

Duncan, and in writing it out in a hand which I am glad to think (so far at least as this biography is concerned) no one need ever again try to decipher. My study of his work enables me to corroborate the judgement passed on Wodrow by the editor of the Maitland Club volume (1834), who speaks of the inaccuracy of his extracts from Calderwood, his "careless and incompact style," and adds that "the disease which at length carried off the author also impaired his ability for literary exertion for a considerable period before his death." Some evidence of this last point is furnished by the corrections that have to be made in the very first sentences of his *Life of Duncan*, as quoted below; and it may be noted that these manuscript errors are found corrected in a transcript of Wodrow's volume by another hand (Vol. ii in the Glasgow collection).

Wodrow had in Andrew Duncan an excellent subject for a biography. The headings of the various paragraphs into which he divides his life are in themselves sufficient indication of the stirring times through which his hero passed. In the margin of the introductory paragraph appear the words "His Character the Voucher of his Life." The opening sentences follow: "Altho Mr. Duncan's life requires a much longer and more circumstantial account than (m.s. that) I am able to form of it, yet being as it were marked out for the butt of persecution by (m.s. but) the Bishops, and called to suffering upon several pretty public occasions no things relative to him are preserved [other?] than as to several of his contemporaries and fellow-sufferers in this period. He was a man of learning, great piety, and much boldness for what appeared to him to be the cause of truth, and of Christ, and his zeal did not cool [but rather] grew as his sufferings abounded. We have reason to hope the aboundings of the consolations of Christ in proportion to his sufferings was the glorious spring of this."

The next sections deal with Duncan's birth, "about 1560" (just after John Knox had returned to Scotland), and his education at St. Andrews. "It is probable," says Wodrow,