

**HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE
FAMILY OF LESLIE FROM 1067 TO
1868-9, COLLECTED FROM PUBLIC
RECORDS AND AUTHENTIC
PRIVATE SOURCES, VOL. 1**

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COLONEL LESLIE

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BY
COLONEL LESLIE, K.H.
OF BALQUHAIN

VOL. I.

EDINBURGH
EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS
1869

P R E F A C E.

HITHERTO the history of the Family of Leslie has been known chiefly through the medium of the *Laurus Leslæana*, published at Gratz, in 1692, by the Rev. William Leslie, younger son of Patrick, Count Leslie, fifteenth Baron of Balquhain. This work, though compiled with great industry, is yet not exempt from much deficiency and many inaccuracies. It is found to be pretty correct as far as relates to the Leslies of Balquhain and the Counts Leslie in Germany; but with regard to some of the generations of the original family of Leslie, and the origin of the noble house of Rothes, the *Laurus* is entirely wrong, as is proved by authentic charters and other documents now existing.

Crawford's, Douglas', and other *Peerages*, are very deficient and erroneous in many particulars, occasioned, no doubt, from the authors not having had the advantage of access to the many valuable public and private documents now brought to light by the extensive research and the inquiring spirit of modern antiquarians.

PREFACE.

For the Historical Records of the Family of Leslie now attempted, use has been carefully made not only of those works of our various antiquarian clubs, but, in addition, recourse has been had to the valuable stores laid up, as well in the repositories of the public records as in private charter-rooms. By the materials thence collected many errors contained in the *Laurus Leslæana*, and in the various *Peerages*, have been corrected, and many deficiencies have been supplied. Wherever there has been occasion to differ from the *Laurus Leslæana* and the *Peerages*, the authority for the difference has been given.

Among the public works consulted, besides the publications of the various antiquarian clubs, may be particularised the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, the *Acta Dominorum Concilii*, and Robertson's *Index of Missing Charters*. The public repositories which have been searched are the Advocates' Library and the General Register House, Edinburgh. From unpublished charters many valuable and interesting facts have been obtained. Access has been had to private charter-rooms, including those of Balquhain, the Earls of Rothes, Pitcaple, and Leith-hall, which latter family is now in possession of the ancient barony of Leslie. From these various sources the present Historical