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EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS
OF
THE BURGH OF GLASGOW

A.D. 1718-38.

WITH CHARTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

A.D. 1708-38.

EDITED BY

ROBERT RENWICK, DEPUTE TOWN-CLERK.



GLASGOW:

PRINTED FOR THE CORPORATION OF GLASGOW.

MDCCCXCIX.

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4th and 5th OCTOBER, 1736.

(Photo-lithographed for Glasgow Records, 1718-38).

by leaving the care of the bond unaltered by order of the magistrates when James Corby suffered to be enlarged & Causey & Fraught & others pleased

The seal was indented & affixed

the which day the Committee appointed by a former act dated the 10th day of Sept to adjust & set the seal sent at which day John Laing reported that they had obtained the setting of the seal and saw up an account of proof and to whom and how set for the current year and signed the same job they produced in Council job being considered by the magistrates & Council they approved proof and ordain the same to be the rule

John Murray the 4th day being the petition given in by John Murray was granting some consideration to the Committee for defraying his charge in pulling forth a book of the City & the history of the present state of the City at the annual Council

James Drow Andrew Ramsay
William Craig
Andrew Cathcart
J Buchanan

Glasgow 5 October 1736 Convened
Andrew Ramsay James Drow William Craig
James Drow Cathcart and George Buchanan Budge
Hugh Rodger and Peter Murdoch Deacons
James Drow Deacons as a beener
John Canby John Luke Andrew Arthur
Lawrence Dundee James Andrew Buchanan
as George Hamilton Robert Ross Arthur Buchanan
as George Scott Arthur Allan John
Robertson John Craig Robert Luke John
Cathcart John Laing Thomas Wardrop
James Muir Robert Leslie Robert Donaldson
Robert Craig John John Rowan John
Luke Barter John Robertson in of
work

The which day being the first Tuesday after Michaelmas and so the ordinary day of the election of those who should bear office as Provost & bailies of the burgh for the year ensuing the magistrates & Council above named being convened did proceed to the election of the magistrates and

PREFACE AND CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

PREVIOUS volumes of Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, embracing the period 1573-1717, were printed for the Scottish Burgh Records Society, while the Corporation undertook the publication of the volumes dealing more specially with Charters and other documents of that class. The latter series, beginning with the charter of King William authorising Bishop Joceline to found the burgh, was brought down to the year 1707, and the late Sir James Marwick had been authorised to continue it till the date when the Burgh Reform Act of 1833 introduced a complete change in the system of municipal administration. But in the course of the preparation of the Burgh Record volume 1691-1717, by which time crown charters and grants were being superseded by local acts of parliament and procedure in other respects was becoming less formal, Sir James was impressed with the view that the farther publication of the city's muniments and town council proceedings might advantageously be combined in one series; and on that plan, so far as it could conveniently be adopted, the book was completed. The anticipated close of the work of the Burgh Records Society likewise necessitated new arrangements if the Glasgow publications were still to be proceeded with; and accordingly the corporation, on the motion of Sir William Bilsland, lord provost, passed a resolution, on

22nd October, 1908, authorising me "to continue the series of extracts, combined with charters and other constitutional documents, from 1717 till the passing of the Burgh Reform Act of 1833." The present volume is the first instalment of the work thus entrusted to me.

Exclusive of an abstract of charters, in continuation of that already brought down to the year 1707, and a few documents of an earlier date, the selections here gathered together embrace a period of twenty-one years, ending in 1738. Even the latter date, seven years as it was before the great rebellion, we are accustomed to regard as belonging to the remote past, but such an impression is somewhat modified by the reflection that the citizens of that day rejoiced over the birth of a prince (p. 497), afterwards King George III., in whose reign some of the present inhabitants of Glasgow passed their early years. Another element suggestive of modernity is introduced by the advent of our earliest local historian. The first edition of "A View of the City of Glasgow; By John M'Ure *alias* Campel" appeared in 1736. Then in his 79th year, and having apparently lived all his days in Glasgow, the worthy chronicler has preserved much useful information which might otherwise have been lost, though it is matter of regret that he did not hand down to us a fuller account of the events which came under his personal observation. Alluding to the then recently erected statue of King William, about which it may be noted many particulars are contained in the present volume, M'Ure remarks that it "has been seen to give a most surprising pleasure to foreigners, when

