

PAISLEY REPOSITORY.

No. XIV.

A Guide to Inscriptions sculptured on Tombstones, &c. before the year 1710, in the parishes of Paisley.

PROLEGOMENA.

THESE Inscriptions are arranged, in this Publication, according to their respective dates. By this method the attentive reader, of the real Inscriptions themselves, will be able to mark the progress of the different variations,

I. On the form of the letters, from the old *Anglo saxon* character, to the present Roman form.

II. On the Orthography. When our forefathers used the *qv*, or *qu*, for our *w*; and made little or no distinction between the *i*'s and *j*'s, *u*'s and *v*'s; they used a *y* where we use an *i*, sometimes a *y* instead of our *th*, especially where it begins a word as *yai*, *yat*, *ye*, *yi*, *yis*, *yov*, for *they*, *that*, *the*, *thy*, *this*, *thou*, often *v* for *w*, and *z* for *y* and *i*, &c. &c.

III. On the Contractions. Our ancestors used very plentifully both contracted words and letters. Their contracted words were expressed by a curve put over the word; but instead of a curve, we put a full point at the end of the letters of the contracted word, and this I am obliged to do myself, in the following list of contracted words which occur in these Inscriptions, on the account that Printers now-a-days do not use these curves.

AIA. <i>anima</i> , soul.	MESIS. <i>mensis</i> , month.
AN. OR ANO. <i>anno</i> , year.	MONASTII. <i>monasterii</i> , monastery.
DM. <i>domini</i> , lord.	P. <i>pro</i> , for.
I. in.	POSS. <i>posse</i> , to be able.
JACOB. <i>Jacobus</i> , James.	Q. <i>qui</i> , who.
KALEN. <i>kalendæ</i> , kalends.	QLK. <i>quhilk</i> , which.
KILBYNET. <i>Kilbyrneti</i> , Kilbirnie.	SAL. <i>salvatori</i> , saviour.
Lachr. <i>lachrimæ</i> , tears.	VMOLL. <i>umquhill</i> , the late.

We still write some of our contracted words in the same way of theirs, for instance, *M^o* for *Milesimo*, *Nonage^o* for *Nonagesimo*, and *vy^t* for *with*.

We may say that we use no contracted letters, except the &, and even & is more in disuse than formerly; but if we look the Inscriptions themselves, Nos. 2, 4 and 22, we will see examples of two and three letters being joined into one, having some particular stroke, or part of them, common to all the contracted letters, as Æ, the latin diphthong.

IV. On the Language. The tomb stones nearly all begin with a *Heir lyes*, or if the deceased was a man of great note, he has, perhaps, a latin Inscription beginning with a *Hic jacet*. What difference has taken place since, may be easily seen by examining the grave stones of any burying place. I will give three examples which the reader may contrast with these ancient tomb stone Inscriptions.

I. In the Abbey Church yard near the Quire.

In memory of John Orr, who was one of the Paisley Militia,, and fell at the Battle of Falkirk, 13th of January 1746.

II. In the High Church yard of Paisley.

The property of the Hammermen Society in Paisley.

MDCCXCVI.

To help the poor is our design

In this our late Erection

This shall a Testimony be

Of this our good Intention

III. Copied from a Grave Stone in Johnstone Chapel yard.

(*On the one side.*)

This Burying place is the property of James Craig Vintner in Quarrelton and Mary Black his Spouse and their Children. This is Likewise to the memory of James Hatrick interred here.

Motto

Vive Deo ut Vivas

This Simple Stone Which few Vain Marble^s Can. May Truly Say here Lyes an honest Man.

Look the Other Side

(*On the other side*)

Who Departed this Life July 28th 1802
By particular Desire of Margaret Grant
his Widow and Consent of James Craig
The Proprietor

As it would occupy too much room to criticise on every part of these ancient Inscriptions, we shall next take a view of their terminations *Orate, Orate pro anima ejus* and *Pray for his Salvation*. Our ancestors appear to have had two ends in view in erecting their tomb stones. 1. To perpetuate the memory of the deceased, and 2. To point out the spots where the deceased persons were interred, in order that they might receive the benefit of the prayers of the godly, to release their souls more speedily out of purgatory.

V. On the Sculpture. All these Inscriptions are in *basso relievo* except Nos. 3 and 25 which are cut in the stone. These Inscriptions in general begin at the one corner of the stone, go round the edge of it, and terminate in the centre. At other times the centre is filled up with a coat of arms, on the left hand side is the

initial of the person's christian name, and on the right hand side of the arms is the initial of the person's surname, and sometimes a sentence from scripture, of the nature of a prayer, is around the coat of arms.

