I.

ON THE STATE OF THE ABBEY CHURCH OF HOLYROOD SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE DEVASTATIONS COMMITTED BY THE ENGLISH FORCES IN THE YEARS 1544 AND 1547. BY DAVID LAING, ESQ., F.S.A. SCOT.

The ruined walls of the Abbey Church of Holyrood must always be an object of interest to the inhabitants of Edinburgh. It is not necessary to enlarge on its legendary history, or to enumerate the Abbots and other dignitaries connected with this religious edifice. The volume entitled "Liber Cartarum Sancte Crucis," printed for the members of the Bannatyne Club in 1840, at the expense of Lord Francis Egerton, now Earl of Ellesmere, and edited by Mr Cosmo Innes, has happily proved the means of rendering accessible a valuable series of ancient Charters and other documents connected with the earlier history of the Abbey. The purpose of the present communication is to bring together some interesting documents, hitherto unpublished, relating to the Abbey Church as a place of Presbyterian worship, during the later part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Abbey of the Holy Rood or Cross, was founded by David the First, in the year 1128. It was enriched with numerous endowments by succeeding monarchs, as well as private individuals; and the Abbot and Canons were in-
vested with a large jurisdiction. It is greatly to be regretted, that we have no
view or delineation of the building in its original state, which was adorned with
a great centre tower, and square towers on each side of the west entrance. On
several occasions the Abbey Church was partially destroyed by the English forces
during the fourteenth century; but it was reserved to the army under command
of the Earl of Hertford in May 1544 to include the Abbey of Holyrood among
the ecclesiastical edifices which were then so ruthlessly destroyed. "And
finally, we are told, "it was determyned by the sayde Lord Lieutenant,
utterly to ruynate and destroye the sayde towne (of Edinburgh) with fyer,
which, for that the nyghte drew faste on, we omytted thoroughly to execute on
that daye; but settynge fyer in thre or foure partis of the towne, we repayred
for that nyghte to our.campe. And the nexte mornynge very erly we began
where we lefte, and continued burnyngge all that daye, and the two dayes next
ensuinge continuallly, so that neyther within the wawles, nor in the suburbs,
was lefte any one house unbrent... Also, we brent the Abbey called
Holy Rode House, and the Pallice adjoyynenge to the same."

Three years later, the Protector, the Duke of Somerset, granted license to
suppress the Monastery called "Holy Roode Abbey;" the lead that remained
was plucked off, the two bells taken down; and, "according to the statute, did
somewhat hearby disgrace the house." As no steps were taken to repair the
building, the Reformers had no share at least in ruining this venerable edifice.
We know, indeed, that on the 18th of June 1567, two days subsequent to Queen
Mary's imprisonment in Lochleven, Alexander Earl of Glencairn, with his
domestics, demolished the Altar of Holyroodhouse, breaking the pictures, and
defacing the ornaments within the same; but this was within the Chapel Royal
attached to the Palace, in which the Queen was accustomed to have Mass per-
formed to the grief "of the godly;" and which is usually confounded with the
Abbey Church.

After the establishment of the Reformation, the Abbey Church was appropri-
ated to the use of the parishioners of the Canongate, still retaining its designa-
tion of Holyroodhouse parish. In July 1568, the General Assembly suspended
Adam Bishop of Orkney from the ministry, for having celebrated the marriage
of Mary and Bothwell; but being restored, he was ordained to make a sermon in
the Kirk of Halyrudhouse, when he best may for weakness of his body, and at
the end of the same to acknowledge his offence. The Bishop in 1569 exchanged
with Robert, Commendator of Holyrood, for that Abbacy, the temporalities of

1 The Late Expedition to Scotland, p. 7; Lond., 1544, 8vo.
3 Booke of the Universall Kirk, p. 131.
the bishoprick of Orkney, which was afterwards erected into an earldom. On
the 3d of March 1569–70, among the offences laid to the Bishop’s charge by
the Assembly, was this Simoniacal bargain, by which he became Commend-
dator; likewise, that “some of his kirks wherein Christ’s evangell should be
preached, are decayed, and made some sheepfolds, and some so ruinous, that
nane darre enter into them for fear of falling; speciallie Halyrudhouse, although
the Bishop of Sanct Androis, in tyme of Papistry, sequestrate the whole rents
of the said Abbacy, because only the glassen windows were not holden up and
repaired.”

