

II.

A NOTICE OF THE MONUMENT OF WILLIAM CARSTARES, PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, ERECTED IN 1727 AND RESTORED IN 1876, WITH A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT. COMMUNICATED BY DAVID LAING, Esq., FOREIGN SECRETARY. (PLATE XXIV.)

The volume of "State-Papers and Letters addressed to William Carstares, Confidential Secretary to King William, afterwards Principal of the University of Edinburgh," was published at Edinburgh in 1774, 4to., by Joseph M'Cormick, DD., Minister at Prestonpans, who became Principal of the University of St Andrews. In the Life of Carstares, which is prefixed, at p. 91, the Editor says, "His (Carstares') body lies interred in the Gray-friars churchyard; where there was a monument erected sometime after, with a suitable inscription in Latin. *The Inscription already begins to fade.* But his eulogium was pronounced long before his death by King William; and ought not so soon to be effaced, when, in the presence of several of his courtiers, he declared, 'That he had known Mr Carstares long: that he knew him well: and knew him to be an Honest Man.'

If such was the state of the Monument within fifty years of its erection, we may wonder that it did not occur to Dr M'Cormick to have preserved the Inscription by inserting it in his Memoir. In 1867, while engaged in revising Brown's Collection of "The Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh," I had a careful search made to

discover the Carstares monument. From the Town Council Records (July 20, 1726) it was known that Principal Carstares had been interred "close by the wall behind Mr Henderson's tomb," when permission was granted there to erect a monument, at the expense of his Sister Sarah Carstares, relict of Principal Dunlop of Glasgow, to the memory of her Father, her Brother, Principal Carstares, and her Son, Professor William Dunlop, Edinburgh. (Introduct. p. lxxxii.)

At a still more recent period, when a new search was instituted at the desire of the Rev. R. Herbert Story of Roseneath (now D.D.), while engaged in completing the Principal's Memoirs, but with a like want of success.

Soon after, however, the publication by Dr Story of his Memoirs of Carstares in 1874, having discovered the following paper, being the original Contract for the erection of the Monument, he sent it to me to see what light it threw upon the previous search to ascertain the actual place of his interment.

*Contract of Agreement betwixt Mr Alexr. Dunlop and
Andrew Miller, 1727.*

Att Glasgow and Edinburgh the twenty and twenty fourth days of March J^m Vij^c and twenty seven years. The parties afternamed, viz,— Mr Alexander Dunlop professor of Greek in the University in Glasgow of the one part and Andrew Miller mason freeman Burgess of Edinburgh of the other part, have agreed in maner and to the effect following: That is to say the said Andrew Miller agrees and obliges himself to build or to cause to be built sufficiently in the Old yeard of the Grayfryers Church of Edinburgh just att the north side of Kincaid of Auchinreoch's tomb a monument of good durable white stone to the memory of the Reverend Mr William Carstairs Principal of the Colledge of Edinburgh and Mr William Dunlop Regius Professor of Divinity there, both deceast, which shall be wrought Aisler work polished to a fine Skin and shall be of the Dimensions with the Carvings & after the orders pourtrayed in a Draught thereof Signed by Mr Joseph Cave engraver to his Majesties Mynt in Scotland & the said Andrew Miller, Subscribing hereunto, with this variation only that in place of the height and breadth of the Monument described in the Draught, that to be built shall be fourteen foots in breadth att the Base or foot of the Monument & twenty one foots in

hight the intermediate parts to be increased proportionally beyond these in the Draught &c.

And furder, he the said Andrew Miller obliges him and his forsaid to Carve or cause to be carved such ane subscription in the pannel of the said Monument as shal be required. And to take his directions and Instructions from time to time in building & finishing the said Monument and in Carving the Inscription thereon from the said Mr Joseph Cave, and to perfect the whole work betwixt and the Tenth day of November next to come ; and for the said Andrew Miller and his forsaid their performing of the premises John Sylverstyn Carver in Edinburgh becomes Cautioner and Surety and binds himself Conjunctly and Severally with and for them to the performance thereof For which Causes and of the other part for the said Alexander Dunlop obliges him his heirs and successours to furnish and provide what lym and sand, shedds, scaffoldings and gangs iron batts and lead for batting with ropes And rough stones for backing and supporting. The Aisler work shal be necessarily made use of in building of the said Monument, and more over besides, the sum of Twenty five pounds sterling money which he the said M^r Alex^r. Dunlop has, by the hands of the said M^r Joseph Cave, instantly advanced and paid to the said Andrew Miller whereof he the said Andrew Miller hereby grants the Receipt ; he the said M^r Alex^r Dunlop obliges him & his forsaid to pay to the said Andrew Miller a furder sum of Fifty pounds sterling money forsaid to make up the sum of Seventy five pounds sterling which is the full price or Consideration money agreed to be paid to him for building the said Monument in manner before specified and that att the Terms and by the proportions following viz^{tt} the Sum of Twenty five pounds sterling money being the equall half of the said Fifty pounds sterling, how soon he the said Andrew Miller shall have finished the half of the work of the said Monument, And the remaining sum of Twenty five pounds sterling to compleat the full price when the work shall be Compleatly finished in manner before mentioned.

