

## I.

ON AN UNRECORDED ISSUE OF THE ABERDEEN PRESS OF EDWARD RABAN IN 1627. WITH A HAND LIST OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF HIS PRESSES AT EDINBURGH, SAINT ANDREWS, AND ABERDEEN. BY WILLIAM E. A. AXON, LL.D., F.R.S.L.

The late Mr John Philip Edmond, in bidding farewell to the subject of early Aberdeen printing, which had occupied his leisure hours for many years, said: "That the mine is exhausted I do not for a moment imagine." It is an evidence of this that to the present writer, who had not until recently paid any special attention to the subject, falls the duty of recording a book from the press of Edward Raban that has not hitherto been described. A facsimile of the title-page is given in fig. 1.

It is a small octavo of 288 pages and 4 preliminary leaves. A late edition, issued in 1630, is named by Mr Edmond. The author, Thomas Tymme, of whose personal history little is known, died in 1620. He was the translator of some of Calvin's books, of La Ramée's *Commentaries on the Wars of France*, and the author of the *Chariot of Devotion*. The *Silver-Watch Bell* was, however, the most popular production, and went through at least nineteen editions, and probably more.

The printer, Edward Raban, was an Englishman, and his uncle, Peter Raban, was "parson" at Melton Mowbray, and, in his nephew's opinion, not too clean in his mode of life. But the printer was a Puritan, and may have been too severe, not to say jaundiced, in his outlook on humanity. Of his early life nothing is known, but in 1600, when English soldiers went into Flanders to assist the Netherlanders under Maurice of Nassau, he was one of the company. Raban remembered what merry times these volunteers had in London, when day and night were made "all one with eating, drinking, playing, swearing, etc." They were a motley crew of bankrupts, both gentlemen and merchants, runaway apprentices and similar persons. "He that could not quaff off