To this last article the Bishop, on the 10th of March, answered,—“He wes
bot of late come to the benefice; and the maist part of thir kirks war pullit
doun be some greedie personis at the first beginning of the Reformation, quhilk
hath never been helpit or repairit sensyne; and few of thame may be repaired
be his small portion of the living; but specially the Abbay Kirk of Halyrud-
hous, quhilk hath been, thir twentie yeris bygane, ruinous through decay of twa
principal pillars, sa that nane war assurit under it; and twa thousand pounds
bestowit upon it, wald not be sufficient to ease men to the hearing of the word
and ministration of the sacraments. Bot with thair consent, and help of ane
established authoritie, he wes purposed to provide the means that the super-
fluous ruinous pairts, to wit, the Queir and Croce Kirk, micht be disponed be
faithfull men to repaire the remanent sufficently; and that he had alsua repairit
the kirks of Sanct Cuthbert and Libberton, that thai war not in sa good case
thir twintie yeris bygane. And farder, that ther wes ane order to be usit for
reparation of kirkis, whereunto the paarchiniers war oblidged, as well as he;
and whan thai concurrit, his support suld not be inlaiking.”

That this scheme was carried into effect by demolishing the whole of the
choir and transepts of the Church, seems very evident; and as several of the
Royal family of the Stewarts were buried near the High Altar, a part of the
South Aisle of the existing portion of the Church was fitted up as a Royal Vault,
to which their remains were removed.

The Presbyterial visitations of the Kirk of Halyrudhouse for the years 1583,
1592, and 1598, have recently been printed, but these relate to matters con-
connected with church discipline. The Abbey Church, however, continued to be
used for public worship; while the private Chapel Royal, within or attached
to the Palace, was the place which King James, in 1616, directed should be
fitted up with desks, stalls, and carved images, in a “comelie forme and
manner,” when the English Service was introduced.

1 The Booke of the Universall Kirk, p. 163.
2 Ib., p. 167.
Charles the First succeeded to the throne in April 1625. After a lapse of three years he intimated his resolution to visit the metropolis of Scotland, in 1628, for the purpose, as his Majesty's letter expresses it, of "receiving his Crowne and holding a Parliament in person." Great preparations were therefore made in the prospect of this event; a warrant being issued to make ready the Park and Palace of Holyroodhouse "for receiving Our person and Court;" and the Privy Council were directed "to take in their consideration whether St Giles Kirk in Edinburgh or Halyrudhouse Kirk be fittest and convenientest place for the Coronation." The Council, on the 25th of July, reported, "that having designed the Church of St Giles in Edinburgh as the fittest and most conspicuous place for his Majestis Coronation, they had caused sight (or examine) in what part his Majestis Throne and Stage may be erected." To this preference they were led upon ascertaining the ruinous state of the Abbey Church of Holyrood.

A delay having occurred in his Majesty's visit to his native kingdom, the Privy Council, in 1630, still adhered to their opinion that St Giles's Church was the most suitable for such a ceremony, considering "the impossibility of getting the Abbey Church prepared and ordered at this time, in such comlie forme as that great action requires." It was not until June 1633 that Charles accomplished his visit to Scotland; and having previously determined that Holyrood Kirk should be the place of Coronation, I shall now introduce a series of Original Letters and Acts of Privy Council, from 1626 to 1633, which relate to the state of the building, and the various alterations that were made in repairing and fitting up the old Abbey Church for that solemnity; and which bear witness to the interest displayed by Charles the First for its preservation.