By an intelligent reader, of the real Inscriptions themselves, paying a proper attention to what is mentioned in the preceding five particulars, he will be at no loss if he should happen to meet with any old Inscriptions without dates, such as Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13, to come within a few years of the true dates.

These tomb stones are all in the form of a parallelogram. Parts of some of them which contained reading are broken off, (as Nos, 3, 4, 6, &c.) or under ground, (as No. 5.) these parts are signified by a long dash. Obliterated parts are marked with asterisks. Those Italic words printed in the Inscriptions are supplied from what we considered must have been on the stone.

INSCRIPTIONS.

I. On the entry to the Abbey Church by the north door, on the left hand side of the porch as you go in.

Pax * * * * *

has huius monastii. *xx* die

mesis. *Januarii* ano. *dm*. *Mo*. *cccco*.

xxiii * *rit* fieri sua *senustura*

The word *Pax* in the first line is dimly seen. It is reported, that Mr. Millar, who was one of the Ministers of the Abbey Church, between the years 1710 and 1752, caused the first line of the preceding Inscription, and the fifth line of No. II. to be erased, observing, that such papistical sentiments were unfit to remain in a protestant church. We think that *has* relates to something in the first line, and *huius* to the second line. The first word after *XXXIII* in the fourth line we could make nothing of but *rit*. The next *fieri*, signifies something to be done. *Sua*, ans-

wers for *his, hers, theirs, its*, and the last word, *senus-tura*, we could make nothing of, we rather think, that we have mistaken some of the letters. Upon the whole, we think that this Inscription points out the date, when some building or repairs were made upon the Monastery.

II. On the front of the corner house of Lawn and Inkle streets.

Wat callit ye abbot george of schaw
 About my abbay gart make yis waw
 An thousande foure hundreth zheyr
 Eighty and foure the date but weir
 Pray for his salvacioun,
 Wat made thus nobil fundacioun.

Mr. Semple in his history of Renfrew-shire, says, "The large stone which has George Shaw, abbot of Paisley's Inscription on it, as mentioned by Mr. Crawford, is placed in front of the north-most house on the east side of Lawn street, being a lintel to the front door. This stone is reserved in such a manner, that neither the Earl of Abercorn can take away the stone from said house, nor can the proprietor use the stone any other way than in the front of the house. However, some person, or persons, for self ends, has defaced the fifth line of that so, viz. *Pray for his salvacioun*, that it is not now legible. I am informed, the line was razed out between the years 1710 and 1735." An incorrect copy of the last Inscription is in the History of the Shire of Renfrew.

III. A little south from the east door, inside of the Abbey Church.

Hic jacet Jacob: crawfurd de kilbynet. q. obiit xx
 A. D. Mo. cccc. Nonageo. iyo. Orate p. aia. eius
 Translation.

Here lies James Crawford of Kilbirnie who died the 20th—in the year of our Lord 1499. *Pray ye for his soul.*

On the centre are a sword, flag, &c.

IV. On the south wall, inside of the Abbey Church.

William Pyrrie decessit ye first day of Juni
ye zeir of God Mo. Uc. and ix zeirs. Orate

A part of this Inscription reads backward.

V. On the north wall, inside of the Abbey Church, nearly behind the pulpit.

Heir lyis Thomas Inglis Bailze of Paslay qvha
decessit ye 15 of Aug——sone to David 1559
Thomas Inglis sone to Ihone——for ye tyme
and Issabel Mvir Spovs——And a coat of arms
in the centre. In the above Inscription, Old
English and Roman characters are mixed.

VI. On the east wall, inside of the Abbey Church, a little north from the east door.

here lyis ane honorabill man caiptane robert
craufurd granter of paslay i. ye sepultur of James
Craufurd of sedil qlk. decessid ye fourt of Juni
ye zier of god 1575.

And round his coat of arms, which are in
the centre, there is something like the follow-
ing Inscription, but it is so much defaced, that
we could not make it out properly.

quha nevir rasebit honorle. of na man and
hes maid so mony syndry

VII. Further north, on the same side of the
Church, as you go up the north-east stair.

heir lyis ane honorabill man Jams Stebart of
Cardonald sthm tyme capitane of ye Card of Scot-
land in france quha decessit ye XV day of Januar
ano. dm. 1584.

And round his coat of arms, which are in the
centre.

O lord I comend. my sabl into yi hands qlk.
yob hes Redemit vpt. yi precious blud.

