

**THE BOOK OF RECORD: A DIARY
WRITTEN BY PATRICK FIRST EARL
OF STRATHMORE AND OTHER
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO
GLAMIS CASTLE 1684-1689**

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Relating to Glamis Castle 1684-1689 by A. H. Millar

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THE BOOK OF RECORD

A DIARY WRITTEN BY PATRICK
FIRST EARL OF STRATHMORE
AND OTHER DOCUMENTS
RELATING TO GLAMIS CASTLE
1684-1689

Edited from the Original MSS. at Glamis with
Introduction and Notes by
A. H. MILLAR, F.S.A. Scot.



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PATRICK, FIRST EARL OF STRATHMORE AND KINGHORNE.

INTRODUCTION

THE papers contained in this volume have been chosen as illustrative of the social life of Scotland two hundred years ago. They consist of the *Book of Record*, an autobiographical diary, written by Patrick, first Earl of Strathmore, between the years 1684 and 1689; a Contract betwixt the Earl of Strathmore and Jacob de Wet for the execution of decorative pictures used in the enrichment of Glamis Castle; the Account for this artistic work rendered by de Wet, with the deductions made thereon by Lord Strathmore; and an Estimate for the repairing of Lord Strathmore's Organ at Glamis Castle. It was intended to include in this volume the Itinerary of Thomas Crombie, the valet who accompanied Lord Strathmore's son to the Continent, but as it would have carried the subject-matter of the volume to a much later date than was contemplated, this document has been reserved. It was also intended to have published with the *Book of Record* the Household Account-Book of Lady Helen Middleton, wife of the first Earl of Strathmore, but the original manuscript has unfortunately been misplaced, and could not be obtained in time to be published in this volume. The Editor has to acknowledge the valuable assistance he has received in the transcribing and annotation of these papers from the Right Hon. the Earl of Strathmore, the Rev. S. G. Beal, M.A. Oxon., Rector of Romald-Kirk, who was for many years chaplain at Glamis Castle, and A. C. Lamb, Esq., F.S.A.Scot., Dundee. It is hoped that the comprehensive index appended to this volume will make it useful as a book of reference.

THE BOOK OF RECORD.

The manuscript of the *Book of Record* is contained in a vellum-bound folio, consisting of unruled pages of antique paper, extending to 300 folios. It has evidently been prepared for the purpose of being used as a daily journal of events, both of private and public life, and as a record of business affairs, payments made by tenants, cash transactions, and memoranda such as one would expect to find in a modern day-book. During the course of the period over which it extends the original intention has been altered though not abandoned, and Lord Strathmore has written a large portion of his own life in the volume, giving minute and interesting particulars as to the earlier incidents in his career. Especially has he entered into great detail regarding the alterations effected by him upon Glamis Castle and Castle Lyon (now Castle Huntly), and to students of the period his book is extremely valuable as showing the cost of work of this kind, the method of payment adopted, and the relationship betwixt capital and labour at a time of transition.

The whole appearance of this volume shows that it was constructed in a way which made it convenient for transportation from one place to another with safety. The strong vellum cover is made with an elongated flap, which comes up over the front edges of the book and is tied to the top cover, thus encasing the whole of the manuscript within an indestructible covering. The portion of the volume written upon extends to 129 pages, the rest of the folios being left blank. The earlier part of the volume, up to folio 110, was written by Thomas Crombie, who seems to have been a confidential servant of Lord Strathmore, and who was afterwards, as already stated, intrusted with the charge of the Earl's second son when on his travels. Crombie's writing is in the crabbed style of the period, and is frequently indistinct, whilst the orthography, though faulty, is really much better than one would expect

from a mere valet. In 1685 Crombie's work in the *Book of Record* ceased, and the remainder of the volume is written in the clear, bold, legible handwriting of Lord Strathmore himself. Between the period of Crombie's departure for Paris until the Earl resumed the function of diarist three years elapsed, and it was with a feeling of regret that his lordship found that public affairs had prevented him from continuing the writing of the *Book of Record* with regularity. The remarks which he makes, on taking up the pen himself on 28th March 1688, are most interesting, as showing the feelings which had actuated him in conceiving the idea of making such a volume, and as indicating that sentiment of profound responsibility towards posterity which was one of the salient features of his character :—

'Here is a long surcease of what I am very unaccountable for ; for this three years I have neglected to wreat memorialls of my transactions. But I conceive it is a thing very necessar both for the ease of one's own memory, and ther present satisfaction, to the end when all is recorded posterity may see and be convinced of ther not being unprofitable in there generation, and may be induced by good example to follow the good and to eschew what may be amiss in the management, Tho. I take God to witness it has been and is the outmost indeavour of my life to order all my affairs both for the honour credit and preservation of my family.'

From this period the Diary was written with some attempt at regularity, the commercial items being interspersed as formerly with recollections of the past and opinions on the current events of the day. It is probable also that one of the principal reasons which Lord Strathmore had for continuing the *Book of Record* in his own handwriting was the troubled state of public affairs. It was not then safe for one in his position to confide his inmost thoughts to any one in his employment, as he might thereby place life, liberty, and goods in the power of a menial, who might prove a traitor. This idea is at least suggested by the following allusion to his position on page 92 :—

'The servant who wrote the former part of this book went abroad w^t my second son, after w^{ch} Having six moneths at leave, and in some more disuse of pains and application from that tyme till now I was instant enow and at the head of my own affairs, but delayed making or continuing the record of what I did, trusting the same to my memory. But that now finding myself at a loss therby, and being resolved to sett all down w^t my own hand and not to committ it to a serv^{ts} wreating, who may be here to day and away the morrow, I hope by being punctuall therin, and by what is writ^{ne} before and hereafter shall make up the loss of thes three years memor's, for from the tyme I left and discontinued my wreating till now it is no less then full three years and some odd moneths.'

The *Book of Record* comes to an abrupt termination on 18th June 1689. The reason for this sudden stop may be found in the fact that in that month Lord Strathmore was engaged in a conspiracy with the Earl of Southesk, the Earl of Callender, Lord Livingstone, and his own son, Lord Glamis, for the purpose of raising troops to create a diversion in the north of Scotland in favour of James II. Of this project there is not the slightest hint given in the volume, unless it be found in the purchase of horses for the levy of horse, referred to on page 102. After his return to Glamis as a reconciled supporter of King William, Lord Strathmore wrote nothing further in his Diary, and we are thus deprived of his opinions regarding the new state of affairs and the leading men who ruled Scotland from the time of the Revolution till the death of Lord Strathmore in 1695.

In transcribing the manuscript great care has been exercised to preserve the original spelling and phraseology, and the printed copy is an exact *facsimile* of the original. The side-headings are given exactly as in the manuscript volume, and the folios are indicated in the text, so that cross references made by his lordship to written pages in his manuscript may be easily followed.