



Thomas Scot, the Regicide.

By Lady Russell.

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WE have followed the fortunes of the Regicide until the retirement of Richard Cromwell, when he rose to greater consequence than ever. In 1659, he was appointed one of the Council of State and Custos Rotulorum of the City of Westminster, and that same year he and Robinson were sent to meet General Monk on his return from Scotland, their object being to congratulate him, and also to try and induce him to take the Oath of Abjuration. Dr. Skinner, in his Life of General Monk, says that all the way back from Leicester (where they met him) to St. Alban's Scot and Robinson took up their quarters in the same house with Monk, and that "when they withdrew to their own apartment they always found or made some hole in the door or wall, to look in or listen (which they had practis'd so palpably that the General found it out, and took notice of it to those about him, reflecting on their baseness and evil suspicions) that they might more nearly inspect his actions and observe what persons came to him, and also be in readiness to answer the addresses and to russle with those that brought them. But, here they were so plainly and severely reprimanded by those gentlemen that came, that Scot, in great passion, reply'd 'Tho' his age might excuse him from taking a part, yet as old as he was (before this present Parliament should be entangled, by restoring the excluded members, or by new elections) he would gird on his sword again and keep the door against them.'" Dr. Gumble, one of Monk's chaplains, in describing this same march to London, tells the following anecdote about Thomas Scot: "One story," he says, "I cannot but relate, which I was an eye-witness to: In the coach and six horses wherein Mr. Scot and Mr. Robinson came down to meet and attend the General, these two, Scot and Robinson, upon some great shaking and descent in the road, their heads beat one against the other, and Scot's head fell into a very great

bleeding upon the forepart thereof, which to staunch they were forced to call for a Chyrurgeon of the Army, and to make some stop in their journey for his application. This was then observed by one in the coach, as a preface to some great disaster, Mr. Scot's future execution." Skinnér also relates a ludicrous episode concerning Scot, which occurred later on in the march. At Barnet, General Monk, for the first time since he left Leicester, had managed to get away from his "two evil angels," but, Scot, having received in the middle of the night news of some mutinous behaviour of the soldiery in the suburbs of London, got alarmed, and, without stopping to dress himself, went through the town to the General's quarters "in the dishabit of his night-gown, cap and slippers" to urge an instant march forward. Monk, however, took the news very calmly, refused to move and persuaded Scot to return to his bed and put his fears under his pillow.

Within a few days Monk entered London, and the Restoration of the King becoming certain, Scot, after making a last effort to induce the General to assume the government himself, finished his Parliamentary career by the following declaration: "Tho' I know not where to hide my head, at this time, yet I dare not refuse to own that not only my hand but my heart also was in it," and, after defending the murder of the King, he concluded, "I desire no greater honour in this world than that the following inscription may be engraven on my tomb: 'Here lieth one who had a hand and a heart in the execution of Charles Stuart, late King of England.'" He then left the house, followed by all those attached to his principles, and retired into the country. On the calling, however, of a new Parliament in April, 1660, he had still sufficient influence to be again returned a member, but he never sat. On the 6th June, 1660, a Proclamation was issued to command the Regicides to surrender themselves within fourteen days under the penalty of being excluded out of the act of indemnity. Amongst those excepted absolutely as to life and estate was Thomas Scot. He accordingly at once attempted to escape to the Continent, and got on board a vessel, but was "intercepted by some pirates," who, after plundering him, set him on shore in Hampshire. He made a second attempt and landed in Flanders, where he was seized by an agent of the King's, but Don Alonzo de Cardenas, Governor of the Netherlands, who, when Ambassador for the King of Spain to the Commonwealth, had received civilities from Scot, set him free. Scot then surrendered himself to the English Agent, hoping to be entitled to

the Act of Indemnity, and he was brought over to England to take his trial.* He was first taken to the Tower,† and then conveyed to Newgate. He was indicted at Hick's Hall, Westminster, on the 9th October, and tried at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey on October 12th, 1660. Scot combated every legal objection made to his defence, but was found guilty and condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered. Whilst under sentence, he conducted himself with great intrepidity. When his wife mentioned her intention of soliciting Sir Orlando Bridgeman (the Lord Chief Baron), to be a mediator with the King for his life, he said "Perhaps Sir Orlando may think I shall confess guilt, and that I cannot do, for, to this day, I am not convinced of any, as to the death of the King."

About three or four in the morning of the day of his execution he was visited by many friends, and by his children, and they all prayed together.‡

On the 17th October, which was the day appointed for him to suffer death, Scot and Mr. John Jones were drawn upon the same sledge through Fleet Street to Charing Cross, where they were hung, drawn and quartered, the sentence being literally carried out. Evelyn writes in his diary on this day, "Scott, etc., suffered for reward of their iniquities at Charing Cross, in sight of the place where they put to death their natural Prince, and in the presence of the King his son, whom they also sought to kill. I saw not their execution, but met their quarters mangled and cut and reeking, as they were brought from the gallows in baskets on the hurdle."§ Scot

* In a pamphlet "A true narrative in a letter written to R.R., an Honourable Member of Parliament, of the apprehension of the grand Traytor, Tho. Scot, published by authority, 4th Oct., 1660," it is stated "that Scot (who was said to have surrendered himself to the English Resident in Brabant) was in reality arrested by Capt. Comb, who came to England and received a reward for it." The writer of the letter says, "Sir William Persal saw Scot, recognised him, had him watched home, and that Capt. Comb arrested him and delivered him up to Sir Harry Denich, the English agent."

