

Memoirs of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh. A fragment. With portions of his literary correspondence, now for the first time printed / [Sir Robert Sibbald].

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SIR ROBERT SIMMONDS

MEMOIR

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

AT EDINBURGH


A FRAGMENT

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SIR ROBERT SIBBALD'S

MEMOIRS

OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

AT EDINBURGH.

A FRAGMENT.

WITH PORTIONS OF HIS LITERARY CORRESPONDENCE,

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME PRINTED.

EDINBURGH:

THOMAS G. STEVENSON, 87, PRINCES STREET,

MDCCCXXXVII.

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD had commenced, but never finished, an Account of the Original Institution of the Royal College of Physicians,—the MS. is, with the other Manuscript Collections of this Indefatigable Antiquary, preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. As this Fragment is valuable, it was supposed that the publication would be acceptable, and, accordingly, it is now for the first time given to the world. To add to the interest, such portions as could be recovered of his Correspondence with the Reverend Robert Wedrow, the Historian of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, have been added.

It may be noticed, that this Volume is intended to accompany the Autobiography of Sir Robert Sibbald, of which a few copies were thrown off in this form in the year 1833.



I.

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD'S MEMOIRS OF THE COLLEDGE OF PHYSICIANS.*

MEMOIRS FOR COMPILING THE HISTORY OF THE ROYALL COL-
LEDGE OF PHYSICIANS AT EDINBURGH, DONE FROM THE
RECORDS OF THE COLLEDGE, BY SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, PRE-
SIDENT OF THE SAID ROYALL COLLEDGE.

PREFACE.

Whatever arguments are given for the establishment of Societies of men in generall, the lyke may be adduced for the erectione of particular Faculties and Corporaciones. It is certaine no man can be secured in his particular interest in the service of any faculty, without first the community be established by law, and such constitutions be made as may both incourage each one in their interests, and be a bulwark against the invasion of others; and hence it is, that in all well constitute Kingdomes and Commonwealthes, such establishments have been made so soon as the artes of peace began to flourish amongst them; and as ane nation had the advantage of letters and artes very early amongst us, so we find ther were very soon lawes made for the incouradgement of the Professors of them. So Hector Boeth, who collected his History from our best Records, giveth a particular account therof in the lyfe of Reutha, and he and all the best confirme the same in the lyfe of Josina; and because ther are such remarkable incouradgements for the Professours of the Arte of Medicine, I cannot but give the constitutiones in the words of the same Historians, as the best foundations for the following Memoires. But before wee come to shew what was done for Phisitianes in our Countrey of old, we will first show what the Ecclesiasticus sayth, and appointed in their favours.

* From the original MS. in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. Sir Robert's Autobiography will be found in the first volume of the *Analecta Scotica*, p. 126. Edin. 1834.

Ecclesiasticus, cap. 38.

Honora Medicum propter necessitatem etenim illum creavit Altissimus. A deo est omnis Medela et a Rege accipiet donationem. Disciplina Medici exaltabit caput illius, et in conspectu Magnatorum collaudabitur. Altissimus creavit de terra Medicinam, et vir prudens non abhorrebit illam. So what was granted to the Physitians in after tymes seameth to have been founded upon the Law of God and the Law of Nations, for the Physitians Arte is not amongst the evill inventions men found out to satisfy their lusts: nay, it is said here, God created the Physitiane, and he commandeth honour to be given him, and a rewarde is due to him from the King or Magistrat, (however he be designed), because of the necessity ther is of releife to oppressed nature from his Arte, and because that God made the Earth produce Medicines, which non but fooles will reject. I shall not here mention the priviledges and immunities were granted to Physitians by the Civill Law, nor shall I treat of the particular provisions were made for Physitians of old in this same Country. Boethius, in the lyfe of Reutha, showeth what they were. That which most relateth to the present matter, is the famous Decreet he said was made by King Reutha. "Erat et Reuthæ Regis majoribus suffragantibus decretum, quod complures aut vulnere saucios aut morbo correptos Medicorum justitia periisse noverat, ne quispiam sine Arte peritissimus et quem jamdudum longa probaverat experientia Medici nomen deinceps assumeret, capitis pœna proposita in non obtemperantes." A Law founded upon the inconveniences that happened upon the practice of unskilfull persons, and the remedy is such as pre-supposeth that ther was then Overseers who made inspection, and cognosced whither or not these who exerced the Arte of Medicine were duellie qualified and fitted for it. And when our Kings, (as particularly Josina), were at the paines to studie the Arte and exercise it, and upon their example, all the nobles applied themselves to it, ther is no doubt, even then, ther were instructors in the Art who had in ther hands the licensing those that were qualified for practice, and they might well be so, since ther were alwayes

Boethius
Histor.
Scotor. lib.
2. fol. 20.
Decretum
Regis
Reuthæ pro
Medicis.
Fuit Reutha
Rex VI.

Rerum
Scoticorum,
lib. IV.
Buchananus
in Josina
rege 9.

some who had the art transmitted to them heretably from their prediceffors, by whom they were instructed in it, as it is yett in use in the west Isles, and in the Highlands, where the sones of severall families are alwayes physitians, and so may be well skilled in the arts.

I. CHAPTER OF THE FIRST ORDER FOR ERECTING A COLLEDGE
OF PHYSITIANES IN THIS KINGDOME.

That wise Prince of ever blessed memory, King James the Sixt, (in whom the two kingdomes of Scotland and England, after long and sad wars, were first united under one King,) some tyme after his establishment in England, he, as a tender father to his country, gave order to his Parliament in this Kingdome, to establish here a Colledge of Physitians, and since I had the good fortune to recover the principall order superscribed by the King, which I have by me in my Chartor chest, I will here sett down the copies of it, the tenour whereof is as follows :—

JAMES R.

Commissionaris and Estates of Parliament we greit you heartilie well.

For sa meikle as we are certainlie informet of the gryte abuse done and practised be ane number of ignorant and unskilfull persons, quha without knowledge of the science and facultye of medicine, being nather learned nor graduat therin, presumes at thair awen hand to profess and practice physik and medicine, to the gryt and evident hazarde and danger of the lyffes and healthes of many of our subjects, quhilk evill is becume so ryff and frequent, that the samyne is lyklye to produce gryte harme and detriment except the samyn be tymouslie prevented. And seeing it perteines to us out of our princelie and Royall cair to sie to the guid of that our Realme, and to appoint and establish tharin, sik convenient and cumlie order, as is observet in this our kingdome of Ingland, and other Foreigne Nationes, in the like caices: Therefor, it is our will and pleasure, that thair be ane Col-

Order by
King James
VI. to the
Parliament
for a Col-
ledge of Phy-
sytians here.

ledgge and incorporation of the Professors of Medicine
 erected within that our Kingdome, consisting of the number
 of seven persones, of quhom ane sall be elected and chosen
 geirlie President and Deane of facultie. Quhilk seven per-
 sones and their successores to be chosen and elected in the
 places and roomes of the deceissand, sall have the liberties,
 priuiledges, and immunities dew to ane Colledge and Incor-
 poration, and sall be capable of all gifts, donationes, legacies,
 and other commodities to be gifted, disponed, or left to them
 be whatsumever persone or persons, and sall have power to
 persue and defend in judgment as ane body and incorpora-
 tione, and sall have and injoy the liberty of meitings and
 conventiones all sik tymes as they please, for considering and
 adviseing upon all things necessar and expedient for the good
 of the said Faculty and Professors thereof, and to that effect
 sall have ane common seill, quhilk sall be callet the seill of
 the Facultie, and because we are not particularlie informet
 anent the persones who are fitt to make up the first Incor-
 poratione; Therfor, it is our will, that ge informe yourselves
 theirow, and name and appoint seven persons, being Doctors
 and Professors of Physick and Medicine of the best skill and
 estimation among zow, whom ge sall take sworne: and
 because the grytest hurt and skaithe done be the saide
 ignorent persones who presumes but warrande to practise
 physik, is done and committeit within our burgh of Edin-
 burgh, and countrie therabout; Thairfor it is our will that
 ge declaire and ordaine, that it sall not be lawfull to any
 persone or persons to presume to exerce and practise the
 said arte and science of physick and medicine within our
 saide towne of Edin^r. or miles about the
 samyn, except he be tryed be the said Colledge and Incorpo-
 ratione, and approven be their testimonial under thair sub-
 scription and common seill of the said Facultie: and siclyk,
 that ge giue warrand to the said Colledge and Incorporation
 to make choise geirlie of three of their number, who sall
 haue the cair and charge, to searche and try the freschness
 and sufficiencie of all drogges, wares, and medicaments being
 within all and whatsumever Apothecaries choppes within our

said burgh of Edinburgh, and gif they be found corrupt and insufficient, to destroy the samyne, and that 3e sett down penalties against the refusers or contraveners of the said statute : and also that 3e resolve and conclude upon sik uther order and remedies quhilk sall be thought fitt or necessar by you for eschewing of the foresaids inconveniences within the rest of the parts of our said Kingdome. Given at our Manor of Otelandes the thrid day of Julie 1621.

This conteynes your Majesties warrant to the Commissioners and Estates of Parliament for erecting of a Colledge of Physitians, and prohibiting wemen and ignorent persons to practise that Arte in Scotland.

GEORGE HAY.

2 August 1621.

The Lordis remittis the consideratione of this Article and Articles given in heirwith, to the consideration of the Lords of Secret Counsell, and whatsoever the saids Lords sall determine and ordain therintill, sall haue the force of ane Act of Parliament, and stand in strength quhil it be alterit be sum publict act againe.

