

**ANNALS OF LOWER DEESIDE;
BEING A TOPOGRAPHICAL,
PROPRIETARY, ECCLESIASTICAL,
AND ANTIQUARIAN HISTORY OF
DURRIS, DRUMOAK, AND CULTER**

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Annals of lower Deeside; being a topographical, proprietary, ecclesiastical, and antiquarian history of Durris, Drumoak, and Culter by John A. Henderson

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JOHN A. HENDERSON

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Durrís, Drumoak, and Qulter

BY
JOHN A. HENDERSON
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF BANCHORY-DEVENICE"

ABERDEEN: D. WYLLIE & SON

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INTRODUCTION.

THE history of the larger number of our Scottish parishes has not hitherto received the attention its importance deserves. There is abundant material of great value awaiting collection which is of more than parochial or local interest. In course of time many of the documents and traditions which are now available will be lost or forgotten, and with them will pass away the record of much that not only has a charm for the antiquarian, but no little interest and value both for the historian of our country, and for the delineator of the character and manners of our countrymen in the days of old.

These considerations, together with a liking for the subject, have induced the author to prepare and submit to the public the following *Annals of Lower Deeside*, embracing the parishes of Durris, Drumoak, and Culter. It is hoped that, while material exists, others of antiquarian taste, with greater ability and more time at their disposal, may enter this interesting field of research, and give to the country the benefit of their investigations.

In consequence of the scarcity of published matter bearing upon the district treated of, the

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writer has had to rely for information chiefly upon the title deeds and charters of estates, manuscripts, legal prints, and Presbytery and Kirk Session records, all of which were ungrudgingly placed at his disposal on application, and many extracts from which now appear for the first time. Where material has been taken from published works, it has invariably been acknowledged, and references have been given.

The Kirk Session records of these parishes extend to twenty-nine large volumes, the examination of which alone is no slight task ; but they throw so much light upon the old forms of ecclesiastical discipline, and the habits and state of the people of the last two centuries, that the labour has been amply repaid by the results obtained.

Readers of exclusively antiquarian taste may be inclined to think that the transactions of *The Maryculter Club*, which are here published for the first time, scarcely harmonize with the general character and aim of the work, but the extracts disclose such a striking contrast between the social state of half a century ago and that of to-day, that they may not prove uninteresting to the general reader. Antiquarian students may also bear in mind that these extracts are of an interest that will increase with the passage of years, for future