at the same time the inhabitants has never been at the pains to cast an eye upon it with any care, till excited thereto by the description of such as were entire strangers"; but the reprimand which the author administers to his fellow citizens for their inattention to surrounding objects may not inaptly be turned on himself for the too great reticence displayed in his narrative of current events. Though bearing to be "collected from many antient records, charters, and other antient vouchers," the information supplied from these sources is comparatively meagre, and as regards the city records is specially defective. M'Ure was keeper of a register from which writs relating to the burgh were excluded, and as he had no exceptional opportunity of becoming acquainted with city documents or with municipal procedure, one need not be surprised that very little of what is contained in the publications either of the Scottish Burgh Records Society or of the Corporation appears in his pages. But the account he gives regarding the streets, buildings, manufactories, and public institutions is invaluable, and when read in connection with what appears in the present volume, a fairly adequate idea may be formed of the condition of the city and its inhabitants at that time.

M'Ure announces that he was unable to ascertain the precise population of the city, though he guesses it at 30,000, "counting the masters of families, their wives, children, and servants, including strangers that reside here for the children's education at the university and other schools of learning." But the number seems to have been considerably overestimated, as the popula-

tion in the year 1740 was only 17,043, an increase of 3,211 over the estimated population of 13,832 in 1812. Relative to the other royal burghs in general, Glasgow did not show decisive signs of advancement. In the year 1718 the city was rated at £18 10s. per cent. of the tax roll, upon which contributions were levied on the respective burghs in proportion to their ability, and the quota was raised to £21 10s. in 1728, but seven years later it was reduced to the former figure of £18 10s. Still there was a perceptible advance of the city on its own former position, and probably also in comparison with other burghs in the west.

In their representations to the Presbytery and Synod, urging the expediency of translating a minister from Dumbarton to the newly-established Ramshorn Kirk in 1718, the magistrates and council refer to the city as a "place of very great business and resort of strangers and sometymes foreigners, the seat of severall courts besyd that of his Majestie's justiciary for the western circuit, quhich as is well known conveens a great confluence of gentlemen and persons of distinction from severall parts"; and, again, "the toun of Glasgow is a very populous place, the inhabitants of it increase dayly, their trade and corespondance with foreign parts ocasions a great resort of strangers to it"; and "the city is also the seat of ane university and many other schools of learning." Many hands were employed in the linen and cotton manufactories, towards which special encouragement was extended, glass and pottery works were in operation, tanneries were increasing in number, the tobacco trade was in

course of development, a large business was done in ropemaking, and the continued spread of sugar houses indicates the flourishing condition of that branch of industry. The revenue derived from ladle duty, and tron, bridge, and quay dues, was about one-fourth higher in 1738 than it was in 1718.

As shown by the earlier extracts in this volume, the Rebellion of 1715 was for sometime kept in memory by expenditure in meeting belated claims, and by the efforts for settlement of compensation to the town for its losses. The citizens do not seem to have been in any way disturbed by the invasion incidents of 1719, but on the occasion of another scare in January, 1727, the magistrates and council embraced the opportunity of presenting a loyal address to the King, manifesting the firm adherence of the community to his person, family, and government, and their readiness to venture their lives and fortunes in his support and defence. Six months later "the unexpected death of our late most gracious Sovereign, of glorious memory," was the occasion of another avowal of "inviolable attachment to the illustrious House of Hanover," and other expressions of devotion to the throne, embodied in an address which was entrusted to the Duke of Argyle for presentation to King George II. As further shewing attachment to the reigning family, anniversaries of royal birth-days were regularly observed, marriages were made the subject of congratulation, and when deaths occurred the churches were draped in mourning. The council hall was decorated with portraits of James VI. and all succeeding sovereigns, that of George II. being added in 1732, when the sum of £34 is.

sterling was paid "for the King's picture and frame thereof."