1. Anent the Kirk of Halyrudhous.¹

Most Sacred Souerane,

Thair was a petition given in to your Ma's Counsell be the Minister and Session of the Kirk of Halyrudhous by the which they haviely regraittit the ruinous estate of the said Kirk whiche hes the honnour to be the Buriall place of a number of your Maiestis royall prdocessouris, and whairin they ordinairlie ressavied the Crowne of this kingdome Like as a pairt of your Maiestis Palace is contenit within the fabricque of the said Kirk the South pairt whairof serves for accomodating of your Maiestis Counsell, and thair families resident within the said Palace for hearing of the word at suche tymes when thair is no

¹ Registrum Secreti Concillii; Royal Letters, &c.
preaching in the Chapel! And thairfoir they earnestlie besoght us that we wald acquaynt your Ma*ie with the true estate of the said Kirk and sollicite the speedie help and reparatioun of the same Whiche we did consider with the irreparabile decay that by a careles neglect of tymous remeild wald inavoydiblie follow, we directit the Maister of your Ma*is workis to visite the said Kirk and to report unto us the true estate of the same together with the expenses that the reparatioun thereof wald necessarlie require ; who according to the trust committit to him haweing considerit the whole defectis of the said Kirk he gaif in a note in write under his hand bearing, That he fand the same to be verie ruinous speciallie in the butteries pend and rooffe and that the West gavell and Southe turnepick thereof wes altogether severed and disjoyned from the rooffe which hes alreddie occasioned the fall of the West end of the pend and will not faill to indanger the gallerie of your Ma*is Pallace if the same be not speedilie tane doune and substantiouslie buildit; and that the charges requisite for repairing of the said Kirk and furnisheing materiallis necessar thairto wald extend to the sowme of four thousand pundis money or thairby. And whairas it concernis the honnour of this Kingdome that suche a goodlie structure and Religious hous whairin not onlie your Maiestis Royall Ancestouris lyis intombed but whiche hes bene the suoall place for the solemnnitie of thair Coronationis and whair your Ma*ie liiewayis is (by the customo heirtofore observit) to ressaue the Imperial Crowne of this Kingdome wuld not be sufferit to perish, We ar thairby moved to represent unto your Ma*ie the true estate of the said Kirk and thairwithall humble to intreate your Ma*is to resolve upon some present course for repairing of the defectis thairof and preserving of the same from vtter ruyne, whairby God may be thair still worshipped, and those Sacred Sepulchres keipt unviolat. And so, &c.

Halyrudhouse, the 21. of Sepr. 1626.

Subscribitur ut supra [viz. :—Mar, Glasgow, Wyntoun, Roxbur, Melros, Lauderdaill, Erskine, M* of Elphinstoun, A. Ker, Arp Naper, Johnne Hamilton, Sn W. Oliphant.]

2. Reparation of the Abbey Church of Halyrudhouse.1

To the Thesawyer and Deputie.

Whereas we have bene informed by a letter from our Counsall of that our Kingdome of the ruinous estait of the Abbey Church of Halyrudhouse and how without some course takin for a speedie reparation thereof it is lykli to

1 Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.
decay and indanger a part of our Palace thereunto adjoyning. Howsoever the estate of our Exchequer be such at this tyme, as little or no moneyis can conve-nientlie be spared from them; Yet the consideratioun of the tymelie repairing of so good a work being the Buriall place of some of our Royall Antecessours and the vsual place for the solemnitie of Coronatiouns, have moved us to have a speciall regard to the helping thereof. Therefor Our pleasure is that you pay out of the readiest moneyis of our Excheker the sowne of four thousand lib. Scotts money which was fund to be fitt by your Master of wark for effecting the said reparation and what farther charge shalbe fund to be comitentlie requisite for this purpos, and that to be taken from you ather by parcelis as the present necessitie of the wark shall from tyme to tyme requyre or otherwayes as you shall think expedient causing in the meantyme conduce with all able workmen for perfyteing the said wark and appoynting such persones in that Parochin or elsewher as are knowin to be honest and carefull men to be overseeris of the samyne, and for your so doing, &c.

Whytehall, 22. Nov. 1626.

