

I.

NOTICE RESPECTING THE MONUMENT OF THE REGENT EARL OF MURRAY, NOW RESTORED, WITHIN THE CHURCH OF ST GILES, EDINBURGH. BY DAVID LAING, Esq., FOR. SEC. S.A. SCOT. (PLATE VII.)

Lord James Stewart, Prior of St Andrews, created Earl of Murray¹ in 1562, and afterwards Regent of Scotland, was, it is well known, assassinated by Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh in the streets of Linlithgow, during his progress to Edinburgh on the 23d January 1569-70.² The Regent's body was brought to Edinburgh, and his funeral took place on Tuesday the 14th February, in the south aisle of the great kirk of St Giles, Edinburgh. On this occasion Knox preached a sermon from the words "Blessed are those who die in the Lord." It was delivered in the presence of many of the nobility, and of such a concourse of people, that Calderwood says, "He moved three thousand persons to shed teares for the losse of such a good and godlie Governour."

Immediately above the vault where the Regent was interred a public monument, in the form of an altar-tomb, was erected, with an engraved brass-plate, containing a Latin inscription, written by George Buchanan. This part of the building was the transept of the church, and seems to have remained as an open thoroughfare for nearly two hundred years. But there are no old ground-plans from which we can ascertain the changes that were made in this part of the interior of the building during the last century, at the time it was converted into a parish church. It was, however, reserved for the last unfortunate remodelling of the entire building to have such monuments cleared away as encumbrances, without regard either to historical associations or family rights. The destruction of the Regent's Monument was, in truth, to use plain words,

¹ The comparatively modern fashion of spelling the name Stuart and Moray were probably adopted from the French, or from Buchanan's Latinised form, but the Regent himself uniformly wrote his name Stewart and Murray.

² See Postscript at p. 54.

a disgrace to Edinburgh; but the brass-plate, being regarded as a curious piece of antiquity, was fortunately saved from the melting-pot, and after a time was restored to the family.

In the year 1840 the propriety of restoring this brass to the walls of the church had been brought before the Town Council, upon the recommendation of this Society. A memorial upon the subject was again presented to the Lord Provost and Magistrates in 1853. The proposal was favourably enough received, but the question of expense, and the want of any correct representation of the monument itself, seemed to present formidable obstacles to its restoration.

The brass itself was exhibited to the Society in May 1853, and at the time the late Mr W. H. Lizars having succeeded in taking not a mere rubbing, but in fact a copperplate impression, which could be transferred to stone, the full size of the engraved plate, I was at the expense of having copies thrown off for private distribution, as the surest mode of preserving its appearance in case of any accident happening to the original brass. Of this facsimile a very accurate reduced copy is given in the Society's Proceedings, vol. i. p. 196.

About two years ago, whilst engaged in preparing for the Society Notes relating to the Antiquities of Edinburgh, I was favoured by Mr Forbes Skene with the use of a large collection of sketches and drawings connected with Edinburgh and its vicinity, made by his father, the late James Skene of Rubislaw, Esq., in the early part of this century. Among these I was happy to find one which exhibited the interior of the "Old Kirk," with the monument in question. This appeared to furnish a good excuse for renewing the scheme for the restoration of the Monument; and having submitted, through John Phillips, Esq., the sketch to the Earl of Moray, his Lordship, with a becoming regard to the memory of his distinguished ancestor, not only expressed his readiness to give the original brass, but authorised the monument to be reconstructed at his own expense, with as near an approach to its first design as possible.

To allow of this proposed restoration, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and also the Minister and kirk-session (through Baillie Cassells) permitted a few steps to be removed, and a side door that was seldom made use of to be closed. The restoration has now been happily accomplished from a design and under the direction of David Cousin, Esq., city

architect, executed by Mr John Rhind, sculptor (see Plate VII. at p. 54); and the old Brass, after several adventures, again occupies its original position on the wall of the church.¹

In the examination of the vault which took place in the year 1850, as described in the Proceedings, vol. i. p. 194, three coffins were discovered. The Earl of Moray having expressed a wish that a careful examination of the vault should again be made, as it was not improbable that the form of the vault might have been changed, and some other remains might still be discovered, more especially with the view of identifying the remains of the Regent. After a good deal of labour was expended for this purpose, as nothing further could be ascertained, it was suggested, that the oldest leaden coffin should be brought up from its narrow enclosure and opened in the presence of one or two of the medical professors, as the surest mode left to identify whether it was actually that of the Regent. But the Earl of Moray thought this proceeding unnecessary. From the mode, however, in which the three coffins are now placed, any such examination may afterwards be more easily accomplished.

