ON AN UNRECORDED ISSUE OF THE ABERDEEN PRESS OF EDWARD RABAN IN 1627. WITH A HAND LIST OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF HIS PRESSES AT EDINBURGH, SAINT ANDREWS, AND ABERDEEN.

BY WILLIAM E. A. AXON, LL.D., F.R.S.L.

The late Mr John Philip Edmond, in bidding farewell to the subject of early Aberdeen printing, which had occupied his leisure hours for many years, said: "That the mine is exhausted I do not for a moment imagine." It is an evidence of this that to the present writer, who had not until recently paid any special attention to the subject, falls the duty of recording a book from the press of Edward Raban that has not hitherto been described. A facsimile of the title-page is given in fig. 1.

It is a small octavo of 288 pages and 4 preliminary leaves. A late edition, issued in 1630, is named by Mr Edmond. The author, Thomas Tymme, of whose personal history little is known, died in 1620. He was the translator of some of Calvin's books, of La Ramée's Commentaries on the Wars of France, and the author of the Chariot of Devotion. The Silver-Watch Bell was, however, the most popular production, and went through at least nineteen editions, and probably more.

The printer, Edward Raban, was an Englishman, and his uncle, Peter Raban, was "parson" at Melton Mowbray, and, in his nephew's opinion, not too clean in his mode of life. But the printer was a Puritan, and may have been too severe, not to say jaundiced, in his outlook on humanity. Of his early life nothing is known, but in 1600, when English soldiers went into Flanders to assist the Netherlands under Maurice of Nassau, he was one of the company. Raban remembered what merry times these volunteers had in London, when day and night were made "all one with eating, drinking, playing, swearing, etc." They were a motley crew of bankrupts, both gentlemen and merchants, runaway apprentices and similar persons. "He that could not quaff off
A SILVER
WATCH-BELL.

The sound whereof is able (by the Grace of God) to vivin the most profane worldling, and careless liver (if there be but the least spark of Grace remaining in him) to become a true Chris-

tian indeed: that in the end he may obtain everlasting SALVATION.

Whereunto is added a Treatise of the Holy Sacrament of the LORDS Supper, in part augmented.

BY THOMAS LYME.

The sixteenth Impression.

Printed in ABERDENE, by Edward Raban, for David Melvill. 1627.
a dozen pots of beer or a bottle of wine and swear an hour together, he," says Raban, "was not fit to goe in our company." He contrasts these revels with the hardships that followed on shipboard, when they came to divide a biscuit between two and a can of water amongst four, and later, when these brave gallants were glad to receive the drops of rain and the water that dropped from the ropes and sails of the ship in their beaver hats to quench their thirst. They landed at Philippina, and were soon busy in driving the Spaniards "out of this scance and that fort" till they came before Newport, where they were "sharply assaulted by Albertus of Austenrich." He very piously thanks God that they slew "at least sixe thousand of the Spanish side, took many prisoners and returned into Holland with victory." He notes that "tender drunkards" could neither march nor stand in the days of battle. Some died from thirst, and five golden angels were given for some puddle water. Raban, speaking of this roystering, acknowledges that he had "too great a share in that business."

After he had served the Dutch "full ten years" in the wars of the Netherlands he travelled in Germany, passing through Cologne, Mentz, Frankfurt, Worms, Frankenthal, Speyer, and Strassburg, and joined himself to a company who were on the way to Rome; but when they came to the Alps he turned back in order to act as guide to some English gentlemen who had come from the Papal City. They had lost their guide by death, and Raban "convoyed them through all Germany, even to Hamburg, visiting all the fair cities and the churches." In the course of this long Continental stay Raban probably learned the printer's art. He was a strict observer of the Sabbath—or rather of the Sunday—and tells us: "A master whom I served in mine own science, in the fair city of Leyden, had it aye for a custom to boil his printing varnish on the Sabbath days in a garden-house without the city, but at last his house took fire and burned the man himself and his only daughter; he being a rich man, died thus miserable, leaving none issue to inherit his trash."

Raban's first known book was printed at Edinburgh in 1620. When we remember that he began soldiering in 1600 it is evident that he
must have been at least forty or forty-five years of age when he became a Scottish printer. In the same year he was appointed printer to the University of St Andrews, and in 1622 began to print at Aberdeen, where he remained for the rest of his life. He was twice married, and died in 1658. He was buried on 6th December at "Wast dyk," the part of the churchyard of St Nicholas where many of the most honoured citizens of Aberdeen were laid to rest.

