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THE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, KNT., M.D.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS MSS.

EDINBURGH:

THOMAS STEVENSON, 87, PRINCE'S STREET; AND JOHN WILSON, LONDON.

MDCCCXXXIII.

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To this Autobiography of Sir Robert Sibbald it may not be out of place to prefix a list of, and some brief notices relative to, his MSS. in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. These consist partly of original works, and partly of compilations, and most of them were in a very perishable condition,—little value seeming to be attached to them by the Faculty. Within these few years the present learned Librarian prevailed on the Curators to permit them to be strongly bound in Russia, which was accordingly done.

CATALOGUE

OF THE

SIBBALD MSS.

Folio.

1. A Vindication of the Scotish History, &c. pp. 92, with a leaf prefixed containing Latin verses, "Compatriotis suis generosis Asaphensis Episcopi calumnias confundere meditantibus succinebat Jac. Cunigamius."

This appears to have been the original autograph of the work which follows.

2. A Defence or Vindication of the Scotish History, and of the Scotish Historians, wherin the ancient race of the Scotish Kings, their ancient possessions in this Island of GREAT BRITAIN, and the antiquity and dignity of the Scotish Church, are asserted, and the Objectiones of the Bishop of St Asaph are answered. By Sir Robert Sibbald, his Majestie's Physitian and Geographer, and President of the Royall Colledge of Physitianes at Edinburgh.

> Touch not myne anointed, And doe my prophets no harme. Ist Chronicles, 16th ch. 22d verse. Vis consilii expers mole ruit suâ : Vim temperatam dii quoque provehunt In majus : iidem odere vires

Omne nefas animo moventes.

HORAT. Lib. iii. Ode 4.

This is an enlarged MS. of the preceding article. It contains 174 pages.

3. Atlas Scoticus, seu Scotia Antiqua et Moderna.

4. Decription of the Kingdom of Scotland, divided into Counties, illustrated with Pont's Maps, and various curious Drawings and Plans.

5. Additions to Cambden, so far as regards Scotland and the Scotish Isles.

6. Ane Inventour and Repertour of the Manuscripts extant (which I have seen or been informed off) that relate to the History of Scotland, Geographicall, Naturall, Civil, or Ecclesiasticall, or Political.

With this volume are bound up the following articles :---

- 1. Ane Account of the Manuscript Histories recommended to Doctor Sibbald by the Lords Fountainhall and Rankeillour, and Sir James Dalrympell, to be penned by him; and for him to give a full account of them. 16 pages.
- 2. Ane Account of the Chartularia, or Register Books of the monasteries amongst the Collection of MSS. In this are included Tractatus Scotici, and other papers. 32 pages.
- 3. Ane Full Account of the Manuscripts belonging to Sir James Balfour of Kincaid, Lord Lyon, his Heirs. 40 pages.

7. Sibbaldi Adversaria; a very curious volume, containing a great mass of valuable literary information.*

There is bound up at the end, "Letters written to me by Doctor John Smith, Prebend of Durham, with my Answers, and some of Mr James Anderson's to him. In which there are severall curious accounts of matters relating both to our Civil and

• It is in this volume that the copy of Drummond's Notes of Ben Jonson's conversations, recently printed by Mr D. Laing, in the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, is preserved. Ecclesiastical Histories, with the copies of some ancient Charters."

- Selections from this volume would form a very interesting publication.
- 8. Sibbaldi Fragmenta Historica.
 - In hoc volumine continentur,
 - 1. Transcriptum Libri de Melrosse, ab autographo.
 - 2. Diarium Arnaldi de Blare, Capellani Willielmi Vallacii, Militis, Gubernatoris Regni Scotiæ.
 - 3. Historia de rebus gestis Valacii, in Epitomen redacta.

This volume also contains*

- 1. Letters extracted out of a MS. in the Barberine Library at Rome, called the Memoires of the Archbishop of Zara, concerning some affairs in the Council of Trent.
- 2. Off the Revenue or Patrimonie of the Crown, and off the Judicatorie which hath the Manadgement of the Revenue, called the Court of Exchequer.
- 3. A Collection of Records.
- 4. Observationes Historicæ in Chartam Roberti Senescalli Scotiæ, &c.
- 5. A Discourse upon the Union of England and Scotland, address'd King Charles II. March 19, in the year 1664.
- 6. Ane Account of the Competition for the Crown of Scotland, betuixt Bruce and Baliol.
- 7. James Strachan, Minister, his Letter to Mr John Gylon, dated at Dundie, Feb^{ry}. 8, 1703, anent the last Batle in which the Marques of Montrose was taken.
- 8. Chartæ ex Authenticis in Collegio Scotico Pariscensi.
- 9. Remarks by Mr Tho. Fl.[eming?] upon the Transcript of the Claime of Homage.

• There are various extracts from printed books, which it seems unnecessary to particularize.

9. Memoirs for writting the Historie of Scotland, and of the Scots and their Actions, from the Rise of the Nation to the Murder of King Charles the First, from Records yett extant. Item,

- 1. Historicall and Political Reflections upon the Lyfe and Death of King James the First of that name, King of Scotland, with which is the History of the Scots, from the taken [of] James the Prince of Scotland, Prisoner by the English, till his Death, and withall the Historie of the Scots, from the year 1400 to the Death of King James the First, the year 1437.
- 2. Memorandum anent K. Robert II. by H. of W.

10. Scotia Illustrata, sive Theatrum Urbium, Arcium, Monasteriorum et Ædium quorundam Illustrium in Scotia.*

- Each article is verified by the signatures of Sibbald and Slezer. There have been bound up with the above,
- Dionisius Alexandrinus,
 cum notis G. Sibbaldi, &c. cum Græco textu aliisque versionibus, cum metro tum prosa collatus, opera et studio Roberti Sibbald, M. D. A fragment.
- 2. Historia Rerum in Scotia Naturalium.
- 3. Scotiæ Chorographia Brevis.
- 11. Caledonia, sive Scotia Antiqua et Recentior.
 - At the end occurs a very curious notice relative to the disinterment of James the First of Scotland, Notes of D. I., Extracts from Tacitus's Life of Agricola, &c.

12. De Historicis Scotis et Politicis, qui Scoticæ Gentis historiam, et politiam, et res gestas, vel vitas Scotorum aut aliarum gentium historias, exterorumque res gestas enarrant. Qui, vel a nobis visi, vel a fide dignis viris relati, per classes suas dispositi. Cum doctorum de iis judicio

* For Slezer's Theatrum Scotize.

et censura. Ut et etiam de Historicis exteris, qui scripserunt de rebus Scoticis, ubi judicia doctorum de quibusdam ex hisce adducuntur per R[ob.] S[ibbald], M.D.

13. Historia Gentis Pictorum.

A very elaborate work in Latin.

14. A Description of the Islands belonging to the Crowne of Scotland, taken from several Manuscripts, and the Relations of these that lived in, or frequented them. To which is subjoined, ane Discoverie anent the Fishing upon the East of Scotland, and of the Isles belonging therto, with ane Account of the Fishes taken there.

Item, Descriptio Insularum Orchadensium per Jo. Ben ibidem colentem in anno 1529.

15. Historia Literaria Gentis Scotorum, in qua rei literariæ status ostenditur, a prima Gentis origine, et virorum doctrina illustrium, gesta et scripta, tam edita quam inedita, pro re literaria promovenda enarrantur; cum characteribus multorum et doctorum virorum, de illorum scriptis, elogiis, judiciis, aut censuris: in duas partes distributa: in prima quæ propediem proditura est, rei literariæ status, a Gentis origine, ad annum Christi domini milesimum quingentesimum exhibetur: In secunda, status rei literariæ historia continuatur ab anno 1500, ad diem presentem, ex historicis tam exteris quam domesticis, impressis et manuscriptis. Opera R[oberti] S[ibbaldi] M.D. Equitis aurati, adornata. Passimque in toto opere quædam inedita opuscula inserta sunt.

Neque magis decorum et insigne est, statuam in foro Romano habere quam ponere.—*Plin. Lib.* i. *Epist.* 17.

16. Ane Account of the Scotish Poets, either printed or manuscript, which I have seen, from ancient tymes to the year 1701. In two Books. 1. Book of the Latin and Greek Poets. 2. Book of these written in our own language, and other languages used in Europe; to which are added, thes mentioned by credible persons.

In this and the preceding work, Sibbald appears to have drawn largely on Dempster's Historia Ecclesiastica.

QUARTO.

17. Cætologia, or Memoirs for composing the Natural Historie of Whales, from the Remarks made upon thes casten or taken upon the Scotish coast. In which ther are Descriptions also of the smaller Fishes and Aquatick Animals of the Whale kynde, and Accounts how they may be taken and prepared, and what uses may be gott off them. To which are added, two other Treatises, the first, ane Account of the Fishes and other Aquatick Animals taken in the Firth of Forth. The other a Treatise concerning the Fisheries in Scotland, and the Isles belonging to it, and the benefitt may accrue to the nation ther. By S[ir] R[obert] S[ibbald], anno 1701.

