

had suffered so long." For the text of his supplication, reference may be made to Calderwood's History vii, pp. 181. All that need be reproduced from Wodrow in this connection is a paragraph in which he offers certain "Remarks" upon Duncan's petition:—"This address which, it is plain enough, he formed himself, has a good deal of natural oratory in it though very little of Rhetoric and Flourish. It wants not its show of the compliments of subjection and submission, which were most pleasing to the King next to flattering commendation of him, yet went not well down with Mr. Duncan's temper. But what I admire most is the natural tho unpolite turn he gives to the affair of the Assembly at Aberdeen, and the cautious acknowledgment he makes as to that, to please the King, and yet to preserve his testimony. It was well he prevailed to get home at this time for as soon as the King took it in his head to push the ceremony he had no favours to ministers that would not swallow them." The above citation will explain what Wodrow meant by his previous reference to Mr. Duncan's "practical regard for kingly authority." He had obviously something of the spirit of John Knox, of whom it was said that he "never feared the face of any man," and that he "neither flattered nor feared any flesh;" but he could also condescend to urge upon his Sovereign that any wrongful act of which he might have been guilty had been done in simplicity and ignorance, and in any case had by that time been sufficiently punished by exile and imprisonment. The prayer of his petition was granted, and Duncan returned to Scotland in 1613, showing himself ever afterwards, as Calderwood says, "a constant defender and maintainer of the established discipline and puritie of God's worship." For six years there is no break in his ministry at Crail. We next find him summoned before the Court of High Commission (13th April, 1619). In the year immediately preceding his trial, the Five Articles of Perth had been imposed on a reluctant Church, following on a visit the King had paid to Scotland—a visit which was productive of more than the usual amount of ecclesiastical