

II.

NOTICE OF A PORTRAIT ON PANEL, FORMERLY IN STIRLING CASTLE.
By CHARLES ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE, F.S.A. Scot.

This picture was disposed of, along with some old wood-work, during some alterations or repairs effected in the Castle of Stirling a good many years ago. It was then almost indistinguishable from dirt, but was afterwards *rubbed up a little and made over, by a resident in Stirling* who had got possession of it, to the late Mr John Grant Leslie, sheriff-clerk-depute, Aberdeen, at whose death it came into the possession of its present owner, who now exhibits it.

It has lately been carefully cleaned, when the painting was found in wonderfully good condition. Mr George Reid, R.S.A., has been so good as to inspect it, and gave it as his opinion that, though it has been retouched in some places, it has not been so to an extent affecting the integrity of the work as a whole. The hands are the least satisfactory part, especially the left, showing a good deal of discrepancy with the rest. Mr Reid pronounces the portrait to be a fine piece of colour. Two other gentlemen, with much knowledge of foreign art, consider it to be of the school of François Clouet, the well-known French portrait painter of the middle of the sixteenth century, with which period the costume exactly corresponds. The character of the countenance, however, appears to be Scottish, and the original may have been one of the many Scots who frequented France in that age; but it is feared that identification will be very difficult, if not hopeless, although the peculiarity of the lance-head in the right hand, with the scarf on the right arm, may possibly suggest a clue to those who are versed in the memoirs of the time to which the portrait belongs.

[The portrait represents a man in the prime of life, with short, red hair, beard, and moustache, in the dress of the middle of the sixteenth century, say 1550-60, scarlet cap with white ostrich plumes, small ruff,

scarlet jerkin without sleeves, laced with gold, under which are seen gorget and corselet of steel, a long slit in the right side of the jerkin allowing the steel support for the lance to project through it. A buff belt, with gold buckles, round the waist, supports a gold-mounted sword, the left hand grasping it below the hilt. In the right hand is the fragment of a spear, bearing the spear-head. Round the right arm is a scarf, with long ends hanging down, of a dark-grey tinged with violet, edged with silver. The breeches seem to be lilac. No date or arms are on the picture.]