For carrying on the increasing traffic between Trongate and Bridgegate the three narrow vennels called Old and New Wynds and Maynes Wynd were becoming inadequate, and in 1720 the town council began the acquisition of properties for the formation of King Street opposite Candleriggs Street which had recently been opened. Two years afterwards, by which time additional purchases had been made and plans matured, it was resolved that "not only for beautifying the city but also for the better accommodation of the inhabitants and people resorting thereto, and for the more easie passage from one street to another," the new street should be regular and in a straight line from Candleriggs Street to Bridgegate, with a width of 30 feet between the strands or gutters on each side and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet between the gutters and buildings, making 35 feet in all, the houses fronting the street were to be built in a "decent and uniform manner and after one and the same model," and special regulations were prescribed as to height, placing of windows and other details. Another new street, leading from King Street to Saltmarket, was likewise formed, partly on the line of a former lane, and named Prince Street. Building sites in each street were disposed of at the price of 20s. Scots (1s. 8d. Sterling) per square ell. The streets themselves were paved with stones. Paving of streets had become more common than it was in 1578, when a "calsay maker" had to be borrowed from Dundee, on a formal obligation by the provost and bailies to redeliver him to that town at the ensuing Michaelmas. Glasgow had now resident paviers with

whom an elaborate contract was entered into in 1728. Under this arrangement "John and Thomas M'Fies, cawssiers," undertook to "keep up, maintain, and uphold in a sufficient case and condition the whole cawsseys of the publick streets, wynds, vennels. lanes, highways, and roads within and about this city and territories thereof belonging thereto." The thoroughfares referred to are described in the contract, thus preserving, in the absence of maps,¹ topographical particulars of an authentic nature not readily procurable elsewhere. The contract was to endure for fifteen years, and the causewayers were to be paid £1,000 Scots (£83 sterling) yearly for the first four years and 1,000 merks (£55 sterling) yearly for the remaining period, but the latter allowance was subsequently augmented. For travelling long distances the roads were seldom in a condition suitable for wheel traffic, and though a coach service between Edinburgh and Glasgow had been tried so early as 1678, the journey was commonly accomplished on foot or horseback. In 1736 the merchants at each end were urging the convention of burghs to use its influence in procuring the construction of a commodious highway between the two cities "sufficient to bear the weight of all manner of wheel carriage," but it was not till a few years later that an act of parliament for the purpose was obtained.

¹ On 4th January, 1732, James Muir, mathematician, was paid four guineas "for drawing a plan of the Green, river of Clyde and land adjacent" (p. 370); and on 22nd June of the same year it is stated that John Wat, teacher of mathematics, had "drawn up a curious map or plan of the sixteen merk land

of Glasgow, which has cost him great pains and trouble, and taken a long time in the doing thereof" (p. 375). By the "sixteen merk land" was meant the burgh territory, and the latter plan would have been specially interesting; but unfortunately neither of the plans is now extant.

In 1734 and subsequent years purchases were made for the site of St. Andrew's Church, surrounding yard, and accesses thereto from Gallowgate and Saltmarket. A wall round the yard was erected, but the church itself was not begun till a few years later. Other buildings carried through by the town included the corner house on the north side of Gallowgate and west side of High Street, additions to the tolbooth and municipal buildings, with the fitting up of a new council hall. An extension of Broomielaw quay occupied the attention of the town council for some years, and matters not bulking so large in public estimation but equally useful were not forgotten. The old chain and bucket wells were being replaced by pumps and new wells were opened. For service in extinguishing fires additional supplies of buckets and ladders were obtained and new fire engines were procured from London. Negotiations with the Directors of the "Friendly Insurence from Fire" are referred to in 1738 (p. 490). No very extensive fires appear to have occurred in Glasgow, but a disastrous conflagration in Paisley "whereby in a few hours a third or fourth part of the town was laid in ashes," evoked the sympathy of the citizens who promptly sent contributions for relief of the sufferers (p. 397).

