

III.

NOTES RELATING TO MRS ESTHER (LANGLOIS OR) INGLIS, THE CELEBRATED CALLIGRAPHIST, WITH AN ENUMERATION OF MANUSCRIPT VOLUMES WRITTEN BY HER BETWEEN THE YEARS 1586 AND 1624. BY DAVID LAING, Esq., Sec. F.S.A. Scot.

The name of ESTHER INGLIS is well known, and the number of volumes which were written and ornamented by her, from the great beauty of their penmanship, excited the unbounded admiration of her contemporaries. Some of these manuscripts were exhibited at recent meetings of the Archæological Institute, and attracted considerable notice. It occurred to me that a notice of her life, and a list of her MSS., might not be without interest to the members of that or other kindred Societies. I have therefore brought together and put in chronological order occasional notes of her MSS. made from time to time, accompanied with various particulars of her history hitherto unnoticed.

The earliest account of Esther Inglis is contained in "Memoirs of several Ladies of Great Britain, who have been celebrated for their writings or skill in the learned Languages, Arts, and Sciences," by George Ballard, of Magdalane College, Oxon. (Oxford, 1752, p. 267, &to). From this work the notices contained in Chalmers's Biographical Dictionary, Harding's Biographical Mirror, vol. iii., and in other similar works, are derived.

In all these notices little information regarding her history is furnished, and Ballard, misled by her retaining her maiden name, supposed that she remained unmarried till she was about forty.

In a communication to the Society of Antiquaries of London, by R. R. Holmes, Esq., respecting some of Esther Inglis's manuscripts, he says,¹ "Of her history a few particulars may be gleaned. There is in the Sloane collection in the British Museum, a little MS., entitled, 'Livret contenant diverses sortes de lettres escrit a Lislebourg, par Esther Langlois, Françoise, 1586;' and on the fly-leaf of the volume is this note, 'The father and mother of this young maid that wrote this booke suffer'd martyrdom in France, as may be seen in the Book of Martyrs. The Latin of her Psalms is (I believe) of her own makeing, for it is neither in Buchanan's nor any other of those who have paraphrased the Psalms.'

¹ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, vol. i. second series, p. 312.

For the support of this assertion of the martyrdom, however, I cannot (says Mr Holmes) find sufficient authority, beyond the fact that Jean L'Anglois, a minister, was martyred at Lyons in 1572; the internal evidence, moreover, afforded by the volume itself seems to give it contradiction, for at the end is a distich which runs thus—

Filia me scripsit mandate utroque parente,
Exilii calamo tædia discutiens;

from which it is not unreasonable to infer that both her parents were then living as exiles in Scotland, whither they had fled from the religious persecutions in France, and that the young Esther, then in her fifteenth year, had written the contents of the book as a sort of exercise. She probably changed her name from Langlois to Inglis, to suit her Scottish domicile."

According to her own words, 'Esther Langlois,' 'Anglois,' 'Anglus,' or as she is better known by the adopted name of Inglis, was a native of France, and born in the year 1571. Her father, Nicholas Langlois, and her mother Marie Prisott, with their infant children, were among the French refugees who fled to this country after the atrocious St Bartholomew massacre of the Protestants 24th August 1572. That they were related to the Protestant minister, Jean Langlois, who perished at Lyon, is highly probable. The following extracts from the Treasurer's Accounts show that a few years later Nicholas Langlois, with his family, had come to Edinburgh, where he found encouragement as Master of the French School in this city:—

1578-9 March.

Item to Nicholas Langloys Francheman and Marie Prisott his spous for thair help and releif of sum debt contractit be thame in the zeir of God 1578	£70 0 0
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1580 July.

Item to Nicholas Langloys Francheman and Marie Prisott his spous	£80 0 0
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1581 July.

Item to Nicolas Langloys Francheman, Master of the French scole, conforme to his Ma ^{ties} precept	£80 0 0
In the years 1582, 1583, 1584, and 1585, he also received his pension at Whitsunday term of	£50 0 0

The name of Langlois in France still continues. At that time "Pierre L'Anglois Escuyer, Sieur de Bel-Estat," was the author of a somewhat learned but pedantic work, entitled, "Discours des Hiéroglyphes Ægyptiens, Emblèmes, Devises, et Armoirées. Ensemble liiii. Tableaux Hiéroglyphiques pour exprimer toutes conceptions à la façon des Ægyptiens, par figures," &c., Paris, 1583, 4to. In an interesting Album, kept by Sir Michael Balfour of Burleigh, towards the end of the 16th century, occurs the name of one who was, most likely, Esther's brother. It consists of four lines of Latin verse, with his autograph, "David cognomento Anglus, natione Gallus, et educatione Scotus." The arms on the shield may be described—a shield, *argent*; an incressent, *gules*; crest, five lilies *proper* placed side by side; with the motto *Dum spiro, spero.*¹

Of the subsequent history of Nicholas Langlois, who survived till 1611, we find from the Register of Confirmed Testaments in the Commissariat of Edinburgh, that "Nicholas Inglis, Frenchman, Master of the Frenche Scole in Edinburgh," died on the 10th of August 1611; and Mary Preset is named as his relict spouse. His Testament was confirmed by the Commissaries of Edinburgh, 23d July 1614. It is written in French, he styling himself "Nicholas Langlois, François, Maistre de lescole Françoise en ceste ville de Lislebourg." By this deed he appoints his wife Marie Preset, and their daughter Marie Inglis, to be his executors. It makes no mention of Madame Esther, then settled with her husband in Essex, as probably less dependent than her sister Marie.

But before proceeding to enumerate the MSS. volumes written by Esther Inglis, some notice may be taken of her marriage with Bartholomew Kello. This must have been some time about 1596, she herself still continuing (as seems to have been customary at that time) to retain the use of her maiden name.

The first thing to be noticed, connected with her husband's parents, was an event of a most tragical nature.

Mr John Kello, was educated at St Andrews, where he took his degree of A.M., and was one of those recommended by the General Assembly in December 1560, as qualified for the ministry. Soon after this he

¹ In the library of the Marquess of Lothian, Newbattle Abbey.

became the first Presbyterian minister of the parish of Spott, in East Lothian. He married a Margaret Thomson, by whom he had one son and two daughters. On Sunday morning, the 24th September 1570, tempted, he says, by the suggestions of the evil spirit, and not from any personal dislike, he strangled his wife; and to make it appear as if it were her own deed he hung her up, and having made fast the doors of the house, he actually proceeded to the church and preached as if nothing had occurred. At the end of the service, he asked some of his hearers to go with him to the house to inquire for his wife, who, he said, had been complaining; the doors being fastened, on breaking them open they found her dead. Kello's character prevented at first any suspicions being attached to him, with the exception of one of his neighbours, the minister of Dunbar, to whom he had previously communicated some strange dreams. Before long, remorse on account of his atrocious deed, led him to make a full confession; and upon this he was brought to Edinburgh, tried, and condemned to be hanged, and his body burned to ashes. This sentence was carried into execution on the 4th of October 1570.

Such an event naturally created a great sensation, and we are told, it was eagerly laid hold off by the enemies of the Reformation, and published in foreign countries, but making no mention of Kello's contrition and sincere repentance; and likewise that there were "diverse licentious and ungodly pictures to withdraw the simpill from God's obedience." To counteract such efforts, his Confession was printed, according to which he exhorted the multitude who were present at his execution "not to measure the truth of God's word by the lives or folly of the preachers." His goods, as usual in such cases, being escheated to the Crown, on the following day, a grant was made in favour of Bartilmo Kello, and Barbara and Besse Kellois, his lawful children.

The son received a learned education, probably at St Andrews; and appears to have obtained occasional employment in ecclesiastical matters. The King had also employed him abroad on some special service, as the Treasurer, in January 1600, paid to "Barthill Kello, being direct be his Hienes to the Low Countreis, for support of his chargis, £100 0 0."

Esther Inglis and Bartholomew Kello were married about the year 1596. From a Bill of Suspension granted by the Privy Council, 8th February 1597-8, we find that an action had been raised at the instance

of Barthilmo Kello, indweller in Edinburgh, and Esther Inglis his spouse, against Thomas Foullis, goldsmith, and John Gourlay, merchant, both in Edinburgh, their debtors for some money, the amount not stated. To the same period may be referred the following warrant in favour of Kello. It does not follow that he was actually appointed to be "Clerk of all Passports," &c., as this unsigned warrant sets forth; but there can be no doubt that "the maist exquisit & perfyte wreater" was his wife.

