

stone built tombs, regarding which the Government have set an enquiry on foot.

— Antiquaries have found considerable difficulty in settling at what precise period the Scottish nation began to assume armorial bearings, although the obscure records of tradition assure us that they were first granted to the Scottish Kings by Charlemange. One thing is sufficiently certain that none of the predecessors of William, who began to reign in the year 1165, adopted a coat armorial, and that it was that sovereign who first assumed the cognisance of a lion on his banners, from which circumstance, as well as from his gallant bearing, he was termed *William the Lion*. We are told that the king of the beasts was anciently the cognisance of the Celtic nations, yet it is conjectured by George Chalmers that William did not assume the red lion on that account, but rather because it was already the armorial bearing of the earldom of Huntingdon, and as such the cognisance of William's father. The lion is first seen on the shield of Alexander III., and appeared on gold coins in the reign of Robert III. It is said by Nisbet that the double tressure (or border) was anciently used on the royal shields to perpetuate the various leagues betwixt the French and Scottish monarchs. In the reign of James III., when an English faction predominated in the country, Parliament was induced to ordain "that in tyme to cum thair suld be na *double treassour* about the kingis armys, but that he suld ber hale armis of the lyoun, without ony mair." Yet the double tressure seems to have maintained its place in the armorial bearings of Scotland, even to our own times.

— A manuscript in the library of the British Museum, entitled "The Particular Description of England, with the Portraitures of Certaine of the Chieffest Citties and Townes, 1588," prepared by William Smith, is to be published in London by subscription. 250 copies only to be printed. The illustrations will be in fac-simile from the manuscript, and will be issued under the direction of Mr. E. S. Ashbee.