, in proof of the satisfactory manner in which he executed his consulate duties, he received the Knightly Order of Leopold from the King of the Belgians; and also a large gold medal a few years later.

Mr Mitchell became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1840, and continued to take a lively interest in its proceedings. As mentioned above at page 19, he was appointed Joint Foreign Secretary, for which, by his knowledge of modern languages, he was well suited. Among his communications to the Society, the most important was that on Runic Inscriptions, which he published in a separate form, with the title “MAESHOWE: Illustrations of Runic Literature of Scandinavia; Translations in Danish and English of the Inscriptions in Meschowe; Visits of the Northern Sovereigns to Orkney; Notes, Vocabulary,” &c. By J. M. Mitchell, &c. He was also the author of a volume of considerable research, entitled “The Herring; its Natural History and National Importance.” Edinburgh, 1864, 8vo.

Mr Mitchell was interred at Rosebank Cemetery, near Edinburgh. An elder brother, Thomas, was in the army, and served in the Peninsular War. He was afterwards appointed Surveyor-General of New South Wales, and his name is associated with discoveries in the interior of the Australian continent. Of these Expeditions there are separate works which he published (1838, 1848), and for which he received the honour of knighthood.—Lieut.-Col. Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell died at his residence, near Sydney, New South Wales, in October 1855.