In witness whereof they have Subscribed these Presents (written on stamped paper by Donald Campbell Servitor to James Armour Writer to the Signet) as follows, viz^{tt}. The said M^r Alexander Dunlop att Glasgow the twentieth day of March J^m Vj^o and twenty seven years before these witnesses Hugh Rodger Merchant in Glasgow and Archibald Thomson

servitor to the said Mr Alex^r Dunlop witnesses also to his subscribing the marginall note And also the saids Andrew Miller and John Silverstyn have Subscribed the same with the marginall note, att Edinburgh the twenty fourth day of March J^m Vij^o and twenty seven years, before these witnesses, the said James Armour and David Dickson his servitor, the respective dates and names and designations of the Witnesses & term of performance being insert by said David Dickson.

(Names cut out.)

Hugh Rodger *Witness.*

James Armour *Witness.*

Arch^d Thomson *Witness.*

David Dickson *Witness.*

On receiving this Contract, it appeared that while repeatedly and carefully examining the ground near the tomb of the celebrated Alexander Henderson (and somewhat to the north of Principal Robertson's Mausoleum), no attention had ever been paid to a large picturesque Monument with two tall pillars supporting a carved pediment overshadowed with foliage from the other side of the boundary wall of Heriot's Hospital grounds to the south-west. (See Plate XXIV.) But this document did not leave a shadow of doubt for whom it had been erected. The inscription on this Monument, however, was so completely defaced that not a single letter remained, and as no one was able to give it a name, thus it happened strangely enough to be overlooked by the Collector in the printed volume of Epitaphs alluded to.

The dilapidated state of the monument itself suggested that some steps should be taken for its preservation. On consulting Mr JOHN HUTCHESON, R.S.A., sculptor, he reported, that it would be absolutely necessary to substitute two new stone pillars, but that in doing so, it would require great care and skill, as the old stones being hollowed and worn away at the back to such an extent it was a wonder that the whole fabric had not long ago toppled over and caused its entire destruction.

On making the discovery of the existence of the Monument, the Rev. Mr Story imagined he could obtain among the Principal's descendants and other friends a sufficient sum to meet the expenses. At Mr Story's request I applied to the Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh for permission to have it restored, giving a hint at the same time that a subscription towards this purpose would be acceptable. The permission was readily

granted, but the hint was not taken. The sum so procured being limited, Mr Hutcheson, who in the interim had procured an estimate, very handsomely offered to superintend this operation as an Honorary employment.

Although the Monument was thus identified and successfully restored, no copy of the original Inscription could be discovered, either among the Dunlop papers, to which Dr Story had free access, or among such papers of Principal Carstares or his nephew,¹ Charles Mackie, Professor of History in the University of Edinburgh, as were in my own possession, or in other collections. It was therefore thought the best substitute would be a simple statement of names and dates. The Inscription, cut on stone from the Binny quarry, is as follows:—

WILLIAM CARSTARES,
Principal of the University of Edinburgh,
Minister of the High Church, Chaplain to
William III., Queen Anne, and George I.;
Born 11 Feb: 1649. Died 28 Dec: 1715.

