

**PATRICK HAMILTON; THE
FIRST LUTHERAN
PREACHER AND MARTYR
OF SCOTLAND**

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Patrick Hamilton; The First Lutheran Preacher and Martyr of Scotland by William Dallmann

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WILLIAM DALLMANN

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PREACHER AND MARTYR
OF SCOTLAND**



PATRICK HAMILTON.

After a Medallion Portrait by W. L. Ormsby.
From Portraits of the Principal Reformers.
New York, Charles Wells, 1836.

Patrick Hamilton

The First Lutheran Preacher and
Martyr of Scotland

By WILLIAM DALLMANN

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PATRICK HAMILTON.

I.

Hamilton's Birth.

Patrick Hamilton was born near Glasgow, about 1504. His father was Sir Patrick Hamilton, son of Lord of Hamilton and Princess Mary, daughter of King James II of Scotland. Sir Patrick was the first of Scottish knights when Scottish chivalry was in the height of its glory. The mother of our hero was Catherine Stewart, daughter of the Duke of Albany, second son of King James II. So, then, Hamilton was of royal blood, both on his father's and on his mother's side.

On September 9, 1533, King James IV and Scotland's flower fell on the fatal field of Flodden, and Patrick's uncle, the Duke of Albany, became Regent of the realm during the minority of James V. Another uncle, the first earl of Arran, was one of the most powerful nobles in the kingdom.

Brought up among relatives of rank and refinement, of manly virtues and scholarly

Hamilton Goes to Paris.

accomplishments, it is no wonder the first Reformer of Scotland became distinguished for high breeding and courtesy and for an intense love of all humane and liberal studies. With divine grace added to the gifts of noble birth and careful education, he became the most zealous and most courteous of evangelists; a confessor of the truth; mild and modest in manners, firm in spirit and principles; a martyr learned and cultivated as well as fervent and devoted.

II.

Hamilton Goes to Paris.

When Hamilton was only fourteen years old, the influence of his powerful family made him Abbot of Ferns, and the income gave him means to study abroad. He entered the College of Montaigu in Paris, where John Major, the great Scottish light, was teaching at the time, and in 1520 he became a Master of Arts.

During Hamilton's residence on the banks of the Seine, "an impulse was propagated to the University from a soul immensely more potent and world-subduing than the polished and timid scholar of

Rotterdam. In 1519 the strong hand of Luther knocked violently at its gates, and the sound went through all its studious halls and cloisters," Lorimer writes.

"In that year a great many copies were brought to Paris of the Leipzig Disputation between Luther and Eck, twenty of which Magister John Nicolas, quaestor of the Gallic nation, purchased on the 20th of January, by appointment of the nation, for the use of those who were deputed by the university to examine the book, and of any others who might wish to report their opinion thereon to the university," says Bulacus in *Historia Universitatis Parisiensis*.

All Europe waited anxiously for the decision. The issue was doubtful, for Lutherar votes were not wanting even in the Sorbonne. At length the champions of the old darkness prevailed over the friends of the new light. The university solemnly decreed, on the 15th of April, 1521, in the presence of students from every country in Christendom, that Luther was a heretic, and that his work should be publicly thrown into the flames.