

in the same month, and within a few days of each other. Nevertheless, there are not a few who will repeat the stale slander of Hume as to his "savage ferocity," and who can think of him only as the rough, rude man who ruthlessly destroyed fine buildings, and made a beautiful woman weep.

KNOX NO DESTROYER OF CHURCHES.

I consider it quite unnecessary before such an audience as this to say that John Knox was not responsible for the destruction of the cathedrals and other sacred buildings in Scotland? The stately monument that towers over the Glasgow Necropolis, and looks down on the time-honoured Cathedral near by, of itself refutes the charge. The saying about the "rooks" or "crows," and their "nests," is one which a man so well versed as Knox in the habits of these creatures was not likely to use. The reformer put himself to special pains to preserve these edifices. When he heard of the Abbey and Bishop's Palace at Seone falling victims to the popular fury, he felt so annoyed that we are informed "he could not speak patiently to any man of Perth or Dundee." Cecil the English Ambassador in Scotland, writes: "The Protestants be at Edinburgh. They offer no violence, but dissolve religious houses, directing the lands thereof to the Crown and to Ministry in the Church. In Parish Churches they deliver up altars and images." Another reliable authority writes: "I have not heard that in all our land above three or four churches were cast down." In regard to the few that were destroyed in spite of all Knox's efforts to save them, he puts the blame on the "rascal multitude," and tasks them severely for it. At several of the early General Assemblies we find prompt and decided action taken "for the preservation and upholding of Cathedral Kirks which are parish Kirks." In 1544, sixteen years before the Reformation, when Knox was tutoring the boys at Langniddy, some of the finest Abbeys were destroyed, such as those of Melrose, Kelso, Dryburgh, Jedburgh, Eccles, Haddington, Newbattle, Holyrood, and many a fine Church in the District of Merse, Teviotdale and Lothian, in connection with the ruinous raids from England which marked their rough style of wooing "our lass" for "their lad." Exposure and neglect with the corroding tooth of time can account for the decay of more. To these may be added Government greed and private cupidity and inexcusable carelessness. In 1568 the roof of the beautiful Cathedral of Elgin was stripped of its lead by order of the Privy Council. The lead was shipped to Holland and sold. The Aberdeen Cathedral was similarly stripped. Many of these noble old edifices too supplied ready hewn building material to many a country neighbourhood. A mansion house and gaol were built, and a mill repaired out of Melrose Abbey. The Abbey of Arbroath became a regular quarry. Villages have been built from such sources. The floors of many of the cottages of the Scottish peasantry have received from thence their pounded sandstone. Let not Knox then be branded as a ruffian iconoclast who headed maddened mobs, and hounded them on to the demolition of these gems of ecclesiastical architecture ringing out the shout, "Raze them—raze them even to the foundations thereof." That precisely opposite was the case ought to be more generally known. "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children,—and their children, another generation."

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