"OVR SOVERANE LORD ordanis ane lettir to be maid vnder the Previe Seil in dew forme makand mentioun, that his Hienes vnderstanding that there occuris oftymes wreatingis sik as Pasportis, Testimonialis, Letteris of Commendation and Recommendation, Missiues and vtheris lyke to be grantit and direct be vs to Forrayne Princes, Personnages, Estaitis, & Nationis, quhairin fault sumtyme may be found in the forme of the lettir throu imperfection of the wreater, and sumtymes for that the autentick copies ar not referuit in register, quhairthrow his Hienes is oftymes circumuenit it being ane mater tending to the aduancement of his honour, & als of this Realme and nation and that therefore it is verie requisit that al sik wreatingis be put in cumlie and decent maner of lettir and forme be the maist exquisit & perfyte wreater within this Realme as als committit to register be ane persone of gude credeit and preferment, and being surelie persuadit of his louit BARTHILMO KELLO and of his gude qualeties habil to discharge him of that cure. Therefore makand constituand and ordinand the said Barthilmo Kello Clerk ouer al sik Pasportis, Testimonialis, Lettirs of commendation and recommendation, Missiues and vtheris alyke to be grantit and direct be our Souerane Lord to forrayne Princes, Personnages, Estaitis, and Nationis. Gifand and commitand to the said Barthilmo Kello the office and charge thereof during al the dayes of his lyftyme and disponand to him all fies, casualities and dewties belangand and that salhappin to belang and apertin thereto. With power to the said Barthilmo Kello, to wreat or cause al the sadis lettiris be his direction be wreatin BE THE BEST EXQUISIT WREATER WITHIN THIS REALME, iniunand also to the said Barthilmo Kello to put and commit to register all sik wreatis as salbe wreatin be him or be his direction, and subseryuit be his Ma^{tie} to the effect that accompt and tryal may be taken thereof as necessitie sal requyre, & the saming lettir to be extendit in the best forme, with al clausis nedful, with command

therein to the keiparis of his Hienes seilis, and signetis that nane of thame ressaue or passe ony siklyk forrayne wreatingis to be subscriuit be his Hienes in tyme cuming except the saming be wreatin be the said Barthilmo Kello or be his direction and marked at vnder with his name, dischairging thame thereof & of there offices in that pairt, dischairging also al his hienes Leiges and vtheris quhom it effeiris of all wreating of ony sik lettiris without the said Barthilmo Kellois gude wil and command, & that they do nor attempt na thing to the breaking & violation of the said lettir in ony point vnder al hiest payn, charge, & offence, that they & ilkane of thame may inriu againis his Ma^{tie} in that behalf & lettiris of publication to be direct heirupon in forme as effeiris. Subscriuit be our Souerane Lord at the day of ”

In a MS. Album in my possession, there are two pages facing each other, one signed by Bartholomæus Kello, at London, 8th August 1604, the other by Esther Inglis, addressed—“A mon intime amy et tres-aimé frere M. G. C.” [George Craig], with two French extracts, in various styles of writing, from Ps. cxlv. v. 5, and Eccles.; and ending thus:—“Christ is my vantage in life and death. Be zour assured loving Sister in the Lord—ESTHER INGLIS.”

The several volumes written by Esther Inglis are so dispersed, some of them having found their way to libraries abroad, that no doubt there are various others which I have had no opportunity to examine. Only two volumes are known of an earlier date than the year 1599, by which time she had secured the respect of some learned men in this country, such as Andrew Melville and Robert Rollock, Principals of the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and John Johnston of St Andrews, each of whom addressed copies of Latin verses in her commendation, which she continued to prefix to several of her later productions. As these invariably are dedicated to persons of rank or distinction, we may conclude that to some extent she was dependent on the gratuities received in return. It may also betoken no small degree of vanity, that she was accustomed to prefix her own portrait drawn in miniature; but it has happened in many instances that the metallic colours have turned black.

The original Portrait of Esther Inglis in oil, now exhibited, has the date A.D. 1595. It is painted on panel; and at the upper corner to the

left, is a device, apparently of a carnation and honeysuckle interlaced as a knot. It fell into my hands accidentally at a sale in Edinburgh about two years ago, without knowing from what collection it came, or who the painter was. (A reduced engraving of this portrait is here given.)

Descriptive List of her Manuscripts.

I.

LIVRET CONTENANT DIVERSES SORTES DE LETTRES, ESCRIT A LISLEBOVRG, PAR ESTHER LANGLOIS, FRANÇOISE, 1586. In the British Museum.

(Sloane MSS., No. 987). An oblong 4to, containing 32 leaves. The leaves are written on one side, and contain only the 2d and 94th Psalms, one verse of a French and the corresponding one of a Latin version, occupying each leaf, except that towards the end there are three pages of alphabets; and on the last leaf the following lines, given by Mr Holmes,¹ to show that her parents were then alive:—

Huius ipsius Libelli Prosopopeia.

Filia me scripsit mandante vtroque Parente,
Exilii calamo tædia discutiens.

In scribendi artificium.

Pictores hominum pinxerunt membra colore.
Penna hominum at varie pingere verba potest.

A verse of the Second Psalm, as a specimen, may be quoted:—

11.

Du Seigneur Dieu seruiteurs rendez vous,
Craignez son ire, et luy vueillez complaire;
Et d'estre à luy vous resiouissez tous,
Ayans tousiours crainte de luy displeire.

11.

Et vanas auferte minas, submittite tandem,
Facti humiles, forti corda superba Deo,
Quinetiam cum læti eritis timor illius adsit,
Iratum grauis est res habuisse Deum.

¹ Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London, vol. i. new series, p. 319.

II.

LIVRET TRAITTANT DE LA GRANDEUR DE DIEU, ET DE LA COGNOISSANCE QU'ON PEUT AVOIR DE LUY PAR SES ŒUVRES. ESCRIT PAR ESTHER LANGLOIS, FILLE FRANÇOISE, DE DIEPPE M.D.XCII.

Small oblong volume, written in various characters, containing 100 Quatrains. I lately obtained this choice little volume from Leipzig, where it had figured for some time in a bookseller's catalogue.

This volume is interesting, as the only other one known, which is written by her under her original name Langlois. The phrase *de Dieppe* may perhaps indicate her birth-place. At the end of the book are four lines by her father in Latin:—

“Tetrasticha hoc in Libello varie descripta Lectori,” signed

“N. ANGL. DICTÆ PUELLE PATER.”

This, if any evidence were required, settles the matter of her parentage. And on the following leaf is repeated the distich,—

Hujus ipsius Libelli Prosopopeia.

Filia me scripsit mandante utroque Parente,
Desidiæ calamo tædia discutiens.

Nil Penna sed usus.

III.

“THE PSALMS OF DAVID, written in French with her own hand, and presented to Queen Elizabeth by Mrs Inglis herself; and was by that renowned Princess given to the Library of Christ Church, Oxford.”—*Ballard.*

A description of this interesting volume, as follows, was kindly communicated by the Rev. W. D. Macray:—

A French Psalter, occupying with title and introductory matter 83 leaves, bound in (very much faded) crimson velvet, embroidered with the Tudor rose and crown, and studded with a large number of pearls, a few of which have been lost, and some five or six loose ones are wrapped up in paper.

The title is followed by a dedication in French to the Queen, dated “De Lislebourg en Escosse, ce xxvii. de Mars 1599,” signed Esther

Anglois, Française, in which the writer begs that her book may occupy some "coing retiré" of the Queen's cabinet. On the back of the title is a drawing of the royal arms, with the lion and dragon as supporters. Within a fanciful border, commendatory verses to the Queen by Robert Rollock, Andrew Melvin, and John Johnston, and to Mrs Inglis herself, by the same three, are prefixed; with a portrait of Mrs Inglis in a very quaint head-dress, with peaked top, and large fan-like wings. There is no entry to show how or when the book came to Christ Church; and the only possessor's name in the book is that of one "Anne Ancram." (This was Lady Anne Stanley, daughter of William Earl of Derby, who became the second wife of Sir Robert Ker, Earl of Ancram.)

