

**FAMOUS
EDINBURGH
STUDENTS**

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Famous Edinburgh students by Various

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VARIOUS

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Portrait of a man with a mustache and a white ruffled collar.

F A M O U S
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TUNNELL AND SPRADE, LEITHERS, EDINBURGH

PREFACE

THE majority of the articles contained in this book appeared in *The Student*, the official magazine of Edinburgh University, in Session 1907-1908. The series was suggested by Mr Basil H. Watt and the arrangements were supervised by Mr A. F. Giles (now Lecturer in Ancient History). The idea of publication in volume form was brought forward more than once, but on each occasion it was dropped. When the Students' Representative Council decided finally to republish the series it was felt that the list should be somewhat expanded, and this has been done, though for reasons of time and space it is still far from being exhaustive.

The reader will find in the articles, many of them written by famous Edinburgh students of a later date, a number of interesting facts connected with the earlier days of our Alma Mater. For example, it is food for thought to note that Carlyle walked a hundred miles to his first matriculation and that Nasmyth was enabled to pay his class fees with the proceeds of his model-making. Medicals of the present generation will be interested in the concise entries of James Y. Simpson's cash-book, e.g., "Finnen Hadies 2d. and Bones of the Leg £ 1, 1s.," and in the fact that *Materia Medica* left on the mind of Charles Darwin "nothing but the memory of cold breakfastless hours on the properties of rhubarb." Students of literature will shudder at the narrow escape Johnson had when, but for the intervention of the Duke of Argyll, Boswell would have received a commission in the Guards, and a de-

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scription of Oliver Goldsmith's wardrobe would make many sigh for the brave days of old, were it not for the fact that the picture of the "Assemblies" of the eighteenth century seems scarcely so inviting.

So in the earlier struggles and experiences here portrayed of these illustrious sons, we have an insight into their lives which endears to us both themselves and the University whose fame they have helped to establish. It is our hope that this little book may bring those of our own time to a knowledge of and an intimacy with these alumni who are too often forgotten or neglected to-day.

In closing, it remains only for me to record my thanks to those to whom I am indebted in the compilation of this volume. The goodwill of the original contributors has alone made the volume possible, and the new articles have been written at short notice and with no mention of inconvenience by Dr Bruce, Dr Knott, Mr Horsburgh, Rev. Mr Crockett, Mr J. Ian Macpherson, and Mr Blyth Webster. To these many and distinguished authors is due any merit which the volume possesses, while for the mere preparation and arrangement of their work, as an official of the Students' Representative Council, I append my name.

W. SCOTT STEVENSON

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