

I.

ON THE STATE OF THE ABBEY CHURCH OF HOLYROOD SUBSEQUENTLY
TO THE DEVASTATIONS COMMITTED BY THE ENGLISH FORCES IN THE
YEARS 1544 AND 1547. BY DAVID LAING, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The ruined walls of the Abbey Church of Holyrood must always be an object of interest to the inhabitants of Edinburgh. It is not necessary to enlarge on its legendary history, or to enumerate the Abbots and other dignitaries connected with this religious edifice. The volume entitled "*Liber Cartarum Sancte Crucis*," printed for the members of the Bannatyne Club in 1840, at the expense of Lord Francis Egerton, now Earl of Ellesmere, and edited by Mr Cosmo Innes, has happily proved the means of rendering accessible a valuable series of ancient Charters and other documents connected with the earlier history of the Abbey. The purpose of the present communication is to bring together some interesting documents, hitherto unpublished, relating to the Abbey Church as a place of Presbyterian worship, during the later part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Abbey of the Holy Rood or Cross, was founded by David the First, in the year 1128. It was enriched with numerous endowments by succeeding monarchs, as well as private individuals ; and the Abbot and Canons were in-

vested with a large jurisdiction. It is greatly to be regretted, that we have no view or delineation of the building in its original state, which was adorned with a great centre tower, and square towers on each side of the west entrance. On several occasions the Abbey Church was partially destroyed by the English forces during the fourteenth century; but it was reserved to the army under command of the Earl of Hertford in May 1544 to include the Abbey of Holyrood among the ecclesiastical edifices which were then so ruthlessly destroyed. "And finally," we are told, "it was determyned by the sayde Lord Lieutennant, utterly to ruynate and destroye the sayde towne (of Edinburgh) with fyer, which, for that the nyghte drew faste on, we omytted thoroughly to execute on that daye; but settinge fyer in thre or foure partis of the toune, we repayred for that nyghte to our campe. And the nexte mornynge very erly we began where we lefte, and continued burnynge all that daye, and the two dayes next ensuinge contynually, so that neyther within the wawles, nor in the suburbs, was lefte any one house unbrent Also, we brent the Abbey called *Holy Rode House*, and the Pallice adjoynynge to the same."¹

Three years later, the Protector, the Duke of Somerset, granted license to suppress the Monastery called "Holy Roode Abbey;" the lead that remained was plucked off, the two bells taken down; and, "according to the statute, *did somewhat hearby disgrace* the house." As no steps were taken to repair the building, the Reformers had no share at least in ruining this venerable edifice. We know, indeed, that on the 18th of June 1567, two days subsequent to Queen Mary's imprisonment in Lochleven, Alexander Earl of Glencairn, with his domestics, demolished the Altar of Holyroodhouse, breaking the pictures, and defacing the ornaments within the same;² but this was within the Chapel Royal attached to the Palace, in which the Queen was accustomed to have Mass performed to the grief "of the godly;" and which is usually confounded with the Abbey Church.

After the establishment of the Reformation, the Abbey Church was appropriated to the use of the parishioners of the Canongate, still retaining its designation of Holyroodhouse parish. In July 1568, the General Assembly suspended Adam Bishop of Orkney from the ministry, for having celebrated the marriage of Mary and Bothwell; but being restored, he was ordained to make a sermon in the Kirk of Halyrudhouse, when he best may for weakness of his body, and at the end of the same to acknowledge his offence.³ The Bishop in 1569 exchanged with Robert, Commendator of Holyrood, for that Abbacy, the temporalities of

¹ The Late Expedition to Scotland, p. 7; Lond., 1544, 8vo.

² Spottiswood's History, vol. ii. p. 62.