Exemption from a tax on malt was one of the claims of Scotland based on the treaty of Union, but this point was contested by the English, and eventually a tax was imposed, the 23rd of June, 1725, being fixed as the day for its coming into operation. Glasgow people, like the rest of their countrymen, were full of resentment, and they had a special grievance

on account of the member of parliament for their district, Daniel Campbell of Shawfield, having favoured the proposed levy. Campbell had a dwelling-house in "one of the extremities" of the town, Shawfield Mansion, as it was called, occupying a site now forming part of Glassford Street, at the point where it joins Trongate; and on this house, the windows of which had been broken in the previous November by a mob in retaliation for supposed injury done by its owner to the tobacco trade, was doomed to fall the vengeance of the populace. On the day appointed for levying the tax disorderly persons moved about the streets in a threatening attitude, and they were not dispersed by the magistrates until after excise officers had been intimidated from performing their duties. On the following day the excitement continued, and it rose to a greater height in the evening, when two companies of soldiers, commanded by Captain Bushell, arrived, and were prevented by a mob from occupying the guard-house. As reinforcements were expected next day, and no immediate increase in violence anticipated, and as the men were fatigued with their march, they were quietly quartered throughout the town, and the peace of the town was entrusted to the guard kept by the inhabitants as usual. That night, however, the rioters broke out beyond control, and thoroughly ransacked Shawfield Mansion, sparing nothing but the walls, floors, and roof, which could not be demolished by the means and within the time at their disposal. On the third day, 25th June, the military got possession of the guard-house, but in the afternoon a mob

again assembled, and, as they began to throw stones at the soldiers, the commanding officer ordered his men to fire. By the first volley two men, alleged to have taken no part in the riot, were killed, and in the disorder which ensued and the continued fire other seven persons were killed and sixteen dangerously wounded. In the course of the inquiry and proceedings which followed, leading to the apprehension of a large number of accused persons, the provost, three bailies, dean of guild, and deacon-convener were carried away prisoners and "thrown unto the nauseous, common prison of Edinburgh" (p. 226), but were soon liberated. The full story of the riots has often been told, and it is unnecessary here to dwell on the details, though allusion may be made to the town's pecuniary loss, which included the payment of £6,080 sterling, awarded by parliament to Campbell of Shawfield to make good the damage he had sustained.

To meet this large demand on their resources, amounting to about three times as much as the gross annual revenues of the burgh, and to avoid the farther accumulation of the already heavy debt, it became necessary for the town council to realise a large portion of their heritable property. Parliament had, in 1690, authorised the sale of the common lands, "and particularly the lands of Provan lately acquired," but only in the event of the convention of burghs finding a necessity for the sale; and on application being now made to the convention the requisite authority was granted. Provan lands, under reservation of the mill, mill lands, thirlage, and water rights, were thereupon

disposed of, realising £5,374 sterling in cash and £103 sterling of yearly feuduty. The lands had been purchased in 1667 for £5,888. Portions of Petershill and Wester Common were likewise sold, producing £316 sterling in cash and £111 of yearly feuduty.¹ The lands of Barrowfield, embracing what was afterwards the area of the burgh of Calton, had been purchased in 1724 on behalf of the town to the extent of three-fourths, the remaining fourth going to the Trades' House, and this estate was likewise sold on terms which can have resulted in little of either profit or loss;² but the printed extracts must be referred to for particulars of these several transactions.

Under "Charitable donations" in the Index will be found references to a selection of cases towards which relief was extended out of the town's funds. In January, 1731, the magistrates and council, in conjunction with the Merchants' house, the Trades' house, and the general kirk session, are found devising a scheme for the erection of a "charity school, or workhouse, in this city for employing and entertaining the poor and restraining the scandalous practice of idle begging and encouraging of virtue and industry." Contributions from the public were invited, and the proposal having secured general approval and support, resulted in the establishment of the

¹ In stating sums fractions of a pound are omitted.