3. To THE COMMISSIONERS FOR SURRENDERS.¹

RIGHT, &c.—The reasons herewith enclosed having been exibited unto us in the behalff of Mr James Haanay Minister at Halirudhous and having considered our former intention by our Commissioners that the whole Churches of that our Kingdome should be sufficientlie provided Wee culd not bot tak particulare notice of that Church of Halyrudhous. Both in regard to the eminencie of the place, and greatness of the charge of the said Mr James whoe as we are informed hath nather manse nor gleib and yet more meanlie provided than many others having a farr les charge then hee. Therefore Wee have thought it expedient to require you both to consider of the saids reasons and of the provisiones for the ministerie thereat, as likewayis that you caus tak a surveigh of the fabrik thereof, and therefter that you doe proceide for the providing of the same as may best fitt the eminencie of the said place and the greatness of the charge of the said ministerie, and as most convententlie [can] be done by you. And upon Report maid unto you of the necessitie of helping the fabrike thereof Wee think it expedient that some such course be used as was tuke formerlie Whareof We will Our Treasurer and Deputie to have a speciall care and for the present advancement of moneyis towards the same, least by the want of some timelie help (besides that the charges formerlie bestowed wilbe lost,) the whole Church it selff will (as Wee are credibillie in-formed) be in danger of rwine, whareat We wold be exceedinglie sore. Whitehall the 14 day of Januar 1628.

¹ Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.
4. To the Exchequer.

RIGHT, &c.—Wee being humblie moved in behalff of Mr James Hannay Minister at Halyroodhous that his accompts of moneyis debursed by him for helping to repaire that Churche belonging unto Ws might be heard and he accordinglie satisfied of what he had justlie advanced in that earand; and withall that a new Surveigh might be taken thereof to the effect the rwines and defects of the same might be timelie repaired, his demands in both which seeming unto ws to be just and reasonable Oure pleaoure is That with all convenient diligence you caus trie his accompts and that he be payed of such moneyis as you shall find justlie due unto him And that you caus some persones having skill in that aerand surveigh the said Church, and the defectis and rwines thereof, and if any parte of the same shalbe found either to be deficient or to stand in need of some reasonable de- coring for better lights thareto Or otherways that with the like diligence you caus moneyis to be answered out of the reddiest of our Exchequer, for doing of the same for which these presentis shalbe your warrand. Given ut supra
[At Whitehall the 22d of May 1628.]

5. To Mak readie the Park and Palace of Halyrudhous.2

To the Marquis of Hammilton.

RIGHT, &c.—Whereas Wee intend God willing shortlie to visit that our an- cient native Kingdome, and thare to receave our Crowne and hold a Parliament in persone for perfiting that great wark much labored by ws and our Commis- sioners thare Oure pleaoure tharefore is that you caus mak readie Oure Palace and Park of Haliardhous with all convenient diligence fitted for receaving of Our persone and Court Wharein you may doe ws verie acceptable service which amongis many others Wee will ever remember And soe We bidd you fareweell.
Given at Whitehall the 5 of July 1628.

6. Warrand for Bigging up or the East Style of Halyrudhous Kirkyaird.3

Apud Halyrudhous vicesimo sexto Februarij 1629.

Forsameikle as the Lords of Secrot Counsell considering how that thir diverse yeeres bygane the people repairing to the burgh of Edinburgh from Mussilburgh Fisherraw and otheris pairts in East Lothiane has maid their ordi- nare passage throw the kirkyaird of Halyrudhous, whilk they defyle with filth and otherways, especiallie at the verie side of the Kirk and direct vnder the

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1 Regist. Secreti Concelli, Acta.
2 Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.
windowe of his Majesteis galrie of Halyrudhous whilk will be verie unseemlie to be scene be strangers the tyme of his Majesteis heere being Thairfore the saids Lords vpon the consideration fairsaid and vpon manie other good respects hes thought met and expedient commanded and ordained that the East style leading to the churchyaird of the said Kirk sall be closed and built vp with stane and lyme for restrayning of the passage of people throw the said kirkyaird whilk is no hie nor ordinarie way Anent the closing and building vp of the whilk Style this present Act sall be vnto those whome it concerns a sufficient warrand.