II. CHAPTER.—THE FIRST DRAUGHT OF A COLLEDGE OF PHYSITIANS FOUND AMONGST THE PAPERS OF DOCTOR GEORGE SIBBALD OF GIBLISTON, PHYSITIAN IN EDINBURGH.

Amongst my uncle his papers I found these articles mentioned in reference to the Parliament 1621 : they are these.—Articles given in to the Parliament, Anno 1621.

Articles for the Facultie of Medicine to be considered be the Estates of Parliament.

First, it is humblie cravit that the saids Estates nominate and designe sevin persones of the profession of Medicine, to make up the number of the Incorporatione prescrivit be the statute signit be his Majestie.

Item, it is humblie cravit, that the saids estatis of parliament declaire and ordaine, that it sall not be lawfull to any

person to take upon them the Arte of Apothecarie, except he be tryed and approvin be the said facultie, with the concourse of the bretherein of Apothecaries.

Item, that it sall not be lawfull to no person to practise Chyrurgerie, except he be tryed and approvin be the said facultie, with the concourse of the Bretheren of the Chirurgians.

Item, that it be defendit and forbiddin, that na person not being ane Apothecar, presume to sell medicinal drogues by smalls to his Majesties Lieges, but allenarly that they sell the samen be greattes to the Apothecaries, who hes skill and knowledge to try and consider of the freshness and goodness of the saids druggs, and who, by the statute, are ordeaned to be answerable for the samyne.

Item, It is humbly cravit that penalties be sett down be the said estatis, to be exacted from the contraueners of the said statute, and that order be appoynted for exacting of the samyne.

Item, anent the ordour to be observed in the uther pairtes of the countrie, because the samin cannot be resolved without long deliberation, theirfor, it is humbly desyred that the said estaits giue command and direction to the said Facultie to consult, advise, and resolute upon fittest and most expedient means for establishing of good order in the hail parts of the countrie, concerning the Professors and Practisers of Medicine, and exhibit the samine to the Lords of his Majesties Secret Counsell.

Item, that the said estaits give power and commission to the Lords of his Majestie's Secreit Counsell, to hear and consider of the saids overtures, and to conclude and determine therupon, and upon all uther guid and expedient meanes whilk may furder and promote the said Facultie of Medicine within the kingdome, as the samen sall be proponed to their Lordships, be the brethren of the facultie in all tyme cumming.

I find not in my uncle his Memoirs that any more was done till anno 1630, and then by expresse letters of King Charles the First to his Majestie Secret Counsell, and be ane decreit of the saids Lords therupon, (as his Memoirs bear), order was given to the Doctors of Physic, expressed be their names, in the towne of Edinburgh, to giue in some heads

and articles for the erection of the said Colledge, the whilk was done be the said doctors of physick, and given in to the consideration of the Parliament in the year 1633.

The Articles I found amongst his Papers are these following the number of 17 :—

The title is,

Articles for the erection of a Colledge and Incorporation of the Doctors of Medicine within the Kingdome of Scotland, presented in all due submission and humilitie to the Lords of his Majestie's Secret Counsell, at their Lordships awin command, be the Graduate Doctors in that facultie, Inhabitants of the Towne of Edinburghe, and in the name of all uther Graduate Doctors in the said Facultie within the Kingdome.

Articles for
a Colledge of
Physitians,
anno 1633.

First, it is humbly craved, that there be erected and established within Edinburgh, a Colledge and Incorporation of the Facultie of Medicine, consisting of the Graduate Doctors therof, now ther 20 years or above, resident within the said towne of Edinburgh, and publikly professing and practising the same, through the kingdome, and of all other Graduate Doctors in that Facultie, within the Realme being of the reformed religion, received, and publikly professed, within this Kingdome, of them to be made up one Bodie, Communaltie, and Fellowship, to haue perpetuall succession in all tymes coming, with liberties, priviledges, and immunities, due to a Colledge and Incorporation, and be capable of all debts, donations, legacies, and other commodities to be gifted, disposed, or left to them, be whatsoever person or persons, and to haue power to conquesse lands and heretages, as well within the towne of Edinburgh as without, for the good of the Commonwealth of the said Incorporation, and the advancement of the said Facultie, and to persue and defend in judgement, as a Body and Incorporation, and to have libertie of meeting and conveening at such time as they please, for consulting, advising, and concluding, making of lawes and con-

1. Article.

stitutions for the good of the said Colledge and Incorporation, and with power for that effect to have a Counsell house within the towne of Edinburgh, Cannogait, or Suburbs, or within a mile theirow, together with a common seale, which shall be called the seale of the Facultie of Medicine, and to chuse yearly their President, Counsellours, and Thesaurer, and all other officers needfull for the services of the said Colledge and Incorporatione, and the foresaid Graduate Doctors nowther many years resident within the said Towne of Edinburgh, to be designed, nominat, and expressed be their severall names in the letters patent of this Fundatione as the first Elects and Intrants of such a corporatione.

2. Article. Item, That power be grantit to the foresaid Graduate Doctors of Edinburgh, to associate and incorporat in their societie and fellowship within Edinburgh, to have their residence together with them in the said towne, one or more Physitians hereafter as shall be found requisite, the whole number of the fellowship in Edinburgh in no tyme coming exceeding, (for the better furnishing of the countrey with Physitians abroad), nyne at the most, and of these whensoever any of their roomes, or their successors shall fall to be void by death, the remanent on lyfe to choose and elect one or more, as need be, of the most cuning and expert men and Graduate Doctors in the said Facultie, to supplie the vacant roomes of the deceased, and to take them sworne. And if it shall happin at the pleasure of God at any tyme coming, that all these of the societie and fellowship of Medicines of Edinburgh be inlaiking through decease, the priviledges of the incorporatione foresaid to stand notwithstanding in force, locally, within the Towne of Edinburgh to all the persons to succeed be new election to be made be the Lords of his Maestie, his Secret Counsell; providing alwayes that the efterward elects be all of the reformed religion, received and publiklie professed within this Realme, and Graduate Doctors in that Facultie, either from some famous Universitie abroad, or from the forsaid Colledge and Incorporatione, and failing such, that at the least they be such as has been first duellie tryed and examine and licenciate, in the said Facultie of the said colledge, and ther prac-

tise in the samen, some reasonable good tyme before, general-
lie approvin in the boundes of their residence and employ-
ment within the kingdome, befor the admission to the Cor-
poratione of the foresaid fellowship of Edinburgh.

That it be statuted and ordained, that the President and 3. Art.
Counsellours of the facultie be always chosen out of the num-
ber of the Graduate Doctors of the societie and fellowship of
Edinburgh, and that in absence of the President of the facultie,
the eldest Professor of Medicine of the said societie, being a
Graduate Doctor, be his substitute and vice presidente, and
in absence of the whole Graduate Doctors, the eldest pro-
fessor, simpliciter.

Because upon all necessities of meeting, the whole number 4. Art.
of the Incorporatione cannot always be had, it is therefor
humbly craved that, whatsoever sall be concluded and deter-
mined by the President or his vice President with four coun-
sellors for the tyme, may be declared to be als valid, and of
as greate force as if the full number had been presente.

That power be granted to all the particular societies of 5. Art.
medicines of the forsaid Incorporation, to appoint yearly, at
what tyme it sall be thought by the said societie most expe-
dient, two censors of their number having with them ane
apothiquer of the Towne of their residence, to view, try, and
examine the sufficiency of all medicaments, drogues, composi-
tiones, waters, oiles, and chymicall preparationes, and to re-
port to the said societies, to the end, that whatsoever sall be
found by them to be either adulterate or corrupt and carious,
may be by them ordeaned to be destroyed and cassed with-
out any hinderance to be made for that effect, be any apothi-
quer, drogist, or seller of any of the foresaids, and to fyne
the sellers of insufficient droges.

That power be grantit to the said Colledge, with the con- 6. Art.
currence of two Apothiquers, whom the said Colledge sall
please to nominate, to tax and appretiate, yearly, all drogs
medicaments, and compositiones, waters, oiles, and all which
be in use to be imployed, and that it be ordered that publik
records of the severall taxes and appretiationes be made,
wherof ane copie sall remaine in the custodie of the said Col-

ledge, and every Apothiquer sall haue ane publikly extant in his buith, that the buyers may haue knowledge and insight of the prices, and to fyne the exceders of the said taxes, proportionallie to the quality therof.

7. Art. That prohibition and defense be made to all apothiquers and droguists, and to all others within the Kingdome, to sell any drogues of dangerous quality, as Antimony, Scammony, Arsenic, Mercury, Sublimat, Hellekore, Opium, Elaterium, or any Narcotic, Cathartik, or purging medicaments to any whatsomever, except allenarly either to the Apothiquers or to the Physitians of the foresaid Incorporation, or Licentiats from the said Colledge, or to such others as has their war-rand and ordinance for the same, with power to the said Colledge to fine the delinquents.
8. Art. That it be statuted and ordained, that no Chyrurgian nor Apothiquer be admitted or receaved masters in Chyrurgerie, or Apothiquary, nor suffered to profess and practise the saids airts of Chyrurgerie and Apothiquarie, but such as shall be first tryed and examined be the said Colledge, in their knowledge and capacitie therin, and found qualified and approven; and the said tryall and examination of the Chirurgiones to be made be the said Colledge, with concurrence of the masters and freemen in Chirurgerie within Edinburgh, and of the Apothiquers, in presence of the masters, Apothiquers, and freemen of the said towne for the tyme, and the said Colledge to takethem sworne for the faithfull discharge of their whole dueties and service in Chirurgerie and Apothiquerie.
9. Art. That it be statute and ordeaned, that the tryall and examinatione of the Licentiats, or to be promoted to the degree of Doctorate be made in the whole Societie and Fellowshipe of Edinburgh, with liberty to whatsoever other Graduate Doctors of the whole incorporation through the Kingdome, to concurr with them in the said tryall and examinatione, if they please; but the promoters to the degree of Doctorate to be only the Graduate Doctors of the fellowship of Edinburgh and these per vices, the eldest Phisitian of Edinburgh beginning, and so consequently by order.
10. Art. That it be statute and ordained, that none presume nor

take in hand, to profess, exercise, or practise physick within the Kingdome in all tyme comeing, except only the Doctors of the said Colledge and Incorporation, and such as sall be authorised and licentiated upon due tryall and examination premitted by the said Colledge, and receave letters testimoniall of their license from the said Colledge, under their subscriptiones and common seall.

