

**FLETCHER
OF SALTOUN**

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Fletcher of Saltoun by G. W. T. Omond

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FLETCHER OF SALTOUN


BY
G : W : T
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FAMOUS
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PUBLISHED BY 
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The designs and ornaments of this
volume are by Mr. Joseph Brown,
and the printing from the press of
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P R E F A C E

IN 1792 the eleventh Earl of Buchan published a volume of *Essays on the Life and Writings of Fletcher of Saltoun and the Poet Thomson*. It contains our only biography of Fletcher; but, though founded on original sources of information, it is frequently inaccurate, and must, therefore, be used with great caution. The author of the article on Fletcher in the third edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (1797) mentions that the tenth Earl Marischal, when Governor of Neuchâtel, suggested to Rousseau that he should write the life of Fletcher. Rousseau was furnished with MSS. for this purpose; but nothing came of it, and most of the materials on which that work was to have been founded seem to have been lost. Some interesting documents, however, are preserved in the University Library at Edinburgh, including MSS. used by Lord Buchan, and a letter to him from Lord Hailes, who had evidently been applied to for information. (Laing MSS. 364.)

Mr. F. Espinasse refers to most of the printed authorities for the life of Fletcher, in a succinct but

exhaustive article in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. xix. p. 292; and in the *Scottish Review* for July 1893 (vol. xxii. p. 61) there is a very interesting paper on 'Andrew Fletcher, the Scottish Patriot,' from the pen of Mr. J. R. Donaldson. Many allusions to Fletcher's conduct as a member of the last Scottish Parliament are to be found in the Godolphin Correspondence in the British Museum. (Add. mss. 28,055.)

I have to thank Mr. Fletcher of Saltoun for allowing me to consult a volume of *Recollections respecting the Family of Saltoun*, and for an opportunity of examining the library and visiting the scenes of Fletcher's early life.

Mr. E. Gordon Duff, librarian of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, and Mr. R. A. S. Macfie have for some time been engaged in compiling a Bibliography of Fletcher; and I desire to thank them for their kindness in placing their ms. unreservedly in my hands. There is considerable doubt respecting the authorship of several pamphlets which have been attributed to Fletcher, as well as regarding the places at which his works were printed; and if this Bibliography appears in print, it will be found most valuable by all who take an interest in his writings.

G. W. T. O.

OXFORD, *March 1897.*

Philosophy
Basenick
5-15-27
10-2-19

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