

NOTES ON THE USE OF WINE, FROM THE ACCOUNTS OF THE BURGH
OF ABERDEEN.

Mr JOHN STUART read some extracts from the Accounts of the Burgh of Aberdeen, which date from the year 1398, with the view of showing how much the drinking of Wine had been mixed up with social and business arrangements in old times in Scotland. These Accounts preserve notices of the expense of many entertainments to the kings of Scotland on their visits to the burgh, and descend even to the dole given to "Archibald Armstrong his Majesties plesant," while it appears that no stranger of any standing could pass through the town without receiving an entertainment. Players were patronised, as in 1601, when "the stage players Inglischemen" got a gift; while noble ladies did not disdain to partake of the town's hospitality. In 1398, the Bishop got a certain quantity of wine "when he abode in the vicar's house," and again when he was in the tavern of John Anderson. The old Provost spent four shillings in that year on wine for the new Provost. In 1453, the Countess of Huntly got a lagen of red wine, which cost 5s. 4d.; and the Bishops of Aberdeen and St Andrews had each of them a like allowance. The Prior of Whithorne and the Abbot of Arbroath are set down for only half as much, while the quarriers who brought stones for the "Brig of Balgowny" got nearly as much as the last named dignitaries. The Alderman's fee and "potatiounys" are set down in this year at no small sum, while the expenses "made upon the King in twa dayis" amount to above forty pounds. The King's sons, in 1548, got four gallons of wine, as did "my Lord Huntly quhen he come out of England." In 1594, the King lodged in the town for some days, and large supplies of sugar, pepper, "safroem, meassis, and cannel," were bought for his use, as well as a supply of "confeittis scorchettis and confectionis." In 1613, the Bishop of Orkney got a present of Spanish and Bordeaux wine; and in 1635, "at the making of the Primat of Edinburght burges," there was an outlay of £5, 8s. for "Frensche wyne," and 2s. 8d. for "a quart of sack." When Edward Raban was employed to print certain college theses, there was paid to Raban's servant, "drinksiluer," 26s. 8d. In 1647, Major Middleton received the town's "courtesie," which in-

cluded a supply of French and Spanish wines, as well as strong ale. In 1644, the magistrates sent to Montrose's camp, then in the neighbourhood, "aucht pyntis and ane choppein of Spanish wyne at 24s. the pynt," as also "four pyntis and ane choppein acquavitie," at 30s. the pint. Few entries, however, occur of the last-named beverage. Mr Stuart remarked that Mr Robertson seemed to have proved that even when wine was the favourite beverage of the common people, it had not brought with it the temperate habits which some expected from its renewed use in the present day.