18. An Essay relating to the Natural History of Scotland, by way of Supplement to the Prodromus Naturalis Historiæ Scotiæ, published anno 1684, disgested in common places, and containing the Author's Observations upon these things, and the Transcripts of the Letters of these who corresponded with him about them, and the relations of other curious gentlemen about such of them as concerne Scotland, and the Isles and Waters therto belonging. By R[obert] S[ibbald], M.D.

19. Collections of Papers and Informations in order to the Description of Scotland.

This is a very valuable MS.

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20. Sibbaldi Notæ in Buchanum. 2 tom.

The edition of Buchanan's History, printed at Utrecht by Peter Elzevir, 1668, 8vo, has been interleaved with writing paper, upon which the Notes, which are numerous, have been written.

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21. Catalogus Scriptorum Historicorum, Geographicorum, et Politicorum, qui de Rebus Scoticis scripsere.

This is a brief catalogue, and superseded by the enlarged one in folio.

22. Inscriptiones Funebres Virorum, Doctrina, Probitate, virtute, clarorum, qui hoc ævo decessere

23. Memoires for compiling the History of the Royall Coledge of Physitians at Edinburghe, done from the Records of the said Colledge, by Sir Robert Sibbald, President of the said Royal College. To which ther is also added, ane Account of the Establishment of the Medicine Garden, and of the Conferences for Advancement of Medicine, [which] were befor the erection of the Colledge, keept at Sir Robert Sibbald's house.

24. Bibliotheca Scotica, sive Scotorum qui post annum Secularem, M. IV. ad diem usque presentem, usquam, sive latina, sive populari, sive alia quavis lingua scripto, aliquid consignaverunt, notitia. Accessere magis illustrium Elogia, et de quorundam scriptis doctorum viroruno judicia et editorum atque ineditorum operum catalogi. Opus ipsum ordine alphabetico digestum est: adjectis cognominum et materiarum indicibus, cum appendice exterorum, qui de Scotia et rebus Scoticis, in quavis lingua scripsere. Item,

De Scriptoribus Scriptis qui ab anno 1400, ad finem anni 1700 claruere, ubi sunt, secundum scientias et artes dispositi, cum charactere authorum et judicio et elogio operum tam editorum quam MS. quæ vidi.

This is an alphabetical catalogue of Scotish writers, in Latin, with a list of their works, after the manner of Dempster.

OCTAVO.

25. Domini Georgii Sibbaldi a Gibbelstone Toparchæ, Medicinæ Doctoris, Canon, sive Regula Vitæ, qua cujuslibet viri officium quotidianum explicatur aphorismis quibusdam. Cum notis R[oberti] S[ibbaldi], M.D., ex fratre Nepotis.

26. Georgii Sibbaldi Poemata.

27. Extracta de Chronicis Scotiæ quæ historiam civilem spectant. Oblong 8vo.

28. Observationes collectæ ex libro cui titulus est Extracta ex Chronicis Scotiæ.

29. Elogia, et Judicia Doctorum, de Scotis, qui ab anno Christi 1500 claruerunt scriptis aut gestis suis.

- To this list may be added a copy made from the original MS., in the Auchinleck Library, by the late Mr William Gibb of the Advocates' Library, of
- 30. The Autobiography of Sir Robert Sibbald.
 - It may also be observed, that several original letters of Sibbald's are to be found in the invaluable volumes of the Wodrow Correspondence, in the Faculty Library; these it is intended to print at some future period.

LIFE OF SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, KNIGHT, M.D.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.*

Psalm lxvi. v. 16. Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he heth done for my soul.

Psalm lxxi. v. 8. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.

V. 9. Cast me not of in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.

V. 18. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not, until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Begunn Sept. 23, 1695.

My Father was Mr David Sibbald, third brother to Sir James Sibbald, Knight Baronet of Rankillor, and keeper of the great seal under the Earle of Kinoul, while he was Chancelor, after which he lived privatly upon his own fortune. He was a man of a mild spirit, very civill and kynd to his relations and acquaintences. He dyed the year 1660, and was buried at Edinburgh, in the Gray Frier Churchyard, over against the south-west end of the Gray Frier Church, where our other relations lye, (I was then abroad at Leyden;) he was 71 years old.

My mother was Margaret Boyd, daughter (eldest) to Mr Robert Boyd of Kipps, advocate, a vertuous and pious

That Sibbald's autobiography should have remained so long unpublished, is the more remarkable, as it was brought under the notice of the public, by Mr Boswell, in his Life of Dr Johnson. Indeed Boswell at one time entertained the notion of printing it, and his learned friend appears to have approven of the design. (See Croker's Boswell, vol. iv. p. 82.) It is to be regretted that he did not do so, as, in that event, we can hardly doubt that the world would have been benefited by Johnson's instructive commentaries upon it. matron of great sagacity and firmnesse of mynde, and very carefull of my education. She died at her country-house, the Kipps, aged 66 years, and was interred in her father's grave, in the isle of Torphichen, upon the part of the through stone that was voyd. The following inscription was graven below that which is upon her father:—

Sub Hoc etiam conditur cippo, Margareta Bodia, ejusdem Magistri Roberti Filia primogenita, et conjunx Magistri Davidis Sibbaldi, Fratris germani Rankilorii, in qua, præter singularem modestiam et constantiam, emicuere pietas, prudentia, et quæcunque virtus matronam decebat ab illustrissima Bodiorum Gente oriundam.

Nata Jan. 1606. Denata 10 Julii 1672.

My parents had four children elder than me.

Anna, ther eldest daughter.

Robert, ther eldest son.

Margaret, ther second daughter.

George, ther second son.

Who died all before they were full four yeer old, and were buried in the Gray friers church yarde.

I was born the 15 of Aprile, 1641, and came into the world hooded, (as they call it,) with the after birth upon my head. I was a tender child. I was baptized by Master William Colvill, minister of the Tron Church parish. I was borne in a house neer to the head of Blackfriers Wynd, upon the left syde, and was named Robert, after my grandfather, by the mother side, Mr Robert Boyd.

By the advice of my uncle by the Father side, Doctor George Sibbald, Physician in Edinburgh, I sucked till I was two yeers and two moneths old, and could runn up and down the street, and speake, because my other brothers and sisters had dyed hectick: which long sucking proved, by the blessing of God, a mean to preserve me alive.

My nurse was Bessie Mason, a country woman, born near Heriot kirk, a good woman, who had all her dayes a tender affection for me; and both befor her mariadge with John Binnie and after, stayed most part of her lyfe thereafter with me, and dyed of the age of 70, in a laigh house of myne in Edinburgh, next to the Garden.

While I was a child in my nurse's arms, my grandfather did observe my inclination for letters, for when I cryed and weept upon any occasion, I stilled upon the giving me the Psalms of Buchanan, he keept in his pocket.

I past all the diseases commonly incident to children without any manifest hazard.

In the yeer 1645, the tyme of the plague, I stayed at Linlithgow, at James Crawfurd our cousin's house, till some were infected in the town, at which tyme my parents removed me with them to the Kipps, till the infection was over. As I went there with my nurse, wee mett a troop of Montrose's men, who passed us without doing us any harme.

I begun to learn the Latine at Cowper of Fyfe under Mr Patrick * Anderson, schoolmaster, the yeer [16]50.

And the following yeer my parents removed me with them to Dundee, wher we were, when the town was taken by storme. My Father was hurt with a strock given him by a footman with a carabin. We were all plundered, and lost in jewells, silver work, and mony, and all the furniture of the house, to a great value. Wee sold some meal to gett a pass, and to pay forre our transportation, wher I went on foot from the Ferry to Cowper, there not being enough of money to purchase a horse for me.

In the tyme the Inglishes were storming the town, there was a battery erected by them, from which they fyred canon and muskets into the High Street from the Banet-raw, opposite to the Morrow-gate. The townsmen had putt up a stoute + of deals in the midle of the streat. My sister Geals, a child then of eight years of age, had passed somewhat higher than the stoute, and was exposed to ther view. I runn after her to bring her back, and they fyred at us in

> • Interlined in MS. "Andrew." + Corrected on margin "Sconce."

the returning; the ball missed us, and battered upon the street. I took it up and brought it with me.

I learned the Grammer in the High School of Edinburgh. Mr Heugh Wallace was master. Mr Francis Cockburn, Mr Samuel Macom, and Mr John Wardlaw, were doctors of the school.

I was a yeer at the Humanity Classe. Mr William Forbesse was then Professor of Humanity.

I past the Bajon yeer under Mr James Wyseman, who dyed the vacance thereafter.

I was a Semi under Mr William Forbess, and he dyed the vacance following.

