

## II.

NOTICE OF THE DEATH OF ROBERT BLACKADER, ARCHBISHOP OF GLASGOW, DURING A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, IN THE YEAR 1508.  
BY DAVID LAING, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

At a recent meeting of the Society, I incidentally referred to the death of Blackader, Archbishop of Glasgow, during his pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The notice by a contemporary writer, which I now beg to lay before the Society, is, I think, not devoid of interest.

Knox mentions Blackader as having "departed this lyfe, going in his superstitious devotioun to Hierusalem;"<sup>1</sup> and Bishop Lesley, who styles him "ane noble, wyse, and godlie man," states, that this occurred before he came "to the end of his journey;"<sup>2</sup> while the Obituary in the Glasgow Chartulary assigns the precise date as the 28th of July 1508.<sup>3</sup> But no statement is found to point out the place, or under what circumstances, the Bishop died.

In Paton's "Highlands and Islands of the Adriatic, &c.," a passage is quoted from an Italian diary of the Venetian Sanuto, respecting a "rich Scottish Bishop," having in 1508 arrived in Venice, and his subsequent death at Jaffa. In meeting with this notice, I had no difficulty in identifying him with the Archbishop of Glasgow; and I took occasion to request the late JAMES DENNISTOUN, Esq., author of the "Lives of the Dukes of Urbino," to apply to his friend Rawdon Brown, Esq.,<sup>4</sup> who was residing at Venice, and has distinguished himself by his literary historical researches, for any further information on the subject that might be obtained from the ample records preserved in the Venetian Archives.

<sup>1</sup> Knox's Works, vol. i., p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> History of Scotland, Edin. 1830, p. 78; Jo. Leslæus de Origine, etc., Romæ, 1578, p. 349.

<sup>3</sup> Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis, vol. ii., p. 616; Knox, *ut supra*.

<sup>4</sup> Mr Rawdon Brown, among the fruits of his researches, has since published a very curious and valuable work, entitled "Four Years at the Court of Henry the Eighth: Selection of Despatches written by the Venetian Ambassador, Sebastian Giustinian, and addressed to the Signory of Venice, January 12th, 1515, to July 26th, 1519. Translated by Rawdon Brown." London, 1855. 2 vols. post 8vo.

The application was kindly made, and as promptly responded to. The accompanying extracts from the original Diaries, with a translation and some explanatory notes by Mr RAWDON BROWN, were received at the time through Mr Dennistoun; but some circumstances prevented me from making use of this communication, for the purpose intended,—that of illustrating the passage in Knox's History.

MARIN SANUTO'S DIARIES. COPY IN ST MARK'S LIBRARY, VENICE.

Vol. vii. fo. 365. "Adi 16 la matina  
Mazo, A.D. 1508. fo in Colegio l'Orator  
di Franza et Milan al qual li fo dito la  
deliberation di eri; disse aver scritto  
a Milan, et credera il Gram Maistro  
aria spazà in Franza in tre di se riva  
qui la risposta. Etiam vene l'Orator  
Yspano, et li fo dito ut supra.

"Vene uno Episcopo di Scocia vestito di zibeloto paonazo accompagnato da Ser Lorenzo Orio dottor, Ser Marco Gradenigo dottor, Ser Jacomo Moro, Ser Mafio Michiel Cataveri: El qual e' alozato in Canareio in Chà Frizier venuto per andar in Jerulasem con persone . . . : a de intrada ducati 2000; et intrato in Colegio sentò appresso el Principe: Presentò lettere di credenza et recomendatorie (*sic*) a la Signoria dil suo Re, e dil Re di Franza, et fece una oratione Latina in laude di questo Stato, e dil Principe, e di la benivolentia dil suo Re con la Signoria. Poi disse si conseieria di andar, ò con la galia dil Zaffo, ò con la Nave etc<sup>a</sup>.

A.D. 1508. May. "On the morning of  
the 16th there came  
into the College (1), the French (2.)  
and Milanese ambassadors, to which  
last the resolve of yesterday was communicated; he said he had written to Milan, and that he believed the 'Grand Master' (3.) would send a dispatch to France in three days should the reply arrive here. The Spanish Ambassador *etiam* came, and it was told him *ut supra*.

"A Scottish Bishop came, dressed in purple tabby, accompanied by Ser Lorenzo Orio, LL.D., Ser Marco Gradenigo, LL.D., Ser Jacomo Moro, Ser Mafio Michiel, governors of the Exchequer (4.): He is lodged in Canaregio in Chà Frizier, and has come for a passage to Jerusalem, with . . . attendants. He has a rental of 2000 ducats; and having entered the College, he sat near the Doge: He presented letters of credence and recommendation from his own King, and from the King of France, and made a Latin oration in praise of this State, and of the Doge, and of his King's goodwill towards the Signory. He then said he should take counsel about going, either by the Jaffa galley, or by the ship, etc.

"Il Principe li usó grate parole justa il solito.

Vol. vii., fo. 413. "Adi primo fo il Zugno A.D. 1508. zorno di la Sensa: El Principe andá con li Oratori, et la Signoria, et altri invitati al pranso de more nel Bucintoro, fuora di do castelli a sposar e benedir el mar: fonno Oratóri di Franza, Spagna, Milan, et Ferrara, et uno Episcopo de Scocia, va imperegrinazo in Jerusalem.

