

Account of the reparation of Dr. Pitcairne's monument in the Grayfriars Churchyard at Edinburgh, with a list of medical practitioners residing in Edinburgh, who agreed to pay each an equal share of the expence of that reparation. December 25 1800.

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By Mr Walker per the Goodman
A.D., at the Grayfriars Office

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B. 5

(Pitcairne)

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*Account of the Reparation of Dr PITCAIRNE'S
Monument in the Grayfriars Churchyard at
Edinburgh, with a List of Medical Practi-
tioners residing in Edinburgh, who agreed to
pay each an equal share of the expence of
that Reparation. December 25. 1800.*

THE elegant Account of the Life and Wri-
tings of Dr Archibald Pitcairne, pu-
blished by the late Dr Charles Webster, is
concluded with the following sentence :
“ Without being a bigot to the complexion
of the times, Dr Pitcairne died a worthy and
religious man, leaving an example to the
world of indefatigable industry, united with
transcendent abilities, and of both so employ-
ed, as to merit the grateful veneration of po-
sterity.” As a testimony of that veneration,
almost all the medical practitioners at present
residing in Edinburgh, have lately agreed to
repair the monument, which, soon after his
death, was erected to his memory in the Gray-
friars Churchyard.

It happened to be accidentally mentioned
at the Æsculapian Club, that from the height
of



of neighbouring graves, accumulated for near a century, and from some other circumstances, this monument had fallen into decay, and was now almost half covered with earth, though it contained the following inscription, still distinctly legible :

Here Lyes

Dr Archibald Pitcairne,

who died the 26th of October 1713 ;

Also

Elizabeth Stevenson, his Wife,

who died 1724.

As Dr Pitcairne's posterity are now almost extinct, it was suggested, that the reparation of this monument, by a subscription among the members of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, of both which societies he was an ornament, would be a measure honourable to Dr Pitcairne, and also to the subscribers themselves. This suggestion having met with the unanimous approbation of all the gentlemen who were present, a small Committee was immediately appointed for conducting the business.

The Committee lost no time in making application to Lady Ann Erskine, the only surviving descendant of Dr Pitcairne, and daughter

daughter to the Earl of Kellie, the Doctor's son-in-law, for permission to repair the monument. When Lady Ann was informed of its situation, she immediately declared her intention of repairing it at her own expence. But being urged to allow the gentlemen, who had already subscribed, to proceed in executing their intention, she politely added, that she would neither rob her grandfather of the singular mark of respect which was intended to be paid to his memory, nor deprive the medical practitioners of Edinburgh of the pleasure which she was convinced they would derive from paying the tribute of gratitude to departed worth.

The Committee, upon receiving her permission, entered into an agreement for the execution of the work, and resolved to add to the inscription which it before contained, the following eulogium on Dr Pitcairne, written by the learned Mr Thomas Ruddiman, who, in the early period of his life, had been not a little indebted to the protection and patronage of Pitcairne :

Ecce mathematicum, vatem, medicumque sophumque,
 PITCARNUM magnum hæc urnula parva tenet :
 Ergo vale, lux Scotigenum, princepsque medentum,
 Musarum columen deliciæque, vale.

Of the piety of Dr Pitcairne, these lines, which pay a high encomium to his singular abilities, are indeed silent. And it must be allowed, that both among his cotemporaries, and also in the present age, it has been a common opinion, that he thought too freely with respect to religion. But indubitable evidence is now afforded, that, notwithstanding this general character, he was in reality a sincere Christian.

He was indeed an enemy both to the wild enthusiasm, and mean hypocrisy, of the age in which he lived. And, in the following elegant lines, he has treated one of the greatest of the reformers, Martin Luther, with that severity which some at least of the consequences of Reformation in Scotland, perhaps too justly merited.

Jam fatis Scotis pluviae et malignae
Grandinis misit *Zelus et Lutheri*,
Jussa *Martini* dedit osculari

B Honiensi :

Parce, nam *Andreas* meus est meusque
Hoc die natus, meaque illa *Dido*
Quae mihi semper placet atque matri
Optimae *Elisæ*.

But

But Dr Pitcairne's own confession of faith, probably one of the last poetical production of his pen, is an ample testimony of his sincere belief in the Christian Religion. It has indeed been conjectured by some, that this poem, which was published in a miscellaneous volume, printed at Edinburgh in the year 1727, under the title of *Pitcarnii Poëmata*, was not written by himself, but composed after his death by some one of his literary friends, who was anxious to wipe off from his memory the stain of irreligion, which had been cast upon it by wild fanatics. But Dr Charles Stuart has furnished incontrovertible evidence, that these verses were really his own composition, his own belief. For he has produced a copy of this poem, now deposited among the records of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, which was sent to Sir William Bennet of Grubet, one of Dr Stuart's ancestors, and which has the following note subjoined to it, in Dr Pitcairne's own handwriting :

“ For Grubet, from the Goodman, and
 “ A. PITCAIRNE in Prates.”

It

It bears being printed at Edinburgh, Apud Robertum Freebairn, 1712, and is dated die xxv. Decembris anni MDCCXII. the day on which Dr Pitcairne had completed the 60th year of his age. And it may in some degree be considered as the last words of a dying Christian : For in a few months after this, his valuable life was terminated. No doubt, therefore, can now remain, that what he has expressed in the following lines, was his own sincere confession of faith.

Hac, Christus jussit se nostram sumere formam,
 Ipse hominum Rector, Filius ipse Dei :
 Hac, homines jussit mortales esse beatos,
 Qui Patris vellent, qui sua jussa sequi :
 Jussa sequi, quis ille Pater, quis Filius ille,
 Vos homines fecit, semideosque viros,
 Atque alii voluit faciendum, quid tibi velles ;
 Atque numisma tui Cæsaris esse suum :
 Hac te, Christe, die natus Pitcairnius olim,
 Auspice, te coluit, te colit, atque colet.

A. P.

Britons attend ! be worth like this approved ;
 And shew you have the virtue to be moved.

LIST

LIST of MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS residing in Edinburgh, who have agreed to pay each an equal Proportion of the Expence of repairing the Monument erected to the Memory of Dr PITCAIRNE, in the Grayfriars Churchyard.

Mr Alexander Wood.

Dr Andrew Duncan *senior*.

Dr Daniel Rutherford.

Mr Forrest Dewar.

Dr Alexander Monro *senior*.

Dr Thomas Hope.

Dr James Buchan.

Mr John Walker.

Dr James Gregory.

Mr Henry Johnston.

Dr James Hamilton *senior*.

Dr Charles Stuart.

Dr James Hamilton *junior*.

Dr Francis Home.

Mr Andrew Wood.

Dr James Hay.

Mr John Bell.

Dr William Wright.

Dr Thomas Gillespie.

Dr Thomas Spens.

Dr Alexander Hamilton.

Dr Charles Congalton.

Dr

Dr James Home.
Mr George Bell.
Dr John Yule.
Dr Andrew Duncan *junior*.
Dr Alexander Monro *junior*.
Dr Robert Kennedy.
Mr John Cheyne.
Dr John Cheyne.
Mr Thomas Wood.
Mr Benjamin Bell.
Mr John Rae.
Mr James Bryce.
Mr James Anderson *senior*.
Mr James Anderson *junior*.
Mr Charles Anderson.
Mr William Newbigging.
Mr Lewis Flanagan.
Dr John Herdman.
Dr William Harkness.
Dr William Farquharson.
Dr Andrew Inglis.
Mr George Wood.
Mr James Latta.
Mr Charles Bell.
Dr William Brown.
Mr William Ritchie.
Mr James Gibson.

Mr Walker

Superior