

ADDITIONAL NOTICES OF ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL, IN THE CASTLE
OF EDINBURGH. BY JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

I feel some regret that Dr Daniel Wilson, in the interesting notice of the chapels of St Margaret and St Mary within the Castle of Edinburgh,¹ was unable to incorporate the information regarding the chapel of St Margaret which I was fortunate enough to discover in a roll of what may be called the usurpation period of 1335-7, when Edward III. was in possession of the Lothians by grant of Edward Balliol. The third volume of the *Calendar* containing this roll, or rather rolls (for there are two), was not, however, published till after Dr Wilson's paper was read, of course even longer after it was composed, but had I known he was engaged on it, I should have been inclined to communicate the new information. However, this note will supplement his paper to some extent. Dr Wilson (p. 300) says there is no evidence of the chapel being called St Margaret's "till the latter half of the fourteenth century, when the name of St Margaret's chapel first appears in the Exchequer Rolls;" but then, as will be seen, "references are more frequent to the chapel and the chaplains of St Mary in the Castle of Edinburgh." There is evidence, however, as to both—certainly to the "great chapel," which I take to be St Mary's—as early as September 1335. In the *Compotus* of Sir Thomas Roscelin, the English sheriff of Edinburgh,² it is said that a kitchen was made

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxi. pp. 291, &c., June 13, 1887.

² See *Calendar of Scots Documents*, vol. iii. p. 215.

under the great chapel, besides "broddes" provided for it, and a chamber called "le contynghous," and 140 "bordes" of Eastland timber for its roof. In the indenture¹ by which Sir Thomas delivered over the castle to his successor Sir John Stirling, it is said "that there is no dwelling (habitaicoun) within the said castle, save a chapel, a little unroofed (a poy discoverte), a little 'pentice' above the chapel, and a new stable quite unroofed, except about a quarter," &c. The castle, in fact, seems to have been a ruin when the English regained it; but the new warden at once set to work to rebuild it in November 1335, the operations lasting more than a year. His *Compotus*² contains many references to the "great chapel," the dedication of which is nowhere mentioned. It was thoroughly roofed with timber, and turned into a granary, the smaller chapel being probably considered sufficient for the spiritual necessities of the garrison. Regarding the latter I give this entry of June 1336³:—"Magistro Johanni vitreario pro fabrica iij fenestrarum vitrearum, positarum in capella Sancte Margarete, et pro factura unius gurgitis de plumbo super magnam capellam, xxiii ſ." On looking at Sir Henry Dryden's plan of St Margaret's chapel (p. 295), it will be seen there are *five* windows. Perhaps only four required renewal, as the east window may have escaped damage, from its position over the altar.

One cannot fail to share Dr Wilson's wish that no stone of this most historic building may be touched by the restorer's hand. The irregularity of its shape, traced by the practised hand of Sir Henry Dryden, attests its antiquity. It is truly remarkable that, notwithstanding its exposed site on the highest point of the Castle rock, it should have survived the ruin that has befallen the surrounding buildings. *Esto perpetua*, be its motto.

¹ *Calendar*, vol. iii. p. 216.

² *Ibid.*, p. 347.

³ P. 355.