

PROCLAMATIONS

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the same, that the whole members of the Parliament should proceed in a double file from the House to the Cross, and stand round about the Cross, the nobles in the middle, the commissioners for the shires on their right, and the commissioners for the burghs on their left. The Act then ordained that after 'thrice sound of trumpet' the Lord High Chancellor, John Earl of Loudoun, should go upon the Cross, 'and read the said proclamation, and ane herald,' accompanied with his brethren heralds to proclaim the samyne.' It was the invariable method down till after the proclamation of King George III. that two officers should act together, the first reading the proclamation to the second, and the second proclaiming it to the people. The Act proceeded still further by ane warrant to the Lord Advocate, Sir Archibald Johnstoun of Warieston, to go likewise upon the said Cross, in order to take instruments upon the reading and proclaiming of the proclamation in the hands of the Clerk of Parliament, Sir William Scott of Clerkingtoun, who, for that purpose, was also ordained to be upon the Cross. The Parliament left nothing undone to secure the effectual and orderly execution of its Act. It ordained that the Provost and Bailies of Edinburgh should 'mak patent the doore of the samyne Croce'; and that, the proclamation having been made, the members of the Parliament should return to the Parliament House in the order in which they had come; and that the whole bells in the town should be tolled and the cannon in the Castle fired.

The proclamation thus elaborately prescribed was executed at twelve o'clock that day.

It is also recorded in the record of Parliament that on the Lord Chancellor craving admission to the Cross, 'it was enquired be the Provost and Bailies of Edinburgh what his Lordship was going about to doe, Who answered To proclaime Charles the Second King of Britain France and Ireland.' Immediately, says the record, the Provost and Bailies testify their approbation therto Did open the Doore of the Said Croce,' and caused the way to it to be cleared. After this ceremony of granting the use of the Cross, the Provost, Sir James Stuart, who was a commissioner to Parliament, took his place, as the Parliamentary record of the proceedings shows, at the side of the Cross with the other commissioners for the burghs.

The accounts of the forms prescribed and the forms actually observed in succeeding Proclamations of Accessions are none of them so detailed; nor in point of form are any of the ceremonies, save one, of the high authority of an Act of Parliament.

On the occasion of the demise of King Charles II. in 1685, an express arrived in Edinburgh at one in the morning of the 10th of February. The Privy Council met at Holyrood House between two and three, resolved that King James VII. should be proclaimed before noon, framed the proclamation, and ordered the Lyon King-of-Arms, the magistrates of Edinburgh, and all others concerned, to be summoned. Between

¹ There is evidence in the record of the day's proceedings that there was some difficulty in finding enough heralds to make a proper appearance. Some of them being out of town, the Parliament had to make a temporary herald to supply for the occasion the place of one of them.