

against him, among which he charged him as having been one of the masked executioners who beheaded Charles I. He appears to have been a man of resolute courage, and a determined republican. He denied having been the King's executioner, but readily admitted that he was on guard at the scaffold as one of Cromwell's troopers, and that he had served as a lieutenant in his army at Dunbar, Worcester, and Dundee. "Being asked if he owned the present king's authority, he craved leave to be excused, seeing he need neither offend them, nor grate his own conscience." He was executed the same afternoon, with peculiar barbarity, and his quarters sent to be exposed in some of the chief towns of Scotland, his head being reserved to grace the West Port of Edinburgh. But the day of retribution came; the Prince of Orange landed in England, and the feeble representative of the Stuarts was the foremost to desert his own failing cause. From the close of 1688 till March 1689, when a Convention of the Scottish Estates was summoned to meet, Edinburgh was almost left to the government of the rabble. The sack of Holyrood, already described, completely established the superiority of the Presbyterian party; and they signalled their triumph by assaulting the houses of the wealthy Catholics, who resided chiefly in the Canongate, which they "*rabbled*," as the phrase was, gutting and sometimes setting them on fire. When at length the Convention met, the adherents of the exiled King crowded to the capital in hopes of yet securing a majority in his favour. Dundee openly marched into the town with a train of sixty horse; while the Whigs with equal promptitude, but secretly, gathered an armed body of the persecuted Presbyterians, whom they concealed in garrets and cellars, ready to sally out at a concerted signal and turn the scales in favour of their cause. The sumptuous old oaken roof of the Parliament Hall then witnessed as stirring scenes as ever occurred in the turbulent minorities of the Jameses within the more ancient Tolbooth. Dundee arose in his place in the Convention and demanded that all strangers should be commanded to quit the town, declaring his own life and those of others of the King's friends to be endangered by the presence of banded assassins. On his demand being rejected he indignantly left the assembly; and the Convention, with locked doors and the keys on the table before them, proceeded to judge the government of King James, and to pronounce his crown forfeited and his throne vacant, beneath the same roof where he had so often sat in judgment on the oppressed. While Dundee was mustering his dragoons for the rising of the North, the affrighted citizens were beating to arms to pursue him; and the armed Covenanters were sallying from their hiding-places to strike for liberty against the oppressor, on the same streets where they had not openly been seen for years, unless when dragged to torture and execution. Meanwhile the Convention sternly bent themselves to the great question at issue, expecting every moment that the Duke of Gordon would