A tres haute, tres excellente et tres puissante Princesse Elizabeth,
Roine d'Angleterre, France, et Ireland,—

MADAME,—Il ne desplaira pas a vostre Ma^{te} que ie prens la hardiesse de vous faire offre de ce mien labeur et fruicts de ma plume, ne ayant chose plus singuliere pour vous presenter, sinon pour la varieté de l'écriture, de laquelle ie pense auoir tracé autant de façons diverses qu'aucun autre de ce temps, au moins pour l'excellence du sujet digne d'une Roine, laquelle entre tous les Princes approche de plus près a ce Royal Prophete. Les historiens du temps passé ont laissé par escrit, que les anciens, a ceux desquels ils avoient tiré grand proufit, qu'ils reputerent pour dieux, chacun selon leur qualité faisoit quelques offrande: Et que le pauvre bon homme n'ayant autre present apporte a ce grand Roy un peu d'eau claire, ce qu'il receut d'aussi bon cœur qu'aucune autre offrande tant feust elle riche ou grande: Les deux mailles de la pauvre vefue, ne furent pas reiettees pour leur petitesse. Ce qui m'a induitte avec plus grande confidence, quoy que ie sois femme, et de petite condition, d'esperer que ce petit present, escrit de ma main, au pais estranger, pourra obtenir place en quelque coing retiré de vostre cabinet, et acquerir telle faueur auprès de vostre Ma^{te} si Royale et gratuite que ayant recerchee plus curieusement, selon la rare naifueté de vostre censure, la diuersité des caracteres, tirees d'une main feminine, que ie ne soie plus condamnee pour temeraire, ains ma pauureté de biens, et d'esprit, et de main qui m'empeschent d'offrir present plus digne de vostre grandeur excusée et la volonté prise en bonne part. Et si i'eusse peu faire quelque chose de

plus rare, ou par ma plume mettre en avant œure qui meritast d'estre veu de si bon œil, vostre Ma^{te} sentiroit comme ie l'ay tousiours reputée entre les premiers dieux d'ici bas, et augmenteroye mes offrandes d'aussi bon cœur que ie supplie le Roy des rois honorer vostre Ma^{te} en toutes vos actions de sa presence par son St Esprit, vous donnant en toute félicité tres heureuse et longue vie. De Lislebourg en Escosse ce xxvii. de Mars 1599. De vostre Maïesté la tres humble, tres affectionnée, & tres obeissante seruante a iamais,

ESTHER ANGLAIS, Française.

IV.

LES PROVERBES DE SALOMON, ESCRITES EN DIUERSES SORTES DE LETTRES, PAR ESTHER ANGLAIS, FRANÇOISE. A LISLEBOURG EN ESCOSSE, 1599.

In the Bodleian Library, Oxford, in small 4to, ending on p. 67. After the title are the armorial bearings of Robert Earl of Essex, Queen Elizabeth's favourite, followed by sets of Latin verses addressed to the Earl of Essex, and also to the writer, by Andrew Melville, Robert Rollock, and John Johnston, and her own portrait on the fifth leaf. A letter in French to Robert Comte d'Essex, is dated "De Lislebourg en Escosse, ce xiii. d'Auril 1599," signed "ESTHER ANGLAIS, Française." "This delicate performance (says Ballard) gains the admiration of all who see it; every chapter is wrote in a different hand, as is the dedication, and some other things, which makes near forty several sorts of hands," &c.

John Evelyn, in his visit to Oxford, in 1654, mentions in his Diary this volume as having been shown him in the Bodleian Library, among "the nicer curiosities." It is at the present day exhibited to visitors among choice specimens of writing and illumination, in one of the glass-cases.

The portrait from this MS. was engraved for Harding's Biographical Mirror, vol. iii. 1801, and likewise accompanies this notice.

V.

LE LIVRE DE L'ECCLESIASTE ENSEMBLE LE CANTIQUE DE SALOMON, ESCRITES EN DIVERSES SORTES DE LETTRES, PAR ESTHER ANGLAIS, FRANÇOISE. A LISLEBOURG, EN ESCOSSE, 1599.

On the reverse of this title is a shield of the arms of Anthony Bacon, the fourth son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, and brother of Lord Bacon. Opposite to this is the portrait of the writer herself, which she usually intro-

duced in her subsequent volumes, representing her standing with a pen in her hand before a table, on which there is a lute, an open piece of music, and an inkstand. This beautiful little volume is in the possession of Felix Slade, Esq., and was exhibited to the Antiquaries of London, and also at the Archæological Institute at their meeting at Worcester. Mr Holmes, in the "Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London" (vol. i. new series, p. 316), has given a minute description of the volume, including the French dedication,—“A tres honorable tres docte et vertueux personnage M. Antoine Bacon,” &c., dated from Edinburgh, 14th of April 1599. It likewise has the Latin verses prefixed, by Andrew Melville, Robert Rollock, and John Johnston.

VI.

HISTORIE MEMORABLES GENESIS, PER ESTHERUM INGLIS, GALLUM. EDINBURGI, ANNO 1600.

This volume is mentioned by Thomas Hearne, in his notes to "Guil. Neubrigensis," *Historia*, 1719, p. 752. It was then in the hands of Philip Harcourt, Esq., Gentleman Commoner of Worcester College, in this University.

VII.

OCTONARIES, UPON THE VANITIE AND INCONSTANCIE OF THE WORLD. WRITTIN BY ESTHER INGLIS. THE FIRST OF JANUAR 1600; consisting of fifty oblong octavos, in French and English verse, and with her own portrait.

This MS. is described in W. Massey's "Origin and Progress of Letters," p. 144. London, 1763, 8vo. It then belonged to Mr Cripps, in Bridge Row, London.

VIII.

LE LIVRE DE L'ECCLÉSIASTE ET LE CANTIQUE DES CANTIQUES. A LISLEBOURG EN ECOSSE, CE XXI AVRIL, 1601. 12mo.

This MS. is noticed in the "Biographie Universelle," &c., tome xiii. p. 157, as in the possession of M. Walckenaer. It has her own portrait, with the usual motto—

“De l'Eternel
Le bien,
De moy le mal
Ou rien.”

IX.

A volume in oblong 4to, in the old vellum cover, but the title is lost, dedicated—"To the Right Noble Vertvovs and Honorable Ladie Svsanna Ladie Herbert."

It begins,—“The Bee draweth nocht (most noble and vertuous Ladie), hwny from the fragrant herbis of the garding for her self: no more haue I payned my self many yearis to burie the talent God has geuen me in obliuion.” . . .

And is dated “At London the xx of Februar 1605.

Your L. humble and obedient seruant
for euer to command

ESTHER INGLIS.

This volume contains 40 leaves, of specimens of various styles of writing, with Alphabets of letters. It was exhibited in the temporary Museum of the Archæological Institute at Dorchester, in August 1865, by the Rev. Mr Bingham. On the inside cover is written, “Mrs Wynyard, Kensington Palace. 140 different handwritings besides the dedication.”

X.

A volume of Texts of Scripture, and small groups of flowers, noticed by Mr Holmes, in the possession of Mr Caldecott, of Andover, and has this inscription,—“A new year's guift for the right Honourable and vertuous Lord, my Lord Sydney—1st January 1606.”

XI.

ARGUMENTA SINGVLORVM CAPITVM EVANGELII MATTHÆI APOSTOLI, PER TETRASTICHA MANV ESTHERÆ INGLIS EXARATA. LONDINI XXVI IANVARIÏ, 1607.

Small oblong volume, containing title, dedication (as follows), and 28 leaves, neatly written in different characters, with drawings of flowers at the head of each leaf; in the original gilt binding. In the possession of John Scott Moncreiff, Esq., Edinburgh.

“To the Right Honorable and most Noble Lord William Earle of Morton, Lord of Dalkeyth, &c.

“MY LORD,—That one unknown to your Lo: has emboldned hir selfe to

present you with a few grapes of hir collection, I hope your Lo: shal not altogether mislyk therof nather yit trust I to be estemed impudent in transending the limites of schamefastnes (wherwith our sexe is commonlie adorned) in offring this small work of my pen and pensill to y^r Lo: For the Bee draweth not hony from the fragrant flouris of the gardein for her selfe allone, no more have I endeavored to attayne to sum small perfection in this facultie to hyd or cover the same.

“Therefore sen I hard of y^r cumming to this countrie, I have bene exercised in perfyting this little book dedicated to y^r Lo: Beseeching you accept of it and the rather becaus it is a womans work. Thus assuring my selfe thir blossomes I have collected of Dame Flora shall have sum hid corner in your Lo: cabinet, I pray God (most noble Lord) to have you allways in his keeping.

By your Lo: most humble seruand

ESTHER INGLIS.

Cap. i. 4 lines.—Maires numerant sancti et primordia Christi.

Cap. ii.—Fœlici veniunt deducti sydere Persæ.

