

BUCKLE'S EVIDENCE ON THE PROTESTANT REIGN OF TERROR IN SCOTLAND.

Buckle is no friend of mine or the Catholic Church or the Stuart Kings. In the first place, he started his *History of Civilization in England* by including his studies of Scottish history in the history of England. For this, he deserves the censure of all patriotic Scotchman.

He also unmercifully libelled the Highlanders about which he knew little or nothing from personal knowledge. Though he criticised many others for smaller faults, he was not able to get above this popular southern cant himself. The Highlanders, like the rest of the Celtic population of Britain, have been treated as barbarous Outlanders from time immemorial by their southern neighbours both north and south of the Tweed. They had very little natural advantages compared with their southern neighbours before the days of railways and steam ships to enable them to accumulate property which seems to be the only real test of civilization that people who boast of their Anglo-Saxon origin can appreciate. To rob people of their land and language and then to condemn them for being poor is surely a strange condition of mind. I am prepared however to compare the Highland element of the population with any other element of our Empire under equal conditions. The charge of cruelty and barbarous conduct in war is not borne out by the evidence of facts. In the last foolish Jacobite Rebellion, in 1745, which was a disastrous affair to the Highlands ever since, they left no black or bloody trail behind them, except on the field of battle either on their march south or north, though they got into the heart of England. The same could not be said of bloody Cumberland when he defeated Prince Charles Stuart. There is a story told of General Wolfe which means a lot. Wolfe was a young officer under Cumberland, at Culloden. Seeing a wounded Highlander who was not able to follow the retreating army of the unfortunate Prince Charles, he ordered young Wolfe to 'go and finish him'. Wolfe answered that he came with him to engage in honourable warfare, not to kill the wounded.

Whether this story is truth or fiction, it had a wide circulation and one thing is quite certain and that is that many Highlanders who fought under Prince Charlie at Culloden fought under Wolfe at the Plains of Abraham and he had no more devoted men in the army. For myself, I am quite prepared to believe the story. It showed the difference between the two men and the reputation they left behind them.

There is another fact in connection not only with the Celtic