

II.

JAMES VI. IN TÖNSBERG, 1589. WITH PHOTOGRAPH OF AN OAKEN
TABLET ERECTED IN THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, IN COMMEMORA-
TION OF HIS VISIT. BY PROFESSOR GEORGE STEPHENS, COPENHAGEN,
HON. MEM. S. A. SCOT.

In "Norske Samlinger," vol. i. 8vo, Christiania, 1852, pp. 450-512, the late lamented Norwegian scholar, Professor P. A. Munch, printed for the first time a valuable and interesting historical document, a kind of daybook in Danish, which he thinks may have been written by the chaplain Sering, on the negotiations for the union of King James VI. with the Princess Anna of Denmark. We here follow, step by step, her departure, her arrival in Norway, her residence in Oslo, King James's visit thither, the marriage and its festivities, the journey back to Denmark, the voyage to Scotland, the coronation there, and the return of the Danish gentlemen.

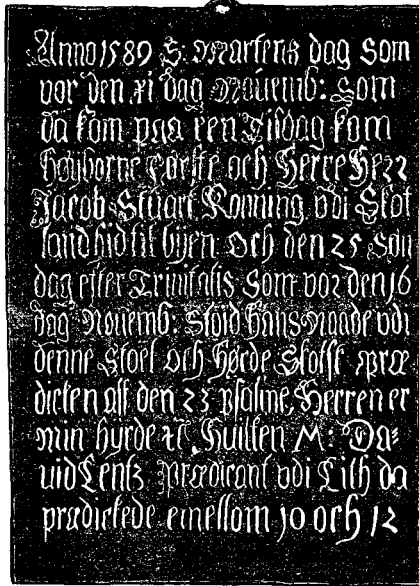
This piece exists in two old transcripts in Denmark, but the original has never turned up.

Its pages inform us that King James reached Tönsberg the 11th of November 1589, and left it for Borre very early on the 17th; but the writer does not detail his majesty's presence in the church at Tönsberg on the 16th of November, the 25th Sunday after Trinity, and the sermon which was preached in his hearing by Magister David Lyndesay.

In memory of this event, however, an oaken tablet was placed in the

church, of which Professor Munch has not reminded his readers, and of which, indeed, he may not have been aware.

The church of St Mary in Tönsberg was old, but had no features of any remarkable architectural or historical interest. It was pulled down about 1864, which was a very foolish and needless thing to do: there-



Oaken Tablet, formerly in St Mary's Church, Tönsberg, recording the visit of James VI. of Scotland, 1589.

after a lot of its "rubbish" was sold by auction. Among other things a local collector bought King James's identical oaken tablet, covered with dirt and plaster, for a nominal sum. He still keeps it in his collection, and refuses to part with it; but he favours his friends with excellent photographs, one of which I here enclose, to be engraved by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, should they deem it worthy. It is in good preservation, and bears the following inscription in Danish:—

Anno 1589 S. Martens dag som vor den xi dag Nouemb : som da kom paa een Tisdag kom høyborne Første och Herre Herr Jacob Stuart Konning vdi Skotland hidtil byen : Och den 25 Søn dag efter Trinitatis som vor den 16 dag Nouemb : Stoid Hans Naade vdi denne Stoel Och Hørde Skotsk Prædicken aff den 23 Psalme, Herren er min hyrde &c. Huilken M : David Lentz Prædicant vdi Lith da prædickede emellom 10 och 12

Anno 1589, S. Martin's day, which was the 11th day of November, which then fell on a Tuesday, came the Highborn Prince and Highness, His Highness Jacob Stuart, King of Scotland, hither to this town. And the 25th Sunday after Trinitatis, which was the 16th day of November, stood His Grace in this Pew and heard a Scottish Sermon on the 23d Psalm, The Lord is my shepherd, &c. Which Master David Lentz, Preacher in Leith, then preacht between 10 and 12.

In answer to a letter of inquiry on the subject my learned friend, Professor Olaf Rygh, keeper of the Museum in Christiania, informs me that he has his eye on this curious relic, and hopes that it will eventually find its way to the National Norwegian collection.