XII.

CINQUANTE OCTONAIRES SVR LA VANITÉ ET INCONSTANCE DV MONDE. DEDIEZ A TRESILLVSTRE ET PVISSANT SEIGNEVR LODOWIC DVC DE LENOX & C: POVR SES ESTRENNES. ESCRIT ET ILLVMINE PAR ESTHER INGLIS 1607.

This title, within a small ornamented border of flowers. It is a little volume, oblong, measuring $3\frac{7}{8}$ by $5\frac{3}{8}$. In the library of the Right Hon. Sir George Clerk of Penicuik, Bart.

After the title, and dedication to Ludovic Duke of Lennox, is the writer's own portrait, “ESTHER INGLIS · ANNO · 1607;” with an open book and a pen in her hand, but the metallic colours have changed, and the face is nearly obliterated. Then follow the Octonaires, on 50 leaves, in different styles of writing; each leaf having a flower at the top, neatly drawn.

A Tresillvstre et Puissant Seigneur Lodowic Duc de Lennox, &c :

MONSEIGNEUR,—Encores que ie n'ay jamais en cest heur de presenter quelque œuvre de ma main a vostre Excellence, toutes fois vostre grandeur et vertu laquelle n'est ignorée a personne de ce Royaume m'estant

représentée par plusieurs, J'ay pris la hardiesse de vous faire offre de ce petit ouvrage escrit et tracé par ma plume, laquelle estant en quelque estime a l'endroit d'aucuns ne peut croire qu'elle soit digne d'aucun loz si leur opinion, n'est confirmée par vostre excellent iugement. Quelle quelle soit elle est vouée a vostre Ex^{ce} la suppliant en toute humilité de recevoir fauorablement ce que i'ay formé et dedie pour vos Estrennes au commencement de c'est année, que ie supplie Dieu.

Monseigneur de la vous donner bonne, heureuse, et selon vos saints desirs suivie a l'advenir d'autant d'années de ceste sorte qu'auoit le sage NESTOR vos vertus ne meritantes moins, et vostre prudent conseil servant autant a sa Majesté que fit le sien au Roy Agamemnon. Ainsi baisant tres humblement les mains de vostre Excellence, jè demeureray

a jamais,

Vostre treshumble servante,

ESTHER INGLIS.

XIII.

LES QUATRAINS DU SIEUR DE PYBRAC, DEDIEZ A TRESILLUSTRE ET TRES NOBLE SEIGNEUR MONSEIGNEUR LE CONTE DE SALISBERRIE POUR SES ESTRENES DE L'AN 1607. ESCRIT ET ILLUMINÉ PAR MOI ESTHER INGLIS.

This little oblong volume I obtained not long since at a London sale, in a loose, sadly mutilated state, the small flowers or ornaments at the head of most of the leaves having been cut out. One or two of these happen to have escaped notice, and serve to show the same style of illumination as in No. xii.

XIV.

SPECIMENS OF VARIOUS STYLES OF WRITING.

This volume, in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, has lost its title or dedication. It consists of 21 leaves in oblong 4to, with specimens of penmanship. It was presented to the Society by Hugh Stuart, Esq. of Allanbank, 24th April 1828.

XV.

SPECIMENS OF VARIOUS STYLES OF WRITING.

A volume somewhat similar with the above, oblong size, 4to, of 36 leaves, having no title or dedication to ascertain its date and first proprietor. It consists of specimens of exquisite penmanship in a great

variety of styles, with ornamented capital letters. Nothing can exceed the beauty of its execution. In the same volume are some folding leaves. One is the copy of a Royal Warrant in favour of Bartholomew Kello, printed at page 288. Another a Latin version of the 104th Psalm in double columns, translated by Mr George Geddie; there are also two elaborate pen and ink drawings, in the style of engravings, being portraits of Henry IV. of France and Gabrielle D'Estelle his mistress.

This volume I bought so long since as the year 1828, at the sale of Mr Constable's library.

XVI.

Another volume in my possession differs from Mrs Esther's various manuscripts, being simply, without any ornamental writing, an imitation of the types of a printed book, 35 leaves, 4to. It contains a translation by her husband, entitled A TREATISE OF PREPARATION TO THE HOLY SUPPER OF OUR ONLY SAVIOUR AND REDEEMER JESUS CHRIST. Proper for all those who would worthely approach to the Holy Table of our Lord. Moreover a Dialogue contending the Principal poynts which they who would communicate should knowe and understand. Translated out of French in English for the benefite of all who truly loue the Lord Jesus. By BARTHOLOMEW KELLO, Person of Willingale Spayne in the Countye of Essex.

It has the following dedication:—

To the Right Honorable Sir David Murray Knight Gent: of the Prince his Bed Chalmer, and Maister of his Robbs, &c.

“The temporall giufts of God (right honorable, and worthy to be honoured) bestowed upon man (if they be not sanctified) are giuen for there greater distruction: as the celeritie of Asahel made him swiftly to ryn upon the Speir¹ of Abner: the beauty and quantity of Absaloms hair tyed him fast to one Oke² in the Woodes of Ephraim. Pompeys virtue caused the losse of his head: Cæsars power was intolerable to Cassius, and therefore by him and his complices was he cruellie killed in the Senat house: Cicerois eloquence was inuoyd of Salustius, and procured his death by the hand of Antonius. So that I affirme altho all the naturall qualities vnder heaven wer in any one (if possible so could be) if they be not regenerat and sanctified but ignorant of the Lord Jesus and voyd of heauenlie graces, they have no true qualitie but a few accidents of Nature, that shall perish with them and cause

¹ 2 Sam. 2 ch. 23. v.

² 2 Sam. 18 ch. 9. v.

their greater judgement: for it is wele set furth by that Ethenick Poet Virgill in *Ætina*, “*Est meritū pietas homini tutissima virtus.*” I writ this Sir to yow, esteeming you in my hart most happy on whome God hes multiplied many good gifts and graces not only of the body, but lykewise hath giuen you a beautyfull soule: So that truly it may be said to you which Our Sauour sayes to the faythfull soule Behold thou art fair¹ my love. The beautie of the soule is properlye that which neuer taketh end but lesteth for ever in heaven. That is the treu beautie which can not be blotted out, nor consumed by seiknesse, no not by death: the beautie of the bodie is short, corruptible, and of a moments continuance, but that of the soule is perpetuall. This beautie surpassis all that is beautifull in the Univers, alsfar as the heaven in beautie surpasseth the earth. Therefor thrie tymes double blessed yow, on whome God hath not only bestowed temporal beautie and many gifts of the body, but lykewise a most godlie and beautifull soule. And since I haue the experience of your godlye disposition I could do no les being more obliged to you nor any els liuing, nor to imploy the trauails of my pen upon this litle Treatise translated in Englishe by my Husband the which he is myndit to dedicat to you in sign of his thankfulness so sone as he shal cause printe the same. I haue in the meane season made the more hast because I know it is a sujet will content you, and to all who truly fear the Lord (when it cumis out) will not be improfitable. Thus trusting (right honorable) you shal accept heirof in good part, as you haue ever doone anything proceeding from me. I pray th’ Almightye God always to continew and increas with you, his blessings spirituall and temporall to his glory and your euerlasting confort. London this first of January 1608.—Your most humble seruand,

ESTHER INGLIS.

On referring to Newcourt’s Repertorium (vol. ii. p. 670), it appears that Bartholomew Kello was collated to the Rectory of Willingale Spain, near Chelmsford, in Essex, 21st December 1607, the King being patron. The date of his successor’s appointment is not given.

XVII.

A BOOK OF THE ARMES OF ENGLAND DOONE BY ME ESTHER INGLIS, JANUAR THE FIRST 1609.

This title, on the first leaf, is with a fleur-de-lys, powdered with little gilt dots. Within a heart formed by a wreath of green leaves and red and gold flowers, surmounted by a hand holding a golden pen, is written the dedication—TO THE MOST EXCELLENT PRINCE HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES. Sir, as your Highnes sees heir the figure of a heart and hand, even so the lively heart and band of hir who formed it, so long as I

¹ 4 Cant.: l: v.

breath, as vowed to your Most Excellent Highnes seruice. Receiue then, Sir, in good pairt this litle mytte doone by

Your most humble seruand, ESTHER INGLIS.