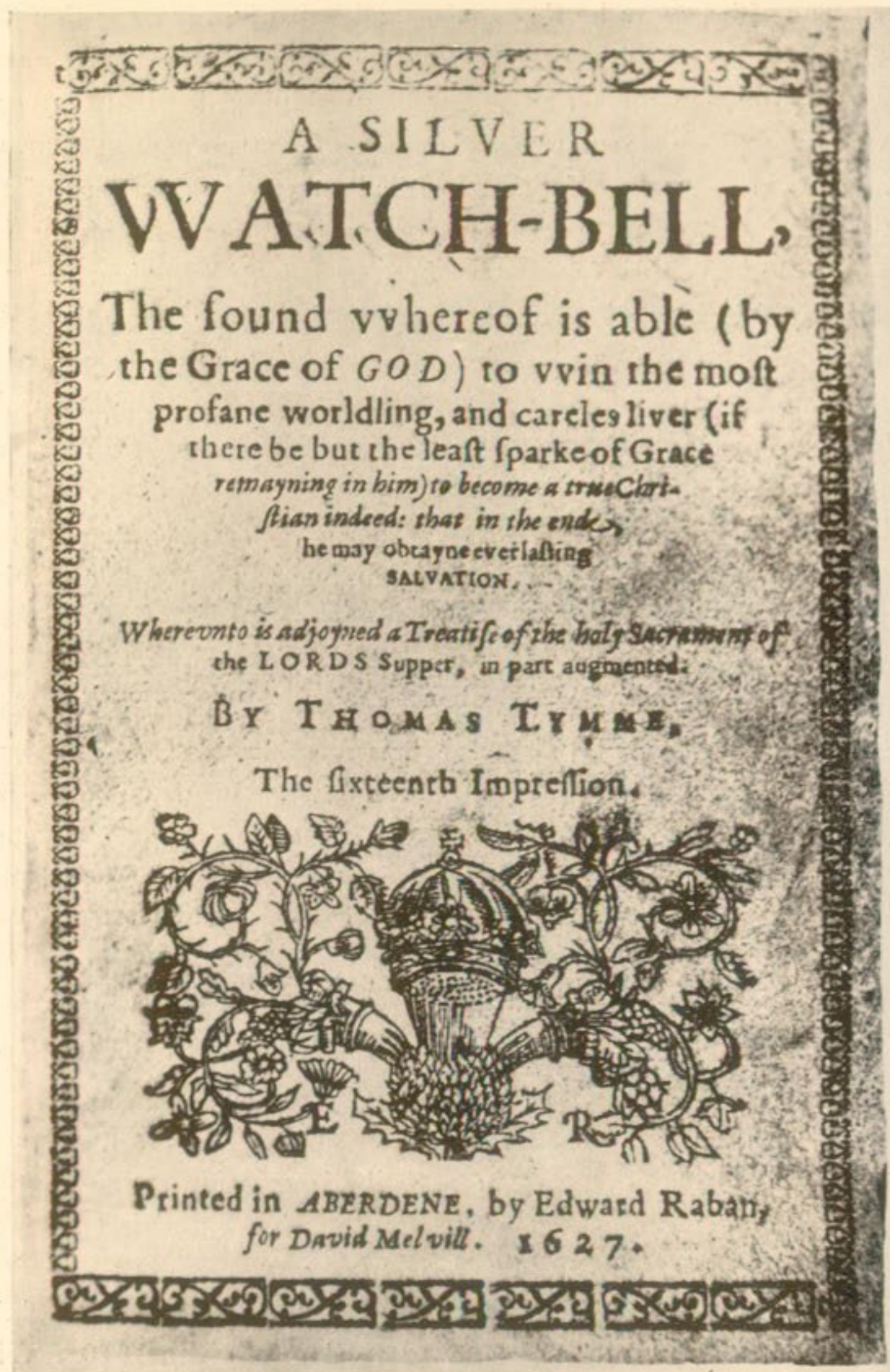


Fig. 1.

a dozen pots of beer or a bottle of wine and swear an hour together, he," says Raban, "was not fit to goe in our company." He contrasts these revels with the hardships that followed on shipboard, when they came to divide a biscuit between two and a can of water amongst four, and later, when these brave gallants were glad to receive the drops of rain and the water that dropped from the ropes and sails of the ship in their beaver hats to quench their thirst. They landed at Philippina, and were soon busy in driving the Spaniards "out of this scance and that fort" till they came before Newport, where they were "sharply assaulted by Albertus of Austenrich." He very piously thanks God that they slew "at least six thousand of the Spanish side, took many prisoners and returned into Holland with victory." He notes that "tender drunkards" could neither march nor stand in the days of battle. Some died from thirst, and five golden angels were given for some puddle water. Raban, speaking of this roystering, acknowledges that he had "too great a share in that business."

After he had served the Dutch "full ten years" in the wars of the Netherlands he travelled in Germany, passing through Cologne, Mentz, Frankfurt, Worms, Frankenthal, Speyer, and Strassburg, and joined himself to a company who were on the way to Rome; but when they came to the Alps he turned back in order to act as guide to some English gentlemen who had come from the Papal City. They had lost their guide by death, and Raban "convoyed them through all Germany, even to Hamburg, visiting all the fair cities and the churches." In the course of this long Continental stay Raban probably learned the printer's art. He was a strict observer of the Sabbath—or rather of the Sunday—and tells us: "A master whom I served in mine own science, in the fair city of Leyden, had it aye for a custom to boil his printing varnish on the Sabbath days in a garden-house without the city, but at last his house took fire and burned the man himself and his only daughter; he being a rich man, died thus miserable, leaving none issue to inherit his trash."

Raban's first known book was printed at Edinburgh in 1620. When we remember that he began soldiering in 1600 it is evident that he

must have been at least forty or forty-five years of age when he became a Scottish printer. In the same year he was appointed printer to the University of St Andrews, and in 1622 began to print at Aberdeen, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was twice married, and died in 1658. He was buried on 6th December at "Wast dyk," the part of the churchyard of St Nicholas where many of the most honoured citizens of Aberdeen were laid to rest.

Raban had some ambition both as author and editor. In 1622 he published a book of which a portion only remains, *Raban's Resolutions*, a treatise against drunkenness, whoredom and Sabbath-breaking, from which some entertaining extracts are given by Mr Edmond.<sup>1</sup>

In another book by him, entitled *The Glorie of Man, consisting in the excellencie and perfection of Women*, he cites fifty-three authors whom he has laid under contribution. It includes some verse, in one of which his initials appear:—

It is no Bountie which doth flow  
from Store.  
Who gives his Heart, what Gift can  
hee giuE moRe ?

He also wrote in verse, "Raban's Re grate for the present loss of his very good Lord, Patron and Master, Patricke Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen, Baron of Corse and O'Neill." He published almanacs for 1623, 1625, 1626, which contain some of his own matter both in prose and verse. To other of the books he printed he has added introductory or other editorial matter. Raban had his difficulties. He was, along with his wife, imprisoned and fined for a broil; he had difficulties with patrons, he was accused of heresy,<sup>2</sup> but he escaped from any serious consequences in these misadventures.