Raban had some ambition both as author and editor. In 1622 he published a book of which a portion only remains, Raban's Resolutions, a treatise against drunkenness, whoredom and Sabbath-breaking, from which some entertaining extracts are given by Mr Edmond.  

In another book by him, entitled The Glorie of Man, consisting in the excellencie and perfection of Women, he cites fifty-three authors whom he has laid under contribution. It includes some verse, in one of which his initials appear:—

It is no Bountie which doth flow from Store.
Who gives his Heart, what Gift can hee giue moRe?

He also wrote in verse, "Raban's Regrate for the present loss of his very good Lord, Patron and Master, Patricke Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen, Baron of Corse and O'Neill." He published almanacs for 1623, 1625, 1626, which contain some of his own matter both in prose and verse. To other of the books he printed he has added introductory or other editorial matter. Raban had his difficulties. He was, along with his wife, imprisoned and fined for a broil; he had difficulties with patrons, he was accused of heresy, but he escaped from any serious consequences in these misadventures.

1 Last Notes on Aberdeen Printers.
2 He was examined before the General Assembly in 1640 on a charge of shortening the prayer at the end of a Psalm Book and Presbyterian Liturgy, and it was suggested that he had done this at the instance of some ministers unfriendly to the Covenant. He confessed that he had shortened the Prayer, but only in order to squeeze it into the page, as he was short of paper!
That he was not without a good opinion of himself we may judge from the imprint of Elizabeth Melvill's *Godly Dream* issued in 1644, where his style is: "E. Raban, Laird of Letters." After all, this is not a bad description of Edward Raban, the printer who for twenty-nine years "filled the case" in the preparation of serious books that had a direct bearing on the problems of individual and national life in a stirring and difficult time.

**Hand List of the Productions of Edward Raban's Presses.**

(The references are to the pages of J. P. Edmond's *Aberdeen Printers, 1884-1886*, and (L.N.) his *Last Notes on Aberdeen Printers, 1888.*).

1620. *(Edinburgh).*

Symson (Archibald), Christes Testament, pp. xi, 1.

1620 *(St Andrews).*

Melville (Andrew), Muse, p. 1.

Michaelson (John), The Lawfulnes of Kneeling in the act of receiving the Sacrament, p. 2.


Tilenus (Daniel), Parnesius, pp. 3, 186.

1621 *(St Andrews).*

Baron (Rebert), Philosophia Theologicæ Ancillans, pp. 3, 186.

—— Positiones, p. 4.

Symson (Archibald), Heptameron, pp. xvix, 4.

—— Samson's Seaven Lockes of Haire, p. 5.

1622 *(St Andrews).*

Browne (David), Calligraphia, pp. xxix, 5.


Lindesay (David), An Heavenly Chariot, p. 7.

Raban's Resolution against Drunkenness, against whoredom, against the breakers of Sabbath (L.N.), p. 3.

1622 *(Aberdeen: All the Remaining Works).*

Adagia, p. 8.

Dunbar (William), The Merrie Historie of the Three friars of Berwicke, pp. 8, 1186.

Guild (William), Issacher's Asse braying, p. 8.

Lunan (Alexander), Theses Philosophiae, p. 9.

[Tables of Books for Schools], p. 187.

Tilenus (Daniel), De Discipline Ecclesiastica, pp. 9, 187.
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1633.

A New Prognostication, pp. 10, 187.
Briefe Chronicle of all the Kings of Scotlande, p. 12.
Craig (Alexande), Poeticall Recreations, p. 12.
Forbes (William), Positiones, p. 13.
Lachryme Academie Marischallane, pp. 13, 188.
Ogston (William), Oratio Funebris ... Georgii Marischalli Comitis, p. 14.
Spencer (John), Grammatice Bellum, pp. 15, 188.
Vives (J. L.), Ad Sapientiam Introductio: Enchiridion, pp. 15, 188.
Gray (Gilbert), An Oration, p. 188.
Catechesis ... Palatinus sub Frederico III. (L.N.), p. 12.

1624.

Friend (Gabriel), Prognostication, pp. 15, 1189.
Forbes (John), Theses Philosophicae, p. 15.
Guild (William), Three Rare Monuments of Antiquitie, p. 16.
Logie (Andrew), Cum Bono Deo. Baine from the Clouds, p. 16.
[Professor of Mathematics Edict], p. 17.

1625.

