

formed superstition pervaded Scotland; when puritans, or coven-  
ters threw aside the graces; or when civil commotions harrowed  
up the fairest flowers of science; and among the rest, those of the  
doric muse, that lay scattered among the vallies and mountains,  
of the north. In the order of time the "amorous songs, sonnets,  
and elegies of

ALEXANDER CRAIG, Scoto-Britain, "printed in London by  
"William Whyte 1606," ought to have been noticed. This book  
has never fallen in my way, therefore can say nothing with respect  
to its contents.

PATRICK GORDON, in 1615, wrote "The famous history of  
"the Valiant Bruce." This piece, doubtless possesses great  
merit, and shews the author to have been well acquainted with  
his subject. An edition of this poem was reprinted at Edinburgh  
1718\*.

SIR WILLIAM MOORE of Rowland, in 1629, wrote, "The  
"true crucifix of the true Catholicks." Its title is sufficient—  
his worship might have employed his time to better purpose. In  
Cant's Topographical history of Perth, appear two poems of  
considerable merit, † the production of,

HENRY ADAMSON "student in divine and human learning."  
This ingenious young man was honoured with the approbation of  
Drummond, ‡ and appears from the complementary verses prefixed

\* The first edition was printed at Dort in  
4to 1615.

† Entitled "The muses Threnodie, or  
mirthful mournings on the death of Mr.  
Gall by Mr. H. Adamson, printed at Edin-  
burgh in king James's college by George  
Anderston, 1638."

‡ *Henry Adamson*, the author of the poems  
was educated for the pulpit, and appears  
to have been a gentleman of considerable a-  
bilities, a good classical scholar, he wrote  
some Latin poems above mediocrity. His  
relations were of considerable rank among  
the citizens of Perth, he was the son of  
James Adamson, who was dean of guild in  
1600, when Gowrie was murdered, and

was provost in 1610 and 1611. Our poet  
died unmarried in the year after the poems  
were published. He was known to and  
esteemed by Drummond of Hawthornden.  
the poet laureat of that age. Mr. Adam-  
son was importuned by his friends to pub-  
lish the two poems, he resisted their solici-  
tations; but the request of his friend Mr.  
Drummond at last prevailed, of which we  
are informed by the following address to the  
reader, prefixed to the first edition.

"Courteous reader,

"It is not amiss thou be a little in-  
formed concerning the persons of the  
"defunct (Mr. Gall) and the mourner

to his poems to have been much respected for his talents and worth. The pieces in question exhibit a deal of local discription, allegory and historical allusions by no means uninteresting; which, by the ample, notes and illustrations of Mr Cant exhibit a very pleasing performance, well worth the attention of every lover of Topography. The book is very scarce, and rarely to be met with. It was printed (I am told, a very limited number thrown off) at Perth by George Johnston for the editor (Mr. James Cant) and Robert Morison, Bookseller 1774\*.

“ (Mr. Ruthven.) The poet wrote this  
 “ for his own exercife, and the recreation  
 “ of his friends, and this piece, tho’ accom-  
 “ plished to the great contentment of ma-  
 “ ny that read and heard it, yet could not  
 “ the author be induced to let it thole  
 “ the prefs, till the importunity of many  
 “ learned men urged him to it: and the  
 “ last brath (effort) was made by a letter  
 “ of the prime poet of our kingdom,  
 “ whereof this is the juft copy.

“ To my worthy friend Mr. HENRY  
 ADAMSON.

“ SIR,

“ These papers of your mournings on  
 “ *Mr. Gall*, appear unto me as *Alcibiadis*  
 “ *Sileni*, which ridiculoufly look with the  
 “ faces of *Sphinges*, Chimaeras, Centaurs,  
 “ on their outfides; but inwardlie containe  
 “ rare artifice, and rich jewels of all forts,  
 “ for the delight and weal of man. They  
 “ may deservedlie bear the word, *non intus*  
 “ *ut extra*. Your two champions, noble  
 “ zanys (Buffoons) discover to us many of  
 “ the antiqueties of this country, more of  
 “ your ancient town of Perth, fetting downe  
 “ her situation, founders, her huge colosse  
 “ or bridge, walls, fousies, aqueducts,  
 “ fortifications, temples, monasteries and  
 “ ether singularities. Happie hath *Perth*

“ been in fuch a citizen, not fo other  
 “ townes of this kingdome, by want  
 “ of fo diligent a searcher and prefurver of  
 “ their fame from oblivion. Some Mufes,  
 “ neither to themselves nor to others, do  
 “ good, nor delighting nor instructing.  
 “ Yours inform both, and longer to con-  
 “ ceal them, will be, to wrong your *Perth*  
 “ of her due honours, who deferveth no  
 “ lefs of you than that ſhe ſhould be thus  
 “ blazoned and regiftrate to pofterity, and  
 “ to defraud yourſelf of a monument, which,  
 “ after you have left this tranſitory world,  
 “ ſhall keep your name and memory to  
 “ after times. This ſhall be preferved  
 “ by the towne of *Perth*, for her own ſake  
 “ firſt, and after for yours; for to her it  
 “ hath been no little glory, that ſhe hath  
 “ brought forth ſuch a citizen, ſo eminent  
 “ in love to her, ſo dear to the Muſes.

W. D.

“ Edinburgh 12th July 1637.

The above letter was the ſtrongest mo-  
 tive with our author for allowing the poems  
 to be printed, which were published the  
 next year, and the year after (1639) he  
 died much lamented.

\* “ To this new edition are added ex-  
 planatory notes and obſervations; king  
 James’s charter of confirmation: an account