³ Booke of the Universall Kirk, p. 131.

the bishoprick of Orkney, which was afterwards erected into an earldom. On the 3d of March 1569-70, among the offences laid to the Bishop's charge by the Assembly, was this Simoniacal bargain, by which he became Commendator; likewise, that "some of his kirks wherein Christ's evangell should be preached, are decayed, and made some sheepfolds, and some so ruinous, that nane darre enter into them for fear of falling; *speciallie Halyrudhouse*, although the Bishop of Sanct Androis, in tyme of Papistry, sequesterate the whole rents of the said Abbacy, because only the glassen windows were not holden up and repaired."¹

To this last article the Bishop, on the 10th of March, answered,—“He wes bot of late come to the benefice; and the maist part of thir kirkis war pullit doun be some greedie personis at the first beginning of the Reformation, quhilk hath never been helpit or repairit sensyne; and few of thame may be repaired be his small portion of the living; but specially the Abbay Kirk of Halyrudhouse, quhilk hath been, thir twentie yeris bygane, ruinous through decay of twa principal pillars, sa that nane war assurit under it; and twa thousand pounds bestowit upon it, wald not be sufficient to ease men to the hearing of the word and ministratioun of the sacraments. Bot with thair consent, and help of ane established authoritie, he wes purposed to provide the means that the superfluous ruinous pairts, to wit, the Queir and Croce Kirk, might be disponed be faithfull men to repaire the remanent sufficiently; and that he had alsua repairit the kirks of Sanct Cuthbert and Libberton, that thai war not in sa good case thir twintie yeris bygane. And farder, that ther wes ane order to be usit for reparation of kirkis, whereunto the parochiners war obliged, as well as he; and whan thai concurrit, his support suld not be inlaining.”²

That this scheme was carried into effect by demolishing the whole of the choir and transepts of the Church, seems very evident; and as several of the Royal family of the Stewarts were buried near the High Altar, a part of the South Aisle of the existing portion of the Church was fitted up as a Royal Vault, to which their remains were removed.

The Presbyterial visitations of the Kirk of Halyrudhouse for the years 1583, 1592, and 1598, have recently been printed,³ but these relate to matters connected with church discipline. The Abbey Church, however, continued to be used for public worship; while the private Chapel Royal, within or attached to the Palace, was the place which King James, in 1616, directed should be fitted up with desks, stalls, and carved images, in a “comelie forme and manner,” when the English Service was introduced.

¹ The Booke of the Universall Kirk, p. 163.

² *Ib.*, p. 167.

³ The Wodrow Miscellany, vol. i. p. 453, 466.

Charles the First succeeded to the throne in April 1625. After a lapse of three years he intimated his resolution to visit the metropolis of Scotland, in 1628, for the purpose, as his Majesty's letter expresses it, of "receiving his Crowne and holding a Parliament in person." Great preparations were therefore made in the prospect of this event; a warrant being issued to make ready the Park and Palace of Holyroodhouse "for receiving Our person and Court;" and the Privy Council were directed "to take in their consideration whether St Giles Kirk in Edinburgh or Halyrudhouse Kirk be fittest and convenientest place for the Coronation." The Council, on the 25th of July, reported, "that having designed the Church of St Giles in Edinburgh as the fittest and most conspicuous place for his Majesties Coronation, they had caused sight (or examine) in what part his Majesties Throne and Stage may be erected." To this preference they were led upon ascertaining the ruinous state of the Abbey Church of Holyrood.

A delay having occurred in his Majesty's visit to his native kingdom, the Privy Council, in 1630, still adhered to their opinion that St Giles's Church was the most suitable for such a ceremony, considering "the impossibility of getting the Abbey Church prepared and ordered at this time, in such comlie forme as that great action requires." It was not until June 1633 that Charles accomplished his visit to Scotland; and having previously determined that Holyrood Kirk should be the place of Coronation, I shall now introduce a series of Original Letters and Acts of Privy Council, from 1626 to 1633, which relate to the state of the building, and the various alterations that were made in repairing and fitting up the old Abbey Church for that solemnity; and which bear witness to the interest displayed by Charles the First for its preservation.