But I am not yet done with the Brass and the old Monument. In examining the family papers in the charter-room of Donnybristle, the Earl of Moray discovered a detached sheet without name or date, endorsed "The Compt of Geir furnisit to my L. Buriall." It was shown to me by John Phillipps, Esq., his Lordship's Commissioner, in order to ascertain its precise date. From internal evidence it clearly refers to the Regent's funeral, in 1569-70, and is in a contemporary hand. With his Lordship's permission I had it transcribed, and a copy of it is here inserted. It is indeed a very interesting document, and furnishes us with the names of John Roytel² and Murdoch Valker as the masons who constructed the place of sepulture, at the expense of L.133, 6s. 8d.; and of James Gray, goldsmith, who engraved the brass plate, at the charge of L.20; while the same plate of brass (which then was rather a scarce commodity) was bought from David Rowane for L.7.

¹ Mr Cousin's Working Drawing was exhibited to the meeting.

² Roytel was probably the son of Nycolas Roytell, a Frenchman, appointed the king's master mason 22d April 1539. His own name appears as such in the Treasurer's Accounts in 1579.

"THE COMPT OF GEIR FURNISIT TO MY L. BURIALL."

Item, vpoun the xxvi day of Januar 1569 deliuerit to Maister Jhone Wod, for to transport the geir that was in my Lordis luidgen in Edinbur ^t ,	xxiiii li.
Item, gaif the same tym, to my Lordis buriall for four ellis zallow tauffateis, to be banaris, at xxiiii s. the aell summa, . . .	iii li. xvi s.
Item, for vi ellis zallow and blak bukrame at vii s. vj d. the aell summa,	xlvi s.
Item, gaif to Villiame Harlay saidlair, to be fwytmantillis ¹ to Grange hors and the Lard of Cleischis, for the dwell ² v ellis blak stemmyng at lvi s. the aell summa,	xiiii li.
Item, to the herauldis xxxvi aellis blak tauffateis to cover thair coit of armes at xxiiii s. the ell summa,	xlili li. iiiii s.
Item, for vi quarteris of craipe to Grangis dwell,	xxvii s.
Item, for iii½ ellis blak stemmyng ³ to be ane buriall cleyth vpoun my Lordis heir pryce of the aell iii li. summa,	x li. x s.
Item, for ane paper of preynis to buisk ⁴ the herauldis,	xvi d.
Item, the same tyme to Peir Antuene and the Meir ⁵ at their de- parting to France for the hattis pryce,	v li. ii s.
Item, for iiiii½ ellis Franche russat to be the Meir ane clok coit and ane pair of gargasis—pryce of the aell xl s. summa,	ix li.
Item, for to be ane doublat of Poldowy ⁶ to the Meir and lynyng of his gargasis,	xv s. viiii d.
Item, for thre ellis blak stemming to be Peir ane clok coit and ane pair of gargasis at iii li. the aell summa,	ix li.
Item, for cammes to be ane doublat and lynyngis to his hois, xxxiiii s. xi d.	
Item, for heir to buis thair cleis and gargasis,	xv s.
Item, growgrane ⁷ versettis to be cannonnis to their hois,	xvi s.

¹ Footmantles.² Dule, or mourning habit.³ A kind of woollen cloth.⁴ Pins to dress.⁵ A Moor, or the black servant and a dwarf, who formed part of the Regent's household.⁶ Poldowy, or Poledavy, a coarse cloth or canvass.⁷ The English *grograin*, a coarse kind of silk taffety.

