

thus essentially the same, in so far that the proclamation was sent down to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh with an order to him to publish it, and that the Provost invariably executed the order by assembling such nobles, great officials, and others of the realm as he could, and read the proclamation piece by piece to the King's official Herald, who proclaimed it to the people. After the last of these occasions occurred a reign of well-nigh sixty years. It is not surprising to find that when the accession of George IV. came to be proclaimed the town official should have blundered in it: the Heralds themselves were at fault, which was more inexcusable.

The Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh have preserved no record of their own of the procedure at that proclamation. The only record of the proceedings which they have is a Report¹ drawn up by Sir Patrick Walker, Gentleman, Usher of the White Rod, which they have engrossed as the Report of that gentleman in their minutes. The proclamation was made on 3rd February, 1820. The Report hears that 'the Lord Provost read the Proclamation from the balcony (of the Royal Exchange) to the people, and the Heralds proclaimed the style and titles of his Majesty King George the Fourth with a flourish of Trumpets. . . . The procession moved to the Castle Hill . . . where the same form of Proclamation and cheering was followed as had been done at the Royal Exchange, with this only difference, that the Lord Provost did not read.'² But when we turn to the more workmanlike report in the *Caledonian Mercury* (an Edinburgh newspaper now extinct) we learn that 'the Proclamation was read by the Lord Provost and Heralds respectively, after which the Heralds proclaimed the style and titles of His Majesty King George the Fourth three several times, each time with a flourish of trumpets.' The newspaper continues that the part taken by the Provost at the Exchange was taken at the Castle Hill and at Holyrood by the Sheriff, and by the Sheriff-Clerk at Leith.

It thus appears that the Provost and the Herald had each a copy of the proclamation. The Provost erred by reading the document to the people instead of to the Herald: and the Herald, if he had any choice, erred similarly by reading the document to the people instead of taking the words of it in periods from the Provost. The accounts of the ceremony do not say whether the proclamation on this occasion was read through by the Provost before the Herald began. But there is no reason to suppose that this was done: though the (newspaper) account of the proclamation of the next monarch, King William, in 1830, throws no light on the point—in one paragraph it narrates that the Lord Provost 'read' the proclamation, 'and the heralds proclaimed the style and titles' of the King; and in another paragraph it states that the 'senior herald proclaimed the Sovereign.'³ The *Caledonian Mercury* account of

¹ *Records of the Town Council of Edinburgh*, 9th February, 1820.

² Sir Patrick Walker was a person of the greatest enthusiasm for the magnification of his office, but his accuracy was not commensurate with his activity, and his duties as Usher were entirely foreign to those he essayed to perform under colour of that office.

³ *Edinburgh Courier*, July 1, 1830.