

The main facts of Duncan's career are known, and will be found set forth in Scott's *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ* (ii, 2, pp. 416-7). The authorities given there include a reference to a Manuscript Life by Robert Wodrow; and having ascertained that this Life is not contained in the "Selected Biographies," or in the volumes published by the Maitland Club (1834-5), or the New Spalding Club (1890), I applied to the Librarian of the University of Glasgow, who kindly forwarded to the British Museum for my use one of the little quarto volumes (No. xiii) in which Wodrow has written out with his own hand his "Collections upon the Life of Mr. Androu Duncan, Minister of the Gospel at Crail in the Shire of Fife." Such interest as attaches to this paper may, therefore, be enhanced by the fact that I am able to give, for the first time in print,* important parts of Wodrow's narrative as leading up to Duncan's "Last Will and Testament," a document which, so far as I have been able to ascertain after fairly exhaustive inquiry, has altogether eluded notice until now.

The reader ought perhaps to be reminded here that Robert Wodrow (1679-1734), Minister of Eastwood, near Glasgow, was one of the most industrious chroniclers of the Church in Scotland, and a strong partisan of Presbytery. In 1722 he published his best known work, "The History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland from the Restoration to the Revolution"; and twelve years afterwards he died, leaving behind him about one hundred and fifty manuscript volumes—note books, sermons, letters, biographies, miscellanies, and historical material of all sorts. His life of Duncan bears witness on its first page of having been begun 2nd February, 1731; and as the next life is dated 19th February, we may infer that the industrious Wodrow consumed at least part of the intervening days in compiling his account of

* This statement seems to be negatived by a rather careless note in McCrie's "Life of Andrew Melville" (2nd edition, 1824, vol. ii., p. 295), the substance of which is repeated by Dr. Scott in his *Fasti*. But all that the author means by "printed Calderwood" is, not that some later edition of Calderwood had drawn on Wodrow's MS. Life of Duncan, but merely that he had discovered in that MS. the same matter that appears on the pages cited in Calderwood's History. Calderwood's folio volume had, in fact, been one of Wodrow's principal sources.