† In the Calendar State papers, we find that in July, 1660, the Regicide's third wife, Anne, petitioned "to enjoy, though even as a close prisoner, the company of her husband, who, from a place of freedom, has given himself up in confidence, which his Majesty only can say was not unfounded," and she goes on to say "that she is in great distress, her unnatural brother withholds her portion, and her husband's estate and goods are seized, and not a suit of clothes left him." There is a second petition to the same effect, and a third, saying "she is about to enter into close confinement with him." We judge from the above that her brother was a Royalist, but cannot ascertain her name.

‡ In the "Tryal of the Regicides," it is said that "as soon as Mr. Scroope (Col. Adrian Scroope) had ended praying, Mr. Scot turned about and opening his arms, he embraced his wife and one of his daughters."

§ Scot's head was set up on the gate of London Bridge, and his quarters were set up on the gates of the City.

tried to make a speech, from the ladder just before his execution, justifying his conduct from his apprehensions of the approach of popery, but the Sheriff stopped him ; he did, however, make a long prayer, expressing assurance of future happiness, and blessing God that he had engaged him in a cause not to be repented of, mentioning with much fervour a manifestation of the Divine presence in his cell that morning. The prayer is given *in extenso* in the "Tryals of the Regicides."*

In the British Museum there is an old Ballad which was found pasted as the lining of a trunk. It is headed "a relation of the grand infamous traytors, who were executed October, 1660, etc." Part of it runs thus :—

"Next Wednesday foure came
for Murder all imputed,
There to answer for the same,
which in judgement were confuted,
Gregorie Clement, Jones and Scot,
And Scroope together for a plot
likewise were executed."

To be sung to the tune of "Come let us drink, the time invites."

The Regicide left a large family ; we know of five sons and four daughters, and it seems probable that he had some younger ones by his third wife Annie.† The five sons are (1) William Scot, of Marlow, born 1627, to whom his grandfather, William Allanson, left a "messuage at Kennington." He married Joanna, daughter of Brigge Fountaine of Salle, Norfolk, and sister of Sir Andrew Fountaine, and they had one child "Elizhia." At the Restoration William fled into Holland and appears to have acted as a spy in the pay of the Dutch. (2) Thomas, the Regicide's second son, became a Colonel in the Parliamentarian army and was even more violent than his father. He took part in the conquest of Ireland and after the terrible massacre at Wexford, was granted the Manor of Longrange (or Longraigne), co. Wexford, in payment of arrears due to him. He married Martha, daughter of Sir William Piers, Bart., of Tristermagh, and had ten children, most of whom married in Ireland and left numerous descendants. (3) Lieut.-Col. Richard Scot, to whom his grandfather left his brewery at Bridewell Precinct, went to Jamaica and

* It is said that in the middle of Scot's prayer, he was stopped by the Hangman, who stooped down to take drink which was reached up to him upon the ladder.

† In 1655 Scot wrote to Secretary Thurloe asking him for some arrears due to him whereby he might be enabled to purchase some Dean and Chapter lands intended for one of his younger sons.

settled the plantation called "Y.S." in St. Elizabeth. He became joint owner of more land with Julines Herring, and when the latter died in 1690 Richard Scot married Anne his widow. Her daughter (by her first husband), Bathshua Herring, married Peter Beckford, the Speaker of the House of Assembly in Jamaica, who inherited his father's immense wealth and had 24 plantations and 1,200 slaves. From their thirteen children, the second of whom was the father of the author of "Vathek," are descended the Dukes of Hamilton, Newcastle and Leeds; the Earls of Carnarvon, Devon, Effingham and Suffolk; and Lords Bolton, Dorchester, Howard de Walden and Rivers. Richard Scot died in 1726. (4) Francis Scot, the Regicide's fourth son, had lands at Storrington, co. Sussex, left him by his grandfather, William Allanson. (5) John Scot, the fifth son, went to Jamaica and died there. In Brook's MS., in Herald's College, we find that he was buried on the Y.S. estate, and that on his tomb-stone was the following, "Here lies the remains of John Scot who had a hand and a heart in the execution of Charles Stewart." The Regicide's daughters were (1) Elizabeth, married to Richard Sykes, of Ledsham Hall, Leeds, of the same family as the present Sir Tatton Sykes, Bart. (2) Alice, married to Edward Pearse, a well-known Nonconformist Minister and author, of St. Margaret's, Westminster, of whom there is notice in Calamy's account of the Ministers ejected after the Restoration. (3) Mary Scot, who married . . . Roe or Rowe.* (4) Anne, who went to Jamaica in 1655, where she married that year Col. Thomas Ballard, M.P.; he died in 1690, and she married secondly Col. Peter Beckford, Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Jamaica, father of the afore-mentioned Peter Beckford, who had married her daughter, Bathshua Herring. Governor Beckford's personal wealth amounted to £478,000, and his real estate to as much more.

* This Roe was one of the six "Captains" appointed in 1649 to survey Manors and Houses belonging to the King. (See *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, under heading "Thomas Widdowes.")