I was a Basler and Magistrant under Mr William Tweedy, who laureat me July 1659.

Mr William Tweedy, many yeers befor that, had been a regent in St Andrewes, and had been removed from that, to be minister of the parish of St Laurence in Slamanan moore. When he came to us he gave us a paraphrase upon Aristotle his text, which gave many a disgust of him. It was my fortuue to meet with Sir Kenelm Digby his discourse of bodies, and the immortality of the soule, and with Thomas Anglus his dialogues de mundo, who followeth Sir Kenelm's hypothesis, which I read with great delight, and became a student of the Atomistick or crepuscular philosophie. Aristotell his philosophie being then depraved by the scholastick writters.

Mr Thomas Crawfurd taught then the Mathematicks, wednesday in the forenoon.

The Principall of the Coledge, during the five years I studied, was Mr Robert Lighton, who was first Bishop of Dumblane, upon the restauration of King Charles the 2nd, and therafter was made Archbishop of Glasco, a learned and devout man, who had excellent discourses to us in the Common Hall, sometymes in Latine, sometymes in English, which, with the blessing of God upon them, then gave me strong inclinations to a serious and good lyfe. I shunned the playes and divertisements the other students followed, and read much in my study, for which my fellowes gave me the name of Diogenes in dolio.

While I was at the Coledge, I happened to see neer to it a fellow markt with irons in the face, (as he gave out by the Turks,) I looked upon him somewhat steedfastly, upon which he runn after me. The consternation he putt me in, and my overheating myself with running swiftly from him, put me in a feavour, which keeped me bedfast for severall days. It pleased God, with the use of the meanes prescribed for me, I recovered.

From the tyme I entered to the Coledge, any mony I gott, I did imploy it for buying of books.

After I came from the Coledge I applyed myself to read some peeces of Theologie. I read Vendelin his sisteme, and some other pieces. My mother would have had me studie divinity, but there were great divisions amongst the presbiterians then, some for the publick assemblies of the church, some against them, and they wrott reproachfull discourses against others, and occasioned factions in the state and private families, which gave me ane disgust of them. I was acquaint with Mr Robert Duglass, Master John Smith, and Mr Hew Mackell, good men and moderate. I saw non could enter to the ministerie without ingadging in some of these factions, and espousing their interests.

The impressions I retained from Mr Leighton his discourses, disposed me to affect charity for all good men of any persuasion,* and I preferred a quiet lyfe, wherein I might not be ingadged in factions of Church or State.

Upon this consideration I fixed upon the studie of medicine, wherein I thought I might be of no faction, and might be usefull in my generation, if not here, elsewhere. Upon which consideration I resolved to goe abroad to prosecute that studie, and see the world, and know men.

I obtained the consent of my parents therto, and went upon the twenty-thrid day of March 1660, from this in

^{*} It was this charity to all men, that induced the violent controversialists of the -day to abuse the worthy prelate so much.

a dutch frigate to Holland. I stayed at Leyden ane yeer and a half, and studied anatomie and chirurgie, under the learned Professor Van Horne. I studied the plants under Adolphus Vorstius, who had been then Botanick professor 37 yeers, and I studied the institutions and practice, under Sylvius, who was famous then. I saw twentye-three human bodies dissected by him in the Hospitall which I frequented with him. I saw some dissected publickly by Van Horn. I was fellow student with Steno, who became famous afterwards for his wrytings. He dissected in my chamber sometymes, and showed me there, the ductus salivalis superior, he had discovered. I frequented ane apothecaryes shop, and saw the materia medica and the ordinary compositiones made. I studied Chimie, under a German called Witichius, and after he went away, under Margravius, brother to him who wrott the naturall history of Brasile. Sometyme I heard the lessons of Vander Linden, who was famous for critical learning.

I composed ther, (the last summer I stayed ther,) Theses de variis Tabis speciebus. Sylvius was præses when I defended them publickly in the schools.

In the vacance, I traveled to Utrecht, and stayed some dayes ther, and severall tymes to Amsterdame, wher I saw the East India House; was in the Jewes Synagogue, and saw their worship, and I went and herbalized in the downes and woods with the gardner of the medicine garden.

I had a feavour in the August following my arrival in Holland, which for severall years befor I had been subject to in the Spring. Except once I took the sacrament befor I came from Scotland, I had forborn the use of all sort of wyne. At that tyme the physitian that waited upon me gave me some sack tinctur'd with juice of rizers; and when I was recovered, he told me he had given me that to try if I had any antipathy to wyne, and since I had not, he advised me to drink moderately, which I did afterwards, the bear in Holland not agrieng well with me. My father died about that tyme, and I considered I could not stay long abroad, so I applyed myself to my studie with great diligence. In September 1661, I went from Leyden for Paris. I passed through Dort to Zeland, and from thence through West Flanders to Calice, whence I went with the messenger to Rowen, having business ther, and from thence to Paris.

I stayed some nyne moneths at Paris, where I was well acquainted with the famous Guido Patin, who lent me bookes, and gave me for a tyme the use of his manuscript written for the direction of his two sons, Robert and Charles (who were then Doctors of the Faculty of Paris,) in their studies. I studied the plants under Junquet in the King's Garden, and heard the publick lessons of Monsieur de la Chambre the younger, and Monsieur Bazalis, and I frequently was present at ther publick disputes, and visited then the Hotel de Dieu, and the Hospital of the Charity.

From Paris I went to Angiers with letters of recommendation from Guido Patin to Bailif Sentor, the Dean of Faculty. I stayed a moneth ther, and was examined by his son, by Ferrand Joiselin and Boisenute, and gott my patent of Doctor ther; I came by coach to Orleans, and from thence I went in a boat upon the Loire to Angers, viewing Ambois, Blois, Tours, and Someur, in the passing. I returned with the messenger by Chartres to Paris.

After some stay there, I came by Rowen to Diep, and took passage for England, and landed at Burn, from thence I hyred horses to London. I stayed three moneths ther, and saw the Court and the places adjacent to London.

From thence, I came by coach to York, wher I stayed some dayes, and took horses and a guide to Newcastell, and hyred the same guide and his horses, and came over the fells to Jedburgh, and so by Melross to Edinburgh, the penult day of October 1662.

I found my only brother George, in ane irrecoverable decay: it had been occasioned some five yeer befor by ane wrong cast over the shoulder of ane Englishe souldier, who wantonly flung him over his shoulder, and dislocat a link of his back. It appeared at first bot the bignes of a cherry,

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bot afterward grew big, and break, and wasted him with the running, and turned him hectick. Notwithstanding of the use of means by the Physitians, he dyed, aged fyfteen yeers.

John Boyd, cousin to my mother, was my curator; he gave no account of his intromissions, bot gott me to give bond for some money and account of necessaries furnished to our family, which, with accumulating anuelrent to the Principall, he made amount to three thousand pounds scots and more. He said he would not exact it, bot I payed afterwards some eight thousand merks or nyne, to the Lord Colinton, who maryed his daughter—for John Boyd died suddenly in his bed in the night tyme at Colinton, having been at Church the day befor.

My mother lyferented all my portion, and I could not pay any anuelrent during her lyfe. My father contracted no debt till after the loss he sustained at Dundee, which grew considerable; blessed be God, all his, and my mother's debts were payed by me.

After I came home, I applyed myself to practice medicine amongst my friends and acquaintances, and I not only refused money of these of a mean condition, but of many that pressed me to take it.

I read severall peeces of divinity, and for exercise translated some discourses from the French.

I read Seneca, and Epictetus, and some other of the stoicks, and affected them, because of their contempt of riches and honours.

The designe I proposed to myself was to passe quietly thorough the world, and content myself with a moderate fortune, and I was a dozen of yeers after I came here, (viz. all the time my mother and sister leeved, and some tyme after,) befor I resolved to marry.

I frequented only a few of my friends and acquaintance, and read much.

At first I made it my business, by my acquaintance with some of the Apothecaries and Chirurgions, to informe myself of the method of practice in use amongst the Physitians here, and gott the coppie of the courses of Physick they appointed in most diseases, and of the receipts most in use amongst them. When there was occasion for it, I caused consult them; and caried with a great deal of deference and respect to them.

Ther being a strict friendship contracted betwixt Mr Archibald Hope, (now Sir Archibald, and one of the Lords of the Session and Justiciare,) and me, which was begunn at the Grammer School, continued at the Colledge, when we was in one classe, and at Paris, wher we met often: he not only imployed me for himself, but introduced me with severall of his relations, and corresponded frequently by letters with me, and gave me then, and yet gives great proofes of his kyndness. Our correspondence was anent maitter of learning, espeacially morall philosophie, the knowledge of the world, and of men, and we had free discourses of the maitters.