² The price realised for Barrowfield was £10,000 sterling, being considerably more than was obtained for Provan, though the former lands were probably less than one-fifth of the latter in area. Provan was a £20

and Barrowfield a £4 land of old extent. The original name Burrellfield (applied to land burrel or barrel shaped, *i.e.*, in ridges) indicates that the lands were tilled from an early date. Their higher value depended partly on their greater fertility and partly on their closer proximity to the town.

Town's Hospital on the Old Green, an institution which efficiently served its intended purpose till the year 1840, when the poorhouse in Parliamentary Road was acquired. Some five years before the idea of the hospital was started the old correction house in Drygate, which had for some time been in disuse, was revived, as being "most expedient for bearing down of profanity and vice," and thus by means of these two establishments provision was made both for the profligate and the unfortunate. M'Ure writes with enthusiasm about the "stately new hospital, resembling more like a palace than a habitation for necessitous old people and children;" but he only mentions the other place incidentally. Alluding to the existence of coins of the reign of Robert III. bearing the Glasgow stamp, he says, "some were found lately by masons among the rubbish of the office-houses, as Mr. Russel informs me, who is governor of the correction house."

In the preamble to the act of parliament obtained in 1736 for a continuance of the duty on ale and beer it is stated that the annual revenues of the city fell very far short of defraying the yearly expense of maintaining the government, paying ministers' stipends, and repairing and preserving causeways, roads, bridges, churches, hospitals, and other public buildings and works necessary for the accommodation of the numerous inhabitants and for the encouragement of the trade and commerce of the city. Further, the yearly produce of the impost when added to the city's annual revenue fell short of the amount required for annual expenditure so that the city must be obliged

to leave the necessary works undone, which would very much check the growing industry and commerce, or to contract debts "which must end in the utter destruction of the government of the city, unless some remedy be found." The remedy was looked for in the extension of the impost to Gorbals and Port-Glasgow, this being considered equitable as regards the former place, seeing that it had its support from the trade of the city, enjoying equally almost every privilege and reaping the fruit of the expenditure in making and repairing roads and bridges and in paving the streets of the village, though it was not contributory to that expense. In the case of Port-Glasgow the city had purchased it for the accommodation of trade and had at great cost built "and are at a continued necessary expence in maintaining and enlarging a very commodious harbour there which occasions that resort and commerce by which they obtain considerable profit and advantage." The proceeds of the impost credited in the town treasurer's accounts for 1737-8 amounted for the city to £1,267 and for Gorbals to £137. The amount derived from Port-Glasgow is not stated. In July 1736 the town council remitted to the magistrates and others to consider upon a "compliment" to be given to Col. John Campbell for his great activity and assiduity in obtaining the act, and by a subsequent minute it is ascertained that the "compliment," of the value of £73, was given to his lady. Col. Campbell, who subsequently became duke of Argyle, was at that time member of parliament for Dumbartonshire. For his trouble in connection with the procuring of the previous act of parliament, in 1716,

and with other affairs of the town, Daniel Campbell, then member of parliament for the Glasgow district of burghs, was paid £348 (p. 71). Campbell continued member till the year 1734, but on account of his unpopularity at the time of the malt tax riots he seems only to have retained the seat at the election of 1727 through some technicality, as John Blackwood, merchant in London, was apparently preferred by the constituent burghs (p. 296).

During the period 1718-38 comparative tranquility prevailed in national affairs. One rebellion had been suppressed without much trouble, and another of more serious import was still seven years in the hidden future. Beyond bickerings in parliament and political circles on contested points in the Treaty of Union, measures taken for disarming the Highlands, where General Wade was busy with the construction of roads, and the tragic events of the Porteous mob in Edinburgh, and the malt tax riots in Glasgow, the historian has few incidents of public importance to narrate. The time was well suited for commercial development, and Glasgow merchants were not slow to embrace the opportunity of expanding both their home and foreign trade. But of the schemes which were set afloat, how this venture prevailed, and how that and the other enterprise struggled on to success, the municipal records cannot be looked to for much enlightenment, unless there happened to be some occasion for calling in the support or interference of the town council. In the year 1722-3 the merchant traders were much concerned in maintaining their rights against what