VIII. On the front of a house in the School Wynd, which was formerly occupied as a Grammar School.

“The Gramar. Scvil. 1586.” and the Paisley coat of arms. On the left side of the arms is an D , for *Opidum*, and on the right hand side is a P , for *Pasleti*. Above is cut in the stone, “Disce puer aut abi. 1753.”

IX. In the Earl of Abercorn’s burying place, or Sounding Aisle.

D. O. M.

*Piæ infantum Margaretæ, Henrici, et Alexandri Hamiltoniorum, memoriæ; Claudius Hamiltonius Pasleti dominus, et Margareta Seton ejus uxor, proli charissime—Cum lachr. poss. obiire, Margareta An. Sal. 1577: X kalen. Jan. Nata mensis tres, dies XXII Henrici 1585 Id Mar. Natus menses tres dies duos—Alexander * * * * * Kal. Decemb. Natus menses octo dies tres.*

*Felices anima vobis suprema parentes
Solvunt vos illis solve * quæ decuit.*

Translation.

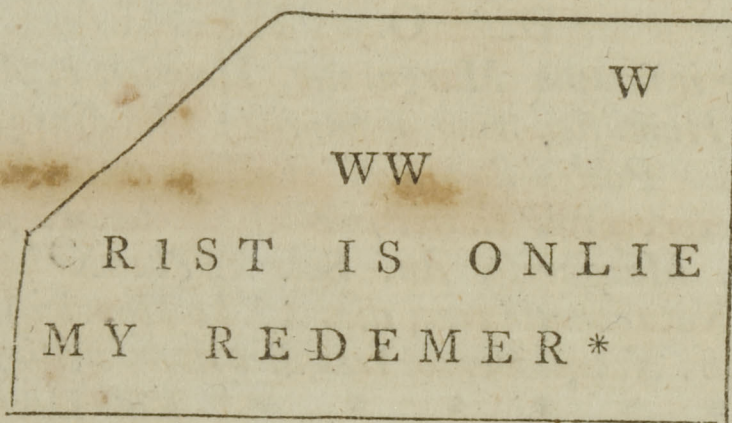
GOD IS THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

In memory of the infants, pious Margaret, Henry and Alexander Hamiltons; the most dearly beloved children of Claud Hamilton; lord Paisley, and Margaret Seton his wife. They died much lamented, Margaret, the 23d of December, in the year of our Saviour 1576, aged three months and twenty two days; Henry the 15th of March, 1585, aged three months and two days; Alexander, November * * * * * aged eight months and three days.

Blessed souls, to your death this is devoted,
He that hath taken you, hath done what be-
seemeth him.

This last Inscription was published in Semple's His-
tory of Renfrew-shire; but as the translation was
thought incorrect, it was judged proper to insert it
here.

On the south outside of Elderslie garden
wall, near the east end of the garden, is a stone
with the following Inscription.



A part of one of the corners of the stone is broken
off, which probably contained a W. By the form of
the letters on the stone we cannot allow it to be any
older than the latter half of the sixteenth century,
when a William Wallace, a relation of the brave
Sir William Wallace, was proprietor of Elderslie.

XI. On the outside wall of the Abbey
Church, near the east door.

Misericordia et Pax.

Translation.—Mercy and Peace.

XII. Nearly opposite, on the wall.

Heir Iyis Waltir Ros in Hollibys.

XIII. In the Abbey Church yard.

Heir Iyis Iohne Alexander Bvrges of Paislay
and Bessie Carswall his spovs.

XIV. In the Abbey Church yard.

Heir lyis ane honest man callit William Cochran in Schergen Lav of Fvlbar Mvir, 1611.

XV. On one part of the front wall of the little steeple was this Inscription.

Qvha gives the pvir to God he lends,
And God agane mair grace him sends.

And on another part of it was this Inscription.

He that hes pitie on ye pvir
Of grace and mercie sal be svir.

XVI In the Abbey Church yard.

Heir lyis ane honest man callit Thomas Piter Bailzie of Paslay, qvha deceissit ye 10 of Nov. Anno 1609 and Ionet Vrie his spovs & Iohne Piter thair sone & Margaret Craig his spovs qvha deceissit ye 30 of Octob. Anno 1617.

XVII. In the Quire of the Abbey Church.

Heir lyes a faithfvll sister Marion Montgomerie, spovs to vmqll. Patrik Peblis of Brvme-lands Provest of Irveine, & mother in law to Thomas Inglis of Corsflet Baillie of Paislay, qvha deceissit 28 Ian. 1720 yeiris.