About two yeers after I came home, Mr Patrick Drumond, my cusin by the mother side, returned to his native country, after 13 or fourteen yeers stay at London, and thereabout: a man of true piety, great judgment, and solid learning, and of great firmness of mynd. About two yeers befor this, by drawing the arrow neer to the point in a strong bow, he had contracted a spitting of blood, which was followed with a perfect phtisis, and after the physitians had abandoned him, by the use of one Mr Cockete's vomitory, (which I took to be some preparation of the Buterum Antimonii, or of Mercury dissolved in a white chimical liquor,) he had great evacuations of corrupt maitter by vomit, and some stools, after which he recovered strength, and his body was nurished, yet the lungs being affected, the maitter gathered, and once in the three moneths he was at the point of death, and ralled as in agonie till he took his vomitory, which recovered him again, and thus for some twelf yeers and more, he continued alive, by the constant prospect of death wholly disinteressed from the world, and living to the light of a christian and philosophick perfection. He sometyme stayed at Court with Sir Robert Morray, the

famous virtuoso, and acquainted me with the curious experiments made by him; his letters were excellent, and full of good advices and discoveries; his friendship confirmed me in the love and practice of a virtuous and phylosophick lyfe.

I became lykewise about this tyme acquaint with Mr James Aird, a serious christian, a follower of Mr Lighton, and who liveth yett now of the age of 68, a man of strong affections for piety and vertue, and of a single and chast lyfe, and to his power charitable to the poor in ane eminent way.

And some tyme after this, I became acquaint with Mr James Fall,* now Doctor of Divinity, and first principall of the Coledge of Glasco, for which he did much in beautifying the fabrick, and enlarging the precincts of it, and therafter precentor at York, wher he continueth. By his travels in the Low Countries, France, and Italy, he improved himself much, and is a man of great learning, of a penetrating mind, and of a solid judgement, one that knoweth the world, men, and business well. He is now fifty yeers old, and hath lived a single and chast lyfe with much reputation; our correspondence continued in all the places he hanted, and yett lasts to my great satisfaction.

Some two yeer after I came home, I had a dangerous feavour, in which the physitians lost all hopes of me. I recovered, but was some two or three moneths befor I came to have my wonted health.

Some four yeers after I settled here, Doctor Andrew Balfour came home, and about a yeer therafter came to Edinburgh. I was acquainted with him in France, and we were allyed. He was a man of ane excellent witt, and who had improved himself by his travells for 14 yeers.⁺ He had severall tymes travelled over France, and had been a yeer in Italy, and seen all the rarities there, and conversed with

[•] See ANALECTA SCOTICA, p. 113, for a letter from Dr Fall to Mr James Anderson, relative to Bishop Leighton's library.

[†] Sir Andrew Balfour published letters, giving an account of his travels. Edin. 1700. 12mo.

the men eminent for learning. He had attained much knowledge of the naturall history, and provided himselfe well with books of that nature. I came by conversation with him to know the best writters on that subject. I had from my settlement here, a designe to informe myself of the naturall history this country could affoord, for I had learned at Paris that the simplest method of Physick was the best, and these that the country affoorded came neerest to our temper, and agreed best with us, so I resolved to make it part of my studie to know what animalls, vegetables, mineralls, metalls, and substances cast up by the sea, were found in this country, that might be of use in medicine, or other artes usefull to human lyfe, and I began to be curious in searching after them and collecting them, which I continued to do ever since.

I had become acquaint with Patrick Morray, Laird of Levingstone, by means of Mr John Elies,* my comerade, who maried his sister, and had information of him what plants might be gotten in the fields; and I frequently went to Leviston, wher he had collected of plants that grew in the country and foreigne ones neer to a thousand. I made Dr Balfour his acquaintence with Levistone, which, upon Levistone's going abroad and corresponding with the Doctor, gave the rise to the designe of establishing the medicine garden at Edinburgh. Doctor Balfour and I first resolved upon it, and obtained of John Brown, gardner of the North vardes in the Abby, ane inclosure of some 40 foot of measure every way. We had, by this tyme, become acquaint with Master James Sutherland, a youth, who, by his owne industry, had attained great knowledge of the plants and of medals, and he undertook the charge of the culture of it. By what we procured from Leviston and other gardens, and brought in from the Country, we made a collection of eight or nyne hundred plants ther.

We got several of the Physitians in town to concur in

[•] Mr John Ellies of Elicston, advocate, whose sister married Anderson, the Editor of the Diplomata.

the designe, and to contribute so much a yeer for the charge of the culture and importation of foreigne plants.

Some of the Chirurgeon Apothecaryes, who then had much power in the town, opposed us, dreading that it might usher in a Coledge of Physitians, bot, by the care and dexterity of Doctor Balfour, these were made friends to the designe, and assisted us in obtaining of the Counsell of Edinburgh ane leese to Mr James Sutherland, for nynteen years, of the garden belonging to Trinity Hospitall, and adjacent to it. And Doctor Balfour and I, with some others, were appointed by the Town Counsell visitors of the garden.

After this, we applied ourselves with much care to embellish the fabrick of the garden, and import plants from all places into this garden, and procured that severall of the nobility concurred in contributing for some years, for the encouradgement of Mr Sutherland; some gyfts lykewise were obtained of money from the Exchequer, and the Lords of Session and Faculty of Advocates, for that use; and by Dr Balfour's procurement, considerable pacquets of seeds and plants were yeerly sent hither from abroad, and the students of medicine got directions to send them from all places they travelled to, wher they might be had, by which means the garden increased considerably every yeer.

Whill I was mynding the garden and prosecuting with diligence the studie of nature, a sore affliction befell me, which was the occasion of much trouble to me afterwards: my only sister Geels, for whom I had much tenderness and concerne, was then mariageable. I had no thoughts of mariage myself, and designed to have left what I had to her. yett some taking advantage of my mother's age, persuaded her it was fitt to bestow her in her own tyme; and this they did, to usher in a proposition of mariadge with a friend of theirs, who might have been her father for his age, and had children of a former mariadge, and was not of that birth or education was fitt for her. She was a handsome brunett, of a good witt, and had behaved with great prudence and discretion, and deserved a much better match, yett, to serve their own interests, they prevailed with my mother and sis-

ter, and the match was concluded against my will. I told my mother I was affrayed of the bad consequences might follow upon it; and I was neither at the contract nor the mariadge, yett by my concerne the termes were made better than these false friends agreed to. And some weeks after I visited them, and was reconciled to them, he got right effectually * to twelf thousand merks scots, and the provision made for her was the soume of twenty thousand pounds scots to the children of the mariadge. My sister lived but a year or so, and dyed five hours after she had borne a son, whom I held up to the minister, and he was called Robert after me. I came from the interment of his mother to the church wher he was christened. The father soon after marved another of a much inferior degree, and by his cariadge to my mother occasioned so much greefe, that with it, and regrate for her daughter, she contracted sickness and dyed. He lived not long after my mother's death, and dyed of a feavour; his eldest son of the first maridge seased all, and notwithstanding that I, by the advice of Lawers, raised ane inhibition against him, and commenced a sute for recovery of my Nephew's patrimony, which lasted some 14 or 15 yeers, and I furnished all the expence of the plea, yett he did intromett with all, and most unworthily and unaccountably spent most of what his father left, at least contracted more debt than ther was of land left, and was necessitate lately to remove himself and family to Ireland, wher he heth taken a lease for which he is to pay some sixteen or 17 pounds sterling, whill, as if he had payed his Brother's portions, and manadged right, he might have had three or four thousand merks of rent yearly of his owne. However, I obtained a decreet for some thretty four thousand merks for my nephew, which affects the lands of Gogor and the houses in towne, and he will now have right with bygone anuelrents due to him to fourty thousand merks. Yett my nephew maried without ever acquainting me, so that I have

* Eventually ?

had much toyl and anguish by him, and yet cannot gett him disposed to such vertuous courses as it is his duty and interest to imbrace, notwithstanding that his family increaseth dayly.

About this tyme another trouble befell me. The lands of Kipps and the milne of Torphichen, which belonged to my grandfather, fell by succession to my mother, and her My mother, as eldest, claimed sister married to Carriber. the house and yards. Carriber was a man had taken advantages of my parents whenever any thing was trusted to him, and he had shunned this division, thinking to gett advantage of me, he being well acquaint with the gentry of the Shyre, and I a stranger to them, as who from my childhood had never resided ther (whill he past the summer and harvest allwayes at his country house); eire I was awar of it, he obtained out of the Chancerie a brief of division; however I resolved to attend the meeting, and wait the decision of the inquest. I had with me Mr John Elies, younger of Elieston, and his good brother, John Murray, father to the Laird of Levingston. The gentlemen, after mature consideration, (notwithstanding his pretending he knew not of the meeting,) by Bonard, the Sheriff-Depute, declared they adjudged the house and lands to me, and the miln to Carriber; bot Carriber was not satisfied with this, bot raised a reduction befor the Lords, which required much attendence and expence, and by his moyen procured a sentence, not reduceing the sentence of the inquest, bot refusing it, and appointing Dundass of Philpston, and Hew Sinclair, then of East Binny, to divide all was divisible, and make report thereof. Upon the report, the Lords adjudged the houses, yards, and lands of Kipps, to me, and gave Carriber the lands of Cormyre; and the rent of the miln was devyded I was to pay eleven hundred merks to equally betwixt us. Carriber for his half of the house and yards, and Carriber gott ane infeftment from my mother of eightie four merks out of the lands of Kipps. Since that I payed the eleven hundred merks for the half of the house and yards. And

lately I redeemed the infeftment of annuelrent from my cusin Randefoord, and gott a discharge and renunciation of all claime to the coal, or any title he might have to any mineralls whatsoever in the Kipps.