This is followed by her own portrait. It is a charming volume, bound in green velvet, worked on both sides with the Prince of Wales' plume in silver, amidst diapering of seed pearls wrought after a very artistic manner. The book itself is a sort of small peerage, with the shields and crests of sixty-four members of the House of Lords, nicely tricked in their proper colours and metals by the skilful hand of Esther Inglis, who offered this exquisite little work as a New Year's gift to Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of James I. In the Proceedings of the Archæological Institute, 1862, p. 188, along with the preceding description, is given the subsequent history of the volume, tracing it into the possession of Sir Thomas Rokewood Gage, Bart. This beautiful little volume was exhibited at a meeting of the Archæological Institute of London, 2d May 1862; and again that year at Worcester, where I had an opportunity to examine it.

XVIII.

THE PSALMS OF DAVID, Written by me, ESTHER INGLIS AT WILLINGALL SPAIN, THE 1ST OF JANUARY 1612.

This volume is mentioned by Harding as containing her portrait done by herself. It was in Dr Farmer's sale in 1798 (No. 8098); and again in Bindley's sale, 1820. Its present possessor is not known.

XIX.

LES PSEAVMES DE DAVID. ESCRIT PAR ESTHER INGLIS, LE XV. DE SEPT. 1612.

In the Royal Library, Stockholm. The volume measures $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches by 2. The title is within a narrow gilt border. On the next leaf the EPISTRE commences,—

A tres hant tres excellent et vertueux Prince, HENRY Prince de la Grande Bretagne.

SIRE—L'excellence de quelque chose, et le profit qui en reuiet, est-ce principalement qui a accoustumé d'induire les hommes a desirer et rechercher tant la cognoissance que la iouissance d'icelle. Or ces deux

qualitez se retrouvans trop plus grandes et trop plus certaines sans comparaison en la Sainte Bible, qu'en œuvre qui ait iamais este faite, ni qui se puisse faire ci après, c'est vne chose merueilleusement indigne et honteuse aux hommes, que ce liure soit celui duquel on se soucie le moins, pour en bien coignoistre le contenu, et tascher d'en recevoir le fruit qui nous y est non seulement offert, mais aussi gratuitement présenté et donné.

After some general remarks on the Book of Psalms, it proceeds,—

Les Hebreux ont intitulé ce Liure d'un nom qui signifie louanges, ou cantiques pour monstres que cest un recueil des chansons vraiment spirituelles qui ont esté diuinement inspirees pour enseigner comment il faut celebrer les œuvres admirables de l'Eternel. Et nonobstant, Sire, que ceste narration ci dessus sembleroit chose temeraire de ma part et superflue enuers vous, a qui Dieu a donné tant de graces, et a qui tant de plumes s'efforcent de louer et exalter, iusques au ciel, les grandes, saintes, et rares vertus, desquelles sa Diuine Maiesté, a orné vostre Royale personne, vous faisant paroistre et reluire sur tous les Princes de vostre aage en la Chrestienté et admirer de tout l'Vniuers. Toutesfois me persuadent de vostre faueur accoustumee, l'ay prins la hardiesse de vous offrir treshumblement, et en toute reuerence, pour la seconde fois, ce Liure de Pseaumes en petit volume, en langue François, tracee d'une main femeline, et d'autant plus volontiers que i'ay entendu le premier vous auoir esté pour agreable, m'estimant bien heureuse, en ceste miene condition solitaire, s'il y a quelque traict que puisse contenter vostre haut et diuin Esprit. Et sous ceste esperance Je prie Dieu, SIRE, qu'il vous donné en sa grace, tout le bien, l'honneur, et contentement, que ie vous scaurois iamais desirer : comme estant

De vostre Altesse, la treshumble et tres obeissante seruante.

ESTHER INGLIS.

The Psalms are in prose. After the Epistle to Prince Henry is a small miniature portrait of herself, and some French verses, signed VELDE, "A l'vnique et souveraine Dame de la plume, ESTHER INGLIS."

Prince Henry, it is well known, died within two months of the date of this dedication. How the volume found its way to Sweden, I was not able to ascertain.

XX., XXI., XXII.

QUATRAINS DU SIEUR DE PYBRAC.

Three several copies, in the original velvet covers, of these favourite Quatrains are in the British Museum. One is inscribed to Messire David Murray, whom she styles her Mæcenas, in 1614. The second, in 1615, to Charles Prince of Wales. The third, to her "respected friend Mr Walter Balcanquall, Bachelor of Divinitie." He was afterwards D.D. and Dean of Durham.

XXIII.

OCTONAIRES SVR LA VANITÉ ET INCONSTANCE DV MONDE ESCRITS PAR ESTHER INGLIS, A LISLEBOVRG, AOVSST 1615.

Within a light ornamented border. Small oblong 24mo, in the original gilt binding, in the possession of James Douglas of Cavers, Esq.

After the title is a leaf of dedication—"Pour Monsieur treshonoré Monsieur André Ramsay, fidele Ministre de la parole de Dieu, a Lislebourg, Esther Inglis, souhaite tout bonheur."

See next No. xxiv. Some leaves have been cut out; it begins with Octo. V. and continued to Octo. L., written in imitation of printing—the first letter of each being gilt.

XXIV.

LES CINQVANTE OCTONAIRES SVR LA VANITÉ ET INCONSTANCE DV MONDE. ESCRITS PAR ESTHER INGLIS POVR SON DERNIER ADIEV. CE I. IOVR DE L'AN. 1616.

This little volume is a repetition of Nos. XII. and XXIII. It is in the original gilt binding, measuring about 3 inches by 2. It was presented to the Advocates Library, Edinburgh, about the year 1700, by Mr Alexander Hay, King's Apothecary. It has no dedication, but on the cover is an erased inscription, which seems to read "For my cousin Mr Robert Frenche, Clerk of Kircaldie, 17 Junij 1616."

XXV.

LES SIX VINGTS ET SIX QVATRAINS DE GUY DE FAVR SIEVR DE PYBRAC. ESCRITS PAR ESTHER INGLIS POVR SON DERNIER ADIEV. CE 21 IOVR DE IVIN. 1617.

This little oblong volume, in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is another

repetition of Nos. XX., XXI., and XXII. On the second leaf is this inscription—"To the Right Worshipfull my singular friende JOSEPH HALL, Doctor of Divinity and Deane of Worchester, ESTHER INGLIS wisheth all increase of true happiness June xxi. 1617." The following leaf has her portrait as usual. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the Dean of Worcester became successively Bishop of Exeter and Norwich.

XXVI.

AN EMBLEMATICAL DRAWING OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, with verses in Latin and English, inscribed to John Earl of Mar, drawn and written by ESTHER INGLIS, Janu. 1622.

It is to be regretted that we cannot ascertain where this interesting drawing is preserved. It occurs as No. 1918, in the Sale Catalogue of the remarkable library of James West, President of the Royal Society of London, sold by auction in 1770.

XXVII.

FIFTY EMBLEMS SELECTED FROM THE VOLUME OF GEORGETTE DE MONTENAY, BY ESTHER INGLIS, 1624.

This most elaborate performance, executed with pen and ink in the style of engraving, is in folio, bound in crimson satin, embroidered, and is preserved among the Royal Manuscripts in the British Museum. 17 D. xvi.

On the first leaf is this memorandum—

"GENTLE READER

"LEAST YOU SHOULD SOYLE THIS BOOKE IN SEARCHING OVT THE NAMES IN PARTICULAR OF ANY OF THE FIFTIE NOBLES therein contained. You have a Table in the last leafe thereof that shall direct you to them be the number of the EMBLEMES."

Follows the title within an ornamented compartment:—

Ce Livre contenant Cinquante Emblemes Chrestiens premierement inuentez par la noble damoiselle Georgette de Montenay en France, forts plaisants & delectables a lire & voir lesquels sont, a present, escrits, tirez, et tracez, par la main et plume de moy ESTHER INGLIS, l'an de mon aage Cinquante et trois.

A Lislebovrg en Escosse, l'an 1624.

