

secular. A spirit of piety has been the prop of its stability; nor were mementoes of such an element omitted from the list of recent representations. As we caught a glimpse of Fingal's abode, Iona loomed in the horizon, with its venerable ruins, which lead back to Culdee periods, when, through the zeal of Columba and his followers, the light of vital religion rose like a fertilizing sun to nourish the fruits of holiness on fields that before were moral wastes. Melrose, with its Abbey, reared by Popish devotees, whispered of an age when the native Church had lost its simple graces and fell under the corrupting grasp of ambitious Anti-Christ. St. Giles, with the Canongate, spoke to us of the revolt against Rome, which centuries of godless tyranny forced on a groaning populace, and pre-eminently of the one man whom Providence prepared for the triumph of Protestantism. Others had striven and suffered already in the conflict; their efforts and sacrifices not utter failures, since they pioneered the path for the perfect victory to come. But defeat after defeat sustained, the champions of the cross were verging on despair, and the torch of truth which they had lit from the fires of the Lord's altar to fling flashing sparks over the land was dashed in the dust, as if waiting to be quenched. Then sudden news startled the capital, and led another pen portray the issues of the unexpected tidings. "The cry arose everywhere, 'John Knox is come.' All the town rushed into the streets, the old and the young, the lordly and the lowly, were seen mingling and marvelling together. All tasks of duty were forsaken, priests abandoned their masses, mothers hurried from their domestic toil to ask what strange thing had occurred, travellers mounting their steeds hasted into rural quarters with the report. At every cottage door the inmates stood in clusters, silent and surprised, as horseman succeeded horseman,

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