That it be statute and ordeaned, that the Phisitians only 11. Art. of the said societie and fellowship of Edinburgh, have power within the said towne of Edinbr. and 24 miles round about, to profess, teach, practise, and exercise the said Faculty of Medecine fullie, in all the parts and members therof, and that none other presume or take in hand, to profess or practise the samine, ordean, prescripts, or recipies within the said toune and precinct forsaid, but they only of the said societie and fellowship of medicines of Edin^r., but prejudice alwayes, to whatsoever other Graduate Doctors within the Kingdome of the incorporatione, to be called and admitted at the desyre of the patients, to consultations withe the Physitians of the said fellowship, within the said towne and bounds foresaid.

And because there are manie abusers and ignorent persons 12. Art. never trained up, nather in medicine nor good Literature, who assumes to themselues the style of Doctors of Medicine, whereby they not onlie disgrace the worthy professors theirow, but deceaves also the Lieges by so specious a title to their great hurt, perrill and ruine; Therfor, it is humbly craved, that it be statute and ordained that none presume to arrogate or admitt, in all tyme comeing, the title of and qualitie of Doctor of Medicine, except he be such indeed, and have receaved the degrees of Doctorate in that Facultie in some famous University abroad, or else from the foresaid Colledge and Incorporation of this Kingdome, and for this effect, that it be ordeaned that all the present Graduate Doctors within the Kingdome, within half a year after the publication heirof, as they sall have opportunity, and all new Graduate Doctors heirafter in all tyme comming, befor their publik practise in the Kingdome, repair to the Towne of Edinburgh, and their notifie unto the Societie and Fellowship

therof, their degrees of Doctorate in that Facultie, be their progame and theses publikly sustained and disputed, and letters testimoniall under the common seal of the Universitie wher they receaved the saidis degrees and dignity, and so to matriculate themselves in the said Towne of Edinburgh, with the forsaid Colledge and Incorporation, as Members therof.

13. Art. That it be statute and ordeaned, that no chirurgion within Edinburgh and bounds foresaid, take blood of any person, or undertake the cure of any aposteme, ulcer, fracture, or wounde, or any other thing requiring chirurgicall operatione, which may be deadlie or dangerous for the life of the de-seased or a wounded person, (such as are the woundes of the head, stomach, diaphragme, bellie, bladder, lightes, and liuer, or great vessels,) without the advise and counsell of one of the said societie and fellowship of the Physitians of Edin^r. except in case of present necessity, and that no deposition be given up, to any Judge whatsoever, be chirurgians anent any wounded person, or the quality of the wounde or woundes, but at the sighting, and under the hand and subscriptione and forme of the Doctors of the said societie, together with the Masters in Chirurgerie of the said Towne, and the contraveeners to be fyned by the said colledge.

14. Art. Item, it is humbly craved that power be granted to the said Colledge and Incorporatione to cause, warne, and sum-monde by their officer, and under their common seale in the King's Ma: his name and authoritie, and the Lords of his Ma: Secreit Counsell, whatsoever delinquent against thelawes and constitutiones of the said Colledge and the Societie of the Phisitians of Edinburgh, to compeare befor them, and being convict to fyne them, to the behalfe of the said Incorporatione, and to poinde, warde and imprisone, at the discretione of the said Colledge and Societie of the Medicines of Edinburgh for-saide, and to take them sworne, that they transgress no more in that kinde, under double paine, and that command be given to all Proveists and Bailies in tyme comeing, and to all Justices and Shirifes, and to other, his Majesties officers within this realme, that upon the warrande and common seale of the said Colledge, they assist to the putting of the said Acts in

executione, upon paine for not giving their help and assistance to runne in contempt of his Highness lawes and authoritie, and to all keepers of wardes and prissons, that they accept and receave in their wards and prissons, all and every such persone or persones so offending, as sall be committed to them from the said Colledge or Societie of Edinburghe, and they sall surelie keep and retaine the said persons so committed into their prissons, upon the propper cost and charges of the said person or persons incarcerat, till such tyme, that, by paying their fyne, or finding caution, they be relied upon the warrande and common seale of the said colledge, under paine of paying to the Colledge the double of the fyne that the saids persons committed are fyned into.

Item, It is humbly craved that exemption be granted to 15. Art. all the Graduate Doctors of the said Incorporatione from all burding and Taxatione, and beareings of Armes in all tyme comeing, and that they be declared to be holden amongst the number of priviledged persones, *a legibus sumptuariis*, to injoy the annuities and priviledges granted to such persones be the Actes of Parliament as in all Civiil Kingdomes.

That reservatione be expressly made to be farther humblie 16. Art. petitioned be the said Incorporatione upon all other good and expedient meanes, which may further and promoue the said Facultie of Medicine within this kingdome, as tyme and the experience and the happie successe of so good a constitutione may affoorde.

Finallie, it is humbly craved that these articles foresaide, 17. Art. be declaired to have in all tyme coming, the full force, power, and strengthe of ane Act of Parliament, conforme to ane Act of reference in the last Parliament 1621, and be ordeaned to be ratified and confirmed in the next insuing Parliament, in all and every grant and article, and be clearlie authorised and admitted by the same, as tending to the good and well of the kingdome, and the advancement of the said Facultie, and available to the said body corporate and their successors for ever, in als ample and large maner as may be, and that incontinente after the passing of thir presentes they be oppenly proclaimed at all the Mercate Crosses within this

realme, and be printed by the King's Majesties printer, to the effect that none pretend ignorance.

This is the draught of the articles for a Colledge of Physicians I found amongst my uncle's papers, and besides I finde a scrolle of a petition under his hand to the Parliament, the substance whei of is as followeth:—

“The graduate doctors humbly sute and crave, that their persons, their callings, their dwelling houses, may obtane and injoy these immunities, liberties and priviledges, which, with much tyme, travell and charges, is obtained over seas from divers Schooles and Universities, and haue been granted for many ages by the most of Princes and Republiks in Christendome to presbiters, mediciners and lawers, that their persons be not pressed to any military service, that their callings be not vilified with the name or condition of any trade or traffick, and that their lodgings and dwelling-houses be not troubled nor molested with any sojors or quarterings whatsoever, for that they use no merchant trade, nor traffick with money, and doe not agree for fies or rewardes with any man, nor craue the same after they haue deserved them, and their persons ought to be (as they are ever readie) *quatenus fert valetudo, ætas, &c.* to visite and attend their ordinarie and customable patients, according to their urgent symptoms and necessities, *quod in bello fieri nequit*: that their persons be not oblidged to watch or waird any towne, castell or fortresse, nor yett stented, taxed, or compelled to pay any soume of money for any of the said military duties for maintenance of their Guards or Garrisons, or maintenance of any souldier, “*Presbiteri, Medici, Juris periti, Doctores, Professores, etc. debent esse immunes ab omnibus belli muniis, oneribus, sumptibus, hospitationibus, etc.*”

Item, that every Graduate Physitiane of the Colledge ought and may exerce and practise any parte of Physike, and namely, of Surgery, according to the licences and priviledges of their Doctorate: that some of the Physitians be made censors of all other parts and offices of physike, to haue the inspection and censure therof, and namely, in the matter of

admitting prentises to be masters in Surgery, and in the censuring of faultes admitted be these prentises, or by the Surgeons themselves in the work of their calling, to judge thereupon, together with the Masters of the said calling; and that because of the manifold abuses that arise dayly upon the admission of ignorant prentises, and euen because of the unskillfulness of the extortion of the Lieges for their fees, or other fautes in diligence, dyet etc. admitted too oftine be many common Surgions."

This is all I finde done in my uncle his tyme, he heth this reflectione upon it, that the maitter was delayed and abstracted by those men, as sould and ought most to haue furthered the same for their own private ends and interests.

Ther was after my uncle his death, a new designe sett afoot for the establishment of a Colledge of Phisitianes by Doctor Purvess, mainly, and some others. I shall give some account of the project and obstructione it met with, that by comparing what was designed in my uncle his tyme, and afterwarde, by Doctor Purvess, it may appeare what was gained by us, and what is yett wanting to the inlarging of the power of the Colledge.

By the minutes I haue of their meetings, I finde the subscriptiones of these following Doctors:—

A. RAMSAY.	D. BALFOUR.	D. OUGHTERLONY.
AL. MEIRTING.	WM. MACGILL.	T. GORDON.
JA. LESLIE.	J. SAINTSERF.	SILVESTER RATTRAY.
THOMAS GLEG.	RO. STRACHANE.	D. MOIRE.
THO. FORBESSE.	ALEXR. YEOMAN.	GEORGE PURVASS.
RO. BURNETT.	D. BETHUNE.	D. PATONE.

