

2 *Memoirs of the Earl of Marr.* Jan. 4.
of Mr John Colvill*, a strict presbyterian, but of
no great scope of genius. On the death of the re-
gent, which happened on the 29th of October
1572, the care of his children as well as of King
James VI. was committed to the regent's brother,
Sir Alexander Erskine of Gogar, to George
Buchanan, Mefs. Adam† and David Erskines‡,
and Mr Young, under the government and di-
rection of the old Countess of Marr, whose loyalty
and tenderness to the royal family of Stuart, had in-
duced her to suckle the young king and afterwards
to be his nurse and attendant, under the com-
mission of the regent and parliament of Scotland||.

* See Randolph's memorial to Queen Elizabeth, hereafter to be in-
serted in this memoir, who calls him Marr's Pedagogue.

† Adam Erskine, commendator of Cambuskenneth, was the na-
tural son of Thomas, master of Erskine, the immediate elder brother
of the regent, who was ambassador in England in the year 1551, and
marrying Margaret, daughter of Malcolm Lord Fleming, died without
lawful issue.

‡ David Erskine, natural son of Robert, master of Erskine, the im-
mediate elder brother of Thomas, by Jean Home, he was first
abbot and then commendator of Dryburgh; from whom are descend-
ed the families of Shieldfield in Lauderdale, Ralph and Ebenezer
Erskines, the famous Scotch seceders, their families, and several others.

Mr Peter Young sub-preceptor, was chosen by Buchanan?

|| A curious account is given of a cholic with which her royal charge
was seized at Stirling, whereupon, in the dead hour of the night, the la-
dies were all called out of bed to attend the child, when it was remarked
by the recorder of this accident, that none of the ladies had any shifts,
except the auld Countess of Marr, her ladyship being tender,
(sickly.) The young king having one day got for his theme from
Buchanan, the history of the conspiracy against James III. at Lauder,
where Archibald, Earl of Angus obtained the name of Bell the Cat,
from his telling them the fable of some rats that had combined against
a cat, when they proposed to seize and tye a bell about his neck, to