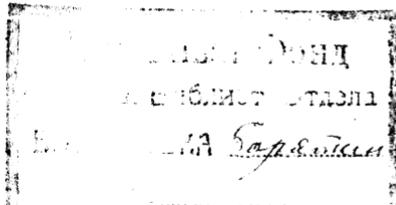




MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

AND

HER ACCUSERS



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MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

AND HER ACCUSERS

EMBRACING

A NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FROM THE DEATH OF
JAMES V. IN 1542 UNTIL THE DEATH
OF QUEEN MARY IN 1587

BY

JOHN HOSACK

BARRISTER-AT-LAW

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SECOND EDITION, MUCH ENLARGED

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1929

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN presenting to the public a New Edition of this Work, I cannot but express my sincere and grateful thanks for the reception it has met. I may add that, in consequence of the interest which is still manifested in the subject, it is my intention, in a second volume, to continue my narrative down to the death of Queen Mary, and incidentally to examine at length the evidence produced on her trial at Fotheringay. The concluding Chapter of the First Edition is accordingly omitted in this volume.

The photograph prefixed to this volume has been taken from a cast which, by permission of the Dean of Westminster, was made from the bust which surmounts Queen Mary's tomb in the Abbey. The name of the sculptor is unfortunately unknown; but it was erected in the lifetime of her son; it is evidently the work of an accomplished artist, and it is most probably the best likeness of Queen Mary now existing in this country.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IT is a remarkable fact, that notwithstanding the innumerable histories which have appeared of Mary Queen of Scots, and notwithstanding the warm controversy to which the question of her guilt or innocence has given rise, the specific charges preferred against her at the Conference at Westminster in 1568 have never hitherto been published. It is well known that on that occasion a Book of Articles was produced by her accusers before they exhibited their proofs to the Commissioners of Queen Elizabeth; but in none of the voluminous collections relating to the subject is this document to be found. A copy of the Articles has, however, been preserved among the interesting collection of contemporary papers known as the Hopetoun Manuscripts; and it is now given to the public, with the permission of the Earl of Hopetoun, to whom it belongs, and of the Lord Clerk Register, the Right Honourable Sir William Gibson-Craig, in whose custody it has for the present been deposited.

As the authenticity of the Articles may be questioned, the following reasons are submitted to the reader in proof of their genuineness:—

In the first place, their title, which is peculiar, corresponds exactly with the title of the Book of Articles referred to in the Journal of Queen Elizabeth's Commissioners of the 6th of December 1568,¹ when the document was first produced ; and they also consist, like that referred to, of five parts.

Secondly, They are not only written in a contemporary hand, but they are written in the same hand as a considerable portion of the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland. This important fact was pointed out to the writer by Mr Thomas Dickson of the Register House, Edinburgh, to whom he has been indebted for much valuable assistance in the prosecution of his researches.

A specimen of the handwriting of the Articles, and of that which appears in the Register of the Privy Council about the same period, will be found at the beginning of the first chapter. It may be added that the handwriting bears a very strong resemblance to that of Alexander Hay, who was clerk to the Privy Council at the time of the Westminster Conference, and for several years afterwards. But upon this point no confident opinion can be expressed.

The last and strongest proof of the authenticity of these Articles is their identity in various passages with the 'Detection' of Buchanan, which was published some time after the Westminster Conference. It is clear, from a comparison of these passages, that both are not original ; and as the Articles were in existence before the publication of the 'Detection,' the obvious inference is, that Buchanan inserted portions of them in his famous libel.

¹ Goodall, ii. 234.