I find first, ane paper giving account of the publik abuses in maitters of medicine, in the heads following:—

1. The frequent murders committed universallie in all parts of this Kingdome by quacks, women, gardiners and others grossly ignorent, and they referr to the publik judicatories for the proof of this.

2. The unlimited and unaccountable practises of Chirur-

gions, Apothecaries and Empericks pretending to medicines not only in places destitute of Physitians, but in the eminentest cities of the natione, all these undertaking the cure of all diseases without advice or assistance of Physitians.

3. The unwarrantable vending of drugs, simple and compound, by Drugists and Apothecaries, not only in common sale, but in the dispensing Physitians receipts, and these generally carious, sophisticated, and every way corrupted, and of this the most deadly poisons, without security taken from the buyer, or any other restraint, as is found by the great difference in medicines in their operatione here from what is found abroad.

4. The exorbitant prices of drugs by which the Lieges are much exacted.

5. The great abuse lately established in Edinburgh and other cites, by ingrossing promiscuously these two Trades into one Incorporatione, whence many not bred in thes airts sett up to the greate prejudice of the patient and discredite of the Physitians.

6. The great charges and difficulties Students of Medicine ar putt to in travelling abroad for educatione and degrees in the science of Medicine, and the disadvantage and discredit Universities suffer in being deprived of their priviledge.

7. The great losse Physitians are at, in not improving their learning by Professors.

8. The advantages would accrue to all the nation if, as other well governed Countries, they had such settlements of priviledges for Physitians here, and Literature would to the nations honour advance.

The designe then was (as appeareth from a draught of their patent I have by me), that a Societie and Colledge of Physitians should be erected within the city of Edinburgh, which should consist of a President and Fellowes under the name of President and Colledge of Physitians of Scotland, and for the time, was to be made up of Alex^r. Dowglass, William Macgill, George Rae, John Balfour, William Patoun, James Beatoun, George Purvess, Robert Cuninghame, Andrew Moire, Alex^r. Martine, Alex^r. Yeoman, Robert

Burnett, Thomas Gleg, George Hepburne, Silvester Ratra, Henry Henrysone, James Leslie, William Moire, John Sinsse, and James Colhoun, who sould haue power and authoritie to oversie, rule, and order what may concerne the right administratiōe of Physike to the people of Scotland, in all pairts and places of the said nation, with power to them to censure and punish all persones who shall presume to practise, exercise, or profess Physick or give Medicines, or ordaine Physicall praescriptiones in any pairt or place in Scotland, being not Members of the said Colledge, or not being approved and licensed by the said President and Colledge under the common seall.

The President and Colledge and thair Successors, and all others who sall be from tyme to tyme licensed by the said President and Colledge as aforesaid, shall, and may, from tyme to tyme, practise and exercise the Art of Chirurgery (for as much as the science of Physick doth comprehend, include and containe in it the knowledge of Chirurgery, being a speciall part of the same and member thereof), in all pointes, and throughout Scotland, save only within the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, wher the said President and Colledge and their Successors shall have no further power, as to the exercise of Chirurgerie, then what they, as Graduate Physitians, lawfully had, or might have had, before the date of these presents.

And that no person whatsoever shall heirafter presume to keep ane Apothecaries Shop, or profess the Art or Trade of ane Apothecary in any part of Scotland, but such only as sall be first tryed, examined and approved by the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, and by the Masters Apothecaries in the respective cities and burghs of their abode, and therupon approved of by the said President and Colledge, and being so tryed and approved of, shall be from tyme to tyme answerable to the Censors to be appointed by the President and Colledge aforesaid, for the tyme being, in their severall places of residence, for the sufficiencie of their simples and compoundes, imployable for the use of the people ther, which

censors respectivly sall call to their assistance at every such inspection and inquiry, one or two of the ablest Apothicaries residing in or near the respective places of the abode of such persons wher such search and enquirie sall be made ; and that if upon any such search and inquiry, the physicall drugs of such apothicaries sall be adjudged not to be sufficient and warrantable, then the same sall be cast out and burnt, and the party so offending sall be fyned at the good discretion of the magistrate of the place where the offence is committed ; provided alwayes, that when any apothicarie is to sett up his trade of apothicarie within Edinburgh, or any other citie or burgh of Scotland, the Magistrates of the said citie and burgh sall haue notice therof from the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, that if they so please, they may be present at the examinatione and admission of such apothicaries, to exercise their said trade of apothicarie. And it is to be provided that the Magistrates of the severall cities and burghs, and the sherifs of the respective counties in Scotland, sall and may be empowered, at their discretion, from tyme to tyme, to give to the said President and Colledge for the tyme being, or their assignayes sufficiently authorised in that behalf, under their common seall, such dead bodies of malefactors executed, as they shall desyre, for making of dissection and anatomie for the use of the Colledge.

This project for the Colledge was mainly manadged by Doctor George Purvass, a man of great parts, and of much boldness and vivacity of spirit, and who was of a pragmatick temper, and did not spare charges nor paines for to accomplish the designe. We shall see how it was stopped, and upon what consideratione it was layed aside by the undertakers.

The opposition did mainly arise from the citie of Edinburgh, and thro their influence the rest of the Boroughs of the nation, pretending ane incroachment upon their liberties.

The Universities were likwayes stirred up to oppose it, upon the account of their priviledges, which they alledged would be infringed thereby.

The Chirurgians thinking themselves injured in that they were debarred from practising Medicine, and the Physitians

were allowed to practise Chirurgie, were exceeding clamorous, and made many enimes to the project.

The city of Glasco having ane Charter granted in the behalf principally of the Physitians in the place, with the Chirurgians and Apothecaries therein, whereby, they are empowered, with inspection over the abuses committed, in any of the three Professions, within the bounds of their precincts, did joyne to oppose the designe. Wee shall see what overtures were made for the accomodation ; but, in the first, it is fitt that wee give ane account of the priviledges of the Chirurgions in Edinburgh, because they were the first movers, and the intertainers of the opposition that did att last put a stop to the projecte, and we shall then remarke the difficulties that did make this project so unfeasable as it proved, that it may appear our Colledge was erected upon better grounds, and a surer foundation.

The priviledges of the Chirurgions, as they are extractit from their own writts, are founded upon ane Act or Seal of Cause granted by the Provost, Bailies, and Counsell of Edinburgh.

* * * * *

II

LETTERS OF SIR ROBERT SIBBALD.

Edin. 13th May 1691.

1.—REVEREND SIR,—I am glad to hear from Doctor Izet that you are in good health, he told me of two whales came in at Culross shortly. I must entreat yow to putt your nephew on it to gett me the best account of them. The Doctor sayeth the Schoolmaster can give the best description,—if Mr. Creigh or any other ther can helpe to it, I pray yow cause speak to them. I would be informed of ther shape, the figure of ther head, the number of ther fins, and whether they had teeth both in the under and upper jaw, and some of them would be sent,—the difference of the teeth would be marked, and if the other of them had Baleen or

teeth different from the other. Whither ther was any spermacety in ther heads,—if any thing was gotten in ther stomach,—and the shap of ther stomach, the lengthe of ther body, and some of the bones toward the taile would be sent. If they be so that they may be worth the sieing, I would come over on purpose to sie them, but it's lyke your answer will satisfie my curiosity here. I wish yow all happienes, and I am,

For

The Reverend
Mr. James Aird
at Torriburn.

your assured friend
and humble servant,
R. SIBBALD.

These.

ACCOMPT FROM ALEXR. DRAYSDALE, ONE OF THE CUTTERS.

The name of it is a fine fish, the shape was much like ane mane swine, the head of the same species, the number of the fins were fyve, two on every side, and ane small one on the back, they had teeth both in the upper and neather jawes, on the tope of the head there was about ten inches of pure fatt, and in the eye holl there was about a foott and ane halfe of fatt, even to the very tongue roots, the teeth wer. of a like bignesse, none of them had balen, both of them had a like teeth : he can give noe accompt of the spermaceti, onely the head was full of brains, part thereof being bronish colored and not fatt, they were, the one was three fathoms and some more, the other two fathoms ten foot, the collor of the fishes were like to a speckled horse smoth without scales, the leane of the fish was like to leane beaffe, the shape of his bodie was like to an other whale, the head was great at the craige, and drew narrow at the mouth, some what long jawes, having in the upper jaw thirtie teeth, and betwixt every one of these there was a voyde to receive the tooth in the neather jaw, his eyes were directly like ane cow's eye, placed in the upper part of his head, his lenth was eight ells, he had a great fine on his back about ane ell and more of lenth even up from his back, with a fine in every side of his bellie : his bellie was white as snow, the rest of his bodie was blackish

colored, with a large white spot on each shoulder, his virga was as bige as ane mutchen stoope, and neer ane ell of lenth, not soe white as the bellie, nor yett soe black as the rest of his bodie, the taill had lairge whyte spotts on each syde.

Edr. 29, August 1699.

2.—SIR,*—I take the occasion of the bearer, Mr. James Sutherland, to write to yow and thank yow for the civilities yow did me at Glasgow, I must recommend him to yow, that yow may show him your Manuscripts and curious books and the Gardens most remarkable in the city. I shall intreat the favour yow may send me a copie of the inscriptions, and gett some who heth skill to draw the figures that are upon them, and give me your conjectures about them, and the date of the severall books of your Fordon, and wher it endeth, and the date of the MS. History in Verse, I take it to differ from Winton his History in Verse, it seemeth to be much later. Yow will give the title of the Bible in the language of the Natives in New England, and wher it was printed: I could wish yow gave me some account wherin Mr. Calderwood refuteth Spotswood in the additional volumes yow haue. I ame told they are much upon that. Yow will show Mr. Sutherland wher the shells yow speak of are to be found, and send me some of them: yow will be pleased to gett me a copie of the inscription, the Principal heth, and give me service to him, I am sorrowfull I saw him not. Yow would show Mr. James wher he may sie a collection of Saxon Coines, if yow know of any. I presume to make yow many demands; your commands shall be very welcome to,

Your humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Edr. 11th Novr. 1699.