XVIII. On the back part of Cochran of Craigmuir's house, Paisley, being the first land west from the corner house, head of New street; now the property of Mr. J. Thomson.

"God is ye fovnder of al good works,"

A little higher up the wall is an *M* and *S* sculptured into each other, also an *M. A. V.* sculptured into each other.

XIX. In the Abbey Church yard.

Heir lyis ane faithfwl brother, called Williame Algeo, byrges of Paislay, & Cirstin Keibill his spovs qvha deceisit ye zeir of God 1621.

XX. This, and the next four are in the Quire.

Heir lyis ane faithfvll brother Thomas Ingilis of Corsflat qvha deeisst the 27 of May 1625 Etatis sve 78.

XXI. Here lyeth ane faithful brother called Iohne Hutchesone Baillie of Paislay who deceased the 22 of Februar 1625.

XXII. Heir lyeth Robert Henderson and Magdalen Hovstovne 1629. Thomas Henderson aud Malie Cochran.

XXIII. Heir lyis a Right Worthie Gentel Man, Allan Lochart of Hindschelvod leat Baile of Paslay qvha deceisit the 10 of Apryl Ano. 1635 Etat. 42. I have fovght a good fight and finished my covrse I have keped the fayth, 2 Tim. 4. 7.

XXIV. Heir lyis Ionete Delop spovs to David Maxwal, Merchand, Bvrges of Paislay, qvha decesed 1643.

XXV. Near the centre of the Abbey Church yard, a stone stands on its end, about two feet high, the east side of it contains a considerable Inscription; but it was very much filled up with moss: however, we made out that it had been the burying place of "George Matthie Taylzovr." The west side contains, the date 1704, G. M. and his coat of arms, in bass relief: which consists of a large pair of shears, with their blades turned toward the top of the stone, and half open, in the act of clipping a louse in two, which is also cut out of the solid stone, in bass relief, between the blades of the shears, with its face and breast turned toward the spectators. Under the handles of the shears is a Tailor's Goose.

*The dealings of the Presbytery of Paisley with
the Guidwife of Ferguslie. In 1643-1647.
Extracted from the records of the Presbytery.*

June, 8th 1643. The Guidwife of Ferguslie having been repeatedly summoned for not attending worship in her Parish Church of Paisley, and her husband reporting that she could not for want of health; the Presbytery ordain the minister to go to Ferguslie, and in presence of the Guidwife read and expound the Scriptures, and sing psalms. He reports his having done so; they appoint him to examine her upon oath, whither it be inability of body or scruples of conscience which prevent her attendance.

June 22d. Report that he examined the Guidwife on oath, who depones, that she was for the present unable to come to Paisley, but wad come if she was able: the Presbytery stop procedure.

March, 27th 1646. The Guidwife of Ferguslie, after being long dealt with, at last swears and subscribes the Confession of Faith and Covenants, and renounces Popery, before the two ministers of Paisley and the elders at Blackstone.

June, 25th. The Guidwife again dilated for not coming to church. She alledges inability of body, ordered to produce a testimonial from a Physician.

July, 30th. A testimonial produced; the Presbytery find it satisfies their act: appoint the ministers of Paisley to deal with her husband to provide a chamber in Paisley for his wife,

that she may reside there for her more easy coming to the kirk.

Sept. 3d. Her husband declares that she cannot be removed at all: ordered to bring her to Paisley that the ministers may have opportunity of frequent converse with her, or to bring a testimonial that she cannot be removed.

Sept. 24th. He reports that he had not an opportunity to see the Physician: the Presbytery advise him before next meeting to bring his wife from Blackstone, either by land or water, to Paisley, to hear the word, and have conferences with the ministers.

Dec. 17th. She is advertised to come and reside at Paisley between and February next.

April, 1st 1647. Order her to be publickly admonished for not coming to reside at Paisley, as the Presbytery had appointed.

April, 22d. Two members report that they had gone and visited the Guidwife of Ferguslie, and had seen her infirm; and she still pretended inability, they had gotten her promise to come to the kirk of Paisley within 20 days; to give content and satisfaction in that point, albeit she should be *carried on her bed.*

May, 8th. Mr. Henry Calvert * minister of Paisley reports, that Margaret Hamilton, Guidwife of Ferguslie, had come to the kirk of Paisley *carried on a bed.*

* In the Acts of the General Assembly for 1645, he is called, "Henry Colwart Minister at Paisley."