This volume, which from several dates appears to have been executed in the years 1622, 1623, and 1624, is dedicated (with a drawing of a

Phoenix, &c.,) "To the Thrice illustrious and most excellent Prince CHARLES the onlie Sonne of our Sovereigne Lord the King." It begins:—

My pen is now prepared to writte to your HIGHNESSE the onlie PHOENIX of this age, whose innumerable graces and matchlesse virtues, hath exceedingly dazeled the eyes and amazed the minds of most men and weemen. Onlie, as it is written of Adrian the Emperour that he perfectly (euer afterward) did know them that had but once spoken vnto him, I beseech the Almighty God of his mercie so to blesse your Highnesse with such a happy and good memorie, that amongs all those that haue, or shall either speake or consecrat anye of their trauails to your Highnesse you may remember me your Graces humble hand-maid. And after that be your Highnesse direction thir fiftie Emblemes, the fruits of my pen (but the inuention of a noble Lady of France whose portraict is in the forfront heerof) haue bene presented to the sight and view of fittie of the Kings Majestie and your Highnesse worthys whose names ar insert therein, may be brought bake. And as the curiows works of Aholiab and Bezalcel wer to be sene long after ther dayes in the Temple: So this small pledge of my duetifull and verie humble obeissance may haue sum retired place in your Highnesse Cabinet. Thus having transcended the bounds of modestie, where with our Sexe is commanlie adorned, with all humilitie I beseech your Highnesse not to reject the good meaning of your most humble seruand and obedient subject, but to pardon hir errours, who prayeth God to multiplie all graces and blessings vpon your Highnesse.

Your Highnesse most humble
hand-maid and faithful subject
ESTHER INGLIS.

After the dedication comes the portrait of Georgette de Montenay, copied with the pen, and some French and Latin lines underneath.

Then a similar leaf containing an oval portrait of Esther Inglis herself, with some Latin lines in her commendation, which were written by Andrew Melville, under her portrait in No. IV., in 1599 (see the engraving).

In *Emblemata Christiana* *Estheræ Inglis* (cujus effigiem hic vides) manu perarata et descripta.

Si mihi mens, tibi quæ manus est, ego pingere tentem
Mente mea, manus hoc quod tua pinxit Opus.
Si mihi, quæ tibi mens, manus esset, pingere tentem
Ipse manu, mens hoc quod tua, pinxit Opus
Sed mihi nec manus hæc, nec mens: Tua pingere sola
Et mentem manus, et mens queat vna manum.

ALIVD.

Quod Natura, quod Ars, quod nec Natura, nec villa Ars
Pinxerit hoc tua mens, pinxerit ista manus.

The similar lines by Rollock and Johnston follow—

In Emblemata Christiana, calamo exarata ab Esthëra Inglis fœmina varijs Dei donis adornato. R. R. [2 lines and 6 lines.]

In Estheram Inglis rarissimam Fœminam." [4 lines and 6 lines.] Signed I. I.

Next are three leaves of Emblems addressed to King James, Prince Charles, and Elizabeth Queen of Bohemia, with verses in Latin and French underneath each.

Within an ornamented border, on a separate leaf:—

"Heir follows Fiftie Emblems dedicat to Fiftie of the Kings Majesties and Princis Highnes Worthies, as by their severall names is expressed."

Each leaf contains an Emblem with verses in Latin and French, addressed to fifty of the chief persons of rank at the English court, selected and copied with great neatness from the original French volume. It was first published, with a hundred plates engraved by Pierre de Woëriot, at Lyon, 1571, 4to, and there are various later editions in different languages. The author of these hundred emblems dedicated them to the same number of persons of distinction in France.

One of the later editions (of which a copy is preserved in the Museum) is intitled, "A Booke of Armes, or Remembrance, wherein ar One Hundred Godly Emblemata, in pièces of brasse very fine graven, and adorned pleasant to bé sêen; First by the noble and industrious maide Georgetta de Montenay, invented and only in the French tongue elaborated; But now, in severall Languages, as; Latin, Spanish, Italian, Highdutch, English, and Lovedutch, méetre or verse wys, of the same manner declared and invented. Printed by care, and charges, of Johann Carl Vnckels, a Bookeseller in Franckfurtt au Mayn, Anno mdcxix." 8vo, pp. 447.

Some English verses (40 lines), "In commendation of the Nobel Georgetta de Montenay, and her Emblemata," are prefixed, signed "I. H."

In describing this MS., Mr Holmes has pointed out the circumstance, that Mrs Esther had deemed it prudent to cancel the third leaf, which was dedicated to Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex and Lord Treasurer; but who, before the volume had left her hands, having fallen

into disgrace, the leaf was cut out, and his Lordship's name in the Index covered with a slip of paper.

XXVIII.

THE BOOKE OF THE PSALME[s] OF DAVID IN PROSE. WRITTEN BE ESTHER INGLIS IN THE FIFTIE THREE YEERE OF HIR AGE AT EDENBROUGH THE V. MARCH [1]624.

This title is within a narrow ornamented border of flowers, followed by a dedication "To the thrice Illustrious and most excellent Prince Charles Prince of Great Britaine." It is dated "this v. of April 1624 at Edenbrugh, your Highnes most humble seruant and faithful subject ESTHER INGLIS."

A small vol., pp. 297, written in imitation of print; in curious ornamented flagree binding. It is preserved in the Royal Library, Copenhagen. MSS. 3380.

Along with her own portrait, the writer also repeats the Latin verses addressed to her nearly thirty years before by Melville, Rollock, and Johnston, along with four lines by "B. K.," her (husband Kello), in praise of this specimen of writing,—*calamo dilectæ conjugis*, according to whom she, by the use of her pen, excelled Apelles. Being completed within three months of her death, it may be reckoned her latest production, and cannot be said to exhibit any declension in its style from the finer examples of her skill.

MRS ESTHER INGLIS, spouse of BARTHILMO KELLO, indweller in Leith, died on the 30th of August 1624.

Robert Boyd of Trochrig, an eminent Scottish divine, long a minister in France, and for a short time Principal of the University of Edinburgh, thus records her death in his Obituary:—

"In the moneth of July 1625, having gone to Edinburgh, I learned of the death of Esther English, wife of Bart. Kello, a woman endowed with many good gifts. Among others she was the first writer of any woman in her time, of which I have some beautiful monuments under her hand, of her friendship towards me and my wife." (Life of Boyd, in Wodrow's Biog. Collections, Maitland Club, vol. iii. p. 269.) In his original Diary, written in French, Boyd calls her "Esther Angloys." His words are:—

“Ce moys de Juillet 1625, étant à Edin., j'appris la mort d'Esther Angloys, femme de Bart. de Kello; damoysselle doué de plusieurs beaux dons; et entre autres excellent escrivain, par dessus toutes les femmes de son siecle, dont j'ay quelques beaux monuments, de sa main et son amitie enverse ma femme et moy.”

The Testament Dative, &c. of ESTHER INGILLIS was confirmed by the Commissaries of Edinburgh, 7th March 1625. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Marie Kellois, are mentioned. She could not boast of worldly possessions or wealth, inasmuch as the value of her goods was estimated at L.90, 13s. 4d., while her debts, consisting of borrowed money, came to L.246, 13s. 4d., leaving a deficiency of L.156 Scots.

Her husband survived her fourteen years, and is styled “Barthilmo Kello, minister of God's word, and indweller in Edinburgh.” He died on the 15th March 1638, and he likewise was by no means affluent, as “the restis of free geir,” (as it was called), after deducting L.124, 10s. of debt, amounted only to L.74, 10s. Scots money.

There is no occasion to say much of their descendants. Samuel Kello, their only son, was educated at Edinburgh, where he took his degree of A.M. in 1618. His name occurs as a writer of Latin verse, among those who congratulated King James on revisiting Edinburgh in 1617. His “Carmen Gratulatorium,” addressed to his Majesty, was printed at Edinburgh that year in a separate form, pp. 12, 4to. A copy in the British Museum, from the old Royal Collection, has some anagrammatic devices, &c., neatly drawn with the pen, probably by his mother. She addressed to the King, in 1620, the following letter in his favour:—

MOST MIGHTIE MONARCHE,

Darre I presume vpon th' honnor and credit that I haue had at diuers tymes to speake your Royal Majesté, and hath euer found your Highnes favour, and vpon the gracious accepting of a litle work by this Youth giuen to your Highnes at Stirueling called *SIDVS CÆLESTE*, as to mak humble suite for this one and last thing to this my only Sonne, who, hauing past his course two yeeres ago, would glaidlie follow Theologie if it shall please God. Yet as Dedalus was not hable to frie him selfe of

his imprisonment in the Isle Creta but by the help of wings mead of pennes and wax: even so my Sonne is not able to frie him selfe of inhabilitie to effectuat this his affection but by the wings of your Ma^{ties}. letter, composed by pen and waxe, through the which he may haue his flight happilie to sum fellowship either in Cambridge or Oxeffoord as occasion shall fall out. Wherefore, Gratiuous King, lett your most humble handmaid find this last fauour in your sight, to direct one of thir noble men by you, to signifie your Highnes will and command vnto your Secretarie, that when this my Sonne shall notifie vnto him of any fellowship, he may receaue without any hinderance your Majesties letter in the strictest maner. For the which I may haue my tossed mynd releaued of the great cair I haue perpetuallie for this said youth. And wee all of vs will neuer cease to beseech God to preserue and prolong your Majesties lyfe, with many happie and prosperous yeeres to Reigne ouer vs. Edenbrugh the xx of Iuin 1620.