3.—SIR,—I gave yow many thanks for the inscriptions yow sent me and the fossils. I have not Lister by me to com-

* This and the twelve letters that follow, are addressed to the Rev. R. Wodrow.

pare them and give yow so perfect ane account as I could wish, but yow shall haue my owne thoughts. These in the Number I. I take to be Pectunculites.

These of the Number 2nd. which taper somewhat, seem to me to be fragments of the Belemnites; in the 3 paper there is a Nerites and with it the radiolus of ane Entrochus very pretty.

Number 4 is a collection of Entrochi.

Number 5 is Entrochi compressi et magis complanati.

Number 6 seem to be Turbinat, but are so broken, that I can not reduce them to a certain tribe. I could wish to haue some of them inteir.

I ame glad yow haue found another Roman inscription, I beseech yow to let me haue a copie of it, and ane account of Caderwood's MS. History yow haue. I must confess I never saw yet any satisfactory account of the original 5 or 6 stances, though ther be severall ingenious hypotheses about them which yow are acquaint with. Wee haue gote here some poems of Buchanan were never printed. Ther is a satyre against the Cardinall of Lorain, of ane 153 Heroick Verses, and some others, which, if Mr. Mosman's designe holds of printing all his works in a fyne letter and great paper, will make ane addition to this edition, all befor it wanted. What may be worthy your knowledge, I may heare of shall be transmitted to yow by,

Your assured Friend

and humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Edinr. August 31, 1700.

4.—SIR,—I am very much obliged to yow for your many favours. I haue been much taken up of late with business, and oftene out of town, so I could not writt to yow till now. I thank yow for the use of your copie of the description of Orknay, which I have read and delivered back to Mr. Paterson, to be sent to yow. Ther is very litle materiall added to the 2d edition, except that paper relating to the Sinclares. I ame reading Sir James Turner's Animadver-

sions upon Buchanan, and shall take care of them. I am very glad to see your proficiencie in the studie of Natural History and good Learning, and shall be glad to my power to doe what I can for your incouragement That in the substance lyke Corall, in N. I. is indead Coralloides, a concretion I have seen long since brought from Cantyre and other parts. I have seen a lump of the bigness and shape of a Gouf ball. Num. 2 is the Corallina which is common every wher. I have seen of it red and purplish. It is used for the worms in children. Num. 3 is thought to be the uterus of a skate, the fishers call it the skate's purse. I am very well pleased with thes curious stones Mr. Lloyd hath sent me, the same yow mention, and I judge have receaved from him. I am persuaded yow will find these and many more curiosities, upon application and search in severall places of the country. I shall intreat yow withall to take notice of all the ancient monuments, the inscriptions, medalls, or other pieces of antiquity found amongst the Roman Wall, near the tract of it, or the Roman Garisons in your parts, and lett me be acquainted with what you meet with. Mr. Lloyd his letter hath lyen so long at Belfast, (being written the 2d of Aprile) I think by his to me, he may by this tyme be out of Cornwall, gone for litle Brittanie in France. He designed to goe ther to observe the resemblance and approache of the language ther, to that in Cornwall and Wales. He is a learned and ingenious gentleman, and his work will be very acceptable to the learned in these kingdomes. I shall be glad to have your account of that extraordinarie stone yow mention. When yow come here yow shall have a share of some of my collections yow mention at your own choice. I have neer finished an edition of Arator from the excellent MS. I have. I am expecting some observations and notes on him from a learned Swedish gentleman who wrote to me about the edition of Arator from England. I shall acquaint yow of what I gett when they come to my hand ; and now I have prepared an edition of our countrieman, Sedulius, from an excellent manuscript copie of it with notes in parchment belonging to the Lawers Library. I purpose to add to it, Sedulius his para-

phrase in prose published by himself, a printed copie of which I have, and the notes of Antonius Nebrissensis, and others, so it will be lyke one of the poets done for the Dauphin. They are excellent poets, especially Sedulius, and I hope they may be of use for the young students for fixing in ther mynds the great truths of Religion. I think this may, with the blessing of God, be one mean for the reformation of manner, (happily begun in the nighbour kingdome,) wished for by all good men in that country. Mr. Andrew Simpson heth promised to make a faire and correct edition, if he may have incouragement from the schools and colledges. I ame hopeful yow will take pains to procure subscriptions in Glasgow. I intend Sedulius shall be first published, he being lyke to be best wellcomed here, and having so many advantages above the others, tyme may gett us more for Arator, and I shall doe what is in my power to compleet the edition of him too. I shall intreat yow to continue your correspondence, although I cannot promise to writte so oftene as it were neadfull. I shall from tyme to tyme advertise yow what may be worthy your knowledge, either by a lyne from my self, or from Mr. Sutherland, or Master Paterson. I wish yow all happieness, and am,

Your assured friend,

and very humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Let me know when yow heard from the Archdeacon of Carleile, and what he writteth to yow. I could wish yow would see to gett a Grammer of the Irish tongue, and send it to us: it were worth your pains to learn that language, it might be of use in retrieving our antiquities. Farewell.

Edr. 24th Sept. 1700.

5.—SIR,—I received yours yesterday, and would delay no longer a returne to it. What yow call the Mairdmaids purse is judged by all (I discoursed with) to be the uterus of a skate. Ther are many sorts of skate frequent our seas, and the sealchs and meerpoyne and poirpoises devour a great

many of them, which may make them be so frequently found. The membranaceous substance is animal, and the stringe are the ligaments and the tubes belonging to it. I shall be glad to see what yow call *Echinus Cordatus Major*, or the Marmails Box, I suppose it is so tender it must be sent in a small buiste. I take it to be a sort of the *Echimus Spatagus*, however it is fitt to know the names the vulgar give, and their opinion of these things, tho' they mistake oftine. I shall intreat I may not be named in the edition of the Christian poet, it will be tyme enough to mention that when it is a printing. *Sedulius* will be first published as being thought to be the better poet and a Scotch Man, and any proposall yow think fitt to make may be, for a new edition of *Sedulius Scotus*, his *Mirabilia Dei*, corrected from ane excellent Manuscript copie in parchment of betuixt six hundred and seeven hundred years old, done about the tenth age. This to be printed by Mr. Andrew Simpson, on good paper, and a fine letter in Octavo, with choice notes and prolegomena concerning the author and the learned's opinion of his work. It may take neer a quair of paper in print: the subscribers to have it in sheets for twenty shillings Scots, they advancing presently at their subscription the half, ten shilling Scots. If yow can gett about ane hundred subscribers, Master Sympson will, upon your paying in fiftie pounds Scots, give yow securitie to deliver a hundred copies upon the payment of the other half of the price at the delivery. If this be done, he will take care to provide a new letter for it and good paper, and the fiftie pounds Scots will goe to defray part of that charge. Arator will not come out till wee see how this of *Sedulius* is wellcomed. My part of the work of *Sedulius* is neer done already. If yow can doe anything at the Synode or with your scholars, name not me bot let the undertaking be in Mr. Simpson's name and your owne. I shall be glad to hear what may be done in this. I wish yow all happieness.

And I ame your assured Friend
and humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

If yow gett subscriptions for that number with yow, it is lyke Mr. Simpson may get as many here. I never saw either ane Irish grammer or dictionarie. I ame told ther was a Grammar printed abroad, but not very good.

Edinburgh, 14. Aprile, 1702.

6.—SIR,—Yow had eir now heard from me, bot that (he) who delivered your letters call'd not for ane answer. The Archdeacon, our friend's book, is now sent here, a hundred copies of it to Mr. Valence the bookseller. I gott a sight of it in sheets, and I have looked over the part relative to our history, in which I think he heth dealt squarely with us, for what I perceave yet: it is true, many things are omitted which might have been added, and ther are casten in at the end of the book some papers out of the Cotonian Library, which make for a dependence of our church upon the Bishop of York, (which may, and) I hope will be answer'd. Ther is now writting the *Historia Literaria* of the Nation in Latin, and is in that forwardness allready, it may be finish'd against the tyme our Parliament meeteth, if incouragement be given, it may be then given in to print. It is done most from Manuscripts, and the vouchers and assertors joined to each paragraph. Ther is not only ane account of the writtings of our Learned men printed, bot their MS. also, where they are to be found, most of them, and this in all sort of learning with characters of the witters, and oft times with the judgement of the learned upon them. I have kept your MS. of Sir James Turner's doings too long, I must intreat I may have it a litle longer, that a full account of it may be insert in the work, and then it shall be thankfullie returned. Yow will be pleased to give me notice of what you think fitt to joyne to the work.—Sir, I ame,

Your humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Edr. 24th Aprile 1702.