About the tyme of this division of the interest, I had ane great inclination to retire to the Kipps, ther to injoy myself in the solitude ther, and to apply myself to practise in the country with more conveniency. I gott much practise in the country about, upon either syde of the river of Forth, and I brought out my mother, who past the last two yeers of her lyfe ther with great contentment. We stayed in Linlithgow during the winter; I continued a year and more ther after her death. My frequent riding up and downe the country, and converse with the young gentlemen ther, disposed me to love, and I found inclinations to settle in a married lyfe; yet I could not fix ther, nor for 3 or four veers therafter, bot my mother and sister being deade, and I left alone, and finding a necessity of keeping house, I then in earnest determined I would ingadge myself in a maried lyfe, if I might gett a match suitable to me, and I was the more confirmed in this, that I found ane inclination for women prevailling some tymes upon me, and though by my reason and studies I could putt it off, yet I doubted it might sometymes overcome, and it were better whill young and vigorous to settle, than delay till old age, which delaying I saw succeeded not well in some I knew.

By the recommendation of a friend, I addressed myself to Master James Lowes of Merchistoun, his second sister Anna, and after some tyme courting, the mariadge was concluded with the consent of all the friends. We were maried upon the 26th of Aprile (being Thursday), 1677, by Mr John Robertson, minister in Edinburgh. I was then just thretty six yeers of age, and she was about twenty two or so.

Upon the 27th of October, 1677, my wyfe, by reason of a fall she had gotten, coming down the stair from the higher chamber in her slippers, ten dayes befor, parted with twins, both boyes; one of them lived near ane hour, the other was hurt with the fall, and had gone back; they were both of the sixt moneth; the first was born at five in the morning, the other at six.

Upon the 12th of October, 1678, it pleased God of his bounty to give us ane daughter, about half six in the morning, being Saturday. She was baptized by Mr John Macquin in the Coledge Kirk, and named Katerin, upon the Sunday the 20th of October, after her grandmother, by the mother side.

About the 17th of December, 1678, my wyfe, after she had stayed some what late at night with her eldest sister, in her returning home contracted ane maligne feavour, which, notwithstanding of all the meanes prescribed by the ablest Physitians in Town, proved mortall. It pleased God to remove her upon the 27th of December, being Fryday, from this lyfe to a better. It was the eleevinth day of the feavour; she was buried the Sunday following besyds my father.

She was a vertuous, and pious, and loving wyfe, and had great kyndness for all my relations, and was much esteemed by them. I continued a widower in a single lyfe four years after her death.

About this time the Earle of Perth began to employ me as his Physitian to his family, and introduced me with his friends. I had been recommended to him by my cusin, Mr Patrick Drumond, and had payed my respects to him upon his coming from his travells; bot Doctor Henderson, who had married Hawthrondale his sister, was his Physitian whill he lived, and had been his fathers, so I succeeded to him.

The Earle was of great partes, and of a serious temper, read much, and was very observant of the rites of the Church of England, and had the English service allways in his family. He was temperatte, and was of excellent conversation, and very desyrous to learne. I, by his order, acquainted him with the curious books, especially pieces of divinity, history, poemes, memoirs of ministers of state, and discoveries in Philosophy. Ther was a great friendship contracted betwixt us, which was intertained by correspondence of letters; and few weeks passed without letters, either when he was in England or here. I gave him account of thes parts of learning he affected most. He not only wrotte ane excellent style of English, but upon occasions made verse, and translated some psalmes of Buchanan, and some odes of Horace. I gave him the best advice I could for ordering of his lyfe, and wrotte many letters to him, and had many discourses with him, to disswade him from medling with the Court and publick employments, and to follow the directions left to him by his Grandfather, a man of great prudence and learning, who did advise his descendants to keep at home and manadge their private affaires arright; bot the low condition of his Estate, (having sustained great losse, and payed many fynes in the late troubles, and payed out great portions to the Bretheren and Sisters,) and the persuasions of his friends, that expected great advantadges by his Court, prevailed with him to embrace publick employements, and goe frequently to Court, which at first occasioned his being made Justice Generall, and after that he was made Chancellor, which ingadged him in the interests of the Court, and occasioned much trouble to him, and persecution and losse to me.

It was by his incouradgement, that to the inquirie after the naturall products of the Kingdome, I added the inquyrie after what concerned ane exact geographicall description of it; and by his procurement, upon his informing King Charles the 2nd, what progresse I had made in these matters, his Majestie gave me a patent to be his geographer for the kingdome of Scotland, and another to be his Physitian there, and, with all, gave me his comands to publish the naturall history of the Country, and the geographicall description of the kingdome. This was the cause of great paines and very much expence to me, in buying all these books and manuscripts I could gett for that use, and procuring informations from all parts of the country, even the most remote Isles. I employed John Adair for surveying, and did bestow much upon him, and payed a guinea for each double of the Mapps he made. He gott much money from the gentry, and ane allowance from the publick for it; but notwithstanding the maitter was recommended by a Comitee of the Counsell, and my paines and progress in the work represented, yett I obtained nothing, except a patent for ane hundred pounds sterling of salary, from King James the Seventh, as his Physitian. I gott only one yeer's payment. However, the work goeth one, and is brought a great length as to my part of the work.

In the yeer 1680, I induced some of the Physitians in Town, especially Doctor Burnett, Doctor Steenson, Dr Balfour, and Doctor Pitcairne, to meet at my lodging once a fourthnight or so, wher we had conferences. The matters we discoursed upon, was letters from these abroad, giving account of what was most remarkable a doing by the learned, some rare cases had happned in our practice, and ane account of Bookes, that tended to the improvement of medicine or naturall history, or any other curious learning, and were continued till the erection of the Colledge of Physitians. Severall of the discourses are inserted in a book I call Acta Medica Edinburgensia. They were forborne then upon the introducing of such conferences once a moneth in the Colledge.

In order to the accomplishment of the description of the Kingdome, I did, in the year 1682, publish in our language ane advertisement, and some generall queries,* copies wherof were sent all over the kingdome; and from severall shyres and Isles, especially by the care of the reverend Mr Murdo Mackenzie, Bishop of Orkney and Shetland, full informationes were sent to me by severall learned men, and the reverend Bishop of the Isles, Mr Grahame, sent me some. Since that tyme, ane excellent description of the Orkney Isles was sent me by Mr James Wallace, Minister of Kirkwall, and a full account of Galloway by Mr Sympson, Minister.⁺ The Countess of Arrall, sister to the Earle

* One of these has been reprinted in the Scots Magazine.

† Recently printed under the editorial superintendence of Thomas Maitland, Esq. Edin. 1823. 8vo. of Pearth, sent me a description of Buchan, and was pleased to do me the honour to grave two plates, one of silver, another of copper, she sent to me, and the draught of some fowles done by herself admirably fine.

In the yeere 1683, I published in Latine the Nuntius Scoto Britannus, sive admonitio de descriptione Scotiæ antiquæ et Modernæ, where the King's patent, constituting me Geographer, is insert; and there is an account of the work, and titles treated of in it. There is a division of the Countrey most naturall, from the great rivers and neckes of land, parting it in so many peninsules; there is ane account of the manuscripts and printed books that relate to the description.

At the same tyme, I published in English ane account of the description of Scotland, antient and moderne, wher there is a division of the country, and ane account of the worke, and with all of the relations or informations given in for the work by the persons ther mentioned. There is a proposall made by David Lindsay, who then was the printer, for the printing of it; and ther is subjoined ane advertisement, of what is done, and was to be done, by some learned men usefull for the designe.