7. WARRAND FOR SIGHTING OF HALYRUDHOUS KIRK.

FORSAMEKILL as the Lords of Secreit Counsell finds it meit and expedient That aganis the tyme of his Majesteis heere comming the Kirk of Halyrudhous sall be sighted and that suche defects as ar thairin (whilkis ar ather a hinder to the lighte of the kirk or otherways) sall be helped by removeing of the lofts being within the said kirk and placing of thame in some oth,er convenient pairt where the light of the kirk will not be impeded nor hurt Thairfore the saids Lords nominats appoints and ordanis Adam Bishop of Dumblane Sir Johne Scot of Scottistarvet knight and Sir James Baillie of Lochend with James Murray Maister of his Ma'tes workes, To repair to the said Kirk of Halyrudhous and to take a perfyte survey thairof, and of suche defects as ar thairin and ar fitting to be decored and reformed; what lofts ar necessar to be removed and in what other convenient places of the Kirk they may be sett and settled, and to report thair opinion thairanent to the saids Lords to the intent direction and ordour may be given thairanent accordinglie.

8. REPORT ANENT HALYRUDHOUS KIRK.

Apud Halyrudhous vicesimo quarto die mensis Martij 1629. The whilk day Adame Bishop of Dumblane and Mr James Ahammay Minister at Halyrudhous gave in to the Lords of Privie Counsell the report vnderwritten Anent the repairing of the kirk of Halyrudhous whairof the tennour foliowes.

At the Kirk of Halyrudhous the saxtene day of March 1629. The qhilk day Adame Bishop of Dumblane, Sir Johne Scot of Scottistarvet knight Sir James Baillie of Lochend knight and James Murray Maister of his Ma'tes workes appointed Commissioners be the Lords of Secreit Counsell vpon the twentie sax day of Februarie last bypast for visiting and surveying of the defects and ruines of the said Kirk, and for considering what might serve for decoring and beautifing of the samine with better and larger lights ather by

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2 Ib., fol. 104.
removing of ane lofts impeding the same or stryking out of new lights where they shall be found necessar, having mett and surveyed the same have resolved in maner following:

In primis, they find it necessar that the three lofts over against his Maiesty's seate on the north side of the said Kirk be removed whairby the kirk shall be better lighted and aired, and the people shall hear God's word more commodiously, numbers of seates being made laich for noblemen and their ladies, and others persones of good qualitie who now for want of seates are forced to goe ells where altho they dwell within the parish. And withall finds that these to whome the loft belongs may be more commodiously furnished ells where To wit be ane great loft to be built on the East gavill whilk being dividit in twa will hald ane great nombre mae nor anie two lofts now possest be thame, and the third may have ane large seate vnder his Maiesty's galrie whilk will be just over aganis the pulpit.

Item, they find it necessarie that vpon the laich North East gavill there be ane window strickin out, whilk will wonderfullie decore and beautifie the kirk.

Item, they find it necessarie that the pulpit be removed ane pillar towards the West for the more commodious hearing of all the people.

Item, that the commoun loft be removed ane pillar westward.

Item, that the twa firre seates whilk ar in the bodie of the kirk on the South side be removed and made equall with the foreface of his Maiesty's lofts and the rest of the laiche seates.

Item, they find it necessarie that there be foure windowes strickin out on the South side of the kirk, vnder his Maiesty's lofts, for the lighting and airing of that side of the kirk, and finds it may be easilie done.

Item, after the sighting and surveying of the high kirk's pend They find it necessarie that it be paynted and plastered and the pillars and subpillars of the transes on everie side be made new And being perfytlie repaired that the loft layed over the kirk be removed.

(Subscribitur)  Ad. B. of Dunblane.  Sr J. Scottistarvet.
James Baillie.  James Murray.

Whilk Report being read heard and considerit be the Lords and they rypelie advised thair with The Lords of Secret Counsell Allows of the first article of the said report tuiching the removing of the three lofts foregainst his Maiesty's seate and building of a great laft on the East gavill, for the ease of the people to whome the three lafts belongs, and for bigging of laiche seates according as it is sett doune in the said article Whilk is to be performed to the Bailleis and Session of the Kirk of the Canongate and vpon thair charges And tuiching the
remenant points conteaned in the said report. The Lords reserves the considera-

9. Repairing the Abbay Church.

To Mr James Hannay.

