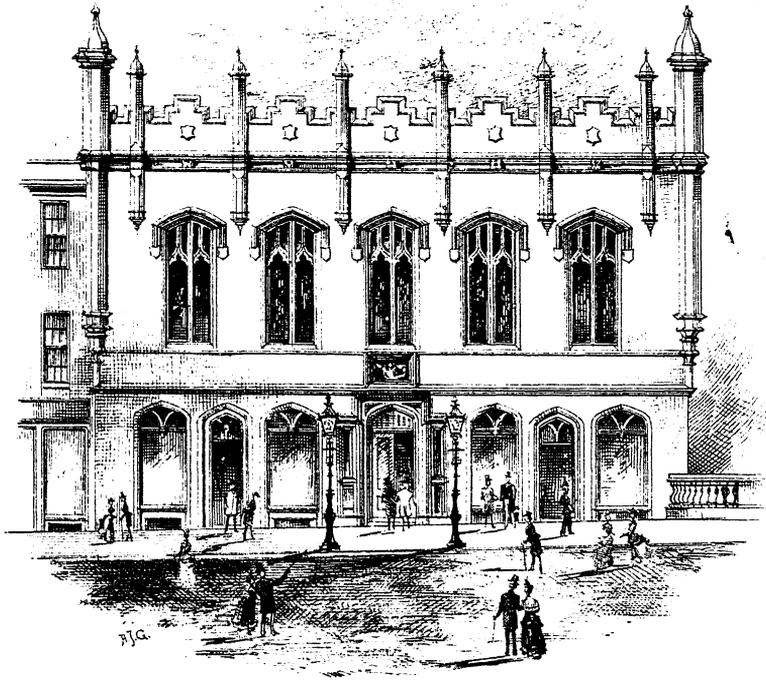


MERCHANT AND CRAFT GUILDS
A HISTORY
OF
THE ABERDEEN INCORPORATED TRADES



TRADES HALL, ABERDEEN.

ANDREW GIBB & CO. LITHRS
3, QUEEN'S-LAND.

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Merchant and Craft Guilds

A HISTORY

OF

THE ABERDEEN INCORPORATED TRADES

BY

EBENEZER BAIN

EX-MASTER OF TRADES HOSPITAL

"VIS UNITA FORTIOR"



ABERDEEN

J. & J. P. EDMOND & SPARK

1887

TO
THE CONVENER, MASTER OF HOSPITAL,
OFFICE-BEARERS, AND MEMBERS
OF
The Seven Incorporated Trades
OF ABERDEEN,

THIS VOLUME IS MOST RESPECTFULLY
INSCRIBED.

P R E F A C E.

WHILE holding office among the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen a few years ago, I had frequent opportunities of scanning their interesting old records and other documents, and I had not gone far in my perusal of them until I discovered that they contained a considerable amount of material fitted to throw light on the trading customs, and the social and religious life of the community from the fifteenth century downwards.

It was also an agreeable surprise to find that, notwithstanding the many vicissitudes through which so many of our local institutions have passed, the records of the Trades, including the documents belonging to the monastery of the Trinity Friars, were in an excellent state of preservation; and it occurred to me that, as a new generation has now arisen, having little in common with the old burgher life, a historical account of these ancient societies might prove acceptable, not only to the existing members of the Trades, but to many others who take an interest in the different phases of early burgh life.

In estimating the position which these craft guilds held in the community, it is necessary to bear in mind the large proportion of the population that came within their jurisdiction. The families, journeymen, apprentices, and servants, as well as the craftsmen themselves, were all subject to the authority of the deacons and masters of the different crafts, and amenable to the laws and statutes enforced under the powers conferred by