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GEORGE BUCHANAN, THE SCOTTISH VIRGIL.

III.

BUCHANAN now gave the finishing touches to his "*Franciscanus*" and published it with a dedication to his friend, the Earl of Murray. On the occasion of the marriage of Mary and Darnley he wrote "*Pompeæ*," an allegorical masquerade, and another for the festivities connected with the baptism of the infant James VI.

In the harassing struggle of the Church with the Court, Buchanan did not take a prominent part. His views were well known, but he was too much of a student to be a leader in the rough work. While of inflexible integrity, he was yet mild and conciliating in disposition, and his counsels displayed wisdom of a broad and liberal character. Drummond, of Hawthornden, preserves for us a specimen of his homely wit worth repeating. "George Buchanan said to John Knox, when he would have had the kirks razed, by the simile, 'cut the trees and the crows will build no more.'—'And if ye had rent your breeches John, would you throw them in the fire, or cause clout them? Whether would you go naked or abide their mending?'"* Buchanan did not hesitate to cast in his lot with the stern reformer. He

*Quoted in the *London Quarterly Review* 10: July, 1849.