

have added being absent be ressource of the storme, thairfoir Mr. George Gladstones, lest the place suld be destitute, occupyit the samyn whois doctrein was censurit and allowit."

Five years before Duncan's settlement at Crail, in 1592, James had accepted an Act that is often referred to as the Magna Charta of Scottish Presbyterianism: it "ratified the liberty of the true kirk" to such an extent that the King himself could now be excommunicated for disobeying the "will of God" as interpreted to him by the ministers. A later enactment, passed in the very year of Duncan's ordination, has an important bearing on his subsequent fortunes. The General Assembly at Perth forbade the ministers to use their pulpits for the purpose of criticizing acts of the Parliament or Privy Council, or to attack individuals in their sermons; and further enacted that no convention should be called together without the presence of royalty or the authority of the crown. But all the time James kept on coquetting with the Catholic nobles and Episcopacy, in spite of the general aversion to bishops of a people who boldly proclaimed that they "would have no king but a presbytery." It must be borne in mind that, after his accession to the throne of England, James was now governing Scotland, as he boasted, "by the pen." He appointed bishops at his own will and pleasure, and even took to summoning the General Assembly himself, or otherwise let it go for a few years without being called together at all. Such abuses of the royal prerogative on the part of "God's silly vassal" led to the unlawful Assembly held at Aberdeen, 2nd July, 1605, which Andrew Duncan attended and to which he adhered in spite of the royal prohibition. After that, says his biographer, his life was "a continued scene of suffering." We may note that this favourite word "suffering" occurs frequently in the very first pages of the Life. Duncan is said to have "cheerfully ventured his all in suffering for and adhering to" the forms under which he had been brought up; and his biographer, when acknowledging his indebtedness to his predecessors