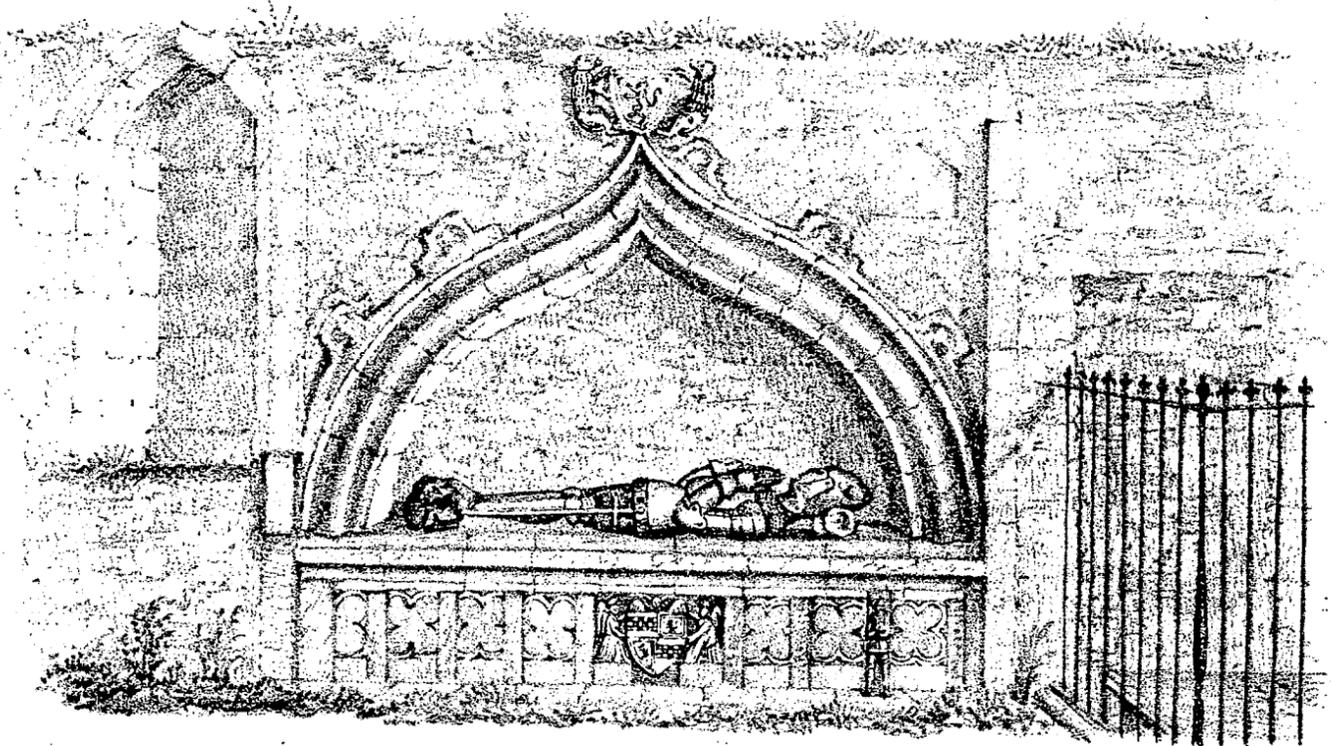


Monument of a Lady on the North side of the Choir of the Old Church of Rothesay.

J. M. K. del. 1822.



Monument of a Knight on the South side of the Choir of the Old Church of Rothesay.

J. M. K. del. April 1817.

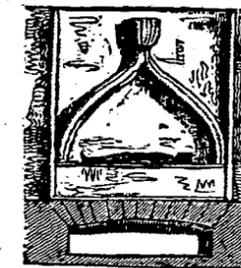
Scale of Feet.

R. H. Burns's Litho. Edinburgh.

ART. I.—Account of Two Ancient Monuments in the Church of St Mary, Rothesay.

By JOHN MACKINLAY, Esq. ROTHESAY.

[In a Letter addressed to the Hon. LORD BANNATYNE, Edinburgh, accompanied with two drawings.—Read January 24. 1825.]



