

'The Lord Provost,' it must be admitted, played his part with the greatest spirit.

It is not clear whether the orders from London were explicit that the London proclamation was to be read out verbatim to the people of Scotland. The Lords of the Privy Council who dispatched it doubtless took for granted that it would be. But the Lord Provost and his advisers framed a proclamation of their own. It rehearsed the proclamation made at St. James's, and the order transmitted by the Privy Council for its publication by the Lord Provost; then, with a courageous adoption of terms, it proceeded:

'Therefore we the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Edinburgh, being assisted with numbers of Noblemen and other principal gentlemen of quality, do now with full voice and consent of tongue and heart publish and proclaim,' etc.

The proclamation was signed by the Duke, by eighteen or twenty other peers, the judges, magistrates, etc., 'and others of the best affectioned citizens of Edinburgh to the number,' says the Town Council minute, 'of one hundred and twenty-two.' 'Thereafter,' continues the minute, after describing the procession from the Council room, 'the High and Mighty Prince George Elector of Brunswick Lunenburg . . . was with sound of trumpet, proclaimed King of Great Britain, France and Ireland by the Lyon King of Arms, his Deputy, my Lord Provost reading the words of the Proclamation to him.'

This method of reading out the words of the proclamation to the person who was to proclaim was the method handed down from times when proclamations were less easy to read than they are now in their present ample print,² and when it was more essential than it now usually is that the exact words of the announcement should be heard, and heard far and wide. The plan was certainly more favourable to loud and clear speaking than that of the present day, when we have an officer proclaiming while his eyes are on a printed sheet which he holds before him. The superior personage, or the official representing the superior authority, as in the case of the Clerk of the Privy Council, read out the words to the inferior, and the inferior officer, probably also, in the case of the Officers of Arms, the younger man, proclaimed them to the people. The same method of publishing a proclamation was employed in other countries also. When it was abandoned in England we are not aware; but the *London Gazette*, in announcing the proclamation of William and Mary on 13th February, 1688-9, records that Garter King-of-Arms, having received a proclamation, 'and the said Officers of Arms being ordered by the House of Lords forthwith to proclaim the same, York Herald (after the Trumpets had thrice sounded) proclaimed it at Whitehall Gate accordingly (the said Garter reading it to him by periods) in the presence of the said Lords and Commons, and multitudes of people there assembled.'³

¹ Mr. George Warrender, afterwards a baronet.

² The proclamation in question was of course read from manuscript.

³ *London Gazette*, No. 2427.