

**THE RIDDELL PAPERS, A
CATALOGUE OF THE
ANNOTATED BOOKS &
MANUSCRIPTS OF J. RIDDELL**

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The Riddell Papers, a Catalogue of the Annotated Books & Manuscripts of J. Riddell by John Riddell

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JOHN RIDDELL

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The Riddell Papers:

A CATALOGUE

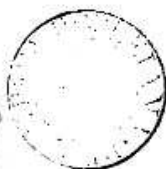
OF THE

ANNOTATED BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

OF THE LATE

JOHN RIDDELL, Esq.,

ADVOCATE.



EDINBURGH: M.DCCC.LXIII.

259. b. 4.

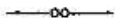
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PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS.



IN the preparation of the following Inventory of Manuscripts, Annotated Works, and Note-Books belonging to the Executors of the late **ROBERT RIDDELL, Esq.**, Sheriff-Substitute of the county of Haddington, and which had been bequeathed to him by the late eminent genealogist and legal antiquary, his brother, **JOHN RIDDELL, Esq.**, it was thought expedient to separate the former from the latter. In this way the first part of the following Catalogue is confined to an enumeration of such Historical and Genealogical Papers, Documents, and Annotated Books as might properly be preserved in a public library, and the second relates exclusively to the Note-Books, and contains a brief description of their contents, such as may afford some slight idea of their importance and value. Much time has

necessarily been consumed in arranging the multifarious papers, as they had been left by Mr John Riddell in great confusion; and the difficulty of adjustment was increased by a careful examination of their contents, to ascertain that nothing of a purely confidential nature, or which might affect existing interests, might be placed where they would become open to public inspection. It is hoped that this delicate task has been successfully accomplished.

It may be observed, that the arrangement of the Note-Books was by Mr Riddell himself, who has carefully marked the numbers on each volume. It was therefore considered preferable to preserve them in the same order in which they had been left by their much respected and deeply regretted possessor, whose historical and genealogical knowledge in such matters has never been surpassed. After the Catalogue was nearly finished a variety of Charters and important papers were found; these have been separately catalogued and described, and follow the list of Note-Books.

In going through the papers, there was found a letter of introduction from the Right Honourable George Canning to his Eminence Cardinal Gonsalvi, dated the 20th of March 1823. It had been Mr Riddell's intention to visit Rome, in order to make investigations in the Vatican

of a genealogical description, especially as regarded the Family of Stuart. Mr Canning, who was then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was desirous of affording his aid in this laudable matter. He gave him the letter of introduction we have noticed,—a testimony that Mr Riddell's merits as a genealogist even at that period had attracted the Right Honourable gentleman's attention. Mr Riddell did not carry out his intention, and the original, which we have taken upon ourselves to print in the Appendix, was not opened until his demise.

Another and more recent eulogium has also turned up. It occurs in a note from a Scottish Peer, the possessor, moreover of an English Barony, addressed, 17th September 1841, to a Baronet, his intimate friend. As neither the writer of the letter nor the recipient might wish to see their names in print, they have been withheld.

Lord Lindsay's very interesting communication to the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* newspaper, and the inscription upon Mr Riddell's tomb in the Western or Dean Cemetery, form an appropriate conclusion. In explanation of the line "Hoc in agro, qui proavorum ipsius olim fuit," it may be mentioned, that the Dean had been in possession of the Family of Nisbet, Mr Riddell's maternal ancestors, for at least two centuries.

We beg to subjoin a List of the Published Works of Mr John Riddell :—

1. The Saltfoot Controversy. A Collection of Papers relative to the Stewarts of Allanton and Castlemilk, with Remarks on the present state of the Lyon Office, Edinburgh. 8vo, 1819.
2. Vindication of the Clan Ronald of Glengary, with Remarks as to the descent of the Family who style themselves of Clan Ronald. 8vo, 1821.
3. Reply to the Mis-statements of Dr Hamilton of Bardowie respecting the descent of his Family. 4to, 1828.
4. Remarks upon Scotch Peerage Law as connected with certain points in the late case of the Earldom of Devon. 8vo, 1833.
5. Tracts, Legal and Historical, with other antiquarian matter chiefly relative to Scotland. 8vo, 1835.
6. Additional Remarks upon the question of the Lennox or Rusky Representation, being an Answer to "Napier's History of the Partition of the Lennox." 8vo, 1835.
7. Inquiry in the Law and Practice in Scottish Peerages before and after the Union. 2 vols. 8vo, 1842.
8. Stewartiana, containing the case of Robert II. and Elizabeth Mure, and the question of the Legitimacy of their issue. 8vo, 1843.
9. Comments in refutation of Pretensions advanced for