Item, for Peir Antueyne and the Moris buirdis in Jhone Mych Cullowis fra the xxvii day of Januar 1569 to the xxvi. of Aprill thairafter ilk day vii s. summa,	xxx li.
Item, for thair fraucht and victualis frome Leyth to Deipe in France,	xvi li.
Item, gaif to thame in Deipe at thair landing xl frankis extending to,	xxx li.
Item, for iii pair schone ¹ to thame at thair departing,	x s.
Item, gaif to Jhone Ryotaill and Mwrdoche Valkar measounis for the making of my Lordis sepulture according to the inden- tour maid betuix vmquhill Maister Jhone Wod ² and thame,	i ^c xxxiii li. vi s. viii d.
Item, to James Gray goldsmyth for ingraving of ane platt of bras vpoun my Lordis sepulture,	xx li.
Item, to Dauid Rowane for the same platt of bras,	vii li.
Item, for varnising of the same plaitt and putting vpe and fixing thairof,	iiii li.
Item, to the payntour for bleking of the sepulture and his paynis,	xx s.
Item, for the len ³ of certane daillis to be ane vailt the tyme of the building of the sepulture,	xl s.

⁴ Lateris iii^c lxxi li. iiiii s. i. d. (£371, 4s. 1d.)

When the brass was exhibited to the Society at a meeting in May 1853, it was pointed out by Dr D. Wilson that the half of an older engraved brass plate had been employed. (See vol. i. p. 181.) If any opportunity should occur for examining the similar brass at Ormiston, evidently engraved by the same hand (see vol. iv. p. 225), we might possibly find on the reverse the remaining portion of the two figures with the rest of the inscription which contained the names and date.

In order to fill up the vacant space in the centre of the restored monu-

¹ Shoes.

² Umquhil (the late) Mr John Wood of Tilliedavy, in Fife, the Regent's confidential Secretary. He was murdered during the short interval that elapsed between the time of this funeral and the making up these accounts. (See Knox's Works, vol. vi. p. 560, *note*.)

³ Loan.

⁴ The whole of the original is written on one page or side. The "Item" in the first line shows that it is only a portion of the account.

ment, Mr Cousin has introduced an ornamental scroll tablet, surmounted by the family crest, with this simple inscription :—

ERECTED
BY HIS COUNTRY
TO
JAMES, EARL OF MURRAY,
REGENT OF SCOTLAND,
ANNO DOM. MDLXX.

RESTORED
BY
JOHN, 12TH EARL OF MORAY,
ANNO DOM. MDCCCLXIV.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks to Mr Forbes Skene for again permitting me to exhibit to this meeting the volume of his Father's drawings which contains the Regent's Monument. I think, also, the members of the Society and the inhabitants of Edinburgh are under a debt of peculiar obligation to the Right Hon. the EARL OF MORAY for having thus restored, in a satisfactory manner, this public Monument.