Trustie, &c.—We have bene informed of the great paines you have taken
and of the great charges you have bene at in repairing the Abbay Church of
Halyrudhous, and these are to encourage you to proceed as you have begun
assuring you withall that We will not suffer you to be a loser any way thereby
but will have you payed for your charge of that work according to the warrant
that was formerlie given by Ws unto Our exchequer for that purpois not doubt-
ing but ordour will be takin for your payment accordinglie. And so We bid
you farewell From Our Court at Whythall 13 Januar 1632.

10. Anent the Surveying of the Kirk of Halyrudhous.

Apud Halyrudhous, 15 Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

Stratherne Wigtoun B. Dumblane Carnegie Secretar
Privie Seale Air B. Yles. Tracquair Clerk Reg'

The Lords of Secret Counsell nominates and appoints David Lord Carnegie
Adame Bishop of Dumblane Johnne Lord Tracquair St. Archibald Achesone Secre-
tar, and the Maisteris of his Majesteis workes, to conveen and meit the morne at
Halyrudhous at eight of the clocke in the morning and there to sight and sur-
vey the church of Halyrudhous and to consider what is fitting to be helped and
repaired therein and how, and refer what charges the same may be performed
and to report to the said Lords upon Thursday next.

11. Anent the Repairing of the Kirk of Halyrudhous.

Apud Halyrudhous 22 Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

St Andrewes Wintoun B. Yles Tracquair Clerk Reg'
Privie Seal B. Dumblane Carnegie Secretar Advocat

Forssameikle as the Kings Ma'th hes resolved that the Coronation sail God
willing be in the Abbey Kirk of Halyrudhous and whereas it is very requisite

1 Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.  
2 Acta, fol. 177.  
3 Ib., fol. 180.
both for the credite of the country and for the solemnitie of that important actioun That the said Kirk be repaired and ordered in suche a decent and comelie maner as is most fitting for suche ane great and honourable actioun Thairfoir the Lords of Secret Counsell ordanis and commandis James Murray and Anthony Alexander Maisteris of his Matels works to enter with all possible diligence to the repairing and ordering of the said Kirk in the particulars following, viz. To take down the east gavell within the great arche where the old window is, and to erect and build up ane faire new window of goode stane worke, and also ane window in the east end of the north yle And farder to build up the north west steeple with stane timber and leade and to make it fitt to receive a pale of bellis As alsa to helpe and repaire the south-west steeple so farre of it as must be in sight And to repaire make new the great west doore with stane and timber And alsa to repaire the hault west gavell with some lights to be strucken out therein, with the twa turnepycks to be partlie takin down and weill repaired and thacked in good order And alsa to remove the hault lofts and deskes, and to repaire the hault breaches and defects of all the pillars and to helpe the plaistering of the north yle And to swettin and set it aff in good sort conforme to the south yle As alsa to prepair and have in readiness als manie daillis trees sparris and naillis as shall be thought necessar for erecting of the Kings Majestie Throne and others degrees of honour with suche barricats and lofts as salt be necessar And ordanis the saisd Maisters of warkes to begin the saisd warkes with all possible diligence, and to provide warkmen and all materialls necessar where ever they can be best and soonest had, for doing of quhilk premisses this present Act sail be to thame ane Warrand, And ordanis his Majestie Thesaurer and Depute Thesaurer to furnishe moneyes fra tyme to tyme as the necessitie of the service sail require.

12. CHARGES AGAINST PERSONS DWELLING IN THE PALACE OF HALYRUDHOUS.¹

Apud Halyrudhous ultimo Januarij 1633.

Sederunt.

Stratherne Launderdaill B. Yles Carnegie
Winton B. Dumblane Areskine Secretar.