"Fece l'oficio dil Patriarcha uno Episcopo, per non esser ancora venuto le bolle dil novo Patriarcha eletto. Portó la spada Ser Domenego Contarini, erra Ca<sup>o</sup> di X<sup>ci</sup>, et eletto Capv. a Verona; fo suo compagno Ser Franc<sup>o</sup>. da Chà da Pexaro, q<sup>m</sup> Ser Hironimo.

Vol. vii. fo. 512. "Adi 14 fo Colegio Nov<sup>re</sup>, 14. dupoi disnar di la Signoriae Savij.

"In questi di la galia di Zaffo, patron Ser Jacomo Michiel q<sup>m</sup> Ser Biascio ritornò, et la nave di Marconi, su la qual di pélegrini 36, ne morti (sic) 27, tra i qual quel Vescovo di Scocia richo, parente dil Re, che fo molto honorato di la Signoria."

"The Doge spoke him graciously as usual.

A.D. 1508. June. "The first was the day of the Ascension: The Doge went with the Ambassadors, and the Signory, and others invited, to the dinner *de more* in the Bucintor, outside the two Castles (4.), to espouse and bless the sea; there were the Ambassadors of France, Spain, Milan, and Ferrara, and a Scottish bishop, who is going on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

"A Bishop officiated in lieu of the Patriarch, as the bulls of the new Patriarch elect have not yet arrived: The sword was carried by Ser Domenego Contarini, late Chief of the Ten, and elected Captain of Verona; his Colleague was Ser Francesco of the house of Pesaro, son of the late Ser Hironimo.

A.D. 1508. November. "On the 14th, after dinner, the Signory and the Sages sat in committee.

"In these days the Jaffa galley, Ser Jacomo Michiel, son of the late Ser Biagio, master, returned, and the ship belonging to the Marconi (5.), on board of which, out of 36 pilgrims, 27 died, including that rich Scottish Bishop, the King's relation, who was much honoured by the Signory."

(1.) The full College formed the Republic's Cabinet, and gave audience to Ambassadors and others.

(2.) The French Ambassador was Giovanni Andrea Lascari, who had been

sent twice to Constantinople by Lorenzo dé Medici to collect Greek MSS., and, together with Sanuto himself, and Albert Prince of Carpe, and Erasmus, was of the 40 who formed the NEACADEMIA, by whose decrees the presses of Aldus Pius Manutius were so much benefited.

(3.) Charles d'Amboise, nephew of the Cardinal.

(4.) I translate thus the title *Cataveri*; they acted as Attornies-General; gave awards concerning waifs and strays, and decided claims on the property of such as died intestate; they moreover punished the Jews who had carnal connexion with Christian women: I am at a loss to understand why these magistrates were appointed to lionise the Bishop of Glasgow.

At the moment of this Prelate's arrival, the Republic of Venice was flushed with her victories over Maximilian, and he must have seen this place to great advantage, though I cannot detail what the "*Cataveri*" showed him. On the day after his trip in the Bucintor, in the fish-market at Rialto, a thief was hanged for having stolen a case of jewellery from a shop at Jaffa; from which port he was conveyed hither, and disposed of thus—a proof that the Venetians did justice for themselves in the Soldan's dominions; and in evidence, moreover, of their not sparing their own nobles at home, the Council of the Ten caused the arrest, on the 6th June 1508, of Ser Texeo Bolani, for clipping coin, like old Coburg; and then, for other gossip, a stammering Venetian dame, the wife of Ser Lunardo Emo, after enjoying the pageant of the Ascension until late, as heartily as Glasgow himself, went home, and dropped down dead; and the news received at Venice from London in those days were, that in the month of April there were 1200 bags of wool, and 12,000 pieces of kersey and other woollens, ready for the Venetian gallies, &c.

(5.) The Marconi were plebian trades, established at Venice.

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ROBERT BLACKADER, son of Sir Patrick Blackader of Tulliallan, in the county of Clackmannan, was educated for the Church, and was first a prebendary of Glasgow, and rector of Cardross. Being at Rome in 1480, when the See of Aberdeen became vacant, he was consecrated Bishop by Pope Sixtus IV., and was translated to Glasgow in 1484. He was frequently employed in public negotiations, and "had so much favour at Rome, that he obtained from the Pope the see of Glasgow to be erected into an Archbishopric." (*Keith's Catalogue*, by Russel, pp. 115, 254.)

The town of Jaffa, in Palestine, situated on the coast of the Mediterranean, was called in ancient times Joppa; it was the only port on that coast which the Jews possessed; and notwithstanding its natural disadvantages of access,

enjoyed considerable traffic during the middle ages. It had always been a convenient place of resort for pilgrims to the Holy Land, being situated directly on the way to Jerusalem, although the road is mountainous and difficult for travellers. No cause has been assigned for Bishop Blackader undertaking this tedious and dangerous pilgrimage, which so often proved fatal. Four years later, we know that King James the Fourth cherished the romantic notion of visiting Palestine, no doubt, also, in accomplishment of a religious vow; and he assigned as a reason for maintaining an alliance with the King of France, that he might be enabled, without constraint, to pass through his dominions on the way to Jerusalem. This very resolution may have had its influence in bringing about that fatal catastrophe at Flodden which terminated prematurely all his schemes, and involved Scotland in so much misery, through the misgovernment and civil dissensions which prevailed during the long minority of his son, James the Fifth.