I. ANENT THE KIRK OF HALIRUIDHOUS.¹

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

THAIR wes a petitionn gevin in to your Ma^{ties} Counsell be the Minister and Session of the Kirk of Halyrudhous by the whiche thay haviely regraittit the ruinous estate of the said Kirk whiche hes the honnour to be the Buriall place of a number of your Maiesties royall prædicessouris, and whairin thay ordinarlie ressavd the Crowne of this kingdome Like as a pairt of your Maiesties Pallace is contenit within the fabrique of the said Kirk the Southe pairt whairof serves for accomodating of your Maiesties Counsell, and thair families resident within the said Pallace for hearing of the word at suche tymes when thair is no

¹ Registrum Secreti Concilii; Royal Letters, &c.

preaching in the Chapell And thairfore they earnestlie besoght us that we wald acquaynt your Ma^{tie} with the true estate of the said Kirk and sollicite the speedie help and reparatioun of the same Whiche we did consider with the irreparable decay that by a careles neglect of tymous remeid wald inavoydible follow, we directit the Maister of your Ma^{ties} workis to visite the said Kirk and to report unto us the true estate of the same together with the expensses that the reparatioun thereof wald necessarlie require ; who according to the truist committit to him haveing considerit the whole defectis of the said Kirk he gaif in a note in write under his hand bearing, That he fand the same to be verie ruinous speciallie in the butteries pend and rooffe and that the West gavell and Southe turnepick thereof wes altogether severed and disjoyned from the rooffe which hes alreddie occasioned the fall of the West end of the pend and will not fail to indanger the gallerie of your Ma^{ties} Pallace if the same be not speedilie tane doune and substantiouslie buildit ; and that the charges requisite for repairing of the said Kirk and furnisheing materiallis necessar thairto wald extend to the sowme of four thousand pundis money or thairby. And whairas it concernis the honnour of this Kingdome that suche a goodlie structure and Religious hous whairin not onlie your Maiesteis Royall Ancestouris lysis intombed but whiche hes bene the vsuall place for the solempnitie of thair Coronationis and whair your Ma^{tie} likeways is (by the custome heirtofore observit) to ressaue the Imperiall Crowne of this Kingdome wuld not be sufferit to perish, We ar thairby moved to represent unto your Ma^{tie} the true estate of the said Kirk and thairwithall humblie to intreate your Ma^{tie} to resolue upon some present course for repairing of the defectis thairof and præserving of the same from vtter ruyne, whairby God may be thair still worshipped, and those Sacred Sepulchres kept unviolat. And so, &c.

Halyrudhous, the 21. of Sept^r. 1626.

Subscritur ut supra [viz. :—MAR, GLASGOW, WYNTOUN, ROXBUR^T, MELROS, LAUDERDAILL, ÆRSKINE, M^R OF ELPHINSTOUN, A. KER, AR^D NAPER, JOHNE HAMILTOUN, S^R W. OLIPHANT.]

2. REPARATION OF THE ABBAY CHURCH OF HALYRUDHOUSE.¹

To the Thesaurer and Deputie.

WHEREAS we have bene informed by a letter from our Counsall of that our Kingdome of the ruinous estait of the Abbay Church of Halyrudhouse and how without some course takin for a speedie reparation thereof it is lyklike to

¹ Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.

decay and indanger a part of our Palace thereunto adjoining. Howsoever the estate of our Exchequer be such at this tyme, as little or no moneyis can convenientlie be spared from them; Yet the consideratioun of the tymelie repairing of so good a work being the Buriall place of some of our Royall Antecessours and the vsuall place for the solemnitie of Coronatiouns, have moved us to have a speciall regard to the helping thereof. Therefor Our pleasure is that you pay out of the readiest moneyis of our Exchequer the sowme of four thousand lib. Scotts money which was fund to be fitt by your Master of wark for effecting the said reparatioun and what farther charge shalbe fund to be compitentlie requisite for this purpois, and that to be taken from you ather by parcellis as the present necessitie of the wark shall from tyme to tyme requyre or otherwayes as you shall think expedient causing in the meantyme conduce with all able workmen for perfyteing the said wark and appoynting such persones in that Parochin or elsewhere as are knowin to be honest and carefull men to be overseeris of the samyne, and for your so doing, &c.

Whytchall, 22. Nov. 1626.

