

**WITNESSES FOR THE  
TRUTH IN THE CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND**

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Witnesses for the Truth in the Church of Scotland by Anonymous

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M D C C C X L I I I .

## P R E F A C E.

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THE following pages illustrate a few of the chief incidents in the history of the Church of Scotland. From them it will be seen, that in all the periods of its history, the Lord has had a seed witnessing and wrestling through much trial and affliction for the truths of His word. The Church of Scotland is again cast into the furnace. The controversy in which she is at present engaged, is the very same as in the days of old,—whether Christ or man shall reign in the Church, as head and governor thereof. It is indeed the cause of Christ. “His enemies would pull the crown from off His head, and the sceptre out of His hand, and by this means, make Him no King in and over His Church, and consequently no Mediator.” Sufferings have been the lot of the Church of God in all ages, and no branch of it on earth has more exemplified this than our own. Times without number has she been assailed from without and within. Her worship has been attacked by the admirers of pomp and ceremony—the hedges of her government and discipline have been torn down—nay, her very doctrines have been impugned; yet, through the goodness of the Lord, she has maintained her ground. Our Jerusalem hath been a burdensome stone to all who have burdened themselves with it. It hath in the days of old crushed those who have sought to overthrow it, and the same gracious Power which has sustained it hitherto, is still at work on its behalf. The Church of Christ, as was well said of old, is an anvil that has worn out many a hammer: and no anvil has worn out more hammers than our own! And all this through the good will of Him who dwelt in the bush. “Arise, O Lord, and plead thine own cause: let not man prevail—for thine is the Crown, Government, Kingdom, Power and Glory.”

#### PATRICK HAMILTON IN THE FLAMES.



THE Truth appears to have been first brought into Scotland in the second century, chiefly by means of Christians driven by persecution from other countries. "*The Scots believing in Christ*" are mentioned about the year 431. These Christians were called Culdees, whose chief seat was Iona, and in whose church government there was no distinction between an ordained Presbyter and a scriptural Bishop. While this simple form of Christianity was making rapid progress, Popery appeared, and gradually usurped the place of these Culdee Presbyters. Its night of darkness was long, yet during all this time the Lord had his witnesses in Scotland, for the tenets of the Culdees were preserved by the Lollards of Kyle, who appeared in 1494. In 1517, the Reformation commenced in Germany under Luther. About ten years after it extended to Scotland, and the first person who was honoured to carry the tidings of it, and to seal them with his blood, was PATRICK HAMILTON. This "gentle and gracious youth" studied abroad, and was a friend of Luther and Melanethon; and at Witttemberg learned the glorious truth of justification through the righteousness of Christ alone. At the age of twenty-three he returned to Scotland, and spread the knowledge of the truth. But his days were few; for the Popish priests never ceased to plot against him till he was condemned to die. The crimes with which he was charged were such as these; that he declared the "Pope is Antichrist," and "a man is not justified by his works, suppose he did all the work of men or angels; for good works do not make a man good, but a good man doeth good works." In the afternoon of the very day on which his sentence was passed, the fire was kindled in front of the Old College of St Andrews; and he expired in the flames, crying with a loud voice, "How long, O Lord, shall darkness overspread this realm! How long wilt thou suffer this tyranny of men! Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

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