

**AN APOLOGY FOR SIR  
JAMES DALRYMPLE  
OF STAIR, PRESIDENT OF  
THE SESSION**

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An Apology for Sir James Dalrymple of Stair, President of the Session by Sir James Dalrymple

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AN  
**APOLOGY**  
FOR  
**SIR JAMES DALRYMPLE**  
OF STAIR,  
PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION,

BY HIMSELF.



*Ja: Dalrymple.*

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THE following Apology, now reprinted from a copy in the Advocates' Library, was written by Sir James Dalrymple, in 1690, to vindicate himself from certain charges published against him the preceding year. The attack was contained in an anonymous pamphlet, professing to be a Vindication of several Votes of a Majority of the Scottish Parliament, 1689, approving of five acts which had not obtained the Royal assent, and on which the members who supported them presented an address to the King. The real author of this paper is understood to have been the notorious Robert Ferguson, whom Bishop Burnet terms "a man who naturally loved to embroil matters," and whose whole life seems to have been such a series of intrigues and conspiracies, as well entitled him to the nickname of "The Plotter," bestowed on him by his contemporaries. On this occasion, Sir James Dalrymple, and his son, Sir John Dalrymple, (afterwards better known as the Master of Stair,) were the principal objects of Ferguson's virulence; and the subjoined passage is that which appears to have chiefly and justly raised the indignation of the former. One of the rejected acts had been intended to regulate "the nomination of the Ordinary Lords of Session, and the election of the President, to wit, that in a total vacation, they be tryed, and admitted, and rejected by Parliament; and in a particular vacation, they be tried, and admitted, and rejected by the other