3. TO THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SURRENDERS.¹

RIGHT, &c.—The reasons herewith enclosed having been exhibited unto us in the behalff of Mr James Hannay Minister at Halirudhous and having considered our former intention by our Commissioners that the whole Churches of that our Kingdome should be sufficientlie provided Wee could not bot tak particulare notice of that Church of Halyrudhous Both in regard to the eminencie of the place, and greatness of the charge of the said Mr James whoe as we are informed hath nather manse nor gleib and yet more meanlie provided than many others having a farr les charge then hee Therefore Wee have thought it expedient to require you both to consider of the saids reasons and of the provisiones for the ministerie thereat, as likewayis that you caus tak a surveigh of the fabrik thareof, and tharefter that you doe proceide for the providing of the same as may best fitt the eminencie of the said place and the greatness of the charge of the said ministerie, and as most convenientlie [can] be done by you And upon Report maid unto you of the necessitie of helping the fabrike thareof Wee think it expedient that some such course be used as was tuke formerlie Whereof We will Our Treasurer and Deputie to have a speciall care and for the present advancement of moneyis towards the same, least by the want of some timelie help (besides that the charges formerlie bestowed wilbe lost,) the whole Church it self will (as Wee are credibillie informed) be in danger of rwine, whareat We wold be exceedinglie sorie. Whitehall the 14 day of Januar 1628.

¹ Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.

4. TO THE EXCHEQUER.¹

RIGHT, &c.—Wee being humblie moved in behalf of Mr James Hannay Minister at Halyroodhous that his accompts of moneyis debursed by him for helping to repaire that Church belonging unto Ws might be heard and he accordingly satisfied of what he had justlie advanced in that earand; and withall that a new Surveigh might be taken thareof to the effect the rwines and defects of the same might be timelic repaired, his demands in both which seeming unto ws to be just and reasonable Oure pleASURE is That with all convenient diligence you caus trie his accompts and that he be payed of such moneyis as you shall find justlie due unto him And that you caus some persones having skill in that aerand surveigh the said Church, and the defectis and rwines thareof, and if any parte of the same shalbe found either to be deficient or to stand in need of some reasonable decoring for better lights thareto Or otherwayis that with the like diligence you caus moneyis to be answered out of the reddiest of our Exchequer, for doing of the same ffor which these presentis shalbe your warrand. Given *ut supra* [At Whitehall the 22d of May 1628.]

5. TO MAK READIE THE PARK AND PALACE OF HALYRUDHOUS.²

To the Marquis of Hammiltone.

RIGHT, &c.—Whereas Wee intend God willing shortlie to visit that our ancient native Kingdome, and thare to receive our Crowne and hold a Parliament in persone for perfiting that great wark much labored by ws and our Commissioners thare Oure pleASURE tharefore is that you caus mak readie Oure Palace and Park of Halierudhous with all convenient diligence fitted for receaving of Our persone and Court Wherein you may doe ws verie acceptable service which amongis many others Wee will ever remember And soe Wee bidd you fareweell. Given at Whitehall the 5 of July 1628.

6. WARRANT FOR BIGGING UP OF THE EAST STYLE OF HALYRUDHOUS KIRKYAIRD.³

Apud Halyrudhous vicesimo sexto Februarij 1629.

FORSAMEIKLE as the Lords of Secreit Counsell considering how that thir diverse yeeres bygane the people repairing to the burgh of Edinburgh from Mussilburgh Fisherraw and otheris pairts in East Lothiane has maid their ordinarie passage throw the kirkyaird of Halyrudhous, whilk they defyle with filth and otherwayis, especiallie at the verie side of the Kirk and direct vnder the

¹ Regist. Secreti Concilii, Acta.

² Sir W. Alexander's Register of Lettors.

³ Regist. Secreti Concilii, Acta.

windowe of his Majesteis galrie of Halyrudhous whilk will be verie unseemlie to be seene be strangers the tyme of his Majesteis heere being Thairfore the saids Lords vpon the consideratioun foirsaid and vpon manie other good respects hes thought meit and expedient commanded and ordained that the East style leading to the churchyaird of the said Kirk sall be closed and built vp with stane and lyme for restrayning of the passage of people throw the said kirkyaird whilk is no hie nor ordinarie way Anent the closing and building vp of the whilk Style this present Act sall be vnto those whome it concerns a sufficient warrand.