<sup>1</sup> *Last Notes on Aberdeen Printers.*

<sup>2</sup> He was examined before the General Assembly in 1640 on a charge of shortening the prayer at the end of a Psalm Book and Presbyterian Liturgy, and it was suggested that he had done this at the instance of some ministers unfriendly to the Covenant. He confessed that he had shortened the Prayer, but only in order to squeeze it into the page, as he was short of paper!

That he was not without a good opinion of himself, we may judge from the imprint of Elizabeth Melvill's *Godly Dream* issued in 1644, where his style is: "E. Raban, Laird of Letters." After all, this is not a bad description of Edward Raban, the printer who for twenty-nine years "filled the case" in the preparation of serious books that had a direct bearing on the problems of individual and national life in a stirring and difficult time.

#### HAND LIST OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF EDWARD RABAN'S PRESSES.

(The references are to the pages of J. P. Edmond's *Aberdeen Printers, 1884-1886*, and (*L.N.*) his *Last Notes on Aberdeen Printers, 1888.*)

1620, (*Edinburgh*).

Symson (Archibald), *Christes Testament*, pp. xi, 1.

1620 (*St Andrews*).

Melville (Andrew), *Musæ*, p. 1.

Michaelson (John), *The Lawfulness of Kneeling in the act of receiving the Sacrament*, p. 2.

Parasynagma Perthense (? *Saint Andrews*), p. 2.

Tilenus (Daniel), *Parænesis*, pp. 3, 186.

1621 (*St Andrews*).

Baron (Rebert), *Philosophia Theologiæ Ancillans*, pp. 3, 186.

— *Positiones*, p. 4.

Symson (Archibald), *Heptameron*, pp. xvix, 4.

— *Samson's Seaven Lockes of Haire*, p. 5.

1622 (*St Andrews*).

Browne (David), *Calligraphia*, pp. xxix, 5.

The Pope's New Years Gift. Written in Latin, trans. by G. L. (*L.N.*), p. 8.

Lindesay (David), *An Heavenly Chariot*, p. 7.

Raban's Resolution against Drunkenness, against whoredom, against the breakers of Sabbath (*L.N.*), p. 3.

1622 (*Aberdeen: All the Remaining Works*).

Adagia, p. 8.

Dunbar (William), *The Merrie Historie of the Three friars of Berwicke*, pp. 8, 1186.

Guild (William), *Issacher's Asses braying*, p. 8.

Lunan (Alexander), *Theses Philosophiæ*, p. 9.

[*Tables of Books for Schools*], p. 187.

Tilenus (Daniel), *De Discipline Ecclesiastica*, pp. 9, 187.

## 1623.

- A New Prognostication, pp. 10, 187.  
 Briefe Chronicle of all the Kings of Scotlande, p. 12.  
 Craig (Alexande), Poeticall Recreations, p. 12.  
 Forbes (William), Positiones, p. 13.  
 Lachrymæ Academiæ Marischallanæ, pp. 13, 188.  
 Ogston (William), Oratio Funeris . . . Georgii Marischalli Comitis, p. 14.  
 Sibbald (James), Assertiones Philosophicæ, p. 14.  
 Spencer (John), Grammaticæ Bellum, pp. 15, 188.  
 Vives (J. L.), Ad Sapientiam Introductio: Enchiridion, pp. 15, 188.  
 Gray (Gilbert), An Oration, p. 188.  
 Catechesis . . . Palatinus sub Frederico III. (*L.N.*), p. 12.

## 1624.

- Friend (Gabriel), Prognostication, pp. 15, 1189.  
 Forbes (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 15.  
 Guild (William), Three Rare Monuments of Antiquite, p. 16.  
 Logie (Andrew), Cum Bono Deo. Raine from the Clouds, p. 16.  
 [Professor of Mathematics Edict], p. 17.

## 1625.

- A Prognostication for 1625, pp. 18, 190.  
 Gordon (D.), Pharmaco-Pinax, p. 18.  
 Leslie (William), Propositiones, p. 19.  
 Psalmes in Meeter (Sternhold & Hopkins), pp. xxiv, 19.  
 Sibbald (James), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 20.  
 Wedderburne (David), Abredonia Atrata, p. 20.

## 1626.

- Prognostication for 1626, p. 21.  
 Cargill (William), Some Poesie, p. 21.  
 Forbes (Alexander), Ane Poesie, p. 21.  
 Gardyne (Alexander), Pamphlet, p. 22.  
 Guild (William), Popish Glorrying in Antiquite, p. 22.  
 Lundie (J.), Theses Logicæ, p. 22.  
 Psalms of David in Scottish metre, pp. 22, 193.  
 — 24mo, pp. 23, 120; (*L.N.*), p. 13.  
 Sibbald (James), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 23.

