

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

PATRICK HAMILTON, the first Preacher and Martyr of the Scottish Reformation. An Historical Biography; including a view of HAMILTON's influence upon the Reformation, down to the time of **GEORGE WISHART**, with an Appendix of original letters and other papers. By the **REV. PETER LORIMER**, Professor of Hebrew and Exegetic Theology, English Presbyterian College, London: Crown, 8vo. *Thomas Constable & Co.*: Edinburgh.

This book has not yet reached us, but from the notices and reviews of it which we have seen, it appears to be attracting considerable attention and to have met with a most favorable reception in England and Scotland. Instead of waiting for a copy to review for ourselves, we prefer presenting our readers with the following notice of the work, by the English correspondent of the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, together with an extract from the book itself derived from another source:

"Have your readers yet seen our new Presbyterian historical work, by Professor, Lorimer of London, entitled 'The Precursors of Knox,' the first volume of which has just been published in this country by Constable of Edinburgh, and gives us the life of the Scottish proto-martyr, Patrick Hamilton, with fuller details than have ever before been furnished? This work takes place creditably beside those of the elder McCrie. Mr. Lorimer manifests in every chapter a patience of research and a liveliness of descriptive power which render the book most interesting to the readers of Church history. He has availed himself of means of access at his disposal to many sources of knowledge which have escaped the attention of his predecessors in the same field, and we owe to him the elucidation of several points of much importance, which have not attracted the notice of former historians. From the records of the Sorbonne he has discovered for the first time that Hamilton was a Master of Arts of the University of Paris; thence he follows him to that of Lorraine, thence to St. Andrews, where he interests us by a variety of details of the inner life of that University. He leads us subsequently into his company at Wittenburgh and Marburg, where we find him holding converse with Luther, Melancthon, and Francis Lambert, at a time when Protestantism was just beginning its battle with the great apostasy. He shows us with what earnest appetite Hamilton drunk in the spirit of these great men, and having become thoroughly imbued with their views, devoted himself to the work of the ministry in his own country. He shows us for the first time, by the testimony of Alexander Alane, (a Scottish theologian of distinguished eminence in his day, whom the Professor has had the high privilege of bringing before us in his real character for the first time,) that Patrick Hamilton, though Abbot of Ferme, was a married man, a circumstance which vindicates his memory from a stain from which even McCrie had failed to relieve it; since, while he had discovered the fact that Hamilton had left behind him a daughter, he had never been able to find any authority for the marriage of the Abbot. This point is now satisfactorily set at rest, and the honourable position occupied subsequently by that daughter in the Court of the Regent of Scotland, clearly bears out the legitimacy of her birth.

He next leads us to his ministerial life in Scotland, gives us a very clear idea of the character of his preaching, and shows us the steps by which he became thoroughly obnoxious to the ecclesiastical powers. By some graphic illustrations, derived from authentic sources, he brings the religious state of Scotland, in the various classes of the community, admirably before us; and in a manner much more satisfactory than we have ever found in any other history, shows us how those effects were produced from the martyrdom of Hamilton, which we have always considered most valuable and important to the future history of the truth in that country. On the whole, it is not easy to say too much in favour of this