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# PROSPECTUS

OF A WORK TO BE INTITULED

## PORTRAITS

OF

ILLUSTRIOUS PERSONS OF SCOTLAND,

*Engraved from authentic Paintings, &c.*

WITH

SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES,

BY

*JOHN PINKERTON, F.S.A. PERTH,*

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IT has long been a subject of regret, that while the Portraits of illustrious Persons of almost all other kingdoms have been faithfully published, nay, in many countries, even those of insignificant characters, yet to this day, hardly an authentic delineation has been given, of even any Scottish King. The common engravings of Scottish monarchs are taken, as is well known among the intelligent, from the imaginary paintings in the gallery of Holyrood-house, which are the productions of a mean artist, in the end of the last century, copied from the countenances of the lowest people, engaged to fit for that purpose.

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To remedy this defect, the present work is undertaken. It is proposed to publish from authentic paintings and monuments, those portraits of illustrious persons of Scotland, of which genuine engravings have not yet appeared, or are very scarce. The collection in which the paintings are to be found shall always be specified, and no labour spared to obtain access to the most undoubted originals. As many discoveries may be made in the progress of the work, the engravings will not appear in chronological series, but afterwards can be easily arranged, each portrait and biographical notice being detached.

To each engraving will be subjoined a short account of the person represented; and particular attention will be paid to any old description by historians, or other writers, of their countenance and figure, that they may be compared with the portrait.

The undertakers of this design have already been assured of the most respectable patronage and support. They do not require advanced subscriptions, but payment on the delivery of each number, which will be delivered to the curious, who chuse to enter their names, in the exact order of the priority of impression and entry.

It is proposed to publish this work in quarto and octavo, that the portraits may, at the pleasure of the purchaser, be bound up with the works of either size on the History of Scotland. In the manner of the engraving, though beauty when admissible will not be neglected, it is not proposed to sacrifice strict resemblance to fine touches of the Burin, but to preserve the *fac simile* as much as possible.

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The introduction of the arts into Scotland being late, it cannot be expected that this Work should commence at an early period. The first appearance of a Scottish portrait occurs in a curious antique drawing of the coronation parliament of Edward I. of England, formerly in the College of Arms, in which Alexander III. who assisted, is represented in a miniature rather curious than exact. From this drawing an engraving shall be made for the frontispiece. With David II. (A. D. 1329—1371,) who resided much in England with his contemporary Edward III. Scottish portraits may be supposed to commence. Lord Bredalban has a picture of this monarch by Jamefon, said to have been copied from an ancient limning in the palace of Dunfermlin.

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The second portrait is of Robert II. by the same painter in the same collection.

The third is of Elizabeth More, queen of Robert II. by the same.

Even those portraits may be rather regarded as curious than as absolutely undoubted.

Of Robert III. no genuine portrait is known.

Of James I. and II. no painting has yet been discovered. But the prints in *Fonstoni Heroes Scoti, Lugd. Bat. 1603, 4to.* copied in the folio edition of Drummond's History 1655, and in the Scottish acts of parliament, 1681, folio, afford the most faithful prototype.

James III. his queen and son, with Archbishop Schevez in the character of St. Andrew, &c. a painting by Van Eyck, in Kensington Palace.

James IV. from a drawing in the possession of the Earl of Buchan, taken from an original painting at Tubingen, in Germany.

Margaret, wife of James IV. daughter of Henry VII. from a painting at Hampton Court. The same, with Angus her second husband, at the Earl of Bute's, London, formerly the Earl of Scarborough's.

James V. and his queen, Mary of Guise, from a drawing in the Earl of Orford's collection, taken from a painting in the Duke of Devonshire's possession.

Mary, from a drawing by Vertue, in the Collection at Strawberry Hill, taken from a picture of undoubted authenticity, in the possession of the Earl of Morton. The same in her widow's weeds, after the death of Francis II. Kensington Palace. The same, with the Jewel (given to her by that king) on her bosom, writing at a desk and weeping; a drawing in Lord Buchan's Collection, from an original in a convent at Rheims.

King Henry Darnley æt. IX. an original at Castle Braan. The same in advanced years, at St. James's, and Newbottle.

Of James VI. none need be given, as many genuine engravings have appeared in the English Series; but the illustrious persons shall be continued to the end of the last century, or further, if the portraits be yet unengraved.

Among the personages of less note whose portraits are procured, or to be procured,\* may be mentioned, Cardinal Innes, 1412. John Stuart, Earl of Buchan, Constable of France. Elphinston,

\* Ancient tombs will afford resources not yet sufficiently explored.

Elphinston, Bishop of Aberdeen. The admirable Crichton, from the original at Frendraught. A young Buchanan. Knox, from the original at Basil. Secretary Maitland. Lady Margaret Douglas, mother of King Henry Darnley. The Regent Murray, and Mar, the Lord Treasurer. Lesley, Bishop of Ross. D'Aubigny, first Duke of Lennox. Hay, Earl of Carlisle. Arthur Johnson, Andrew Cant, and Gordon of Straloch, all by Jameson. Bishops Dunbar and Forbes of Aberdeen. Dr. Gregory, inventor of the Reflecting Telescope. Napier, inventor of the Logarithms; with others too numerous to mention.

Each number, to be published regularly every month, will contain three plates with three leaves of letter press. The price will be to subscribers 5s. the quarto size, and 3s. for the octavo.

*N.B. A few copies (if subscribed for) will be printed in folio, at 7s. 6d. each number.*

The Work will be published by I. HERBERT, Bookfeller, No. 6, Pall Mall, where names may be entered, and any intelligence tending to enrich or illustrate this Publication will be gratefully received.

Subscriptions will also be taken in by Mess. HARDING, Pall Mall, under whose particular Inspection the engravings will be made; Mr. LUNN, Cambridge; Mr. COOKE, Mess. FLETCHER and HANWELL, Oxford; Mess. SIMMONS, KIRBY, and JONES, Canterbury; Mr. NORTON, Bristol; Mr. BERRY, Norwich; Mr. BINNS, Leeds; Mr. TODD, York; Mess. MORISON, Perth; or at any of the principal Bookfellers of Great Britain.

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