## 1627.

- Tymme (Thomas), Silver Watch-Bell (see *ante*).  
 Baron (Robert), Disputatea Theologica, p. 24.  
 Forbes (Patrick), Eubulus, p. 25.  
 Hay (Peter), An advertisement to the subjects of Scotland, p. 25.  
 Leslie (William), Vindicæ Theologicæ, p. 26.  
 Lundie (J.), Theses Logicæ, p. 26.  
 Scrogie (Alex.), De Imperfectione Sanctorum, p. 26.

Seton (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 27.  
 Sibbald (James), Theses Theologicæ, p. 27.  
 Guild (William), A compend of the Controversies of Religion, p. 193.  
 [Laws of all the Schooles], p. 194.

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Calvin (John), Catechisme, p. 28.  
 Johnston (Arthur), Elegiæ Duæ, p. 28.  
 Lyndsay (Sir David), Workes, p. 28 ; (*L.N.*) p. 13.  
 Sibbald (J.), Theses Theologicæ, p. 29.

1629.

Forbes (John), Irenicum, pp. 29, 194.  
 The CL. Psalmes as sung in the Church of Scotland, pp. 30, 195.  
 Psalmes . . . according to the Church of Scotland, 16mo, p. 30.  
 — 12mo, p. 31.  
 Ramsay (David), A Sermon, p. 31.  
 Scrogie (A.), Theses Theologicæ, p. 32.  
 Sulton (Edward), A Caution for the Credulous, p. 32.  
 Psalmes (English) with the tunes by the most expert Musicians in Aberdeen,  
 p. 194.  
 Strachan (Andrew), Propositiones and Problemata, p. 195.  
 Virgilius, Poemata, p. 196.

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Baron (Robert), Theses Theologicæ, p. 32.  
 Historie of Sir Bevis of South-Hampton, p. 32 ; (*L.N.*), p. 14.  
 Cicero (M. T.), Epistolarum Libri Quatuor, p. 33.  
 Guild (William), Limbo's Batterie, p. 34.  
 (Henry the Minstrel), The Lyfe . . . of . . . Wallace, p. 34.  
 Ovidius, Metamorphoseon, p. 35.  
 Seton (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 35.  
 Tymme (Thomas), A Silver Watch-bell, p. 196.

1631.

Baron (Robert), Ad Georgii Turnebulli Tetragonismam, p. 36.  
 Craig (Alexander), The Pilgrime and Heremite, p. 37 ; (*L.N.*), p. 14.  
 Forbes (John), Gemitus Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ, p. 37.  
 Lundie (John), Oratio Eucharistica, p. 38.  
 — Theses Theologicæ, p. 38.  
 Seton (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 38.  
 Strachan (Andrew), Panegyricus, pp. xii, 39.  
 — Schediasmata Philosophica, p. 39.  
 Bible, p. 197.  
 [Label on Bible of Aberdeen Hospital], p. 197.  
 Stanbridge (John), Vocabula, p. 197.  
 New Testament (*L.N.*), p. 14.

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- Prognostication for . . . . 1632, p. 40.  
 Forbes (John), *Theologiae Moralis*, p. 40.  
 — *Secunda Pars*, p. 41.  
 Johnston (Arthur), *Epigrammata*, p. 41.  
 — *Parerga*, p. 41.  
 The Psalmes . . . . according to the Church of Scotland, 12mo, p. 42.  
 Wedderburne (David), *Short introduction to Grammar*, p. 42.  
 New Testament (*L.N.*), p. 14.

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- Baron (Robert), *On the arrival of King Charles*, pp. xviii, 44.  
 — *Disputatio Theologica*, p. 45.  
 Guild (William), *The Humble Adresse*, p. 46.  
 Leech (David), *Positiones*, p. 46.  
 Merser (William), *A Poesie*, p. 46.  
 Psalms . . . . with *Forme of Discipline*, pp. 47, 198.  
 Psames (sic), p. 47.  
 Ramsay (David), *Sermon*, p. 48.  
 Robertson (George), *Serenissimi . . . . Caroli, Comitia*, p. 48.  
 Wedderburne (David), *Institutiones Grammaticæ*, pp. 49, 198.  
 — *Vivat Rex*, p. 49.

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- Leech (David), *Positiones Philosophicæ*, pp. 50, 199.  
 Michel (William), *Epitaphs upon (his) Death*, p. 50.  
 Seton (John), *Theses Philosophicæ*, p. 51.  
 Strachan (Andrew), *Vindiciæ Cultus Divini*, p. 51.  
 Wedderburne (David), *Institutiones Grammaticæ*, p. 57.  
 — *Meditationes Campestris*, 52.  
 Psalms with prayers, p. 199.

