TRACTS BY DR GILBERT SKEYNE, MEDICINAR TO HIS MAJESTY

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BY

DR GILBERT SKEYNE,

MEDICINAR TO HIS MAJESTY.



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NOTICE OF DR GILBERT SKENE.

"MAISTEE GIBERT SEXYNE, Doctour in Medecine," the author of this little tract upon "the Pest," was one of a rather remarkable family of brothers, who, emerging about the middle of the sixteenth century from a farm house in the north of Scotland, and receiving from their father as good an education as the times afforded, and probably inheriting from their mother a strong will and a vigorous understanding, made their way in different parts of the country, and in various spheres, to distinction or wealth. Their father was James Skene, or as it was then spelt, Skeyne, younger son of Alexander Skene of Skene, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Forbes.

About ten miles from Aberdeen there is a considerable sheet of water, termed the Loch of Skene. Near it is the Church of Skene, from which the Parish takes its name, and on the north bank, at a little distance from the loch, stands the "House" of Skene, a rude but somewhat imposing building of granite, constructed at different times, but the oldest part of which is a square tower, with massive granite walls, so thick as to leave but a limited space for accommodation within. It is said by tradition to have been the first built stone house in Mar.