MY LORD,—I now enclose the drawings (see Plate 1.) of the two monuments in the choir of the old church of St Mary, which your Lordship proposed to lay before the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland; and I shall be glad to hear if they lead to any discovery of the persons for whom they were erected.

The drawing of the monument of the knight was taken in April 1817, at which time it was in a ruinous state, but was soon after repaired by order of the Marquis of Bute. In the course of the repair, we dug down in front of the monument, and found that there was a low niche in the bottom of the wall, under the monument, in which the coffins had been placed (as figured above). We found a great number of bones, several of which were pretty fresh. There were three skulls—one of them was broken, another lay on its face, and the third one, which was lowest, lay on its back, and probably belonged to the last person buried there. The Stuarts of Bute buried in this side of the choir.

The shield at the top of the niche contains the royal arms of Scotland, without any label or other mark of distinction; the sup-

porters are lions: I do not know if they were ever used as those of the arms of Scotland. The shield over the gate of that part of Rothesay Castle, which was built by Robert II., is supported by unicorns, and may perhaps have been inserted at a later period, as it is ornamented with thistles. On each side, above the arch, there had been escutcheons; but they have been long since lost, and only the shallow sockets in which they were fixed show where they have been. There were at least one on each side; and I think there were other two higher up. The arms below are, first and fourth, Stuart; second and third, the royal arms; supporters, angels. The figure of the knight is in complete plate armour, with tippet and short petticoat of mail; his head rests on a tilting helmet, with a dog's head as the crest, attached to a cap, put on over the helmet; and the cavity in the end represents the inside of the helmet: his feet rest against a lion. The spaces on the front of the monument below are very unequal; and betwixt each quatre-foil had been placed a small figure, armed in all respects like the knight, and holding a spear. Only one of those figures remain. From the arms at the top, it seems evident that the person for whom the monument was erected was of the royal family; and it is probably that of a king, as no subject, even of the royal family, would be allowed to carry the royal arms without a mark of distinction: and from the shield at the bottom, which may be considered as his private family arms, I would conjecture that he must have been the *chief of his name*, as he gave the arms of Stuart precedence in it over even the royal bearings, which we could scarcely suppose any but the chief to do, as his descendants would no doubt account it their principal honour to be connected with the crown. If this is the monument of one of the Stuart kings, it must be either that of Robert II. or III. as they both resided occasionally at the Castle of Rothesay. Most probably it was erected to the memory of the latter, as he died here,

although he was buried at Paisley. The arms of Robert Duke of Albany (as given in Nisbet's Essay on Armories) were very like those on the lower shield; but the Stuart arms occupied only the second and third quarters of it. None of the succeeding monarchs of that family had much connexion with this place; and it is unlikely that the monument could have been erected for any of them.

The monument of the lady is on your Lordship's side of the choir. There are no arms or inscription about this monument by which to ascertain the family to which she belonged. The figures of the lady and child are cut out of a very thin stone, and are not nearly so well done as that of the knight. The figures below seem to be saints, among which appear the Virgin and Child. Some reformer, in his zeal against idolatry, has destroyed the faces of all the figures (even those of the lady and child above); but the outlines of the heads, and the whole of the bodies, are still quite distinct, they having been cut in pretty bold relief. Some unskilful mason, in repairing this monument, has misplaced the carved stones below; but, in the drawing, I have placed them in their proper order. This monument is now much in want of repair.

I remain, &c.

*Rothesay, 14th June 1823.*

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[*Note.*—Since writing the above, I have had some correspondence with Dr Meyrick (author of the History of Ancient Armour) respecting the figure on this monument:—He says that what I considered a petticoat, is the bottom of the shirt of mail worn under the cuirass; the tippet is the *camail* attached to the lower part of the helmet; and the *hause-col*, or gorget worn over it, marks it as the fashion which prevailed in the reign of King Henry IV. of England (1399 to 1412). The helmet is the kind used in war, but with the visor taken off; one of the hinges of it appears upon the temple. J. M.K.]