Forsameikle as it is verie necessar and expedient for the better accomodating and lodging of his Majestie and his tryne in his Majestie owne houses of the Castellis of Edinburgh and Stirline and of his Palaces of Falkland and Dumfermline and Halyrudhous that all personis who dwellis within the saisd housses

¹ Acta, fol. 182.
or possesse anie roome or chambers within the same sall remove thameselfis, thair servants and goods furth thairof and leave the same void and red, and delyver the keyes thairof to his Majesteis Thesaurer and Deputie-Thesaurer or to the Maisters of his Majesteis Workes to the intent that all the saids houses may be readie and patent to his Majesteis harbinger and that he may designe and appoint the same to suche of his Majesteis tryne as he sall thinke meth. Thairfoir ordanis letters to be direct charging all personis dwelling within anie of his Majesteis houses foresaids or who possesses anie chambers or roome within the same to remove thameselfis thair servants and goods furth thairof and leave the same void and delyver the keyes thairof to his Majesteis said Thesaurer and Deputie-Thesaurer or to the Maisters of his Majesteis Workes to the intent and purpose foresaid within 48 hours after the charge under the paine of rebellioun &c. And if they fallie To denounce &c.

13. PEALL OF BELLIS.  

_Thesaurer._

Right, &c.—Wheras We did command Sir George Fletcher knycht to bargain for a Peall of Bellis to be hung upon our Church at Halyroodhous, which as we ar informed by Mr James Hannay minister ther wilbe in readiness before the 20 day of this month of Maij to the effect it may be usefull speciallie at our first coming and being ther at this tyme Our pleasur is that you caus furthwith answer and pay unto the'founder heir at our Citie of London the pryce condescended upon that they may be transported thither with all possible diligence Whereof expecting the performance at your hands We bid you farewell.

Wythall 10 May 1633.

14. _MR JAMES HANNAY TO BE PAYED OF WHAT IS DUE UNTO HIM._  

_Thesaurer and Deputie-Thesaurer._

Right, &c.—Whereas We have writtin heretofoir that Mr James Hannay Minister at Our Church of Halyrudhous might be satisfied for his disbursements in repairing that Church with the ordinarie allowance for the forbearance becaus as We are crediblie informed his service theren was verie, usefull and that the charges expended wer his owiu meanes, We will that such speedie payment be made to him thereof as possiblie can, and the rather becaus his service and attendance in his charge now at this time at our being ther God willing wilbe verie requisite. Therefor our pleasure is that with all diligence you pay unto

1 Sir W. Alexander's Register of Letters.

2 Th.
him or his assignee is the said disbursements with the ordinarie allowance for
the forbearing thereof as you shall find by his accompts, and that in such maner
as you shall think most fitt for his satisfaction, for which these presents &c.
_Theobalds 14 May 1633._

15. **Abbey Church of Halyrudhous Lofts and Seats.**

_Maisters of Work._

_Trustie, &c._—Sicing the Abbey Church of Halyrudhous that had been so
dark befoir was by the course takin by you becum so lightsome that it gave us
a great deal of contentment at our being ther To the effect that it may continew
so still it is Our pleasur that you have a speciall care that no seatts nor lofts be
built therin unless it be such places as may rather impair the beawtie nor light
of the said Church _And this you shall signifie to any whom this may concerne
from ws_. And if any doe presume to doe the contrar heirof that you certifie the
same to ws that We may caus tak ordour with them For doing quhairof &c.
_Wythall 12 Decr 1633._

16. **Original Letter of King Charles the First.**

_WHERAS Sr Johne Veitche kny* Mr* of O'r workes hes furnished materiallis ne-
cessar and workmen for repairing of O'r Palice and Kirk of Halyroodhous, wh
is as yit restand awand and unpayed These ar therfor to will and reuayre yow
efter the sight heiroff to pay and deliver to the said Mr* of O'r workes all such
soumes of money as is restand awand to him ather for materiallis or workmens
wadges bestowed vpon the reparatioun fairsaid And that out of the first and
readiest of anie of O'r moneyis in yo* hands ffbr doing wherof these presentes
(with his receipt y'off) shalbe vnto yow ane sufficient warrand and allowed in yo*
accompts._ Gevin at O'r Palice of Halyroodhous the thrid day of September 1641.

