

Letter.

To Mr Cummyng, Secretary to the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland,

Dear S I R,

Haddington, October 19. 1790.

As you informed me that you intend to publish in the volume of the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, now in the press, *An*

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Original

Original Letter of Bishop Burnet, which I communicated to the Society, you will please prefix to it the following short narrative.—
I am your's, &c.

G. BARCLAY.

Bishop Burnet informs us, in the first volume of the History of his own Times, 'That in the year 1666, when he was parson of Salton, he took a resolution of drawing up a memorial of the grievances Scotland lay under by the bad conduct of the Bishops. He resolved that no other person but himself should have a share in any trouble it might bring on him: So he communicated it to none. This made it not to be in all the parts of it so well digested as otherwise it might have been, as he was then but 23 years of age. Of this memorial he wrote out some copies, signed them, and sent them to all the Bishops of his acquaintance. He was called before the Bishops, treated with great severity. Archbishop Shairp, in particular, broke out into great vehemence, and proposed to the Bishops that he should be summarily deprived and excommunicated, but none of them would agree to that.'—The following letter was wrote to the Bishop of Edinburgh, his diocesan, as an apology for his conduct.