7. WARRAND FOR SIGHTING OF HALYRUDHOUS KIRK.¹

FORSAMEEKILL as the Lords of Secretit Counsell finds it meit and expedient That aganis the tyme of his Majesteis heere comming the Kirk of Halyrudhous sall be sighted and that suche defects as ar thairin (whilkis ar ather a hinder to the lighte of the kirk or otherwayes) sall be helped by removeing of the lofts being within the said kirk and placeing of thame in some other convenient pairt where the light of the kirk will not be impeded nor hurt Thairfore the saids Lords nominats appoints and ordanis Adam Bishop of Dumblane Sir Johne Scot of Scottistarvet knight and Sir James Balyie of Lochend with James Murray Maister of his Ma^{te}is workes, To repair to the said Kirk of Halyrudhous and to take a perfyte survey thairof, and of suche defects as ar thairin and ar fitting to be decored and reformed; what lofts ar necessar to be removed and in what other convenient places of the Kirk they may be sett and settled, and to report thair opinion thairanent to the saids Lords to the intent direction and ordour may be given thairanent accordingle.

8. REPORT ANENT HALYRUDHOUS KIRK.²

Apud Halyrudhous vicesimo quarto die mensis Martij 1629.

THE whilk day Adame Bishop of Dumblane and Mr James Ahannay Minister at Halyrudhous gave in to the Lords of Privie Counsell the report vnderwritten Anent the repairing of the kirk of Halyrudhous whair of the tennour followes.

At the Kirk of Halyrudhous the saxtene day of March 1629.

The quhilk day Adame Bishop of Dumblane, Sir Johne Scot of Scottistarvet knight Sir James Baillie of Lochend knight and James Murray Maister of his Ma^{te}is workes appointed Commissioners be the Lords of Secretit Counsell vpon the twentie sax day of Februarie last bypast for yisiting and surveying of the defects and ruines of the said Kirk, and for considdering what might serve for decoring and beautifeing of the samine with better and larger lights ather by

¹ Regist. Secreti Concilii, Acta, fol. 97.

² *Ib.*, fol. 104.

removing of anie lofts impeding the same or stryking out of new lights where they sall be found necessar, having mett and surveyed the same have resolved in maner following :

In primis, they find it necessar that the three lofts over against his Maies-
teis seate on the north side of the said Kirk be removed whairby the kirk
sall be better lighted and aired, and the people sall heare God's word more com-
modiouslie, numbers of seates being made laich for noblemen and thair ladéis,
and vthers persones of good qualitie who now for want of seates ar forced to goe
ellis where altho they dwell within the parish And withall finds that these to
whome the lofte belongs may be more commodiouslie furnished ellis where To
witt be ane great loft to be built on the East gavill whilk being divydit in twa
will hald ane great nombre mae nor anie two lofts now possesst be thame, and
the third may have ane large seate vnder his Ma^{teis} galrie whilk will be just
over aganis the pulpit.

Item, they find it necessarie that vpon the laich North East gavill there be
ane window strickin out, whilk will wonderfullie decore and beautifie the kirk

Item, they find it necessarie that the pulpit be removed ane pillar towards the
West for the more commodious hearing of all the people.

Item, that the commoun loft be removed ane pillar westward.

Item, that the twa firre seates whilks ar in the bodie of the kirk on the South
side be removed and made equall with the foreface of his Ma^{teis} lofts and the
rest of the laiche seates.

Item, they finde it necessarie that there be foure windowes strickin out on the
South side of the kirk, vnder his Ma^{teis} lofts, for the lighting and airing of that
side of the kirk, and finds it may be easilie done.

Item, after the sighting and surveying of the high kirk's pend They find it
necessarie that it be paynted and plastered and the pillars and subpillars of the
transes on everie side be made new And being perfytlie repaired that the loft
laid over the kirk be removed.

(*Subscibitur*)

AD. B. OF DUNBLANE.

S^r J. SCOTTISTARVET.

JAMES BAILLIE.

JAMES MURRAY.

