

against this error, yet I am compelled to entertain some slight degree of suspicion lest evil communication, the alluring nurse of the vices, should lend an unhappy impulse to your still tender mind, especially as I am not ignorant with what facility the external senses yield to seduction. I have therefore sent you this treatise, not only as a monitor, but even as an importunate and sometimes impudent dun, who in this turn of life, may convey you beyond the rocks of adulation; and may not merely offer you advice, but confine you to the path which you have entered, and if you should chance to deviate, may reprehend you, and recall your steps. If you obey this monitor, you will insure tranquillity to yourself and to your subjects, and will transmit a brilliant reputation to the most remote posterity." James formed his principles by a very different standard, as his subjects in Scotland knew to their cost—but great is truth and it will prevail. Other writers, in after times, expounded the principles which Buchanan had unfolded in this treatise—and they were practically discovered in the great revolution of 1688. Sir James Macintosh speaking of this book, says, that "the maxims of a free government are delivered in it with a precision, and enforced with an energy which no former age had equalled and no succeeding has surpassed." The last work which Buchanan published was his history of his own country in the year 1582. He had undertaken this work at the urgent request of his friends when he returned to Scotland, so that he appears to have been

engaged twenty years in forming the plan and executing the work. In the dedication to the king the venerable author says, "It was no mean incentive to me, that I concluded my labour would neither be undue nor unacceptable to you—for there are among your ancestors men distinguished by every species of excellence, and of whom their posterity will never be ashamed." The learned Usher commends the diligence with which Buchanan had investigated the antiquities of his country—and Lord Monboddo hesitates not to pronounce the style superior to Levy. The accounts that have come down to us of Buchanan's death are brief. He now laid aside his literary labour, and expressed himself to his friend James Melvin, as having now nothing more to do than to die.—His kinsman soon after this urging him to make some corrections on a part of the history which he specified, and which was then passing through the press, on the ground that it would be offensive to the king, "Tell me man," said Buchanan, "if I have told the truth?" "Yes sir," replied his cousin, "I think so." "Then," rejoined the dying historian, "I will abide his feud, and all his kin's. Pray to God for me." and the writer who has furnished this account adds—"by the time the printing of his Chronicle was ended, that most learned, wise, and godly man ended this mortal life." He died on the morning of Friday the 28th of September, 1582, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and his remains were interred in the Grey Friars' Church-yard, Edinburgh.

THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION AT EDINBURGH.

STRATHBOGIE CASE.

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met in the Tron Church, Edinburgh, on the 12th of August last. Soon after 12 o'clock, Dr. Makellar, moderator of last assembly, took the chair, and opened the meeting with prayer. The most important business before the court was, the case of the seven ministers of the Presbytery of Strathbogie. Though cited to appear at this diet, they gave in their declinature through the me-

dium of their agent, Mr. Peterkin. On the motion of Mr. Dunlop—The Commission found that they are contumacious in disobeying the citation of the last General Assembly. And the Commission resolve, at a future period of this diet, or at a future diet, to report this matter, and the paper given in by the said ministers, to the next General Assembly. The court then proceeded to the discussion of the matter for which the seven ministers had been