Your Ma^{ties}.

most humble subject,

ESTHER INGLIS.

To the King

his most excellent Ma^{tie}.

This supplication seems to have secured his admission to Christ's Church, Oxford, and he afterwards obtained some preferment in the Church. According to information communicated to Ballard, he was minister of Speakshall or Spexall in Suffolk till his death. In Trinity College Library, Dublin, there is a MS. treatise of 33 leaves, by Samuel Kello, entitled "Balme for the Wounded Soule," dedicated to Lady Francis Benningfield; and in the margin is written, "Bungay, January 14, 1628."

I shall only add, that Ballard, after mentioning the names of some eminent caligraphers, says of Mrs Esther Inglis, "many others have been celebrated for their extraordinary talent this way; but this lady has excelled them all; what she has done, being almost incredible. One of the many delicate pieces she wrote was in the custody of Mr Samuel Kello, her great grandson, 1711." He has not specified its title by which it might have been identified; but when he adds, "Others are

remaining in the Castle of Edinburgh," we may safely assert he was very much mistaken.

In regard to the very remarkable skill in penmanship displayed by Esther Inglis in these MSS. there can be no difference of opinion. She has no claims to original genius, but as a caligraphist she is well entitled to a first place among artists of a secondary class, who have devoted themselves to miniature painting and illumination.

[Page 285. This page, with the notice of Nicholas Langlois and his wife, was sent to press before I was aware of having in my own possession two folio leaves in their autograph, containing a Latin letter and verses, addressed by "Nicolaus A. Gallus," to Mr David Lyndsay, minister of Leith. The letter is dated Edinburgh, "9. Calend. Septemb. 1574, quo die multa Christianorum millia, duos abhinc annos, in Galliis, trucidatione perfidiosa e vivis fuerunt sublata," in which he refers to the atrocities in France, and acknowledges his own obligations to Lyndsay. This autograph paper is also curious on another account, as it is written in various styles of penmanship. He says, "Uxor mea vario characteris genere, illa pro viribus in sequenti pagina, me suasore, descripsit." One of the sets of verses is an "Epitaphium Casp. Coligni," &c. At the foot is her signature—

Marie Presot Françoise escriuoit à EDIMBVRGH, le 24. d'Augst. 1574. ~~—~~

We have no occasion to wonder at Esther's training and early skill in calligraphy, when we look at this specimen of her Mother's acquirements in the same art.]

Mr STUART exhibited to the meeting diagrams of some of the sculptures recently brought to light in caves near East Wemyss, in Fifeshire, and pointed out the resemblance which some of the figures showed to the symbols on the sculptured pillars of Scotland. He stated that it would now be necessary to examine all the caves of Scotland, many of which were associated historically with the early Christian missionaries as places of retreat, for sculptures.

MONDAY, 8th January 1866.

PROFESSOR SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, BART., V.P., in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were balloted for and elected Fellows of the Society:—

REV. EDWARD L. BARNWELL, M.A., Ruthin, Wales.
 ROBERT FARQUHARSON, of Haughton, Esq., Aberdeenshire.
 J. LAIDLEY, of Seacliff, Esq., North Berwick.
 WALTER J. TILL, Esq., Manor House, Croydon.

The Donations to the Museum and Library were as follows, and thanks were voted to the Donors:—

(1.) By DAVID D. BLACK, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Portions of a large Cinerary Urn of Reddish Clay, ornamented all over with parallel rows of small incised vertical lines. The urn contained pieces of Calcined Bones.

Two portions of Clay Slate, and an oblong piece of Sandstone, pierced at one extremity, apparently part of a small whetstone.

Also an oval Bead of Bright Blue Glass, with two bands of White Enamel surrounding each extremity. The bead measures $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length.

Small square-shaped portion of Slaty micaceous Sandstone, of which the "Fairy Knowe" is composed.

Found in cairns called "Fairy Knowes," recently examined at Housegard, parish of Weesdale, Shetland.

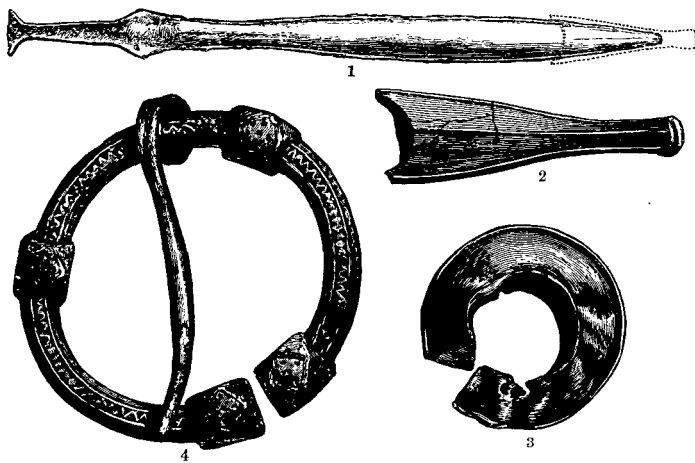
Portions of a Cinerary Urn, similar in character to the one last described; also an irregularly-shaped slab of Sandstone, measuring 11 inches across, and about 1 inch in thickness, which covered the urn. Found on the farm of Flemington, near Housegard.

Hammer of fine-grained stone, 4 inches in length, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth, pierced with a hole for a handle, $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in diameter. It

was found on the farm of Scarpiegarth, Shetland. (See Communication, p. 324.)

(2.) By Mrs BELL, Forth Street, through J. M. Balfour, Esq., W.S., F.S.A. Scot.

Bronze leaf-shaped Sword, measuring 22 inches in length ; the handle-plate pierced with five holes for rivets (see the annexed figure, No. 1).



Bronze Sword and Scabbard Point ; Bronze Brooch and Gold Penannular Ring, found at Gogar, near Edinburgh.

1. Bronze Sword, 22 inches in length (the scabbard point indicated in outline).
 2. Scabbard Point, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. 3. Gold Ornament, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter.
 4. Bronze Brooch, 3 inches in diameter.

Bronze Scabbard Point, with a hole measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length ; it is pierced on each side at about the middle of its length, on the alternate sides of the projecting centre rib ; apparently for its attachment to the scabbard (see figure No. 2.)

Gold Penannular Ring, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter. It is triangular in its section, and is quite plain, or without ornament ; also a

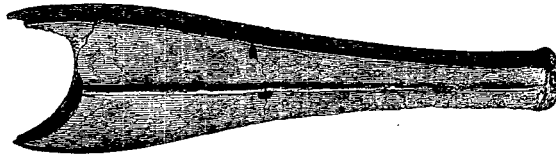
Bronze ring-shaped Brooch, measuring 3 inches in diameter, with an

ornamental pattern cut on one side; with movable pin for attaching it to the dress. See the carefully drawn figure, No. 4.

These four articles were found in the year 1811, in digging a gravel pit opened at the erection of the present Gogarburn House, and a little to the south of it, in the parish of Corstorphine, near Edinburgh.

A somewhat similar Bronze Scabbard Point was found, along with leaf-shaped sword blades, on the farm of Ythsie, parish of Tarves, Aberdeenshire, and was presented to the British Museum by the late Earl of Aberdeen. It is described in the "Horæ Ferales" of the late John M. Kemble.

Another was found, along with four leaf-shaped bronze sword-blades and a spear head; on the lands of Cauldhame, near Brechin, Forfarshire, the property of the Earl of Dalhousie. Two of the Sword Blades and the Scabbard are now in the Museum; they were described and figured in the "Proceedings of the Society," vol. i. p. 181. For the sake of comparison, the figure of the scabbard point has been repeated here.



Bronze Scabbard Point found at Cauldhame, near Brechin.

A Gold Ornament, somewhat corresponding in character to the one now presented, but larger in size, found in a moss in the West Highlands, along with two gold penannular bracelets, was presented to the Museum by Mr Denny, shipbuilder, Dumbarton, and is described in the "Proceedings of the Society," vol. iii. p. 23. Similar ornaments have been found in England and in Ireland.