Whilk Report being read heard and considerit be the Lords and they rypelie
advised thairwith The Lords of Secreit Counsell Allowes of the first article of the
said report tuiching the removing of the three lofts foregainst his Ma^{teis} seate
and building of a great laft on the East gavill, for the ease of the people to whome
the three lafts belongs, and for bigging of laiche seates according as it is sett
doune in the said article Whilk is to be performed to the Bailleis and Session
of the Kirk of the Canongate and vpon thair charges And tuiching the

remanent points conteaned in the said report The Lords reserves the consideration thairof to a more fitt tyme and occasion.

9. REPAIRING THE ABBAY CHURCH.¹

To Mr James Hannay.

TRUSTIE, &c.—We have bene informed of the great paines you have taken and of the great charges you have bene at in repairing the Abbay Church of Halyrudhous, and these are to encourage you to proceed as you have begun assuring you withall that We will not suffer you to be a loser any way thereby but will have you payed for your charge of that work according to the warrant that was formerlie given by Ws unto Our exchequer for that purpois not doubtting bot ordour will be takin for your payment accordinglie And so We bid you farewell From Our Court at Whythall 13 Januar 1632.

10. ANENT THE SURVEYING OF THE KIRK OF HALYRUDHOUS.²

Apud Halyrudhous, 15 Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

Stratherne	Wigtoun	B. Dumblane	Carnegie	Secretar
Privie Seale	Air	B. Yles.	Tracquair	Clerk Reg ^r Advocate.

THE Lords of Secreit Counsell nominates and appoints David Lord Carnegie Adame Bishop of Dumblane Johnne Lord Tracquair^s Archibald Achesone Secretar, and the Maisteris of his Majesteis workes, to conveen and meit the morne at Halyrudhous at eight of the clocke in the morning and there to sight and survey the church of Halyrudhous and to consider what is fitting to be helped and repaired therein and how, and refer what charges the same may be performed and to report to the said Lords upon Thursday next.

11. ANENT THE REPAIRING OF THE KIRK OF HALYRUDHOUS.³

Apud Halyrudhous 22 Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

S ^t Andrewes	Wintoun	B. Yles	Tracquair	Clerk Reg ^r
Privie Seal	B. Dumblane	Carnegie	Secretar	Advocat

FORSAMEIKLE as the Kings Ma^{tie} hes resolved that the Coronation sall God willing be in the Abbey Kirk of Halyrudhous and whereas it is very requisite

¹ Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.

² Acta, fol. 177.

³ Ib., fol. 180.

both for the credite of the countrie and for the solemnitie of that important actioun That the said Kirk be repaired and ordered in suche a decent and comelie maner as is most fitting for suche ane great and honourable actioun Thairfoir the Lords of Secreit Counsell ordanis and commandis James Murray and Anthony Alexander Maisteris of his Ma^{tes} works to enter with all possible diligence to the repairing and ordering of the said Kirk in the particulars following, viz. To take down the east gavell within the great arche where the old window is, and to erect and build up ane faire new window of goode stane worke, and also ane window in the east end of the north yle And farder to build up the north west steeple with stane timber and leade and to make it fitt to receive a pale of bellis As alsua to helpe and repaire the south-west steeple so farre of it as must be in sight And to repaire make new the great west doore with stane and timber And alsua to repaire the hail west gavell with some lights to be strucken out therein, with the twa turnepycks to be partlie takin down and weill repaired and thacked in good order And alsua to remove the hail lofts and deskes, and to repaire the hail breaches and defects of all the pillars and to helpe the plaistering of the north yle And to swettin and set it aff in good sort conforme to the south yle As alsua to prepair and have in readiness als manie dailis trees sparris and naillis as shall be thought necessar for erecting of the Kings Majesteis Throne and others degrees of honnour with suche barricats and lofts as sall be necessar And ordanis the saids Maisters of warkes to begin the saids warkes with all possible diligence, and to provide warkmen and all materialis necessar where ever they can be best and soonest had, for doing of quhillk premisses this present Act sall be to thame ane Warrant, And ordanis his Majesteis Thesaurer and Depute Thesaurer to furnishe moneyes fra tyme to tyme as the necessitie of the service sall require.

12. CHARGES AGANIS PERSONIS DWELLING IN THE PALACE OF HALYRUDHOUS.¹

Apud Halyrudhous ultimo Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

Stratherne	Lauderdaill	B. Yles	Carnegie
Winton	B. Dumblane	Areskine	Secretar.

