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SIR WILLIAM ALEXANDER.

Condensed from a paper read by Mr. W. W. L. Chipman, before the Society for Historical Studies, Montreal, 16th November, 1887.

Sir William Alexander, born about 1567, at Menstry, a village in the parish of Logie, Clackmannanshire. Son of Alexander Alexander and his wife, Marian, daughter of Allan Couttie. His sisters were Janet and Christian; he had no brothers. Family originally named MacAlexander, and, like the Argylls, claimed descent from the Viking Conn Chead Chath. His father died in 1580 and he went to live with his granduncle, who sent him to Stirling Grammar School at the age of thirteen. His personal appearance at the age of fifty-seven, as represented in a wood-cut by Marshall, resembled that of his contemporary Shakespeare. His forehead was high, his eyes large, his nose long and straight, and his well shaped head covered with a profusion of curly hair. He wore a moustache and well trimmed beard of medium length—the whole a pleasing and intelligent countenance set off by a huge Elizabethian ruff. He was educated at Stirling, and afterwards travelled with the Earl of Argyll, whose favorable mention of him to King James