

I.

NOTICE OF TWO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS DEPOSITED IN THE MUSEUM BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE LATE MISS AGNES BLACK, PERTH. BY DAVID LAING, Esq., FOREIGN SECRETARY.

Having on a former occasion brought the subject of our National Covenants specially before the Society (See "Proceedings," Vol. IV. p. 238-205), I gave an account of the several Covenants adopted in this Country, from the time of the Reformation to the middle of the seventeenth century.

When informed that the two original documents, now exhibited, were deposited in the Society's Museum, by the Trustees of the late Miss Black, Perth, I offered to contribute a brief notice of them as an Appendix to the previous article, in which there is a list of other Originals which I had examined, both in public and private collections; adding that I was not aware of any written copies of the Solemn League and Covenant with signatures having been preserved. I proceeded partly on the fact that instead of, like the National Covenant of 1638, being written on large sheets of parchment, it appeared in a printed form, Edinburgh, 1643, 4to, with blank leaves added to these copies for signature.

The Rev. Mr Omond, my excellent friend, one of the oldest members on the list of the Society, told me a few years ago I was mistaken, as at least one copy written on parchment was in the possession of a Lady at Perth. In order to satisfy my curiosity (having supposed he might have fallen into the usual mistake of confounding the National Covenant with the Solemn League), he afterwards, on a visit to Edinburgh, brought the Original document; but having to return it that night to the lady to whom it belonged, no opportunity was afforded for minute examination. On a later occasion the Lady, under, perhaps, an exaggerated notion of its importance, was desirous to have it deposited in some public

collection, and Mr Omond agreed to recommend this Museum, where it could be most suitably preserved. The lady, not long ago, died without leaving any special instructions in the matter, and her trustees being aware that she had expressed her intention of sending it here, they have now done so, and have accompanied it with an original copy of the National Covenant of 1638. I think the meeting ought to pass a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr Omond, as well as to the trustees of Miss Black.

There is no need at present to enter upon the history of the several Covenants: I shall merely describe the two documents now exhibited.

First: The National Covenant signed at Edinburgh, 1638, is one of the better class of the twenty-five copies previously described, signed by the chief Covenanters, having the usual signatures, Rothes, Montrose, Lindsay, and eight others of the Nobility.

The Gentry commence with Lyone, meaning Sir James Balfour, Lion King, Sir William Muir of Rowallane younger, and many others. The clergy follow, commencing with Mr John Adamson, Principal of the College of Edinburgh, and including Alexander Henderson, then minister of Leuchars; but unlike the ordinary copies it has not the signatures of some particular parish or borough town.

The Second document proves to be, not a copy of the Solemn League and Covenant signed in 1643, but the Solemn League and Covenant that was renewed and subscribed in the year 1648, as appointed by the commissioners of the General Assembly. The subscribers are very numerous; but at first sight I confess there seemed to be few of interest, and of the Nobility we only observe Lords Home and Beilhawn, also the celebrated General David Lesley, afterwards created Lord Newark. The part of the country where it was signed, at present I cannot say. At the foot of the page there are numerous names written by the hand of a Notary public. This may perhaps settle the matter.

[It requires to be added, that some of Miss Black's relations in America obtained permission to have this MS. copy of the Solemn League and Covenant carried across the Atlantic to satisfy their curiosity, with some indefinite engagement to have it safely returned. The copy of the National Covenant not being specified in the request, it still remains in the Society's Museum.]