7.—REVEREND SIR,—I receaved your kind letter, and ame very much oblidge to yow for your good opinion of me. I

doubt not bot many in this country might doe better if they applyed themselves to illustrate our history. I shall be glad to have your opinion of the Archdeacon's book when yow have perused it. The matter of subjection to the See of Yorke is founded on forged papers, and never was acknowledged by our Church. I have sufficient instructions from our writters and the English to clear this. If yow please to read in your MS. of Fordon, lib. 3, cap. 16, and cap. 26 and 27, yow will see they had no ground to claime that submission, and if yow have the 2d tome of the Anglia Sacra by Wharton, p. 234, yow will find there ex Bibliotheca Cottoniana, Titus, A. 19, Charta Turstini Archiepiscopi, de Conseruatione Roberti Episcopi St. Andreani, by which it appeareth, that our Churchmen did not own any such submission, with this note subjoined out of Florentius Wigorniensis :—

“Turstanus, Robertum consecravit anno 1128, qui nullam (ut dicitur) professionem de quavis subjectione vel obedientia Ecclesiæ Eboracensi aut ejus pontifici facere permissus a Scotis est, licet Eboracensis canonicus fuerat,” and yow may read this last at more length in the Continuatio Florentij ad annum 1150, subjoined to his Booke. The Historia Literaria is done by me alone. I hope I may have your and some gentlemens here, their assistance in the revising and correcting of it. I have finished the part till the Seculum decimum sextum, (some 60 sheets in my writt) except the Historians, which I delayed till I gotte the Archdeacons booke, and I ame now considering it, and writting the Historie of them. I give some account of their lives and ther characters, so well as I may from records : it is most done from Manuscripts. The sixteen and 17 secula, I did last winter : a good part of them, the account of the writters of Divinity was done in our language for me, by the Rev^d. Mr. Lawrence Charters, to the yeer 1700.* He giveth the characters of severall of them. I had some accounts from Dr. Jameson, and Mr. Walter Paterson's Manuscripts. Thes last I am to turn to

* Charters' work, from a transcript in Wodrow's hand-writing, was included in the "Catalogues of Scottish Writers," &c. Edin. 1833. 8vo. Pp. 168. Of which work a very limited impression was thrown off.

Latin, and add to the worke. The greatest assistance I had is from some manuscripts of Mr. David Buchanan, who heth written upon our learned men in ane excellent stile of Latin. I will need the assistance of all learned men, and I shall intreat earnestly yours and your friends. If the publick allow incouradgement for it, I shall indeavour to have it soon readie for the presse. I shall intreat the favour of a copie of the continuation of Montrose History to his death, said to be writt by Gordon of Straloch. I shall lend yow a copie of his history of the family of the Gordons, (when yow come to town), which does much illustrate that perplexed part of our History, from the death of King James the 5th till K. James the 6th, his going to England. I have the first part of Guthry's History, and Sir James Turner, his reflections upon it, (which he sent to me), bot I ame told that Bishop Guthrie wrott a 2d part, and I would gladly see that. I shall earnestly request yow to send me with the first occasion, a copie of Trockrig's remarks upon the learned of his tyme. I have not seen the other yow mention, Mr. John Livingston's peece of the same nature, with his lyfe. I would have a copie of them fitt to be insert in this work, and that of Mr. Rt. Blair too. I never saw Mr. Wm. Scot of Cowper, his Apologetical Relation, and shall be glad at your leisure to have a copie of it, and yow will be pleased to look over Sir James Turner's other writtings and give me ane account of them. You sie what freedome I use with yow. When yow come to town, yow shall see the *Historia Literaria*, and the instructions and vouchers I have of it. I hope yow will prosecute the studie of the Irish and Saxon languages: these may be of great use to yow in illustrating our history, and with the advantage of knowing them, and your youth and vigour, yow may, by God his blessing upon your studies, far surmount the imperfect essayes of

Your assured friend

and most humble servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Mr. Sutherland told me he had not received your letter and curiosities yow mention in your former letter.

Edr. 15. Octr. 1702.

8.—SIR,—I ame very much oblidge to yow for causing copie for me, Sir James Turner, his reflections on Buchanan, the price is very easie, which I ame well pleased at. Mr. Freebairn is to have ane auction, I doubt not bot a copie of the catalogue will be sent to yow, I desyre yow to pitch upon such books in it as are for yow : I shall buy them for yow and clear accompts with yow that way : if yow have not got a catalogue tell me and I shall gett one for yow. I hope in a few dayes to send yow a commentarie upon Buchanan's lyfe, with the judgement of the Learned upon his writtings and the satyre he made upon the Cardinall of Lorrain, with notes upon it, as also a peice of some 4 sheets in the presse which maintaineth the Liberty and Independency of this Kingdom and Church, from the Ancient Records, most of them never published before. The Lord Tarbett hath printed Paranesis, Pacifica, a nervous discourse upon the union, bot it is not yet exposed to seal. Both thes works yow mention in yours are well advanced, and if I live this winter, I may give them some more touches and smooth them better. I have not yett seen Mr. Rymer, his Letter to the Bishop of Carleol, so I can say nothing of it. Some curious books came lately to our Booksellers from London. Clarendon's Memoirs of the Rebellion, folio, in a large letter and paper, and begins at the rise of the civill warrs, and its rumoured only comes to the 1642,—it is to be continued to the restoration of K. Ch. 2nd. and it is thought, may be three voll. some say 4 or 5. Ther is a curious peece the Circe of Giovanni Baptista Gelli translated into English. The Letters from the dead to the living, two parts, and the expulsion of the Moriscoes out of Spaine. This last is done by Dr. Geddes, a countryman of ours. Ther is a peece written against the Bishop of Sarum, his application of the 39 articles, by a smart pen, which is lyke not to end soone. Mr. Fraser, late Dean of the Isles, wrott a piece of the 2d Sight, which will be printed here. I have not heard of late from my friends at London. I had occasion lately to sie two whales of a different kynde from any I saw before, for they were edentuli, and had neither teeth nor baleen in

their mouth,—the one was 24 foot long, the other 15; and within this fourthnight I saw a fish of the shark kynde some ten foot long. I communed with Mr. Sutherland about your medall: the vota upon the reverse came not in use till the tyme of the later Emperours, and wee think it is Flavius Julius Crispus, nobilis Cæsar, who was Constantin the Great, his eldest son. I find Mr. Freebairn his auction is to be upon the 4th of November, so yow may have tyme to choose what books yow will be for. Our friend the Bishop gave me some account of Mr. Rymer's book; that he proveth the legitimacie of K. Robert the 3d, and heth something relating to King David: he sayeth he did not think the homage to Edward the Confessor was genuin, but sayes it heth the same seal and ornament, as that of the Ligue with Achaius, which he would invalidate that way. I have written lately to my friends in London, and I expect some return eree long. Let me know what part yow want of the book of Kinloss, that I may take measurs accordingly. I beseech yow try at all may informe yow anent Roman inscriptions: wee shall have need of them.

I ame your assured friend,
and humble Servant,
R. SIBBALD.

Mr. Sutherland giveth his humble service to yow. He hath gotten some medalls of late sent him from England, and expecteth more, with severall curious plants and seeds.

30th Oct. 1702.

9.—SIR,—I have been much employed of late in the county, and I find business so grow upon me, that I cannot promise the copie of what yow want of the Liber Kinlossensis till yow come to town, that yow may copie it yourself, for I can trust it to no other, considering other papers are bound up with it, but yow shall be sure of it. I have not gott a coppie of the Lord Tarbet's piece on the Union, yett (though I had the liberty to read it), my Lord allowes no copie to be given bot by his order.

Ther are two sheet of the defence of our liberties and independence printed only yett. I send yow the very first copie of Buchanan's lyfe, with the commentary and notes upon it, and the satyre against the Guyses. Ther are many errours in the impression which is not yet made publick. I beseech you lett me know the books yow are for at Mr. Frebairn's auction, that I may refund your expence, and what service I may do yow, let me haue your commands, and beleve that I ame,

Your assured friend,
and most humble servant,
R. SIBBALD.

Edr. 13th Nov. 1702.

10.—REVEREND SIR,—I send yow by the post one of the first copies of this Essay, proving the liberty and independency of the Kingdom and Church of Scotland from some ancient Records. I sent ten dayes agoe a copie of Buchanan's lyfe the same way. I shall be glad to have your impartiall judgement, and of the Learned wher yow are, of both thes performances. I have not hitherto been able to obtaine a copie of the Lord Tarbett's piece on the Union. Dr. Chamberland heth written a litle piece on it. If yow desyre, it shall be sent yow by the next occasion.

I ame,

Your much oblidge,
and most humble Servant,
R. SIBBALD.

Ed. December 2, 1702.

11.—REVEREND SIR,—I payed, some ten days agoe, two dollers and ane half to Mr. Freebairn upon your account for books he said was due by yow. The reason I did not pay the rest I owe yow was, for that I intend, if it can be gotten here, to buy Dodwell his Unum Altare for yow. If I gett it not here, I shall either pay in the rest or lay it out for some other book yow may desire, as yow advertise me. A gentleman told me he saw it marked in three severall MS. copie

of the Acts of the Generall Assemblies, that Buchanan was Moderator. I remember to have seen it in some MS. abstract of them, and nobody here questioneth it. I am told he was praesies anno 1567. I cannot give yow so clear a return about what he sayeth of the reviewing the liturgie and rites of the English Church. I was told by a gentleman he had seen a copie of that Liturgie done here, bot I never saw it. That of Geneva was turned into Irish, and is yett extant in print, as I am informed.