Some tyme before this, Mr Cuninghame, a Chirurgeon, had been refused his admission amongst the Chirurgion Apothecaries, and ill used by them. He had engaged the Apothecaries in town upon his syde, and had raised ane action befor the Lords of Session anent the rights of these employments, and the Lords had requyred the opinion of Dr Hay, Dr Burnett, Dr Steenson, and Dr Balfour, about the Chirurgion Apothecaries, whither ther were any such conjunction of these employments in other countryes, and whither or not it was expedient for the Leidges, they should be joined in one person here. They were pleased to take the opinion of the rest of the Physitians in town anent these matters, and accordingly they mett all togither at Dr Hay his lodging. After they had agreed to the report that ther was no such conjunction of these arts elsewhere, and that it was very prejudiciall both to the leiges and to the Physitians, I took the occasion to represent to them, that this being the first tyme we had all mett, I thought it was our interest to improve the meeting to some furder use, and I downright proposed we might take into consideration, the establishment of a Colledge to secure our priviledges belonged to us as doctors, and defend us against the incroachments of the Chirurgion Apothecaries, which were insupportable. This gave the first ryse to our meetings thereabout, and his Royal Highnesse, the Duke of York, comming to Scotland shortly after, and Sir Charles Scarborough, his Majesties first Physitian, following him soon after that, wee consulted with Sir Charles, and found him our great friend, and very ready to give us his best assistance, with the King, and the Duke who was by this tyme High Commissioner. There was great opposition made to the designe by the town of Edinburgh, who concurred with the Chirurgion Apothecaries, and by the universities, with whom the Archbishops and Bishops, and some of the nobility, joined. I gott the Earle of Perth, and his brother Melfort, to be our great friends, and they brought over many of the nobility to favour the designe; and I, having recovered ane warrand of King James the Sixt, of happie memorie, derected to the Commissioner and Estaits of Parliament, then sitting in Scotland, dated the 3d of July, 1621, with ane reference by the Parliament thereanent, to the Lords of Secret Counsell, with power to doe therein what they thought fitt, and that their determination therein sould have the form of ane act of Parliament, dated the second of August, 1621, produced this to his Royall Highness, who, so soon as he saw it superscribed by King James, said with much satisfaction, he knew his grandfather's hand, and he would see our byseness done, and from that moment acted vigourously for us, so that it was resolved there sould be ane colledge of Physitians, butt it took a long tyme of dispute befor the counsell, in answering the objections of the Chirurgeons and of the Town of Edinburgh against it. We soon did agree with the universities and Bishops, and there were some conditiones insert in the patent in their favours, and

they became strong solicitours for us, so that after long debates, the matter was concerted, and the draught of the patent agreed to by the Counsell, was sent up, and very soon thereafter, by his Royall Highness his procurement, returned signed by the King; the very next day I turned it into Latin, and the day thereafter gave it in to the Chancery chamber, and waited upon it till it was written in parchment, and ready for the great seall, which was appended to it upon the 29th of November, 1681, being St Andrew's day: it cost a great deal of money to defray the charges of the plea, and for getting it signed at court, and sealed here. Wee payed considerably each of us, except Dr Hay, who would not contribute one farthing, though his name be the first insert in the patent. Dr Brisban payed nothing either, and so they were declared by the Colledge to be onlie honorarie members. Dr Steinson, and Dr Balfour and I, were at double expence, in regard that we sollicite the matter, and met with the Lawers and Clerks, and frequently treated them. The patent is very honourable for our Society, and contains a jurisdiction within ourselves, which the publick judicatures are obliged to see executed.

When I stayed in the country, two accidents remarkable befell me, just as I was crossing the Firth from Borostoness to visite the Lady C. The seamen happened to be drunk, and neglected to putt on the rudder, when they came off. Ther blew a great flaw of wind from the south, and they could not get it put on then, nor would the boat answer ane oare, so that when we were about a myle off, the boat run about, and was going to oversett, (upon which the cry rose upon the south shore,) had not Mr Duncan, a strong man, grasped the saile of the small boat in his armes, and sett it right. Upon which I drew my sword, and obliged the seamen to row over, and it pleased God we escaped that great danger.

Another tyme, comming to Town from the Kipps in November, when it was late, I took up my chamber at Mr Armestrong's, in the midle of the west bow, where I used to stable my horse, but never lodged there before, and next morning I was awakened with the noise of people in the close. Upon this occasion a widow woman had taken the cellar under the chamber where I lay, which was no vault, bot only covered with the timber of the floor of that chamber. In this she had some goods, as Lit, and some fyve barrells of powder, some little distance from the Lit. Some servant had been ther the night preceeding, and had let the cole of a candle fall into the Lit, [which] was in a caudron of brass, which had fyred it, bot did not spread, bot raised a smell of burning, which gave the alarum. I saw the fyve barrel of powder caried out by the magistrats order, and it was God his goodness, that I was not blowen up.

1682, the — day of November I was married to Anna Orrock, the youngest daughter to the Laird of Orrock of that Ilk. She parted with chyld of a conception of three moneth, about four moneths after the marriadge.

In the beginning of the year 1682, I was advertised upon a Saturday night to bring with me next day Dr Steinson and Dr Balfour, to wait upon his Royall Highness the Duke of York, after the fornoon sermon. The Earle of Perth and Sir Charles Scarborough had concerted the matter, wee indeed knew nothing of the designe, but thought we had been sent for to receive his Royal Highnesses commands anent the Colledge, for that he was to goe away shortly. Bot to our surprisall, ther was ane carpet layed, and we wer ordered to kneel, and were each of us knighted by his Royall Highnesse, then Commissioner.

Having by this tyme putt what I had observed relating to the naturall history of the products of the Kingdome in order, I caused Mr James Brown, student of divinity, and well seen in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongue, with whom I had kept correspondence for upwards of fifteen or sixteen years before then, transcribe it in a good hand from my copie, and I agreed with David Lindsay, Mr Kniblo, and Mr Colmar, who then had the charge of the printing house, to print it with the same characters, and upon the same paper they had printed the acts of Parliament (folio) on. They would needs have the liberty to print a thousand copies, and they cast of twelf hundred, of which I got for my share one hundred in large paper, and two in the paper the rest of the copies were done in. I was at the charge of designing and graving of the Tables, with the cutt. Mr James Brown did correct the sheets. About this time I had much practice, and was employed with the best in the Kingdome.

We had our conferences in the Colledge frequently. At one of them I had a discourse concerning the Concha Anatifera, the surname of which is the appendix to the Scotia Illustrata.

I gave about this tyme a presse with three shelfs full of books, to the Colledge of Physitians, amongst which were Galen's works, 5 volumes Greek, and five Latine, Hippocrates in Greek, of Aldus' edition, Gesner his history of animals, 3 volumes, Paris bind, and some other valuable books.

Upon the patents passing the seal, I was ordered by the Colledge to have a discourse of thanks to his Royall Highness in the Colledge name, which I delivered in the chamber of presence. This occasioned much envy to me, that I was taken notice of at the Court.

Upon the 20th of March, 1684, my upper Lodging above that I possesse myself, being lett to William Brown, chirurgeon, now dwelling in Hadinton, who had been many yeers my servant, and he having sett the south chamber to the young Lady Rosyth, sister to Peg Maxwell, the said Lady, by her negligence, had raised fyre in the roome six weeks befor, (which I knew not of till told of it afterwards by the Landlord,) and that day went out and left a great fyre burning, and locks the door, notwithstanding the Landlord sould have had the Key, for to shew the roomes which were to be sett, and she had a study for any things belonged to her that were of value, and took with her the key, by which meanes the burning coales falling down fyred the roome, so that eire it was discovered it was past remedy, and burned down most of that lodging and my owne to the vaults. I had bestowed some four thousand merks in repairing the lodging some few yeers befor. My books were all throwen out into the garden, and my curiosities, and severalls of them were stollen, and bundells and burdens of my goods were stollen, so that, computing what I had given for the reparation befor, and what it cost me to repayre it againe, and the losse of my furniture and of my rents while it was a repairing, and what I paid out for lodging, my losse amounted to ten thousand merks. My wife had then no reckoning, and was brought to bed in Captain Cathe his house of a daughter, upon the 22d of March, which was baptized by Mr Andrew Cant, and called Margaret after my mother. She lived till she was four yeer old, and then dyed of a feavour.

I raised, by Sir George Mackenzie and my other advocat's advice, ane sute at law for reparation of my losse, founded upon the act of Parliament, against that Lady, but she found meens to make one of the servants of the house to prevaricate contrair to her former deposition, and I was advised not to insist furder, so I gott no reparation.

A few dayes after this, waiting upon the Lady Philiphaugh's only daughter, upon the eleeventh day of a spotted feavour, as I was finding her pulse, she did bite the mid joynt of my finger, so that it bled much. I caused scarifie it presently, and wash it with tryacle water, and yet it swelled very much, and it was a fourthnight eire it was cured.

Towards the Harvest, the impression of the Scotia Illustrata was finished. I gave neer seeventy of the copies in presents I caused bind two richly at a guiny the binding each, and sent one of them to King Charles the 2d, to whom it was dedicated, and the other to his Royal Highnesse the Duke of York, to whom a parte of it was dedicated.