they considered attempts to deprive the country of the tobacco trade, and considerable expense having been incurred, the town came to their relief in consideration of the public benefit secured by their exertions (pp. 440, 462-4, 572). By petitioning parliament and giving aids and facilities to local traders, the magistrates and council took an active part in promoting improvements in the manufacture of linen. Difficulty was experienced by the lint growers in raising material which could be wrought into cloth of the whiteness attained by the use of lint brought from Holland, and a Dutch flax dresser was engaged for the purpose of instructing the people of this country in the art. Glasgow town council, acceding to the desire of the linen dealers of the city, agreed to defray the expense of maintaining and clothing a young man to get lessons from the flax dresser on condition that he should thereafter reside in or near the city, and instruct in the business such as should be recommended to him. Parts of Provan lands were let for a bleachfield and for the erection of a cambric manufactory, and the walk mill at Partick was converted into a flax mill for the convenience of the linen dealers, but on condition that a part of it should still be kept up and employed as a walk mill.¹

On the subject of trade and industries the remarks of travellers and visitors afford some useful information. John Macky, styling himself a political agent, published in 1723, a "Tour in Scotland," in which he says Glasgow was then a place of the greatest trade in the kingdom, especially to the

¹ See pp. 74, 125, 254, 259, 266, 271, 290, 393, 394-5, 425, 434, 438, 450.

Plantations, "whence they have 20 or 30 sail of ships every year, laden with tobacco and sugar, an advantage this kingdom never enjoyed till the Union." Three years later Daniel Defoe visited the city, which he calls "the emporium of the west of Scotland, being for its commerce and riches the second in this northern part of Great Britain." Its harbour at Port Glasgow was fitted for ships of the greatest burden, and its merchants "now send near 50 sail of ships every year to Virginia, New England, and other English colonies in America." The chief manufactures consisted of muslin and linen for export and of "plaids or veils worn by the women in Scotland."¹

The securing as far as possible a monopoly of trading privileges was an object which was seldom lost sight of in these days. One of the main reasons for purchasing the contiguous lands of Barrowfield, part of which were "already built upon, where several tradesmen are set up," was the fear that "if the said lands do fall into the hands of others the same may prove prejudicial to the town;" in other words, competition with the town's tradesmen was dreaded (p. 177). When the lands were in the joint possession of the town and trades house agreements were entered into between the weavers and cordiners of Glasgow and their fellow craftsmen in the village of Blackfauld or Calton, consisting of 52 weavers and 9 cordiners, whereby the manner in which these craftsmen were to practise their respective

¹ All the travellers who describe the city about this time praise the beauty of its situation and admire the quality and appearance of its buildings; and it has been seen that in

laying out the new thoroughfare of King Street, elegance as well as utility was aimed at (p. xii.).

callings in the outlying district was regulated ; but after the lands, under the necessity for raising money, were sold, the purchaser influenced the weavers in Calton to join with him in a reduction of the agreement made with them.¹ In signifying their approval of the agreements the magistrates and council stipulated that the suburban craftsmen should not be entitled to compensation in the event of the lands being annexed to the royalty (pp. 212, 237), showing that even then extension of the burgh boundary in that direction had been contemplated though it was not accomplished till 1846.

The old mill of Partick had been held by the town on rental right since the year 1608, the rent of 50 bolls of malt for the mill, besides other bolls and some money for the mill lands and houses, having been latterly paid to the crown as coming in room of the archbishops. Being of opinion that the rent was too high the magistrates and council desired to relinquish the tack, but the exchequer officials maintained that according to the old rule of fixity of tenure the rental right could not be renounced unless a crown grant of exemption were obtained ; and to put the matter on a satisfactory footing in view of an intention to lay out money on improvements, it was arranged that, following the usual course in such transactions, the mill should be heritably vested in the town by crown charter, and this was accordingly done (pp. 473, 558).

