

**THE POETICAL REMAINS OF
KING JAMES THE FIRST OF
SCOTLAND, WITH A MEM.
AND AN INTR. TO THE POETRY**

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The Poetical Remains of King James the First of Scotland, with a Mem. and an Intr. to the Poetry by Charles Rogers

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CHARLES ROGERS

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M^o Tuckers & Baskins, 1041st St^o

IACOBVS DEI GRATIA. SCOTOR REX.

THE
POETICAL REMAINS

OF

KING JAMES THE FIRST OF SCOTLAND

WITH A MEMOIR

AND AN

INTRODUCTION TO THE POETRY

BY THE

REV. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. SCOT.

HISTORIOGRAPHER TO THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



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THE
POETICAL REMAINS OF JAMES I.
OF SCOTLAND.

MEMOIR.

JAMES THE FIRST of Scotland has, as a poet, been associated with Chaucer, Gower, and Lydgate; and, on competent authority, has been ranked with the more distinguished musicians. In the present memoir, we shall advert to his claims as a sovereign, as well as to his personal accomplishments.

From a condition of semi-barbarism, Scotland was, in the eleventh century, arbused by the genius and example of its sovereign, Malcolm Canmore. A refugee from his country during the usurpation of his throne, he experienced at the court of Edward the Confessor not only a genial hospitality, but those humanising influences which had not yet penetrated beyond the Roman Wall. He returned to Scotland with enlarged views and ennobling aspirations, which were happily encouraged by his Queen, Margaret, the Saxon Princess. During his reign, agriculture and the arts were vigorously prosecuted; garments of native manufacture were worn by the peasantry; religious worship became general; and the Anglo-Saxon speech, introduced at court, penetrated throughout the Lowlands. Four centuries elapsed, and the heir of the Scottish throne was again a resident at the English court, on this occasion as a captive. The result, as before, was eminently beneficial. The royal exile returned home to subdue the tyranny of feudalism, establish an equitable system of law,

and diffuse among his people those principles of order which were never wholly eradicated.

Younger son of Robert III. and his Queen, Annabella, daughter of Sir John Drummond of Stobhall, James the First was born at Dunfermline in the year 1394. A most amiable prince, Robert III. lacked that firmness needful in governing a turbulent and warlike people. From the first he submitted to the dictation of others, and at length, overcome by a growing lassitude, he devolved the administration of affairs on his brother, the Duke of Albany, a prince of decided energy and boundless ambition.

The King had two sons—David, Duke of Rothesay, and James, Earl of Carrick. Unrestrained by parental authority, Rothesay early addicted himself to lawless pleasures. When other attempts to subdue his riotous spirit proved unavailing, he was induced to think of matrimony. He wooed a daughter of the Earl of March, but, on the offer of a larger dowry, wedded a daughter of the Earl of Douglas. A marriage founded solely on convenience was unlikely to produce salutary consequences. The Duke continued his evil courses, and revelled in boisterous dissipation. On his marriage, he had been empowered to exercise certain vice-regal functions; he abused the privilege by violently possessing himself of the public revenues,* which he ruthlessly squandered. Such conduct could not long be tolerated, and in demanding the King's authority for his arrest, the Duke of Albany discharged a commendable duty. But the result proved that Albany was more influenced by personal ambition than any desire to check the unruly courses of his nephew. Procuring the King's signet to the necessary warrant, he seized Rothesay in the vicinity of St Andrews, and consigned him to the castle. After an interval, he deposited his captive in his own castle at Falkland, and there immured him in the dungeon. In fifteen days the prisoner expired, his death being imputed to a dysentery, while it was commonly believed that he perished from lack of food. With the bulk

* Chamberlain Accounts, vol. ii. pp. 312, 320, 476.