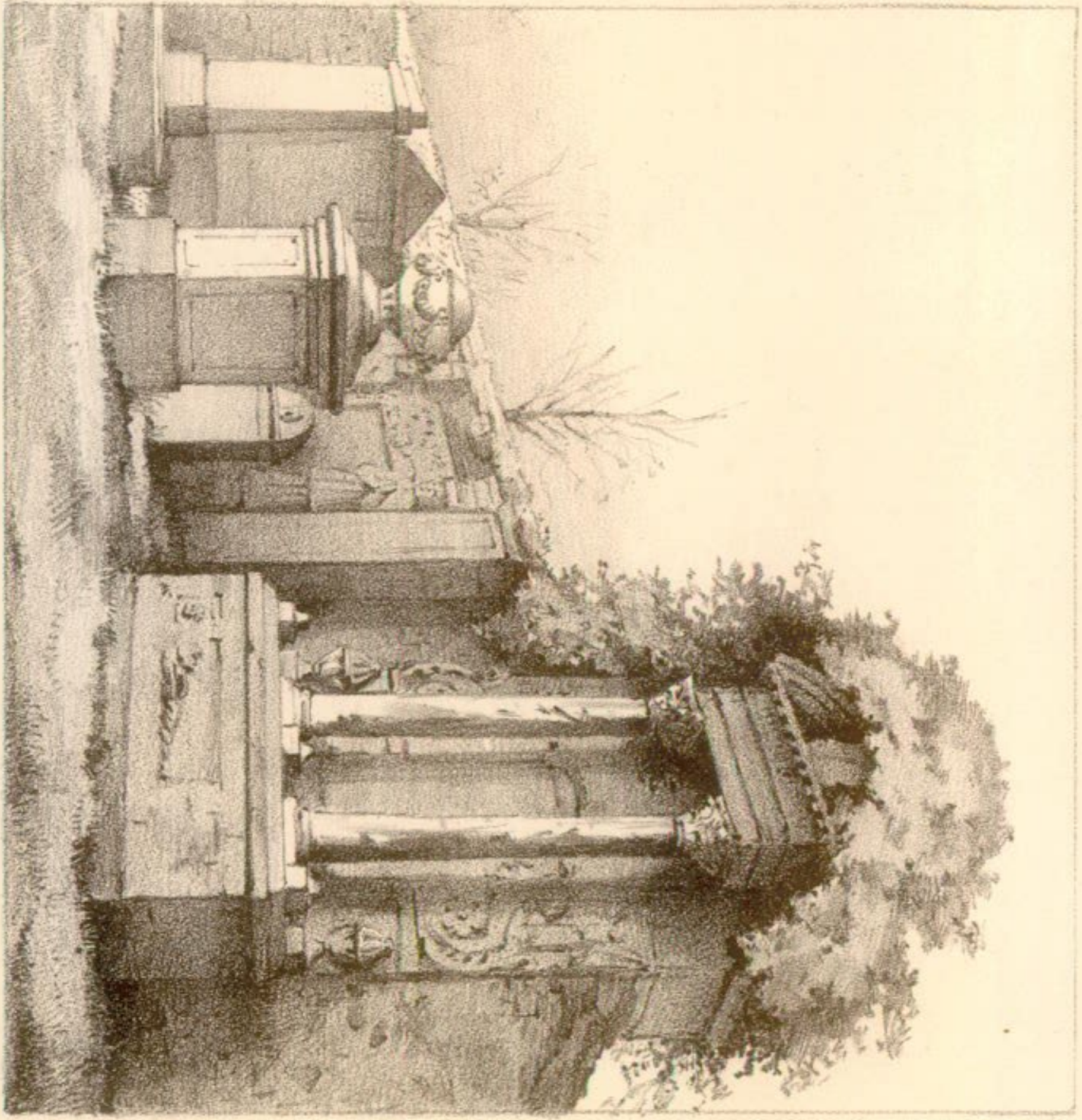
JOHN CARSTARES, HIS FATHER,
Minister at Glasgow.
Died 15 June 1685.

WILLIAM DUNLOP, HIS NEPHEW,
Regius Professor of Theology.
Died 29 Oct: 1720.

In affectionate remembrance of the above
who were here interred, this Monument
Was erected in the year 1727 by
SARAH CARSTARES,
Widow of WILLIAM DUNLOP,
Principal of the University of Glasgow.
Restored by Her Descendants, in 1876.

¹ In a MS. Obituary kept for many years by CHARLES MACKIE, who was elected the first Professor of Civil History in the University of Edinburgh, in August 1719, is this entry,—“CARSTARES (MARGARET), MY MOTHER (died) 29th March 1729.”

Professor Mackie died at Edinburgh 11th September 1770, having resigned his Chair in January 1755.



THE CARSTARES MONUMENT, GREYFRIARS CHURCHYARD.