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- Dickson (David), *Short Explanation of Ep. to the Hebrews*, p. 53.  
 Forbes (Patrick), *Funerals of*, pp. xxii, 53.  
 Forbes (Patrick), *Sermons*, p. 53.  
 Gordon (John), *Confessio Fidei*, p. 55.  
*Lachrymæ Academicæ Marischallanæ . . . . Comitio Mareschalli*, p. 56.  
 Leech (David), *Positiones Philosophicæ*, pp. 56, 199.  
 A table of all the pettie custiumes payable within Aberdeen, p. 56.  
 Wedderburne (David), *Institutiones Grammaticæ*, p. 57.

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- Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical . . . . for Ch. of Scotland, pp. xxv,  
 57, 200.  
 Forbes (John), *Irenicum*, pp. 58, 200.  
 Leech (David), *Positiones Philosophicæ*, pp. 58, 200.  
 Themilthorpe (Nicholas), *The Posie of Godlie Prayer*, p. 59.  
 Wedderburne (David), *Vocabula*, p. 59.  
 Whole forme of Discipline . . . . Ch. of Scotland, pp. 59, 201.



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- Catechesis Religionis Christianæ . . . . Palatinus sub. Frederico III., p. 59.  
 Cupif (Francis), Trueth Triumphant, p. 60.  
 Gerard's Meditations, p. 60.  
 Guild (William), A short Treatise . . . . prophanation of the Lords Day by  
     Salmon Fishing, p. 60.  
 Johnston (Arthur), Paraphrasis Poetica Psalmorum Davidis, pp. 61, 202.  
 Leech (David), Philosophia Illachrymans, p. 62.  
 Seton (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 62.  
 Wedderburne (David), A Short Introduction to Grammar, p. 63.  
 Broad (William), Bonum Factum : De Hydrope, p. 201.

1638.

- Generall Demands concerning the late Covenant, p. 63.  
 The Answeres of some brethren of the Ministrie . . . . Concerning the late  
     Covenant, p. 64.  
 The Answeres of some brethren of the Minitserie [sic], p. 64. . . .  
 Duplyes of the Ministers and Professors of Aberdene . . . . concerning the  
     late Covenant, p. 65.  
 Forbes (John), A Peaceable Warning, p. 66.  
 Gerard's Prayers, p. 66.  
 Guild (William), An Antidote agaynst Poperie, p. 67.  
 Leech (David), Positiones Philosophicæ, pp. 67, 203.  
 Proclamation by His Majesty [against the Assembly].  
 Raban (Edward), The Glorie of Man, p. 68.

1639.

- Prognostication, 1639, by M.I.G.  
 The Declinator and Protestation of the Archbishops and Bishops of the  
     Church of Scotland, p. 69.  
 Guild (William), An Antidote agaynst Poperie, p. 70.  
 — To the Nobilitie, Gentry, Bur and others of this lait Convention, p. 71,  
     (L.N.) p. 15.  
 Psalmes . . . . in Metre . . . . Church of Scotland, p. 203.

1641.

- Downie (Robert), Scotorum Elogium, p. 71.  
 Wedderburne (David), Sub obitum D Arturi Johnston, pp. 72, 204.

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- Lyndsay (David), Scotlandis Halleluiah, p. 72.  
 Theses 1642, p. 72.

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- Bohemus (S. Decanus), Propositiones de Cœlo, pp. 73, 204.  
 Gordon (P.), Theses Philosophicæ, pp. 73, 205.  
 Rae (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 73.

Row (John), Hebrew Dictionary, p. 73.

Scoole Actis and Lawes, p. 74.

A Solemn League and Covenant, p. 75.

Wedderburne (David), Meditationum Campestrium. Cent. II., p. 75.

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Innes (George), A Militarie Rudiment, p. 75.

Melvill (Elizabeth), A Godly Dream, pp. 76, 205.

Proclamations (three, 23rd Aug., 4th Sept., 6th Sept.), p. 77.

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— Sub obitum . . . Georgii Jamesoni, p. 79.

1645.

Montgomery (Alexander), The Cherrie and the Sloe, p. 29.

Theses, 1644-45, p. 79.

1648.

[Papers printed to be affixed to the breasts of those on the scaffold], p. 80.

1649.

Guild (William), Jsagoge Catechetica, p. 80.

— The old Roman Catholik, p. 80 ; (*L. N.*), p. 16.

Middleton (Alexander), [Theses], p. 206.

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Hornbook [A Paternoster or Abecedarium], p. 81.

(There is a facsimile of this in *Aberdeen Printers*, Part III.)