For ecclesiastical purposes the town was divided into six parishes, but there being only four churches and a meeting house

¹ A decision was given by the Court of Session on 17th December, 1734, but the case is not reported in Morrison's Dictionary of Decisions.

it was, in 1718, resolved that another church should be erected, and a site for it on Ramshorn grounds was eventually selected. As to the structure of the church, its steeple, which had to be taken down and rebuilt, and its bell, clock, and decorations, details will be found in the printed extracts. St. Andrew's Church brought up the number to six when completed, but meanwhile the congregation was accommodated in the New Wynd meeting house. Besides the six town churches there was the Barony Church for the landward district. The stipends of each of the six city ministers was raised from £1,080 Scots (£90 sterling) to 2,000 merks (£111 sterling) in 1722. Under the crown tack of teinds obtained about that time the town came under obligation to pay out of these revenues a stipend of £1,080 Scots to the minister of the Inner High Church and of £950 Scots to the Barony minister; but all the other stipends were paid out of the common good, with the exception of the augmented sums which were to be provided out of the proceeds of the impost on ale and beer (pp. xxix, xxx).

Education in its several branches found ready patronage and fostering attention from the town council. The petition of a writing master presented to them in 1738 contains the curious statement that formerly most of the boys were fourteen or fifteen years of age ere they began to learn the art of writing, and that boys were then beginning to write when they arrived at seven or eight years of age (p. 503). This disclosure of deferred attention to penmanship helps to account for the large proportion of merchants and craftsmen who in former times required to sub-

scribe documents by mark or the intervention of a notary. A dancing master, who was doing his best to conduct his classes "without giving disturbance to the neighbourhood, and to make that part of education more easy to the inhabitants," undertook "once in every four years to go to London or Paris, if required by the magistrats, to furnish himself with any thing new in his way," and was encouraged by the town council with an allowance of £10 yearly (p. 426).

The page of the Council Minute book, of which a facsimile is given, contains a remit to the annual committee to consider the petition of John M'Ure, craving some consideration for defraying the charges in publishing his History of Glasgow. A similar remit to a committee was made in 1732 (p. 376) but so far as has been ascertained no money grant followed in either case. The author dedicated the work to Provost Ramsay and other members of the town council, and to "Alexander Finlayson and John M'Gilchrist, Records of the City." The officials here named "Records" were the town clerk and depute clerk, respectively.¹ Finlayson was appointed town clerk in 1713. At that time he was an under Clerk of Session, but previous to his filling that post in 1705 he had been the town's agent in Edinburgh. On the occasion of a colleague being appointed in 1748 it was stated that "Alexander Finlayson has for these sixty years been intrusted in the town's affairs, either as agent or clerk."

With regard to the recording of their proceedings,

¹ The records note the presentation, "in kettle and lamp" p. (351), and to the depute compliment," to the town clerk of a "tea clerk of a "silver bowl and tankert" (p. 390).

the magistrates and council, on 11th January, 1690, directed a book to be kept for filling up the acts and minutes of council, as they were passed, before being put into a public register; and in December, 1693, they resolved that all acts passed in the town council should be instantly minuted, "as to the substance thereof," in the minute book, and read and signed before the meeting closed. Before next council meeting the minutes were to be extended by the clerk "in full acts, in the principal or enlarged counsell book," and then read publicly and collated with the signed minutes. Subject to a blank for the years 1693-5, both sets of books have been preserved from 1690 till 1762, when the practice of writing duplicate volumes seems to have been discontinued. The extracts printed in the following pages have, with a few exceptions, been taken from what is termed the principal or enlarged register, though the signed minute book has often been consulted for verification or correction. The minute books are almost wholly in the hand-writing (as is the page above referred to), of John M'Gilchrist, depute clerk, from the time of his first appointment to that office in 1712, till 1754, when he was laid aside by "indisposition and weakness." The principal register is written in a comparatively modern style, the word "quhich" for example taking the newer form of "which," and the character of the writing generally being in accordance with the change introduced about the beginning of the 18th century.

R. RENWICK.

GLASGOW, *December*, 1909.