A Prognostication for 1625, pp. 18, 190.
Gordon (D.), Pharniaco-Pinax, p. 18.
Leslie (William), Propositiones, p. 19.
Psalms in Meeter (Sternhold & Hopkins), pp. xxiv, 19.
Sibbald (James), Theses Philosophicae, p. 20.
Wedderburne (David), Abredonia Atrata, p. 20.

1626.

Prognostication for 1626, p. 21.
Cargill (William), Some Poesie, p. 21.
Forbes (Alexander), Ane Poesie, p. 21.
Gardyne (Alexander), Pamphlet, p. 22.
Guild (William), Popish Glorying in Antiquitie, p. 22.
Lundie (J.), Theses Logice, p. 22.
— 24mo, pp. 23, 120 ; (L.N.), p. 13.
Sibbald (James), Theses Philosophicae, p. 23.

1637.

Tymme (Thomas), Silver Watch-Bell (see ante).
Baron (Robert), Disputatea Theologica, p. 24.
Forbes (Patrick), Etibulus, p. 25.
Hay (Peter), An advertisement to the subjects of Scotland, p. 25.
Scrogie (Alex.), De Imperfectione Sanctorum, p. 26.
Seton (John), Theses Philosophiae, p. 27.
Sibbald (James), Theses Theologie, p. 27.
[Lawes of all the Schooles], p. 194.

1628.
Calvin (John), Catechisme, p. 28.
Johnston (Arthur), Elegiae Duoæ, p. 28.
Lyndsay (Sir David), Workes, p. 28; (L.N.) p. 13.
Sibbald (J.), Theses Theologie, p. 29.

1629.
Forbes (John), Irenicum, pp. 29, 194.
The CL Psalmes as sung in the Church of Scotland, pp. 30, 195.
Psalms . . . . according to the Church of Scotland, 16mo, p. 30.
—— 12mo, p. 31.
Ramsay (David), A Sermon, p. 31.
Scrogie (A.), Theses Theologie, p. 32.
Sulton (Edward), A Caution for the Credulous, p. 32.
Psalms (English) with the tunes by the most expert Musicians in Aberdeen, p. 194.
Strachan (Andrew), Propositiones and Problemata, p. 195.
Virgilius, Poemata, p. 196.

1630.
Baron (Robert), Theses Theologie, p. 32.
Cicero (M. T.), Epistolarum Libri Quatuor, p. 33.
Guild (William), Limbo's Batterie, p. 34.
(Henry the Minstrel), The Lyfe . . . . of . . . . Wallace, p. 34.
Ovidius, Metamorphosean, p. 35.
Seton (John), Theses Philosophiae, p. 35.
Tymme (Thomas), A Silver Watch-bell, p. 196.

1631.
Baron (Robert), Ad Georgii Turnebulli Tetragonismam, p. 36.
Forbes (John), Gemitus Ecclesie Scoticae, p. 37.
Lundie (John), Oratio Eucharistica, p. 38.
—— Theses Theologie, p. 38.
Seton (John), Theses Philosophiae, p. 38.
Strachan (Andrew), Panegyricus, pp. xii, 39.
—— Schediasmata Philosophica, p. 39.
Bible, p. 197.
[Label on Bible of Aberdeen Hospital], p. 197.
Stanbridge (John), Vocabula, p. 197.
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1632.
Prognostication for . . . . 1632, p. 40.
Forbes (John), Teologiae Moralis, p. 40.
— Secunda Pars, p. 41.
Johnston (Arthur), Epigrammata, p. 41.
— Parerga, p. 41.
The Psalms . . . . according to the Church of Scotland, 12mo, p. 42.
Wedderburne (David), Short introduction to Grammar, p. 42.

1633.
Baron (Robert), On the arrival of King Charles, pp. xviii, 44.
— Disputatio Theologica, p. 45.
Guild (William), The Humble Addresse, p. 46.
Leech (David), Positiones, p. 46.
Merser (William), A Poesie, p. 46.
Psalms . . . . with Forme of Discipline, pp. 47, 198.
Psalms (sic), p. 47.
Ramsay (David), Sermon, p. 49.
Robertson (George), Serenissimi . . . . Caroli, Comitia, p. 48.
Wedderburne (David), Institutiones Grammaticæ, pp. 49, 198.
—- Vivat Rex, p. 49.

