

PROCLAMATIONS

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APPENDIX X.

ACCESSION PROCLAMATIONS AT EDINBURGH AS THE CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND.

So far as we have any knowledge of Ancient Scotland in times of peace, the proclamation of a King's Accession was made like other proclamations by the Officers of Arms, by direct order of the Monarch then existing or the Privy Council.

The proclamation of Henry Lord Darnley made by command of Queen Mary is a case in point, and interesting in itself. It runs:

'Marie, by the Grace of God, Quene of Scottis to our lovittis Lyoun King of Armes and his brethir herauldis, and to our lovittis messengeris, our shereffis in that part,¹ conjunctlie and severalie specialie constitute greting: For sa mekill as we intend, at the pleasour and will of God, to solempniz and compleit the band of matrimony, in face of halie kirk, with the rycht nobill and illustir Prince Henry, Duke of Albany, &c., in respect of the quhilk mariage, and during the tyme thair of, we will, ordane, and consentis that he be namit and stylit King of this our Kingdome . . . Our will is heirfoir, and we charge you straitlie, and commandis that incontinent, thiroure lettres sene, ye pas to the mercat croce of our burgh of Edinburgh, and all otheris places neidfull, and thair be oppin proclamatioun, mak publicatioun and intimatioun heirof to all and sindry our liegis and subdittis as appertenis, . . . as ye will answer to us thairupoun, delivering thiroure lettres, be you dewlie execut, and indorsat, again to the herare.'²

'Upon Saterdaye at afternone,' wrote Randolph, the English Ambassador, 'these matters were longe in debatinge, and before theie were wele resolved upon, at ix howers at night, by iij herauldes at sonde of the trompet, he was proclaimed Kinge; thys was the night before the mariage. This day, mondaye, at xii. of the clocke, the Lords, all that were in thys towne, were present at the proclaiminge of hym agayne.'³

The Privy Council does not particularise the officers to whom it directed the ordinance for the proclamation of 'the King's authoritie' on 30th July, 1567, marking James's accession to the throne of Scotland.⁴ But on 31st March, 1603, on his accession to the throne of England, he sent his proclamation of that event

'... officers in that part . . . constitute' = officers hereby commissioned for the purpose of carrying the order into execution.

² *Privy Council Register*, 28th July, 1565, i. 345-6.

³ Letter, Thomas Randolph to the Earl of Leicester, dated Edinburgh, July 31, 1565, *per* Ellis, *Original Letters*, 1st Series, vol. ii. 202.

⁴ *Privy Council Register*, i. 543.