FORSAMEIKLE as it is verie necessar and expedient for the better accomodating and lodging of his Majestie and his tryne in his Majesteis owne houses of the Castellis of Edinburgh and Stirlie and of his Palaces of Falkland and Dumfermlie and Halyrudhous that all personis who dwellis within the saids housses

¹ Acta, fol. 182.

or possesse anie roomes or chambers within the same sall remove thameselffis, thair servants and goods furth thairof and leave the same voide and red, and delyver the keyes thairof to his Majesteis Thesaurer and Deputie-Thesaurer or to the Maisters of his Majesteis Workes to the intent that all the saids houses may be readie and patent to his Majesteis harbinger and that he may designe and appoint the same to suche of his Majesteis tryne as he sall thinke meit Thairfoir ordanis letters to be direct charging all personis dwelling within anie of his Majesteis houses foresaids or who possesses anie chambers or roomes within the same to remove thameselffis thair servants and goods furth thairof and leave the same voide and delyver the keyes thairof to his Majesteis said Thesaurer and Deputie-Thesaurer or to the Maisteris of his Majesteis Workes to the intent and purpose foresaid within 48 houres after the charge under the paine of rebellious &c. And if they failyie To denounce &c.

13. PEALL OF BELLIS.¹

Thesaurer.

RIGHT, &c.—Whereas We did command Sir George Fletcher knyght to bargain for a Peall of Bellis to be hung upon our Church at Halyroodhous, which as we ar informed by Mr James Hannay minister ther wilbe in readiness before the 20 day of this month of Maij to the effect it may be usefull speciallie at our first coming and being ther at this tyme Our pleasur is that you caus furthwith answer and pay unto the founder heir at our Citie of London the pryce condescended upon that they may be transported thither with all possible diligence Whereof expecting the performance at your hands We bid you farewell.

Whythall 10 May 1633.

14. MR JAMES HANNAY TO BE PAYED OF WHAT IS DUE UNTO HIM.²

Thesaurer and Depute-Thesaurer.

RIGHT, &c.—Whereas We have writtin heretofoir that Mr James Hannay Minister at Our Church of Halyrudhous might be satisfied for his disbursements in repairing that Church with the ordinarie allowance for the forbearance becaus as We are crediblie informed his service theren was verie usefull and that the charges expended wer his owin meanes, We will that such speedie payment be made to him thereof as possible can, and the rather becaus his service and attendance in his charge now at this time at our being ther God willing wilbe verie requisite. Therefoir our pleasure is that with all diligence you pay unto

¹ Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.

² Ib.

him or his assigneys the said disbursements with the ordinarie allowance for the forbearing thereof as you shall find by his accompts, and that in such maner as you shall think most fitt for his satisfaction, for which these presents &c.

Theobalds 14 May 1633.

15. ABBEY CHURCH OF HALYRUDHOUS LOFTS AND SEATTS.

Maisters of Work.

TRUSTIE, &c.—Sieing the Abbey Church of Halyrudhous that had been so dark befoir was by the course takin by you becum so lightsome that it gave us a great deall of contentment at our being ther To the effect that it may continew so still it is Our pleasur that you have a speciall care that no seatts nor lofts be built therin unless it be such places as may nather impair the beawtie nor light of the said Church And this you shall signifie to any whom this may concerne from ws, And if any doe presume to doe the contrar heirof that you certifie the same to ws that We may caus tak ordour with them For doeing quhairof &c.

Whythall 12 Dec^r 1633.

16. ORIGINAL LETTER OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST.



WHEREAS S^r Johne Veitche kny^t M^r of O^r workes hes furnished materiallis necessar and workmen for repairing of O^r Palice and Kirk of Halyroodhous, w^{ch} is as yit restand awand and unpayed These ar therfor to will and requyre yow efter the sight heiroff to pay and deliver to the said M^r of O^r workes all such soumes of money as is restand awand to him ather for materiallis or workmens wadges bestowed vpon the reparatioun foirsaid And that out of the first and readiest of anie of O^r moneys in yo^r hands ffor doing wherof these presentes (with his receipt y^off) shalbe vnto yow ane sufficient warrand and allowed in yo^r accompts. Gevin at O^r Palice of Halyroodhous the thrid day of September 1641.