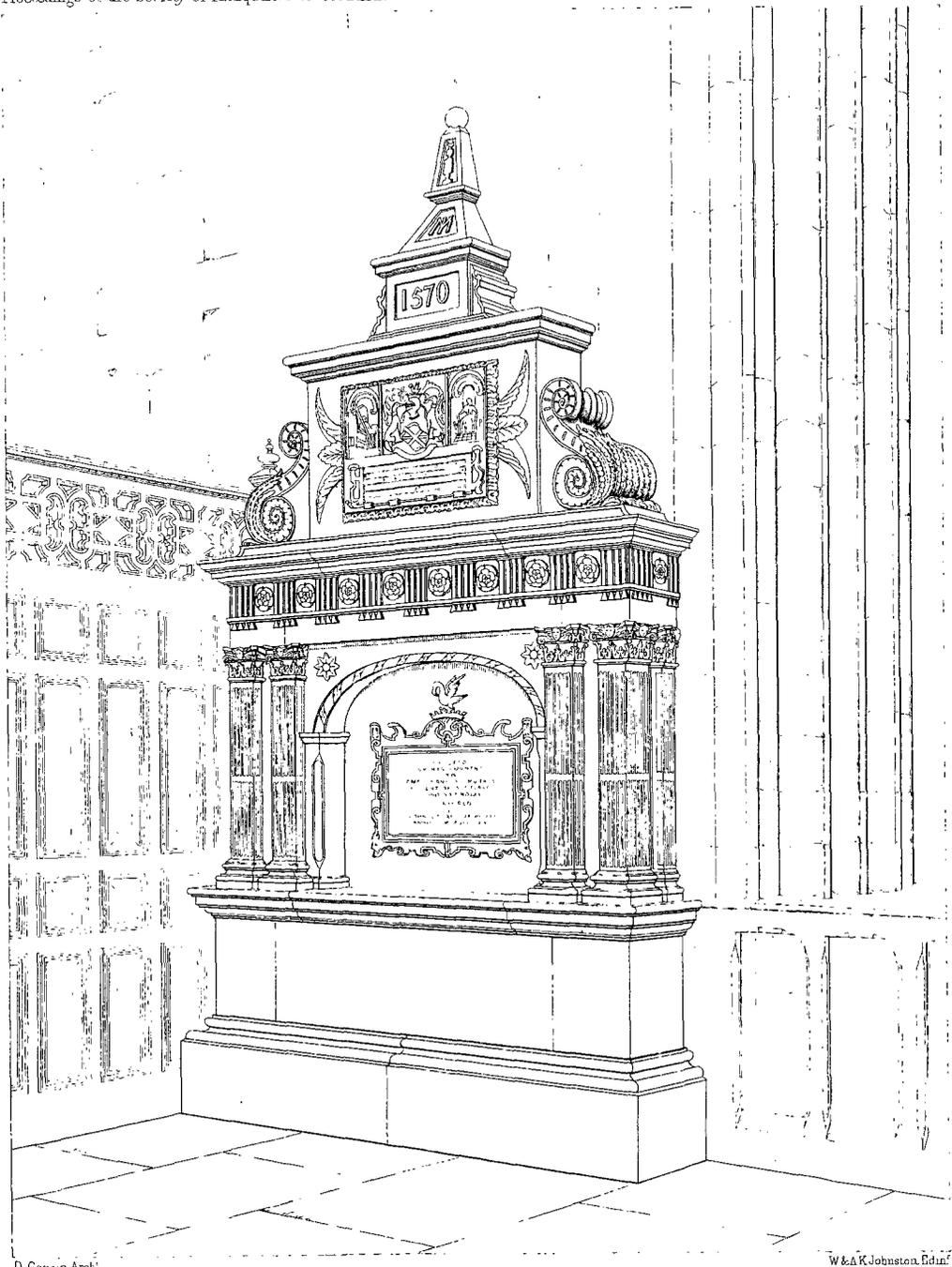
The thanks of the Meeting were voted to the Earl of Moray for the satisfactory restoration of his ancestor's monument; and to Mr Laing for the interest which he has taken in this matter for a long time, and for his present communication.

P.S.—Without entering upon minute details of family connexions,¹ the following note may be added in reference to the mention that occurs at page 49, respecting the murder of the Regent Earl of Murray.

Mr Tytler in his history, where he describes the tragical scene at Linlithgow, says, "But Bellenden the Justice-Clerk, a favourite of Moray's, who had obtained a grant of the escheats (of the forfeited property of Woodhouselee), violently occupied the house, and barbarously turned its mistress, during a bitterly cold night, and almost in a state of nakedness, into the woods, where she was found in the morning furiously

¹ See Anderson's House of Hamilton, p. 240.

mad, and insensible to the injury which had been inflicted on her. If ever," he adds, "revenge could meet with sympathy, it should be in so atrocious a case as this," &c. The same story is detailed by Sir Walter Scott, and other writers; and, no doubt, forms a very romantic episode, but *it is neither more nor less than a pure fiction*. It can be proved, from authentic evidence, that Woodhouselee was previously conveyed to Sir John Bellenden by his relative James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh himself, with consent of his wife, for the express purpose of preventing forfeiture; that she never suffered any such outrage; and that she survived for upwards of forty years the date of the alleged event. For enabling me to state this with greater confidence, I am indebted to information communicated by James Maidment, Esq., advocate. Bothwellhaugh was one of those desperate characters who acted as the hired assassin of the Hamilton faction; private revenge having no influence in the matter.—D. L.



D. Cousin Arch.

W & A K. Johnston, Edin.

MONUMENT OF THE EARL OF MURRAY, REGENT OF SCOTLAND.
in St. Giles Church, Edinburgh (Restored 1865.) Total height 14 Feet 10½ Inches