Your mistake may be, that Plinies citation is wrong printed in your copie, for in the rest it is neque magis decorum et insigne est, statuam in foro Romano habere, quam ponere,—and since Buchanan had no statue, I think impartiall readers will construct it, that his learning and his fame thereby made a statue and ornament for his country. I have not mett with one that put that glosse yow mention on it, which I sould be sorrowfull if they did. I expected to have had your opinion of the last piece anent our Independendce err now. I hope yow will give it impartially as well what others say as what yow think of it. I am told the Union goes on a pace, God grant it may be for our good. I shall be glad to have a copie of Sir J[ames?] T's[urner?] reflections on Ogygia. I am,

your assured friend

and humble servant,

R. SIBBALD.

12.—REVEREND SIRE,—I was afrayed yow had been sick that yow forbore writting so long. I am glad to find that your affairs hindered it. I am informed ther is one copie of the Acts of the General Assembly in the Bibliotheca of the Old Colledge, (if I remember well), of Aberdeen; another was in the Bibliotheque of the Earl of Crawford, and a third in the possession of the Viscount of Tarbet, now principall Secretarie. I cannot find any, can give any satisfactorie account of the grounds of Buchanan's asserting the use of the English Liturgie by our first Reformers, though others, as well as thes of your syde, are inquisitive to find it out. I remember it was told me one of the copies of the Assemblies

Acts came the length of I think 1616, others 1602, so one was more comprehensive then the other, though I learn'd not which was the more perfect. I have seen some minuts of the most ancient of them. Sr. James Balfour in the first vollume of his annalls, setts down the articles of the treatie betwixt the Lords of the Congregation and the English, but sayes nothing of the Liturgie, for, sayeth he, the Scots was not resolved yett what form they would follow. I ame oblidge to yow for the account yow give of the Treatise anent our Independencie. Your sentiments are candid, and according to my owne mynde, but the objectours fix upon me what never was my thought, as if I had made the Episcopallians the only defenders. I thought it a good rise to attack thes of the English of that order who insulted us, when their Bretheren were suffering. I gave the account as the state of the Church was betwixt the year 1100 and 1250, wher ther is mention only made of thes of the Episcopall order; and I entered not into the debate of the first constitution of our Church, so the objectours show their passion in this, and ther quarrelling the dedication to Mr. Dodwell, whom I esteem for his learning. I doe not remember to have ever read these sentiments of the Scots Presbyterians, and ame far from intertaining such uncharitable thoughts of good men. I ame sorrowfull good men upon either side sould be so transported with passion in these matters.—I never saw Mr. Dodwell's *Unum Altare*, nor can find it here.—I gave commission to Mr. Freebairn (whose son is now at London), to buy it, and bring it down, and I shall pay for it.—I told yow I gave him two dollars and a half of your account, and shall clear the rest when Dodwell's book cometh, or by procuring yow others yow may want.—I doe not accuse yow for the hardships the Episcopall men suffer; I know yow wish not such treatment of them. I ame sure some of them are good men, and moderate and patiently suffer without making worde of it; and approve not the rigour was used against others.—The English writters take all occasions to insult our Historians, and wee have sent down here a copie of Mr. Rymer's letters to our friend the Bishop

of Carleol, who had not seen him in the face when the 2d letter was written, and I am persuaded is not pleased he treateth us so. He sent me an account of them. There is a Club of Antiquaries meet here once a week; they are such as are versed in our Records, and they have examined the second letter, and I think furnished matter for refuting it.—I expect we shall have copies of both Mr. Rymer's Letters, when Mr. Freebairn's son comes home, for I wreat for some copies of them, and you shall have them both, and the sentiments of our Club of them.—We have found it fitt ther be an inventory of all our MSS. published that are Historical, and they have putt it on me to writt it.—I have made some progress in it.—There is an account of the authors,—of the tyme they wrott,—the quantity and the quality of the MS.; where the discourse is continued, the principall matters are rehearsed, and wher the MS. are divyded in chapters, the titles of the chapters are to be sett down. By looking over my Memoirs, I find this may amount to some thretty sheets in print, if ther can be subscriptions gotten for an hundred copies, at two pence English a sheet, it will be presently printed.—I must have your assistance both in the procuring of subscriptions, and giving the titles of the chapters, or else the contents of the Historical M.S. you have, and can procure, particularly the titles of all the chapters of your copie of Fordun, and of Calderwood's compleat History and others. The Earle of Clarendon, (Chancelor Hide,) his first vollum I read it over, and it is, in my opinion, the best written History published thes 50 years past: it seems impartiall—the first vollum giveth account of the Ministerie of the Duke of Buckingham, and then beginns at the Coronation of King Charles the First, and continueth it to the King setting up his standard in August (I think), 1642, it is in folio, Royall paper, large print, this impression is all sold of, and another of this vollume, and of the 2d, is expected will be shortly finished. The characters of the chief actors are noble and full, and the principall papers by both sides are sett down in an elegant stile, and the thread of the History well continued. Some say ther are three vollums, some say five, of

the whole History, which is carried up to the Restoration of K. Charles the 2nd. Bishop Guthrie, his Memoirs are printed with a preface, commending the Union of the two Kingdoms, which is well advanced by the Commissioners: the communication of trade is granted, and other advantages, bot I have not heard any thing certain about the church government, that is to be the work of the Parliament of Great Britain, if wee come to have one. I send yow a better copie of Buchanan's lyfe commented, with his effigies, by this post. I have corrected some of the faults, yow will correct the rest. Yow will let me hear from yow, as your occasions will allow, and what service I may doe yow, command

Your most humble servant,

My service is remembered to Mr. Jamiesone.

R. SIBBALD.

Feb. 1703.

Dr. Smith,* a prebend of Durham, who keeps the records their, wrytteth sometymes to me. He is a learned and worthy man, and is composing ane inventor of the records of the Abbay of Coldingham, (which they have at Durham), and a copie of which he will send to our Lawer's Librarie.

Ed. Nov. 11, 1707.

13.—REVEREND SIR,—We had no account these severall moneths of the state of learning. I have written to our learned friends to give me some account of it, which I doe expect in the next letters to me. Mr. And^w. Sympson tells me he sent yow Mr. Lhuyd's excellent book upon the British Languages, and these which have affinity with them. I have inclosed in this, one of his title-pages, with his demand writt upon it, and he desyrs yow to procure subscriptions to it. I must second this, and withall intreat yow to concerne yourself with all your might to gett merchants for the copies of his book, which Mr. Sympson heth in his custodie: he deserves well of the learned world, and wee are much obliged to him. The list of your fossils, and the Catalogue of your

* The Editor of Bede.

MSS. is much desyr'd and long'd for by me. I have sent yow with the bearer, a catalogue of a part of my books I mynde to expose to seal sometye in January. Yow will oblidge me by getting commissions for some of them,—there are many rare books amongst them,—and I could wish such books were kept in this country,—they cost me many commissions and much expence in getting them from foreigne countries, and many of them are out of print, and so will not be easily gotten if this occasion be neglected. Lett me know what yow mynde to have yourself, that I may doe yow all the favour I may. Yow know there will be competitors for the rarest books. I have putt such in the catalogue as may be of use to men of all professions and conditions: the sooner the commission be sent the better. I thought (and the printer undertook it) what I putt in the presse sould have been finished against the first of November, but I find it will be the spring or it be published. There is an account of the Roman Antiquities in this country in our language, and some disquisition in Latin concerning the ancient inhabitants of this part of the isle, and their seats, and de origine Scotorum et Pictorum and de Lingua Pictorum, which I have some grounds to conjecture was the ancient Gothish language. I have been more as these threttie years past preparing the Geographically description of this country. I haue the memoirs of it in such readieness, that if the Government give the due encouragment, it may be putt to the presse soone, (the English copie) either with the maps or without them, as the government will require. I have all the originall mapps and surveys and descriptions of Mr. Pont, the Gordons and others, who have laboured that way, and severall mapps never printed. I give account of the naturall products, especially the mynes from the MSS. of thes employed in working them, and there is an account of all the ancient monuments and of the considerable actions join'd, and of the chief seats of the nobility and gentry. I not only viewed many, but also I haue from the intelligent men resident in the places, the account of the countries. Yow may try if some number of subscriptions may be gotten for this book. When I hear fra yow, I shall

give yow a more full account, and I wish yow all happieness,
and ame,

Your assured friend, and Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

[*June 1709.*]

14.—The Bearer, Mr Crawford,* my good friende told me he would waite upon yow—he is a gentleman well seen in the Genealogies of our Nobilitie and Gentry, and heth made ane excellent description of the shire of Ranfrow. I communicateto him some descriptions I had, and I told him yow could give him the best account of the natural products of it, which I intreat yow to doe, and particularly of the well which ebbs and flowes, and ane account of the tromb or spout which happened, and was seen betwixt Erskin and Kilpatrick, and of the effects of it ; as also of the stone taken up after Thunder, and a full account of the figured stones, and of the mineralls and metalls found in the Shire, and what else is remarkable in it, especiallie what houses are built of late, what improvements have been made as to Art, and what eminent men were born in the Shire, what monuments are extant in it, and as accurate a description of Paselay as may be: this yow are able to do so well, as it may be a modell for the description of other Shires. I sould be glad to see the patera was found near Arthur's Oven, and distinct specimens, with the names of all the figured stones, and what else may be of use in the second part of the Prodrum Historiæ Naturalis Scotiæ. I wish yow and your Bedfellow all happieness, and ame,

Your assured friend,

and humble Servant,

R. SIBBALD.

Bot ane hour agoe Mr. Urry deliuered me a letter from our friende Mr. Lhuyde, wherein he tells me of Langius Historia Lapidum Figuratorum Helvetiæ, a midling 4to, with 500

* George Crawford, the author of the Peerage of Scotland.

figures, if no copies come, he designs to send me one, and its lyke yow gett another. He writteth for a penna marina, or a pennecellus marinus, some sea stars, or any (other) fossils. He designs a new edition of the *Lithologia Britannica*, with ane appendix de *Stellis Marinis*, the whole at 6 shillings in Quires, and desyres this may be communicate to those who are willing to subscribe for copies, and that we may send the names of them. I will be for one of them. He will print so few, that he will dispose non of them to Booksellers.

