

frequently served on committees of the General Assembly, and has the distinction of being the only layman who ever occupied the Moderator's chair. He held his seat in the Assembly, not as a ruling elder, for there is no evidence that he was one, but as a doctor, an office which the reformers believed to be of divine appointment and permanent in the Church, at the same time distinct from that of pastor. His doctorate was the principalship of St. Leonard's College, St. Andrew's, to which he had been appointed in 1566 through the influence of Murray. On the register of the University he is honored with the designation which Henry Stephens had bestowed upon him on the title page of the first complete edition of his "*Psalms*"—"Poetarum nostri seculi facile princeps." In 1567 Buchanan published another collection of fugitive poems which was printed by Robert Stephens.

The Assemblies over which Buchanan presided were the thirteenth and fourteenth, both held in the summer of 1567. This was a year of terrible tragedies. Poor Darnley was hurried to his dishonored grave, and Mary wedded his murderer, Bothwell. We need not repeat the story of that terrible time. The graphic pen of Froude has described the guilty pair in terms that never can be gainsaid. When Elizabeth refused to surrender the fugitive queen and demanded proofs of the charges made against her, Buchanan was one of the commissioners appointed to present the case for the Scottish people. To him was assigned the task of preparing the indictment. Doubtless this was as sorrowful a duty as could well have been imposed. Mary had been kind to him, lonely bachelor recluse that he was, but the girl queen with whom he had read Livy and the self-convicted murderess and adulteress, the unrepenting foe of religion and liberty, were two different persons. The first died when Rizzio was slain, and whilst the second lived there could be no peace in England or Scotland. We need not go into the hackneyed controversy again. Hume, Robertson, Laing, Scott, Mignet, Froude, Burton—nearly every historian of note has pronounced the verdict of "Guilty." The one question is, were the letters, found in the silver casket left by Bothwell in charge of Sir James Balfour, governor of Edinburgh Castle, genuine? They were submitted to the scrutiny of almost the entire English peerage, many of whom were most anxious to