To o^r trustie and weilbelowed
Counsellor S^r James Carmichell
of that ilk kny^t our Thesaurer-
deput.

The subsequent history of the Abbey Church may be stated in a few words. The Palace of Holyrood having accidentally been destroyed by fire in 1650, and the partial additions made by Cromwell's orders, after the Restoration being removed, the present Palace was designed by Sir William Bruce, and erected according to the special instructions of Charles the Second. The Chapel Royal, which stood towards the south, was swept away in the course of these alterations, and this suggested to His Majesty the expediency of obliging the parishioners of the Canongate to provide a new Church for their own use, as appears from the following Act of Privy Council, in 1672:—

“ACT ANENT THE CHAPEL ROYALL.

“*Apud Halirudhouse decimo tertio die Septembris 1672.*”

“Whereas it is necessary and suteing to his Majesties pious and religious dispositioun that some convenient place be designed and sett apairt wherein his Majesty and these of his family at his Palace of Halirudhouse may worship God and perform all publick religious dueties and that the Abbay Church doeth ly contigue to the said Palace and is at his Majesties disposeall Therefore the Lord Commissioner his Grace and Lords of his Majesties Privy Councill doe designe sett apart and appropriat the said Church for the ends and uses aforesaides And doe declare the same to be his Majesties Chappell Royeall in all tymes comeing Discharging heirby the Magistrattis of Edinburgh or Cannongate to use the same hereafter as ane Paroch church and that notwithstanding of any former tolleration or possession they may pretend in and to the said church.”

Several years elapsed before this resolution could be carried into effect. At length James the Seventh, by a warrant dated 3d of December 1687, directed the Abbey Church to be fitted up in a suitable manner, “for being Our own Catholick Chappell, and capable of the Ceremonies and Solemnities of the most ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle.” The populace of Edinburgh, however, in their great zeal against Popery, at the period of the Revolution, broke into the Church in a violent manner, destroying the interior ornaments, leaving only the bare walls, and committing the sacrilege of tearing off the lids of the leaden coffins deposited in what was called “the Royal Vault.” In this deserted state the old Church appears to have remained for nearly seventy years, when it was repaired at the expense of the Exchequer; but the roof being injudiciously covered with flag-stones of enormous weight, unsuited to the frail and decayed state of the walis, it gave way in 1768, and left the building in a complete state of ruin.

I do not wish to conclude these notices without a practical suggestion. On a former occasion the Society presented a Memorial to the Right Honourable the

Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in favour of the plan for clearing out the accumulated soil which concealed the ancient cloisters of the Abbey; when there was brought to light some interesting architectural details. It would serve no useful purpose were the Society to propose a restoration of the old edifice, or the construction of another, in the same style, as a Chapel Royal for the installation of the Knights of the Thistle; but it would contribute greatly to improve the grounds connected with the Palace of Holyrood, if, when the garden to the north-west of the Palace is taken in and inclosed, the whole area of the old Abbey Church should be included in the contemplated improvements. As the portion of the original edifice which was pulled down in 1570, consisted of the transept, choir, and the aisles to the east of the great central tower, it would be most desirable that the foundations, so long covered with soil and rank grass, should also be cleared out, surrounded with a gravel walk, and inclosed within the pleasure grounds of the Palace. The moulded bases of the columns, as ascertained from actual examination, and probably much of the old stone floor, still exist, at a depth of about six feet, beneath the surface. As the area of the original edifice extends somewhat beyond the present iron railings, and includes the site of the High Altar, in front of which King David the Second, and in the middle of the Choir, King James the Second, were interred, we might reasonably expect that some important antiquarian discoveries would be made in the course of such excavations.

In this belief, therefore, I beg to propose that the Society present a Memorial on the subject to the proper quarter, upon the first suitable opportunity.

The Meeting unanimously approved of the proposal contained in Mr Laing's communication, and appointed a Committee to prepare such a Memorial, addressed to the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Bart., First Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings, and to transmit the same through the Marquis of Breadalbane, as President of the Society.