The fourth of December, 1684, I was chosen President of the Royal Colledge of Physitians at Edinburgh.

In the tyme I was president, our patent was ratified in Parliament. The Pharmacopæa Edinburgensis was composed, and licensed to be printed by the Chancellor, and the

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Printer agreed to print it gratis, and give the College a competent number of copies, and take his hazard of vending the rest; bot by the malice of some, it was laid aside for ten yeers therafter.

I saw all the debts due by the Coledge payed, and when I resigned the place at the end of the yeer, the Thesaurer of the Coledge, Doctor Spens, had ten pounds sterling of cash, and twenty or thretty pounds sterling more due to the Coledge by the bonds of the Intrants. Dr Balfour was chosen president next.

Now I come to the difficultest passage of my life. The friendship I had with the Earle of Perth was come to a great hight, though I had improven it only for the good of the Colledge of Physitians, and done very little for the bettering of my fortune by it. I admired too much him, and gave full scouth to my affection for him, without considering him more narrowly: by my extroversion towards the concerns of the Coledge, and greate persute after curious bookes I had lost much of the assiet and firmnesse of mynde I had formerly, and had by his meanes been ingadged in a controversie about the antiquity of our Country and our Kings, upon occasion of the Bishop of Asaph, his reflections upon This had taken me much up, for I wrott two bookes them. in vindication of our history and historians upon that account, one in answer to the Bishop xara modas, and the other a vindication of our history, and the contraverted points more regularly. This had occasioned in me some contempt of the English Clergy upon that account, and some prævarications of some of our own folks upon some heads, had loused the attachment I had for our owne Reli-The Earle had many tymes signified the aversion he gion. had for some of the doctrines of the Church of Rome, and I was secure upon that head, although both he and I thought ther wer many great and good men amongst them; bot behold, (how it was brought about the Lord knowes,) he had declared himself of the Romish faith, and joined in ther worship some two moneths befor I knew it. At last one Sunday he had taken physick, he took the opportunity, wee

being alone, to tell me, weeping, that he was of that persuasion, and that no consideration of worldly interest had induced him therto, but that he was convinced it was the true and the ancient Church. Though I was much surprized at this, yet I told him I could not but have the charity to believe it was so as he told me, for I thought there could be nothing more contrary to his interest then that was; he said he was sensible of it, and had offered with great earnestness to resigne his place, but the king had commanded him, upon his allegiance, to continue in his post. This did occasion odd thoughts in my mynde; yett I thought what ever he did, I could do better to continue in the church I was born I never had met with any of the Romish and bred in. Clergie, nor spoken with any upon their doctrin, and was secure, when in the begining of September, 1685, he carried me alongst with him to Drummond, to sie his Lady, who, after a long languishing sickness, was then dying. T knew nothing of it, bot he told me afterwards, that the very next day after her arrival, he brought her over to the Romish persuasion. Good Lady, she, I believe, did it out of the love she had for him, and took it for granted that ther was no more in it then that she sould be saved only by the merits of her Saviour; and I saw nothing bot this suirer perswasion the few dayes that she lived, except that she assented to them as of the true Catholick's Church, and joined in their worship and service. Bot all she said herself that I heard, was what any Protestant believed, and used in the agonie of death to say. So she died, and ceremonies were used at her death.

The next day after I arrived at Drummond, he had given me the Lyfe of Gregory Lopez, and of Father Davila to read. I read them with great admiration of ther piety and austerity of lyfe; and one day thereafter, as we were walking, he fell a speaking of religion, and of the Romish way. I told him I had a great charity for all good men of that persuasion, and I thought I had most aversion for their want of charity for those were out of their church. He told me, they beleived that any good man of a different way from

them, that had a sincere love to God, would be saved. Ι said I was well pleased to hear that. About xi a clock, he called me up to his studie, and there he read to me a paper that the Duchess of York had writt upon her embracing that religion, and discoursed very pathetically upon it. I knew not how it came about, I felt a great warmness of my affections while he was reading and discoursing, and therupon as I thought, oestro quodam pietatis motus, I said, I would embrace that religion, upon which he took me in his arms and thanked God for it. This was the way, without any furder consideration, that I joined with them, and signified my willingness to join to the priest when he came. After that I frequented their service, and became seriously enamoured with ther way; and notwithstanding the great opposition I mett with, from all my relations and acquaintances, I continued more and more resolute, and professed I had joined with them.* Ther Churchmen were not of any great learning, knowing for the most parte only the scholastic philosophie and theologie, bot some of them were very devout in ther way, and spent most of their time in publick or private devotion, and acts of charity, which increased my esteeme for them. They were too forward in their methods, and I told them, their having their service upon the streets might occasion them more trouble than they were aware of; bot they did in that more like bigots than wise men, and provoked the Rabble against them and me.

The Rable judged I had made the Earle of that persuasion, and vowed to be avenged on me; and accordingly the first of February, while I was sitting in my own chamber,

• This account of SIBBALD'S conversion is very interesting, and although he turned Papist at a period when his motives were naturally ascribed rather to a desire to find favour in the eyes of a bigoted monarch, than to any internal conviction of the truth of the Catholic religion, still his narrative has such an air of truth, that it is difficult to disbelieve the writer. Besides, in forming an opinion on the subject, it ought not to be overlooked, that Sir Robert publicly abjured the errors of Popery prior to the abdication of James. In the Scottish Pasquils, vol. iii. p. 62, Edin. 1828, 12mo, will be found a severe satire upon Sibbald, written by Da Pitcaiene. reading, they came in a tumult to my house to assassinate me. I had been warned of their designe in the forenoon by a Lady that overheard them swear they would kill me, and had thereupon made my will, and prepared myself for death; and when they came to force their entry to the house, three or four hundred of them, I fell upon my knees, and commended my soul to God, and went out at the back door of my house, not doubting but that they might fall upon me and kill me. It pleased God, Mistress Kyle who lodged below me, heard me come out, and gave me the key of the yard, so I escaped by leaping my yard dyke, and lying in the braes at the foot thereof, till some searching for me, of our owne people, I joined them, and came home. They had broken up the utter door, and soon after the other door was opened to them: they entered with durks and axes, and for-hammers, and one fetcht a stroak with a durk to have killed my wyfe, bot was hindered by one that told she was a Protestant. They searched the Bed, and not finding me, went away, after they had sworn they would "Rathillet" * me. I was conveyed down to the Abbey by Lieutenent Generall Drumond in his coach, with Claverous, who was then Viscount of Dundee, and finding the spighte continued against me, I took journey with Lieutenant Drumond of the lyfe guard, and went to Berwick, wher I mett with the Earl of Traquaire, Mr Irwin, and Mr Lindsay, and wee road post to London in six days. At Stonegate hold we perceived six Highway men, three upon each side of the road, waiting for us: we rode through them without any harme. At Stamford, after we had mounted our horses, and were riding out of the Towne, my horse chanced to rub upon a dragoon : he persued me with a drawen Bagonet to stryke at me; I turned about, and made my excuse, bot

* An allusion to the murder of Archbishop Sharpe, in which Halkerston of Rathillet was a principal actor. Hence the populace adopted the phrase "to Rathillet" in lieu of "to assassinate," and as more forcibly expressing the same thing. In like manner, the word "Burked" has recently come into general use, as indicating the peculiar mode of assassination by suffocation, used by that execrable miscreant, William Burke.

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he still persued me, so I putt to the horse and escaped. When I arrived at London, I was caried the next night to court, to kiss the King's hand. He spoak very kindly to me. I prayed God to preserve and blisse him, and sayed no more, and never went to him after that, for I heard they thought I had gone to court to sollicite for the Romanists, so I keeped out of it, and gave myself entirely to devotion while I was at London.

While I stayed at London, upon Sunday night, the 23d of March, 1686, Sir Charles Scarborough sent me word that I sould wait upon him next day, which I did at two o'clock, in the afternoon, of the 29th March : he carried me with him in his coach to the Colledge of Physitians, and told me I was to be receaved a fellow of their Colledge. Doctor Charleton was ther, who welcomed me very kindly. After that, the President, Sir Thomas Witherly, came in, who welcomed me, and after him Dr Collins, senior, Dr Myllington, and Dr Tyson, and a great many others. I went into a roome of the Colledge for a litle. They first resolved to receive me fellow befor they spoake of any other business. The Thesaurer, Dr Hodges, came in, and putt his gown upon me, and then the President told me, in a handsome discourse in Latin, that the Colledge was to receive me one of their Socii Honorarii. Then I sate down upon one of my knees upon a cushion, and he took both my hands and said, " Ego Præses, facultate mihi concessa, te Socium Honorarium nostri collegij recipio, omniaque tibi fausta apprecor." Dr Charleton did read the usual engadgement the Socii were bound to, in Latin, out of the books of the Statuts, that I sould pay all due respect to the præses and Socii, that I sould not procure abortion, nor give poyson, nor speak of poysonous things in promiscuous companie, all which I promised to observe. After that, the Præses, and each of the fellows, took me by the hand. I went down the one side of the table, and came up the other, and saluted Sir Charles Scarborough last, who sate next to the President upon that side, and then a chair was sett, wher I satt down next to the President, a litle upon Sir

Charles his syde. I thanked them in Latin for the honour they had done me, and told I sould to my power advance ther fame; and after that, Sir Charles Scarborough and I took leave of them, and came away.