For the Reverend Mr. Robt.

Woodrow, minister of Eastwood. These.

15.—WORTHY SIR,—I send you by the bearer, my servant, the first volume of Dr. Abercrombie's history. If, with conveniency, you can return me the second, and with it send me Sir James Balfour MS. about the Royal devices of our Kings, I shall take all care of it, and return it soon and safe.

Sir,

Edin. Jany. 6th, 1716.
To the Hon.

Your most ob. humb. st.

JAMES ANDERSON.

Sir Rob. Sibbald.

16.—SIR,—I returne yow, with thanks, the 2d volume by Dr. Abercromby, and have receaved the first from your servant, the devices are scattered up and down. If yow would name some of the Kings betwixt Baliol and K. James Sixt, I sould indeavour to satisfy yow.

Yours,

R. S.

III.

LETTER.—REV. R. WODROW TO SIR ROB. SIBBALD, 23d Nov. 1710.

HONOURED AND DEAR SIR,—I send you along with this, what things you desired, by Mr. Alexr. Maxwell, Chaplain to my Lord Pollock, who will call for them, and the Gothish

ring, and the snail stone which you have, when you have taken the figures of any of them you think worth your while.

What comes now, is a spoon of a mixed mettall, which was found with the Roman coin of Faustina, which I let you see, in Cuningham, in the parish of Stevenston, a litle from the shore, about a mile from Saltcoats, to the south. There are litle blowing hills of sand there, and by the blowing of the sand, there begin to appear somewhat like the ruins of a building, and its here wher this spoon was gote some years since.

The Patera I had from our learned friend, Mr. Lhuyd, who told me he turned [it] up just beside Arthur's Oven, by the shape and collour, he was peremptory it was Roman.

I send you likewise part of a fibula of silver or mixed mettall. This was gote within a mile of Port Glasgow, by the falling of a brae, and with it a considerable number of Saxon coins, severall of which I have.

I send you likewise a bitt of that black matter, which you take to be artificiall, and made up of gumms, that you may compare it with yours, for, if I mistake not, its of the same kind. I had it with severall other flints and bleu stones of noe regular figure, which wer in the hands of [a] woman that made use of them as a charm. She boyled them in watter, and poured out the watter within a litle after it came to the boyl, (as a libation to Satan noe doubt), and then put a second watter on them, and let it boyl a little, and poured it of for use, viz. a soveraigne to all poison, pains, &c. The watter, she told me, would be of noe use, unless the first wer poured out.

The stone (cornelian) with the Roman inscription *utere felix*, was turned up by a plough at the foot of a tumulus in the parish of Kilbride, in the shire of Lanark, upon the litle rivulet called Kittock. The countryman that found it told me that it was a ring, which when he lift up fell all in bitts.

The snail stone was found in the fields, about half a mile from the forsaid place. The Gothish ring I can give you litle account of, I was told it was found somwher beneith Stirling. I tho't it proper to give you all I knew about

what I send you, and I expect your tho'ts upon them all, with all your late discoverys and accompts, by post. Ther is nothing I value more than your kind correspondence. I cannot but return you my hearty thanks for your valuable present of your History of Fife and Kinrosse. I have not yet gote it perused, but I expect very much pleasure in it.

If ther are any of your Roman curiositys that are perfectly doubles, or any natural products that you have doubles of, it would be a new obligation to send me some of them to augment my small collection. I am, Honoured & Dear Sir,

Eastwood, Nov.

Your very much obliged

23, 1710.

and most humble servant,

For the Honourd Sir

R. WODROW.

ROBERT SIBBALD, Doctor
in Medicine.

IV.

ELOGIA MEDICORUM EDINENSIIUM.*

MICHAEL JUNIUS, M. D.

Difficili partu matres a limine mortis,
Egregia rapuit Junius arte manus.

THOMAS BURNETUS, EQUES.

Burnetus, medicos inter supereminet omnes,
Hippocrates scriptis alter et ingenio.

ARCHIBALDUS STEPHANIDES, EQUES.

Stephanidem Pallas decoravit artibus, atque
Phœbus Appollineam accumulavit opem.

* From the Sibbald MSS. Advocates Library.

ANDREAS BALFURIUS, EQUES.*

Quæ Valles, Montesque tenent, Vitreoque profundum
 Gurgite, quæ gremio terra benigna tulit ;
 Cuncta suo natura parens non individa mistæ
 Balfurio nosse, quæ latuere, dedit ;
 Quæ propriis disgesta locis pulcherrima visu
 Musæo cunctis conspicienda suo.

ROBERTUS SIBALDUS, EQUES.

Illustrata simul decorat, pariterque Sibaldum
 Scotia, scriptori lumine grata suo.

ARCHIBALDUS PITCARNUS.

Pitcarum colebant Mathesis, numerosaque praxis,
 Carminibus magnum facetiisque suis.

EDWARDUS IZETUS, EQUES.

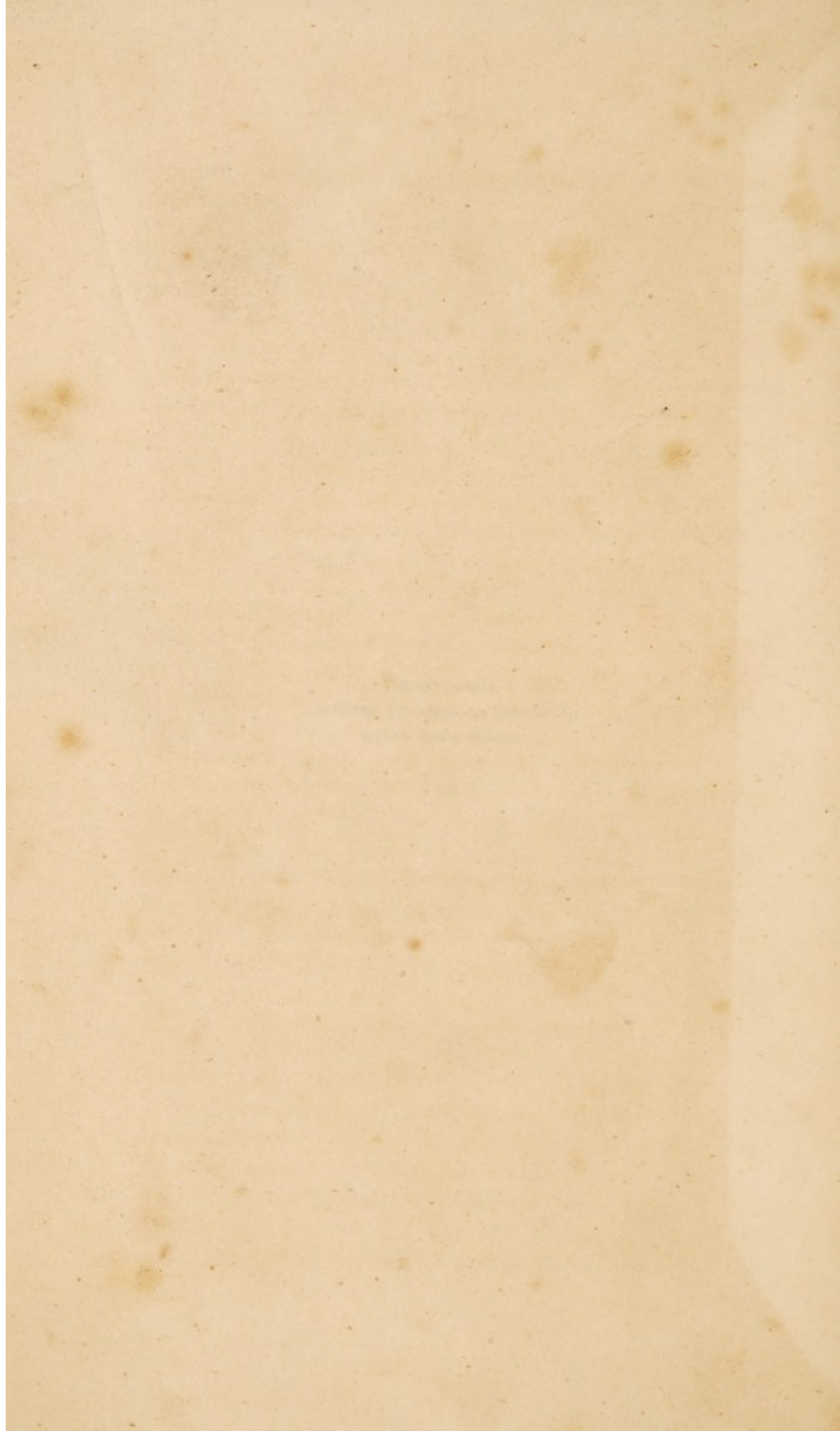
Izetus genio Liber, et carmine Dexter
 Arridet cunctis, eloquioque micat.

* Sir Andrew Balfour wrote " Letters to a friend " " containing excellent directions and advices for travelling thro' France and Italy, with many curious and judicious remarks and observations made by himself, in his voyages thro' these countreys, published from the author's original MS. Edinburgh, printed in the year 1700." Small 8vo. He was also author of the " Memoria Balfouriana." Edin. 12mo. 1699.



EDINBURGH:
PRINTED BY ALEX. LAWRIE & CO.
NORTH BANK STREET.





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