To o* trustie and wellbeloved
_Counsellor* Sr James Carmichell
of that ilk kny* our Thesaurers-deput._

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The subsequent history of the Abbey Church may be stated in a few words. The Palace of Holyrood having accidentally been destroyed by fire in 1650, and the partial additions made by Cromwell's orders, after the Restoration being removed, the present Palace was designed by Sir William Bruce, and erected according to the special instructions of Charles the Second. The Chapel Royal, which stood towards the south, was swept away in the course of these alterations, and this suggested to His Majesty the expediency of obliging the parishioners of the Canongate to provide a new Church for their own use, as appears from the following Act of Privy Council, in 1672:

"Act Anent the Chapel Royal.

Apud Halirudhouse decimo terto die Septembris 1672.

"Whereas it is necessary and suteing to his Majesties pious and religious disposizion that some convenient place be designed and sett apairt wherein his Majesty and these of his family at his Palace of Halirudhouse may worship God and perform all publick religious dueties and that the Abbay Church doeth ly contigre to the said Palace and is at his Majesties disposeall Therefore the Lord Commissioner his Grace and Lords of his Majesties Privy Council doe designe sett apairt and appropriat the said Church for the ends and uses afore-saides And doe declare the same to be his Majesties Chappell Royeall in all tymes comeing Discharging heirby the Magistrattis of Edinburgh or Cannongate to use the same hereafter as ane Paroch church and that notwithstanding of any former tolleration or possession they may pretend in and to the said church."

Several years elapsed before this resolution could be carried into effect. At length James the Seventh, by a warrant dated 3d of December 1687, directed the Abbey Church to be fitted up in a suitable manner, "for being Our own Catholick Chappell, and capable of the Ceremonies and Solemnities of the most ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle." The populace of Edinburgh, however, in their great zeal against Popery, at the period of the Revolution, broke into the Church in a violent manner, destroying the interior ornaments, leaving only the bare walls, and committing the sacrilege of tearing off the lids of the leaden coffins deposited in what was called "the Royal Vault." In this deserted state the old Church appears to have remained for nearly seventy years, when it was repaired at the expense of the Exchequer; but the roof being injudiciously covered with flag-stones of enormous weight, unsuited to the frail and decayed state of the walls, it gave way in 1768, and left the building in a complete state of ruin.

I do not wish to conclude these notices without a practical suggestion. On a former occasion the Society presented a Memorial to the Right Honourable the
Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, in favour of the plan for clearing out the accumulated soil which concealed the ancient cloisters of the Abbey; when there was brought to light some interesting architectural details. It would serve no useful purpose were the Society to propose a restoration of the old edifice, or the construction of another, in the same style, as a Chapel Royal for the installation of the Knights of the Thistle; but it would contribute greatly to improve the grounds connected with the Palace of Holyrood, if, when the garden to the north-west of the Palace is taken in and inclosed, the whole area of the old Abbey Church should be included in the contemplated improvements. As the portion of the original edifice which was pulled down in 1570, consisted of the transept, choir, and the aisles to the east of the great central tower, it would be most desirable that the foundations, so long covered with soil and rank grass, should also be cleared out, surrounded with a gravel walk, and inclosed within the pleasure grounds of the Palace. The moulded bases of the columns, as ascertained from actual examination, and probably much of the old stone floor, still exist, at a depth of about six feet, beneath the surface. As the area of the original edifice extends somewhat beyond the present iron railings, and includes the site of the High Altar, in front of which King David the Second, and in the middle of the Choir, King James the Second, were interred, we might reasonably expect that some important antiquarian discoveries would be made in the course of such excavations.

In this belief, therefore, I beg to propose that the Society present a Memorial on the subject to the proper quarter, upon the first suitable opportunity.

The Meeting unanimously approved of the proposal contained in Mr Laing's communication, and appointed a Committee to prepare such a Memorial, addressed to the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Bart., First Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings, and to transmit the same through the Marquis of Breadalbane, as President of the Society.