When I was at London, I waited upon the Honourable Sir Robert Boyle, who receaved me very kyndly, and after that sent me such books as he published, and his picture in Taildouce very well done.

I had stayed some eight or nyne weeks at London, when, with the cold I had gotten by lying in the field that night the Rable broak into my house, and by riding post in the two first weeks of February, and the change of dyet, keeping Lent wher few good fishes could be had, I became indisposed, and troubled with a cough and Rheumatick paines, and could not rest in the night. I was seazed likewise with an epidemicall sickness, the rose, which affected my right arme and hand, and became disposed to a decay, for the aire of the river and city did not agree with me. I likewise began to think I had been too precipitant in declaring myself of the Faith of the Romish Church, though I joined in the simplicity of my heart, and had no other opinion of the presence in the sacrament, and of meat, then what Dr Holden, in his Analysis ffidei, maintained, who was a Doctor of the Sorbone, [and] had written more as fourty yeer befor. I perceaved also the whole people of England was under a violent restraint then, and I foirsaw they would overturne the Government ;---the Jesuites, who had the greater influence at court, pressing the King to illegal and unaccountable undertakings, and opposing the takeing of the alledgiance which I was bound to, by oathe. Upon which considerations, I repented of my rashnesse, and resolved to come home and returne to the church I was born in. I was forced to come by sea, for I could not ride by reason that the fluxion had fallen upon my arme, and I could not get companie to come in a coach. At Yarmouth sands we were within two feet of the water the vessell drew, and runn much hazard. It pleased God in Eight days we arrived at Leith. When I was come home, I wrott to the Chancellour my resolution, and declared it to some [who] visited me; and I went no more to the Popish service, but removed to the country, and went to church; and in September following, I was receaved by the Bishop of Edinburgh (upon my acknowledgement of my rashnesse) in his house, and took the sacrament according to the way of the Church of England, and kept constantly my Parish Church. I after this made not only those of the Romish Church my Enemies, bot many Protestants too, who favoured the court, for that my return was when they were making a faction in the Parliament to repeall the penal statuts. After my returne, it pleased God the popish interest decayed dayly, and good men thought I by my returne had done it more damage then my joining had profited them. I thanked God, who oppened my Eyes, and by my affliction gave me the grace to know myself, and the world, and to take better heid to my wayes, and amend my lyfe, so that [I recovered] my health, when in the opinion of all men, and according to my own, I was past recovery in a decay, occasioned by what is said befor, and my regrate for my rashness.

I was laureat upon the 14 July, 1659, as my Testificate showeth.

I was graduat Dr of Medicine at Angers, the 17th of July, 1662, as my patent showeth.

I was made Physitian ordinary to King Charles the Second, the thretty of September, 1682, as the patent showeth.

There was ane pension of ane hundred pound sterling for being Physitian to King James the Seeventh, given to me by King James the Seeventh, the 12th of December, 1685 years, as appeareth by the patent.

I was made Geographer for the Kingdome of Scotland, and commanded to publish the naturall History, and the Geographick description therof, the 30th day of December, 1682, as appeareth by my patent.

I was made by the Towne of Edinburgh Professor of Medicine in the Colledge of Edinburgh, upon the fyft

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day of March, 1685, as the extract of the act under the Clerk's hand beareth.

I was installed and admitted by the Magistrates to the exercise of the charge, the 25th of March, 1685, as appeareth by the extract from the Clerk.

The —— day of ——, 1682, I was knighted by his Royall Highness the Duke of York, then Commissioner.

I was made Burgess of Linlithgow upon the 20th of January, 1673, as appeareth by the ticket.

I was made Burgesse of Edinburghe upon the fourth day of June, 1685, as appears by the ticket.

I was made President of the Colledge of Physitians of Edinburgh upon the fourth day of December, 1684, the day of election that year, and continued till the next election day, as appears from the Colledge Minut Book.

Upon the 29th of March, 1686, I was made an honorary Member of the Colledge of Physitians at London, which Dr Charleton, when President, confirmed in his letter to me.

When I was President, the Dispensatorie or Pharmacopcea for this place was completed. I caused transcribe two copies of it, one for the Colledge in folio, (which was delivered by me to Dr Balfour at his election to be præses,) and another in quarto for myself, which I payed for out of my owne mony. I got the Chancellor's licence to it, and did agree with David Lindsay for printing it upon the said David his charge, and he obliged himself to deliver copies of each of the impressions, both in folio and 12mo, for the use of the Colledge, wherto the Colledge did agree, as appears by ther minut booke, and yett a faction obstructed them.

The patent was ratified in Parliament, and I took instruments upon it, and I saw all the Colledge debts payed, and the Theasaurer, Doctor Spence, at my going off, had in his hands, over and above thes payments made, ane hundred and twenty-nyne pound and twelf shilling Scots, and six hundred merks, bonds, as appears from the minute book of the Colledge. The conferences were kept up lykewyse during my tyme, and the discourses were made.

I had written a book in quarto of meditations the yeers 1663, and 1665, and 1666, and I wrote another upon texts of Scripture the yeers 1685, 1686, and 1687.

Upon the 9th of Aprile, 1685, my wyfe was brought to bed of a daughter, which was baptized by Mr Andro Cant, our minister, and named Elizabeth. She dyed the yeer following, and was buried beside my father.

In July, 1686, she was brought to bed of a daughter that was borne dead, and buried in the church-yard of Dunfermline, for she was borne at Baldrick, at her sister's house.

About Lames, 1687, she was brought to bed of a daughter, which was baptized by Mr Andro Cant, and named Elizabeth, after her grandmother by the mother side.

The 2d of September, 1688, she was brought to bed of a daughter, which was baptized by Mr Macqueen, and named Euphame, after the Lady Dunekier, my wyfe's father's sister.

Upon the 4th of September, 1690, she was brought to bed of a daughter, which was baptized by Mr Thomas Wilkie, and named Jean, after my wyfe's sister, Mistress Ramsay. She died of the small pocks some two years therafter.

Ane accident befell me the 16th of October, 1690, that as I was coming from Sir Robert Milne his house in Leith, where I had been visiting his good brother, Mr Elphiston's wyfe, who had taken physick that day, about four afternoon, as I was going downe to passe the ditch to goe to the Links, wher I left some company playing at goufe, and my servant following me, neither he, nor I, nor the boy, adverting, I was strucken by a boy (said to be Captain Taylor his son) of fourteen or fyfteen years, with the back of the club with much force, betwixt the eyes, at the root of the nose. The wound was oblong, large, and about half ane inch long. It was not half ane inch above the cartilage of the nose. The parts under the right eye was livid, and both the canthi majores were swelled. I bled much, and took a coach and came up, and was a good while before I could want a plaster upon it. It was God his great goodness that neither the cartilage was cut, nor one of the eyes put out, for it was done with the sharp side of the club.

In September, 1685, I was returning from Drummond. In that unfortunate voyadge I made, I was benighted ere I could reach the town of Dumfermelin. I came unawares upon the precipice towards the north-west end of the town, and did not know of, bot was riding forward, bot the horse I was on perceived it, and would not go forward, and so I escaped, by God his goodness, which geste I think might have been a pressage of the many dangers befel me within a few months thereafter, related befor.

In July, 1692, or so, as I was going to take horse for to go to the gardener's son of Brunstain, who was desperately sick, about two o'clock, as I came upon the plainstones at our close head, which decline a little, and then were slippery with water, my spurr engaged the other, and made me run so as I could not recover myself, but fell on my head, struck against the revell of the stair with much force; I found myself troubled with the stroke and apprehension of it; however, I went not back, but the next day after my return I let blood, which, with God's blessing, prevented any consequence of it.*

• The precise time of Sir Robert's death has not been ascertained. A catalogue was printed at Edinburgh, 1722, 4to, of "the Library of the late learned and ingenious Sir Robert Sibbald of Kipps, Doctor of Medicine. To be sold by way of auction, on Tuesday the 5th of February, 1723, at his house in the Bishop's land in Edinburgh, where placads will be affix'd. The time of sale is to be from two of the clock to six in the afternoon." Most of the MSS., and many of the printed books, were bought by the Faculty of Advocates. The total amount of the purchases came to £342, 17s. Sterling—a very large sum in those days. It was with considerable difficulty that this purchase was effected, as a number of the members of faculty violently opposed it.

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