(3.) By GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Ring of Silver Wire, 1 inch in diameter. Found in excavating the foundation of the "King's Castle," Kirkwall.

Clay Smoking-Pipe, with the usual small bowl of the old clay-pipes. Found in digging in the town of Kirkwall, Orkney.

- (4.) By ROBERT DICKSON, Esq., surgeon, Carnoustie, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.,

Bowl-shaped Sepulchral Urn, measuring 5 inches in height, and about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, of yellowish clay, and rudely ornamented with wavy lines of a punctured character. It was found in the parish of Carmylie, Forfarshire, in a short cist, formed of four flat stones, twelve small round stones being placed below it, and a large stone covering the cist above. The urn contained ashes and burnt bones.

Portion of a small cup-shaped Urn of Clay, 3 inches in height. It is ornamented with straight lines and an alternating Vandyke pattern, and was found while levelling a tumulus on the bank of Dighty Water, near Monifieth, Forfarshire. The cup is similar in character to those described and figured in the "Proceedings of the Society," vol. iii. p. 485.

- (5.) By the Misses DICK LAUDER.

Four Polished Celts of fine-grained stone, measuring from 8 to 11 inches in length, and from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the face. Two of the celts are yellowish in colour, the others are apparently of a dark-green porphyry and basalt.

- (6.) By JAMES SMITH, Esq., Old Bond Street, London.

Tableman, or Whorl, 1 inch in diameter, perforated in the centre, and ornamented on both sides with alternating parallel lines and dots. It was found in the parish of Cruden, Aberdeenshire.

Arrow Head, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, of grayish-coloured flint, with barbs and stem. Found in a tumulus in the parish of Cruden.

Small square-shaped Token of Lead, with a Cross, and below, the letters I. H. S., said to have been found in the ruins of the old church of Cruden.

- (7.) By D. H. ROBERTSON, M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Two Bronze socketed Celts, with Loops, one square shaped in the neck, measures $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and 2 inches across the face; the other, rounded in character, measures $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and 2 inches across the face. They were found, in 1841, in digging near the Citadel, Leith.

Small Iron Key, 4 inches in length, with large heart-shaped Loop or Handle. Found in the old fort of Inversnaid, Stirlingshire.

Ivory Head of a Walking Cane, having cut on it the coronet of a marquis, and below interlaced initials, apparently L. T. D. V.

Chatelaine of jeweller's gold, of three Chains, ending in an ornamental vase, with flowers, and below it, four pendant chains, with swivels.

(8.) By the ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Ancient Bone Skate, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, one extremity being cut to a point. It was found, at a depth of 70 feet, in the parish of St Peter's, at Arches, Lincoln.

Another Specimen, measuring 14 inches in length, pierced with a hole at each extremity. Found, in 1848, at Stixwold Ferry, near Lincoln.

These Skates are usually formed of the cannon bone of the horse.

(9.) By EDWARD BURNS, Esq., Bank Street.

Silver Halfpenny of Edward I. and of Edward III.

Copper Penny of Queen Victoria 1855.

(10.) By GEORGE MOORE, M.D., Hastings (the Author.)

Ancient Pillar Stones of Scotland; their significance and bearing on Ethnology. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1864.

(11.) By the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON.

Archæologia; or, Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquity. 4to. Vol. XXXIX. Part 2. Lond. 1865.

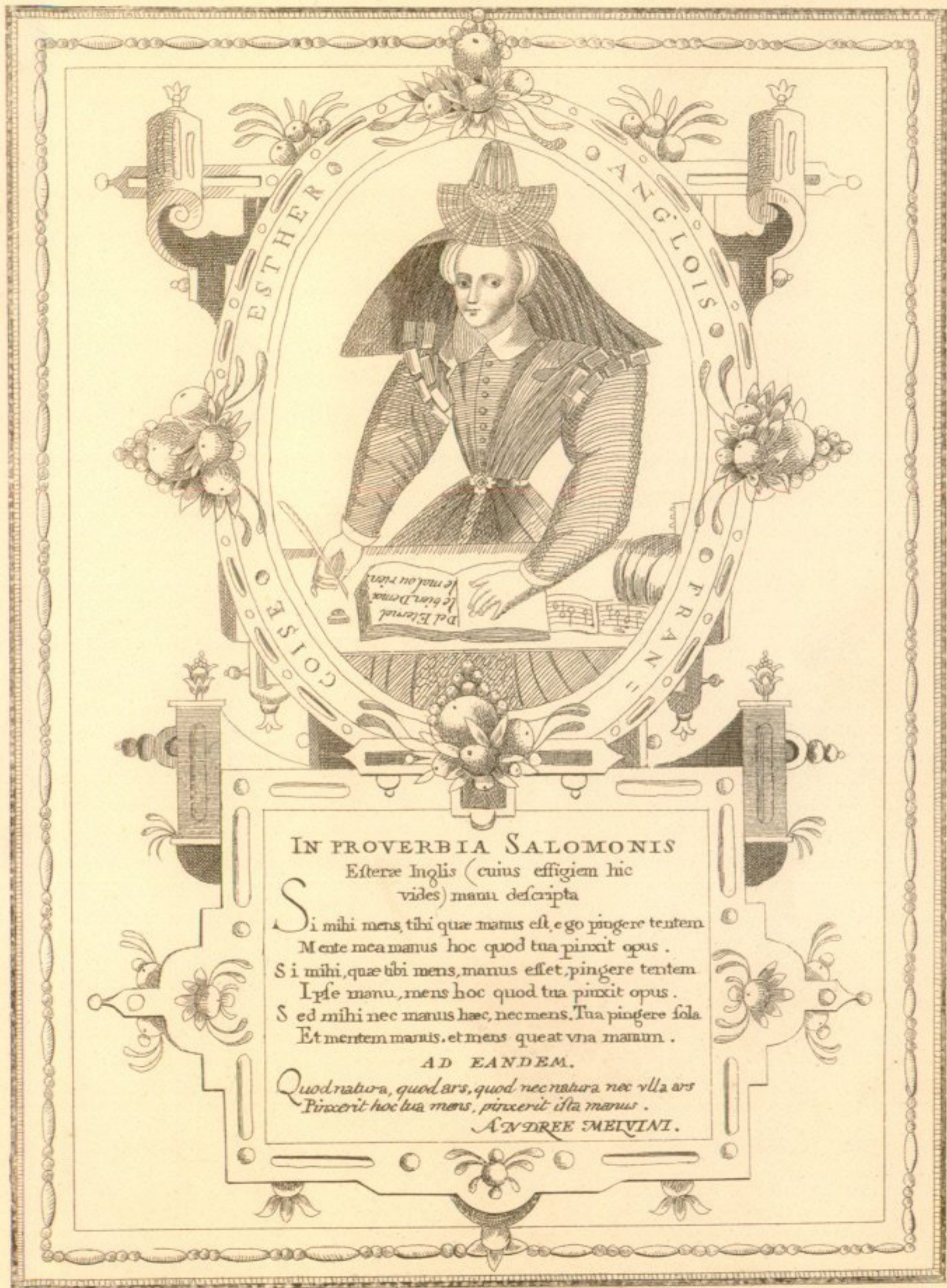
Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Second Series. Vol. II. Part 6. 8vo. Lond. 1864.

(12.) By the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, U.S.

Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, &c., of the Institution for the year 1863. 8vo. Washington, 1864.

Results of Meteorological Observations, made under the direction of the United States Patent Office and the Smithsonian Institution, from the year 1854 to 1859 inclusive. Vol. II. Part 1. 4to. Washington, 1864.

Smithsonian Contributions to Science. Vol. XIII. 4to. Washington, 1863.



IN PROVERBIA SALOMONIS

Estere Ingliſ (cuius effigiem hic
vides) manu deſcripta

Si mihi mens, tibi quæ manus eſt, ego pingere tentem
Mente mea manus hoc quod tua pinxit opus .
Si mihi, quæ tibi mens, manus eſſet, pingere tentem
Ipſe manu, mens hoc quod tua pinxit opus .
Sed mihi nec manus hæc, nec mens. Tua pingere ſola
Et mentem manus, et mens queat vna manum .

AD EANDEM.

*Quod natura, quod ars, quod nec natura nec vlla ars
Pinxerit hoc tua mens, pinxerit illa manus .*

ANDRÉE MELVINI.

From a Drawing by Herſelf, in the Bodleian Library.

G. P. Harding. Sculp.



ANN DOMINI

1595

ESTHER INGLIS.