1634.
Leech (David), Positiones Philosophicæ, pp. 50, 199.
Michel (William), Epitaphs upon (his) Death, p. 50.
Seton (John), Theses Philosophicæ, p. 51.
Strachan (Andrew), Vindiciae Cultus Divini, p. 51.
Wedderburne (David), Institutiones Grammaticæ, p. 57.
— Meditationes Campestris, 52.
Psalms with prayers, p. 199.

1635.
Dickson (David), Short Explanation of Ep. to the Hebrews, p. 53.
Forbes (Patrick), Funerals of, pp. xxii, 53.
Forbes (Patrick), Sermons of, p. 53.
Gordon (John), Confessio Fidei, p. 55.
Lachryse Academicæ Marischallæ . . . . Comitio Mareschalli, p. 56.
Leech (David), Positiones Philosophicæ, pp. 56, 199.
A table of all the petty custumes payable within Aberdeen, p. 56.
Wedderburne (David), Institutiones Grammaticæ, p. 57.

1636.
Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical . . . . for Ch. of Scotland, pp. xxv, 57, 200.
Forbes (John), Irenicum, pp. 58, 200.
Leech (David), Positiones Philosophicæ, pp. 58, 200.
Themilthorpe (Nicholas), The Posie of Godlie Prayer, p. 59.
Wedderburne (David), Vocabula, p. 59.
Whole forme of Discipline . . . . Ch. of Scotland, pp. 59, 201.
1637.

Cupif (Francis), Truth Triumphant, p. 60.
Gerard's Meditations, p. 60.
Guild (William), A short Treatise . . . . prophanation of the Lords Day by Salmon Fishing, p. 60.
Johnston (Arthur), Paraphrasis Poetica Psalmorum Davidis, pp. 61, 202.
Leech (David), Philosophia Illachrymans, p. 62.
Seton (John), Theses Philosophice, p. 62.
Wedderburne (David), A Short Introduction to Grammar, p. 63.
Broad (William), Bonum Factum : De Hydrape, p. 201.

1638.

Generall Demands concerning the late Covenant, p. 63.
The Answeres of some brethren of the Ministrie . . . . Concerning the late Covenant, p. 64.
The Answeres of some brethren of the Ministrie [sic], p. 64 . . . .
Duplyes of the Ministers and Professors of Aberdene . . . . concerning the late Covenant, p. 65.
Forbes (John), A Peaceable Warning, p. 66.
Gerard's Prayers, p. 66.
Guild (William), An Antidote agaynst Poperie, p. 67.
Leech (David), Positiones Philosophice, pp. 67, 203.
Proclamation by His Majesty [against the Assembly].
Raban (Edward), The Glorie of Man, p. 68.

1639.

Prognostication, 1639, by M.I.G._eltic and Protestation of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Scotland, p. 69.
Guild (William), An Antidote agaynst Poperie, p. 70.
—— To the Nobilitie, Gentic, Bur and others of this lait Convention, p. 71, (L.N.) p. 15.
Psalmes . . . . in Metre . . . . Church of Scotland, p. 203.

1641.

Downie (Robert), Scotorum Elogium, p. 71.
Wedderburne (David), Sub obitum D Arturi Johnston, pp. 72, 204.

1642.

Lyndsay (David), Scotlandis Halleluiah, p. 72.
Theses 1642, p. 72.

1643.

Bohemus (S. Decanus), Propositiones de Celo, pp. 73, 204.
Gordon (F.), Theses Philosophice, pp. 73, 205.
Rae (John), Theses Philosophice, p. 73.
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Row (John), Hebrew Dictionary, p. 73.
Scoole Actis and Lawes, p. 74.
A Solemn League and Covenant, p. 75.
Wedderburne (David), Meditationum Campestrium. Cent. II., p. 75.

1644.
Innes (George), A Militarie Rudiment, p. 75.
Melvill (Elizabeth), A Godly Dream, pp. 76, 205.
Wedderburne (David), Meditationum Campestrium. Cent. III., p. 78.
—— Sub obitum . . . . Georgii Jamesoni, p. 79.

1645.
Montgomery (Alexander), The Cherrie and the Sloe, p. 29.
Theses, 1644–45, p. 79.

1648.
[Papers printed to be affixed to the breasts of those on the scaffold], p. 80.

1649.
Guild (William), Jsagoge Catechetica, p. 80.
—— The old Roman Catholik, p. 80; (L. N.), p. 16.
Middleton (Alexander), [Theses], p. 206.

Without Date.
Hornbook [A Paternoster or Abecedarium], p. 81.
(There is a facsimile of this in Aberdeen Printers, Part III.)