

1714, the proclamation rehearsed the proclamation already made in London, and the order to republish it, and continued that 'therefore the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Edinburgh assisted, etc.,' and proclaimed the Prince of Wales King George II. On this occasion, however, the Lord Provost, George Drummond, signed the proclamation first. His signature is followed by that of the Marquis of Lothian and other peers and high officers. The record then relates the proceeding from the Town House to the Cross, how the Trumpeters and Heralds led the way, followed by the Lord Provost and Magistrates, and how the Lord Provost with the mace and sword followed the Heralds up to the Cross, while the Magistrates proceeded to a 'theatre' erected below it, and there received the nobility, Lords of Session, etc. Thereafter, it continues, the proclamation was made by Lyon Depute, 'my Lord Provost reading the words of the proclamation to him.' The record then narrates how that my Lord Provost and his attendants withdrew to the Town House, 'and drank his Majestic and other Loyal Healths,' and that thereafter 'his Lordship and attendants went from the Town House to the Abbey of Holyrood House,' and there again 'proclaimed his Majestic and drank his Majestic and other Loyal Healths.'

There is no word in the record of the Sheriff Depute of Midlothian, but he, or rather his principal, took a proper part in the proceedings on the next occasion—the proclamation of King George III. The Town Council record bears that on Tuesday, 28th October, 1760, the Lord Provost had intimation and orders sent to him similar to those of former occasions, and that he thereupon dispatched letters to the 'nobility, Lords of Session, Barons of Exchequer, and Gentry in this city and neighbourhood,' requesting them to attend his Lordship in the Parliament on Wednesday the 29th, 'at three o' the clock afternoon to assist' at the proclamation. They accordingly attended. The market cross had been abolished some years before, the Edinburgh Town Council being too much up-to-date to tolerate such relics, but the record describes the order of the procession to 'the Balcony in front of the new Exchange.' The Heralds and Pursuivants, ushered by the Household Trumpets and the Usher of the White Rod, led the way. 'Then followed the Lord Provost, accompanied by the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, High Sheriff of the County of Midlothian, on his left hand,' the Magistrates and Town Council behind them, and the city mace and sword in front. The noblemen, Lords of Session, etc., came after. Both Lyon and his Deputy were absent, but the King was proclaimed by one of the Heralds, 'the Lord Provost and the Earl of Lauderdale respectively reading the words of the Proclamation. . . . From thence they proceeded to the Castle gate, where His Majesty was again proclaimed by one of the Heralds, the Earl of Lauderdale having read to him the Proclamation as High Sheriff of the County.'¹

The first three accession proclamations after the Union of the Kingdoms were

¹ The Castle of Edinburgh and its esplanade, though surrounded by the city, are no part of it.