

**A HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND
PALACE OF LINLITHGOW: WITH
NOTICES, HISTORICAL AND
ANTIQUARIAN, OF PLACES OF
INTEREST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

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GEORGE WALDIE

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GEORGE WALDIE.

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PREFACE.

It was originally intended that the following pages should appear as the third edition of a smaller *Sketch of the History of the Town and Palace of Linlithgow*, which, for the convenience of visitors, was published some years ago. The amount of interesting matter, however, contained in the older Burgh records, and in recent publications, to which I have since had access, has enabled me to present a new, and much fuller, and more interesting account than formerly. I had, when preparing the second edition of the above-mentioned Sketch, explored the Council-minutes from 1620 till 1724, and had taken a series of notes, which have served me in good stead now. The older minutes of the proceedings in the Burgh-court—the open Council of old times—I was not, however, aware of the existence of until they, along with many other documents, were introduced to my notice by W. H. HENDERSON, Esq., who has had occasion, both for literary purposes, and for matters connected with Burgh business, to examine the contents of the Charter-chest and the other records. To his very complete lists of the various documents I have been indebted for much information. To ADAM DAWSON, Esq., Treasurer of the Burgh; and to ROBERT R. GLEN, Esq., Town-clerk, my thanks are also due for the ready access afforded to the records in their keeping. I have also to thank Mr. GEORGE HARDIE, Session-clerk, for the access afforded to the older minutes of Kirk-session. To many other friends I am indebted for the use of books, inspection of private papers, and other assistance; to the COUNTY LIBRARY for a perusal of some of the old Acts, and other printed public records, of which it consists; and to the ADVOCATES' LIBRARY for a sight of some of the valuable historical club publications. To Mr. GEORGE BROCKLEY I have been indebted for much of what has been preserved traditionally, and for many valuable hints;

and to Mr. PETER DOW for the excellent Photographs from which the Engravings have been taken, as well as for others of some portions of the old records which defied me to read properly. To Mr. SMITH, the present ranger of the Palace grounds, I am also indebted for pointing out some matters connected with the Palace which came under his observation during the recent workings. I have likewise to thank the gentleman who kindly furnished me with the very complete account of the burning of the Covenants. To ARCHIBALD GEMIE, Esq., of the Government Geological Survey, I am indebted for the very lucid and interesting sketch, which appears in the appendix, of the Geology of the district : and which, it is to be hoped, is only the prelude to a more extended work.

I had not proceeded very far when I found that the subject had never been subjected to any thorough investigation, and that there was much of error to be cleared away, and much in connection with it that had not, in previous accounts, received due prominence. I do not profess, however, to have exhausted the subject, nor can I hope that more careful examination may not prove me to be in some instances in the wrong.

My attention was caught, at an early stage of the investigation, by one of the papers read at the meeting of the Archaeological Institute at Edinburgh, in 1856, by JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., of H. M. General Register House, Edinburgh, by which a considerable amount of light was thrown upon the history of one portion of the Palace ; and upon application to him, Mr. Robertson not only very kindly consented to the insertion of a portion of the paper, but proffered his assistance in the prosecution of the work. Some of my obligations to him will be found acknowledged in the course of the narrative ; and, besides these, I am indebted to him for extracts from the Royal Treasurers' accounts, and other hints and information not specially noticed.

LINLITHGOW, May, 1858.

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Square Tower, near Railway Station.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL

THERE are few places in Scotland more thoroughly associated with the general history of the country than Linlithgow, lying, as it does, on the direct, and in early times, only practicable road between Edinburgh and Stirling, and on the very verge of what has been appropriately named "Scotland's Battle-field"—that is, the country stretching from Stirling to Linlithgow-Bridge. Its early Castle and subsequent Palace too, having been a favourite abode of the Kings, favoured the growth of the town, which was early endowed with the usual privileges of Royal Burghs, and rose so far in comparative size and influence as to be substituted in 1368