

**THREE SCOTTISH REFORMERS, ALEXANDER
CUNNINGHAM FIFTH EARL OF GLENCAIRN,
HENRY BALNAVES OF HAIHILL AND JOHN
DAVIDSON MINISTER OF PRESTONPANS, WITH
THEIR POETICAL REMAINS AND MR.
DAVIDSON'S "HELPS FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS
IN CHRISTIANITY"**

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Three Scottish Reformers, Alexander Cunningham Fifth Earl of Glencairn, Henry Balnaves of Haihill and John Davidson Minister of Prestonpans, with Their Poetical Remains and Mr. Davidson's "Helps for Young Scholars in Christianity" by Charles Rogers

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CHARLES ROGERS

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ALEXANDER, FIFTH EARL OF GLENCAIRN.



THREE
SCOTTISH REFORMERS

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM Fifth Earl of Glencairn

HENRY BALNAVES of Halhill

AND

JOHN DAVIDSON Minister of Prestonpans

WITH THEIR POETICAL REMAINS

AND MR. DAVIDSON'S

"HELPS FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS IN CHRISTIANITY"

EDITED, WITH MEMOIRS,

BY THE

REV. CHARLES ROGERS LL.D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF
SCOTLAND AND CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
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P R E F A C E.

THE Earl of Glencairn, Henry Balnaves and John Davidson merit commemoration apart from their poetry. While denouncing in a poetical pasquinade the illegal traffic of the Church of Rome, Lord Glencairn protested against the rapacity of the Reforming nobles. As a statesman he rendered invaluable aid to the Protestant cause by resisting the attempts of Mary of Guise to check the spread of the Reformed doctrines. In opposing the efforts of Queen Mary to crush the Reformed preachers, and in supporting her dethronement, he occupied a foremost place. He conspicuously upheld the government of the infant King James.

By his legal training and business aptitude, Henry Balnaves proved of especial service in protecting the Reformers from the pitfalls prepared by their enemies. Energetic and earnest, he suffered in person and estate for maintaining the rights of conscience, but was vindicated in the end.

One of the most austere of the Scottish Reformers, John Davidson, as a pupil and associate of John Knox, imbibed strong views as to ecclesiastical independence, and the duty of resenting the despotism of princes. Had he expressed himself less ardently, he would better have accomplished his aims, and avoided much personal discomfort. But his stern assertion of his opinions, first in defiance of the Regent Morton, and afterwards in direct antagonism to King James, has rendered his career a memorable one. He was a sound theologian, an eloquent declaimer, and one of the most accomplished scholars of the Reformed Scottish Church. He compiled materials for a national history and prepared memo-

rials of his time, which were afterwards used by Calderwood. A devoted evangelist, his fervour was boundless; he re-animates the waning zeal of his clerical brethren, and in a degree not inferior to the most distinguished of his contemporaries upheld those principles of freedom, which, obtaining consolidation and force, at length expelled a dynasty, and laid the foundation of constitutional government.

The portrait of the Earl of Glencairn, which accompanies his memoir, has been copied from a representation of the Earl contained in Pinkerton's "Gallery."* It is described by Pinkerton as founded on an intaglio in possession of the Countess Dowager of Glencairn, at Coats, near Edinburgh. Since Pinkerton wrote the earldom has become dormant.

In preparing a memoir of John Davidson, the Editor has been indebted for many important particulars to an accomplished antiquary, the Rev. Dr. Struthers, minister of Prestonpans, who has otherwise paid tribute to the memory of his predecessor.

* The Scottish Gallery, or Portraits of eminent persons of Scotland, by John Pinkerton. London, 1799, 8vo.

GRAMPIAN LODGE, FOREST HILL, S.E.,

September, 1874.

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM,

FIFTH EARL OF GLENCAIRN.

TOWARDS the close of the eleventh century, Wernebald, a Norman, proceeded from the north of England, and under the feudal protection of Hugh de Morville, constable of Scotland, obtained lands in the county of Ayr. These lands were then or subsequently known as Conynghame (place of conies), and when surnames were adopted, the descendants of Wernebald chose this family designation from the patrimonial estate. A representative of the family, Alexander Cunningham, was about the year 1450 ennobled as Lord Kilmours; he was by James III., in 1488, created Earl of Glencairn.

William, fourth Earl of Glencairn, was an accomplished statesman and a zealous promoter of the Reformation. While still a youth, he was in 1526 appointed Lord High Treasurer. Along with David Beaton, afterwards cardinal, he negotiated the treaty of marriage between James V. and Mary of Guise. At the battle of Solway, in 1542, he was taken prisoner; he paid for his ransom one thousand pounds, and with some other Scottish noblemen became bound to support the project of Henry VIII. for the marriage of Prince Edward with the Scottish queen. He afterwards resisted certain extravagant demands of the English monarch, which were consequently abandoned. He was one of the Scottish ambassadors who, in July, 1543, arranged with the English commissioners at Greenwich, the treaties of peace and marriage. In a compact concluded at Carlisle in 1544 he agreed to support Henry VIII. as protector of Scotland in the interests of the Reformation. Subsequently he withdrew from his alliance with the

English Government, and received from the Scottish Parliament a remission of his alleged treason in his Anglican negotiations. He died in 1547.

Alexander, fifth Earl of Glencairn, is historically known as "the good earl." He was a younger son of William, fourth Earl of Glencairn, by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Campbell, of West Loudoun. As Lord Kilmaurs he was associated with his father in advancing the cause of reformation. For the sincerity of his father's professions he became in 1543 a hostage in England. In a letter to Henry VIII, dated 23rd March, 1543, Sir Ralph Sandler, the English ambassador, writes from Edinburgh, * "He [the Earl of Glencairn] hath written to your Majesty to have his son home, entering other pledges for him; his said son having the rule of that country under him; and if he were at home, he should stand him in great stead. I assure your Majesty I think he feigneth not; for such a man as his son is may not be spared out of so wild a country. I have talked with the man; he is called the lord of Kilmaurs, and the master of Glencairn; and in my poor opinion, they be few such Scottish in Scotland both for his wisdom and learning, and well dedicate to the truth of Christ's word and doctrine. So that I think, if he were at home he should not only stand his father in good stead, but also do much good here in the country, where now the gospel is set forth in English, and open proclamations made, 'That it shall be lefull to all men to read the Bible and Testament in the mother-tongue,' and special charge 'that no man preach to the contrary upon pain of death.' †

On his father's death, in 1547, Lord Kilmaurs succeeded to the earldom. According to Knox, he was present in 1550 at the trial of Adam Wallace, of Fail, who was charged with upholding the Protestant doctrines. Wallace was condemned and the sentence of death carried out, Glencairn emphatically

* Sir Ralph Sandler's State Papers, edited by Sir Walter Scott, vol. i., p. 82.

† This proclamation is dated 19th March, 1543.—Knox's "History of the Reformation," Edinb., 1846, 8vo., vol. i., p. 240.