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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

22 *September* 1722.¹

The magistrats and town councell, takeing to their consideration that the yearly revenue or common good of the city is very mean and nowayes suffieient to answer to the annuall burdens and necessary expences of the government thereof, quherby considerable debts have been contracted; and that for enabling the magistrats and councell to ansuer these ends and pay these debts they having obtained for many years bygone acts of parliament in their favours for ane imposition of tuo pennies Scots upon the pynt of all ale and beer brewed and retailed within the city, quhich is now again renewed and continued by ane act of parliament Georgii Regis anno secundo, for the space of sixteen years, and that from and after the expiration of the years contained in the yet current former act of parliament in favours of the town, for the said tuo pennies on the pynt, past in the parliament of Seotland upon the 21st of September 1705 years, and quhich new imposition commences the 1st of November 1722 years, and is to continue ay and untill the 1st of November 1738 years; and likewise considering that the yearly stipend payable to each of the ministers of the city out of the touns common goods is only 1620 merks Scots money, and being most willing and desireous, while they have any fund or subject which may satisfie their yearly burdens, to contribute for their ministers more comfortable subsistence and for that end to add and eik to their present stipend of 1620 merks payable out of the touns common goods the sum of 380 merks yearly of augmentation out of the said imposition of tuo pennies on the pynt of ale, makeing in all the sum of 2000 merks to each minister, and that dureing the continuance of the said imposition of tuo pennies on the pynt in favours of this city; therefore the magistrats and councell do hereby enact and oblige them and their successors in offee for payment to each of the ministers of this city of the sume of 380 merks yearly of augmentation out of the first and readiest of the said imposition of tuo pennies on the pint of ale, over and above this present stipend of

Act anent
augmenting
the ministers
stipends.

¹ This act was inadvertently omitted in its chronological order.

1620 merks formerly payable to each of them out of the touns common good, making in all 2000 merks yearly, and that at tuo terms in the year, Whitsunday and Martimass by equall portions, during the continuance of the said imposition in favours of the city for the said tuo pennies on the pynt, and thereafter so long as the said imposition shall be continued and renewed in favours of this city allenerly, beginning the first terms payment therof at Whitsunday nixt to come j^m vij^e and twenty three years for the first half year and so furth termly therafter at the saids terms of Whitsunday and Martimass during the space forsaid; declarcing alwayes, likcas it is hereby specially provided and declared that in case the said imposition of tuo pennies on the pynt, which is the fund for paying the said augmentation, shall not be renewed and continued in favours of this city after the expiration of the present acts of parliament, quich terminats on the 1st of November 1738 years, that then and in that case in all time therafter, during the space and time in which the said imposition of tuo pennies on the pynt shall not be renewed and continued in favours of this city, the ministers of this city shall be from thence furth and during the time restricted to the forsaid old stipend of 1620 merks formerly payable to them out of the touns common good, and the augmentation forsaid shall terminat with the imposition out of which it is payable and shall cease and become voyd; and this present act to be nowayes obligatory upon the magistrats and councell or ther successors in office for payment of the said augmentation, in which terms and upon which conditions allennarly thir presents are granted and no otherwayes; and the treasurer is hereby ordained to take separate receipts for the said new adition and augmentation out of the said imposition.

Page 63, line 26 and margin, for "stones" read "stories."

,, 292, ,, 17, for "behold" read "uphold."

,, 304, ,, 33 and margin, for "Fairlie" read "Fairie."

,, 358, ,, 14 ,, ; also page 367, line 24, for "Robertson" read "Roberton."

,, 360, ,, 32 for "Slark" read "Clark."

,, 379, ,, 13 ,, "Jamse" ,, "James."

,, 356, ,, 33 ,, "Archibald Smith" read "Archibald Wallace."

,, 390, ,, 11 ,, "17s. 4d." read "7s. 4d."

,, 425, ,, 1, at "company of archers" insert as footnote: See M'Ure's History of Glasgow (1830 edition), p. 258.

Facsimile at end. After "Mr. William Nesbitt," add "[parson of Tarbolton]."